Leicestershire & Rutland Light Blue Club

Issue 2 (Jan-Mar) 2020 - 2021 Season





Fraternal and Festive Greetings Brethren,

We hope you've all recovered from the copious mince pies, festive wines, Christmas puds and roasted spuds, whatever your poison has been, hot, cold or 3 days old. With the end of Christmas we look forward into the start of 2021 and I'm delighted to offer you my first solo venture as the new editor of the LBC newsletter.

The turn of a new Gregorian calendar year offers a time to reflect upon oneself, to make plans for the future and, as I sit here with crumbs of left over Christmas goodies on my desk (we've all done it), look back at the choices, actions and decisions we've made. We must also remember to cast our minds back with judgement that is light, we've had a tough year. We've all earnt the right to be better to ourselves, without fret and keeping the words of Sir Walter Scott in mind "Look back, and smile on perils past." My reflections have resulted in the painful purchase of gym equipment, which my loving partner has named a future clothes horse. You can make of that as you wish.

And so, moving forward, such an opportunity leads us to ask Brethren to reflect upon their own actions and we were delighted to hear positive stories of faith, hope and charity continuing to strive through the darker days of the pandemic we're all living through. I really hoped we would be dodging the 'P & C' words in this issue and life would be heading towards a 'normal' we once knew. Unfortunately not. Though, you do have my word, such a subject will be kept to a minimum through this newsletter — We would all much prefer to offer you refreshing news from brethren to brighten the days ahead and inspire each of us to be a better man than we once were.

The new season is now within its 2nd quarter, whilst greater restrictions spread nationwide, many of us will likely not be meeting in person as we once did. Yet, rest assured, further resilience and adaptions mean there will be many great LBC events to help keep us connected and continue enjoying our Freemasonry.

The origins of 'Degree' in Ceremonies

The word "degree" comes from the Latin "gradus" meaning 'a step', and the origin of 'grade' (ranking), and 'gradual' (step by step). Oddly, it is also the origin of temperature measurements and the points of the compass, because ancient astronomers wrongly calculated the 'circle of the year' to be 360 days, not 365. That is why a circle now has 360 degrees, or steps, around the circumference. So, a degree is a step towards something, and in Freemasonry each degree represents a step along a pathway designed to teach us the values of brotherly love, relief and truth. Hence, when we witness a ceremony, we should think of ourselves as taking part, as our presence is an essential part of the candidate's experience. So, in a very real sense, every degree ceremony is a new step for each of us; part of a Masonic chain extending through time and held together by the performance of the ritual.





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Presidents Piece R.W. Bro. Peter Kinder

Hello there everyone and a very Happy New Year to you all.

Well here we are in 2021, I am sure that you will all agree that the less said about 2020 the better, anyway, I always think it is preferable in many ways to look forward rather than back!

So a very warm welcome to the first LBC Newsletter of 2021, as usual it is packed with all that is going on in the Club in the immediate future, Zooms are, and I guess will be, the main platform for virtual get togethers for the



foreseeable future. As we all know the vaccine is on the horizon, however, you youngsters will unfortunately have to wait for it a little longer than those of us who have been around a little longer!

I hope that you have all kept up to date with all that the Provincial 'Comms' team have put out over the months since March last year, especially the Podcasts on the "In-touch" pages on our website, these have been a source of lively information and comment, we hope that you have enjoyed listening to them.

As you will be aware, especially from the information we have disseminated in our Provincial Bulletins, we have greatly encouraged all Lodges to hold Zoom meetings {other platforms are available!} on their Lodge nights, we are delighted to say that as far as we can tell all Lodges are doing this and some are having Virtual meetings in between which I heartily encourage. Incidentally I hope that you have all seen the wonderful encouraging message from the Grand Master himself that was included in the New Year edition of First Rising – it really does say it all.

As has been said so many times that we all hope that it will not be too long now before we can all meet once again and enjoy full ceremonies and proper Festive Boards afterwards!

I am sure like me, you are all looking forward to the Consecration of the Union of Rugby Lodge on Saturday 11th September 2021, we all hope that this fantastic event and an important landmark in the Province's history will go ahead as planned, I hope to see many of you there, what a celebration it will be.

If they can go ahead as planned, we have the Sportsman's Dinner in March and the Marching Masons walk in April to look forward to, all in aid of our 2022 Festival, I trust that you will all be taking part in both of these events. If unfortunately they cannot take place on the original dates they will be held as soon as practically possible.

Well enough from me, please enjoy this edition of the LBC Newsletter, and I hope that it will be sooner rather than later when we all can meet face to face once again.

Take care and keep safe.

Peter

Get the Light Blue Club App for iPhone & Android

We are very pleased to announce that we now have a Light Blue Club App which you can use on iPhone & Android. This will allow you to keep up to date with all the latest news, events and visits.

The application runs on a platform called Team App and requires a short sign up process. The steps below take just a couple of minutes to complete.

- I. Download and Install Team App from the App Store or Play Store
- II. Select "Log in or Sign Up" and setup a new account using your chosen method. Complete this short signup process.
- III. Select "Search an existing app" or "Find your Team/Club"
- IV. Enter "Light Blue Club" in the search bar and select search
- V. Click the top result of Leicestershire & Rutland Light Blue Club
- VI. Once in our App screen select "Become a member of this team app" at the top of the screen.
- VII. Select the "Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons" group.
- VIII. Accept Access Request Message and click send
- IX. Complete the Extra Info field including Lodge details and select "Save"
- X. We will then approve your request.
- XI. When you receive a message that your access has been approved go back into the app.
- XII. Click the Settings Cog in the top right and choose "Install to Home Screen" You can now launch directly into the LBC app from your phone.



Light Blue Club Lodge Representatives

If you are interested in becoming LBC representative for your lodge then please get in touch. You will keep Brethren in your lodge up to date with visits and socials, provide information to new initiates about the club and the sports teams and direct them to social media platforms. There is also a dedicated chat group on our new app exclusively for Lodge Reps. If your lodge is not represented and you would like to represent your Lodge then please get in touch. We are looking to expand the lodge reps in 2020 so be sure to get involved.



News from Brethren

As you read in the intro, we've been delighted to hear of many positive stories of Brethren battling the constraints we all feel and striving on in the name of faith, hope and charity. We're pleased to be able to share these stories with you and thank the Brethren that gave their time to bring these to light.



24 Miles for Alice Ruggles Trust

Bro. Baraclough of St Peter's 1330 is taking on a challenge of walking 24 miles to raise awareness and help put an end to stalking! The Alice Ruggles Trust was set up after a young woman who was just 24 was murdered by her ex-boyfriend after relentless stalking. Four years on, they are asking us to remember Alice by entering our 24 Challenge to raise awareness and support the Alice Ruggles Trust. Jim will be covering his 24 miles in a few different walks and keeping people informed of his achievements on his Just Giving page, where he is aiming to raise £244 or more for the trust.

For more details, including sponsor links, please contact Bro. Paul Milligan.

KER Christmas Recycling Cyles

W.Bro Paul Simpson of St Wilfrid's Lodge No 8350 who is also the secretary of local cycling club, Kibworth Easy Riders (KER), helped put smiles on 70 children's faces this Christmas, thanks to the overwhelming response of club members and the general public to its Christmas Recycled Cycles appeal.



The concept was quite simple – to appeal for donations of unwanted cycles that were in reasonable condition but sitting unused in garages and sheds across Harborough District; use the skills of KER's members to do them up and clean them; and then give them as Christmas presents to children who otherwise wouldn't be able to own their own bike.

The full article and further information on how you can support this cause can be found in the upcoming Leicester Square

Image L-R: Keith Low, Paul Simpson, Sarah Young with some of the bikes that KER have gifted to youngsters this Christmas

Rival Catering Donations

Following the donation of almost £700 that the brethren of St Wilfrid's Lodge No 8350 meeting in Market Harborough made in April 2020 to Rival Catering to try and help them survive the current crisis in the catering industry, a further donation has recently been made of £2,060 made up of donations of £1,030 from the brethren that was then matched by the generosity of John Townsend who donated to make the final sum. Rival Catering have always provided an excellent service and value for money for the Festive Boards held after St Wilfrid's regular meetings.

It was suggested that the brethren "donate" the dining fee of £20.00 to Rival. This was just a suggestion and any amount would be gratefully appreciated. Many brethren did contribute the equivalent of several dining fees.

The ladies that run Rival immediately responded "Don't really know what to say other than a massive thankyou - a very generous amount and will go a long way with us. Anyway, please pass our appreciation onto all the lodge members that donated its very kind of you to think of us and continue to support us. We look forward to seeing you in the new year - fingers crossed"

Light Blues in Lockdown

Social with the Pro Grand Master Peter Geoffrey Lowndes

We were delighted to join with other NYMC clubs from around the country on 11th October for a Zoom talk and Q&A with the Pro Grand Master Peter Geoffrey Lowndes. As well as telling us about his masonic journey and talking about Freemasonry during Covid he also answered a question familiar to use all. Where were you first prepared to be made a Mason? The answer of course, "the Rising Sun, Ebury Bridge Road. Apparently, that's not what's in the ritual book." The London public house where he was first introduced to Masonry by a friend.



As well as being very engaging and open about his own experiences the inevitable question of change came up. The Pro Grand Master emphasised that the importance of, "Keeping traditions and ethical standards but that doesn't stop us changing with the times.". What would he want to change? "Kneeling for Obligations… particularly for those of a slightly advanced age". Despite being the Pro Grand Master, he advised he was, "Getting nowhere with it.".

The whole social is available on YouTube, if you were unable to attend on the evening, and can be viewed at your leisure here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cqfpk0sjwjU

If you have yet to join us for one of the inter-club zoom socials or any of the other virtual events we have been enjoying in the Light Blue Club, be sure to keep an eye on our Private Facebook Group or Teams App for upcoming events. If you do not currently have access to either of these email contactus@lightblueclub.co.uk and we'll be happy to help.



Light Blues Poker Club

At the beginning of lockdown in March the LBC Poker Club was formed with Brethren gathering together to play Poker online. The idea of a Masonic poker tournament had been talked about for some time and with our regular socials not being possible it was the perfect time to make use of the technology. Initially games took place twice a week and now continue each Friday evening at 8:30pm.

The virtual games have proved another great opportunity to check in and stay connected with Brethren during the pandemic and have been enjoyed by all who have taken part.

If you would like to get involved contact poker@lightblueclub.co.uk

Put the kettle on... Take a break

Source: wordmint.com

windingstaircase
hiramabiff
gavel
skirrit
plumbrule
provincialgrandlodge
directorofceremonies
swordbearer
chaplain
steward
deacon

temple kingsolomon cabletow hoodwink trowel maul pencil compasses level square grandlodge organist jeweller archivist treasurer secretary biblebearer almoner innerguard tvler warden master





Light Blues in Lockdown

Light Blue Club Pin Badges & Cufflinks are Here...

By popular demand with many requests from Brethren we are delighted to announce LBC Pin Badge and Cufflinks are available. Please be advised though, these are limited stock, so it's first come, first serve.

Pin Badge £7.50 Inc. Postage - Cufflinks £13.00 Inc. Postage - Pin & Cufflink Set £19.50 Inc. Postage

To place your order email contactus@lightblueclub.co.uk with quantities, postal address and reference.

Payment Details: Lloyds Bank

Account Name: Leicestershire & Rutland Light Blue Club

Sort Code: 30-96-26 Account #: 43964260

Family Festive Zoom Quiz

On Saturday 12th December Brethren and their families donned Christmas jumpers and Santa hats for the festive edition of the LBC quiz.



At the request of the participants of a previous quiz this was a special longer edition featuring seven rounds of questions rather than the usual five including general knowledge, music, drinks, dogs and emojis with many questions being festive themed.

There were some impressive scores attained and a festive toast was made to friends and family to round off a very enjoyable evening of guizzing.

Thanks go to Bro Dennis Crommujetein-Marsh for all his efforts (along with his wife Phillipa) in preparing the quiz and for acting as quiz master for the 2020 LBC lockdown quizzes.

Further LBC quizzes will be planned in the New Year so keep an eye on our Facebook group and Team App.

Weekly Catch-Up & Toast To Absent Brethren #TimetoToast

Since lock down started, we have been holding weekly catch-up sessions via Zoom to stay in touch, share the good news and the bad, laugh or grumble and raise a glass with faces both old and new. These online video chats have been scheduled to coincide with a 9pm toast to absent Brethren. Though not in a setting most of us are used to, we'd like to hope this has offered some form of comfort, for Brethren to gather (virtually) and spare a thought for those far, missed or in need.

If you would like to find out how to attend the weekly catch ups please get in touch with any of the LBC committee members. Contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Light Blues in Lockdown

Marching Masons

The Marching Masons preparation is in full swing. At the moment we have more than 60 people registered.

Whether you want to walk it as an individual, with your family or with your lodge. The Union of Rugby Lodge is putting a 20 people strong team forward!

Every individual needs to register – even if you are part of a team – to ensure we have got all your relevant details. For maps, preparation and guidance, go to the Provincial website.

https://www.pglleics.org.uk/marching-masons

You can choose which distance to walk, and how many days you take part, from 1 mile on one day to a maximum of 100 miles in 4 days! You will then receive a notification to set up a JustGiving account. Any donations will count towards your own lodge target and will be shared between the MCF, Loros and Rainbows.

It would be great if every lodge in the Province has at least one team! Family and friends are also most welcome to take part.

We will provide transportation between finish and start, feeding stations and drinks.

The Easter date is very likely not to go ahead, due to health & safety reasons, and we are awaiting confirmation of a new date. So watch this space, keep training in a covid-secure manner, and get in touch with Dennis@lightblueclub.co.uk if you have any questions.



Please support the Marching Masons as they setout to walk the Leicestershire Round.

Starting on the 2nd April through to 5th April 2021.

For more information visit https://pglleics.org.uk/marching-masons
To signup visit http://bit.ly/marching2021
Or to sponsor the team visit http://bit.ly/sponsormm

Light Blues Rugby Football Club

LBRFC

Provincially there has been no training or matches undertaken, the arranged match in March at West Lancashire for the coveted Freemasons Challenge Trophy was postponed 2 weeks before play, both sides were deeply disappointed.

Several rugby club get togethers were also cancelled.

Candidates

We are delighted to hear that the newest rugby recruits who are now candidates to be initiated into UoRL have been busy raising funds for the 2022 Festival.

Mr Rob Key, Mr Neal Patterson, Mr Lewis Moult, Mr Keith Mason Moore and Mr Matt Bates were set a task by the Tight Six to go forth and raise funds, their first initiative was a raffle which raised over £2000. UoRL have stated "we are so very proud of them already, the funds are great, the fact they are engaged and not being forgotten is even more important."

International Masonic Rugby - W.Bro. Andrew Keenan

I am very pleased to announce the continuation of a journey I have been on since 2016, when, Myself and 4 other LBRFC members were invited to play for an English Masonic side in Chester-le-street vs Scotland Masons. It was a huge success but unfortunately fizzled out physically. I knew it had more future merit and mileage. The original English Masons Rugby concept was first introduced by our brethren in Durham, We, the steering group are merely picking up where they left off.

With the formation of the LBRFC and the realisation that there are rugby nut freemasons the length and breadth of England, it rekindled the flame that had been lit during our visit up north.

After a brief but rewarding conversation with our WBro Daniel Quelch and WBro Paul Toon we decided at the beginning of lockdown to dip our toe into social media with the idea of an English Masonic side being our end game.

Within hours we had 50 members, within a day 100 and within a week 200, as we stand now we have over 400 members made up of 190 willing to play and the rest physios, referees, water boys and supporters.

Prior to taking to social media to start this group Daniel and I had been in talks with WBro Paul Haley of the Welsh Rugby Clubs Lodge in Penarth, Wales to arrange an inaugural match at their home ground. We had been to their consecration in November.

All being well, the match is scheduled for 4th April 2021

Light Blues Rugby Football Club in Lockdown

Teams & Steering Group

Given the interest we have generated we have several teams including:

- Flite Masons Team
- A vets Team (35-55 years old)
- A casuals Team (55- 65 semi tackling)
- A walking Rugby side (non tackling/touch rugby 65 upwards) to be headed up by our very own WBro Reg Dickinson ex Leicester Tiger and most respected Brother.



We have put together a steering group for our English adventure incorporating players from 4 Provincial sides In England.

Since the forming of the England Group 3 more Provincial sides have formed including London Mark, Buckingham Masons, Warwick Masons and several more provinces are on their way to becoming formed.

International Cup

There is going to be an International Cup produced which, being an avid Rugby supporter, Dr David Staples has kindly agreed to sponsor.

This will be played for between England and Wales and any other subsequent International masonic sides that are formed. There are links in Scotland, Ireland, France and Italy.

The goal with the help of all involved is a form of Masonic 4, 5, or 6 Nations by 2025.

Charity

Already the Facebook group is reaping rewards, not just the fact we are making so many new friends but just recently a suggestion was made to the steering group that after the tragic death of Sgt Ratana that a crowd funding page was set up to raise £1000. It is now closed with over £5000 raised for the immediate family of our brave Rugby hero.

Hoodies are being sourced for the group which will be available for all who want one, the badge for all of the 'Stash" has been designed by Bro Andrew Rathbone of Enderby Lodge 5061.

Short term, LBFRC are all looking forward to supporting the Sportsman's dinner which we will be booking at least 5 tables, as we are the current holders of the Freemasons Challenge cup it will be in attendance for all to see. Brothers Karl Harris and Jordan Crown will also be available for autograph signing.

Final Word

W.Bro Andrew Keenan concluded the report sent to us with the following, "It has been an incredible 7 months, I am honoured to be Club Captain of the LBRFC and with Daniel and Paul part of the steering group for the English masons Rugby. Our promise to you all is to continue this masonic rugby journey wherever it may take us proudly holding the Leicestershire and Rutland Light Blue Flag aloft for all to see."

LBC Schedule 2020 / 21

New & Young Masons Mini Monthly Conferences

These are being held with Light Blue Clubs throughout the country. Please see social media for dates and all the latest speakers.

Next Event: February (TBC)

The next meeting is to be held by Colonnade Club.

Keep an eye on social media platforms for updates.

Pre booking will be essential for this upcoming event.

NYMC Mini Conference

Diluvian Origins: The Noachide Flood & Craft Masonry

Date: Sunday 14th March @ 8:00pm

A fascinating talk from W.Bro. Jason Richards of the fantastic Masonic Roundtable on YouTube & Podcast. Jason is a Past Master of Acacia Lodge 16 in Clifton, Virginia. Richards also is a writer, editor, and speaker on Masonic topics, having written for The Midnight Freemasons and The Voice of Freemasonry in the District of Columbia.

Booking Details to follow.

LBC Poker

Weekly Poker Tournament

Date: Fridays at 8:30pm

Signup at PokerStars.com

LBC Family Pub Quiz

Saturday 27th February 2021 at 7.45pm for 8.00pm start

Signup details to follow on social media platforms

Cambridge Trip

Visiting: Isaac Newton University Lodge No.859

TBC in line with COVID19 guidance

Oxford Trip

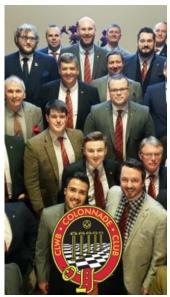
Visiting: Apollo University Lodge, No.357

Date: Saturday 5th June 2021

TBC in line with COVID19 guidance

Events in BLUE are Virtual Events over Zoom or Online

Visits in RED are to be confirmed and subject to COVID19 guidance.





How Do I Join the LBC?

You are automatically a member of the Light Blue Club as soon as you have been initiated as a Freemason in Leicestershire & Rutland. There is no cost involved, no membership fee, no subscription, nothing. As soon as you are an Entered Apprentice you are also able to visit other Lodges, so come and get involved, join us at one of our future social events or Lodge visits. Please also be aware that the LBC is for everyone, there is no upper or lower age limit or any upper or lower masonic rank. We have a wide range of ages and masonic rank that attend our events, every Brother is welcome.

Social Media & Contact Details

- ◆ R.W.Bro. Peter C Kinder PGM. president@lightblueclub.co.uk (President)
- ◆ Bro. Bob Reay (Highcross Lodge No. 4835) bob@lightblueclub.co.uk (Chairman)
- ♦ Bro. Dennis C-Marsh (Rothley Temple Lodge No. 7801) dennis@lightblueclub.co.uk (Vice Chair)
- ◆ Bro. Elliott Conway (Wyggeston Lodge No. 3448) Elliott@lightblueclub.co.uk (Treasurer)
- ♦ Bro. Richard Danks (Burbach Lodge No. 8699) richard@lightblueclub.co.uk (Secretary & Social Media)
- ◆ Bro. Ben Wiles (Castle of Leicester Lodge No. 7767) ben@lightblueclub.co.uk (Committee & Newsletter)
- ◆ Bro. Paul Milligan (St. Peters Lodge No. 1330) paul@lightblueclub.co.uk (Committee)
- ♦ W.Bro. Andrew 'Jock' Keenan (Enderby Lodge No. 5061) jock@lightblueclub.co.uk (Light Blues RFC)



We have a public Facebook page and a closed Facebook group.

Public Page: www.facebook.com/lightblueclub/

Private Group: www.facebook.com/groups/lightblueclub/

This group allows members to network online, discuss Masonic topics and get the latest information on upcoming events. To join simply request access by emailing contactus@lightblueclub.co.uk



The Light Blue Club also has its own Twitter account which can be found here: twitter.com/lightblueclub @LightBlueClub





We also have a Snapchat account for us to communicate with our members as well as beyond. If you would like to follow us then head over here: www.snapchat.com/add/lightblueclub



You can also follow us on Instagram, find us here: www.instagram.com/lightblueclub



Visit our website at www.lightblueclub.co.uk

