



## Lancaster & District Group of Lodges and Chapters

Volume 8 Issue 5

# NEWSLETTER

January 2012

# CARNFORTH AND WARTON BRETHREN KNOCK MASONRY INTO A COCKED HAT

## **THE HOME OF FREEMASONRY in Carnforth is about to change with the acquisition of new premises.**

Previously known as the 'Cocked Hat Club' the premises will provide much-improved facilities and access but a great deal of work needs to be undertaken before the brethren can start to enjoy their new surroundings.

After some delays, work has now started to transform the building and the first 'working party' has entered the premises to start clearing the remains of the old club.

The building will be known as 'Kerneforde Hall' from the old name for Carnforth which is derived from the town's old function as a ford of the River Keer, on which it is situated. Over time the descriptive name 'Keer-ford' may have morphed into Carnforth. The name could also be derived from the old Anglo-Saxon name for the town which was 'Chreneforde' so it is certainly aptly named for a new home of 'antient freemasonry'.

The Carnforth Masonic Hall Company has purchased the site shown highlighted on the plan (right) with the future Masonic Hall and car park shown edged in red. Although the building has enjoyed a number of uses over the years some brethren fondly remember it as the Church of England primary school before the new school was built on North Road. The old school playground will be the car park for the new hall.

### **PASTURES NEW**

Carnforth lodges first moved to pastures new in 1977 when they relocated from the Masonic Hall located over the old stables in the Royal Station Hotel to the present premises at 1 John Street, Carnforth, previously owned by the Co-operative Society.

However, the present move has been brought about due to the rising costs of maintaining the old building on John Street and the fact that access for brethren with restricted mobility is very difficult - the lodge being accessed by a narrow staircase which is unsuitable for a stairlift.

In contrast the new premises, although still accessed by stairs, will have a stairlift, disabled toilets, parking for disabled and up to 15 other vehicles, and a larger temple.

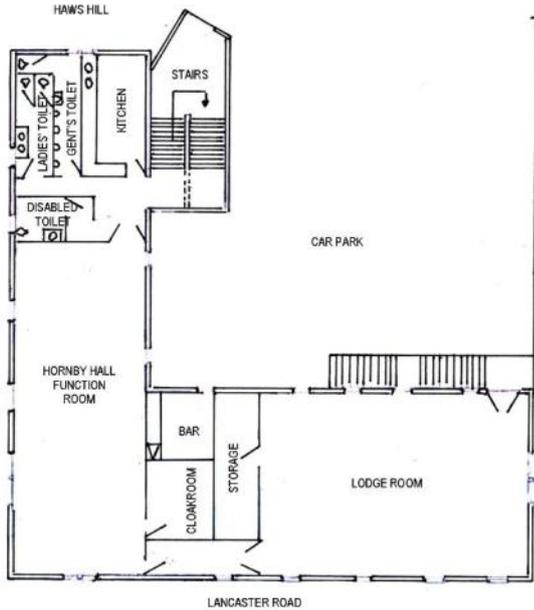
It is also hoped to obtain a full premises licence to provide a venue for commercial functions.



*Continued on Page Two*

# Carnforth's new Masonic home: **CAN YOU HELP?**

The brethren of Carnforth and Warton are obviously eager to take advantage of the new premises as quickly as possible but are faced with a massive task with a great deal of work to be done to get the temple up and running.



Above: Schematic of how the new premises will look.

It is hoped that much of the work can be accomplished by the brethren themselves and any offer of assistance from across the group, whether you are a tradesman or just a willing pair of hands, would indeed be most welcome.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting project for the good of Freemasonry either

Ian Birnie 01524 823914 e-mail: [tib@tesco.net](mailto:tib@tesco.net)  
or Roger Nevinson 01524 732878 e-mail: [johnnevinson@talktalk.net](mailto:johnnevinson@talktalk.net)

would be delighted to hear from you.



Right: Wrecking crew: pictured from left: Richard Blenkarn, Ian Birnie, Fred Frobisher, Roger Nevinson and Bob Skelly

*Editor's note: 'Cocked Hat': a hat popular at the end of the 18th century that had turned up (ie cocked) brims. They were usually tricorn (three-cornered) hats and were often worn as part of some form of regalia.*

*'To knock into a cocked hat': an expression which conveys an intention to pummel somebody - or something - so severely that its appearance is altered!*



## Phoebe enjoys her centenary

**PHOEBE HOLMAN** has celebrated her 100th birthday at the Mayfield Residential Home in Morecambe.

The widow of Arthur Holman, who was a long-serving member of Poulton Hall Lodge prior to its amalgamation into Poulton-le-Sands Lodge No 1051, Phoebe was delighted to see Ernie Greenhalgh, Regional Care Officer, who brought flowers, chocolates and a card which had been signed by all the members of the lodge at the Christmas meeting

# JIM'S JOTTINGS

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE GROUP CHAIRMAN

Brethren,

A very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year to you and your families. I hope you will all continue to enjoy your Freemasonry throughout 2012. We are barely four weeks into the New Year and already changes have taken place within the Province and I do wish those brethren the best of health and every success for the future and assure them of the continued support of the Lancaster and District Group; and of course some of our brethren will have received the letter from Province offering them first appointments and promotions in Provincial Grand Lodge and Chapter. The Group Officers do congratulate them all and look forward to the company of the acting officers in the months ahead. I remind them, as I do every year, that what they have received is not only for what they have done in the past, but also what we expect from them in the future in the continued support to their lodges, brethren and also to the group.

January started fast and furious with three installations and two 50 year celebrations at which we have enjoyed the company of three Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, the Provincial Grand Secretary and the Provincial Junior Grand Warden whilst in the Royal Arch we had a visit from the Second Provincial Grand Principal, all of whom have been most welcome and who got the group off to a flying start for the coming year. In the group we have made two new appointments with Jason Rhodes taking over from Richard Dennison as the Group Clay Pigeon Representative, and Malcolm Cambridge taking over as the Group Bowling Representative from Trevor Barber. I thank Richard and Trevor for their past efforts and congratulate and thank Jason and Malcolm for taking on these duties.

Our Group Social Secretary is working hard promoting the Group Ball to be held on May 19. Details are available from your lodge Charity Steward and Group Representative who will be able to book you in with Neil. There is also a booking form on the Group Website. Neil tells me bookings are already starting to roll in and as numbers are limited it looks as though it will be a sell out once again - you have been warned!

I am delighted to see some of our lodges have already agreed to support City of Lancaster Lodge by carrying out some of the second and third degree ceremonies for them. This year will see a concerted effort by our University Co-ordinator, John Stanley, to attract students into Freemasonry. We have various ideas to help the lodge with their ceremonies and I hope we will all play our part as the University Scheme continues to develop.

As we embark on another year I am sure there will be other changes coming along as Freemasonry continues to move forward, and I am sure I can count on your continued support to help us implement them, brethren, and I wish you all well.

*Jim Wilson*

<b>CRAFT INSTALLATIONS</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>LODGE</b>	<b>ATTENDING</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
16 Thursday	City of Lancaster 281	J A Harrison PAGDC, APrGM
20 Monday	Plantagenet 9357	I Boswell PAGDC, APrGM
21 Tuesday	Wyreside 2605	J H Wilson PAGDC
22 Wednesday	Poulton-le-Sands 1051	H Jones PSGD, DepPrGM
<b>MARCH</b>		
7 Wednesday	Lune 4724	K S Kemp PAGDC
21 Wednesday	Longridge 8077	C C Butterfield PAGDC
27 Tuesday	Garstang 6633	I Higham PAGDC
28 Wednesday	Carnforth 4951	J A Harrison PAGDC, APrGM
<b>ROYAL ARCH INSTALLATIONS</b>		
<b>MARCH</b>		
5 Monday	Great Eccleston 8895	F Clarke PGStdB
5 Monday	Morecambe 1561	To be confirmed
8 Thursday	Heysham 4108	S Reid PGSwdB, DGSupt
12 Monday	Knott End 8674	S Reid PGSwdB, DGSupt

## 'A remarkably fine ceremony' at Silverdale

'A REMARKABLY FINE CEREMONY' was how Assistant Provincial Grand Master Terence (Terry) Hudson described the installation at Silverdale lodge No 6926.



*Pictured from left to right: Terry Hudson, Darren Holden, Brian Dobson and Jim Wilson*

It was certainly an opinion shared by all those brethren present who saw Anthony (Tony) Jackson install his son-in-law in an exemplary display of ritual.

The small but delightful lodge room was packed to capacity including Grand Officers Colin Penty Wright, Group Chairman Jim Wilson, Peter Mason, Michael Davies, Tom Jackson, Alfred Routledge and Norman Milburn.

The retiring Master, Brian Dobson, thoughtfully vacated the chair of the lodge to allow Tony Jackson, the lodge charity steward, to install his son-in-law Darren Holden. This family connection with the lodge extends to Tony's late father who was also a long-serving member of Silverdale.

Continuing the family ties, the Master-

Elect was presented by David Jackson who is Darren's brother-in-law and who proposed Darren into Freemasonry. David also delivered the address to the Master in a most excellent manner.

The address to the wardens was given by Frank Clarke and the address to the brethren by Joseph Dixon. Regular readers of the Newsletter may recall that Joe celebrated 60 years in Freemasonry in March last year and obviously continues to work very hard for the lodge which was clearly demonstrated by his superb delivery of the address.

The working tools of an installed master were given by Peter Mason in his usual 'professional' way but it was the explanation of the working tools of the three degrees given by junior brethren of the lodge which particularly brought universal acclaim.

The working tools of the third degree were delivered by Andrew Martin and those of the first degree by Michael Jackson. Carl Horrax really excelled with a perfect long explanation of the working tools of the second degree. All three brethren deserve, and were given, great credit for their work.

At the close of the ceremony Terry Hudson brought greetings from the Provincial Grand Master and added his own greetings and compliments to all who had taken part in, or assisted with, the day's proceedings.

He was delighted to receive from the immediate past master Brian Dobson a cheque in the sum of £1,700 in favour of the West Lancashire Freemasons' Charity.

The Festival of St John was held at the Longlands Hotel, Tewitfield, Carnforth, where some 77 brethren enjoyed a superb banquet and a most enjoyable evening which also saw a raffle raise the sum of £366

## Longridge members 'do their bit' for heroes

**HELP FOR HEROES** is a charity which raises money to support members of the Armed Forces who have been wounded in the service of their country.

They ask their supporters to "do their bit" to show these extraordinary young men and women that they are cared for.

Longridge Lodge No 8077 did its bit at an open dining festive board at Wyrebank, Garstang, when members, wives and friends raised £440 for the charity.

Catherine O'Conner, representing Help for Heroes was delighted to receive a cheque from WM Graham Timbrell (*pictured right*).



## From Butcher's Boy to British Empire Medal: Fred celebrates 50 years in Freemasonry

**FREDERICK (FRED) SCHOFIELD** of Morecambe Lodge No 1561 has chalked up 50 golden years in Freemasonry celebrated in a ceremony led by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Tony Harrison held at the Masonic Hall, Morecambe.

From time spent as a butcher's boy whilst still at school Fred went on to chart a commendable career both professionally and in the service he has given to the community which resulted in his being awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 1989 thereby becoming a Knight of St Paul's in London.

Fred's working life saw him start as an apprentice electrician with the then Morecambe and Heysham Electrical Corporation which was subsequently nationalised to become what we now know as Norweb. His apprenticeship was interrupted by two years in the Royal Navy where he served in the electrical branch on a range of war-ships.



*Pictured from left to right: WM Bryan Cambridge, Group Chairman Jim Wilson, Fred Schofield, Tony Harrison, Barrie Crossley PrDGDC*

Returning to complete his apprenticeship, Fred went on to become responsible for all departments on the commercial side of the local Norweb organisation.

However, it is for achievements in his personal life that Fred is perhaps most renowned.

His superb singing voice has rendered Master's and Ladies' songs more times than he would probably care to count and has won him many awards at music festivals including the coveted Rose Bowl of the Morecambe Musical Festival.

Fred's work in the community is nothing short of prodigious and started when he was a very young man raising funds for his chapel and for the Craggs Nursing Home in Morecambe. He has worked diligently over many years for the Morecambe Men's Committee, of which he is now chairman, and was seen every Sunday evening pushing a trolley around the wards of the Queen Victoria Hospital to provide amenities and essentials for the patients.

From volunteer driver taking nursing home residents on outings, a distinguished local magistrate, a school governor, football referee, vice-chairman of Lancashire County Council Social Services Group, past chairman of the Morecambe Bay Probus Club, and keen supporter of the Motor Neuron Disease Society, Fred's service to the community has certainly been exemplary.

Fred's Masonic career started in December 1961 when he was initiated into Morecambe Lodge. After serving in every office of the lodge Fred became Master in 1978 and went on to become assistant director of ceremonies for one year and then director of ceremonies for the next ten years before taking the office of assistant secretary and secretary for a further three years. He also honoured Morecambe Lodge by serving as a director of the Morecambe and Heysham Masonic Hall Company for some ten years. Fred's Masonic labours were in turn honoured with his being appointed to the acting rank of Provincial Grand Steward in 1983 and promotion to Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon in 1987 and to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1993.

Exalted into the Holy Royal Arch of Morecambe Chapter No 1561 on November 1, 1971 Fred became First Principal of the Chapter in 1982. He attained Provincial Grand Rank with an appointment to Past Provincial Assistant Grand Sojourner and was subsequently promoted to Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 1997.

He has been the President of the Carnforth Masonic Study Circle for over ten years.

Fred was presented with a commemorative certificate from the Provincial Grand Master by Tony Harrison who went on to wish him good health and much happiness for the future.

## David takes the reins at Duke of Lancaster

**DAVID GRANT** took up the reins at Duke of Lancaster Lodge No 1353 on his installation as Master in a ceremony held at Rowley Court, Lancaster, attended by **Geoffrey A Lee** as the representative of the Provincial Grand Master, and Grand Officers **Jim Wilson** and **Chris Butterfield**.



*Pictured from left: Geoffrey Lee, David Grant, Bob Tyson, Jim Wilson*

The retiring Master Bob Tyson performed an excellent ceremony, ably assisted by officers of the lodge. David was proposed by Richard Rayner and the address to the Master was delivered superbly by Graham Earl. Other addresses were given in an equally excellent fashion by Michael Walling (address to the wardens) and Alan Physick (address to the brethren).

Paul Fenton presented David with a fine explanation of the working tools of an installed master which was later followed by superb explanations of the working tools in the three degrees by junior brethren of the lodge. The working tools of the third degree were delivered by Steve Stanley, those of the second degree by Owen Denton-

Reed and the first degree working tools by Craig Fubara.

As the ceremony drew to a close Geoffrey Lee brought greetings from the Provincial Grand Master and added his own congratulations on an interesting and sincere occasion. He was delighted to receive from the Master a cheque from the lodge in the sum of £1,000 in favour of the West Lancashire Freemasons' Charity. Other charity and good causes donations from the lodge included £500 to MacMillan Nurses, £500 to St John's Hospice and £500 to the Lancaster Masonic Hall Building Fund.

### LOVING CUP

After the ceremony some 81 members and guests enjoyed the Festival of St John banquet in the Rowley Court banqueting hall at which the lodge's 'Loving Cup' was passed around.

This 'Loving Cup' originates from a lodge meeting held in June 1896 when George Jackson asked the brethren to receive from him a Loving Cup as an expression of the pleasure he had derived from occupying the Master's Chair in the lodge.

The cup was apparently passed around the lodge room on installation meetings after 'calling off' to drink to the health of the Master, prior to resuming labour to conclude the proceedings.

The tradition endured until 1916 when the minutes of the installation did not record the passing of the cup. The reason is not recorded but could well be associated with the war and it may have been thought inappropriate in the circumstances.

Mention of the Loving Cup was not restored following the war, however, and the lodge has now decided to reintroduce its use, but at the Festival of St John rather than in the lodge room. The cup is filled with port and, starting with the Master, and in keeping with tradition, it is then passed to the left around all the diners.

The raffle at the festive board raised a very commendable £382 which was further supplemented by £60 from the visiting masters.



*David Grant prepares to take the first sip from the Loving Cup*

## Frank's 50 golden Masonic years

**FRANK HODGKINSON of Wyreside Lodge No 2605 has reached the golden milestone of 50 commendable years as a Freemason, celebrated in a ceremony led by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Philip Gunning at Wyrebank, Garstang.**

After starting his working life as an apprentice draughtsman for General Electric in Preston, Frank's career was, of course interrupted by National Service which was spent as an engineer in the merchant navy with the Blue Funnel Line sailing out of Liverpool during which time he attained the rank of third engineer.

Leaving the sea in 1958 he returned to the drawing office to work on designs for diesel engines that would herald the demise of the steam train.

Always seeking to improve himself, Frank moved on first to Gullicks in Wigan which specialised in equipment for the mining industry and then to James Watkinson in Bamber Bridge as Chief Draughtsman.

However, during this time Frank and his dear wife Violet – to whom he will celebrate 58 years of marriage this year - had opened a glass and china shop in Preston, which led to the opening of another shop in Penwortham.

Even so, Frank knew that his destiny lay in other directions, and with the full support of Violet, he enrolled on a three-year teacher training course followed by a further year at Lancaster University where he gained his Bachelor of Education degree.

His first teaching post at St Francis C of E Primary School in Blackburn was followed four years later by an appointment to Deputy Headmaster at St Paul's in Warton and then in 1981 Frank became the Headmaster of St John the Evangelist School in Accrington where he remained until his retirement in 1995.

Even in retirement Frank still strove for self-improvement and went on to obtain a Diploma in Professional Studies in Education.

Despite his busy professional life Frank and Violet still found time to give service to the community. Whilst in Accrington Violet was a Pastoral Auxiliary and Frank became Secretary of the Parish Council Committee.

Moving to Garstang in 2003, a move largely prompted by Frank's Masonic commitments and to be close to the many friends both he and Violet have in the area, they both became sidespeople at St Thomas' Church and have been prodigious fundraisers.

Until very recently Frank was on the Board of Governors at St Thomas' Primary School and helped with classes on a voluntary basis.

Frank's Masonic career is no less impressive than his professional one.

He was initiated on 16 January 1962 by his proposer Harry Hoyle who also conducted Frank's third degree ceremony in October the same year.

Appointed Assistant Secretary in 1965 he went on to become Secretary in 1969 going on to the floor of the lodge as Junior Deacon in 1972 and Master in 1976.

Whilst still a Master Mason Frank wrote the History of the Lodge for its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and later the Centenary Handbook.

He became lodge secretary again in 1979 for some ten years and then again in 2004 but will eventually retire from the position this year after a total incumbency of some 24 years.

Appointed to the very high rank of PPrDGSuptWks in 1987 Frank eventually received a well-earned promotion to PPrJGW.

Frank's hobbies include wood-turning and wood-carving. He has provided the three gavels used at the lodge's festive boards and also a commemorative gavel for each Master upon his installation.

Philip Gunning commended Frank on representing all that is good in Freemasonry, citing him as a shining example to us all and wishing him and Violet all the very best for the future.



*Pictured from left: Barrie Crossley PrDGDC, David Ainsworth WM, Frank Hodgkinson, Philip Gunning, Jim Wilson group chairman.*

## Robert takes the Chair at Lodge Amounderness

**ROBERT IRWIN** was installed as Master of Lodge Amounderness No 7105 for the ensuing year at a ceremony held at Wyrebank, Garstang, attended by the Provincial Junior Grand Warden **Ian Sanderson** as the representative of the Provincial Grand Master, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master **Tom Blackburn**, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters **Teddie Dickson** and **Bill Huck**, and Grand Officers **Colin Williams**, **Don Richardson**, **Gordon Payne** and **Ernie Rhodes**.



*Pictured from left: Ian Sanderson, Robert Irwin, Stephen Pemberton, Martin Baxendale*

The immediate past and installing master **Stephen Pemberton** conducted an excellent ceremony aided by the officers of the lodge who all played a full part in the proceedings. Robert was presented by **Mike Threlfall** with whom he has a close connection as they both joined the police force together too many years ago to dwell upon! Mike also gave the address to the Master in an exemplary display of ritual.

The attending officer **Ian Sanderson** delivered the address to the wardens and the address to the brethren was given by **Gordon Payne**.

The working tools of the third and first degrees were given by **Ian Cuerden**, the lodge secretary, and **Graham Davies** respectively, in the very competent manner we would anticipate from such experienced brethren. However, it was the presentation of the second degree tools by a relatively junior member **Hal Hamer** which brought great acclaim from the assembled brethren when he delivered the long version of the explanation of the working tools in a most impressive and faultless manner.

At the conclusion of the ceremony **Ian** brought the greetings of the Provincial Grand Master, adding his own congratulations on a most sincere and dignified occasion. He was delighted to receive cheques for charity and good causes in the form of £750 to the West Lancashire Freemasons' Charity, £500 to the Rosemere Cancer Care Unit at the Royal Preston Hospital, and £500 to BLESMA (British Limbless Ex-servicemen's Association).

The Festival of St John was held in the Wyrebank Banqueting Suite attended by over 60 members and guests who raised over £460 for charity.

### Lancaster & District Masonic Group of Lodges and Chapters

# GROUP BALL

Saturday 19th May 2012

Reception with Drink 6.30 to 7p.m.

Three-course Dinner, Music, Dancing, Entertainment and Raffles  
Gateway Suite, University of Cumbria, Bowerham Rd, Lancaster LA1 3JD

TICKETS £26 Per Person

Booking Forms available from Lodge Secretaries, Scribe E's, Group Representatives,  
Group Social Website OR Neil McGill 46 Burlington Av, Morecambe, LA4 5XN  
Tel 01524 417288 e-mail: [social@lancastermasonicgroup.org.uk](mailto:social@lancastermasonicgroup.org.uk)