

# CELEBRATION OF 150 YEARS OF OLIVE UNION LODGE NO 1304

Topic: Olive Union 150th Anniversary Meeting  
Time: May 7, 2020 19:00 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/74488690966?pwd=cHIHREdpNDNqdkd1bUFXREZkbUJzZz09>

Meeting ID: 744 8869 0966

Password: Olive1304

The world is in the grip of the Covid19 virus. For most it is a mild infection but develops into a serious illness for some. There is no vaccine or known cure although through the dedicated work of the NHS many survive the illness. It is feared many millions could die in the world with poorer countries potentially most at risk. At present there have been 280,000 deaths worldwide and in excess of 30,000 in the UK. Lincolnshire has recorded in excess of 130 deaths but there are no known fatalities in Lincolnshire Masons or their families. Lockdown and social distancing are the order of the day. Family, other than immediate household, and friends cannot meet. Industry and commerce has virtually stopped.

Due to the Coronavirus Covid19 pandemic by command of the Grand Master all Masonic activity is suspended and the Lodge was unable to meet despite many months of planning and work to celebrate 150 of Olive Union Lodge.

As the Lodge was unable to meet at The Masonic Hall a virtual meeting on Zoom was organised. It was not a regular Lodge meeting and the Zoom technology is new to most members. Twenty eight members of the Lodge and the Rt Worshipful Provincial Grand Master David Malcolm Wheeler, the Very Worshipful John Barry Crutchley and W. Bro. Robert Henry Smith joined the meeting.

Present were

W M Bro M W Frost  
IPM W Bro D E Clarke LGR

Bro S A Anderson	Senior Warden
Bro S J Buckingham	Junior Warden
W Bro W M P Goodwin	Chaplain
W Bro M H Murfin PProvGStB	Secretary
W Bro S G Pickwell PProvGSwdB	Director of Ceremonies
W Bro D W Ogden PProvGSwdB	Almoner
W Bro R J Burns PProvJGW	Charity Steward
W Bro M F Fletcher PProvGSuptWks	Mentor
Bro D J Freeman	Junior Deacon
W Bro G W Storr PProvGSwdB	Assistant Director of Ceremonies
W Bro S J Morley PProvSGW	Organist
Bro G R Hurst	Steward
Bro P E Upson	Steward
Bro S Blackburn	Steward
Bro P Hardy	Steward
W Bro W D Craigs	Tyler

W Bros: B. J. Buck, W. D. Craigs, M. Carter, R. Goodyear, M. F. Fletcher,  
C. M. Reeve  
P. E. Paige, M. C. Rose, M. F. Johnson, D. A. Harris, N. Wise

Bros: P Hardy, P. E. Upson, S J Blackburn, N. Thacker, M. Taylor

Apologies: Bro S J Cottrell was working baking of 300 red, white and blue cup-cakes for distribution to Residential Homes to celebrate 75years since VE day on the 8<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Welcome**

The Worshipful Master welcomed everybody to the meeting to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Olive Union Lodge.

A particularly warm welcome this evening to:-

The Provincial Grand Master Right Worshipful David Malcolm Wheeler and  
The Deputy Provincial Grand Master Very Worshipful John Barry Crutchley

Thank you both for joining us, you are very welcome.

Rt. Worshipful Provincial Grand Master it is my pleasure and duty to offer you the gavel. I do have one with me and would be delighted if you would accept it. (the Worshipful Master offered a lump hammer) Unfortunately should you do so we may have problems in finding a taxi to deliver it to you any time soon!

Before continuing with the Agenda could I say that we wish to propose a toast to Absent Brethren at 0722 hours. Using his extensive knowledge of Euclidian Geometry our Secretary calculates this as the time when the hands of the clock will be on the square. We may need therefore to interrupt at this time.

### **Worshipful Master's Address.**

Tonight's Lodge meeting was to have been a grand celebration of our first 150 years. Sadly, for all too familiar reasons, this 'Zoom' meeting must suffice. For this we must record our thanks to David Freeman, for having (an) sorry the idea and to Gary Hurst for exercising his IT skills in setting it up. We would have each been presented at that meeting with a booklet outlining important historic milestones for the Lodge and a facsimile gavel and base. These will now have to await a future occasion but we must record our thanks to Michael Carter and Stephen Morley for the many hours that they each have expended in producing those gifts.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May 1870 the Freemason magazine reported that 'on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April Brethren of this Province were called together to consecrate and dedicate a new Lodge'. The name of the new Lodge was to be Olive Union after a former Horncastle Lodge of the same name that had been established in 1831 but which had closed in 1846.

The number of the new Lodge was 1304. Forty Brethren were assembled for the occasion. The Reverend J Carter Browne was installed as the first Master and the ceremony was followed by a banquet held at the Bull Hotel.

Tonight we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of our Lodge, it is the case that masonry in its modern form was, in 1870, itself only a little over 150 years old.

Early meetings of the Lodge continued to be held in the Bull Hotel but the Lodge was able to move to the present home in the Masonic Hall building on Banks Street when the building was opened and dedicated on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1872. At that occasion Brethren together with Provincial Grand Officers processed to the new Masonic Hall all chanting Psalm 127.

The centenary of the Olive Union Lodge was marked on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1970 with a Lodge meeting and banquet held at the Golf Hotel, Woodhall Spa.

In the lifetime of the Olive Union Lodge the Banks Street building has become a very important Masonic meeting place being central to the Province and home to 7 Craft Lodges and 7 Degrees beyond the Craft.

The Grand Principles on which Freemasonry is, and has been since 1717, founded are Brotherly Love Relief and Truth. Relief implies charity and local organisations continue to benefit from the charitable giving of our and other Lodges.

As we celebrate this important milestone in our Lodge's existence, coming at an unprecedented time of trial for the country and world, we should each remember our solemn Obligations to maintain those Grand Masonic Principles.

Please raise your glasses to toast THE OLIVE UNION LODGE.

### **Toast to Provincial Grand Lodge**

The Worshipful Master then proposed a Toast to The Province of Lincolnshire which was responded to by the Provincial Grand Master who said that despite the present difficulties in the world one day we would once more be able to meet and enjoy each other's company. The celebration of Olive Unions 150 years is not lost just delayed. It would go ahead as soon as possible. He is in constant touch with brethren throughout the Province and everyone is in good spirits despite the lockdown. He thanked the Worshipful Master for the invitation to join the meeting and wished everybody well.

### **Presentation to Bro. Stewart Buckingham**

**by W. Bro. M. H. Murfin**

The secretary has been circulating Masonic quizzes and puzzles set by W. Bro. David Buckenham and W. Bro. Nick Brown. One of the early quizzes was very quickly answered and returned to the secretary by Bro. Stuart Buckingham. It took him about 10 minutes from sending it to replying so clearly he must have been at work at the time.

His very prompt reply caused the secretary to email back to him congratulating him on winning a prize for being the quickest to complete and reply. At the time there was panic buying in the shops and supermarkets and shortages of essential items.

As a prize the secretary therefore awarded Bro Buckingham with 5 sheets of luxury toilet paper which at the time was of considerable value and told him it would be presented next time they met. This being as close to meeting as is likely to be for some time the secretary took great pleasure in making the presentation.

### **Toast to absent Brethren**

W. Bro. Storr (Charlie) is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Mason with his father and grandfather having been members of Olive Union Lodge. There is a Storr connection to Olive Union going back 100 years. He explained that as his daughter is a nurse he would be leaving the meeting by 8-00 pm so that he could join in the clapping in support of NHS workers that has become traditional on Thursday evenings in acknowledgement of the dangerous work they undertake daily.

W. Bro. G. W. Storr proposed a toast to absent brethren. Attached are copies of screen grabs showing the brethren toasting absent Brethren.

### **Presentation by W. Bro. S. G. Pickwell**

W. Bro. Pickwell explained that a letter addressed to the late W. Bro. Arthur Guthrie had come into his possession. It was hand written by the late W. Bro. Derek Scarborough Provincial Chaplin following his visit to dedicate the new Olive Union banner in 1997. W. Bro. Pickwell proceeded to read extracts from the letter which explains the connection between the old Olive Union No. 587 banner and the new

Olive Union No. 1304 banner. The presentation was assisted with the display on screen of both banners the images having been supplied by W. Bro. C. M. Reeve. A photo copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

### **Most missed during Lockdown**

W. Bro. M. H. Murfin's most missed is not having had occasion to dress in a collar, tie and jacket and meet with friends in restaurants or hotels.

W. Bro. M. Carter is missing Friday evening fish & chips around his kitchen table with his family.

The Provincial Grand Master is missing attending Lincoln City football matches and would welcome the opportunity to sit through the most boring nil nil draw.

### **Funniest moment during Lockdown**

W. Bro. S. J. Morley's funniest moment was watching the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, suggest that injecting disinfectant could be a cure for Covid 19.

The Provincial Grand Master's reference to Lincoln City had caused W. Bro. S. G. Pickwell to reflect on the good times not so long ago when his team, Rotherham United, had convincingly beaten Lincoln City getting revenge for an earlier defeat in the season. Someone suggested W. Bro. Pickwell had just put an end to his Masonic career.

### **Conclusion of meeting**

The Worshipful Master thanked everyone involved in making this celebration of Olive Union possible and The Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Provincial Grand Master for joining us. The brethren, scattered throughout the Province and in London joined together in a hearty rendition of "We'll meet again" accompanied by W. Bro. S. J. Morley.

That was the end of the official part of the celebration but the Zoom meeting remained open so that those that wished to could "retire to the bar" and socialise.

### **Next day**

The next day the secretary received email from W. Bro. Norman Wise saying how enjoyable it had been to see so many familiar faces. Norman had left the area some years ago to be near his family in London. He had intended to attend the 150 years celebration and would have received his 60 years certificate from the Provincial Grand Master had the event been able to go ahead as planned.