



Lancaster & District Masonic Group News Letter

Vol 5 No5

Junior Warden Visits City of Lancaster

W.Bro Giles Berkley the Provincial Junior Grand Warden of The Province of West Lancashire, represented R.W.Bro Colin Pente Wright P.G.M. at the installation of the City of Lancaster Lodge. The installation was held at Rowley Court on the 14th of February. W.Bro Barkley and the new worshipful Master W.Bro Jack Baxter have been good friends for many years and it was an obvious pleasure for them both that W.Bro Barkley had been given the chance



W.Bro Berkley W.Bro Baxter and W.Bro Gardner Group Chairman

to represent the P.G.M. The installation presented the lodge with several problems which it very ably overcame. The Worshipful Master Bro Ken McDonagh was not able to attend as he has a problem with his knee and was expected to be in hospital on the day. The Director of Ceremonies, and his Deputy were also both unable to attend, leaving three important vacancies to fill. The solution was for the Past Master W.Bro Michael Gorry to step in to the breach and take the chair, from where he did some of the ceremony, and to give several past masters other sections. Also for W.Bro Chris Butterfield, to leave his role as Secretary and stand in as D.C for the day. The result was an excellent example of how the work can be shared. Those present being treated to a very impressive demonstration of how giving parts of the ritual to Past Masters can enhance a ceremony.

2010 Festival - Three Peaks Walk

Penny Gent – Wernside – Ingleborough

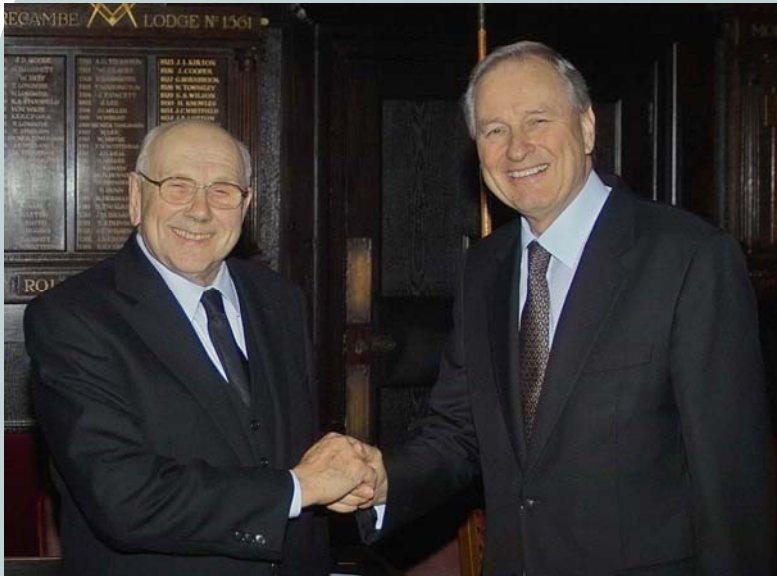
A sponsored walk will take place on the 11th May in aid of the 2010 Festival. W.Bro Barry Robinson will be the main walker, others can walk with him for all or part of the journey if they wish. The walk will be 25 miles long and is expected to take 12 hours. Your lodge secretary will have more information.



25 Miles

11th May 2008

John Altham Celebrates 50 Years In Masonry



W.Bro John Carr Altham and W.Bro Peter Hosker

On the 1st of February 2008 W.Bro John Carr Altham celebrated fifty years in Masonry. W.Bro John was initiated into Morecambe Lodge on the 7th February 1958. and is still an active member of the lodge. The celebration was presided over by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro Peter Hosker, and W.Bro Keith Kemp the Deputy Provincial Director of Ceremonies controlled proceedings. W.Bro Hosker gave the many masons present a abbreviated version of the life of W.Bro John. He told of John's National Service in the Royal Navy, where he was selected for a commission, duly promoted to National Service Upper Yardman, then to Midshipman RNVR, on to Sub-Lieutenant, Lieutenant, and then to Lt Commander, before retiring in 1977 with the Rank of Commander RNR. He told how many of the ships on which John served are household names: HMS Devonshire, Leander, Hermes, Maidstone, Adamant, Victory and Sidon. He related W.Bro John's equally impressive record of service to the community: Secretary of the Morecambe and Lonsdale Liberal Association. Treasurer of the Sailors' Children Society. Member and Chairman of Morecambe and Heysham Round Table, Member and President of the Old Lancastrian Committee, and a Justice of the Peace for 31 years. In his Masonic career W.Bro John was master of Morecambe Lodge in 1974 and was also Master of the Old Lancastrian Lodge. He was Lodge treasure of Morecambe Lodge from 2005 to 2007, and in 1997, was appointed by the Province of West Lancashire to the rank of PPrJGD. At the festive board the toast to W.Bro Altham was given by one of his colleagues from the Old Lancastrian Lodge, who is now a member of Morecambe W.Bro Andrew Wilson, and W.Bro John's reply proved he has many years left in Masonry yet.

Sandylands Chapter Well Attended For Lectures

Over fifty companions attended the annual business Meeting of Sandylands Chapter on Wednesday 13th February at Derby St Morecambe. The meeting was the penultimate to be presided over by E.Comp Ernie Greenhalgh who is completing two consecutive years as First Principal. After the business section of the meeting the companions were treated to two very interesting lectures, which were given by members of the Provincial Stewards Chapter.

The first was given by E.Comp W.E.Smith P.G.Std.B and was entitled 'In Royal Arch Masonry we acknowledge six lights' it covered the six candles and how they are positioned, the three larger ones representing life, health and intelligence, while the smaller candles cover material things to regulate and assist us in our daily lives. The second lecture was linked and was delivered by E. Comp. D Harrison P.Pr.G.S.N entitled 'The Gavel' who explained the significance of the number 'Three' in our Chapters – 3 Principals, 3 Sojourners etc., going on to explain how the Gavel was made from 3 different woods – Elm, Ash, and Oak, all English hard woods and each containing 3 letters. A Gavel made from the 3 woods was presented to E. Comp Ernest Greenhalgh, for use within the Chapter at the Festive Board.



E.Comp W.E.Smith & E. Comp. D Harrison with the Three Principals



The Group

Chairman

the outgoing Master, Ken McDonagh who was absent due to illness – you were very much in our thoughts on that day.

Towards the end of the month my own Lodge, Poulton le Sands held it's first Installation Meeting since the amalgamation. This was an important milestone for the Lodge and it was a great delight to see a full Lodge room and a super ceremony conducted in great style by the Installing Master Patrick Phizackerley. He has had the task of leading a newly amalgamated Lodge through it's first year and at the same time juggling a busy working life and the responsibility of a very young family. With the help of the members Patrick has carried out his duties admirably and also has managed to enjoy himself! I am proud to be a member of such a forward thinking and happy Lodge.

At that meeting the Representative was Stuart Thornber who is our Provincial Grand Charity Steward and he has the enormous task of steering the Province through the 2010 Festival. He does a wonderful job and deserves our fullest support. He announced that there is to be a Farewell Concert for Colin Wright, our Provincial Grand Master, at the Guild Hall, Preston on 7th June, with the famous Brighthouse and Rastrick Brass Band. The proceeds of the event will go to the Festival. Your Lodge Secretaries will, by now, have received full details. It would be wonderful on the night to see a great block of members from this, Colin Wright's mother Group, showing our support for the Festival and our P.G.M..

I am looking forward to seeing you all, around the Group, in the equally busy month of March!

Phil Gardner

After all the exciting news of changes in the Province and Group I must take this opportunity to thank the many members, in this Group and beyond, who have contacted me with good wishes for my future role as Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

I have always believed, ever since my initiation in to Freemasonry, that one of our great hallmarks is the way in which we support and encourage each other in all our endeavours. Your kind comments are much appreciated. Thank you!

The local changes do not, of course, come in to play until May and therefore at the moment it is business as usual in the Group! February has been busy but great fun! Amongst many other events, I attended an outstanding 50th Anniversary for W.Bro. John Altham in Morecambe Lodge – the meeting was packed to the rafters and was very enjoyable and interesting. Congratulations to John and to Morecambe Lodge for hosting such a super evening.

The charming and entertaining Provincial Junior Grand Warden, Giles Berkley, was the Representative of our Provincial Grand Master at City of Lancaster Lodge Installation and I know how much he enjoyed his visit. We certainly enjoyed his jokes! Best wishes to

The Annual Group Ball

14th June 2008

The Midland Hotel, Morecambe



£32.00 per Ticket

Only 150 Tickets Available

See your charity steward for tickets

Grand Charity Presentation To Hospice



W. Bro Phil Gardner Mrs Janett Thompson W. Bro Peter Hosker

In January W. Bro Peter Hosker the Assistant Provincial Grand Master presented a cheque for over three thousand pounds to St John's Hospice Lancaster, he presented the cheque on behalf of The Freemasons Grand Charity. This fund is the central grant making charity of all Freemasons in England and Wales. All funding for the Grand Charity comes from donations by individual Freemasons and their families. He made the presentation to Mrs Janett Thompson the hospice administrator. Also present was the Lancaster and District Group Chairman W. Bro P Gardner. St John's Hospice services, now, not only include facilities for in-patients but also for those who are able to attend as day patients. Day Hospice provides support and palliative care allowing patients to continue to live at home

with their families. Whilst terminal care remains an important part of the hospices life, many patients return to their homes after a successful period of palliative or respite care.

The total expenditure for St John's and its sister charitable organisation Cancer Care, which is situated close by, is now approximately £1.6 million. Of this grant income accounts for a total of £750,000. This leaves a short fall of £850,000 it follows that support of such a facility is vital for the community and the funds donated will enable the hospice to continue to provide the excellent and essential services that help so many.

CAMEL RACING

SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2008

Proceeds in aid of various charities including British Heart Foundation

FIRST RACE 2.30PM (Bar open 2pm)

FANCY DRESS Optional

ST MICHAELS ON WYRE VILLAGE HALL

A GREAT AFTERNOON FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Contact Ian on 07971204836
or Clive on 01995 603797 for tickets

TICKETS inclusive of food JUST £8 each

E Mail CliveRCope@AOL for more information



Large Turnout For Poulton le Sands Installation

On Wednesday February 27th, at the first installation ceremony since the amalgamated Lodge of Poulton le Sands came into existence, Bro Norman Haworth was installed as Master. The outgoing Master, W.Bro Patrick Phizackerley, installed his successor in a very admirable manner with an audience of 133 brethren including 7 Grand Officers and 12 acting Provincial Officers.

Bro. Norman, who is also a member of Morecambe Mark Masons, was chairman of Canon Hygiene for many years and is well known in the area, being currently the President of Lancaster & District Chamber of Commerce. He started his Masonic career when he was initiated into Sandylands Lodge 5702 on May 25th 1978 and progressed to Junior Deacon before business pressures took their toll. He stood down in 1989 and has since attended as often as his trips overseas allowed, fulfilling a very useful role behind the bar. Last year, in semi-retirement, he was persuaded to take the role of Senior Warden in the new lodge and now, at last, has become Master.



W. Bro J. Stuart Thornber Bro Norman Haworth W. Bro Patrick Phizackerley,



Just some of the 133 Masons attending



W. Bro J. Stuart Thornber Bro Norman Haworth

At the Festival of St. John, held at the Lothersdale Hotel, Morecambe, the representative of our RW Prov Grand Master was W. Bro J. Stuart Thornber PAGDC, who is Provincial Charity Steward, spoke about the progress of the 2010 festival and encouraged anyone who has not yet contributed to consider doing so. He announced that there will be a concert given by the Brighouse and Raistrick Brass Band at Preston Guild Hall on Saturday June 7th to celebrate the retirement of our PGM, RW Bro C P Wright

**The Hard Pressed Charity Steward
W. Bro Frank Heath**

