

December 2024

# SECOND RISING



**"One Journey, One Organisation"**

E - MAGAZINE FOR THE MASONIC PROVINCE  
OF EAST LANCASHIRE

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## Christmas Message from the RW Provincial Grand Master



[View the video message HERE](#)

## Signing of the Armed Forces Covenant

Signing the Armed Forces Covenant is a commitment any organisation can make to recognise, support, treat fairly, and encourage the five pillars—Veterans, Reservists, Spouses and Dependents, Adult Cadet Volunteers, and the wider Forces Family in their local communities. Signing the AFC demonstrates the Masonic Province of East Lancashire's commitment to the Brethren and Forces Family members who have served and continue to serve.

The Covenant was signed at Manchester Hall, the home of Manchester Masons on the evening of Wednesday the 2nd of October. The Lodge received the RWPGM Robert Ian Frankl, accompanied by a provincial deputation.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



## A Historic Day for East Lancashire Light Blue Masons: The Procession into Provincial Grand Lodge and the Launch of the East Lancashire Light Blue Club

On a crisp snowy autumn morning in Blackburn history was made as the Light Blue East Lancashire Master Masons processed into the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire for the very first time in the history of the province. The air buzzed with excitement; the significance of the occasion was apparent to all in attendance. Brothers from across the province gathered in their regalia, but it was the Light Blue Masons who took centre stage.

Wearing their distinctive light blue regalia, these junior brethren, representing the future of Freemasonry, walked with pride into the Provincial Grand Lodge, a place steeped in history and tradition. The symbolism of this moment was profound. For the Light Blue Masons, it marked the first step into the wider Masonic family, a gesture of unity between the experienced and the newly initiated. It was a powerful reminder of Freemasonry's enduring values: fraternity, charity, and self-improvement.

[Read the full story here](#)



On the evening of the 30th of October, companions from across East Lancashire gathered at Salford Masonic Hall to be a part of a Banner Dedication, a ceremony that many will never have seen or witness again.

[View the full story HERE](#)

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

The March 2025 meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter will be held at The Tough Sheet Community Stadium, Bolton and the 2025 Craft meeting has been pencilled in.

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27 January 2025 - Passing of The Veils ceremony, Blair Chapter No815. Hemsley House, Salford

## Christmas messages



Send you friends & family a festive message and support the 2026 Festival

[\*\*Use this LINK to purchase a message\*\*](#)

## A Carnival of Unity: How a £3000 Grant from Freemasons Help Foster Community Cohesion in Manchester

In the heart of Manchester, where vibrant cultures converge, and the city's pulse beats with diversity, the annual Caribbean Carnival has long been a powerful symbol of unity, celebration, and cultural pride. Yet, in recent days, turbulent social situations marked by rising tensions, economic strain, and divisions has cast a shadow over this much-anticipated event.

The carnival brings together people from all walks of life who face uncertainty. The community needs more than a festival; it needs hope, solidarity, and a reminder of the power of unity.



Amidst this backdrop, a beacon of support emerged from an unexpected source. The East Lancashire Masonic Charity, known for its charitable work across various communities, stepped forward to support the Manchester Caribbean Carnival. Their recognition of the potential of the carnival to foster much-needed community cohesion is a testament to their commitment to our community.



A Visit to Hiram Lodge No.12 in Prague  
On Thursday 24th October 2024, a delegation of six Brethren from East Lancashire visited Hiram Lodge No.12 in Prague where they witnessed a triple passing of three Brethren. Hiram Lodge No.12, is the only English speaking lodge within Prague and they work Emulation ritual. It was commented on that the ritual delivered was mostly found within one of the visiting Brethren's Lodges rather than other Lodges within the Northern area!

## William (Bill) Bell: A Journey Through 50 Years of Freemasonry

50 years to the day, on Friday, 22nd of November 2024, Members of Cornucopia Lodge, joined by the City East APGM Paul O'Carroll, assisted by an area deputation and family and friends of William (Bill), all joined together to celebrate Bill's Golden Masonic Anniversary.

[Read the full story HERE](#)



## Richard Hawkins Dined Out in Style

On the eve of the December Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge, the Rev'd Canon Richard Hawkins was dined out in style at the Rag (Army & Navy Club) on Pall Mall, London, in the company of the RW Provincial Grand Master Robert Frankl, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, John Griffin and all of the current Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.

Organised by WBro Simon Archer, the Dinner, held in the wonderful surroundings of the club, felt like an appropriate way to say thank you to Richard for his wonderful service, wise counsel and friendship during his term as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

The following day saw a very interesting meeting of Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, which included a report on the Third Pillar Review Strategy and a most inspirational talk between the MW Pro Grand Master and Paralympic Gold Medal Winning Rower Bro Ben Prtitchard. More East Lancashire Brethren were able to be in attendance at the Lunch after the Meeting which was held in the Connaught Rooms, rounding off a wonderful couple of days in the Capital.

## Tie & Tinsel Festival Fundraiser A Night to Remember

The grand Cloister Suite of the Holiday Inn, Bolton, was unrecognisable. Twinkling fairy lights draped across the ceilings, glittering centrepieces adorned every table, and a warm hum of excitement filled the air. The annual Tie and Tinsel Dinner was a festive gala that brought together 200 Freemasons from East Lancashire, all united by a common goal: raising funds for the 2026 Festival.

RW PGM Robert Frankl and his wife Fiona welcomed the guests at the entrance. As everyone arrived at the main hall the doors to the suite opened and revealed a spectacularly decorated space, the perfect backdrop for an evening of camaraderie and celebration.

The evening began with a welcome speech from the Provincial Grand Master followed by the Festival Chairman Wbro Chad Northcott.

After the speeches, a sumptuous three-course meal followed. Throughout the dinner, the enchanting Katie Fiddlestix wove magic with her bow, transitioning seamlessly from stirring classical pieces to lively folk tunes that had everyone clapping along. Her rendition of "Winter Wonderland" was exceptionally breathtaking, earning her a standing ovation.

[See the full story HERE](#)



Any member may submit an article for inclusion in this publication or the Provincial website and social media platforms.

Submit your articles at  
PCO@PGLEL.CO.UK

## Raising the Bar for Bro Gee

Every once in a while we get the pleasure to see a sibling or a son join a lodge and progress through their degrees, but on rare occasions we get to see 3 generations in the same lodge. On 20 September 2024, at Denton Lodge 5234 in the Southern Area of East Lancashire, Bro Brandon Gee answered his questions, in a manner that would put most of us to shame, was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.



[Read the full story HERE](#)

## Sponsored Bike Ride in support of the 2026 Festival

Our Prov charity steward John Taylor is completing a grueling 2026 mile indoor cycle ride in support of the 2026 Festival. Follow his progress and donate [HERE](#)



## More Community Service from the Level Club

Once again this year, members of the Level Club assisted the social enterprise Cracking Good Food on their Kitchen Kit Call Out. Their redistribution events help charities from women's hostels, refugee groups, care leavers, homeless help, food banks, and more, in a time when purchasing kitchen equipment to cook essential meals for families and the community is harder than ever. In 2023, the Level Club helped to move 1.5 tonnes of kitchen equipment from their stores over to the venue for the Kitchen Kit Redistribution event and we did not let them down this year either.



[See the full story HERE](#)