



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Christmas 2022

Christmas Greetings from Province

Jane and I send each one of you our love and gratitude for all you do. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and our good wishes for a happy, successful and peaceful New Year.

Sincerely and fraternally



John



Yvonne and I wish each and every one of you, and your families and friends, a very happy, healthy and peaceful Festive Season, and for peace and good health in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely and fraternally.



Robin A. Stubbs





PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STAFFORDSHIRE

From:
RW Bro John Lockley
Provincial Grand Master



211 Tettenhall Road
Wolverhampton
WV6 0DD

Tel: 01902 745151

2nd December 2022



Brethren

If there's one single thing I've found most characteristic of Masons it is that they are kind people. I am forever humbled by the kindness you all show to your fellow Brethren and to the wider world beyond our doors.

I would like to set you all a challenge. Not financial, we live in straightened times and the calls on our charities are many, but a challenge that reflects that kindness.

I would like you all to make one extra small act of kindness every day this coming year. It really needn't be much – a smile and a thank you to the people that help us and serve us in shops and restaurants, maybe a phone call to an old friend or Brother we haven't seen for a while. Some small gesture of kindness to brighten their day.

We have over two thousand Brethren in our Province and between us that would make three quarters of a million extra acts of kindness. Now wouldn't that be something!

Jane and I send each one of you our love and gratitude for all you do.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and our good wishes for a happy, successful and peaceful New Year.

Sincerely and fraternally

John.



PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF STAFFORDSHIRE



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December 2022

Dear Companions,

It is my great pleasure at this Christmas time, not only to wish you a very happy Christmas, but also to take the opportunity to convey a heartfelt thanks to you all, and to celebrate what we have collectively achieved in this past year.

My executive and I have been privileged to travel the length and breadth of the Province to support and encourage you in your Chapters, and to enjoy your company on very many, happy evenings. On all of our visits we have received a very warm welcome, and have been inspired and encouraged by the passion and zeal displayed by the members.

2022 has seen us accomplish modest steps of recovery following Covid, but more recent external pressures on our finances are likely to impact many of our members, and thereby those green shoots of recovery, as we look ahead to 2023. However, I remain focused on the belief that, by working closely together and by supporting each other, we can continue our mission of retaining our valued members, and in articulating the beauty and relevance of the Royal Arch to those who are yet to join us.

Yvonne and I wish each and every one of you, and your families and friends, a very happy, healthy and peaceful Festive Season, and for peace and good health in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Robin A. Stubbs,
Grand Superintendent





Etruscan Lodge

- Dodransbicentennial (175th) anniversary

Etruscan Lodge celebrated its dodransbicentennial anniversary. To the Lodge members, even the ex-head teachers, dodransbicentennial was a new word, which may thus be briefly explained: - Dodrans is a Latin contraction of de-quadrans which means “a whole unit less a quarter” (de means “from”; quadrans means “quarter”). 175 years is a quarter century less than the next whole (bi) century.



The meeting was very well attended, filling the large Temple at Shelton. The visitors included the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, five officers of Grand Lodge and eleven active Provincial Grand Lodge Officers including the Provincial Senior Grand Warden. Also in attendance were members of Four Cardinal Virtues Lodge (Cheshire) and several masons from East Lancs. Province.

Following the reading of extracts of the minutes of previous anniversary meetings, W.Bro. David Robinson presented a light hearted summary of the last 25 years of the history of Etruscan Lodge and Freemasonry in general. The WM (W.Bro. Mark Harrison) then presented the Provincial Grand Master with copies of the Lodge history booklet, after which the ProvGM addressed the meeting.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master then presented the WM with a certificate expressing the Province's appreciation for the contribution the Lodge had made to Staffordshire masonry over 175 years

After the WM had addressed the meeting copies of the Lodge history booklet were presented to all present.

A memorable meeting was made even more so for Bro. Wayne O'Keefe when the ProvGM presented him with his Grand Lodge Certificate.



Meet the Ambassador Scheme Coordinators

You should all be aware of the Royal Arch Ambassador Scheme, but briefly, it works as follows:

The Provincial Grand Master makes an appointment within each lodge every year of a Royal Arch Ambassador, whose function is to act as a conduit between Lodge members and the Province in communicating news and as a point of contact for members of the Royal Arch and those who have yet to take that step in their masonic careers.

Many Lodges will have a standing agenda item on their summons to receive a report from the Ambassador, where he will update brethren on matters. Part of the role is to find an appropriate Chapter for prospective Companions, be it the one attached to the Lodge or another which is more reasonable for the candidate's availability. The Lodge Ambassadors can be visibly identified by the small circular lapel pin which is exclusive to the role.

What you may not know, is that the Ambassadors are grouped into local clusters, with coordinators attached to them. These coordinators are there to assist where needed, to advise, and to liaise with the Province on matters which need further guidance.

Below is a list of the coordinators and the localities which are under their remit:

W Bro Andy Brittle - Aldridge

W Bro Andy Mapperson - Stoke on Trent (Shelton)

W Bro David Toon - Burton, Denstone, Tamworth

W Bro John Davis - Erdington, Halesowen, Handsworth

W Bro John Savage - Wednesbury, West Bromwich

W Bro Mark Sewell - Cheadle, Kidsgrove, Leek, Newcastle

W Bro Steven Griffiths - Royal Wolverhampton School, Wolverhampton

W Bro Rob Nicholls (Coordinator designate) - Eccleshall, Penkridge, Stafford, Stone



Address to Supreme Grand Chapter by Pro 1st Grand Principal, 16th November 2022

Companions, I am delighted to see so many of you here today despite the change in date caused by circumstances beyond our control. The irony will not be lost on any of you that, in the end, the cause of the change of date was removed, but too late for us to do anything about it! I suppose, as the French would say, C'est la vie!

I must first thank the Second Grand Principal for installing me today in his customary exemplary style. I would also like to thank both the Grand Scribe Ezra and the Grand

Director of Ceremonies and their respective teams for ensuring the arrangements for today have gone so smoothly.

Some may be wondering why the Installation took place at all. I have held the office of Pro First Grand Principal from the moment I was installed as Pro Grand Master. It is a longstanding custom for this Installation, including a formal Obligation in respect of the office, to take place both to reemphasise the interconnectedness of the Craft and the Royal Arch and to underline the importance of the



Royal Arch in English Freemasonry under the United Grand Lodge of England.

In 1813 our predecessors in the two rival Grand Lodges were seeking to achieve an appropriate and delicate balance in order to create a statement about the Royal Arch that would allow their union to form a United Grand Lodge of England. That statement, derived from the 1813 Act of Union, now forms the preliminary declaration in our Book of Constitutions and makes us unique amongst Grand Lodges around the world by establishing a clear and indissoluble link between the Craft and the Royal Arch.

That statement means that we, as Freemasons of the United Grand Lodge established in 1813, practice pure, Antient Masonry. This consists of three degrees and no more, namely those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch. It is clear there are four elements at play here of which the first three being governed by the United Grand Lodge of England - and the fourth, the Royal Arch, whose operation and governance is entrusted to this Supreme Grand Chapter.

Because of this link the Grand Master automatically serves as our First Grand Principal, and many other senior roles are also automatically held in both the Craft and Royal Arch. This glorious building, of course, gives a tangible expression to this joint heritage.

In real terms we are therefore one organisation - and so when someone is made a Mason, he needs to be made fully aware from the outset that his journey as a Freemason consists of these four elements - with the Royal Arch as the fourth and ultimate stage and one which enriches and completes that journey. It is an aspect that I hope all will aspire to experience when the time is right for them.

As a practical consequence of this indissoluble link, and to demonstrate its reality, we have developed a clear, integrated strategy moving forwards - and as many of you are aware a new 'Strategy for Freemasonry 2022 and beyond' will be launched at the December Quarterly Communication.

A key part of this Strategy is that the Craft and Royal Arch must work seamlessly

together at all levels as one organisation. This means not only that we must better educate all our members about the value of the Royal Arch and its benefits but also exploit this link in more practical ways to engage and retain our members who are so vital for our future.

It also means that we must start at the beginning and move to a clear understanding of this four-stage experience within our own Craft Lodges, so that the indissoluble link is in the forefront and visible. What better way could there be to express this than with the image of the interlinked red and blue chains you will have seen around the building today?

I must again emphasise Companions that this fourth element is one that all Freemasons under the United Grand Lodge of England ought to aspire to experience when the time is right for them. It would be quite counter-productive to force the issue if it is not yet the right time for an individual member of the Craft. I would strongly encourage Master Masons to experience the Royal Arch and complete their journey in pure Antient Masonry before joining any other orders of Freemasonry however supportive I am, and will remain, of those other orders.

Many of you will have noticed that when I was escorted into Grand Chapter I was (and still am) wearing the Tercentenary jewel. As both Pro Grand Master and Pro First Grand Principal, I am proud to celebrate our combined history by wearing it in this meeting, just as we do in our own private Chapters. I hope that in future Companions will be allowed and encouraged to wear it in Grand Chapter.

To support these objectives and to assist our members in explaining the benefits of Royal Arch Membership, the Committee of General Purposes and its working parties are developing 'Archway'. This will serve as a resource of examples of good practice from across our Constitution of which individual Chapters, as well as Provinces and Districts, can take advantage.

A lot of work remains to be done. We should not expect to see a single grand launch of Archway in the next few months but see it as the start of a process which will develop during the course of 2023. One of the first



releases will highlight the value of membership and how we discover 'Discover More' about Freemasonry in the Royal Arch.

I have also asked the Committee of General Purposes to consider with the Board of General Purposes to what extent there are other steps we might take together to enhance this integrated approach including, for example, the role of the Royal Arch Representatives in our Craft Lodges.

The Committee will also be clarifying existing guidance on the delivery of lectures. We all know that many Chapters often still spoil the magnificent experience of an exaltation by the delivery of too many lectures immediately afterwards, or by persisting with outdated approaches to the way they run their meetings. They then wonder why new members fail to return.

It does not have to be like this. There are many examples of good practice throughout this country and our Districts that Chapters can adopt if they wish to thrive. Indeed, there are many Chapters which have already adapted and are thriving with queues of good candidates waiting to join because these Chapters are not only perceived as serious about what they do, but also have a reputation for being very enjoyable.

I must be clear, there is no one size fits all solution, we are a diverse organisation, but that diversity is also one of our great strengths. The key must be to ensure our members are engaged.

We are all aware of the challenges that both the Royal Arch and the Craft face as we move forward, united together, but it is also well known that those who join the Royal Arch are far more likely to remain engaged with their Lodges and that, ultimately, is to

everyone's benefit.

I am excited about the future and very much hope you, our members will enthusiastically embrace the opportunities for your individual Chapters to thrive with all your members engaged, with good ceremonies and great enjoyment.

Thank you, Companions.





Leek and District Foodbank receives a boost to its funding thanks to Leek Freemasons.

On Friday 18th November, Freemasons from St. Edwards lodge in Leek donated £500 to the Leek and District Foodbank in West Street, to boost the funds just before the busy Christmas and winter period.

The foodbank provides not only food for people in need but also a cafe where they can sit with a nice hot drink in a really pleasant and welcoming environment.

The foodbank helps about 100 people every week by providing food parcels with 3 days supply of food to people who have been provided with a foodbank voucher.

The £500 donation will help to provide more food for those in need as winter approaches and the increases in the cost of living.

The donation from the members St. Edwards Lodge comes from their charity fund which is used to help charities in the Leek area. St. Edwards lodge was represented by Selwyn Burton, who is also the PGL communications officer for Staffordshire and Tim Wareham.

Selwyn Burton said: 'I'm very pleased we've been able to help the Leek and District Foodbank with their hugely important work. Without the foodbank, many local people would really struggle this winter in putting food on the table. The whole set-up is hugely impressive.'

Lindsey Stockton, Leek and District Foodbank Project Manager commented, 'We are so enormously grateful to the Freemasons for this wonderful



donation of £500.00. Despite the very generous donations from the local community, we still have to purchase food in order to cope with the rapidly increasing demand for our services. Donations such as this are vital to enable us to continue to provide emergency food for anyone who needs our help. A huge thank you to Leek Freemasons.'

Selwyn and Tim were shown around the foodbank premises by Lindsey and met some of the staff who were working preparing the days food parcels.





Disabled children to receive wheelchairs and other specialist equipment.

Twenty children and young people with disabilities and their families will be able to access potentially life-changing specialist equipment thanks to a £30,000 grant from Staffordshire Freemasons through the Masonic Charitable Foundation to Newlife, the Charity for Disabled Children.

Newlife is the largest charity provider of specialist equipment for children with disabilities or terminal illness across the UK, supporting families to get the specialist equipment they need such as wheelchairs, specialist beds, specialist car seats, walking and standing frames and communication aids.

As well as an Equipment Grant Service the charity also provides an Emergency Equipment Loan service, a Play Therapy Pod service which provides specialist sensory toys, and a Nurse-led Helpline to provide support to families on a range of subjects, including information about benefits the family may be entitled to or condition specific information support. Children across the UK can be supported by Newlife up to their 19th birthday and each child can be helped multiple times.

The £30,000 grant will support the Newlife's equipment grants service, which provides specialist equipment for children and young people which is often not available on the NHS and that the family would not be able to afford otherwise. Each application is supported by a medical professional and the equipment can be used to help keep a child safe, reduce pain, aid their development or mobility or help them achieve their full potential in life.

Selwyn Burton PGL Communications Officer commented: "I'm very pleased we've been able to help Newlife with their hugely important work. Without Newlife, thousands of disabled children would be living in pain, unable to do the things that we all take for granted and denied the opportunity to reach their potential."

Sarah Sylvester, Newlife' Head of Philanthropy, said: "We're very grateful to Staffordshire Freemasons for their generous grant which will allow us to provide specialist equipment to 20 children and their families. Whether it's a wheelchair or a car seat to help them get around, a communication aid or some other vital piece of equipment, our work makes a real difference to disabled children's quality of life."

The visit by Dr. John Skellern, the PGL Charity Steward, Reg Sargeant this years Junior Grand Warden and Selwyn Burton, Communications Officer took place on Tuesday 15th November 2022.





Legge Lodge - last minute changes!

Freemasonry can be a bit of a rollercoaster experience. Monday 19th December and Legge Lodge No 2784 in Aldridge were all ready to carry out a 2nd Degree, after a lot of practice and rehearsal time had been put in by all concerned.

However, just two hours before the meeting this had to be cancelled as the Bro had unfortunately been taken ill. Some quick phone calls and a supreme effort from the Officers of the lodge, they were able to get an Initiate from the waiting list in to carry out an Initiation Ceremony instead. Congratulations to the WM W. Bro. Graham Sharrard, his Wardens W. Bro. Andy Sawyer & Bro. Chris Knapper, the DC W. Bro Clive Andrews-Lewis - who picked the charge up at short notice and to all the Officers and brethren for making the ceremony a success.

There followed a light hearted and thoroughly enjoyable Christmas Themed Festive board, with cheery and good natured BMW vs Harley banter. Giving a warm welcome to the new Brother Dave Benton (who has just had a new BMW motorcycle delivered)

Whilst being a Motorcycle themed Lodge, Legge would always welcome Candidates and Visitors no matter what their interests, concentrating on good ritual with the emphasis on enjoyment and always making everyone welcome.

<http://www.leggelodge2784.org.uk/>



PROVINCIAL BIG QUIZ CHALLENGE

Price

£5

A helping of brain-teasing
family fun for the New Year

Winners Cash Prize

£100

*In the event of a tie, prize money to be shared equally.
The decision of the Quizmaster concerning the correct answer to any
question is final*

If you would like to take up the challenge, contact Mick Seddon at
mick.seddon@sky.com

Closing date for entry payment is 10th January 2023.

Payment by cheque to: St Giles Masonic Charities and posted to
M.W. Seddon, 608 Trentham Road, STOKE-on-TRENT

Payment by Bank Transfer to: St Giles Masonic Charities,
Sort Code 01-01-78; Account No. 24043664

All pre-paid quizzes will be distributed on 11th January 2023 and completed entries should be
e.mailed to: mick.seddon@sky.com or posted to the above address (enclosing a stamped,
addressed C5 sized envelope if you require your completed entry returning to you) to be received no later
than 5 pm Wednesday 18th January, 2023

Good Luck - and thanks for your support!

All Proceeds, after prize payment, to Staffordshire 2024 Festival



RENT A RULER

YOUR CHANCE TO PUT THE PGM OR A CHAIN UNDER THE "KOSH"

Would you like the chance of the Provincial Grand Master, or one of the Provincial "Chains", to come to **YOUR** lodge and undertake **ANY OFFICE** (Except WM) in **ANY** of the 3 degrees?

For example, he could be the lodge Tyler, act as the Junior Deacon at a First degree, Senior Warden at a Third, or *even a candidate* in a "Demonstration" ceremony.

You decide what office and what ceremony.

The choice is yours!

Apply for a ticket to enter your chance (Lodge or Individual) to **WIN**

The ticket price should ensure that **EVERY LODGE** has a chance to **WIN**

(It's only the price of a lodge raffle)

Multiple tickets may be bought!

The winning tickets (Four in number) will be drawn on Monday 23rd January 2023 at the meeting of the SPGSL 9567. Then a separate draw (Of the Four winners) will take place to determine who gets the PGM or which other Chain.

Tickets are £50 per entry

Available by

Sending a Cheque

Payable to "Staffs 2024 Festival", marked on the reverse with your **LODGE NUMBER!** and indicating the number of entries

To

D.J. Thomas 116 Alexandra Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs, DE15 0JB

Or Bank Transfer

Staffs 2024 Festival Fund
A/C No: 66116568 Sort Code: 30-98-97
Ref: PGM 1 and your **LODGE NUMBER!**

All proceeds to the PGM's Challenge supporting the Staffs 2024 Festival Fund



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



SMCSA Christmas Shoot

**Christmas Charity Shoot at
Doveridge Clay Sports Club.**

50 clays / 5 trap competition.

£25 entry fee includes clays

**Trophies for top shooters plus
other great raffle prizes**

Experienced Shooters only

To register or more info Contact Steve Watts

Email treasurer@smcsa.org

Date: 8/1/23

Time: 10am

**Staffordshire Masonic
Clay Shooting Association**

**Doveridge Clay Sport Club
Eaton Hall Farm
Upwoods Road, Doveridge
Ashbourne, Derbyshire
DE6 5LN, UK**

