

By September 2004, the mortgages which had been taken out to fund the build were paid off, saving the Centre £420 a month. In April 2005, following a Dunstable Masonic Centre Board meeting with the units of the Centre, it was felt that the Centre was showing signs of age. It was therefore agreed to make further improvements including an additional extension to the dining room and a separate bar area. New toilets were also built.

Various donations have been made to the Centre over the years for building and other improvements by both Lodges and individuals. These included a Masonic wall clock donated by WBro Michael Higginson in April 2005 to mark 25yrs of the Dunstable Masonic Centre; and a donation in the order of £2,000 from WBro Peter Roberts in September, 2012 to purchase a defibrillator for the Centre.

The Centre has also benefitted from several bequests over the years. In July 2012, the Centre was kindly left £61,881 by the widow of WBro Ted Trotman in her will. This gift amongst other things was used to refurbish the dining room and bar area, and to install air-conditioning units through the building. WBro George Connett, a member of Chiltern Lodge, also left the Centre £12,750 in his will. His bequest along with £10,000 from Mr & Mrs Dai Gwynne-Jones was used to resurface the car park in September 2016.



The dining room in March 2009

Over the recent years, various other improvements have continued to be made to the Centre. These have included the removal of the ‘very annoying’ pillar in the dining room in the summer of 2015.

In the summer of 2021, a storeroom was built onto the dining room and this gives direct access from the bar to a grassed area ideally suited to hold BBQs.

Other Highlights

In November 1979, the rent was a mere £83 per Lodge meeting, Chapters £27 per meeting and LOI's £45 pa.

In December 1982, the Board raised the bar prices for beer to 60p a pint, 63p for a pint of lager and to 54p for spirits! Happy Days!!

In February 1985, the Board considered a Fruit Machine to help raise funds!

In November 2000, smoking was banned in the dining room following objections from the brethren, although it was still allowed in the committee room! In the coming years, the Centre would become totally smoke free to comply with Health and Safety.

In November 2001, both Wardens chairs were refurbished at the cost of £350 per chair. The long blue kneeling stool was also reupholstered in March 2004, following WBro David Harrington's letter to the Board in which he wrote:

“May I ask the committee will approve refurbishment of the long blue kneeling stool at the Worshipful Master's pedestal. It is in need of a good stuffing!! It is agony for the candidate when taking his obligation, extremely uncomfortable”.

In January 2012, all Lodge candles were removed and replaced with battery operated ones.

During the summer of 2012, the seats in the Temple were repainted and reupholstered. These were originally cinema seats from the ABC Cinema in Luton, which found their way to Dunstable. And by way of a note, the seat at the end of the row is wider!!

In February 2013, draught beer was replaced with a much wider choice of bottled beer.

In June 2013, the large Wurlitzer organ was played in the Temple for the last time by WBro Derek Bird. The organ was installed when the Centre was originally built but alas, due to the lack of masonic organists, it had to be replaced in February 2023 with a keyboard and a modern sound system.

Dunstable Masonic Centre is now the home to three Craft Lodges and 16 other Orders, with a total of approximately 450 members.

So, there is a space for you too!