

-.....the Worshipful Master then proceeded to strangle the Organist

Christmas had been put away in its box in the attic. The Christmas Tree lights had been wound up carefully so that when they are brought out next year, they will be in a right mares nest. The chocolate that had been ground into the carpet had been removed and the grandchildren had been locked away in their various cages.

The Memsahib and I were relaxing with our morning coffee when the Postman arrived with the morning's quota of catalogues, but what was this? a letter with a hand-written address. Who did we know who could write and at the same time afford a postage stamp? Worshipful Brother J.J. Clark was such a person and fitted the bill.

It was an invitation to join him and numerous as yet unspecified persons on a coach trip to Dusseldorf for Niederrhein's Installation on 2nd June. The formula was as last year. J.J. would supply the coach and Niederrhein would supply the Installation. A small deposit was requested and was duly dispatched. Unfortunately due to the underwhelming response to J.Js letter, the coach trip was cancelled and the deposit returned. A side effect of this was that the Memsahib and I missed out on our dawn dash throughout the countryside to Worthing. There were however some unforeseen delights in store for us.

We decided to travel to Dusseldorf by plane. Heathrow was our closest departure point and our Number 3 Daughter volunteered, YES volunteered to drive us to the Airport. Perhaps she wanted to make sure that we had left the country. We missed the delights of continental coach travel, such as driving on the wrong side of the road. However, that well-known Chinese General Um-Li-Tung who ruined more exercises in B.A.O.R. than ever the Russians could have done sent his Welsh nephew Di-Version over to cause confusion which resulted in us spending more time on the M25 than we anticipated. If we had stayed much longer on the motorway we would have been able to share with the people in the car alongside us our operation scars. We had run out of holiday snaps to show each other.

Heathrow Terminal 2 was its usual congested self, but the security checks adding to the turmoil. The tranquility of the flight was a very welcome relief. The arrival formalities at Dusseldorf Airport completed we taxied to the Terminus Hotel where we met up with W/Bro. Brad and Uschi, W/Bro. Jim Clark and Bro. David Speedy who was accompanied by his wife.

On the Friday (1st June) we went by mini-bus to the Paul Moor School in Rheindahlen where we met up with W/Bro. Glyn and Bro. Ronaldo. The rain held off most of the day and we were treated to very impressive displays and exhibitions of the work and activities of these very talented children in the form of art work and handicrafts which they were very keen to show us. During the buffet lunch W/Bro. Glyn played his guitar and sang, and still the rain held off. W/Bro. Cedric presented

on behalf of the Lodge a cheque for 3,228 Euros and 21 cents. Which was gratefully accepted by the Principal.

Brethren the Paul Moor School is a worthwhile cause and deserves all the help we can give it. If you haven't been to one of the Open Days I strongly recommend that you go and see for yourselves the excellent work that we at Lodge Niederrhein are helping to support. The success of the school is writ large on the happy smiling faces of the students, and our help is very much appreciated, not only the donation that we gave, but the fact that some of the Members attended their Open Day.

The Installation under the direction of (You'll do it my way) W/bro. Glyn was once again well worth the effort and hassle that travel involves these days. Sixteen Visiting Brethren from ten different Lodges in the Doncaster area thought so as well. The Visitors outnumbered the Members 38 Visitors to 26 Members.

At the conclusion of the Installation Ceremony W/Bro. Peter invested our 3 new Honorary Members with the Lodge Jewel and Colar. All went well until it was Bro. David Rogers turn. Brother David is our Guest Organist/Pianist and is rather large in stature. It was at this point that it appeared that the W/Master was attempting to strangle the Organist. The ribbon was a little on the short side. I am happy to report that resussitation was not required and that Bro. David played manfully on for the rest of the Meeting and at the Festive Board. It will be interesting to see if this attempted strangulation becomes enshrined in Niederrhein's Procedure for Investing Honorary Members. If so, perhaps future Honorary Members should be issued with a health warning

Highlights of the Day. The presentation of the working tools and the three addresses were of an extremely high standard, and W/Bro. Jim Lutton is to be congratulated on a very splendid and enjoyable Installation Ceremony. Once again the Brethren of Niederrhein rose to the occasion.

Sunday we departed to our various homes. Number 3 daughter met us at Heathrow. Um-Li-Tung's nephew had departed for pastures new and Ann and I were driven home through the English countryside with a warm glow of happiness and pleasure having spent a very pleasant week-end renewing and cementing our friendship with the Brethren of Lodge Niederrhein.