



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



November 2021

Staffordshire Freemasons Remembrance Day Service.



On Friday 12th November the Head of Staffordshire Freemasons, John Lockley, together with his Deputy, David Thomas and Assistants Mike Santopietro and John Derry, accompanied by the



Head of Royal Arch Masonry in Staffordshire, Robin Stubbs and other members of the Province some with their wives and partners attended the Masonic Memorial Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum near Burton-upon-Trent for a remembrance service for the fallen of two World Wars and other conflicts.

The Provincial remembrance service was led by the Reverend Edward Haycock, Provincial Grand Chaplain. John Lockley then laid a wreath on behalf of all freemasons in Staffordshire.





Churnet Valley Lodge No. 8092

W. Bro. Donald (Don) James Stockton P.Pr.S.G.W

The Provincial Grand Master Rt. W. Bro. John Lockley together with several brethren from Churnet Valley Lodge No. 8092 recently attended the home address of W. Bro. Donald J. Stockton to present him with a 50-year certificate to celebrate the anniversary of his initiation into the Lodge but also to promote him to P.Pr.S.G.W.

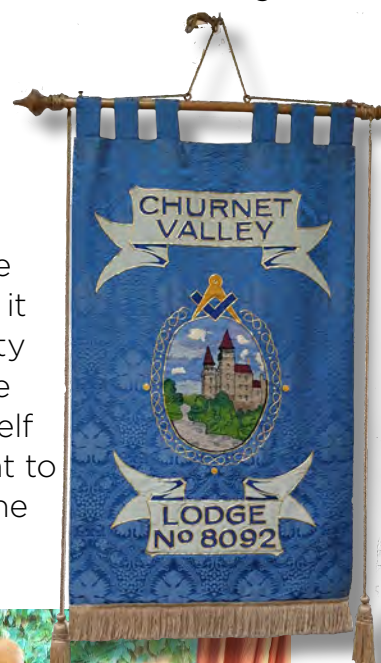
Brother 'Don' Stockton was initiated into Churnet Valley Lodge No. 8092 on 1st November 1971, Passed to the Second Degree on 7th February 1972 and Raised in December of that year; he was awarded Provincial Honours in 1990. Don was one of a strong cadre of police officers who brought a special flavour to the Lodge. His gentle, whimsical nature brought an air of calm to the Lodge which seemed at odds with his undeniably powerful physique and presence. Over the years he was to become one of the most respected and best liked members of the Lodge and proved himself to be a most sincere and dedicated Freemason.

Don was a largely, self-taught musician whose mellow singing graced many festive boards and if the technological idiosyncrasies of the organ occasionally outwitted him the musical contribution he made to Lodge ceremonies was much appreciated and added to the beauty and solemnity of the meetings. As a Past Master his interest in and enthusiasm for Freemasonry never wavered. Regardless of the weather Don was a regular at any Lodge occasion where his succinct and penetrating comments were highly valued. He was always ready to stand in at short notice if the team was an officer short and made the explanation of the Second-Degree Tracing Board his very own, delivering it with fluency, sincerity, clarity

and understanding.

His great concern has always been the charitable endeavours of the Lodge particularly in those peripheral fields where the Craft does so much work that goes unnoticed. Don could always be relied upon to remind the Treasurer and Secretary when donations were due or to bring before the Lodge Committee some project which he considered worthy of consideration.

Just as each Lodge will shape and reward its members, so the members leave something of themselves within the ethos of the Lodge. The legacy of Don's fifty years in Masonry is plain to see in the good fellowship that permeates Lodge meetings and in the calm resilience with which it faces challenges. Don's fifty years in Freemasonry have been marked by a quiet, self effacing, total commitment to its service and its ideals: the Craft can ask no more.





Dieu-La-Cresse Lodge No: 4169

On Monday 8th November 2021, the Provincial Grand Master Rt. W. Bro. John Lockley together with several Provincial officers attended Dieu-La-Cresse Lodge at Leek Masonic Hall to finally celebrate with the members and guests the centenary of the Lodge. The centenary was originally due to be held in November 2020, but due to the Covid Pandemic like most events and functions everything was placed on hold.

The Dieu-La-Cresse consecration meeting was held at 3.30pm on Saturday 2nd October 1920 at Leek Town Hall, followed by the Festive Board at the Black Swan Inn, Leek. The idea of a second Lodge at Leek is to be found in the minutes of St Edwards Lodge No: 966, their Worshipful Master at the time being W. Bro Chell. A petition was drawn up to form a new lodge and in May 1920, brethren from St Edwards Lodge signed a petition and Lord Dartmouth the Provincial Grand Master duly signed the recommendation.



At that time Leek was a very prosperous mill town and St Edwards Lodge had found that they had too many members, most being mill owners and Dieu-La-Cresse was thought to have been a Lodge for the mill workers. This is why, we have always met at 6.45pm in the evening, one of the latest meeting times in the Province. This allowed the workers time to go home, change out of their work clothes and attend the Lodge.

The name Dieu-La-Cresse comes from the Cistercian Abbey which was built in 1214 and located on the outskirts of Leek, the name in Norman French means "May God Prosper it". The abbey, which was connected with St Edwards Church, was destroyed in 1538 by Henry VIII during the dissolution of the monasteries.

The sixty brethren that attended the celebration, included a full Provincial visit led by the Provincial Grand Master, the two Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, and a full contingent of acting Provincial officers. The centenary warrant was read by the Provincial Grand Secretary W. Bro. Dr Mathew Gibbons and following inspection by the Provincial Grand Master, it was presented to our Worshipful Master W. Bro. Malcolm Barlow. We were then presented with a 100-year certificate from Province by W. Bro. Michele Santopietro who commented that in the early days of his Freemasonry, Dieu-La-Cresse was his second home!

Also, that evening the Provincial Grand Master presented three Grand Lodge Certificates to Master Masons of the Lodge. The Lodge, which only has six active Past Masters has held several Emergency meetings recently and has a substantial number of brethren wearing light blue. This is unusual for a Lodge of our age but really encouraging, we also have candidates waiting.

A very enjoyable evening was had by all, both in the Lodge and at the Festive Board which was held at Westwood Golf Club due to the large numbers attending.

Whilst I was trying to compile this Lodge history, I was constantly being wished luck from brethren from beyond the grave! In a number of documents, I found the brethren referred to the 100-year celebration as far back as 50 years ago, wishing the Brother who would compile the history all the best of luck, as I do to the Brother who hopefully will compile our 200 year history!



W. Bro Philip W. Baker P. Pr. J. G. W.

Lodge Secretary



Membership Retention and Support Fund

The Membership Retention and Support Fund (MRSF) initiative was established in May 2020. Its purpose, to support members of the Craft, Chapter and other Orders who were experiencing financial pressures during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, finding it difficult to afford payment of respective membership subscriptions.



The MRSF initiative was intended to run for a period of twelve months. However, as the continuing effects of the pandemic were still ever present and support was still being requested, an executive decision was made to extend the MRSF until the end of December 2021.

As we near the cessation date for this level of support, there is still time left should any member still be experiencing a level of financial difficulty because of the COVID-19 pandemic, to apply for assistance in payment of membership subscription(s). Applying for support should be sought via your Almoner, or by contacting myself direct.

(almoner@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk)

The Membership Retention & Support Fund has proved to be a very successful initiative and a lifeline to the members it has supported during this period of unprecedented uncertainty, whom otherwise may have considered resignation action.

Should any member experience any instance of financial hardship thereafter the initiative has finished, you are strongly advised to engage with your Almoner, or get in touch with myself to seek advice/signposting to the Masonic Charitable Foundation or other local/national charities, support organisations for long term support.

Would you like to become a MCF Visiting Volunteer (VV) for the Province of Staffordshire?



Visiting Volunteers are trained and vetted members of the masonic community, who under direction of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) and locally managed by the Provincial Grand Almoner, make confidential home visits to help masons and their families in

There is currently a vacancy available for a Visiting Volunteer to undertake MCF application home visits in the following postcode areas; B77, B78, B79, DE13, DE14, DE15, ST14, WS13, WS14, WS15.

Essential qualifications to become a Visiting Volunteer are as follows:

- *Be caring & compassionate in nature*
- *Have effective listening and interpersonal skills*
- *Ability to remain objective in sometimes difficult situations*
- *Have a good level of Literacy, numeracy, and IT Skills*
- *Knowledge of state benefits is helpful but not essential*

If you, or you know of anyone who may be interested, please don't hesitate to contact me for further information and join our merry team below.



WBro. Tony
&
Nicole Coates



WBro. Ralph
&
Julie Howarth



Bro. Ant Scalise



Come and join me for an evening Fire Side Chat

Last year I held a series of virtual meetings targeted at Lodge/Chapter Almoners with the aim of raising further awareness of the Almoners role and what help and support the MCF, Local Authority, local and national support organisations had to offer, should anyone have cause to make use of these services.

I'm planning to do something very similar, this time opening the virtual meeting to all members who would be interested. This may be of immense interest to the Staffordshire Light Blues!



I shall be hosting the fire side chats via Zoom on a Sunday evening, 7-8pm on the following dates:

5th December 2021

12th December 2021

8th January 2022

15th January 2022

5th February 2022

12th February 2022

If you are interested, make a note in your diary of the above dates, and let me know if you will be attending at the following e-mail address: (almoner@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk)

I will publish meeting details and chat topics in subsequent newsletters.

E-Birthday Greeting Message

As many will be aware, if you check your e-mail accounts on your Birthday, you will have received an e-mail from me on behalf of Provincial Grand Lodge. Feedback to date has been very positive, however a recent glitch in the service was identified which saw many of you not receive the e-birthday greeting. You will now be glad to hear that normal service has resumed.

To provide and maintain this service, could I ask you all to ensure keep your e-mail up to date and inform me of any change, as well as letting all others who need to know.

Note:

Please check your e-mail spam settings, as I have been informed that on many occasions, this e-mail has ended up in the recipients' spam folder.

Please don't forget, should you wish to discuss or enquire about any help and support you or your family may need, don't hesitate to engage with your Lodge Almoner in the first instance.

I'm always available either by phone or e-mail should you wish to contact me direct as follows:

e-mail - **almoner@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk**

mobile: **07825 114058**

Take care, best wishes to you and your family. Above all, Stay S&fe!

Tony Coates

Provincial Grand Almoner



Staffordshire Knot Lodge No: 726

On Wednesday 17th November 2021 Staffordshire Knot Lodge were pleased to receive the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. John Derry for a special evening at Stafford Masonic Hall to present Bro. Brian Worthington with a certificate celebrating his 50-years in Freemasonry.

The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Gordon Thompson, who only received his 50-year certificate in 2019 was more than pleased to celebrate with his good friend Bro. Brian who he has known for over 60 years. The evening was also special for both the lodge and Mr Jeevan Bhangu who was initiated into the Lodge in exceptional style. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

W. Bro Tony Henshall P.Pr.G.Swd.B

Secretary Staffordshire Knot Lodge NO: 727

L to R APGM; Bro. Brian Worthington;
WM W. Bro. Gordon Thompson; Bro. Jeevan
Bhangu



Membership Matters!

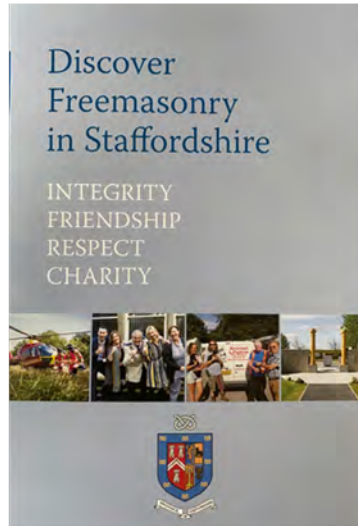
As we are all now returning to our Masonry, we can now start to focus on how we can maintain our membership and to recruit those that will be of benefit to our organisation now and long into the future.

To help in this matter UGLE have produced the 'Quick Start Guide' and 'Introducing the Updated Members Pathway' booklets which have been delivered to every Lodge in Staffordshire.

These documents will help Lodges to refer to the newly re-vamped Members Pathway and how it can be utilised by members of the Lodge to address a multitude of areas with the additional support materials that can help.



Meanwhile the Province has obtained copies of the new 'Discover Freemasonry in Staffordshire' pamphlet. Copies are available for distribution as and when Lodges have white table events etc or are attending venues where potential members may visit.



Add to this the already distributed QR code business cards which can answer many of the FAQ's that may be asked by a potential candidate. Lodges can now be better prepared to discuss Masonry than may have been the case previously.

Additional hard copies of all of the resources mentioned above can be obtained by contacting the Provincial Membership Officer W.Bro Ralph Ritchey via members@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk





W. Bro. William Henry Stanley P.Pr.S.G.W.

After a delay caused by the pandemic, W. Bro Bill Stanley was finally presented with a Certificate celebrating his 50-years in Freemasonry in a ceremony at the November meeting of St. Giles Lodge No: 1587. The special evening started with well-rehearsed initiation ceremony for the candidate Russell Andrzejewski, who was welcomed into the craft.



The certificate was then presented to Bill by Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. John Derry PJGD after W. Bro. John S. Ratcliffe gave a resume of Bill, of how they first met in Round Table and his initiation into Freemasonry.

Bill, like many other Freemasons was a member of Round Table and was very active in both Cheadle and other Round Tables in the area. He attended many meetings late into the evening, which was quite difficult and tiring, considering

his working day on the farm in Blurton started very early.

In December 1969, another Round Table member, Eric Hodgkinson proposed Bill in St Giles Lodge, Stanley Keates another Tabler seconded him, and Bill was initiated on Wednesday 23 September 1970. He was Passed in the December and Raised the following March.

Bill progressed through the lodge offices and became Worshipful Master in 1985, learning the ritual whilst milking his cows, it was said even his cows stepped off with the left foot! Bill continued to be active in the lodge returning to the chair as WM in 2001, then Tyler, Chaplain and Almoner in 2013 retaining that role to date.

In Provincial Grand Lodge Bill was appointed an active rank in 1991 as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, in 1998 P.Pr.S.G.D, in 2008 P.Pr.J.G.W. and in 2017 P.Pr.S.G.W.

A most enjoyable evening was had by all who attended.





Eccleshall Lodge: 50 Years and 50 minutes in Freemasonry

On Monday 22 November 2021

Eccleshall Lodge No.5389 were very pleased to receive the Provincial Grand Master Rt. W. Bro. John Lockley attended by the Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. Nick J. Collumbell to celebrate the 50 Years in Freemasonry of W. Bro. Malcolm R. Williams.

To mark the occasion the Provincial Grand Master presented Bro. Malcolm with his 50 Year Certificate and

congratulated him on the achievement and his commitment. The certificate was duly read to the Lodge by W. Bro. Collumbell.

Bro. Malcolm was initiated into St Oswald's Lodge, No: 1124 in Oswestry on Monday 1st March 1971 and he became a member of Eccleshall Lodge in May 1977 and the Worshipful Master for two consecutive years in 1987 and 1988. Bro. Malcolm has worked extremely hard for the Lodge over the past 44 years contributing greatly towards the running and support of the Lodge of Instruction. He continues to this day, encouraging and providing invaluable guidance to the younger Brethren.

In recognition of all his services to Freemasonry the Provincial Grand Master was pleased to promote Bro. Malcolm in the field and with immediate effect to P.Pr.S.G.W. All the members of the Lodge and visitors alike gave their congratulations to Bro. Malcolm with spontaneous applause.

The evening was further noteworthy when the Worshipful Master W. Bro. Robert A. Nicholls conducted a double initiation ceremony of his two sons, new





made Bros. Mark R. Nicholls and Ben J. Nicholls. Both are now looking forward to a long career in Freemasonry with Eccleshall Lodge. The Worshipful Master took great pride in conducting this most

special ceremony, with the working tools being presented by W. Bro. Bob Winfield, the Charge by Bro. David Mitchell and the explanation of a Lewis by W. Bro. Mike Jeffries.

The significance of continuity with a member of the Lodge having 50 years in freemasonry in comparison with two new made Brothers with close to 50 minutes did not go unnoticed by all who attended. It was a truly great evening.

W. Bro. Alan Clark P.Pr.S.G.D.

Secretary Eccleshall Lodge No. 5389

Noah's Ark lodge No: 347

W. Bro Rod H. Hall JP, a Past Master of Noah's Ark Lodge is also an active member of Albion Lodge No:9 within the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London. Albion Lodge originally met at the Plaisterers' Arms, Little Gray's Inn Lane in 1751 and then at various location around London but now meet at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen St.

Rank in the Grand Temple in a ceremony by R.W. Bro. Sir Michael Snyder, the Metropolitan Grand Master. It was truly a special occasion and a number of brethren travelled to London to support Bro. Rod Hall and attended Albion Lodge the night before the investiture and then the investiture itself.

This included W. Bro. Brian Rogers P. Pr. G Supt.Wks who had travelled down from Scotland, W. Bro Steven J. Jackson and myself, W. Bro Patrick J. Hall P. Pr. J. G. W. I must add that whilst we are friends and brothers in Freemasonry and share the same name, we are unrelated.



On Wednesday 3rd November 2021 W. Bro Hall was invested with London Grand





W. Bro. John Imm P.Pr.J.G.W.

Bro. John known affectionately to the brethren as 'Jack' recently celebrated 50-years in Freemasonry having been the Worshipful Master of Noah's Ark Lodge in 1984 and been a very active member since that date holding many offices in the Lodge.

Bro. Jack has been unable to attend the Lodge recently and I visited at his home where I was able to present him with his 50-year certificate along with a brass plaque marking his achievement. Jack was in fine and good spirit, he missed the brethren and wished he could attend more often



W. Bro. Patrick J. Hall.

WM Noah's Ark Lodge





Widows Sons gather at the Ride to the Wall

Saturday October 2nd saw Widows Sons Chapters from all over the UK gather at Tamworth Masonic Rooms for the annual "Ride to the Wall". Despite conditions that could only best be described as "inclement" there was a great turnout.

Tea and Bacon Butties were swiftly despatched along with good banter and the chance to renew the good fellowship enjoyed by Masons and Bikers alike.

The Chapter President, W. Bro Ian Cole was delighted to present patches to several qualifying members - including the Provincial 2nd Principle, E. Comp Ralph Howarth - who had surprised them all by turning up on his new ride.



Following a short brief from the Chapter Secretary, they mounted a wide variety of Motorcycles for the short, and very wet, trip to the National Memorial Arboretum where respects were paid to those who had fallen, followed by a short gathering at the Masonic garden.

For more information please click:
<http://www.widowssons-wmids.co.uk/>

About Ride To The Wall - RTTW

RTTW is a unique motorcycling event which gives motorcyclists an opportunity to gather together at a place of remembrance, to pay their respects to our serving and fallen service men and women and in doing so, raise funds solely for the purpose of perpetuating their memory and recognising the sacrifice made.





Robert Mummery Lodge No: 8331

W. Bro. James H Rowley

The newer, much younger brethren within the Lodge just know Jim as the kind, friendly organist who is seated in the corner entertaining the meetings with his music, but this is a far cry from the real story.

Robert Mummery Lodge, came about as the result of several Warwickshire Masons from Mozart Lodge, also Chase and St Augustines Lodges wishing to start a Lodge closer to home. These worthy brothers, included the Beniston Brothers; Frank and Aubrey and their brother in law Harold Weaver, were all Jim's family as he is married to the lovely Nadia, Frank's daughter and the sister of Derek Beniston, also a Past Master of both Mozart and Robert Mummery Lodge.

When Robert Mummery Lodge was formed Jim should have been the very first initiate but owing to another Brothers' availability problems, he stood down to allow the other Brother to take that privilege, a sure sign of the man. Bro. Jim was proposed by his father in law W. Bro. Frank Beniston and seconded by W. Bro. Aubrey Beniston, he was initiated by Frank on Monday the 9th November 1970, but sadly Frank passed away shortly afterwards.

Jim having progressed through the degrees, he was passed in April 1971, raised in March 1972, and then progressed through all the offices of the Lodge, until he was finally installed by W. Bro. George Griffiths as

master of the Robert Mummery Lodge on Monday 15th October 1979.

Bro. Jim was a truly wonderful ritualist and later with Bro. George Griffiths, became the preceptor of the Lodge for many years teaching the younger brethren Masonic etiquette and ritual, his skills as a headmaster certainly came to the fore. Also, as the Charity Steward for a number of years he helped raise Lodge charity funds.

Jim has given so much to Robert Mummery Lodge and Masonary in general over the last 50 years, in the giving of his



L to R
W. Bro. John Derry; W. Bro. Jim Rowley (Seated), Bro. Nick Bowers (Initiate); WM W. Bro. Simon Birch; and W. Bro. Geoff Henderson,



time, in teaching and the raising funds for charity, that it is such a privilege for Masons to be able to call him Brother, friend, mentor and true stalwart of the Robert Mummery Lodge.

And so, on Monday 15th November 2021 the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. John Derry attended the Lodge to present Bro. Jim with a 50-year certificate to celebrate his achievement and commitment to Freemasonry.

Robert Mummery Lodge were also pleased to donate £1,000 to the M.A.S.E. Group, this being the Monthly Alzheimer's Support Evening. The organisation operated by Daphne and Richard Sharp together with a number of volunteers who support the carers and those afflicted by Dementia and Alzheimer's in Mid and South Staffordshire. The organisation is completely voluntary and relies on donations for its continuance as it offers support and advise to carers and their loved ones.

**W. Bro. P. D. Pugh P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks.
Lodge Secretary.**



W. Bro. Michael Robin Bartlett P.Pr.S.G.W.

The 600th meeting of Barr Beacon Lodge held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021, was special for a number of reasons, predominantly the presentation of a 50-year certificate to W.Bro. Michael Robin Bartlett P.Pr.S.G.W. by the Provincial Grand Master Rt.W.Bro. John Lockley, to celebrate the anniversary of his initiation into the Lodge.

W.Bro. Bartlett, affectionately known to all as Robin, which his mother insisted on calling him was initiated into Freemasonry and Barr Beacon Lodge No. 6109 in particular on Tuesday 2nd November 1971. This was the 193rd regular meeting, at a ceremony held at the former Masonic Hall in Freer Street, Walsall. The subscriptions to the Lodge at that time were 20 Guinea's (£21) !

Bro. Robin was the last member of the Lodge to be initiated at Freer Street before





it was demolished and the Lodge moved initially to Wednesbury and subsequently to the newly built rooms at the Masonic Hall at Aldridge. Bro. Robin became a Fellow Craft on 7th March 1972 and Master Mason on 2nd January 1973.



Bro. Robin became Master of the Lodge in October 1983. The Provincial Grand Master was at that time was W.Bro. Stanley Barrington, who presided at the meeting. Bro. Robin also took over the Mastership of the Lodge in 1985 when the installed Master, W.Bro. Wall sadly passed away just after his Installation.

Over the years Bro. Robin has received Provincial honours including first as a Steward, then subsequently, P.Pr.S.D., P.Pr.J.G.W. and in October 2012, was promoted to P.Pr.S.G.W. by W.Bro. Gary Read who was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master at the time.

Since 2001 Robin has been the very hard working a generous Almoner of the Lodge. He has cared for the widows of Lodge members over the past 20 years and has

generously supported Lodge members who have been ill or hospitalised over all of that time. He has also donated funds regularly to non-masonic charitable organisations on behalf of the Lodge.

Bro Robin has been involved in the Lodge workings over all his years in Barr Beacon Lodge, not least was the detailed work he carried out on the two Lodge history booklets. First was the 50 years booklet detailing the years 1945 to 1995, and the second booklet covering the further ten years to 2005. So Bro. Robin it appears may have some further work to undertake soon....

Bro. Robin is the "Elder Statesman" of Barr Beacon lodge and we as members thank him for his exceptional work and generosity of the past 50 years. We wish him and his lovely wife Barbara health and happiness for the future.

Also at this meeting Barr Beacon were able to conduct an Initiation ceremony for their newest member, Bro. Martin Smith who was welcomed into the Craft in exceptional style.





The meeting was also a special occasion for W. Bro. Jock Planck P.Pr.J.G.W. of Barr Beacon Lodge, W. Bro. Dave Davies P.Pr.J.G.W. of Gnosall St. Lawrence Lodge No. 9458 and myself, W. Bro. Chris Hill P.Pr.J.G.W., as we were able to meet up and talk of old times, all of us having been initiated into Kano Lodge No. 4975 in the District Grand Lodge of Nigeria during the 1970's.

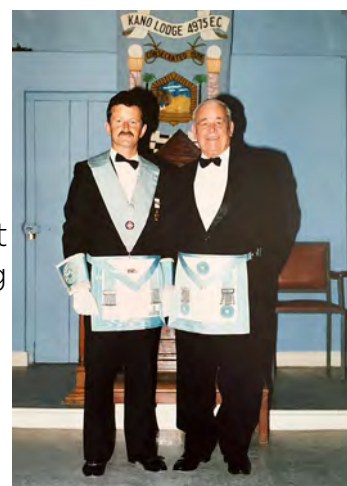


Kano Lodge 4975 was situated in the second largest city in Nigeria, Kano. The City is close to the southern edge of the Sahara desert and 800 miles from the coast and former capital city of Lagos, therefore has a climate of high, dry temperatures and a short rainy season. Unfortunately, Kano Lodge is no longer in existence having lost it's original building and temple during a government purge

in the late 1980's. It subsequently had to return it's warrant to United Grand Lodge in 2007.

Unlike the UK where Lodges operate under the auspices of a Provincial Grand Lodge, overseas Lodges operate under Districts. The District Grand Lodge of Nigeria was established in 1913 although there is documentary evidence that English Freemasonry was introduced in Nigeria as far back as 1861. Today the District has 41 Lodges under its wing with over 1,000 members, administered in 6 masonic areas each headed by an Assistant District Grand Master reporting to the Rt. W. District Grand Master Dr. Onyechi Ikpeazu SAN OON.

The District has over the years supported many charitable causes and today it regularly sponsors' students in Nigerian Universities studying in areas of medicine and law, and is also at this time constructing a new hospital in the Lekki area of Lagos that will ultimately offer free medical care.



I was fortunate to be installed as Worshipful Master in December 1988 and even though Kano Lodge is no longer operating in Nigeria, there are many members all over the world, who like me, hold fond memories of the friendship and fraternity within the Lodge. In February 1984 I joined my father's lodge, Barr Beacon, which I still regularly attend despite having recently moved to Chatham in Kent. Ironically, I recently joined Gillingham Golf Club and was allocated my membership number..... 4975 !

W.Bro. Chris Hill P.Pr.J.G.W.



DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF NIGERIA
Under The United Grand Lodge of England



Supreme Grand Chapter Convocation

At the Supreme Grand Chapter Convocation on 10th November, E Comp Robin Stubbs, Grand Superintendent for Staffordshire, was delighted to accompany two of our latest Grand Chapter Officers. E Comp Mike Santopietro was appointed to active Grand Standard Bearer in 2020 and reappointed for 2021, and E Comp Chris Adams was appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer in 2021.

All three enjoyed the day immensely. E Comp Santopietro was particularly pleased to have been able to form part of the procession into the Chapter. He further stated that he had his fingers crossed that he may get the opportunity to accompany one of the rulers on a visit.





Staffordshire Provincial Charity Shoot

Sunday, 21st November, 2021 dawned with clear skies and a low temperature. An almost perfect day for the Annual (except for Covid ridden 2020) Staffordshire Provincial Charity Shoot, though judging by the shivering, sniffing competitors returning to the Club House after having shot their fifty clays for a warming cup of tea or coffee, not all might agree with my definition of a perfect day!

Cold and wind aside, those attendees made it one of the most successful events, since the Annual Shoots began, in 2008. How time flies. A one-time event for the 2013 Festival, like Topsy, just grew and grew. From the first shoot, when one person took the money and then the shooters round in groups of five or six, to the slick manner in which the Annual Shoot is conducted now.

The improvement in the running of the shoot is due, in the main, to the members of the Staffordshire Masonic Clay Shooting Association, an Association founded by some keen clay shooters of the Province, who meet at Doveridge on the first Sunday of the month, with their guests, to enjoy a little shooting fun and Masonic banter, not to mention several cups of coffee.

SMCA members, under the supervision of SMCA Chairman, W. Bro. Chris Miles, a professional shooting coach, ensured safety on the shooting stands and provided friendly, and hopefully helpful, advice on how to break these elusive black discs, thrown into the sky! A huge thank you to them all.

Anyone wanting to join our normal Sunday shoots, please contact W. Bro. Chris Miles, Sheltonia Lodge (Chairman), Bro. Martin Graham, Sheltonia Lodge (Secretary) or Bro. Steve Watts, St. Bartholomew Lodge (Treasurer), all of whom can be contacted via the Provincial Mentor mentor@

staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk who will forward your message on.

This year, the Annual Shoot was sponsored to the tune of £1000, by the Cigar Lounge Derby, one of the UK's more prominent Cuban Cigar Importers, which is part of the Littleover Group, owned by W. Bro. Capt. Tony Spacey, a member of SMCSA. You may not have heard of the Littleover Group, but if you ever have honey on your toast, it will most likely have arrived on your table, via your vendor of choice, from Littleover Apiaries, one of the world's biggest producers of honey (I enjoy the therapeutic effects of their special Manuka honey, the benefits of which are well



known). For W. Bro. Tony's generosity, and the Cigar Lounge Team, I and the Province offer our grateful thanks.

Thank you also to Bro. Mick Vokes, Trinity Lodge, in the Province of Northamptonshire, who, as usual, brought a team of Northamptonshire shooters to share the day with us. The SMCSA will be sending a team to support Bro. Mick's Provincial Shoot Day, in due course.



Taking part were VW Bro. Dave Thomas, DepPGM, who brought along two junior shooters, his daughter and son, Megan and Matthew and W. Bro. John Derry, APGM and his three friends.

First time competitor, W. Bro. Neil Fantarrow, Editor of Within Your Province, we were pleased to welcome and he tells me that he had been meaning to come along for years and was glad he finally made it, thoroughly enjoying his first shooting experience.

I and the SMCSA, not to mention the Province, thank all who took part and made it possible to raise the sum of £2236.25, which with anticipated Gift Aid on the charitable donations, should be circa £2585.25. This will be donated to the Masonic Charitable Foundation, via the Staffordshire 2024 Festival.

The Gentleman High Gun, was W. Bro. Mike Powell, Bromic Lodge, who also won the St. Giles Shield Trophy, which he will retain for one year and defend in 2022. This was an amazing achievement for Bro. Mike, who has recently undergone heart surgery. We are all glad you recovered so well Mike. Bro. Mike's score was 42/50. Mike is a regular attender at our monthly shoots and a founder member of SMCSA.



The Lady High Gun was Ms. Alex Grundy, a guest of W. Bro. Daniel Faulkner, WM of St. Giles Lodge, who brought along a party of seven. Congratulations on your win Alex. 12/50 for a novice gun is a

commendable score. Alex had left before the trophy presentation, so we did not get a photograph of her on the day. However, in response to my request, she did send

a photo afterwards, though not in her shooting attire. We look forward to welcoming Alex back to defend her title of High Lady Gun next year!



The Junior High Gun Trophy was won by Tom Osborne, with a score of 28/50. A higher score than quite a few seniors. Congratulations Tom! I am sure Tom will be back next year, with his adoptive Granddad Roger, who has supported this event from the start. Roger's other adoptive Grandson, Louie, won the Junior Trophy several times, before becoming a senior competitor.

My personal thanks to all who attended, for making the day special for all involved in running the shoot and for the extra support of the 2024 Festival.

**W. Bro David Watt.
SMCSA**





'Three men in the chair'

On Thursday 2nd September 2021, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro John Derry attended Lewisham Oak Lodge No: 9213 who meet at West Bromwich, this was their Installation meeting and they had three current members of the Lodge present, who were all Worshipful Masters.

W. Bro. Derek Mottram P. Pr. J. G. W was installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the third time, having previously been WM in 1999 and 2011, in a ceremony by W. Bro. Graham Johnson P. Pr. G. Supt. Wks, who himself has been the WM of the Lodge a number of times and who travels from Buckinghamshire.

Also, present to witness this excellent ceremony were a number of invited guests and members including W. Bro Ramanujam Kasthuri P. Pr. J. G. W. the Worshipful Master of St. Modwen's Lodge No: 4850 and W. Bro Phillip S. Smith P. Pr. J. G. W. the Worshipful Master of Radcliffe with Hemlockstone Lodge No: 5313 who meet in Nottingham.

W. Bro Mark Ferguson P. Pr. G. Swd. B.

Lodge Director of
Ceremonies and
Mentor.

