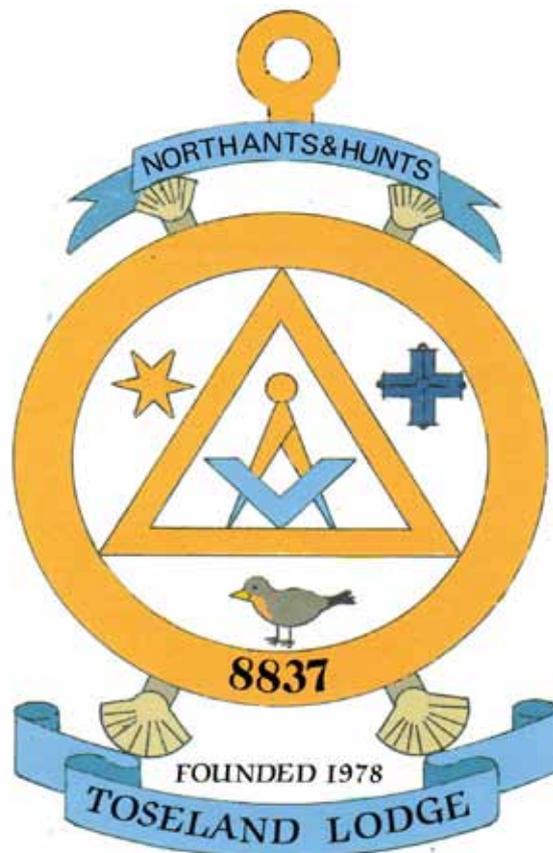


THE FOUNDERS OF TOSELAND LODGE No 8837



**The Founders of Toseland Lodge No 8837
Wednesday 24th May 1978**

W.Bro. R. W. J. FINCH, P.Pr.G.S.W., L.G.R.	<i>Master</i>
W.Bro. P. JENKIN, L.G.R.	<i>Senior Warden</i>
W.Bro. E. M. OWEN	<i>Junior Warden</i>
W.Bro. F. J. WHEELER, L.G.R.	<i>Immediate Past Master</i>
W.Bro. R. A. RYNSARD	<i>Chaplain</i>
W.Bro. F. DUNSTON	<i>Treasurer</i>
W.Bro. K. C. HIBBERT	<i>Secretary</i>
W.Bro. A. E. BENNETT	<i>Director of Ceremonies</i>
Bro. H. CLEMENT	<i>Senior Deacon</i>
Bro. G. A. BROWNE	<i>Junior Deacon</i>
W.Bro. G. E. MIGHALL	<i>Charity Steward</i>
Bro. A. H. EDDY	<i>Almoner</i>
W.Bro. H. S. GRIFFITHS	<i>Asst. Director of Ceremonies</i>
Bro. D. C. NORRIS	<i>Asst. Secretary</i>
W.Bro. D. G. YOUNG	<i>Inner Guard</i>
Bro. J. P. SAWYER	<i>Steward</i>
Bro. R. S. PINKNEY	<i>Steward</i>
Bro. R. ROGERS	<i>Steward</i>
Bro. F. F. BOLER	<i>Steward</i>
Bro. H. H. SAWFORD, P.Pr.G.Tyler	<i>Tyler</i>

W.Bro. D. E. PALMER, P.Pr.G.S.D.(Beds)
 W.Bro. R. HALL, Pr.G.Swd.Br.
 W.Bro. A. H. K. BELLAMY
 W.Bro. F. J. ROPER
 Bro. K. D. SEILER
 Bro. A. J. F. PICKETT
 Bro. C. D. CLARK

The founders are listed below as entered in the Lodge membership book, and therefore the order does not infer any importance or rank.

The list is compiled from information provided by V W Bro D G Young, W Bro R Barnes, relatives of founders and from The Lodge Records. *Edited by W Bro R Barnes September 2013*

W Bro Frederick John Wheeler L.G.R, 1902-1986

Fred was born in London, his father was a policeman and a Freemason, Fred was initiated into Great Northern Lodge in 1926 and was WM of that Lodge in 1942. Fred was also a founder of King Arthur Lodge No 6593 and a Freeman of the City of London.

Fred served his apprenticeship as a toolmaker during WW1 and then around 1930 started an Ironmongers business in East Acton, London W3. In WW2 Fred was recalled to engineering making aircraft engines on a night shift, whilst still managing his business by day.

Selling the business in 1974 and retiring to St Neots Fred became a member of Euston Lodge where he met the other founders of Toseland. Fred was a great ritualist and was part of the group that brought in Toseland's Londonisms. As founding IPM he took the chair in Nov 1978 and initiated his son-in-law Bob Barnes.

W Bro Donald Palmer P.Pr.G.S.D (Beds), 1907-1994

Don Palmer was initiated into Sir William Harper Lodge in 1937, becoming WM in 1956 and was active in Bedfordshire (masonically) all his life becoming involved in Northants and Hunts from 1985 onwards.

Don was a retired manager in the insurance business.

He received his 50 year certificate and was presented with an illuminated Masonic bible (James 1 version) on 10th Dec 1987 in his mother Lodge, Sir William Harpur by the then Prov Grand master of Bedfordshire Rt W Bro Cyril Robinson.

Don had a wonderful deep voice and sounded like a Shakespearian actor with a wonderful delivery of ritual.

He subsequently joined Euston Lodge and became it's secretary and arranged Euston's Centenary meeting on the 15th March 1989 for which, and for his services to Toseland he was awarded the rank of P Pr S G W in the Province of Northants and Hunts.

Don and Bob Finch were responsible for all the 'nuts and bolts' preliminary arrangements for the formulation of Toseland Lodge, together in the latter stages with Ken Hibbert as Toselands first Secretary.

W Bro Peter Jenkin L.G.R., 1920-2011

Peter Jenkin was initiated into Papyrus Lodge in 1938 becoming WM in 1952.

He was from a papermaking family operating out of Camberwell in South London who in the 1950s bought the paper factory known as Samuel Jones Mill, installing Peter as its managing director. They produced paper under the Butterfly Brand – Camberwell Beauty in recognition and memory of their original premises.

Peter joined Euston Lodge and Chapter around 1957 and was Scribe E of Chapter for 20 years. As the founding SW of Toseland he became its WM in 1979 and subsequently received the rank of P Pr G Supt W.

Peter was model train enthusiast with a liking for the GWR and had an extensive layout at his Gt Gransden home. He also had a holiday home in Southwold, to which he moved when he retired and where his widow still lives.

W Bro Robert Finch P.Pr.G.S.W, L.G.R., 1908 -1987

Bob Finch was initiated into William Rogers Lodge No 2823 and was WM of that Lodge in 1958.

He became a joining member of Euston Lodge in January 1950 and became its DC in Sept 1965

Bob was a glove manufacturer , a Freeman of The City of London and a member of the Glovers Guild founded in 1349. As a young man Bob had worked in France to gain knowledge of the finest glove making techniques and brought back with him a young wife from the glove factory in France where he had worked.

He had moved his business from London to Peppercorns Lane Eaton Socon prior to 1950 and in the 1960s (earliest record 1964) started his own unofficial L of I at his own premises. This was known as Peppercorns Academy, but it was not until 1974 that Euston Lodge was asked to officially sanction this L of I when it became known as Euston Peppercorns Lodge of Instruction. Bob continued to be preceptor of this L of I until he passed the reins to Arnold Bennett around 1985.

On 19th Oct 1977 it was proposed by Bob Finch, that Euston Lodge should sponsor a daughter lodge to be known as Toseland Lodge which was approved.

Bob and Arnold along with the other London masons brought with them the differences between Euston and Toseland rituals.

W Bro Frank Dunston, DOB not known -1999

W Bro Dunston was another London mason initiated into The Highgate Lodge No 1336 where he was WM in 1966, achieving LGR in 1981.

Frank was a property manager, and on his retirement moved to York becoming a country member, until his death in 1999

Bro Herbert Clement, 1915-1981

Bro Clement was known as Jim, and was initiated into the Ware Lodge No 3002 in 1954.

Jim served in, and became a major in the Royal Engineers, working in bomb disposal. After the war he worked for Herts C C in the highways dept. In 1954 he transferred to Hunts C C as a civil engineer and moved to Offord. Jim became a joining member of Euston Lodge, and his son W Bro R J Clement is now Treasurer of Euston.

Jim died suddenly in the summer of 1981 when he was SW and Master Elect of Toseland Lodge.

Bro Henry Harrdiven Sawford P.Pr.G.Tyler, 1908-1980

Bro Sawford was known as Jimmy Sawford and was Tyler for Euston Lodge, into which he was initiated as a working brother when he worked for H F Bull and Son. W Bro A V R Bull was both Secretary of Euston and Jim's employer.

Prior to 1974 Euston Lodge met in the Montague Rooms of The Cross Keys. Jimmy would take the lodge furniture out of the stable where it was stored and set the lodge out. After the meeting, with the help of the stewards the furniture would be taken back into the stable and stored so that the room could be laid for dinner. Not an easy job in icy conditions in a cobbled yard.

Jimmy worked on the railways as a young man and was a fireman for the LNER working on the K2 2-6-0 type 5 locomotives known as Jazzers, working commuter trains from Peterborough to Kings Cross, and Jimmy was on board one when the regulator jammed open at Potters Bar and despite all efforts to slow the train, it rammed the buffers at Kings Cross at about 5mph.

Jim became Toseland's first Tyler and remained Tyler with Euston

Bro Doug Norris, 1916 -c1993

Doug Norris was born in Manchester and became an apprentice toolmaker at Rolls Royce eventually moving to the drawing office. As a skilled engineer he was in a reserved occupation.

Settling in St Neots he founded D C Norris in 1970 at Gt Gransden to manufacture food machinery. The business is still flourishing and employs 90 people, under the guidance of David Norris a former member of Toseland

Doug resigned in 1982, due to pressure of business.

W Bro Kenneth Hibbert P.Pr.G.Supt.Works, 1914-2002

Ken Hibbert was initiated into Prolate Lodge in 1959.

Ken was involved in the Electricity production industry and in the 1960s he was transferred to and became the Superintendent of the Little Barford Power Station. He became a joining member of Euston Lodge in 1970 and then introduced several of his staff such as his Chief Engineer Arnold Bennett.

In Collaboration with W Bros Bob Finch and Don Palmer he became Toseland's founding secretary.

W Bro Reg Hall Pr.G.Swd.B, 1902- 1995

W Bro Hall was initiated into Euston Lodge in 1958 and was WM of that Lodge in 1972. Reg resigned from Toseland in 1992 . Reg Hall was a retired stationery retailer who had a shop in St Neots High St, now trading as Martins.

W Bro Arthur Bellamy P.Pr.G.Swd B, P.G.Ms Certificate of Merit, 1915-2011

As a boy Arthur was a chorister in St Mary's Church Eynesbury where he remained as a worshipper all his life, doing much of the church maintenance.

As a youth Arthur joined The Huntingdon County surveyors Dept at Walden House, cycling to and from Huntingdon everyday from his home in Eynesbury. In WW2 Arthur served in the far east in photographic technical support. After WW2 he resumed work with the County and resumed his cycling to work everyday until his retirement at 65. Arthur continued to cycle till he was 90 years of age.

Arthur was initiated into Euston Lodge in Dec 1960 and became WM in 1973, the last to be held at The Cross Keys. He was active in many different orders such as Chapter, Rose Croix and Knights Templar. Arthur eventually became P.Pr.G.S.W and holder of the P.G.M's Certificate of Merit, and was made an honorary member of Toseland in 2006.

W Bro Derek Young P G Swd B P Pr G O, 1934-

Derek is a local lad being born in Cromwell Road St Neots. He was educated at Kimbolton, Cambridge and London. He became an architect of the RIBA in 1959 and by 1962 had set up in practice in Tan Yard St Neots.

Derek was initiated into Euston in 1961 and became WM in April 1974, being the first master to be installed in the New Masonic Rooms Eaton Socon.

Derek helped W Bro Palmer to write a history of Euston Lodge for the centenary meeting, and was appointed by Bob Finch to research, design and write the blazon for the Toseland banner. He was Toseland Lodges first Inner Guard and was WM in 1981 and again 2002.

In 1977 he was made P.Pr.G.S.D; in 1982 P.Pr.G.Supt.W and then P.Pr.S.G.W in 1987 in Northants and Hunts. In 1998 he was the first member of Euston in 110 years to receive Grand rank when he was made P.A.G.D.C, promoted to P.G.S.D and then P.G.Swd.B

In 2003 he became A.P.G.M of Northants and Hunts, then Deputy Provincial Grand Master 2005 to 2008, then taking the appointment of Provincial Grand Orator until 2011. After resigning active membership of Toseland in 2013 Derek was made an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

W Bro Harry Griffiths P Pr G J W, 1933-

Harry was initiated into Euston in 1961 and became WM in 1975, serving as secretary DC and Chaplain.

Harry came to St Neots in 1959 to join Wilkinson and Butler as a junior solicitor and subsequently a partner.

Harry was the first ADC of Toseland, but resigned in 1979 due to heavy workload. Harry is now retired, remains a member of Euston and can be seen regularly around the town.

W Bro Fred Roper, 1909 – 1992

W Bro Fred was an initiate of Euston Lodge around 1963 and became WM in 1976 and rose to the rank of P Pr G Supt W.

Fred was well known for his generosity and deep gravelly voice, delivered with a cigarette seemingly permanently between his lips. Fred was a caterer who learnt his trade in the navy. His original establishment was a pair of cottages in Cambridge St, which were pulled down to make way for his Coronet Restaurant. He founded Roper Catering providing memorable meals for both Euston and Toseland Lodges, as well as many other organisations.

He was a gentleman most generous of spirit and would regularly give meals to those he considered less fortunate than himself. Salesmen calling always got a cup of tea and warm welcome: One of life's true characters who will never be forgotten.

W Bro Arnold Bennett P Pr G S W, 1920-1996

Arnold was a “one off”, a very forceful but dedicated mason. He was initiated into The Royal Engineers Lodge No 2599 and was master in 1977. Arnold remained a member all of his life and was made it's Centenary Master in 1996, and passed to The Grand Lodge Above whilst still in office.

In WW2 Arnold was RSM in the Royal Engineers and anyone who knew him would understand why.

He joined Euston in 1966, when he was working at Little Barford Power Station, and was the founding DC of Toseland and he took pride in bringing military discipline and precision into all Masonic occasions.

Arnold ran the bar, looked after the rooms, employed cleaners, decorated the rooms at Christmas (with help), and organised social events. He received his final rank of P Pr G S W in 1994 and the P G M's Certificate of Merit in 1995.

W Bro Edward Owen, 1920-1992

Ted was initiated into the Wilcumbestou Lodge No 6090, where was WM in 1969.

Ted was a company director.

Bro Frank Boler, 1925-

Frank was in the RAF and after that he was an estate agent in St Neots, who retired at one stage to The Canary Islands, but returned later, and now resides in a nursing home in Huntingdon.

Frank was one of the first Stewards and became WM of Toseland in ????. He resigned from Toseland after moving into a carehome.

W Bro George Edward Mighall, 1902-1986

W Bro Mighall was always known as Ted. Ted was born in Warwickshire in 1902, he joined the RAF in 1921 and served as a machine gunner/bomber in Vickers Vimys over Basra in Kurdistan. In WW2 Ted joined the Royal Engineers and was evacuated, as a Sgt, from the beach at Dunkirk with the BEF. He went to OCTU, was commissioned, and spent the war in India and Burma finishing as a Captain.

He was a Conservative Town Councillor in Melton Mowbray until he became postmaster of St Neots in 1949. He retired in 1962 and was initiated into Euston 2283 in 1964 becoming WM in 1978. He was an honorary member of Schola Regia and also in Euston Chapter and Earl of Euston Mark. He was ProvGJD in the early 80s.

W Bro Rynsard, DOB?-2008

W Bro Bob Rynsard was initiated into Lodge of Harmony and became WM there in 1976.

Bob was founding Chaplain of Toseland and served until ill health forced him to give up. He became P Pr G J W in 1997 and was made an honorary member in 2004.

Bob had a stroke of luck as a young man, when he replied to an advert looking for agents for the Bell Amusement Company and took on the franchise over 4 counties for all the one arm bandits, making him a very rich man, with a liking for Bentley cars. Bob was a very generous patron to Toseland Lodge paying for many items we still use today such as the box of working tools.

Bro Geoffrey Browne, 1944 –

Geoff grew up in Hertfordshire and then worked in the family business dealing in powdered food products. He was initiated into the St James Lodge No 1579. Geoff moved to St Neots to open up a factory and in 1978 he became the first Senior Deacon taking the chair in 1982. Geoff is currently P Pr G Reg.

Geoff has always been keen on fencing and was Chairman of his fencing club.

Bro John Sawyer, 1932-

John Sawyer was an engineer, he resigned in 1982

Bro Albert Henry Eddy, 1923 –

Known to everyone as Harry he was born in The West Country, grew up and worked in Devon up to 1939. He qualified at Tech College with an HNC in electrical engineering but started work as a boiler cleaner in Plymouth, rising to a control engineer.

In 1939 he volunteered for the Royal Navy and became a landing craft commander. Harry made a CD about his wartime experiences for use in school history lessons which is still available.

After the war he resumed with CEGB and in 1957 moved to St Neots Power Station rising from Control Engineer to Operations Superintendent, until he retired.

Harry is well known to all the current members as he is still an active member of the Lodge. He was WM of Euston in 1985 and of Toseland in 2000, and currently holds the rank of P Pr G J W.

Bro Ronald Pinkney, 1927-

Ron Pinkney was a solicitor in Huntingdon for Wilkinson and Butler. Ron resigned from Toseland in 1979.

Bro Keith Seiler

No information about this brother except that he was excluded in 1980 never having paid any fees or subscriptions.

Bro Alick Pickett, 1929-2010

Known as Jim, he was also excluded in 1980

Bro Richard Rogers

Rick was an accountant but was rarely seen at Toseland after the Consecration, he became WM of Piscator Lodge No 7557 in London. Rick was excluded in 1985.

Bro Charles Clark, 1942-

Charles was a Sales Manager who moved to South Africa, he was excluded in 1983, but was given clearance in 2001 when he made good his debts.