

# *President's Report 2010- 2011*

The Circuit is going from strength to strength with our Lodges now numbering 22. This year has seen Aldershot Army and Navy Lodge (1971) join our ranks and we are just about to welcome East Lancs Centurion Lodge (2322) as our newest member. They meet in Manchester and I look forward to visiting them in the near future. We have a further 2 lodges that have expressed interest and I will particularly welcome the admission of Justinian Lodge, which will be renamed the Queensman Lodge, as it is the initiative of a group of former Queen's Division Soldiers and serving Infantrymen. It will be good to have an Infantry lodge as part of the Circuit and hopefully their first meeting in their new colours will be 26 May 2012 (Freemasons' Hall being closed Saturday 2 June due to the Diamond Jubilee Weekend). I hope we can muster a good representation from our Lodges on that day.

Our annual event in the Summer went well although we were small in number. We were treated to an excellent walk and talk at Larkhill on the birth of military aviation and the Neolithic history of the region as it also the site of Stonehenge, Woodhenge and the Cursus. Last year also saw the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victoria Rifles which was an absolutely fabulous event. Nigel Brown, the Grand Secretary was inducted by Jonathan Spence, the Deputy Grand Master which was followed by a white table lunch with General Sir Jack Deverell and Colonel Nick Kitson as guests of honour. The Lodge presented a cheque for £10,000 to the Rifles Benevolent Fund which no doubt will be put to good use, as graphically illustrated by Colonel Kitson who received it and gave a flavour of the last tour of 3 Rifles when he was the Commanding Officer.

The website continues to be our primary means of communications and attracted some 3,000 unique visitors (10,000 page views) from 85 different countries. United Kingdom is closely followed by USA, Australia, Germany, Canada, France, Italy, Greece, Belgium and Brazil bringing up the rear is Georgia, Slovenia and Tanzania. Clearly, it is widely read and therefore an excellent way of publicising events and the web master is very happy to put up notices for Lodges should they wish. (kindly send any contributions to him at [navylodge2612@gmail.com](mailto:navylodge2612@gmail.com)).

Looking ahead to next year we intend to hold a Circuit Committee Lunch in January at Rules, Covent Garden and we will arrange a visit to the Tower to view the Ceremony of the Keys which will we hope will attract a good response. I am also keen to encourage more visiting this year both inter lodge and by the committee to "spread the word". We would also be very keen to hear from Lodges with any special meetings planned so that we can muster up some support.

Finally, while the Circuit is essentially a Craft Masonry organisation many of our lodges have linked Holy Royal Arch Chapters which are keen to receive any visitors. There is also a St Eligius Chapter Rose Croix (Duke Street, London) which is entirely open and they are very keen to hear from any members of the order who might like to visit or are looking for a military London Chapter.

**Peter Sharpe**