

WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



April 2022



A
**Midsummer
Night's Ball**

hosted by
The Provincial Grand Master

Saturday 25th June 2022
18:00 - 23:30

Ingestre Suite, County Showground, Western Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD.

Sparkling Reception
Grand Prize Draw & Raffle
Charity Guest Speaker
Dancing to The Soundations Band

Tickets £50.00 per person
visit www.staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk/midsummerball to purchase.
All proceeds to the Staffordshire 2024 Festival

Scan with phone camera



To make a donation
to the 2024 Festival

2024

Scan with phone camera



To order your
Mid-Summer Ball Tickets

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STAFFORDSHIRE



211 Tettenhall Road
Wolverhampton
WV6 0DD

Tel & Fax 01902 745151

E-Mail – secretary@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk

MIDSUMMER BALL SATURDAY JUNE 25th

Two months to go, **HAVE YOU BOOKED YET?**

Closing Date for applications **MAY 31st !**

Hurry to book your tickets for this prestigious event and support our Provincial Grand Master and the 2024 Festival.

If you already have tickets, persuade other Lodge members to make up a table of 10.

It will be an enjoyable occasion and a treat for your ladies, with dancing and entertainment and a substantial cheque will be presented to SSAFA during the evening.

Booking is through the Provincial website:

www.staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk/midsummerball

The Annual Investitures at the United Grand Lodge of England

On Wednesday 27th April saw the annual investitures at Freemasons Hall, London with approximately 1,700 freemasons attending from all over the country. This year three members from Staffordshire were among those invested by the Duke of Kent.

Officer, and Ralph Howarth, a past Provincial Almoner, both received a first appointment as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

All three were supported by the Provincial Grand Master Rt. W. Bro. John Lockley together with personal guests and we congratulate them all.



W. Bro. Michele Santopietro, Assistant Provincial Grand Master was promoted Past Senior Grand Deacon, whilst, W. Bro's Selwyn Burton, Communications



“Let’s visit the neighbours”

That was the proposition put forward by W. Bro. Mark Fullwood of Barr Beacon Lodge No: 6109 who meet at Aldridge. Well, you would be forgiven for thinking he meant a visit to another Lodge at Aldridge, even a trip to Wolverhampton or maybe West Bromwich. No, Mark had researched Lane’s

Masonic Records and came up with the idea of visiting their ‘numerical neighbour’,

Trearddur Lodge No: 6110,

who meet in Holyhead in the Province of North Wales. It was during the latter part of 2019, whilst recovering from serious illness and reflecting on the support he had received from the Almoner and brethren of the Lodge, that he thought about the significance of the Lodge number, and of how and when the Lodge was founded.



Mark noticed the Lodge was constituted on Wednesday 2nd May 1945, the exact same day as Trearddur Lodge No: 6110 and immediately thought it would be a great idea to pay them a visit.

He immediately set to work on arranging the trip to Holyhead and emailed the Secretary of Trearddur Lodge, W. Bro. Brian Jones. Brian, who coincidentally, was born near Mark in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, was really pleased to hear of the idea and so the plans began.

The initial plan was for a visit in April 2020, but unfortunately, Covid 19 hit and the meeting was postponed several times over the next two years. But finally, on Wednesday 13th April 2022, Mark together with several Barr Beacon brethren made their way to Holyhead.

It was whilst making the arrangements Mark discovered St. Elbod Lodge No: 6111, meet at the same Lodge Rooms and Brian had arranged for some brethren from St. Elbod to join the historic meeting. Furthermore, W. Bro. Steven Jones, PGSD, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of North Wales, himself a member of St. Elbod, would be present at the meeting to present a Fifty-Year Certificate to W. Bro. Thomas Jones of Trearddur Lodge.



The brethren from Barr Beacon received a fantastic warm welcome from all those present and during the Lodge proceedings Mark was honoured to present a brief history of Barr Beacon Lodge. At the conclusion of which he respectfully asked the Worshipful Master, W. Bro Alan Glover if all the brethren could stand in silence to reflect on the Founders of the three Lodges whose meetings all those years ago had now brought all the brethren together in the best traditions of Freemasonry.

It was quite a sombre moment, and Mark then presented the Worshipful Master with a gift, which was a framed picture of the two Lodge crests. After the meeting there was a superb festive board at a nearby hotel where plans were made for a visit to Aldridge. Barr Beacon brethren were presented with gifts from both Lodges which included bottles of Welsh whisky and engraved 'Firing glasses'. However, Mark hasn't stopped there and is now researching Barr Beacon's next visit along the chain of other numerical neighbours.



W. Bro Arnold Elwell P. Pr. J. G. W celebrates 50yrs in Freemasonry

On Wednesday 9th March 2022 the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Michele Santopietro PSGD attended Gnosall St Lawrence Lodge No. 9458 who meet at Penkridge. This was to celebrate with the lodge and to present a Provincial Certificate to W. Bro Arnold Elwell on his achievement of 50 years membership of Craft Freemasonry.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master addressed the Lodge and requested that two chairs were placed on the Square and proceeded to conduct a 'This is your Life' style interview with W. Bro Arnold, which was very well received by the brethren.

Arnold was born in Wolverhampton in 1934 and grew up during WW2, he qualified as an Engineer but joined the Parachute Regiment and became a fitness instructor. In time he left the service and returned to civilian life in Industry. He married Jane, they had two children but sadly they separated.

In Freemasonry Arnold joined Lodge of Mystic Quest No.3873 who meet at Kings Heath in the Province of Worcester, but he also became a founding member of Gnosall St Lawrence and became Worshipful Master in 1999 and then again in 2007.

Arnold also became an active member of

the Sutton Coldfield Demonstration Team and travelled around the Provinces visiting Lodges to perform demonstrations of ceremonies according to 1765 ritual. He is an exceptional ritualist but unfortunately is now suffering failing eyesight and registered blind.

The Fifty-Year Certificate was read by the attending Director of Ceremonies and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master then presented it to him to the applause of the brethren. W. Bro Arnold thanked all the brethren, and a most enjoyable evening was had by all.



Phoenix 9319

A phoenix obtains new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor.

Some legends say it dies in a show of flames and combustion, others that it simply dies and decomposes before being born again. The phoenix bird symbolises immortality, resurrection and life after death, and in ancient Greek and Egyptian mythology it is associated with the sun god.

Phoenix Lodge was consecrated on Tuesday 23rd May 1989 by R.W.Bro, Stanley Barrington PGM assisted by V.W. Bro. Kevin Chawner DPGM and W.Bro. John T. Bedson APGM. It was founded at a time of difficulty for the Lodge rooms at Wretham Road, Handsworth as a large Lodge had decided to move out to Wednesbury Masonic Hall and the financial viability of rooms was seriously under question hence the choice of Lodge name.

The thirty-six founders included R.W.Bro S. A.Lates the then Grand Superintendent for the Masonic Province of Warwickshire and 14 Grand Lodge Officers and its aim was for the brethren to continue to enjoy their Masonry during the "close season" and have good company and enjoy fine dining. The Consecration Festive board comprised six courses followed by coffee and mints. Today the Lodge's only remaining founding member is W.Bro. Clifford W. Hadley Past APGM (Warks).

The ravages of the passage of time have led to a reduced membership and the COVID pandemic suspensions and lockdowns have prevented the Lodge from recruiting more members and inviting visitors to come and enjoy their masonry during the summer months.

In the summer of 2022 the lodge is once again being given new life as it has established strong links with Concordia

Lodge 5131 and will be performing at least one if not two second or third degree ceremonies in June and July on their behalf.

Phoenix is unique as it is the only Summer Lodge in the Province of Staffordshire as it only meets four times a year on the third Tuesday in May (Installation), June, July and September (Ladies to Dine). Also as its Installation is held shortly after the Provincial AGM it is one of the first Lodges a new Acting Provincial Officer can attend after being appointed - he does not have to wait until September.

A warm welcome is assured and the provision of excellent ritual and festive board is high on the Lodge's agenda and we look forward to seeing old and making new friends - contact the secretary **W.Bro. Jim Cairns PPrSGD** on 07931 162475 or email jim@jamescairns.f9.co.uk for a summons.



Universities Scheme Travelling Loving Cup

The Universities Scheme Travelling

Loving Cup - the DKW cup - was presented to the scheme by David Kenneth Williamson, Founder President of the Universities Scheme on his retirement as President at the Scheme Conference in November 2015. The aim of the DKW cup is to encourage inter-visiting between Universities scheme Lodges and further its goals of fraternity and togetherness. The cup can be claimed by any visiting scheme Lodge with four or more of its members present at a meeting of the Lodge currently holding the cup. The first holders of the DKW Cup were Wygggeston Lodge No: 3448 in Leicester and its subsequent journey has seen it travel many

thousands of miles across the country, with more than 20 Lodges taking ownership.

Concordia Lodge No.

5131 started its life in London and moved to Wolverhampton in 2018, became a member of the UGLE Universities scheme that year under the Mastership of W Bro John Howl and a settling in period with W. Bro John Edwards at the helm. But throughout the pandemic W Bro Patrick Dunne not only kept the brethren motivated, but integrated

Concordia into the hearts of many Lodges at many venues, so much so, they now visit regularly and conduct a ceremony for other lodges. One of the very first things the younger brethren of the Lodge expressed an interest in doing, was to capture the DKW cup.

So, on Saturday the 30th of April 2022 Brethren from several other lodges, joined the 13 Concordia brothers, making a visiting team of 20 when they visited the esteemed Sir Issac Newton University Lodge No. 859 (Cambridge) founded in 1861.

The visiting brothers witnessed a demonstration of multiple passing and raising ceremonies, conducted with precision, passion and purpose. Sir Isaac Newton brethren were not in the mood to disappoint and were spectacularly proficient. It was a first for many brothers to witness multiple ceremonies.

INUL brethren did mention that



perhaps old rivals Apollo Lodge No. 357 (Oxford) may wish to attempt to claim the cup, Concordia brethren hope all University scheme Lodges will visit. Wolverhampton have a lodge room that holds 120 and they challenge a Scheme Lodge to come and fill it and hopefully meet brethren from across the country.

The hospitality the brethren received at the festive board matched the display given inside the Lodge. The relationships and friendships that were formed have put in place a wonderful visiting ethos, which was exactly what VW Bro David Kenneth Williamson envisaged when the Cup was presented.

The cup was presented to the current Worshipful Master W Bro Giuseppe D'Anna who commented "We are very proud of our younger brethren taking a lead and building on the values of the DKW cup. Furthermore, reaching out to Lodges out of our Staffordshire Province and visiting and making the Province of Staffordshire proud. We had a fabulous day and sincerely thank INUL not only for their warm welcoming and excellent ceremony, but also on how they have inspired and encouraged the Lodge, we welcome you anytime to our Lodge with open hearts as dear friends and brothers"

W. Bro Jack Evans P.Pr.J.G.W. Celebrates 50yrs in Freemasonry

On Wednesday 13th April 2022 W. Bro's Alan Sidall P.Pr.J.G.W. and Eddie Billington P.Pr.J.G.W. of Walton Walker and Sandwell Lodge No. 3847 went to visit W. Bro Jack Evans P.Pr.J.G.W. to present him with a Provincial Certificate on his achievement of 50 years in Craft Freemasonry and a personal letter from the Provincial Grand Master.

He now resides at the Hawthorns Aldridge Care Home, Erdington Rd, Aldridge where visiting is still restricted due to vulnerable residents, but Jack enjoyed the company of Alan and Eddie and being able to talk about the Lodge and the brethren. Jack had been Worshipful Master in 1983.

Jack also celebrated his 102nd birthday only a few days later on Saturday 16th April, but those visiting was limited to immediate family, although he did receive many telephone calls of congratulations from the brethren of the Lodge.

W. Bro Allan Powers P.Pr.S.G.D.
Lodge Secretary



The Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club who meet at Shelton continues to thrive and recently made two donations of Easter Eggs to Stoke on Trent Foodbank and Helping Angels. Both being local charities, Helping Angels is based in Hanley providing professional support to the elderly and people with physical and learning difficulties. All were gratefully received and distributed by staff.



**JUNE
19TH
2022**



*Castellum Lodge 6710
Afternoon Tea With Steam, Fine Food, Sun
Friendship &
Pantasy Steel Band*

Cooksland Hall, Seighford, Stafford ST18 9PP

Please put the **19th June 2022 2pm** in to your diaries. Castellum Lodge 6710 & W.Bro James Eld & Mrs Robin Eld will be hosting The world famous Cooksland Hall Afternoon Tea, where there will be Fine food, Steam train rides around the gardens, Wonderful Music from The Pantasy Steel Band & a warm and friendly welcome to you, your family and friends. The catering will be provided by the well renowned Pear Tree Farm who have served fine foods over many afternoon teas at Cooksland Hall. All monies raised will be split between Castellum Lodge 6710 W.M Bro Peter Hagan P.Pr.S.G.D Nominated Charity & Mrs Robin Eld Chosen Charity
Adults £10 Children £5 under 5's free.

Please reply to secretary.castellum6710@outlook.com

W. Bro Robert M. Spencer P.Pr.S.G.W. Celebrates 60yrs in Freemasonry

On Monday 11th April 2022 the Provincial Grand Master Rt. W. Bro. John Lockley together with the Pr. A. G. D. C. W. Bro Brett Turner-Farmer attended Aldridge Lodge No. 7921 to present a Provincial certificate to W. Bro Robert M Spencer to celebrate his 60-year membership of Freemasonry but also, unbeknown to him, to promote him to P. Pr. S. G. W. The Lodge Secretary, W. Bro. Robin Place P. Pr. G. R. commenced the presentation with an eloquent tribute and resume of W. Bro Robert.

Robert was born on Thursday 7th July 1938, the youngest son of W. Bro. Aubrey Kenneth Spencer. Robert was part of the 'Spencer Dynasty' in the Lodge of Loyal Service and later in Aldridge Lodge with his father and elder brother, W. Bro. John Stewart Spencer.

Robert attended Wylde Green College before commencing his two years National Service in 1957 and was posted to the Royal Ordinance Corps at Nescliffe Camp in Shropshire. Robert then worked for an accountancy company for two years before joining the family business, Phipps Packaging, who packaged goods for transport around the globe. In 1963 he was appointed Company Secretary and remained with the Company until his retirement.

Robert was Initiated into the Lodge of Loyal Service, Warwickshire, on Friday 13th April 1962 by his father who also presented the Charge to the Initiate. On Monday 14th October 1963 Aldridge Lodge was consecrated and his brother and father became Founders with Robert becoming one of the first joining members, having been raised only some eight months earlier.

At the Consecration of the Lodge, panic almost reigned when it was found that there was wine and oil but no corn. Robert jumped into his car and called upon local farms and returned in the nick of time with a handful of corn. The

Directors of Phipps Packaging were able to raise the £ 200 to buy the Lodge Banner.

Robert proved to be an excellent ritualist and smoothly undertook all of the Lodge Offices on route to reaching the chair of Aldridge Lodge in 1973 and Lodge of Loyal Service in 1976. On leaving 'The Chair' of both Lodges Robert has taken office on many occasions when called upon, most notably as Treasurer in each Lodge for many years. Robert received several Provincial appointments, reaching P. Pr. J. G. W. in the Province of Staffordshire in 2012 and Warwickshire in 1999.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Provincial Grand Master commented to Robert that he was improperly dressed, which confused him until the P. G. M. promoted him with immediate effect, much to his surprise. W. Bro. Turner-Farmer duly read the Certificate to the Lodge and the P. G. M. was most pleased to present it. Robert thanked the brethren, who warmly applauded him.

The evening continued and the Worshipful Master W. Bro. N. T. Taylor conducted an excellent ceremony with Bro. R. J. Evans being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. All the brethren enjoyed a very special evening and festive board.



The new Lodge Membership Officer booklet is now available

Dear Brethren, After a number of attempts, amendments and pitfalls we are happy to announce that the new Lodge Membership Officer Booklet is now available within the Members area of the Provincial Vault.

The booklet is supported by the Provincial Grand Lodge Aims and Objectives which is equally interactive and by clicking on each of the segments of the 'wheel' the user will be taken to additional supporting information and resources for that element.

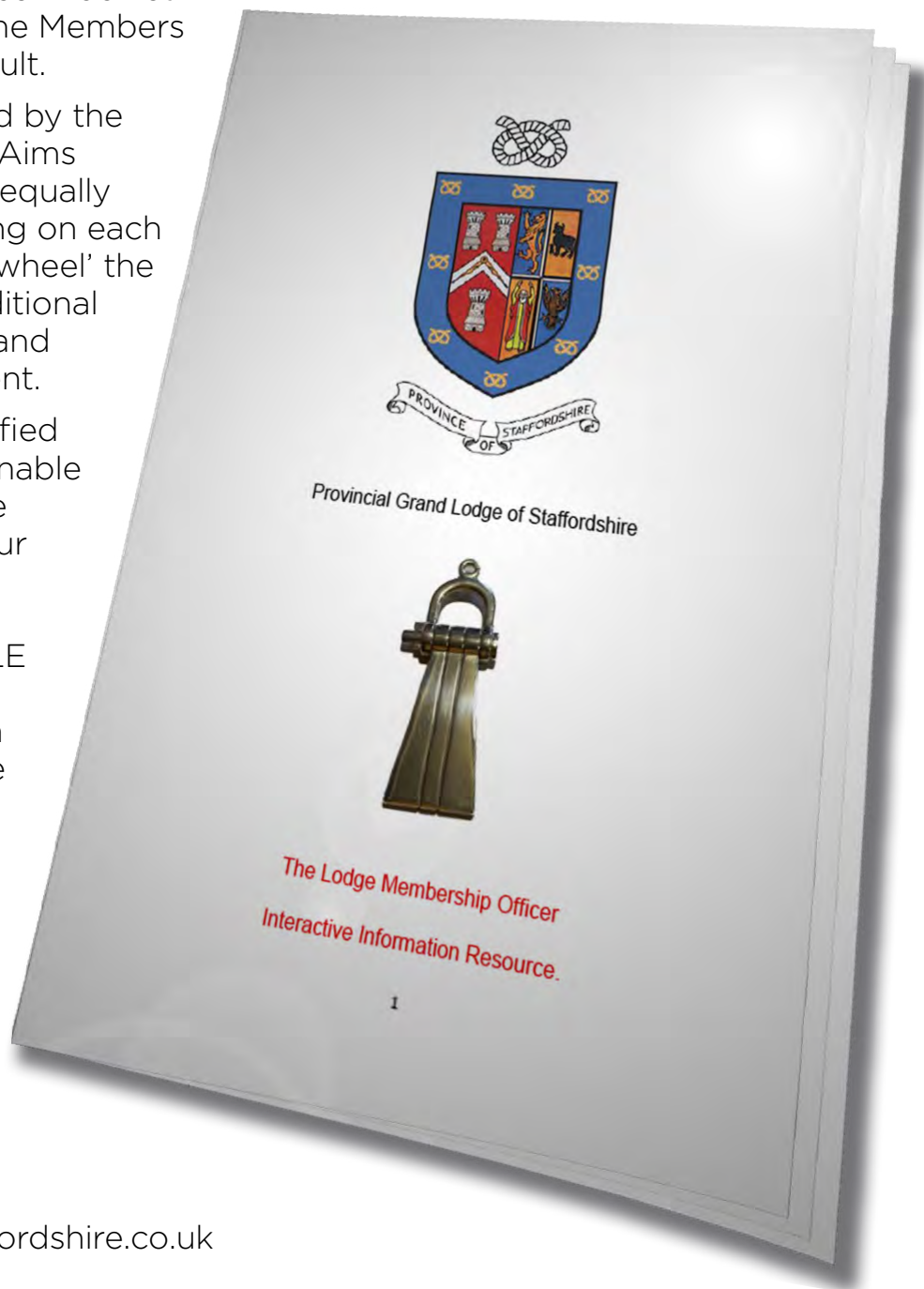
The approach is a simplified tool that will hopefully enable users to find appropriate resources to support your Lodge expectations in an easier format, but access to the entire UGLE Membership Pathway is still available from within the Members area of the Provincial Vault.

Happy reading and should you have any suggestions for improvements please let the Provincial Strategy Team know.

Ralph Ritchey

Provincial
Membership Officer

<http://members.pglstaffordshire.co.uk>





ARE YOU CONSIDERING SHELTERED HOUSING?

WILSON KEYS COURT is a Masonic built and run Scheme situated in Deanery Close, Rugeley only a few yards from Rugeley town centre.

This attractive building, set in mature landscaped gardens, provides 34 one-bedroom flats for applicants over the age of 60, who want to live independently with some support. Applicants over 55 and registered disabled would be considered if our scheme would enable continued independence. Flats have alarm pull cords, providing assistance in an emergency, which are linked to the on-site Manager Monday to Friday 9am to 5 pm and connected to an emergency control centre out of hours. Giving residents and families peace of mind.

Our indoor and outdoor social spaces provide opportunities for varied social activities.

For further information please contact:
Tracy Slater - Scheme
Manager 1889 576544



wilsonkeyswarden@btconnect.com

Logans Run

On 1 May 2022 my brother, W. Bro Tony Armstrong, our friend Andy Pyatt and I (Bro. Ian Armstrong) set off on a tour of Scotland with the intention of raising funds a young man called Logan, who needs a special powered wheelchair, not funded by the NHS.

The chair costs £10K and I originally approached the Widows Sons with the hope of raising £500 towards this but, as usual, Free Masonry far surpassed this with the help of a raffle and direct donations to a Just Giving page over £5K has been raised.

Logan has a condition which has led to an almost annual operation to break his legs and hips to reset them to allow him to grow. Logan endures almost constant pain but never fails to smile and is an inspiration to myself and all who meet him.

I have known Logan all his life and decided I wanted to help. The difficulty for me is that I am fighting cancer and am on long term chemotherapy, so the trip had to be worked around my treatment and its side

effects. My brother, Tony came along to support me as I knew that the journey would not be easy for me but as I was asking fellow Free Masons to put their hands in their pockets to help Logan I realised that the effort it would take me would be more than worth it. The ride was christened 'Logan's Run'.





my cancer became less stable and I was forced to change chemo to one which made me feel exhausted and caused pain. It was obvious that I was becoming more tired as the ride went on and Tony and Andy persuaded me that the best option for my health and my safety was for me to return home. After massive mileage, Tony and Andy completed the run as planned and returned home safely too.



Finally, with lots of generosity, the £10K target has now been reached. Logan's parents can now order the wheelchair and my brother Tony and I can't thank everyone enough.

We set off from the NMA with a large Widows Sons send off on 1 May, on a 5 day journey. On day 3 we met with the Airbourne Rider Association at the Commando memorial at Speany Bridge, who were on their 14 day trip to visit every Falklands veteran's grave. They made a very generous donation to Logan's Run, thank you.

Apart from chemo making me poorly, everything went to plan. Sadly I had to return home early and Tony and Andy carried on to complete the run. At the run inception I was on a two weekly chemo cycle with manageable side effects. However, as the date of the ride approached,

