



YPC

The Young People's Committee.

Autumn 2022 Newsletter

The YPC and its Beneficiaries were saddened to learn of the Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and join with the rest of the country in expressing our condolences to the Royal family

From our Chairman

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter. After the numerous restrictions imposed during the covid pandemic we were able to resume a programme of events. So far this year, at the time of publication, the number of events held this year is on par with the number of Prime Ministers. We hope this year's events gave you the opportunity to learn new skills, challenges and were entertaining.

Periodically Freemason's Provinces are tasked with raising additional monies for the MCF. The baton for the drive to raise additional funds is in the hands of East Lancashire Freemasons for the period 2021 to 2026. East Lancashire's Freemasons Lodges, Districts and the Province are organising events to raise monies and have fun whilst doing so. The YPC are looking to hold two events a "Soapbox Derby" and "It's a Knockout". The events will be family orientated and I hope that you all will be able to join in the fun.

The economic outlook is a cause for concern for all of us. The MCF and ELMC are here to support you. If you are struggling please contact us. If we can help we will.

We are planning next year's itinerary and need your input. If there are any outings that you would like us to consider for inclusion in next year's planning please get in touch.

Dino Falls Golf

On a wet, cold, windy morning, Tuesday 12th April, fifteen Young People accompanied by six parents / guardians met with the Young Peoples' committee members at the Trafford Golf Centre. Everybody had hoped for fine weather, but we were presented with weather that reminded us of January, not the week before the Easter Holidays.



Undaunted we met in the cafe at the Golf centre and were welcomed by our host Matt. The plan was for the Young People and their parents / guardians to have their first experience of using a Driving Range followed by two rounds of Adventure Golf on the Dino Falls and Volcano Rapids courses at the Golf Centre located close to the Trafford Centre.

Matt, our professional for the day, took all the participants through the basics of hitting the ball, grip, stance, swing and safety. The group divided into team groups and went to their assigned bays to begin taking the theory into practice.

The experienced golfers amongst you will know how advanced and high-tech Driving ranges have become. Cameras track each shot and able to superimpose the track of the flight onto greens at golf courses around the world or onto computer games rewarding players with points for distance and accuracy. Automation has also eradicated the need to bend down and place the ball on a tee. Balls are automatically fed on to the variable height tee allowing the player to concentrate on hitting the ball.

The allotted hour of driving practice soon passed. Next was the first of the Adventure golf courses. The Dino Falls and Volcano Rapids both involve



water hazards with the possibility of some in our party getting slightly damp. In the

incessant rain everybody was going to get wet including the accompanying committee members. The courses are well designed with challenges on every hole.

After the first round of Adventure Golf we made our way to the meeting room for a lunch of Pizza, Burgers or Hot Dogs. Everybody had enjoyed the day despite the weather. It was good to meet with old friends and some of the new family groups supported by the MCF and ELMC.

After lunch it was time to distribute the Easter Eggs that have become a tradition at our Easter meets.

Following lunch and the eggs some of the families decided that it was too wet and cold to complete

the second course. For those who stayed the weather did improve. There was less rain but was still cold in the easterly wind. After completing the second round and after a hot drink everybody said their goodbyes and looking forward to our next meeting.

There are lots of people to thank for ensuring that the day went as planned, despite the weather, the committee members who gave up their time, Karen Hall for doing the invites and organising the food order. Thanks are due to the Trafford Golf Centre, Melissa Goodwin and Matthew (Matt) Cross for handling our booking and ensuring our requirements were catered for. Matt deserves special thanks for his patience, encouragement and skill in teaching all the group on the driving range.

The Water Ski Academy, Cowm Reservoir



Cowm reservoir is hidden away on a hillside above Whitworth. It is a local secret worthy of initiation rites to be given the location. Situated on this hidden gem of rolling green fields and tranquil waters is the Water Ski Academy. The YPC contacted Nick McGarry at the Water Ski Academy in 2019. Arrangements were made to hire the venue for two hours on the 31st May 2020, The Covid19 restrictions imposed in 2020 forced us to reschedule the date to 2021 and after a further subsequent postponement of that date we were able to hold the event on the 1st June 2022.

We had hired the use of one tow boat, with driver and safety observer for two hours and the use of the clubhouse facilities for the afternoon. The objective was to give eight Young People their

first experience of water skiing. On the morning of the event one of the families, three of whom were to take part in the event, contact us to say that had norovirus symptoms in the family group and could not join us. Down to four skiers we asked the parents / guardians if they wished to participate. One eagerly stepped forward. After the mandatory safety briefing, donning wetsuits and buoyancy jackets. It was time to take to the water.

The driver for the session was Georgina, a highly rated Water Ski Slalom competitor and safety observer Todd a Wake Board National Champion. With these two in charge the Young People were in safe hands. Also in the boat was the YPC Director of Photography, Paul. The ski boat is fitted with a tow bar at the side of the boat for beginners. The pupil uses the bar as support to learn the position of the skis on the water and to



feel the vibration of the water ripples and speed sensation when close to the water.



After a couple of runs on the bar the pupils then progress to using a short tow rope attached to the bar and when they feel confident transfer to a longer tow rope at the rear of the boat.

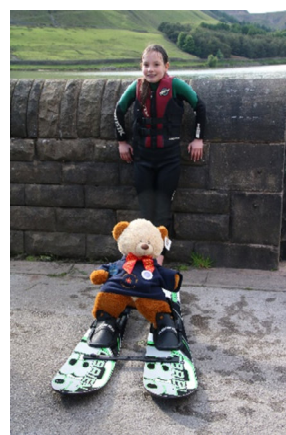


quickly progressed to using the long rope being towed behind the boat. The other pupils all had varying successes in overcoming the physical and mental demands of water skiing. To the YPC they are all champions. After everybody had completed

the course, Todd took to the water to demonstrate his incredible skills at Wake Board. Somersaults, flips, reverse skiing it is amazing the speed and agility he has.



A video of Todd's performance is available in the ELMC news pages.



https://www.elmc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/IMG_2437.m4v

Not everyone who tried the skis on got into the water. TLC couldn't be persuaded to have a dip

It was time to relax and for our students warm up after their experience on, and in, the water. The



Water Ski Academy has superb facilities in the grounds at the rear of the building comprising a hot tub, lawned gardens, picnic tables, shaded veranda and a large BBQ. Some of the girls found the lure of the hot tub too great to miss and an excellent way to get warm.



Roger was persuaded, try stopping him, to fire up the BBQ and begin cooking a tempting array of sausages, beefburgers and halloumi slices together with rolls, buns, salads, sauces and a giant chocolate fudge cake to satisfy the hunger.



Did TLC deserve a burger? We thought so.

At the end of the day before we departed Georgina donned her ski and took to the water to demonstrate her Slalom skills. She put on an impressive display of the grace and skill required to complete the demanding course.

Our thanks to Nick and everybody at the Water Ski Academy, Paul and Karen for doing the shopping and the Young People for challenging themselves to learn a new skill.

The Making of Harry Potter

Monday 1st August off to bed early, alarm set for 05.30 am. Couldn't sleep the excitement was mounting going to visit Warner Bros. Studios tomorrow to see The Making of Harry Potter.

The weather Gods were not kind to us it was raining throughout the journey into Manchester. Did somebody say there was a drought.

The YPC members volunteering to assist during the day had been asked to meet no later than 7.30 am at Manchester Piccadilly Station bringing with them a selection of bananas, water bottles and cereal bars to sustain the Young People during the first part of our journey, a train ride to Milton Keynes. After all of the Young People and their parents / guardians had arrived it was time to board our train for an 8.10 am departure. After the provisions had been distributed it was time to handout the "Harry Potter" quiz sheets. One of the committee members, Malcolm, had not read a Harry Potter book or seen any of the films spent the two weeks prior to the trip binge watching all eight films. He was disappointed when we told him committee members were not allowed to compete in the quiz. Never mind, his newly acquired knowledge would be useful during the Tour.

It is a quick journey from Manchester to Milton Keynes, approximately one and a half hours. The group had only just completed the quiz. The Dementors who stood in for our usual team of invigilators were a strong deterrence for any competitor who was hoping to use the internet as a source for the answers. After disembarking the

train it was a short walk, to the pick up point for our coach to Warner Bros. Studios which took forty minutes.

Despite appearances nobody travelled by flying car!



Our arrival at Warner Bros. was on time and within the timeslot allocated for our party to join



the Harry Potter Tour. After a group photo outside the entrance to the Harry Potter Tour and a reminder of the meet up and departure time it was time to enter the tour, entry ticket and passport in hand. Once through security and ticket checks we sat down to watch a short film explaining how the books became a publishing phenomenon and were transferred into a series of successful films creating major stars of the actors who played the main characters.

The screen lifted and we were invited to stand at the entrance doors to the Great Hall (not as impressive as the entrance doors to Grand Lodge). The Great Hall is impressive, with characters wearing their house uniforms, the members of staff at the top table and the Frog Choir.



After exiting the Great Hall the group split into family and friends pods and went their separate ways into the heart of the Studio Tour. Professor



Dumbledore's Office, Costumes, Special Effects, Quidditch Flying Brooms, Potions Classroom, Common Rooms, Dormitories, Professor Dolores Umbridge's Office, The Enchanted Forest (complete with Aragog), The Basilisk, Buckbeak, Platform 9 ¾ and much more. Don't forget to get your Passport stamped at the exhibits.

One committee member who hasn't read any Harry Potter books or seen any films had great difficulty entering Platform 9 ¾. Fortunately, TLC was on hand to guide him through the secret entrance. Well done David and enjoy the films you promised to watch, Malcolm will give you the list.



After Platform 9 ¾ it was time for a refreshment break at the Backlot Cafe. The queue for service at the cafe was huge, at least an hour's wait. Fortunately, a sandwich and drinks truck opened shortly after we bypassed the cafe and entered the Backlot. The truck had a selection of drinks, snacks and cheese and tomato sandwiches. Don't ask for tuna, the salesperson has had his sense of humour removed.

The Backlot has a number of attractions, a 1:3 scale version of the Weasley's Burrow, Professor Sprout's Greenhouse (our chance to capture our own Mandrake), 4 Privet Drive, Hogwarts Bridge, The Knight Bus, Ford Anglia and other attractions.

Fortified by cheese and tomato sandwiches and tea / coffee we were ready to undertake the second part of the indoor studio tour starting with Creature Effects demonstrating how CGI, Robotics and the creative skills of the model makers were merged to expand our believe in the supernatural.

Creature Effects leads into Gringotts Wizarding Bank a bank run by goblins that houses the Lestrange Vault treasure store. At 16,500 sq ft the bank is huge and impressive. The design, structure and attention to detail are amazing.



The next set is a recreation of Gringotts after the destruction wrought by the Ukrainian Ironbelly Dragon after its release by Harry, Hermione and Ron in Deathly Hallows Part Two. We mistakenly thought that the dragon had fled the scene of destruction



but were horrified when it made an appearance from the back of the building breathing fire and horrendous roars. The heat and dust was frightening, TLC fear was so great that he beat a hasty retreat from the building (watch the video of TLC's escape on the YPC web pages news)

leaving his committee member minders to make their own escape.



Luckily, we found TLC resting on the treasure in the Lestrange Vault. He wouldn't say how he eluded the tight security to gain access to the

vault. After some discussion security agreed to release TLC on condition that we kept him and his new friend under strict control. Any further adventures and he would be ejected from the building and barred for life.

Security escorted us to Diagon Alley. The shopping centre of choice for all wizards. The set contains all of the shops. All wizardly goods can be bought in Diagon Alley: wands, robes, potion bottles, cauldrons, schoolbooks, quidditch equipment, owls, bats' spleens, eels' eyes and everything else a wizard could need.



The Art Department has an exhibition of drawings and plans exemplifying the detail the artists, draughtsmen and technicians went to in creating, making and decorating the props and sets used in the filming of the Harry Potter films. It was a labour of love, in many cases taking years from design concept to fruition.

The Model Room, the next stop on the tour, is dominated by a model of Hogwarts School.



The exclamations of “Oh my God”, “Wow”, “Incredible” etc were uttered by everybody entering the room.

It is a fantastic, detailed model of the school created in J. K. Rowling’s mind. We were all taken aback by its size and detail. Entry to the Model Room is at roof level, the walkway gradually winds round Hogwarts until the model is seen from ground level. There are other models in the room each excellent examples of the creativity to take the structure from a description in a book to a physical representation of the wizarding world.

As always at any visitor attraction the last place to visit is the Gift Shop. The shop shown on the plan seems an insignificant space to all of the other sets and exhibitions. The shop is the wizardly equivalent of Dr Who’s Tardis. It goes on, seemingly, for ever.

The cup of tea / coffee at the cafe after leaving the shop was most welcome.

All of our group were on time at the meeting point and boarding the coach for the return trip to Milton Keynes and Zizzi’s restaurant at the Hub.



At the restaurant one member of the group asked if we were aware that Avanti West Coast had cancelled our scheduled train, A quick check on the internet confirmed the cancellation. Karen made a call to Avanti and calmly stressed that our party had to be on the next scheduled train with fortyfive reserved seats in the same carriage. Avanti met our request. The train was one hour later than our original plan. We added garlic bread starters to our order to spend more time at the restaurant. During the meal the winners of the Harry Potter Quiz were announced and presented with their prizes.

After the meal the group walked to Milton Keynes Station. The train was delayed arriving into Milton Keynes ten minutes late. On boarding the train there were some people sat in our reserved seats. Seeing a horde of tired Harry Potter fans entering the carriage persuaded them that they would be better off in another carriage. Tired and weary, but still excited everybody was seated and looking forward to arriving in Manchester with a revised plan for getting home.

The train did not make up the lost time before arriving in Manchester.

At Piccadilly we all said our goodbyes wished everyone a speedy trip home from the station and looking forward to our next gathering.

Report and Pictures by Roger Tinker

Upcoming Events

The Christmas outing will be to the Opera House to see the Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan.



We have booked tickets for the matinee on Thursday 29th December and I'm sure we are going to have a fantastic time.

*Oh no
you're not*

Oh yes we are, who said that anyway?

*He's behind
you*

Stop that now!

After the performance, we will be dining at Manchester Halls in Bridge Street followed by our usual excellent entertainment

To make sure that you are on the list please email, whatsapp or speak to Karen.

Contact Details



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