



# WEST LANCS NUGGETS

“PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST”



**Issue 23: 30 June 2021**

## ‘Top of the Province’ helps out once again!



On Sunday 23 May 2021 the annual Brathay Marathon took place once again after last year’s cancellation due to the COVID pandemic. The event is staged to raise funds to assist various charitable endeavours, a healthy proportion of which are located within or around our Provincial area.

As in previous years members of the Furness and South Lakeland Group, assisted by their family and friends, volunteered to help in marshalling the event which undoubtedly contributed considerably to its success. If you’re not up to running the 26 mile you might like to take a trip around the route in five minutes via this YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/E8OYDyVXo5I>

## University Scheme Challenge

Avid readers of First Rising will have noted in the latest edition that the UGLE Universities Scheme has challenged all of its 80 plus member lodges to take part in a walking team relay, covering the length and breadth of England and Wales. The challenge set is to visit every Masonic venue where a scheme lodge meets, and in so doing complete an appropriate 2021 miles, as Freemasonry emerges from what has been a unique 2021 and 2020.

The #Challenge2021 walk will set off from Freemasons’ Hall, London on 9 June, heading south east and travelling broadly clockwise around the country, before returning to Great Queen Street at the Quarterly Communication meeting on 8September.

To add to the occasion, the challenge will also include the scheme’s DKW Loving Cup, acting in the role of baton, passing from lodge to lodge as they end and begin their respective legs of the journey.

In our region on Sunday morning 5 July the University Lodge of Liverpool No 4274 will claim the cup (over tea and biscuits) from Cheshire at Christleton Masonic Hall and walk mostly along the A41 to Liverpool Masonic Hall. Members of Palatine Chapter No 2447, the east/west Lancashire University Chapter, will then take over the cup that evening and on the following morning from Warrington Masonic Hall companions will then walk along the route of the A57 to Manchester Hall via Eccles and Salford Masonic Halls. From here via several ingenious manoeuvres the cup will then arrive at Preston Masonic Hall on the on 9 July when members of the City of Lancaster University Lodge No 281 will walk the cup to Lancaster.



The Universities Scheme believes the walk, in celebrating a much-anticipated return to Freemasonry, will:

- Promote engagement between Scheme lodges;
- Promote Freemasonry in general;
- Help raise funds for the Duke of Edinburgh Memorial Fund, established by UGLE.

Progress of the walk can be followed on social media using #Challenge2021 and donations which will be gratefully received from all Freemasons can be made by using the QR code opposite. A full report on the progress of the DKW Loving Cup through our region will be included in the next edition of Nuggets.

## Mysteries of the Royal Arch: The Third Grand Principal



SOLOMON  
LIVE

Early in June, The Third Grand Principal, Most Excellent Companion Gareth Jones, MBE, was the guest of Solomon Live.

Over 1,200 people were in the audience to hear him speak about the mysteries of the Royal Arch (RA). This included over 140 attendees who were not yet members (Nuggets sincerely hopes that they will now be inspired to join having heard Gareth).

Gareth spoke clearly and passionately about the Order describing how he joined the RA along with his brother in South Wales and what he most enjoys about being a RA companion. He then answered a series of questions ranging from what were the links between the Craft and the Royal Arch to why we have a United Grand Lodge and not a United Grand Chapter.

Asked when he joined Freemasonry if he ever envisaged the he would end up as the Third Grand Principal as well as the Provincial Grand Master of his Province he simply said: "Good God, no!"

In a recent trawl of Provincial websites in England and Wales many different phrases are used to describe the mysteries of the RA, indeed, how they endeavour encapsulate it? Garth captures its essence by explaining: "It's very colourful, enjoyable, with rich ceremonial and language – I love the story and love listening or taking part in its rich meaning and how when you join it has a 'wow' factor." If you would like to see his talk you can do so via this link to Solomon:

<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/course/view.php?id=116#section-2>

If you'd like to join the RA simply approach your lodge RA contact or the group RA lead who is usually the group vice chairman. Alternatively, complete the enquiry form on the Provincial website:

<https://www.westlancsfreemasons.org.uk/members/royal-arch/enquiry-form/>

## Around the Northern Provinces

In the second of a series of articles about one of our neighbouring Provinces in the North of England we feature Yorkshire North and East Ridings. Shown shaded red and blue opposite, the Province covers one of the largest geographic areas in the North of England, some 3,200 square miles.

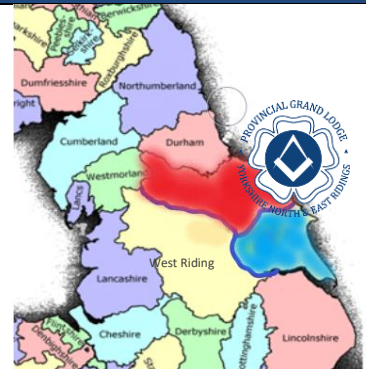
Historically, the forefathers of Freemasonry saw the need to divide the biggest county in England onto the three Ridings, a word derived from the old Norse *thrithjungre* meaning 'third part', which later evolved into the old English *thriding*. The three Ridings were the North, East and West Ridings, whose boundaries met and encircled the ancient City of York which was independent of them all.

The Province shared its early history with their sister Province of Yorkshire West

Riding. Initially the North and East Ridings were overlooked with only a leader appointed for the West Riding. Then a Provincial Grand (PGM) was appointed for the whole Yorkshire in 1771. But as the Provincial system developed and Masonry grew, by 1817 it became clear that the Province should be split, which Grand Lodge did to form the two Province that are still in place today.

The first PGM of the Province was the Rt Hon Lawrence Dundas, 1st Earl of Zetland, which started a long and happy association with the Earls and Marquesses of Zetland. The current PGM is Jeffrey Gillyon (*seen opposite*) who was invested and proclaimed at a special meeting in March 2014. Jeffrey is also the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province Yorkshire North and East Ridings.

Currently the Province has 3,117 Craft members and 1,500 in the Royal Arch, with 98 lodges and 54 chapters meeting in 35 different Masonic halls. Travelling between the far reaches of the Province, Leyburn in the North West to Hornsea in the South East, would take just over two hours to cover the 102 miles.



**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)