



THE COLUMN



THE ROCHDALE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Issue 23

November 2010

CHAPTER OF HOPE No.54

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LOYAL TODMORDEN CHAPTER No.219 (Meeting at Todmorden)

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CHAPTER OF BENEVOLENCE No.226

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CHAPTER OF NAPHTALI No.266

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CHAPTER OF STRENGTH No.286 (Meeting at Bacup)

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CHAPTER OF UNITY No.298

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PROBITY AND FREEDOM CHAPTER No.367

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ST.MARTIN'S CHAPTER No.2320

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CHARITY CHAPTER No.3342

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ROCHDALE CHAPTER OF FIRST PRINCIPALS No.9211



THE TOTAL OF CASH AND CHEQUES SO FAR IS

£404,149.10

as at 19-Nov-10

Our APM, W.Bro Alex McLaren is appointed JGD in the UGLE

Royal Arch Joint Convocation held on 22nd September, hosted by

Hollingworth Chapter

W.Bro. Peter Hewitt succeeds W.Bro Eric Kirkbride as District Chairman

60 years in the Royal Arch for Kelvin Matterson



Retiring District Chairman Eric Kirkbride and Barbara

The Lodge of Friendship No.277 held the second hosted meeting of the year on the 13th October

LODGE OF HOPE No.54

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LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE No.226

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LODGE OF NAPHTALI No.266

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LODGE OF FRIENDSHIP No.277

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LODGE OF HARMONY No.298

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KEYSTONE LODGE No.363

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LODGE OF PROBITY AND FREEDOM No.367

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ST.CHAD'S LODGE No.1129

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ST.MARTIN'S LODGE No.2320

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CHARITY LODGE No.3342

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ROCH VALLEY LODGE No.5120

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LIBERTY LODGE No.5573

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THE ROCHDALE LODGE No.6721

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ROCHDALE DISTRICT INSTALLED MASTERS LODGE No.9211

Have you ever thought about attending Grand Lodge but did not know how to go about it ?

Help is at hand

As you are aware, I was Appointed as Junior Grand Deacon in March and, as such, I am required to attend the Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge of England during my year of Office. It occurred to me that there may be Brethren who would like the opportunity to attend Grand Lodge and if a few Brethren did want to attend then it would mean some company on the train there and back.

I must stress that the Quarterly Communications of UGLE tend to begin at 11am or 12 noon and they only last 30 to 60 minutes. They are held on the 2nd Wednesday in March, June, September and December, not to be confused with the Investiture Meeting in April, which is strictly 'Ticket only'. The day after is Grand Mark Lodge if someone wanted to attend both.

If you are interested or would like some more details then please phone or email me.

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A CHAPTER SPECTACULAR

On Wednesday, 22nd September 2010, A Joint Convocation of Oldham and Rochdale Districts was held at the Rochdale Masonic Buildings under the banner of the Hollingworth Chapter No.2702. Over 80 Companions attended the Convocation. The Chapter was opened and the minutes read and approved, Officers who had not been at the Installation were then Installed. A report was heard and the Provincial Director of Ceremonies, Excellent Companion Wesley Marchant, Past Grand Standard Bearer was admitted.

He announced that the Deputy Grand Superintendent, Excellent Companion Allan Bennion, Past Grand Sword Bearer, the Second Provincial Grand Principal, Excellent Companion William J. Porter, Past Grand Standard Bearer, the Third Provincial Grand Principal, the Reverend Donald Pryce, Past Grand Standard Bearer, the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, Excellent Companion Ed Cheadle, Past Grand Standard Bearer, together with the other Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals, sought admission.

The Provincial delegation was admitted to the Chapter to music provided by the Rochdale District Chairman, Excellent Companion Eric Kirkbride, who was standing in as the organist for the evening. The Deputy Grand Superintendent, The Second and Third Grand Principals were placed in the chairs of Z,H & J.

The assembled Companions then witnessed a total of 28 Companions of Oldham and Rochdale Districts Chapters present a 'Commentary on the Holy Royal Arch Ceremony', This presentation gave a most interesting and informative insight into various parts of the exaltation ceremony.

An exemplary Valedictory Address was then given by Excellent Companion Fred Whittingham, Past Provincial Scribe N.

The work in the Chapter Room was followed by a superb social board, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. During the evening, an alms collection and a raffle raised around £500 for Masonic charities. The event had been co-ordinated by the Oldham and Rochdale District Officers Royal Arch, Excellent Companions Paul Holt and Stuart Booth, together with the Chapter Scribe E, Excellent Companion Dr. Mike Boden and the Chapter DC, Excellent Companion Peter Hawksworth. Their efforts made the evening a great success and a night to be remembered by all present.



The Rochdale District Team held a 'retirement' dinner for WBro Eric Kirkbride and Barbara on Friday 22nd October 2010 at Madison's Restaurant in Rochdale. We were joined by the DepPGM, VWBro and Mrs Harold Woodward who was our APGM for Rochdale, and Oldham districts, before his elevation in 2009. Eric is retiring after serving as the Rochdale District Chairman for a period of 5½ years. His successor, WBro Peter Hewitt, said a few words (well actually quite a lot) and was followed by VWBro Harold Woodward. In replying Eric said that he had decided to retire rather than be pensioned off! He spoke of the success, cohesion and fun the District Team had had over the past years, and wished his successor Peter and his team, including its new members, every success and happiness in the coming years.



Peter Hewitt was appointed the new Rochdale District Chairman on the 1st November 2010.

He was born in Rochdale, attended Rochdale Technical School, Rochdale College and entered into an engineering career initially as a Design Draughtsman. After studying marketing at UMIST Peter became a Sales Engineer, and was for some years the Sales Director of Matteredson Cranes before starting his own business in 1993 which specialises in the supply and installation of Storage and Handling Equipment.

Initiated into Roch Valley Lodge in 1975 he was installed as WM in 1984 and 2008. He became the DC in 1998 retiring in 2005. He is a member of Probity and Freedom Chapter, becoming the 1st Principal in 1999. Other Masonic connections are Fabric Mark Lodge, No.939, of which he was Master in 1995 and 2007 and the East Lancashire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, No. 8408.

Peter was a founding member of the Rochdale District Installed Masters Lodge, No. 9211, and its Master in 1993. During the period 1996 to 2000 he held the Office of ELMBI Rep for the Rochdale District and became Roch Valley Lodge's 2004 Festival Representative. In 2006 Peter was appointed Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

Peter is married to Sandra and they have lived in Whitworth since they married some 45 years ago. They have two daughters Janet and Carolynne and four grandchildren.

Peter HAS two main interests, The Round Table Movement and Brass Bands. He was a member of Rochdale Round Table No 55 of which he was President in 1989-90. Peter also joined Rochdale 41 Club of which he was Chairman in 1988-89 and is still an active member.

His interests in Brass Bands have spanned many years. He was a member of the Rochdale Band and subsequently Brighouse and Rastrick Band.



NOTICE BOARD (and dates for your diary)

2010

Sunday, 5th December – **DISTRICT CAROL SERVICE** to be held at St. Mary's in the Baum Church, Rochdale. See Notice Board for details.

Thursday, 9th December – **E.COMP. R.KELVIN MATTERSON - PERSONAL 60TH CELEBRATION**, Chapter of Unity No.298, in the presence of the ME Grand Superintendent

Saturday, 18th December – **CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**, Masonic Buildings, Richard Street, Rochdale. See Notice Board for details.

Friday, 31st December – **NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE**, Masonic Buildings, Richard Street, Rochdale. See Notice Board for details

2011

Thursday, 17th March – **ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER** to be held at King George's Hall, Blackburn

Saturday 16th April - **LET'S TALK MASONRY CONFERENCE - "RITUAL UNRAVELLED"**. to be held at Salford Masonic Hall. Look out for more information.

Saturday, 21st May – **DISTRICT SOCIAL COMMITTEE, Roy Potts Five and a Penny Band**, Masonic Buildings, Richard Street, Rochdale. See Notice Board for details.

Tuesday, 1st November - **DISTRICT HOSTED MEETING**, hosted by St. Martin's Lodge No.2320

Thursday, 17th November – **ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE** to be held at King George's Hall, Blackburn

ROYAL ARCH MATTERS

On 22nd September Hollingworth Chapter hosted an Area Convocation. The event was attended by 80 Companions and the Principal Officer was EComp. Alan Bennion, the Deputy Grand Superintendent. Thirty Companions took part in the event which was to provide a Commentary on the Exaltation Ceremony. Thanks are due to EComp. Dr. Michael Boden, Scribe E and EComp. Peter Hawksworth, DC for their hard work in organising and making the event such a success

On 6th December 2010 the East Lancashire Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter No 8408 will meet at Rochdale. The agenda for the meeting will include a presentation by the Royal Arch demonstration team under the leadership of EComp. Ian Hancox. The MEZ, EComp. Alex McLaren invites all Royal Arch Masons to attend. Arrangements for booking dining places will be issued shortly.

EComp R. Kelvin Matterson will celebrate 60 years in the Royal Arch at the next meeting of the Chapter of Unity on 9th December 2010 when The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent will be in attendance. Companions wishing to attend should contact the Scribe E, EComp. Nigel Love. Arrangements for this celebration are under way and invitations will be sent to all Chapters over the next few weeks.

Since our last publication several Installations have taken place and the following Companions have been installed into the First Chair of their Chapters: -

54	Chapter of Hope	EComp Ian Dugdale
226	Chapter of Benevolence	EComp Peter Evans
266	Chapter of Naphtali	EComp David M Law
9211	Rochdale Chapter of First Principals	EComp Alan Barlow (for a second year)

Finally, Provincial Grand Chapter meets on Thursday 17th March 2011 at Blackburn. All Companions are invited to attend. Be there to support Rochdale and Oldham Companions receiving collars!

Paul Holt, District Officer Royal Arch



VVBro Harold Woodward, WBro Geoff Jones
and WBro Eric J Howarth, the WM of
Lodge of Friendship No.277

Rochdale District Hosted Meeting

The Lodge of Friendship No.277 held the second hosted meeting of the year on Wednesday. 13th October

This is the tenth year of the hosted meetings in Rochdale. The lodge was opened in due form and after the minutes were approved there was a report. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro Norman Cope PAGDC, was admitted and announced that the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VVBro Harold Woodward demanded to be admitted along with a Provincial Delegation. The deputation included our APGM WBro Alex McLaren, the APGP WBro Ed Cheadle and the Rochdale District Chairman WBro Eric Kirkbride.

VVBro Harold Woodward was offered the Gavel and on this occasion accepted and took the Chair of King Solomon. He then introduced the

delegation before introducing WBro Geoff Jones from the Province of Cheshire who gave a lecture entitled 'Recruitment and Retention'. WBro Jones explained how his lodge of only 9 members had risen like the phoenix from the ashes to a membership of 41 with 7 candidates awaiting initiation. He explained the method they had adopted to increase their membership and particularly how to retain members. The brethren rose to give a standing ovation to WBro Jones. The Deputy PGM then addressed the brethren before alms were collected. The Deputy PGM accompanied by WBro Geoff Jones and the Provincial Delegation retired from the lodge. The lodge was duly closed.

The festive board was a lively affair, the first course was Oxtail Soup once a favourite before the outbreak of mad cow disease many years ago. In his reply to toasts 3, 4 and 5 the Deputy PGM delighted the brethren and received a standing ovation.

Another night of memories long to be remembered in Rochdale

Rochdale Lodge - In Support of the 2015 Festival

The September meeting after the summer break was a night to remember for the brethren of Rochdale Lodge No 6721. The main business of the evening was the explanation of the Second Degree tracing board to Bro Peter Shipton, which was presented by WBro Tom Young, PProvSGW the oldest member of the Lodge. To the delight of the brethren our APGM, WBro Alex McLaren, attended the Lodge to hear in his own words, 'my favourite piece of ritual'.

We were also delighted to welcome the District Chairman, WBro Eric Kirkbride, who had agreed to be the organist for the evening. His renditions of the hymns and melodies delighted the brethren. The Lodge had held two events in the summer, the 'Swing Nite' and the Lodge BarBQ, to raise monies for the 2015 Festival and the Rochdale Masonic Buildings.

The WM presented a cheque to the 2015 festival to WBro Reg Foster, the District Festival Representative, for £1200, and a further cheque to the Rochdale Masonic Buildings for £650, to WBro Peter Tomlinson, the Chairman of the Rochdale Masonic Buildings Ltd.

The festive board was a lively affair, the meal was excellent and enjoyed by all present. Congratulations to the Buildings team in the bar, the kitchens and of course the waitresses. The APGM gave an enlightened reply to the toasts and stated that the Rochdale Lodge was 'remarkable', a comment that the members of the Lodge took to their heart. The reply to the toast to the visitors was given by WBro Tommy Spencer, the newly appointed DC of Cornucopia Lodge, No. 4553, who is a regular visitor to the Rochdale Lodge and has a repertoire of jokes to match any well-known comedian.

Rochdale Masonic Fellowship travel back in time

The annual outing this year was to Blists Hill Victorian town in Coalbrookdale. Our coach arrived exactly on time and we were away!

Arriving at Blists Hill we were refreshed with coffee and biscuits and then off we went to explore. So much to see and do. The Bank was fascinating; the Pharmacy including a dentist's chair had potions many of us recalled!!

Lunch where you wanted, we tried the Victorian club room, others the Fish and Chips cooked of course in beef dripping (none of this modern stuff).

The Victorian amusement park drew us down the hill and of course the shooting gallery using cork bullets proved a real hit. So much to do and see, the four hours flew by.

Especial thanks to Bro Peter Miller and our Chairman WBro David Pawson and Sue Pawson our Secretary for a fun day out.

Once In A Lifetime. Very few Grandad Freemasons (as a Grand Lodge Officer) will have been present at a ceremony to see their son in law as WM raise his son to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. This happened on Thursday, 21st October 2010 in Keystone Lodge No.363 at Rochdale when the WM, W. Bro J. Stuart Clough (aka 'the dad') raised his son Bro. Nicholas Clough in the presence of W.Bro Kelvin R Matterson PJGD (aka 'the grandad').

The District Team led by the District Chairman accompanied by the APGP enjoyed inner workings of a high calibre. The Festive Board was very happy affair with Kelvin toasting his grandson in a very moving way.

**The following Brethren were appointed to Acting or Past Rank at the Meeting of
Provincial Grand Lodge held at King George's Hall, Blackburn on
Thursday, 18th November 2010**

Name	New Rank	Lodge
WBro Frank G H Smith	ProvGSuptWks	Lodge of Harmony No 298
WBro Joseph Warburton	ProvJGD	Roch Valley Lodge No 5120
WBro Raymond Lancashire	ProvAGDC	St Chad's Lodge No 1129
WBro Gordon Mason	ProvGStwd	Liberty Lodge No 5573
WBro David H Geldard (PProvJGW)	PProvSGW	Liberty Lodge No 5573
WBro Ronald Gilks (PProvJGW)	PProvSGW	St Chads Lodge No 1129
WBro David Moore (PProvJGW)	PProvSGW	Lodge of Friendship No 277
WBro Alan Barlow (PProvGSuptWks)	PProvGSwdB	Lodge of Harmony No 298
WBro Allen Clarke (PProvDepGSwdB)	PProvGSwdB	Lodge of Naphtali No 266
WBro Ken Davies PProvDepGSuptWks)	PProvGSwdB	Lodge of Harmony No 298
WBro Stuart Booth (PProvSGD)	PProvDepGReg	Lodge of Friendship No 277
WBro R Ian Clarke (PProvSGD)	PProvDepGReg	Lodge of Naphtali No 266
WBro Robert Codling (PProvJGD)	PProvDepGReg	Keystone Lodge No 363
WBro John G Hall (PProvSGD)	PProvDepGReg	Roch Valley Lodge No 5120
WBro David Ireson (PProvGStwd)	PProvSGD	Lodge of Harmony No 298
WBro Graham Newton (PProvAGSwdB)	PProvSGD	Keystone Lodge No 363
WBro Anthony Dugdale	PProvSGD	Lodge of Hope No 54
WBro Ian Hastie (PProvAGDC)	PProvJGD	Keystone Lodge No 363
WBro Brian Sharpe (PProvAGSwdB)	PProvJGD	St Chad's Lodge No 1129
WBro Ivor Beswick	PProvJGD	Keystone Lodge No 363
WBro Jeffrey Howarth	PProvAGDC	Liberty Lodge No 5573
WBro Ross Wild	PProvAGSwdB	Lodge of Friendship No 277
WBro George Caygill	PProvGStB	St Chad's Lodge No 1129

Many Congratulations to all

Harmony 298 Garden Party - Sunday July 18th 2010

How lucky we were to have a fine day and share Fellowship together in the garden of our District Chairman and his wife, Barbara.

Anticipating poor weather the Harmony team led by WBro Alan Barlow put up marquees on the Saturday morning in torrential rain. On completion of this task and whilst sitting down together for lunch in the garden the sun came out and shone for the next six hours!!

Sunday dawned with a warm but humid feel, but no rain (that stayed in Rochdale).

40 Guests turned up and were entertained by the young friends of our hosts from Dobcross Training band age 8 to 11.

Bro Dr Philip Rowlands ran the Raffle and Bro Ed Melvin ran the bar (very profitably I might add).



Then it was time to eat and our hostess Mrs Barbara Kirkbride called the guests in to help themselves and what a spread it was! All home prepared food.

The WM Bro Bernard Percy and Elaine presented Barbara with a beautiful Bouquet in appreciation of all the hours she had put in to make this event a real success.

The young people in the band are taken on holiday each year, giving concerts to their hosts and this year they are off to Spain, so the Brethren decided to make a donation of £100 to send them on their way.

The overall profit on the day was £345 and this will go in the Lodge's name to the 2015 Festival.

All in all a super day, in a super location and amongst super people.

There were 90 members in attendance for this year's **LADIES EVENING** for the **ROCHDALE MASONIC FELLOWSHIP** at Richard Street, Rochdale.

Our new Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Alex McLaren and his wife, Mrs. Leslie McLaren, attended their first Ladies Evening with us, W. Bro Harold Woodward having retired from the post the previous year. The Ladies were toasted by W. Bro. E. Blundell and Mrs. M. Barlow, Mrs I. Brown and Mrs.S. Pawson received their roses from Ian Raynor, who sang the Ladies Song.

This year we had a completely new experience in entertainment when the 2nd. Rossendale Scout Group Band, under the direction of Mr. Graham Helm, and Miss Sophie Lord (soprano) entertained us with some wonderful music and song. The band has travelled extensively and has led out Scout's Parade at Windsor Castle twice in the past; once in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and once before HRH the Duke of Kent. The band's headquarters are in Bacup and in the past year they have worked hard to raise money for the up keep of their building, raising some £20040.00! Graham's keen sense of humour kept us all entertained as he was also the M.C. for the evening. Sophie has entertained us in the past at our Tuesday afternoon meetings as this time she did not disappoint either, only in the fact that the evening was not long enough for us to enjoy her wonderful voice. Sophie has long been active in the Bacup area of amateur operatics and drama and hopes one day to 'tread the boards' in the West End.

If you are looking to enjoy a time of fellowship in your 'retirement years' why not come along to Richard Street sometime? We meet the first Tuesday in every month at 2 p.m.

The aim of the Masonic Fellowship is 'TO PLEASE, BE HAPPY IN ONES SELF AND TO SHARE HAPPINESS WITH OTHERS'. And we hopefully succeed in these aims in all of our meetings!

YOUR DISTRICT OFFICERS

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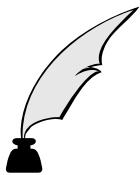
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW DISTRICT COMMITTEE,
ESPECIALLY THE NEW APPOINTMENTS**

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CLOSING DATE 31ST MARCH 2011