



WEST LANCs NUGGETS

“PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST”

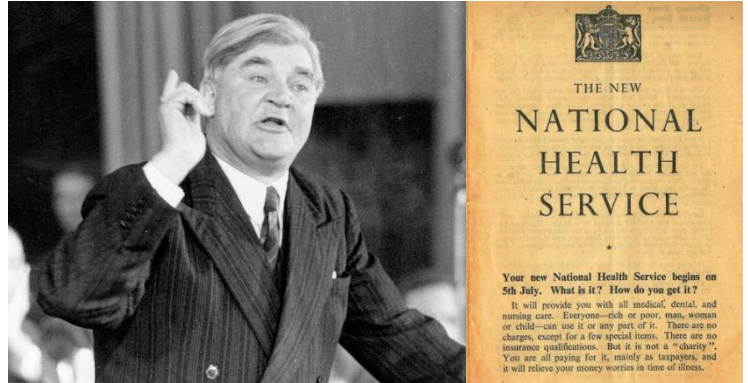


Issue 18: 17 March 2021

NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day, 5 July 2021

5 July is an important day in the life of the NHS, as this date is the anniversary of when it was founded in 1948 by Aneurin Bevan, the then Health Minister under the Attlee Government.

It is indeed a day to celebrate. Among many other events, everyone will be asked to pause for two minutes at 11am to remember the men and women from the NHS, social care and other key services who have lost their lives in the service of others. Faith leaders may come together and lead the silence within their local communities, and the nation will take time out to remember the sacrifice of so many people.



The Daily Express is running a campaign to support this special day. Likewise, UGLE is supporting the event by asking Provinces to acknowledge 5 July in their respective Masonic halls by flying or hanging the NHS flag to show their support. The Provincial Grand Master fully supports this initiative and has authorised the purchase of the NHS flag for each of those halls who wish to participate. Furthermore, it is his wish that participating halls, lodges and chapters register their support through a link that has been sent to all group chairman.

Halls wishing to participate by displaying a flag and/or organising events are asked to advise Barry Jameson barryj@thejamesonfamily.uk who together with his Halls Support Team will organise the purchase and distribution of the flags. As most Provinces will be placing orders for flags with the recommended company, it's important that we place the order as early as is practical and with this in mind, please let Barry know of your intentions by Friday, 26 March.

Michael Singleton reflects on becoming a 'Lockdown Mason'



Hi everyone, I've been asked to share some experiences during lockdown as a new member of the Craft, hopefully some of this resonates with other newer brothers.

I was lucky enough to be Initiated into Longton Lodge No 6237 in February 2019, which was a great experience. Before I knew it, I was passed in September 2019 alongside a good friend and colleague. A full and varied lodge schedule placed the planned raising for the fateful March 2020. Lockdown occurred and clearly focus was and should remain on our safety and mental wellbeing.

Still not fully 'knowing what it's all about', and not yet having lots of time in lodge with more experienced brothers, placed myself (and I suspect other new brothers) in an interesting situation. Gone are the fascinating ritual and ceremonies, listening to brothers explain what is going on or even speaking to other new Masons sharing the same experiences.

And of course, for those of us who haven't progressed through the three degrees and are still keen on learning more, any searching the internet is far too dangerous in case anything is spoiled. Such is looking at any books/articles unless they've been vetted, so what to do?

Well first off, I found the online Solomon system really useful, even if it is a work in progress. I was also lucky enough to have borrowed a first degree ritual book to remember the experience of the lodge. And while perhaps the Provincial weekly webinars are not aimed at a new brother, I'd really recommend the Corinthian Club webinars which are varied and regular. Anyone else had a similar experience?

Serendipity: Part 1 of a fascinating story

What do a 223-year-old Grand Lodge certificate, a French annotation, the American Civil War, confusion between a 40 pounder (gun) and pianoforte, a recycling centre in Greece and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow have in common? They are all elements, part of a colourful tale compiled by Caroline Crook, archivist at the Warrington Museum of

Freemasonry, through research into one of its interesting artefacts.

Our Provincial Grand Secretary, Peter Taylor had contact from Chris Camire, who had found a well-preserved Grand Lodge certificate in the archives of Triangle Lodge No 1 in Portland Maine, US.

The certificate belonged to a John Lindsey Lewis, who was initiated on 16 April 1797 into Lodge 299, a lodge under the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England, according to the old constitutions. The certificate is signed by Robert Leslie, Grand Secretary and Thomas Harper (the renowned Masonic jeweller), Deputy Grand Secretary. On the reverse is a paragraph handwritten in French.

Lodge 299, an Antients Lodge was warranted 22 April 1796 and met at an interestingly named hostelry called Merlin's Cave in Mersey Street, Liverpool. In 1804 the lodge was named Lodge of Concord and renamed Harmonic Lodge in 1819. In 1830 the lodge became dormant, but it was revived in 1838 and during one of the many renumbering of lodges it became Harmonic Lodge No 216 in 1863. The lodge during its long history moved around many of the taverns and Masonic halls in Liverpool, and now meets in The Britannia Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool.

Against this background, research was then undertaken on John Lindsey Lewis. Fortunately, he has an entry in the Freemason registers online. Caroline discovered that he was a mariner, but unfortunately, part of the information was indistinct. The staff



at the excellent Museum of Freemasonry in London, checked their copy, it showed that his Grand Lodge certificate had been sent out, but where to?

Contact was then made with the secretary of Harmonic Lodge, Eric O'Callaghan to find out if they still had the minute books and registers from the beginning of the lodge. Unfortunately, they did not but he promised to initiate a further search for them. At that point, an accurate translation of the French annotation was needed to progress the research further. One of the Warrington brethren lives in France, so he translated the paragraph for the museum as follows:

"Seen in Lodge No 45 under the distinctive title of The French Reunion, regularly constituted by the G M of the Lodges of the State of South Carolina, Ancient York Masons, at the East of Charleston, this 4th day of the 10th Masonic month, in the year of the True Light 5808 by command of the Wor. Lodge, The Secretary Riviere, M.M."

This suggested that John Lindsey Lewis visited or joined the 'The French Reunion Lodge No 45' on 4 October 1808 using his Grand Lodge certificate to assist in proving he was a Freemason. A check if this lodge had any records with the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, closed the line of enquiry as no records existed, General Sherman, 'burned them all during the Civil War'.

So, the story so far, it was known that John Lindsey Lewis was in America, but was he English or American. A check on Google did not reveal anything. Ancestry searches in Britain had only given his entry on the registers, so further searches were made in America. Unfortunately, no age was given on the lodge register, however, he had to be over 21, so by calculation it was estimated that he would have been born around 1775. John Lindsey Lewis was not such a common name, which was an advantage. At this point, some more information had been received from Chris Camire in Portland. He had come across another note in the archives which said that during the war in 1812, when the British Royal Navy were blockading Portland Harbour, 'Captain John Lindsey Lewis led a group of locals in repelling the attacking force'. He also referenced and several books with excerpts from his life.

Meanwhile at a recycling centre on a Greek island..... don't miss part 2 in the next edition of Nuggets!

Meet one of our new APrGMs



Peter Lockett, having served for eight years previously as a group chairman, first for the Chorley Group and then the combined Chorley and Leyland Group, will become an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in April for this group and the Preston Group.

Peter's roots go back to connections in the Lake District some seven generations ago. He is a proud Mancunian and Lancastrian. He spent most of his formative years in south Manchester where he developed his musical skills, singing in the church choir and playing the euphonium. He played in the Lancashire Youth Band before developing his music skills at Salford College. He played for the world famous CWS Manchester Band in the late 70s. He entered, and subsequently graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in 1980, having studied the tuba and piano. During the period 1978-1982, Peter played for the Halle Orchestra, Welsh National Opera, English National Opera North and a host of other professional orchestras and ensembles. Between 1982 and 1990 he was a member of, and played with, most of the leading bands in the country. He also had success as a conductor during this period with several bands.

He qualified as a teacher at City of Manchester College of Education and later studied business and education management at the Manchester Polytechnic School of Business and Management, receiving his Post Graduate Diploma in Management in Education. He taught for the Wigan Music Advisory Service until 1995, holding various posts including Head of Music Centre at Leigh and later as Head of Brass for the Wigan Education Authority. He taught in three primary schools prior to moving to Kirkham Grammar School in 1999. He has a life-long interest in history and religions which was one reason why he became interested in Freemasonry, combined with the fact that several of his family were enthusiastic members of the Craft.

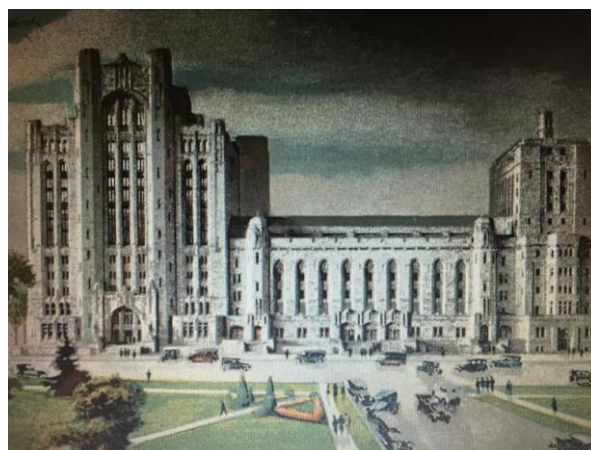
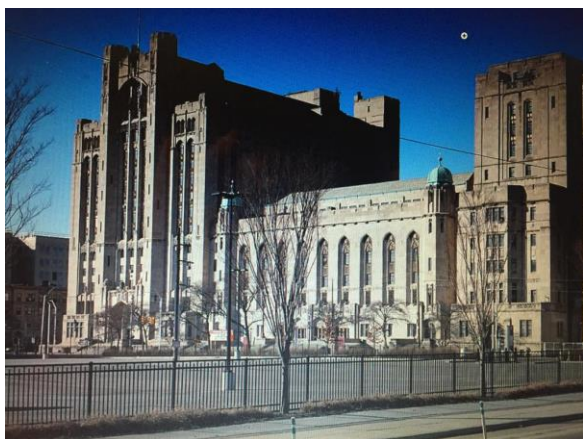
Peter was initiated into Bredbury Lodge No 6497 (Cheshire) 38 years ago and exalted into Standish Chapter No 4955 in 1987. In addition, he is a member of many other Masonic Orders and served as the Intendant-General for the Red Cross of Constantine in the Division of West Lancashire for seven years.

Peter's wife, Pam, and he both enjoyed successful careers in the teaching profession. Peter having retired re-trained in the new homes industry working in sales for several companies before joining the RMBI at Ecclesholme as Activities Coordinator. He has two stepchildren and a son, who like Peter is a talented musician. Peter played golf, football and other sports before music and Masonry took priority. Nevertheless, he still enjoys watching all sports. As well as visiting the Lake District and North Yorkshire as often as possible, they enjoy dining out regularly, experiencing different wines, visiting the theatre and other live performances. Having now retired from full-time employment he has revisited his old hobby of developing model railways. Peter is also adding to his collection of signed, authenticated photographs of the England World Cup Winning Team of 1966 and key memorable moments in the history of Manchester United.

It goes without saying that he is very much looking forward to his new role, meeting more new friends, and facing the new challenges which lie ahead but admits that stepping into Stewart Seddon's shoes as an APrGM will be a difficult act to follow.

Sam's picture quiz

Here's both a photo and picture for Sam Robinson's next Masonic hall quizzes. So where is this one? It's the world's biggest Masonic Temple. In its day it cost \$6.600,000 to build which in today's money would be in excess of \$83,000,000.



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