



A warm welcome to all our readers

Masters and First Principals Festival Dinner

The Ormskirk and Bootle Groups held their second bi-annual Masters and First Principals Festival Dinner, since the groups amalgamated in 2016 with the meeting being held on this occasion at the Ormskirk Masonic Hall. For the evening's celebrations, the group were honoured by the presence of the Deputy Grand Superintendent Paul Renton, who was accompanied by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Frank Umbers. Also, in attendance were Peter Taylor Provincial Grand Secretary, Robert Case Provincial Grand Scribe N and representing the group, chairman Graham Chambers and vice chairman Malcolm Alexander. Also, in attendance on the evening were representatives from the Southport Group.

The running for the evening was left in the very capable hands of the two Provincial Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies who were present, Mark Barton and Malcolm Bell.

The evening began with an informal 'meet and greet' where the WM's, IPM's from the Craft and the first principals and past first principals from the chapters within the group, were able to meet for an informal chat with the senior officers of the Province who were in attendance that evening.

After which the rest of the brethren made their way into the main lodge room for an informative question and answer session. Paul Renton started by welcoming everyone to the question and answers session and introduced Frank Umbers, Peter Taylor and Robert Case, who between them were able to answer all the questions. The session was a very friendly, lively and open affair, with a wide range of topics involving Masonry being covered, including recruitment and retention, with many other topics being discussed before the Malcolm Bell called proceedings to an end.



The principal guests answering questions, from left to right, are: Frank Umbers, Paul Renton, Peter Taylor and Robert Case.



The audience during the question and answer session.

With the question and answers session being completed everyone made their way to the dining room, where an excellent dinner was served starting with a black pudding stack, followed by roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding and seasonal vegetables and for dessert, profiteroles with chocolate sauce and pouring cream, which was shortly followed by tea or coffee and mints.

After dinner Ian Tupling, the first principal of Stanley of Bickerstaffe Chapter No 3511 had the privilege to propose a toast to the health of the principle guest Paul Renton, touching on Paul's life and Masonic career, with some interesting facts on his working life and hobbies.

In response Paul thanked Ian for the toast to his health and the way he had delivered the toast. Paul then went on to inform the brethren that the success of the group was down to the previous and current chairmen, and thanked Frank and Graham for all their hard work they have given to the group over the years. Paul proceeded to thank the Provincial Deputy DC's Mark Barton and Malcolm Bell for their assistance they had given during the evening.

Continued from previous page. Paul then spoke about the Royal Arch and informed the brethren about its history in the late 18th century and how the ceremonies were then performed as a progression through the veils from the Craft. In conclusion to his response, Paul thanked Graham Chambers and the group for inviting him to the evening.

Robert Case had the pleasure of proposing a heartfelt toast to the Ormskirk and Bootle Group. During his toast Robert named the brethren who were attending that evening from the group who would be receiving Provincial Grand Lodge honours in Blackpool in May and Provincial Grand Chapter honours in October at Southport, with every name mentioned receiving a round of applause.

Graham Chambers in response to the toast to the group thanked Robert for his toast, before having the privilege to present a number of cheques on behalf of the Ormskirk and Bootle Group of Lodges and Chapters totalling £5,500. Details were: £1,500 to the Litherland Masonic Hall which was received by Ian Mackinnon, Litherland Masonic Hall Chairman, £1,500 to the Ormskirk Masonic Hall which was received by Mike Dutton, Ormskirk Masonic Hall Treasurer, £250 to FROTH received by Marks Sands FROTH Chairman, £250 to HOME received by Jim Carrie HOME Chairman, £500 to Derian House on behalf of the Charnock Richard Masons which was received by David Rawcliffe chairman of their hall committee, £750 to the MCF 2021 Festival received by Malcolm Sandywell group charity steward, £250 for Sefton Women's and Childrens Aid on behalf of the Bootle Ladies Group which was received on behalf the Bootle ladies group by Russell Skidmore, £250 for Derian House on behalf of the Ormskirk Ladies Group which was received by Alan Johnson on behalf of the Ormskirk Ladies Group and finally a cheque for £250 to the Friends of Tithebarn which was received by Alan Hore group Tithebarn representative.

With the cheque presentation being over, Graham thanked the brethren and companions for their charitable giving asking the brethren and companions to thank their lodges and chapters.

With the evening coming to an end, a presentation of a bottle of whisky was made to Paul by Graham on behalf of the group and another bottle of whisky was presented to Frank by Graham again on behalf of the group, with the evening coming to an end everyone retired to go home after agreeing it was a very successful and enjoyable occasion.



Paul Renton responding to the toast to his health.



Pictured are the recipients of the cheques with Paul Renton and Graham Chambers.

The Ormskirk and Bootle Group Web Site is now fully up and running and is there for your use.

Pages with information on lodge and chapter installations, celebrations, lodge histories, social events, contact details, lost and found and the latest reports on what is happening in the Ormskirk and Bootle group. If you have not yet visited our web site, just enter the following in your web browser: [www.http://ormskirkbootle.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk](http://ormskirkbootle.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk) We are interested in continuing to improve the information we provide, so please let us know if you have any entries or suggestions for new content. Perhaps there is a subject in Craft or the Royal Arch you feel is important and is not currently covered.

Please contact: Russell Skidmore : russell.skidmore@tiscali.co.uk

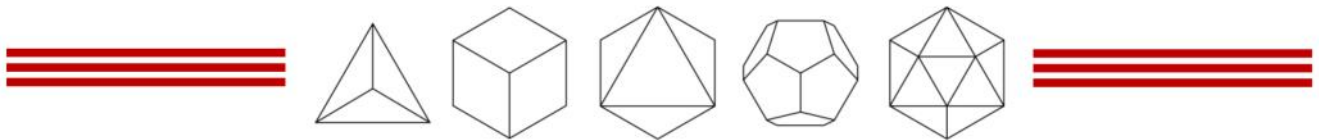
Ormskirk & Bootle Group of Chapters *Joint Convocation*

6:00 pm Wednesday 10th April 2019
at

Litherland Masonic Hall

50 Sefton Rd, Litherland, Liverpool L21 7PQ

Hosted by Chapter of Unity & Perseverance No 580



The 5 Platonic Solids Explained



Royal Arch Chapter
Of
Unity and Perseverance
No.580



Dining £ 17.00

Creamed Seasonal Vegetable Soup
Roast Breast of Chicken, Roast Potatoes
with Sage and Onion & Gravy
Apple Pie and Custard

Bookings via Scribe Ezra:
Stew Cranage, *PPrGSwdB*
Scribe.E@chapter580.org.uk
07955 603492
01695 627413

Gordon celebrates his golden jubilee

It was a very special occasion for the brethren and the many visiting guests of Bootle Pilgrim Lodge No 1473, who gathered at Litherland Masonic Hall to celebrate the special and important milestone in the Masonic career of Gordon Martin in achieving 50 magnificent years as a Freemason. Leading the celebration was Assistant Provincial Grand Master Derek Parkinson, who was accompanied by Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman Graham Chambers, the group vice chairman Malcolm Alexander together with grand officer Ron Elliott.

The evening's meeting commenced with the WM Mike Melia, warmly welcoming everyone to the celebration before opening the lodge. Once the lodge's business had been completed, acting assistant to the PrGDC, Peter Littlehales was admitted into the room. Peter announced that Derek Parkinson was without and demanded admission. Therefore, he was duly admitted preceded by grand officers and the acting Provincial deacons Ken Mitchel and Howard Dinsdale, Mike warmly welcomed Derek to the lodge and offered him the gavel, which Derek graciously accepted.

Gordon was then placed on a seat before the pedestal, as Derek proceeded to deliver his presentation on Gordon's life and Masonic career. Derek then proceeded to give a detailed account of Gordon's life. Gordon was born in 1945 to James and Gertrude Martin, Gordon's father worked for the Marine Engineers Association (MEA), living in Sudbury Road, Brighton-le-Sands, where Gordon began his childhood.

Gordon attended St Nicholas School in Warrenhouse Road, and is the Chairman of the Old St Nicholas Association for all the ex pupils who attended the school on that site or it's annexe in Holden Road. The group has about 60 members and they get together from time to time, meeting in the Hightown Club.



Gordon Martin.



Derek Parkinson (left) being welcomed to the lodge by WM Mike Melia.

During this time in Gordon's life, he used to have swimming lessons at the former public baths on Balliol Road, Bootle, opposite the former Bootle Group's Masonic Hall, starting a long association with the area.

After primary school Gordon went to Coronation Road Secondary School which has since been demolished, Gordon was quite sporting at school and won the Lancashire County Council cycling rally, representing Crosby in Fleetwood. Gordon's prize was £2 invested as Premium Bonds with Derek saying: "I think you're still waiting for the £1,000,000 prize."

During his school years, Gordon went to St Nicholas Church Hall where the vicar, Charles Nye, had disbanded the cubs and scouts and replaced them with the Church Lads Brigade,

the CLB, and the Junior Training Corps or JTC. The Church Lads Brigade was a youth organisation of the Anglican Church formed in 1891 and modelled on the Boys' Brigade. It was organised into sections based on age and the Junior Training Corps section was for boys aged 10 to 14 years. It had more military characteristics and was actually part of the British Army and the junior division equivalent to the University Training Corps.

After leaving secondary school, Gordon attended Bootle Technical College, again in Balliol Road, enrolling on a mechanical engineer's course for five days a week and also taking night school classes. Gordon passed his exams and was taken on as an apprentice marine engineer by the Harrison Line at Brunswick Dock. Working on ships and in the fuel injection shop in Hill Street and continuing with his studies one day a week at Bootle Technical College. With a weekly wage then of £3 5s 9d.

After completing his apprenticeship and gaining his indentures, Gordon decided a life on the ocean wave was for him and he signed up for the Merchant Navy as a Junior Engineering Officer. His first ship was an 8,000-tonne cargo vessel,

Continued from previous page. As shipping progressed, the ships got larger and larger moving on to the large cargo vessels and despite their size these ships only required 20 to 30 men to crew them and so the smaller ships of the 70s and 80s couldn't compete financially. The ship owners sold their fleets and redundancies inevitably followed.

In 1986 Gordon found himself back on dry land working as an agency mechanical engineer, taking work from the highest bidder. Gordon's main expertise was in boilers, rebuilding second hand boilers for resale but one job was to design and build a conveyor belt system to move stacks of toilet rolls nine high around a bend to replace the fork lift truck which had inefficiently done the job before.

Gordon's work was quite varied, and one job required him to sign the Official Secrets Act of 1989 when he took on a contract at Aldermaston to commission a new boiler plant built by Foster Wheeler. This led to other similar work with chain grate boilers. These have a continuous chain grate that feeds the coal or other solid biomass source into the furnace in such a way as to make the combustion as efficient as possible. Gordon worked on these at Aldermaston, Guinness and British Sugar.

Following on from that Gordon worked on the Joint European Torus (JET) Project at the Culham Science Centre for Fusion Energy near Oxford. The scientists, technicians and engineers working here were using the principle of colliding atoms to release the energy stored within them and capture that energy as a useable fuel source. Finally, Gordon moved to Headland Foods in North Wales. This company's business was to cook food, put it together as meals and package and freeze them to sell as ready meals for oven or microwave cooking through the major supermarkets in the UK.



Derek Parkinson (left), presenting Gordon Martin with his jubilee certificate.

Gordon was the Services Manager which meant that he was responsible for the mechanical equipment required by any part of the process. One of the problems was that a lot of water was used in the processes and the waste contained fats, starch and other pollutants that couldn't be put back into the water system. The company had to pay the water companies to treat the waste and so Gordon designed and built a processing step that cleared most of these elements so the water could go into the usual waste systems. This resulted in a Business Energy Award in 1994, and the Managing Director was invited to Highgrove by Prince Charles to discuss the work Gordon was doing as Prince Charles is very interested in water treatment and conservation. The company was eventually bought out by Kerry Foods and Gordon was retained to oversee the dismantling of the plant.



Pictured from left to right, are: Derek Parkinson, Gordon Martin and Mike Melia.

Derek then went onto inform the brethren about Gordon's family life and hobbies; Gordon met Joyce Blease on a blind date, meeting up at Central Station and they were married in 1971. Joyce and Gordon have three children, James and twins Alex and Elizabeth and have six grandchildren ranging from six to 20 years of age. As a relaxation Gordon enjoys watching Liverpool Football Club and had held a season ticket for many years. Gordon also enjoy gardening but his main passion was maintaining and looking after his pride and joy, a Mercedes 280 SL.

Derek then gave a detailed account of Gordon's Masonic career; Gordon was initiated into Bootle Lodge No 1473 on Thursday 6 February 1969 at Bootle Masonic Hall in Balliol Road. Gordon's father, James Martin was a member of Bootle Lodge and he proposed him for initiation and the proposition was seconded by Alex Ross, Assistant Chief Constable.

Gordon's work commitments around the country prevented him from taking an active part in the lodge until such time as his work had settled more locally, when Gordon was able to progress through the regular offices and installed as WM in 2003.

After his year as immediate past master, Gordon took on the charity steward's job, a position he held in Bootle Lodge until the lodge's amalgamation with Pilgrim Lodge in 2010, and Gordon continues to be charity steward in the new Bootle Pilgrim Lodge.

Continued from previous page. Gordon also had been director of ceremonies for three years and assistant DC for two years for the lodge. Gordon was also Tithebarn representative and five years ago Gordon was appointed as Group Charity Steward until 2016 when he took on the group representative role for the MCF 2021 Festival.

Gordon's contribution to the lodge was recognised in May 2011 when he received appointment in Provincial Grand Lodge to the high rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon.

After the detailed account of Gordon's life and Masonic career so far, Derek asked Ormskirk and Bootle Group Vice Chairman Malcolm Alexander to read out the jubilee certificate. Derek then presented the certificate to Gordon saying: "You have contributed to serving Freemasonry by your work as lodge charity steward and your group charity work. I know you have got a great deal of pleasure and enjoyment from it. It is a great honour and a privilege to say to you, Gordon, thank you for all you have done for this lodge and the group." Derek concluded: "Congratulations on achieving 50 years as a Mason and we all look forward to seeing you enjoy many more years as a member of this great order."

With the presentation being over, Derek handed the gavel back to Mike Melia, who then closed the lodge and the brethren made their way to the dining hall for an excellent festive board, where the celebrations continued.

In response to the toast to Gordon's health which had been proposed by Ron Elliott, Gordon started by saying how happy he was to have been married to Joyce for nearly 50 years, informing the brethren that he promised Joyce that when he retired, he'd take her to all the places in the world he had visited when he was in the Merchant Navy, which he was happy to say they have nearly completed.

Gordon also informed the brethren that his father had celebrated both his 50-year and 60-year jubilee in 1975 and 1985 respectively, and remembers attending both of them, commenting that it was a privilege to be able to receive a jubilee like his father before him. Gordon's father had been a very active member of the lodge and was still remembered by some of the lodge members. Gordon finished his response by thanking everyone for attending and supporting him, giving special thanks to Ron for proposing the toast to his health, Derek for the presentation in the lodge room and finished by thanking everyone for their charitable donations they had given to the MCF 2021 Festival over the last few years.

Once Gordon had finished his response the WM Mike Melia stood up and had the pleasure to present him with a gift from the lodge, a set of gold Masonic cufflinks and tie pin.



Pictured from left to right, are: Howard Dinsdale, Malcolm Alexander, Graham Chambers, Derek Parkinson, Gordon Martin, Mike Melia, Ron Elliott, Peter Littlehales and Ken Mitchel.

Spanish Tapas Evening Friday 5th April
2019 at O'Briens Ormskirk

Menu

Bread, Olives, Aioli

Croquetas de jamon

(Ham bound with a thick béchamel coated in golden crumb and deep-fried)

Paella

(Chicken and chorizo rice and vegetables)

Albondigas

(Lamb meatballs in a spicy tomato sauce)

Patatas Brava's

(Fried diced potato with a spicy chilli sauce)

Tortilla Espanola

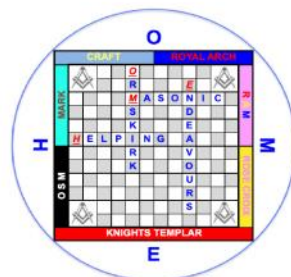
(A classic thick Spanish omelette with potatoes and onions)

Serrano ham and Manchego cheese platter

Black pudding, tomato sofrito, serrano
ham fried quails egg

£22.50 including half a bottle of wine.

To book a table please contact Jim Carrie
at jimcarrie@me.com or call 07757 709216.



All money raised will go towards projects to improve the hall, for all those that use it.
HOME. Helping Ormskirk Masonic hall Endeavours.

Minerva Lodge installs Arnold as WM

It was a special occasion for the brethren of Minerva Lodge No 4002 who had gathered at Litherland Masonic Hall. Together with their many guests they witnessed the warm, friendly and faultless installation of Arnold Neale as their new WM. This was the lodge's first installation to be held at their new home in Litherland, having only joined the Ormskirk and Bootle Group a couple of months before the installation.

For the evening's ceremony the lodge was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Philip Gunning as their principal guest. Philip was accompanied by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Frank Umbers, the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman Graham Chambers and vice chairman Malcolm Alexander together with acting Provincial grand officers.

The outgoing and installing WM Gordon Farmer started the evening's proceedings by warmly welcoming the visiting brethren to the meeting, before opening the lodge. After the initial lodge business was completed, Gordon opened the lodge to the second and third degrees,

whereupon the Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies Barry Fitzgerald was admitted into the room. Barry announced that Philip Gunning was without and demanded admission and he was duly admitted into the lodge room, accompanied by Frank Umbers, grand officers and Provincial grand officers, Russell Morris and Barry Fletcher. Gordon then warmly welcomed Philip to the ceremony and offered him the gavel of the lodge, which Philip gracefully declined.

Gordon then proceeded with the ceremony, asking Trevor Jones if he would assist the lodge by occupying the chair of SW, Colin Berrington if he would remain in the chair of JW and Miles Cotterall if he would assist the lodge by acting as inner guard.

The master elect, Arnold Neale was then presented to the lodge by the presenting officer's Robert Farmer and Martin Farmer, and after Arnold had taken his obligation, Gordon thanked the brethren of the lodge for all their support and hard work they had given for the last year to the lodge.

Gordon then proceeded to install Arnold, according to ancient custom into the chair of King Solomon. The working tools for the three degrees were presented by Martin Farmer, who delivered all three in a faultless and excellent manner.



Philip Gunning (left) congratulates Arnold Neale on becoming WM.



Pictured from left to right, are: Philip Gunning, Arnold Neale and Gordon Farmer.

Once the lodge's officers had been invested, the address to the WM was given by Colin Berrington, followed by the address to the wardens by Miles Cotterall and the address to the brethren of the lodge by Philip Gunning; all delivered in a confident and excellent manner.

At the end the ceremony of installation, Philip addressed the brethren by bringing congratulations from the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison, wishing Arnold and all the brethren the very best of health and hoping they have a happy Masonic year. Philip congratulated Gordon for the excellent way in which he had installed Arnold into the chair, before proceeding to congratulate all the brethren who had taken part in the ceremony.

The ceremony now being completed, Arnold had the privilege to present Philip with two cheques for charity, £200 for the MCF 2021 Festival and £200 to Tithebarn, Philip thanked the brethren of the lodge for their very generous and worthy donations.

Continued from previous page. After closing the lodge in prayer and harmony the brethren made their way to an excellent festive board which was enjoyed by all.



Pictured from left to right, are: Malcolm Alexander, Graham Chambers, Philip Gunning, Arnold Neale, Gordon Farmer and Frank Umbers.

Robert is invested as First Principal of 580

It was a special occasion when companions and guests of the Chapter of Unity and Perseverance No 580, gathered at the Ormskirk Masonic Hall, to witness the installation of Robert Hales, as their new first principal. For the installation the chapter was pleased and honoured to have the presence of Robert Duncan Smith, Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals as their principal guest.

Robert was accompanied to ceremony by the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman, Graham Chambers, the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Vice-Chairman, Malcolm Alexander, along with Chris Hamilton, Past Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals and the Acting Provincial Grand Chapter officers.

After the Chapter was opened and initial Chapter business had been completed the Director of Ceremonies, Trevor Tomlinson announced that Robert Duncan Smith was without and demanded admission. Robert was then brought into the temple in a procession, accompanied by Chris Hamilton, Graham Chambers, Malcolm Alexander and the acting Provincial Grand Chapter Officers, John Greenhalgh, and Barry Dearden

After Robert was warmly welcomed by the three principals to the chapter, the installation ceremony commenced. Robert Hales was then installed as the first principal, Roderick Green was then installed as Second principal and Leon Teasdale was installed as Third principal The Scarlet robe address was delivered by Trevor Tomlinson, the Purple robe address was presented by Stewart Cranage and the Blue robe address was delivered by Michael Rimmer.

The address to the companions of the chapter, was delivered by Robert Smith, in his usual confident and superb manor.

At the conclusion of the ceremony Robert brought greetings on behalf of the Grand Superintendent Tony Harrison, congratulating the three principals and all the members of the chapter for the enjoyable ceremony and all the members of the chapter involved in the ceremony for their work that evening.

Robert then presented Robert with five cheques on behalf of the chapter for charities, £300 to the WLFC, £100 to the Ormskirk Masonic Hall Association, £100 to Ophthalmic Trust, £100 to Tithebarn and £80 to Rainbow House, with Robert thanking the companions for their generosity in the donation on behalf of the recipients.

Following the convocation the members and guests retired to enjoy the delights of the friendly and jovial festive board.

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, photos aren't available for this article.

FROTH GRAND RACE NIGHT

SATURDAY 27th APRIL 2019

**TICKETS ONLY £5.00p
INCLUDING LIGHT BUFFET**

DOORS OPEN 7.30pm FIRST RACE 8pm

TOTE BETTING

**BUY A HORSE FOR JUST £2.50p
GET YOUR NAME IN THE RACE CARD**

**(Horses must be bought in advance)
PRIZE FOR EVERY WINNING OWNER**

**SPONSOR A RACE AND NAME IT FOR £10
ADVERTISE IN THE RACE CARD FROM £5**

RAFFLE

**TICKETS FROM YOUR FROTH REP OR
MARK ON 07752 664428**

Stanley of Bickerstaffe Chapter installation

The companions of Stanley of Bickerstaffe Chapter No 3511 and their many guests, held their installation convocation at Ormskirk Masonic Hall and for this occasion the chapter was honoured by the presence of Malcolm Warren as the representative of the Grand Superintendent Tony Harrison. For the meeting Malcolm was accompanied by the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Vice Chairman Malcolm Alexander.

The meeting commenced with the first principal Mike Sheron opening the convocation, with his companions Ian Tupling the second principal and Peter Hoyles the third principal. Once the initial business had been completed the chapter DC, Gregory Pinnington, announced that Malcolm Warren was without and sought admission. Malcolm was then brought into the temple in a procession, accompanied by Malcolm Alexander.

After Malcolm had been warmly welcomed by the three principals to the chapter, the installation ceremony commenced with the companions of the chapter and visitors being treated to an excellent and faultless ceremony, where they saw Ian Tupling, Peter Hoyles and Malcolm Sandywell, being installed into the three chairs respectively.

The scarlet robe address was presented by Tony Prior; the purple robe address was delivered by Mike Sheron and the blue robe by Gary Evans, all the address where delivered in a confident and superb manor.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Malcolm brought the greetings and congratulations on behalf of Grand Superintendent Tony Harrison, congratulating the three principals, saying: "The Grand Superintendent hopes you have an excellent and enjoyable year in office." Malcolm then went over to the outgoing first principle Mike Sheron and thanked him for all his work in his year in office and for the way he had installed Ian into the first principals chair. Malcolm then proceeded to thank and congratulate all the members of the chapter who had been involved with the ceremony on Tony's behalf saying that it had been an excellent and enjoyable ceremony.

Following the convocation, the members and guests retired to enjoy the delights of the festive board, where the diners had albondigas (Spanish meatballs) as the starter, which was followed by confit duck leg and boulangère potatoes as the main course, this was followed by cheese and biscuits. During the festive board a raffle was held which raised £112 which will be donated charities at a later date.



Pictured from left to right, are: Malcolm Warren, Peter Hoyles, Ian Tupling and Malcolm Sandywell.



Pictured from left to right, are: Malcolm Alexander, Malcolm Warren, Peter Hoyles, Ian Tupling, Malcolm Sandywell and Mike Sheron

Group holds a Dolly Parton Cabaret Night

The brethren from the Ormskirk and Bootle Group, who were accompanied by their wives and many guests met at Maghull Town Hall. This was a social night and took the form of a cabaret, with an artiste called Julia Martin providing the excellent entertainment, with her act as Dolly Parton. Julia was dressed completely in character as 'Dolly' and with more than half of the audience arriving in various forms of Country and Western attire, helping to set the theme and mood for the night. In attendance for the evening was the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman Graham Chambers, who was accompanied by his wife Anne and also group vice chairman Malcolm Alexander. Once everyone had taken their seats Graham warmly welcomed everyone to the evening saying that he hoped that everyone would have a very enjoyable evening.



Dolly sings to her audience.

A buffet was provided which was a choice of either 'Scouse Pie' or curry which was followed by apple pie and ice cream. The excellent buffet had been prepared and served by O'Brien's, who are the caterers at Ormskirk Masonic Hall. After the tables had been cleared following the buffet, Julia Martin came onto the stage to perform the first of her two sets, with her looking like and dressed as Dolly Parton. She performed many of Dolly's hits, but unfortunately during her first set Julia had a slight accident, as she was exiting the stage whilst wearing exceptionally high heels to walk amongst the audience during one of her numbers, she stumbled on the steps coming down from the stage and badly sprained her right ankle. Even though everyone could tell that Julia was in considerable pain and in difficulty, she carried on like a true professional.

During a break in the entertainment, a raffle with many prizes to be won was held, which raised £295. After the raffle was completed, group chairman Graham thanked everyone for attending and supporting the event, the Maghull Town Hall bar staff, the DJ, and O'Brien's for the meal. He also gave special thanks to the group's social committee for an excellent night and for all their hard work in putting the evening together, commenting on the magnificent job they had all done.

With the break being over, Julia returned to the stage for her second set, singing many more of Dolly's hits and with much audience participation including some even joining her on the stage. Immediately after Julia's act had finished a nurse in the audience, Sarah Gibson, bandaged Julia's ankle for the journey home. It was understood that Julia was to go straight to her local A & E department the following morning and was later found that Julia had apparently ruptured her Achilles tendon. Many remained after Julia's performance with the disco starting, with the dance floor soon filling up with many dancing till midnight. The happy revellers then left for their homes after having a good time in a really friendly and nice atmosphere amongst friends.



Highlights from the evening.

FROTH hold their annual Casino Night

Members of the Ormskirk and Bootle Group accompanied by their partners, family and friends, met at Litherland Masonic Hall for FROTH's annual Casino Night. The Casino Night has been a very popular event in the group's social calendar for a number of years and again this year it was very well attended and supported.

The evening started with the FROTH Chairman Mark Sands greeting everyone as they arrived before handing the proceedings over to Don Fraser the FROTH vice chairman, welcoming everybody to the Casino Night. Don then explained how the system worked with the use of 'Froths' as money, before introducing the croupiers. Graham Chambers Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman and Cath Traynor were the croupiers on the two roulette tables; with Ray Barrow St. Luke's Lodge No 6006 and David Philips acting as the croupiers on the two blackjack tables.

Once Don had finished the introductions, he declared the tables open, with everyone making their way to the tables. The dining room in the hall was set up with two roulette tables and two blackjack tables, with the guests being able to purchase for £5, the so named 'Froths' to the equivalent value of 500, which were then able to be exchanged for chips to be played at the various tables. With the person who had the most 'froths' at the end of the evening winning a prize.

All night the tables were very popular with everyone playing a number of games on each of the tables and with everyone standing around the tables to play the various games, a fun experience was ensured for all.

Halfway through the night there was a short break, where everyone was able to have something to eat from the large buffet. The buffet was again supplied by the guests who brought a large selection of various items of food with them to help support the evening and FROTH.

Once the break had finished, everyone returned to the casino tables to continue playing the games. At the end of the evening, Don presented the prizes to the person who had won the most 'froths' that night, which was followed by the raffle which had a large number of prizes and with the money raised from the raffle, a grand total of £600 was raised on the evening for FROTH.

At the end of the night Don thanked everyone for supporting the Casino night on behalf of FROTH, giving special thanks to Cath, Ray, David and Graham for acting as the croupiers and announced that the next FROTH event will be their race night in April, before wishing everyone a safe journey home.

It was a very enjoyable night, with everyone departing after having good fun playing on the roulette and blackjack tables amongst friends.



Pictured from left to right, are: Graham Chambers, Cath Traynor, Don Fraser, Mark Sands, Roger Holt, Peter Kelly and Ray Barrow.



Highlights from the Casino night.

LITHERLAND MASONIC HALL

Whilst most of the members of the Bootle group of Masons were enjoying the summer break, a considerable amount of work was being carried out under the direction of Ian McKinnon, Chairman of the Hall Committee and Iain Beckett (the foreman.)

Rebuilding the front wall which had collapsed some years ago required the removal of several tree stumps in order to dig new footings to conform with present day Building Regulations, this alone took two days. When the left and right sections of wall were completed, the centre sandstone section looked out of place; a quote was obtained for replacing the section but at £3000, was more than the budget could stand.

In an incredibly generous gesture, Iain Beckett paid for the new section of wall himself.

The sandstone that had been removed from the wall has now been incorporated into a rockery that has been started by Tom Croll who has also supplied plants and shrubs from his garden. The wall to the side of the emergency escape from the Dining Room has also been repaired.



The Litherland Masonic Hall



The rebuilding of the front walls

Whilst all this was in progress, the front of the building was scaffolded and repair work commenced on the fascia of the building and the copings. On the completion of the repairs, the fascia was "K" rendered (I'm told, whatever that may be!) The railings fixed to the building frontage, were removed, powder coated and refitted.

The entrance pillars have been painted with a specialist two part epoxy resin for a more durable finish. A new Masonic Hall sign has been made and fitted and is awaiting an electrical supply for lighting.

Window guards and downspouts have been painted and the building looks very impressive indeed.

Inside the hall, the small Lodge Room has been part redecorated, the overhead lighting has been changed to L.E.D. and low wattage candle bulbs fitted for use by Chapters, this obviates the need for the candle holders to be P.A.T. tested, a further saving.

All in all, the amount of work carried out is a credit to the brethren who gave up their time and put so much effort into these projects, a special thanks must go to Mark Sands for all his time and energy. A special thanks to FROTH for their generous donation to the work carried out.

Continued from previous page.



The building work being carried out on the exterior of the building and the hall once rendered and painted

Ormskirk & Bootle Group of Chapters
Joint Convocation

6:00 pm Wednesday 10th April 2019

at

Litherland Masonic Hall

50 Sefton Rd, Litherland, Liverpool L21 7PQ

Hosted by Chapter of Unity & Perseverance No 580



The 5 Platonic Solids Explained



Royal Arch Chapter
Of
Unity and Perseverance
No.580



Dining £ 17.00

Creamed Seasonal Vegetable Soup
Roast Breast of Chicken, Roast Potatoes
with Sage and Onion & Gravy
Apple Pie and Custard

Bookings via Scribe Ezra:
Stew Cranage, PPrGSwdB
Scribe.E@chapter580.org.uk
07955 603492
01695 627413

Upcoming Diary Dates

- 04.03.19 Vale of Skelmersdale No 8719(Orm) Installation
05.03.19 St Michael's No 5756(CR) Installation
07.03.19 Bootle Pilgrim No 1473(Lith) Installation
08.03.19 Crosby No 3714 (Lith) Installation
13.03.19 Ormskirk Priory CH No 4007 (Orm) Installation
15.03.19 Ormskirk Masonic Hall Association, Management Meeting, Ormskirk Masonic Hall
15.03.19 Provincial Ball, Macron Stadium, Bolton
19.03.19 St Luke's No 6006 (Lith) Installation
19.03.19 Ormskirk Ladies Group, My Life as a Tiller Girl, Faye Robinson
25.03.19 Old Crosbeian No 4992(MT) Installation
26.03.19 Bootle Ladies Group, Easter Folk, Brian Hallsworth
28.03.19 Eureka No 3763 (Lith) 50th W F Wright
03.04.19 Provincial Grand Lodge Winter Gardens Blackpool
05.04.19 HOME Spanish Tapas Evening Ormskirk Masonic Hall
08.04.19 Fermor Hesketh Lodge No 1350 (Lith) 50th D.M. Atherton
10.04.19 Royal Arch - Joint Convocation Litherland Masonic Hall
15.04.19 Lathom No 2229(Lith) Installation
15.04.19 St Michael's CH No 5756 (CR) Installation
16.04.19 Ormskirk Ladies Group, Annual General Meeting Members only
18.04.19 Thornton CH No 8008(Lith) Installation
23.04.19 The King's No 3101(Lith) Installation
27.04.19 Grand National Race Night Litherland Masonic Hall
30.04.19 Bootle Ladies Group, Misdirection, Peter Turner

(Orm) = Meeting at Ormskirk Masonic Hall

(Lith) = Meeting at Litherland Masonic Hall

(CR) = Meeting at Park Hall Hotel, Charnock Richard

(MT) = Meeting at Merchant Taylors School, Crosby

Please note Ormskirk Ladies Group meet at the Ormskirk Masonic Hall and the Bootle Ladies Group meet at the Litherland Masonic Hall.

Editorial Notes: *The editors of this newsletter wish to point out that due to file size restrictions imposed on them by the web site hosting company they have had to produce the newsletter in two parts. It is our intention to provide monthly editions during the Masonic season, and at other times if there is sufficient content.*

Please send any news articles, announcements, pictures or items of interest to: Russell Skidmore :