



WEST LANCS NUGGETS

“PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST”



Issue 24: 21 July 2021

The end of Nuggets: Paul Renton, DepGSupt

This issue marks the end for Nuggets which was first published on 1 April 2020. Its aim during the COVID-19 outbreak, being emailed to every subscribing member of the Province, was to keep everyone in touch with Freemasonry during the lockdown. Who would have thought that some 16 months later we would still not be back to full Masonic activities? However, Monday saw the move to Step 4 of the roadmap in England with the relaxing of lockdown restrictions and a move to personal responsibility. My colleague in East Lancashire, Martin Roche, made a telling comment on Twitter recently when he said: “As we return to meetings, it made me reflect on not attending if unwell – period. How many times in the past have you been greeted by someone coughing/sneezing, telling you that are feeling terrible? It’s not just COVID-19. We all need to think and behave far more responsibly.”

On the theme of keeping in touch, in issue 2 our Provincial Grand Secretary highlighted the introduction of weekly Q&A webinars run by his deputy, Andrew Ridal. These have developed over the months into a fantastic set of inputs, not only providing regular updates for secretaries and scribes but through a series of guest speakers from the Province and indeed other Constitutions and Orders. Well done Andrew – your work has been very much appreciated.

Our Provincial Grand Mentor, Stewart Cranage, highlighted in issue 4 the importance of keeping in touch with members via the use of social media - Nuggets has continued to provide great examples of this via the use of Zoom. Kevin Poynton, PAProvGM, hit the nail in the head with his personal reflections in issue 5: “It’s true to say that we are not going to be able to meet person to person as we use to any time soon it’s up to each and every one of us to ensure that our brothers will still have that commitment and enthusiasm when we do meet again now is the time to tell each and every brother just how much he is appreciated and how vital he is to the success of the lodge and the future of freemasonry.”

On a personal note, I was recently listening to the views of a younger brother who said it was great that his lodge had held a weekly Zoom meeting for its members but that he’d only heard once from the almoner of his chapter plus a separate request for his subs! A far more positive picture in the Royal Arch was the attention drawn by Nuggets to the regular newsletter compiled by his scribe Ezra Brian Lawrence.

So, in drawing the shutters down on Nuggets can I take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to all those who have contributed articles since April Fool’s Day in 2020. In particular, a big thanks to Frank Parle, a member of the Provincial Publicity Team and Web Editor, who has ensured that the 24 proofs sent to him have been knocked into shape for publication and distribution.

Continue to stay safe brethren and companions.

Re-starting meetings

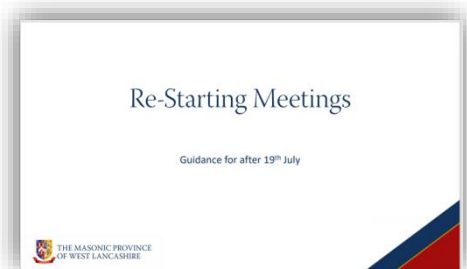
At the 68th and last in a series of Provincial Webinars, a number of points were covered regarding the re-starting of meetings. Subsequently, the Provincial Secretary will issue to all secretaries and scribe Ezra’s a summary of what needs to be considered when returning to meetings including the emergency measures that will still remain, such as being able to meet on a Sunday.



In closing the webinar Tony Harrison, our Provincial Grand Master, said: “May you, your families and all of your loved ones stay safe and well. I look forward to being in your company in the near future and may you all continue to enjoy your Freemasonry.”



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Universities Scheme Relay Challenge 2021

As reported in the last edition of Nuggets, the first week in July saw this national challenge arrive in NW England, with walkers transporting the replica of the DKW Cup from Chester to Lancaster, weaving in and out of the Provinces of Cheshire, West Lancashire and East Lancashire; before the cup was driven up the M6 from Lancaster seven days later, arriving safely at Durham Masonic Hall prior to commencing a journey across the North East!



Christleton / Chester to Liverpool then Warrington to Manchester

Members of the University Lodge of Liverpool No 4274 safely transported the cup from Christleton, Chester via the Mersey Ferry to their meeting place at the Liverpool Medical Institute. It was handed over to Palatine Chapter No 2447, the East/West Lancs University Chapter, when on the following Monday morning they set off from

Warrington after a hearty breakfast at the hall (plus a splendid cheque from the group) to walk along the A57 via the Eccles and Salford Masonic Hall to reach The Manchester Hall and a greeting from Sir David Trippier, East Lancashire's ProvGM.



Bolton to Preston



The brethren of Goulburn Menturia Lodge No 3478 from the University of Bolton, then received the DKW Cup and began a journey from East to West Lancashire, going from Bolton to Preston via Chorley, headed by their WM Govan Almadrones. The team ultimately met up with the Provincial Universities Scheme Officer John Stanley, in a leafy Preston Park, to hand over the cup. Also present was Steve Croasdale from Ingol Lodge of St Margaret No 8544 in Preston, as this lodge is currently trialling the Universities Scheme with respect to membership from UCLAN (University of Central Lancashire) and hopes to be accepted eventually as another full scheme member.

Preston to Lancaster

The cup next headed up the main A6, when a group of brethren from City of Lancaster Lodge No 281 walked from Preston and Garstang, to the Lancaster Masonic Hall at Rowley Court. It was a very humid day, one which threatened rain; but fortunately, the walkers were spared this. The team sampled the delights of rural North Lancashire with the market town of Garstang, the Lancaster Canal and Galgate Marina being visited; along with the campus of Lancaster University, where several of the walkers have been students. For the latter stage of the walk, the city brethren were joined by Geraldene Greenhalgh, Grand Inspector for Lancashire in the Order of Women Freemasons. Local AProvGM Keith Kemp, Lancaster Group Chairman Neil McGill and Chairman of Rowley Court Keith Heys, provided a much-appreciated welcoming party for the participants, and after receiving the cup from city lead walker Connor Isted, Keith and Neil joined everybody in refreshments. A final photograph was taken featuring some of the walkers with the cup, at the gates of nearby Lancaster Castle.



Lancaster to Durham

The DKW Cup left both West Lancashire and the NW of England, with a journey made by John Stanley the following day, to Durham Masonic Hall. A warm welcome awaited him from John Arthur the ProvGM of Durham, as well as newly appointed assistant Clinton Leeks, Chairman of the Universities Scheme in Durham. After a formal handover of the cup, there followed a very welcoming bacon sandwich, and a friendly tour of the hall by the ProvGM. Finally, the team of walkers led by Clinton, then left Durham for Newcastle. The trophy then headed towards Tyneside, with its week in the Masonic Provinces of Cheshire, West Lancashire and East Lancashire, truly completed.



(Thanks to WBro John Stanley for the majority of the words for this report plus the pictures. You can see much more about the Cup's journey on John's Twitter feed:

<https://twitter.com/WLancsUniSchJNS>

LOI on the Fylde: Terry Stevens-Lewing, Secretary

The Fylde Group Lodge of Instruction No 65 (FGLOI) has been working its ritual since its foundation in 1948, and although the lodge has the Provincial Grand Master (ProvGM) as its lodge president, we have had many distinguished presidents for the Annual Festival we hold each year. These have included the Sir Knowles Edge, Bt, ProvGM, Sir Archibald D Orr Ewing, Bt., Grand Master Mason, Grand Lodge of Scotland and our current ProvGM James Anthony Harrison. It might be interesting to note that our ProvGM went on to be the President of the Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in London, taking a considerable following with him in a fleet of coaches, as well as many brethren who made separate travel arrangements.

The FGLOI is now based in the South Fylde area but we have members from all over the Fylde coast and when we can resume our Masonic meetings, we intend to resume meeting twice a month on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Monday at The Palace in St Annes.

The FGLOI cover the emulation ritual book as laid down by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in London, however, we know that lodges do have their own rituals, so we are quite understanding when you slip into your own working, unless you're taking a team part during the festival, then it's strictly by the book!

I've mentioned the festival and you could be asking what this is. Well, a quick question for you, have you ever heard of the Green Book? Don't worry most brethren haven't to be honest. It's the ritual book that breaks down the different degrees into lectures and each degree has seven sections, each one explaining a different part of the ceremonies.

Each year the preceptors choose three different sections, one from each of the three degrees to be worked. Those being worked involve two brothers one to ask the question and one to answer them.

The rest of the festival team is made up of the WM and his lodge team, overseen as always by the DC and the senior preceptor.

We have a programme of works that comes out prior to the start of the Masonic season in September and that runs until the season ends in April. We practice the opening and closing of the lodge, the three degrees and the installation ceremony, However, we do sometimes change our practices if a lodge or individual wants to practice a particular piece of ritual ready for a ceremony.

If you have a particular question then it's the best place to ask it, as you get a 'by the book' answer, covering everything from how to carry a wand correctly, to the correct procedure for holding ballots.

The FGLOI also lets you take a post that you would like to practice; so, do you fancy being a WM for the night, or do you just want to practice being an inner guard? Either can be arranged.

The lodge of instruction gives you the skills and confidence, not only to perform ritual but to help you in other aspects of your Masonic life.

Over the years we have had some outstanding brethren perform in the lodge of instruction, and it would be amiss of me if I didn't mention one particular brother, namely Arthur Lea, PPrDGSuptWks. Arthur has been in the FGLOI for many years and is one of only 10 brethren to complete the matchbox and all strikes. This means he has gone down to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in London and performed a perfect ceremony, not once but 4 times. We can all appreciate how hard it is to deliver a



ceremony on a normal lodge night but try it under the scrutiny of the senior London preceptors and without making a single mistake. Arthur has now gone on to join the preceptor's team so if you ever want to have a go at doing a matchbox, you can rest assured that at least one of them is from West Lancashire.