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# WBro. Stephen Gilbert

*The Prince Of Wales Lodge No.1338 EC*



Stephen Gilbert was born in Portadown, County Armagh, Northern Ireland in 1853.

At age ten years, he came to Auckland with his parents, settling with his parents in Parnell, where his father owned a drapery.

He first worked as a boy for J N Manning, Chemist, in Shortland St for whom he had to give evidence in court to recover a bad debt. He then worked as an assistant to James Sharland, also a Chemist, in Shortland St before opening his own Chemist shop at 180 Queen Street in 188 and remained at that site until 1908. He then opened a shop on the corner of Great North Road and Ponsonby Road where he stayed until he retired in 1920.

It seems he wasn't content to simply dispense medicines as he applied for at least one patent for medicine of his own design –“ Meleuca” for sore throats.

In 1885, he was involved with the very first Art Union and the prizes were displayed in his shop window. He was also involved in other community activities including a Baby Show in 1884.

In 1890, he received some publicity for chasing and catching a burglar who had broken into the shop next door.

In 1879 he married Alice Bartley and they had a daughter, Flora, born in 1882.

He died in 1938 at the age of 85.

He was initiated into the Prince of Wales' Lodge in 1887 and served as Master in 1892.

In District he was appointed DGDC in 1893, DGJW in 1895, DGSW in 1897 and PresDBGP in 1898.

## *Sources:*

*Contemporary newspaper reports*

*Acknowledgement and thanks to Michael Frost.*



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## **The Prince of Wales Lodge**

[www.englishmasons1338.org.nz](http://www.englishmasons1338.org.nz)

The Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1338, under the United Grand Lodge of England, was founded on the 18th day of December, 1869, and consecrated on Thursday, the 28th day of September, 1871, at the Masonic Hotel, Princes Street, Auckland, by Bro. J.J. Fitzgibbon, Past Master of the Waitemata Lodge, No. 689, E.C.



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