



Lancaster & District Group News Letter

February 2006

William Seddon At Wyreside Installation



In February W.Bro William R Seddon P.S.G.D was the principal guest at Wyreside installation. He is the Assistant Provincial Grand Master with responsibility for the Preston Group and the Chorley and District Group, and he is pictured above with W.Bro Phil Gardner and Bro. Alan Gardner the new Worshipful Master.

W.Bro Seddon and all those present were treated to a fine display of ritual and a most enjoyable festive board which was held in the Masonic hall, and was attended by 95 masons. W.Bro David Brown who's year has been a great success installed Bro. Gardner with great accuracy and dignity. As a result of his and the lodges efforts a total of £4623 was given to Masonic and non Masonic charities over the year. The prime non Masonic beneficiaries were Bowland Village Trust and N.W. Air Ambulance who both received £500, St Catharine's Hospice and Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue who each received £400, other beneficiaries included Vine House, First Responders and The Garstang Christmas Lights Fund. The lodge also received a certificate from W.Bro Seddon in recognition of the fact that they had donated £1200 to the 2010 festival and had accordingly become patrons of the festival.

It was a day for change in the lodge with the Director of Ceremonies W.Bro.H.N.Houghton stepping down after four years in office and his place being taken by W.Bro Steve Jennings the A.D.C. who is also an acting Provincial Grand Seward, and one of celebration with a first appointment and two promotions to Provincial Grand Lodge recently being announced. The new appointment was that of the Lodge Almoner W.Bro J.E.Stackhouse to P.Pr.S.G.D., and the promotions were W.Bro. G. Nuttall and W.Bro. F.Hodgkinson to P.Pr.J.G.W.

New Acting Officers Announced In The Group

The Lancaster and District Group will have three new acting Provincial Grand Officers in the coming season, they are W.Bro. K.Lamb of Sandylands Lodge who is to be a Provincial Grand Seward: W.Bro. D.Malcolm of Heysham Lodge who is to be a Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and W.Bro. L.A. Robinson of Pilling Lodge who is to be the Provincial Assistant Grand Sword Bearer. This is in addition to W.Bro K.Kemp who will continue as a Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and W.Bro D.Tattersal who will continue as Provincial Deputy Grand Organist.

2006 Lakes Walk Postponed Until 2009

At a meeting of the 2006 Lakes Walk Committee held at Wellington Park Leyland, it was decided that in view of the magnificent support thus far for the 2010 Festival, and that the totals to-date stand at £1,314,366, it would be inappropriate to impose a further burden on the generosity of the Brethren of the Province at this time, and that the 2006 Lakes Walk would be postponed until 2009. All monies collected thus far will be carried forward to the event later in 2009 and they will create a solid platform when the event is held as a Grand Finale to the Festival.

Clay Pigeon Shooting at Leighton Hall

The third National Masonic Inter-Provincial Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition is to be held at Leighton Hall, Carnforth, Lancashire, by kind permission of the Gillow-Reynold's family.

The earliest records of Leighton Hall go back over 750 years to 1246 when it is known that Adam D'Avranches had a fortified manor there and even today the current owner is a direct descendant of him. The Hall enjoys a wonderful and colourful history and provides an excellent backdrop for the latest National Competition. The event is to take place on Sunday 18th June 2006 when it is hoped, as on previous occasions, Provinces from all over the country will be represented, and that there will be representation from professional shooting bodies.

Funds raised from the 2006 competition will jointly support The New Masonic Samaritan Fund which we are supporting with the 2010 Festival, and Brian House the newest children's hospice in the county which is named after it's first President Brian Redhead, the famous writer and broadcaster. Brian House is part of Trinity House – the Hospice of the Fylde and was founded as recently as 1996.

Torrisholme Give £1,000 To Diabetes Trust

Torrisholme Lodge have donated £1,000 to The Insulin Dependent Diabetes Trust. The cheque was presented by the immediate Past Master W.Bro Peter Turner at an informal gathering held at the Lothersdale Hotel. The Insulin Dependent Diabetes Trust is a registered charity and was formed in 1994. They are concerned with listening to the needs of people who live with diabetes, understanding those needs and doing their utmost to offer help and support. They not only help those who actually have diabetes but also their carers - the husbands, wives, partners and parents. The Trust is run



W.Bro Peter Turner Mrs Jenny Hirst and Miss Beverly Freeman and W.Bro Brian Dewhurst

entirely by voluntary donations and does not accept funding from the pharmaceutical industry in order to remain uninfluenced and independent. The cheque was received on behalf of the trust by Mrs Jenny Hirst and Miss Beverly Freeman. Also present at the presentation was W.Bro Brian Dewhurst and W.Bro Dennis Butterfield.



CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTIONS



February and quite a busy month !

Thursday February 2nd and an invitation to attend Aegis Lodge No 9915 in Preston to witness a demonstration of the First Degree based on the ritual devised for Plantagenet Lodge No 9357. This involves a number of brethren in sharing the work. The format was very well received by those present and is becoming more and more popular in our Lodges as a way of assisting those who find the ritual difficult to learn and involving those Past Masters who would otherwise have nothing to do. Those who have seen or tried it agree that the ceremony is enhanced by the inclusion of different voices and is welcomed by those Past Masters who like to be involved but would not welcome the prospect of a delivering the ritual in full.

Friday February 3rd and an invitation to attend the 'mess night' at the meeting of Croxteth United Services Lodge No 786 in their new home at 'The Artists Club' in Liverpool, to support them and our Group Vice Chairman, W.Bro. Phil Gardner PAGDC who presented a most interesting talk entitled Sherlock Holmes a Freemason ? Croxteth United Services Lodge has been saved from extinction by a number of brethren from Heysham Lodge No 4108. If you get a chance to visit their new home and sample the Festive Board, it has to be seen to be believed ! An excellent evening was had by all who attended.

Monday February 6th - I attended a meeting of the Amalgamation Working Party to hear how their work was progressing. Some Lodges have already invited members of the Working Party, headed by our Group Vice Chairman, to speak in Lodge on the subject of amalgamation and almost all of the ones visited to date are now actively considering their future in this direction.

Tuesday February 7th was the meeting of my own Lodge at Silverdale where a presentation of the 1st Degree Tracing Board was expertly delivered by W.Bro. Brian Dobson PPrDGSuptofWks and followed by a most interesting slide show and talk By W.Bro. Fred Lomax, PPrGStdB, on the magnificent Washington Masonic Memorial in America - A real eye-opener !

Wednesday February 8th - The last Installation meeting of 281 as 'The Lodge of Fortitude' as they will be amalgamating with John O'Gaunt Lodge No 3815 (subject to the confirmation at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge on Wednesday March 8th) and will be known as the City of Lancaster Lodge No 281. From that date both Warrants (281 and 3815) and other artefacts from both Lodges will be displayed at every meeting of the new Lodge. Don't miss the very impressive and moving Amalgamation Ceremony which will be undertaken by the Provincial Grand Master and his team in Lancaster MH on Thursday May 11th 2006. I am sure 'City of Lancaster No 281' will welcome your support.

Saturday February 10th - The final committee meeting of the Furness and South Lakeland and Lancaster and District Group Joint Long Weekend break in Stirling on April 28th 2006. There are a few places left on the Lancaster coach. If any member and his lady would like to join us on this occasion, you will be most welcome and are assured of a most enjoyable and friendly weekend - Please contact myself, Michael Walling or Stuart Brackstone without delay.

Thursday February 16th - Rowley Lodge No 1051 and a very pleasant and well conducted Installation Ceremony when W.Bro. Bryan Milner PPrSGD installed W.Bro. John Cherry PPrAGSuptofWks (Des) in the chair. Well done Bryan for an excellent job and congratulations to you John. I hope that you will have another happy and memorable year in Office and I look forward to seeing you install your Son-in-Law - Bro. PV Phizackerley SW (subject to the approval of your members) next February.

Friday February 17th - The Furness and South Lakeland Group Annual Charity Boxing Tournament and Dinner held in conjunction with Kendal Amateur Boxing Club at the Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange-over-Sands. In 20 years this event, which is supported by all the Lodges in the Group and to which other gentlemen are invited, has raised well over one hundred thousand pounds, which is divided equally between Masonic and Non-Masonic Charities. Congratulations to our colleagues from across the bay.

Monday February 20th and a visit to Festival Lodge No 8123 in Preston accompanied by W.Bro. JH Wilson PAGDC to present my illuminated talk 'The hidden mysteries of the 3rd Degree Tracing Board' which explains the meanings of the various symbols and signs shown on the 3rd Degree TB and are not explained in the Traditional History !

Wednesday February 22nd was the Old English Night at Carnforth Lodge No 4951 where 7 gentlemen joined us at the Festive Board for the fun. W.Bro. Brian Wright PSGD, APrGM attended the meeting with his Son-in-Law who now lives in Carnforth and has recently expressed a desire to join the Order. W.Bro. JH Wilson PAGDC gave the gentlemen a tour of the Lodge and a short talk regarding the aims and objects of our Order. Well done Carnforth for your enterprise. I hope your efforts 'bear fruit'.

Thursday February 28th saw the Installation Meeting of Sandylands Lodge No 5702 and an excellent presentation of the ritual by the Installing Master - Bro. Frank Heath. Frank has been an excellent ambassador for Sandylands Lodge and concluded his year by Installing his successor Bro. Rex Morris in fine style. Sandylands Lodge has also qualified as a Grand Patron of the NMSF 2010 Festival.

Friday February 24th and a visit to Blackpool to see a most impressive Amalgamation Ceremony performed by the Provincial Grand Master and his team in Progress Lodge No 4120. They have recently amalgamated with their daughter Lodge (Benevolence No 6340) and what a splendid, happy and memorable occasion it was. The 'progressive' Offices were all filled by Master Masons and with a list of 9 Stewards in attendance, all looks well for the future !

Monday February 27th and an invitation to attend the regular meeting of Piel Castle Lodge No 6099 in Barrow-in-Furness, in the company of our Assistant Provincial Grand Master - W.Bro. Peter Hosker PSGD, who conducted the 50th Anniversary celebration of W.Bro. CB Thornber PPrAGDC's, initiation into Freemasonry in his usual impressive manner. W.Bro. Thornber was initiated in Torrisholme Lodge No 5245 just before W.Bro. Denis Butterfield PAGDC who attended to present W.Bro. Thornber with a transcript of minutes of his initiation in Torrisholme Lodge in 1956.

Peter Mason Group Chairman

An Amalgamation Update from Phil Gardner.....



"The amalgamation of Lodge of Fortitude and John O'Gaunt Lodge has proceeded superbly well and they meet as "City of Lancaster Lodge" for the first time on 9th March - What a great achievement and example to us all - congratulations to all involved.

Discussions between Poulton Hall, Sandylands and Rowley are progressing well and agreement on most matters has been reached by the Lodge sub committees. The question of a possible name has come to the fore and is presently being discussed by all members - an amicable settlement is anticipated and the "Great Name Debate" should reach a conclusion by the end of March! At the recent Installation Meeting of Rowley Lodge the new W.M., John Cherry, set out his Lodge's full support of the amalgamation route and eloquently set out a vision of a strong and vibrant future for the three Lodges united.

Runic and Torrisholme Lodges are continuing with their discussions and by all accounts are having their own "Great Name Debate" and exploring all possibilities with good humour!

The Amalgamation Working Party has recently met with the members of Vale Lodge who are to be congratulated on generally discussing their place in this Group's Masonic future.

At least a further two Lodges are now setting up meetings with the AWP before the Spring and our members generally, from the most Senior to our newest initiates, are taking our Provincial Grand Master's advice when he says "It really is crucial to the future of Freemasonry that we seriously consider the future of our Lodges. We need to put aside personal prejudice and sentiment....."

I am delighted with the way this Group is rising to the challenge and the members of my team are always willing to help and advise. Why not contact us?"

The Last Master of The Lodge of Fortitude

Following quickly on the last Installation of John O'Gaunt lodge in January, February saw the last installation of The Lodge of Fortitude. The two will be formally amalgamated at the March meeting of Grand Lodge, The new lodge will be known as The City of Lancaster Lodge. With around 80 masons in attendance Bro. Mick Gorry was installed in the chair by W.Bro Roy Donville. Roy, who was until recently the master of a lodge in Carlisle, mystified many of those present by employing some of the Cumbrian ritual during the ceremony.

W.Bro Gorry will become the Master of the new City of Lancaster lodge and it must have given him great encouragement to see no fewer than 36 members of the new lodge present at the installation.

The Lodge of Fortitude is by far the oldest Lodge in Lancaster having been consecrated some time during 1790 and warranted on the 13th No-



Bro. Gorry with W.Bro K. Jackson the representative of the P.G.M

vember 1989. Bro. Gorry is thought to be about the 217th master of the lodge this is based on the assumption of one master per year but that may not be the case as in some lodges in the early days installations were more frequent.

Poulton Hall & Sandylands Old English Night

Following the success of Poulton Halls last Old English Bro. Mike Craddock the Worshipful Master arranged a sequel of equal colour. This time however the event was a joint venture with Sandylands Lodge.

The evening began with the demonstration of an initiation ceremony from 1759 by the "Southport Masters of 1998" lead by W.Bro. John Wingfield. The candidate who underwent the ordeal of initiation was Bro Matt Beckett of Poulton Hall. The Masters of 1998 interpretation of the 1759 ritual was instructive, humorous and very well presented providing an insight



Does Bro. Frank Heath the Master of Sandylands (not in costume) have the best wig?

into the historical roots of our modern ceremonies.

The entertainment in the lodge started the evening off well with the assembled brethren getting used to drinking "Bumpers" at every opportunity.

At the festive board the WM Bro. Mike Craddock, the Senior Warden W.Bro. Reg. Baxter and Junior Warden Bro. Arthur Parsons of Poulton Hall all joined the Southport Masters in full costume. And not to be outdone the fines master W. Bro. George Shuttleworth was again dressed in cowboy.

Musical entertainment was provided by Bro Alan Lapworth of Heysham Lodge and W.Bro. Richard Escombe provided the humour.

W.Bro Craddock can be seen opposite with W.Bro. John Wingfield leader of the Southport team.

The evening raised in the order of £400 for Masonic Charities



A WEEKEND OF FUN and MASONIC FELLOWSHIP

THE LANCASTER & DISTRICT GROUP and THE FURNESS & SOUTH LAKELAND GROUP

FRIDAY 28th APRIL – MONDAY 1st MAY

The Golden Lion Hotel Stirling

**STIRLING CASTLE - SOCIAL AT THE LODGE ANCIENT STIRLING No 30 - SCONE PALACE
TULLIBARDINE DISTILLERY - TOUR THE TROSSACHS, INCLUDING - BURNS COTTAGE & MUSEUM**

The weekend is open to all Masons and their Wives/Partners The basic price is £170/person, which includes hotel accommodation and coach travel throughout for further details contact Stuart Brackstone Tel 01229 585040 or Peter Mason, or Mike Walling