

Oldham District News Letter

Supporting Oldham District Masons

Provincial Grand Master



The MW The Grand Master, has been pleased to appoint WBro Sir David Trippier, RD, JP, DL, PAGSwdB, to the office of Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of East Lancashire.

Brethren, our Provincial Grand Master Elect has had an outstanding career in the military, business, politics, and government. His detailed CV can be found on the PGLEL web site; however, I have done a small synopsis of his CV.

David was initiated into masonry by his father in 1968 at the age of 21 into Keystone lodge in Rochdale. He joined Centurion Lodge in 1971 and became Master in 1976. In 1996 he became a member of Royal Arch and first principal in 2003. David was born in 1946 and was educated at Bury Grammar School after which he joined the military reserve and was later commissioned as an officer in the Royal Marines in which he served for 30 years. He subsequently qualified as a Company Commander at the School of Infantry at Warminster.

He is the President Elect of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association-Forces Help for Greater Manchester.

He was elected to the Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council in 1969. In 1975 he became the leader of the Council when he was 28 years of age and in the same year was appointed a magistrate. Sir David was knighted by the Queen in July 1992 when he was 46 years of age. He is married and has three sons. His wife, Lady Ruth Trippier is a practicing barrister on the Northern Circuit.

WBro Sir David Trippier will be installed as Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire on

22nd February Tiling at 11-15am @ King Georges Hall Blackburn

Provincial Carol Service

St Ann's church was well attended for the Christmas carol service held on Sunday the 11th



December organised by the Provincial Grand Officers' Lodge 3747. The Rev'd Nigel Ashworth, Rector of St Ann's Church, welcomed the entire congregation to the carol service especially the Masonic Fraternity. The service consisted of carols sung by the entire congregation interspersed

with lessons read by Comp: Philip Meehan, Comp: Jozef Markisz, Comp: Andrew Jenkins, EComp: Colin Firth, EComp: Peter Banks, EComp: Graham Johnson, EComp: Michael Whittaker, EComp: William J Porter, EComp: the Rev'd Donald Pryce. The Chetham's Chamber Choir gave a wonderful performance singing several lesser known Christmas carols.



The Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge WBro Derek Nelson Thornhill addressed the congregation, thanked them for their attendance and wished them all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. During the last carol a collection was taken in support of St Ann's Church and the 2015 Festival

Festival Donations

£803,141.54

The total income includes all gift aid, bank interest and direct debits as at December 2011.

A Big Thank you.

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Oldham District Widows Party

This year more than 50 Widows were chauffeured to and from their homes to the 2011 annual Widows Christmas party which was held at the Middleton Masonic Hall on Tuesday the 14th December. The party began with a welcome from the District Chairman WBro David Dunn to all the ladies who came each year and a special welcome to those ladies who have not been for several years and to those ladies who were attending for the first time. He then introduced the principal guests of the evening, consisting of WBro David H Thompson –



Chairman of the 2015 Festival and his wife Lesley, together with WBro Alex McLaren and his wife Lesley. Other guests present were WBro Peter Clegg and Mrs Clegg (deputy district



chairman), Chairman of the Middleton Masonic Hall WBro Steven Briggs, WBro Howard Nuttall and Mrs Nuttall (widows party secretary), WBro Jack Ball – responsible for organising the stewards for the evening.

David offered apologies on behalf of the treasurer, John Dixon and his wife Gill, for not attending due to adverse weather conditions. His final introduction was of himself and his wife Janice.



All the Ladies enjoyed a festive menu beautifully prepared & presented by the Middleton Catering staff and liquid refreshment was served by five members of Werneth Lodge 6163, dressed as cowboys.

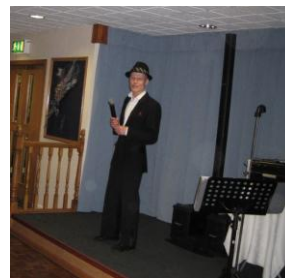
After the meal David Thompson proposed the toast to the ladies and Alex McLaren responded on behalf of the ladies and thanked all who had worked to

make the evening such a success. He gave special thanks to the catering staff at Middleton for the wonderful meal and finished his speech by wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.



After the formal part of the evening the widows were entertained by Alan Burton 'The King Of Swing'. He started his act with a medley of

Christmassy songs with 'Let it Snow' and invited the ladies to sing along with him, and continued with a wide selection of songs.



Following the raffle for the table prizes Alan Burton returned to the stage and many ladies took the

opportunity to have a dance with each other or a steward.



At the end of the evening the ladies were presented with their Christmas Gift and finally the evening closed with the Chairman David Dunn wishing

everyone a safe journey home and hoped they had enjoyed themselves.

Departed Merit

WBro Trevor Styles 1936 – 2011

Trevor was proposed into his father's Lodge Victory Lodge no 4128 in the province of Cheshire in April 1963. He became a member of Albert Lodge 854 in 1999, and Jubilate Lodge 8561 in 2002. During his nearly 50 years in Freemasonry he has been a member of Knights Templar, Mark, RAM, and Royal Arch Chapter. He was honoured in 2002 by being appointed a Grand Lodge Officer with the rank of PAGDirC

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Our APGM - Alex McLaren's New Year thoughts

Brethren,

It is now just over 2 years since I was Invested as an APGM, with responsibility for the Oldham and Rochdale Districts, and John has once again invited me to contribute a few words for the Newsletter.

Perhaps I should begin by publicly saying what a wonderful service John is providing. A regular Monthly Newsletter with informative articles, plenty of photographs, distributed by email or hard copy and on the electronic Bulletin Boards at Shaw and Middleton.

Just on that point of Bulletin Boards, I hope that you will agree with me that they are a helpful and a quick reminder of what we are doing and what is going on, while you have a quick drink before or after the Meeting or the Social Board? and remember Brethren that others use our Buildings so it can also inform them of what we are really about. Most of the content of the Newsletter is also on the Provincial Web Site where our colleagues in other Areas can also be aware of what we are doing in Oldham.

For me there are two specific areas that bring the most satisfaction:

- The work done by the District in the Community and
- The Personal Celebrations

They both provide opportunities for Brethren to work together towards a common aim. They both provide enjoyment, in slightly different ways and they both provide the satisfaction of a job well done.

The work at Hewlett Court has been very well received by all involved with the ELMC and the Orchard House Project, with the inherent difficulties in gaining approval to proceed, has been very widely acclaimed, with articles in most of the local papers.

I am sure that WBro Eddie Baines and his team are already planning the next opportunity.

The Personal Celebrations enable us to recall the past and remind ourselves of the environment that

our celebrants endured when Initiated some 50 years ago and what they were born into up to some 90 years ago. We have had some wonderful Celebrations in Shaw and Middleton this year.

It may already have come across to you, but I should say that I am still very much enjoying the Office and the opportunity to serve both Districts. It is also true to say that I have had my eyes opened up to some aspects of our organisation that were previously unseen by me. We all have something to learn

Some 12 months ago I made the following statements:

"So what lies ahead ??

The truth is none of us know!! but we can have some influence on the future.

We must ensure, and by we, I mean everyone of us, not just the current WM and Officers, not just the Past Masters, not just the newest Brethren each and every one of us

- *that all of our Meetings are conducted in a proper and fitting manner, that they create an environment that encourages all the Brethren to attend and if at all possible participate in the proceedings and enjoy the Meeting.*
- *that the content of the Meeting, the Agenda, attracts Members and Visitors. There is so much material available from the Province and so many willing volunteers that it is simply not acceptable or desirable to issue a Summons that has little or no attraction to Brethren and Visitors.*
- *that we protect and look after our newest candidates. They should not be rushed through the Ceremonies and they should not be pressured into delivering pieces of Ritual ... they should be supported and encouraged to progress at their own pace."*

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I am delighted to say that I see all these aspects demonstrated to a greater or lesser degree on all my visits.

In the Province of East Lancashire we are in the midst of some considerable change.

- The death of our PGM, RW Bro Jack Price, has saddened all who knew him, but he would have wanted all of us to move on and implement the changes which he initiated.
- The Boundary Changes, which have not impacted Oldham District, are still in their infancy and there is work to be done to establish these new Areas.
- We Invested a new Deputy PGM, WBro Derek Thornhill, at Provincial Grand Lodge on the 17th November. Derek is a very experienced APGM and a Past APGP. We also Invested a new APGM, WBro Chad Northcott, with responsibilities for Salford.
- We have recently announced the Appointment of WBro Sir David Trippier as the new PGM for the Province.
- We also Appointed a new Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro John Farrington.

Brethren, that is a lot of change, but for Freemasonry to continue and thrive we must all embrace change and that starts with how we attract more members.

I am pleased to observe that the Lodges in Oldham District continue to attract new Candidates. I would only ask if we could attract a few more, but at the same time, maintain the quality and look after all the Brethren.

There has been some considerable work undertaken by the Executive in the last 6 months to determine what we could/should do differently to attract and retain members. I expect this to be in the public domain early in 2012 watch this space Finally, Can I wish you and your families a Happy and Prosperous New Year and please, please, enjoy your Freemasonry

Oldham District & Provincial Calendar of Events 2012

- 22nd Feb Installation of WBro Sir David Trippier as Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Chapter @ Kings Hall Blackburn.
- 15th Mar Provincial Grand Chapter @ King Georges Hall Blackburn. **Has Been Brought Forward To The 22nd Feb**
- 22nd Mar Joint Convocation @ Rochdale Masonic Hall.
- 4th May Provincial Officers Reception @ Middleton Masonic Hall.
- 12th May Passing of the Veil Ceremony @ Rochdale Masonic Hall.
- 18th May Masters In Office Dinner @ Shaw Masonic Hall.
- 1st Jun 2015 Festival Area Gala Dinner @ Rochdale Town Hall.
- 8th Jul Inter Hall Bowls Competition @ Coalshaw Green Park.
- 15th Jul Garden Party @ Middleton Masonic Hall.

Masonic Humour

All our readers will note similarities with this story.

This is a story about four lodge members. Their names are WBro Everybody, WBro Somebody, WBro Anybody and WBro Nobody.

There was an important job to be done in the lodge and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!!!