

University Lodge of Chester No, 4477

The 653rd Meeting of University Lodge of Chester No. 4477 was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Queen Street, Chester, on Monday the 17th of October 2016.

The Lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer at 5.30 p.m.

Present

WBro D. Meacher-Jones MM	Worshipful Master
WBro P. Crudge PProvJGD	Acting Senior Warden
Bro D. F. Holman MM	Junior Warden
WBro G. Keith Gray	Acting Chaplain
WBro D. V. Hughes PAGDC	Treasurer
WBro M. Gleave MM	Secretary
WBro K. J. Gray PProvJGD	Acting Director of Ceremonies
WBro Dr. A. G. Mathie PAGDC	Almoner
WBro A. M. Thomas PProvGStB	Charity Steward
WBro M. Steggles PProvJGD (N. Wales)	Mentor
WBro M. Povey, PM	Acting Senior Deacon
Bro A. J. H. Redford MM	Junior Deacon
WBro M. Povey PM	Assistant Director of Ceremonies
Bro D. F. Holman MM	Assistant Secretary
Bro J. A. M. Thomas PProvGStB	Acting Inner Guard
WBro N. Curry MM	Tyler
WBro J. Middleton PProvGSwdB	Immediate Past Master
Bro J. McShane FC	Stewards
Bro M. MacKinnon FC	

There were **12** lodge officers, **16** members, and **29** visitors recorded in the attendance register, including the ProvGM, Edward Lord OBE, Chairman of the Universities Scheme, and Dr Andy Green, Vice-Chairman of the Universities Scheme, and a plethora of Provincial and Grand Officers.

Memoriam :

The WM then led a Memoriam to WBro Don Dowdeswell.

Lodge Accounts:

The Lodge accounts for the year ended 31st of December 2015, which had been circulated, were offered for consideration by the Lodge by the Treasurer WBro David Hughes PAGDC, they were proposed by WBro Paul Crudge and Seconded by Bro Dennis Holman. They were duly accepted by the Brethren.

Entrance of The RWProvGM:

The brethren then Receive RWBro Stephen Martin Blank, The Provincial Grand Master - accompanied by Distinguished Brethren and a Deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge. The Worshipful Master rose and greeted him.

The Worshipful Master Bro David Meacher-Jones, PProvGTreas, then rose and welcomed the RWProvGM, and in allegiance to the Province of Cheshire, proffered the Gavel to RWBro Stephen Martin Blank, The Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire and North Wales, who jokingly said he has seen the amount of work to do on the summons, so on this occasion declined to accept, but thanked the Worshipful Master for his allegiance to the Province and his kind greeting.

The Worshipful Master then rose and greeted WBro Edward Lord, PJGD Chairman of the UGLE Universities Scheme, and WBro Dr Andy Green, PAGStB, Vice Chairman of the UGLE Universities Scheme, both of whom responded appropriately.

Minutes

The Lodge Secretary, WBro Mark Gleave, MM, then put forward the minutes of the regular Lodge meeting, held on the 21st day of March 2016., which had been circulated to all members, for confirmation. These were duly confirmed and signed.

Entered Apprentices were asked to retire.

The Lodge was opened in the Second degree.

The Worshipful Master then announced that the next order of business was to Raise Bros George Sharman (Passed on 13th Nov 2013) and Mathew MacKinnon (Passed on 23rd Jan 2016).

Fellowcrafts were requested to retire with the exception of Bro MacKinnon, and they were accompanied by the Provincial Grand Mentor WBro Ian Smith, PProvJGW and the Lodge Mentor WBro M. Steggle ProvJGD (N. Wales).

Bro MacKinnon was then questioned and entrusted with the Pass Grip and Pass Word leading to the Third Degree. Bros MacKinnon then retired.

Bro Sharman then entered the Lodge and was questioned and entrusted with the Pass Grip and Pass Word leading to the Third Degree. Bro Sharman then retired.

The Lodge was opened in the Third Degree.

The Brethren then gave Salutations to the RWProvGM, who replied accordingly.

Bros Sharman and MacKinnon were admitted in due form and solemn prayer and were Raised to the Third Degree by Bro David Meacher-Jones, assisted by the officers of the Lodge.

The Worshipful Master then requested WBro Jim Middleton, PProvGSwdB, to assist him in the next part of the ceremony by occupying the Chair of King Solomon. WBro Middleton then very ably delivered the Exhortation, Raising and Charge.

The Worshipful Master then joined them on the floor of the Lodge, and assisted by WBro Jim Middleton, Delivered the Signs.

The Candidate's, Bros Sharman and MacKinnon then retired to restore themselves to their comforts.

The Worshipful Master then retook his rightful place in the Chair of King Solomon.

Bros Sharman and MacKinnon were re-admitted to complete the Ceremony.

WBro Dr. Anthony Mathie, PAGDC then very ably narrated the Traditional History and The Working Tools in a word perfect 'exhibition' of ritual.

The Worshipful Master congratulated Bros Sharman and MacKinnon on being Raised to the Third Degree and presented them with a copy of the Bible (VSL).

The RWProvGM, Edward Lord OBE and Dr Andy Green were also invited to congratulate them, which they gladly did.

The WM then resumed the Lodge in the First Degree by virtue of the power in him vested.

E.A's and FC's were re-admitted, along with the ProvGMentor and the Lodge Mentor.

There was then an offer of a ballot for Worshipful Master for the ensuing year WBro Keith James Gray, PProvJGD who had been the only Brother nominated. No ballot was required and he was duly elected.

There was then an offer of a ballot for Bro David Meacher-Jones, PProvGTreas who had been who had been the only Brother nominated to take the post of Treasurer for the ensuing year. No ballot was required and he was duly elected.

The Acting SW, WBro Paul Crudge, PProvJGD then rose and stated that is would be the Master's pleasure to Elect a Tyler for the ensuing year. This was seconded by Bro Dennis Holman, MM.

2 Brethren, Bros Joe McShane, MM, and Mathew MacKinnon, MM, were proposed by WBro Keith Gray, PProvJGD, and Seconded by WBro Paul Crudge, PProvJGD, to serve on the Lodge Committee and were duly elected.

2 Brethren, Bro Dennis Holman, MM and WBro Andrew Thomas, PProvGStB, were proposed by WBro Keith Gray, PProvJGD, and Seconded by WBro Paul Crudge, PProvJGD, to serve on the Auditing Committee, and they were elected.

2 Brethren, WBro Mark Gleave, PM, and Bro Alex Redford, MM, were proposed by WBro Keith Gray, PProvJGD, and Seconded by WBro Paul Crudge, PProvJGD, to serve as Area 5 Representatives, and they were elected.

Collection: Alms were collected which raised £111.10.

The Worshipful Master then rose and thanked the RWProvGM for his attendance as well as his team. The RWProvGM thanked him and the Lodge for a splendid ceremony.

A.O.B.

Lodge Area Reps report:

- WBro Mark Gleave. the Lodge Secretary then rose and said "WM, The Lodge Area Representatives report has already been circulated to all subscribing members, so in the interest of time, and with your permission, we will forgo reading this item today. A copy will of course be appended to the minutes."
- "Also, as a point of interest relevant at this time- the Fresher's Fair went exceedingly well as always, and more than 30 students put forward their details. In attendance from the Lodge were WBros Paul Crudge, David Hughes and Andy Tong, and Bros Dennis Holman, Charles Hallett, Patrick Bunker, Matthew McGowan and Adam Drury, with WBro Mark Gleave on standby to attend. The Lodge would especially like to thank WBro Jim Middleton for his work on this both this year and in the previous years, and thank him for all his tireless ongoing work for and in the Lodge."

"WM, that concludes my abridged report."

Risings:

• **1st Rising**

"WM, under this rising; we have received the 1st Rising information from UGLE, which reads:

1. "At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge held on 14 September, 2016 the Report of the Board of General Purposes contained two items of particular note to Brethren in private Lodges."
2. "Also the guidance on visiting Lodges overseas, which is published annually in the September Paper of Business, has been revised. Any Brother contemplating such a visit must acquaint himself with the content, which is to be found on page 3 of the Paper. The relevant extract is attached, and will be published in the 2016 edition of Information for the Guidance of Members of the Craft, which will soon

appear on the UGLE website."

3. "The Grand Lodge has adopted the Board's recommended policy and guidance on the use of social media by Brethren. This has been made available on the download.

"These Worshipful Master have has been duly circulated."

4. "Worshipful Master, for brevity on this occasion, and with your permission, rather than reading everything else out in full, I will simply read out the list of correspondence I have received for the Lodge, which have all already been circulated to all subscribing members. We have received:

- Information regarding the Grand Ball on the 30th Sept 2017 at Gr Queen St.
- The 2016 UGLE Paper of Business.
- The Universities Scheme UGL Quarterly Communications Invitation.
- An Extract from Quarterly Communications re: Attendance of Lodges Overseas.
- The Grand Lodge Annual Return for The University Lodge of Chester.
- Information about a Masonic Charitable Foundation Donation of £50,000 which was made to the Red Cross after Hurricane Mathew.
- Information about the Consecration of the David Kenneth Williamson Lodge."

"That, Worshipful Master is all for this rising."

- **2nd Rising**

"Worshipful Master, in this rising I have received:

The new 2nd Rising Document from the Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Mike Leese, which reads:

Following the completion and closure of the 2016 Festival, Brethren are reminded that Festival jewels and ties are not to be worn in open Lodge. It is noted that some Brethren are continuing to wear the Festival tie. Brethren are recommended to wear the new Tercentenary tie, available from either Letchworth's or Toye, Kenning & Spencer from £9.50."

"Brethren are recommended to have a look at the new Members Information Site, known as MIS, on www.cheshirepgl.co.uk where they will find lots of useful and interesting information. This site is regularly being added to and updated so please access it regularly. MIS is of particular benefit to Masons only and is in addition to the existing Provincial web site. You can obtain the user name and password to MIS from your Lodge Secretary or the Provincial Office."

"I have also received and circulated:

1. The PGM's newspaper Article.
2. Information about the new secure 'Members Information Site'.
3. Lodge Mentor Role & Responsibilities Information."

"There was also some correspondence of a purely administrative nature, which has been dealt with and or circulated."

"That, Worshipful Master is all for this rising."

- **3rd Rising**

"Worshipful Master, under this Rising, we received many letters of thanks & congratulations for our last meeting, which are too many to read now, but all these have been circulated."

"All other relevant correspondence has been dealt with, and or circulated."

"We have also received a letter of resignation from Bro Joshua Booth who sadly has moved away. He thanks everyone for their kindness and help, and we are of course helping him to find a suitable Lodge in his new home town."

Notices of Motion:

"Also, Worshipful Master we have two Notices of Motion:"

1. "The first is in the hands of our Treasurer".

The Treasurer WBro David V. Hughes, PAGDC , rose and gave Notice of Motion that at the next meeting he will propose that 'non-subsidised' member's Annual Subscription will be increased from £120 to £132.

2. "Worshipful Master, the next Notice of Motion is in the hands of Bro Dennis Holman."

WBro Dennis Holman then rose and gave Notice of Motion that we will give the sum of £300 be donated to the Cheshire Masonic Charities at the Installation meeting.

Apologies:

"Worshipful Master, we have received apologies from WBros: George Mann, Gordon Bell, Rod Hunt and Andy Tong, and Bros: Adam Drury."

"That, Worshipful Master is all for this rising."

Closing:

There being nothing further transpiring for the good of Freemasonry in general, or the University Lodge of Chester No. 4477 in particular, the Lodge was closed in Peace and Harmony at 7.40 pm.

----- Worshipful Master

Bro David Meacher-Jones, PProvGTreas

-----Secretary

WBro Mark Gleave, PM