



# Within Your Province

The Magazine for Staffordshire Freemasons

Spring 2019



Issue 42



Kindly sponsored by

St Giles Lodge No 1587, Sutherland Lodge of Unity No 460, London Staffs Chapter No 4474

## Let's make the 2024 Festival really take off



**Burns Night  
Celebration - page 11**



**Staffordshire Genius  
page 18**



**Freemasonry thrives at  
Aldridge - page 26**





# A Message from the Provincial Grand Master

As you read this item, we will be at the start of spring and new growth all around us with new challenges. Almost one year on and our fund raising for the 2024 continues to grow. I ask you to support your Lodge Festival Steward in his important task in growing the number of regular giving forms, as his success will determine the outcome of our efforts for the festival. It would be wonderful so see every brother proudly wearing his festival jewel demonstrating his personal support. The year started with a fantastic Burns Night at Stafford County Show Ground bringing many brethren in highland dress ensuring a good time was had by all. Thank you to everyone who attended as you raised in excess of £7000.00 on the night for the festival, wow a magnificent sum. Very many thanks must also go to the organising committee who ensured the evening was a great success. The festival committee have laid down a challenge for me taking place in June to hurl myself off the top of a Welsh mountain being sponsored to stay in one piece, I hope. The proceeds will of course be going to the festival fund. Sponsorship forms will soon be with you so please be generous. There is more on this challenge in the magazine, and I expect more challenges will follow.

Our membership remains strong and again I pay tribute to the membership development team for the important role they play in ensuring we meet the needs and expectations of our members. To all who have become freemasons in the previous year and to those joining us in 2019 I bid you a sincere and warm welcome to our Province and the worldwide fraternity of freemasonry. Take time to enjoy your masonic journey as the rewards are many. We have introduced a new member's guide which contains the answers to many of those questions a new mason has but forgets to ask. This year also sees the launch of Solomon the on-line learning and development programme from United Grand Lodge <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>.

We continue to support our community both masonic and non-masonic under the watchful eye of our Provincial Grand Almoner and Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

This year we have already begun the prostate cancer screening programme with 100 freemasons already examined and more clinics at Shelton and Aldridge. Special thanks to Consultant Urologist Joyti Shah and her team for running the programme for us, as they give freely of their time and talents. We in turn are proud to support her cancer screening charity with money from the SMCA which is saving lives.

I wish to congratulate all those brethren who will be invested or appointed to Grand Rank in April and those to Provincial Grand Rank in May. These appointments not only recognise the work you have done in the past for the Craft but the work you will continue to do in the future.

Thank you for making me and the Provincial team welcome whenever we have visited your lodges.

Thank you for being Freemasons and for being my friends as without you there is no Province. We are a force for good in the world, be proud of being a Freemason.

God bless you all. John.



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](mailto:editor@pglstaffordshire.co.uk) or by post to Neil Fantarrow, c/o Provincial Grand Lodge Office, 211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DD.

Publication is made possible by the support of our advertisers and readers are requested to support them whenever possible. When doing so, please mention that you saw the advertisement in *Within Your Province*. If you are a non-Masonic reader who would like to know more about Freemasonry, please visit our website, [www.pglstaffordshire.co.uk](http://www.pglstaffordshire.co.uk) or contact the Provincial Office at the address below.

*Within Your Province* is published on the authority of the Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Staffordshire, R.W. Bro. John Lockley Provincial Grand Lodge Office, 211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DD. Telephone and Fax 01902 745151, e-mail [secretary@pglstaffordshire.co.uk](mailto:secretary@pglstaffordshire.co.uk)

Produced by David Bowyer Print and Design, Stafford. 01785 253060. Email: [dave@db-print.co.uk](mailto:dave@db-print.co.uk)

© Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire.

## 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

VW Bro D G Read PGSwdB

Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master  
St John's Lodge of Lichfield No1039  
Foster Gough Lodge No 2706

W Bro J A Hammond PJGD PPrJGW

Bromwic Lodge No 6773  
Foster Gough Lodge No 2706

W Bro B W Dale PAGDC PPrJGW

Menturia Lodge No418  
Foster Gough Lodge No 2706

W Bro R T Bradshaw PAGDC PPrSGW

Queeselet-St James' Lodge No6887  
Foster Gough Lodge No 2706

W Bro S Cooper PAGDC PPrJGW

Mercia Lodge No 3995

### Provincial Grand Lodge

W Bro G R Checketts

Lodge of Honour No 526

W Bro J R Lewis

Gordon Lodge No 2149

W Bro L Homer

Josiah Wedgwood Lodge No 2214

W Bro P N R Taylor

St Michael's Lodge No 2487

W Bro R G Trueman

Walton Walker & Sandwell No 3847

W Bro J H Snelson

John O'Gaunt Lodge No 4054

W Bro J R Caswell

Tibbington Lodge No 4927

W Bro H I Parker

Old Denstonian Lodge No 5490

W Bro D H Galbraith

Lodge of St John No 6320

W Bro K G Richards

Lodge of St John No 6320

W Bro G J Millman

Sherbrook Lodge No 6393

W Bro R C Evans

Patshull Lodge No 6592

W Bro I G Deeth

Castellum Lodge No 6710

W Bro R Ellison

Seagrim Lodge No 8161

W Bro E M Thomas

Kibblestone Lodge No 9504



## R.E.Kt David Gary Read, Knight Commander of the United Orders and Provincial Prior of the Province of Staffordshire and Shropshire



On Wednesday, 30th January 2019, the Knight Templar Province was shaken to the core by the sudden and tragic death of their much respected and beloved leader, R.E.Kt David Gary Read. Everyone who knew Gary have their abiding and fond memories of him. A brilliant comedic wit he had a ready smile for everyone. He was a giant of a man and that was not a reference to his stature. He was a giant in his friendliness towards every member of our Order, especially those who had just joined. His compassion to all those that were ill or in any need whatsoever. His love that he had for his wife, Vivienne, during the long time they had together and the love shown to the very end of his daughter Stephanie and, the apple of his eye, his teenage grandson, Joseph and lastly, his sense of duty, commitment and responsibly towards our Order and Freemasonry in general.

David Gary Read was born on the 9th June, 1944 in Wellington, Shropshire. His mother was an opera singer and had auditioned at Covent Garden but, unfortunately, she died at a very young age. He was then brought up by his father in his home village of Rhosllanerchrugog, North Wales where he was a tenor in the Rhos Male Voice Choir. Unfortunately, Gary did not inherit a singing voice from his parents but he did show a great ability at a young age and that was in drawing and art.

He was educated at Rhos Boys School where all the lessons were taught in Welsh and, latterly, at Wrexham College now Wrexham University. He had the accolade of being the first on record to be top in art throughout the whole of his school life. During the time at Wrexham College he won a national competition for a painting depicting a scene with Jesus carrying the cross just before the crucifixion, named "The Great Day".

Leaving school they wanted him to follow art as a career. However, he believed that Art was in no way going to earn him a regular income so due to his studies in interior decorating and design and management he obtained employment as a manager with a national industrial decorating contracting company. After five years he started his own decorators merchants business continuing in contracting. Over the years his business portfolio increased with a hardware shop, giftware shop, a café and he could not resist an art gallery - which was in Lichfield. In 2006 he sold his businesses and went into retirement.

He joined Round Table at the age of 27 and served in all the offices becoming Chairman in 1975 and served on the National Committee, retiring at 40 due to their rules. He then joined the 41 Club for Past Tablers and was Chairman in 1990 and remained a member to his death.

In Freemasonry Gary was initiated into St. Johns Lodge of Lichfield No. 1039 in February 1980 and was Master in 1990. In the Craft Province of Staffordshire he held the ranks of Provincial Grand Sword Bearer (1996), Provincial Senior Grand Warden (1999), Assistant Provincial Grand Master (2004) and Deputy Provincial Grand Master (2009).

In the UGLE he held the ranks of PAGDC (2002), PSGD (2005) and PGSwdB (2009)



In the United Orders he was installed as a Knight Templar in William de Ferrars Preceptory No. 530 in 1988 and was Eminent Preceptor in 1999. In Provincial Priory he was appointed Provincial Deputy Marshal (1999), Provincial Marshal (2005), Provincial Sub-Prior (2007) and Provincial Prior (2009).

In Great Priory he was appointed P.Gt.A-de-C (2002), P.Gt.Std.B.(B) (2007), Provincial Prior (2009) and KCT (2017). He also held senior rank in the Royal Arch, Rose Croix, Knights Templar Priests, Knights Beneficent of the Holy City and St.Thomas of Acon.

In our Order he will be also remembered for his push to raise funds for the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, spearheaded so well by his bodyguard. In recent years the Province raised enough money to send St. John's Ambulance cadets to the Hospital on two separate occasions with each pair taking with them a generous

donation from the Knights of Staffordshire & Shropshire.

In 2018 he challenged the Province to take part in the Hospital's Swift Appeal. This meant raising £5,000 more for the hospital during the year than had been done the previous year. He was not disappointed in his Province's response for the challenge was not only met but was doubled. The result is that not only will we have one bronze swift inscribed with the name of the Province but there will now be a second bronze swift and that will be dedicated to the memory of David Gary Read. Both swifts will be hung on the tree on the site of the original Hospital in the Old Town of Jerusalem at Muristan. A number his Knights and their families will be visiting the Holy Land at the end of October this year to visit the Hospital and see the swifts on display, which will be extremely moving.

Modifying the words of the Craft "Gary lived so well respected and died so much regretted,"



## Meet The Provincial Grand Wardens 2019 - 2020

### W. Bro Jeremy Roberts Provincial Senior Grand Warden

Jeremy was initiated into Streetly Lodge No. 7448 on 26th January 2001 by his father; Brian. Jeremy's grandfather was the first initiate of the lodge. Jeremy served as the Worshipful Master in 2009, he is currently the lodge Treasurer and Steward. He has also served as Secretary, Charity Steward, Director of Ceremonies and Organist.

In Provincial Grand Lodge he was appointed as a Provincial Grand Steward in 2011. He promptly joined the Staffordshire Provincial Grand Steward's Lodge No. 9567 and is presently the Treasurer.

In 2014 he was promoted to Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and a year later to Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies where he remained for 3 years.

He is also a member of Foster Gough Lodge No. 2706.

He is active in the Royal Arch and became First Principal in March 2018 of The Chapter of Honour No. 526 in Wolverhampton.

After studying Theology at University, he left and moved into sales. He spent many years in the electrical manufacturing industry rising to the position of Sales Director. He is an owner of a children's day nursery in Redditch, Worcestershire with his wife. He is also the Sales Manager for an electronic communications company.

Married to Trudie for 20 years, he has 4 four children. Interests include music, where he has played keyboard / piano and sung in a band. He is a level 2 Royal Yachting Association qualified sailor.



### W. Bro Andrew Mapperson Provincial Junior Grand Warden

Andrew was initiated into the Lodge of Concord and Benevolence No. 7150 in London in 1976 and became its youngest Master in 1983. He was also a member of the Chapter with the same name and became First Principal in 1985.

In 1981 Andrew became the youngest Founder of the Wheel of Fellowship Lodge No. 9016 in Maldon, Essex and served as Master in 1989 and 2012, and as Lodge Secretary. In Staffordshire Andrew became a member of Etruscan Lodge No. 546 and served as Master in 2006, 2007 and 2012. He is also a member of Foster Gough Lodge No. 2706 and a Founder of the University Lodge of Staffordshire No. 9907. In Staffordshire Provincial Grand Lodge he was appointed as P.S.G.D. in 2011 and P.Pr.J.G.W. in 2017.

In the Royal Arch he has served as First Principal in the Etruscan Chapter and was appointed as P.D.G.D.C. in 2006 and then promoted to Provincial Scribe Nehemiah in 2017.

After studying Management Studies Andrew became a member of the Institute of Purchasing and Supply and has been involved in the Vehicle Manufacturing Industry with Ford, JCB and his own Company Highfield Associates for many years and is now the owner of an electrical component company.

Married to Jackie for 40 years he has 2 adult children and 2 grand children. Interests include all sports but particularly Football; he is an active referee and also the Chairman of Foley Meir FC. In addition he is also a Referee Instructor and a qualified ballroom dancing teacher.

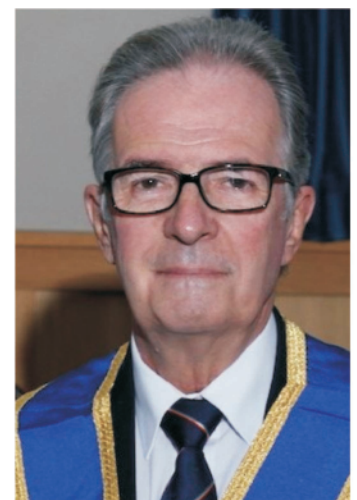


## Advice for the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting

Brethren, you may have already received the Summons for the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting, to be held at the Stafford Showground on Tuesday 14th May 2019, commencing at 5.00pm. This meeting is open to all brethren who are Master Masons and above and it is hoped that ALL Lodges within the Province of Staffordshire are represented.

If you are attending the meeting, there are a number of important briefing matters that you should be aware of, as follows:

- There will **NOT** be a separate briefing for 'Appointed and Promoted Officers', as in previous years.
- Please arrive at the Venue in good time to be seated by **4.15pm** prompt.
- Worshipful Masters and Lodge Wardens should wear their lodge collars of office.
- The newly appointed 'Active Provincial Officers' are to collect their respective collar jewels on arrival, in the reception foyer from the Prov. Assist. G. Sec, therefore please arrive in good time to receive them and attach it to your collar before the commencement of the meeting.
- The newly appointed and promoted officers will have a designated seat in the temple, therefore please arrive in good time to locate it. There will be two P.G.L. Stewards available to assist you and direct you.
- There will be a briefing by myself from the stage at **4.25pm**.
- When the 'Appointment & Investiture of Officers' item of the agenda takes place, if you are the recipient of an **Active Provincial Office OR First Appointment to a Past Provincial Rank**, you are required to **REMOVE** your collar before being presented to the R. W. P. G. M. for Investiture.
- If you are being **Promoted to a Past Provincial Rank**, you are required to **WEAR** your collar when being presented to the R.W.P.G.M., who will congratulate you.
- The Breast Jewels to be worn are the Royal Arch Jewel and the 2024 Festival Jewel (if appropriate) **OR** the Tercentenary Jewel only. No other Jewels are to be worn i.e. Founder's Jewels, Past Master's Jewels etc.
- At the close of the P.G.L. Meeting, Active Provincial Officers are to return to the temple for a Provincial Photograph to be taken.
- Please be reminded that all **Mobile Phones should at least be in 'Silent' mode, preferably SWITCHED OFF.**



I hope this advice is helpful to all brethren who are attending and I hope you all have a most enjoyable meeting.

W. Bro. John E.G. Brackpool –  
Prov. G. D. C.

Thanks to the Provincial G.D.C. for this and his previous article which was mistakenly attributed to W. Bro J. Roberts



# Membership Matters

The Provincial Grand Mentor, the Provincial G. Supt Wks and I have now delivered three 'workshops' at West Bromwich, Shelton and Aldridge lodge rooms during November and December 2018, in all some 43 Lodges were represented with 73 members in attendance. The delivery team would like to thank all of those who attended for their positive feedback and the many offers of help to become involved in the initiatives presented which will be followed up shortly. There are additional sessions being delivered in Burton and Wolverhampton during March 2019 as well as requests from individual Lodges being facilitated by the team.

As with any organisation there continues to be a steady number of individuals interested in joining Freemasonry and as these are received they are forwarded to Lodges according to the candidates requirements, a typical example being Mr Alexander Kay who is an MSc student working at JCB who was referred to Foresters Lodge and is now progressing with his membership.

## Solomon

Solomon is the new initiative from UGLE that focuses on knowledge relating to the Craft and Royal Arch. It is now alive and kicking within the Province as individuals, Lodges and Chapters get to grips with the variety of its content. Solomon provides interesting and accessible material that, if well-chosen and well delivered, will complement or even replace a ceremony and can be accessed by using the website address or the QR code which has been forwarded to all Lodge Secretaries. The delivery team have also distributed Solomon banners to Wolverhampton, Shelton and Burton which have additional information on them and it is hoped that Lodges and Chapters will include the QR code and website address on their summons.



The Province has developed a **Learning, Delivery and Inclusion (LDI) Strategy** which will address many of the issues and concerns that we face regarding our membership and the approaches that we need to take to ensure that we include each and every one of us within the Province.

This is a first for the Province and it has been developed by listening to many of our members who want to promote the benefits of Freemasonry to all, if you want to get involved or add to our strategy please contact me the Provincial Membership Officer by e-mail at [members@pglstaffordshire.co.uk](mailto:members@pglstaffordshire.co.uk)

*W. Bro Ralph Ritchey Provincial Membership Officer*



If you're visiting Staffordshire County Show this year on Wednesday 29th or Thursday 30th May be sure to call in at the Province's stand A24.

You'll be welcomed by David Watt and the team - and made even more welcome if you could help out, even if just for a short time, in promoting the charitable work done by Freemasons across Staffordshire.



**WE ARE FAMILY RUN AND OPERATED, FULLY QUALIFIED IN THE FIELD OF GROUND CARE AND TURF CULTURE MANAGEMENT, FULLY INSURED, AND MEMBERS OF TRADE BODIES... WE ARE ACTUALLY MAD ABOUT LAWNS!**

WE AIM TO PRODUCE BEAUTIFUL GREEN HEALTHY LAWNS THAT PASS BEYOND YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

NO HIDDEN CHARGES, COST OR SURPRISES.

Give us a call today on **01782 899933** or visit our website [www.madaboutlawns.co.uk](http://www.madaboutlawns.co.uk)

£72\* PER YEAR  
all inclusive!

we will take on  
**any lawn in any condition**  
and return it back to being  
**just beautiful grass!**

We feed your grass through the whole 12 month season with exactly the right macro and micro nutrients necessary to cater for the lawns changing needs at different times of the year. At **MadAboutLawns** we:

- **Make your grass lush green and beautiful to the envy of all your neighbours.**
- **Kill moss, weeds, disease and pests.**
- **Strengthen and harden the blades so that they become more resilient to disease, weeds and pest.**
- **Provide aeration and scarification.**
- **Revitalize and condition soil beds.**
- **Solve dry patch problems.**
- **Repair bald spots.**

All our products are organic. Instantly pet and children safe.  
\*Prices may vary depending on treatment.





# News from the Provincial Grand Almoner

## Masonic Support – A Mason's Story

I'm often asked about support from the Masonic Charitable Foundation and how it assists the Brethren of our Province and their families.

Whilst I can tell you stories about what can be provided and assist with applications there's no better way to tell you about these grants than by introducing you to someone who has been a recipient and knows first-hand about the process and support that is available.

Meet Mark Sewell from Castellum Lodge in Newcastle. The story that follows is his journey of support for him and his family.



"I joined Freemasonry in 2006 I was initiated into Birchwood lodge 5178 in the Province of Hertfordshire. I did not know anything about Freemasonry, or the work carried out around the globe. I even thought that the lodge I joined was the only one. From that start I learned that I had thousands of Brothers around the world all of similar mind set.

My story with the Masonic Charitable Foundation starts when in July 2011, I was racing my Honda at Mallory Park.

It was a fantastic day, Sunny, warm and all of my Family and close friends were with me. At approximately 4.25pm at the end of the start and finish straight reaching 125mph I applied the front brake at the 100-yard marker (to feel a snapping sensation through the bike)

At this point there was no brake from the front of my Honda. It is true everything slows right down as you enter into an accident. I remember looking at my front brake lever, then at the corner, lying the bike into the right hander to get as far as I could before I ran out of track, I remember seeing my leg being broken (in 5 places I learned after), I remember putting the bike down on its right hand side, I even remember seeing it slide away from me. Everything went extremely fast as I caught the rumble strip with my tender bottom. From this point it was a blur to say the least. It's only from watching the race from the TV playback that I saw why. Instead of sliding graciously onto the grass by catching the rumble strip I was thrown upwards and barrel rolled quite viciously (apparently, I scored well on the dismount and the cartwheels but lost points on the floor work) Marshals are like masons when it comes to a sick sense of humour brethren.

Forward 6 months and while lying in a hospital bed only able to see the ceiling I was given the Masonic magazine and as I opened it a small card fell out with MCF with a phone number to call if you required help.

I must explain that at this point Brethren I was at the lowest mentally and physically (You may say perhaps from circumstances of unavoidable calamity and misfortune, are I was reduced to the lowest ebb of poverty and distress. I had lost all income from the 3 companies I owned. Turned my family's world upside down and lost the will to carry on.

My injuries meant that I would be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of my life, leaving my children to grow up without the physical support that a father gives and my wife as my permanent carer.

The MCF went on to support me and my family up until the start of 2019 when I won my case for mechanical defect on my bike. For eight years my Lodge Almoner and Provincial Grand Almoners were there for me; guiding me through the application process and supporting my case with the MCF. Through their help and advice, all freely given, I was able to continue with my life albeit swapping my motorcycle for a wheelchair. My family were able to do what they wanted continuing through university and all the time I was supported.

## The Masonic Charitable Foundation

What is the Masonic Charitable Foundation?

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



## Financial

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

## Health

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

## Family

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

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

- We define a strong family connection as a Freemason's:
- married or life partner
- widow or surviving partner; divorced or separated partner;
- child (under 25) in full-time education

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

I want to take you back to The Mason, As Freemason's we are Good Men, Proud Men, Men who will at the drop of a hat help a brother or friend in time of need.

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

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

I would not be here today Brethren if it was not for the small calling card that was in the Masonic Magazine, The help from MCF W.Bro Alan Walker, W.Bro John Skellern, W.Bro John Derry, W.Bro Ralph Howarth all Provincial Grand Almoners from 2011 through to 2019.

But most of all, W.Bro Mick Palfreman, who invited me to join this wonderful family.

Please Brethren we are here to help, we love to help. It's not an embarrassment to swallow your pride and ask, remember tomorrow it could be you that needs help and support."

Okay, that described the journey of one of our Brethren – but what about the Province as a whole?

In 2018 Freemasons and their families; 89 beneficiaries to be precise; received support to a total of nearly £160,000.

In the first quarter of 2019 £32,400 had been given to those applying for support. Bear in mind that all of the grant recipients have these reviewed every year and the support can continue as long as it is needed and they qualify.

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

*Ralph J Howarth  
Provincial Grand Almoner*



**OVERVIEW OF OUR WORK IN STAFFORDSHIRE**  
IN 2017/18

We helped **47** people from the masonic community

This includes:  
**£83,609** of grants for daily living expenses  
**£23,943** of support for health needs  
**£48,313** to cover educational opportunities and quality care

**7** people accessed our counselling careline

Our Advice & Support Team carried out **40** home visits to support the masonic community

We also supported **9** of your local charities with **£109,232** in grants

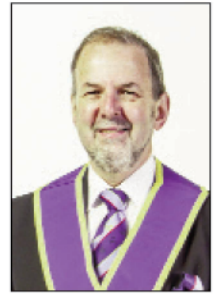
Support for masonic families totalled **£155,865**

"When my daughter became ill four years ago, we took in our two young grandchildren - we didn't realise just how much two extra mouths to feed would increase our outgoings and we started to struggle. Thankfully the MCF agreed to help us out, not only with the everyday stuff, but also with grants for karate, swimming and gymnastics lessons. The children used to be so shy, but it's really brought them out of their shell. The MCF have been absolutely wonderful!"  
Roy, freemason and grandfather

To find out more about our work, visit [impact.mcf.org.uk](http://impact.mcf.org.uk)

Masonic Charitable Foundation

## Provincial Grand Charity Steward's Corner



**The countdown to the Festival has begun, one year down five to go!!!**

Do I think the £2 million target is still possible? Yes! it most certainly is, but it will require a determined effort from all the brethren? Is it worth it? Yes! it most certainly is.

Last year Freemasons gave some £48.1 million pounds to good causes, locally, nationally and through the MCF. To further dispel the "Myth" that Freemasons only look after themselves, although some 48% of this money went to supporting Freemasons and their families, the majority, went to supporting local and national charities. The MCF which our Festival is in aid of, last year donated some £155,865 in supporting Staffordshire Masons and their families, whilst they also supported nine local charities to the tune of £109,232. This is money coming back into Staffordshire from the MCF and not as is often thought disappearing into some 'Black Hole' in London never to be seen again.

I have been visiting lodges throughout the Province giving brethren (I hope!) a better understanding of "Why we are having and the need for a Festival" so that they can see why I need them to give generously to the 2024 Festival. I cannot emphasise the necessity for brethren to set up an RPP (Regular Payment Plan) or Direct Debit as soon as possible. By starting now, for less than the price of a cup of coffee or a single newspaper per week, a brother can easily reach the qualifying level of a Festival Patron, a target easily reached by most. This way we can reach our target.

Over the next few years we will be having some major events to raise money for the Festival. January saw the launch of a 'Provincial Burns Night' at the County Show Ground organised by that dynamic duo, Wayne Lutton and David Evans. This duo with the help of their team raised over £7500 and saw 400 masons, many dressed in kilts for the first time (take care when sitting down in a kilt!), enjoy a full entertainment packed evening in support of the Festival. Well done to you all.

In June this year the PGM John Lockley will be risking "Life & Limb" in support of the Festival when he takes part in a sponsored "Zip Ride" on the longest line in Europe, falling some 600ft over one mile reaching possible speeds of over 120mph. Should the breaking system fail, I have assured him that ALL the sponsored pledges will stand so that his efforts will not have been in vain. Naturally funeral details will be announced later. The event is organised by John Treanor the former "M" Fest Chairman, who we hold responsible for any mishaps!

A 2024 Festival Facebook page is being set up to keep you all informed of events that are being organised to support the Festival. I hope that lodges who arrange events in support of the Festival use this page to inform all brethren not only in this Province but neighbouring ones as well of their activities, BBQ's, Fetes & dinners etc so they can get maximum support and prevent clashing dates and therefore raise oodles of money going towards our target.

On a more serious note, the Prostate screening programme has got onto a flying start. One hundred brethren were screened at Wolverhampton in February and several brethren have been seen at Burton hospital for follow up / treatment. Additional screenings have been arranged at Shelton and Aldridge in April and May. Although the services of the Consultant and her staff are free to us, they do this service in their own time and receive no payment. We have donated a considerable amount of money to the consultants' charity and the blood bikes scheme (who move the samples to Burton hospital) from the SMCA "B" fund. What a better way to spend your donations to the SMCA than in saving the lives of Staffordshire Freemasons. I must declare an interest in this, for as the Festival logo is "Your Province Needs You", as your charity steward, my logo is "Your Province Need you ALIVE" otherwise you won't be able to send me your money for the Festival!!!!

John Skellern Prov G.Ch.Stwd March 2019

## Open Day at Stafford

On Saturday 15th September Stafford Masonic Hall opened its doors to the public as it held an open day which was supported by all the Lodges at Stafford. Brethren were present to explain the aims of freemasonry to members of the community who turned, over 200 people visited with eight expressing an interest in joining masonry. The whole day was a fabulous success, well done to all who took part.



L to R ~ APMG Dr. Mike Rawle, the Worshipful Mayor of Stafford Borough, Councillor Ray Barron, Lady Mayoress Jenny Barron, DPGM David Thomas and the PGM of Mark Master Masons of Staffordshire and Shropshire Mike Heenan



## Visiting Lodges in Istanbul



Visiting Brethren outside Hagia Sophia

In November 2018 W.Bro Hirendra Raval of Izaak Walton Lodge, No. 4281 joined six brethren from The Scientific Lodge No 88 in Cambridge to visit Lodges in Istanbul, Turkey.

The trip was organised by Bro. Ali Chimenand coordinated with Bro. Cem Tuncel in Istanbul. Having obtained the proper clearance from UGLE we set off to visit Kardeslik (Brotherhood) Lodge and Erguvan (Judas Tree) Lodge in Istanbul. Both Lodges meet in the Grand Lodge of Turkey buildings in the Beyoglu district of Istanbul. Franz List stayed for five weeks in part of this building during his visit in 1847 to the Ottoman Empire. One of the best attributes of this venue is the roof top bar with fabulous views of the Bosphorus.



Grand Lodge



The most moving impression of the visit was the warm welcome and hospitality we received from the Brethren of both Lodges. They changed the dates of their meetings to accommodate us and put in an enormous amount of work in conducting the meetings in English for our benefit.

At the Kardeslik Lodge we witnessed a Passing Ceremony of five young Brethren. To assist us in following the ceremony we were presented with English translations of approved Turkish Ritual of the Initiation and Passing Ceremonies. We were also presented with a Jewel of the Kardeslik lodge and a certificate of attendance countersigned by the President of the Foreign Relationship Committee.

The WM, Aykut Kocatürk presented Past Deputy PGM of Cambridgeshire, VWBro. Tim Higgins a reed Flute.

At the Erguvan Lodge we witnessed an Initiation Ceremony for two candidates. Again most of the ceremony was conducted in English which we followed reading a folder presented to each of us. The WM Özcan Özmen then presented us with a Lodge Lapel Pin. At the Festive Board W Bro Mark Long sang the Entered Apprentices Song followed by a toast with our Masonic fire.

To the Worship Masters of both lodges were presented with an Entered Apprentices Apron symbolising the Badge of Innocence and a Bond of Friendship together with a History Book of the Scientific Lodge No 88 founded in 1754.

During the day we were taken to all the historic sites and museums in Istanbul assisted by our own personal guide. In between the evocation of ancient history and the sights and sounds of Istanbul, we charged ourselves with food and drink at hostelrys specially selected by our hosts.



The Festive Board

I would like to thank all the brethren in Istanbul for their hard work and generosity in hosting us and making our visit memorable.

A special thanks to Bro. Ali Cimen of the Scientific Lodge without whom this tour would not be possible and as important, Arzu Cimen, his wife and Bro. Cem Tuncel of the Kardeslik Lodge for ensuring our daily itinerary ran smoothly.



W Bro Rav Raval & Bro Aykut Kesinturk

W.Bro Hirendra Raval  
Izaak Walton Lodge 4281



Left around the table -  
Bro. Cem Tuncel, Bro. Gerhard Smith,  
W.Bro Bob Parks, Bro. Ali Cimen, Mrs Arzu  
Cimen, V.W.Bro Tim Higgins, Mrs Margaret  
Higgins, W.Bro Mark Longand, W.Bro. Tony  
Barrios



# The European Masonic Association



In 1987 several brethren met together and in principle agreed to form a group of European Masons with a view to understanding Masonic culture from each other's countries. This quickly evolved to Masonic Cultural and Social Understanding between Brethren in Europe and a proposed Constitution and Bye Laws for a European Masonic Association (EMA).

The inaugural meeting of the EMA was held at The Masonic Centre, Frankfurt, Germany on December 2nd 1989 with 17 founding members from countries across Europe, including England, France, Germany, Italy, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland and The Netherlands and after consultation UGLE recognition was gained in 1990.

Today, as a UGLE recognised association (not a lodge) and over 130 members of all ranks from 14 countries within the continent of Europe there are two meetings held each year, a Spring meeting in the UK for the AGM and an Autumn meeting in another European country, both of which involve wives and partners.

The EMA are not in any way involved with the political European Union but an expanding Masonic Brotherhood of friendship and harmony on the continent of Europe. The essence of the constitution is that UGLE are the dominant Masonic body and no visits can be made to unrecognised lodges. All members must be in good standing with a lodge which is in fraternal accord and recognised by UGLE.

The formalities of the EMA meetings are managed and recorded by a team of three Executive officer's comprised of a Speaker, Secretary and treasurer supported by assistants who are elected at the AGM, where member applications are also considered.

The EMA meetings are typically organised as a 3 day event, but some members are known to extend their stay to make a full holiday.

A visit to a local lodge is included and formal EMA meetings are for members only whilst partners are entertained on cultural excursions to local places of interest.

There is 'downtime' to allow everyone to explore for themselves and a concluding formal gala dinner.

EMA members have witnessed Masonic workings in some 50 lodges, with visits to quite a number of towns and cities including:

- Almeria, Antwerp, Bergen, Berne, Blackpool, Bratislava, Breda, Briez,
- Cardiff, Dijon, Dover, Dundee, Florence, Frankfurt, Fuengirola, Gent,
- Llandudno, Londonderry, Los Cristianos, Murcia, Rouen, Sterling, Vienna and York.

There are a number of proposed visits during 2019 to Dundee and Almeria, 2020 to Londonderry and Budapest so if you are interested visit their website. EMA membership is open to all Master Masons and fees are £10 per year ([europeanmasonicassociation.org](http://europeanmasonicassociation.org)).



Staffordshire Masons in Bratislava with the Grand Master of Slovakia

## Kindred Lodges Association

Three members of Kibblestone Lodge No: 9504 attended the Kindred Lodges Association (KLA) autumn meeting hosted this year by Pathfinder Lodge No: 8236 at Tapton Masonic Hall, Sheffield in the Province of Yorkshire West Riding. The Provincial Grand Master RW Bro David S. Pratt together with a number of provincial officers was present, together with some 130 brethren who really enjoyed a fine ceremony. A very interesting and descriptive talk then followed on 'Masonic Artifacts and what they tell us' by W. Bro Christopher Powell.

If any brother would like any information about Kibblestone Lodge or in fact any lodges with a Scouting affinity, please contact the lodge secretary W. Bro S Edwards.



W. Bro Wilf Burt, W. Bro Jack Tilstone and Bro Richard Stimpson

Catering superbly for every occasion



Corporate functions

Weddings and special occasions

Marquees and stately homes

Exhibitions and shows

Racecourse and event catering

Freephone  
**0800 350522**

Email [sales@jenkinsonscaterers.co.uk](mailto:sales@jenkinsonscaterers.co.uk)  
Web [www.jenkinsonscaterers.co.uk](http://www.jenkinsonscaterers.co.uk)

Jenkinsons

### 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**



## Staffordshire Masons Visit to Lodge Alexandra



The quantity of visitors from Staffordshire to the Installation Meeting of Lodge Alexandra, Dennistoun, Glasgow, No. 1282, Scottish Constitution, in 2018, was less than in 2017. Thirty less in fact!

However, the quality was definitely maintained, the deputation of seven, pictured opposite, being led by our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Kevin J. Parkes, PSGD, who was joined by W. Bro. David Watt, PAGDC, W. Bro. Bony Ram, Asst.Prov.G.Sec., W. Bro. Wayne Lutton, P.Pr.S.G.D., W. Bro. Shiv Chand, P.Pr.S.G.D., W. Bro. Martin Birkinshaw, Prov.G.Stwd. and W. Bro. Nigel Lowe.

The Ceremony was carried out in an exemplary manner by the three Installing Masters, who Installed Bro. Alex Grandison, as the Right Worshipful Master, and the Office Bearers for 2018 to 2019.

The visit to Lodge Alexandra's Installation Meeting is an annual event and has been regularly attended by Staffordshire Brethren for twenty plus years.

Lodge Alexandra is W. Bro. David Watt's Mother Lodge. The meeting was followed by a dinner and several hours of 'Lodge Harmony', during which we were entertained in various ways by the Brethren and well supplied with suitable refreshment! The hospitality and ambience were, as usual, amazing.

Any Brother wishing to attend the 2019 Installation, which is held on the first Saturday in December, should contact either W. Bro. Watt, Parkes, Ram or Lutton, who will provide more details.

Come along and enjoy some real Glasgow hospitality!

**HOME CHOICE  
CARPETS**

Free Home Visit  
& No Obligation  
Quote

Carpets, Laminate,  
Vinyl, Safety  
Flooring & Artificial  
Grass

Unit 6, Bellerton Lane, Norton, Stoke-On-Trent  
ST6 8ED

Tel- 01782 544100 Email- hccarpets4@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/homechoicecarpets.carpets/>



# Provincial Burns Night held at County Showground

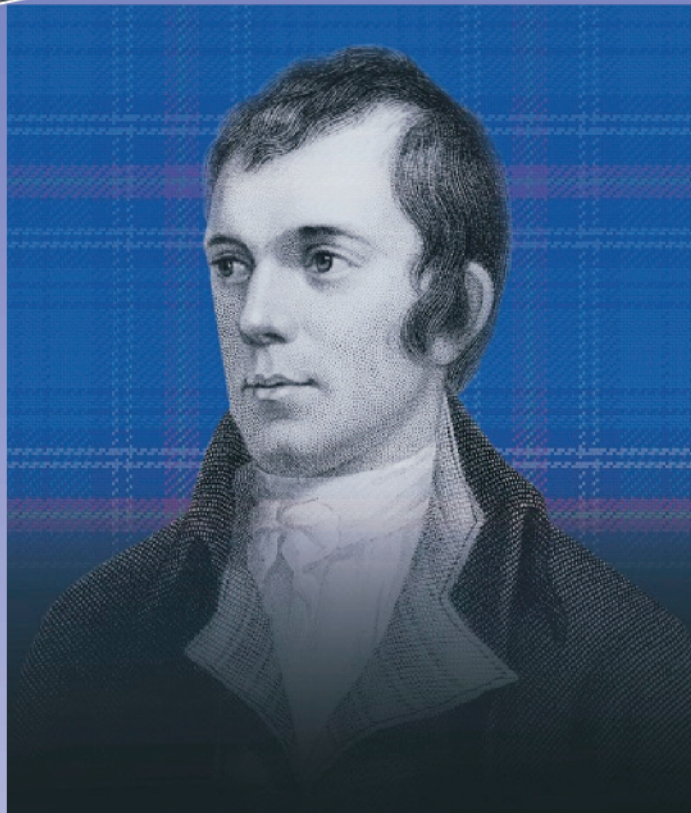
The Province of Staffordshire held a Celebratory Burns Night on Saturday 26th January 2019 at the Staffordshire County Showground.



It was organised by The Burns Committee that consisted of Asst PGM W. Bro. Kevin J. Parkes PSGD, W. Bro. Jeremy F. Roberts Prov D.G.D.C., W. Bro David J. Evans P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks., W. Bro. Wayne P. Lutton P.Pr.S.G.D., Bro Neal R. Quinton and Bro. Robert S. Rickards.

The evening was attended by 370 guests and was arranged to raise charity for the Staffordshire 2024 Festival, which aims to raise £2.2 million for the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The event commenced with Pipe Major Gavin Moffat (Pipe Major to the Sultan of Oman) piping in the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Lockley and the guests enjoyed a lovely six course meal with the address to the haggis by W. Bro Rev John Cowan.



Immortal Memory was given by Rev John Cowan, who had people laughing and amazed at his knowledge.

A raffle was conducted which included a holiday in France, in a Gite (holiday home) and one in a Florida Villa, plus many more.

There were further prizes for best Sottish Attire (won by the PGM), best knees (won by W Bro J. F. Roberts) and names for the two Homberg hats worn by W. Bros Evans and Lutton to promote the event, (now known as Laural and Hardy).

The PGM RW Bro John Lockley's farewell was concluded by the presentation of a cheque for £7,262.53 which was accepted on behalf of the Festival by the Provincial Grand Master.

BurnsPoems were delivered by a number of brethren including Past Master Bro Andrew Kirkland who belongs to St Davids Lodge, the very lodge into which Robert Burns was initiated and he brought with him the Gavel used to initiate Brother Burns. Past Master Bro Joseph Hegerty from Alexandra Lodge delivered the poem 'To a Mouse', which was dedicated to W. Bro Mike Thomas who was a regular attendee at Alexandra Lodge.



The Waterloo Pipes and Drums, led by Pipe Major Gavin Moffat, played during the evening.

The Prov. Mentor W Bro. David Watt PAGDC delivered the Toast to the Lassies, which was responded to by Mrs Jane Lockley. He also played the Bard in A Skit written by Mr Keith Wood which concluded by David singing.



The whole event was held together very professionally by Toast Master Wayne Shelton. The guests were treated to a leaving gift bag consisting of a bottle of beer brewed specifically for the event at Punchline Breweries, a Scottish fudge tablet, short bread and a bookmark poem. (Prepared by Bro Quinton).





## Grand Superintendent announces his retirement



The ME Grand Superintendent, John Winter, has announced his intention to stand down from his role at midnight on April 8th this year. He has served this Province in an exemplary manner for many years, leading it for the last eight.

His tenure has been filled with many achievements, measurable and immeasurable. Companions will be very familiar with his wish that everyone takes care to ensure that they enjoy their Royal Arch Masonry, a refrain which he uses at each Chapter meeting he attends. He is also a man who takes his own advice as he is never seen without a beaming smile on his face.

The Province wishes him a very happy retirement and the best of health to enjoy the extra time he will find. **Thank you, Sir!**

## New Executive announced



Our Grand Superintendent will be succeeded by Robin Stubbs, who is to be Installed on the morning of the 9th April at the County Showground at Stafford by the ME Third Grand Principal, Gareth Jones.

A retired (early) Business Improvement Consultant with BT, Robin is married to Yvonne and has two sons. He is a keen walker and intermediate skier.

Initiated into a Middlesex Lodge in 1985, he became a joining member of the Lodge of Honour in 1987 and thus began his career in Staffordshire. Awarded the active Provincial ranks of Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1997 and Senior Grand Warden in 2004, he became a Grand Officer in 2009.

In the Royal Arch he has held senior offices, from active Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, through 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, and now currently Deputy Grand Superintendent.

He is also a member of the Mark degree and the Knight Templar Order, in which he holds Great Priory rank.

Our soon to be Deputy Grand Superintendent, Eddie Ford, spent his career in the construction industry as a Chartered Builder and a Chartered Surveyor.

A keen sportsman, he played a great deal of tennis, cricket, badminton and golf and enjoyed his best golf handicap of five. Apart from these, he loves photography. He joined Freemasonry in 1978 becoming Worshipful Master of Andrey Lodge in 1988 and again in 2011, receiving Provincial honours as active Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and promotion to Senior Warden. He was rewarded with the Grand Rank of PAGDC in 2004 and promoted to PJGD in 2014.



Eddie also enjoys the extremely rare honour of having received the Grand Masters Order of Service to Masonry (OSM).

Joining the Royal Arch in 1994, he was First Principal of Mercia Chapter in 2004 and again in 2006 and First Principal of Abbey Chapter in 2010. He received Provincial rank of active Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, was promoted to 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, and then 2nd Provincial Grand Principal. He has received Grand rank as a PGStB.



Meet the 'soon to be' 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, Richard Parrott.

Initiated in St Augustine's Lodge No 1941 in 1999, Richard served as WM in 2007/8 and is currently Treasurer.

He was Exalted into St Augustine's Chapter in 2008 and served as MEZ in 2012, and is also a member of Staffordshire First Principles Chapter and London Staffordshire Chapter.

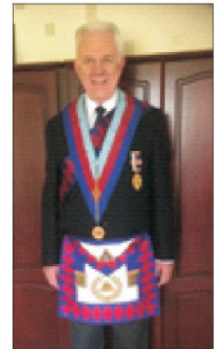
He is also a member of Knights Templar Order, the Mark Degree, and Royal Ark Mariners.

Away from Family, Work and Masonry, he is a member of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and enjoys Horse-riding, shooting and History.

Our 3rd Provincial Grand Principal elect is Andy Brittle.

Initiated into Chase Lodge in 1986, he became WM in 1993. Promoted to Provincial Grand Steward, he currently enjoys the Provincial rank of Junior Grand Warden, and is Lodge Mentor, Royal Arch Ambassador, and has been Charity Steward for many years.

Exalted into the Royal Arch in Earl Shrewsbury Chapter, he became its First Principal in 2001 and held the office of Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies for a number of years in a most distinguished manner, and was granted Supreme Grand Chapter rank of Grand Standard Bearer. A most knowledgeable Companion, he will make an excellent addition to the Chained Officers.



He also finds time somehow to be a Royal Arch Coordinator, and to be a member of Rose Croix where he is currently in the Chair, a member of the Mark degree, and to support Walsall Football Club.



Scribe N 'to-be', John Skellern spent most of his early years in Barlaston as his father was the Art Director at Josiah Wedgwood & Sons. He attended Alleyne's Grammar School in Stone before going to Kings' College Dental School, London in 1964. Graduating in 1970, he worked in Oxford and married Sandy four months later. They have two children and two grand children. Having moved back to Stoke, he went into a dental partnership for the next 30 years, retiring in 2006.

He enjoys travelling, walking, swimming, DIY and recently took up "Wood turning" as a hobby, which he fits in when his Masonic commitments allow.

Masonically, he was initiated into Ceramic Lodge in 1977 and exalted into Ceramic Chapter in 1991. A member of both Foster Gough Lodge, London Staffordshire Chapter, and the Installed 1st Principals Chapter, he is also a member of Rose Croix, Knights Templar, and Knight Templar Priests.



## Out and about in the Province

There has been quite a lot going on in the Province since the last issue of Within Your Province, in addition to the many installations that have taken place. There have been four Full Provincial Visits: Izaak Walton Chapter and Dormston Chapter celebrated 50-year anniversaries; Hatherton Chapter celebrated their Centenary; and Sutherland Chapter hosted a joint visit from the Provinces of Staffordshire and of Worcestershire.

All of these Chapters were well supported on the night by the Province and visitors generally, and a good time was had by all.



Hatherton Chapter Centenary celebration. Pictured are some of the Provincial officers with the Chapter Principals.

Dormston Chapter No 7821 commissioned a special beer to commemorate the event of their 50th anniversary. At 4.8% abv, most people wisely decided to leave drinking it until they got home!

Very tasty it was, and we look forward to sampling the delights of their 100th anniversary (well, some of us) brew which will no doubt be of an equally high quality. Watch this space...



Sutherland Chapter 451 Principals joined by the Chains of both Staffordshire and of Worcestershire, along with the Staffordshire Provincial Directors of Ceremonies.

## Supreme Grand Chapter Investitures

The Annual Investitures at Supreme Grand Chapter will be held on **Thursday 25th April 2019 at 11:15am.**

Unlike at Grand Lodge Investitures, temple tickets are not required for entry into the Grand Temple and all subscribing Royal Arch Masons are qualified to attend. Doors are open at approximately 10:30am.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see our rulers in action, support those Staffordshire Companions who are to be appointed or promoted, and enjoy a memorable day out.

As has become our regular custom, Staffordshire Companions attending will afterwards retire to the Trattoria Verdi restaurant for lunch, before returning home. Any Companion planning to attend who would like to reserve a place for lunch is urged to contact the Provincial Office and book themselves in.

Mercia Chapter held their installation Convocation in November.

Excellent Companion Don Guilford, still very much active in his Chapter at the wonderful age of 91, installed his successor, Chris Priestley into the Chair of Z. Don is here pictured with the new Principals.



## Initiatives

Some wide-eyed Brethren may have noticed a few initiatives in the last year or so. The introduction of Royal Arch Ambassadors into Lodges has been perhaps the most recognisable initiative. These Ambassadors will be key to the success of our wonderful Order going forward. Whilst they are not expected to work single-handed, they, along with Lodge Mentors, and proposers, will be able to answer the questions of members of the Order, but also prospective candidates for exaltation. They will be supported by a team of coordinators as well as the Provincial Communication Officer, Mike Santopietro.

Banners promoting the Royal Arch have now been placed in most Halls throughout the Province, where it is practical. This has been done with the permission of the Hall Management Committees. If any other Halls are interested in hosting a banner (for which there is no cost to them), please contact Mike Santopietro.

The Province has developed its own Talking Heads presentation. The Team has been asked to make a couple of presentations over the next few months, and another two are currently being planned. The first was at Andresey Lodge in Burton on 12th February, and the second at Bridge Trust Lodge in Handsworth will take place on 24th April. These presentations are delivered at Lodge meetings rather than Chapters, and are to inform those who have yet to take the next step into the Royal Arch degree as part of their Masonic journey. All are welcome to attend and we would encourage mentors, Royal Arch Ambassadors, and others, whether you are already Companions or not, to join their friends for what will be an informal and undoubtedly enjoyable meeting and festive board. If you are interested, please contact the Lodge secretaries to book in.

If you wish to arrange a presentation for your own Lodge, please contact Adrian Harris at [adrian6175@gmail.com](mailto:adrian6175@gmail.com)

## To the future...

Having progressed with a number of initiatives last year, we now wish to concentrate our efforts on developing a Chapter Support Group. This group will make themselves available to Chapters within the Province who feel that they need a little assistance at odd Convocations, in a manner similar to the way in which the Stewards Lodge operates. At this planning stage, I can give no further details as a working group will be set up to decide on its objectives and how it will operate.

We are however looking for volunteers to either take part in the working group, or to become part of the support group, giving assistance.

Please contact Mike Santopietro at [communication@pgchstaffs.co.uk](mailto:communication@pgchstaffs.co.uk) if you are interested.

*And finally, Companions, in the words of our retiring Grand Superintendent, Enjoy Yourselves!!*



## Brethren at Marmion Lodge No. 1060

On Wednesday 10th October 2018, Marmion Lodge No. 1060 held their Installation meeting which was attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. David. J. Thomas together with a number of Provincial officers and brethren.

This was a special night indeed and quite rare, because whilst the Master elect, Bro Philip Hope was supported by many brothers in the lodge, four of them were his actual brothers !



Brothers Robert, Anthony, Peter and Barry were present and enjoyed the night. The Installing Master, W. Bro Matthew Hargreaves performed a 'master class' installation incorporating some aspects of the extended workings. A really memorable part was that Brother Peter Hope was called onto the floor by the Installing Master to lead and place his Brother in the Chair of King Solomon.

A very moving few moments indeed and another "Wouldn't have missed it for the world" evenings.

## Running for Blood Bikes

Shropshire, Staffordshire & Cheshire Blood Bikes - which provides free, urgent transport services to the NHS, has benefitted from the exertions of W.Bro Keith Robins, Director of Ceremonies and a Past Master of Izaak Walton Lodge 4281.

During 2018, Keith took part in the very challenging West Highland Way race. Travelworld Motorhomes, located at Junction 14 of M6, sponsored a Carado motorhome for the weekend to provide a much needed place of rest and recuperation during the gruelling run.

As a result of Keith's efforts and the support of his sponsors, a cheque for £1350 has been handed over to support a most worthwhile cause.



Keith is pictured handing over the cheque, accompanied by (l to r) W.Bro Mike Smith (WM of Izaak Walton, who acted as driver/support), Ross Edwards (M.D. Travelworld Motorhomes), Helen Bundy (SSCBB Speaker Team Co-ordinator) and Les Crook (SSCBB rider).

## TourdeFriends 2019

Ann Fullwood, the wife of a Staffordshire mason, is one of a group of four ladies who will be cycling 242 miles from London to Paris, between Thursday 5th and Saturday 7th September 2019, in aid of Women v Cancer. W. Bro Mark Fullwood P.Prov.A.G.Sec., of Barr Beacon Lodge No. 6109 is extremely proud of Ann for taking on this physical challenge for such a worthy charitable cause.

Ann will be joined by her three friends, Julie Smith, Jeanette Sims and Jan Hanwell for the challenge, and they have 'nick-named' their Team, 'TourdeFriends'. Ann, Julie and Jeanette are all retired West Midlands Police officers who completed over 90 years police service between them.

Women v Cancer supports three charities, Breast Cancer Care, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and Ovarian Cancer Action. All the ladies have lost family members or friends to cancer, but for Jeanette, this is a personal challenge too, as she was herself diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2013. She has undergone several operations since then but has finally overcome her illness, and has become strong and fit enough to take on this testing journey.

The Team's ride will commence at Hampton Court railway station, with the first stage taking them to Portsmouth where they will board a ferry to Caen. Day 2 sees them riding from Caen to Evreux and on Day 3 they complete the challenge by riding from Evreux to Paris, finally dismounting at the iconic Eiffel Tower. They will have cycled, on average, 80miles per day.

The ladies have set a team fund raising target of £6000.00. If anyone would like to make a donation you can visit their 'just giving' page on line at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TourdeFriends2019](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TourdeFriends2019)



## Walsall Manor Hospital

Barr Beacon Lodge No 6109 have helped boost funds for Walsall Manor Hospital's neonatal unit by almost £2,000. Thanks to events in Aldridge hosted by Worshipful Master Joe Bannister a total of £1986.81 was handed over to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's Divisional Director of Nursing Children, Young People and Neonates (Acute and Community) Caroline Whyte.



Cath and Joe Banister and Caroline Whyte

W. Bro. Joe Bannister and his wife Cathy attended the hospital recently to hand over the cheque's after Caroline had attended Barr Beacon Ladies evening in the summer with the Trust's Fundraising Manager Georgie Westley and thanked members for their generous support – as well as providing an entertaining evening!

Caroline was most grateful and added: "With the expansion of our neonatal unit underway this money will go to good use providing items such as breast milk warmers or reclining chairs to make things comfortable for our mums while their babies are being cared for."



## From 3 degrees to Two Wheels

### Brother, are you a Biker?

Then a friendly, warm and fraternal Greeting to you!

For those of you who have never heard of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association (WSMBA), they are a group of Freemasons within Great Britain that happen to have a passion for riding motorcycles and hold with the idea of universal brotherhood. The WSMBA was formed in 2004 and has since grown to 21 established Chapters located all around the UK with more chapters in the process of being formed. The Widows Sons originally formed in 1998 in the United States of America for Motorcycling Masons to raise charitable funds for widows and orphans. In America it was and still is, called the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association.

#### History

In 2004 a charter was given by the American Widows Sons to form the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association in the UK. Once they had enough members four Chapters were created, the North East, North West, South East and South West and a Presidents Governing Board was formed - which now administers all UK activity. Close links are still maintained with their American brothers, often at the annual Rally, which in 2019 will be hosted by the West Mids Chapter in Lichfield.

The West Midlands Chapter received its charter in March 2014 and as of January 2018 have around 47 patched members and 8 Bad pennies, with several members waiting in the wings.

The goals of the WS are to introduce the pleasures of motorcycling to Masonic Brothers, raise Masonic Awareness in the world of motorcycling, support regular Masonic lodges through regular

attendance and assisting with, or attending, lodge events.

#### So, how do they achieve this?

They invite as many Masons as possible who are already motorcyclists or who have an interest in them, to come and join them. The West Midlands Chapter have regular meetings, at least once a month where they have breakfast and talk about events, both national and local, go for rides and just pass the time in masonic brotherhood. They raise Masonic Awareness in the world of motorcycling - and have a support group called "The Bad Pennies" which is open to membership by anyone - introducing them to Masonry, and likewise Masons to Motorcycling. Many wives, girlfriends and family are members, and quite a few non-Masonic motorcyclists, who have gone on to become Initiated.

They support Lodges by regular attendance in their own lodges, by visiting the lodges of other WS and attending and assisting at events. Some chapters of the Widows Sons have taken over failing craft lodges and Royal Arch chapters, with the blessing of the existing members, and are turning them in to motorcycle-orientated ones.

It's easy to join, you just need to be a Master Mason in good standing and ride a motorcycle that is capable of keeping up on ride outs. This means reliable and road worthy, not the ability to break speed limits. The badge of the WSMBA is worn on the left-hand breast of the jacket or vest, close to the heart. They do not wear Back Patches, but they do have a "road name" which is generally chosen by the individual initially, but can be changed



by the chapter at will, usually after some mishap or other 'event' involving the individual.

**The WSMBA is recognised by UGLE**  
- the only Masonic motorcycling organisation outside of a specialist lodge to have this recognition.

[www.widowssons-wmids.co.uk/](http://www.widowssons-wmids.co.uk/)

#### Meet the "President"

Clive Andrews-Lewis was one of the seven founders of the West Midlands Chapter, starting as Founding Secretary, and for the last 3 years as Chapter President.

Clive has ridden since he was 16, some 40 years, and despite a short forced break following breaking his back in a Motorcycle accident, he has remained active on two wheels throughout.

Clive has 3 bikes, a Honda Firestorm, BMW R1150RT and a 1973 Suzuki GT550 which is a rolling restoration.

Clive says "Motorcycling and Masonry are my passions - only my gorgeous Fiancée comes first. Come visit us sometime, we're a great bunch, and everyone is always made welcome"





## WITHIN YOUR MARK PROVINCE

Mark & RAM Masonry  
in  
Staffordshire and Shropshire



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019



PrGM - R.W Bro Michael Richard Heenan RAMGR  
Dep PrGM - V.W Bro Ian Christopher Marshall Smith, PGJO., RAMGR  
APGM - W Bro Kevin John Spencer, PGJD, RAMGR

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2018



W Bro Bob Osbourne  
PrGDC PAGDC  
W Bro Bob Lansley  
PPrGMO and Past  
PGM, RW Bro David  
Edwards



Who is this Santa?



R.W Bro Michael Heenan  
was also very entertained



PGM - RW Bro Mike  
Heenan  
W Bro Bill Brown PrGJO  
W Bro Dave Sutton,  
PrGMO  
W Bro Rodney Stokes,  
PrGSO



W.Bro John Murray  
PPrGSD



W Bro Richard Webster  
PrG Reg.PAGDC  
W.Bro. Chris Jones  
PrGSW

Another great Christmas party at Albrighton  
with around 45 satisfied young people.

**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

MEET OUR NEW PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARY  
Selwyn J. Burton PPrGJW, Provincial Grand

Secretary, RAMGR. Selwyn was Advanced into Mark Masonry in St. Edward's Mark Lodge No 1182 on 19th December 1985 and has served as the Worshipful Master on two occasions, in 1994 and again in 2004. His first Provincial appointment was in 1995 as Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and his current rank is PPrGJW. Selwyn was appointed as Provincial Grand Secretary in October 2018.



He joined Royal Ark Mariners on 16th December 1996 in the Gough Lodge No 45 becoming the Worshipful Commander in 2001. He received Provincial Grand Rank in 2006 and Grand Rank in December 2018.

He is active in the Craft and is the current Provincial Senior Grand

Warden and Provincial Communications Officer. In Royal Arch he

is currently MEZ for the second time and a member of Knights Templar holding Provincial Rank in both these orders, he is also a member of the 30° in Rose Croix.

A retired detective chief inspector who also held temporary rank as a superintendent, he is now a part-time parish clerk. He has a BSc (Hons) in Policing and Police Studies from Portsmouth University and a post graduate certificate in Management from Staffordshire University and is a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management. He is a black belt in Ju-Jitsu and enjoys going to the gym, walking his dog, DIY, computer work and chess.

## PEACE LODGE CENTENARY

Peace Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners will celebrate its centenary at a special meeting exactly one hundred years to the day from its consecration on 24th May 1919. Formed just after the end of the First World War, with its sponsoring Mark Lodge being Staffordshire Knot Lodge No 541, it used that lodge number, but it was decided that in order to reflect the momentous happenings of the time the name 'Peace' was thought most appropriate. There will be a senior representative of Grand Lodge present and a candidate will also be elevated. Visiting Royal Ark Mariners are most welcome. Contact John Harrison, Lodge Scribe, (jgharrison1@btinternet.com) to express your interest.



**THE REVEREND DAVID BRIAN THOMAS, PROV.DEP.G.CH.**



W. Bro Thomas was brought up on the Cardiganshire/ Carmarthenshire border in Llandysul, a village situated in the beautiful Teifi Valley, Wales. He worked for well over 30 years in the Electricity Supply Industry which consisted mainly of experience in Plant Design, System Design, Fault

Location and Diagnosis, Network Planning and Management. He is a Member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology ( Formerly the Institution of Electrical Engineers) MIET and a Fellow of the Institution of Diagnostic Engineers, FIDiagE.

He undertook the St. David's Diocesan Training Course at Trinity College Carmarthen and studied Divinity at St. Davids University College Lampeter and was Ordained in 1985 and worked as a Non Stipendiary Minister until 1995. Retiring in 2010 as Area Dean of Llanbadarn Fawr Deanery (Aberystwyth) 2000 – 2010 and Bishop's Surrogate. He lives with his wife Jill in Gobowen.

W. Bro Thomas was Advanced into Mansel Mark Lodge No. 116 in 1991 moving through the ranks he was appointed Prov.D.G.Ch. in 2018.

In Mark Grand Lodge he was appointed Past Assistant Grand Chaplain in 2008.

He was Elevated into Ceredigion Lodge RAM No. 1287 in 1993, and Installed as Commander in 2000.

Appointed to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in 2006.

W. Bro Thomas is a PAGChaplain in the Craft and holds Provincial rank in the Royal Arch (West Wales). In the Ancient and Accepted Rite he holds very high rank having been appointed Inspector General 33° for the District of Dyfed in 2008.

He is a member of numerous other masonic orders

**BESIDE the SEASIDE**

Following the very successful week-end last year in Chester, the Mark Week-End will this year be held at our favourite hotel – The Imperial at Llandudno from Friday 11 th until Sunday 13 th October. Family Members and Non Mark Masons welcome. Cost for bed, breakfast and evening meal (including wine) is £200 per person.

Why not have a relaxing time by the sea? Do contact VW Bro Barry Clark (bc@smallcroft.co.uk) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

**MAKING OUR MARK**



At this year's Provincial Meeting the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master announced that he had set up a membership committee. The purpose of the committee is to increase membership of both Mark and RAM Lodges. On the 31st of August this year our combined Mark memberships stood at 915 and our RAM memberships totaled 442. We

have been set a target to increase those numbers to 1,000 and 500 respectively by the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. I'm sure you will agree that is a challenging target, but we can achieve it with your help.

The Mark Membership Committee would like to be seen as a Provincial resource, which can be accessed to aid Mark and RAM Lodges who are finding it difficult to attract members. It cannot be denied that we have a small number of Lodges who can barely fill the offices at a normal meeting. What is surprising is not how they came to be in this predicament, but that they don't ask for help. There is no overnight solution to improving membership and attendance. However, it can be done. I think it was Einstein who said "the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Perhaps we can think of some different things that you haven't tried. We can't just walk into your Lodges and tell you what to do, but if you invite us we can come along and work with you.

The Provincial membership committee consists of: Ajay Passap, Andy Delamere, Bob Sagoo, David Prince, Len Birch, Steve Bird, James Montero and Ian Dingwall. The committee is a provincial resource and is here to support Lodges and help them gain more members.. If you could use our assistance please contact us.

Ian Dingwall, Chairman.

**THE TUDOR LODGE OF RIFLE VOLUNTEERS**

The Tudor Lodge of Rifle Volunteers continue to build in numbers of new members. Bro Owatar Singh Sangha was advanced on 9th January 2019 in a ceremony which brought much fun and laughter. A very well done to Bro



Raja Talafair (who only being advanced late 2018) took to his first office as Senior Deacon and did an excellent job. The TLORV will be having another advancement ceremony on the 13th March 2019

and the element of fun, laughter and music will continue to be incorporated into the ceremonies. Why not contact the secretary W.Bro Tony Moore to reserve your place and receive a copy of the summons.

**INFORMATION OFFICER**

James Montero  
Tel: 07888 699708 Email: jamesmontero1925@gmail.com



# THE BROTHER WHO DESIGNED THE SPITFIRE



*One of the most important contributions to the success in World War 2 was the Supermarine Spitfire, initially designed by Freemason R.J. Mitchell, as Peter Hughes reveals...*

The word 'genius', like many in the English language, has become

much overused in recent years and in consequence greatly devalued. There are, however, few men who more richly deserve this description than the 'Forgotten Hero' Reginald Joseph Mitchell. In so far as the general public recognises his name, Reginald (RJ) Mitchell is forever linked as the designer of the iconoclastic Spitfire fighter plane. His achievements, however, were so very much more.

Within Freemasonry, even fewer will know of his membership of the Craft from aged 26 in 1921 until his tragically early death aged 42. Mitchell was born in 1895 at Butt Lane, Stoke-on-Trent, one of five children. His father was a Yorkshire born deputy headmaster who later owned a significant printing company in the area. Mitchell senior was himself a Freemason and the founding organist and later Master in 1923 of Jasper Lodge No. 3934 meeting at Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. It was into this Lodge, on Friday, 13th May 1921, that R. J. Mitchell was initiated as a Lewis. Mitchell's education and early years gave little indication of what was to come. There is anecdotal evidence that as a youngster he was already fascinated by the new invention called the airplane (it should be remembered that it was only in 1903 that the Wright Brothers achieved powered flight and 1908 before any working airplane flew over Britain). Otherwise, his education at Hanley High School was unremarkable. He was clearly bright, and a competent athlete but, as is so often the case, little to mark him out at that stage of his life. Indeed, at his father's insistence, Mitchell was apprenticed at 16 to a local electrical engineering company, a job he apparently hated. He also attended night school, where he later taught for a time.

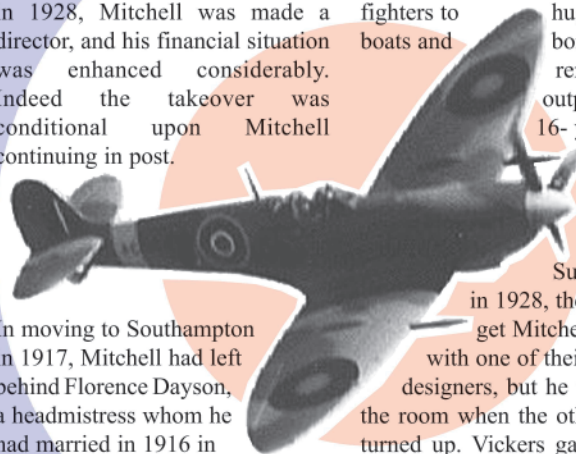
It must have come as a bolt from the blue when, having applied for and secured a job in faraway Southampton with the small Supermarine airplane company, he told his family of his immediate move to take up the appointment. The company he joined was a modest part of the newly created British aviation industry, and at the time Supermarine specialised in building seaplanes. Such planes had many advantages during this period, not least the ease of finding somewhere to land! It was at Supermarine that R. J. Mitchell did all his work as an aircraft designer. When the company was absorbed into the Vickers industrial empire in 1928, Mitchell was made a director, and his financial situation was enhanced considerably. Indeed the takeover was conditional upon Mitchell continuing in post.

In moving to Southampton in 1917, Mitchell had left behind Florence Dayson, a headmistress whom he had married in 1916 in Stoke and who moved with him to Bullar Road, Southampton.

By 1920, Mitchell had become chief designer and chief engineer of Supermarine, and he was still only 25 years old. He set about creating his close knit design team of whom he was fiercely proud and protective. He could be direct, short tempered, even brutal, and he was without doubt single-minded. He was possessed of good looks, a ready smile for friends and a keen sense of humour. This was in contrast, in public at least, to the fact that he had a slight stammer and a shy demeanour. He was generous and warm to his team but possessed a fierce intolerance for those who did not meet his exacting standards.

Brother Mitchell was proposed into Jasper Lodge 3934 in 1921 not by his father, but by Brother Good, the Senior Warden and W. Brother Story, the Immediate Past Master.

He was described as 'chief aviation engineer of Avenue Road, Itchin, Southampton.' His father, as Junior Warden, delivered the Charge on the night and there were a large number of visitors present, including seven from Brother Mitchell's old school Lodge, Hanliensian No. 3935, which meets still at Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent. Brother Mitchell attended on a regular basis to begin with, but those attendances fell away in direct proportion to his commitments with Supermarine many miles away at Southampton. Between 1920 and 1936 he designed 24 different aircraft ranging from light aircraft and fighters to huge flying bombers – a remarkable output during a 16-year period.



When Vickers took over Supermarine in 1928, they tried to get Mitchell to work with one of their own top designers, but he would leave the room when the other designer turned up. Vickers gave way and let the Supermarine design team carry on as before. Their own designer went back to Vickers proper. His name? Barnes Wallis – inventor of the famous Dam Busters bouncing bomb and the Wellington bomber. Through the 1920s and 1930s Mitchell led his design team in creating a succession of ground-breaking aircraft. He achieved great national prominence as the chief designer of the aircraft which succeeded in winning the massively prestigious Schneider Trophy speed races for nations on three succeeding occasions, thereby retaining that Trophy for Britain. He also took numerous airspeed records in this period. During these few short years the aircraft had moved from a bi-plane contrivance made of wood canvas and wire capable at best of about 100 mph into the sleek mono-hulled steel-bodied machine we now recognise which took the

air speed record to 403 mph, and which evolved ultimately into the Spitfire design. The naming of the new aeroplane was carried out by the directors of Supermarine, who for a time were considering calling it "The Shrew". However, the decision was finally taken to keep the name given originally to the Type 224 – the Spitfire so named after the Chairman's self-willed granddaughter. Mitchell's sister-in-law Elsie recalls him saying: "Bloody silly sort of a name." In 1932 Mitchell was awarded the CBE for his outstanding work. In 1933 he was diagnosed with cancer of the rectum and in August that year he had a colostomy bag strapped to his side. He was a shining example to cancer sufferers of how you can carry on without fear of embarrassment or indignity. In 1936 Mitchell was again diagnosed to have cancer and in February 1937 went into a London hospital but was home soon afterwards. Mitchell had to give up work, but watched the very first Spitfire test flights at Eastleigh airfield from his car when he should have been at home resting. This first prototype painted light blue was constructed to a Defence specification which demanded a top speed of 350 mph. In the event the air frame proved itself capable of nearly twice that and was still in active service with certain air forces as late as 1963! Reg passed away on June 7th 1937. His legacy was to have transformed the airplane in a few short years and to have also laid the foundations to equip the RAF with airpower to defeat the Luftwaffe.



*The plaque on the memorial to Mitchell in Hanley*



## The Wednesday Club

In August 2018, Lynn Wright our Chairperson sadly passed away, Lyn was a long standing and extremely active member of the Wednesday Club and committee member for a number of years.

She arranged fund raising functions and was most welcoming to new members, always with a smile on her face and at the centre of the fun and laughter within the club. Lynn also served on the Ladies Gift Fund committee.

In December 2018 another long serving member Barbara Alcock also sadly passed away, like Lynn, Barbara was a long standing committee member and organised our guest speakers for many years.

Barbara was just as fun loving and both were very supportive at Masonic functions and they will be sadly missed by their family, friends and all who knew them.

On Wednesday 20th February 2019 at our Lunch Club meeting at Shelton, we held our Charity Cheque Presentation Lunch from the 'Iris Davies Fund'.

We presented cheques of £300 to the representatives of the three chosen charities, Philippa Cartledge-Riley from the Grocott Centre, Robert Heighway from SNAP and Lou Macari from the Lou Macari Centre.

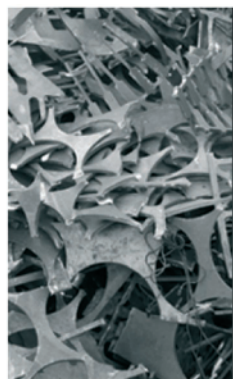
The Crocott Centre is a local Fenton based day centre with the aim of promoting welfare, well being and social inclusion of vulnerable people. SNAP the Special Needs Adventure Playground in located in Cannock and the Lou Macari Centre in Hanley assist the homeless.

*Kath Roberts*

*L – R Kath Roberts (WC Sec), Shirley Stanley (WC Vice Chair) Bob Heighway, Lou Macari, Hilary White (WC Chair) and Philippa Cartledge-Riley.*



After the Wednesday Club meeting, W. Bro Gareth Bryan the IPM of Ceramic Lodge No. 3827, Steward at the Hall presented additional cheques of £100 to both Robert Heighway and Lou Macari.



# BROWN

## RECYCLING LIMITED



### TOTAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

- SKIP HIRE & WASTE RECYCLING
- ALL SIZES OF SKIPS AVAILABLE
- WASTE PRE-TREATMENT CENTRE
- CARDBOARD, WOOD & PLASTIC RECYCLING
- CONFIDENTIAL SHREDDING SERVICE
- REGISTERED SCRAP METAL PROCESSORS



Call us today on **0800 7833236** or Email [sales@wasteman.co.uk](mailto:sales@wasteman.co.uk)  
**www.wasteman.co.uk**

Scan to visit us online!





## The Norah Mitchell (Minerva Lodge No. 1942) Trust Fund

On the morning of Friday 9th November at the Hanley Masonic Hall in Shelton, Minerva Lodge held their annual Norah Mitchell Trust Fund charity grant event. This year £2,400 was donated to six local charities (£400 each).

The money was left to Minerva Lodge by the widow of a member of the Lodge with donations being given at various times from the lump sum.

The event was attended by the Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire Freemasons, John Lockley, the Assistant Provincial

Grand Master Dr Michael Rawle, the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, Selwyn Burton, the Provincial Junior Grand Warden Philip Baker and other senior members of Staffordshire Freemasonry.

The host for the event was Bob Haysom who also represented Minerva Lodge. Many other people also attended to support the charities. After each cheque presentation the charity gave a brief overview of their work in the community and this was followed by a tour of the Masonic Temples at the hall.



*Minerva Lodge present £400 to each of six local charities*

The charities to benefit at this event were:

1. Borderland Voices. Based in Leek. Provides support to small groups, many with mental health problems. Members take part in various arts, media and writing. The cheque was presented by Bob Haysom to Mrs Andy Collins-coordinator.



2. The Macari Foundation. Based in Hanley. Providing night shelter for up to 33 homeless people. The cheque was presented by Ron Clewes to Lou Macari the founder, (former Manchester United and Scotland footballer and Stoke City manager).



3. Open Door, Stoke-on-Trent. Two drop in centres for homeless people in Hanley and Cobridge. Also a food bank and other help for people. The cheque was presented by Tony Berry to Vanessa Renshaw - Managing Director.



4. Stone Lions Club. Fund to provide prostate screening sessions. The club also has a stock of mobility equipment for free loan and other community support. The cheque was presented by Ron Clewes to Paul Martin-President of Stone Lions.



5. Ruff and Ruby Youth Charity. They engage, energise and empower vulnerable young people by raising self-esteem and aspiration. The cheque was presented by Bob Haysom to Dawn Deaville Chief Executive Officer.



6. Beat the Cold. Based at Birches Head this is a fuel poverty charity, supporting those who cannot afford to heat their home or whose health can be affected by a cold home. The cheque was presented by Tony Berry to Martin Peake-Charity Development Manager.



*Contributions to this magazine, ideas or suggestions will be welcomed by the Editor,*

*W. Bro. Neil Fantarrow*

*by e-mail to [editor@pglstaffordshire.co.uk](mailto:editor@pglstaffordshire.co.uk)*

*or by post to Neil Fantarrow,*

*c/o Provincial Grand Lodge , 211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DD.*



## Charitable Donations to Douglas Macmillan Hospice and Donna Louise Trust

On Sunday 2nd December 2018, the Sutherland Lodge of Unity No. 460 and Sheltonia Lodge No. 8557 held a joint Christmas luncheon with wives, partners and friends at the Stone Golf Club.

W. Bro. Geoff Bean, PAGDC was the Worshipful Master of both Lodges in 2018. His allotted charities were the Douglas Macmillan Hospice, Blurton, Stoke on Trent and the Donna Louise Trust, Trentham, Stoke on Trent, and representatives from both recipients were invited to the luncheon.

W. Bro Geoff presented a cheque for £700 from each Lodge to Mr. Duncan Cowans an Ambassador of Douglas Macmillan Hospice this being the result of fund raising by both Lodges during 2018. Mr. Cowans thanked the Worshipful Master and members of both Lodges for their generous donations; which totalled £1,400 and he gave a talk on the work of the Douglas Macmillan Hospice. The hospice is a specialised palliative care provider for adults over the age of 16 in North Staffordshire, who are facing a life-limiting illness when a cure is no longer possible.



He also presented a cheque for £700 from Sheltonia Lodge to Mr. David Beardmore, an Ambassador of the Donna Louise Trust. A further cheque of £700 to the Donna Louise Trust was to be made at a later date from Sutherland Lodge of Unity. Mr. Beardmore thanked everyone for their generous donations; he gave a talk on the work of the Donna Louise Trust which is for the care of young children with life threatening illnesses. He said however long or short a child's life may be, the Donna Louise Trust is there to support every member of the family, every step of the way - from initial diagnosis until they no longer need them.

The Donna Louise Trust is there for families across Staffordshire and Cheshire - whenever, wherever, always.



On Thursday 17th January 2019, W. Bro. Geoff Bean attended the Donna Louise Trust Hospice together with Bro. Darren Chell, and the cheque for £700 was presented to Ms Katie Thompson, Fundraising Volunteers Organiser.

A further cheque for £500 was also presented by Bro Chell. Ms Thompson thanked them both and said how grateful the hospice was to receive these donations, especially now that the extension to the building is nearing completion. She said more equipment will be required to furnish the building and these donations will help greatly to obtain some of the equipment.

The visit concluded with a short tour of the Hospice accompanied by W. Bro. Cedric Johnson, P.Pr.G.Swd.B of Sutherland Lodge of Unity No. 460, who is an Ambassador at the hospice. Bro. Johnson has attended at the hospice once a week since 2003 where he is a Volunteer Safety Check Operator.



The pictures show WBro Bean presenting cheques to Mr Duncan Cowans and Mr David Beardmore.

## Promotion While in a Different Chair

On Friday 21st December 2018, PGM R. W. Bro. John Lockley, accompanied by W. Bro. Geoff Bean, PAGDC, Worshipful Master and W. Bro. Graham Deeth, P.Pr.S.G.W., Secretary of Sutherland Lodge of Unity No.460, attended the Royal Stoke University Hospital,

where Bro. Derek Murfin was an inpatient. The PGM appointed Bro. Derek Murfin by virtue of Regulation 69, Book of Constitutions to the rank of P.Pr.A.G.D.C.

W. Bro Graham Deeth, W. Bro. Geoff Bean, Bro. Derek Murfin and the PGM, R. W. Bro John Lockley.



## Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society

The pre-season committee meeting of the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society (SMGS) will take place at The Chase Golf Club near Penkridge on Friday 29th March, in the Lodge Committee rooms commencing at 11.30am.

The programme for the year ahead will be announced following the meeting and details will be placed on the Provincial website so if you would like to come along and join our friendly society please do.

There are eight events each summer from May to September, the SMGS play in four inter Provincial matches with our neighbours, including the prestigious 'Six Counties' event and three competitions within the Province.

The SMGS are proud supporters of the Provincial Festivals having raised substantial amounts through fund raising organised on the day of the P.G.M.'s Trophy competition.



## Provincial Charity Shoot, September 2018

The eleventh Staffordshire Provincial Charity Clay Shoot, took place at Doveridge Sporting Clay Ground, on Sunday, 9 September, 2018. What was supposed to have been a one off, back in 2008, for the 2013 Festival, has evolved into a much anticipated and well supported Annual Event, which has raised so far, £4667 for the 2013 Festival and £6081 for the 2024 Festival. A fun and happy event well worthy of your continued support.

In a week of rainy weather, I feared that we may have had a lot of wet shooters at this year's Charity Shoot. But the luck of the Scottish (Or should that be Irish? No matter, my DNA is fifty-seven per cent Irish anyway, so both bases were covered), held, and though not as sunny and warm as in the past three years, it was fine weather for shooting and it did not deter the contestants from turning out in support of the event.

We had fifty-five contestants which included five ladies and two young ladies and six young gentlemen.



The Gentleman High Gun was Mr. Mike Rutter, with a very respectable score of 50/50.

The Lady High Gun was jointly won by friends Ms. Helena Wood and Ms. Kate Bartels with scores of 18/50. Helena, who is the daughter of W. Bro. David Wood, is no stranger to The Shoot, having previously won the Lady High Gun!

The Under Eighteen High Gun, was again won by last year's winner, Louie Aylward, with a score of 26/50. Louie, who travels from Doncaster, is always accompanied by his Gran, Sheila Wood and Mr. Roger Ellis, long-time friends and supporters of the Annual Shoot.



The St. Giles Shield, the prize for the High Mason Gun was won by Bro. Richard Barlow of Forrester's Lodge, with a score of 34/50, just beating last year's winner, Bro. Glenn Roberts, of Churnet Valley Lodge (33/50). Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all participants who made this event the success that it was.

Province was represented by W. Bro. Kevin Parkes, APGM who may have been High Provincial Officer, but the High Gun eludes him! Thank you, Kevin, for your continued support. Come along to our monthly shoot meeting, where we will help you to reach the lofty heights of High Gun! Provincial Charity Steward, W. Bro. John Skellern was also present, bringing along a visiting friend from Cornwall, who took John Clay Shooting during a recent visit to the West Country.



The Provincial Junior Grand Warden, a regular attender and member of the SMCSA, was there, and after he shot, did whatever was required of him to help with the day.

A special thanks to those volunteers, who year after year, make the event possible.

Mr. Bill Christie (APSI Coach), helping for the second year.  
Mr. Stephen Dawson (APSI Coach), helping for the third year.  
Mr. Jon Evans, a very experienced shot, who often attends the monthly shoot of the S.M.C.S.A.  
W. Bro. Phil Baker, Prov.J.G.W., Dieu La Cresse Lodge  
W. Bro. Phill Speechley, Whittington St. Giles Lodge.  
Bro. Steve Watts, St. Bartholomew Lodge.  
W. Bro. Malcolm Barlow, Dieu La Cresse Lodge.  
W. Bro. Clive Moore, St. Giles Lodge.  
Bro. Rob Talbot, Whittington St. Giles Lodge.

Grateful thanks and appreciation go to Bro. Chris Miles, St. Giles Lodge, Secretary of the Association of Professional Shooting Instructors and Chairman of the Staffordshire Masonic Clay Shooting Association. Chris is the person who ensures that safety and assistance is present on every stand and whose support and attention to detail makes my part so much easier than it was in the early days.

Also thanks to Mrs. Pamela Miles, who handled the cartridge sales making my part much easier.

Long time supporter W. Bro. Mike Rawle, APGM, was unable to attend this year but he did send his Daughter and Son in Law, Dr. Emily and Mr. Ben Laxton, who represented him well.

This year, our PGM, R.W. Bro. John Lockley and our Dep.PGM, W. Bro. Dave Thomas could not be with us and their cheerful presence was missed and I had to present the trophies myself! Still, the recipients smiled just the same, as you can see from the pictures!

My thanks also go to Bro. Mick Vokes, of Trinity Lodge, Kettering, who again travelled from Kettering with his group of friends in support of the event. Quite a trek for them.

Last but by no means least, a huge thank you to Jo and her colleagues at Doveridge Sporting Clay Ground, a National Class venue, for the use of all their facilities, including the café service, the bacon butties and breakfasts from which, seemed to please everyone. The event raised a total of £1018, for the 2024 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Thank you all and see you in 2019. David.





# 2019 Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot

In Aid of  
Staffordshire Provincial 2024 Charity Festival

To be held at  
Doveridge Clay Sports Ground  
(On A50 near Uttoxeter)

**Sunday, 18 August, 2019**

10.00hrs to 14.30hrs

50 Sporting Targets  
(Ten targets from five stands)  
(re-entry permitted)

Inscribed Trophy for High Gun  
Gentleman, Lady and Under 18

The St. Giles Trophy for High Mason  
Gun  
(To be retained by winner until next shoot)

£25 per entry

Café available on site

Cartridges (12g) available at Circa £5 per  
box of 25 (50 required) £6.50 for 20g

Come along and have some fun.  
Experienced shooters will be at every stand,  
for safety and to assist beginners.  
Ear defenders and safety glasses  
recommended.  
Bring your Non Masonic friends.  
Loan Guns available.

More Details Available from  
Provincial Grand Lodge  
211 Tettenhall Road,  
Wolverhampton WV5 0DD

Tel 01902 745151  
www.pglstaffordshire.co.uk

## Royal Wolverhampton School Lodge No. 8170.

The Worshipful Master of the Royal School Lodge No.8170 presented a £1000 cheque to Mark Heywood, the Royal School's Principal, to support the school's "Foundation of Children". The school was originally founded in 1850 as the Wolverhampton Orphan Asylum at 46 Queen Street by John Lees, a local lock manufacturer and freemason following a cholera epidemic which ravaged the town leaving many children as orphans. In 1854 the school moved to new buildings on the Penn Road which have been greatly extended over the years as they are at present. There was a name change in 1891 when Queen Victoria gave permission for the prefix "Royal" to be used which created the Royal Orphanage of Wolverhampton and remained as such until 1944 when King George VI permitted it to be re-styled and named as The Royal Wolverhampton School. The school's present Royal Patron is Prince Edward the youngest son of The Queen who succeeded his Grandmother, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. Several well-known faces have attended the school over the years including the English Journalist and TV, Personality, Gilbert Harding and Eric Idle of Monty Python and "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" song fame. Yet another change came about in September 2016 when the Governors were committed to The Royal School, Wolverhampton opening as a Free School with a capacity over time to provide for 1454 pupils.

*W.Bro. G.V. Jenkins*



## Happy Birthday Celebration

On 9th January 2019 W.Bro. David J. Evans of Dormston Lodge No. 7821 celebrated his 60th birthday and to mark the occasion Bro. David held a party but asked for no gifts other than a donation to a charity appeal. His chosen charity was the Wolverhampton Coronary Aftercare Support Group (WCASG). In 2010 Bro. David suffered a heart attack which necessitated him having a 'quintuple' heart bypass operation. The WCASG is totally self funding and run by volunteers who offer support to a wide spectrum of cardio patients, and run the aftercare exercise program. As Bro. David said "Without them I wouldn't have been able to celebrate my birthday" and so in return he takes every opportunity to return the support.





# The Order of Women Freemasons

Whilst women's Freemasonry is considered by some to be a taboo subject, Freemasonry Today (FMT) published, in Issue 44 ~ Winter 2018, an article entitled 'Women's RITES'. This was a very interesting article with details of an interview with the Grand Master of the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF), Christine Chapman.

Christine Chapman explained the origins of women's Freemasonry, including not only HFAF but also the Honourable Fraternity of Antient Masonry (HFAM) which later added 'The Order of Women Freemasons' (OWF) to their title in 1958, and is the name they are known by today.

The United Grand Lodge of England has previously issued a statement acknowledging the regularity and sincerity of women's Freemasonry, but does not formally recognise it. However they have an informal, cordial and co-operative working relationship on such matters as the Universities Scheme and the recent Gender Reassignment Policy.

In November 2018 HFAF gave a presentation at Dalecote House, Coventry in the Province of Warwickshire which was open to all and they continue to hold a number of such events in the Province of Middlesex, but they acknowledge that the OWF is the larger of the two organisations and have many more lodges in the Midlands area.

Old Masonians Midlands Lodge No. 6762, having sought dispensation, held a white table evening at Handsworth Masonic Hall on Saturday 9th February 2019, and after the closure of the formal business meeting there followed a presentation in the Temple about the OWF



*RW Bro Mabs Attwood PGJW GM's GS, W. Bro Neil Bowman, W. Bro Mandy Hughes*

The presentation was open to masons, non-masons, family and friends and was very well attended with brethren and guests from across the Midlands, as the lodge has a number of members who are not only Staffordshire masons but are from other neighbouring Provinces. The presentation was conducted by RW Bro. Mabs Attwood PGJW GM's GS assisted by W. Bro Mandy Hughes PGR both of the Order of Women Freemasonry, W. Bro Mandy Hughes being the wife of W. Bro Jim Hughes the Lodge Treasurer.

It was most informative and was eloquently presented, with the audience listening attentively in complete silence to every word.

There then followed a question and answer session that kept both presenters busy for some considerable time answering some interesting and challenging questions.

The evening concluded with a delightful meal and good company with Mabs continuing to entertain everyone with a witty and amusing speech.

A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

There are a number of OWF lodges that meet in Birmingham, Aldridge, Wolverhampton and Stoke on Trent. Many use their own lodge rooms but others use Staffordshire facilities.

There is a reciprocal agreement between OWF and a number of UGLE Provincial lodges to hold meetings in each other's premises. The OWF can be contacted at [www.owf.org.uk](http://www.owf.org.uk).

The Wolverhampton Study Circle, which meets at the Masonic Hall, Tettenhall Rd, recently opened their doors to members of OWF and has arranged for a presentation by W. Bro Carolyn Carter (Midlands Inspector) to their members.

This is planned for a forthcoming meeting in 2019 and attendance can be arranged with W. Bro Orme through the Provincial office.

**LADIES' GIFT FUND  
FOR MASONIC CHARITIES**  
Staffordshire, Warwickshire and  
Worcestershire Provinces Registered

Charity No. 519281

**ANNUAL  
SPRING  
LUNCH**

**SUNDAY  
7th APRIL  
2019  
MOSELEY  
MASONIC  
HALL**

KINGS HEATH  
BIRMINGHAM

12.30 for 1.00 p.m.

**BUFFET MENU**

Ham, Quiche,  
Egg Mayonnaise,  
Variety of Salads  
New/Jacket Potatoes  
Bread Rolls

A Selection of  
Homemade Desserts

Cheese and Biscuits

Tea or Coffee and  
Chocolates

**TICKETS £16.00**

Available from  
Provincial Grand Lodge  
211 Tettenhall Road,  
Wolverhampton WV5 0DD

Tel 01902 745151  
[www.pglstaffordshire.co.uk](http://www.pglstaffordshire.co.uk)



## Toby in Toronto

Our ceramic charity friends are now stretching their globetrotting wings! On visiting Canada in September 2018, W. Bro. John Davis of Bridge Trust Lodge No. 2878 and Streetly Lodge No. 7448, presented The Prince of Wales Lodge No. 630 in the Province of Ontario, with 'Worshipful Toby' as he has been christened by the Lodge! Toby takes his place in the Lodge in front of the Worshipful Master's Chair as they do not have pedestals in the Temple. Toby will be a part of the ten meetings a year that the Lodge meet and W. Bro. Davis hopes to catch up with Toby on future visits.



The picture shows W. Bro. Davis with the IPM and Lodge Wardens

Does anyone else know of any of Toby's siblings visiting far-off Lodges? It would be great to hear of any others on their travels!

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.

Enquires to

Ian Cheetham [advertising@pglstaffordshire.co.uk](mailto:advertising@pglstaffordshire.co.uk)

## Prostate Screening Programme

As a follow up to the article that appeared in the last edition of 'Within Your Province', and the recently held Prostate Cancer Screening days at Wolverhampton and the forthcoming days to be held around the Province, the following may be of interest to those receiving test results.

W. Bro. Chris Hill and W. Bro. Jock Planck of Barr Beacon Lodge No. 6109, have both travelled down the road of Prostate Cancer treatments including operations, as mentioned in their article. They would be happy to offer any Brother with on-going issues or concerns the opportunity of discussion, reassurance and advice. They are both fully aware of the difficulties some have in coping with the issues, and sometimes the decisions that have to be made. But, it's good to talk and often talking with someone who has been through this, can give reassurances that can help.

Chris and Jock are there to help and can be contacted through Barr Beacon Lodge or [editor@pglstaffordshire.co.uk](mailto:editor@pglstaffordshire.co.uk).

Also check out the Prostate Cancer website: [prostatecanceruk.org](http://prostatecanceruk.org)



Walk With Us  
Help Beat  
Prostate Cancer

# TOBY *on the* SQUARE

This range of Toby Jugs were designed and modelled by a Staffordshire Mason

Manufactured in Stoke-on-Trent the traditional home of British Ceramics. Each one is individually hand painted, no two are exactly the same. The colours may be changed to suit larger orders.

They are available with Aprons painted to represent the following orders:

**Craft (MM, Installed Master, Provincial & Grand Rank), Royal Arch, Mark and Rose Croix.**

We also produce a smaller Toby Jug, measuring approx. 3 1/2 ins (90 mm) high to compliment Big Toby that measures 6 1/2 ins (170 mm) high. Personalise yours by adding a name/small inscription on a separate base.



Prices range from  
£37.50 to £80 each

Why not call into  
Letchworth's Shop at  
Freemasons Hall and  
view the collection?

You can also email:  
[kduffy@letchworthshop.co.uk](mailto:kduffy@letchworthshop.co.uk)  
or search for Toby on:  
[www.letchworthshop.co.uk](http://www.letchworthshop.co.uk)  
Also available via:  
[www.tobyonthesquare.com](http://www.tobyonthesquare.com)

All profits for the Staffordshire  
2024 Festival Appeal



## Why I Became a Freemason

I attended St Georges College in Zimbabwe, where the Jesuits who ran the school instilled in us a sense of humility and the need to live a purposeful life and to serve others. 'Men for others' was our mantra and this made a massive impact on me growing up and my moral compass.

I feel I was born to be a mason, because from a young age until now, I have always strived to use what I know or from my gains in life to help and uplift those less fortunate than myself. Having grown up poor, living in the 'Ghetto' for the first six years of my childhood before being blessed and moving on to a more affluent and comfortable life. I have learnt the hard way to appreciate and value different people from all walks of life, humility and determination have driven me to where I am today.

I am now an accountant by profession which allows me to help others, I also run supported accommodation for people with Mental illness who are being discharged from hospital back into the community. I have a charitable and compassionate heart and thrive when I am helping and giving back to others.



I arrived in the UK some 23 years ago and became friends with Patrick, we have remained close friends ever since despite him living some distance away.

Patrick was a mason and so was his father but within the Irish constitution. I observed Patrick's demeanour, personality, kindness and charitable nature.

It was obvious to me that masonry was a fraternity which promoted all such elements or my best friend would not be a part of it. So naturally I felt comfortable to join and it gave me a sense of being even closer to my friend and all the good things he was doing for the community through his masonic activities.

However, being a Black African, before I joined masonry, there was a very suspicious and negative attitude towards masonry in general from many of my fellow African and Caribbean friends, due to 'misinformation' and ignorance. I was always told (in their words), "You cannot join because masonry is a rich white man's club and they will not let you in."

I didn't believe such rhetoric because of Patrick's membership and soon found out for myself by joining, that they were all so very, very wrong. I have since made it my mission to educate, influence and increase engagement with the BME community as I feel they are missing out on so much.

Masonry has solidified my belief that a brother is a brother, regardless of their race, age, colour, wealth, religion or profession. The friendship, purpose and meaning of life I have searched for, I have found in masonry.

*W. Bro Prosper Chidzomba  
WM Aldridge Lodge No.7921*

I am a Congleton man; however, I have been living in Stoke on Trent since 2012.

I am blind and I have a condition called Bardet-Biedl Syndrome (B.B.S.), it is estimated that B.B.S. affects approximately 500 people in the UK.



*Sam Proctor and Louis Martin*

I have not let this hold me back and I started a Law Degree in September 2012 and in 2017 I enrolled on the MA Human Resource Management and Employment Law programme at Staffordshire University.

It was at the freshers' fair in September 2017 that my attention was drawn to a new stand, which I heard appeared to be about Freemasonry and students. I was curious. I had previously heard of Freemasonry and was aware of all the charitable work but it had never crossed my mind to find out more. However, together with Royce my guide dog, I made my way through the crowd and spoke with Andy Mapperson and Josh Holford. I decided to conduct my own research and find out more.

I had become friends with Louis Martin, my lecturer and personal tutor. He was quite surprised and impressed by the fact I had such an effective memory and was able to remember various aspects of the law and recall it verbally. I had been required to memorise a number of Acts and Sections of law during my undergraduate studies.

I cannot read Braille and many of my assessments included verbally recounting my research. It was during one of our many conversations that we spoke about Freemasonry. Louis explained to me that it was about camaraderie, making a man better by study and friendship and that I would enjoy the social scene taking part in charitable events.

I was introduced to his mentor and inspiration in Freemasonry, Peter Hughes. I met with Peter, who is the secretary of the Universities Lodge of Staffordshire No. 9907, at Shelton. He was very friendly and told me that my disability would have no effect on my entry into Freemasonry and that Freemasons were all about helping people.

Peter told me that Freemasonry would enable me to develop all my skills, meet people, and be part of a team. Everyone I met at ULS was so kind and friendly, they all had a great sense of humour. I really enjoyed the banter and so I joined.

That's basically how I became involved in Freemasonry. I receive lots of encouragement, praise and positive feedback when I perform ritual, including the working tools and charge after initiation. I would really like to progress and take a key role in my Lodge. I strongly recommend to anyone with a disability to find out more about Freemasonry and consider joining.

*Bro Sam Proctor*





Nick Thomas and Peter Hughes

It was during a discussion with one of my students at Staffordshire University, who was aware that I had an interest in esoteric studies, the mystery schools and mythology that I thought of and considered joining Freemasonry. I, like many had previously heard of Freemasonry and the charitable work but knew little about the organisation.

I was introduced to Peter Hughes and subsequently initiated into the newly consecrated Universities Lodge of Staffordshire in 2015 and I am currently the Almoner. I have had great pleasure watching several students being initiated into ULS.

Bro Louis Martin



Sam Proctor and Joel Fletcher-Swindlehurst with Guide Dog Royce at the Freshers' Fair

## UGLE Universities Scheme

On Saturday 24th November 2018 the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro. John Lockley had the pleasure of welcoming the Assistant Grand Master, Sir David Wootton and a number of Grand Lodge Officers from the Universities Scheme to the Province at a meeting of Concordia Lodge No. 5131, held at Wolverhampton.



Concordia is now the Universities Scheme Lodge for Wolverhampton and the second member of the scheme within Staffordshire Province. Both lodges continue to grow and flourish with a number of initiates throughout the year and some joining members. All because of the efforts made by brethren organising events, supporting the freshers' fair and not least by the work of Midlands area co-ordinators.

David Edwards



# ROY BEECH (CONTRACTORS) LTD

Est 1954

**CIVIL ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTORS**

- GENERAL CIVIL ENGINEERING
- SURFACING WORK
- ROAD CONSTRUCTION
- CONCRETE STRUCTURES
- SEWERS

Telephone: 01782 847925 Fax: 01782 848863  
 Email: mail@roybeech.co.uk Web: www.roybeech.co.uk

North Street, Stoke on Trent ST4 7DJ





## Long Service

*The Provincial Grand Master RW Bro. John Lockley and other Provincial Officers were pleased to visit a number of lodges around the Province to congratulate brethren who had served Fifty years in Freemasonry.*

On Tuesday 4th December 2018 the PGM and two Past PGM's RW Bros. Kevin Chawner and Thomas D.C. Lloyd attended John O'Gaunt Lodge No. 4054 at Newcastle-under-Lyme to celebrate with Past DPGM VW Bro John V Renaudon. The APGM W. Bro Dr Michael Rawle



VW Bro John Renaudon, W Bro Philip Jones,  
RW Bro John Lockley

together with a large gathering of Grand Officers, Provincial Grand officers and brethren also attended.

A very interesting and detailed tribute to John was given by W Bro Alan Walker giving details of all of John's many achievements in masonry. There was then a presentation from the Lodge by the Worshipful Master Philip Jones, followed by the reading of the 50 year certificate by the Provincial DC, W Bro John Brackpool. The presentation of the Certificate to John was made by the PGM RW Bro John Lockley who said in his presentation that, John had been a Mentor to him during his time as Deputy PGM and that he was a mine of information on Freemasonry and the Constitution. Following the presentation John gave his reply thanking everyone for attending and talking amongst other things about his first night as a mason, 50 years ago.

On Thursday 28th February 2019 VW Bro John A. E. Winter together with Provincial Officers visited Earl Shrewsbury Lodge No. 1520 at Penkridge to celebrate with W. Bro Frank Bailey his Fifty years in Freemasonry.



W. Bro. Frank Bailey and VW Bro. John A. E. Winter

W. Bro Frank was born in 1929 in Sutton-in-Ashfield, educated at Mansfield Grammar School, and Nottingham University where he graduated with a Degree in Law. He joined Hayden & Stretton, a law firm in Walsall, and moved to Cannock where he became the Partner. He was initiated into Earl Shrewsbury Lodge No. 1520 on the 12th February 1969 and installed as Worshipful Master in 1982. He was first appointed to Provincial Grand Lodge office as P.Pr.G.R. and later promoted to P.Pr.J.G.W.

The certificate to mark his 50th anniversary in Masonry was presented by V W Bro. John A. E. Winter, by appointment of the Provincial Grand Master, since as an old friend and 'adversaries' in their professional life, it seemed fitting that their mutual respect in Law and Masonry would make this occasion quite special. W Bro. Frank is also a 310 in Aldridge St Mary Rose Croix Chapter No.771, in which he was installed as Most Wise Sovereign in 1991.

Throughout W Bro. Franks masonic career, and his role as DC in particular; he became a font of information; with regards to the workings of the Lodge, and his lawyer's gift for recall and attention to detail, was invaluable in guiding the brethren through their masonic journey. Frank always gave everyone; a pat on the back no matter how good, or not so good, their efforts were, it was the fact that you 'got up and did it' was more important to him. The Lodge will be forever indebted to W Bro. Frank and wish him good health to celebrate his 90th birthday in April.



W. Bro Trevor Lock and RW Bro John Lockley

On Monday 10th December 2018, the PGM RW Bro John Lockley together with Provincial Officers visited Aldridge Lodge No. 7921 to celebrate with W. Bro Trevor Lock his Fifty years in Freemasonry. The lodge gave details of Trevor's masonic journey from joining a lodge in Warwickshire to his arrival in Staffordshire before the certificate was read and

then presented to him by PGM RW Bro John Lockley, who also promoted Trevor to P.Pr.S.G.W.

Trevor hails from Sutton Coldfield and was born on 11th April 1933; he was Initiated on 3rd December 1968 into Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 3391 in the Province of Warwickshire serving as Worshipful Master in 1976. He joined Bacchus Lodge No. 9068 in March 1983 serving as their WM in 1999 and remained a member until it closed in 2016. Trevor also joined Goldieslie Lodge No. 6174 in March 1998 and more recently Aldridge Lodge in January 2017.

### North Staffs Heart Committee

Founded 1979 (www.northstaffsheart.org.uk/charity) Reg. Charity 508743

**THE LEADING LOCAL HEART CHARITY**  
Holders of the QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

We have raised over  
**£5 MILLION**  
Donations and Bequests welcomed & acknowledged



Caring for Cardiac Patients  
**LOCALLY**  
Supports Research, Diagnosis, Treatment and Welfare

Chairman: A. J. G. (Tony) Berry MBE  
Sneyd Cottage, 5 Herm Close, Seabridge, Newcastle, Staffs., ST5 3LL  
Tel/Fax (01782) 622463

The North Staffs Heart Committee is an independent charity serving the interests of cardiac patients residing or receiving treatment in North Staffordshire.  
IT IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH ANY OTHER NATIONAL OR LOCAL CHARITY OF SIMILAR NAME



On Wednesday 19th December 2018, the PGM RW Bro John Lockley visited Old Wulfrunians Lodge No. 7411 at Wolverhampton together with a number of Provincial Grand Lodge Officers to celebrate with W. Bro John Newill his 50 years in Freemasonry. A very interesting tribute to John was given by the lodge and his achievement in masonry before the DC W. Bro Rob Adams read the certificate which was then presented by the PGM RW. Bro John Lockley.



W. Bro John Newill and RW Bro John Lockley

John was born on 17th November 1936 in Bushbury and went to Elston Hall J & I School before attending Wolverhampton Grammar School 1948-1953. Whilst at the school he joined the Scouts and Wolverhampton Wheelers, later joining the Wolverhampton Olympics Cycling Club.

He became an apprentice at the E.C.C and spent two years in the R.A.F from 1959 training at Bridgnorth, Yatesbury and Melksham. On leaving the R.A.F he returned to the E.C.C. and in 1963 moved to the C.E.G.B working on extra high voltage sub-stations. John worked for the M.E.B in 1980 on overhead lines before finally taking early retirement in 1992. On the 18th December 1968 John was initiated into the Old Wulfrunians' Lodge No. 7411, he became Worshipful Master in October 1980 and went on to become Treasurer in 2002 and then Chaplain. John has held various Provincial ranks and was promoted to P.Pr.S.G.W. in 2015.

John is also a member of Royal Arch Wolverhampton Schools Chapter, which he joined in 1978 and became First Principal in 1980. He also joined Roger de Clinton preceptory of Knights Templar, becoming their Eminent Preceptor in 1991 and now currently serves as their Almoner.

On Monday 8th October 2018, the APGM W. Bro Kevin Parkes together with Provincial Officers visited Aldridge Lodge No. 7921 who meet at Aldridge to celebrate with W. Bro David Lambert his Fifty years in Freemasonry.

The lodge gave details of David's masonic journey from joining a lodge in Cheshire to his arrival in Staffordshire before the certificate was read and then presented to him by W. Bro Parkes who also promoted David to P.Pr.S.G.W.



W. Bro Kevin Parkes and W. Bro David Lambert

W. Bro David Walter

Lambert was born on the 26th September 1937 in Birkenhead, Merseyside and Initiated in Woodlands Lodge No. 4447 in the Province of Cheshire in October 1968, Passed in January 1969 and Raised in March 1969.

David joined Aldridge Lodge on the 11th December 1972, progressing through all Lodge Offices and became the WM in October 1985. He served as Lodge Secretary from 1987 to 1994, Almoner in 1999 for two years before returning to that office in 2004 which he has held ever since. He was Chairman of the Walsall Masonic Company from 1998 to 2011.

David was appointed P.Pr.J.G.D. in 1991, promoted to P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks. in 1999 and then to P.Pr.J.G.W. in 2009. David is involved in many other orders having joined Mark Master Masons in 1989, serving as Worshipful Master in 1999 and holds the rank of P.Pr.G.J.W. Royal Ark Mainers in 1991, serving as W.Commander in 1998 and appointed Pr.R.A.M.G.R. in 2004. Also Rose Croix in 1999 serving as Most Wise Sovereign in 2008

## 'Rose Croix – The Ancient and Accepted Rite of England Wales and its Districts Overseas'

Whilst we all acknowledge the first three degrees of Freemasonry as being the foundation of our Masonic journey, for many the Order of Rose Croix holds 'something special'.

Those who would seek more light, more knowledge of the mission and symbolism of Freemasonry, a more complete interpretation of the teachings of the Craft degrees, as well as acceptance into a very special fellowship and Brotherhood, will find these aspects within the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Known in some parts as the Scottish Rite, the Ancient and Accepted Rite follows the Christian teachings and does require that candidates profess the Trinitarian Christian Faith, as well as having been a Master Mason for at least one full year.

Established in 1801, the Order comprises 33 Degrees, which amplify the teachings of Craft Masonry, within a Christian context. The ceremony of the 18th Degree; the only ceremony worked in full by

a Chapter, is immensely thought provoking, impressive and colourful which instils a warmth of Brotherly Love on which the whole Masonic Order is based.

Regalia for the 18th Degree is both simple and spectacular, at the same time, comprising a red coloured collar, edged with gold braid and a deal of symbolism. A jewel is appended to the collar.

Working through the several offices of the Chapter, the position of Chair is that of Most Wise Sovereign, who having successfully completed his year may be considered for promotion to the 30th Degree. The promotion to the 30th Degree is held at Supreme Council Offices at Duke Street, St James's in London, governed over by the nine members of Supreme Council.

All Inspectors General are 33rd Degree members and are delegated their powers within Districts by Supreme Council.



VIII. Bro. David Philips 33°  
Inspector General

An Inspector General is supported within his District by a District Recorder, who is responsible for the

District's administration and who is a vital link between the District and Supreme Council in London.

The District of Staffordshire & Shropshire comprises 20 Chapters, making it one of the larger Districts in the England and Wales. As at 30th June 2018 we have just over 450 members.

Chapters usually meet three times per year and a marked difference of the Rose Croix ceremonies are that no members are asked to withdraw for any parts and the ceremonies could best be described as 'engaging and inclusive of all'.

Talk to many long serving and eminent Masons and they will explain that the Rose Croix Degree has 'something special' and is a very treasured Order by its members.

I have proudly been the Inspector General for the District of Staffordshire & Shropshire since 2015, ably supported by our District Recorder, Ill. Bro. Maurice Williams 31° and we would both be pleased to provide more information on our Order to anyone who wishes to find out more about that 'something special'.



## Aldridge Lodges

On Friday 30th November 2018 there was a totally unique Initiation ceremony at the Aldridge Masonic rooms, where the candidate was no other than RW Bro John Lockley, the PGM.

The demonstration event was part of an extraordinary meeting of Lodge of Construction No. 5350, it was organised and coordinated

by chairman of the committee W. Bro Nick Bridgman P.Pr.G.Stwd. but the team comprised of members from the various Lodges at Aldridge.

The reason for the event was twofold, firstly to raise money for the 2024 Festival but also to encourage visiting between the



Bro Roy Smith  
Junior Deacon

The 'Candidate'  
RW Bro John Lockley  
PGM

# Festival Events

several lodges that meet at the rooms. The Committee members were determined to make this ceremony both meaningful, memorable and a joy to behold.

The RWPGM readily agreed to the idea in the first instance to be a willing, albeit competent candidate.

The ceremony was attended by over 75 Brethren, most of whom remained for a very enjoyable festive board and over £1,500 was raised for the 2024 Festival.

Brethren please notify the Provincial Grand Charity Steward of all ongoing and planned events for the Festival on  
[ch.steward@pglstaffordshire.co.uk](mailto:ch.steward@pglstaffordshire.co.uk)  
 and  
[2024festival@pglstaffordshire.co.uk](http://2024festival@pglstaffordshire.co.uk)

## Bromwic Lodge

On Saturday 15th September 2018, W. Bros. Ian Bennett, John Tipper and Michael Tinsley from Bromwic Lodge completed a 30 mile bicycle ride from the Masonic Hall in Edward Street, West Bromwich to the Masonic Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum in aid of the Staffordshire Provincial 2024 Festival. The trio raised over £150 with further money pledged.  
 Well done lads!



## PGM's Charity Zip Wire Challenge

Amazingly, the Provincial Grand Master has expressed a desire to throw himself off the top of a Welsh mountain, all for a good cause of course, the 2024 Festival.

Not to be outdone, the rest of the Provincial top team (Deputy PGM David Thomas, Assistant PGM's Mike Rawle and Kevin Parkes, and Wardens-to-be Jeremy Roberts and Andy Mapperson) have also volunteered (to take part, not to throw him off!).

This is not for the faint-hearted: ZipWorld's Velocity 2 in Bethesda, Snowdonia is the world's fastest zip -wire, with speeds exceeding 100mph, depending on weight and wind strength, and at 1 mile approximately, is Europe's longest. The start is at 1,400' and the descent is 730': one of the challenges is how to stop! All can be seen on <http://www.zipworld.co.uk/adventure/velocity>

This is planned to happen on the 26th of June this summer. There will be an opportunity to sponsor participants at Lodges ( sponsorship forms will be sent out to Charity Stewards), at the Provincial AGM, and via social media: go to the Provincial website and follow the links, or visit the brand new Festival Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/E2024festival> and lookout for #zipfor2024.

We plan to book 100 places to participate in this adventure. Apart from the sponsored places, there will be an opportunity for Brethren and family members to join, strictly on a first-come-first-served basis. There will be 2 coaches running, one from Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton and one from Shelton Masonic Hall, Stoke, both departing 8.30am.

We will have a room reserved for us at the ZipWorld Centre, Bethesda, and a buffet lunch provided for those who want to purchase one. Some may wish to travel independently (journey-time approximately 2 hours 30 minutes) and some may wish to spectate only. The return time will be 18:30 hours approximately.

**How to book:**

You can also go directly to the booking form at: <https://goo.gl/forms/wGIKMzwEI1yz5NSy1>  
 See price schedule below.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. You will be sent an invoice which you can pay online. Please note that we have included a mark-up on all costs so all proceeds will go to the charity. If you want to deduct your booking option fees from your sponsorship, that is a decision for you.



Zip Coach Lunch	Zip & Coach	Zip & Lunch	Coach & Lunch	Lunch Only	Coach Only	Zip Only
£97.15	£81.77	£78.73	£33.80	£15.38	£18.42	£63.35



## Freemasons Across the County Remember

On Saturday 10th November the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Lockley, together with the Deputy PGM, W. Bro David Thomas, the Asst PGM's W. Bros. Dr Michael Rawle and Kevin Parkes, the Provincial Grand Wardens, W. Bros. Selwyn Burton and Philip Baker, together with other members of the Province attended the Masonic Memorial Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum near Burton-upon-Trent.



The Provincial remembrance service was led by the Provincial Grand Chaplain W. Bro Bernard Buttery and the PGM RW Bro John Lockley then laid a wreath to commemorate Freemasons who lost their lives in conflict.



The Act of Remembrance took place at various locations around the Province, including Wolverhampton and Uttoxeter where brethren took an active part.



Forresters' Lodge No: 456 and Dove Lodge No: 8519 supported their Country, the Town and their Province by being present and taking part in the Remembrance Parade.



### MINIATURE **WOODSEAVES** RAILWAY

#### Garden Plants

Open Weekends from Easter  
Open most weekdays - please phone first  
Shrubs | Climbers | Herbs  
Modern & Vintage Roses  
Perennials | Cottage Garden Plants  
Hanging Baskets | Unusual & well known varieties  
Gardens of plants grown | Friendly advice

#### Train Rides

Sunday afternoons Easter to September  
Open: 11.30am - Donation for Fares  
Groups and children's parties  
by arrangement

**Woodseaves,  
Market Drayton, TF9 2AS**

**01630 653161**

[www.woodseavesminirail.co.uk](http://www.woodseavesminirail.co.uk)



TOYE  
KENNING  
SPENCER &  
EST.1685

## GREAT BRITISH DESIGNERS & CRAFTSMEN FOR OVER THREE CENTURIES

  
BY APPOINTMENT TO  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN  
SUPPLIERS OF GOLD AND SILVER  
LACES, INSIGNIA AND EMBROIDERY  
TOYE KENNING & SPENCER LTD LONDON

### **Serving the Fraternity**

Toye, Kenning & Spencer is the oldest Masonic regalia manufacturer and supplier in the world, specialising in the design and manufacture of fine regalia for all orders.

### **Come and see us**

We are experts in weaving, gold and silversmithing, enamelling and embroidery. Proud of what we do, we enjoy giving pre-booked tours of our Midlands factories to Lodges.

### **Mail Order and Manufacturing**

Newtown Road, Bedworth, Warwickshire CV12 8QR

**Tel:** 0247 684 8890 **Fax:** 0247 664 3018

**Email:** fraternal@toye.com **Web:** www.toye.com



SHOP ONLINE AT [WWW.THETOYESHOP.COM](http://WWW.THETOYESHOP.COM)

the  
**potters'**  
club  
STOKE - ON - TRENT

**The Potters' Club** is unique in the area, offering the highest standards of food and hospitality for many miles around.

Corporate and individual memberships are available and the club is open to all business people who need to use the good quality facilities. As well as dining in our restaurant there are private rooms for seminars, informal meetings and private dinners. It is the perfect place and where you will always receive the warmest of welcomes.

The Potters' Club is ideally located for ease of access opposite Stoke on Trent railway station, and minutes from all major road and motorway networks.

**Federation House, Station Road, Stoke on Trent, ST4 2SA UK**

**Phone: 01782 848869 Fax: 01782 411617**

**Email: [info@thepottersclub.co.uk](mailto:info@thepottersclub.co.uk) Web: [www.thepottersclub.co.uk](http://www.thepottersclub.co.uk)**

