



# WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 23



July 27<sup>th</sup> 2024  
The Staffordshire  
3 Peaks Challenge

“Carrying the Province  
The Extra Mile!”

Supporting the Festival 2024  
Appeal



✓ Team of 13  
Freemasons

✓ 17.8 miles

✓ 3 Peaks in 8 hours

✓ 2800ft Climbing

✓ Minimum of 10kg  
pack per walker



Please support the team by donating via  
the QR code or visit:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/staffs3peaks/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/staffs3peaks/)

# Carrying the Province the extra mile.....

In the final fund-raising challenge for the Festival 2024, a team from within the Province will be taking on the Staffordshire 3 Peaks Challenge - a distance of 18 miles in under 8 hours with more than 2,800 feet of ascent. However, in a twist to this already difficult challenge, the walking team will carry the equivalent weight of the Festival 2024 Executive and therefore the weight of the Province 'that extra mile' to raise vital funds for the Festival Appeal.



The walkers from across the Province will be assisted by a support team who will be relaying messages and progress live via the dedicated Facebook page and the Provincial website.

The Challenge is to complete the circular route meaning the team will each be walking the entire distance linking each of the three peaks before completing the circuit. This is not a relay. Each member will carry their share of the additional weight to their standard payloads for spending a day in the Peak District.

For those who wish to donate, a Masonic Charities Foundation Give Tap donation facility has been set up in the name of the Challenge which can be found here or by using the QR code.



The date for the Challenge is set for Saturday 27th July 2024 to enable the donations to be added to the final total raised for the Festival in time for the Gala Dinner.



Follow the training of the team in their approach to meet the Challenge by linking to the Facebook pages [www.facebook.com/groups/staffs3peaks/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/staffs3peaks/) and look out for those white beanie hats when you are out and about around the Province.

Your generous donations will ensure that not only do the team successfully conquer this Challenge, but the Festival Appeal will also be amply rewarded.

Further information available from V W Bro David Thomas or W Bro Pete Nacson (07730 659009)



## Congratulations

The United Grand Lodge Of England and Supreme Grand Chapter recently held their April meetings at Freemasons Hall, Gt Queen Street, London and at both meetings around 1,700 masons filled the Grand Temple.



On Wednesday 24th April at the Grand Lodge meeting Paul M. Molley and Ralph G. Ritchey both received first appointments as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Whilst Jonathon R. Hayes was promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon and John M. Phenix was promoted to Past Junior Grand Warden by the Grand Master HRH the Duke of Kent.

The following day, Thursday 25th April at the meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter, Ralph Howarth, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, was promoted to Past Grand Sword Bearer, while Selwyn Burton, Stuart Scott and John Skellern all received first appointments as a Past Grand Standard Bearer.



# A Special evening at Queeselet-St James' Lodge No.6887

**At the regular meeting of Queeselet-St James' Lodge No.6887** on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at the Yenton Masonic Centre, Erdington Birmingham, the brethren came together with many distinguished guests and friends to celebrate with W Bro John Samuel Matthews his 50 years in Freemasonry.

The visitors included RW Bros J Lockley PGM, T D C Lloyd PPGM, J Derry AsstProvGM, V W Bros P P Manning PGSwdB PDPGM(Warks), J A E Winter PGSwdB, R A Stubbs PGSwdB, P E M Parsons PJGD, J M Phenix PDepGSwdB, J D Harris PAGDC. Also, many active provincial officers including W Bros R P Archer Prov SGW, M J Sewell Prov JGW, P Bailey Prov SGD, B C Turner-Farmer Prov AGDC, M Sedden Prov GStdB, and many, many friends.

The Lodge was opened and subsequently called off by the Worshipful Master W. Bro Mathew S. Shaw, the Provincial Grand Master asked for chairs to be placed on the Lodge floor, he then invited the Immediate Past Master, W Bro Matthews to join him and both were escorted and seated in the middle of the Lodge room.

There then followed an informal "This is Your Life" conversation. This included a very interesting discussion where Bro John spoke about his early life and schooling history, also his professional life as a Structural Engineer. Bro John referred to the many highlights of his varied career which included several anecdotal instances which resulted in humorous recollections much to the amusement of the brethren present.

Bro John left school late in 1959 and immediately started work as a trainee Structural Engineer with a consulting engineering practice in Birmingham, but within 10 years, together with a colleague they established their own engineering consultancy. The company expanded after a series of acquisitions and mergers, with a staff compliment of over 50 and offices in Birmingham, London and Manchester. But, after 30 years for various reasons John resigned in 1999 but returned to work in 2001 for a large international company, becoming a Director of Engineering until his retirement in 2008. A truly remarkable career spanning 48 years for a teenager who had failed his GCSE's.

The PGM discussed with Bro John his Masonic history and his notable achievements, John was proposed and initiated into Queeselet Lodge meeting at Wretham Rd, Handsworth, Birmingham in 1974 becoming Worshipful Master in 1986. He served as Lodge Secretary for three separate periods over the years, returning to the Master's chair in October 2005 and then again in 2020.

At the conclusion of this the PGM congratulated W Bro Matthews for his committed and loyal service during his 50 years in Freemasonry and requested that the Prov AGDC, W Bro B C Turner-Farmer, read aloud the wording of the Certificate before the PGM formally presented it.

W Bro Matthews was most grateful and thanked the PGM and all the brethren present, stating that he would treasure the certificate as a reminder of this auspicious occasion.



# Tamworth Primary Schools Swimming Gala Makes a Splash with Ethelfleda Lodge Funding

**Following a 4-year absence** because of Covid, the vibrant atmosphere at the SnowDome Leisure Centre in Tamworth was once more electric as many of Tamworth's Primary School pupils were back in the pool for their annual Primary Schools Swimming Gala. Thanks to the generous funding from Ethelfleda Lodge No. 6600, the event provided a platform for budding athletes to showcase their aquatic prowess.

Organised by the dedicated Claire Laffan & her husband W. Bro Declan Laffan, and supported by fellow Freemason, W. Bro. Jason Rose, the gala marked its 15th successful year. Claire's tireless efforts, along with the financial support from the Lodge, ensured the gala's continuation, despite financial and pandemic challenges.

After intense heats held in February, 169 competitors emerged victorious, earning their place in the finals. The finals, which were held on Thursday 18th April, witnessed some really thrilling races and remarkable displays of sportsmanship.

Crucial to the smooth running of the event were the 25 volunteers from the Tamworth Amateur Swimming Club, who officiated the races with precision and dedication.

Claire expressed not only her gratitude to them, but to Ethelfleda Lodge for their ongoing support and the significance their community involvement has made. She commented how the event nurtures young talent, fostering a love for swimming and inspiring the next generation.



# The Travelling Gavel continues its journey around the province

**Barr Beacon Lodge No. 6109** claimed the Travelling Gavel from St Martins Lodge No. 98 at Shelton in January 2024. They were pleased to receive several visitors from both Hatherton Lodge No. 2474 and Victoria Lodge No. 2848 at their meeting on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at Aldridge.

In the presence of the Provincial Senior Grand Warden W. Bro Richard P. Archer, Barr Beacon presented a demonstration of the Ceremony of Passing and were most grateful when Fellowcraft, Bro. Michael Chinn of Victoria Lodge agreed to be the candidate.

The ceremony went exceptionally well and at the end of proceedings W. Bro. Edward Kanas and the four members of Victoria Lodge were invited to claim the Travelling Gavel from the Worshipful Master W. Bro. John S. Hession.

However, Victoria Lodge didn't hold the Gavel for long, as only three weeks later, on Wednesday 24th April 2024 a delegation from Patshull Lodge No. 6592, who meet at West Bromwich claimed it from W. Bro Giuseppe D'Anna, the Worshipful Master of Victoria lodge.

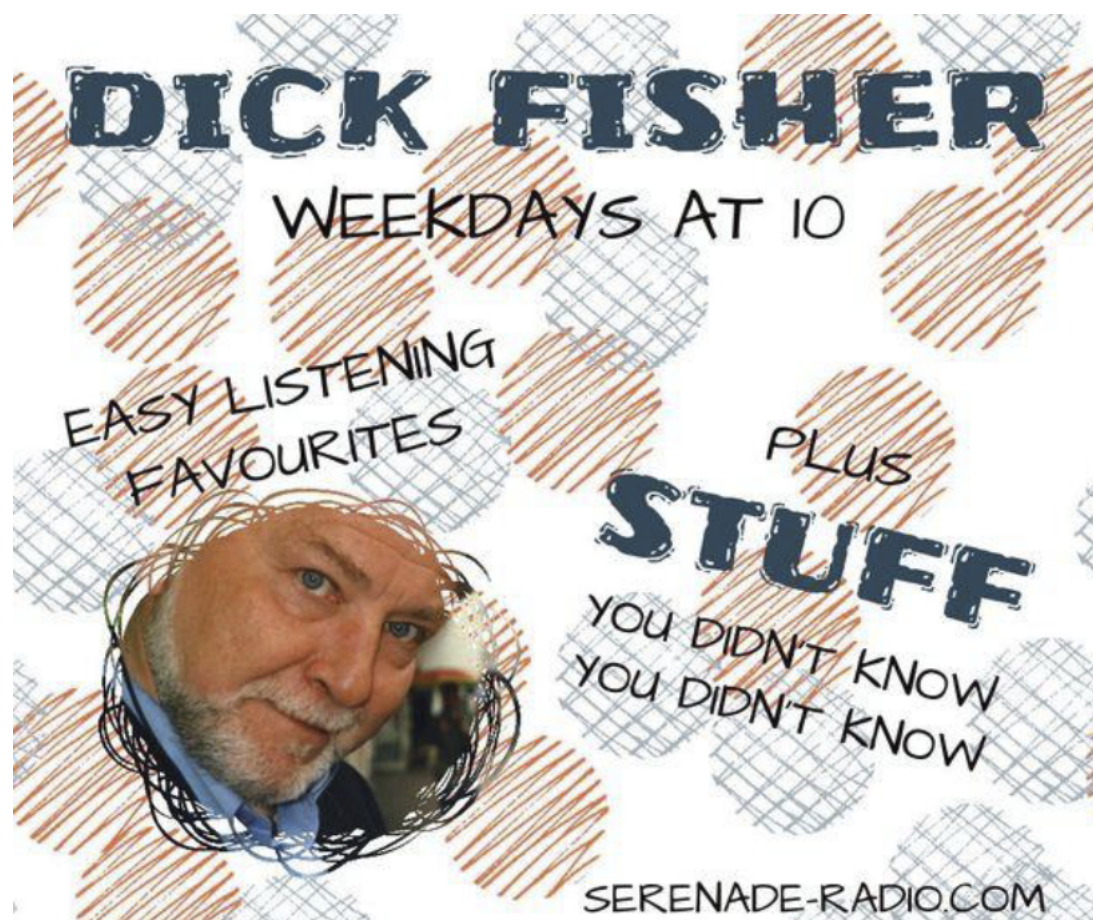
***Where will it be next ?***



## Listen in....

**In 1972, I was enjoying a successful career** as a sales rep, selling building components across Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Shropshire, when I spotted an article in the Express and Star.

A group of folks planned to start a Hospital Radio service in Stafford and were looking for volunteers to collect requests and dedications from the local hospitals. Having some spare time on my hands, I decided to volunteer my services. Little did I know where it would lead.



On joining Hospital Radio Stafford, which, over fifty years later is still going strong, I discovered that I had a skill which transformed my life for the next 25 years. As well as working in a “proper” job and starting a business, I produced and presented music programmes at radio stations across the Midlands. Some of them you may recall. BBC Stoke, Beacon Radio, Mercia Sound, Signal Radio and latterly WABC, an oldies station based in Wolverhampton.

Then, in 1997, the accountants took over. They took away the “local” element from radio stations they acquired and centralised

most programmes. This meant reducing presenter numbers and the first to go were the freelancers. Including me.

Fast forward to 2022, and a friend recommended that I take a listen to Serenade Radio, an easy listening music station which was looking for experienced presenters. Having spent a quarter of a century not “doing” radio, I wasn’t certain that my style of presentation was in any way relevant any more. But I listened and liked what I heard.

Here was a station which played the music I’d grown up with, commercial free and without the usual clutter of news, travel etc etc. Might I fit in?

Long story short, I joined them at the beginning of 2023 to present a weekday programme between 10am and 12 noon. They haven’t sacked me yet, so I guess I’m doing something right!

The biggest change since the first part of my broadcasting career is the fact that I no longer need to travel to

a studio to present “live”. I now work from the comfort of my office at home, equipped with only a microphone, headphones and an internet connection – plus the ability to speak!

Like my Masonry, I enjoy being part of the broadcasting world and continue to delight in bringing great music to our audience. It also proves that just when you thought one door was closed, another one opens!



# Gordon Lodge No.2149 Support Landau Charity.

**Landau is a supported employment and training charity** that has transformed the lives of over 800 individuals across the Midlands by providing routes to employment, access to learning, social enterprise help and support for personal growth.



Everyday, people face difficult circumstances, they battle with bereavement, breakdowns, poverty, mental health, childcare responsibilities, illness, lack of confidence and learning barriers that prevent them from engaging in employment or education. Landau brings hope to those individuals and local communities through intensive support plans, learning, including voluntary and employment placements.

In 2020 Julia Wright a freelance hairdresser and beautician with over 30 years' experience in the

trade became aware of the Landau charity and wanted to offer help and support to special needs students within the community. Julia was formally interviewed and offered the opportunity to teach, but despite her experience she had to undertake training to gain the necessary teaching qualifications.

Landau with the assistance of a local hair and beauty products supplier, who assisted with funding, were able to open a new salon, which Julia assisted in designing. The salon 'Smile and Style' was busy from the start and the public flocked to support the project. Whilst, the students who worked in small groups alongside Julia really enjoyed the opportunity to learn and were able to achieve accredited qualifications and non-accredited certificates in hairdressing.

Julia was unfortunately taken ill in 2023 but has since returned to the work she so enjoys, and the salon continues to thrive helping the community offering support and help in learning. The brethren of Gordon Lodge No. 2149 who meet at Shelton Masonic Hall, were pleased to support the charity and proud father, Bro. Smith was able to present a cheque to his daughter Julia and the charity.



(Landau Manager, Student Tim, Julia Wright and Bro. Smith)



**Staffordshire Masonic Clay  
Shooting Association**  
**Summer Shoot Competition**



The SMCSA invite you to their annual summer competition at the Doveridge Clay Shooting Club.

The competition will be for 50 clays over 5 stands highest score wins. Prizes for the top Mason and Non-Mason shooters. Tickets are £30 per head which includes clays but not cartridges. We will also be holding a raffle. All the profit going to the 2024 Festival which is drawing to a close so a final push with your support is encouraged.

The Competition is on the 7<sup>th</sup> July and registration is between 9am – 10.30am. Pre-registration is encouraged. Unfortunately, we can only accept Shotgun License Holders to compete.

Please contact Steve Watts SMCSA Secretary 07827 292616  
Email [letsgoshooting@smcsa.org](mailto:letsgoshooting@smcsa.org) to register.

We hope you can attend and look forward to your  
support

**7 July**

**Doveridge Clay Sports Club**  
Eaton Hall Farm, Upwoods Rd,  
Doveridge, Ashbourne DE6 5LN

**9AM**

## Chartley Lodge Charity Presentation

On Wednesday 6th March the brethren of Chartley Lodge presented a cheque for £1500 to a local ladies charity 'Terrible Titties and other Bitties'.

The charity was chosen by W. Bro Adrian Scriven the Worshipful Master of Chartley Lodge No. 7569 who meet at Stafford, and the Lodge raised £1,500.00 for this very worthy cause from various collections, including the Worshipful Master's Garden party and his Ladies evening

Terrible Titties and Other Bitties Charity was established in 2019 and it is a cancer support group offering an umbrella of emotional and pastoral support for ladies and their families affected by breast cancer in the Stafford area and beyond.

The group meet at 7pm on the first Wednesday of every month at Stafford Rugby Club, Blackberry Lane, Stafford. The group not only have monthly meeting, but they also offer a Buddy network connecting with others 24/7 on various forums, including wellbeing and practical help.

The Worshipful Master and the brethren of the lodge would like to thank all the support from all the brethren and their families who have anyway contributed to this wonderful donation.



‘ Is it  
your Lodge’s  
end of season . . . .

. . . . are you missing your Freemasonry? ’

## Here’s the answer - join us at: Phoenix Lodge No. 9319

Staffordshire’s Premier Summer Lodge, meeting  
at the Handsworth Masonic Centre in Birmingham

### **Programme for the Summer Season:**

**28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Installation**

An ideal event for newly-appointed Provincial Officers to have their first visit

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

A Third Third Degree Ceremony  
for Victoria Lodge No. 2848 (*details of which are to be finalised*)

**23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024**

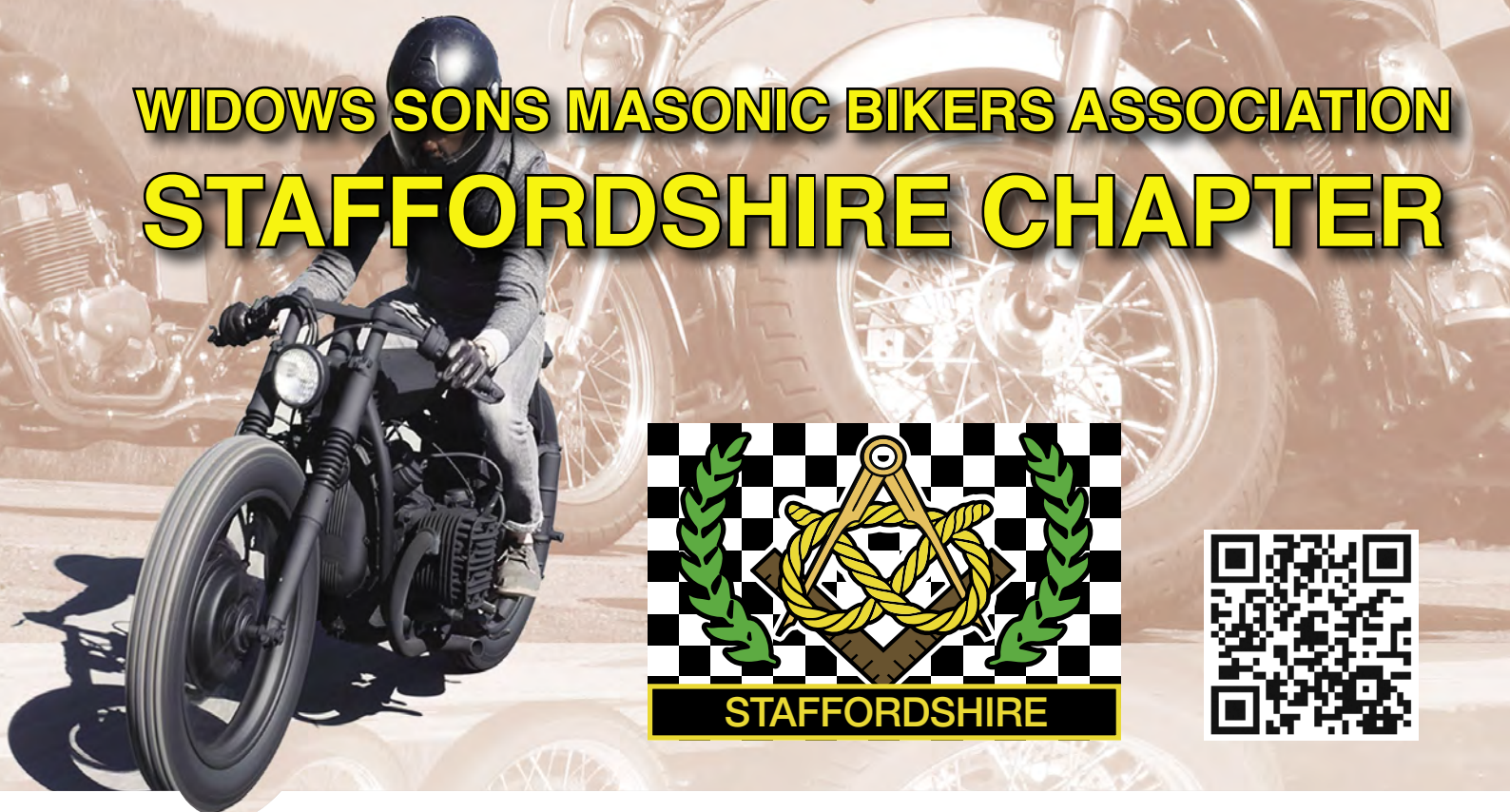
A Third Third Degree Ceremony  
for Victoria Lodge No. 2848 (*details of which are to be finalised*)

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Ladies & Guests to Dine

For booking or further information, contact The Lodge Secretary at:  
[jdnumber37@gmail.com](mailto:jdnumber37@gmail.com)

# WIDOWS SONS MASONIC BIKERS ASSOCIATION STAFFORDSHIRE CHAPTER



**Brother, are you a biker?  
then a friendly, warm and fraternal Greeting to you!**

For the brethren who have never heard of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association (WSMBA), they are a group of Freemasons within Great Britain that happen to have a passion for riding motorcycles and hold with the idea of universal brotherhood. The WSMBA was formed in 2004 and has since grown to have established Chapters representing most Masonic provinces throughout the Country. The Widows Sons is quite simply a motorcycle-riding club. They are a non-brand specific riding Association - as long as you are a Master Mason, in good standing, you and your families are welcome to join us.

**The goals of the WSMBA Staffordshire are:**

To **introduce motorcycling** to our masonic brothers, to **encourage** and **support** Masonic recruitment, to **raise** masonic awareness in the world of motorcycling, to **assist** in Masonic and other worthy **charities**, and to **support** the Craft through regular attendance.

**We are now pleased to announce that due to the continued success of the Widows Sons in the West Midlands, a standalone Staffordshire Chapter has been formed**

We have regular meetings and rideouts which you are welcome to attend as a guest, when the full concept of the WSMBA can be explained in full by the members of the Chapter regarding membership, qualification, charity and our goals.

If you are interested, please contact either via our website: <https://staffordshire.wsmba.uk/index.html> or by the following email addresses:

President - Tony Armstrong : [president@staffordshire.wsmba.uk](mailto:president@staffordshire.wsmba.uk)  
or Secretary - John Rowley: [secretary@staffordshire.wsmba.uk](mailto:secretary@staffordshire.wsmba.uk)



**Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association  
Staffordshire Chapter**

are proud to be supporters of, and have the support of  
Legge Lodge 2784 and Burslem Chapter 98

