



# Lancaster & District Masonic Group News Letter

Vol 4 No1

SEPTEMBER 2006

**Some of the items  
found in the attic at  
Church Street**

**St John's Lodge No 534  
warrant**

**A Copy of The Kirkwall  
Scroll**

**Photo of John O' Gaunt  
Officers 19 Dec 1917.**

**Photo of W. Wright  
Founder of Vale Lodge.**

**Photo of Lodge of Fortitude  
Officers 1899.**

**Photo of The Duke of  
Lancaster Officers 1846.**

**Photo of Dr Douglas of  
Rowley Lodge 1925.**

**Picture of Freemasons Hall,  
Great Queens St London –  
The Laying of the  
foundation stone.**

**Chapter of Universality –  
Lodge of Fortitude No 527  
7<sup>th</sup> July 1822 at the White  
Lion Inn.**

**Framed newspaper cuttings  
of a Church Parade July 20<sup>th</sup>  
1919 Fortitude / Rowley /  
Duke of Lancaster /  
Morecambe / Wyreside and  
John O'Gaunt.**

**Plan of Lancaster Masonic  
Hall extension 1955**

**Photo of Duke of Lancaster  
Lodge J.L.Barrow Hon Sec  
acknowledging 25 years  
service as Secretary.**

## Treasure In The Attic



Many Masonic treasures have been found in the Masonic Hall at Church Street, Lancaster. A list outlining some of them is shown on the left hand side of this page. As most of you will know the lodge building has been sold to property developers who intend to convert it into offices. Fortunately, one of the developers is a mason, and it was after a tip from Worshipful Brother Peter Wiltshire the current master of Lancaster Castle Lodge that a full

examination of the contents of the building was made. The tip was received by W.Bro Malcolm Morrison of Duke of Lancaster Lodge who is producing a video of the Masonic Hall before it ceases to exist. Donning overalls he went up to the attic and his search revealed astonishing results as the list shows. The finds were not all in pristine condition and as you can see in the bottom photo, neither was the attic of the building. Mike Walling and Adrian Gifford can be seen examining one of the photographs



above, and Peter Mason is examining the St Johns Warrant. It is interesting to think that the St John's warrant was written at the time of HRH King George the Third. He was famous for losing the American Colonies and eventually going mad. He also imprisoned his wife for 28 years for committing adultery. The date on it is the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 1793. At the time the Grand Master was His Royal Highness George Augustus Frederick, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall and Rothsay.

# Annual Group Walk Through Priest Hutton



This years Annual Group Walk took place on Sunday 17th September. The walks started and finished at the Longlands Hotel, Tewitfield, and was a six mile tour of Yealand Conyers, Borwick and Priest Hutton with a couple of stretches along the canal at the start and finish. The walk lasted for around two hours and the walkers enjoyed sunshine and warm fine weather all the way. The turn out was not as good as in previous years, this was probably due to the walk taking place so early in the Masonic season. Even so there were a good number of walkers representing many Lodges. The walk was organized by the group social

secretary W.Bro Alan Proctor, and hosted by Lancaster Castle Lodge. W.Bro Barry Robinson lead the walk and it was at his hotel that refreshments were provided at the end when all were safely returned. The Group Chairman W.Bro Peter Mason congratulated the walkers on their efforts over tea and sandwiches and drew the raffle which was won by the youngest walker nine year old Lizzy Hamilton. Last years event raised £2801.80 For group funds so remember to sponsor the walker from your lodge.



## Jim Wilson Celebrates 50 Years In Masonry

Worshipful Brother Daniel James Wilson celebrated 50 Years in Freemasonry at the Masonic Hall Carnforth on Wednesday the 27th of September. Jim as he is know, is only the fourth member of Carnforth Lodge to reach this milestone. He did so in the presence of W.Bro Peter Hosker A.P.G.M. and a good number of other masons.

Jim is a Cumbrian born in Penrith in 1922. He married his wife Mary during the Second World War, in which he served in the RAF as a radio operator. Jim was Worshipful Master of Carnforth in 1969 and promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Assistant Director of Ceremonies in 1983. He was also a member of Lancaster Castle Chapter being exalted in December 1961 and installed as First Principal in 1971 and again in 1974. He was appointed to the acting rank of Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 1979. promoted to P.Pr.G.Soj in 1984 and P.Pr.G.S.N. in 1992.

The toast to the celebrant was given by one of his contemporaries W.Bro Geoff Ireland.



# Chairman's Reflections



Where has July and August gone ? I trust that you all have 'summered well, are sun bronzed and raring to go' now that the Masonic Season has resumed ? There will be some new and exciting developments to discuss at the Group Meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> 2006. Please make sure your Lodge is represented.

My own Lodge (Silverdale) met on Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>. The main business of the evening included extracts of the history of each of the four closely related Lodges in the Northern part of the Province - Arthur John Brogden Lodge No 1715, which meets in Grange, Carnforth Lodge No 4951, Silverdale Lodge No 6926 and Warton Lodge No 8411. All are related by 'birth' as 1715 is the Mother Lodge of 4951 and 4951 is the Mother Lodge of both 6926 and 8411. This 'historical evening' is held annually in September, each Lodge taking its turn to act as host. Not only is it an interesting and most enjoyable evening, the numbers in the host Lodge are boosted by the attendance of the other three.

During the summer I was delighted to be invited to organise a team from the Plantagenet Lodge of Installed Masters No 9357 to demonstrate the 'sharing of work in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree' at the September Meeting of Lathom Lodge No 2229 held in Leyland. The first rehearsal was held at the Masonic Hall, Morecambe on Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> with all the team 'raring to go' !

Monday September 11<sup>th</sup> the Group Exec meeting at the Longlands Hotel. The Group Executive comprises of the 3 Group Officers, the Regional and Local Care Officers, the Regional and Local Charity Stewards, the Group Communications Officer, Group Social Secretary and the Group Webmaster. Various topics are discussed ranging from Provincial items to Local Group matters. Information is then communicated to Lodges and Chapters accordingly. The subject of Mentoring was the main topic of discussion on this occasion. A presentation regarding the way forward with this important topic will be given at the October Group Meeting.

Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> the date of the Annual Group Walk. This year the walkers assembled in fine weather at The Longlands Hotel, Tewitfield and set off on a circular route taking in some beautiful countryside around the Yealand area, finishing for tea and sandwiches back at The Longlands. The event was perhaps too early this year as the support of this usually popular event, 'sponsored' this year by Lancaster Castle Lodge, was rather disappointing. Maybe holidays still prevailed ?

Monday September 18<sup>th</sup> marked the Almoners Meeting at Lancaster Masonic Hall. Whilst the meeting was fairly well attended, sadly there were some absentees who had not found deputies. Maybe it was because some Lodges do not meet while October ? Please, if you cannot attend any meeting, ensure that your apologies are given and an attempt is made to send a representative so that your Lodge or Chapter does not miss out on any vital updates communicated by the Group Care Officer.

Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup> and an invitation to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of W.Bro. J.R. (Roy) Robinson's initiation into Freemasonry in general and Rowley Lodge No 1051 in particular. It was rather appropriate on this occasion, that W.Bro. William Richard Seddon PSGD, the APrGM for the Chorley and Preston Groups presided over the meeting, as Roy, now living in Chorley is currently the Master of a Chorley Lodge (Townley Parker No 1032). A goodly contingent of Roy's Chorley brethren accompanied him to Lancaster and a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately Roy, who is an accomplished Saxophonist, having played with many local Dance Bands, didn't bring his instrument with him on this occasion !

Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup> - The Annual Masonic Quiz night hosted by St Michaels-on-Wyre Lodge No 8348 at their first meeting at the Pickerings, with the L&D Group's equivalent of Ann Robinson (yours truly) as Quizmaster !! For those who have not entered a team in this 'prestigious extravaganza of Masonic knowledge' please consider doing so next year. It's a marvellous night, definitely not serious but will stretch your Masonic knowledge beyond belief ! Well done St Michael's for a super evening and an excellent way to start the season. The winners of the 2006 Quiz and the Cousen Trophy were a team from Pilling Lodge No 7879 led by W.Bro. Bill Richmond.

Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup> and another rehearsal for the demonstration team on 'sharing the work in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree' at Morecambe Masonic Hall.

Monday September 25<sup>th</sup> and the team from Plantagenet have the honour to demonstrate 'sharing the work in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree' in the presence of the PGM, DPGM, APrGM's, and many Grand and Provincial Officers at the meeting of Lathom Lodge No 2229 at Leyland Masonic Hall. The Masters part was shared by 5 brethren, each delivering their particular part in a seamless manner, adding interest and colour without detracting from the solemnity and dignity of the ceremony, the highlight being an alternative presentation of the working tools involving the Master and his

Wardens ! The presentation was very well received by all and enjoyed by those who took part.

Why not download a copy of 'the script' free !! from the Group Website.

Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at The Guild Hall, Preston, was well attended and I again offer my sincere congratulations to those members of the Lancaster and District Group who received first appointments or promotions in Provincial Grand Rank. It was a pleasure to see you all receive your new ranks and I was also particularly delighted to see that many members dined after the meeting. Please read the Provincial Grand Masters very positive address which can be found on the Provincial Website.

Peter Mason - Chairman

# UNITARIAN CHURCH, SCOTFORTH

An Update From W.Bro Stuart L Brackstone - Company Secretary, Lancaster Masonic Hall Ltd

Further to my last brief, the Board of Directors met on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and unanimously endorsed the placement of a contract with Duckett Building Services of Holme. They will be the prime contractor for the work at Scotforth and responsible to Fisher Wrathall Chartered Valuation Surveyors & Property Consultants, who will project manage the contract on our behalf. The other companies who tendered for the contract were Marland Builders of Chorley, Pinnington Construction of Lancaster and Warden Construction of Preston. Duckett's have been selected as the best value for money and the availability to meet the required dates.

Authorisation to place a contract has been given on the basis that work will commence 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006 for a contract period of 22 weeks, giving a planned completion date of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007. The completion of the sale of Church Street and purchase of Scotforth was achieved 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006, so the dates just about merged regarding our negotiated occupancy. I remain absolutely confident that we can pull this off without becoming homeless.

It is extremely encouraging that support for the new facility is gaining momentum and Brethren continue to come forward and offer their services. To date, I have been greatly touched and inspired by such help, together with the many other offers which will be taken up in due course. There is a niche for every Brother wishing to contribute, so please let me know if you are interested. Tel:(01229) 585040.

The Board is mindful that membership remains one of the important factors regarding the future needs at Lancaster. Other considerations were the predicted cost of maintaining Church Street and difficulty meeting current and future legislation, particularly regarding the Disabilities Act. All of these matters are being addressed at the new premises, together with the realisation that we will have a more efficient and modern building at our disposal. The underlying concern remains the risk of migration away from Lancaster and consequential increased burden it will place on those who remain. Whilst we can go some way to mitigate the risk, the reality is that we all need to remain focused on the object of the exercise, if we are to fully capture the opportunities from such a challenging project.

Doug Willoughby continues to lead on the vacation plan for Church Street

## West Lancashire Bowling Charity



The work of the West Lancashire Masonic Charity Bowling Tournament has been amply illustrated by the donations it has made during the summer. The charity raised sufficient funds to enable it to give close to ten thousand pounds to various worth causes.

The largest donation, £3,200, went to the Friends of Ecclesholme for the purchase of a therapeutic chair. Ecclesholme, the R.M.B.I. home in Eccles had been trying to raise funds to buy two chairs when the bowling charity stepped in and bought one out right, easing their task greatly. W.Bro Peter Mason P.J.G.D. Chairman of the W.L.M.C.B.T made the presentation at the Ecclesholme Summer Fayre held in May, and it was received by W.Bro John Thompson P.G.Std.B. the Chairman of the Friends. The Fayre was opened by E.Comp Steven P.J.Reid P.A.G.Soj, Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent, and proved to be a great success raising £1,500. A second presentation was made at the Fayre to the other R.M.B.I. home in our province the Tithebarn in Crosby they were given £850.00 for use in providing facilities for their resident. This cheque was received by their chairman W.Bro John Wilcock PAGDC

In addition to the donations made to the two Masonic homes the WLMCBT also became a Grand Patron of the 2010 Festival by donating £2,400, and gave £2,000 to the West Lancashire Masonic Charity Fund.

W.Bro Peter Mason the Chairman with E.Comp. Steven P J Reid  
The Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent and W.Bro John