

members home personal computers, which we still do today.

Over these past 50 years, there have been some 120 subscribing members of Park Hall Lodge of which 66 were initiates and the rest being Masons joining from other Lodges. Sadly it became apparent that Freemasonry was not suitable for everyone. A small number of brethren found it not suitable to their liking and then resigned, which was regrettable but accepted by the members of the Lodge.

Park Hall Lodge has always prided itself on the great support given by the wives, partners and families of its members. Indeed, without that support, many Lodges can only be the weaker. The 'Park Hall Ladies', as they call themselves, meet often and help organise their own - and Lodge - social events and raise money which they donate to various charities of their own choice - including Masonic charities - for which we are most grateful. We are even more grateful for the tolerance they show by 'allowing' us out several times a year to attend our own Masonic evenings and for their patience in ironing our shirts and brushing our suits. We, in turn, try to repay that kindness by wining and dining them at our annual Ladies Night dinner and ball.

Since those early days, members have maintained a happy, relaxing and thriving Lodge, with a considerable number of Brethren receiving Provincial Grand Lodge honours over the years. The work within the Lodge has been of a high standard, commented on favourably by Senior Members of the Craft.

In the March of 2020, all masonic meetings were suspended nationally due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Members kept in touch with each other by phone or the internet and regular 'virtual' meetings were actively encouraged by United Grand Lodge. After almost 18 months without face-to-face contact, the suspensions were finally lifted, thankfully just in time to permit Park Hall Lodge to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Tuesday, October the 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 will be our first lodge meeting since the start of the suspension.

In conclusion, the current members believe that throughout these fifty years, all our predecessors have tried to uphold those original dreams of our Founders and we hope to continue to build from their tenets to strive to maintain a happy and thriving Lodge for many more years to come.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF PARK HALL LODGE No. 8375



### The First Fifty Years - 1971 to 2021

#### Souvenir Edition

For the past fifty years, the members of Park Hall Lodge have strived to achieve the Founders' dreams of maintaining a happy, thriving Lodge and in providing this brief history, we have attempted to show how it has progressed. We trust it will encourage the newer members to carry on the Park Hall traditions for the future benefit of the Craft in general and the Park Hall Lodge No. 8375 in particular.

In late 1969, WBro's Fred Lyons, Ronnie Entwistle and Albert Letheren, all of Perfect Ashlar Lodge No. 5246 which met in Southport, decided to see if was possible to form a new Masonic Lodge based in Ormskirk. They, along with other brethren, notably WBro's Bill Brown, Harry McKee, Jim Swift, Ted Hughes and a number of junior brethren met at the Masonic Hall in Ormskirk to discuss the way forward. So in the August of 1970, some sixteen Brethren forwarded a petition to the Provincial Grand Secretary, also suggesting three possible names for the lodge, Park Hall Lodge (from 'Park Hall Restaurant' - the original name of the Ormskirk Masonic Hall), Parbold Lodge and Park Lodge. History shows that their first choice proved successful. A Warrant was granted on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 1971 and duly signed by the founders.

Due to the already heavy commitments of the Provincial team in those days, the consecration could not be scheduled until 2:30 p.m. on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 1971, at the Masonic Hall, Park Road, Ormskirk, since when all our subsequent Lodge meetings have always been held. Following the consecration, a further five brethren joined at the first regular meeting as Associate Joining Founder members of the Lodge, though not Founders in name.

On the morning of the consecration, the brethren were summoned to meet and practice all their various duties and perambulations. A remark

made by one of the brethren was that they thought they were back in the army, as all the directions were ordered by numbers! The rehearsal was overseen by WBro Kenneth Moxley, the Provincial Assistant Director of Ceremonies, due to the absence that morning of WBro Alan Fletcher Ferris (the Provincial Director of Ceremonies) who, along with the Provincial Grand Master, were busy elsewhere attending the funeral of yet another Provincial Grand Master.

By lunch time, WBro Moxley was satisfied with the rehearsal and at 2.30pm, by now under the direction of WBro Ferris, the Ceremony of Consecration took place. The Consecrating Officer was Right Worshipful Brother Sir Knowles Edge, Bt., Provincial Grand Master. The ceremony being conducted by Very Worshipful Brother The Rev. Richard Kenyon Leigh, Past Deputy Grand Chaplain, Deputy Provincial Grand Master as Installing Master, assisted by WBro Lewis Aspinall Pardey Past Grand Deacon, Deputy Assistant Provincial Grand Master. The whole proceedings being held under the direction of WBro Ferris, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Later, at the festive board, some 120 brethren sat down to a truly festive banquet, which together with wine, put everybody at ease - especially the Founders of the Lodge! The toast to the Master (WBro Fred Lyons) was given by WBro Pardey wishing the Lodge a successful future. The evening ended long after the Principal Officers had retired with the members of the Lodge celebrating well into the night after such a long day. And so ended the first chapter that had started in 1969 to establish a new Lodge.

It was decided that Park Hall Lodge would meet six times a year but a problem that had not been foreseen was that for the January Lodge meeting, every seventh year would fall on New Year's Day. Hence in January 1974, the meeting was moved to a Friday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of January. At a later date, permission was granted to move the January meeting and in future, lodge meetings would be February, March and April. Again another unforeseen problem arose in that the September meetings, our first meetings of the masonic year - being on the first Tuesday - was also proving to be lacking in numbers, due mainly to holidays. It was therefore agreed to move the meetings to October and November with December being the Installation meeting.

In the early years, it was not unusual to see two ceremonies take place at a single meeting - so was the demand to join Freemasonry in those days. But in these latter years, life being the rush that it is and with changing priorities, suitable candidates are proving more difficult to recruit.

Nonetheless, over these past fifty years we have had some 130 subscribing members of Park Hall Lodge, 72 of whom were initiated into the Lodge and the remainder joining from other Lodges. During that time there

have been a number of brethren who have followed various members of their families into Freemasonry, becoming second and even third generation Masons. Needless to say, not all of those generations were members of Park Hall Lodge, but still a trait which is by no means uncommon in Freemasonry.

Two of the Founding Members, Bro George Leatherbarrow and Bro Bryan Leatherbarrow were father and son. The very first two Initiates into Park Hall Lodge, David Ginsberg and James Drummond, were both sons-in-law of the Founding Installed Master, WBro Fred Lyons. David and Jim were both initiated by Fred at the first regular meeting of the Lodge.

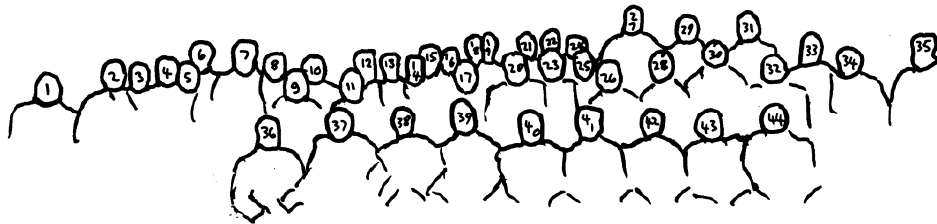
In March 1972 an Initiate of the lodge, Bro Ian Gregson, was joined by his father Peter who was in turn initiated into Park Hall Lodge. Whilst in March 1993, Bro David Roberts was joined in our Lodge by his blood brother Allan. Later in 2004, David's son Graham was Initiated into Park Hall Lodge. WBro Stuart Cunningham, who was a joining member from Claughton Lodge No. 3915 in Cheshire, initiated his own son Andrew into Park Hall Lodge in 2005. Another Initiate into Park Hall Lodge, WBro Martin Howell (initiated in 1977) is a third generation Mason and although Liverpool Masons, both his father and grandfather had died quite some years before Park Hall Lodge was even consecrated. Alistair Frew is another Lewis (son of a Mason) who was initiated in 1995 into Park Hall Lodge. Jonathan Allwright, the son of WBro John (the last remaining Founder of the Lodge) was initiated into Park Hall Lodge in 2005. Jonathan resigned Freemasonry in 2014 due to other commitments. However, our most recent "family member" is Bro Colin Maxwell, the nephew of WBro John Glover who initiated him into Park Hall lodge in 2014. There were one or two other members with slightly more distant connections, but the masonic family links are there.

In 1995, the Ormskirk Masonic Hall Association Committee asked that each Lodge which met at Park Hall subscribe to having a painting of their individual lodge insignia displayed within the Masonic Temple. This started some interesting research within Park Hall Lodge when trying to determine the history and authenticity of our own insignia, particularly as it had seen some minor cosmetic variations in its design and colours over the years. It transpired that the original design was by a graphic artist who had been commissioned by WBro Ted Hughes to draw a 'Hall in a Park'. The final design was a black line drawing approximately twelve inches in diameter and as far as we can ascertain the design has no masonic connotation or connections. Based on this design, the jewels for the Founders were made. Later and on the back of each jewel, the Founders name, rank, and date of the consecration were engraved.

In the early 1990's with the cost of printing started to become significant and particularly as the original printer's dies had unfortunately become lost, we resorted to re-building and reprinting our insignia using our



**Park Hall Lodge No.8375 Consecration 25<sup>th</sup> October 1971**



- |                    |                   |                         |                     |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 W Gray           | 12 John Baybutt ? | 23 Bryan Leatherbarrow  | 34 A Osborne        |
| 2 W Dodgson        | 13 Harry McKee    | 24 E Houghton?          | 35 Bill Brown       |
| 3 Frank Cowburn    | 14 Alex Weaver    | 25 Sammy Kemp           | 36                  |
| 4 Harold Macro     | 15 Jim Swift      | 26 Derek Gill           | 37 H Fry            |
| 5                  | 16                | 27 Jim Freeman          | 38 Lewis Pardey     |
| 6                  | 17 Harry Isaacson | 28 George Leatherbarrow | 39 Sir Knowles Edge |
| 7 J White          | 18 John Allwright | 29                      | 40 Fred Lyon        |
| 8                  | 19                | 30 Alan Fletcher Ferris | 41 Rev. R K Leigh   |
| 9 Ronnie Entwistle | 20 Derek Handley  | 31 Edward P Hughes      | 42 Arthur Foxton    |
| 10 J C Pennington  | 21 John Millin    | 32 K Moxley             | 43 Tom Counce       |
| 11 Daniel Fulton   | 22                | 33 Tom Hesketh          | 44 J Rothwell       |

PARK HALL Lodge, No. 8375

Meeting at Mamie Hall, Cornsirk  
25<sup>th</sup> day October 1971

Consecration : .....

CONSECRATING OFFICERS.

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Consecrating Officer Knowles Edge

Installing Master R. Luff

S.W. Lawrence

J.W. Frank Cowburn

Chaplain Thomas Cooper

Secretary John

D.C. Alan James DGC. DGC. DGC.

S.D. C.S. Brown

J.D. J.H. Swain

Swd.Br. Dan Jones

Std.Br. James Thomas P. STD E  
H.C. Thomas

I.P.M. James E. Freeman

I.G. W. Gray

Presenting Officer Thomas Counce P.G.D.

" " John Russell PAGDC

Against Christ Watson

TYLER:- J. H. Austin

STEWARDS:- W. A. Counce  
Thomas

" John

" James Counce  
A Osborne

D.D.C. 1 James Counce  
2 A Osborne  
3 J. S. C.

**Consecrating Officers 25<sup>th</sup> October 1971 – Tyler's Book**

## Some of the 'Characters' in the Lodge



**WBro Gordon Critchley – Installation 1989**  
(L-R) Billy Hill, Gordon Critchley and Fred Porteous



**WBro Fred Porteous – Installation 1988**



**Bro Doug Daykin – 2004**

Back Row L-R  
Wesley Woodside, David Roberts, Len Jones, Alistair MaCauly,  
John Lufkin, Billy Hill, Gordon Critchley, Fred Porteous,  
Bert Beddows, Alan Gerrard, Ray Betton, Jackie Wroe,  
Bert Fillingham and Geoff Parker

Front Row L-R  
Peter Gregson, David Ginsberg, Jack Coulton,  
Jim Swift and Des Jenkins