



**MASONIC MEETING
PLACES IN MELTON
MOWBRAY**

1866-2017

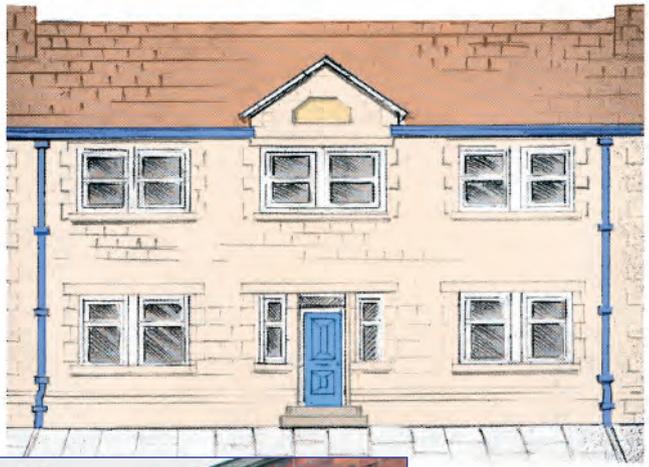
**THE RUTLAND LODGE
CONSECRATION
19th October 1866**





The entrance to the George Hotel in which The Rutland Lodge was Consecrated on 19th October 1866, and where it continued to meet until 1900

A line drawing of the Old Town Hall (now demolished) where meetings of The Rutland Lodge were held from October, 1900. The Lodge continued to meet there for eleven Years until 1911



Masonic Hall in Park Lane, first used in February 1911. The last meeting in this Hall was April 1920



MASONIC MEETING PLACES IN MELTON MOWBRAY 1866-2017 and THE RUTLAND LODGE - No.1130

1866 - The George Hotel

The year 1866 was marked by an extension of Masonry in Leicestershire, a Warrant having been obtained for a Lodge at Melton Mowbray, to be called the "Rutland Lodge, No.1130", so named after His Grace the Duke of Rutland, the cousin of its first Worshipful Master, Bro. George Norman, who was initiated in St. John's Lodge, Leicester, in 1835.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was summoned to take place at the George Hotel, Melton Mowbray, on the 19th October, when the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. William Kelly, presided, consecrated the Lodge, and installed Bro. George Norman in the Master's chair.

The George Hotel, where the Lodge appears to have been given every assistance and facility they desired, remained their meeting place for thirty-four years until 1900.

1900 - Old Town Hall

It would appear that by this time that larger premises were necessary, and, after exploring the possibility of enlarging their present room, the Lodge had an offer to use the old Town Hall in King Street (now demolished).

This offer was accepted, a lease was taken out for the use of the room and the Lodge continued to meet there for eleven years. By this time land had been purchased in Park Lane, plans drawn by W. Bro. E. Jeeves, and the first Masonic Hall for the Rutland Lodge was built.

1911 - Park Lane

The new Masonic Hall came into use on February 2nd and was formally declared open by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. Edward Holmes. The meetings continued there for nine years, until it was decided to sell the Hall in order to discharge the debentures; and the last meeting was held there on April 1st 1920.

The Colles Hall,
Burton Street, was
used for the
regular meetings



The side entrance, off
the Market Place,
leading to the Young
Men's Institute, over
the premises now
owned by W H Smith
& Sons. The meetings
of The Rutland
Lodge were held in
the top room from
October 1925, until
October 1929

Egerton Lodge, used
by The Rutland
Lodge from October,
1929, until the last
meeting held there,
May 24th 1948



1920 - The Colles Hall

An arrangement was made for the regular use of the Colics Hall, Burton Street, the first meeting taking place on the 7th October 1920 and meetings were continued there for five years.

1925 - Young Men's Institute Hall

In October 1925, the Lodge met for the first time at the Young Men's Institute Hall in the Market Place and continued there for four years. It was then decided, by an arrangement with the Council, to take a lease of two rooms at Egerton Lodge, with the use of the new council chamber in the building as a dining room.

1929 - Egerton Lodge

The first meeting at Egerton Lodge was held on October 3rd 1929, when the R. W. Grand Provincial Master, Bro. Lt.-Col. C. F. Oliver, T.D., D.L., J.P., declared the rooms opened for Masonic purposes. The Lodge now had a home where they were able once again to hold the meetings and dine under the same roof for the first time since they left the George Hotel twenty-nine years before.

On termination of the seven years' lease it was renewed for a further seven years, but at the end of this time, the Brethren were unable to obtain a renewal for a further period as the Government department which used the top portion of the building insisted, under war-time regulations, that they must have the rooms for expansion.

The property known as the Red House was then purchased, but permits for the conversion of the building could not be obtained and this scheme had to be dropped.

The last meeting held at Egerton Lodge was on the 24th May 1948.



The entrance to the left, leading to the Corn Exchange Hall, where meetings of The Rutland Lodge were held from October, 1948, for nearly three years.

Freemasons' Hall, Wicklow Lodge, Burton Road. In use since March, 1951 until the current day



1948 - The Corn Exchange

The Meeting in October 1948 was held at the Corn Exchange and, by curtaining off the Hall into two parts, the Brethren were able to dine there as well. The Red House was eventually sold and the proceeds credited to the Building Fund. The Meetings continued at the Com Exchange for three years, when the property at Wicklow Lodge was purchased from Bro. W. Katz for conversion into a Freemasons' Hall.

1951 - Freemasons' Hall, Wicklow Lodge

With the help of the brethren at weekends, pulling down parts of the building and cleaning bricks for re-use, the purchase of doors, frames, panels, pillars and woodwork from property being demolished in the district, plus the few permits for building alterations that were obtainable - and with much determination - the conversion of the Wicklow Lodge property was at last completed. (It is of great interest to note that the plans for the alterations were drawn up by the Senior Warden, Br. L. Hcsford.) The Rutland Lodge once again had a home of its own.

The first meeting of the new Hall was held on March 1st 1951.

In 1952, a daughter Lodge, St. Mary's, No.7164, was consecrated and this shares the use of the Hall together with the Rutland Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 1051 (consecrated in 1946), the Rutland Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, No 1051 (consecrated in 1963) and the Vale of Catmos Chapter, No 1265 (consecrated in 1923 and moved from Oakham in 1963).

In 1992, The Framland Hundred Lodge, No.9453 was consecrated and this now shares the use of the Hall with all of the other lodges which meet at the Wicklow Lodge.

THE RUTLAND LODGE STORY



TR.W. Bro. William Kelly, F.S.A., F.R.H.S.
PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

Who Consecrated The Rutland Lodge and was a Founder Member. The Lodge owed much to his great assistance and interest in its welfare.

spread of the Order, he at once came to the aid of the Founders, making several journeys to Melton to settle preliminary matters.

At his suggestion, Bro. G Norman, Squire of Goadby Marwood, and cousin to His Grace the Duke of Rutland, an Entered Apprentice of many years' standing in St. John's Lodge, Leicester, was requested to allow himself to be Passed and Raised to qualify him for the office of Worshipful Master, to which he willingly agreed.

Out of respect for the noble House of Belvoir, the Lodge was given the family name, and the Arms of the Duke, by permission, were placed upon its Banner.

All preliminaries being settled, the Warrant was issued and at a Special Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge at the George Hotel, Melton Mowbray, on October 19th, 1866, the Ceremony of Consecration was performed in an impressive manner by W. Bro. William Kelly.

The Deputy read a letter from the Provincial Grand Master. R. W. Bro. The Lord Howe, expressing his deep regret that his state of health made it impossible for him to be present.

In the presence of a large number of Masons, who attended from Leicester Ashby and Grantham, Bro. George Norman was installed as Worshipful Master.

The first Senior Warden, Bro. Rcvd. William Kay-Robinson, was invested, as was the first Junior Warden, Bro Rcvd. William Langley, also the Inner Guard, Bro. John Scoby. The rest of the Founders were W Bro. William Kelly, W. Bro. Rob Brcwin, W. Bro. Rcvd. E. W Woodcock and W Bro. Hugh Morris.

The Rutland Lodge was consecrated on 19th October 1866, when Freemasonry in the Province of Leicestershire was at a low ebb. There were, at that time, only two Lodges in Leicester, another in a state of abeyance at Loughborough, one at Ashby-de-la-Zouch and the old Lodge of the Knights of Malta at Hinckley, which had not met for more than a year. Only five Lodges in the County!

The active founders were Br. W. Kay Robinson, of the Lodge of Truth, No 52, Huddersfield, then the Master of the Wymondham Grammar School; Bro. Scoby of St. Peter's Lodge. No 442, Peterborough, who was the landlord of the George Hotel; and Bro. Rcvd. William Langley.

The Founders realised that many gentlemen in the neighbourhood of Melton were anxious to be initiated into the Craft and they were satisfied that there was a good opening for a new lodge on this side of the County.

Bro. William Kelly, Deputy Provincial Grand Master (to whom Masonry in this Province is so much indebted) was consulted, and with his enthusiasm for the