



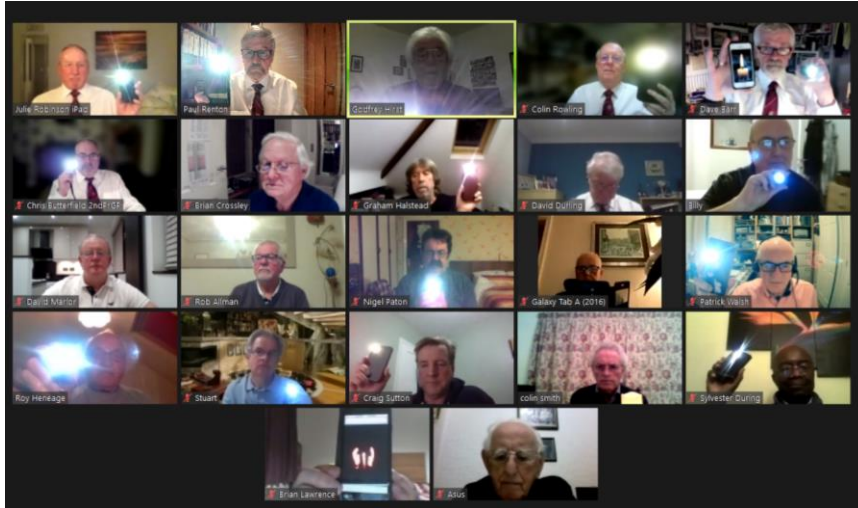
WEST LANC'S NUGGETS

"PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST"



Issue 19: 7 April 2021

A day of national reflection



Royal Arch companions from the Eccles and South Eastern Groups joined the Cabinet who presented by Zoom the Revised Lectures. The day coincided with one year on from the start of the first lockdown, the day being one of national reflection.

At 8 o'clock, after some brief thoughts from the 3rdPrGP, companions joined those on the doorsteps of the UK and shone their torches in tribute to the 1,000s who had tragically lost their lives in the pandemic. Silence was kept, not only to remember them but also the many more 1,000s who are grieving,

mourning, sorrowing and despairing. A special thought was spared for those still working tirelessly and often sacrificially to keep us safe, together with those bringing help and comfort to those in desperate need.

Supporting the West Lancashire 2021 Festival



As the MCF 2021 Festival enters the final stretch one member's race is not yet run. Adam Eeles, member of Old Masonians West Lancashire Lodge No 7702, is gearing up to run the London Marathon. Initially selected from 1,000s who applied by

ballot to represent the MCF in 2020, COVID put paid to event. However, organisers have invited him to run the 2021 race in October this year when Adam will be raising funds for the 2021 Festival.

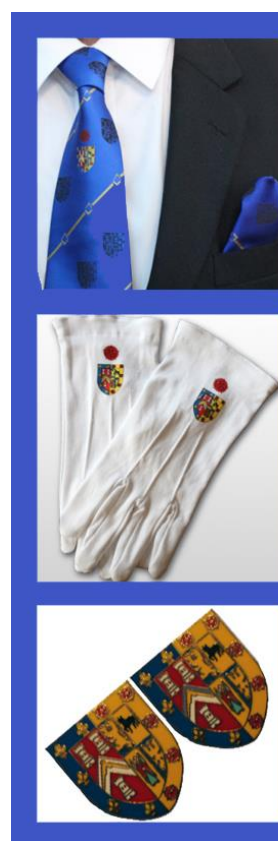
The MCF is a cause very close to Adam's heart having helped him personally. His run around London will therefore be a big thank you in appreciation of the support he received when fate dealt him some cruel blows.

In a frank and heartfelt interview with Provincial Grand Charity Steward Phil Preston, Adam reveals his story and tells why he is so keen to support the Festival. To watch the video of the interview please use this link:

<https://vimeo.com/511960096>

You can sponsor Adam via his JustGiving page with all money going toward the MCF and supporting the West Lancashire 2021 Festival

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/adam-eeles-mcf-london-marathon2021>



The Provincial Shop is open to accept all orders of Provincial merchandise.

All merchandise is available to order online and will be delivered to the address of your choice.

We are all hoping to be meeting again soon and we will all wish to look our best after over a year of missed meetings.

Many of our brethren will have been awarded Provincial honours in 2020/21 and will be looking forward to going to meetings wearing their new regalia, or maybe you simply wish to look your best in your lodge or chapter. To compliment your regalia, we have available all manner of Provincial merchandise, which includes the Provincial tie, pocket squares and hankies, cuff links and Provincial gloves,

please log on at:

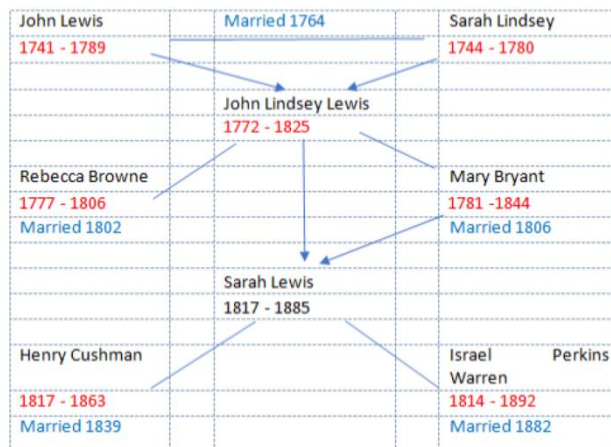
www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk/provincial-shop

All the profit from the Provincial Shop is donated to the West Lancashire MCF 2021

Serendipity: Part 2 of the story published in the last issue of Nuggets

Meanwhile at a recycling centre on a Greek island.....

It was established that Lindsey Lewis was in Portland Maine in 1812 and he was a captain, a Master Mariner. An outline family tree based on the information gathered enabled an outline family tree to be completed, which confirmed that we had the right John Lindsey Lewis.



Family Tree for John Lindsey Lewis

Things began to come together, albeit through a strange sequence of events. Eric O'Callaghan, secretary of Harmonic Lodge no 216, searched for the records but to no avail. He then contacted Grand Lodge, who advised him that **the** early minute books were on a small Greek island!

27 leather bound volumes, handwritten in copper plate script, had been found in a skip by a worker at a recycling depot. Although he could neither speak nor read English, he thought they looked interesting, retrieved them, and took them to an English-speaking friend who fortuitously was also a Freemason. He notified the Museum of Freemasonry in London and the books were eventually returned to England in five stout boxes and are now held in the Warrington Museum of Freemasonry. Exasperatingly, the minute book

covering 1797 was missing!

Back to Lindsay Lewis. It was likely that his ship was a sailing vessel with two or three masts, bringing furs and timber from Portland to Liverpool and returning with goods such as pottery, textiles, cutlery and salt.

In the book 'A Ruinous and Unhappy War: New England and the War of 1812', the tale is told of Captain John L Lewis sailing a 'packet run to Boston', having taken a merchant's order for a 'forte-piano'. He must have misunderstood the request and returned to the merchant saying he could not get a '40-pounder' but had brought him a long 32 pounder gun instead, apparently it spent a while on the dock until it was used as the pivot gun on a Portland privateer ship. Maybe the pianoforte never arrived.

Further information regarding the defence of Portland harbour can be found in 'Portland in the Past'. William Goold (1886): August 1814, it was decided by the 'committee of public safety', to throw up a battery for heavy guns at Fish Point, the most easterly point of the neck, 'for the use of the sea fencibles'. This was a company of shipmasters and mates, whose commander was Captain John L Lewis. These water batteries were alluded by Longfellow in these lines: "I remember the bulwarks by the shore and the fort upon the hill". The Sea fencibles were militia units specifically formed to defend ports and harbours, from the blockades of the British Navy. Interestingly John's first wife Rebecca Browne was related to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow via her mother's line.

John was also involved with the local Episcopal Church, St Paul's church Portland, and was one of several men chosen to attend the first Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maine, 3 May 1820 alongside Simon Greenleaf Esq.

Simon Greenleaf, a lawyer, was a prominent Maine Freemason, known as the 'Father of Maine Freemasonry'. He assisted in the creation of the Grand Lodge of Maine and was its second Grand Master. He also helped in establishing Harvard University's School of Law and served as a Professor there for many years. A medal bearing his name is presented by the Grand Master every year, 'to Freemasons who have contributed their time, thought and services to Masonry beyond the usual line of duty'.

Triangle Lodge No1 was constituted in 1762, by the Provincial Grand Lodge of America, under the authority of the Premier Grand Lodge of England, the first Master of the Lodge being a Colonel serving under King George III, and the first Treasurer, a patriot Brigadier General. Maine became a State in its own right and joined the Union in March 1820. The Grand Lodge of Maine was created just three months later, on the 1st June 1820.

Captain John Lindsey Lewis would have witnessed these important events. He passed away in Portland on 21 January 1825 just four days before his 53rd birthday, he is buried in Eastern Cemetery Portland Maine (opened 1668).

It is with good reason that we are told to look after our Grand Lodge certificates, thank goodness John Lindsey Lewis did.

Original article by Caroline Crook, archivist at Warrington Museum of Freemasonry



The grave of John Linsey Lewis

Meet our new AtoProvGPs



In February, after 10 years' service to the South Fylde Group as Group Mentor, Group Secretary and finally Group Vice Chairman, Dave Barr was appointed an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals overseeing the Royal Arch in the North Fylde, Blackpool and South Fylde Groups.

Dave has lived in Lytham St Annes for 25 years, one of the many in-comers to the Fylde coast, having been born and raised on the other side of the Pennines in the East Riding of Yorkshire. His family has been Yorkshire folk for many generations; however, it was a work opportunity in British Aerospace, Warton for their IT Services Provider plus the fact that his wife, Helen, a Lancashire lass, relished the possibility of leaving the east to go to the west that prompted the move to Lancashire.

Dave joined British Aerospace in 1979 after gaining a degree in Mathematics from Aston University and had many technical and leadership roles before being outsourced to a large US IT services company, Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) in 1994. More leadership roles followed before taking on senior European and Global roles in Process Improvement and Process Management becoming a Certified Six Sigma Black Belt and ITIL trained before finally taking early retirement in 2012. Since then, a chance encounter at a festive board lead to working part time in the Funeral Business, treating the deceased with dignity and respect and providing a professional service for the bereaved at a difficult time.

He was initiated into the Lodge of Triumph No 1061 in April 2001 becoming master in 2009, exalted into St Annes Chapter No 2457 in September 2003 becoming first principal in 2010. He is a past master of Brigantes Lodge No 9734 in the Province of Cumberland and Westmoreland and is a member of a number of other lodges and chapters. He has also been active in other Masonic Orders and has progressed through the chair in a number all of which he has been a member. He had the honour of being the Scribe Nehemiah of the Province in 2017, which he greatly enjoyed and was appointed to the Grand Rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer this year. Dave had no previous connection to Freemasonry, though the fact that Helen's grandpa was a Durham Mason did help with family approval, and was introduced to the lodge by a neighbour and friend with whom they shared school runs.

When not involved in Freemasonry, Dave is a keen cyclist and has managed to cycle over 3,700 miles since the beginning of lockdown last March losing over 3 stone in weight in the process which has necessitating a new suit for when we can meet again. He and his wife have been crown green bowlers for a number of years, enjoy travel, walking and like to tour the UK with their caravan when able, particularly Cornwall and the north east where Helen has family roots and the Lake District. They have two daughters, one in their bubble who lives locally and the other living in Bermuda with her husband and their two sons. They love to spend time with them and are looking forward to a lifting of travel restrictions to see their two grandsons again.

Dave says that he is looking forward to his role as an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, having the opportunity of being involved in promoting and influencing the Royal Arch in West Lancashire. He is keen to visit the groups and halls within his area of responsibility as well as the rest of the Province, renewing the acquaintances made in his previous roles and building on those friendships as he attempts to fill the shoes of his many distinguished predecessors.

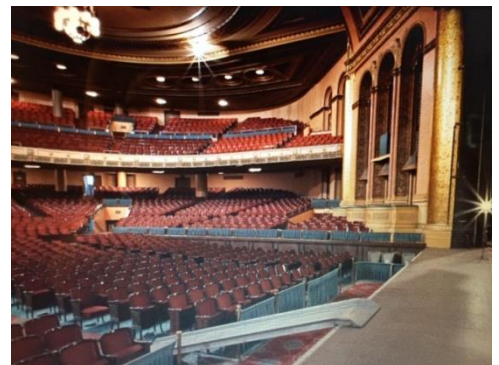
Sam's picture quiz: Answer to issue 18



So Sam's last picture quiz was the Detroit Masonic Temple - the world's biggest Masonic Temple.

Construction began in 1920 with the corner stone laid September 1922 with the trowel used by George Washington during the construction of the Capital Buildings. The photo on the left shows crowds at the foundation ceremony. Note the EAs hanging from the statue which also sports an EA apron.

The building has a large theatre with a capacity of 4650. Other facilities include a swimming pool, 16 lane bowling, 2 ballrooms, 2 more theatres, a gymnasium, drill hall plus 8 Craft lodge rooms – 1,037 rooms in total.



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

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