

Southwood Club Ltd

Masonic Newsletter

April 2021



**A warm welcome to the April 2021
edition of the Southwood Club Ltd Masonic Newsletter**

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWOOD BOARD

At the time of writing the Directors and staff are planning the re-opening of the building and provided the Government's timetable for relaxing restrictions goes to plan and UGLE allow Lodges to meet we expect the Craft Lodges to hold their first regular meetings in July. It is also expected that the lodges and side degrees may commence practise nights after 21st June.

The Government 's route plan allows for venues such as Southwood to open outdoors for the service of drinks and/or food from 12th April 2021. It is therefore pleasing to announce that on Sunday 9th May from 2pm to 5 pm there will be a beer and BBQ event held. The bar will be open, and the Bromleys will provide a BBQ for those wanting something to accompany a drink or of course the other way round. It will be table service and will be on the terrace.

With effect from 23rd May, we are allowed to serve people inside and the bar will be open Thursday and Friday evenings 5pm to 10pm and Sunday lunch from 1pm to 4pm. Sunday lunch will be available and should be booked with Viki. Food will also be available on Thursday and Friday but will be something simple such as pie and peas.

From 21st June, Southwood will be open each evening and Sunday lunch will be continued if there is a demand from members and friends.

I would really urge everyone to support the dates planned prior to 21st June which will support our caterers who frankly have had a tough time.

Prior to re-opening the building, the Board have committed to continue the improvements to the fabric of it and after the success of replacing the windows in the bar lounge where it is now noticeable that heat is being retained, it has been decided to replace the

windows in the dining room and to the side of the building. The Board felt that whilst the building is closed it would be the most advantageous time to do it because leaving it and doing it at a later time would lead to disruption to masonic and commercial events. I know that there will be many members and especially their partners who will welcome the end of draughts and the room taking an incredible amount of time to heat up. The single glazed windows and metal frames whilst looking attractive were totally energy inefficient. The replacement double glazed heritage windows will look just as good if not better and are extremely energy efficient.

In addition to the windows, the curtains in the dining room will be replaced and there will be internal blinds to enhance the overall appearance of the room. Whilst there is of course considerable investment in all of the works which have been undertaken and those which are planned it is an investment which the Board consider is necessary which will ensure the future of the building is attractive, modern and efficient.

The Directors are currently considering the establishment of a member's bar and are consulting with their lodges for the members views and will hopefully make a decision very soon. It is thought that the creation of a bar for members who can call for a drink at any time without interfering with the lodge or side degree occupying the building on that particular evening will help to maximise the use of the building for the members, as well of course increasing income.

The building has become a true Masonic Centre with 7 Craft Lodges and 8 other Orders meeting in the building and the anticipated restart of masonic activities in the improved building will bring life back to Southwood.



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NEWS FROM THE BOARD (CONT)

It is intended to increase the marketing activity with respect to the commercial activities of the building, as it is expected in these modern times not only to have the now customary web site but also to be listed on social media. The Board are looking at ways that Southwood can be represented in these various formats and hope that in a very short period of time it can be achieved.

There is no doubt that this last twelve months have been testing and with the stop start roller coaster of the pandemic we hope it is nearly over with the vaccination of so many. However, the reopening of Southwood will still mean that social distancing and enhanced hygiene may have to remain. Guidance will be supplied to all the lodges and side degrees prior to their return to the building.

Whatever is required the Board are committed to ensuring everyone can visit Southwood feeling safe and able to enjoy their visit whether that be Masonic or members of the wider public. Viki, and

Janet and John Bromley are working hard to get the business going again and I am sure we will all ensure that they are well supported.

I wish you all a speedy return to your masonic activities and we all have a lot to catch up, but we should also remember those members who will not be returning because they have gone to the Grand Lodge above during the time our meetings have been suspended. They will be remembered with brotherly love and will be much missed.

As always if you have any questions about Southwood please speak with your Director or representative and I am always available if you wish to contact me.

David Sweeting
Company Secretary

Southwood welcomes our new staff member

Southwood has just employed a new member of our permanent staff.

Stephen Rickett has been employed as our Handyman/Gardener.

Stephen, although not a gardener by trade, he has the skills to maintain the whole site.

He is an ex member of the Parachute Regiment and has worked as an HGV driver for the last 40 years.

So far he has made a great impression on the gardens and the car park by cutting back the overgrown trees and jet washing everything.

We decided that in order to maintain the building and its grounds to the level that we would all like, it would be better to have someone on staff to carry out that function rather than pay contractors.

Stephen is employed on a flexible 'on demand' basis so if anyone sees any areas that need attention please

contact Viki to fit it into his work schedule

Hopefully we will be employing him on a few inside repair jobs now that the weather has cooled off.

We are looking forward to having the extra help when we re-open to prepare the building and set up rooms.

Generally we are expecting great things once he has settled in and welcome him as part of the Southwood Team.

Martin Longbottom



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NEWS FROM THE BOARD (CONT)

BBQ and Beer

Southwood intends to hold an opening event on Sunday 9 May 2021 from 2pm to 5pm or later.

The bar will be open for table service on the veranda or on the lawn. Subject to the Government's lockdown rules we will be allowed outside hospitality only.

The Bromleys will be running an outdoor BBQ stall with all the usual BBQ items for sale.



All members and their guests are welcome to drop in and stay for as long as you like.

No tickets required but if you could give some indication to your lodge Director that would be helpful.

(Yes. We will have some gazebos in case of rain!!)

Assuming the lockdown release continues to plan then we intend to open the bar indoors every Thursday and Friday evening for members and guests.

From 5pm to 10pm starting Thursday 20 May 2021 then every Thursday and Friday onwards.

We will also open every Sunday afternoon from 1pm from 23 May 2021 where food will also be available.

After 21 June 2021 normal service will be resumed providing we are allowed.

Please support your building and take this opportunity to see all the new renovations and meet friends old and new.

Above all stay safe everyone.

Martin Longbottom

Manager's Moments



Hello again everyone. I hope this finds you all well after the last 12 months, and what a year it has been. At last we appear to have a realistic idea about when we can reopen and when I can welcome you back to Southwood.

A couple of events for the diary. Firstly I'd like to tell you about what is snappily named BBQ and Beer (I refuse to take credit for this) on Sunday 9th May starting at 2pm until 5pm-ish. Due to covid regulations this is strictly an outside event with table service for other food and the bar. This is a casual event, booking is not required and both cash and cards are accepted.

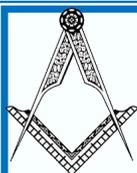
You may have already heard about our Summer Ball on Saturday 4th September. It really is going to be a fabulous evening so please get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

As covid regulations are relaxed in May we can again open hospitality inside for all members and their guests, so from 23rd will be open on Thursday and Friday evenings between 5pm and 10pm, and Sunday afternoons for lunch or just a drink from 1pm until 4pm. Bookings are not necessary and full table service will be provided.

In other news, the new windows are about to be installed in the main dining room so this winter will be a lot more cosy in there.

We have such a busy year in front of us with masonic events and outside let's coming up. As always, weddings are one after another all summer and into the autumn. We do however have some availability so please get in touch if you have any requirements.

Viki Shaw



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THE LODGE OF PROBITY NO 61

Lodge of Probity No. 61 History

The history of the lodge and of Freemasonry in Halifax is amply covered in “The Lodge of Probity No. 61 1738-1938” by T. W. Hanson, a well-known local historian which is available in the local reference library or by arrangement with the Lodge. The Lodge was founded in 1738 and it has enjoyed continuous existence since then, it is the oldest Lodge in Yorkshire as well as the West Riding, being born out of the expansion of freemasonry following the foundation of Grand Lodge in 1717,

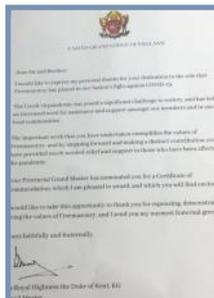
Deserved recognition for a true COVID warrior.

Hearty congratulations to Bro Ian Shaw-Peters for being awarded a Certificate of Commendation from our Grand Master, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent. This was awarded to Ian for his outstanding contribution to Freemasonry’s role in our nation’s fight against Covid-19.

Ian is currently the Senior Warden of the Lodge of Probity No 61 (in clear view of the ‘Big Chair’ for next year). As a retired Police Officer, he planned to embark upon some travel plans he made on his retirement, embrace Freemasonry and generally prepare for the Chair. Of course, all this was before the pandemic struck and in order to offset our relative masonic ‘inaction’ he decided to join the fight against the virus.

Ian consequently pursued training as a Covid Tester in July 2020 and subsequently became a Trainer himself. Much of his work was carried out in bitterly cold weather in locations such as Leeds, Bradford, Manchester and even as far as Southampton.

So far, he estimates that he has worked around nine hundred hours and still counting. Ian has also mentioned that he’s finding the task genuinely rewarding and especially his interaction with the Public (especially the nervous ones that need some additional comfort).



Congratulations again to Bro Ian Shaw-Peters for generously offering help out where it is needed and to do so without reward. This demonstrates a true virtue which surely must be one of the fundamentals of Freemasonry. A Commendation thoroughly deserved.

W Bro Fraser Turner
WM

www.lodgeofprobityno61.com

www.facebook.com/Probity61



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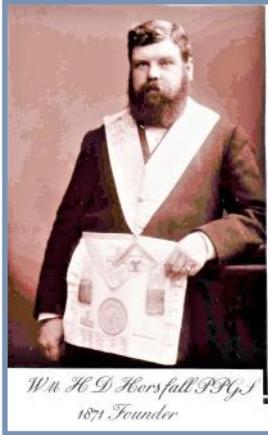


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DE WARREN LODGE NO 1302

W Bro William Henry Dodgson Horsfall



William Henry Dodgson Horsfall was a founder member and the second master of De Warren in 1871. Along with our other founders, he was a member of St James's Lodge No 448, where he was initiated in 1866, and also of the Lodge of Probity in Halifax and the Lodge of Three Graces in Howarth. He was an Alderman on the Halifax Town Council for 4 years from 1866 (when he

was aged only 24) and served another 10 year term on the council from 1881 to 1891.

Born in 1842, he was the son of John and Lydia Horsfall who were innkeepers at the Sun Inn in Woolshops in the town centre. William was born there along with his brothers, Squire and Thomas, and his sister, Emma. The Sun Inn stood virtually next door to the Moon Inn in Woolshops.

When William became De Warren's WM in 1871, he was a partner in a firm of architects and surveyors originally started by his uncle, Richard Horsfall, and he and his wife, Jane, were living in Rhodes Street, Halifax along with a 19-year-old servant, Rebecca Copley. In the same year, William and his wife had a son, John Whiteley Horsfall and, in 1876, another son, Alfred Oswald, was born but died at the age of only 14 months. In 1879, they had a daughter, Florence Isabel. Their son, John, served in WW1 but died of influenza shortly after being demobbed in 1918

In 1881, William was living at Elm View on Skircoat Road with his wife and children and two servants. At the time, most of the houses in Elm View were unoccupied and were probably in the final stages of being built. Elm View is where De Warren's honorary organist, W Bro Austin Crowther, now resides but I think he's probably managing without servants! Ten years later in 1891, the family were still living in Elm

View and there were two further children. As William's mother-in-law and sister-in-law were also living with the family along with two female servants, he was probably glad to get out of the house as often as he could for his many civic and masonic meetings!

While he was a member of St James's in 1867, William, along with his masonic brothers John Edwin Oates and Benjamin Jackson, prepared the plans for the new Freemasons Hall in St John's Place which was commissioned jointly by St James's and The Lodge of Probity. The foundation stone was laid in June 1868 following a grand procession with a brass band from the Town Hall to the site where an elevated wooden grandstand had been erected to accommodate the ladies and other spectators. Current St James's member, Neil Scraithcherd's great, great, great Uncle, Thomas Henry Croisdale Scraithcherd, was Probity's WM at the time and took part in this procession. After the ceremony, William presented the Mallet used to lay the stone along with the architectural plans to the two lodges.

The following year, the building was completed and was in use for around the next 120 years until sold to the Halifax Building Society and demolished when the occupying lodges moved to Southwood. The pictures below show various stages of its demolition.



Some of you may remember the Hall. But for those who never saw it, this is a description from the December 1869 issue of 'The Freemason' magazine:

"The Temple has been erected in the Italian style of architecture, having in the front a projecting portico of 7 ft. 6 in. The lodge room, which is on the principal upper floor, is 48 ft. long by 24 ft. wide, and 24 ft. high, and is



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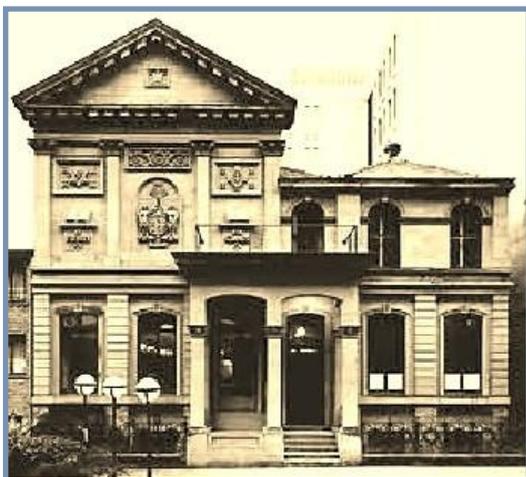


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DE WARREN LODGE NO 1302 (CONT)

enriched with a handsome cored and panelled ceiling with ornamental marginal counter lights . The walls are divided into compartments by pilasters, having carved bases and capitals, and a Corinthian cornice with full enrichments. The east end is adorned with a large canopy, supported by two massive pillars with carved capitals; and the west end of the room has single columns, forming central projections. This room is approached by a spacious staircase of stone and opposite the foot of the staircase is the entrance to the dining room, which is the same size as the lodge-room, except that it is only 14 feet high. The interior also contains instruction and other rooms, for both the lodges of Probita and St. James, together with smoke rooms, cloakrooms, lavatories, & c.; and the basement contains living apartments for hall-keeper, with every requisite for cooking, & c.



“The cost of the building is about £ 4 , 251 , exclusive of furnishing , which is calculated to cost £ 500 , so that when completed the entire cost will be £ 4 , 754 “

As shown in the accompanying photographs kindly supplied by Halifax historian, Steve Gee, the Hall's magnificent frontage was isolated and retained and is now displayed behind glass to form part of the Lloyds/HBOS complex.

Before the Lloyds/HBOS building replaced it, the Ward's End site in front of Freemason's Hall was occupied by Ramsdens's Stone Trough Brewery, which was another of William's architectural designs. In 1881, Ramsdens bought the original brewery (built pre 1827) from Lupton and Charnock. After fighting off the plan of the Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway



Company to build a railway line through the site, the new Brewery was built and opened in 1887.

The architectural practice in which William was a partner also designed the building now occupied by Lloyds Bank on Commercial Street and a number of pubs, chapels and mills. William's best known surviving individual works as an architect are ' Palatine Chambers' at the top of Woolshops, commissioned for the clothier, Ezra Pinder in 1894, and the 'Plummet Line Hotel' in Bull Close Line completed in 1898.. According to local folklore, an earlier 'Plummet Line' at this location could not be closed before its replacement was built as it was said that "there must always be a Plummet Line on the site". Regrettably, I don't know who said this or why!

William resigned from De Warren in 1895 – his resignation letter said he had "no alternative" but did not explain why. He doesn't seem to have been badly affected by the financial depression that hit the building trade towards the end of the century as he and his family later moved to Heath Mount, where they still employed servants.

Incidentally, when William's daughter married in 1899, the Courier reported that a reception for 150 guests was held at the Masonic Hall, "Heatherstone" - now known as Blackwall Masonic Hall, the home of St John's Lodge and, until recently, also the home of De Warren and Rokeby lodges. I'm not sure how they managed that, as, although the building has been considerably extended since that time, it probably wouldn't accommodate 150 people now!

Peter J Reeve PPJGW, De Warren 1302



BEACON LODGE NO 4066

[Salterlee Under Fives get new exciting resources !](#)



Beacon Lodge has continued to carry out plenty of fund raising for its chosen charities and we feel sure that those charities have found the extra funds helpful, particularly during this terrible time.

resources will enhance children's play experiences in the setting.

New and exciting resources promote children's engagement and focus. These resources are aimed at promoting children social experiences, their speech and language skills and their collaborative play. COVID has limited children's social and communication experiences and the charity bridges the gap in children's learning by providing a high quality and engaging environment for children.

In addition to this Beacon applied for, and was successful in obtaining a grant of £1095 for Salterlee Under Fives.

The application was submitted on Beacon's behalf by W Bro Stuart Burgess. On receipt of the news that the grant had been awarded Early Years Teacher Mrs Felicity Sutcliffe wrote

This charity is an early year's setting for children aged between 2-4 years at the heart of the Shibden Valley community. The charity is committee lead and has a team of volunteers supporting the setting in providing a high quality early year's setting for children to thrive within. It has children with special education needs, speech and language developmental delay and provides one to one support with individual learning and development plans. The teachers are passionate about helping children to reach their full potential in an environment full of love and community spirit.

"Stuart thank you so much for all your help and support with the application!"

We are so grateful and can't wait to add to our classroom with the wonderful new resources!

The children will be so excited!

Again a huge huge thank you!!

Kindest regards from

Felicity, all the teachers, the children and the whole school community! "

The successful application was for tree bark carry cushions; a Curiosity Kitchen and Accessories set and two dolls houses for imaginative play. These new



Many congratulations to:
W Bro Malcolm Priestley and W Bro Norman Dale
on their Provincial Grand Rank promotions to
PPJGW and PPGReg respectively

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THE LODGE OF HALEZ-FAX NO 4135

Gordon David Jacobs PPSGW 23/11/1943 – 23/12/2020

Gordon sadly died just before Christmas after suffering the last twelve months with a progressive debilitating condition. He had been a Mason for 36 years being initiated in 1984 into the Lodge of Halez-fax 4135. He became Master in 1991 and again in 1994.

He was well supported by his wife Jean and his family in all his Masonic activities and almost without fail attended every practise night and full lodge meeting. He provided guidance and support to the new members and was well respected for his traditional views.

He was an Acting Officer in the Province, was on the Charity team for several years in Area 2 and was promoted to PPJGW. He became a Liaison Officer and enjoyed his time with Victory Lodge and spoke fondly of his involvement.

He served his lodge for several years as Treasurer and in March 2013 for services to the Province was promoted in open Lodge by V W Jack Pigot, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, in a very moving ceremony.

Gordon was a member of Sincerity Chapter No 61 and served the Province as Provincial Almoner, a duty which he took extremely seriously and was promoted to the office of PGStB in Supreme Grand Chapter.

Gordon was also a member of Richard Gill Chapter in the Order of Rose Croix which meets in Southwood.

Whilst under COVID regulations the number of those able to attend his funeral at Parkwood was limited to 30 people but there was still quite a number of Masons from his Lodge and others in the district who lined the approach to the crematorium when the cortege passed.

He was a dedicated Mason and his Lodge will miss his dry sense of humour, banter in the bar about Yorkshire cricket and most of all him always being there.

David Sweeting PPJGW



Reflections on a year

The last time we met as a Lodge at Southwood was at our Installation in February 2020 and since that time, we have met on Zoom every week. The focus of our regular Lodge meeting dates has been a quiz organised by Steve Wade which have proved highly popular and extremely competitive. The knowledge gained should stand everyone in good stead for pub quizzes should they get the chance.

Our other evenings each week together we have had a member tell us about their lives outside of freemasonry. This has ranged from apprenticeships in the engineering industry, serving in the US navy, early days as a Customs Officer, working in China, being a

radio ham, a travelling sales man in the Middle East, joining the Parachute Regiment and recently the history of the motor car.

These topics and many more have kept us all entertained but most of all, together, we have had over forty of these meetings and it has kept us all in touch with each other, the attendance has been high and continues to be so.

This year has meant that we have had to postpone our Centenary meeting and a very special ladies night which had been planned.

It is hoped that our Centenary meeting can now take



THE LODGE OF HALEZ-FAX NO 4135 (CONT)

place in October and the ladies night will be the first Saturday in December. All our other planned events for the centenary year were also postponed and hopefully we can hold some of those when we reconvene.

Everyone within the lodge is looking forward to meeting again soon and if the Government's road map is followed it is hoped that our first meeting will be in July.

During the year we lost to the Grand Lodge above Worshipful Gordon Jacobs PPSGW and he will be greatly missed. We continue to support his widow Jean who is very much part of the Lodge family.

In October Jack Glenton whom many of you know as the "rock" of our Lodge was promoted by the PGM in a telephone call during lockdown for his exceptional service to Freemasonry to the well-deserved rank of

Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden. The Lodge is extremely proud of him and all he does for the lodge and Freemasonry. Unfortunately, the usual celebrations which would normally go with such a promotion have not yet taken place, but we are all determined that they will very soon!!!

I think all of the members want to get back to Southwood as quickly as possible as we have all missed that very special time together and once back, we hope the Lodge will go from strength to strength with renewed efforts.

David Sweeting PPJGW



HALYFAX COURT NO 142

[Still Zooming](#)

Halyfax Court met informally on 16 February that should have been our first regular meeting of the year. We got a good attendance from our own Court and also had "visitors", including the PGM R W Bro Tony Burke and the Provincial Grand Secretary W Bro Matthew Simm. Apart from some items of non-official business, I gave a talk entitled "The Rosetta Stone and its Meaning".

We will probably repeat the exercise in May, which should have been our Installation meeting.

Lance Milburn



SALAMANCA PRECEPTORY NO 21 - KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

[E Kt David Parker - a well deserved promotion](#)

Further to the entry in the last Newsletter regarding our Zoom Meeting and E Kt David Parker receiving his 40 Year Anniversary Certificate and being promoted to Past Provincial Chancellor.

He has now been Appointed a Great Priory Officer, Past Great Aide-de-Comp, (Knights Templar equivalent of Grand Lodge). This is a great honour and reward for David and for the Preceptory, he has been a member for 41 years and Treasurer for the past 11 years. The Appointment is effective from May 2021.

His commitment hard work and support of both the Preceptory and the Province has been exemplary over the many years he has been involved and this great appointment is thoroughly earned and well deserved.



FACULA LODGE NO 4825

W Bro Tony Pye PPJGW

W Bro Tony Pye PPJGW sadly passed away on 11 December 2020. Tony was 72 years of age and a valuable member of Facula Lodge.

He was initiated into Freemasonry on 2 September 1983 and progressed through the various Offices until becoming Worshipful Master in 1993.

He represented the Lodge for many years on The Installed Master's Association and was the Lodge Treasurer.

Tony and his wife Pauline supported the Lodge in all its various events and celebrations and he will be greatly missed.



Lockdown Projects. (1)

Being in Lockdown from the middle of March, at home and shielding, no lodge, no masonic activities and no football, I had now plenty of time on my hands so I thought I would use this time to work on my hobby. I have had an interest in model railways and railways in general since I was a child. Visiting stations and train spotting were school holiday activities back in the day. I then got into the history of railways and their development, living in Halifax I became interested in the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway.

I decided to look at things that needed to be completed on my model railway, things I had not done or put aside because of difficulty or lack of knowledge.

My interest in the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway began in the early 1960's; at that time I lived with my parents and had no room to build a layout. When I got married and had a family I had no time or space for a railway until the late 70's when I moved to a house which had a large attic. I had plenty of space and started to build my layout which is based on Halifax and the Calder Valley; I built the station buildings and platforms but never got around to the platform canopies, mainly due to the difficulty as the platforms were curved.

Since then I have moved house twice so in some sense it is fortunate I hadn't made the canopies because the platforms had to be changed and the canopies would have had to be remade. So this was the ideal time to set about making the platform canopies and platform waiting rooms.

I started by refurbishing the station building, fitting a new roof and other features which had been damaged over the years, also the footbridge required repairs. The main entrance forecourt bridge sides were remade and I installed lighting.

Next was to start on the canopies, much thought went into how I was going to do this, I decided to use a plastic proprietary platform canopy kit to make the roof structure, I needed 10 of them.

First I marked out the platform outline by fixing down baking paper and rubbing the edge with a pencil, this gave an exact outline to work to and I also marked out the position of the columns, the paper could then be lifted and placed down on the workbench. The canopy kits are meant for small straight platforms but being plastic I was able cut and vary the length of the roof supports to suit the varying width of the platforms by making and fitting new centre sections.



Constructing one of the roof frames



Finished canopy and waiting rooms

FACULA LODGE NO 4825 (CONT)

Work to complete took 4 months and it took much research on the platform buildings. I found old photographs one of which showed two being dismantled in the 60's and I visited the station as the original buildings on the now platforms 1 & 2 still remain.

Being a member of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Society I sought help on features and colour scheme from society members.

Obviously it is impossible to make an exact model of the station due to the size it would have to be and the space one has available. I am sure the model recreates a good representation of Halifax station before it was reduced to an island platform.



*View along the platform
at the rear of one of
the canopies*



*View at the left hand side
of the station*



*View of the platforms and
canopies on the right
hand side of the station*



*View along the main front
of the building*

I had two locomotives which I had made back in the late 60's. Over the years these had become damaged, were in a sorry state of repair and had been stored away in boxes so I decided I would now make this my next project to refurbish and improve. Again this required research and assistance from society members and I must thank Gavin Davidson who also contributed and supplied some material for me.

This took me up to Christmas and I am now working on of the coal drops and a coal yard, based on those at Halifax and Sowerby Bridge, these are still there to see although being classed as listed structures they are in an advanced state of decay.



L & Y Class 27 Locomotive



L & Y Class 28 Locomotive



The Coal Drops

I hope this summary of my Lockdown projects has been of interest and certainly kept me busy and occupied.

W Bro Philip Waddington PPJGW

FACULA LODGE NO 4825 (CONT)

Lockdown Projects. (2)

Whilst the Lodges have been closed it has been an up and down year for everyone, But in between lockdowns and restrictions myself and fellow Mason Bro B Fermoyle have continued our passion for metal detecting/researching such places that may have been forgotten about by most people. Over the past years we have had our fair share of good discoveries, including gold, silver and other relics dating back to Roman times. Also not forgetting our share of rubbish which we recycle where possible in order to keep the landscape clean.

Our latest projects include the Battle of Heptonstall which occurred in November 1643 during the first English Civil War at Hebden Bridge and Heptonstall. During the battle, Colonel Bradshaw, a Parliamentarian Commander, fended off an attack by Sir Francis Mackworth and the Royalists

An image is attached showing just a few of our finds including buckles, musket balls, coins and not to forget the occasional spoon.

In time, even though working full time, we hope to produce a reel of videos for others to enjoy as well as

putting our finds in local museums. We are also happy to offer any curious minds a chance for us to come and scan land belonging to any fellow Masons once restrictions start to ease. However current projects and work restrict our availability.

Please contact if interested at

Benjaminwillars@outlook.com or
brendanfermoyle@gmail.com .



Bro Ben Willars

First appointment



Many congratulations to W Bro John Stopford on his Provincial Grand Rank appointment to PPJGD

www.facebook.com/groups/faculalodge4825

www.faculalodge4825.co.uk

Did you know.....?



The first man to swim the English Channel without artificial aids in 1875, Captain Matthew Webb, who is still commemorated on matchboxes, was a member of Neptune Lodge No 22 in London.

Regrettably, he was later drowned while attempting to swim the rapids at the foot of Niagara Falls in 1883.



ROKEBY LODGE NO 6301

[An open invitation to Rokeby Chapel](#)

With the welcome demise of the Covid 19 pandemic and as we are finally in the process of resuming some kind of normality to our lives, the Brethren of Rokeby Lodge are looking forward to becoming more familiar with our new home at Southwood and to make ourselves known to you all.

Although several of our Brethren already have connections at Southwood in the form of friends or perhaps are involved in degrees other than the Craft, some will find the move to be a new experience, which, I am sure we all hope will be rewarding to them and pleasurable for us all.

Rokeby is keen to become an integral part of the Masonic community at Southwood and to be able to move forward with our Lodge as the past few years have proved to be most challenging due to the uncertainty at Blackwall and of course the COVID pandemic.

Following the difficulties that we have all experienced during the past twelve months and particularly with a view to those who have been touched by the loss of a loved one or valued members of our Lodges during the pandemic, we would like to make you all aware and extend a welcome to one of our traditional Rokeby Lodge events which occur each year.

November brings acts of Remembrance throughout the nation and at that time of the year, we at Rokeby have an annual evening service held at the Halifax Minster. This service is held in the Rokeby Chapel which is appropriately named after and dedicated to Arch Bishop William Rokeby who was the Vicar of Halifax in the 1500's also to whom our Lodge takes its name.

Traditionally this short service on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday with an address from Cannon Hilary Barber, the current Vicar of Halifax, along with a couple of hymns and usually lasts around an hour. When the service is complete we usually return to the Lodge building for drinks and perhaps a light supper. This year following the pandemic we felt it appropriate that we make some adjustments to the evening's procedures by including the names of any loved ones, friends, or lodge members, that we have lost during this past year in particular where the attendance at funerals has been restricted, thus providing the Brethren an opportunity for them to pay their respects at the Minster with others.

The Rokeby Chapel service has traditionally only been for the Brethren of Rokeby Lodge, but this year following the extreme circumstances we have all had to endure, we feel that we would like to extend an invitation to all of the Lodges within the Halifax Area, who may be interested in joining us where they too can include the names of their loved ones, friends and Lodge members, who they may have lost this past year so that they can also be respectfully remembered and recorded in the service.

It would be appreciated if you could circulate this invitation around your brethren in the hope that your Lodge as a whole or any of your members individually may be interested in joining us on this evening, they would of course be most welcome. In order for us to begin to make our arrangements we would value a prompt response should your members feel that this event would be of interest.

W Bro. Neill Smith PPDGDC
Secretary Rokeby Lodge.

[Congratulations to Rae and Neill](#)



Many congratulations to:
W Bro Neill Smith and W Bro Rae Graham
on their Provincial Grand Rank promotions to
PPGReg and PPDGDC respectively

www.facebook.com/neill.smith.5245961

CRAFT LODGES

The Lodge of Probity No 61

- Meets 3rd Monday every month

Facula Lodge No 4825

- Meets 2nd Tuesday every month

St James's Lodge No 448

- Meets 3rd Tuesday every month

De Warren Lodge No 1302

- Meets 2nd Monday every month

Beacon Lodge No 4066

- Meets 1st Thursday every month

The Lodge of Halez-Fax No 4135

- Meets 4th Wednesday every month

Rokeby Lodge No 6301

- Meets 4th Friday every month (except January—2 meetings in February)

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS

Sincerity No 61

- Meets 1st Monday in February, July, January and December

Regularity No 448

- Meets last Thursday in March, September and November and the 2nd Thursday in June

Heatherstone and Saville Chapter No 1302

- Meets 1st Tuesday April, May, January and November

ROSE CROIX

Richard Gill Chapter Rose Croix No. 202

- Meets 3rd Thursday in March, June and January

ROYAL ARK MARINERS LODGES

Fearnley Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 58

- Meets 3rd Wednesday June, August and November

MARK MASTER MASON LODGES

Halifax Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 706

- Meets 2nd Wednesday in January, March, September and November

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR PRECEPTORY

Salamanca No 21

- Meets second Thursday in March, May, September (Malta meeting) and November

MASONIC ORDER OF ATHELSTAN

Halifax Court No 142

- Meets third Tuesday February, May and September

WEB SITES

West Riding Craft and Chapter Province: www.wrprovince.org.uk

The Rose Croix Yorkshire: www.rosecroixyorkshire.org.uk

Mark Master Masons West Yorkshire: www.westyorksmark.co.uk

Knights Templar West Yorkshire: www.westyorkskt.co.uk

Masonic Order of Athelstan (Province of Lindsey) www.athelstan-lindsey.org.uk

www.southwoodhalifax.com

www.facebook.com/southwood

For bookings contact Viki Shaw on
01422 320832



Southwood Club Ltd
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Editor: W Bro M Longbottom

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