



WEST LANCS NUGGETS

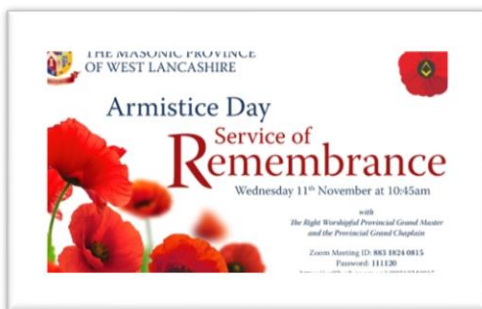
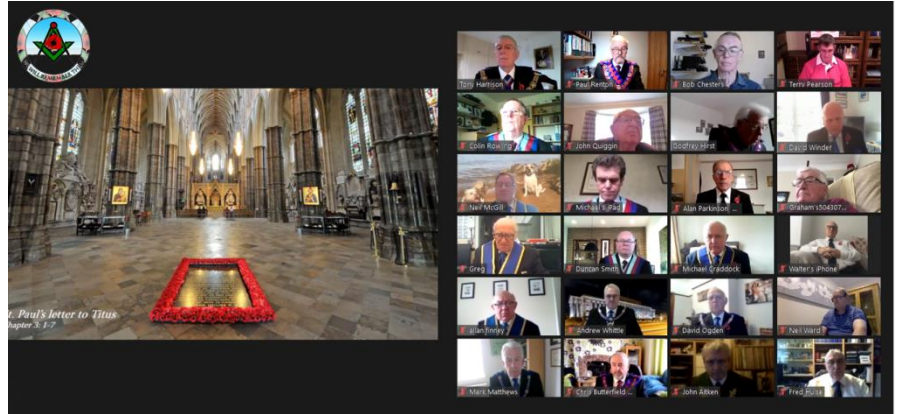
“PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST”



Issue 14: 25 November 2020

The Province comes together to remember

At the 11th hour of the 11th day over 220 brethren and companions came together, via Zoom, for an Armistice Day Service of Remembrance for those who had given the ultimate sacrifice. The service was led by John Hall, the Provincial Grand Chaplain, with contributions from the Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison and the Third Provincial Grand Principal Godfrey Hirst.



All around the Province at this special time of the year West Lancs Freemasons would normally have been actively involved in many local services of remembrance



laying wreaths on behalf of their groups. Clearly this year such contributions have been restricted. Nevertheless, our PrGM was able to lay his wreath at an abridge ceremony at Morcambe. The following story from Chris Larder, the secretary from the Lancaster and District Group, shows how he maintained

his involvement playing the Last Post at his local village commemoration:



“I live in the small village of Overton just outside Morecambe. It's a very 'traditional' type of village with a strong sense of community. Usually I attend the Remembrance Parade in Morecambe as part of the Masonic contingent that attend. Due to COVID-19 and national rules etc, I like many others stayed at home. However, it gave me the opportunity to walk down with my wife and daughter and hold our small tribute to the fallen. Although I don't play at all anymore, I retrieved the trumpet from the loft and brushed the cobwebs off! I played the Last Post - 2 minutes silence - followed by the reveille. It was unannounced however, some dog walkers and a few others stopped by (socially distanced of course). Others stood on their doorstep. To be honest, it was just a nice thing to do. It's an incredibly moving experience to play this music, but one that I'm always honoured to do. I also performed it at the school I teach in at 11am on 11 November.”

Awarded but not recorded!

In the previous edition of Nuggets, a list of those appointed or promoted in Provincial Grand Chapter was included. Unfortunately, four companions were omitted from the list. They were: Stephen Plevy – ProvgStwd; Ronald George Gates – PPGSwdB; David Barlow – PPGSoj; and John Ronald Brown – PPGSoj. Apologies companions but I'm sure you'll still enjoy your respective preferment!

Meet the new Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah: Chris Reeman

How did I become a Mason? Having made the life changing decision in 1985 to leave my job and start my own business. This decision came after a short illness which gave me far too much time to think.

I had always had this idea that Freemasonry may be for me. Who could I approach? Even in the late 80s that seemed the only route. How strange the next few months would be. Approaching gentlemen who I thought were Masons, only to be pointed to the most unlikely brother who was a neighbour and my window cleaner!

I was initiated into Corinthian Lodge No 2350 in 1991 meeting at Hindley Masonic Hall, Wigan. They made me feel part of the lodge, so much so, that as my proposer followed his

passion for rugby union, I had no problem mixing with people who made me feel welcome from day one.

They explained how the lodge structure worked and I was asked if I would take on the office of charity steward in 1994. This was to shape my Masonic future, and an office I would relinquish during my progress through the lodge offices. On completion of my year as master in 2002 I again continued as lodge charity steward. My Masonic journey was completed in April 2003 when I was exalted into Corinthian Chapter No 2350.

"If you want anything doing ask a busy man". Freemasonry ran alongside my business until recently, which was made easier with the support of my lovely wife Jacqui, both at work and home. Lodge Charity Steward, treasurer, assistant director of ceremonies, then director of ceremonies, all enjoyable and rewarding offices that kept me busy and involved.

In 2016 I was appointed as Wigan Group Charity Steward which was followed by my appointment as group secretary 2018. Being appointed as Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah in October is an honour, one which I am very much looking forward to. Being notified of my appointment in January has given me plenty of time to prepare, but then the pandemic struck. It has taken the wind out of the sails of many of us. When will we be able to enjoy each other's company again?

Having visited many groups and chapters as 2nd Assistant Sojourner in 2017, my idea was to renew and build on the friendships I had already established. There are still groups I have yet to visit. The Grand Superintendent and Deputy Grand Superintendent diaries have been downloaded, added to those, several invitations from assistants and group chairmen completed a busy year. How strange it has been to receive notifications on my phone reminding me of where I should be but can't. Companions, whatever happens, most importantly stay safe and I am sure we will catch up soon.



What makes a man a Mason? A poem by George M Free

What makes a man a Mason, O brother of mine?
It isn't the due guard, nor is it the sign,
It isn't the jewel which hangs on your breast
It isn't the apron in which you are dressed

It isn't the step, nor the token, nor the grip,
Nor lectures that fluently flow from the lip,
Nor yet the possession of that mystic word
On five points of fellowship duly conferred.

Though these are essential, desirable, fine,
They don't make a Mason, O brother of mine.
That you to your sworn obligation are true
'Tis that, brother mine, makes a Mason of you.

Secure in your heart you must safeguard and trust,
With lodge and with brother be honest and just,
Assist the deserving who cry in their need,
Be chaste in your thought, in your word and your deed.

Support he who falters, with hope banish fear,
And whisper advice in an erring one's ear.
Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly shine,
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

Your use of life's hours by the gauge you must try,
The gavel of vices with courage apply;
Your walk must be upright, as shown by the plumb,
On the level, to bourn whence no travellers come,

The Book of your faith be the rule and the guide,
The compass your passions shut safely inside;
The stone which the Architect placed in your care
Must pass the strict test of His unerring square.

And then you will meet
with approval divine,
And you'll be a Mason,
O brother of mine.

From: <https://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com>

What is Freemasonry's fascination with completion?

Nuggets is delighted to announce that E Comp Tony Harvey will be delivering a talk for the Province in the New Year on Thursday, 14 January. It is aimed at Royal Arch Masons who are seeking a better understanding of the Supreme Order and its purpose, place and meaning within Freemasonry.

In his talk Tony will examine the journey through the Craft and into the Royal Arch and offer his personal interpretation of the ceremony of exaltation. He will do this through the idea of completion, specifically in the context of the Craft and Royal Arch but with some consideration also given to the Mark Degree. Among other questions Tony will ask why we appear so concerned to complete something, what exactly does the Royal Arch complete and why do we debate the idea of completion when looking at different Masonic degrees? In order to attend this Zoom presentation those interested will need to register via Eventbrite via this link:

<https://wiffwc-westlancs.eventbrite.co.uk>



Appeal well underway



The Food Bank Support Appeal is now well underway with magnificent support from groups around the Province. Barry Dickinson and the Publicity Team are co-ordinating press releases on a local and national basis but are encouraging anyone involved to engage with social media to publicise the good we do. Here's just one example of a Tweet from Tony Farrar, the North Fylde Group Secretary:

"We've had a great start to the appeal with over 2,500 items arriving at Cleveleys Masonic Hall. There was a constant stream of deliveries and offers of help throughout the three hours we were open thanks to everyone for the wonderful support demonstrated so far"

Know your Masonic halls

Three more features from our Masonic Halls. Can you identify them?

D)



E)



F)



Answers from issue 13: A) Chorley B) Garston C) Fleetwood

Sam's question



Here's Sam Robinson as you've never seen him before – wearing a Liverpool lockdown chain of office! Clearly, he doesn't look a very happy bunny but he's getting into the swing of things by contributing to this issue of Nuggets with his own picture quiz. Sam asks "Do you know where this Masonic hall is?"



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