

Stokesley Celebrates New Pedestals

The brethren of lodges meeting at Stokesley were delighted to accept the offer of a Wardens pedestal by Mrs Cynthia Tweedy in memory of her late husband Bro Gordon Tweedy who had been a member of Cleveland Lodge. When this generous donation was announced it became linked with similar offers from two other ladies who had each shared special occasions, albeit involving happier events, during 2008.

Mrs Mary Tarran and W Bro Harry Tarran PAGDC had enjoyed a busy year celebrating not only their Diamond Wedding but also Harry's 90th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his membership of Dundas Chapter. To commemorate this combination of special occasions Mary gifted a Worshipful Master's pedestal. In the case of Mrs Dorothy Blackett, wife of W Bro Laurie Blackett PPGJW, it was her wish to commemorate the recent 50th anniversary of Laurie's initiation in Cleveland Lodge by also gifting a Warden's pedestal.

An order for the pedestals was placed with the firm of Robert Thompson's Craftsmen Ltd. This long established family business has workshops in the beautiful village of Kilburn on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park. The firm are famous, not only in England but across the world, for "Mouseman" English Oak furniture, each piece bearing its makers distinctive mouse trademark.

Whilst work was in hand, Cleveland Lodge sought a dispensation for a special meeting at Stokesley on 20 October to dedicate the pedestals and to celebrate their donation. Invitations were extended to brethren of the two sister Craft Lodges, Cleveland Centenary Lodge and Captain Cook Lodge. The partners of brethren were also encouraged to attend, and, significantly, to be present in the Lodge Room for the dedication by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, W Bro Bill Dewing, and to listen to a short address on Freemasonry by W Bro Alan Brundall JP, PAPGM. It was especially pleasing that W Bro Giles Tweedy, the son of the late W Bro Gordon Tweedy, had travelled from Cheshire to be present and to occupy the chair of SW, along with W Bro Harry Tarran, chair of WM, and W Bro Laurie Blackett, chair of JW.

The evening concluded with an excellent meal and the occasion was enjoyed by no fewer than one hundred and twenty ladies and brethren.



Top row from left to right is:

W Bro Giles Tweedy W Bro Harry Tarran PAGDC W Bro Alan Brundall PAPGM W Bro Bill Dewing PG
Chaplain

front row

W Bro Laurie Blackett PPGJW