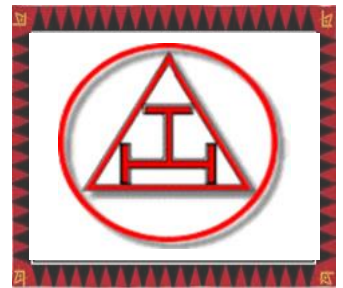




# WEST LANC'S NUGGETS


"PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST"



**Issue 11: 16 September 2020**

## MCF 2021 Festival Update

This issue of Nuggets is dedicated mainly to an update on the MCF 2021 Festival. Every brother should have received, earlier this month, an email from Phil Preston, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, indicating how support can be given to the Festival through to 2022 (as shown on the right below). Now David Winder, the Vice President of the MCF 2021 Festival, provides an important Festival update.

**THE MASONIC PROVINCE OF WEST LANCASHIRE**

**2021 Festival Update**

Dear Bro Renton,

I trust you and all your family and friends are well and keeping safe.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) has, since it was created four years ago, given on average over a £1,000,000 a year to this Province in support of Freemasons, family, dependants and widows. It is therefore even more important that we continue to support the MCF through the Festival to its conclusion in 2021.



## A message from David Winder, *PSGD, PAPrGM, Vice President of the MCF 2021 Festival*

I do very much hope that you and all your family and friends are well and keeping safe. They say don't they that time flies, but where have the last 3 years gone and particularly so as we find ourselves in the final and most important charitable fundraising year of our West Lancashire 2021 Festival in aid of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF)? Who could have contemplated at the start of Festival that the world, and with it our Freemasonry, would be gripped by the COVID-19 pandemic? What is not surprising however is that the MCF has already donated £3,600,000 to the United Grand Lodge of England COVID-19 Appeal.

It is important that I should clarify straight away that the MCF has been able to do so only due to donations being made directly to it, that donations to the UGLE COVID-19 Appeal come directly from the MCF coffers and moreover the MCF have specifically asked that Provinces, particularly those in 'Festival', should continue to give to the MCF which in turn will allow the MCF to also support the UGLE COVID-19 Appeal. By giving to the MCF you are in effect supporting the UGLE COVID-19 Appeal also.



In my view, it is most important that we should not lose sight or focus and be mindful of our own Masons, widows and dependents and communities whose lives and well-being have and continue to rely upon the £1,000,000 of support which has been provided by the MCF to the Province of West Lancashire alone, each and every year since 2010.



I never cease to be amazed by the generosity of brethren and companions in our Province and their respective groups and would take this opportunity to thank each and every brother and companion for supporting our Festival, by individual patronage, use of the gift aid envelope scheme or the many events arranged to raise monies such as the Adam Eeles, (pictured left), marathon or the Peter Taylor Trilogy to name but two. To societies such as the West Lancashire Clay Pigeon Shooting Society who recently donated significantly to Festival. To other Masonic Orders and Provinces that have readily given their support.

Due to the unprecedented suspension of Masonic activities we were prevented from giving through the gift aid envelope scheme at regular meetings; this does not however prevent those monies being saved up by brethren and companions until meetings resume where one larger amount could be placed in the gift aid envelope upon that return. The MCF has also agreed to extend the direct debit scheme for mandates for a further year. In effect the Festival will still conclude in 2021 but any mandates taken out and running until 2022 will be included in the final Festival total. If you have not already taken out patronage or wish to take out another mandate it is not too late to do so. Please speak to your group charity or Festival steward for any assistance required.

I am aware that many groups, lodges, chapters and societies during this period will have accrued donations that they were, under normal circumstances, planning to give at their respective installations or celebrations. It would be very much appreciated if these donations could be made early rather than wait until the event date which might, due to current circumstance, now find itself outside the final date for Festival. The early amount donated will still be thankfully applauded when the event eventually can take place. I am most grateful to the lodges and chapters who have already done this, have received Festival Patronage and have played a big part in keeping much needed donations to the MCF flowing at this difficult time. There have been instances already where lodges approaching their centenaries have given their donation early to achieve Patronage which otherwise would have fallen outside the Festival



The brethren of Fraternity Lodge No 4072, unable to celebrate their centenary, nevertheless present a cheque for £4,072, in favour of the MCF 2021 Festival, to the PrGM Tony Harrison (Pictured from left to right, are: John Rimmer, David Winder, Tony Harrison, Merrick Wilding and Chris Butterfield.)

final date. Could I respectfully urge any lodge or chapter finding themselves in this position to consider also giving early?

Could I respectfully urge any lodge or chapter finding themselves in this position to consider also giving early?

If I or any member of the charity team can assist please do not hesitate to make contact.

Needless to say, the demand for support placed upon the MCF has never been greater and that your ready support, large or small, (and I would stress, within the cable tow of your personal circumstances), will make that difference to Masons, widows and dependents, the community at large and indirectly by donation from the MCF to the UGLE COVID-19 Appeal. I would commend and request your continued support and help in this salient final Festival year completing in 2021. We will keep everyone informed of dates for any forthcoming fundraising events (see below) when those dates are able to take place and are known.

To conclude, could I on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master once again thank each and every brother and companion for your support to the West Lancashire 2021 Festival in aid of the MCF at this most needed time.

Very best wishes to you and your families for health, happiness and fulfilment.

David Winder.

## Andrew Haseldine the Ironman does it!

In the last edition of Nuggets, we reported on Andrew Haseldine, a member of Eureka Lodge No 3763, and his efforts to raise money for his local scout group in Bootle by entering an Ironman Challenge. Well he did it and here's a report on how he got on:

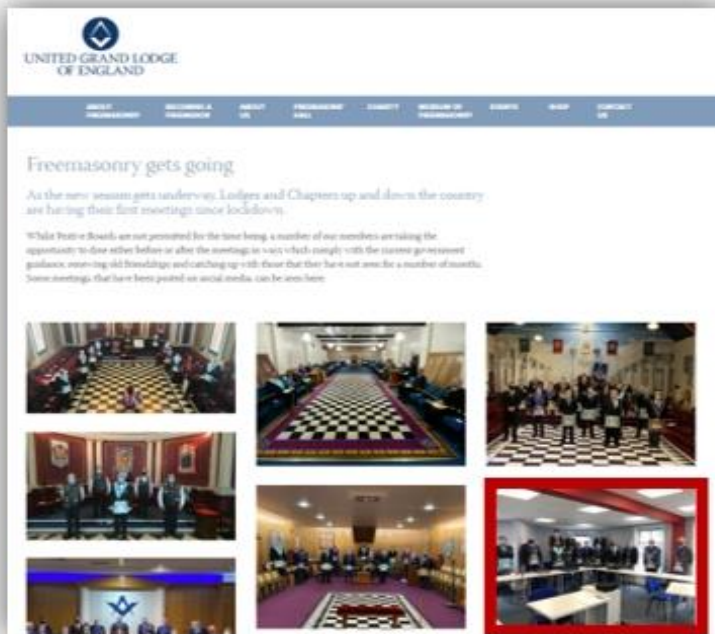
On 16 August 2020, Andrew Haseldine competed in an 'Ironman' Triathlon, which consisted of a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile marathon, all back-to-back and to be completed within a 17-hour cut off time. Given lockdown, training for this event wasn't the usual norm and it took some improvisation for Andrew during lockdown to stay on top of it, mainly by turning his front room of his house into a gym for 4 months!

Andrew completed the challenge in 15 hours 32 minutes, and managed to raise over £1,000 so far with pledges still coming in. 90 % of the funds will be used to provide welfare support during the COVID-19 era to the 22nd Bootle Scout Group members, a group Andrew has been a member of since he joined at 7 years of age. The other 10% is to be donated to Compass Counselling in Liverpool city centre, who offer counselling on a range of mental wellbeing issues to those less privileged. If you would like to donate to these causes you can find the JustGiving link via:

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



## First Rising: Edition 6



The newly formed and now renamed Barbarians Lodge No 9018, of West Lancs has made the latest edition of UGLE's 'First Rising' newsletter. The lodge featured as one of those from up and down the country that has got going since the lockdown.

Also, of interest in this edition of 'First Rising' where the results of a membership survey. This was sent via email to 15,000 randomly selected Masons between 2 and 3 June this year.

Some interesting results are presented for five different ranges of age groups surveyed, with the overall key insights as follows:

- Opinions are divided as to when lodge meetings should return.
- Older Masons are far more hesitant for meetings to resume before the pandemic is over.
- Over two thirds of Masons will attend

meetings as soon as they resume, however around a quarter of Masons over the age of 65 won't return until the pandemic is over.

- Those not planning to return in the near future are prioritising personal safety and the safety of family members over returning to lodge meetings. For many, this is regrettable but necessary.
- For many older members, their choice not to return in the immediate future is due to ill health or old age. Many younger members also do not wish to endanger the health of their older brethren.

**Please keep your contributions coming via either *Stewart Cranage, Provincial Grand Mentor:***

*mentor@provinceofwestlancs.org or Paul Renton, DepGSupt: paul.renton21@btinternet.com*