



## RW Bro Simon Francis Norman Waley, Past Provincial Grand Master for West Kent, Past District Grand Master for Cyprus

1934 - 2011

Bro. Simon Waley was made a Mason in November, 1957, at the age of 23, in Surrey Lodge, No. 416, at Redhill in Surrey and became its Master in 1967. In 1970 he joined the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 60 (London) becoming its Master in 1973 and serving, on its nomination, as Grand Steward the following year. He has been a joining member or a Founder of nine other Lodges, and has served as Master of most of them, including The Grand Stewards' Lodge. He was exalted into the Royal Arch in Castle Chapter of Harmony, No. 26 in 1975.

Bro. Waley was appointed a Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in Craft and Royal Arch in 1978 and served in those offices for three years. In 1987, when the office of Provincial Grand Master for West Kent fell suddenly vacant along with that of Grand Superintendent, he was appointed to fill the vacancy and ruled the Province with distinction for the next nine years. In the meantime, as one of the Grand Master's advisers, he served on two committees looking into charitable matters and in particular the uneasy relationship between the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and the Royal Masonic Hospital under the umbrella of the Masonic Foundation for the Aged and the Sick. In 1993 he became President of the latter, continuing in that role when it ceased to be a formal Grand Office down to the present time. A few months after he relinquished the Province of West Kent he was appointed District Grand Master for Cyprus and Grand Inspector of the Group of Royal Arch Chapters there, becoming Grand Superintendent the following year when the Royal Arch Group became a District in its own right. Although he relinquished both offices in 2001 he has continued to interest himself in Freemasonry in Cyprus and more recently became the first Sovereign Grand Commander of a new Supreme Council in that jurisdiction.

Sadly Simon passed to the Grand lodge Above on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011. scroll down for the Eulogy delivered at All Hallows by The Tower on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013 by

## Simon Francis Norman Waley

### A tribute delivered in All Hallows by the Tower on 14 February 2013

My friend, and the friend of all of us here today, Simon Francis Norman Waley, received a classical education. I didn't, as you will hear when I start this tribute to him by quoting something spicy from the plaque commemorating Sir Christopher Wren in St Paul's Cathedral:

SI MONUMENTUM REQUIRIS CIRCUMSPICE

'If you seek his monument, look around you.'

How fitting a tribute those words are to Simon – look around you here today and surely agree with me that today's congregation is a fitting memorial to Simon, whose life touched and helped so many people in so many ways.

But that is part of my problem: how to fit everyone's memories of Simon into this tribute to him, a daunting task, and one which – on the very morning after Simon's death on 18 November 2011 - Ann, his wife, asked me to perform. But, as I did not get to know Simon until the late 1990s, much of what I shall say now has been gleaned from other people's memories. I wish I could have included all the moving comments I have been sent by Simon's family, friends and associates, but that might have taxed even your attention span – though taxes are par for the course here, in a church that advertises its special connection with taxes – Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

The editor of the *Anthology of Great Lives*, a selection of the obituaries that have appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, claims that 'most people achieve those things for which they become known in the early or middle parts of their lives.' I hope that my selection from the comments so many of you have contributed will demonstrate that Simon's public achievements continued right up to just a couple of years before his death at the age of 78, for it was in 2010 that HRH The Duke of Kent, as the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, conferred on him the rare distinction of the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry – and may I say, on behalf of many of you, how pleased we are to see Peter Lowndes here as HRH's representative.

But even as his health failed Simon, in his private life, remained that kindly, friendly and so often humorous man that his family loved and his personal friends admired. One quick example here: when far from well himself he – and Ann, that so loving wife of his - would ring me regularly to ask after my wife during her treatment for cancer.

But let us not today dwell on Simon's death. Let us instead remember and pay tribute to him as a family man, a sportsman, a cultured man who spent most of his working life within the City of London, and a freemason. As one of his oldest friends put it when speaking at Simon's funeral:

'Simon was one of life's achievers, a man of many and varied talents which he put to the best possible use.'

Simon was born in 1934 in Reigate, Surrey, where his mother's family had lived since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. He immediately became known as the 'Prince of Waleys'. This is not entirely surprising as one of his ancestors is on record as having been the King of Poland for a day, some hundreds of years ago. More recently and, as you will hear, more directly relevant, Simon's great-grandfather was Simon Waley Waley, a leading broker on the London Stock Exchange and a gifted pianist and prolific composer. ThaSimon Waley married Hendelah, after whom our Simon and Ann named their first child, their daughter, Hendelah. What strength Simon and Ann showed in coping with Hendelah's accidental death while she was still a teenager! Their son, James, recalls how they tried to cushion him and his brother, Philip, from the tragedy that had befallen the family, and Hendelah's classmate and friend, Mark Ford, remembers how at Hendelah's funeral Simon found time to take him aside and thank him for making Hendelah so happy in the few days before her death. Mark wrote:

'This extraordinary kindness and consideration for others well over and above his own plight was, I discovered, typical.'

Simon first visited his prep school, Stone House, when he went there to play cricket as a 7½ year old. A boy who later became his friend for 70 years, Chatterton Sim, remembers that 'as Simon was a guest he was allowed to bat first and the first ball he received he hit for six right over the fence. It was sensational - nobody had ever hit a six before.' Simon became an 'excellent pianist' by the age of ten (perhaps thanks to the genes of his great-grandfather).

Simon continued his musical studies when he went on to Stowe, where he also pursued his interests in Latin and Greek and excelled at sport. Among the many friends he made at Stowe - some of whom are here - was Peter Levitt who remembers sharing a study with Simon. Once, finding the study in 'a great mess' (mostly, he admits, of his own doing) Levitt exclaimed that the place was in a 'state of general chaos' - to which Simon responded 'Yes, General Chaos). This is early evidence of Simon's 'gentle and constant humour' and 'ready wit', for Simon enjoyed creating such nicknames: he would later address his friend Michael Frangos, the then owner of Beoty's restaurant, as 'Your Beotitude', and me, later still, as Herr Doktor, despite my relative lack of hair.

From Stowe Simon went on to do his two years of National Service - in Wales as a Second Lieutenant with the Gunners. This provided him with yet more opportunities to hone and demonstrate his sporting prowess

before going up – or is it across? – to Peterhouse, Cambridge, where, while reading for his degree in Law and Economics, he played for that young university's second teams in hockey and squash, and met Ann, then training to be a physiotherapist at St Thomas's Hospital in London. They married in 1960, by which time Simon had joined his father's firm of stockjobbers in this City and become a Freemason in Surrey. When the firm was taken over by Wedd Durlacher, Simon became a partner in that firm and stayed with it until 1969 when he and Ann decided to try farming instead, but then set up their own Art Gallery which they ran together for fifteen years, exhibiting their collection around the world and even opening a print shop in Chicago (presumably selling 'Prints of Waleys?'). Hendelah was born in 1961 and in 1964 the family moved into Crutchfield Farm, a Tudor farmhouse outside Reigate, a perfect place to bring up a family, and where James and Philip soon followed Hendelah into that happy home. Both sons have since married, and between them they have produced eight children who were the joy of Simon's life: Joshua, Aidan, Matthew, Samuel and Charlotte on James's side, and Nicholas, Victoria and Francesca on Philip's. James and his wife, Rowena, and their children remember

'a happy, fun, helpful, joyful, welcoming man. A man who always joined in with everything we did, who lived life to the full.'

They particularly remember two holidays in Devon and what became known to Simon's grandchildren as 'Grandpa's beach.' James ended his tribute with the words:

'I've never met a more dignified, kind, courteous man, and this was always so even in the last week in hospital. He was truly the head of the family.'

Philip, the younger son, married Hannah, and she remembers how warmly Simon and Ann welcomed her too into the Waley household. Philip, now a film-producer for studios in the USA, wrote that

'Dad was always beyond generous and supportive in everything James and I did...He was always keen to know what I was doing and loved to read the scripts and visit the set when he could...I am eternally grateful to him for everything he did for us.'

According to Philip, Simon taught him to drive when he was but ten and later bought him a 2cv, painted it yellow and called it LOIC, which stood for 'Look out I'm coming!'; they shot and played golf together, and both supported Chelsea Football Club. (Ann has now inherited the season ticket and will go in Simon's place.)

In 1987 the family moved into London, and for a time Simon 'did a fair bit of work for Singer & Friedlander' in the City until, in 1993, he was appointed Secretary to the Honourable the Irish Society and in 1994 he accepted the Lord Mayor's invitation to become the Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Musicians – the only City Livery Company devoted to the performing arts and which at the time shared offices with the Irish Society. Both these ancient institutions of the City of London needed Simon's many

skills to sort out their problems at that time. The Clerk to the Musicians' Company, Margaret Alford, remembers Simon's advice that

'when a Master of the Company wants to do something ridiculous or outrageous, tell him that 'traditionally it is always done this way, Master' –

and she reports that the advice always worked. The Musicians' Company moved into its own offices in 2001 and thereafter, until his retirement in 2004, at the age of 70, Simon was able to concentrate on the Irish Society.

Through the Royal Charter which established the City and the County of Londonderry in 1613 James I established the body which came to be known as The Honourable the Irish Society to administer the lands in Coleraine and Londonderry. The Secretary of the Irish Society - 400 years old this year (not the Secretary, but the Society) – has full day to day responsibility for the management of the Society, including its governance, staff, assets, relationships and charitable programme. Simon took over that demanding responsibility after 'a period of considerable internal turmoil', when 'morale was at a low ebb amongst staff in both London and Northern Ireland following poor decisions with regards to property and the near-destruction of the Society's Londonderry office by a bomb in the late 1980s', and when the Society's 'finances and land titles were in disarray'. Edward Montgomery, the current Secretary, writes that 'within a short space of time, working with the energetic new Governor, Sir Alan Traill [and others] ... Simon restored calm and gave the Society a new sense of purpose.'

Barry Davis writes that

'over the years [Simon] was Secretary the land titles were largely secured and gradually brought back to a profitable state, so much so that when he retired in 2004 the Society was once more able to give significant monies to good causes ... and support the Society's and other schools.' (Barry Davis added that 'the River Bann fishing was [also left] in good order except that the salmon counter always seemed to fail when the salmon were running.')

To return to Edward Montgomery's tribute:

'Simon arranged and attended at least four Visitations to Northern Ireland each year, during which the Court members met local civic and political leaders in County Londonderry ... held business meetings with regard to property management...visited many schools and institutions that had historic links with the Society ... [and] attended numerous prize days at the five schools originally set up by the society and hosted an equivalent number of return visits to London by the schoolchildren, thus ensuring that the age-old links were maintained and even enlarged upon...Simon's astute financial management ensured that the annual grant fund available to the Northern Ireland Advisory Committee rose steadily, and each year over a 100 groups would benefit from financial assistance... His tact and diplomacy were frequently tested, as he steered a course for the Society through very busy times.'

Once I read all that I could not help but wonder how Simon found time for all his other interests, including maintaining his golf handicap at three, spending many happy times with his family and friends in an old Methodist Chapel in Yorkshire he and Ann bought in 1990, playing the organ in the Nunnington parish church in Ryedale and supporting the Ryedale Festival by sponsoring musicians to perform there and inviting friends like my wife and myself to enjoy their performances. How, indeed, did he find time for Freemasonry, a hobby which he pursued for all his adult life and in which he came to hold some of the highest offices? Well, like the hedgehog in certain circumstances, namely with some difficulty and great care. Ann admits that Simon always consulted her before taking on any more masonic challenges – but also that once Simon became the head of the order in West Kent she and the rest of the family began to refer his masonic activities as the ‘B\*\*\*\*Ms’ – the M stood for Masons or Masonics and in this hallowed place I leave you to work out what the B stood for. From 1977 Simon was rarely out of executive office: he rose to become the Provincial Grand Master for West Kent in 1987 and then went on to become the District Grand Master for Cyprus in 1996 until he retired from there in 2001. In West Kent, according to Michael Chapman, he ‘took over at a time when the Province had rather lost its way’; he ‘engendered a much better spirit’ and improved the governance of the 280 or so lodges and Royal Arch Chapters for which he was responsible. As President of the Masonic Foundation for the Aged and Sick in 1993-94 Simon ‘played an important role’ and ensured ‘the smooth transfer of it into what is now known as the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution’. Before he took over the governance of the lodges under the UGLE in Cyprus he had already joined five lodges in addition to his mother lodge (and helped to found three others), gone through the Master’s Chair five times – in addition to finding time for similar activities in the Royal Arch, the Ancient and Accepted Rite, the Mark and the Royal Ark Mariners! No wonder that the term ‘BMs’ became common parlance in the Waley family in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century! That said, I did not hear the BMs mentioned at all at the lunch party in 2010 when Simon and Ann celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Cyprus, however, presented Simon with what was perhaps his greatest challenge in Freemasonry, and it was in dealing with the problems in that island’s Freemasonry with Simon that I, as Grand Secretary, experienced so many of his talents and saw them put to work – not for his benefit, but for the benefit of the majority of Freemasons there. And I hasten to add here that in facing that problem he received great support from Ann, whose contribution is still acknowledged by those enjoying the fruits of the Waleys’ labours in Cyprus today. I cannot better record the Waley’s success than by reading what Robert Cowin, Simon’s Deputy in Cyprus, wrote to me:

‘Simon displayed a wonderful ability to come to grips with the very complex situation that had arisen in Cyprus, and to work in an empathetic manner with both communities [that is to say the lodges working

under the Grand Lodges of Greece and those under the English Grand Lodge] in bringing about a satisfactory solution to the charged emotional state that he encountered during his early visits to Cyprus. In negotiations conducted in London, in Greece and in Cyprus, Simon proved to be a considerate, yet determined, representative of the UGLE who was able to win the respect of those on all sides of this most difficult affair. [In this] he was very ably supported by Mrs Ann Waley...’.

I visited Cyprus and Greece with Simon and I can only add my confirmation to what I have just read to you. Thanks principally to Simon’s efforts, the harmonious relationship that had existed between English and Greek Freemasonry in Cyprus and Xante since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century was restored, and ‘English Freemasonry’ in several of its forms was soon expanded. Needless to say, the ‘BMs’ did not prevent Simon from founding and supervising new lodges and chapters in Cyprus, including Chapters Rose Croix, and then becoming the first head of the masonic Supreme Council for Cyprus, and an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council for England and Wales.

Simon and I once went from Cyprus with our wives (one each) on a private tour of Syria. We had a great time, travelling around in a six-seater minibus, though it sometimes took our combined diplomatic skills to convince the two Syrian officials who accompanied us that we really did want to go to all the places to which they had agreed to escort us when we set out on our tour from Damascus. One of those places was Krak des Chevaliers, a superb fortress and not, as Simon and I foolishly agreed, a joint for crusading knights high on their horses – or was it on their high horses?

I could go on, but time and, I suspect, your patience, are running out. Simon’s great- grandfather, Simon Waley Waley – with a double-barrelled name like that how could our Simon not be a big shot? – is remembered today as a stockbroker and gifted musician. True, our Simon, the Prince of Waleys, followed in those footsteps but he will be remembered by us for so much more, and our memories of that remarkable yet modest man will live with us for years to come.

JWD  
12 Feb 2013