



Lancaster & District Group of Lodges and Chapters NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 Issue 5

GEOFF COUSEN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN MASONRY

On the 12th December W.Bro Geoffrey Pearson Cousen P.J.G.D of Runic Lodge celebrated 50 Years in Freemasonry. The occasion was attended by many masons and was presided over by W.Bro Phil Gardner the Assistant Provincial Grand Master. W.Bro Geoff has had a long and distinguished career in masonry and a remarkable life in general, and it was obvious the W.Bro Gardner derived much pleasure in relating this to those present. For those of you who were not fortunate enough to be present what follows is a summary of what the A.P.G.M told those who were there.

Geoff was born in Bradford in 1932, a Yorkshire lad – his sister Barbara was born 3 years later and the family moved to Morecambe in 1937. He attended the Friends School in Lancaster, as did a few others present that evening, and his Headmaster was the legendary W.Bro. James Dodds Drummond who was also the District Scouts Commissioner. Geoff was a keen sportsman at school, playing cricket for the First XI and winning the Gymnastics Trophy. Geoff left school and in 1950 joined the family firm in Bradford, a firm of wool merchants created by his father in 1937, where he worked until the demise of the wool trade. W.Bro Geoff then worked as Company Secretary and Manager of Fleetbest Ltd of Morecambe and eventually Office Manager of R.G.Greenwood at Carnforth.

In 1955 he met his wife Brenda and married her at St John's Church, Heysham in 1959. Geoff has three children, David a lawyer in Manchester, Michael who is Northern General Manager with Subaru and Susan who as regular readers of the publication will know is a keen long distance runner.

W.Bro. Geoff was initiated in to Runic Lodge in December 1958, and he worked his way up through the Lodge offices to become Worshipful Master in 1973. Five years later he not only became the ADC of the Lodge but was appointed to that very distinctive Provincial Rank of Steward, an office traditionally given to only those who show tremendous promise for the future. How right it proved to be his case.

Geoff became Lodge DC from 1980 and continued until 1986, when he was invited to become Group Secretary. In 1988 he became The Group Vice Chairman, and in 1996 The Group Chairman and he served in that role for 8 years. All Group Officials work hard but the position of Chairman demands special skills of leadership, clear thinking, patience and tolerance, attributes which Geoff has aplenty.



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The hard work put in by Geoff was recognised by those in high office and he was promoted to the rank of P.Pr.J.G.W. in 1987. He became a Grand Officer in 1989 being appointed to the rank of P.A.G.D.C. and was promoted again in 1998 to the rank of P.J.G.D. a very high rank which is rarely achieved.

He was the Founding DC for Plantagenet Lodge of Installed Masters and continues to play a very active part in the life of that Lodge, and he is a member of Setantia and Quingenti Lodges.

The A.P.G.M spoke of the pleasure it had given him when Geoff had accepted his invitation to serve as Senior

Warden of Quingenti during his year as Worshipful Master of that special Lodge. Despite all his many other commitments in masonry W.Bro Geoff is also an Honorary member of St Michaels on Wyre Lodge and of Knott End Chapter. His achievements in the Royal Arch match those in the craft. He was exalted in to Heysham Chapter in 1965 and became First Principal in 1986 . He achieved P.Pr.G.S.N. in 1998 and Grand Rank, PGStdB in 1991 and the very high



W.Bro Geoff receives the scroll commemorating 50 years in masonry



The assembled Grand Officers with W.Bro Geoff, include RW.Bro Colin Penty Wright our recently retired Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro E Peter Saunders a past Assistant Provincial Grand Master. The current Assistant Provincial Grand

Rank of PAGSoj in 1999. All tremendous achievements. W.Bro Gardner said he owed Geoff a personal debt of thanks for the opportunities he had given him in his Masonic life. From his earliest days in Freemasonry he had received tremendous support and encouragement from him, and that his wise counsel was always much appreciated .

The A.P.G.M. spoke of how as Group Chairman W.Bro Geoff had invited him to be the Group Secretary and how he went on from there to become Vice Chairman and Chairman, he thanked him for his support and said how proud and honoured he was to call him a friend, and to be able to share this celebration with him.

He then invited the Group Chairman W.Bro Jim Wilson to read the presentation scroll before he presented it to W.Bro Geoff .

FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

December is the month when most of our Lodges take advantage of the Christmas season to invite their ladies to join them for a seasonal festive board, entertainment of some sort is usually provided and enables the ladies to enjoy each others company at a relaxed and informal evening. Some Lodges invite gentlemen and their ladies and this enables prospective candidates to meet with Brethren and see first hand what we are all about.

It is a quiet month for the Group officers as far as official engagements are concerned as we only have 2 Installations taking place, Morecambe Lodge and Chapter of Fortitude, however this year the December meeting of Runic Lodge saw the celebration of 50 years as a Freemason of one of our past chairmen W.Bro Geoffrey Pearson Cousin, this turned out to be a splendid evening with our Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro Philip Gardner giving an accomplished and professional account of W.Bro Geoff's Masonic achievements, and at the festive board our past Provincial Grand Master a friend of Geoff's since school days revealing some of his more personal details. Unfortunately over the weekend I was struck down with this awful cold virus which was going about and was disappointed not to be able to attend the Annual Carol Service held at St.Michael's Church and hosted by St Michael's Lodge which is always a very enjoyable evening for Masons their families and friends and really sets the mood for Christmas. I was also unable to attend the Carnforth Christmas Fellowship Lunch, but I do thank the Morecambe and Garstang Fellowships for the hospitality and kindness shown to my Vice Chairman and Secretary who attended those functions for the first time, and both tell me they found them enjoyable and were impressed by the work the fellowships do for our retired Brethren and widows and the amount of work that goes in to arranging such interesting and varied programmes.

By way of an advert our Assistant to the P.G.Principals Ex.Comp.Michael Davies intends to change the format of the Royal Arch Workshop by holding a forum at the February meeting of Scorton Chapter on Monday the 23rd February the evening will start with an Exaltation ceremony after which an overview of the R.A. will be given followed by a question and answer session, this is primarily aimed at Companions who have joined the Royal Arch in the last five years but is of course open to all Companions who will be most welcome, the evening will be rounded off by a buffet supper, anyone wishing to attend this event other than the members of Scorton Chapter must book in with our Vice Chairman W.Bro Tony Harrison.

I hope that you all enjoy your Freemasonry in 2009 and I and the Group Officers look forward to meeting you during the course of the year.

BARN DANCE
SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2009

Wyrebank Garstang

WITH
The Morris Travellers

7:30pm
IN AID OF THE 2010 FESTIVAL

Tickets £12.50 From Keith Lamb - Jim Hamilton - Neil McGill - Barry Robinson - Alan Robinson

CHAPTER NEWS CHAPTER NEWS CHAPTER NEWS CHAPTER

February Is A Busy Month In The Royal Arch



Lancaster And District Group Chapter Meetings



Morecambe 2/2/09

Lancaster Castle 2/2/09

Fortitude 3/2/09

Carnfoth 5/2/09

Sandylands 10/2/09

Scorton 23/2/09

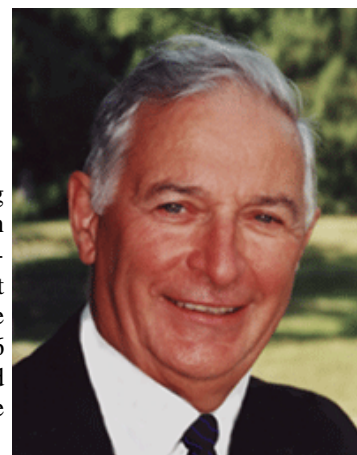


Michael Davies To Retire As Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals



E.Comp Michael Davies is to retire as Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals at the next Provincial Grand Chapter. E.Comp Davies has been in the role since 2006 having succeeded E.Comp Tom Holroyd. The new Assistant will be E.Comp Alan Dunn. Alan was initiated into

Freemasonry in 1968, appointed acting Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1982 and, in Grand Lodge, Past Assistant Grand Registrar in 1986 and Past Junior Grand Deacon in 2000. He gained Grand Rank in Chapter in 1986 when he was appointed Past Grand Standard Bearer. He is a member of the Barrow Chapter.



NEW ROYAL ARCH DISCUSSION GROUP

Are you a member of the Royal Arch ? If So

You are invited to join the web based
Royal Arch Discussion Group



Here you will find Articles Useful information
and lively debate.

To join contact Ex.Comp.Peter Mason (petermason5@talktalk.net)

MORE CHAPTER NEWS, PLEASE.

The Group Newsletter reports events from both Lodges and Chapters and we would be grateful for more news from Chapters. Stories and pictures can be sent to Jim Hamilton: js_c_hamilton@dsl.pipex.com or Peter Pemberton: pembers@btinternet.com