



SYNERGY

Ormskirk and Bootle Group of Lodges and Chapters



Volume 4 Issue 2

Newsletter

December 2019

A Merry Christmas to all our readers

Group Chairman's Christmas Message

The Ormskirk & Bootle Group is proud to be associated with the recent centenary celebrations of three of our Lodges - Chivalry 3974, Minerva 4002 and Ormskirk Priory 4007. Each of these celebrations was honoured by the presence of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Bro James Anthony Harrison and his Provincial Team. The ceremonial aspects of all these celebrations led by the Provincial Grand Master were magnificent. They were enhanced by very interesting and moving narrations followed by rededication of the Lodges by the Provincial Grand Chaplain or his Deputy.

The Lodges themselves had made sure that all who attended were looked after and they are to be congratulated on their organisation of these very special masonic occasions. A special mention and word of thanks to the Lodge Secretaries for all their hard work and for their many hours spent ensuring the success of their Lodge Centenary Celebrations.

At each of these Lodge Centenary Celebrations the Provincial Grand Master conferred honours on a Brother from each Lodge by promoting them to the very high rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden: -

WBro John Wallbank of Ormskirk Priory Lodge 4007 on 27th November 2019

WBro Keith H Murden of the Lodge of Chivalry 3974 on 7th December 2019

WBro Miles W Cotterall of Minerva Lodge 4002 on 10th December 2019



I would like to congratulate these three Brethren on my own behalf and on behalf of the members of the Ormskirk and Bootle Group. Their past and continued dedication to their Lodges and their masonic work in general over many years is very well deserving of these special promotions.

GROUP CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENT

I announced at the Ormskirk & Bootle Group meeting held on 6th November 2019 that a total of £4000 was to be donated to the following: -

£1000 to Litherland Masonic Hall towards the cost of a future Capital Project at Litherland Masonic Hall

£1000 to Ormskirk Masonic Hall Association towards the cost of replacing the dining chairs at Ormskirk Masonic Hall

£500 to HOME for the benefit of Ormskirk Masonic Hall

£500 to FROTH for the benefit of Litherland Masonic Hall

£500 to Derian House Children's Hospice, a Charity nominated by the Lodges and Chapter meeting at Charnock Richard

£500 to be donated to the Masonic Bowling Tournament when the Ormskirk & Bootle Group hosts the event in the summer of 2020

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Continued from previous page. The donations above are in addition to the £5000 donated by the Group at the Masters and 1st Principals Dinner held on 6th February 2019:-

£1250 to Litherland Masonic Hall

£1250 to Ormskirk Masonic Hall Association

£250 to HOME for the benefit of Ormskirk Masonic Hall

£250 to FROTH for the benefit of Litherland Masonic Hall

£500 to Derian House Children's Hospice, a Charity nominated by the Lodges and Chapter meeting at Charnock Richard

£250 to the Sefton Women's and Children Aid Charity, a Charity nominated by the Bootle Ladies Group

£250 to Derian House Children's Hospice, a Charity nominated by the Ormskirk Ladies Group

£250 to the Friends of Tithebarn

£750 to the MCF2021 Festival

The above donations have been made from the accrued funds from both the Bootle Group and the Ormskirk & District Group. In addition the magnificent support of the Brethren and Companions of the Christmas Fayres held at each of our Masonic Halls and other Group Social events, also helped considerably towards the funding of these donations, thank you.

ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

At the very well attended Group Carol Service held at Lathom Park Chapel on Sunday 1st December 2019 the magnificent amount of £240 was received on the collection plate. As in previous years the collection was shared equally between the Chapel and the Friends of Tithebarn - £120 each. The Group Chairman would like to thank all those who attended the Carol Service and for their generosity in their giving.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Sincerely and fraternally

Graham

WBro/EComp G Chamber PPrJGW/PPrGSN

Group Chairman

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.

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 may have to produce the newsletter in two parts. It is our intention to provide monthly editions during the Masonic season when possible, and at other times if there is sufficient content.*

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

russell.skidmore@tiscali.co.uk

Ormskirk and Bootle celebrate Christmas

On a cold and sunny afternoon at the historic Lathom Park Chapel of St. John Devine, was the setting for the Annual Ormskirk and Bootle Group carol service. The congregation consisting of just on 100 Masons family and friends and residents of the Tithebarn Masonic Home gathered for the Advent of Christmas.

They wer joined by Deputy Provincial Grand Master Philip Gunning, Assistant Provincial Grand Master Frank Umbers , Assistant to the Grand Principles Anthony Hall, Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman and Vice Chairman Graham Chambers and Malcolm Alexander.

The service commenced with host the Reverend Pauline Bicknell warmly welcoming everyone and the Christmas story being explained by the reading of the nine lessons, each lesson presented at intervals throughout the service, with a rendition of many traditional Christmas carols, sung with enthusiasm by the whole congregation.



Anthony F Hall reading one of the Lessons.



Martin D Stewart delivering his reading.

Each of the lessons were read in turn, starting with Frank Umbers (representing the Province of West Lancashire), followed by Grahame Chambers, Mrs Maureen Williams (representing the Litherland Ladies group), Anthony F Hall, Martin Stewart (representing the Ormskirk and Bootle Group of Lodges) Simon C Gay (representing the Ormskirk and Bootle Group of Royal Arch Chapters) Mrs Diane Harrison Of the Ormskirk Ladies Group., John Thompson (representing the Charnock Richard Lodges and Chapters) and finally the Reverend Pauline Bicknell.

The collect and Prayers were followed by The Blessing and a hearty singing of the closing ode by the Masonic Brethren.

The service being completed the congregation were treated to mince pies and a glass of sherry which was served by the ladies from the chapel and assisted by a couple of members of the group.

The collection raised £240-00 which was divided equally between the chapel and the Tithebarn.

Everyone headed home after the service felt the Christmas spirit and warmth within the group for the coming festive season.



Simon C Gray and Mrs Diane Hampson delivering their readings.

Christmas Fun at Masonic Hall



Graham Chambers with Santa

The local Masons from the Ormskirk and Bootle group who meet at the Masonic Hall in Ormskirk joined in the local festivities of the Ormskirk Christmas lights switch on, by holding their annual Christmas Fayre in O'Briens Tearooms.

The Tearooms were filled with a number of various stalls, with some selling handmade Christmas gifts for adults and for children, a tombola, some stalls holding raffles including name a teddy bear, reindeer races and a Santa Grotto, to name a few, with refreshments being available all afternoon being provided by O'Briens Tearooms.

A great deal thanks is owed to the wives and partners of the masons, who helped support the Fayre by making the homemade Christmas gifts and in helping run the stalls.

over of 200 people attending from the local community, were able to meet Father Christmas in his Grotto.

The Fayre was a great success helping to raise in excess of £1000 which will go to a number various good causes, with including many children visiting throughout the afternoon, who



Santa with the wives, partners and family of the masons who helped run the stalls.

FROTH's annual Christmas lunch

It's that time of the year where many festive celebrations are happening within the Ormskirk and Bootle group, with FROTH's (friends of the hall) annual Christmas lunch being one of the major events held at Litherland Masonic Hall.

Again this year the Christmas lunch was very well supported with the dining hall being nearly full to capacity, with the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman Graham Chambers and his wife Anne, accompanied by group vice chairman Malcolm Alexander in attendance. They were joined by over 70 members from the group, including their families, coming together, to enjoy in the festivities.

An excellent meal was served with minestrone soup as the starter, roast turkey and pork, accompanied with seasonal vegetables and all the trimmings as the main, Christmas pudding and brandy sauce for dessert and the meal was finished off with warm mince pies to accompany the tea or coffee. After the meal the entertainment for the afternoon, Ritchie Craig from Fermor Hesketh Lodge No 1350 began his first set which was comprised of many popular well known tunes, including several from the 50's, 60's and 70's. Ritchie is an excellent singer and has performed at many social events within the group.

During a short break in the entertainment the raffle was held which had a vast selection of prizes. Once the raffle was completed, Mark Sands the FROTH Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meal and for all their support on the day. He then handed over to Ritchie for his second set. Ritchie again sang many popular, well known airs and a few Christmas songs during his act, with many in the audience singing along with him.

With the afternoon coming to an end, everyone left having had a really enjoyable time. They all departed in high spirits having had a wonderful afternoon, enjoying friendly company and some excellent entertainment.



Graham and Anne Chambers.



Highlights from the Christmas lunch.

Ormskirk Priory celebrates its centenary

It was an honour for all those who attended to witness the centenary celebrations of Ormskirk Priory Lodge No 4007 at Ormskirk Masonic Hall.

The lodge was honoured by the presence of the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison, who was joined by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Phil Gunning and Assistant Provincial Grand Master Frank Umbers. Tony was also accompanied by the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman Graham Chambers and Vice Chairman Malcolm Alexander.

The lodge's WM John Wallbank welcomed Tony and offered him the gavel, which Tony graciously accepted. Tony then appointed his officers and once they had taken their positions, he opened Provincial Grand Lodge. Tony then addressed the lodge and explained the purpose of the meeting before asking the Provincial Grand Chaplin Rev Canon Godfrey Hirst to give an oration.



Tony Harrison being shown the Ormskirk Priory Lodge banner by John Wallbank.

Godfrey spoke about the local Ormskirk area and its part in the Great War with horses being trained to play a major part on the battlefields of World War One, with more than 200,000 horses that went to the war with the soldiers which were trained near Ormskirk.

With Liverpool being chosen as the main port for importing horses to be used and no suitable site for the training of horses in the city, Lathom Park was chosen. Horses were transported to Liverpool from various places including Ireland, South Africa and South America, before being transported to Ormskirk and then onto Lathom Park by rail. These horses were then sent onto active service either in the front line or at reserve depots, to be used to pull artillery guns, wagons and by the cavalry.



Pictured from left to right are: Tony Harrison, John Wallbank and Philip Gunning talking before the ceremony started.

After the war many lodges were formed, with Ormskirk Priory Lodge being one of them, the lodge was consecrated on Wednesday 26 November 1919 at 3:30pm at The Church House in Ormskirk, with the consecrating officer being the then Deputy Provincial Grand Master Louis S Winsloe. The consecration ceremony had some added splendour with the musical brethren performing and later entertaining at the festive board.

The membership in the lodge after the Second World War and up until the mid to late 1970's was always between 75 and 90 members and the lodge meeting regularly had between 75 to 100 Masons present, as with most lodges Ormskirk Priory has suffered a decline in membership in recent years with currently under 15 subscribing members.

The oration was of great interest to everyone present and when Godfrey had finished Tony thanked him for the informative oration. Next the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Malcolm Bell escorted John to Tony, who surprised John and the brethren present when he deservedly appointed him to a Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in recognition of the many years of service that he has given to the lodge. This was followed by a re-dedication prayer by the Provincial Chaplain before the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed and the National Anthem sung.

The ceremony now being completed, John had the privilege to present Tony with six cheques totalling £4,007 the same number as the lodge for various charities. £1,200 to the MCF 2021 Festival and this with previous donations gained the lodge Vice Patronage status. £607 to the Ormskirk Masonic Hall, £550 to Derian House Children's Hospice, £550 to Queenscourt Hospice, £550 to The Not Forgotten Association who give help, holidays, recreation, entertainment and challenges for injured service personal, £550 to Twinkle House who provide free support sessions for young people with disabilities aged 0-19 years.

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Tony thanked John and the members of the lodge for the generosity shown by the members to such a wide range of Masonic and non-Masonic charities,

After closing the lodge in prayer and harmony everyone retired to the dining room for the festive board. During which the groups 'Travelling Gavel' which Ormskirk Priory was the first lodge to have possession off, was handed over to Lodge of Chivalry No 3974, who had the most members visiting at the meeting.

The Travelling Gavel is an incentive within the group to get lodges visiting other lodges, to claim the gavel the master and at least two members from a lodge within the group need to be present, with the lodge with the most members visiting claiming the gavel.



Pictures from the festive board.

Proposed future HOME social events

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

25.01.20 HOME Burns Night

**PLEASE NOTE THAT DATES FOR THE ABOVE INFORMATION
WILL BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

100 years celebrated



The Provincial Grand Master is pictured presenting Martin Stewart (the lodge WM) with a Grand Patrons Certificate, as the group charity steward, Malcolm Sandywell looks on.

The members of The Lodge of Chivalry No 3974 marked their centenary by presenting the Provincial Grand Master with three cheques for £3,974. The first of £3,974 was made out to the Freemasons' Grand Charity for the West Lancashire Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) 2021 Festival. The donation qualified the lodge as Grand Patrons of the festival.

The MCF donated £8,500,000 to 414 charities across England and Wales. 22 of these charities were in West Lancashire and they received a total of £121,077.

In addition to this, 314 Freemasons and their family members in West Lancashire last year received grants totalling £895,893 in the last 12 months. £520,593 helped people cover their essential daily living costs. £200,509 was used to give life saving and life changing health support and £174,791 was used to help families with care and education support.

The second cheque for £3,974 was made out to the West Lancashire Freemasons' Charity (WLFC) who last year gave grants to Freemasons and their family members and dependents totalling £340,000.

The WLFC also gave three signature donations to local charities. The first was for £35,000 to St Vincent's School for the Blind enable the school to launch cutting edge practical workshops by leaders in their areas of speciality i.e. science, technology, engineering, arts and maths.



The girls and boys of the 5th Blackpool Scout Group were delighted with the replacement minibus.

The second was for £25,000 to the 5th Blackpool Scout Group, to enable them to purchase a new minibus.

The third donation was for £10,000 to Zoë's Place, as a children's hospice they only receive 5% of the running costs from the NHS compared to the 40% adult hospices receive and are struggling to finance their work caring for babies and young children who are terminally ill.

The third cheque for £3,974 was made out to the Ormskirk Masonic Hall Society and will be used to improve the facilities in the Masonic hall that the lodge has called home for over 20 years.

Over 100 brethren enjoyed the Centenary meeting attended by the Provincial Grand Master and his team which was followed by a

wonderful five course meal. 16 ladies dined in the small dining room and afterwards joined their husbands for drinks before returning home after a very enjoyable evening.

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A great night was had by all.

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

Minerva celebrates 100 years

The members of Minerva Lodge No 4002 celebrated their centenary at the Litherland Masonic Hall and marked their centenary by presenting the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison with a cheque for £4002 to the West Lancashire Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) 2021 Festival, making the lodge as Grand Patrons of the festival.

Tony was accompanied by Deputy Provincial Grand Master Phil Gunning and Assistant Provincial Grand Master Frank Umbers. Tony was also joined by the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Vice Chairman Malcolm Alexander.

Minerva lodge was founded in 1919 by a number of members from Neptune lodge No 1264. The majority of the members were employed in Marine Insurance, the Timber importing trade and other shipping activities, and adopted Minerva lodge as the new lodge name for her connection with commerce.

The lodge first met at the Bear's Paw a restaurant and meeting place in Liverpool, and regular lodge meetings were held there until 1940 when this venue and a large part of the city centre was destroyed during an air raid. Subsequently the



Tony Harrison (left) being welcomed before the meeting by the WM Arnold Neale.



David Edwards, Andrew Ridal, Tony Harrison, Arnold Neale and Paul Storrar viewing at the Centenary Warrant.

early records of Minerva lodge were lost and due to the damage caused by the air raid, the lodge to move to the Carlton Club in Eberle Street off Dale Street.

One of the keen early members of the lodge was a senior Police Officer, and by his influence a good proportion of the lodge members in the 1940's and 1950's were members of Liverpool City Police although not all of them became Worshipful Master.

The Carlton Club later became the Carlton Masonic Hall Company, this area of Liverpool was scheduled to be completely demolished and redeveloped at the time, and although the redevelopment never took place the whole area became blighted, the site deteriorated and there were financial problems which led to the company to be put into liquidation. This forced a further move into the Masonic Hall on Hope Street in the 1970's where the lodge met until 2019 when Minerva moved to the Litherland Masonic Hall in the Ormskirk and Bootle Group.

From the lodges founding in 1919, the membership increased gradually to reach a peak of 80 in the late 1940's, after which there was a steady decline to below 20 in the 1990's, however the Lodge has seen a recent pleasant increase in membership to the present day to over 20 members.



A great night was enjoyed by all the brethren and visitors at the celebration meeting of Minerva Lodge, attended by the Provincial Grand Master and his team which was followed by a wonderful meal amongst great friendship, before returning home after everyone had a very enjoyable and memorable

David Edwards Tony Harrison presenting Arnold Neale with a Grand Patrons certificate, Malcolm Sandywell and Paul Storrar.

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Highlights from the evening.

Alan celebrates 50 years in Freemasonry



Frank Umbers (left) presenting Alan Ashcroft with his Jubilee Certificate.

Ormskirk Priory Lodge No 4007 met at Ormskirk Masonic Hall celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry of Alan Ashcroft, Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works. The meeting was presided over by Frank Umbers, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, with 35 members and visitors being present.

Frank began by thanking Alan for his hospitality when they had met to discuss this evening's celebration. Alan had informed Frank that he had been honoured by a phone call from the Provincial Grand Master that morning.

Alan was born in 1943 and lived with his parents and two younger Brothers on a Farm in Bispham Green. Alan attended Mawdsley Church of England School for 10 years from the age of five, which involved walking the two miles each way from his home and back every day. Alan was working on the Farm whilst still attending school.

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Continued from previous page. Frank went on to quote some of the adventures that Alan and his friends got up to around the farm and outlying areas, which brought some light hearted good humour to the proceedings. Once Alan finished school he worked full time on the farm and he still plays an active part in managing the 100 Acre Farm.

Alan met Sheila at a Young Farmers Dance in 1960 and they were married in 1963. Alan and Sheila moved to an adjacent farmhouse and had a daughter Deborah Anne who lives locally and a son Johnathan. Jonathan still lives and works on the Farm and is married with four children.

Alan and Sheila have travelled to many parts of the world and visited many interesting and exotic places. Sri Lanka and South Africa stand out as the places Alan and Sheila enjoyed the most. They have also travelled to GOA, Mexico, Cuba, America and Canada, where Alan's Brother in Law is a farmer.

Alan was initiated on the 27th October 1969, at the age of 26, having been proposed by his father in law Ernest Arthur Nelson and seconded by John Counce who were both founders of Harrock Lodge 8233 (Alan's mother Lodge) which had been consecrated in January 1969. It was a double ceremony and Alan was the fourth initiate to join the Lodge. Alan advanced through the various progressive offices and became the Worshipful Master of Harrock Lodge in 1978. Alan received his first Provincial appointment in May 1989 to the high first rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon. In October 2000 Alan received a promotion to rank he holds today. Alan remained a member of Harrock Lodge up until its closure in December 2011 having already joined Ormskirk Priory Lodge. Alan became Worshipful Master of Ormskirk Priory Lodge in September 2016 and is currently the Junior Warden.

Alan is also member and is a past Master of a number of side degrees and hold Provincial Rank in these Orders.



John Wallbank (left) presenting Alan Ashcroft with a gift from the lodge.



Pictured from left to right are: Frank Umbers, Alan Ashcroft, John Wallbank and Graham Chambers.

Alan regaled those present with some of his many memories which again brought merriment to all.

Frank concluded by stating that Alan had set an example to all with a life full of commitment and devotion to his family, hard work and success in his career and 50 years of dedication to Freemasonry. The certificate having been read Frank then presented Alan with the certificate on behalf of our Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master in recognition of Alan's achievement of 50 years in Freemasonry. Frank then extended to Alan his good wishes and on behalf of all the brethren present and hoped he would have the best of health to enjoy many more years as a Freemason.

The Brethren then retired to the festive board where a fine meal was enjoyed by all present, the menu consisting of Vegetable Soup, Beef and all the trimmings, Apple Pie and Custard finished off with Cheese and Biscuits, Coffee and mints. Following the toast to his health by Brian Rawcliffe,

Nearly all light blue!

The Lodge of Chivalry No 3974 has seen a slight increase in membership over the last few years and at its installation all the officers were light blue with the exception of the senior warden.

The outgoing WM, Andrew Bradshaw, has been in the chair for two years, in order to allow the new members to progress through the lodge offices, which has resulted in the incoming master Martin Stewart to be installed in the master's chair in the lodge's centenary year.

Martin is 40 years old and is married to Karyn, they have eight sons between them and one is to be initiated by dispensation (as he is not yet 21 years old) in the lodge's first meeting after the installation.

Martin was initiated into the lodge in February 2012 and has occupied all the offices. Martin is an excellent ritualist and has a busy year ahead as he plans to initiate, pass and raise his stepson Zac to the degree of a master Mason in his year in the chair, with the explanation of the three tracing boards being given in between the three ceremonies!

Martin also intends to attend all the installations in the Ormskirk and Bootle Group during his year in office – a busy year ahead!



Andrew (right) congratulates Martin on attaining the chair of King Solomon.



Pictured from left to right, are: the three members who presented the working tools, Wayne McGuffie, Adam Woods and Stuart Flynn.

Martin started his own business – Ultimate UPVC Repairs a few years ago after having moved to Tunstall for his last employer, who having promoted him, after 12 months made him redundant. The business is doing well and Karyn is now working for the business running the office.

Martin plans to reinvigorate the social activity in the lodge and he has already held two social events during the summer break, a curry night in July and a Sunday lunch in September. He also arranged for the Ladies to dine on the installation night.

The principal guest Frank Umbers, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, said that Andrew installed Martin in an excellent ceremony, with the three newest members presenting the working tools in fine style.

Following the meeting the brethren retired to the main dining room downstairs, while the ladies dined in the private dining room upstairs, where they enjoyed a wonderful four course meal and wine which was included in the cost of the meal.

A great night was had by all.

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Pictures from the festive board.

Proposed future FROTH social events

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

08.02.20 FROTH Casino Night

25.04.20 FROTH Race Night

**PLEASE NOTE THAT DATES FOR THE ABOVE INFORMATION
ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

John becomes WM of Lathom Abbey

It was a special occasion for the members of Lathom Abbey Lodge No 6286 at their installation meeting, held at the Ormskirk Masonic Hall. The brethren were delighted to give a very warm welcome to their principal guest Peter Levick as the representative of the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison. 42 brethren attended the meeting. Also present was the group chairman Graham Chambers and group vice chairman Malcolm Alexander.

The outgoing and installing WM Phil Stansbie 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 director of ceremonies, Nigel Kent, retired and the acting officers were asked to remain in their positions. When the DC returned he announced that Peter Levick was seeking admission. He was admitted along with the other grand and Provincial grand officers. The WM welcomed Peter 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 grand officers and the Provincial grand officers. The lodge was resumed in the second degree.

The master elect John Mercer was presented to the brethren by Stewart Cranage, John's brother-in-law. John 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.

Phil then proceeded to install John, according to ancient custom into the chair of King Solomon. The working tools for the third degree were presented by John Plummer, the second degree tools by Bill Dutch and the first degree tools by the new master's own son Andrew Mercer, a Lewis aged just 18. All were delivered in an excellent and faultless manner.

Nigel Kent, delivered the address to the deacons, Jamie Lomax the address to the inner guard and Nigel Kent the address to the stewards. The address to the WM was not given on this occasion as John had been previously installed and the address to the wardens was deferred as unfortunately one of the wardens had been delayed and unable to attend. The address to the brethren of the lodge was given by Peter Levick, and delivered in an extremely sincere and confident manner.



Peter Levick (left) congratulating John Mercer on becoming WM again.



Pictured from left to right, are: Graham Chambers, Malcolm Alexander, Peter Levick, John Mercer, Phil Stansbie, Martin Walsh and Stewart Cranage.

Continued from previous page. At the end the ceremony of installation, Peter stood and gave the Provincial Grand Masters congratulations to John on attaining the chair of the lodge once again, saying that he hoped he would have a busy and happy year in the chair. He also congratulated Phil for the excellent manner in which he had performed the installation. Peter then congratulated all the brethren who had been involved in their respective roles during the ceremony especially the brethren for their excellent delivery of the working tools.

The ceremony being completed, John then presented the following cheques to Peter; £300 to Asthma UK, £300 to Parkinson's UK, £300 to Alzheimer's UK, £300 to Addison's Disease, £300 to Autism UK, £300 to the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, £300 to Liberty Centre, £300 to Tithebarn and £200 to the MCF 2021 Festival.

Afterwards all retired for a wonderful meal of leek and potato soup, sugar baked ham served with roast potatoes and trio of ice cream. During the meal a raffle was held which raised £225 and will be donated to Masonic charities at a later date.

Kevin becomes WM at Stanley of Bickerstaffe

54 members and guests attended the Stanley of Bickerstaffe Lodge No 3511 installation at Ormskirk Masonic Hall. The principal guest was Christopher Hamilton and he was joined by Frank Umbers, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, who is a member of the lodge and three other grand officers. Also, in attendance was Graham Chambers the group chairman together with the Malcolm Alexander the group vice chairman, Trevor Martin the group secretary and Stewart Cranage the Provincial Grand Mentor. In addition to the lodges own members, there were four masters of other lodges and numerous members of other lodges in attendance.

Andrew Clarke installed his successor Kevin Chicken in a most sincere and fluent manner which was enjoyed by all present. The working tools were well presented by James Roberts (third degree) Malcolm Sandywell (second degree) and Ray Tompsett (first degree). At the end of the ceremony Christopher gave greetings from the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison, he also expressed his thanks to Malcolm Sandywell, the lodge DC, for all the excellent work he had done both prior to and during the ceremony.

The immediate past master Andrew Clarke presented Christopher Hamilton with five cheques totalling £2,203 which included – £1,503 to the MCF 2021 Festival, £200 to the Ormskirk Masonic Hall Association, £250 each to the Friends of Tithebarn and Macmillan Cancer Support.

£503 had been raised by Malcolm Sandywell from sponsorship of his completing the 'Ride the Lights' in Blackpool during the summer. £503 of that amount was included in the lodge donation to the MCF 2021 Festival. This donation made to the MCF 2021 Festival entitled the lodge to a Grand Patron Certificate which was presented by Christopher.

A further £300 had been forwarded to the MCF 2021 Festival on behalf of the Ormskirk and Bootle Group. This further amount had been raised in support of the same event by Malcolm, Don Carton of Mersey Lodge No 5199 and a donation from Crosby Lodge No 3714. Don Carton had joined Malcolm on the 'Ride the Lights' event dressed as Father Christmas which went down particularly well with the spectators at this very special fund raising event.



*Christopher Hamilton (left) with Kevin Chicken
at the festive board.*



*The master's song being sung by John
Mawdesley (left) to Kevin Chicken.*

Continued from previous page. The charity plate raised £60 with a further £104 in white envelopes. The raffle raised a further £260 making the total raised of £424.

The brethren retired to the festive board to partake in a culinary delight of egg O'Brien, steamed steak and kidney suet pudding and honeycomb cheesecake served with caramel ice cream. All enjoyed, what has become the norm, a very fine meal prepared by the chef Gary O'Brien.

Following the meal, Christopher gave his own greetings to Kevin and those of the other grand officers present. Christopher continued by expressing his personal concerns of the future of Freemasonry and made comparisons to his own early years in Masonry.

Andrew Clarke congratulated the new master Kevin Chicken at the festive board regaling the brethren with details of Kevin's exploits in the Merchant Navy. His career then moved to a shore job as an engineering surveyor and more recently as a health and safety consultant. Kevin was Initiated into Tarleton Lodge No 7871 in 1982 and joined Stanley of Bickerstaffe Lodge in 2016. Kevin is also a member of the Royal Arch and several other Masonic Orders. In addition, he is the Ormskirk Masonic Hall Association Treasurer and editor of the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Year Book. All in all, a very busy man and a Mason. The master's song was sung by John Mawdesley who was accompanied at the piano by Roger Watkinson.



Highlights from the festive board.

David becomes WM of Prince of Architects



Kieran and David Turner

Prince of Architects Lodge No. 4188 witnessed an unusual Installation when the outgoing Master installed his father into the Chair of King Solomon.

The Lodge opened punctually and the minutes were duly dispensed with. The next order of business was to ballot for two joining members and we successfully admitted Gary Melton and Barry Jones into the Temple.

The DC announced that Assistant Provincial Grand Master Frank Umbers, a member of the Prince of Architects Lodge, stood without and demanded admission.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master entered, accompanied by the Principal Guest, Roy Pyne, who represented the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison.

On this auspicious occasion they were accompanied by Graham Chambers, Chairman, and Malcolm Alexander, Vice Chairman, both from the Ormskirk and Bootle Group.

Once the salutations were completed, the most important business of the lodge got underway. Steve Smith occupied the Senior Warden's Chair, Stuart Irvine the Junior Warden's Chair and Andrew McGregor the Inner Guard's position.



Roy Pyne and David Turner

The presentation of the Master elect was in the very capable hands of Frank Umbers. During the installation the third degree working tools were presented by Howard Minard DC, the second degree tools by Richard McHale ADC and the third degree tools by John Hill Provincial Deacon.

Kieran Turner was installed as Immediate Past Master by his father David; Kieran presented the warrant and by laws of the lodge to the new Master. The address to the master was given by Jim Jones Senior Warden, whilst the address to the wardens was given Dr. Morgan Denyer. It was then the turn of Roy Pyne to address the brethren.

Once Kieran had delivered those immortal words, "that concludes the ceremony of your installation" to the new Master, Roy Pyne rose to bring the greetings of the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison and thanked Kieran Turner and all those who had delivered such a superb ceremony.



Pictured from left to right are: Graham Chambers, David Turner, Roy Pyne and Kieran Turner.

David then had the pleasure of presenting Roy with cheques in the sum of £750 for the 2021 Festival, £100 to the Tithebarn and £250 to Zoe's Place - a grand total of £1,100. Roy thanked the brethren on behalf of the eventual recipients.

Following the closure of the lodge, the brethren retired to an excellent festive board. In response to the toast to grand officers, Roy Pyne regaled the diners with a mixture of humour and seriousness and thanked the lodge for its generous donations.

John installed as WM of Fermor Hesketh Lodge

Members of Fermor Hesketh Lodge No 1350 and their guests were pleased to have Assistant Provincial Grand Master Frank Umbers as the principal guest to their annual installation ceremony at Litherland Masonic Hall. Frank was accompanied on the evening by the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Chairman Graham Chambers and grand officer Brian Cunliffe.

The outgoing and installing WM Derek Challinor started the evening's proceedings by warmly welcoming the brethren to the meeting, before proceeding to open the lodge in due form. Once the initial business had been completed, Derek opened the lodge to the second and third degrees, where the lodge's DC Graham Ashmore announced that Frank Umbers was without and demanded admission, Frank was then admitted into the temple accompanied by Graham Chambers and Brian Cunliffe, with a number of past Provincial grand officers.

The master elect John English was then presented to the lodge by the presenting officers and after John had taken his obligation, the outgoing WM thanked all the officers of the lodge for their support and hard work they had given him during his year in office.

Derek proceeded to install John according to ancient custom into the chair of King Solomon. The working tools for the first and third degree were presented by Graham Ashmore and the second degree tools by Kenneth Meath, the address to the WM was delivered by David Sullivan and the address to the brethren of the lodge by Frank Umbers. All the working tools and addresses were delivered in an excellent manner.

At the end the ceremony of installation, Frank stood up and addressed the brethren by bringing congratulations from the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison, wishing John and all the brethren the very best of health and hoping they have a happy Masonic year. Frank proceeded to congratulate Derek for the manner in which he had installed John into the chair, the lodge's DC Graham Ashmore and all the brethren who had taken part in the ceremony.

John's first duty as master was a pleasant one, as he presented cheques to Frank on behalf of the lodge; £100 to the MCF 2021 Festival, £200 to the Parkinson Society, £100 to the West Lanc's Freemasons' Charity and £100 to Tithebarn, and on behalf of the recipients Frank thanked the lodge for their very generous and worthy donations.

After closing the lodge in prayer and harmony the brethren made their way to an excellent festive board which was enjoyed by all, were a raffle was held which raised £64 which will be donated to charities at a later date.



John English (left) and Derek Challinor.



Pictured from left to right, are: Graham Chambers, Frank Umbers, Derek Challinor, John English and Brian Cunliffe having a friendly discussion before the meeting.

Eric installed as WM

Eric Ashcroft was installed into the WM's chair of Rufford Lodge No 7217 at the Park Hall Hotel, Charnock Richard, by WM Robert Midgley.

The lodge was honoured by the presence of Ian Gee as the representative of the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison. He was accompanied by the Ormskirk and Bootle Group Vice Chairman Malcolm Alexander and grand officers Brian Fairhurst, Tom Norris, Ron Elliott and Stan Rigby.

The ceremony commenced with the presenting officer Alan Burgess presenting Eric Ashcroft, with Robert Midgley then installing Eric into the chair of King Solomon according to ancient custom, in a very enjoyable and moving ceremony. The working tools were presented in an excellent manner by brethren of the lodge; the third degree by Alan Burgess, second degree by Brian Southworth and first degree by John Lewis.

During the investiture of the officers of lodge, the address to the deacons was given by Gary Norris and the address to the stewards was given by Alan Burgess. The address to the WM was presented by Derek Midgley, the address to the wardens by David Rawcliffe and the address to the brethren of the lodge by Ian Gee.

In bringing greetings from the Provincial Grand Master, Ian congratulated the lodge members who had taken part in the ceremony, giving special thanks to Brian Southworth and the junior brethren who had presented the working tools so well.

Ian was then presented with four cheques in the total sum of £2,200. These cheques were to the benefit of the MCF 2021 Festival £1500, the St Catherine's Hospice £300, Rufford Defibrillator Appeal £300 and the Friends of Tithebarn £100. Ian thanked the brethren on behalf of the future recipients who would benefit from their kind generosity.

A Grand Patron Certificate of the MCF 2021 Festival was then presented to the lodge by Malcolm Sandywell the group festival representative.

Following the meeting an excellent festive board was enjoyed by all the brethren, which was followed by the usual Rufford tradition of an auction of pot plants, which raised £125 and the raffle raised £254, together the magnificent sum of £379 was raised and will be donated to Masonic and non-Masonic charities at a later date.



Ian Gee (left) congratulating Eric Ashcroft on becoming WM.



Pictured from left to right, are: Ron Elliott, Tom Norris, Stan Rigby, Ian Gee, Eric Ashcroft, Robert Midgley, Brian Fairhurst and Malcolm Alexander.

Solomon the Teacher

The launch of Solomon by UGLE last year has been widely publicised in *Freemasonry Today* and on the group and Provincial websites, however, around half of the brethren within West Lancashire have yet to visit the site or register into it.

Aughton Lodge No 7996 hosted an event entitled 'Solomon the Teacher', which was attended by 39 brethren from throughout the Ormskirk and Bootle Group. The Provincial Grand Mentor Stewart Cranage explained his approach to mentoring across the Province, asserting that mentoring is not a strict formal process steeped in bureaucracy, it's simply something we all do as a way of life but probably don't do it to the best of our abilities.

Stewart started the evening by illustrating a few real examples from around the Province of how our attitude and personal approach to supporting our brethren is potentially the most important factor in developing and maintaining our membership. He continued by illustrating how our main failing is usually the simplest of things to correct.

Stewart then explained how to register onto Solomon and highlighted the depth of the resources that were available now for any brother to access. In particular he strongly recommended the use of 'Nuggets' from Solomon which are short five-minute talks. He suggested that if a lodge had no business to perform at a regular meeting, Solomon probably had the solution for them.

He again quoted real examples from around the Province of how lodges had used Solomon to download a short talk which was then delivered by a junior lodge member, or a member who otherwise may not feel involved in the day to day running of the lodge. The advantage of this approach being threefold; the brother delivering the short talk will have learned something, he will feel involved when he delivers it and the lodge not only have a business item on their summons but most members will probably learn at least one fact they previously did not know.

Then as a break from his formal talk, Stewart perambulated around the lodge room explaining and demonstrating examples of the history and purpose behind the ceremony of initiation, concluding the demonstration by saying that if our brethren understand why we say or do things it makes learning the ritual so much easier.

Stewart then demonstrated the West Lancashire electronic welcome pack, explaining that it complimented the Solomon 'Seek & Learn' modules by providing an interactive tour of Freemasonry, with elements specific to our Province.

Stewart then took to the lodge room floor once again, this time to explain elements of

the 2nd degree. He concluded the evening by giving details of the additional resources that were available to all brethren, this included a number of 'mini guides' and 'aides-memoire'.

After closing the lodge in peace and harmony, 34 brethren made their way to an excellent festive board which was enjoyed by all. During this, a raffle and football scratch card was held which raised £220 which will be donated to charities at a later date.



The booklets and information packs that are available.



Stewart Cranage (second left) discussing the Solomon website with some of the brethren present.

The travelling gavel

The Lodge of Chivalry No 3974 was the first lodge to claim the travelling gavel at Ormskirk Priory Lodge No 4007 centenary celebration on Wednesday 27 November.

On Saturday 7 December at Chivalry's centenary celebration, Alistair Frew in his first week as worshipful master of Park Hall Lodge No 8375, along with three members from Park Hall mounted a raid and claimed the travelling gavel for themselves.

If your Lodge fancies it's chances you need to visit Park Hall Lodge No 8375 with your worshipful waster and at least two brethren from you lodge for a chance to claim it!



Martin Stewart (Left) hands the travelling gavel to Alistair Frew.

A team effort at Fermor Hesketh Chapter

There are a number of small chapters within the Ormskirk and Bootle Group, with Fermor Hesketh Chapter No 1350 being one of them. The companions and visitors of the chapter gathered at Litherland Masonic Hall to witness John Hanna being installed as first principal. The chapter was honoured by the presence of Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah Tim Burgess as the principal guest and as the representative of the Grand Superintendent Tony Harrison. Supporting Tim was the group chairman Graham Chambers in the company of vice chairman Malcolm Alexander

As soon as the normal business of the chapter had been completed the director of ceremonies, Brian Davies, announced the presence of the principal guest, who then entered the temple accompanied by his companions. Once the guests were seated the installation ceremony commenced, with John Hanna being installed as first principal, David Maher as second principal and David Smith as third principal.



Pictured from left to right, are: Graham Chambers, David Maher, John Hanna, David Smith and Tim Burgess having a friendly chat before the meeting.

Continued from previous page. At the conclusion of the ceremony Tim brought greetings from the Grand Superintendent, congratulating the three principals and all the companions of the chapter for their excellent work and for their enjoyable ceremony. John then presented Tim with a £300 cheque on behalf of the chapter for the 2021 MCF Festival. Tim thanked the companions for their generous donation, commenting on the wonderfully large amount from a chapter with only a small number of members.

During the evening the guests and visitors of the chapter had the pleasure of witnessing, throughout the whole ceremony, a very friendly and enjoyable installation, with every chapter member present being involved in at least some part of the ritual. Some of the members were even involved in several roles during the evening. Notwithstanding their paucity of members, Fermor Hesketh Chapter members worked well together as a team throughout the proceedings, thus ensuring a memorable evening for all to witness.



Highlights from the festive board.

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

11.01.20 Mersey Installation 5199 (Orm)	WBro JD Ogden PSGD, APrGM
15.01.20 Harmony Installation 580(Orm)	WBro FA Umbers PSGD, APrGM
17.01.20 Bootle Chapter Installation 1473 (Lith)	EComp PA Renton PGSwdB, DepGSupt
21.01.20 Ormskirk Ladies Group "Lancashire Night" – Entertainment of the Ukulele Barry Hewitt	
25.01.20 HOME Burns Night (Orm)	
25.01.20 Bootle Pilgrim Lodge N0 1473 Burns Night (Lith)	
28.01.20 Stanley of Bickerstaffe Chapter Installation 3511(Orm)	EComp A F (Tony) Hall PGStdB, AtoPrGP's
28.01.20 Bootle Ladies Group Lancashire Counsel	Roger Bloxall
05.02.20 Ormskirk Masonic Hall Association Management Meeting(Orm)	
08.02.20 FROTH Casino Night (Lith)	
11.02.20 Minerva Installation 4002 (Lith)	WBro AS Whittle
12.02.20 Unity & Perseverance Chapter Installation 580(Orm)	EComp A F (Tony) Hall PGStdB, AtoPrGP's
18.02.20 Ormskirk Ladies Group Laughter is the best medicine	Dennis Moore
25.02.20 Bootle Ladies Group My Life as a Tiller girl	Faye Robinson
02.03.20 Vale of Skelmersdale Installation 8719(Orm)	WBro KP Poynton PSGD, APrGM
03.03.20 St Michael's Installation 5756(CR)	WBro FA Umbers PSGD, APrGM
05.03.20 Bootle Pilgrim Installation 1473(Lith)	WBro JA Harrison PGM
06.03.20 Crosby Installation 3714(Lith)	WBro BS Henshaw PJGD

Continued on next page.

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03.03.20 St Michael's Installation	5756(CR)	WBro FA Umbers PSGD, APrGM
05.03.20 Bootle Pilgrim Installation	1473(Lith)	WBro JA Harrison PGM
06.03.20 Crosby Installation	3714(Lith)	WBro BS Henshaw PJGD
09.03.20 Rufford	7217(CR) 50th D Magill	WBro FA Umbers PSGD, APrGM
11.03.20 Ormskirk Priory Chapter Installation	4007(Orm)	EComp CC Buterfield PGStdB, 2nd PrGP
13.03.20 Group Cabaret Buffet,		Maghull Town Hall
17.03.20 My life as a Registrar		Carol Codd
20.03.20 Provincial Grand Ball		University of Bolton Stadium
21.03.20 GROUP - Cabaret & Buffet		Maghull Town Hall
23.03.20 Old Crosbeian Installation	4992 (MT)	WBro DJ Parkinson PSGD, APrGM
24.03.20 Bootle Ladies Group	Edinburgh Woollen Mill	Teresa
01.04.20 Provincial Grand Lodge		Winter Gardens Blackpool
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 may have to produce the newsletter in two parts. It is our intention to provide monthly editions during the Masonic season when possible, and at other times if there is sufficient content.*

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

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