

Sutton Court Lodge 7826

Taking Pride in Our Lodge!



February 2021 Newsletter

www.suttoncourt7826.org.uk

What a year 2020 proved to be for everyone, and Freemasonry was no exception. COVID-19 effectively closed most masonic activities from March onwards, and to date the situation remains unaltered.

Most Lodges have not met now for best part of a year, and have little contact with their members and friends other than the odd telephone call.

Sutton Court 7826 has been leading in building a social network amongst its members and friends of the Lodge using WhatsApp and ZOOM.

It is now 11 months since we started our regular weekly Wednesday evening ZOOM meetings, keeping everyone in contact, exchanging gossip and news, and planning for when regular meetings can resume. The format of these ZOOM meetings has evolved over this time, with the *Secrete Santa ZOOM* meeting for its last meeting before Christmas, and now the new monthly ZOOM CHALLENGE where brethren are tasked with guessing photo challenges with cryptic clues thrown in.



We did manage to hold a COVID-secure meeting limited to just 6, in September when we initiated Bro Mick Fivey into the Lodge. This now gives us three entered apprentices with another applicant, Gareth Williams waiting to be initiated. Gareth is a regular on the weekly ZOOM meetings as are both Mick and Karl, two of our other EAs.

It now looks like we will not be resuming any Lodge meetings in any meaningful way before September, which means our current Master, W/Bro Paul Tredgett, will serve another term in office.

New Banner Update – Taking pride in Our Lodge

Progress with our banner has been unfortunately delayed for two reasons, partly due to COVID-19 and Sutton Court as a Lodge not being able to hold meetings, but secondly, due to major fire at Southern Regalia's premises at Bosham, West Sussex mid-January.



Fortunately, Southern Regalia is back up and running in a limited capacity from temporary premises.

In hindsight this may benefit the Lodge as we are now looking to hold our banner dedication ceremony and Reunion meeting in 2022, which will be an opportunity to commemorate our **60th Anniversary** of the founding of Sutton Court on 29th May 1962.

Watch this space for more exciting details and updates.

Since we launched our all-new website in October things have continued to develop at pace.

We have created a dedicated "Members Area" which is accessed by a 2-stage password protected section by all Brethren of Sutton Court Lodge.

The Members Area continues to be developed, with more recent additions such as SOLOMON, the on-line training support for Brethren produced by Grand Lodge, together with UGLE's latest 2021 Book of Constitutions. Also included is PGLM's Yearbook 2021, and UGLE publication "Information for the Guidance of the Craft. Our own Sutton Court By-laws is likewise accessible by clicking on the dedicated icon.

A key part of the Members Area is our very own Sutton Court Archives where you can access essential forms, such as Craft Registration Form for new recruits or joining members, as well as past summons, minutes of meetings and GP meetings etc.

We have now developed a "Secure Vault" where essential documents appertaining to the day-to-day operations of the Lodge are stored. This includes all the Lodge's financial details going back 10 years, and is updated at the end of each month representing the current financial position of the Lodge.

There is still a lot more we want to add into our site, and this is something you can all help and contribute to. Old photos, summons, even details of your own membership of the Lodge helps to build up and retain our proud history – *We are 60 years in the making next year!*

We have also completed the Heston 4888 Lodge website which went live on 1st February. We are continuing to give technical support as well as updating the site for them for the next year. The initial comments we received since going live included "awesome, thank-you" and "great, well done."

Sutton Court Ladies Festival - New dates announced for 2021.....

.....But 2020 Prices Held for ALL!

New dates for your diary:

Friday October 8th – Sunday October 10th 2021

....and the best news is.....

There are no price increases – how good is that!



The Festival Secretary agreed the prices in 2019 with the expectation of holding a grand festival in April 2020, but due to Covid we rescheduled to March 2021. However, it soon became clear this date could be at risk, and with a bit of fancy footwork and excellent relationships with the management team at the Langham Hotel in Eastbourne, we've secured the new date of 8 – 10th October 2021 with absolutely no price increases across all booking options.

We are now taking bookings with prices starting at £199 per person for the 2-day Ladies Festival. We have plenty of places to fill with a range of 1-night and 3-night alternative options are available, with prices on request aimed to suit everyone's needs.

Brethren of the Lodge are encouraged to take a table of 8-10 guests and it's a great opportunity to invite family and friends for a terrific weekend from Friday to the Sunday.

We have plenty of fantastic raffle prizes just waiting to be won, so please give us your support and book now, either just for your immediate family or better still for a table of friends.

What a better way to introduce your friends to freemasonry and to Sutton Court Lodge in particular – they could just be the next generation of members coming into our much-loved and friendly Lodge!

A Booking Form is attached to this newsletter, or to be downloaded from our website –
www.suttoncourt7826.org.uk/events



Tail-light

– for all the latest news from around and about in Province and Sutton Court Lodge

Twickenham & District Masonic Centre – Cole Court remains closed until further notice due to the Pandemic. Everyone is waiting in anticipation for news as to when Cole Court will reopen for Masonic meetings and Lodges of Instruction. Word on the grapevine is that this may not be before September, but this has NOT been confirmed. If it's sooner, we will welcome it and be back like a shot!

Tom and his wife, Maggie, stewards at Cole Court, have suffered badly with COVID-19 as has Mick Fivey, our recent initiate, and we all join together to wish them a heart-felt speedy recovery. We are looking forward to seeing them all again as soon as possible. Our thoughts are with you and everyone else who has suffered.

Staying with Cole Court – which is not just our Centre, it's our home. We are proud that throughout the forced closure and suspension of meetings, Sutton Court 7826 has not hesitated in paying its per-capita fees for every meeting during the entire period, even though most of those meetings have been cancelled. Cole Court needs every bit of support it can get if it is to come through this and remain not just our center, but our center to be proud of! Since January 2020, we have paid on-line the fees for each meeting, often several weeks in advance to help with their cashflow. Without Cole Court many Lodges will become homeless and may not survive, so our message is – please support Cole Court!

COVID-safe meetings in future – At Sutton Court Lodge we have invested in surgical-standard sterile white gloves that are disposed of after each meeting. Not only is this to ensure all brethren attending as per guidelines, are safe, but being white it makes our meetings more realistic and traditional. Meetings without white gloves just didn't seem right. By making this investment we are not only complying with regulations and guidelines, but maintaining traditional standards. We are prepared, ready and safe when meetings resume under the guidance of our COVID-19 Risk Assor, W/Bro Terry Gray, who specializes in carrying out risk assessments professionally.

Sutton Court Lodge 7826 has been honoured and privileged with two of its Brethren receiving promotion. W/Bro Derek Lawrence is promoted to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden (PPrSGW). W/Bro Tony R S Ashford has also been honoured with promotion to Past Provincial Grand Registrar (PPGR). The appointments take effect from 11th May 2021. There will be a special ceremony for all Brethren who have received promotions, held at Great Queen Street. However, this ceremony, due mid-May, may have to be rescheduled or postponed should COVID-19 restrictions still be in force.

Sutton Court Birthday Cards Our esteemed Secretary, W/Bro Geoff Duff has set up a wonderful initiative, that of sending a Sutton Court Masonic birthday card to every member and friend of the Lodge. Not only has he made this initiative happen, he's donating the cost of postage.

**TAKING PRIDE IN OUR LODGE -
Special White Gloves embroidered
with our Lodge number.
Square and Compass**



**These quality white linen gloves are available in Large and Xtra-Large at £10/pair (by post add £2.99pp)
Contact your Lodge Treasurer, W/Bro Tony R S Ashford to place an order.**

These gloves are great value and gives the Lodge that extra sense of pride with everyone wearing their 7826 gloves with pride!

BOOKING CONDITIONS

1. QUOTED RATES FOR THE LADIES FESTIVAL WEEKEND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS STANDARD:

- a. Unless otherwise stated, all rates are per person (pp)
- b. 2-night stay inclusive of dinner on Friday, Breakfast on Saturday, Saturday night Gala Dinner and Ball & Sunday Breakfast. Lunch on Saturday not included
- c. 1 - night stay Saturday with Gala Dinner and Ball & Sunday Breakfast. Lunch on Saturday not included
- d. Midnight supper of bacon or sausage baps available in the bar on the Saturday evening
- e. Wi-fi, tea and coffee making facilities, hair dryer, large flat-screen TV with Freeview, all available in the room included at no extra cost.
- f. 24hr Drinks bar in the room (drinks used chargeable to your room bill)
- g. Free parking at the Army Centre, Latimere Road (about 400 metres walk from the hotel)

2. OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

- a. Limited number of Seaview Rooms (inc. 3no single rooms) available at £10 per night per room. There are a limited number available, so an early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. All bookings accepted will be on a first come basis
- b. There are 8no car parking bays within the Hotel curtilage available at £9.00 per night. Again early booking recommended and allocated on a first come basis

3. FOOD ALLERGIES AND INTOLERANCES:

Whilst the Hotel and ourselves will take all reasonable care and precautions, it is extremely important that any person in your party who has any food allergies or intolerances, or special dietary needs make their requirements fully known to the Langham Hotel in advance and confirm their needs in writing to the hotel management as well as the Festival Secretary.

4. DEPOSITS AND PAYMENT:

- a. A deposit of £25.00 per person required at time of booking
- b. Booking of optional extras to be paid for at time of booking otherwise your request cannot be guaranteed
- c. Final payment to be made not later than 28th February 2020
- d. 100% refund of monies paid for cancellations prior to 1st January 2020 will be made
- e. Any cancellations after 1st January 2020 all refunds will be limited to 50%, subject to the Hotel's discretion and will be communicated by the Festival Secretary to the lead person making the booking.
- f. No refunds can be made for any cancellation 14 days or less before the event, subject to the Hotel's discretion. However alternative guest(s) can be substituted for the person(s) unable to attend

5. PAYMENT OPTIONS MADE EASY:

- a. Electronically by BACS (On-Line), our bank details as follows

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bank: | HSBC |
| Account Name: | Sutton Court Lodge 7826 |
| Sort Code: | 40-07-30 |
| Account No: | 22551195 |
| Use Ref: | "Ladies Festival" |

- b. For those who prefer, payments may be made by cheque made payable to **"SUTTON COURT LODGE 7826"** and sent to The Festival Secretary, W/Bro Tony R S Ashford, 43 Brightwell Crescent, Tooting, London. SW17 9AD