



WEST LANC'S NUGGETS

"PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST"



Issue 12: 14 October 2020

WLFC supports inclusive rugby

Typhoons RUFC is Lancashire's first inclusive rugby club and was formed in 2018 to give people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities and some limited disabilities, access rugby union or touch rugby to promote the health and wellbeing associated with team sports but without some of the barriers, or baggage that a 'traditional' rugby club comes with.

This accessibility has been critical to the club's success growing, in just two years, from inception to over 60 playing members across the men's rugby union team and the mixed-gender touch rugby team. Some of these people had never



picked up a rugby ball in their lives before attending, whilst others had been playing rugby all their lives and just like the atmosphere and ethos of the team. The mix of enthusiasm, energy and experience has led the Typhoons to success, finishing in the top-half of their league last year above teams such as Manchester Spartans, a team that has been going for over 20 years.

One of the Typhoons, a support worker, has recently introduced some clients who have been finding the COVID-19 lockdown particularly difficult, the situation having exacerbated isolation, abandonment and anxiety issues. Typhoons welcomed the newbies with open arms, but there was a small issue in that the new people are autistic and/or have sight difficulties. It is also the first time that any of them has done regular exercise, let alone engaged in team sports.

There was a small issue however: Balls.

The Typhoons train at Preston Grasshoppers under floodlights, with pristine white fences around the pitch. All the balls that Typhoons owned, bar one, were white. The exception, a high-visibility ball. Needless to say, the newbies (and to be honest many of the existing players) found that ball much easier to see and therefore catch and follow. It was not helping the new players' morale when they kept missing the ball.

Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary, Andrew Ridal is involved with the Typhoons and approached West Lancs Freemasons Charity to see if they could help the club buy some more high-visibility balls. WLFC kindly donated £480 allowing the club to buy 24 of the special balls 12 for Rugby Union and 12 for Touch Rugby.

Paul Renton, Deputy Grand Superintended, popped down to training and formally presented the new balls to the Typhoons on behalf of WLFC.

The story doesn't end there.

There has been a relatively close relationship between the Typhoons and the West Lancashire Freemasons Rugby Club, including a crossover of players; as such there are a number of the Typhoons interested in Freemasonry, to the point that at least 2 Form P's have been completed and maybe more on the way! The WLFC contribution, whilst relatively small in the scheme of things, has helped solidify the benefit of Freemasonry in the minds of some young, enthusiastic, and decent young men and that can't be a bad thing.

Positives all round!

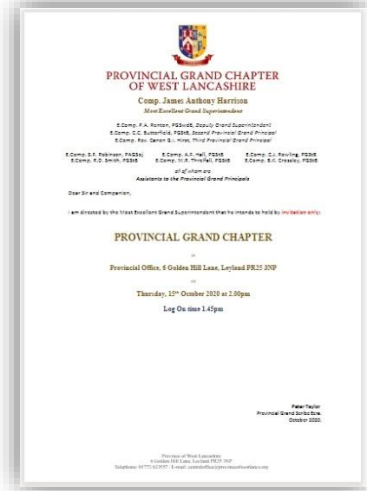
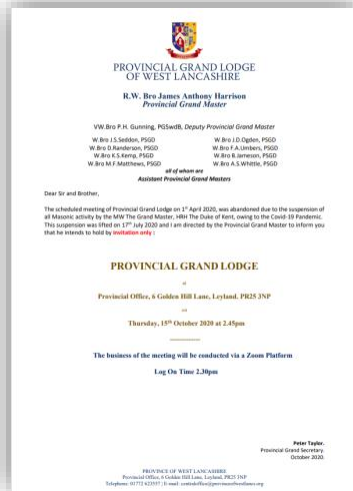
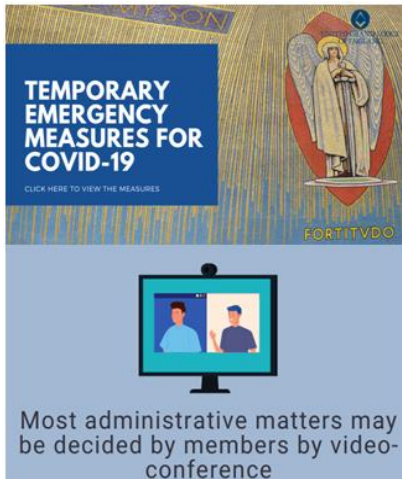


West Lancs, the first to hold Provincial Meetings via Zoom

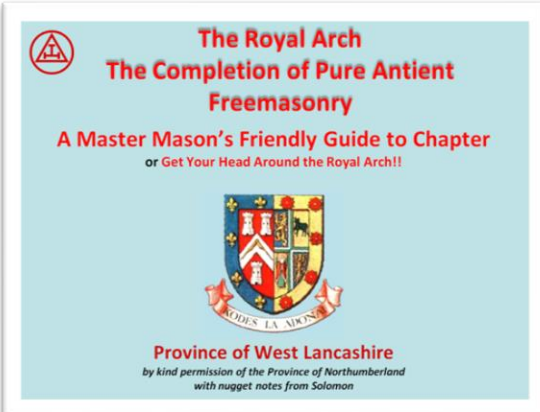
The seventh edition of First Rising saw the publication by UGLE of temporary emergency measures for COVID-19. As well as indicating how lodges and chapters could suspend their meetings for a period of up to three months at a time, the guidance also covered how the conduct of administrative business could be undertaken by audio/video-conferencing facilities.

Always ahead of the curve, our PrGM must be one of the first in the country to announce the transaction of Provincial business via Zoom.

Every member should have received an invitation to log on at 13:45 for Provincial Grand Chapter and 14:30 for Provincial Grand Lodge on 15 October.



Royal Arch Leads' Zoom Meeting



The first conference organised for Royal Arch Leads was to be held last May but sadly that had to be cancelled due to the then lockdown. To replace this event, and given current circumstances, a Zoom meeting has now been organised for Tuesday 20 October.

At the meeting a new presentation will be shared with the Leads designed to inform master Masons about the Royal Arch. Ideas for keeping in touch with companions during the current extended lockdown periods will also be discussed.



Some interesting initiatives from UGLE the Province of Yorkshire West Riding

Some specially adapted Covid-19 ritual

WM: The situation of the tyler?
JW: Outside the door of the lodge.
WM: His duty?
JW: Armed with a 2m sword to see off all coughers and sniffers.
WM: Situation of the inner guard?
SW: Within the entrance.
WM: His duty?
SW: To admit the uninfected on proof of normal temperature, receive the candidates duly masked and obey commands of the junior doctor.
WM: Situation of the junior deacon.
JW: 2m away from the SW.
WM: His duty?
JW: To carry all soap of the WM from the SW to the JW, and see their hands are punctually cleaned.
WM: The situation of the senior deacon?
SW: 2m to the right of the WM.
WM: His duty?
SW: To bear the soap of the WM to the SW and await the hand washing of the JD.
WM: Bro JW - your place in the lodge?
JW: In the south.
WM: Why are you there?

JW: To mark the position of the soap. To call brethren from soap to sink, and sink to towel, that clean hands are the result
WM: Bro SW, your place in the lodge,
SW: The west.
WM: Why are you there?
SW: To ensure that brethren are masked, tested, and regularly clean the lodge by the command of the WM, having seen that everyone remains exactly 2m apart from each other.
WM: Bro IPM, the WM's place?
IMP: The east.
WM: Why is he placed there?
IPM: As the virus sprung from the east, leading us to isolation, so the WM is placed there to make sure all vulnerable Masons are duly shielded, commanding them to remain at home, protect our temples and save lives, and offering instruction via Zoom.
WM: Brethren, the Isolation lodge being duly sanitized, let us, remain 2M apart, duly isolated and wait for a vaccine to arrive.
All: So mote it be.

A talk for master Masons and beyond

Palatine Chapter No 2447, a joint initiative between East and West Lancashire, is the 4th chapter to have joined UGLE's University Scheme. Meeting twice a year, once in Manchester and once in Warrington, it is formed with a view to encouraging younger Craft Masons to continue their journey in pure and antient Freemasonry.

Unfortunately, the chapter's forthcoming installation meeting will have to be abandoned. However, in its place a Zoom talk has been organised to be delivered by Tony Harvey. Tony has held a number of Masonic lectureships, including the Prestonian Lecture in 2012

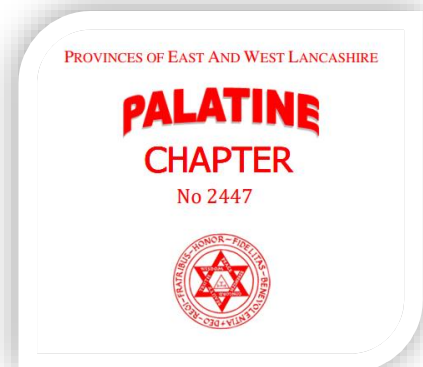
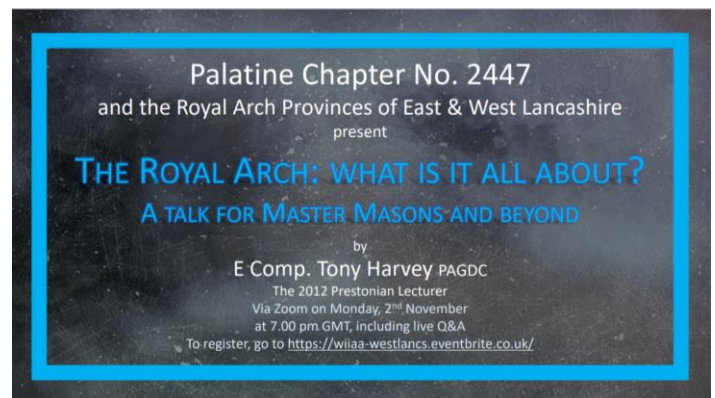
with "Scouting and Freemasonry: two parallel organisations?" which he has delivered in every Province in England and Wales, in a number of overseas districts and in lodges in other jurisdictions around the world. Tony has also played a key role in the development of the Members' Pathway, which the Pro Grand Master has called a "game changer" and which has been described as "one of the greatest innovations in Freemasonry in the last 100 years".



His talk for Palatine Chapter is aimed at master Masons and newly exalted Royal Arch companions, although all companions are likely to find something of interest. Its purpose is to increase awareness and understanding of the Royal Arch, inspire more brethren to wish to become companions and to suggest when and how they might consider joining.

The talk therefore is open to any brother or companion in the Province and is schedule for 7:00pm, on Monday, 2 November. To take part please register at Evenbrite via:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/masonic-lecture-the-royal-arch-what-is-it-all-about-registration-118822588561>



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