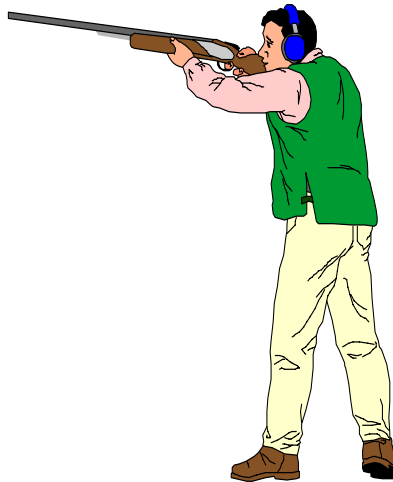




**West Lancashire  
Masonic  
Clay Pigeon Shooting  
Society**



**Issue No. 18**

**SPRING 2008**

# ***W.L.M.C.P.S.S.***

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Past Deputy Grand Superintendent**

# Contents

Officers .....	1
Contents .....	2
Editorial.....	2
Dates for your Diary.....	3
Inter-Provincial Shoot Oct '07.....	4
Turkey Shoot Dec '07.....	5-6
Friendly Shoot Feb '08.....	7-8
Friendly Shoot Apr '08.....	9
Provincial Shoot May '08.....	10
AGM Jun '08.....	10
Polo Shirts etc.....	11
Sportsman's Dinner Nov '08.....	12-13
Ten Shooting Tips.....	14-16
Coaching Clinics.....	17
Membership Fees Due .....	17
Kelbrook.....	18
Committee .....	19
Internet.....	19
Contacts.....	20

# Editorial

Again, we hope that you all enjoy reading this Newsletter.

Please send any little tidbits that you think may be interesting to other members.

We would love to hear from anyone. Photographs are especially welcome - it depends on you, the members. Any 'For Sale' or 'Wanted' ads?

Please have any input for the Autumn edition by 20<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

Here's hoping that you all enjoy your sport during the rest of 2008.

Your Eds,

*Dennis & Cath*

# Dates for your Diary 2008

## 3rd Wednesday of every month

**Social Shoot at Kelbrook Shooting Ground, Colne.**  
from 10.45 to 13.00 hrs.  
followed by informal pu lunch at the Anchor Inn at Salterforth

19 March	2008	16 April	2008
21 May	2008	18 June	2008
16 July	2008	20 August	2008
17 September	2008	15 October	2008
19 November	2008	17 December	2008

**Don't forget that non-members are welcome to join us at these shoots.**

- Sun. 13<sup>th</sup> April**      **Friendly Shoot** - 50 Sporting at Toplands Clay Shoot, Woodplumpton Nr. Preston at 11.00 hrs. Afterwards at the Wheatsheaf, Woodplumpton Details from Ian Heyes on 01772 611071.  
(see page 9)
- Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> May**      **Provincial Shoot** - 60 bird sporting shoot at Flying Fish, Longton at 11.00 hrs.  
(see page 10)
- Tue. 3<sup>rd</sup> June**      **AGM** at Wellington Park, Church Road, Leyland at 19.30  
(see page 10)
- July**      **National Inter-Provincial Shoot**  
hosted by The Province of Middlesex  
Details to follow
- Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> October**      **Inter-provincial Shoot** hosted by Yorkshire West Riding  
Details to follow.
- Fri. 14<sup>th</sup> November**      **Sportsman's Dinner**, Wellington Park, Church Road, Leyland. 19.30 hrs.  
(see page 12-13)
- Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> December**      **Turkey Shoot**, Flying Fish, Longton      11.00

## Inter-Provincial Shoot 2007

This year's competition was hosted by the Province of Cumberland and Westmorland at Penrith Gun Club, Bowscar set in a wonderful and wild moor land landscape. The event consisted of a 25 bird down the line pool shoot which certainly warmed everyone up and then onto a 40 bird sporting. The sporting consisted of 5 pairs of birds from over your head – on report, 5 pairs of driven grouse, 5 pairs of left to right crossing birds - on report which were quite testing, and the ones that the competition results seem to hinge on and 5 pairs of a rising, flying away bird also on report. The attendance was exceptionally encouraging with a splendid turnout from the hosts Province's shooters which if anything overwhelmed the day. Refreshments were available at the Gun Club but lunch was served afterwards at the Sour Nook Inn, Sebergham, nr Carlisle where everyone enjoyed either the roast beef or lamb lunch.

All prizes were presented by Mrs Margaret Graham who kindly donated a Trophy to the Cumberland and Westmorland highest three scorers in memory of her late husband W Bro Keith Graham who had for many years been a keen ambassador for the Province at all the Masonic shooting events. The results of the competition are as follows:

**The Watson Eden Trophy:**           3<sup>rd</sup> Place Yorkshire West Riding with 177  
  2<sup>nd</sup> Place Cumberland and Westmorland with 180  
  1st Place West Lancashire with 206 all out of 240

(The winning team for West Lancashire – Glynn Wrennall (36), Howard Whittaker (35), Evan Walsh (35), Ian Heyes (35), Mike Woods (34) and Mike Clowes (33).

**The Les Jennings-Hoole Trophy for the High Gun for West Lancashire** – W Bro Glynn Wrennall with 36 out of 40

**The High Gun for Cumberland and Westmorland** – W Bro Steve Swatts with 36

**The Keith Graham Trophy** - W Bros: Steve Swatts, John Fisher and Keith Robinson

**The Lawson Cup for the High Gun for Yorkshire West Riding** – Bro Steve Thackeray with 37

**25 Bird DTL Pool Shoot** - there were 4 winners who each received £20 each for shooting 25 straight:

Yorkshire West Riding	Steve Thackeray
Cumberland and Westmorland	Joe Gibbons
West Lancashire	Alex Hammond
	Kevin Hogg

**The Atkinson Shield** presented to the Lodge who have provided the most support for the Cumberland and Westmorland Clay Pigeon Association during the year was presented to Sir Galahad Lodge No 5897, Carlisle.

Congratulations to W Bro John Hunter of Wigton St Mary's Lodge No 6537 and his team for working so hard and for providing a fun day for so many brethren and their guests and for raising £624.00 for charity. It was a wonderful day out, enjoyed by all.

## Turkey Shoot 2007

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007**

For those of you old enough to remember the Irving Berlin classic "Isn't it a lovely day to get caught in the rain" written for Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers and recently re-released by Diana Krall. Well all those who attended the WLMCPSS Turkey shoot on Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup> could all have joined in the chorus which should have been rain, hail, snow and wind.

I have not been to the Flying Fish for a long time and had consequently forgotten how exposed (that's how bad it is) it is to the weather. Nevertheless some 29 members and their guests, wives and girlfriends all braved the climate to put on a show and form a healthy band. The competition was a 30 bird sporting although there was nothing sporting about it when you had to ask if the clay had come yet – you know you have a problem.

The highest scorer was Keith Webber with 23 out of 30 with Lloyd Davies (pictured with his freshly shot turkey) a very respectable second with 22. However, the turkey presentation is always made in reverse order so Keith Macklin won the white stick with a score of 5, he also won the raffle, co-ordinated by our Treasurer John Hammond, of a beautiful bunch of flowers generously donated by our Secretary Mike Casey and as everyone had brought a prize so everyone left with one.

A super shoot at the Fish and we all dried out in front of the lovely fire which created a great atmosphere. Congratulation to our Shoot Captain Ian Heyes for organising the wonderful event where everyone's a winner. The raffle raised £75.00 to help swell the charity account for dispersment at a later date.

It was on the turkey shoot this year  
That the rain poured faster than the beer  
It was a wet, cold and windy day  
And you had to squint to see a clay  
The rain was blown into your face  
And clays were blown at a very fast pace  
But none the less we stood our ground  
We had the shoot and looked around  
To see that most enjoyed the meet  
In spite of wet face, trousers and feet.  
High gun Keith scored the best  
With Lloyd just behind followed by all the rest  
Prizes were given and raffle tickets sold  
And soon we forgot about the rain and cold  
Trigger fingers cold and jerky  
Makes you wonder who is the turkey?

W Bro Dick Walmsley  
Leyland Lodge No 4249

## Relaxing after Turkey Shoot



Ian Heyes – Shoot Captain



Eddie Caulfield – Chairman



Mike Casey – Secretary



Bro. Lloyd Davies - Hesketh Lodge



Glynn Wrennall – Vice-Chairman



Keith Macklin – Guest & Winner

# Friendly Shoot at St. Michaels

10<sup>th</sup> February 2008

The sun shines on the righteous .....well you could say that because it was one beautiful day at Wyreside Gun Club at St Michaels on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> February when 29 members and their guests and families all congregated to shoot 50 sporting birds and have a lot of fun in each others company. Afterwards it was off to the Horn's Inn at Churchtown, where a little room had been set aside for us, for a bar lunch. Dennis Read won the raffle of a bottle of Bells Whisky to tickle his taste buds. Keith Webber was the highest gun of the day with 42, closely followed by Evan Walsh with 41. Congratulations and thanks to Shoot Captain, Ian Heyes, for organising the weather and the day out.

Anyone out there interested in having a go or joining in the next shoot is at Woodplumpton on 13<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00 a.m. Contact Ian Heyes on 01772 611071 or Mike Casey on 01253 603731 for details.



## Results of Friendly Shoot at St.Michael's

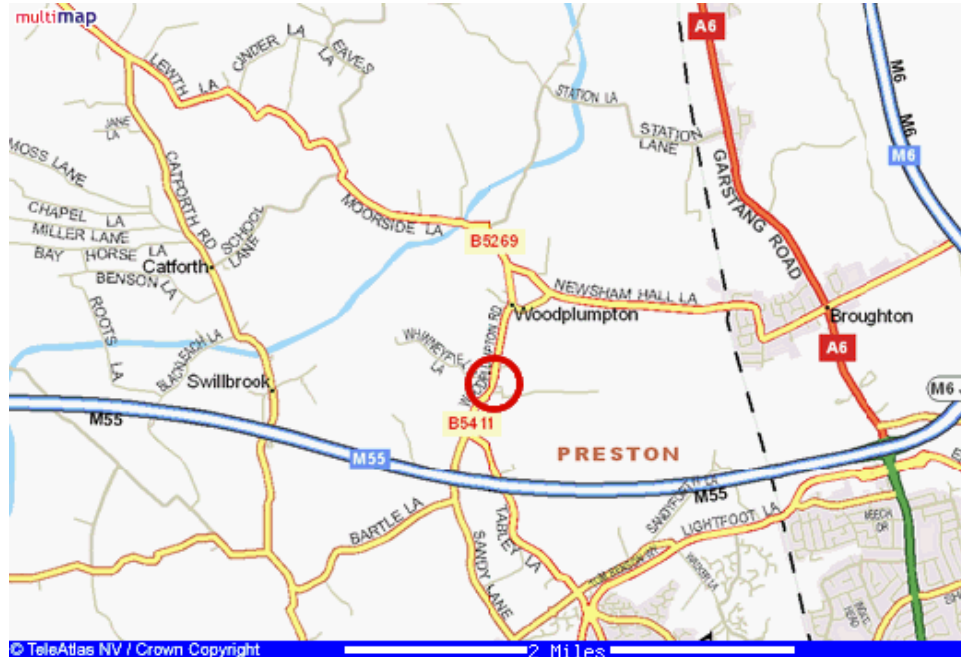
10<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Guest	Name	Score
	Evan Walsh	41
	John Wright	39
	Chris (Staffs)	39
	Glynn WrennalL	37
	Mike Casey	36
	Ian Heyes	36
	Eric Nixon	35
	Mick Woods	32
	Laurence Alston	32
	James Mason	26
	John	24
	Dick Walmesley	23
	Dennis Read	23
	Danny Chester	22
Yes	Keith Webber	42
Yes	Peter Winstanley	35
Yes	Colin	34
Yes	Michael Casey	33
Yes	Kath Wright	31
Yes	George	31
Yes	Jim Mason	27
Yes	Tony Christou	25
Yes	Louis	25
Yes	Rachel Chester	23
Yes	Steve Coombs	22
Yes	Geoff Moss	21
Yes	Des	20
Yes	Richard	20

# FRIENDLY SHOOT (50 Sporting)

Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April

Please join us at Toplands Clay Shoot,  
Dransfields, Toplands Farm, Woodplumpton nr. Preston  
at 11.00 a.m.



Directions to Toplands Clay Shoot which is open Sundays  
10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. for 50 bird sporting & skeet.

To contact Toplands for further information call

Mick on 07976 736667 or  
Paul on 07973 418363

## **PROVINCIAL SHOOT (50 Sporting)**

**Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May**

Please join us at Dolphin Shooting Ground,  
Marsh Lane,  
Longton,  
Preston,  
PR4 5JY

**at 11.00 a.m.**



The Shooting Ground is open at the following times:  
Sunday - 10am onwards, last entry 12.30pm.  
May-August: Wednesday - 19.00 - 20.30 hrs last entry.

To contact the Dolphin Shooting Ground for further  
information

Contact: Max Drelincourt & Elaine

Tel: **01772 611038**

Mobile: **07941 158661**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008**

**19.30 at Wellington Park, Church Road, Leyland**

*Nominations requested, in writing to the Secretary, for any  
Office of the Society and any Propositions - Must be duly  
seconded*

## NEW SHIRTS & CAPS FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS



New shirts for society members are available from  
'Lytham Embroidery'

The new design above is available in sizes S, M, L,  
XL, & XXL

Larger sizes with the logo are available in plain blue  
2XL & 3XL

A baseball cap in blue or black is also available

Both items are available with names embroidered

# **W.L.M.C.P.S.S.**

present a

**Sportsman's and Gentlemen to Dine Evening**

at

**Wellington Park, Church Road, Leyland**

on

**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**Reception at 19.30 hrs.**

**Dinner served at 20.00 hrs.**

Master of Ceremonies for the evening

**AL NOLAN**

with Guest Speaker

The popular TV and Radio Broadcaster

*Stephen D. Smith*

'Rumpole meets James Herriot meets - total mayhem !'

**Practising Criminal Lawyer**

**Lounge Suit/Jacket and Tie**



*Steve Smith (right) with Gervase Phinn*

# About Stephen D. Smith

Stephen D. Smith is a larger-than-life criminal lawyer based in Rotherham. Born in Sheffield in 1948, he ended up in the legal profession by default – ‘*I had always wished to be a professional musician – a keyboard player – but while I waited for my big breakthrough, I started work at Bury & Walkers in Barnsley. I remember my first job was to blow up a rugby ball for the senior partner’s son and the second to collect sandwiches and cakes for the typing pool!*’ From this inauspicious beginning in 1965, Steve rose to qualify as a solicitor in 1979. In 1981 he formed his own practice, Wilford Smith, with his friend Steven Wilford (‘the stable one’). Steve has represented a wide range of clients – from the late Adam Faith to Prince Nazeem Hamed – and has appeared in a number of controversial cases. One of his famous cases was the ‘Biker Case’ in 1996, where John Megson was wrongly convicted of murder. Steve appeared in two BBC *Rough Justice* programmes before winning an appeal for Megson’s release.

In addition to his day job, Steve is a professional public speaker – in 2004 he was chosen from the ranks of 87,000 solicitors to perform the closing speech in honour of Lord Irving. He speaks regularly to all types of audience, from the Yorkshire Literary Lunch, appearing alongside Jonathan Dimbleby, Pam Rhodes and Lesley Pearce, to events with popular figures such as Barbara Windsor, *Emmerdale*’s Lucy Pargeter, and Jim Bowen, to name but a few.

Steve appears regularly on radio and television as a legal pundit, particularly Yorkshire TV and BBC North.

He is also a seasoned pantomime performer – his performances as the Emperor in *Aladdin* and Alderman Fitzwarren in *Dick Whittington* are still talking points amongst his many fans (all fees donated to the Parents’ Association for children with tumours)!

According to Jeremy Beadle ‘he is a naturally gifted storyteller and he possesses the even rarer talent, to be able to place his tales in print, so that it reads as he speaks – a real treat, as anyone who has heard Stephen spin a yarn will happily agree.’

*Boozers, Ballcocks & Bail* – the first in Steve’s legal series – was originally self-published, with the series as a whole selling 40,000 copies within Yorkshire.

Steve is married with a daughter and lives in Rotherham. He is an active charity worker, particularly for children with cancer, and his current campaign is to bring cricket within the reach of disadvantaged children in Yorkshire.

He is president of Rotherham Town Cricket Club. He was awarded an MBE in the Queen’s 2006 Honours List for charitable services to Rotherham and South Yorkshire.

# TEN Shooting Tips you need to know



## 1. Keep your eyes on the bird

Sustaining good visual contact with the bird - fine focusing - is the best of all shooting advice.

Vision is a skill, not just a natural ability. It is not natural to keep focus locked on a moving object.

The tendency is to bring the focus back to the barrel, both because it takes less muscular effort and because there is an urge to check that everything is lined up before pulling the trigger.

It is fatal to good shooting!

*Think:* the bird, the bird and nothing but the bird!

Lock your eyes on to it and keep your eyes there throughout the shot.

## 2. Keep your gun moving

Many of us stop the gun on occasion; some of us do it habitually. If you fail to keep your eyes on the bird as discussed above, stopping the gun, bringing the weight back and lifting the head are amongst the most likely, negative, consequences.

Make an effort to keep your head down, the weight over the front foot and your eyes on the bird (there is no harm in repeating that critical advice). This will make it easier to keep the gun moving on every shot.

To sum it up in the words of Lord Ripon: "Don't check."

Don't finish the shot too early. Don't take your head off the gun prematurely, as many do, and make sure you follow through on every shot.

## 3. Shoot with good timing

Many shooters poke at their birds, others slash wildly at them. There are a significant number who come on to the bird and then flick forward to achieve the acceleration of the barrels required to get in front.

The latter technique can work on occasion, but poking, slashing and flicking all look awful and won't give consistent results.

Strive to be more rhythmic: ONE, TWO, THREE on every shot.

It is also important to realise that if you shoot with good, three beat timing, there is no need to rush and you will be in smooth control of every shot.

## 4. Move your feet

Tension is always the enemy of good shooting. If you leave both feet set in concrete regardless of the shot, it is inevitable that you will run out of swing on some occasions and introduce tension into your swing.

We're not talking about clodhopping, but small movements - the feet only need to move a few inches. The front foot moves first, the rear foot rotates naturally round on its ball. Small steps are the key to success.

### **5. Develop a good gun mount**

Many shooters have never bothered to practice their gun mount, let alone the mount and swing combined, do both.

If you have problems with consistent gun mounting, you may want to try the Churchill technique where the butt begins under the armpit and you are forced to push the gun out to complete the mount.

The front hand should lead the process and must not be positioned too far forward as this will restrict its effectiveness as a lifting lever and also impede your ability to swing the barrels on line.

### **6. Consider your eye dominance and gun fit**

All of us should have regular eye-checks at an opticians or similar to make sure our ability to focus is up to scratch and we should also subject ourselves to periodic tests at a professional shooting ground for eye dominance.

Many middle-age men develop eye dominance issues without realising it. These can creep up on you in the 40s and 50s and may mean that a change of gun fit is required, typically a bit more cast.

Although, it is the ideal to use two eyes - because binocular vision makes the judgment of speed, range and angle much easier - some will never be able to shoot effectively with both eyes open.

### **7. Ensure your chokes and cartridges inspire confidence**

Don't get too worked up about any technical subject, but do make sure you are using a cartridge in which you have confidence.

28-32gram does it well enough in a 12-bore in most circumstances. Go to 34 and consider 4 shot in very testing situations on high birds.

In a 20-bore, stick to 28gram for just about every thing, and in a 28-bore, to 25 or 28gram.

The latter is quite a lot of shot to stuff through a small bore, but it is found to be effective.

On the subject of chokes, most game guns are still over choked in their first barrel. I favour a very open first barrel for normal driven work - improved cylinder will do nicely.

But, I will change to three-quarters and three-quarters (my normal second barrel) for high birds.

### **8. Consider line as well as lead**

Many birds are missed because of errors of lead. Most often birds are missed behind because the bird is misread or the gun stops because of poor technique.

A surprising number of birds - notably closer range birds - are missed in front too. But, just as important as errors of lead are errors of line. Many fail to get up on to the line of the bird, a problem made worse by an over extended front hand.

Another common error is to shoot off line because the barrels are canted relative to the line of the bird during the swing. Generally speaking, the muzzles of side-by-side barrels should be parallel or nearly parallel to the line of the bird and over/unders perpendicular or nearly perpendicular to it. The exceptions relate to truly straight incomers.

Common errors for a right-hander facing a driven bird slightly right of centre are to arch the back excessively, bring the weight back, and to let the face come away from the stock. The barrels cant relative to the line and the shot goes left.

The remedy is to gently, and only slightly, twist the gun anticlockwise into the face as you take the shot. So, ironically, the remedy for canting - and the errors of line that go with it - may be deliberate twisting. It is not necessary to take the slightly off centre-bird as a crosser - only that you compensate for your natural tendency to come off line by a slight twist - clockwise for a bird to the left, anti-clockwise for a bird to the left.

**9. Cut the clutter - be positive and fluent**

Many of us suffer from thinking about the wrong stuff at the wrong moment. When you're shooting forget about your gun, cartridges and choke.

Maintain your focus on the bird and nothing else, other than safety of course. One of the worst sins of all is to start thinking once committed to the shot.

If you watch people, hesitation is frequently evident during the swing, the weight tends to come back, the head lifts, the eyes come off the bird as the mental wheels whirr. This is a really bad habit and may be a hard one to break in some circumstances, especially in those people who try and rely entirely on their rationale process to shoot and ignore the phenomenal potential of natural hand to eye co-ordination.

Once you are committed to shoot though there should be nothing else in your head other than keeping your eyes on the bird and keeping your gun moving.

**10. Stay safe**

The same discipline and control that will make you a better shotgun marksman will also make you a safer shot. Comments above notwithstanding, never forget safety. Safety is an active process in shooting. There is an accident out there waiting to creep up on you and you must be ever vigilant in preventing it. Don't shoot low birds. Never point a gun at something you do not wish to kill. Always check that a gun is unloaded and unobstructed when you pick it up, or pass it to someone else.

Several guns in recent months have been blown up due to obstructions. Make sure you can see daylight through the barrels before inserting the cartridges.

If your gun has multi-chokes, make sure they are tightly screwed in.

***If ever in doubt - don't !***

(extract from an article in The Sporting Gazette)



## COACHING CLINICS

Shotgun Shooting Instruction

Lawrence Alston, A.I.C.S.I.

Tel : 01772 456177

e-mail : [lawrencealston@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:lawrencealston@blueyonder.co.uk)

&

Martyn Jones

C.P.S.A. Qualified Instructor

Tel : 01253 820238

Two members of the Society offer Shotgun Shooting Instruction and a donation is given to the Society from every lesson they give.

**Instruction for**  
Beginners or Experienced Shooters

**We can arrange**  
'Have a Go' Days  
For Lodges & Chapters

Contact us NOW

**Membership fees due NOW !**

Please contact Mike Casey

**Standing Order form enclosed**

## Directions to get to Kelbrook Lodge on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday every month

Follow the **M65** to the end (Colne direction)

Take the **Skipton A56** sign along Vivary Way.

The first village is **Foulridge**. The road runs past 2 reservoirs, first on your right then on your left.

The next village is Kelbrook. Notice the BP petrol station on your right.

Follow the Skipton (A56) sign at the roundabout, then 1<sup>st</sup> right into Kelbrook village – **Main Street**.

Take the 1<sup>st</sup> right at the Post Office – **Waterloo Road**.

Then 1<sup>st</sup> left off Waterloo Road – **Cob Lane**.

**Check mileometer** – now drive exactly one mile up Cob Lane, then turn left up a wide tarmac track.

**Kelbrook Lodge** is situated in woodlands 400m up the track to the left hand side.



Some of the Members at Kelbrook

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

W.Bro. Phil Gunning, P.A.G.D.C.

W.Bro. Keith Nuttall, P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks.

W.Bro. Mick Woods, P.Pr.A.G.Supt.Wks.

Bro. Lawrence Alston

Bro.Richard Dennison

\*\*\*\*\*

## Members !

Please, please, please  
if you are on the 'WEB'

send your e-mail address to  
the Secretary at

[gwmikecasey@gmail.com](mailto:gwmikecasey@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Internet Site

Don't forget to visit the Provincial web site for all the current  
information for the Society.

Information changing all the time !

[www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk](http://www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk)

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this Newsletter, no responsibility can be accepted by the Society or its Officers in respect of any loss or damage sustained as result of information contained in this Newsletter.

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**Treasurer** **W Bro John Hammond, P.Pr.J.G.W.**

tel : 01257 401155

e-mail [jh83@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jh83@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Shoot Captain** **W Bro Ian Heyes, P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks.**

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