



WEST LANCS NUGGETS

“PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST”



***Please note – this issue has an additional and separate supplement* Issue 17: 24 February 2021**

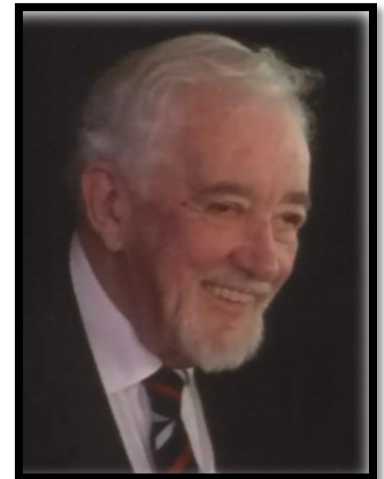
A Tribute to Tom

On 2 February an email was issued by the Provincial Office announcing with great sadness the death of Thomas (Tom) Blackburn, PGSwdB, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, PAGSoj. He died that very morning aged 88, after 62 years of service in the Craft.

His funeral took place at the crematorium on the morning of Friday, 12 February. This was followed in the afternoon by a church service and committal at St Bartholomew’s Church, Chipping.

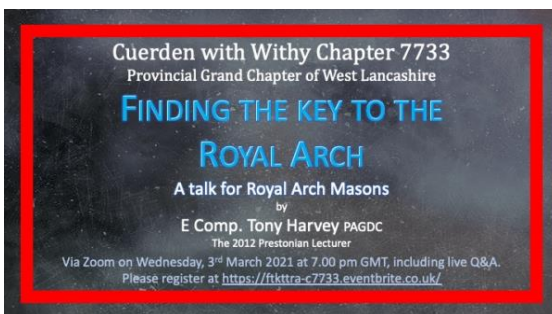
Tom was a highly respected Freemason, which is evident by the credits and accolades he has received during his Masonic career. His contribution to the Province cannot be understated. He will be sadly missed.

The members of his lodge, Lodge of Peace and Unity No 314, have pooled their memories of Tom and these are now included as a supplement to this edition of Nuggets and as a tribute to him. <https://www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/All-groups-West-Lancs-Nuggets-issue-17-supplement.pdf>

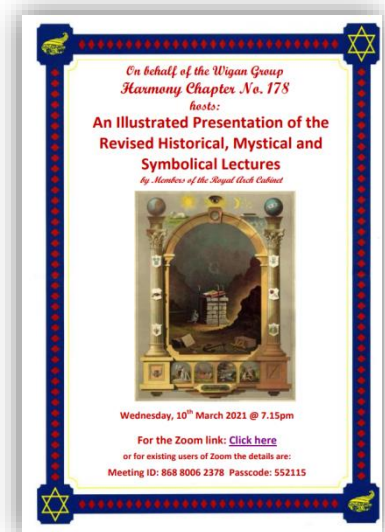


Royal Arch update

In lieu of attending installation meetings cancelled due to the pandemic, members of the Royal Arch Cabinet have offered chapters an illustrated presentation of the revised Historical, Mystical and Symbolical Lectures. Eight have so far been scheduled and if any chapter is interested in hosting one of these presentations they should contact their Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals.



As advertised in the last edition of Nuggets, Tony Harvey’s next talk on the Royal Arch will be on Wednesday, 3 March 2021. Its title is ‘Finding the Key to the Royal Arch’ and is intended for recently exalted companions of the Royal Arch, although it has also



been appreciated by those who want a better understanding of the Royal Arch, by those who have ceased attending their chapter and by more experienced Royal Arch Masons. Please register for the talk via Eventbrite at:

<https://ftkttra-c7733.eventbrite.co.uk/>



Throughout the pandemic the Royal Arch Cabinet has continued to meet on a fortnightly basis via Zoom, usually on a Wednesday morning. When he can, Tony Harrison, the Grand Superintendent, has joined the meetings. At the last meeting we welcomed a new colleague plus a special guset. David Barr took part in his first cabinet meeting as the new Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals and we were delighted to welcome Russell Race, the Second Grand Principal, to the meeting.

Raven Winder Walk Part 2: David Winder, V/P of the 2021 Festival

'Raven Winder' is one of the smaller peaks in the Lake District, whose generic majesty can be seen from the Heysham and Morecambe area when looking across the largest area of sand flats in the United Kingdom. Quite remarkably the area covers 310 square kilometres where the tide regularly ebbs and flows twice in the course of a natural day. With beauty often comes danger and walking the sands with safety has demanded a Queens Guide in the guise of Cedric Robinson MBE who through commitment and vocation has filled that role for 56 years. Those high tides have demanded new sea defences which have in turn provided superb walking surfaces immediately adjacent to sea and beach with stunning views of the Lake District peaks beyond. Indeed, at the former parapet where Morecambe Central Pier once stood there is a sculpture which silhouette's those peaks. Most conveniently, one of which is Raven Winder.

Traditionally the Province of West Lancashire has embarked upon one key Provincial fund-raising exercise annually. Those fund-raising initiatives have been in support of WLFC in non-festival years and when in Festival for the purpose of supporting Festival alone; they consisted predominantly in the past of a Provincial Draw. On taking over responsibility for the charity team and Provincial charitable fundraising initiatives in 2013 and knowing Festival was coming I wanted to change that. My wife Sue and I had walked the 'The Bay' from Arnside to Kent's Bank under the guidance of Cedric Robinson on several occasions for community charities. I therefore (excuse the pun) floated the idea of a Bay Walk for the 2021 Festival. I am happy to say that we received an overwhelming response with over 100 Masons together with wives, partners, children and pets completing the walk; enjoying a wonderful time and raising a magnificent sum of £17,000 for the Festival.

There was an even greater call to repeat the event but due to huge variations the following year in sand channels due to abnormally high tides it was deemed unsafe to carry out the crossing by Cedric. It was due to this that the alternative plan of the Raven Winder Walk emerged. Walking on smooth surfaces from the old village of Heysham along the entire length of the new sea defence promenade through Morecambe to Happy Mount Park and return with a retained the sea views with associated Lakeland backdrop with the added benefit that those taking part could tailor stop off points on route to meet their capability and desire.

They also had the added landmarks of interest of the art deco Midland Hotel, the stone jetty, Eric Morecambe's statue and the clock tower to name a few on their sunshine orienteering seaside jaunt and all on smooth level ground opening up wheelchair access and attendance of Masonic cycling groups. On the day the sun shone through with once again over 100 participants raising over £15,000. It was quite remarkable that on reaching Happy Mount Park the brass band quite by chance played the National Anthem and we all came to order. In 2019 the main fundraising event was the Night with the Stars at Blackpool raising over £20,000. Sadly, plans for 2020 were prevented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

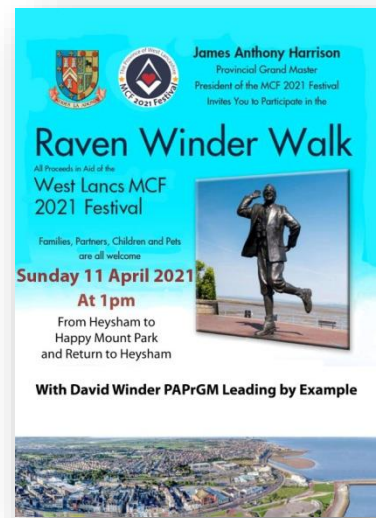
As we approach the final few months of Festival the pre-arranged date of 11 April to walk Raven Winder Part 2 has once again been compromised due to social distancing, travel lock down and restrictions of the number of people able to meet in one group. As such Sue and I have gladly undertaken to carry out the 10 mile walk on your behalf and will be under starter's orders by Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and his wife Maureen.

Any charity donations that you accrue will credit to your lodge, your chapter or your group. If you wish to make an individual charity donation it will accrue to your personal patronage. Simply sponsor Sue and I and let the Winders do the walking!

There is now a new **easier way to donate electronically by using the new Provincial 'Q.R.' codes or the 'URL' via your web browser. Please use reference Raven Winder Walk.**

As you will be aware our Province has received over £1,000,000 of support from MCF every single year since its inception. We can in essence only take out what we put in and while in Festival it is our time to go that extra mile. A sobering reminder to me brethren and companions was that £500,000 of that support in the last year was purely for day to day running costs for our own Masons, widows and dependants.

Therefore, whatever you feel able to give within the compass of your personal cable tow will be gratefully received and faithfully applied. Thank you so much for your continued support.



Catching a smile: Bob Malcolm, Heysham Lodge

The Masonic Fishing Charity's aim is to bring an interactive fishing and countryside experience to people with special needs. It achieves this by running fishing events, both coarse and fly, at various fisheries and inviting participants from special needs schools and centres and people who have suffered trauma to come and join in. This is far more than just a day fishing though! It enables mentally disabled people to gain in confidence, meet new challenges and achieve tangible results to take away; it helps disadvantaged people and those from harsh backgrounds to renew their confidence in meeting people and interacting with adults from outside their spheres; it helps physically disabled people to participate and experience something that may otherwise be unavailable to them and it enables our volunteers to give back to the community and have some fun along the way.



The West Lancashire branch of the charity has had a very busy time during the last season and before the pandemic curtailed our activities. Events were held as follows: one at Partridge Lakes, Warrington; two at Whitmore Fisheries, Greenhalgh near Kirkham; one at Manor Farm, Nateby and one at Charity Farm, Wrightington. At all five events the fishing was amazing and a great time was had by all, with fish ranging from roach, bream and carp being caught, up to the weight of 5lbs. The weather was also kind, meaning that our youngsters and our guests from 'Help for Heroes' did not get a soaking to spoil their day. Saying that, I am not sure even rain would have dampened their enthusiasm, as their excitement at catching even one fish is infectious. The charity's motto of 'Catch a Smile' was certainly evident at all the events.

Having arrived around 10:00am, our guests at each event are introduced to their casters for the day. After a busy morning fishing, lunch is served at around midday. Everyone then goes back for a further round of fishing. The day is brought to a conclusion with the presentation of medals and certificates to all the participants.

At each event there has been between 13 -18 participants with a caster sitting alongside each individual guest. Although there have been plenty of people willing to come along to help, more names are always needed to widen the pool of people available. If anyone would like to get involved with the charity please contact myself as the secretary via bob.malcolm@outlook.com or our event organiser and caster coordinator, Gareth Harrison, baywoodservicesltd@gmail.com



Perfect Points Zooms of to London – Virtually!



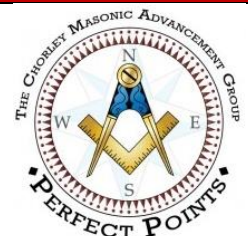
Gary Smith, Past Chairman of Perfect Points (The Chorley and Leyland Group Research Society) was delighted to receive an invitation to present his lecture: 'Freemasonry and the Holocaust' at the forthcoming UGLE webinar which will take place on 10 March 2021.

Having researched and presented several Masonic lectures to both Perfect Points and lodges, as well as via Zoom during lockdown, Gary was both very surprised and pleased to receive request from Shaun Butler, Communications Officer for United Grand Lodge of England, to present his paper to a much wider audience.

Gary said: "I usually present to between 20 and 50 brethren, but I am told that over a 1,000 may be attending this Zoom meeting! I feel very proud and honoured to have been asked and given this opportunity to shed some light on these dark times for the Craft." Anyone wishing to join Gary on this momentous occasion, watch for login details to be posted on the Provincial website.

Brethren who may wish to attend any forthcoming Perfect Points meetings are asked to look at the Chorley and Leyland Group website for content and booking in details via:-

https://www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk/chorley_and_leyland/masonic-research/



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