



# WEST LANC'S NUGGETS

## "PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST"



**Issue 20: 28 April 2021**

### Royal Arch Focus Groups launched



During the month of May, companions at random will be selected to take part in a number of Focus Group discussions via Zoom, in order to share their views and experiences of the Royal Arch in the Province. The information gathered will help to support both present and future developments aimed at making the Order both enjoyable and understandable.

To ensure a free exchange of views, each meeting will be hosted by an independent honest broker – a companion from the Province who is not part of the Royal Arch Cabinet. Therefore, if you're invited to take part, please take this opportunity to share your opinions and ideas which will remain completely anonymous.

### Who's that calling?

We seem to be being bombarded with an ever-increasing number of scamming/phishing calls/texts/emails from unscrupulous criminals. Here's some advice that may prevent you from being taken in by these individuals who prey on the vulnerable in our society.

**Typical attempts to contact you include calls/text messages/emails from:-**

- HMRC regarding outstanding payments
- BT regarding unpaid bills and threatening disconnection
- OFCOM regarding service level agreement
- ROYAL MAIL asking for payment of £1.99 to deliver a package
- MICROSOFT requiring access to your computer due to potential viruses, limited performance etc

**The subject of the call, text message, email may vary, but they have two things in common:**

- a. They will try every conceivable way possible to access your bank account
- b. They will want access to your computer

**The end result will be to take as much money from you as they can, so to avoid this just follow this advice:**

1. NEVER ring them back
2. NEVER give your bank details to anyone, no matter how convincing they may sound
3. NEVER allow them access to your computer
4. NEVER open an attachment in an email that looks remotely suspect. Delete it straight away, If it is genuine, someone will write to you

### Missed these meetings? Catch up via the two links below



Andrew Ridal, Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary, discusses preparing to meet again, contingency plans and other considerations, installations and elections and provides general guidance.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffMYN7s\\_CmY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffMYN7s_CmY)



In lieu of the Annual Provincial Meeting watch the Provincial Address and other key items via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg8eAP-KPrk>

## Duncan Smith: AProvGM for the Fylde

In February 34 years ago, my dad asked if I would like to join Broadwater Lodge No 9027 in Fleetwood, a lodge that he helped found back in 1982. From the various social events I had attended I knew that all the members were at least 20 years older than me so I politely declined. A few days later he said: "Your interview is a week on Friday", and as they say the rest is history. From the very moment I joined I knew that Freemasonry was going to play a big part in my life and I wasn't wrong. I rapidly moved through the offices and shortly after finishing as WM my Dad, who was the director of ceremonies at the time, became District Governor in Rotary and asked me to hold the fort for one year until his year was over. Eight years later I handed over to the ADC.



*Duncan and Karen in relaxed mode*

Freemasonry has certainly helped me in my career as a medical research scientist working at The University of Liverpool, a big part of which was presenting at conferences all over the world. The experience and practice I gained in public speaking through Masonry enabled me to gain in confidence and increased my presentation skills immeasurably which I am sure is the case for many of our members.

I have been very lucky to have had many high points during my Masonic career including WM and DC of the Provincial Grand Stewards lodge, Quingenti Lodge No 8516. Senior Warden of the Province and Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals. My appointment to Assistant Provincial Grand Master is the icing on the cake and would have made my dad so proud. Unfortunately, dad passed away five years ago but I was delighted he was around when I received appointment to grand rank. My time on the North Fylde Group as Secretary, Vice Chairman and Chairman has given both Karen and myself so much pleasure and we have made many friends along the way. I was privileged to work with a fantastic team of group officers and without their help and support I am sure I wouldn't be in this position today. I learnt so much about all aspects of Freemasonry during those years which I am sure will assist me in the challenges which lie ahead.

The part of Freemasonry that Karen and I enjoy the most is meeting people from all walks of life and my position as Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals enabled me to travel the Province and meet brethren and companions from all the different groups. The welcome I have received has been, without exception, tremendous and quite humbling and I thank all the brethren and companions for that. During my three-year stint on the Royal Arch Cabinet one of the most enjoyable meetings I had the privilege of presiding over was excellent companion Bill Eardley's, past Blackpool Group Chairman, 50th celebration. These are rare occasions in the Royal Arch but in my new role as Assistant Provincial Grand Master I already have 15 in my diary so it looks like very busy times ahead. I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the very active Royal Arch Cabinet and I will continue to fly the flag on my future travels and I look forward to the new initiatives they develop.

Without the support of Karen, I would not have been able to put the amount of time and effort into the many offices I have held and I am most grateful to her for ushering me out of the door to attend meetings with a smile on her face. Karen was the Chairperson of Fleetwood Masonic Hall Ladies Committee for many years and along with her team hosted the annual barbeque at our house which raised much needed funds for both the Masonic hall and local charities. When I am not involved in Masonic activities, I enjoy DIY, some serious tasks during lockdown, computers, maintaining our cars and three years ago our grandson Freddie came along which as you can all imagine has brought us great joy and has made the lockdown bearable, especially as he only lives one mile away from us.

We are currently encountering very different and difficult times, not only in Masonry but also as a nation. To survive and flourish as an organisation it is essential that we are dynamic and forward thinking and I am delighted to have joined a Craft Cabinet that can do just that. I am very much looking forward to returning to our lodges and meeting up with everyone again and supporting this wonderful Province of ours and continuing to uphold the values of Freemasonry which are as relevant today as they have ever been.



*Birthday treat in an Ariel Atom at the Three Sisters Track, Wigan*

## West Lancashire Masonic Charity Bowling Tournament

The West Lancashire Masonic Charity Bowling Tournament is one of several clubs and societies within Freemasonry in our Province. It is one of the various separate activities complementing the more well-known methods of fund raising for charity throughout the Province. Without them the substantial sums raised for charities could not possibly be achieved.



The tournament was conceived in 1934 when a number of Liverpool brethren met one evening to play a game of bowls and decided to contribute the proceeds towards Masonic charities. From this small beginning, the event has become a permanent fixture in our Provincial calendar and to date raised over £418,000 for charities. The money raised still goes mainly to Masonic charities, particularly the West Lancashire Freemasons' Charity, and of course any West Lancashire Festivals that

have been held. Projects for both Ecclesholme and Tithebarn retirement homes and some non-Masonic charities do benefit as well.

The current Chairman of the Tournament is Harry Cox, well known to many of you as a Past Assistant Grand Master, and he is supported by a committee which includes a team of representatives from each group in the Province

You will have heard it said on a number of occasions by some lodge members: "Why are we giving money to the golf, shooting and bowling societies? Let them raise their own monies", which is really missing the point. Of course, these societies do raise money for charity, and they also pay for any fees necessary to participate, but these events are held for a number of reasons, not least to enable like-minded people to get together enjoying their sport and at the same time raising further funds for those less fortunate than themselves.

The Bowling Tournament raises money by each group organising a local event where each lodge in the group is invited to be represented by as many bowlers as possible and each lodge is asked, if able, to make a donation to the Tournament. These local events vary from group to group, for example one group has the bowling event supported by family and friends, during which a raffle is held and each competitor pays a fee to play in the competition.

The most successful competitors from each group are invited to represent that group at the Provincial final which is held in July each year at a different venue within the Province depending upon which group has been invited to act as host.



*The two wardens presenting the prizes in their year of office*

Each year the retiring Senior and Junior Wardens of the Province are invited to be the President and Vice-President and 'for that privilege' to donate prizes for the winner and runner-up. On the day of the Provincial final the wardens accompany the Provincial Grand Master, together with other officers of the Province and their wives, to support the event and present prizes. The third and fourth prizes are donated by the host group and there are also prizes, donated by other groups in the Province, for the semi and quarter finalists.

The winner receives the Cowper Trophy named after the first Chairman of the Tournament and the runner-up receives the Crewdson Trophy. They are also presented with a permanent medal originally known as Crewdson medals and now provided by Dr Khine Lynn from the South Fylde Group. There is also a secondary competition, for those eliminated after playing only one game, and this is for the Cyril McGibbon Trophy.

Sadly the 2020 and 2021 finals have been cancelled but we look forward to holding next year's event at Fox Lane Sports & Social Club, Leyland hosted by the Ormskirk and Bootle Masonic Group on Saturday 16 July 2022. We also look forward to meeting our friends across the Province once again, something that we have missed over the last 12 months.

It is hoped this article has helped you to understand what the tournament is about and you will encourage your members to support it. Further information is available from [trevorbarber@gmail.com](mailto:trevorbarber@gmail.com)



*The Cowper Trophy for the winner*

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