



## St Quentin's Lodge No.4778

Warranted : 2 September 1925  
Consecrated : 16 December 1925  
Meeting at the Town Hall, Cowbridge.



The commitment and dedication of Cowbridge based Freemasons differs greatly in many respects from those of their counterparts in the majority of the Province. In this 'Ancient Borough', meetings are held in the historic Town Hall and refreshments are taken at the Bear Hotel, the old coaching inn in the centre of the Town. All Masonic furniture, including carpet, pedestals, chairs and other sundry items for use by several differing Orders, are stored neatly and compactly in a tiny storeroom, accessed by means of a small staircase at the side of the Town Hall stage. Lodges are set up by the help of willing volunteers from those fit and able Brethren; likewise, when the Meeting is over, the same items have to be stored and locked away. Thus it has been since the early days, and so it continues today.

St Quentin's Lodge was Sponsored by Ogmores Lodge No.1752, and the WM of that Lodge occupied the Chair of King Solomon for preliminary purposes. There were 65 Founder Members present. Ogmores Lodge provided 18 Founders; Trisant Lodge No.4154, 11; Bute Lodge No.960, 7; Glamorgan Lodge No.36, 4; Afan Lodge No.5257, 2; Merlin Lodge No.1578, 1, and Loyal Commercial No.2720, 2.

It is interesting to note that some of the Lodges that took an active part in the formation of the earlier St Quintin's Lodge No.1822 also provided Founders for St Quentin's Lodge No.4778. The former St Quintin's Lodge (note the different spelling of the name) in Cowbridge was Sponsored by Merlin Lodge No.1578, in conjunction with Glamorgan Lodge No.36, St David's Lodge No.679 and Loyal Cambrian Lodge No.110. The Lodge was Warranted on 28 April and Consecrated on 21 August 1879. By the early 1900s it had lapsed and it was finally Erased from the Register of UGLE in 1923.

When St Quentin's Lodge was formed, Meetings were held in January, March, April, May, September, October, November and December. Installations were held in January. Initiation fees were 25 guineas (£26. 25p) and annual subscriptions were 2 guineas (£2. 10p). These fees remained unchanged until 1965.

The Consecration took place at the Town Hall, Cowbridge, on the 16 December 1925, and was carried out by the ProVGM, the RWBro Sir Charles Venables Llewelyn, Bart, with VWBro Sir Philip Colville Smith, CVO, Grand Secretary, acting as SW with other Grand Lodge Officers assisting. Following the Consecration Ceremony, the Grand Secretary Installed WBro Sir David W Evans,

PGD (Eng), DepProvGM, as the first WM, with WBro R P St John Charles, as JW. Over 200 Masons attended and 121 Founders and visitors sat down to a banquet at the Duke of Wellington Hotel. Dinner tickets were 10 shillings (50p).

Sir David Evans had been appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master in 1925 and WM of Hendre Lodge in the same year. Also in 1925, he was honoured with a Knighthood, having been the Director and Legal Advisor to the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association, which had been set up to deal with the high incidence of tuberculosis in Wales. In addition, he sat on numerous committees and bodies dealing with health matters in Wales. About this time, he became ill and he and his wife spent some time in the South of France, with the hope that a complete rest from his many activities would aid his recovery. It was initially proposed that the Consecration would be held on 30 October 1925, but it is likely that Sir David's ill-health made it necessary to defer the Ceremony to 16 December. Sadly, Sir David did not complete his year as WM. Having conducted the Ceremony of Initiation of Thomas Thomas of Stallcourt House, and Vivian S Gwyn on the 13 February 1926, he died suddenly on the 17 March.

The Minutes for the Lodge Meeting on 3 April 1926 contained a vote of condolence with the family of Sir David, and the Lodge went into mourning for three months. The Minutes include a beautifully worded and sincere tribute made by Bro Henry Gethin Lewis, SW. The Minutes also record the feelings of the Brethren on the death of the first Worshipful Master. WBro Sir Lewis Lougher, MP, proposed a vote of condolence with Lady Evans and her family. He referred to Sir David's contribution to Masonry and his work as Legal Advisor to the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association. Bro Henry Gethin Lewis Senior, SW, seconded the motion. He referred to the friendship between their families. WBro J S Longdon, the Lodge Chaplain made the final tribute. He stated that their friendship extended over 40 years. As boys they had met at the annual rugby contests between Brecon and Llandovery Colleges. Their school friendship developed at Jesus College, Oxford, where they were both undergraduates. The vote of condolence was passed in silence, all Brethren standing.

The death of the WM so soon after the Lodge's Consecration was a great blow. There was, however, a wealth of talent and experience among the Past Masters and there was full support from the Province. Lewis Lougher, IPM, now took charge of the Lodge. He was an industrialist and a politician, a member of Glamorgan County Council from 1922 to 1949, a member and chairman of Cardiff Rural Council, and MP (Conservative) for Cardiff East, 1922-1923, and for Cardiff Central, 1924-1929. He was JP for Glamorganshire, High Sheriff in 1931, and he received a Knighthood in 1929.

There was a heavy workload with many double Ceremonies being performed. Lodges of Emergency were deemed necessary to deal with the demand for Membership. The Ogmore and Trisant Lodges helped out by placing their Temples at the disposal of the Lodge.

The Grand Secretary returned to St Quentin's Lodge in 1926 and 1930. In 1926, he took the Chair for an Initiation Ceremony, gave the Charity Charge, presented the Working Tools and delivered the Charge after Initiation. In 1930, he Installed Bro Henry Gethin Lewis Junior as Master. Henry, Initiated into Prince Llewellyn Lodge No.2570, was a Founder Member and the first JD of St Quentin's Lodge. For several years afterwards he occupied the SW's Chair at the Installation Ceremony, and addressed the Wardens, until poor health prevented his attendance at Lodge. On one occasion, during his term as Master, Henry asked the Secretary, WBro T J Yorweth to take the Chair, whilst he played the organ in the absence of the Organist. He was one of the 'characters' of the Lodge, DC for several years; an excellent exponent of the Ritual, which he delivered with great dignity. He had a happy disposition and was universally liked. It should also be mentioned that he had been a prisoner of war during the hostilities of WWI, 1914-1918.

The University of Wales invested WBro Henry Gethin Lewis, Senior, the first SW, with the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law. His brother Ivor was WM in 1938. Unfortunately, he was killed in a car accident in the same year. 1938 was a sad year for the

Lodge. In addition to the death of the WM, two young and fairly active Past Masters died suddenly; WBro T R Thomas, WM 1933; and WBro W McAdam, WM 1936. Five of the Lewis family were Members, three as Past Masters and all great supporters of the Lodge. This family made the biggest contribution in the early years to the life of St Quentin's Lodge.

The Brother who made the greatest individual contribution was WBro Edgar W Lewis, PProvGTreas, (no relation to the above Lewis family). He was the first DC of the Lodge and he could take any Office at a moment's notice. He was the second AProvGM to be appointed in this Province.

Although St Quentin's was referred to as 'The Farmers' Lodge, the active Founders were prominent Cardiff businessmen. Bro T R Thomas (father of WBro Hubert Thomas, Lodge Historian, who compiled the Lodge history from which this account is taken) was the only farmer to hold an active office. He was also the first farmer to be Installed as WM in 1933. It was at his Installation Dinner at the Bear Hotel that the Farmers' Song, composed by WBro C J O Evans, was sung for the first time. In modern times the song is sung on the evening of Initiation. The Candidate's Toast is given, his health drunk, and then the Brethren form at one end of the dining room and welcome the new Member in song.

#### The Lodge Song

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| <p>1. <i>In old St Quentin's Lodge doth shine<br/>The Light of Masonry<br/>For with the Tools we emulate<br/>The sons of husbandry<br/>The Square our scythe, the Rule our spade<br/>To achieve the Grand Design,<br/>So we plough and sow and reap and mow<br/>Just like a farmer's boy.</i></p> | <p>2. <i>The Ancient Landmarks we observe<br/>Our hearts we do not spare:<br/>Upon the Level we all meet<br/>And part upon the Square<br/>So that is why we loudly cry<br/>And sing with might and main:<br/>We plough and sow and reap and mow<br/>Just like a farmer's boy.</i></p> |
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In 1926, Bro Thomas of Stallcourt House, Llanblethian, one of the first Initiates of St Quentin's Lodge donated an area of land at Westgate, Cowbridge, opposite the Police Station, for the purpose of erecting a Masonic Hall in memory of Sir David W. Evans. Mr. Cowper, a London architect, prepared plans and Bro Vivian S Gwyn carried out the conveyancing of the land. Bro Gwyn was a fellow Initiate of Bro Thomas. Three sets of plans were prepared with estimates of the cost. For some reason the proposal did not go forward, perhaps due to the Depression, which started about this time. The Lodge retained the land until the 1940s, when it was sold by public auction for approximately £300. This sum formed the basis of the Lodge Building Fund. A substantial sum of money has been raised by the Cowbridge Brethren over the years. Optimism has been high, whenever a suitable property or site has appeared on the market, but time after time hopes have been dashed.

The Motto of St Quentin's Lodge is 'Awn Rhagom', meaning 'Let us go forward'. The Arms of the Borough of Cowbridge, granted to the new Corporation on 7 April 1888, were adopted by the Lodge and shows a shield divided by a chevron, the lower part of which depicts a cow crossing a three-arch bridge from right to left. The Crest consists of a cow, also facing right, holding in its mouth an ear of corn.

Bro Wybert Thomas, Founder Member, made the oak pedestal which houses the Tracing Boards, from a piece of old oak removed from Cowbridge Church roof, during major works carried out in the early 1920s. One of the alms dishes in current use was made from a piece of timber salvaged from the Guildhall, London, after it was destroyed by bombing on 29 December 1940. The Wardens' Columns were first used by St Quintin's Lodge in 1879. When that Lodge ceased to meet, Bro Tom Morgan, owner of the Cowbridge Brewery and the Dunraven Hotel, Bridgend, gave these Columns to Venables Llewelyn Lodge, Porthcawl, probably

when that Lodge was formed in 1915. When St Quentin's Lodge was formed in 1925, new furniture was purchased, including new Wardens' Columns. At a Meeting of St Quentin's Lodge, held on the 8 May 1926, a Deputation from the Venables Llewelyn Lodge was received. They returned the old Wardens' Columns from the 1879 Lodge. In return, St Quentin's Lodge presented the newly purchased Columns to the WM of Venables Llewelyn Lodge.

During WWII, the Lodge met without interruption, and was fortunate not to lose any Members through enemy action. Lodge numbers were swelled through the visits of American servicemen stationed locally. Their generosity ensured that the Festive Board was always well supplied.

The Lodge's first Daughter Lodge, Industria Cambrensis No.6700, was Consecrated on 4 October 1949. A second Daughter Lodge, Y Bont Faen Lodge No.8533 was Consecrated on 4 December 1973.

From the early days, when three of its first five Masters were Knights of the Realm and Grand Lodge Officers, St Quentin's has been recognised for the quality of its Members. In recent time, there have been five Members who have been appointed Grand Officers. WBro Keith Tod Browning, a Joining Member, DepProvGM of the Mark Degree in the Province of South Wales, 1990 - 1995, was appointed PAGDC in 1990. David A Tilley, who gave such great energy to the Office of Provincial Almoner, was Initiated into the Lodge in 1970 and Installed as Master in 1984 and 2002. In Province, he was appointed PPrAGDC in 1989 and promoted to Provincial Grand Almoner in 1998 and PPrJGW in 1999. He became a Grand Officer in 2001, with the Rank of PAGDC. WBro Sidney J Robling, Secretary of Y Dalaith Magazine, was Initiated into the Lodge in 1981, and Installed as Master in 1992 and 2010. He was appointed PAGDC in 2007. WBro John A Roberts, a Joining Member, became Treasurer of the Masonic Benevolent Fund (SWED), and was appointed PAGDC in 2004; and Laurence Owen, a Joining Member, was appointed PAGDC in 1997. Another Past Master of note was WBro Ken Muir, OBE, PPrSGW, who became WM in 1966. Commissioned and holding the rank of Major during WWII, his recognition (a Military OBE) was awarded for saving the life of a fellow Officer. He also gained a Degree from the Open University at the age of 83.

The current Master, WBro Roger A E Andrews, is a renowned sculptor, who produced a magnificent statue of Bro Sir Tasker Watkins, VC, for the Welsh Rugby Union. Sir Tasker Watkins, was Initiated into South Wales Jurists' Lodge No.7092 in 1951, and progressed to the Office of SW, before his resignation in 1961. His statue now stands at the entrance to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

Compiled by WBro S J Robling, PAGDC, from a history written by the late WBro Hubert Thomas, PPrSGW.