The oldest existing Lodge in South Shields is St. Hilda Lodge No. 240, consecrated in 1815. The history of this Lodge has been researched by the late W. Bro. Sinclair Bruce in a fascinating paper which is in the Provincial Museum and Library together with the restored wooden coat of arms of the Lodge.

The oldest existing Lodge in South Shields is St. Hilda Lodge No. 240, consecrated in March 1780. The venue of the Consecrations, is not definitely known but is believed to have been The Golden Lion Inn, King Street. In any event the Lodge met there until October, 1822 when the Meeting was held at the Freemason's Arms, the house of the then Tyler, Mr. Grieves. The Lodge returned to The Golden Lion in November 1822 but there was a dispute with the landlord over payment for candles and it was resolved to remove to the Crown and Anchor, Commercial Street, (the property of Bro. James Hall).

From December 1822 until December 1826, the Lodge met at the Crown and Anchor except for two occasions on 26th and 27th December 1822 when it returned to the Golden Lion for a meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and the Annual Festival respectively.

In January 1827 the Lodge returned to the Golden Lion and continued to meet there until May 1861. In May 1861 the Lodge began to hold its Meetings in the Central Hall, Chapter Row and remained there until the new Freemasons’ Hall in Fowler Street was opened in March 1863.

FREEMASON’S HALL, FOWLER STREET

During the 1850s St. Hilda Lodge steadily increased its membership and in February 1862 a Committee was appointed to consider the provision of a Masonic Hall. On 5th Month 1862 the Committee reported in favour of building a Hall in Fowler Street at a cost of £600.00 and recommended the raising of £800.00 - £200.00 out of Lodge funds and £600.00 in £1.00 shares issued to St. Hilda members only. These shares were to be redeemed out of a special fund provided from the annual savings of the Lodge.

The report was adopted and on 27th August 1862 the foundation stone was laid with full Masonic Honours, by W. Bro. George Potts, PProvSGW a distinguished Past Master of the Lodge. The water for the cement for the foundation stone was brought in a bottle from the River Jordan, by the Chief Engineer of H.M.S. Melpomene (whose name is not recorded) and presented through W. Bro. Ridley, P.M. By a remarkable coincidence the silver trowel used in the Ceremony was returned to St. Hilda Lodge in October 1990 by a descendant of W. Bro. Potts living in Virginia, U.S.A.

The new Hall was opened on 9th March, 1863. The era of subsisting in other people’s property was over, the Freemasons of South Shields now had a purpose built home in which, to practice their masonry.

St. Hilda. Lodge settled into its new home and Freemasonry continued to flourish in the town to the extent that on 10th April 1882 a petition was submitted for the formation of a new Lodge. The petition was granted and on the 15th September 1882: the Hadrian Lodge No. 1970 was consecrated in the Fowler Street hall where it continued to work alongside St. Hilda Lodge, until the premises were vacated. The Building continued in existence for almost a century thereafter being used for retail shopping. It was demolished in March 1983 to make way for the Denmark Shopping Centre but its location was easily identifiable as it was immediately adjacent to the premises of the Midland Bank which survived the re-development. The actual site is now occupied by Thomas Cook the Travel Agents.

Next Month: Freemasons’ Hall, Ingham Street

£20,000 FOR BANGLADESH CYCLONE VICTIMS

Following the devastation of parts of Bangladesh by Tropical Storm Sidr, The Freemasons' Grand Charity is supporting the relief work of the Red Cross with an emergency grant of £20,000. Around 1 million people are believed to have been affected by the storm which hit the Southern Coast of Bangladesh on 15 November, destroying homes, crops and infrastructure and triggering a tidal surge that swamped three coastal villages.

The official death toll stands at over 3,100 people, but this is expected to rise as rescuers continue to recover bodies from amongst the debris. Some remote areas are still inaccessible and many survivors are without fresh water and food.

The emergency grant approved by the President of the Grand Charity will help to fund the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, providing for the needs of some of the most vulnerable people affected by the storm, including the provision of blankets, food, shelter, medical supplies and basic healthcare.
Craft Installations to date and the new line ups

11th October 2007

ST. LAWRENCE LODGE No. 6042
OFFICERS 2007–2008

W Bro Neil Stephenson, PPrSGW, PM  Master
W Bro Richard S Howes  I.P.M.
Bro Donald Scott  S. W.
Bro Brian S Capstick, PM  J. W.
W Bro Terence McKenna, PPrSGD  Treasurer
W Bro Robert W Stobbs, PPrGBLM, PM  Secretary
W Bro Peter Muir, PPrGBLM, PM  D. C.
W Bro Terence McKenna, PPrSGD  Aspatria
W Bro Robert W Stobbs, PPrGBLM, PM  Charity Steward
Bro Jack L Ford  S. D.
Bro T. Russell McComiskie, PPrGStwd  J. D.
Bro Alan G Nichols  Inner Guard
Bro Ian S. Cohen  Senior Steward
W Bro Norman Dunn, PM (3466)  Tyler

6th November 2007

HADRIAN LODGE No. 1970
OFFICERS 2007–2008

W Bro John George Wardle, PPrJGW, PM  W. M.
W Bro Ian Bonar  I.P.M.
Bro Duncan Stephenson, PM  S. W.
Bro Gary Drans,  J. W.
W Bro John Errington, PPrJGW  Chaplain
W Bro Jeffrey Dickson, PPrGStdB  Treasurer
W Bro David Scott Dunn, PPrGStdB  Secretary
W Bro Peter William Octon, PPrGStdB  D of C
W Bro Gordon Hall Finch, PPrGStdB  Almoner
W Bro John Hope PPrGStdB  Charity Steward
Bro Glen Hutchison,  S. D.
Bro Keith Peacock,  J. D.
W Bro Trevor D. Lewis MS, PPrGStdB  Asst. D of C
Bro Alan Connell, PPrJGD  Organist
Bro Ian Reeves,  Asst Sec
Bro I. G.  Steward
Bro Andrew Ford  Steward
Bro Thomas M. Elers,  Steward
Bro Bruce N. Simpson,  Steward
W Bro Gordon Rudd, PPrGStdB  Tyler

16th October 2007

LORD BARNARD LODGE No. 2935
OFFICERS 2007–2008

W Bro N. Dunn,  PPrJGW, PM  I.P.M.
W Bro R. Hodgson, PPrJGW  Asst. D. of C.
Bro L. Taylor  S. W.
Bro L. Walls  J. W.
W Bro Wm. Hall, PPrGStdB  Almoner
W Bro A. Richardson, PPrGStdB  Treasurer
W Bro J. L. Capstick, PPrGStdB  Secretary
W Bro G. M. Stephens, PPrGStdB  D. of C.
W Bro J. L. Capstick, PPrGStdB  Almoner
Bro S. Conn  Charity Steward
Bro J. R. M. Schoolkate, S. D.
Bro J. Perry  J. D.
W Bro R. Hodgson, PPrJGW  Asst. D. of C.
Bro Hetherington, I. G.
Bro J. Parker, S. D.
Bro J. Clark  Steward
Bro A. Amrani  Steward
Bro G. Diwan  Steward
W Bro L. Bell, PPrGStdB  Tyler

14th November 2007

CAER URFA LODGE No. 4345
OFFICERS 2007–2008

W Bro Matthew Ramsey Wann  Master
Bro Derek Francis Wake, PM  Senior Deacon
Bro Gary Paul Graham Wilson, PPrJGW  Junior Warden.
W Bro Michael Maxwell Hobson, PM  Treasurer
W Bro Geoffrey Hadaway, PPrJGD  Secretary
W Bro Brian John Naisby, PM  Director of Ceremonies
W Bro Ralph Blakey Allison, PM  Almoner
W Bro Robert Clunis Turner, PPrGStdB  Charity Steward
Bro Derek Tyler  Senior Deacon
Bro Stephen Callahan, PM  Junior Deacon
W Bro William Malcolm, PPrGStdB  Asst. Director of Ceremonies
Bro David Jackson, PM  Asst. Secretary
Bro Philip Pearce  Inner Guard
Bro Robert James Gibson  Steward
Bro Will Robertson, PM  Steward
Bro Philip Brown  Steward
Bro Ian Dunn  Steward
Bro Michael Bennett  Steward
Bro Wayne Hayes  Steward
W Bro Norman Dunn  Tyler
W Bro Ronald Armstrong Ferguson  I.P.M.

29th October 2007

WESTOE LODGE No. 4750
OFFICERS 2007–2008

Master  W Bro D. W. Cuttbert, PPrGBLM, PM
I.P.M.  W Bro N. Green, PPrGBLM, PM (3665)
W. S. W.  W Bro T. Errington, J. W.
W Bro P. Hoppell, Chaplain  W Bro G. Robinson, PPrGBLM
Treasurer  W Bro I. C. Mason in PPrGBLM
Secretary  W Bro D. Pickering
D. of C.  W Bro G. Branch, PPrGBLM
Almoner  W Bro J. Instink, PM
Charity Steward  W Bro K. Robinson, PPrGStdB
S. D.  W Bro J. Hall
J. D.  W Bro F. Crooks
Asst. D of C  W Bro J. D. Turnbull, PM, PPrGBLM
L. G.  W Bro D. Granberry,
Sr Steward  W Bro R. A. Young,
Steward  W Bro M. Burbidge,
Steward  W Bro S. Brady,
Steward  W Bro A. Lindsay,
Tyler  W Bro J. Instink, PM

What is a Lewis?

A Lewis is 'a three-pronged iron cramp that is inserted in a prepared cavity in stone by which it may be lowered and lifted with precision'. The name comes from the Latin word Lewis, meaning to levitate or lift.

In speculative Freemasonry a Lewis can be found in every lodge on the Senior Warden's pedestal, attached to a Perfect Ashlar - a finished stone - that in turn is suspended from a tripod or derrick.

In Freemasonry a Lewis represents strength. The grip of the Lewis that lifts the stone is likened to the grip given to raise the candidate in the third degree. This, to many Freemasons, represents one's own ability to improve oneself and rise above one's vices and faults.

A Lewis has also come to be the term used to describes the son of a Freemason.

The reason for this is quite simple as is explained in the explanation of the first degree tracing board. A son of a Mason's duty is to support his parents in the same way a Lewis supports and lifts a rock.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Day/Time/Date</th>
<th>Installation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Readhead Lodge</td>
<td>3217</td>
<td>1st Monday 7.00pm &amp; 3rd Dec</td>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st degree Mr C Ivory</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hedworth Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hadrian Lodge</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>1st Tuesday 7.00pm &amp; 4th Dec</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 125th Anniversary Celebration</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hedworth Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrekendike Lodge</td>
<td>6401</td>
<td>1st Wednesday 7.00pm &amp; 5th Dec</td>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Deg - Demonstration</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hedworth Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyne Dock Lodge</td>
<td>4218</td>
<td>1st Thursday 7.00pm &amp; 6th Dec</td>
<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Deg - Bro W Hamilton</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Hilda Lodge</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>2nd Monday 4.30pm &amp; 10th Dec</td>
<td>January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Installation of Bro Philip Johnson SW ME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celebration Banquet at 7.30pm</td>
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<td>W Bro Dr Rakesh Balla PPrSGW will be representing the Provincial Grand Master</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lord Barnard Chapter</td>
<td>2935</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday 7.00pm &amp; 11th Dec</td>
<td>November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Installation of Ex Com S. Bell as Z</td>
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<td>Ex Com G. M. Stephenson as H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ex Com B. R. Alexander, PPrAGSoj as Hedworth Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caer Urfa Lodge</td>
<td>4345</td>
<td>2nd Wednesday 7.00pm &amp; 12th Dec</td>
<td>November</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Deg - Bro Robertson</td>
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<td>Hedworth Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harmony at Festive Board by South Tyneside Academy of Musical Performance, there will be a fraternal visit by Lodge Dolphin of the Scottish Constitution</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence Lodge</td>
<td>6042</td>
<td>2nd Thursday 7.00pm &amp; 13th Dec</td>
<td>October</td>
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<td>Special Festive Board including quiz competition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence Rose Croix Lodge</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>3rd Monday 7.00pm &amp; 17th Dec</td>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
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<td>Hedworth Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lord Barnard Lodge</td>
<td>2935</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday 7.00pm &amp; 18th Dec</td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fraternal visit by Hedworth Lodge No. 2418</td>
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<td>1st Deg - Mr T E Proctor</td>
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<td>Hedworth Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Hilda Chapter</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday 7.00pm &amp; 19th Dec</td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballot for Bro Donald George Frazer</td>
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<td>Exalt no more than two-Bro Gary G Deans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bro Paul Garry White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bro Donald G Frazer if elected</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hedworth Lodge</td>
<td>2418</td>
<td>Last Thursday 7.00pm &amp; 27th Dec</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Meeting Open Night</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hedworth Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short meeting followed by Festive Board open to wives, partners &amp; non masons with Felling Brass band accompanying carol singing</td>
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<td>Hedworth Hall</td>
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</table>

Masonic activity ceases at the Hedworth Hall on 31st December 2007, so you had better get your skates on should you wish to have one last look.

Tyne Dock Lodge held the last Ladies Evening there on Saturday 24th November 2007.

Tyne Docks Final Finale at Hedworth

170 brethren their wives, partners and friends turned up to enjoy a most splendid evening.

South Tyneside Academy of Musical Performance who are all volunteers, provided the entertainment and were rewarded for their efforts by the Master, W Bro Peter Hamilton with a cheque for £200.

Friday 7th December 2007

8.00 pm - 11.00pm
BAR OPEN
Curry & Rice n’ Popadums Proceeds to RMBI 2010
Members n’ Non Mason’s Welcome

Active supporting Freemasons’ Hall, South Shields
**New Master’s**

Over the last two months the Masonic world in South Shields has celebrated the arrival of 5 new Masters to continue the task of the rejuvenation of their Lodges in particular and Freemasonry in general, and we wish them every success.

October brought the arrival of W Bro Neil Stephenson a Past Master of his Lodge St. Lawrence No. 6041 and a dedicated freemason, already well known in the town for the passion he shows to the Craft.

Then along came Westoe Lodge’s turn to change their Master, this came in the shape of Bro Derek Cuthbert, PPrGPurs. Bro Derek took a very long time to get to the Chair despite many an attempt by brethren in his Lodge to entice him over the years. Well he’s there and as everyone else already knew W Bro Derek fits that Chair exceedingly well.

His Lodge won’t be meeting in December so if you want to take a visit to Westoe Lodge No. 4750 they meet on the last Monday evening except June, July, August and December, Derek wishes everyone a very merry Christmas and looks forward to seeing as many brethren as possible at his first meeting in January 08*

November arrived and first in line was W Bro John George Watkins of Hadrian Lodge No. 6460 and I have to declare an interest here as he is now the Worshipful Master of my lodge so I will have to choose my words carefully….

Matty has been in the Craft for seven years and during that time successfully completed all his allotted tasks in all the various chairs reaching the penultimate and was installed by the guiding hands of W Bro Norman Dunn on 14th November 2007.

Matty was proposed and seconded in to Freemasonry by W Bro Ralph Allison and W Bro Richard Allison respectively and is married to Diane, the daughter of Ralph and Jean so you will know doubt understand that both of is Masonic proposers are extremely proud to see him in the Chair of the Lodge that they have both served twice as its Master - however it is unlikely that Matty will get that honour for quite sometime such is the health of the Lodge’s progressive ladder.

Not content with being the Master in one Lodge in October that being Caer Urfa, he went and agreed to do it all over again in his second Lodge, Lord Barnard Lodge No. 2935. So for the first in many a year we had the same brother presiding over two Lodges at the same time (with dispensation I add). November arrived and first in line was W Bro John George Watkins of Hadrian Lodge, a past master of Borsdane Lodge No. 6460 meeting at Hindley in the Province of West Lancashire, of which he is still a member of visiting at least twice a year.

Originally from Houghton-le-Spring W Bro John left the north east in 1963 to pursue his career in mining returning to the north east in 2000 to “be beside the seaside” and just as importantly to resolve his wife’s desire who had suffered serious ill-health to return home to be closer to her family.

**Norman took the Chair for the second time in Lord Barnard on Tuesday 16th October 2007 at the Hedworth Temple and also decided that when he steps down from his ‘other Chair’ in Caer Urfa he would act as its Tyler - probably for some respite as he will certainly need it!**

He joined Hadrian in 2002 and proceeded to go through all the offices, resulting in him being elected as Master.

W Bro John was installed in the Chair of Hadrian Lodge on Tuesday 2nd October by W Bro Ian Bonar. This year also sees the arrival of Hadrian’s 125th Anniversary and we are sure that with John at the helm and ably assisted by his Past Master’s Officer’s and Brethren the work ahead will sail through smoothly. - see what’s happening in December for more information on the 125th Celebrations.

Next in line came Bro Matthew Ramsey Wann of Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345 and I have to declare an interest here as he is now the Worshipful Master of my lodge so I will have to choose my words carefully….

Matty has been in the Craft for seven years and during that time successfully completed all his allotted tasks in all the various chairs reaching the penultimate and was installed by the guiding hands of W Bro Norman Dunn on 14th November 2007.

Matty was proposed and seconded in to Freemasonry by W Bro Ralph Allison and W Bro Richard Allison respectively and is married to Diane, the daughter of Ralph and Jean so you will know doubt understand that both of is Masonic proposers are extremely proud to see him in the Chair of the Lodge that they have both served twice as its Master - however it is unlikely that Matty will get that honour for quite sometime such is the health of the Lodge’s progressive ladder.