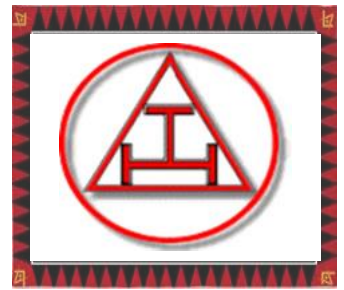




WEST LANC'S NUGGETS

"PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST"



This issue has an additional and separate supplement

Issue 10: 26 August 2020

Royal Arch points of interest

300-year-old plaque restored to former glory

The Royal Arch (pub) sign has been a landmark in the Angus town since the 18th century and is listed as a monument by Historic Environment Scotland.

The carved curiosity – described of being of national significance – was erected above what is now the Royal Arch Bar in Montrose High Street by the captains of French sailing ships. The Gallic mariners were Freemasons and used the building – then a coffee house – for meetings. When the premises became a public house, the owners kept the sign and called the pub the Royal Arch.

The plaque was taken down for assessment in 2016 and found to be in a very poor condition. There was also some doubt about who it belonged to, but local craftsman, James Baines, stepped in and took responsibility for the repairs. Montrose Society President Raymond Sutton said he had done a wonderful job and the group was thrilled to see it back where it belongs.

"The society tried to find out who owned it," he explained "Angus Council declined ownership, along with the adjoining neighbours, then out of the blue the owner of the Royal Arch claimed it. "It is a wonderful piece of craftsmanship which can be seen by locals and visitors alike."

The plaque has been refitted with assistance from Montrose Society, the pub owner and other locals. This article was originally published in <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/angus-mearns/538931/300-year-old-angus-plaque-restored-to-former-glory/> and will no doubt be of interest to companions in the Province who will recognise its symbolism as will members of the Mark degree!



The Mark Degree in Scotland

This label pin of Scottish origin shows the inextricable links between the Craft, the Royal Arch and the Mark north of the boarder. The Mark degree has since the 1830s been regarded as an essential preliminary to the Royal Arch degree under the Scottish Constitution. Since 1860 the Mark degree has been under the jurisdiction conjointly of both Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter. A candidate for the Royal Arch degree who has not received his Mark degree within a Craft lodge has to be advanced in the Mark lodge held within the chapter. If already qualified, the candidate has only to take an obligation of affiliation.

Abridged installation readings

Advice circulated by UGLE indicated that adapted installation readings may be considered helpful to minimise the time spent in the chapter room. Our Third Provincial Grand Chaplain, Godfrey Hirst, has therefore produced some abridged versions for use. These have been based, in part, on the exegesis written by Rev Ken Cox and can be found in the supplement with this issue of Nuggets. <https://www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/All-Groups-Abridged-installation-readings-Nuggets-10.pdf>

If used, it is recommended that the installed principals listen to the full versions, found on the Provincial website: <https://www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk/members/royal-arch/royal-arch-toolbox/audio-recordings/>

Not a member?

For further information about the Royal Arch please speak to your lodge Royal Arch contact, your group's Royal Arch lead or contact Mike Threlfall who is one of the Province's Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals on: mikethrelfall@me.com



Where has the harmony in our lodges gone?

Article by John Hartey, organist in Davyhulme Lodge No 3715

Can you imagine a life without music? A film without a soundtrack? A funeral without a hymn or song to represent a loved one's life? A wedding without a romantic first dance song? The list could go on and on!

I think we can safely say that life is much better and richer for having music in it. When you're happy or even when you're sad, in fact whatever emotion you can feel, I can pretty much guarantee there will be a piece of music or a song to accommodate your mood. So, music really is a vital part of our lives. Music can make you either remember everything or forget everything! They even call it the 'rhythm' of life because life does have a beat, a rhythm, a song!

Music is equally important for Freemasons. The 'organist' or 'director of music' provides musical accompaniment to lodge proceedings, although there is no set form. Many lodge rooms are equipped with a pipe organ or electronic organ, and in others, there is even provision for a wider range of instruments, but are we making the most of this?

At lodge meetings we have the opening and closing odes and a few lodges are lucky enough to have an organist play these important tunes and to also have them perform pieces of music to 'fill in the gaps' during meetings, but for a lot of lodges, who don't have an organist, they don't have this luxury and that is a real shame. An organist can make all the difference in lodge. Yet there is a huge shortage of organists within the Craft, which is really sad for Freemasonry.

Having an organist at meetings really does make all the difference and makes the whole meeting flow more smoothly. Yet there are so few organists coming forward to perform. Why is that? There are a lot of questions we need to ask ourselves. Are we doing all we can to encourage musicians to step forward and play their vital role in our lodge meetings?

How can we attract musicians to come in to the Craft? Are we encouraging our young university Masons to play for us? Do we already have brethren in our ranks who may have organ, keyboard or piano skills who might just need a little bit of encouragement to come forward and play for us? Have you asked members of your own lodge if they can play? Do you have a competent organist who is able to pass on his skills to brethren from another lodge?

UGLE knows and appreciates the important role music plays in our meetings and when the Grand Stewards' Lodge were looking for a suitable project that they could support to commemorate the tercentenary of the first Grand Lodge on 24 June 1717. It was decided that the organ in Temple 10, that was roughly 50 years old and had stopped working, would be replaced so music could once again be played and enjoyed in the Temple. It was the replacement of that organ that was ultimately chosen as the lodge's project to celebrate the tercentenary.

A total of £65,000 was raised to pay for the new organ, which was installed in the latter part of 2017 by Viscount Organs and inaugurated at the Grand Stewards' Lodge installation meeting on 17 January 2018 by the then Grand Organist, Carl Jackson MVO.



UGLE has also established very close links with the Royal College of Organists, which was founded by Freemason Richard Limpus in 1864, and now funds the RCO Freemasons' Prize, as well as providing Freemasons' bursaries to cover items such as tuition fees and travelling expenses. As a result, the new organ in Temple 10 is available to pupils who wish to practise for their exams.

So, we know organists play a vital role within Freemasonry and we have a long, proud tradition of having the organ played at our meetings. We now need to make sure this tradition does not fade away into just a fond memory of the days when we used to have music! Having an organist does matter to us and we should really do all in our power to keep our organists playing and encourage new players to come forward. Let's keep the music playing!

Organists your lodge needs you!

100 not out and still going strong!



In issue 7 of Nuggets, readers will recall an article on Jim Morley and his incredible feats during WW2 as he approached his 100-year-old celebration. We are now happy to report that Jim has reached that magnificent landmark surrounded by members of his family. Much to Jim's surprise, a goodly number of members from Longton Lodge No 6237 arrived in the afternoon to wish him well – all



correctly social distanced of course! A wonderful cake made by Martin Swarbrick, a baker by trade, was presented to Jim to mark the occasion. In addition, and on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, Paul Renton was afforded the honour of promoting Jim to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works to mark his special day.




The country having celebrated VJ Day, it is worth noting that one of Jim's last duties in 1945 was to help free prisoners of war from the notorious Changi Prison after the British liberation of Singapore.

Many happy returns Jim from all in the Province of West Lancashire.

Well done the caterers at Ormskirk Masonic Hall

'Ironman brother' does it for the Scouts



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Travellers' Choice 2020

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Andrew Haseldine a member of Eureka Lodge No 3763, also has a keen interest in scouting. To raise money for his local Scout Group in Bootle he has punished himself by entering an Ironman Challenge. We will have the full story in the next edition of Nuggets but in the meantime, you might like to support him via his JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/22ndbootlealtsidescoutgroup>

Please keep your contributions coming via either **Stewart Cranage, Provincial Grand Mentor:** mentor@provinceofwestlancs.org or **Paul Renton, DepGSupt:** paul.renton21@btinternet.com