



SYNERGY

Ormskirk and Bootle Group of Lodges and Chapters



Volume 4 Issue 1

Newsletter

September 2019

A warm welcome to all our readers

Tarleton Lodge welcomes Peter at their installation

At the installation of Russell Morris as the new WM of Tarleton Lodge No 7871 at Park Hall Hotel, Charnock Richard, the lodge was honoured by the presence of Peter Lockett, as the representative of the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison. Peter was accompanied by the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman Graham Chambers, Ormskirk and Bootle Group Vice Chairman Malcolm Alexander, grand officer Brian Fairhurst and acting Provincial grand officers John McGrady and Christopher Taylor.

The outgoing WM Colin Mills, before opening the lodge, thanked the brethren of the lodge and hoped they'll support the new WM Once the initial lodge business had been completed, the lodge's director of ceremonies James Wright announced that Peter Lockett was without and sought admission. Peter was then admitted into the temple accompanied by the grand and acting Provincial grand officers. Colin then warmly welcomed Peter to the lodge.

Colin asked Stephen Dunn if he would assist the lodge by occupying in the chair of SW, Thomas Ryding if he would occupy the chair of JW and John Webster if he would assist the lodge by acting as IG. The master elect Russell Morris was then presented to the lodge by the presenting officer Thomas Ryding and after Russell had taken his obligation the outgoing WM Colin then installed Russell according to ancient custom into the chair of King Solomon. The working tools for the third degree were presented by John Webster, the second degree tools by Raymond West and the first degree tools by Raymond West, all in a confident and proficient manner.



Peter Lockett (left) congratulating Russell Morris.



Peter Lockett (left) being welcomed by Colin Mills.

During the installation of the officers of the lodge, the address to the lodge's new almoner Colin Mills, was given by John Thompson, the group's Pastoral Care Officer, who also thanked Colin for taking the role as almoner and also thanked the former almoner Thomas Ryding for all his hard work he had given. The address to the brethren of the lodge was given by principal guest Peter Lockett.

At the end of the ceremony, Peter brought the congratulations on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, congratulating Russell on becoming WM, Peter then congratulated Colin for the way he installed Russell into the chair, James Wright and the brethren who had delivered the working tools and all the brethren of the lodge who had been involved in ceremony.

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Continued from previous page. Russell then presented Peter with two cheques on behalf for the following beneficiaries; £500 to MCF 2021 Festival and £300 to go to Holy Cross School in Ireland, in the memory of Simon Mills, Colin's son. Peter gave grateful thanks on behalf of all those who will benefit from the kind generosity of the members.

Following the meeting the brethren made their way to an excellent festive board held over in the Park Suite of the hotel, where the evening's celebrations continued, during which a raffle was held raising £154 which will be donated to Masonic and non-Masonic charities at a later date.



Pictured from left to right, are: Christopher Taylor, Graham Chambers, Peter Lockett, Russell Morris, Colin Mills, Malcolm Alexander and John McGrady.

Stewart becomes WM of Aughton Lodge



David Anderton (left) congratulating Stewart Cranage on becoming WM.

It was a special occasion for the members of Aughton Lodge No 7996 at their installation meeting, held at the Ormskirk Masonic Hall. The brethren were delighted to give a very warm welcome to their principal guest David Anderton as the representative of the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison. Joining David were grand officers, Peter Taylor, Malcolm Alexander, Colin Jenkins, Andy Barton and Andrew Whittle.

The outgoing and installing WM John Wootton started the evening's proceedings by warmly welcoming the visiting brethren to the meeting, before opening the lodge and completing the initial lodge business. The acting director of ceremonies, Derek Westby retired and the acting officers were asked to remain in their positions. When the DC returned he announced that David Anderton was seeking admission. He was admitted along with the other grand and Provincial grand officers. The WM welcomed David and the

other grand officers to the lodge.

The lodge was then opened in the second degree and then in the third degree after asking all fellow craft Freemasons to retire. Salutations were given to the Provincial Grand Secretary, Peter Taylor, David Anderton and other grand officers.

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Continued from previous page. Salutations were given to the Provincial officers. The lodge was resumed in the second degree and the fellow craft's were readmitted.

The master elect Stewart Cranage was presented to the brethren by Derek Westby. Stewart submitted to the ancient charges and regulations, he then advanced and recited his obligation as master elect. The outgoing WM thanked the brethren for all their support and hard work they had given him during his year in office.

John then proceeded to install Stewart, according to ancient custom into the chair of King Solomon. The working tools for the third degree were presented by Jim Carrie, the second degree tools by Dan Davies and the first degree tools by Charlie Browne all delivered in an excellent and faultless manner.

The address to the WM was given by Derek Westby, the address to the wardens was given by Malcolm Sandywell and the address to the brethren of the lodge was given by David Anderton, all the addresses were delivered in an extremely proficient and confident manner.

At the end the ceremony of installation, David stood and gave the Provincial Grand Masters congratulations to Stewart on attaining the chair of the lodge once again, saying that he hoped Stewart would have a busy and happy year in the chair. He also congratulated John for the excellent manner in which he had installed Stewart into the chair. David then congratulated all the brethren who had been involved in their respective roles during the ceremony especially Dan Davies for his excellent delivery of the second degree tools.

The ceremony completed, Stewart presented David with the following donations: £750 for the West Lancashire MCF 2021 Festival, £500 to The Back Up Trust – Transforming lives after spinal cord injuries, £500 to Northwest Blood Bikes, £500 to Rainbow House, £250 to Tithebarn, £250 to Zoë's Place and £250 to HOME. David thanked the brethren of the lodge for their very generous and worthy donations totalling £3,000, before having the privilege to present the lodge with their Patron's certificate for the 2021 Festival.

After closing the lodge in peace and harmony the brethren made their way to an excellent festive board which was enjoyed by all. During this, a raffle was held which raised £315.50 which will be donated to charities at a later date.

In response to the toast to his health David thanked, and again congratulated Stewart for becoming WM once more, the brethren who had been involved in organising the night and the brethren who performed in the ceremony.



Pictured from left to right are: Graham Chambers, Andy Barton, Peter Taylor, David Anderton, Stewart Cranage, John Wootton, Colin Jenkins and Malcolm Alexander.

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

John becomes WM for a second time

30 members and guests gathered at Ormskirk Masonic Hall for Ormskirk Priory Lodge No 4007 installation. The principal guest was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Philip Gunning. Philip was accompanied by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Frank Umbers, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Malcolm Bell together with the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman Graham Chambers, the vice chairman Malcolm Alexander and secretary Trevor Martin.

An excellent installation ceremony, which was most sincere and well presented, was very much appreciated by the all who attended. John Rawcliffe installed his successor John Wallbank, who occupied the WM's chair for the second time of this his mother lodge, the first occasion was in 1987. John Rawcliffe, gave a sincere and flawless address to the new WM. John was ably assisted by Bert Patterson the director of ceremonies and other past masters of the lodge. Bert Patterson presented the third degree tools, Ian Kennedy the second degree tools and Brian Heaney the first degree tools. Philip gave the address to the brethren of the lodge and Graham Chambers presented the lodge's Hall Stone Jewel to the new master.



Pictured from left to right are: Frank Umbers, Philip Gunning, John Wallbank, John Rawcliffe and Malcolm Bell



The brethren enjoying the festive board.

Continued from previous page. Once the installation ceremony was complete Philip brought the good wishes of the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison. Philip congratulated John Wallbank on attaining the chair of his lodge in the year that the lodge is to celebrate its centenary. Philip went on to congratulate the installing master and all the brethren who took part in a wonderful installation ceremony which was most sincere and well conducted. Philip stated he was particularly proud of this lodge and its ceremonial capabilities having been a member of the lodge for many years. The WM then presented two cheques of £150 each to Philip in favour of the Friends of Tithebarn and the Ormskirk Masonic Hall Association.

The brethren retired to a superb dining experience of wild mushroom soup, braised steak with seasonal vegetables and lemon posset, all wonderfully prepared by the resident Chef Gary O'Brien of O'Brien's Tea Rooms. Philip, after going through the preliminaries of his response to toast number 3, encouraged brethren to ask him questions. The brethren asked several interesting questions which Philip answered in a straightforward and honest way which was well received by all. In closing his response Philip urged brethren to make use of the free PSA testing which will again be made available prior to Provincial Grand Chapter.

Group holds annual Bowls Tournament

Eight members from the Ormskirk and Bootle Group met at the Dog and Gun Bowling Green in Aughton for the group's annual bowling tournament. With the weather being overcast at the start of the afternoon and with the occasional shower the members started the tournament divided into two groups of four. After some hard fought bowling, well some games where any way, the semi-finalists were Brian Cunliffe, David Bartram, John Medcalf and Ian Tupling.

Those not qualifying for the semi-finals were Graham Chambers the Group Chairman, John Glover the Group Bowls Representative, Joe Williams the Group/Provincial Membership Officer and Malcolm Alexander the Group Vice Chairman.

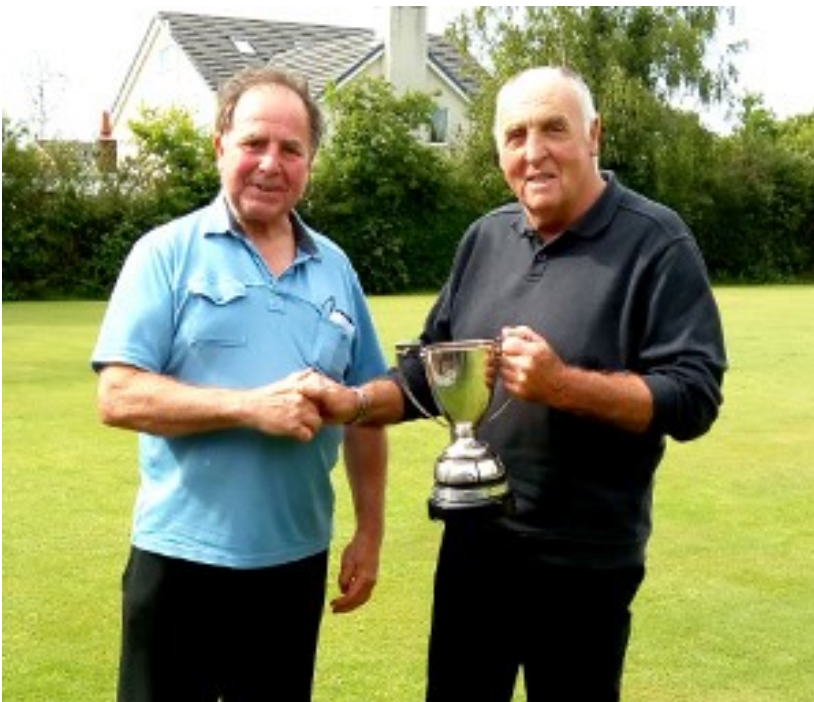
Malcolm Sandywell the Group Charity Steward attended to support the event and advertised his participation in the Blackpool Bike Ride in August for the benefit of the 2021 MCF Festival. Please contact Malcolm direct

to support his efforts by making a donation, thank you.

After two very good and close semi-finals, the finalists where Ian Tupling and John Medcalf. By the time of the semi-finals and the final were played the sun was out and the temperature had heated up in more ways than one!!

The final turned out to be very competitive between two experienced bowlers with John running out the winner after a close contest with Ian. These two Brethren will represent the Group in the 2019 Provincial Bowling Tournament.

After the final the Group Chairman Graham thanked John Glover for arranging the event and all those who attended. Graham then presented Ian Tupling with the runners-up Shield and then presented the cup to the winner John Medcalf.



Pictured are: Graham Chambers (left) presenting John Medcalf with the winner's trophy.

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Continued from previous page. The attendance this year was bit disappointing and it is hoped that it will be better supported in future years. Those who attended enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon with some good banter to go with the opportunity of meeting up with old friends and new, oh and to play some Crown Green Bowls as well.

The Ormskirk and Bootle Group are to Host the Provincial Crown Green Bowling Tournament in the summer of 2020. Further details will be made available in the New Year. To ensure that this event runs smoothly members of the Group will be asked to assist the organisers on the day and it is hoped the members from the Group will offer their time.

Friends reunited at Tithebarn

The inconsistent British summer looked favourably upon the annual ‘meat feast’ organised by the Friends of Tithebarn, which was held in the grounds of the highly acclaimed Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution owned Tithebarn Care Home, in Crosby, Liverpool.

Another sold out event saw 130 guests, Masonic and non-Masonic, enjoy a fine choice of meats, fish and chicken, accompanied by various baked potatoes with a choice of fillings, salad and bread rolls. Diners lined up to be served the prepared feast by members of the committee, overseen by their wives and partners.

Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman Graham Chambers, a retired Boucher (butcher) and committee member, alongside Joe Williams and Roger Holt were the first to greet diners with a hearty welcome and a joke or two. Guests were also offered a complimentary drink with a choice of alcoholic or soft drink from the bar, which was manned by Tony Collier.



Tony Collier takes a well-earned break.

The main course was followed by a choice of apple pie and custard or fresh fruit and cream, cheese and biscuits, coffee or tea. The food had been prepared and cooked by Graham in the kitchen at the Masonic Hall, Litherland and was kindly overseen by Yates Catering, who currently provide the meals at the hall.

Chairman of the Friends of Tithebarn John Stallard opened proceedings with a welcome to all guests, which included Cheshire Area 1 Group Chairman Gary Usherwood and Southport Group Chairman Colin Jenkins. Also present was Assistant Provincial Grand Master Frank Umbers. John also announced that a raffle would be taking place plus an auction for some football memorabilia.



The ‘Whisky Wooders’.

Tuning up in the background were the ‘Whisky Wooders’, who have been entertaining at the event for a number of years. All the band members hail from Burtonwood near Warrington, where residents are known as Wooders, hence the name of the band.

Continued from previous page. Dozens of raffle prizes, kindly donated by generous supporters of the event, were on offer and the big-hearted participants generously coughed up a total of over £600.

The auction, which was conducted by Joe Williams brought in another £640. John paid a special compliment to James Cochrane of Lodge of Harmony No 220 within the Garston Group, who had cajoled the management of both Liverpool and Everton Football Clubs to donate signed shirts, footballs and photographs. John also informed those present that a new minibus ambulance, which cost £45,000, was soon to be delivered to the care home and was paid for entirely by funds raised by 'The Friends of Tithebarn', from lodges in the catchment area and from fundraising events such as the 'meat feast'. This brought about a thunderous round of applause.

There was a further presentation from Graham to John Stallard of a cheque for the magnificent amount of £1,750 from lodges within the Ormskirk and Bootle Group, which when added to donations direct from a number of other lodges, totalled £2,500. The money has already been earmarked for modifications and redecoration to the residents dining room.

Suitably fed, watered and divested of all but their taxi fare home, the guests settled down to enjoy the music, many taking to the improvised dance floor to burn off some calories. The end of a very memorable, enjoyable and financially successful afternoon for the Friends of Tithebarn and their satisfied guests.

Article and photographs by Phil Marshall



Serving the 'meat feast'

Group Golf Day

As in previous years, the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Golf Day event was held at Mossock Hall Golf Club in Bickerstaff, with two separate competitions being held, one for Masons and one for non-Masons. There was in total 34 golfers taking part. Mike Trigg of Aughton Lodge No 7996 did an excellent job of organising the day with everyone teeing off within an hour.



Highlights from the day.

Once again, the weather gods were smiling with temperatures in the high 20's, a light breeze kept everyone slightly cooler and of course tested their golfing prowess. With temperatures this high the players were supported in keeping their fluid levels up by our very own 'trolley dollies', John Doyle from Aughton Lodge and Mike Dutton of Lathom Abbey Lodge No 6286 who provided much needed refreshments throughout the day.

Even with the on-course libations, the 19th hole was a welcome site for all after the heat of the day. After the tales of near misses and heroic shots were recalled, everyone retired upstairs to dine and declare the winners.

Harry Jones of Lathom Abbey Lodge came in with the winning score for a Mason, with last year's victor Colin Higginson of Adelphi Lodge No 6819 taking second place. First place in the non-masonic competition was Neil Turner, and in second place Terry Jones. The prizes were presented by Jim Carrie the Chairman of Helping Ormskirk Masonic Endeavours, (HOME). Unfortunately, the non-Masonic players were unable to stay for dinner.

Prizes for the nearest the pin competitions were awarded to Danny Geraghty, Geoff Dixon and Neil Turner. Paul Hindley won the longest drive competition on the 17th hole. All prizes were very kindly donated by companies and individuals including Williams BMW, BMW, Shell, BMTR Bike Tyrestore, Mossock Hall Golf Club, Geoff Lever of Stanley of Bickerstaffe Lodge No 3511, Neil Hamilton, Ian Tupling, John Doyle and John Wootton who are members of Aughton Lodge.

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Continued from previous page. During the evening, a raffle was held which raised £150. Also, an auction for two tickets to a British Super Bike event raised the magnificent sum of £250. Adding this to other monies raised on the day, the total crept to just over the £500 mark with all these proceeds going to the Ormskirk and Bootle Group to be distributed to their worthy causes at a later date.



Pictured left: Harry Jones (left) receiving his winner trophy from Jim Carrie. Pictured centre: Colin Higginson (left) receiving his runner-up prize from Jim Carrie. Pictured right: Harry Jones with his trophy.

Proposed future HOME social events

HOME are proposing some forthcoming social events taking place at the Masonic Hall, Ormskirk, please see below.

08.11.19 HOME Greek Night

25.01.20 HOME Burns Night

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Malcolm and Don 'Ride the Lights' for charity



Don Carton (left) dressed in his Father Christmas outfit and Malcolm Sandywell.

Malcolm Sandywell a member of Stanley of Bickerstaffe Lodge No 3511, and the group charity steward for the Ormskirk and Bootle Group, along with Don Carton (secretary of Mersey Lodge No 5199), took part in the annual 'Ride the Lights' in Blackpool along with 60 other brethren and their families from across the Province.

The brethren were taking part in the ride to raise funds for the West Lancashire MCF 2021 Festival Appeal. Don, who used his mobility scooter to complete the ride, decided it was a good idea to don, (forgive the pun) his Father Christmas outfit. Throughout the ride it attracted much attention and delight for the many children taking part in the event, even the local press stopped Don and Malcolm, to take pictures.

The total sponsorship raised amounted to £778 with a further £96.25 in gift aid.

Malcolm said he would like to thank everyone who sponsored him, and special thanks to Crosby Lodge No 3714, and Mersey Lodge for their donations, they were very much appreciated.



The riders get ready to start the ride.

Proposed future FROTH social events

FROTH are proposing some forthcoming social events taking place at the Masonic Hall, Litherland, please see below.

- 01.09.19 FROTH Spirit Hamper Tickets go on sale
- 19.10.19 FROTH Ukulele Night –with light buffet
- 08.02.20 FROTH Casino Night
- 25.04.20 FROTH Race Night

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Sunday lunch lodge social

Over recent years many lodges have declined in numbers. There are many reasons for this, however lots of lodges are seeing membership increase – one of the key reasons is the social activity in the lodge.

The Lodge of Chivalry No 3974 is a typical example, as over recent years the lodge has suffered a decline in numbers, however, in the last year three new members have joined the lodge and a new member is to be initiated in November.

This summer Martin Stuart, who is to be installed as the WM in October has been very keen on attending social events, at one such event (The Provincial Ball) Martin met two old school friends he had not seen for many years. This rekindled friendship resulted in one of his friends joining the lodge. This led to another old school friend joining the lodge and Martin hopes that from this small beginning more men will join the lodge.



Martin and his wife Karen.

Already this summer and before he is installed as WM Martin has held two socials. The first was at the Baby Elephant in Shevington. The second was held at the Star Inn in Rainford and most of the lodge members attended along with their wives, partners and children. A young man and his girlfriend also came along to the lunch. His name is Zachary Lewis, Zac has been to a few lodge socials and is being initiated in November. He is reading Product Design at Stafford University and he hopes to go to Bournemouth University to study for an MBA in design. Zac is Martin's stepson and has agreed to write a blog giving regular updates on his studies and his progress in Masonry so watch this space!

Everyone who attended the lunch enjoyed great food and more importantly the company. All are looking forward to the next social event. During the course of the afternoon a raffle was held which raised £95 for the social fund which is used to make donations to local non Masonic organisations and clubs.



The brethren, wives, partners and children who attended the Sunday lunch.

Group holds annual Widow's Luncheon

Widows from around the Ormskirk and Bootle Group gathered at Ormskirk Masonic Hall for the group's second annual Widow's Luncheon, which was subsidised by the kindness of the West Lancashire Freemasons' Charity (WLFC).

The afternoon started with pre-lunch drinks before the ladies were seated. The group chairman Graham Chambers welcomed the ladies before handing over to Steve Kayne, the CEO of the WLFC, who informed the ladies about some of the ways the WLFC could possibly give them some assistance.

The ladies were then treated to a wonderful two course dinner followed by a free raffle where many prizes were won, then up stepped John Diamond a vocal entertainer who had the ladies dancing. All the ladies left in high spirits having had a wonderful time.

John Thompson the pastoral care officer for the group said he cannot thank Graham, Steve, Gary and his team enough, also the almoners present and everyone involved with the transport.



Highlights from the Luncheon.

Upcoming Diary Dates

- 12.10.19 Prince of Architect's No 4188 (Lith) Installation
- 14.10.19 Fermor Hesketh No 1350 (Lith) Installation
- 14.10.19 Rufford No 7217(CR) Installation
- 19.10.19 FROTH - Ukulele Night (Lith)
- 22.10.19 Bootle Ladies Group, (Lith), "Clatterbridge Cancer Charity New Hospital" Jayne Moran
- 23.10.19 Ormskirk Priory No 4007(Orm) 50th A Ashcroft
- 24.10.19 Eureka No 3763(Lith) Installation
- 29.10.19 Ormskirk Ladies Group, (Orm), Betsy 3 – "Happy Ever After" Joanne Halliwell
- 06.11.19 Ormskirk & Bootle Group Meeting (Lith)
- 08.11.19 HOME - Greek Night (Orm)
- 12.11.19 Stanley of Bickerstaffe No 3511(Orm) 50th RJ Jackson
- 17.11.19 GROUP - Christmas Fair (Lith)
- 19.11.19 Ormskirk Ladies Group, (Orm), "More interesting tales on Liverpool" Ken Pye
- 20.11.19 Standish No 4955(CR) Installation
- 22.11.19 Arthur Stanley No 3469 (Orm) Installation

Upcoming Diary Dates

- 24.11.19 GROUP - Christmas Fair (Orm)
24.11.19 FROTH - Christmas Lunch (Lith)
25.11.19 Fermor Hesketh Chapter No 1350 (Lith) Installation
26.11.19 Bootle Ladies Group, (Lith), "Fish, Chips, Little ships and North Sea spray" Gordon Bartley
27.11.19 Ormskirk Priory No 4007 (Orm) Centenary
01.12.19 GROUP - Carol Service Lathom Park Chapel
03.12.19 Park Hall No 8375 (Orm) Installation
07.12.19 Chivalry No 3974 (Orm) Centenary
08.12.19 GROUP - Children's Christmas Party (Orm)
10.12.19 Minerva No 4002 (Lith) Centenary
11.12.19 Bootle Ladies Group, (Lith), Christmas Meal
25.01.20 HOME Burns Night (Orm) (TBC)
25.01.20 Bootle Pilgrim Lodge N0 1473 Burns Night (Lith)
08.02.20 FROTH Casino Night (Lith) (TBC)
13.03.20 Group Cabaret Buffet, Maghull Town Hall
25..04.20 FROTH Race Night (Lith) (TBC)
05.06.20 GROUP - Gala Cabaret Dinner & Dance Briars Hall
06.06.20 Ormskirk & Bootle Group Bowls, Dog & Gun, Aughton (TBC)
.06.20 Ormskirk & Bootle Group Golf Day 2020, Mossack Hall Golf Club (TBC)

(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

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION WILL BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 :
