

# Sutton Court Lodge 7826

*Taking Pride in Our Lodge!*



## Your COVID-19 Lockdown Newsletter

What a year 2020 is turning out to be! Who would have thought way back in January (seems like a lifetime away!) we would be using everyday words such as COVID-19, Lockdown, Social-Distancing, the 2-meter rule and many more. Add no more Festive Boards, only to be replaced with WhatsApp, Zoom. An all-new language!

By early-mid March this year, most Masonic centres were closed, and regular Lodge meetings were cancelled, some at short notice. No more Lodges of Instructions were allowed. Freemasonry, like most organisations, came to a standstill.

Whilst most Lodges did little but hoped for an early return back to normal sometime this year, maybe next year, at Sutton Court we turned what had become one of the biggest crises in peacetime history of Freemasonry into a success story!

What was increasingly obvious and important, was that we kept in regular contact with all our members spread across Britain, and supported them wherever possible. Many have struggled during this period.

Down but not Out – that is the Sutton Court Lodge story –there are lots of exciting new initiatives happening that we hope you all will enjoy, even our Country Members. *Read on!*

## Banner Working Party – *Taking pride in Our Lodge - 1*

During our period of COVID-19 shutdown, we have taken the opportunity to have a good look at our Lodge Banner, with a view of updating it ready for when the Lodge resumes its meetings. This is something which has been discussed many times in the past but despite the best of intentions it hasn't happened. A small Banner Working Party was set up in July, and by holding regular ZOOM meetings we have made considerable progress.

We have retrieved our banner from Cole Court and have now had a good inspection.

*Sadly, the news is not good!*

The condition is such, that it has been deemed unrepairable.

The Working Party has decided the best way forward is to commission a brand-new banner.

An outline specification has been prepared and sent to four companies who are keen to work with us to produce a new banner. Each company has been asked to provide upto 4no draft designs, complete with outline costings, which will be presented to our next ZOOM GP meeting in September. Province will also be consulted for advice at this stage.

Once we have selected the company of preference, all Brethren of the Lodge will be asked to vote on the choice of the four selected designs.



## Taking Pride in Our Lodge - 2

### Banner Dedication Ceremony – September 2021

Once we have taken delivery of our new banner, we need to have it dedicated.

Preparations are well under way to make our **September 2021 meeting** special and something to remember.

We will be holding a **BANNER DEDICATION CEREMONY** on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in place of our normal Lodge meeting

Not many of us in Freemasonry have ever attended or witnessed a Banner Dedication Ceremony, and now-adays it is a ceremony that is becoming increasingly rare. Middlesex Province is supporting this venture and are working closely with the Lodge to ensure it will be a memorable ceremony not to be missed.

#### **Funding our new BANNER**

We have set up a **BANNER FUND** to enable Brethren of the Lodge, and friends, to pledge support to raise a sum of **£1500** towards the cost of our banner.

#### **Can you help us please?**

**The BANNER FUND is in urgent need of your support to make this project a success**

See the back page for details of how you can make a donate towards our **BANNER FUND**

## Taking Pride in Our Lodge - 3

### Brethren Reunion Meeting – September 2021

Preparations are well under way to make our **September 2021 meeting** even more special.

In order everyone can attend we will be holding a **REUNION MEETING** on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

We will be combining this event with our **BANNER DEDICATION CEREMONY** to make this special meeting even more memorable for everyone, and especially our Country Members, many who live a distance from Twickenham and who we haven't seen for some time.

Between now and September 2021 there is a lot of hard work and preparation to be undertaken. Ideas are developing at a fast rate of knots and

*Our aims include:*

- *Reserving rooms at the Premier Inn close by so those who have to travel can stay overnight*
- *Special dining arrangements, including a special menu, and favourable terms for our Country Members*
- *A meeting of around 100 attendees*

This is quite an ambitious venture. We don't want any member, past or present, or Friends of Sutton Court Lodge 7826 to miss out on this special occasion. If you have any ideas to offer please contact W/Bro Tony Ashford, Treasurer, or W/Bro Geoff Duff, Secretary, who are part of the 6-man working party helping to co-ordinate the various events and ideas.

#### Taking Pride in Our Lodge – 4

##### Lodge Gloves

***Sutton Court Lodge Gloves are now available***

***Embroidered with the Square and Compass and incorporating the Lodge number 7826***

These quality white woven linen gloves are available in Large and Xtra-Large.

Price £10/pair (by post add £2.99pp)

Available at Lodge meetings from September 2020 from W/Bro Tony Ashford, Treasurer

You can pre-order for collection at the next meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September



## *Lodge of Instruction and Sutton Court LOI WhatsApp Group*

January this year saw the much-heralded resurrection of our Lodge of Instruction. With rising membership, especially in the home counties, and after an absence of many years, Sutton Court Lodge re-established its Lodge of Instruction on a twice-monthly regular basis, meeting at Cole Court on the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm.

What no-one anticipated, that having just got established, by early-March everything would be put on hold for the foreseeable future because of COVID-19. This was a potential disaster in the making.

Within a week of our Lodge of Instruction being postponed with the closure of Cole Court, we established our very own WhatsApp Lodge of Instruction Group to keep in contact with everyone.

Not only did we make it available to all Brethren within the Lodge, we opened it up to all our Masonic friends who join us on a regular basis at our normal meetings.

Lodges of Instruction are still not able to be held at Cole Court so we shall be resurrecting our **ZOOM ROOM** secure meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> September for the foreseeable future. We will also be having a daytime Officers meeting at Cole Court 10.30 am on 9<sup>th</sup> September preparing for initiating Mick Fivey into the Lodge on 25<sup>th</sup>.

## *Sutton Court ZOOM Meetings*

By early April, Sutton Court Lodge established regular **ZOOM** meetings, held every Wednesday evening from 7.00 – 9.00pm not just for members of Sutton Court Lodge but, by invite to those masonic friends who have regularly attended and supported our meetings and activities over the years.

To our surprise, many of our Country Brethren, some of whom we haven't seen for some time, have joined us and, hopefully renewed their interest in the Lodge.

From 7.00pm until about 7.45pm our **ZOOM ROOM** is for general chit-chat, catching up with the gossip from around the country and generally having a friendly interaction. After that selected Brethren stay in the room for rehearsing the spoken ritual.

Because of IT expertise within the Lodge, the **ZOOM ROOM** is totally secure, and no-one can enter without an invitation and link from one of two **ZOOM Administrators**. Security is reviewed at least monthly, and the settings behind the scenes is such that only UK/US servers used, and not anywhere else, especially the far-east. No meeting is recorded or kept on the server of the hosts. If anyone not invited tries to join a warning is automatically flagged and the meeting suspended. Security is our top priority in order to preserve our secrets.

## *Sutton Court Ladies Festival Postponed to 2021*

By early February this year, it became obvious that our much-heralded Ladies Festival at the Langham Hotel would not be able to go ahead. Bookings had been made and much of the money paid into the Lodge's Festival Fund.

Having sounded out the views of various members, including of course, W/Master Paul Tredgett, and following discussions with Wendy at the Langham Hotel, the Festival Secretaries decided to reschedule to March 2021.

Those who had booked were given the option of either cancelling their booking and having a full refund, or carrying their booking into 2021, leaving their money with the Lodge. Those who chose to transfer their booking to March 2021 were "price guaranteed" – in other words there would be no increase for the weekend event. Those who chose to ask for a refund will be subject to the 2021 prices.

The new dates are Friday March 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> (Mothering Sunday).

## *Sutton Court Lodge Meetings Resumes on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020*

We are pleased to advise that we will be resuming our regular Lodge meetings on 25<sup>th</sup> September with an additional meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Our September meeting will see us initiating our 3<sup>rd</sup> new candidate, Mick Fivey, into the craft this year.

Mick has been waiting patiently for this day, albeit the ceremony will be somewhat different and unique on this occasion, as we will be strictly adhering to COVID-19 rules under the supervision of our Health & Safety expert and DC, W/Bro Terry Gray.

November 27<sup>th</sup> we will be holding an extra meeting where we are planning a to have a double second ceremony should circumstance permit.

### ***Sutton Court Lodge Ties – Taking Pride in Our Lodge - 5***

This initiative is at an early stage, but we are seriously looking at designing our own Lodge tie, with our logo. that can be worn at Lodge meetings.

It is envisaged a black tie with the logo will be the coloured version that is used on our summons, letterheads, and emails.

Anticipated price will be in the region of £15/tie.

***Watch this space!***

## **BANNER FUND**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT IN RAISING AT LEAST £1500 TO RENEW OUR BANNER**

***(SEE PAGE 2)***

As already described, our current banner, which is almost 60 years old, is falling to pieces and is beyond repair.

We have prepared an outline specification and submitted to four companies who have shown an interest in supporting us in our venture.

Once we have narrowed the designs down to about 4 suitable options, we will be asking all paid-up members of Sutton Court to vote on their preferred choice.

However, we cannot make this dream a reality without your support.

### **How you can help and support us:**

**1. By sending a donation by cheque to:**

W/Bro Tony Ashford, Treasurer,  
Sutton Court Lodge  
43 Brightwell Crescent  
Tooting  
London  
SW17 9AD

Cheques to be made payable to "Sutton Court Lodge 7826" *\_(Please mark the reverse of your cheque "Banner Fund")*

*Please complete and include the form overleaf with your cheque*

**2. By BACS (on-line) or Mobile Banking App (Smartphone or Tablet) payment to:**

You can pay directly into the Lodge's bank account using the following details:

Bank: HSBC  
Sort Code: 40-02-35  
Account No: 90785113  
Account Name: Sutton Court Lodge 7826  
Reference: "Banner Fund"

To:  
W/Bro Tony R S Ashford, Treasurer  
43 Brightwell Crescent  
Tooting  
London SW17 9AD  
Tel: 020 8767 1911 or Mobile: 07957 434682  
email: [treasurer@suttoncourtfreemasons.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@suttoncourtfreemasons.org.uk)



Please find enclosed my cheque for £..... (Please mark the reverse of your cheque "Banner Fund")  
This is my donation towards the Banner Fund.

\*I am interested in coming to the Banner Dedication and Reunion Ceremony on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. Please keep me informed of the details. **\*YES / NO**

\*I would be looking to stay overnight on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at the nearby Premier Inn next to Twickenham Railway Station (walking distance from Cole Court) and would like you to include me in any block bookings **\*YES / NO**

Name: .....

Masonic Rank: \*W/Bro \*Bro

*\*(strike out as appropriate)*

Address: .....

.....

Post Code: .....

Tel: .....

email: .....

**Your comments and ideas are welcomed, please add them below:**