



Lancaster & District Group News Letter

March 2006

Morecambe Lodge Banner Dedication



Morecambe Lodge became the proud owners of a new banner at their April meeting held at the Masonic hall in Morecambe on the 3rd of the month

The ceremony of dedication was presided over by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro Peter Hosker, and attended by a great many masons. The banner was funded by the Worshipful master Bro WJE Dickinson as a memorial to his son who died in June 2003. Bro Dickinson can be seen in the picture with W.Bro Brian Cambridge the lodge secretary who acted as banner bearer during the ceremony of dedication.

The ceremony of dedication was supervised by W.Bro Keith Kemp of Heysham Lodge who is one of the three Provincial Deputy Directors of Ceremonies, and was greatly enhanced by the presence of a locally recruited choir. The event had a full turn out of acting provincial officers, with both acting stewards W.Bro Steve Jennings of Garstang Lodge and W.Bro Garry Rodgeron of Ulverston Lodge present, as well as W.Bro Jim Hamilton acting Sword Bearer. W.Bro Hosker also received a cheque for the N.M.S.F. 2010 Festival, which took the lodges donations to the level of Grand Patron

Lancaster Masonic Hall Move On Hold

The plans to sell the Masonic Hall at Church Street Lancaster to developers and use the funds gained to purchase new premises at Scotforth are temporarily on hold. The application to the Lancaster City Council Planning Department to change the use of the United Reform Church at Scotforth and to carry out the necessary alterations to make it usable as a Masonic Hall have been referred to the planning committee.

The plans of the proposed alterations have been on view for several weeks at Church Street Masonic Hall, and it was hoped that work could start on Scotforth in the near future. Agreement had been reached with the purchasers of Church Street to release funds to enable the alterations to the new building to be completed before the vacating the premises.

The planning committee will meet and hopefully make a favourable decision on the application on the 24th of April.



CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTIONS

Wednesday March 1st and the Installation of Bro. Neil McGill as Master of Lune Lodge. The installing team led by the outgoing Master – Bro. Phillip D Knipe, carried out their duties in a splendid manner. Phil has been, as a certain member of Lune Lodge would say – an ‘absolutely marvellous’ ambassador for the Lodge during his year and marked his exit from the chair by presenting a cheque for £2400.00 to the Representative of the PGM for the NMSF 2010 Festival – Well done Lune !

Thursday March 2nd and an invitation to attend the Installation Meeting of Symphony Lodge No 4924, which meets in Adelaide Street, Blackpool. Symphony Lodge meets in the morning and recruits its members mainly from the show business profession who would normally be working in the evening. The attendance was amazing as the room was just about filled to capacity – Maybe a ‘daylight lodge’ would be an attractive alternative in our Group ? (Food for thought) !!
Friday March 3rd marked a special occasion for Morecambe Lodge No 1561 – The dedication of a splendid Lodge Banner by the APrGM W.Bro. Peter J Hosker PJGD. The banner was presented to the Lodge by the current Master – Bro. WJE (Dickie) Dickinson in memory of his Son – Bro. WPJ Dickinson who passed to the Grand Lodge above on June 27th 2003. What a splendid gesture. With another donation towards the NMSF 2010 Festival, Morecambe Lodge has now qualified as a Grand Patron.

Monday March 6th was the Installation Meetings of both the Morecambe and Great Eccleston Chapters. On this occasion I was representing the Grand Superintendent at Great Eccleston to support the installation of E.Comp. VJ (Vic) Meddings, E.Comp John Thornton and Comp. Stephen J. Hogg as Z,H and J. The team was lead by E.Comp W (Bill) Wilkinson as the retiring Z. My congratulations go to him and all who took part, although I must say that in these days of declining numbers, it’s a pity that these 2 Chapters cannot come to some agreement to avoid the clash of dates.

Tuesday March 7th the regular meeting of my own Lodge at Silverdale with the WM and members of Torrisholme Lodge No

5245 as our guests on their annual fraternal visit. The business included a Passing (2nd Degree) followed by the Charge after Passing and an excellent presentation of the Second Degree Tracing Board. The Ceremony was shared by a number of Brethren thereby taking the pressure off the WM and adding colour and interest to those attending, as well as those taking part. I have a suggested breakdown of the 2nd Degree available if any other Lodge would like a copy to look at.

Thursday March 9th Heysham Chapter Installation, which I was to attend. Unfortunately it coincided with the very first meeting of the City of Lancaster Lodge No 281 (Don’t miss the opportunity to see the Amalgamation Ceremony on Thursday May 11th 2006) I felt as Chairman, I should give ‘City of Lancaster’ my support by attending their first meeting which, incidentally was to be a double Second Degree. With over 40 brethren in Lodge, many in ‘light blue’, the atmosphere was great and as there are more candidates on the horizon, it suggests that the members are enjoying their Masonry with renewed vigour.

On Monday 13th March, I attended the Installation Meeting of Knott End Chapter No 8674 with the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals – E.Comp. Tom Holroyd, PAGSoj, to support E.Comp. John S Chesters, PPrPGSoj, who has been an excellent ambassador for Knott End Chapter and ably led the team who installed E.Comp’s. Carl Hayhurst, William (Bill) Williamson and Comp. Mark Astbury in the chairs of Z, H and J for the ensuing year. Knott End Chapter has got off to a splendid start via the Past Z’s who have occupied the principals chairs since the consecration in 2000 – I wish you all well and hope those following will endeavour to continue the high standards set by your illustrious predecessors.

Friday 17th March and off to Blackpool with a number of other brethren and companions with their ladies to attend the Annual Provincial Grand Ball held at the Winter Gardens. Unfortunately not many Lodges or Chapters in our Group support the Ball, which is a great pity as it is a wonderful occasion. I trust that those who will be ‘in the chair’ next March will seriously consider joining us at the ball as I can promise you that it will definitely be one of the ‘highlights’ of your year in Office.

Saturday 18th March was the date of the meeting of the ‘Northern Group Chairman’s Forum’ held at Garstang Masonic Hall. The main topic of discussion being ‘Mentoring’ and how best to introduce a system into our Groups whereby assistance will be available in every Lodge to encourage new members and foster their progress, especially in the early years.

Monday 20th March—Rowley Chapter . The main item on the agenda was a presentation of the revised symbolical lecture in the form

of ‘question and answer’ by the current Z – E.Comp. Michael Walling and the DC – E.Comp. Doug Willoughby PPrDGSwdB. The presentation was well received by the Companions. The tables for the Festive Board were arranged in a square as a more user-friendly way of enjoying the after-proceedings.

Tuesday March 21st was the date of the meeting of the Group Executive where various problems are discussed and suggestions are made as to the way forward with such items as, reducing membership, amalgamations, mentoring, 2010 festival etc etc.

Wednesday March 22nd and Carnforth Lodge No 4951’s Installation Meeting. The Representative of the PGM on this occasion was W.Bro. JA (Tony) Harrison PAGDC. The Master - W.Bro. David Smith PPrAG-SuptofWks, installed Bro. Paul Woodburn, SW, in the chair. W.Bro. Harrison was particularly delighted to receive a cheque from the Lodge and thereby present a certificate to the WM certifying that the Lodge had become a Patron of the NMSF 2010 Festival.

Tuesday March 27th marked the Installation Meeting of Garstang Lodge No 6633 in the company of W.Bro. Leon Tax, PAGDC, APGM, and accompanied by no less than six Acting Provincial Officers, On this occasion, Bro. Alan Gardner installed Bro. Andrew Bartlett as WM in fine style and to a full attendance. Congratulations Andrew – May Garstang Lodge flourish under your rule and as we here that there is a possibly of some candidates, I wish you well in your endeavours. The Lodge also presented a cheque for £1200.00. towards the NMSF 2010 Festival, thereby qualifying as a Patron of the Festival – Well done Garstang Lodge !

Wednesday March 28th rounded off the month for me with the bi-annual Group Meeting held at Morecambe Masonic Hall. At the time of writing these notes at least 7 Lodges have already qualified as Grand Patrons of the NMSF 2010 Festival and 2 more have pledged to do so at their installation meetings next month. 7 others have qualified as Patrons, with 2 more pledging to do so at their installation meetings. This is a tremendous and most generous response to the Festival Appeal. Also, at least 90 members of the Group have signed up to become either Members, Patrons or Grand Patrons of the NMSF during the first year of the Festival Appeal – On behalf of the Group Charity Steward, W.Bro. Barry Robinson, I thank you all for your much appreciated support and ask those who are intending to ‘take up the pledge’ - Please see your Lodge Charity Steward who has all the details.

Peter Mason Group Chairman

Lune Lodge Becomes A Grand Patron

On Wednesday the 1st March Lune Lodge No 4724 held their Installation at Church Street Lancaster. Bro. Neil McGill was installed in the chair by the outgoing Master W.Bro. Phillip D Knipe in a splendid manner, and congratulations must go to all involved in the ceremony. W.Bro Phil has been an excellent ambassador for the Lodge during his year and marked his exit from the chair by presenting a cheque for £2400.00 to the Representative of the PGM who was W.Bro. Dennis Onslow PJGD the Chairman of the Leyland Group. With this donation the Lodge qualified as a Grand Patron of the NMSF 2010 Festival.

The new Master, Bro. Neil McGill, is a keen Mason being a member of Rowley Chapter, Leyland Mark and Philips Rose Croix. He has a busy year lined up for Lune Lodge with a second degree ceremony and several thirds. At their May meeting Lune lodge will hold an Old English Night to which Non Masons will be welcome to the festive board. Visitors are invited to bring friends they wish to introduce to masonry.

W.Bro Phillip Knipe & Bro Neil McGill ▶ ▶



£217,000 Support For Non-Masonic Charities

£217,000 of support for non-Masonic charities was approved at the Annual General Meeting of the Grand Charity in March 2006. The grants will help charities working with disabled and vulnerable people throughout the country. They were:

Home-Start UK - £105,000

A grant of £105,000 payable in equal instalments over three years to assist in setting up a regional network in north-east England and new schemes in Durham and Northumberland. Home-Start UK provides parent-to-parent support and practical help to families with babies and young children through 335 local volunteer schemes across the country.

Friends of the Elderly - £30,000

A grant of £30,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to help support a day care centre in Malvern for older people with dementia. Friends of the Elderly provides residential care for the elderly and runs 17 care and nursing homes, as well as a home support service and day care centres for isolated older people and community services for those with dementia.

Counsel and Care - £30,000

A grant of £30,000 payable in equal annual instalments over two years to help establish an independent advocacy service for older people. Counsel and Care supports older people with an information and advice service and produce comprehensive reports and fact sheets on many relevant issues. The charity also runs a telephone helpline assisting about 10,000 older people each year.

The Children's Trust

A grant of £52,000 to fund a ceiling-mounted hoist and tracking system in two residential units for severely disabled children. The Children's Trust provides short and long term care, special education and therapeutic programmes for children who have profound learning and physical disabilities and complex health needs.

Tom Holdroyd To Retire As Assistant To The Provincial Grand Principals

There is to be a major change in the Royal Arch, which has led to changes in the Craft structure of the Furnace and South Lakes Group. E.Comp. Tom Holdroyd P.A.G.Soj., who has, for the last five years been the assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals is stepping down. His place will be taken by E.Comp. Michael Davies P.A.G.Soj. E.Comp. Davies who has been the Group Chairman of the Furnace and South Lakes Group for ten years, announced he would be relinquishing that role last month. The new Group Chairman is to be W.Bro Rowland Saunders P.A.G.D.C. who was the group's Vice Chairman. The new Vice Chairman is to be W.Bro John Quiggin P.A.G.D.C. who was the Group Secretary. E.Comp. Holdroyd has been a very popular assistant, visiting all the chapters under his care and will be sorely missed.



E.Comp. Tom Holdroyd P.A.G.Soj. And E.Comp. Michael Davies P.A.G.Soj.

Tony Harrison Represents At Carnforth

On Wednesday the 22nd of March Carnforth Lodge No 4951 held its Installation Meeting. The representative of the PGM was W.Bro. Tony Harrison P.A.G.D.C. This was the first time Tony had represented the P.G.M. in his own group since his promotion to Grand Rank. The installing Master was W.Bro. David Smith P.Pr.A.G.Supt of Wks, he installed Bro. Paul Woodburn the Senior Warden, in the chair. Paul who can be seen opposite with W.Bro Harrison, is a keen Rotarian as well as a dedicated Mason. He is a member of The Lancaster Loyne Rotary



Club and the organiser of The Rotary National Conference, as well as the editor of the district magazine. The ceremony was conducted with great dignity and accuracy by W.Bro Smith and was well attended. He was also honoured to present a cheque from the Lodge to W.Bro Harrison for £1,200 that enabled the Lodge to become a Patron of the NMSF 2010 Festival