

## Old Kimboltonians Lodge Meeting – 19 May 2023

In the sublime setting of Kimbolton Castle, the Old Kimboltonians' Lodge gathered along with many visitors to celebrate the raising of Brother Matthew Dempsey to the Second Degree (Fellowcraft).

The Lodge was honoured to host several distinguished guests of Provincial Grand Rank from Northants and Hunts, including the Provincial Grand Master (PGM) Right Worshipful Brother Mark Constant and Assistant Provincial Grand Master Worshipful Brother Tim Almond. Worshipful Brother John Hitchin, to the applause of all present, expertly & precisely listed all 30 officers present. A feat so impressive that, to my regret, can't even be repeated in writing without mistake!



Led by the Worshipful Brother Ed Williams the Lodge enjoyed an evening of excellent ceremony from all involved in raising Brother Matthew Dempsey to the Second Degree, including his father, who is not a member of the Lodge, delivering the 'Southeast corner' and the second-degree working tools. The tracing board was delivered by Brother Reece Webb (Fellowcraft) and W Bro John Hitchin in exemplary fashion.



After the ceremony dinner was held in the White Hall, due to the sheer number of Brethren present (85!). The dinner consisted of pâté for starters, mixed salad for main (clearly the waiting staff have observed some weight gain over the years, taking matters into their own hands now) and a sherry trifle for dessert.



Over the course of dinner, several wine takings were taken, including, in time honoured fashion, with those Old Kimboltonians who were not yet members of the Old Kimboltonians Lodge! Bro Jack Milne was the 'victim' on this occasion---he has since signed his joining papers!

Worshipful Brother John Hitchin had the pleasure of proposing the toast to the Worshipful Master, pointing out his well-rounded character and impressive swimming feats, which includes swimming across the Chanel Tunnel several times (there must be a leak most of us are blissfully unaware of). This was graciously responded by Ed who explained what a pleasure it has been being the Worshipful Master of the Lodge this past year and how he is excited to Install Brother Bob Turner in September.







The toast to the visitors was given by Worshipful Brother Steve Kingan and the response was by Worshipful Brother Jonathon Hibbins: both the toast and response were surprisingly un-extended yet insightful and enjoyable-----  
--both were met with rapturous applause, as much for their brevity as their content!

The evening ended with three verses of peace love and harmony as well as the raffle, which raised £495 for charity!

Thank you all who travelled to Kimbolton Castle, and we hope to see you there again!

