

Amalgamation of Olympia Lodge No 6512 and Ingol Lodge of St. Margaret No 8544

On the evening of Thursday, 6 October 2005, a ceremony of amalgamation took place at the Masonic Hall, Ashlar House, Preston, between Olympia Lodge No 6512 and The Ingol Lodge of St Margaret No 8544 which marked the culmination of many discussions and hard work by all relevant parties.

The Lodge was opened at 1700hrs with the Worshipful Master of Ingol Lodge of St Margaret, Bro G O'Hagan and his team of officers. Once the Lodge business was concluded the Rt W Provincial Grand Master, Bro Colin Penty Wright, accompanied by W Bro W R Seddon, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro I W Greenwood, Preston Group Chairman and many other distinguished brethren entered and the Lodge room and the ceremony of amalgamation commenced. The Provincial Grand Master led his Provincial team in a very dignified and meaningful ceremony which cemented the amalgamation of Olympia Lodge and Ingol Lodge of St Margaret, who in future will meet under the title of the latter. Olympia Lodge was founded in 1949 and Ingol Lodge of St Margaret in 1974 and the ceremony was a true example of a daughter lodge welcoming back its mother lodge.

At the excellent festive board after the ceremony the toast to the health of the Provincial Grand Master was in the capable hands of W Bro Seddon, Assistant Provincial Grand Master. He spoke of the formers commitment to the lodge amalgamation process, his personal dedication to hard work and wished him the best of health for the future.

In his response the Provincial Grand Master congratulated and thanked his team and the members of the Lodge for all their hard work. He congratulated W Bro Seddon and the Preston Group under the Chairmanship of W Bro I W Greenwood and his executive, for guiding the Preston Masons on the right track of amalgamation. He stated that one of the important aspects of amalgamation was that the spirit and principles of Freemasonry are carried forward not just those of the Lodge. He spoke at length on the importance of change in the 21st Century and while standing firm to established principles, not to be afraid of sharing work in order to encourage younger brethren to take an active part in the ritual. On initiatives to improve retention, he spoke of a proposed mentoring system for younger Masons and made reference to a Provincial initiative to assist the efficient operation of Masonic Halls through the possible sharing of best practice, information and the power of collective buying.

Finally he was confident that the Ingol Lodge of St Margaret members were on the threshold of a bright future and wished them joy and success in that future, prior to proposing the toast to the newly amalgamated lodge.

Bro G O'Hagan, Worshipful Master, Ingol Lodge of St Margaret, thanked the Provincial Grand Master for proposing the toast to the Lodge and presented him with a basket of fruit for his wife as a token of appreciation from the Lodge.

The visitors who are currently members of Lodges who do not enjoy large numbers or have not attracted sufficient young Masons, no doubt took heart from the Provincial Grand Master's words of encouragement that given the right circumstances and a will to change, amalgamation is a possible way to ensure Freemasonry continues to flourish in the future.



The Rt W Provincial Grand Master, Bro Colin Penty Wright and the Worshipful Master of Ingol Lodge of St Margaret, Bro G O'Hagan (centre back row), together with the assembled Brethren of the amalgamated Ingol Lodge of St Margaret.