



Within Your Province

The Magazine for Staffordshire Freemasons

Autumn 2018

Issue 41



Kindly sponsored by

St. Peter's Lodge No. 419 St. Edward's Mark Lodge No. 1182 St. Giles Lodge No. 1587 London Staffs. Chapter No. 4474

Launch of
2024
Festival



Prostate Cancer Awareness Scheme



Icon of the Cross



Why I Joined
Freemasonry

A Message from the Provincial Grand Master

As we start the new Masonic year we will hopefully have the 2024 festival in mind. The key to our success will be signing a regular payment form available from your charity or festival steward. A little and often will not be missed but will make a huge difference, and by starting now, this will allow us to hit our target with ease without breaking the bank. This should not impinge on the help for local charities, which we traditionally support. The MCF is our charity and any schemes or plots to raise its awareness or challenges to raise money for the festival will be thankfully received and faithfully applied. Also please take the time to view our website if you can, for the many events and functions around the province in the coming year and support them if you are able. Including the Burns Night to be held on Saturday 26th January 2019, so don't forget to book early to avoid any disappointment.

Another initiative for Staffordshire Freemasons is something for us; it is a prostate cancer screening programme which is being launched in early February 2019. This is not just a PSA test but a full prostate screening examination. It has been introduced in the provinces of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to great effect and is now coming to us with their blessing, which I hope you will embrace.

I know you will have had from the Provincial Grand Secretary information about gender reassignment. You will also have seen in the media press statements from Grand Lodge. I do urge you to embrace the Grand Lodge policy when it comes to this subject.

As an influential organisation I'm proud Freemasonry has taken the lead nationally on this subject, more information should you need it, is available from the Provincial Grand Secretary.

I am also pleased to announce that in the second quarter of the year we continue to have a net gain in membership and again I thank everyone for their efforts in continuing this most important trend, especially W. Bro's Ralph Richey, David Watt and Paul Molley. I extend a warm welcome to all who have recently become Freemasons, please take time and enjoy your Masonic journey, which will reward you in more ways than you can imagine.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and your excellent company to share it.

Thank you for being Freemasons and for being all that Freemasonry represents.

God bless you all.

John.

PS Welcome to our new editor of the magazine W Bro Neil Fantarrow who has taken up the reins this year; please support the Communications Team by continuing to forward news items to share with everyone in the province.



Within Your Province

The Magazine for Staffordshire Freemasons

Within Your Province is published twice yearly, in March and September and any contributions, ideas or suggestions will be welcomed by the Editor, W. Bro. Neil Fantarrow by e-mail to editor@pglstaffordshire.co.uk or by post to Neil Fantarrow, c/o Provincial Grand Lodge Office, 211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DD.

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Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

It is with regret that we record the passing of the following brethren to the Grand Lodge above.

Grand Lodge

W Bro K H Diggins PGStB St Modwen's Lodge No 4850

Provincial Grand Lodge

W Bro J M T Parker	Abbey Lodge	No 624
W Bro A J Holdaway	Dartmouth Lodge	No 662
W Bro K S Preston	Marmion Lodge	No 1060
W Bro D T Clarke	Tudor Lodge of Rifle Volunteers	No 1838
W Bro J K Smart	Tudor Lodge of Rifle Volunteers	No 1838
W Bro W E Baker	St Augustine's Lodge	No 1941
W Bro E Clewes	Minerva Lodge	No 1942
W Bro P E Le Rolland	Minerva Lodge	No 1942
W Bro C D Brown	St Michael's Lodge	No 2487
W Bro N J Raison	Victoria Lodge	No 2848
W Bro D G Barnfather	Victoria Lodge	No 2848
W Bro J F Wakelin	Walton Walker & Sandwell Lodge	No 3847
W Bro J C McIntosh	Hanliensian Lodge	No 3935
W Bro C T Williams	Hanliensian Lodge	No 3935
W Bro H Wright	Dieu La Cresse	No 4169
W Bro H S Boulton	Izaak Walton Lodge	No 4281
W Bro A Redhead	Izaak Walton Lodge	No 4281
W Bro R G Thompson	St Modwen's Lodge	No 4850
W Bro L L R Lawn	Lodge of Constuction	No 5350
W Bro P J Ward	Royal Wolverhampton School Lodge	No 8170
W Bro K A J Davis	Ashmole of Lichfield	No 8405
W Bro W H Ratcliffe	Dove Lodge	No 8519
W Bro B J Rollings	Ogley Hay Lodge	No 8917
W Bro T P Cashin	Gnosall St Lawrence Lodge	No 9458
W Bro P J Lennon	Black Country Heritage Lodge	No 9702

The Provincial Team for 2018/19



The Province's A.G.M., held in May at the Staffordshire County Showground, was again characterised by happiness and humour, it was a productive meeting enjoyed by all. The distinguished guests, visitors and brethren were all warmly welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro John Lockley who then conducted the usual business of the Province.

The P.G.M. then appointed and invested his officers, he expressed his personal thanks to his friend and mentor V.W. Bro J. V. Renaudon for advise and long service to the Province (and biscuits!) before investing him with the Colletette and Jewel of Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master. W. Bro David Thomas was then obligated, invested and installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters W. Bro Dr M. S. Rawle and W. Bro K. J. Parkes were re-appointed. The appointment and investiture of Active and Past Rank Provincial officer's was then followed by promotions.

W Bro Les Hutchinson PSGD, chief operating officer for the Masonic Charitable Foundation addressed the brethren. The P.G.M. then addressed the brethren, congratulating all those who had received appointments and promotions, and launching the 2024 Festival. A collection was made and the meeting closed in perfect harmony.

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Staffordshire Mason Installed as Intendant-General for the West Midlands Division of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine

On 17th February 2018, W. Bro John Tristram was Installed as Intendant-General for the West Midlands Division of the Masonic & Military Order of The Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and St John the Evangelist, by the Grand Sovereign, Most Illustrious Knight Graham Leslie Flight. Grand Cross of Constantine. John now bears the title of Right Illustrious Knight.

The West Midlands Division of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine covers a large geographical Division encompassing six Masonic Provinces, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire. With a total of 18 units, known as Conclaves, within the Division it is also the largest Division in the country.

The Order commemorates the conversion of the Great Emperor Constantine to Christianity, his victory over Maxentius at the battle of Milvian bridge and his introduction of Christianity to Rome.

A series of ceremonies expand and explain much of the symbolism of Craft Masonry. Membership is open to all Holy Royal Arch Companions and offers fine Masonic Companionship and Christian Fellowship, with beautifully crafted ceremonial containing some compelling imagery, which leaves a lasting impression on all Knight Companions.

The West Midlands Division is a staunch supporter of charities, particularly the Royal British Legion Battle-Back, based at Lilleshall, which provides vital support to injured Service personnel. John is a Staffordshire Mason, having been Initiated into Ethelfleda Lodge No 6600 in December 1974 and served as Master in 1982 and again in 2004. He is a Founder member of the Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge No 9567, serving as Master in 2000 and is currently the Charity Steward of the Lodge.



John is also a member and Past Preceptor of Sir Robert Mavesyn Preceptory of Knights Templar, and a member of St Chad Chapter Rose Croix No 233, so his Staffordshire Masonic credentials are well rooted.

John comes from a long-line of Freemason's, his Father and both Grandfathers were Masons. He is also a member of a number of other Masonic orders including the Holy Royal Arch, Mark Master Masons, Royal Ark

Mariners, Royal & Select Masters, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Royal Order of Scotland and Operatives. When asked whether he had time for any other interests or hobbies, he said his priority was his Family, he has two sons and two grandsons, his wife has a son, a daughter, a grandson and a grand-daughter. He also has a pre-war Wolseley car, which, one day, he will finish restoring.

John lives in Henley in Arden, almost in the centre of the Division, which as he points out is something of a bonus, since he has spent much of the past 43 years travelling long distances to attend Lodge and Chapter meetings.

In 2012 he was privileged to become High Bailiff of Henley in Arden Court Leet, (an ancient Manorial Court) an Office which can be traced back to the mid 1400's. During that year he undertook approximately 120 official visits, representing Henley at various functions, whilst still fulfilling all his Masonic duties.

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OSM Visits Air Ambulance at RAF Cosford

The Order of the Secret Monitor has 10 Conclaves, within the Provinces of Staffordshire and Shropshire. Last year, the nominated Charity, of the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, was the West Midlands Air Ambulance. This culminated on Monday, 9th July 2018, when the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Rt.W. Bro. John Stafford Stevens, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Treasurer, W.Bro. Michael J. Butterworth, and the Provincial Grand Almoner, W.Bro. John E. Mosley arrived at RAF Cosford to present a cheque for the benefit of the West Midlands Air Ambulance.

We were warmly greeted by Mr. John Cottrell, Network Regional Trainer, and after security, entered the Training Suite. There, we were introduced to Mr. David Williams, Critical Care Paramedic. We were quickly led onto the tarmac, as there could be a "shout" at any time, where a cheque to the value of £2250 was presented.

Mr Williams said the cheque was most appreciated, and thanked all the Brethren who had supported the appeal. The air ambulance, which costs £2500 per trip, on average, was vital in reaching often traumatised and critical patients. Mr. Williams was pleased to give us an insight into the training and work of the Paramedics, which is very thorough as you would expect, as they never know what to expect on arrival at any incident they are called to.

It was amazing to be up close to the Air Ambulance, an Airbus H145 which was only delivered four months ago, and fitted so that it can operate both day and night. We are indeed exceedingly fortunate to have this impressive machine here in the Midlands. This helicopter's small footprint and large, flexible cabin make it the aircraft of choice for a variety of civil missions.

Finally after about 45 minutes on the tarmac, hearing of the excellent work and admiring this beautiful aircraft we had to leave, knowing we were in good hands, here in the West Midlands and delighted to be supporting such an excellent and worthwhile charity.

The photograph I-r depicts W.Bro John E Mosley, Mr David Williams, Rt.W.Bro John Stafford Stevens and W.Bro Michael J Butterworth.



W.Bro John Moseley



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News from the Provincial Grand Almoner

Welcome to the first of, what I hope will be, a series of articles for WYB. I became Provincial Grand Almoner in May 2017 and, thanks to my predecessor John Dury, I was able to hit the ground running. My background was as a Police Sergeant and amongst my roles I am a trained Family Liaison Officer and Co-ordinator. You

often hear of these "specially trained officers" on the news when there has been a life changing event such as a murder, serious assault, or serious collision on the roads. So, I have a lot of experience of dealing with difficult crises and problems that put me in good stead for this role.

There have been many changes and improvements with the way that Masonic grants are assessed and given, as well as a huge expansion to what is available in the way of support. This can often seem a mysterious and complicated process, but I will try to break it down and explain this to you. As you know, the four original Masonic Charities have now amalgamated into the Masonic Charitable Foundation. This has streamlined what was a quite complex process of petitioning for grants across four different sets of criteria and four different forms, depending on which charity's ethos best fitted the particular applicant's circumstances. We now have one form and one set of rules for all circumstances and even the way in which that is completed has now changed for the better.

So, what can the MCF assist with?

This is basically now in three sections Financial, Family, and Health.

The Financial element can support daily living expenses, for instance where there is a "distress", which has been caused by redundancy, a reduction in income or some other circumstances which means that the person or family can no longer afford to meet their daily living costs. The MCF can also consider assistance where there is an unexpected loss of income caused by a personal crisis like an accident, for funeral expenses and for home adaptations where there is a disability.

On the Health side of grants, consideration can be given to making a grant where there is a wait for treatment over 12 weeks with the NHS (this is reduced to 8 weeks for cancer treatments). Dental costs, mobility aids and counselling can also be considered for a grant. There are some things that are not covered including treatments not approved by the NHS and spectacles to name a few.

Finally, in the Family section grants can be made towards educational costs (including school fees and extra-curricular activities), costs associated with residential care in our own RMBH homes, and respite care in any care home.

Of course, as we are talking about and dealing with charitable funds there are financial and other criteria that are set in order to qualify for support. I am more than happy to discuss this in depth, personally, with anyone who asks as it can vary on a case by case basis, depending on individual needs.

The one area that is not subject to this restriction is the confidential counselling that is now available. We all suffer from stress at some time in our lives. Asking for support to deal with this is no different to going to see your doctor for antibiotics or other treatment. Mental health sadly seems to have a stigma attached, but suffering is not something that you need to do alone. There is help and support available and the MCF will authorise a minor grant for any Freemason or their wife/partner (and children up to the age of 25 in full-time education). This will give access to a trained counsellor for up to six sessions, either in person or by telephone. If further treatment is needed, then that can be escalated to another grant to ensure that the support that is needed can be given quickly and effectively.

Assessing help and advice couldn't be easier.

Either speak to your Lodge Almoner, or me directly, or even the MCF directly for advice. I am available by phone, or email and the details are at the end of this article.

There is a huge amount of help and useful advice on the MCF website, which can be accessed via the internet on www.mcf.org.uk. Not only is there advice for individuals, but also a fantastic resource area for Almoners, which can be accessed via the resources menu.

The MCF are putting together a number of factheets and accompanying short videos explaining the support that is available. There is presently advice on addiction, alternative sources of support, benefits, bereavement, debt protection, loneliness, mental health, power of attorney, respite care and a section of social groups for older people. This area is expanding as more and more items are added. If the information isn't here just ask and I'll pass the need on and no doubt the MCF will look to produce a factsheet on it, if they aren't doing so already.

The new Almoner's Guide is also available on the website. If you are an Almoner, whether Craft or Chapter and don't have a booklet as yet please get in touch and I will get one to you.

As I mentioned earlier in the article, if you do need help and support assessing this couldn't be simpler. Once the MCF or I receive a call we'll ask you some questions about the problem, including a brief discussion on your finances. As you can understand we are dealing with charitable funds, raised by us as Freemasons, and as such we need to be assured that this is going to the people who need that help.

Once we are happy that an application is needed we'll appoint one of the new MCF Visiting Volunteers to come and see you.

This is a new initiative that was trialled in several Provinces last year and is now rolling out across the country. Staffordshire went "live" with the volunteers in January 2018.

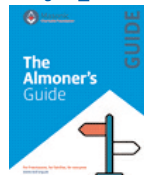
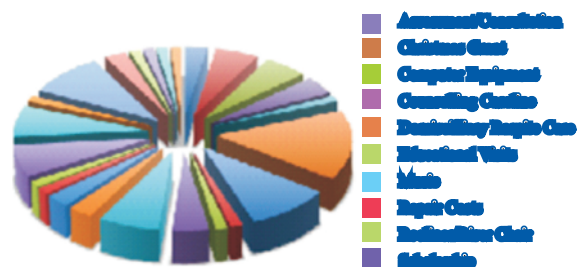
So why this change?

Our Almoners used to do it before after all. It's really quite simple. The MCF need quite a lot of information which doesn't always appear on an application form.

Each volunteer has been vetted to ensure yours and their safety and maintain the integrity of the process, and most importantly have been trained to a high standard to ensure that an application is right – first time, every time. This has a lot of benefits. It allows our Almoners to concentrate on the vital pastoral care that they provide and removes them from the complexity of forms and reports that are needed for a grant application. On many occasions it is difficult for an Almoner, who may know the applicant really well, to ask the personal questions about health and financial issues that are needed in the detail of the application. It also means that the applications are consistent and provide all of the right information needed to process the grant promptly. In all it provides a perfect partnership between the MCF, the Province and the grant recipients.

As Freemasons raise this money and where does it all go?

Needless to say, this charitable giving happens all over the country and the MCF manage the funds. In 2017 Staffordshire Freemasons and their families received almost £114,000 in support for various reasons, just some of which are shown on the chart below.





We couldn't forget our own Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association. This is our very own local charity and if we don't donate directly to the MCF, then it's highly likely we will donate to the SMCA.

Having said that, is it to the "A", or "B" Fund?? The "A" fund is the umbrella for our Provincial Festivals and it is via that Relief Chest that we raise the vital funds running up to our Festival year that are distributed to worthy causes.

The "B" fund is for more local matters and may well be able to offer support to individuals whom the MCF cannot. If you are in this situation and unsure of where you need to apply then please speak to either myself, or Marianne Sait in the Provincial Office for advice. This fund also makes donations each year to many, many deserving causes.

The benefits are obvious to our charitable giving and there is nothing closer to a Freemason's heart than helping a friend or Brother in time of need. I hope that this has unravelled some of the mystery around the grants process and explains how our money is used to help others.

Before I finish I want to give my heartfelt thanks to all of the Lodge and Chapter Almoners that do so much to help those members and their families who are in need of support. YOU are the vital link between the Lodge or Chapter and our members. Your presence and regular contact with your members and their families can mean the difference between a member feeling alone and resigning; or feeling valued and cared for, the support that a widow, or widower needs after a bereavement, or the shoulder for someone to lean on in a crisis. You shoulder a great responsibility and deal with many, many cases that no-one gets to hear about because you give the right advice to resolve them and what is said between you and the person concerned remains confidential, unless you feel it needs to be escalated for further advice. Please don't forget that you're not alone and I'm here to support you with advice and help whenever you need it.

**W. Bro. Ralph J Howarth,
Provincial Grand Almoner
Tel. 07734 702281
Email - staffpgralmoner@btinternet.com**

**Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association
(via the Provincial Office)
Tel. 01902 745151
E mail - smca@btconnect.com**



**Masonic Charitable Foundation
Tel. 0800 035 60 90
E mail - help@mcf.org.uk**

Provincial Grand Charity Steward's Corner



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!

We are off !!!!

That is, on Tuesday May 15th 2018, at our Provincial AGM we launched the MCF 2024 Festival aided by senior brethren from the MCF in London. Our six-year target to reach £2million pounds, a huge amount of money you may say! Well it is, but not impossible! By using RPP's (Direct Debits) and starting now, for less than the price of a pint or a daily newspaper, a brother can easily reach a level of donations that would enable him to reach the qualifying level of a Festival Patron.

The £2 Million target would be well within reach and that is without any donations coming from Gift aid envelopes or fund-raising events. The MCF donates considerable amounts of money to the Province to aid not only local charities within the Province but it has supported brethren and their families to the value of over £125,000 already this year.

Donations from the MCF so far this year have included monies to the Hospices, Air Ambulance and recently £75,000 to help loneliness in the elderly based in Hanley.

Whilst we are naturally focusing on raising money for the 2024 Festival, the importance of the SMCA 'B' fund cannot be overstated as there are those charities or individuals which fall under the radar of the MCF, but are no less equally deserving, and it is the SMCA B fund to which I turn.

Indeed, since Masonry has come out from behind its perceived 'Secret Closed Doors' and is exposing itself to the World (warts and all!) here in the Provincial office, Marianne, our Charities Manager and myself have been inundated with requests for support from not only brethren and local charities but numerous members of the public.

It is indeed often difficult to decide who to support!

Some of the charities supported by the SMCA 'B' fund include Arrive Alive, the Carers Trust, Interfaith and Meningitis Research. 'More than a Face', a charity aiding those with facial disfigurements was one charity we supported for the first time this year and another donation, in conjunction with South Cheshire, was made to a young girl living in Staffordshire to purchase a specialist wheelchair.

The magnificent sum of £10,000 was given to Shropshire Province in support of their Festival.

The SMCA will be supporting a Screening project to detect Prostate Cancer at various centres in the Province next year to which ALL Staffordshire masons are invited, following a similar scheme in both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire in which undoubtedly lives have been saved. What better use of the SMCA funds than potentially saving the lives of Staffordshire masons! See following pages for more information on this subject.

A plea to all lodges, I have set up a Provincial Events Diary held in the Provincial Office. If any lodge has an event booked, apart from normal meetings, i.e.: fetes, 50/60-year celebrations, ladies' evenings, Old English Nights, quizzes etc please let me know, either email me (ch.steward@pglstaffordshire.co.uk) or Marianne at the Charity Office on smca@btconnect.comso that your event can be recorded. Then if you are planning an event please contact the Charity Office to check if your event might clash with another.

Following the seminars for Festival Stewards, held at the beginning of the year in preparation for launching our Festival in May, I have been asked if I would visit lodges and give a presentation on 'What is a Festival and why we need it'. This I am happy to do, which I hope will enlighten all new brethren and those with fading memories, with the latest facts and figures of all aspects of masonic charities and perhaps dispel the 'Urban/Masonic Myths' of just what happens to all those Festival donations.

*John (Keep donating!) Skellern
Provincial Grand Charity Steward,
August 2018*

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Prostate Cancer – A story....

My name is Chris Hill. I am 68yrs of age. I am a Freemason, a member of Barr Beacon Lodge No. 6109 in the Masonic Province of Staffordshire. I am proud to be a Freemason, and a very proud member of our Lodge, but my story today is not about Masonry but about the 'C' word and the one cancer that most men dread and are reluctant to talk about. Prostate cancer.

Most of my working life has been spent overseas, and I have worked in several businesses in West Africa. In 2009 I was operating a business in Nigeria and was asked to shut down that business and move machinery to Ghana, which I subsequently carried out. My role then was move myself to Ghana and run the expanded business in that country. In 2010, in order to obtain the necessary work permit to remain in Ghana, I needed to secure a medical certificate. Being very busy I asked my company doctor to just issue me the necessary paperwork, but thankfully he suggested that he just take some blood for analysis.

The subsequent report came back with satisfactory results apart from a raised PSA, the check that signifies possible abnormalities in the prostate gland. The control numbers are 0-4, this being a good result. My result was 18, making the possibility of prostate cancer a serious concern. It is pertinent to say here that I was otherwise completely healthy and had absolutely none of the symptoms associated with prostate problems.

I was due to return to the UK and therefore arranged for a private appointment as soon as I arrived. The subsequent re-testing of PSA showed that the number had risen again and I underwent an immediate biopsy. The result of this confirmed that the cancer was aggressive, and present throughout the prostate. The aggressiveness of the cancer is measured by what is called the "Gleason" score, and mine was not good. I then had MRI scans, bone scans and consultations with Urologists.

The scans proved negative, meaning that, hopefully, the cancer was contained within the prostate. In 2011 there were 4 basic treatment options. The first, to do nothing and monitor, the second, radiotherapy, the third medical surgery, and the fourth, a new treatment called HIFU – High Intensity Focused Ultrasound.

The consultant I was under at that time suggested that HIFU would be a good option as the procedure could be completed and I could return to work in Ghana within days of the treatment being done. The decision on which treatment to accept is very much a personal one, although I feel we all tend to follow the advice of the professionals. In my case, it subsequently became evident that HIFU was not the right course of treatment suitable for me, but I digress. My HIFU was carried out on the 24 November 2011 and I returned to Ghana the next week.



Through the following 18 months my PSA was being monitored but unfortunately it was again beginning to rise, which obviously caused serious concern. It became essential that I return to the UK for further surgery. I therefore reluctantly had to retire from my position as MD in Ghana. My consultants in the UK recommended an immediate repeat biopsy and this was carried out in April 2015. The results showed the return of cancer, but again after pelvic and bone scans the cancer was confirmed to be isolated to what remained of the prostate. I decided to have medical surgery and this was carried out in June 2015.

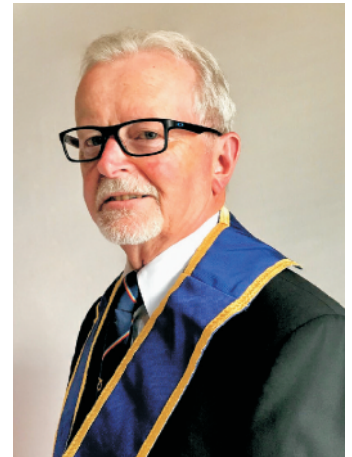
Retiring from my work was a great disappointment for me, but I needed to sort out my health problems which thankfully are now resolved. My PSA has remained undetectable and I continue to be in good health, enjoying my life and my Freemasonry. I have been an unofficial supporter of the charity 'Prostate Cancer UK' and Barr Beacon Lodge have also been a financial supporter through charity collections. Following my retirement, I have long been advocating the 'Get Yourself Checked' policy among the members, constantly passing the statement that 1 in 8 men in the UK will suffer from prostate cancer.

Now brother, I first met our Chaplain, Jock Frank in Kano Nigeria in 1977 when we were both initiated into Kano Lodge No.4975, which was under the District Grand Lodge of Nigeria. We have remained firm friends ever since that time.

We experienced many unusual and dangerous events in Nigeria but have fond memories of our time out there and often reminisce.

Whilst Jock returned to the UK with his family, I remained in Nigeria, but our friendship both inside and outside Freemasonry has remained strong for over 40 years and we regularly play golf together.

After constantly reminding everyone at our social gatherings and in general conversation, including Jock, he finally decided to get a PSA test, here are Jock's words.



'The test result was raised and my G.P. referred me to Burton Hospital, a biopsy was taken and examined. I can still hear the consultant say "it's cancer".

When I recovered the power of speech, we discussed options but it became apparent that I would have to decide on either Radiotherapy or have a Radical Prostatectomy.

Bone scans and an MRI were performed at Burton and I had the good news that the cancer appeared to be confined to the prostate. I chose surgery and was referred to the Derby Royal Hospital where I underwent a Robot Assisted Radical Prostatectomy.

All of this took place within nine weeks and the care and attention at both hospitals was nothing short of excellent'.

Jock was operated on in July and he is making good progress.

And so to the reason for this story (I hope that you, the reader, have stayed with me this far!).

If you are 50 years or older, please get yourself checked out. Be a survivor.

It's simple. Get it done.

Prostate cancer can be a killer if not diagnosed early.



Prostate Cancer - “Your Province Needs you, ALIVE!”

“Your Province Needs You” is the logo and rallying cry for our 2024 Festival. However, it could read “Your Province Needs you, ALIVE!”

Prostate cancer is a ‘Silent Killer’ of men, and it is not widely known that more men now succumb to prostate cancer than women to breast cancer. Notable victims include Winston Churchill, Bob Monkhouse and Frank Zappa. However, with treatment available in recent times many have survived, including Ben Stiller, Ian McKellen and Robert de Niro.

You cannot catch prostate cancer or avoid it with a change of lifestyle. One in eight men have it and if you are dark-skinned then your odds increase to one in four. Virtually every man over the age of sixty has a prostate gland that is enlarged to some degree or another, but remember, just because you are experiencing the symptoms of an enlarging gland doesn’t mean that you have cancer. However, it does mean you should get it checked out, as early diagnosis and treatment will, and does, save lives.

Following in the footsteps of both the Provinces of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, our Provincial Grand Master is arranging a series of screening programmes at various masonic halls throughout the Province to commence in early 2019, and to which ALL Staffordshire masons will be invited.

It was towards the end of 2017, when Jyoti Shah, a Masonic Consultant Urological Surgeon and founder of the Inspire Health: Fighting Prostate Cancer campaign, along with Sarah Mians, Masonic Cancer Advanced Nurse Practitioner both from Burton Hospitals, began a programme of screening for Derbyshire Freemasons. She was of the view that men tend to avoid this type of screening, but by taking it out of the hospital environment and into workplaces, social clubs and other venues where men feel more at ease, men would be much more likely to get checked. This strategy has worked and the Freemasons of Derbyshire were pleased to take part.

On Wednesday 4th April 2018 the Provincial Grandmaster R.W. Bro John Lockley and I attended an emergency meeting of the Comstock Lodge, the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Derbyshire, held at Derby Masonic Hall. Present at that meeting was R.W. Bro Arthur Steven Varley, PGM, Derbyshire and PGM of Nottinghamshire R.W. Bro Philip Marshall, and a very special event took place. Jyoti Shah, ably assisted by Sarah Mians, who is equally committed, gave a presentation and informative talk to around 150 Masons on Prostate cancer, its causes and diagnosis – the audience listened attentively, and a question and answer session followed. Jyoti and Sarah also explained that since they have no official source of funding, and have to pay for the testing and materials needed, they are dependent upon donations to keep going.

Jyoti and Sarah are so passionate and committed to this project that they give up their time for no pay. Jyoti said: “For those men who have been tested and diagnosed, the cancer has been caught earlier and effective treatment will save these men’s lives. Without the test the cancer could carry on growing undetected and the outcomes may not be as positive. Events like this create a positive ripple effect. People spread the word about getting tested, which encourages other people to get tested, and the more people who get tested the sooner we can spot any abnormalities”.

Over the following months, at screening sessions in Derbyshire they tested over 350 brothers. Unfortunately, 14 members have been diagnosed with the disease, but this has enabled them to commence treatment immediately. Without the initiative, it is almost certain that in many cases the cancer would have gone undetected for a lot longer, leading to a poorer prognosis. Hopefully other Masonic Provinces and related organisations will do the same, and persuade men, especially over the age of 50, to take part.

The proposed screening sessions, which usually take place on a Saturday and Sunday, will be undertaken by Jyoti and her team. Having taken a medical history they will then take a blood sample for the PSA test. (although as a one off this test is regarded as very inaccurate, as it is possible to have a very high PSA level and be clear of cancer and a low reading and have cancer; the test does act as a baseline marker for the future, allowing serial comparative testing). You will also get an internal examination from which the experienced consultant can make an accurate assessment and decide if you need further tests.

The blood samples will be taken, courtesy of the ‘Blood Bank’, to Burton Hospital for processing on the same day. You will be contacted either later that day or the next morning with the result, even if this is just to tell you that you are clear. Should Jyoti Shah wish to investigate further, she will see you at her hospital clinic the following week, so you are not sitting at home worrying for weeks.

ALL the TESTS/EXAMINATIONS are FREE.

The consultant does all these sessions for nothing under the auspices of the prostate cancer charity that she has set up. However, the Province will make a donation to cover all of the expenses incurred (staff, materials, laboratory tests etc). These sessions are unique and you will get a result, usually, within hours. There is no such screening programme within the NHS.

As I said at the beginning of this article,
“Your Province Needs You ALIVE!”

Don’t waste the opportunity!

Details of the programme will be circulated to all lodges shortly

W Bro John Lockley



R/W Bro John Lockley, Sarah Mians, R/W Bro Arthur Steven Varley PGM Derbyshire, Jyoti Shah and R/W Bro Philip Marshall, PGM Nottinghamshire

Note from the Editor

Brethren these preceding articles highlight the 'silent killer' where men may have NOT experienced any of the symptoms associated with Prostate Cancer.

However, if you have ANY concerns or have experienced any symptoms, these may include, but are not restricted to the following:

A burning sensation or pain when urinating.

Some difficulty urinating (either starting or stopping, including dribbling at the end).

A decreased flow or velocity, or intermittent flow of urine stream.

A sudden urge to urinate and sometimes leak before getting to the toilet.

A feeling that your bladder hasn't emptied properly.

A frequent urge to urinate at night.

The loss of bladder control or blood in your urine or seminal fluid.

Whilst some of these symptoms may be caused by other factors or some medicines, don't wait for the Provincial Programme to start - see your GP NOW.

Thanksgiving Service

The Thanksgiving Service for Freemasons held at Lichfield Cathedral in June was very well attended by a number of Freemasons from both Staffordshire and neighbouring Provinces, their families and friends. The service was conducted by the Dean, the Very Reverend Adrian Dorber, with contributions from a number of brethren each of whom read a lesson. All present enjoyed the Service and the outstanding performance of the Provincial Choir under the direction of W. Bro Dudley Ray, on what was a very warm and sunny early Sunday evening



The Choir expects to be singing for Stafford

Carols on Saturday 17 November; and Choir members will be present at the carol service in Rugeley (Wilson Keys Court) on Tuesday 11 December.

They hope to be at the white table event for St Peter's Lodge, 419, in Wolverhampton on Thursday 6 December, and for St Modwen's Lodge, 4850, in Burton on Tuesday 18 December. If you wish the Choir to sing for you this season, please contact the choir Secretary via the Provincial Office.



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The Provincial Directors of Ceremonies

The Masonic Province of Staffordshire has, over many years, had great pride in the long line of dedicated Active Officers who have been appointed as Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies, Deputies and Assistants alike.

The current team of DC's for 2018-19 are:

- W. Bro. John E.G. Binspool - Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies
- W. Bro. Jimmy K. Roberts - Prov. Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
- W. Bro. Robert K. Adams - Prov. Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
- W. Bro. Scott A. Wilkins - Prov. Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
- W. Bro. James R. Greer - Prov. Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
- W. Bro. Nicholas J. Cullumbell - Prov. Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies



Back row W/Bro J Greer; W/Bro S Wilkins; W/Bro N Cullumbell
Front W/Bro J Roberts; W/Bro J Binspool; W/Bro R Adams

The Provincial DC Team serve the Province in all Commemorial matters and individually officiate at Lodge's Installation Meetings whilst accompanying the designated Presiding Officer for that meeting.

For Lodges planning their Installation meetings in particular, Lodge Secretaries should expect the following:

- To receive from the Provincial Office a Notification Letter which will inform them which Provincial Officer will be Presiding at the Installation meeting, together with which Provincial Director of Ceremonies will be officiating.
- The officiating Provincial DC will then, in good time, send either an email or letter outlining what the Lodge Secretary needs to arrange. The Prov. DC will also send an introductory letter with an Installation Information Sheet, (IIS). The returned IIS is used by the Prov. DC to plan the activities of the Provincial Grand Lodge at your Installation Meeting. The thoroughness of the information you give the Prov. DC will allow for them to plan correctly and inform the Presiding Officer on the many elements of your meeting. The Prov. DC will let you know when he needs this information by.
- Lodge Secretaries should then send out summonses in the usual way, to include all Active Provincial Grand Officers and await the responses, direct to the Lodge.
- Lodge Secretaries will also receive apologies, which may include 'formal' letters of apology from the Provincial Office regarding any Chained Executive Officer unable to attend. This type of Apology letter should be retained and read out, at the Installation meeting in the Second rising. Please note that the Secretary should not read out a summary of the letter, or abbreviate its contents, but read in full.
- The Lodge Secretary should keep the Provincial DC informed of any changes that may occur, after returning the Installation Information Sheet.
- The Provincial DC will contact Lodge Secretaries or anyone responsible in the Lodge for preparing the Festive Board Seating Plan to discuss seating arrangements.
- The Provincial DC will provide all the Seating labels for the Temple seating plan, which will include Grand Officers and Active Provincial Grand Officers.

Having stated what Lodge Secretaries should expect from the Provincial Office and from the officiating Duty Provincial DC, it naturally follows that on the night of the Installation Meeting, the duty Provincial DC will also have expectations of the Lodge, as follows:

- Prior to the Installation meeting taking place, arrangements will have taken place between the Presiding Officer (if a Chained Executive Officer) and the Officiating Provincial DC as to who will be the Provincial Wardens for the meeting. This decision is solely for the Presiding Officer to make and NOT for the Lodge in question, to nominate. This matter should clearly be understood. If either of the Provincial Wardens are not available, the Presiding Officer will inevitably choose two Active Provincial Officers, standing, to act as Wardens, but stating that, a Lodge member (usually a Past Provincial Officer) may be chosen. This is still in the hands of the Presiding Officer.
 - Once the Lodge Secretary has returned all of the information, the Installation Night will arrive. The Prov. DC will arrive approximately 1 hour early to prepare for the arrival of the Presiding Officer. The Prov. DC will then undertake his own preparations within the Temple and please note he will be looking for certain masonic etiquettes to have been observed.
 - The officiating Provincial DC will expect to see ALL Past Masters of the Lodge to be wearing full regalia during the meeting, i.e. All Past Masters should wear both Apron AND Collar of a Past Master.
 - When the Festive Board Seating Plan has been discussed and agreed, the seating position of the officiating Provincial DC is seemingly unusual. The preferred seating position for the Provincial DC, if the table arrangement is a top table and apse, is to sit at the first seat at the top of the SW apse, in order that eye contact and close proximity can be maintained between the officiating Provincial DC and the Presiding Officer. It is hoped that the Lodge will approve this arrangement. The Provincial DC is always grateful to those Senior Brethren who have extended this practical courtesy to him. If the table arrangement is made up of round tables, it is desirable for him to be seated as close to the table where the Presiding Officer is seated, for the same reason.
 - It is hoped that the Lodge will have already arranged for one Prompter to be identified for the evening, as a number of brethren trying to prompt at the same time from different parts of the Temple is very distracting and unnecessary.
 - On the occasion of an Installation meeting, the Lodge should make the necessary arrangements for a Brother to 'stand-in' for the Lodge Tyler and Inner Guard at the moments when they are may be called away from their posts.
 - It is also highly desirable, that the two Lodge Acting Wardens for the Closing of the Lodge in the Third Degree will have practised the necessary signs.
 - It is also hoped that a good rapport between the officiating Provincial DC and the Lodge members can be achieved and is forthcoming.
 - The Provincial DC's are not only in attendance to carry out their duties, but they are also a source of help. If, on the night, you are unsure of anything, please, just ask them.
 - The Prov. DC's are trained to deliver all three Addresses at an Installation Meeting. If the Prov. DC can assist your Lodge in delivering the addresses to the Wardens or Brethren, they will be only too pleased to help.
 - Finally, on the Installation evening, and before the start of the meeting, the Prov. DC will want to spend some time with: The Secretary; the Lodge DC & ADC; the Installing Master; Master Host and the Inner Guard. Their only arrival will assist with a smooth briefing and add to the success of the meeting.
- Lodge Secretaries, or in fact, any brother should remember that the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies is a source of help and guidance with regard to Commemorial, Procedural and Protocol matters at any time, and welcomes ALL enquiries to be directed to him via his contact telephone numbers contained in the Provincial Year Book, or direct to his email address: dc@sgstaffordshire.co.uk. He will only be too pleased to help and advise on any matter.

W/Bro Jimmy Roberts

Annual General Meeting 10th April 2018



On April 10th this year, 224 Companions descended on the County Showground at Stafford to attend the Annual General Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter. The convocation was blessed with the presence of 34 distinguished guests from another ten Provinces as well as Excellent Companion Mike Baker, Grand Lodge Director of Communications, who gave a very interesting talk on his role and his thoughts for strategies going forward.

The Convocation included a number of other important details and events including the appointment and investiture of a new Second Provincial Grand Principal in the form of Excellent Companion Eddie Ford OSM, who replaced the very hard working and popular, Excellent Companion Alan Walker who has stepped down after three years in post. The Grand Superintendent gave his thanks to both companions for their diligent work and support over the years.

Following the investiture of 1st appointments and promotions, which the Grand Superintendent once again undertook in a manner very personal to each individual, he addressed the Companions, a precis of which follows:

“I am very pleased to see so many of you here today and to welcome again all our guests. This is always a very important occasion in our calendar and I am delighted to report that this remains a very happy and enthusiastic Province.

I must congratulate all those I have appointed or promoted today. These honours are all very well deserved. They are both a reward for what you have achieved for Royal Arch Masonry and an encouragement for what we hope you will achieve in the future. I particularly encourage all new Active Officers to get out and about in the Province. You will get out of your year what you put in to it. You will receive a summons for each Chapters Installation. Many of these will come by e-mail, if you have an e-mail address. I encourage you to get to as many as your circumstances will permit. Please reply whether you are going or not. It is very discourteous not to, and if you don't Scribe E will not know whether you are coming or not. There are also four other special meetings during the year, the dates of which I understand you have already been advised by our Provincial Grand Scribe E. Please try to get to those if you can.

Companions, the Province has had a successful year in terms of recruitment, but sadly our obituary list is longer than I can remember. We have had 32

Exaltees and 14 Joining Members. However, membership of this wonderful order of ours has decreased by 9 as a result of 26 deaths and 29 resignations. We cannot just stand back and see what happens. We must stem the tide of resignations. Everyone of us will need to work to achieve that and I hope the new Janitors log which has recently been circulated to your Scribe E's will help to alert us all before a resignation becomes inevitable. We must all encourage members of the Craft to extend their researches, and to complete their journey in Pure, Antient Masonry as recommended by Grand Lodge. I would refer you as a work of reference to the new Pathway guide they have produced which is equally applicable to the Royal Arch as it is to the Craft.

You should all be aware that our Royal Arch Representative Scheme in our Lodges, which was introduced almost 20 years ago and refreshed 6 years ago, has been undergoing a major review with the aim of identifying and adopting best practice from schemes across the Provinces. My Deputy, Excellent Companion Robin Stubbs, instigated the review, and with the full support of our Provincial Grand Master, the review team of area group coordinators, guided by our Communications Officer, E.Comp Mike Santopietro, have made a number of important recommendations.

The role will be renamed “Royal Arch Ambassador” to encapsulate its important position as an advocate of our Order, raising its profile and helping to support Brethren looking to identify the right Chapter for them. I will be involved in the selection of the Ambassadors by the Provincial Grand Master. We will be supporting them with initial training, and also with regular updates on what is happening within the Order so that they can speak confidently with Brethren regarding wider issues as well as what is happening in their own Chapters locally.

Further support in terms of recruitment will also be available through our own Staffordshire version of the “Talking Heads” presentation which has been rolled out from London. This is intended to replace our own Lodge presentation which we have used around the Province for some years now. We are currently planning its implementation and hope to have it available to lodges from September.

Finally, on this point, Companions, I hope it will not have escaped your notice that we have had, at the entrance today, a new pull up banner which outlines the natural steps from Entered Apprentice through to Companion. It is our intention, where Management Committees are willing, and where it is practical, to have them placed on permanent display in Halls throughout the Province.

I said I would mention the Introductory meeting which Excellent Companion Andy Mapperson organised based around the Universities Lodge of Staffordshire. Amongst those present were 9 who were not members of the Royal Arch. Initial feedback has been extremely positive. Amongst those nine, three have already completed application forms and a further two or three say they are very keen. The rest may be long term prospects. If you would like to organise one in your area, contact Excellent Companion Andy who I am sure would be very happy to mastermind it for you.

Before I finish, I want to mention the work of our Provincial Grand Almoner, Excellent Companion Ralph Howarth across the Royal Arch and the Craft. He is there to support your Chapter Almoner and you should feel free to contact him if you or any Companion you know needs assistance. We are always reminded about supporting our Companions and loved ones in many different ways. Our Almoners work hard to ensure that support is given where it is needed and to provide a vital pastoral link with their Chapter members and families.

Companions, it continues to be a privilege to be your Grand Superintendent. Please continue to enjoy your Royal Arch Masonry. Never forget the importance of Recruitment and Retention to achieve the continued success of our Province.

Go out there amongst the Brethren of your Lodge. Tell them how much you enjoy your Royal Arch Masonry and encourage them to come and join us so that they too may discover the long-lost secrets of a Master Mason.

Thank you, Companions.”

*Excellent Companion John AE Winter
Grand Superintendent*

Supreme Grand Chapter 26th May 2018



Robin Stubbs, David Edwards, John Winter, Brian Walker, Len Birch and Richard Parrott

36 Staffordshire Companions were present to enjoy a very well supported Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter with the ME Pro First Grand Principal, E.Comp Peter Lowndes presiding. Staffordshire Companions honoured on this occasion were E.Comp David Edwards, who was promoted to PAGSoj, with E.Comps Len Birch and Brian Walker appointed as PGStdBs. Following the Convocation, the Staffordshire Companions retired to the Trattoria Verdi where the celebrations continued and a most enjoyable festive board took place. As is traditional on these occasions, members from the Provincial Grand Chapter of Gloucester & Herefordshire were also dining at Verdi's and both provinces exchanged greetings.

Website and Social Media

A reminder that the website for the Provincial Grand Chapter of Staffordshire can be found at www.pg1ststffordshire.co.uk/ra

If your Chapter has notable news items that you wish to share on the website, please send an email (and any photographs) to m_paulpinto@hotmail.com

Provincial Grand Chapter also has a presence on Facebook.



Provincial Grand Chapter donation to Lichfield Cathedral

At the Choral Evensong at Lichfield Cathedral, Masons from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire were joined by senior members of neighbouring Provinces and also local distinguished guests.

During a most enjoyable celebration the Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masons in Staffordshire, Excellent Companion John AE Winter was pleased to be able to present a cheque for £500 to the Dean, the Very Reverend Adrian Dorber, towards Lichfield Cathedral's fundraising for the 'Icon of the Cross' which is being created by local students in association with Bethlehem Icon Centre.

The project was for three icons depicting the annunciation, crucifixion, and the rising and will culminate with the third and final icon being consecrated on the 14th September. The project will have cost some £75,000.

The ongoing construction of the Icon will be on display at the Cathedral for visitors to see.

All Craft Masons have the right to join the Royal Arch and do not have to wait to be invited.

You may become a member of any Royal Arch Chapter provided that you satisfy the requirements of being a 'Master Mason of four weeks and upwards' and are acceptable to the members.



Pictured as the Grand Superintendent making the presentation to the Dean

Visit to General John J. Pershing Lodge No. 307, In The Grand East of The Netherlands - Meeting the Masons of Maastricht

General of the Armies John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing was a senior United States Army officer. His most famous post was when he served as the commander of the American Expeditionary Force on the Western Front in World War I, 1917-18, and that is probably what he is best known for.

However, Brother John J. "Blackjack" Pershing was an eminent Freemason. He received his Masonic degrees in December 1888, in Lincoln Lodge No. 19, Lincoln, Nebraska. He also became a member of Lincoln Chapter No. 6 Royal Arch Masons; Mt. Moriah Commandery No. 4 of Knight Templars, and Scottish Rite, in 1894. All in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1919, he was made an Honorary Member of Stanbury Lodge No. 19 in Washington D.C. In 1941 or 1942, Vice President Henry S. Truman presented Bro. Pershing a certificate as an Honorary Member of the Grand Lodge of Missouri (Bro. Pershing's home state). Bro. Pershing also became a member of the Scottish Rite, in Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1920 and received his 33rd Honorary in 1930.

It is therefore no wonder that he also has a Masonic Lodge named after him, i.e. General John J. Pershing Lodge No. 307, in The Grand East of The Netherlands.

Our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Kevin J. Puzins, PGD, is the present Worshipful Master of Birmingham University Lodge No. 5028, in the Province of Warwickshire. One of the members of that Lodge, W. Bro. Les Lok, FFGSupWm, is a member of General John J. Pershing Lodge, which meets near to Maastricht, and had extended an invitation for Kevin to attend their Installation Meeting. Never being one to turn down a visit to an overseas Lodge, Kevin readily accepted and kindly invited me to join him.

Grand Lodge Appointments and Promotions

A number of members of our Province received First Appointments and Promotions at Grand Lodge this year and deserve our congratulations and recognition for the contributions they have made to freemasonry in this Province, that have benefited us all.

W Bro J P Ashcroft (St Giles' Lodge No: 1587),
W Bro J M P Phenix (Ogley Hay Lodge No: 8917),
W Bro KJ Spencer (Aldridge Lodge No: 7921),
W Bro J M Treanor (Gordon Lodge No: 2149) and
W Bro D M G Watt (Forresters' Lodge No: 456)
were all appointed Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

W Bro S J Palfreyman (Jasper Lodge No: 3934) was appointed Past Junior Grand Deacon.

A.P.G.M. W Bro Dr M S Rawle (Staffordshire Knot Lodge No: 726) was appointed Past Senior Grand Deacon
and

W Bro N C Joughin (Minerva Lodge No: 1942) was appointed Past Junior Grand Deacon.

The meeting was to be held on Saturday, 7 July, which meant travelling over on the Friday. Being a member of a German Lodge, Freimaurer Logo Zur Deutschen Burg, Duisburg, I suggested that we might travel on the Thursday before and spend some time in Masonic Fellowship with my friend Bro. Dr. Alexander Stecker, who was also invited to join us for the meeting in Maastricht.

Arriving in Duisburg on the Thursday afternoon previous to the meeting, we enjoyed the hospitality of Brother Alexander and his family, which included a very interesting visit to Düsseldorf Alt Stadt, the following day.

Saturday morning saw us driving to Maastricht for the meeting, early enough to pass by Alex's surgery, in the town of Maastricht, where Alex repaired a broken tooth of Kevin's, which had been annoying him greatly and which was unlikely to be fixed for some weeks. So, with Kevin smiling comfortably, we resumed our journey to Maastricht, some one and a half hours away.

Arriving at the Lodge, which was being held at a Hotel in Urmond, near Maastricht, at 1200hrs we received a most cordial welcome from the Brethren and treated to tea, coffee and "Limburgs Vinal" (pasties and cake), prior to the Lodge being typed at 1300hrs.

We were then privileged to witness an excellent Installation Ceremony, where Bro. Ali Anzi, Senior Warden, was placed in "The Chair". Though W. Bro. Ali had expressed his apprehension as to how he would perform as W.M., he took to the chair like a duck to water, and appeared every inch (or should I say centimeter?) the W.M., installing his officers in a very fine manner indeed.



After the meeting finished, at circa 1600hrs, there was "Taking Who with the Worshipful Master", which for all the world was like a champagne reception!

At 1900hrs there was a most excellent banquet, where the Brethren were joined by their ladies, to make for a most pleasant and convivial evening.

Regrettably, Bro. Alex and I had to return to Duisburg, so we left before the festivities before the end. However, Kevin, who was staying at the hotel that evening, to take a flight back to Birmingham the following day, remained to the not so bitter end! 0130hrs he tells me!

We received several invitations to return and I am sure that we will.

The Masonic Trout and Salmon Fishing Charity Staffordshire Branch

Fishing Day, Thursday, 3 May, 2018

Once again, the sun shone at Parkside Fisheries, Gayton, Staffordshire, for the first 2018 Fishing Day of the Staffordshire Branch of the MTSFC, as the casters and supporters of "The Branch" waited for the arrival of twelve children, accompanied by their teachers, from Walton Hall Academy, Eccleshall, to arrive for their fishing experience at 10.00hrs.

Branch Members, of course had arrived much earlier, down by the promise of a bacon roll, tea and coffee, provided by MTSFC stalwarts W. Bro. Ian and Mrs. Angela Talbot and Mrs. Val Dennis, later joined by Mrs. Linda Sharples and W. Bro. Mike Sharples, our MTSFC Photographer for the day.

The needs of the inner caster and supporter having been met, the casters took to preparing their equipment to be ready for the arrival of the children. Our Health and Safety Officer, W. Bro. Dove Blakeman, then gave a Health and Safety Brief to all taking part in the day and we were good to go. Val, Angela and Linda then went on to prepare the lunchtime spread, buns, cakes and cookies, while W. Bro. Ian continued to bar-be-que burgers, hot dogs and chicken legs to fill the said buns.

The children having arrived, were issued with their safety equipment, paired with their caster for the day and "went fishing"

The day went extremely well and both children, casters and supporters had a wonderful day. Two fishing sessions with lunch in between.

It is so rewarding to see the obvious pleasure on the faces of those concerned, children, school staff, casters and supporters all. We were honoured to enjoy the presence of our Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. John Lockley. Our PGM has supported us from the outset and generously provides a "Goody Bag" for the children to take away at the end of the day. We were also honoured to welcome W. Bro. Dove Thomas, Deputy Provincial Grand Master (though he was Deputy PGM Designate at the time) on his first visit to the event. "The Branch" appreciates his support. Also present was W. Bro. Mal McFuchan, Area Organizer for the MTSFC. Mal is a frequent, and always welcome, visitor. We were joined on this occasion by W. Bro. Ian Webster, one of the MTSFC Founders, who is on a mission to visit the fishing day of every Branch of the Charity. It was a pleasure to have his company and we wish him well on his fishing travels. Two "wood lust floor", sadly, was missing. Our M.E. Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. John A.H. Winter was unable to attend, due to pressing duties elsewhere. E. Comp. Winter is another stalwart supporter of the Branch and his company was missed. Also missing on the day was W. Bro. Dr. Mike Rowle, Assistant PGM, another great supporter of the Branch. Their apology was duly understood and accepted but with a wee bit sadness.

On the completion of a most successful day, the children were presented with a Certificate of Participation and "Goody Bag" by the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, aided and abetted by W. Bro. Bob Weaver, Branch Secretary and Organizer. Photographs were taken and the children and the school staff boarded their mini bus and departed for home.

Another great day, which left us all feeling warm and happy. The slogan of the MTSFC is, "Catch the Smiles". I think we did that judging from the photos (two of many) above. Happy Days! Our next fishing day is Thursday, 27 September, 2018 and I warrant that we are all looking forward to it.

Branch Chairman.



**Casters wanted to assist at
Masonic Fishing Charity Events**
For more info or to register interest please contact
David Watt einhorriddo@sky.com. 01889 562298



Mark & RAM Masonry
in
Staffordshire and Shropshire



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

WITHIN YOUR MARK PROVINCE



PrGM - R.W Bro Michael Richard Heenan RAMGR
Dep PrGM - V.W Bro Ian Christopher Marshall Smith, PGJO., RAMGR
APrGM - W. Bro. Kevin Spencer PPrGSW., Pr.RAMGR., PGJO

DANCING TO FUEGO

The Blood Bike appeal came to an end on June 30th at the Provincial Summer Ball. On the evening it was announced that £34,000 had been raised enabling the Mark Province to purchase two bikes named "Mark Mason" and "Mark Mariner" still leaving sufficient funds to make a worthy contribution towards running costs in Staffordshire and Shropshire. This magnificent total has been achieved in just 18 months.

Unveiling and naming the second bike at the Provincial Ball the Provincial Grand Master, Rt. W. Bro. Mike Heenan, also paid tribute to the amazing support and incredible generosity of the Mark Master Masons throughout the Province.



R.W Bro Michael Heenan



"Mark Mariner" unveiled



Not forgetting "Mark Mason"



A big Thank You to the Asst. PGM., W. Bro. Kevin Spencer and his wife Marie, for their hard work organising the tombola.



W. Bro. Steve Bird, PPrGSO, showing his prizes.



The evening was an overwhelming success and everyone had a great time. Special thanks go to W. Bro. Mick Towns, PPrGSO, for organising the event so carefully and with perfect timing. The Province may build on this success with further similar events.



More good news from the Blood Bikes Charity – in early August the Charity will receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and later that month the Mark Benevolent Fund will be presenting them with another bike, this one called "Prince Michael". All Blood Bikes riders are volunteers and carry out a vital service to the N.H.S.

MOBILE PHONES

Just a polite reminder to all Brethren. Please make sure your mobile phones are turned off or set to silent before entering the Lodge Room. It is so off putting to the Master or his Officers when they ring out during a ceremony.
Thank you

SIXTY YEARS AS a MMM

A Fifty Year Certificate is one thing but to celebrate Sixty Years in Masonry and particularly Sixty Years as a Mark Master Mason is truly amazing but that is what happened earlier this year. R.W. Bro. John Aubrey Hammond was a towering figure in our Mark Province and was presented with his Sixty Year certificate in his own home in Bewdley by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Michael Richard Heenan in January of this year. Gathered together to join in the celebrations of John's life as a Mark Master Mason were his wife Mavis, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Ian Smith, Past Provincial Grand Master David Edwards, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and Provincial Grand Secretaries, Andrew Beckingsale and Barry Clark and W. Bro. Don Morris. Reminiscing was the order of the day and John fully joined in talking about the happy times he had had serving our Province.



John was Advanced into Dartmouth Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 993 on 25th January

1958 and became its Worshipful Master in 1970. He was a joining member at both St Bartholomew's No 650 and South Shropshire No 1150 and was a member of the Royal Ark Mariner Lodges attached to all these three as well the Joseph Whittall Lodge of Installed Mark Masters and the Kenneth Shenton Lodge of Installed Commanders No 1392. The Staffordshire and Shropshire Mark Grand Officers Lodge No 1697 was his brainchild and he was a Founder member. Outside our Province he was a member of the Mark Provincial Grand Secretaries Lodge No 1641, the Royal Air Force Lodge and both The Mark Grand Masters Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.

His long years serving our Province commenced in 1972 when he was appointed Provincial Grand Secretary and he held that office until 1981. He was Deputy Provincial Grand Master from 1982 until 1987 when he was Installed as Provincial Grand Master on 24th October by the Pro. Grand Master the Rt Hon. The Lord Swansea. John was also made a member of The Grand Master's Royal Ark Council in 1987, a position he held for some 15 years. He ruled our Province with great dedication and dignity until his retirement in 2002. John continued to support all his Lodges in the Mark and many other orders for a good number of years and it is only in the last few years that age and declining health prevented his attendances. It really was a day to remember.



ALLABOARD!

Fortunately it is not all work and no play on Provincial visits. This year our PGM decided to visit the Isle of Man. He and Vivien were well entertained by the Isle of Man brethren and given a tour of the Island.

PGM and Vivien Heenan accompanied by the Assistant Grand Master, Stephen Davison, arrive at Castletown.

DIARY DATES

Inter-Provinces Meeting, Tuesday 25th September 2018 at Kings Heath, Birmingham.
Provincial RAM Assembly, Friday 28th September, Shrewsbury.
Mark Weekend Away – 12th to 14th October, 2018, Chester
Provincial Grand Lodge, Thursday 18th October 2018 with special guest Stephen Davison, Assistant Grand Master. County Show Ground Stafford.
Children's Christmas Party – Saturday 8th December, 2018, Al-brighton

PROVINCIAL GRAND SENIOR WARDEN 2017/2018



Chris Jones, who is a Lewis, was born in Shrewsbury in December 1949. He attended the Priory Grammar School for Boys from 1960 until 1966. Not wanting to go down the traditional route he entered into a five year apprenticeship with a local Dental Laboratory. After gaining his City and Guilds he became a qualified Dental Technician specialising in Crown and Bridge Restorations and Maxillo Facial reconstruction. He eventually became a partner in the firm and latterly sole owner. He retired in July 2016

after 50 years in the business to concentrate on golf, cycling and walking and a little bit of Masonry. He was an active member of Shrewsbury Round Table until he reached the 40 year age limit. He has been married to Ann for 47 years and they have two children, Nick a successful agronomist, and Sarah who is assistant head of a large primary school in Telford. She two children James and Libby whom Chris and Ann both dote on.

Chris was Initiated into The Shropshire Round Table Lodge No. 9104 in 1999 and became Master in 2008. He was Advanced into The Round Table and Rotary Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1630 in 2000 and was Master also in 2008. Exalted into Pengwerne RA Chapter No. 3229 in 2001 and was First Principal in 2010, now holding the rank of PPrGStdB. He became Commander of The Shropshire Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 444 in 2006. His progress in Mark Masonry began with the active rank of Assistant Director of Ceremonies, a position he held for 3 years, before promotion to Provincial Grand Junior Overseer. He is also a holder of Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. His Craft record is equally glittering: Provincial Grand Sword Bearer before becoming Provincial Senior Grand Warden for Shropshire and currently Provincial Grand Mentor. He is also a member of Preceptory of St. Chad No. 193, Knights Templar and Ragleth Council No. 322, Royal and Select Masters.

PROVINCIAL GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN 2017/2018



Brian Cockersole was born in 1944 in the town of Leek, Staffordshire. He lived with his parents during his early years of employment in the Leek area until 1966 when he joined the Staffordshire Police Force. During his employment he served in the towns of Tamworth, Rugeley, Cannock, Lichfield and finally at Leek until his retirement in 1996.

Brian is a keen golfer and was a member of the Beau Desert Golf Club, Cannock, for 10 years. In 1984 he transferred to the Leek Golf Club where he has held the office of Club Captain, 2007, Seniors Captain, 2011, and is currently the Seniors Vice President. In December 2018 he will receive promotion to President. Brian and Ann, also a keen golfer, were married on Christmas Eve, 2006 and have 5 grandchildren. He was Initiated into The Trent Lodge No. 4269 in 1996, occupied the Master's Chair in Staffordshire. He is also a member of Ceramic RA Chapter No. 3827 and occupied the First Principal Chair for two years, 2007/8. His Mark career began in 2002 in The Castle Lodge of MMM No. 1622 in which he was Master in 2010 and subsequently became a joining member of Joseph Whittall Lodge of Installed MMM No. 1392. During the past 6 years he has held the active Provincial Offices of Grand Inner Guard, Assistant Grand DC and Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. He was Elevated into The George Hargreaves Lodge of RAM No. 1304 in 2005 and became Commander in 2010. He is a joining member of both Kenneth Shenton Lodge of Installed Commanders No. 1392 and Gough RAM No. 45 where he is DC. He is a holder of Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. Additional Orders include the Ranulph de Blunderville Preceptory, Knight Templar (PPr.2nd.Con) and Leek Chapter Rose Croix No. 748.



HOUSE OF BREAD

For those in need the House of Bread in Stafford is a lifeline. It provides a safe environment where they can and given a tour of the island.n come together, share a meal, as well as providing a network of support including clothing, weekly food bags, and other practical support. Their work impressed the SSMBMA, and so the PGM and Provincial Almoner visited them recently and presented a cheque for £1000 towards their work.

PGM Mike Heenan & W Bro Andrew Beckingsale at the House of Bread

MBF AMBULANCE PRESENTATION

On July 27th the Provincial Grand Master, Rt. W. Bro. Heenan, formally handed over one of the fifty two new ambulances donated to the St. John Ambulance Service by the GLMM and the Mark Benevolent Fund. These



will replace those donated by the MBF in 2000. The Presentation and Dedication was held at Upton House, Stafford. Later in the year a second ambulance for the Mark Province will be presented to Shropshire St. John Ambulance Service in Shrewsbury. A total of £3,023,700 has

been pledged by the MBF to this project. Photo Rt. W. Bro. Mike Heenan hands the keys over to W. Bro. George Steel, Chairman of the Staffordshire County Priory, The Lord-Lieutenant for Staffordshire, Ian Dudson CBE., KStJ., with the PGM, Rt. W. Bro. Heenan, Past PGM., Rt W. Bro. Edwards, Past APMG, Prov. Almoner, V.W. Bro. Beckingsale, Prov. Secretary, W. Bro. Webster, Assistant PGM., W. Bro. Spencer and Prov. Charity Steward, W. Bro. Hill.



CHARITY DONATION

A cheque for £1,700 was presented to the Occupational Therapy Dept. at West Park Rehabilitation Hospital, Wolverhampton, to the Stroke Cycle Charity which administers funds to groups such as Model Railway Engineers, Art, Sitting Yoga and Gardening. The money

was raised by Lodge of St. John No. 6320. Brother Jonathon Sadler, SD., was an inpatient at the hospital after suffering very serious brain damage in a car accident. He was carried in and 6 months later walked out after relearning all the basic skills of life. The cheque was presented by Bro. Sadler and W. Bro. Brown (WM of 6320) in December 2017. Both Jonathon and his step-father Mark Davis are keen members of Wulfrun Lodge of MMM No. 186. Bro. Mark Davis will be Installed Master of Wulfrun on September 21st 2018.

BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL PRESENTATION

Having been awarded the BEM earlier this year, W.Bro. Allan Caswell was presented with the medal at a gathering of close friends, at the Memorial Hall, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury by the Lord-Lieutenant, Sir Algernon Heber-Percy KCVO. W.Bro Allan together with the Lord Lieutenant, flanked by W.Bros. Bob Rainford, Phil Hasler, Tony Williams & Colin Bolton. Allan was honoured with his award for his services to the Local Community and in particular his hard work and leadership with regard to the Bayston Hill Memorial Hall.



INFORMATION OFFICER

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United Grand Lodge Universities Scheme

The UGLE Universities scheme was established in 2005 to build upon the success of existing University Lodges particularly those long established at Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Durham, London and the like. It was known from those lodges that students – whether undergraduates or postgraduates – enjoy freemasonry to the full. It was hoped that through the Universities Scheme that university members from all over the country will be able to gain a similar sense of inspiration, fulfilment and enjoyment. This hope has been more than amply realised.

The spirit of the Universities Scheme was summed up by the Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Kent, who said at the 2010 Annual Investiture of Grand Lodge "A real benefit the Scheme confers is having young intelligent men joining us who will, we hope, contribute greatly to the future of the Craft, as potential leaders and sources of inspiration."

The Scheme is administered from London by the committee chaired by W. Bro. Mark Greenburgh and the President Sir David Wootton, Assistant Grand Master. I am the West Midlands area coordinator with responsibility for eight Lodges having joined the committee in 2016 and our newly appointed coordinator for East Midlands and committee member is also a Staffordshire mason, W. Bro Nick Thomas of St. Modwen's Lodge.

The thinking behind the Scheme was to attract to Freemasonry men whilst at University. To enable this Grand Lodge resolved to permit membership at aged 18 and over and to accept a reduction of 50% in dues for bona fide full time students under the age of 25, which allows most postgraduate students, of which there are many, to benefit from this concession. In practise this has been matched by Provinces and also at a local level many Masonic meeting places offer favourable concessions.

The Scheme has been very successful and now has almost 80 member Lodges including several overseas and is expanding all the time. A substantial number of students have been initiated thus far and the retention rate is at least comparable to mainstream Masonry. More information is available at the Scheme's website /www.universitiesscheme.com

It would be a fair reflection to say that all Freemasons who involve themselves in the Scheme Lodges have been impressed and surprised at the overall quality of the student initiates, indeed in many Lodges those students very soon take offices and deliver work in the Lodge. Staffordshire is most fortunate, that with the very real encouragement of the Province and its Provincial Grand Master, there are now two active Scheme lodges in this Province.

Universities Lodge of Staffordshire 9907 meeting at Shelton was consecrated in September 2015 and was only the second such completely new Lodge formed specifically for the purpose of Scheme membership. It now has over 50 members; it has initiated approximately 30 new members and has been able to ask for over 30 of its ceremonies to be performed by other Lodges throughout the Province.

Concordia Lodge 5131 is unique in that it is until December 2018 a member of Metropolitan Grand Lodge but has, as of April 2018, relocated to Wolverhampton meeting at Tettenhall Road and now has over 20 joining Staffordshire masons. It has already initiated its first student and has four more awaiting the next meetings. The Lodge looks set for a promising future under the Mastership of W. Bro. Prof. John Howl and the guidance of W. Bro. Barrie Rouse. In fact Concordia Lodge have the pleasure of a visit from the President Sir David Wootton and several eminent Grand Lodge and Metropolitan Grand Lodge officers at their meeting on Saturday 24th November to welcome them to the scheme. On the website he acknowledges the pioneering attempt by the UGLE and comments in his introduction.

"It is a great privilege to be President of the Universities Scheme. I am delighted by the success we have achieved in our first ten years, and I am excited by the opportunities that are now opening up across England and Wales as a result."

In summary despite misgivings by some in the Craft the Universities Scheme has proved overwhelmingly popular in attracting young enthusiastic university students to join the Craft at an early age and progress to successful Masonic careers. A number of new lodges are joining the Scheme every year and the overseas interest is very positive.

So, whether you are a student hoping to find a Lodge of like-minded members, an interested passer-by, or indeed an existing member of the Universities Scheme, our two Staffordshire Lodge are very anxious to have new masons or ambitious joining members, where your skills and talents will be fully utilised, so please contact either of the above Lodges.

W. Bro. Peter Hughes



Like many young freemasons without any family connection to masonry, my knowledge and understanding were very low. My introduction came through War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy.

In this, the main character Pierre became a freemason and provided him with a sense of directions and morals. From this, I researched into what Freemasonry was about and my previous understanding and prejudices escaped almost immediately. The first image that came up was a portrait of the Duke of Kent. As I read on, it stated that he was the Grand Master. Despite not having a clue as to what this meant, I did know that royals do not get involved with any organization unless it is of good standing. From this, I saw words such as ceremony, faith and morals. All of which are of the utmost importance to myself. A few moments later I found out that there was a lodge at my university and I sent an email straight away.

Since then, I have had the most amazing journey which has taken me all over Staffordshire and I have had the absolute honour in meeting some of the most genuine and kindest individuals who all equally take an interest in who you are. For me, Freemasonry has become an incredibly important aspect of my life in such a short space of time. I can only say to those who are considering whether or not to become a Freemason, a journey awaits you which you will certainly not regret or get anywhere else.

Bro Jordann Webb

Greetings from Afar

On Monday 18th June '2018, our Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Kevin Parkes and I attended Lodge of the Holy City No: 4 in Jerusalem where we were most warmly welcomed. We enjoyed the company of the Worshipful Master Yahuda and many brethren from all over Israel, also from as far as Greece, Mexico and the United States of America.

The meeting included a very interesting and thought provoking talk on the exoteric and esoteric aspects of Masonry by W. Bro Richard Hastie. The festive board was also very enlightening, to be able to engage in conversation with brethren from across the globe as Brothers with a singularly impressive desire to enjoy each other's company and share knowledge and good will.



Invites of return and other international visits were exchanged in this most harmonious meeting and this gives great heart that we are part of this awesome Universal Brotherhood spread over the four quarters of the globe.

We were also particularly honoured when we were invited to the home of Bro Yossi Barak, the Director of Ceremonies and enjoyed a traditional Shabat meal with his family. A journey I'm sure we shall not forget.

W. Bro Wayne Lutton

Interview with our new Provincial Grand Registrar

Rob Bridgman, a member of Construction Lodge 3350 is the Provincial Grand Registrar and here he gives a brief interview outlining both his masonic and personal life.

How did you get involved with Freemasonry?

I was initiated whilst I was at University. My mother lodge – Innes Newton University Lodge No 839 in Cambridgeshire – was one of the early members of UGLE's Universities Scheme, so I was only 19 when I came into the craft.

How did you end up in Staffordshire?

I was born and raised in Walsall and when I graduated I came back to the Midlands to continue with postgraduate study, and eventually I decided that travelling back to Cambridge twice a term was logistically difficult so I went in search of a lodge closer to home. A friend of a friend was a member of Lodge of Construction No 3350 which meets down the road in Aldridge so I joined that lodge in 2009. I went through the Chair in 2014 and I'm currently the Director of Ceremonies.

How does Lodge of Construction compare to Innes Newton?

Innes Newton is a wonderful lodge. The ritual is second-to-none (not even Apollo, the Oxford equivalent...) and the lodge is full of very eminent brethren who strive for excellence in both their professional and masonic lives. It is very much a lodge which revolves around the University. Coming to Staffordshire was a real eye-opener; I'd never seen a masonic meeting which didn't involve a ceremony (and usually at Innes Newton we'd be doing double or triple ceremonies at every meeting). It was in Staffordshire that I was introduced to a different side of masonry – it was great to attend lectures and Ladies' Nights and other social events. Lodge of Construction is a very friendly lodge with a great bunch of guys – I really do recommend a visit!

What's your day job?

I am a solicitor at an international law firm based in Birmingham. I've been qualified for six and a half years and during that time have focused almost exclusively



on property disputes. I act for a diverse range of clients including house builders, property developers and investors

and well-known retailers helping them with the various scopes they manage to get themselves into house builders, property developers and investors and well-known retailers helping them with the various scopes they manage to get themselves into.

What's your current role within the Province?

I am effectively the Province's lawyer. Since being appointed in May I have been involved in ensuring that the Province is compliant with the new data protection regulations. However, my role is wider than that and I'm still getting to grips with some of the other aspects of it (and working on my knowledge of the Book of Constitutions). We are lucky that UGLE have a very good legal team in London so help is never too far away! I'm more than happy to help with any queries which a lodge might have. My email address is registrar@pglstaffordshire.co.uk.

What do you like to do when you're not at work or at lodge?

I am a keen musician and I run a choir at work alongside my brother (who is also a member of Lodge of Construction). I used to like sports, but I now spend most of my spare time running after my three young children.

SQUARE WHEELS

The Masonic Classic Vehicle Club was formed in 2002 by W. Bro John Cole a Somerset mason and over the years has held numerous events and runs which were all an outstanding success.

In 2017 to mark the Tercentary the club was asked by Grand Lodge to organise what became known as the 'Classic 300' which was a series of classic runs starting last May in Windsor Great Park and going all over England and Wales before returning to Brooklands race course in Surrey in October. This was to raise awareness of freemasonry.



The non-competitive classic car runs were enjoyed by all participants and were also seen and enjoyed by members of the public. The runs were open to Masons and to those with an interest in Freemasonry and to both classic and future classic vehicles and we were able to donate £1000 to the West Midlands Air Ambulance last year.

Such a success was this venture with over 300 registered participants that it was decided to move the headquarters of the MCVC to Warwick the geographical centre of England and to rename the club Square Wheels. It had become very clear that the classic car hobby is prevalent within masonry and that there was a big latent demand for a masonic club to serve their needs. Membership continues to grow with modest membership cost and many benefits.

Already in 2018 the club has visited the National Arboretum on Sunday 3rd June with over 60 members with their wives, partners and guests present. A trip to Le Mans Classic with about 30 travelling and camping, also a trip to Blenheim Palace and the Highland 500 are planned. Other events will continue to take place together with attendances at classic car shows up and down the country including the National Classic Car Show at the NEC in November.

The current chairman of Square Wheels, Mark Pierpoint and officers were recently pleased to announce Prince Michael of Kent GCVO had agreed to accept the position as President of the club. The club has a web site www.squarewheels.org where more details can be obtained and contact can be made with our secretary.

It became increasingly obvious to a number of us through 2017 and early 2018 that there was a large body of members who also felt that a new Lodge could and should be created.

The Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire Rt W. Bro. David Macey (himself a classic car fan) gave his support and approximately 75 Founders signed the Petition with a further dozen stepping forward to become joining members. These Brethren are members of Provinces from as far afield as North Yorkshire to Cornwall.

The Square Wheels Lodge (SQL) received its Warrant recently and will be consecrated on Saturday 13th October 2018 at the Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon, (M40 J11). Any Staffordshire brethren interested in the Lodge or Club wishing further details can contact me on peterhughes512002@yahoo.co.uk.

The Primus Master will be W. Bro. Peter Manning APMG of Warwickshire. The Lodge will be a working Lodge meeting twice in Warwick (September and January) and twice in the summer at many locations around the country. The first such summer meeting is planned for Paignton in July 2019 with a Ladies night included.

W. Bro Peter Hughes

PROVINCIAL PRIOR FOR STAFFORDSHIRE & SHROPSHIRE**Right Eminent Knight D Gary Read, KCT**

The Knights Templar Order within the Province spreads over both Staffordshire and Shropshire bringing with it an interesting and diverse range of members all of whom thoroughly enjoy the camaraderie of our Order. With more than 650 current members I am most pleased to say our numbers within the Province have been stable for some considerable time.

At the Provincial Priory Meeting on 4th June 2018, with more than half the Province in attendance, plus many visiting Eminent Priors and Sub Priors from within the Great Priory of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas, I was again the very proud Leader of this amazing and phenomenal Military Christian Order within Freemasonry.

Joining Knights Templar means each member must first be a member of the Royal Arch Chapter. This is your pathway and follows the guidance from United Grand Lodge that Master Masons should seek to complete their learning within the Royal Arch. There are seventeen Preceptories in the Provincial Priory of

Staffordshire and Shropshire and these are listed within the "Preceptories" page of our website <http://www.sskt.co.uk>. They usually meet three or four times a year with one of the meetings being a Priory of Malta. Having this number of Preceptories makes the Province the seventh largest within Great Priory in the United Kingdom.

Supporting our principal Charity, the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, is the main focus for the Province. The Preceptories also support a wealth of smaller charities across the Province and nationally.

In 2014 my Body Guard Knights cycled the Coast to Coast route raising more than £20,000 with the support of the Province; and



in 2016 used kayaks to navigate the Four Counties Ring canal network to raise close to £7,000 for the British Heart Foundation.

This year, they have walked close to 100 miles in just two days and raised more than £8,500 to once again send two members of St John Ambulance for work experience at the Hospital and donating to the senior management of the Hospital.

This truly is a vibrant Order within Freemasonry and one for which I am very honoured to be the Provincial Prior.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WEEKEND FOR KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**Knights Templar Visit to Cambridge, April 2018**

Following the previous successful weekends another Crusade was arranged, this time to the City of Cambridge.

The Provincial Prior R.E. Kt D Gary Read was once again joined by a party of Knights, their Ladies and guests on a weekend at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Impington, Cambridge from the 27th – 29th April.

After travelling from many parts of Staffordshire and Shropshire, the guests met on the first evening in the Restaurant and were treated to a superb meal. Everyone enjoyed the first evening meeting new and old friends, planning the weekend ahead, and hoping that the weather was going to improve.

On Saturday following breakfast many ventured into Cambridge and enjoyed the day at leisure. A few of the group went to the spectacular Kings College Chapel and the Fitzwilliam Museum and they enjoyed the very interesting experience. A few guests went on the Open-Air Bus for an interesting and tour of the City.

On the Saturday night everyone enjoyed another superb meal in the restaurant during which the guests were entertained by members of the party, namely E Kt Adrian Yearsley, E Kt Richard Stimpson, Gaynor Goddard, and the talented E Kt Dudley Ray who accompanied the singers.

Bro Kt Tony Coates, Mrs Nicole Coates; Bro Kt Dave Thomas & Mrs Sara Thomas.

*Enjoying the event E Kt Jonathan Bryan and Mrs Emma Bryan*

A surprise of the evening was Adrian Yearsley inviting his

daughter Lauren, who is studying Performing Arts in London, to sing a duet with him and they were given a rapturous applause.

*E Kt Adrian Yearsley, Mrs Gina Yearsley & Miss Lauren Yearsley*

To commemorate 100 years after the First World War, there was also a Sing Along headed by E Kt Ray Haynes and Bro Kt Phil Morris, singing songs from the War Era, this proved to be very popular and everyone was in good voice.

There was a lot of hilarity and everyone had a good time.

On the Sunday morning following a leisurely breakfast, everyone made their way back home and despite the inclement weather everyone said that the weekend proved a great success with plans for another weekend in 2019.

The Provincial Prior has decided on the City of Manchester on 10th – 12th May 2019 and hopes that he'll have the pleasure of the company of many of the Knights, their ladies and guests for another enjoyable weekend.

E Kt Lyndon Goddard



BODY GUARD CHALLENGE 2018

A Walk from Ironbridge to Burton on Trent

The Provincial Prior, R E K D Gary Read KCT accompanied by his Sub Prior, V E K Alan T Howls, and many from within the Province were pleased to welcome to Burton Masonic Hall on Sunday 15th April, the returning Knights of the Provincial Prior's Body Guard on completion of their epic journey taking them from Ironbridge to Burton on Trent in just two days.



Andrew Stanton of William de Furnas Preceptory who completed all five sections with the Body Guard.

The Body Guard Commander wishes to thank all members of the Province for their help and assistance in raising the funds to send the two members of St John Ambulance to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.



It is fair to say the team found stretching embarrassing but necessary, and our intrepid photographer was always pleased to make sure he caught us in the act, both early in the morning; and again, after each day of the walk.

Very early on in this Challenge came The Winkie, the highest point on the Challenge route and tackled

from the steeper south side (see hiding in the background of the photograph). On the opposite side, members of the Province were able to join us for a section of the walk, and the team was very happy to see them.



A beautiful sunset brought the end of the first day at Stafford with the members of the Body Guard coming in strong to that day's finish line. Off to the hotel for stretches, a shower and a trip to the Italian for dinner, mending blisters and solving knots.



Day Two came with its own new challenges, moving their legs was the first to overcome, as many of the Body Guard were a little stiff, and others looking after sore feet. Breakfast eaten, tea drunk, stretches completed, and we were off again.

In Great Haywood on Day 2, the team diverted off the canal (The route marked for the Staffordshire Way) to meet

members of the Province who would join them for the next section. Also waiting there was Minister Harry Thomas, who was dressed to ensure he fitted in with the Team, but more importantly he brought cakes for the Body Guard!! They were consumed at a rate of knots after which



scravage cobs all round, and off they went again towards Rugby.



We were made very welcome at Wilson Keys Court, the Masonic Home. Many thanks to Timmy, Joan and all the residents for looking after us. It gave the team a huge boost in spirits ready for the next leg towards Tuml.



During this arduous Challenge we of course needed to look after our feet, and the shout for a medic by our Commander was sounded by one and attention. Of course, filled with worry that he may suffer irreparable damage from his severe blisters, the rest of the team had a cuppa, provided by our amazing support crew, who were there through thick and thin with us, and without them this Challenge would not have been possible.

Onwards and upwards, over the fields and down the lanes they walked. Several miles later, and the team arrive in Burton-on-Trent, with just a short distance of 3 miles to go to complete their Challenge. Once again, members of the Province were on hand to take part in this final section of the walk, including E Kt Richard Simpson resplendent in his former Royal Navy best.

Up the hill and in to Burton Masonic Hall, to be greeted by members from the Province and a guard of honour from the members of the St John Ambulance service. Some hot food and a well-earned drink were followed by a presentation from the Provincial Prior to thank his Body Guard for an amazing effort over the previous 48 hours to arrive bang on time as predicted.



More information about the Challenge including additional photographs are available on the Knights Templar Provincial website <http://www.ktcl.co.uk>

St John Ambulance Visit to St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

Following a competitive submission process and interview stage, Megan Aldridge and Eleanor Kinloch, members of the Staffordshire and Shropshire Branches of St John Ambulance, were selected to attend an intensive visit to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital at the end of April and early May 2018.

The candidates were selected following a considerable number of applications which followed the previously successful visit organised by the Province in 2014.

To fund the visit and provide a significant donation to the Eye Hospital, the R E Provincial Prior, D Gary Read KCT, challenged his Body Guard once again. The Challenge they settled on was to walk nearly 100 miles taking in the Shropshire Way, Silken Way, Millennium Way, and Staffordshire Way in a route that would take them from Ironbridge to Burton-on-Trent in just two days on 14th & 15th April. Members of the Province were asked to support the team by donations and sponsorship.



On 29th April, Megan and Eleanor were met at Manchester Airport by E Kt Bob Haysom P Gt A-de-C, PPr1st Const, and a member of the team who completed the whole walk, E Kt Paul Molley, PPr Capt of Grd and

Body Guard Registrar, to wish them both bon voyage. Their journey would start in Manchester for a connecting flight at Heathrow where they would meet James Walsh the Hospitalier from the Order of St John, who was attending with them, for their flight to Jerusalem.



Upon arrival at the hospital, and after only a few hours' sleep, both Megan and Eleanor were put straight to work! After an early morning hospital induction, they were tasked with training new members of staff at the hospital in life support techniques and managed to complete 45 new members in their first day!

Following on from that, they were engaged in the various clinics that take place at the hospital and were able to assist the Doctors. They also witnessed various operations that take place at the hospital.

Perhaps most interesting trips for Megan and Eleanor were to the outlying villages and communities in the desert where the hospital out-reach team can treat in the field those patients unable to travel to the main hospital.



Perhaps most interesting trips for Megan and Eleanor were to the outlying villages and communities in the desert where the hospital out-reach team can treat in the field those patients unable to travel to the main hospital.

Some sightseeing was also built into their itinerary as they were fully immersed into life inside Jerusalem City.



During their visit, Megan and Eleanor were able to make an initial presentation of £4,000 to the Eye Hospital. The Provincial Prior was keen to announce the final overall figure at the Provincial Priory meeting on 4th June and to great applause proudly announced the overall amount raised was more than £8,000.



Both Megan and Eleanor arrived safely home and will be attending a presentation for the next muster of the Staffordshire & Shropshire Preceptory of Installed Preceptors on 14th September to be held at the Preceptory of St Chad in Shrewsbury. Details of which will be covered in a future edition of Within Your Province but more particularly available on the Knights Templar Provincial website <http://www.sskt.co.uk>

Provincial Priory Barbecue

On the afternoon of Saturday 25th August, the Provincial Prior, R E Kt D Gary Read accompanied by his Sub Prior V E Kt Alan T Howls and a number of Eminent Knights, Knights and their families enjoyed a relaxed and informal barbecue at Foxes Glen Kibblestone Scout Camp, Oulton, Stone.

The event, organised and co-ordinated by E Kt Dave Truman assisted by E. Kt's Ralph Ritchey, John Skellern and John Francis the Provincial Vice Chancellor to name but a few, was a great success. The well organised team, which included many wives and partners, worked tirelessly throughout the day having arrived early to set up the facilities, prepare the food and then clear away.



The food, which was in abundance, was prepared by Dave Truman and Ralph Ritchey who were at the grill whilst John Skellern, John Francis, Aniello Ursini, Jim Pick, Martyn Hunt and Mark Roberts all assisted under the direction of Mrs Kath Roberts. The 65 that attended certainly didn't leave feeling hungry having enjoyed the food, with the drinks served by Tony Askey.

The function, which it is hoped will be an annual event, raised over £1,200 towards the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital 'Swift Project'. The Provincial Prior was also able to make a donation to Kibblestone International Scout Campsite through W Bro Wilf Burt of Kibblestone Lodge who attended to support the event.



Provincial Burns Supper

The Burns Supper Committee, wish to announce on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro. John Lockley, the details of the inaugural Provincial Burns Supper to be held at the County Show Ground Stafford on Saturday 26th January 2019. The details of this event are to be found on our web page, www.pglstaffsburns.co.uk and on our Facebook page, [Pglstaffsburns2019](https://www.facebook.com/pglstaffsburns2019).

It will also be publicised around the Province by Presiding Officers and please feel free to discuss this with them at the festive board, alternatively contact the Provincial Office for full booking details.

The event has a limited capacity of 420 of which, prior to the launch 90 spaces have been pre-booked. In favour of fairness booking will be taken on a first come first served basis.

Your Provincial Grand Master hopes that you, your partner, friends and family find this event, both appealing and engaging and we as his Provincial Burns Supper Committee hope that you will be able to support him at this inaugural event.

W. Bro. Kevin J Parkes PSGD APMG

Did You know...

If you are a Freemason, or have a strong family connection to a Freemason, and you are facing a long wait for NHS medical treatment, the **Masonic Charitable Foundation** may be able to help you?

If in doubt, call the Foundation today **on 0800 035 60 90**

W.Bro Wyn Price – 50 years in Freemasonry

St. Cuthbert's Lodge No: 630, who were consecrated in 1854 and who meet at the Masonic Hall, Howden in the Province of Yorkshire North and East Ridings, were pleased to present a fifty year certificate to W. Bro Mwyndeg Griffith Price PAGDC at their meeting on Thursday 24th May 2018.

A number of Staffordshire masons will remember 'Wyn' who moved away to Yorkshire in 2014 but had been a long serving member of Patshull Lodge No 6592 having been initiated into the lodge in 1968.

He was Installed as W.Master in 1979 and he went on to become Provincial Grand Treasurer in 1985 and Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1989.

Wyn was held in very high esteem in the lodge having served as Charity Steward, Almoner and Preceptor over the years, he again served as Worshipful Master in 2012 before moving to Yorkshire and joining St Cuthbert's. He was also an active member of Royal Arch and Rose Croix.

Also worthy of note is that Wyn has appeared on stage in over 100 plays and musicals over the years and was awarded a Diamond Bar to add to his Long Service Medal by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association for 60yrs service to Amateur Theatre.

W.Bro Jim Postans



Open Door at Gaol Square

On Saturday 9th September the Masonic Hall, Gaol Square, Stafford opened its doors to the general public for the first time. The building, which was once a chapel, was open from 12 noon until 4pm and members of the public were shown around the Lodge rooms by members of the lodges which meet there.

Prior to the open day, Chairman of the Stafford Masonic Club, W.Bro Peter Atkins said he hoped the event would dispel many of the myths surrounding Freemasonry and that this event would be the first of many. Members from the SMCA would be on hand to publicise more about the charitable work of Freemasonry which he felt the general public were unaware of.

Provincial Grand Mentor

David Watt was initiated into Lodge Alexandra, Glasgow No 1282, Scottish Constitution in 1970 whilst serving in the Royal Air



Force by his father, W Bro Thomas R. Watt MBE, Honorary Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Lodge of Scotland. In 1971 he joined Falcon Lodge 1416 in North Yorkshire. On moving to Sussex he joined Concorde Lodge 4798 in 1988 and was Master in 1998 and 1999. He was appointed as Provincial Grand Steward in Sussex in 1994 and progressed through the ranks to PGLGWS in 2014.

In 1989 he was made an Honorary Junior Warden at the Grand Lodge of Scotland for Lodge South, No. 1008, Farnham, Mid Sussex and he is now Deputy Senior Warden.

In 1990 he was made an Honorary Member of Hahnemann Lodge Eintrachtverein Burg No. 294, in Germany and in 1992, he was awarded the Grand Master's Roman Medal for services to the German Craft, one of only two non-German Masons to be given this honour.

On moving to live in Staffordshire in 1997 David became a joining member of the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge 9367 and became Master in 2005. David is also a past Master of Farnham Lodge 456, being in the Chair in 2012/2014.

David was appointed to Provincial Rank in Staffordshire in 2009 as Provincial Grand Pursuivant moving through the ranks to become Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 2014. This year, 2018, David was appointed to Grand Lodge as PGLGDC.

David is active in the Royal Arch, Knights Templar, Royal Order of Scotland and is a Scottish Misk Master Mason.

He is chairman of the Staffordshire Branch of the Masonic Hiking Clubby (MHC) and a founder member of the Staffordshire Masonic Clay Shooting Association.

David is a former engineer on North Sea oil rigs moving to International Sales and Marketing in 1988, a career that saw him travel widely and visit Lodges in Hong Kong, Singapore, Kenya, South Africa, Thailand, Philippines and USA.

Married to Rebecca, they have three sons, the eldest of whom is a Freemason. Two Misk Lodges complete the family.

THE FUTURE OF FREEMASONRY - UGLE STRATEGY

MEMBERSHIP

After the sad news of the passing of W. Bro Kevin Davis the plans to roll out the Membership initiative were delayed until such time as the new Provincial Master would be in Post. W. Bro David Watt has now taken on the role and following a productive meeting in July 2018 it has been decided that there will be a series of road shows to introduce and explain the initiative, to be held across the Province.

The initial session will be in November followed by two further briefings in December. The venues are likely to be West Bromwich, Aldridge and Shelton, but as yet not confirmed, also in attendance will be the Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works W. Bro Paul Molloy.

The intention is for all three of the past holders to discuss and describe to the Brethren the various elements of the UGLE 2015-2020 Strategy, and its potential for producing improvement across Freemasonry in general and with a specific focus on Staffordshire. There will also be ample time to ask questions to clarify everyone's understanding of the initiatives, and to download and install the membership application on to your mobile phone.

If you want to support your Brethren, your Masonic hall and your Province please get in touch with me, W. Bro Ralph Ritchey, the Provincial Membership Officer by email member@pglstaffordshire.co.uk. As a Province we cannot stand idly by whilst our numbers and our facilities continue to diminish. We all need to work together to preserve our current traditions.

W. Bro Ralph Ritchey

MENTORING

I am delighted to be carrying on the work of our late Brother and my personal friend, W. Bro. Kevin Davis.

To quote the M.W. Pro Grand Master.

"It has to be right to explain to a brother what he has joined and to help him enjoy his Masonry so that he wants to contribute to its future. The logical result from this is that, not only will he feel involved in the life of his Lodge, but he will feel confident to discuss Freemasonry with his family and friends".

It is to this end, I will address myself. The importance of the work of Lodge Mentors is, I feel, often underrated and working closely with W. Bro. Ralph Ritchey, our Provincial Membership Officer, and others as necessary, it will be my goal to provide such assistance to Lodge Mentors, to enable them to fully participate in making the Provincial Mentor and Membership Retention Schemes the success they deserve and require to be.

The dates and venues of the three "Road Shows", will be announced shortly. These "Road Shows", though specifically relevant to Lodge Mentors and Membership Officers, will be open to all Brethren who have an interest in the above topics. I am sure I can say that Bros. Ralph and Paul join me in welcoming the input of any and all Brethren who share our common goal. I sincerely request your attendance at the "Road Shows" and look forward to working with you all. I can be contacted at mentor@pglstaffordshire.co.uk

W. Bro. David Watt

MASONIC CENTRES

In the last edition of *Freemasonry Today*, R. W Bro John Paglia, Grand Superintendent of Works, referred to a short article reminding our Masonic Centre Committees about the help and advice that can be obtained from the document he refers to in that publication.

Coming into the role as the new Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works, part of that documentation from Grand Lodge asks each Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works to get up to speed with the properties within each of their Provinces in case assistance or guidance is needed in discovering what the Guidance Document contains and therefore offer a Committee an initial level of assistance before potentially seeking additional professional help. I can be contacted on supt.works@pglstaffordshire.co.uk

"...Our Masonic Centres should reflect the very best of what we can offer as Freemasons" is an underlying theme from R. W Bro Paglia. He went on to say, "Meeting rooms that identify and succeed in meeting the needs of the modern Freemason will undoubtedly encourage members to want to join". Diversification to generate income will offer opportunities to reduce capital and/or provide a building maintenance fund if one does not already exist.

But it's not a one-way street. Management Committees will also possess a wealth of their own knowledge of what works best for them. Sharing that knowledge will be an important part of the role for the Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works hence the opportunity to join in with the proposed "Road Shows" is seen as a very important step in the delivery of that message. The recent survey issued to the Committees will hopefully drive out this information once it has been analysed during the first part of the new Masonic season, the results of which will be featured in future editions of *Within Your Province*.

W. Bro Paul Molloy

Have you considered advertising your business in our magazine 'Within Your Province'. The twice yearly publication is delivered to over 3,000 members, families and widows in this province and many others.

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‘We will continue to work closely with Provinces and Districts to develop a clear strategy based on sound leadership and the involvement of our members, with a clear focus on future needs’

Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes



UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

THE FUTURE OF FREEMASONRY

2015-2020 OUR STRATEGY AT A GLANCE

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

We hope you find this at-a-glance guide to our strategy helpful. To get a more in-depth view and regular updates, register at

www.ugle.org.uk/mfg



Strategy at a glance

OUR VISION

To become openly recognised within our communities as the premier fraternal organisation

OUR VALUES

Integrity, respect, caring and concern for others, co-operation and charity

OUR 2020 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Effective **GOVERNANCE** at all levels
- Leadership Development programme first phase implemented
- Review and revise the governance arrangements of Grand Lodge

MEMBERSHIP

- Improved attraction and retention of members
- Membership will remain over 200,000
- Resignations before GL certificate will have reduced from 20% to less than 10%
- Local media coverage will enjoy incremental year-on-year growth of over 20%

MASONIC HALLS

- Developing financial sustainability
- Support structure in place
- Operating on a firm financial basis

OUR APPROACH

We will monitor our achievements and success, using modern media (including ‘push technology’) to communicate with and assist members to make the most of the opportunities that Freemasonry offers

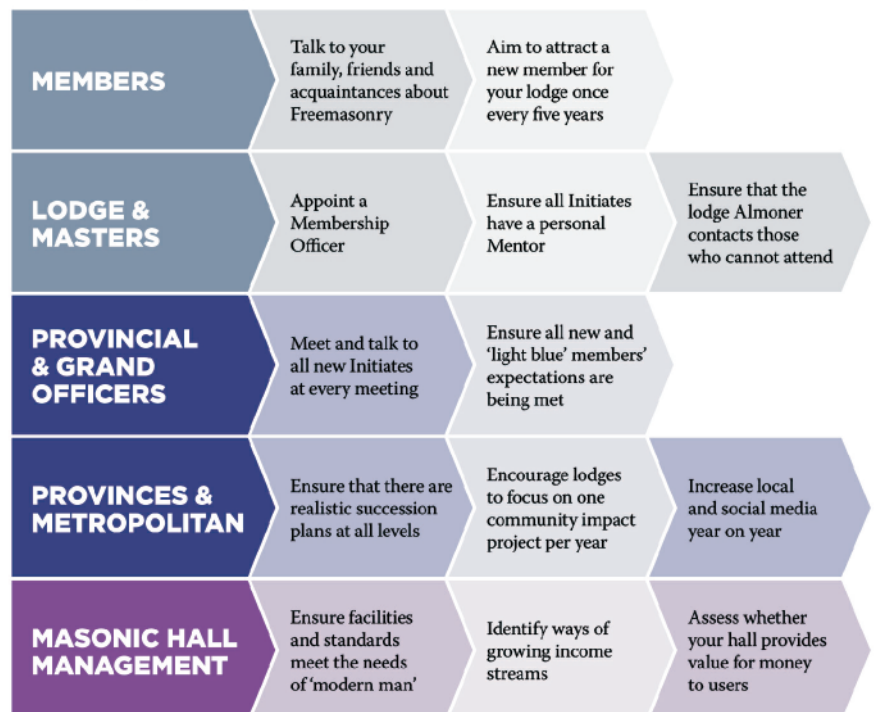
Get involved

Our members are our most vital commodity and this strategy can only be achieved if the vast majority of members are committed to supporting the strategy and its objectives

Did you know?

We have had over **18,000** responses to the surveys, helping the Membership Focus Group to shape the future of Freemasonry. Have your say – sign up at www.ugle.org.uk/mfg

How can you help?



Tettenhall War Memorial at St. Michael and All Angels Church

The origins of St. Michael and All Angels church are not really clear but a church has existed here since Saxon times and the Domesday Book contains the first recorded notice of Tettenhall church. The church has been destroyed, rebuilt, damaged, restored and extended many times over the centuries, the last time being when it was extensively damaged by fire in 1930.

Andy Boliver said: "It is wonderful that the memorial will be restored; it is the focal point of Tettenhall's remembrance activities and there is a very special commemoration planned on 11 November this year to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War".

The appeal for funds was made by the committee, subsequently



The war memorial at the church was erected and dedicated in 1920, it is a red sandstone cross and shaft on a plinth, with the names of the fallen from both the First and second World Wars recorded on panels around it. The sandstone has eroded over the years, as well as being attacked by vandals, resulting in damage to both the cross and shaft. It is in urgent need of repair.

approved by the SHACA and a grant of £500 was made towards their target from public donation. The committee are also working in conjunction with the City of Wolverhampton Council to secure funding and an application will be made on their behalf to the War Memorial Trust for a grant of up to 75% of the total cost.

On Friday 27th July a cheque was presented to Andy and the committee by W Bro D W Phillips and W Bro J B House.

A small group of people are working hard to raise £6,000 towards the total cost of restoring the memorial. Retired



teacher Andy Boliver, who lives in the village, is chair of the Tettenhall War Memorial Committee. Also involved is associate priest Allan Roberts, Phil Downing, Dennis Green, Bury Pickin, Jon Beasley from the council, former MP Rob Morris and Deputy Lieutenant Sylvia Parkin.

The Memorial Committee hopes to add the names of other Tettenhall residents who may originally have been omitted as well as the names of any men or women who have given their lives on active service since 1945 and is asking for information from local residents.

North Staffs Masonic Study Circle

The North Staffordshire Masonic Study Circle, is a small, informal group of masons that meet at Hanley Masonic Hall in Stoke on Trent. We are interested in the history of the Craft, its impact or perceived impact on the wider world, and the ideas that underpin Masonic thinking and ritual. In the past we have had speakers from across the province and beyond. Our talks last around 30 – 45 minutes and are normally followed by a question and answer session. The meetings are not formal Masonic meetings and as such we welcome non-masonic visitors who are interested in the Craft.

Wednesday 26th September 2018	W. Bro R Sherwin P. Pr G. Supt Wks, "Past Famous Masons"
Wednesday 28th November 2018	Bro J Holford, "Freemasonry & the American War of Independence"
Wednesday 23rd January 2019	W. Bro M Hargreaves P.Pr.S.G.D, "Sacred Geometry"
Wednesday 27th March 2019	W. Bro A Fear, "Seeing Stars: stellar symbolism in Freemasonry"

All meetings will be held at 7.30pm in Hanley Masonic Hall, Snow Hill, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 4NA.

Contact: W. Bro Andy Fear through the Provincial office or NSMSC@yahoo.com

Wolverhampton Study Circle

The Wolverhampton Masonic Study Circle, is open to all brethren and has now opened its doors and welcomes members of the Order of Women Freemasons. They have organised a provisional programme of events for the forthcoming year.

Wednesday 10th October 2018	W. Bro Joe F K Marzouk PAGDC 'Possibly the best Grand Master we never had.'
Wednesday 12th December 2018	A short presentation on Knight Templar Priests, Royal Order of Scotland and Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia.
Wednesday 13th February 2019	A Masonic talk on Lady Freemasons by W Bro Carolyn Carter (Local Inspector of OWF)
Wednesday 10th April 2019	A presentation by W Bro Mike Kearsley (Past Prestonian Lecturer)

All meetings will be held at 7.30pm at the Masonic Hall, Tettenhall Rd, Wolverhampton WV6 0DD.

Contact: W. Bro D C Orme through the Provincial Office 01902 745151

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Activities at Dartmouth Lodge

Dartmouth Lodge 662 who meet at West Bromwich, progressed two of its entered apprentices at their February meeting this year, but with a bit of a difference. A regular visitor to the Lodge is V. W. Bro Chris Langley-Kirke, Assistant Provincial Grand Master from the Balearic Islands who attends a number of their meetings during the year and at his request wanted to take part in the passing ceremonies of Bro Macleod and Bro Cooper.

The W.M. W. Bro Dave Hadley, was elated when W Bro Langley-Kirke agreed to act as the Senior Deacon for both of the passing ceremonies. He gave a perfect demonstration and said after he had a thoroughly enjoyable time and relished the opportunity to get involved in ceremonies once again. At the festive board after he said how much he enjoyed visiting Dartmouth Lodge and this would be a memorable occasion. Both Bro Macleod and Cooper said they were honoured to have such a distinguished Bro to lead them through the ceremony.

The photo shows Bro Chris Cooper, W Bro Chris Langley-Kirke APMG and Bro Duncan Macleod

W. Bro Boddy



Sending Scouts to World Jamboree in 2019

Two members of 20th Walsall Scout Group have been selected out of over 250 young people to represent the UK at the 24th World Scout Jamboree in 2019 which is taking place at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia, USA. Each scout has to fund the trip themselves and both of the Walsall scouts have been arranging fund raising activities to provide for this. Dartmouth Lodge became aware of this and were able to step in and help this by presenting cheques of £350.00 to each of the Scouts. Immediate Past Master W. Bro. John White with members of the Lodge are seen here



at the presentation in the Lodge Rooms in West Bromwich.

W. Bro David Brownhill

Jude Ethan Marrey Appeal

The Lodge was pleased to present a cheque for £350 to Rachael and Ian the parents of Jude Marrey, at a recent boating trip. The family are raising money to buy a Hydro bath to allow Jude to be bathed comfortably, as at just 12 weeks he was diagnosed with damage to the left side of his brain resulting in severe epilepsy and Cerebral Palsy.

W. Bro David Brownhill



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**In My Hand I Hold A Ball,
White And Dimpled, And Rather Small.
Oh, How Blind It Does Appear,
This Humble 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 Fire Of Hell.**

**My Life Has Not Been Quite The Same
Since I Chose To Play This Stupid Game.
It Ruins 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 Fun,
If I Hit It Straight And True.**

**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 Whiff,
To Hit A Tree Or Take A Whiff.**

**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 The Hole.**

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

The annual Provincial Wardens golf competition took place at Aston Wood GC, Little Aston on Tuesday 22nd May, with two teams of seven players taking part, representing each of the Provincial Wardens; W Bros Selwyn Burton and Phil Baker. The two teams do not know which of the Wardens they represent until after the competition and a tightly fought match saw the Provincial Junior Grand Wardens team claim victory. The day was concluded by an enjoyable meal and the presentation of the awards by society member P. Pr. G. M. Dr Sandy Stewart.

Phil Baker was duly awarded the trophy and was most generous in his victory speech whilst Selwyn was magnanimous in defeat. The player of the competition, Steve Mountford received a pack of three new top quality golf balls, which I'm told makes up for the three he lost!

The season having started with the rivalry between the Wardens, continued in May with a three-way competition with the Provincial teams from Warwickshire and Worcestershire at Bloxwich GC, rather pleasingly we retained the trophy. However, in June we visited Nottinghamshire GC for our annual match with that Province but the home team won the day



and unfortunately the theme continued in July when we travelled to Holme GC in Lincolnshire, when again local knowledge prevailed as the home team took the trophy from us.

A four-way match followed at Old Padeswood GC with the Provinces of Cheshire, North Wales and Shropshire where despite a valiant effort we came a close second to Cheshire.

A further close competition took place at Sand Moor GC near Leeds for the Six Counties competition hosted by Yorkshire – West Riding, but unfortunately another trophy was lost to a strong team from Derbyshire.



The Provincial competitions took place in August when we played at Stafford Castle GC for the Valon Cup and John Derry was victorious, whilst Tony Usherwood claimed the Denne Shield.

The golfing season continues into September with the Provincial Grand Master's Trophy at The Chase GC where our annual fund raising draw will take place.

The programme for next year will be announced and published on the website, but if you are a golfer and are interested in joining our friendly society please make contact with me, our society secretary through the Provincial office.



Mark Ashton

MINIATURE

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South Cheshire Golf Society

The South Cheshire Golf Society (SCGS) was formed in 1976, and although formed as a Masonic golf society it is also open to non-masons. The aim of SCGS is to enable children and their parents to improve their lives by giving independence to a child through mobility and as such raise money to purchase specialised wheelchairs for children with special needs.

Each year the society raises money to purchase specialised tailor made wheelchairs and this is done by organising competitive golf days at some of the best courses in the area. The society has raised over £270,000 over the years and they have supplied over 50 specialised wheelchairs which can cost up to £10,000.

These wheelchairs are provided not just for children within the Province of Cheshire but also neighbouring Provinces.

SCGS raised a substantial amount to fund a wheelchair for Imogen Byrne, a young 15 year old girl who resides in Staffordshire and who needed the wheelchair to cope with everyday life. They then approached Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association to assist and after consideration a special grant was made and a wheelchair purchased for her.

On Thursday 21st June SCGS organised an event at Eastham GC where Cheshire PGM R W Bro Stephen Blank and Staffordshire PGM R W Bro John Lockley attended. Also present were the Provincial Grand Charity Stewards Harry Wright and John Skellern together with a number of dignitaries and invited guests for the presentation of another three wheelchairs.

Unfortunately Imogen was unwell and unable to attend but her parents Andrew and Jane sent a message.

“We would like to thank all members and supporters for their fund raising efforts to supply Imogen with a powered wheelchair. Without this she would not be able to have the freedom to do what she wants to do, and go where she wants to go.



Even the simple things like taking her dog for a walk have become possible, things that most people take for granted. Even at school the powered chair enables her to keep up with her peers, safely transition between lessons and even access science experiments. The joy that these chairs bring to children that need them are immense. To say they are life changing is not an exaggeration. The countless smiles that Imogen has when out and about are so great compared to when she has to deal with other less pleasant times. Many, many thanks.”

W Bro Noel Martin, secretary of SCGS commented “It may only seem a small thing, but giving a child a powered wheelchair not only changes the life of the child, it opens up the world for the whole family. I would like to thank everyone who has donated and supported us over the years, enabling a child to enjoy their life just that little bit more.”

The Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club was formed some years ago and is for ladies with Masonic connections (husband, partner or a relative) and their female guests; we have meetings held once a month on a Wednesday between September and May at Hanley Masonic Hall, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent. We enjoy a nice meal and are entertained by a speaker, we also raise money for local charities.

We were recently very surprised and proud to receive a ‘Special Recognition Award’ for 2017 when members attended the Deafvibe Hart Awards Ceremony in June. The three ladies who attended the ceremony were Shirley Stanley who works very closely with Deafvibe on our behalf, Sharon Tomblin joint co-ordinator and myself, Kath Roberts club Secretary.



DEAFvibe aims to support people with a hearing and dual sensory loss as well as their families, friends and carers in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. It is DEAFvibe’s belief that all Deaf, Deaf with speech, hard of hearing, Deafened and Deaf blind should be treated equally and with respect, that access to information & communication is provided without barriers or prejudice and to promote equal participation and opportunities in life.

Deafvibe were one of our chosen charities last year and as a result of this a delightful friendship developed, resulting in The Wednesday Club commissioning a painting of The Masonic Hall by Andrew Dawson from Deafvibe. The Club duly raised money by various means including the raffle of the painting, enabling us to donate in total £550 to Deafvibe and the winner of the painting kindly donated it to the Masonic Hall, where it currently hangs and takes pride of place for all to see.

Kath Roberts



The photograph depicts Shirley Stanley, Sharon Tomblin, Andrew Dawson, Kath Roberts and Julie Hart

Contributions, ideas or suggestions will be welcomed by the Editor,

W. Bro. Neil Fantarrow

by e-mail to editor@pglstaffordshire.co.uk

*or by post to Neil Fantarrow, c/o Provincial Grand Lodge ,
211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DD.*

Father Hudson's Care

Father Hudson's Care 'Young at Heart' is a community based project which runs friendship groups in Hanley, Kidsgrove and Meir Heath areas to befriend isolated older people and provide social opportunities. There are lunch clubs, social clubs and outings, offering a wide range of activities for people to take part in that improve their health and wellbeing. The activities include exercise classes, crafts, bingo, games, healthy eating sessions and much more. Speakers also visit to offer information on wide-ranging topics such as healthy living, benefits, staying safe in the home and more.

A part of this is now going to be directed at isolated older men who are experiencing loneliness in the Stoke area, they are going to benefit from new services just for them, following a £74,000 grant from Staffordshire Freemasons. The grant comes through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by Freemasons, their families and friends, from across England and Wales.

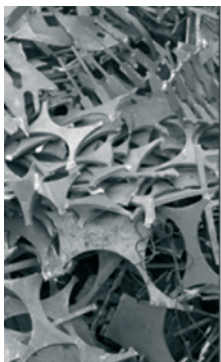
Because of the grant, Father Hudson's Care can now expand its Young at Heart project and develop a new scheme that will reach out to older men. The project will help them feel less lonely, grow their social networks, be more active, get involved in the community and find their purpose again.

Research shows that loneliness is as harmful as smoking fifteen cigarettes a day. People who are lonely are more likely to develop dementia, heart disease or suffer a stroke. They're also more likely to suffer with depression or commit suicide. Stoke has the highest male suicide rate in the West Midlands and the fifth highest in the country. Reducing depression that comes with isolation is a key aim of the new project.

Drawing on Stoke's industrial heritage, the new project will offer activities that have a goal in mind and that encourage men to use their skills to benefit the project and their wider community. The project will offer both workshop-based and outdoor activities. It will have its own allotment where men can grow vegetables for the lunch clubs offered by Young at Heart. It will also offer social groups, with guest speakers and the opportunity to learn new skills.



The cheque was presented by P.G.M. Rt W. Bro John Lockley on Monday 23rd July 2018 to Matt Ford the Young at Heart project coordinator, who is most passionate and committed to this project. Matt gave a very interesting talk to those present and said: "We're very grateful to Staffordshire Freemasons for their generous grant which will allow us to make a big difference to older men in our community. It's mostly women that come to social groups, so men often feel that the groups are only for women. Getting men involved can be a real challenge – they won't admit they're lonely and they won't ask for help. They might be depressed but feel like they can't show it. We want to do something about it."



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Walton Walker & Sandwell Centenary



Members of the Lodge and distinguished guests

On 29th May 2018 Walton Walker & Sandwell Lodge celebrated their Centenary. The lodge was formed due to the restlessness of members of both Noah's Ark and Dartmouth Lodges having to wait over 20 years to reach the Master's chair.

The lodge was named after Colonel George Walton Walker who was a prominent solicitor in West Bromwich and Wolverhampton and was Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire at the time. He was installed as the first Worshipful Master but sadly died before being able to complete his year. The lodge maintains his grave located nearby, after it was refurbished and re-dedicated in a service of commemoration held in July 2014. The lodge was the first in the Staffordshire to be awarded the status of Hall Stone lodge and in fact Sandwell Lodge 4073 also became a Hall Stone lodge, two out of the thirteen remaining in the province. Almost 800 meetings have since taken place and following the amalgamation with Sandwell Lodge in 2009, and the creation of a Festival Lodge of Instruction now in its 53rd season, it is a most active and vibrant lodge in the province. Many leading businessmen have graced the WM chair, not least of whom was Sir F.A. "Dad" Millship who was Chairman of the Football Association when we last won the World Cup!



The lodge was delighted to present the Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £3000 towards the 2024 Festival (£5,000 in total this year), and announced further donations made during the masonic year of over £2,500 to various local and national charities such as The Samaritans,

Sandwell Young Carers, two women's refuges and a local scout group plus an extra donation to the maintenance of Edward Street Masonic Hall to help towards the superb work done by the Hall Chairman and his small team of helpers.

The PGM surprised the lodge by promoting W. Bro. Alf Pritchard to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden in recognition of his continued support to the lodge even in his 91st year. There was even one member present older than the lodge, W. Bro. Ray Truman at 102 who still delivers the address to the brethren every installation. Other distinguished guests were Past PGM's Kevin Chומר and Sandy Stewart and Past DFGM Gary Road. Altogether we were pleased to host 18 acting provincial officers who all contributed towards a most enjoyable and well organized event. Almost 100 sat down to a superb festive board where a further \$618 was raised for charity. Every person present was given a 150 page copy of the History of the lodge containing a brief summary of every meeting plus many other facts about the lodge, and a silver glass suitably inscribed.

W. Bro Alex Hill

A Double Celebration at Dove Lodge No 8519

At the regular Lodge meeting of Dove Lodge on Thursday 25th November 2017, there was a very special double celebration. With the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro M S Rowie in attendance, accompanied by the Assistant Provincial Director of Ceremonies, W Bro Scott Wilkins, the lodge saw the presentation of two certificates from the Provincial Grand Master.

The first was to W Bro George Henry Steele, a PM of Dove Lodge (Master in 2015 & 2016), for 50 years in Freemasonry. W Bro Steele was initiated into William Regus Lodge No 2823 in London in November 1967. He was Master in 1977, before embarking on travels including some years in the Royal Navy, retiring as Lieutenant. He is also involved in many other worthy institutions, not least the Royal Order of Scotland where he is Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and SEAMA, which he continues to serve at a high level. W Bro George is resident in Weston near Stafford, and was a joining member of Dove Lodge in April 2012. By command of the Provincial Grand Master, W Bro John Lockley, a 50 year certificate was presented to W Bro Steele by the AFGM. W Bro Rowie, also, to the surprise of W Bro Steele, awarded him the Provincial rank of FFRSGD as a field promotion.



Shortly after this, the AFGM was further pleased to bestow a 60 year certificate in Freemasonry to W Bro Bernard Leith Nightingale FFRJGW. W Bro Nightingale regaled the lodge with a round-up of his long and distinguished record in Freemasonry and his travels and successes in the business world. Particularly mentioning the part

he played as a midshipman on a frigate as part of the 'D' Day landings in 1944 in Normandy. W Bro Nightingale, now in his 90s, is still an active member of Dove Lodge, particularly at ceremonies such as installation and regularly takes part in the third degree ceremony. W Bro Bernard was Master of Dove Lodge in 1986 and again in 2011.

The Festive Board saw further celebration when Bros Steele and Nightingale were treated to a celebratory Festive Board. The AFGM again congratulated the two brethren and Dove Lodge for a thoroughly enjoyable and possibly "unique" occasion.



Drive a Steam Locomotive for the 2024 Festival

Come and enjoy the remarkable sensation of opening the regulator and experiencing the amazing power of steam !

Steam Experiences now on your Doorstep

'Billy May' has now moved to the Woodseaves Miniature Railway near Market Drayton, far more convenient than before - 30 Minutes from the Potteries, Wolverhampton and Stafford.

"That sudden surge of steam power !

You have to experience it to believe it !"



Proceeds from all steam experiences will go towards the 2024 Festival.

The railway shares the same location as the Woodseaves Plant Nursery, so there is ample opportunity to view the nursery and buy plants for the garden while enjoying what the railway has to offer. A grand day out for couples as well as individuals. Minimum age of 18 for the steam experience should pose few problems

The railway itself offers a continual run which can take over fifteen minutes to complete and you will be pulling passenger stock which will be available for family, friends and partners to share your delight.

The day starts with greasing round, oiling and firing up the locomotive. Following an introductory ride around the system for familiarisation purposes, you take over on the footplate for the rest of the day with full supervision and instruction there behind you.



Tea, coffee and cakes are readily available but there will be an opportunity to do a fry-up on the shovel which adds to the fun but is not obligatory. We've been known to do jacket potatoes in the smoke box as well.

You will be sent detailed introductory notes with illustrations well in advance so that you can familiarize yourself with all aspects of the locomotive's operation and the topography of the system.

Cost for the whole experience will be £100.

For further details and to arrange a booking please contact Paul Ashcroft on

01630 673814

or e-mail ashcroftjpaul@yahoo.co.uk



It's becoming difficult to get W. Bro. David Stott off the footplate.



This is where you will be sitting on your steam experience day.