



Lancaster And District Lodges Back The Festival

As the Masonic year progresses the number of lodges donating significant amounts to 2010 Festival for the New Masonic Samaritan Fund has continued to increase. Lancaster Castle became the latest Lodge to become Grand Patrons of the festival when at their instillation on the 24th of November the new master W.Bro Peter Wiltshire presented W.Bro Peter Hosker the Assistant Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £2,400. They were the third lodge in the group to do so, Great Ecclestone, and Heysham Lodges having already contributed that amount.

At Morecambe instillation on the Friday the 2nd of December the new master Bro Whitfield J.E.Dickinson presented the A. P.G.M. with a cheque for £1,200 thus making the Lodge Patrons of the Festival. At their



The New Master WBro Peter Wiltshire Receives The Certificate From The A.P.G.M

installations Scorton, Runic Torrisholme Lodges gave £1,200 giving them Patron status, and Warton and Vale Lodges made significant contributions to the festival at theirs. With significant numbers of individual festival jewels being requested from the Group Charity Seward W.Bro Barry Robinson, the festival is off to an excellent start in the group.

Scorton Lodge Support the Community and the Festival

In early November Scorton Lodge made several donations to local charities. W.Bro Brian Clark the Immediate Past Master of the Lodge presented Mr Rodger Wholstenholm the Publicity Co-ordinaor of Trinity Hospice and Bryan House Children's Hospice with a cheque for £200. He presented W.Bro David Percy with a cheque for £50 for the Garstang Masonic Fellowship. Joyce Roe received £450 on behalf of the Beasdale Parish Hall Building Fund, and Church Warden Robert Gardner £200 for the Beasdale Church Decorating Fund. In addition £200 was donated to the Air Ambulance and £100 to St John's Hospice. When you add the £1200 that the lodge donated to the festival then the lodge raised a total of £2,400 a truly remarkable amount for a small lodge



The New Master of Morecambe Bro Whitfield J.E.Dickinson better known as Dickey with the A.P.G.M.

Poulton Hall Casino Night

Saturday the 12th of October would normally have been Poulton Hall Lodges Ladies evening. This year however things were different, W.Bro Mike Craddock is in his second consecutive year in the chair and his wife Gwyneth did not want another normal Ladies Evening. The result was a casino night held at the Carleton in Morecambe. The event was well attended as the Master Table opposite shows. Each guest was provided with £200 of funny money at the start of the evening, and faced the challenge of winning a fortune or loosing the lot. By the end of the evening the clear winners were Colin and Helen Russell



who managed to amass around £1500. They were rewarded with a fabulous dinner for four at the Longlands which included wine, which was donated by W Bro. Barry Robinson. The Carleton supplied their usual excellent food and disco and the raffle raised a substantial amount for Masonic charities.

BILL RICHMOND JOINS THE TEAM!

Phil Gardner (Chairman of the Amalgamation Working Party) reports that W.Bro. Bill Richmond (presently W.M. of Pilling Lodge) has accepted an invitation to join the Group Amalgamation Working Party. The A.W.P. exists to advise and guide Lodges who are considering the possibility of amalgamating.

Phil Gardner comments, "Bill's keen mind and enthusiasm for all things Masonic will be a real asset to us. In particular his in depth knowledge of Garstang Masonry will be particularly useful. I am delighted that he is to join us."

Our Assistant Provincial Grand Master and our Group Chairman are also delighted by this news.



CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTIONS



The first day of November commenced with a visit to the Installation Meeting of Spartan Lodge No 8048, as the Representative of the RW Provincial Grand Master. Spartan Lodge, as the name suggests, was originally formed by a group of keen sportsmen residing in the North Fylde area. After a very well presented and friendly Installation ceremony I was delighted to receive a cheque for the sum of £2,400.00, thus qualifying the Lodge as a Grand Patron of the NMSF, the first one to achieve this honour in the North Fylde Group. Judging by the number of NMSF Jewels being worn by the members, the Charity Steward had been busy. Wednesday the 9th November and off to Garstang Masonic Hall to attend the Installation Meeting of Great Eccleston Lodge No 8895. On this occasion the Representative of the PGM was W.Bro. David Randerson, Provincial Junior Grand Warden, who carried out his duties in an excellent and friendly manner and, I am happy to say, thoroughly enjoyed his sojourn amongst us. Those who attended were treated to an outstanding Installation led by the Installing Master Bro. Roger Pye. Never let it be said that the practice of Freemasonry does not improve self confidence ! not forgetting the Junior Brethren who presented the Working Tools. Well done Roger and all who assisted. You have been an excellent ambassador for Great Eccleston Lodge during your year. Best wishes to the new Master – Bro. Stephen Ingram for a happy and enjoyable year ahead with my grateful thanks to all the members of Great Eccleston Lodge for your generous support in qualifying the Lodge as a Grand Patron of the NMSF 2010 Festival. As the Group has a policy of its Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary each attend approximately two thirds of the Installations, I was therefore unable to attend Runic Installation on Friday 11th November. However, I received a full report from the Vice Chairman who told me that W.Bro. Danny Parkes PPrDGSwdB (E.L.) was installed in fine style by the WM – Bro. Alan Stewart. On Saturday the 12th of November I had the pleasure of chairing the AGM of the West Lancashire Masonic Charity Bowling Tournament where the ‘proceeds’ of the 2005 competition, hosted by the North Fylde Group, amounting to £9,250.00. were allocated as follows; Therapeutic chair for the residents of Ecclesholme £4000.00; The Friends of Tithebarn £ 850.00; 2010 Festival (Grand Patron) £2400.00. West Lancashire Masonic Charities Fund £2000.00. A magnificent effort by the WLMCBT with my grateful thanks to all who supported this worthy annual event in the Province, particularly the Lodges and Chapters in my own Group. On Tuesday 15th of November I attended the Installation Meeting of Torrisholme Lodge No 5245 as the Representative of the RW Provincial Grand Master and to support their Master - Bro. Peter Turner, installing his successor, W.Bro. Colin Higson, as Master for the ensuing year. Colin, we are most grateful to you for occupying the chair for a second term, having previously been in that position in 2002. All who took part contributed towards a most enjoyable afternoon and evening in the company of many good friends. Well done Peter, you have had a most enjoyable year and ended it in fine style. I understand that Torrisholme Lodge are currently ‘in talks’ with another Morecambe Lodge regarding the future – Well done to you all, not only for an excellent afternoon which, by your generosity and a cheque for £1200.00, qualified the Lodge as a Patron of the NMSF 2010 Festival or for the welcome afforded to me as the ‘representative’, but in particular for taking a sensible attitude and major step forward in looking towards the future – Good Luck to you all. Monday 21st November and the Installation Meeting of Rowley Royal Arch Chapter No 1051 when the team, led by the Installing Z – E.Comp Eric Page assisted by E.Comp’s Michael Walling and Brian Milner installed E.Comp Walling as Z, E.Comp Milner as H and E.Comp Martin Baxendale as J in an excellent manner for the ensuing year. In order that the ‘younger companions’ might maximise their time inside the Chapter, yours truly has volunteered to act as Janitor for a second year, the Chapter having resolved to appoint the ‘immediate immediate past Z’ to occupy this post in future years. In the interest of encouraging and nurturing our ‘younger’ members in the Royal Arch - I urge other Chapters to consider our example. Thursday November 24th, the regular meeting of Sandylands Lodge No 5702. On this occasion the Lodge Almoner - W.Bro. Ernest Greenhalgh, had gone to amazing lengths to organise a most enjoyable Festive Board, to which our ladies were invited, to hear an excellent presentation of the work of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution by W.Bro. Peter Williams PAGDC – Head of External Affairs. Peter had travelled all the way from Kent to be with us and in doing so more than fulfilled our promise ‘of making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge’. What a splendid talk he gave us, informative, interesting and with a little humour in places. In appreciation Peter was presented with a magnificent cheque for £250.00, towards the RMBI, raised on the evening by a most enthusiastic ‘Chorley Raffle’. Well done Ernie – Your hard work in preparing, and our enjoyment of the evening, was greatly appreciated by all who attended. On the same date my Vice Chairman – W.Bro. Phil Gardner and Group Secretary - W.Bro. Michael Walling PPrGStwd, attended the Installation Meeting of Lancaster Castle Lodge No 5952, with the Assistant Provincial Grand Master – W.Bro. Peter Hosker, PSGD. On that occasion the IPM – W.Bro. Roger Baron installed W.Bro. Peter Wiltshire in the chair. Roger, I am told that you carried out your duties in an exemplary manner and we thank you for assisting the Lodge (and burning the midnight oil) at very short notice, due to the indisposition of the WM. Congratulations also to Peter Wiltshire for your work over the last four years as Secretary and for occupying the chair for a second time. Also to all the members of Lancaster Castle Lodge for your generous support of the 2010 Festival, thereby enabling the Lodge to qualify as Grand Patron of the NMSF. On a happy note as December approaches ! The statistics obtained from the Provincial Yearbook suggest that the steady decline in membership of the L&D Group may be ‘bottoming out’. Obviously, it is too early to say whether this trend will continue in future years but the figures are encouraging. But, 29 Candidates between 23 Lodges is clearly not enough to announce that our future is healthy and as such leaves no room for complacency. Lodges still need to look seriously towards and plan for the future. May I take this early opportunity on behalf of my Vice Chairman and Group Secretary to thank you all for your support and for all you do, and continue to do, for your Lodges and Chapters. I extend our sincere Christmas Greetings to you all and your families. May you all have the best of good health to meet the challenges ahead and the opportunity to continue to enjoy your Freemasonry to the full in the fast approaching New Year.

Group Chairman

Peter Mason Group Chairman