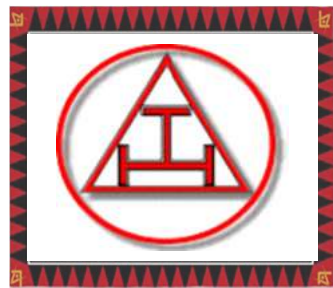




# WEST LANCS NUGGETS

## "PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST"



### Jim sails towards his 100th birthday

Issue 7: 1 July 2020

In 2016 Jim Morley, a member of Longton Lodge No 6237, was interviewed by the Lancashire Post about his service during World War II. Jim, who until joining the Royal Navy had never been any further than Morcambe, described to the reporter many of his exploits from the war. These included protecting the Atlantic and Russian convoys, taking part in the Battle of Anzio, and freeing British soldiers from Changi Jail, Singapore. Given the recent anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy in June 1944, of particular relevance to this issue of the West Lancs Nuggets was Jim's commentary on his involvement of this most significant event, an event that turned the course of the war:

*"For miles along the coast it was nothing but ships and tanks of all sizes bombarding the coast prior to the landings.*

*We lowered our small landing boats and we had to make our way to the assembly points off shore and then to make our way to the beach which had a code name of Sword Beach.*

*From then onwards it became a shuttle service between ship and shore and when the tide was high enough, the larger landing craft could get onto the beach themselves and drop the tanks, guns and other personnel ashore.*

*Any of the soldiers who were still on board had to get ashore as quickly as they could and do the dirty work as regards to the fighting against the German troops.*

*On leaving the beach it was straight back to Southampton to reload with war materials and more troops. All in all, we made the crossing 54 times."*

Jim became a member of Longton Lodge in 2000 and was master in 2004. On one rather special evening he gave a fascinating insight into his WW II experiences which left all present in complete admiration of a very special member of the lodge and indeed the Craft. On 22 August this year Jim will reach his 100th birthday.



Jim with his Anzio Beachhead Commemorative Medal and the Italy war medal on its ribbon.

**zoom**

**Use of Social Media within the Province of West Lancashire**

Following the unprecedented action taken by the Most Worshipful The Grand Master to suspend all lodge and chapter meetings for four months obviously means that all physical meetings have been suspended. However, the Grand Master did not suspend Freemasonry.

Keeping in contact with members of your lodges and chapters has never been more important. As a result many lodges and chapters are now making extensive use of social media to maintain contact.

Committee meetings, virtual rehearsals and quizzes being the most popular use, but also almoners are able to speak directly with many members at once. Mentors are able to maintain relationships and we still have a means collectively of obtaining our daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. Above, all regular contact maintains the fraternal relationships we have built up over many years.

Obviously there are some rules to be observed and holding a virtual meeting of any kind can never be considered to have been a regular meeting.

Stewart Cragg  
Provincial Grand Mentor

**skype**

The document above is available on the Provincial website for download via this link:

<https://www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk/use-of-social-media-within-the-province>



## Large presentation to the 2021 Festival

On 25 June, and on the 34th anniversary of the formation of the West Lancashire Masonic Clay Pigeon Shooting Society, the chairman and members of the society presented the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison with one of the largest single donations to the MCF 2021 festival.

The cheque for £10,000 was a combination of the hard work of the society members and patronage from lodges and chapters, for which they are always thankful.

WLMCPSS were hoping that it would have been much more but unfortunately, they had to cancel the 16th National Championships, scheduled for 20 June, because of social distancing restrictions.



Left to Right: David Winder, Vice President of the Festival; Ian Heyes Society Chairman; Tony Harrison; Andy McClements, Vice Chairman of the Society and Mick Wood.

This together with the £750 to two non-Masonic charities, distributed at the AGM, this brings the total donations over the 34 years to over £134,000.

The forefathers of the society put in the constitutions as one of the aims of the Society; 'To maintain our support of Masonic and non-Masonic charities'. They could not have envisioned how well those aims would be achieved.

The presentation took place at the Provincial Office in Leyland and facemasks were worn, not to protect the innocent but to be socially aware and set an example. On receiving the cheque Tony said: *"I am absolutely delighted that such a generous donation of £10,000 to the MCF 2021 Festival has been received from the West Lancashire Masonic Clay Pigeon Shooting Society and it is most appropriate that today marks the 34th anniversary since its formation. My sincere thanks to those members of the society, both past and present, for their continued support."*

PROVINCE OF WEST LANCASHIRE  
YEARBOOK 2020 - 2021

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



The Provincial Yearbook has a circulation of over 1500 and is distributed to every Lodge and Chapter in the Province, as well as to individual Freemasons who use it for their personal use. It is packed with a variety of useful information on the Craft, Royal Arch, Other Orders, as well as details of the multitude of societies that exist in West Lancashire.

Sponsorship presents an ideal opportunity for you to introduce your Company or Organisation to the Membership of this Province and assists in the continued efforts by this Province to maintain the cost of membership to a minimum.

Full, Half and Quarter Pages in colour or black and white are available. Inside front and back covers are also available.

	Full Colour:	Black & White:
Full Page:	£120+VAT	£100+VAT
Half Page:	£65+VAT	£55+VAT
Quarter Page:	£35+VAT	£30+VAT

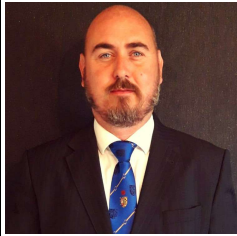
Inside Front/Back Cover - Full Colour: £150+VAT

**For more information or to make a booking email: [violet@provinceofwestlancs.org](mailto:violet@provinceofwestlancs.org)**

**If you would like to submit an article for a future edition of the West Lancs Nuggets please contact **Stewart Cranage, Provincial Grand Mentor:** [mentor@provinceofwestlancs.org](mailto:mentor@provinceofwestlancs.org) or **Paul Renton, DepGSupt:** [paul.renton21@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.renton21@btinternet.com)**



## COVID-19 reflections



### Wayne Devlin, Hand and Heart Lodge No 4109

There is no denying the fact that COVID-19 has deeply affected Freemasonry and with our lodges closed and no meetings permitted at the current moment, we have been abruptly separated from all our brethren. We have also sadly lost

loved ones and with many of us having underlying health conditions, it is anyone's guess when we will once again be able to unite, safely, together as brothers.

WhatsApp, Facebook and Zoom have suddenly become our new working tools and we have managed to keep in touch and keep an eye on each other by using these tools.

However, the fact that we are not able to attend our meetings does not lessen the fact that we are still Freemasons and brethren from across the country have been working tirelessly to support those in need, as they always have done, showing our core principles of integrity, friendship, respect and charity. There are countless stories of brethren delivering food, PPE and other essentials to those in need up and down the country during this awful pandemic. We should be very proud of the great work done in the name of Freemasonry.

This time away from lodge has also given us some space to reflect on our Craft. To examine ourselves and to think about how we conduct ourselves as Masons. We have also had time to examine how we are perceived by non-Masons.

The old biased, derogatory and uneducated opinions that once plagued the reputation of Freemasons are slowly but surely being changed and replaced with a new found respect for our 'good deeds' and our fundraising. They may still think of us as having our 'silly ways' with our rituals and aprons but gone are the days when we were called 'devil worshippers' and the orchestrators of world domination!

Recently, there has been a subtle shift in the press with stories slowly but surely being accepted and printed in the mainstream media about all the amazing things that Freemasonry brings to our communities.

Television programmes such as 'Inside the Freemasons' have done wonders in changing public perception of us, showing how everyday people from all walks of life come together to meet as brothers on an equal, level plane. Although we still keep our secrets, we have nonetheless become more accessible and much more accepted as vital contributors to our society.

Going forward, when things are back to some semblance of normality, we need to ask ourselves some questions about how we expand on this shift on public perceptions. How can we build on the positive message we are putting out to our communities?

Whilst the general public have been in lockdown, they have had time to soul search. Surveys during this time tell us that people want more from their lives. Not just in monetary terms but in job and life satisfaction. This break from their everyday lives has given them a chance to ask questions and seek betterment and self-improvement. The rise in sales of self-help and life coaching books from Amazon speaks volumes!

Perhaps Freemasonry can answer these questions they are asking! Can you use this 'time off' to educate people or introduce them to the Craft? Can you turn this negative situation we are all in into a positive and productive one?

These are things that we can all give our thoughts to whilst we are apart from our lodges. Freemasonry has been through worse situations than COVID-19 in our past and we have survived, we will survive this; but let's not settle for just simply surviving this unfortunate period of our history, but come back even bigger and stronger than ever before!

To absent brethren, may they all be well!



### Mike Threlfall, AtoProvGPs

We each have our own perception of the effects 'lockdown' has had on our individual lives. I read in a recent national newspaper article that according to almost every opinion poll that has been published over this extraordinary period, a clear message

has gone out from the country: That we are not really fussed about having to stay under house arrest, locked away from our beloved families and closest friends. It is pretty nice actually; an extended break from the pressures of work and social demands. Many will be sad to see it end.

The exception to this view of course is Freemasonry. Most of us are looking forwards to the time when we can resume our meetings and be with each other in person. I personally have been more sensitive to the privileges of being a Freemason during 'lockdown' and I have experienced, first hand, generosity and kindness from the brethren and companions I know across the Province. In my own chapter, Jubilee Chapter No 5555, Jim Bennett our scribe Ezra, has kept in touch with all our members and passed on information that is important to us. Charlie Sweeney, our almoner, regularly checks on the welfare of our more vulnerable companions. The secretaries of the lodges I am a member of, Ray Thompson and George Askins, are also helping us to keep in touch with each other and ensuring our special bond of companionship remains strong during this exceptional period in our lives. George Askins has already arranged a Zoom meeting; all our members were invited to take part and despite the large numbers it went very well for our first attempt.

I also look forward to the regular contact I have with the group officers from the groups I am responsible for: I thoroughly enjoy the discussions and banter I have with Geoffrey Porter, John Selley and Chris Reeman from the Wigan and District Group. Also, with Jonathan Heaton and David Case from the Leigh Group and with Steve Bolton, John Rimmer and Peter Ledder at Preston Group. Another excellent example of the companionship I value is from the Chapter of Hope No 2679 in the Eccles Group. Brian Lawrence, scribe Ezra, includes me in the circulation of his excellent newsletter. I have only visited his chapter on one occasion but the chapter have kept in regular contact with me ever since – Freemasonry at its best.

In conclusion, an important lesson to remember is that, as in all walks of life, successful relationships are a two-way process. We are all responsible for making contact and keeping relationships healthy. And with that in mind, brethren and companions, I would say: "Don't wait for the phone to ring", pick it up and make the first move. You may be pleasantly surprised by the heart-warming response you receive.