

WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 16

Masonic support...

My Story by W. Bro Mark Sewell, ProvJGW Elect

I'm sure Brethren often ask about the Masonic Charitable Foundation and how it assists the Brethren of our Province and their families. Well, this is my story, and I can't thank everybody involved and emphasise enough how they have helped and looked after me.

I am the secretary of Castellum Lodge No: 6710 who meet at Newcastle, but I began my masonic journey when I was initiated into Birchwood Lodge 5178 in the Province of Hertfordshire in 2006. I did not know much about Freemasonry, or the work carried out around the globe and at first, I even thought that the lodge I joined was the only one! But, soon after I learned that I had thousands of Brothers around the world, all of a similar mind set. I later moved to Staffordshire with my family to run my own transport Company and continued my masonic journey.

My story with the Masonic Charitable Foundation starts in July 2011, when I was racing my Honda motorcycle at Mallory Park and my brakes failed. As a result of the accident, I received several serious injuries including damage to my spine and I spent several months in hospital, then back home lying on a bed with nothing but a ceiling to look at.

I really was at the lowest point in my life, both mentally and physically. I had lost all income from the three companies I owned and my world and that of my family was literally turned upside down. I had lost the will to carry on. My injuries meant that I would be confined to a wheelchair for the rest

of my life, leaving my children to grow up without the physical support that a father gives and my wife as my permanent carer.

Whilst lying in a hospital bed I was handed a masonic magazine by my lovely wife as she had to leave for work. As I opened it, this small business size card fell out. It was the Masonic Samaritan Card with a phone number. I spent the next half hour just holding the card, thinking do I call or not? Luckily, I chose to call, as I was thinking this was my last chance and it could not harm by calling.



From this moment on my situation changed for ever, and I was visited within hours by the Staffordshire Provincial Grand Almoner W. Bro Alan Walker. He made sure I was both mentally and physically looked after. I did not have to worry any more about my wellbeing, but much more importantly the wellbeing of my family. We often forget the trauma they have to suffer.

For eight years my Lodge Almoner and the Provincial Almoner were both there for me; guiding me through the application process and supporting me with the MCF. It was only through their help and advice, I was able to continue with my life, albeit swapping my motorcycle for a wheelchair for a while.

But, now I am able to stand and walk due to a fantastic but, now everyday, procedure. This has left my wheelchair empty, but please believe me, if it was not for Freemasonry my wheelchair could have been empty for a much different reason. I really was at my lowest ebb of poverty and distress.

The money we give towards the Festival does not disappear into a black hole somewhere. I can speak from experience Brethren it comes back tenfold, whether it is towards charities in the Province or for Brethren like me. Please support the 2024 Festival as much as you can.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation

What is the Masonic Charitable Foundation? The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) builds better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education and promoting independence for Freemasons, their families and the wider community. The MCF is one of the largest grant-making charities in the country supporting Freemasons and their families as well as charities across England and Wales.

Financial

The financial grants help Masonic families who are unable to afford everyday living costs and to actively participate in their community.

Health

The grants help Masonic families get the treatment, care or support they need to live healthy and independent lives.

Family

The grants help Masonic families by providing opportunities for young people and a range of high-quality care provision.

Those seeking support must be a Freemason or have a strong family connection to a Freemason. A Freemason is someone who is or was a member of a Lodge regulated by the United Grand Lodge of England. This includes Freemasons in England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man as well as members of overseas Lodges which follow the English Constitution.

We define a strong family connection as a Freemason's:

- married or life partner
- widow or surviving partner; divorced or separated partner;
- child (under 25) in full-time education

Other relations may also qualify for support if they can demonstrate that a Freemason has provided them with significant financial or physical support.

What we are extremely bad at is accepting help especially financial help. It seems to be that we give freely but can't receive.

Freemasonry was set up to make good men better and at a time of need to support a friend or Brother.

Brethren, please don't wait until you are at the lowest point and think that you can't turn to anybody. Don't hesitate to speak to your Almoner so we can get the support into place that you need.

Rent a Ruler

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro David J Thomas PGSwdB will be attending Marmion Lodge on Weds 12th April and offers you a chance to book in and witness this special night for a new Candidate and the DPGM on his ritual.

The 1378th Regular Lodge
Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 6:00pm

AGENDA

1. To, open the Lodge
2. To read and confirm the minutes of the Lodge meeting held on 8th March 2023.
3. To read the regular minutes of the Lodge held 100 years ago.
4. To ballot as a candidate for Freemasonry in general and Marmion Lodge 1060 in particular; Mr. William Alexander Haigh
5. To Initiate Mr. William Alexander Haigh.
6. To receive the Treasurers Report.
7. To receive the Almoners Report.
8. To receive the report of The Marmion Lodge of Instruction.
9. To receive a report from the Royal Arch Ambassador.
10. To receive propositions.
11. To close the Lodge.

Menu:

Poppadoms - Samosas & Onion Bhajis with Dips
Chicken Tikka - Chicken Madras - Rice & Chips
Fresh Fruit Salad
Cheese and Biscuits **(BY REQUEST PLEASE)**
Dining Fee £22.00

Please communicate any apologies to the Lodge Secretary W.Bro. Paul Chetwynd.

Please communicate any dining intentions, changes or dietary and dessert requests to The Lodge Meal Secretary W.Bro. Glenn Lees at 1060meals@gmail.com by **Wednesday 5th April 2023.**

Brethren on the A list will automatically have a meal booked, unless they cancel in advance.
Brethren on the B list will NOT have a meal booked unless they book one in advance.
(If you are unsure which list you are on, please contact the Secretary or Meals Secretary.)

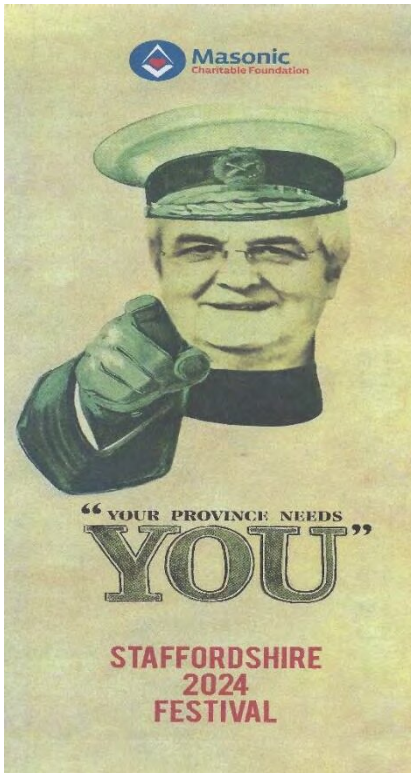
OFFICERS OF THE LODGE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Worshipful Master | W.Bro. R.S. Scott, P.Pr.S.G.W. RA. |
| Immediate Past Master | W.Bro. David W. Philips, PSGD, P.Asst.PGM. RA. |
| Senior Warden | W.Bro. R.J.S. Kingstone RA. |
| Junior Warden | W.Bro. B.L. Walker P.Pr.J.G.W. RA. |
| Chaplain | W.Bro. E. Sinclair. P.Pr.A.G.D.C. (Warks). RA. |
| Treasurer | W.Bro. M.J. Hargreaves P.Pr.GSwdB. RA. |
| Secretary | W.Bro. P. Chetwynd. P.Pr.A.G.D.C. (Worcs). RA. |
| Director of Ceremonies | W.Bro. A.R. Tomson P.Pr.J.G.W. RA. |
| Almoner | W.Bro. I.W. Semple P.Pr.G.Reg. RA. |
| 2024 Festival and Charity Steward | W.Bro. A.R. Tomson P.Pr.J.G.W. RA. |
| Senior Deacon | Bro. D.J. Harper. RA. |
| Junior Deacon | Bro. M.A. Smith. |
| Assistant Director of Ceremonies | W.Bro. P. Hope. RA. |
| Organist | W.Bro. P.J. Clempson P.Pr.S.G.W. RA. |
| Assistant Secretary | W.Bro. D.B. Lamb P.Pr.G.Reg. RA. |
| Inner Guard | Bro. J.D. Bowyer |
| Steward | Bro. R. Hope |
| Tyler | To be appointed |



Note: Every Master Mason is encouraged by Grand Lodge to join The Royal Arch. There is attached to the Lodge a Royal Arch Chapter, should you be interested further details can be obtained from the Royal Arch Ambassador; E. Comp. A.R. Tomson P.Pr.G.Soj.

EMERGENCY DECLARED. THIS IS NOT A DRILL !



This is an APPEAL to all Staffordshire Freemasons.

Due to the Pandemic & the subsequent financial crisis that we are all suffering from, the donations (Money) going into our 2024 Festival Fund have greatly reduced.

If this continues we will fall well short of our target unless we ALL make an effort, big or small to get money flowing into it NOW!!!!

The MCF (Our main charity) relies on the money from Festivals to sustain its "Chief Function"
Supporting Freemasons & their families in time of need as well as providing support for many national & international disasters.

I am appealing to lodges to try ramp up their efforts, perhaps you can arrange some fund-raising events. This is not as onerous as it sounds, a quiz night, a Family Sunday lunch, an Old English Night, a wine tasting for example.

Why not ask other lodges meeting in your hall to join you and make it a success.

Shelton Masonic Hall recently organised a "Burns Night" which was supported by over 20 Lodges, their families and NON masons. Over 100 attended and a great atmosphere prevailed helped by a Piper and Whisky! This resulted in £1200 being raised for the festival and the Hall making over £1200 (Bar & catering) to offset its ever-increasing bills (Fuel).

**Don't be afraid to ask the Province for help in organising an event.
They will always be prepared to help and to support a worthwhile project.**

If you don't ask you won't get!

Help us to get towards our Festival target (The MCF has donated directly to Staffordshire Charities over £1M since 2016, excluding the Air Ambulance & Hospices). **We get more than we give!**

You will ALSO be contributing towards keeping YOUR Masonic Hall.

GO ON, YOU KNOW YOU CAN DO IT.

St. Edwards Lodge £3,000 donation pays for medical equipment at Dougie Mac

Dougie Mac recently welcomed members of St Edwards Masonic Lodge, Leek, to its adult services in Barlaston, following a fantastic donation of £3,000 from the Lodge's members.

The generous donation will fund two syringe drivers at the hospice. Syringe drivers are small, battery operated pumps which enable patients who cannot take their medication by mouth, to receive it continuously and constantly in a comfortable way.

The three members of St Edwards Lodge, Selwyn Burton, Rob Barker and Paul Crutchley, met with members of Dougie Mac's adults care team to learn more about the syringe drivers and how they will help patients at Dougie Mac.

Selwyn Burton said, "We are very proud to support the Dougie Mac who do such vital work. The care given to patients here is wonderful and it has been a great privilege to meet some of the staff and hear how the donation will help patients in their care. Thank you for all you do".

Joe Potts, Head of Inpatient Care at Dougie Mac, added, "We're so grateful for this generous donation. The new equipment will enable us to offer vital care to our patients and it was a pleasure to meet the members of the Lodge to explain how their support will make a difference."



CLARENDON LODGE No. 8023 and “Race Against Blood Cancer”

In January a group of Wolves fans having raised almost £2,000 in support of former Wolverhampton Wanderers club goalkeeper Carl Ikeme and the Race Against Blood Cancer charity presented a cheque to him at the Molineux stadium.

Members of the Wolves fan volunteer group had held a quiz night to raise money for the charity which aims to help people with the condition.

They wanted to support the ex-footballer, who made over 200 first team appearances for the club, as he was diagnosed with leukaemia back in 2017 which he recovered from and went into remission in 2018.

He said: “Race Against Blood Cancer are a local charity trying to do the right thing, but, like so many, have really suffered during the pandemic, especially as they rely so heavily on seeing people not only to raise funds but to sign up donors”.

“It’s great that the fans have taken the time to think about others, especially during these difficult times, and I know Race Against Blood Cancer will be really grateful for the support.”

There were many members of Clarendon Lodge who took part in the Quiz Night and the Charity Steward, Bro S A Foxall and his partner Ellen, who were part of the organising team were able to donate £500 from the Lodge, with the approval of the brethren.



Dove Chapter No 456

Celebrations of Dove Chapter took place on Friday 10th February, at Stafford Masonic Hall.

There were two main items of business, which celebrated individuals at opposite ends of their Royal Arch careers. On one hand, there was an exaltation into the Order of Bro (now Companion) Jason Bailey of Legge Lodge No 2784, which meets at Aldridge, and Chartley Lodge No 7569, which meets at Stafford. Jason has been a Mason since September 2021, and now felt it was the right time for him to take his next step in Freemasonry by joining the Royal Arch.



The second celebration of the evening took us to the opposite end of the spectrum with a celebration of 50 years in the Royal Arch of Excellent Companion David Watt. David was exalted into Royal Arch in North Yorkshire on 25th January 1973, whilst stationed there with the RAF. In Staffordshire, he joined Dove Chapter No 456 on 5th April 2012. At this celebration meeting, the Grand Superintendent Excellent Companion Robin A Stubbs was delighted to make an 'in field' promotion to David to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Sojourner.

Pictured **left** is the latest Exalteé Companion Jason Bailey, E Companion David Watt, with the Grand Superintendent, the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal and the Chapter's three Principals and **below** are a number of the guests present which included the Grand Superintendent, the 2nd Provincial Grand Superintendent, the Provincial Grand Master, the two Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, and a Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, along with numerous other Provincial Officers.



Acting Provincial Grand Chapter Officers Lunch

After several cancellations due to the covid pandemic; it was a great pleasure that 28 Acting Provincial Grand Chapter Officers, together with their wives and partners, were finally able to get together for a celebratory Sunday lunch.

The excellent lunch at the Old Schoolhouse, Weeford, was enjoyed by all. It was just a small way for the companions to thank their ladies for their support during this

last year. A tradition that both the ladies and companions hope will be maintained in future years



A Nice Problem to have!

Having successfully attracted Initiates to join the Lodge, the conundrum of moving them along their journey to become Fellowcrafts cannot be unfamiliar to other Lodges. On this occasion, the Worshipful Master of the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, W Bro Reg Sargeant had the solution and offered the Stewards Lodge to Pass two of our recent initiates.

Their ceremony was rounded off by an excellent explanation of the Second Degree Tracing Board by W Bro Mark Ashton of NSRTL8355 along with an excellent Festive Board full of camaraderie as so often demonstrated by the Brethren of the Stewards Lodge.



In an excellent double ceremony conducted by members of the Stewards Lodge on 23rd January, supported by the Master and Wardens of North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge, we were able to Pass to the Degree of a Fellowcraft Bro Ben Pilkington and Bro Neil MacCuish.

Midland Karting
Wood End Lane
Lichfield
WS13 8NF

Le Mans 24hrs

MASONS

Supercar Race

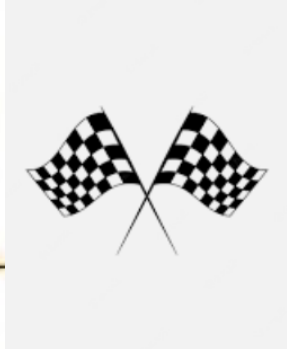
GO-KARTING

Drivers Entry fee £40
Spectators £12.50
Children 16 & under Free

Saturday 3rd June 2023

Gates open at 11am

Race start 12.30pm



Masonic
Charitable Foundation



*WELCOME TO THE 2024 FUNDRAISING,
LE MASONS 2HRS GO-KARTING RACE.
WHERE TEAMS OF DRIVERS WILL
BATTLE FOR A PODIUM POSITION &
COVETED MASONIC RACE TROPHY*
All Proceeds to go to the 2024
Festival.

All you Need are 6 to 8 Drivers per
Team, Which 1 Driver will be an
Allocated Active Provincial Officer
Contact Mark for Bookings
secretary.castellum6710@outlook.com

We have on site The Masonic Classic
Vehicles . Including Motorcycles &
Cars. There will be Karting for
Children throughout the day,
Shooting Gallery, Hot food , Cakes ,
Beverages & Ice cream. This event is
for all the family to enjoy. Full
training will be provided to all
competitors & Children Including
Race Clothing.

Entry Fee Can be paid Via Bank
transfer on the booking form attached

OMNIUM - "For All"

All of us are aware of the importance and value of the Universities Scheme. Since its formation in 2005, it has enabled many hundreds of young men from Universities across England and Wales to experience what had been available at Oxford and Cambridge since the 19th century. At least 87 Lodges and Chapters are in the Scheme.

It struck two Cheshire brethren - Mike Steggles and Paul Crudge - that for all the obvious success of the Scheme, there was a curious gap: there was no Lodge specifically for the Open University. Mike and Paul decided to put that right. The result was the formation, within the Universities Scheme, of Omnum Lodge, No. 10005. It is a Lodge specifically for those with Open University connections.

The Open University was founded in 1969 and has helped 2 million students realise their ambitions. Such student numbers means that there will likely be many hundreds within England and Wales for whom Omnum Lodge would be a natural 'fit'.

A Lodge must be based somewhere and, as the brainchild of two Cheshire Masons, it is based in Cheshire. However, its name was not chosen at random. It derives of course from the openness of the Open University itself. Like OU, Omnum Lodge is open to all, and we are very happy to accept members from any Province within our Constitution. Omnum is also dedicated to travelling to your part of the Constitution as well. If you would like to know more, please see the recent article in FMT - <https://www.ugle.org.uk/discover-freemasonry/blog/lodge-learning>





INTER-PROVINCIAL CRICKET FESTIVAL

SIX-A-SIDE CRICKET FESTIVAL

5 PROVINCES

UNDER 50'S & OVER 50'S COMPETITIONS

BREWOD CRICKET CLUB

28th AUGUST 2023

10:00—20:00

£25 PER PERSON FOR THE DAY

**PLEASE CONTACT PAUL HARVEY, ST MICHAEL'S LODGE, STONE FOR MORE DETAILS
ON 07850 596509 OR PAHARVEY69@GMAIL.COM**

MONIES RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



Izaak Walton - have a “Chuckle”...

Colin Horwath, the Worshipful Master of Stafford’s Izaak Walton Lodge (4281) is pictured presenting a Cheque for £500 to twelve young adults and Managers at Chuckle Productions in Stone.



Chuckle Production is a non-profit organisation that works with babies, children and young adults with profound and different needs. These include learning and physical disabilities, autism & those who are recovering from past trauma.

The aim of the organisation is to help everyone shine - no matter what challenges they face in their lives.

The grant will be used in an Arts-based training scheme for young adults. They’ll be able to make films about diversity, for use in primary schools and with employers.

Sara Christie, Chuckle Director, says “we are so thankful to the Izaak Walton Lodge for their continued support - it makes such a difference. Our aim is to enrich the lives of our young adults and helps provide new opportunities for them”.

“Our ultimate aim is to provide our young people with the skills and abilities they will need to enter the workplace and hopefully lead more satisfying and productive lives.” To find out more about Chuckle please visit www.chuckleproductions.org.



Katharine House Hospice Stafford 2022 Christmas Appeal

Izaak Walton Lodge’s Worshipful Master Colin Horwath presenting a Cheque for £400 in response to the Katharine House Hospice Stafford 2022 Christmas Appeal.





In My Hand I Hold A Ball,
White And Dimpled, And Rather Small,
Oh, How Bland It Does Appear,
This Harmless Looking Little Sphere.

By Its Size I Could Not Guess
The Awesome Strength It Does Possess,
But Since I Fell Beneath Its Spell,
I've Wandered Through The Fires Of Hell.

My Life Has Not Been Quite The Same
Since I Chose To Play This Stupid Game.
It Rules My Mind For Hours On End;
A Fortune It Has Made Me Spend.

It Has Made Me Curse And Made Me Cry,
And Hate Myself And Want To Die.
It Promises Me A Thing Called Par,
If I Hit It Straight And Far.

To Master Such A Tiny Ball,
Should Not Be Very Hard At All.
But My Desires The Ball Refuses,
And Does Exactly As It Chooses.

It Hooks And Slices, Dribbles And Dies,
And Disappears Before My Eyes.
Often It Will Have A Whim,
To Hit A Tree Or Take A Swim.

With Miles Of Grass On Which To Land
It Finds A Tiny Patch Of Sand.
Then Has Me Offering Up My Soul,
If Only It Would Find A Hole.

It's Made Me Whimper Like A Pup,
And Swear That I Will Give It Up.
And Take To Drink To Ease My Sorrow,
But The Ball Knows... I'll Be Back Tomorrow.

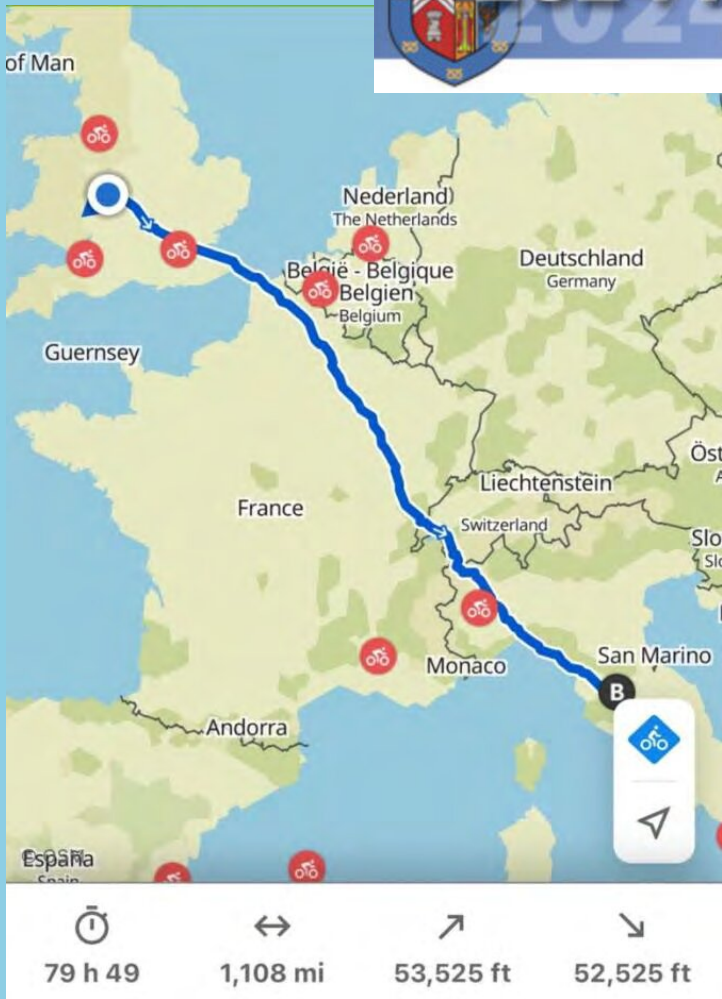
New members, of all golfing abilities, are given a warm welcome and encouraged to contact Mark Ashton using msg.ashton@gmail.com to find out more.

SMGS fixtures for the 2023 season

| Event | Date | Venue |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Spring Comp & Prov. Wardens | Thursday 11th May | Penn GC |
| Warwickshire & Worcestershire | Tuesday 6th June | Bromsgrove GC |
| Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire | Tuesday 27th June | Drayton Park GC |
| Midland Region | Tuesday 25th July | Morley Hayes GC |
| Six Counties | Tuesday 15th August | Ruddington Grange GC |
| Valon Cup & Denne Shield | Thursday 24th August | The Manor GC |
| Shropshire | Friday 8th September | Bridgnorth GC |
| PGM's Trophy | Thursday 21st September | Wolstanton GC |

Richard Archer - Solo Bike Ride from Bromsgrove to Gaiole in Chianti, Italy raising funds for the

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STAFFORDSHIRE



Richard starts this epic self-supported solo journey on 21st May 2023 from Bromsgrove. You can support Richard by donating at the following site:

<https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/masonic-charitable-foundation/e2024-staffordshire-2024-festival/solo-bike-ride-to-italy>

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STAFFORDSHIRE

From:
RW Bro John Lockley
Provincial Grand Master



211 Tettenhall Road
Wolverhampton
WV6 0DD

Tel: 01902 745151

6th March 2023

Dear Brethren,

Grand Lodge Appointments 2023

I am delighted to advise you of the following Staffordshire Brethren who have received appointments to, or promotions within, Grand Lodge with effect from 27th April.

First Appointments:

W.Bro. J.F. Roberts as **Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (AGDC)**

Promotion:

R.W.Bro. A.S. Varley to **Assistant Grand Master (AGM)**

W.Bro. R.A. Stubbs to **Past Grand sword Bearer (PGSwdB)**

W.Bro. J. Derry to **Past senior Grand Deacon (PSGD)**

I am sure that you will wish to join me in extending sincere congratulations to them all.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

R.W.Bro. John Lockley
Provincial Grand Master
Staffordshire.

Ceramic Lodge No: 3627

Seventy-eight Brethren attended the annual Installation Meeting of Ceramic Lodge No. 3627, on Saturday, 21st January, 2023, to witness the Installation of Staffordshire's first Filipino Worshipful Master. Some of us had



rushed to Shelton after the meeting of Foster Gough Lodge No. 2706, at Wolverhampton, where Lodge Alexandra No. 1282 (SC) had enacted a fine demonstration of a typical Scottish Second Degree Ceremony, followed by a 'Burn's Night' influenced, Lunchtime Festive Board. One of us arrived just in time to see the new WM, W. Bro. Precious Bumanglag, install his Officers, which he did in a most proficient manner.

Forty-six Filipino Brethren attended the meeting, some coming all the way from the Philippines, as well as from various locations across the UK, for the occasion. One such Brother coming from the Philippines being, VW Brother Jose "Joey" Seriano, Deputy District Grand Master, for the Masonic Region 1, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur & Abra, in the North West of Luzon, the largest Island in the Philippines, Luzon being the location of the Capital City, Manila. A Deputy District Grand Master in the Philippines, is Deputy to the Grand Master in his Region, so he is the equivalent to a PGM under UGLE.

W. Bro. Precious's father, a Past Deputy District Grand Master, was also due to attend, but regrettably, just before the meeting, he had a fall, resulting in a broken pelvis, which unfortunate accident, deprived him of the pleasure of witnessing his son being Installed as WM. Though not named specifically when we remembered Absent Brethren, his name would have been on the lips of many.

It was a truly memorable Festive Board, noisy, happy, laughing, smiling and with a true sense of fellowship, which is the Filipino way. I am sure that those present will remember





for a long time, the rendition of the National Anthem of the Philippines, sung by the Filipino Brethren, in Tagalog, the main Filipino language of the Philippines. I have heard this Anthem many times, in the Philippines and in UK, and it never fails to make the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. Though I may not understand the words, the sentiment is evident and it never fails to move me.

Freemasonry in the Philippines is strong and well regarded. It evinces strong attachment to Family, State, the Faith of the Brethren and Fellowship. It is part of Philippines' culture and history and I am immensely proud to be part of Philippines Freemasonry, even though only as a regular visitor.

Most of my Masonic Visits (Outside of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, which is held at the location where the incoming Grand Master resides), is in Metro Manila and in Mindanao, the second largest Island of the Philippines, in the South, (Well it would be, I

am a PPrJGW.), but it looks like I now have to expand my Masonic wanderings to include Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur & Abra!! Too late for this year's trip but for sure next year if I am spared.

W. Bro. Bumanglag's first visit as WM of Ceramic Lodge, was to bring VW Bro. Joey Seriano and Bro. Henry Daga (Ceramic Lodge) along to Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge January Meeting, where another great night was had by all present. I do hope it will not be their last visit.

I will be visiting Ceramic Lodge to support W. Bro. precious throughout his year in Office and I am sure that he would welcome your support too. Please visit you will sure of a really enjoyable evening.

David Watt.

Provincial Mentor



Staffordshire 2024 Festival

Olde English Nite

Friday 21st April 2023 6:00 pm

In tandem with the April meeting of Sutherland Lodge No.451 it is intended that a Lodge of Instruction be held at the Masonic Hall, Shelton. This will be presided over by

W.Bro. Michele Santopietro P.S.G.D.

The A.P.G.M. will appoint his officers for the evening and decide on the ritual to be rehearsed. When a sufficient level of humiliation has been achieved we will retire and join the Sutherland Brethren for an "Olde English Nite" Full English Breakfast

At this point prospective Candidates are permitted to join us.

Please try to bring a raffle prize

Masonic Dress will not be tolerated

All Proceeds to ye 2024 festival

Pryce £25 per victim.

Traditional Mugs will be provided

Fynes will be levied

Brethren wishing to book in please email davetruman@hotmail.com or ralphritchey@me.com

Or phone 07789 556653

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STAFFORDSHIRE



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

The Members' Pathway

Attracting Members - Growing Lodges

LODGE MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

As you will be aware UGLE has announced its strategy for the next few years, and they have challenged every Province to raise its membership by 1%. We as a Province are fortunate in having many committed Masons and Lodges who promote Freemasonry at every opportunity, but we all need to maximise our membership whenever possible to achieve this increase.

All Lodges should have a Lodge Membership Officer as it is a 'collared' office of the Lodge. If your Lodge is yet to appoint a Lodge Membership Officer, can I ask you to do so as soon as possible, and to inform the Provincial Membership Officer W.Bro Ralph Ritchey of who the nominated individual is.

The Provincial Membership Team has been expanded to include two Provincial Assistant Membership Officers and eight Area Membership Officers to assist your Lodge in meeting UGLE's future expectations and to meet the increased work load that these new initiatives generate.

These AMO's will contact each Lodge soon to ascertain how they can assist you and to gather some baseline information that is required by UGLE.

Can I ask that you promote the Membership Pathway as often as often as possible and to help Our Province to meet the expectations of UGLE.

Freemasonry is in an ever-changing environment and we must do everything possible to maintain our standards and professionalism.

For more information contact Ralph Ritchey, the Provincial membership Officer via his email members@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk who will be happy to respond to your questions.

I thank you all for the support you have already made to this initiative, and for the work that is yet to come.

R.W. Bro. John Lockley

Staffordshire Provincial Grand Master

Richard Cresswell's 50th

The regular meeting of Etruscan Lodge on 10th March was enjoyed by all.

After Bro Ryan Williams was passed, the Lodge celebrated the 50th anniversary of Richard Cresswell's initiation. While not progressing in the Lodge, Richard has always been a faithful member and for the last 5 years has served as Tyler.

Richard's hobbies include a great interest in AEC Lorries and Steam Trains. He has been involved in the restoration of AEC Lorries and still owns a couple, attending rallies of AEC enthusiasts. The



Lodge presented Richard with a voucher for a Steam Train driving experience and a scale model of an AEC 'Cabover' Truck.

V.W. Bro. David Thomas, DPGM then presented Richard with his 50 year certificate, after which Richard expressed his gratitude, for the gifts and the certificate, saying how much he had enjoyed his membership of the Lodge.





VOLUNTEER DRIVERS REQUIRED




Car drivers are needed to help with transporting our clients to and from hospitals including other medical appointments and shopping trips

VEHICLE AND FUEL SUPPLIED

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Drivers must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 25 years of age • Hold a valid driving licence • Able to work within a code of practice • Supply references • Disclosure and Barring Service Disclosure | <p>The Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible hours to suit (Monday to Friday) • An opportunity to meet and work with a variety of people • Making good use of spare time • Being a valued member of a team • Satisfaction in providing an essential service |
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Call us on **01785 252050** for an application form
or send email to: comm.link@btconnect.com

We look forward to hearing from you



Mayor of Stafford's
Charity Appeal 2017/18

Community Link Stafford & District is a
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Reg No. 1095768 and a Company Limited
by Guarantee Reg No. 4549467
VAT Reg No. 819 2929 96

PGL Drivers Appeal

Hello

I'm the Volunteer Recruitment Officer for Community Link Stafford & District. We are a charity that provides wheelchair accessible transport for people with mobility difficulties.

I'm just reaching out to groups in the area to see if they're aware of the services we offer & to see if it was possible for me to come & give a talk at one of your meeting, to raise awareness and also see if any of your members would like to volunteer with us. Is this something you'd be interested in at all?

Kind regards

Lauren Walker

Volunteer Recruitment Officer
Community Link Stafford & District
Schott House
Drummond Road
Astonfields
Stafford
ST16 3EL

Queeselet-St James Lodge Charity Donations

Queeselet – St James’ Lodge No: 6887 meet at the Yenton Assembly rooms in Gravelly Hill, Erdington and over the last 18 months they have made numerous donations to local charities as well as making significant contributions to the 2024 Festival.

The Lodge Treasurer W. Bro David Byram has a tight grip on the purse strings, but he is also the Lodge Charity Steward and with the approval of the brethren he has made donations from the Lodge Relief Chest.

In 2022-2023 the Lodge donated over £1,500 to charities including Cancer Research, Macmillan Support, Parkinson’s UK, the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal and local Children’s Charities and Foodbanks. A number of these donations being made following the personal experiences of some brethren or a general desire to provide relief to others at times of urgent need.

The Lodge recently donated to Retina UK, the charity, which receives no government support, is a charity supporting people affected by inherited sight loss and funds investigation and medical research to help make their challenges a thing of the past.



It was back in September 2022, David was approached by his friend Cass Farrar and asked to sponsor him as he had entered the London marathon in support of Retina UK, David had previously been involved in a number of fund-raising events with Cass.

At around this period David had undergone a cataract operation and for a few days he was left sightless in his left eye, this caused him great discomfort and concern until his vision gradually returned over time. He is due undergo a further similar operation soon on his right eye.

David and Cass grew up in a village north of Sunderland and the two fervent Sunderland fans have remained friends for over 60 years. Cass had met his wife Bethan when they were teachers in London and they had three children, their eldest child, Lucy suffers from a quite common but incurable condition called Retinitis Pigmentosa.

When Lucy was young Cass and Bethan at first thought she was rather clumsy until a check-up at Moorfields Hospital for an astigmatism revealed that she had Retinitis Pigmentosa and that in time she would go blind. Her sight deteriorated gradually until now she only detects light and dark.

From 11 years of age, Lucy attended Dorton House school for the blind and then Greenwich University where she gained a degree in psychology and now works for TfL. She married Andy who is also registered blind with Stargardts, a form of macular degeneration. He has his own piano tuning business, and they have two sighted children, Evie and Ollie.

Cass and Beth were most grateful and commented to David “You feel rather helpless when told that your child has an incurable disease and so we joined the British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society (BRPS) and became involved in fundraising. A few years ago, the BRPS Charity changed its name to Retina UK as the research it is involved in includes other retinal problems not just RP. We really appreciate the very kind donation from the Masons and thank you on behalf of Retina UK and be assured that funds go towards research that we hope and pray will eventually lead to a cure for many retinal eye conditions”.