



WEST LANCS NUGGETS

“PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST”



Please note – this issue has an additional and separate supplement

Issue 22: 9 June 2021

Marathon Man update: Adam Eeles



In issue 19 of Nuggets, there was a reported on a member of Old Masonians West Lancashire Lodge No 7702, Adam Eeles, and his great support of the West Lancashire 2021 Festival by running the London Marathon. Here’s Adam’s update on his training programme to-date:

“The 20-week 17 May 2021 marathon training has begun! I decided I was going to do a 16-week plan and I sort of might still do that however the plan/combination of plans I am using is a very steady 4-week build-up which to get back into a proper routine.

Since the marathon was cancelled in 2020, I gained some lockdown weight and took my foot off the training. I started this year weighing 15st 9lbs. I am starting my training back now at 13st after putting some effort in to get my weight down!

I am so thankful already for the donations that have been given, over £2,600 already in the bank, a target of £3,000. I would appreciate any donation given and can assure you that the funds given will be greatly received by the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Please follow my journey over the next 20 weeks via Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/adamrunrun/> and if it gets too much all the running pictures, just un-follow me. It has taken 12 years to try and run the London Marathon and I am soooooo glad I get to do this on behalf of a charity very close to me. Let’s go!”

Please support Adam and the Festival via:

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

2021 Banquet sold out



All 670 tickets for the Celebration Finale Banquet of the Masonic Charitable Foundation 2021 Festival on Saturday, 18 September have now been sold.

The banquet secretary, Malcolm Alexander, has informed Nuggets that a waiting list for tickets has been started beginning with brethren from whom he has received a booking form on or after 7 May 2021.

With effect from 7 May 2021 all requests for tickets will be placed on the waiting list but only on receipt of the completed booking form.



Wear your Jewel with pride at the Banquet

To view the list of Royal Arch appointments/promotions for 2021/22 click the link below:

<https://www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/All-groups-West-Lancs-Nuggets-issue-22-supplement.pdf>

Masonic Resuscitation Toolkit: Stewart Cranage, Provincial Grand Mentor

Few of us could have comprehended that February and March 2020 would be the last Masonic meeting we would attend for a considerable time. For the first time in history Freemasons have been unable to meet. We faced our challenges regarding membership and retention before lockdown and we would be very naïve to simply assume we can pick up directly from where we left off. It may be many years before Freemasonry recovers to the same fraternity we once knew and loved. Indeed, it may never fully recover to exactly the same form of Freemasonry. Survival in sufficient numbers (of halls, lodges and members) will undoubtedly be a challenge, but one that we should all rise to. Every one of us has a significant part to play. With sufficient planning and change of mindset at lodge, group and Provincial level, we must develop a coherent survival plan. Such a plan cuts across many disciplines and everyone's opinion counts.

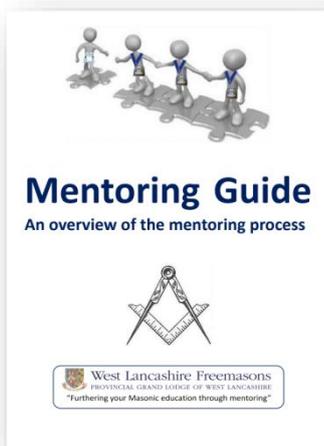
Many initiatives were underway before lockdown, for example Runway and Pathway, and these are examples of just two items in our Masonic Resuscitation Toolkit. We need to acknowledge that many of our future initiates will come via the internet and will be unknown to the lodge to which they are ultimately directed. We tend to be negative with initiates in waiting, saying we are sorry that they probably will not get the full initiation ceremony; perhaps instead we should be saying they will all have their place in history as the first post-COVID initiates recorded in the annals of Freemasonry.

As Freemasonry slowly rises from its deep slumber, we find ourselves in a highly unique situation and this requires a unique response. During the last 18 months there are some who may have realised that they have not missed Freemasonry as much as they thought they would, they may have adjusted their lives accordingly, others may have found new hobbies to fill the void that Freemasonry once occupied. Others, despite the arrival of a vaccine, may justifiably feel reluctant to return too soon. Brethren that do return may feel most unhappy about the interim changes that have been implemented in our halls and in our ceremonies to conform to the various government regulations. This fundamentally changes the role and focus of the almoner, membership and mentoring offices in particular.

We must maintain regular contact with those who choose not to return immediately, address the concerns of those who dislike any imposed interim changes, demonstrate far more empathy than we have ever needed to show previously, whilst at the same time build on existing initiatives to enhance our membership and retention.

There are 3 key areas as Provincial Grand Mentor I am currently engaged in:

- Runway - working with Neil Ward, our Provincial Grand Membership Officer, to build a healthy pipeline of qualified candidates, maintaining their enthusiasm as they wait the final day of their initiation.
- Pathway - as a member of the Pathway Working Party, the previous version of Pathway is being simplified, no longer viewed as a journey from A to B but cyclic in nature with easier and direct access to the level of detail required.
- Mentoring - I am currently rewriting the Mentoring Handbook, which although only a guide, now needs to contain specific guidance relative to post COVID Freemasonry and specific actions we all need to consider.



Stewart will be continuing his update in the next edition of Nuggets focussing on lodge planning

Andy Whittle on Liverpool Community Radio



It was a welcome opportunity when Assistant Provincial Grand Master Andy Whittle was invited to be a guest on the New Daily Croissant show on Liverpool Community Radio hosted by Alma Brady.

LCR FM is a brand-new radio station for the city of Liverpool and is the city's first and only OFCOM licensed community radio station, with a reach in excess of 200,000 listeners. It therefore gave Andy an ideal opportunity to share with the community the value of our organisation and to dispel some long-founded myths.

Andy explained how the three ceremonies help to make good men better.

In what turned out to be a most engaging and friendly interview, Andy was able to explain a lot about Freemasonry in an open and frank way, and covered topics such as the origins of Freemasonry, women Freemasons, religion, the hierarchy and structure, and membership,

dispelling some of the inaccurate rumours and myths which historically have tainted public perception.

You can hear the interview, in video format, by clicking on the link below:

<https://vimeo.com/552639947>

Around the Northern Provinces

This is the first of a series of articles about our neighbouring Provinces in the North of England. We kick off in this edition of Nuggets featuring the Province of Northumberland.



In 1734 Matthew Ridley became its first Provincial Grand Master. He was Mayor of Newcastle on 4 occasions and sat in 5 successive Parliaments from 1747 to 1774.

The present Provincial Grand Master, John James Craigs (*see opposite*), was installed in September 2014 by MW Bro Peter Lowndes, the Pro Grand Master. The Province has just over 3,120 Craft members and some 1,200 Royal Arch companions meeting in 26 Masonic buildings with Alnwick being the most Northerly home for Freemasons in England. The Almoner of Alnwick Lodge No

1167 came across the grave of RW Bro Henry George Percy, the 7th Duke of Northumberland and Provincial Grand Master of the Province between 1869 and 1886. Whilst conducting research on behalf of the lodge and the Province he found that the graves of both Henry and his wife, Lady Edith Campbell, were overgrown and in a very poor state in Lesbury Church Yard. Over the course of the 6 to 9 months from its discovery in May 2019 the Duke's grave and that of his wife were completely renovated. The surrounding wall was rebuilt and, with the permission of the church, the Province organised and arranged for a stone plaque to be inserted into the surrounding wall in February 2020, just prior to the implementation of restrictions during the first lockdown.



On the home page of Province's website is a brief YouTube video posted about Freemasonry in Northumberland – take a look via this link: https://youtu.be/cuhfC_waVcQ

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

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