

# WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



January 2022

# PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STAFFORDSHIRE

## *Summer Ball Extravaganza*

**JUNE 25TH 2022**  
at the **INGESTRE SUITE,**  
**COUNTY SHOWGROUND,**  
**STAFFORD**  
**IN AID OF 2024 FESTIVAL**

**SAVE THE DATE !!**

Details to follow soon



## Meet the Wardens

**At the recent Meeting of Foster Gough Lodge** the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro David J Thomas PGSwdB announced the new Provincial Wardens, on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Lockley who was unavoidably detained.

The new wardens for the coming year are Provincial Senior Grand Warden, W Bro Nicholas Mark Thomas P.Pr.S.G.D.

of St Modwen's Lodge No 4850 and as Provincial Junior Grand Warden, W Bro Reginald Sargeant P.Pr.J.G.W. of St Giles Lodge No 1587.

The date of the Annual General Meeting for Craft is Tuesday 21st June 2022, at the Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford for 4 pm

The Province sends its congratulations to these very worthy Brothers.



**Nick was initiated** in Lodge of Accord No.6195 in the Metropolitan Area of London in April 2002 serving as Master in 2008, 2011 and finally in 2015 when he was the last Master handing back the warrant and the lodge closed. He was appointed London Grand Rank in 2014.

Nick became a Staffordshire Mason

in May 2004 when he joined St Modwen's Lodge No. 4850 becoming Master in 2012, since then Nick has served as Lodge Secretary and Charity Steward.

He is also a member of Foster Gough Lodge, The Provincial Grand Stewards lodge as well as David Kenneth Williamson Lodge in London, which he has connections to, firstly as a regional coordinator and now serving as the Secretary of the UGLE Universities Scheme.

In Staffordshire he was appointed Provincial Grand Steward in 2016 and then Provincial Senior Grand Deacon in 2018. Nick is a past MEZ of Abbey Chapter, a past Master of Wulfric Spot Lodge of Mark Master Masons and a member of Royal Ark Mariners.

Nick is a member of William de Ferrars Preceptory of Knights Templar and

active member of the Provincial Priors Bodyguard becoming its registrar in 2018, he is also a member of Knights Templar Priests.

Outside of Freemasonry Nick has taken on several physical activities to raise money for charities, over recent years this has become mainly running, having completed his first marathon in 2018 in Berlin and now hoping to complete his

second London marathon in 2022. He is also a martial arts instructor teaching karate, and a keen cyclist, he enjoys being outside, be it in the garden or walking in the peak district.

Nick is married to Kirsty and has a son who is also a black belt in karate. All of Nicks working life he has been customer focused within the IT industry and he is currently a Service Operations Manager.



**Initiated into the St Giles Lodge 1587**

in November 1998, Reg was installed as Master in May 2005. He was appointed Provincial Grand Steward in 2011 and subsequently joined Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge in 2012. Reg was promoted to Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2014 and 2015 and escorted many presiding officers around the province. Reg was further promoted to Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer and then Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 2021.

Reg was exalted in St Giles Royal Arch Chapter No. 1587 in 2002, installed as MEZ in 2010 and again in 2012. He received acting Provincial honour in 2013 as First Assistant Grand Sojourner and then Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 2021. Reg is currently Director of Ceremonies St Giles Lodge and Senior Warden in Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge.

Away from Masonry Reg is married to Alyson, they have a son and two grandchildren. Reg joined the Grenadier Guards in September 1971 as a boy soldier and went

on to complete 22 years' adult service in a variety of roles and operational theatres, attaining the rank of Warrant Officer. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1991. On leaving the Grenadier Guards in 1996 Reg retrained as a Health and Safety Advisor and is currently Vice Chairperson of the Staffordshire IOSH branch, having served 2 years as Chairperson. His hobbies include Golf, travel and walking.

## SHARING THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

The members of the North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge and Chapter have once again demonstrated their generosity at Christmas by supporting the initiative to present chocolate selection boxes to the Royal Stoke Children's Hospital.

The members donated over 100 selection boxes this Christmas and delivered them just in time for staff to distribute them to those children who unfortunately were unable to return home to celebrate with their families.



Rebecca Bate, UHNM Charity Administrator for the hospital said, "Nobody likes to be in hospital, especially during the festive season. Thanks to your kind donation, the children that stayed with us were able to share in the magic of Christmas, making them feel connected and valued within their community at a time when they are away from home. It was extremely thoughtful of the Lodge to provide such a wonderful selection of selection boxes for the Children's Wards and I can assure you that the staff are extremely pleased that you have been able to help in this way."

The head of North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge, Vasos Bata, said "This Lodge regularly supports local charities but it's extra special at Christmas".

To find out more about this Lodge go to [www.nsr18355.co.uk](http://www.nsr18355.co.uk)



# St Modwen's Lodge No.4850

## - A night to remember

**On a quiet and cold evening** in January at a meeting in Burton on Trent, there was a band of friends and brothers that experienced a fantastic evening. A sequence of events not often seen all on the same night in the same room.



There was a celebration of 60 years in Freemasonry for W. Bro Charles Parker, who spoke at length about his life, his family and his masonry in an open discussion in a question-and-

answer style, with the DPGM VW. Bro. David J Thomas PGSwdB.

The brethren learnt facts about Charles that many did not know, and now feel they know him a little better for it, getting to know one of their oldest members was a great pleasure, and maybe something we should all do more of.

After the presentation of the certificate by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro Parker was surprised and very humbled to be awarded with an immediate promotion to Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon and he thanked the Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

Along with W. Bro Charles Parker and W. Bro Kris Hegde, who recently celebrated 25 years in masonry, the brethren were pleased that regular guest, W. Bro Glyn Hall, who was celebrating 50 years in masonry could also join the meeting.

The lodge were able to present to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Chairman of the 2024 Festival committee a cheque for £7000, which through this latest donation the lodge have been recognised as Vice Patrons of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The lodge were also pleased to show their support with donations to several local charities including St. Giles Hospice, Burton

YMCA, Midlands Air Ambulance, Staffordshire, Shropshire & Cheshire blood bikes and Burton Young Ones.

The Worshipful Master thanked the Charity Steward W. Bro Nick Thomas, for his ongoing work which enables the lodge to be able to make such donations.



## Edwina Chapter

The January convocation of Edwina Chapter 4237 was a special and unique occasion. The Chapter, who are short of active members asked the Provincial support group for assistance. Provincial officers responded magnificently and took the first part of the ceremony, the induction of E. Comp Bayley into the chair of H. The second part of the evening was the exaltation of Companion Charlie Teasdale the son of Companion



Colin Teasdale who described the ceremony as “very emotional and special”. The evening was made even more unique by the attendance of both the 2nd and 3rd Grand Principals. Edwina next meet on February 15th which is another exaltation and are again asking for assistance. So, if you would like to visit this lovely Chapter, please contact Comp Scribe E John Sheldon. Edwina meet in the beautiful lodge building in Furnace Hill, Cradley Heath and is well worth a visit if you have not been here before.

## 2022 reappointment of the Deputy Grand Superintendent and Provincial Grand Principals

**EComp Robin A. Stubbs Grand Superintendent** was pleased to announce in November the 2022 reappointment of the Deputy Grand Superintendent, Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals. Also, now a new appointment to the senior team which will take effect from Tuesday 10th May:

Provincial Grand Scribe N:  
**EComp Paul R Foster, PPrDGDC**



## W. Bro R. N. Haysom TD PPrSGW celebrates his 50 years Masonic Service

W. Bro R. N. 'Bob' Haysom was initiated into Beaminster Manor Lodge No. 1367 in Dorset by his father-in-law, whilst serving in the Regular Army, on Tuesday 13th October 1970. He later moved with his family to Stoke-on-Trent to work for Michelin Tyres and joined Minerva Lodge No.1942 on Tuesday 1st April 1980, having been introduced by W. Bro Jim Birkin.

Warren, and the Lodge Almoner W. Bro Tony Berry, also a stunning bouquet of flowers for his wife Carole. The day was rounded off with a most enjoyable Zoom meeting with Lodge members. It was not long before he, and several other Brethren joined in a convivial evening Zoom meeting with the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro. John Lockley who congratulated them all for achieving their 50 Years' service.



He celebrated his 50 years' in Freemasonry in October 2020, during the Covid 19 Pandemic, when he was presented with Congratulatory Cards, a '50-Year' Badge, and other cards by the Worshipful Master, the late W. Bro Jeff

Once Covid19 restrictions were lifted the Lodge was informed that the Provincial Grand Master intended to present a 50-Year Certificate to W. Bro Bob in person. The day soon arrived and once the Provincial Grand Master, other Provincial

Officers and Guests had been welcomed by W. Bro Phil Cannings, the Master-in-the-Chair, he invited W. Bro Rod Mitchell to give a brief resume of W. Bro Bob's Masonic Career. This he did in his own inimitable style and announced that, as a token of W. Bro Bob's excellent service over many years, the Lodge had recently presented him with a cheque towards the purchase of an Apple watch. The Brethren applauded W. Bro Rod's resume.



The Provincial Grand Master addressed the Lodge requested that two chairs were placed on the Square and proceeded to conduct a 'This is your Life' style interview with W. Bro Bob, which was very well received by the brethren. The Fifty-Year Certificate was read by the attending Director of Ceremonies and the Provincial Grand Master then presented it to him but observed that the wording on the Certificate was incorrect as it showed him to be a Provincial

Senior Grand Warden and he would have the error rectified as soon as possible. The Provincial Grand Master then announced that he was promoting W. Bro Bob with immediate effect! This was warmly applauded by the brethren.

W. Bro Haysom thanked the Provincial Grand Master profusely for attending the Lodge meeting, his promotion and the Certificate, he also thanked W. Bro Rod Mitchell, his good friend, for the very kind

words about him. He also wished to place on record the grateful thanks not only to his late father-in-law, W. Bro James Powell, for his belief in him and for proposing him into Freemasonry, but also to W. Bro Jim Birkin who had rescued him from

Masonic obscurity by proposing him into Minerva Lodge all those years ago. He thanked his guests for their friendship over many years and especially for attending the evening, and last but certainly not least, the brethren of Minerva Lodge for their welcome and friendship over the years. The brethren joined the ladies and enjoyed a very pleasant evening at the annual Ladies Christmas Dinner.



## Masonic Halls

Throughout the difficult time of the Covid Pandemic and lockdown the Masonic Hall Companies within the Province have taken the opportunity to review their business practice and their facilities.

**Walsall Masonic Company** have updated technology making it easier for the brethren and the public using their facilities at Aldridge. They kept in mind that whilst the Company were not generating much business any project undertaken had to provide significant benefits to all. They have introduced a new communications system, upgraded to 5G Wi-Fi, also purchased new cash registers and obtained new touch and go card machines, all to assist and make transactions and stock control far easier. Unfortunately, though due to storm damage the function rooms and practice temple needed to be redecorated and so as business slowly comes back to the new normal general maintenance resumes.

**Handsworth Masonic Hall** have reported there has been extensive repair, refurbishment and improvement at the Wretham Rd site. This includes extensive electrical work, replacing circuits and new LED lighting. A new intruder alarm and updated fire alarm system were fitted, together with a new, more secure door entry system with key fob access. The building has had extensive plastering work throughout and many rooms redecorated, also major refurbishment of the kitchen area has taken place any many new appliances purchased. The building itself has not been neglected either, with several additional external security lights, new

guttering, and a new emergency door fitted with easy access for wheelchair use. The Chair of Directors W. Bro. John Williams P.Pr.J.G.W. (Warks) also reports that the work hasn't stopped there, with a new £26k lift to be fitted soon.

**Hanley Masonic Hall** have unfortunately suffered several break-ins resulting in wanton damage and so it was decided to purchase a bespoke set of security grills, which blend in well with the building in Shelton and are hardly noticeable from the inside. There has also been considerable investment in the central heating system which is an ongoing project. And finally, after months of planning to allow greater access for those with mobility issues and with contributions from several Lodges, Chapters, Associated Orders and individuals work got under way on the lift. There were many setbacks including parts needing to be manufactured, but the lift is now finally fitted and working. W. Bro. Ken Bell P.Pr.J.G.W. of Ceramic Lodge No: 3827 took on the task of ensuring that the new panelling that needed to be fitted would be done so in an unobtrusive manner so that it complimented, the existing structure. Bro Ken worked tirelessly to fit the panelling and to stain it to the same colour as the





original panels and in doing so he has succeeded in providing the hall with an asset that should last for many years to come. Bro Ken overcame numerous issues regarding the fitment of the panels and in doing so had to overcome personal health problems, but to his enduring credit he persevered, and the outcome is of a very high standard. As an expression of appreciation from the Shelton Executive and Members the P.S.G.W. W. Bro. Ralph Ritchey presented Bro. Ken with a bottle of his favourite tippale as well as some gift vouchers.

## W. Bro Beverley John Nicholls P.Prov.S.G.W, Celebration of 60 years in Craft Freemasonry

**On Friday 14th January 2022** Round Table Lodge No. 8273 who meet at Wednesbury were delighted to receive the Past Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Thomas D. C. Lloyd OBE TD DL to present a Provincial Certificate on the celebration of W. Bro Beverley John Nicholls's achievement of 60 years membership of Craft Freemasonry.

The meeting was well attended but if it were not for Covid, the anniversary of this milestone would have undoubtedly attracted a significantly greater attendance. The lodge Treasurer W. Bro Roger R Boak, commenced the presentation with a splendid eloquent tribute and personal history of Bro Bev.

Bev was born on Saturday 2nd November 1935; his father was a well-known sprinter and played for Walsall FC. He has lived in Walsall all his life; was schooled in Walsall and went on to Commercial College prior to joining the family business J & H Nicholls Paints, which he ran successfully after his father retired. Bev was also a director of other companies including Nicholls Hennesy Hotels, he was influenced

by and took inspiration from his uncle Lord Harmer-Nicholls, Baronet of Darlaston.

It was whilst a member of Walsall Round Table No: 71 in Area 5 that Bev's personal life had a seismic shift. Walsall was twinned with Mulhouse, which is close to the Swiss-German border and the Round Tables had exchange visits which Bev regularly attended, often with his fellow Tabler and close friend Chris Butler. Bev at this stage was a confirmed bachelor and on one of these visits Bev was persuaded to extend his stay and visit the Black Forest in Germany. It was there that he met a teacher called Ursula Marianne and was totally smitten. The rest as they say is history. Bev and Ule as she is known, married and have two lovely daughters Cherry & Charlotte.

Bev was introduced to Freemasonry by his uncle, Lord Harmer-Nicholls, a qualified barrister who was also born and educated locally. Bev was initiated into The Lodge of St John No: 6320 at Wolverhampton on 25th January 1961. Whilst a member there he joined a team to establish a new masonic lodge to be called Round Table

Lodge No. 8273 and was of course a founder member.

On Monday 5th May 1969 Round Table Lodge 8273 was duly consecrated by the W. Bro H Wilson Keys the Provincial Grand Master and his team. W. Bro Noel Boardman was installed as Worshipful Master and invested his Wardens and the rest of his officers. Bro Bev was invested as a Steward of the Lodge and there followed a consecration banquet at which 137 brethren dined.

Bro Bev progressed through the lodge and was installed as Master in 1975 and had an extremely busy year in the chair. In November 1987 to Mark the 100th meeting of the lodge Bro Bev and the late W. Bro Mike Barratt presented to the lodge two handsome kneeling stools, which are still in use today.

Bev has many interests away from Freemasonry, he has always been a keen golfer and in fact resides near to Walsall Golf Club, where he is a member and in 1983 was Captain and duly became a Trustee. He regularly appeared on the honours boards after winning many competitions and was a feared opponent

in match play.

In June 1971 the first lodge golf meeting was held at Walsall Golf Club, which not surprisingly was won by Bro Bev. He also represented the lodge in the Provincial Grand Masters Annual Golf Trophy Competition: -winning it in 2012.

Bro Boak commented on how Bev has always had a great wit with a dry sense of humour, a good dinner guest and always impeccably dressed. How he likes tradition and that he is not interested in material things or life's trappings. That Bev is a constant source of quiet understated encouragement and a true inspiration to both new masons and established masons alike.

RW Bro Lloyd was more than pleased to continue the presentation and commented how personally satisfying it was for him to attend and make the presentation, firstly he detailed Bro Bev's masonic history from his initiation in The Lodge of St John to membership of Round Table Lodge. Also, his Provincial promotions from P.G.Stwd, in 1982 to P.Pr.S.G.W. in 2011 and his membership of other Orders including The Holy Royal Arch and Rose Croix.



Also, how Bev had served the Lodge in all its offices and still conscientiously continues to do so, having now been its Chaplain for 10 years. He congratulated Bro Bev and thanked him for his contribution over the many years, to Freemasonry in general, to the Province of Staffordshire, and especially to Round Table Lodge.

He described Bev as a quiet private man who had set an exemplary standard

## W. Bro. Jack Roper Yates P.Prov.S.G.W Celebration of 60 years in Craft Freemasonry

**On Wednesday 26th January 2022** the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Michele Santopietro PJGD attended Smithchild Lodge No. 2064 who meet at Hanley Masonic Hall. This was to celebrate with the lodge and to present a Provincial Certificate to W. Bro Jack Yates on his achievement of 60 years membership in Craft Freemasonry.

In the lodge the certificate was read by the attending Director of Ceremonies before being formally presented to Bro Jack, who thanked all the brethren present. W. Bro Anthony Dejak P.Pr.G.Sup.Wks.

to emulate, generating the respect of the brethren and how over 60 years of unstinting service this had beneficially influenced brethren of every rank. RW Bro Lloyd stated how proud, honoured and privileged he felt, and he asked the Provincial Director of Ceremonies to read the certificate before presenting it. Bro Bev thanked everyone and all the brethren present had a most enjoyable evening.

commented at the festive board how honoured he felt to be able to say a few words on behalf of the lodge and propose a toast to Bro Jack, who unfortunately is currently undergoing treatment for ultraviolet light damage to his face.

Bro Jack was born on Friday 21st June 1935 to Jack & Beatrice Yates, in Preston Lancashire. His father, Jack Snr was a Passed Fireman at Preston Motive Power Department of the London Midland & Scottish Railways and his Mother Beatrice was a secretary in a local solicitors office.

Jack Snr was also an active Freemason having been initiated into Coppull Lodge No. 4232 in the Province of West Lancashire in January 1927. But, when the Second World War broke out, he could no longer attend his Lodge due to the Government travel restrictions. After several promotions at work, he moved to Crewe where he met two members of Smithchild Lodge, Bro Ernie Farley and Bro Cecil Mason, thus



beginning the connection with the Lodge which Jack Jnr subsequently joined.

After leaving school in 1952 Bro Jack followed in his father's footsteps by going into the railway and duly started an engineering apprenticeship at the Crewe Works, whilst also studying for his technical qualifications and A levels. Jack completed his apprenticeship but continued his studies at the Queen Mary College, London University, where, in 1959, he graduated with a first-class honours degree in Mechanical Engineering.



The 50's saw an incredible amount of change within the Railway industry with new forms of traction, such as electric and diesel being introduced. Jack was keen to understand these new forms of traction and in order to gain suitable experience, his job required him to move to various parts of the country, including Crewe, Derby and eventually London, where he became Personal Assistant to the Chief Mechanical Engineer.

It was during this time that Jack met his lovely wife, Margaret. Margaret was based in Derby and Jack's keen interest in diesel traction brought him back to Derby where he and Margaret married on 10th November 1973 at Darley Abbey Methodist Church. They were blessed in 1974 with the birth of their son, Stephen

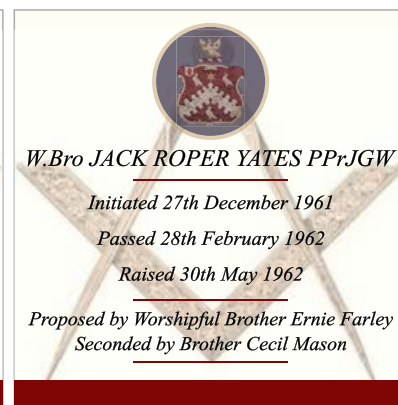
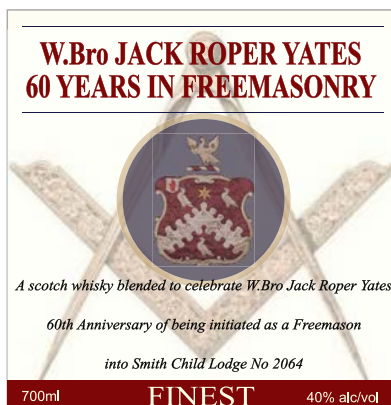
John Yates who with his wife Kerry Joanne has provided them with 2 grandchildren Joshua Jack aged 16 and Tobius James aged 13.

Bro Jack took early retirement in September 1990 and shortly after joined Probus Club in Nantwich where he became Club President for the year 2003 / 2004. Retirement has also enabled Bro Jack to further his hobbies which include watercolour painting, gardening and until his eyesight deteriorated, steam locomotive model engineering.

Being a Lewis, Jack was proposed by his father's close friend W Bro Ernie Farley and seconded by Bro Cecil Mason. He was initiated into Smithchild Lodge on Wednesday 27th December 1961 aged 26, Passed in February 1962 and Raised in

May that year, eventually taking the Chair of King Solomon in October 1970 and receiving his first Provincial promotion in 1975.

The brethren warmly toasted Bro Jack who was then presented with special bottle of whisky to commemorate the evening. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.



**Patrons:**

Grand Charity  
RMTGB  
RMBI  
MSF

Meeting on Friday Evenings at 6.15 pm

Freemasons' Hall,  
Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ  
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## EMULATION LODGE of IMPROVEMENT

Lodge doors open at 4.00pm  
Festival begins at 5.00pm

Emulation Lodge of Improvement will hold its Annual Festival at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London on Friday 25th February 2022 at 17.00hrs.



Lecture Sections to be worked:

- Section 1 of the 1st Lecture
- Section 2 of the 2nd Lecture
- Section 6 of the 1st Lecture
- Section 7 of the 1st Lecture

# ANNUAL FESTIVAL

**Friday 25th February 2022**

Join us for Emulation Lodge of Improvement's Annual Festival, where members will demonstrate four Sections of the Lectures under the watchful eye of VW Bro Graham Redman, PGSwdB, DepGSec.

This year the Provincial Grand Master for Surrey, RW Bro Ian Chandler is to Preside and it is expected that he will be joined by several very senior Brethren from London and the Provinces.

Ticket costs £50 for Temple and Dining and £10 for Temple Only. Dinner will be served in Freemason's Hall.

This event is open to all Master Masons and Past Masters regardless of rank or ritual background.

A Booking Form is attached overleaf. Should you wish to attend please return your cheque, made payable to Emulation Lodge of Improvement, to Scott Cargill at the address as shown.

For on-line bookings, please visit [www.emulationloi.org](http://www.emulationloi.org)

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the kind permission of the 'Library and Museum' for allowing the use of the image of W Bro Peter Gilkes, an early Leader and Instructor of this Lodge of Improvement.