

Within Your Province

The Magazine for Staffordshire Freemasons

Autumn 2019

Issue 43



Masonry
goes on the
road...

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A Message from the Provincial Grand Master

As a new Masonic year awaits us, I must firstly pay tribute to all those officers of the Province who continue to work through the summer ensuring the smooth running of the Province. We welcome a new Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Mike Santopietro who takes up the role from W Bro Dr Mike Rawle who is stepping down on Wednesday 4th September. I pay tribute to Dr Mike Rawle who has carried out his duties in an impeccable way since being appointed in 2016. He will still be an important part of the team, and I know the high standards he has set, will continue. W Bro Mike Santopietro is well known around the province, he is a very busy mason and from September he will have a very full calendar.

Our 2024 festival fund continues to grow, and a big thank you to everyone who is making this happen. It is your regular giving and the many recent events, such as, The Burns Night, Cycling to Tuscany and the Zip Wire to name but a few, that will allow us to hit our target without breaking the bank.

As I write, our Province has announced

on Facebook the launch of a 40-foot articulated trailer with signage depicting our charity, the MCF. We are the only Province to have such a project. This vehicle took to the road in August and promoting the MCF, both nationally and internationally. Our thanks go to Bro Danny Poole and his wife Jackie, for the idea and more importantly their generosity in funding the project on one of their fleet. Also to W Bro Andrew Tomblin who coordinated the project so that this magnificent vehicle, which will be routed not only in the UK but also to several European countries, can promote our charity.

Following on from the success in 2019, the prostate cancer screening programme will return in early 2020. The province will continue to fund this important scheme and more information on dates and venues will be announced shortly.

Again, we have shown a slight net increase in membership and thank you to everyone for their efforts in continuing this trend. Please support the development team who have their

'Roadshow' meeting on Saturday 28th September at Wolverhampton Masonic Hall and I hope to see as many of you there as possible. I would also like to mention and welcome the Widows Sons who have supported the Province; they have rescued Legge Lodge which will now be our motorcycle Lodge and their base in our Province.

I also wish to announce that to further our aim of community engagement and awareness of Freemasonry, we will shortly launch our own display trailer, which is free to hire for any Staffordshire Lodge where you are holding a community event. It's an ideal hospitality and information unit, complete with its own 240v electrical supply. Finally, please continue to support the Communication team with news from your lodge and fund raising events.

I look forward to sharing your company during 2019/20.

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

God bless you all. John.



Within Your Province

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

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Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

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

Grand Lodge

RW Bro Rev D J Bowen Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire
Old Denstonian Lodge No 5490

W Bro M Stanhope PAGDC PPrJGW
Abbey Lodge No 624

W Bro G G Parker PAGDC
Marmion Lodge No 1060

W Bro E D Humphries PAGDC PPrSGW
Old Wulfrunians Lodge No 7411, Foster Gough Lodge No 2706

W Bro Prof J B Elder PAGDC
Gordon Lodge No 2149

Provincial Grand Lodge

W Bro H E Stokes	St Peters Lodge No 419
W Bro R L Chapman	Etruscan Lodge No 546
W Bro B L Stansbie	Darmouth Lodge No 662
W Bro R M Knight	St Edwards Lodge No 966
W Bro N T Smith	Marmion Lodge No 1060
W Bro M D Chattaway	Earl Shrewsbury Lodge No 1520
W Bro C Edwards	Earl Shrewsbury Lodge No 1520
W Bro R G Woods	Victoria Lodge No 2848
W Bro R T Palfrayman	Jasper Lodge No 3934
W Bro J H Baker	Eccleshall Lodge No 5389
W Bro P J Forbes	Sherbrook Lodge No 6393
W Bro A I Evans	Andresey Lodge No 6408
W Bro A D Peck	Castellum Lodge No 6710
W Bro H Hughes	Old Wulfrunians Lodge No 7411
W Bro J B Rosson	Clough Hall Lodge No 7481
W Bro A W Chivers	Robert Mummery Lodge No 8331

Dates for your Diary

Date
On Sunday 10th November there will be our regular short Service of Remembrance at the Masonic Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum at 11-00am. All Brethren are welcome to attend.

A Provincial Carol Service will be held at St Michael's church in Stone on Saturday, 14th December at 3-00pm. Further details will be given in due course, but please note the change in venue back to Stone this year.

Following the success of last year's event, the Provincial Grand Lodge Burns Night Celebration, in aid of the 2024 Festival will be on Saturday 25th January at the County Showground, Stafford - please circulate to your members reminding them of this, and to see the website at www.pglstaffsburns.co.uk for booking details.

Banner Dedication: The Concordia Lodge No: 5131
Wolverhampton, Sat 26th October. AGM Sir David Hugh Wootton in attendance

Centenary Meetings:

Mercia Lodge No: 3995 Aldridge Tues 24th September

Ready Lodge No: 4008 Shelton Weds 6th November

Jasper Lodge No: 3934 Shelton Thurs 7th November

25th Anniversary Meeting Provincial Grand Stewards
Lodge, Wolverhampton Saturday 30th November, with a demonstration by Lodge Glittering Star 332 (IC)

Provincial "Away Day"

28th September 2019 @ Tettenhall Road in Wolverhampton 10am - 4pm.

An opportunity to see and hear presentations, discussion groups and the passage of new and up to date information that relating to **YOU, YOUR LODGE and YOUR PROVINCE.**



The Provincial Grand Master John Lockley will be opening the events for the day, and he is very keen to see as many members of the Province in attendance. Saying that, this is "our" Province and we all need to support whatever happens within it.

Members of the Provincial team will take you through a masonic journey that starts with the new look members only web site. How to gain Masonic information from the internet, building a Lodge web site, Promoting your Lodge, Interviewing the Candidate, Mentoring and Supporting our new Brother, Matters of Protocol within the Lodge, Beyond the Craft, New initiatives when Interacting with the Provincial Office, Masonic Charities, and finally your chance to have a say in where we as a Province should be heading!

This will be a full and interactive day where we can all participate with and learn from other likeminded Masons.

You're on the square so be there!!

News from the Provincial Grand Almoner



At the recent Almoner's workshops we covered an area, which raised a few questions and thoughts – keeping in touch with members of the Masonic family.

We are all well aware of keeping contact with Brethren who are unwell, or may be in need of other support, with Lodge and Chapter widows and with those who actually come to us in search of support.

Members who have resigned – why would we do this? Consider why they resigned in the first instance. That may have changed, or there may be circumstances that they could be supported with, be that financial or medical problems. **A member who resigns is entitled to support for twice the length of their membership, providing they have not been excluded.**

In all cases like these please get in touch with either me or the Masonic Charitable Foundation directly to discuss the matter further.

To access the awareness video please go to :-

https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/DF_WEBC_PartnerVideos?page=videos-for-organisations#.XRYvViXTWaM

You will be asked to enter the organisation code, which is **Pro15799**, the number of people watching the videos and the postcode that you are watching from. Once you've done this you can access and watch the videos. There are 6 in total covering subjects of 'understanding dementia', 'on the phone', 'getting around', 'paying for things', 'reading and writing' and 'becoming a dementia friend'.

A lot of the information is common sense, but really does impact on just how people with dementia cope on a day-to-day basis.

If you do watch the videos then please let me know and as a token of thanks for taking your time to raise awareness of dementia I'll send you a pin badge and information card.

If you would like to join this initiative you will need to follow the link to watch the video in the first instance, then, if you feel you would to be more involved then please contact me for further information.

Grants update July 2019

85 grant recipients in Staffordshire receiving grants of over £105,000!

Thanks to YOUR contributions Freemasons and their families are being supported better than ever before.

If you know someone in need of support please let your Lodge Almoner, or the Provincial Grand Almoner know. You could change someone's life for the better.

Please continue to support the 2024 Festival.

Your money is making a huge difference in THIS Province

W. Bro. Ralph J Howarth, Provincial Grand Almoner

Tel. 07734 702231

Email - staffspgalmoner@btinternet.com

Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association

(via the Provincial Office)

Tel. 01902 745151

E mail - smca@btconnect.com

Masonic Charitable Foundation

Tel. 0800 035 60 90

E mail - help@mcf.org.uk



Believe it or not, the range of people that we can support and with whom we should be keeping in touch with is quite extensive and for good reason. Masonic support both pastoral, and in many case financial and medical, can last a lifetime and means so much to those who are in need.

Most of these are self-explanatory and we keep in contact regularly, but what about the wider masonic family?

Members who miss meetings may be at risk of resignation if we aren't careful. Why are they missing meetings? A caring phone call or visit could resolve an underlying problem.

Children/grandchildren – the MCF will consider support for children and grandchildren who are under the age of 25 and in full-time education. If they are disabled this age restriction may not apply.



I sent out link to the Lodge Almoners earlier this year asking for them to take a few minutes to watch the video on Alzheimer's and dementia. This condition affects many people including Brethren, Companions and members of their families, not to mention our friends and their families outside of the Masonic community.

The aim of the request was to raise awareness of these conditions and to further engage some of you who would like to act as 'Dementia Champions' for your Masonic rooms.

Teddies for Loving Care

“Some months ago, Brother Matt Wainwright of St Werburga Lodge No: 4147 and his young daughter Felicity were returning home from Burton when they were involved in a very serious road accident. A traumatising incident for both, but especially Felicity. Fortunately, though badly shaken up, neither Matt nor Felicity were badly injured. But both had to attend the A & E Department at Queen’s Hospital, where Felicity was kept in overnight for observation. I have known Matt for many years, in fact probably since 2005 when we both attended the Hoare Cross Shoot, we both enjoy clay pigeon shooting and he is a member of the Staffordshire Masonic Clay Shooting Association. Matt became a Derbyshire Mason through family connections but regularly visits Forresters’ Lodge and other Staffordshire Lodges. On hearing of this tragic accident, I enquired how they were and asked Matt if Felicity had received a Teddy at A & E. She hadn’t, so I went to visit the family, taking a teddy with me for Felicity, who was very pleased to receive it. A few days later, Matt sent me this photograph which shows pleasure outlives pain. We don’t often get to hear about the beneficial effects that the Teddy Scheme has for the recipients. It is a scheme well worth maintaining. Both Matt and Felicity are now fully recovered.”

W Bro David Watt



Provincial Grand Charity Steward's Corner



Money well spent!!!

Often when we as masons donate money to Charity however noble the cause may seem, there is often the 'niggling' thought that occurs, will this money ever reach the

people it is intended for, or do any good!

Well I can say without any reservation that the money we (The Province) spent in supporting the Prostate screening programme certainly was and has paid dividends. Of the nearly **300** masons tested at the three centres, **twelve** were referred for further investigation at Burton Hospital.

Of these, **Five were proved to have CANCER (none of these brethren were aware they had a problem!)** and all are being treated with the prospect of a very favourable outcome. We are fortunate that the number of positive tests for cancer was below the national average.

As your Provincial Charity Steward, I have a vested interest in prostate screening because I cannot afford to lose brethren to the Great Lodge above as I need them to contribute to our 2024 Festival Target! Staffordshire Freemasons lives saved; this must be money well spent! We are hoping to run the programme again next year and as with this year, we were oversubscribed.

In May the PGM & the 'Chains' along with several brethren took part in a sponsored

'Zip Wire' ride at the World's fastest Zip in Wales. The weather was very favourable, and an exciting day was had by all. I am pleased to announce that ALL participants survived including the PGM, although we did have him insured for a vast sum in the event of his demise! Thanks to the Festival Large events co-ordinator, John (I will get the PGM Wing Walking next year) Treanor and his team, sponsorship raised in excess of £6500 for the Festival.

This summer (Yes it was summer) has seen a series of fund-raising events, some for the Festival and some for charities chosen by brethren who have personal reasons in championing them. A bike ride, unsupported from Lands' End to John O'Groats in favour of Alzheimer's, another huge unsupported ride from Staffordshire to Italy, which raised nearly £2600. On a more local level, lodges have held BBQ's, quiz nights and of course we had the 'Brian Tennant' Bowls competition.

As masonry becomes more and more open, we are becoming no longer "Those funny men who have secrets", but are being credited for our charitable works in the community. This was obvious by the positive response we had at this year's county show. David Watt and his team assisted by the presence of the Midland Air Ambulance helicopter pod, and the Staffordshire Blood Bikes had record numbers of the public stopping at the stand and being astonished by the amount and range of charities that masonry supports, not only nationally but

locally as well.

To this end, the Province has purchased a promotional exhibition trailer that is being fitted out with our logos that can be used by lodges to promote "Masonry in the Community", and get ourselves seen by the public and raise our profile as to who we are, and what we can do in supporting the community. It can then be taken to support local events such as fetes and has a built-in generator, which will provide not only lighting but also allows us to make tea!

Recently, a forty-foot articulated lorry based here in the Potteries has been decorated with MCF logos so that when it travels both in the UK and abroad distributing goods, the name of the MCF will be spread far and wide. See if you can spot it on your travels! If you do, take a photo and let us know as the furthest sighting from Province at the end of the year wins a prize!

The money that is raised through Festivals contributes to over 65% of the income of the MCF so you can see that it is vital that we make a success of the 2024 Festival and reach our target of £2M.

Over £150,000 has already come back into Staffordshire this year in helping over 89 Staffordshire Masons and their families who have for one reason or another fallen on hard times.

Remember it could so easily be you!

It is vital that we get as many RPPs (Direct Debits) completed in favour of the Festival

as soon as we can as this method of collection of donations has been shown by all leading charities to be the most successful. By signing up now, for as little as the price of a cup of coffee a week, a brother, even the most "Hard up", can easily reach the qualifying level of Festival Steward and the Province can reach its target.

John Skellern
Provincial Grand Charity
Steward Sept 2019.



Provincial DC Team 2019-20

As the new Masonic Season gets underway, I would like to welcome onto the Provincial DC Team, the two new Prov. ADC's W. Bro. Mike Gilbert and W. Bro. Matt Shaw. I would also like to thank W. Bro. James Greer one of the Prov. AGDC's last year for all his good work travelling around the Province and carrying out his duties on numerous occasions to the very high standards expected of an Active Provincial DC.

I would also like to remind the Brethren with regard to the '2024 MCF Festival Jewel', and to the wearing of the '2024 Festival Jewel', in conjunction with other masonic jewels, having been approved by the Provincial Grand Master and should be worn, as follows:

When brethren attend Lodges, within the Province of Staffordshire, the '2024 Festival Jewel' will be worn in the place of the 'Tercentenary Jewel', for the duration of the festival period.

When attending Lodges outside of the Province of Staffordshire, the '2024 Festival Jewel' will be removed and the 'Tercentenary Jewel' will be worn in its place. This also applies to brethren when visiting Grand Lodge.

With regard to other Jewels i.e. 'Lodge Past Masters Jewel'; 'Lodge Centenary Jewel'; 'Lodge Founders Jewel' etc. these should only be worn within the individuals Lodge and at their own discretion.

Approval to wear the '2024 Festival Jewel' has also been given by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E.Comp. R.A. Stubbs, for Royal Arch Companions within the Province of Staffordshire, as outlined above, with the proviso that the Royal Arch Jewel takes precedence and should always be worn nearest to the heart.

Brethren who are not members of Royal Arch should wear one Jewel only, i.e. '2024 Festival Jewel'

within the Province of Staffordshire and the 'Tercentenary Jewel' outside the Province of Staffordshire including visits to Grand Lodge.



Prov.GDC
Prov.DGDC
Prov.DGDC
Prov.AGDC
Prov.AGDC
Prov.AGDC

W. Bro. John Brackpool - PAGDC
W. Bro. Rob Adams
W. Bro. Scott Wilkins
W. Bro. Nick Collumbell
W. Bro. Mike Gilbert
W. Bro. Matt Shaw

The Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society

The 2019 golfing season got underway on Tuesday 21st May, at Aston Wood GC, with the Spring Cup and Provincial Wardens' Trophy competitions. Winners on the day were Mark Ashton with 35 Stableford points, Steve Mountford 31, Simon Palmer 29, and the Provincial Junior Grand Wardens' team. We appreciate W. Bros Jeremy Roberts and Andy Mapperson, new in office, for being with us during the day.

On Thursday 6th June we played the three-way event with the Provinces of Warwickshire and Worcestershire at The Vale GC near Pershore. A warm and sunny day with some passing showers, saw us win against Warwickshire and come second to hosts Worcestershire.

On 3rd July, at Uttoxeter GC, we should have hosted a four-way event with Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, except that sadly Lincolnshire had to withdraw at short notice. Another sunny summer's afternoon saw us reclaim the trophies for both the separate matches.

The golfing highlight of our year is the annual Six Counties competition, which this year was hosted by Derbyshire on 26th July, at Morley Hayes GC. We came a creditable third behind winners Leicestershire & Rutland and Derbyshire. In 2020 it's our turn to hold this prestigious event, which will be on 23rd July at Aston

Wood GC.

Our most recent golf day, which was held at The Manor GC, was on Thursday 15th August. Val Denne, widow of past APMG Colin, joined us for the meal after the golf to present the prizes. The Denne Shield was won by Mike Hughes on 35 Stableford points, with Simon Palmer second on a 'card countback' and Steve Mountford third with 32 points. The Valon Cup (for members of Lodges/Orders that meet at Stafford Masonic Hall and first played for in 1933!) was won by Mark Ashton with 39 points; Kevin Spencer came second with 37 points and Mike Rawle third with 36 points.



North Wales and Shropshire, on Wednesday 25th September at Trentham Park GC. This was originally scheduled on Wednesday 12th June, but we had to postpone due to the torrential rains that week!

If you play golf please contact our Secretary (Mark Ashton via ashton@gmail.com) to join our active and enjoyable Society. It's only £10 a year and all proceeds go to charity. What could be better, out in the fresh air, playing golf, and helping those who need our support.

W. Bro Mark Ashton



In September, we'll be playing for The PGM's Trophy at Oxley Park GC on Thursday 5th, and the Provincial Wardens will be joining us for the meal afterwards to draw the 24 winners in the annual Whisky Raffle.

Our final event of 2019 is the rearranged match with the Provinces of Cheshire,

The Annual Communication (ANCOM) of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

The intended visit of our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Kevin J. Parkes and I, to the Annual Communication (ANCOM) of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, 2018, was frustrated by Kevin's duties as an Acting Senior Grand Deacon and my own Grand Appointment. That said, our priorities were clear, so we were in London whilst ANCOM 2018 was taking place. However, this year, 2019, saw us both enjoying the Fellowship of our Filipino Brethren in Cagayan De Oro, which city hosted ANCOM 2019.

Kevin, who does not enjoy the pleasure of retirement, could only be with me in Mindanao for two weeks, while I as a happy retiree, managed four weeks. It was not plain sailing though. My flight from Manchester to Dubai, to take a connecting flight to Singapore and from there to Davao, was late by two hours. This meant connections were missed and I arrived in Singapore to find the next flight to Davao was two days later, so I had an unscheduled break in Singapore. Not a bad thing, but an expensive one, as I had two days accommodation to pay for and flight change charges.



However, by the time I got to Davao, I had forgotten the bad bits and just enjoyed the wonderful welcome I received from my good friend, V.W. Bro. Hector A. Emberga, Junior Grand Lecturer, Past Senior Grand Deacon and the equivalent of Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Mindanao, Deputy District Grand Master. The following week being Easter Week, not a lot was happening in Davao, but I was delighted when Hector informed me that his Fellow Mason, Bro. Anton, a Colonel in the Philippines Police, had invited us to join him and his family for an Easter Friday beach BBQ at Samal Island, a short ferry ride from Davao. A wonderful day was spent in the

company of Bro. Anton's family.

On the return journey, Hector received a call from another Brother, Greg, also a Colonel of Police in charge of Mindanao Traffic Police, who invited us to join him and his family for a beer. The day only got better.

Easter Monday saw me heading for Cagayan De Oro and the 2019 ANCOM, of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.



This lasts for five days, but arriving the day before ANCOM started, Hector took me to a Meeting of Benjamin Go Lodge, No.303, which meets in Cagayan de Oro. I witnessed an excellent Second Degree Ceremony, much as I would have seen in any Scottish Lodge. I was made most welcome and at the Fellowship after Lodge, (That's what they call their Festive Board) wives and families joined us for a superb meal and a fun evening, involving speeches, dancing and singing!

The following days were filled with meeting up with Kevin, registration and attending the various meetings and social events, which included a luncheon hosted by W. Bro. Allen J. Dangcal, WM of Anchor Lodge No. 128, Belfast Northern Ireland, who became a joining member of Benjamin Go Lodge the evening previous, in honour of the new Most Worshipful Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Agapito S. Suan Jnr. Kevin and I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet him, he is a true gentleman.

Further functions included a Fellowship Evening with the

Brethren of Davao Lodge and a joint Fellowship Evening of Benjamin Go Lodge, Taguig Lodge and Anchor Lodge (Belfast). Truly memorable evenings all!



Kevin and I were melting, dressed in morning dress in an ambient of 36 degrees C, so we resolve to adopt the formal wear of the Philippines, which is called a Barong. This is a pull over shirt, decorated by Masonic Emblems, worn over a special design of T Shirt, black trousers and shoes. Much more comfortable.

Sadly, too soon it was time to return to UK. I stayed a few days longer than Kevin, a retiree's benefit. Our welcome was wonderful and the hospitality unrivalled. Freemasonry in the Philippines is strong and welcoming and it was a real pleasure to be there and be part of the ANCOM Celebrations. Roll on 2020 ANCOM. Actually, I can't wait that long! I have another ticket for October 2019, I think someone mentioned a Form P!



Grand Lodge Appointments and Promotions

A number of members of our Province received First Appointments and Promotions at Grand Lodge this year

and deserve our congratulations and recognition for the contributions they have made to Freemasonry in this Province, that have benefited us all.



CONGRATULATIONS

- W Bro David John Thomas (St Modwen's Lodge No: 4850) PGSwdB**
- W Bro John Edward Brackpool (St Bartholomew Lodge No: 696) PAGDC**
- W Bro John Skellern (Ceramic Lodge No: 3827) PAGDC**
- W Bro Ian Hart (Regis Lodge No: 4463) PAGDC**
- W Bro Robin Andrew Stubbs (Lodge of Honour No: 526) PDepGSwdB**
- W Bro Michael Richard Heenan (Izaak Walton Lodge No: 4281) PSGD**
- W Bro Robert William Stoddard (The Crusaders' Lodge No: 4107) PJGD**
- W Bro Granville Stacey Angell (The Sherbrook Lodge No: 6393) PAGSwdB**

WS Welcome new Master to St Augustines

Wednesday 1st May 2019

The newly installed Master, W.Bro Graham Sharrard is also a 'Widows Son' member and several members of his (Motorcycle) Chapter came along to support him at his Installation back into the Chair of St Augustine's 1941.

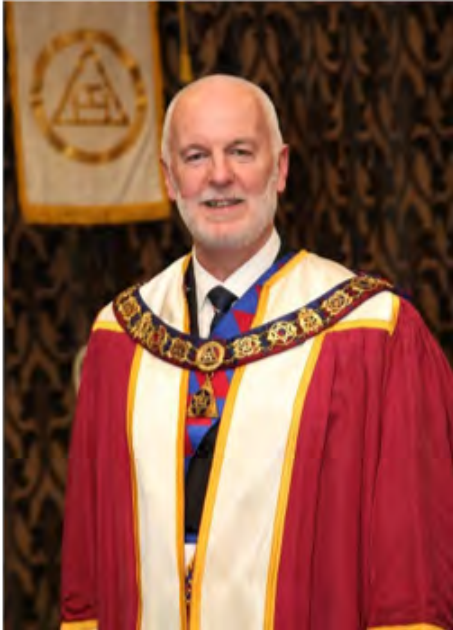
W. Bro. Graham is pictured here following the ceremony with his friends and the PGM R. W. Bro. John Lockley.



Installation of New Grand Superintendent

On 9th April, E Comp Robin A Stubbs was installed as our new Grand Superintendent.

Attended by many Companions from the Province and beyond, including special visitors from London who performed the ceremony. The installation took place in the morning and was followed by a very enjoyable



luncheon, with the AGM taking place in the afternoon.

Below is the content of his inaugural address to the Companions.

"Most Excellent Third Grand Principal, Distinguished Guests, Excellent Companions and Companions.

I feel very privileged to stand before you now as Grand Superintendent, which of course, is also a huge milestone in my masonic career. I am extremely grateful to be able to share it with you, and to have your support this morning.



Being the custodian of this Royal Arch province for a period in its illustrious history is somewhat daunting, especially given the immense contribution and quality of my predecessors. However, I grasp this opportunity with great enthusiasm.

The contribution and impact of those with whom I have worked over the past 10yrs, has helped enormously to guide, and influence, my own direction. Especially that of our PastGSupt, EComp David Hampson, the immediate past GSupt, EComp John Winter and of course the Past DepGSupt, EComp Norman Joughin.

Companions, I am very lucky indeed to have had the opportunity to work with them, and to learn from their very wise words and sensitive, caring approach to their duties.

Best of all companions, is that they are all readily available for consultation!

Excellent Companion John Winter has proved to be an outstanding leader and a very great friend to us all. I am only sorry that protocol dictates that he should not be present today. He hands over to me a very happy Province and I am absolutely determined that - that happiness should continue. I will elaborate on this later today.



I must thank the Most Excellent Third Grand Principal, Gareth Jones, for the way in which he has installed me, and for the

kindness he has shown. He has been very well supported by Excellent Companion Richard Gutteridge acting as Second Grand Principal and Excellent Companion Charles Cunnington acting as Third Grand Principal. They are of course the Grand Superintendents of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire respectively.



I also thank the supporting team from Supreme Grand Chapter for their attention to detail and efficiency. They are of course the:

- Grand Scribe E, EComp Dr David Staples,
- Grand DC's team, EComps Edward Goodchild, Richard Montgomery & Philip Purves
- Grand Janitor, EComp Malcolm Brooks

I am most grateful to you all, for giving up your time to travel to Staffordshire to undertake my Installation and direct this morning's ceremony, and for ensuring that today will be an occasion that I shall never forget.

I congratulate the Senior Officers I have appointed and invested this morning and look forward to working closely with them to ensure that Royal Arch Masonry flourishes in this Province.

I also thank the Principals of the 10 senior Staffordshire Chapters who have acted as my escort today, including from my mother Chapter, the Chapter of Honour, where EComp Tony Lee acted as my Chain Bearer. It was rather special for me to see you all performing your important duties. Well done!

Companions, I will address you at greater length this afternoon. For the moment, I assure you that I will do my utmost to maintain the very high standards that have gone before me, and to serve you all to the very best of my ability.

Thank you very much indeed Companions."

Date Announced for 2020 AGM

Next Year's Annual Convocation will take place at Stafford County Showground, on 7th April.

Details will follow in due time but please put the date in your diaries: it would be wonderful to see as many of you there as is possible. All Companions of the Royal Arch are eligible to attend.



See you there!

Talking Heads

The Talking Heads team have delivered a couple of presentations already in 2019, and another two are planned for later this year or at the beginning of 2020 at Wednesbury (St Bartholomew's Lodge) and at Aldridge (Hatherton Lodge). 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 wish to arrange a presentation for your own Lodge, please contact the

Provincial office who will pass on your request to E Comp Adrian Harris who will coordinate the event.

Support for the 2024 Craft Festival

At the Annual Convocation following his Installation on 9th April, our new Grand Superintendent, Robin Stubbs, announced the Royal Arch would be supporting the Provincial Grand Master, John Lockley and the Craft 2024 festival over the next 5yrs.

To demonstrate the importance he ascribed to this, and to set the fundraising from the Royal Arch in motion, he mentioned that he would be taking part in a sponsored Zip Wire Challenge with the PGM on 26th June.

It was a sunny day in North Wales and



all went well, with a large Staffordshire contingent taking part, enjoying a thrilling, but nerve-jangling, experience.



However, the nature of the event (as well as the hot weather) rashly prompted the two rulers to agree a competitive challenge – first to the bottom (of the wire, not the quarry!)

Staffordshire Companions will no doubt be delighted to hear that the challenge was won by our Grand Superintendent.

The two look forward to many brethren and companions joining them and taking part in further sponsored events. The PGM and GSupt will be collating their most significant challenges, aiming for a 'best of 5'!



Website and Social Media

A reminder that the website for the Provincial Grand Chapter of Staffordshire can be found at



www.pglstaffordshire.co.uk/ra

Provincial Grand Chapter also has a presence on Facebook.



The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/PGChStaffs> or you can search on facebook for "Provincial Grand Chapter of Staffordshire".



We are also represented on Twitter @ArchStaffs, and the Grand Superintendent has his own account @GSupt_Staffs. Please follow us so we can keep you up to date with what is going on.



If your Chapter has notable news items to share please send an email with the article and any associated photographs to the RA Communication Officer Mike Santopietro, at:

m_santopietro@hotmail.com

Children's Christmas Party 2019 Appeal

It's that time again. Christmas comes but once a year –but not this early! Still, it is not too early to put the very successful Mark Christmas Party in your diaries. As well as Mark Masons and their families, craft masons and non-masons are most welcome. Most importantly children aged 0-12 are a must. Why not give a donation towards the success of the day (all proceeds go to charity) either individually or as a Lodge? As is customary, the three incoming Provincial Overseers are running the event again – W. Bros. Ajay Passap, Keith Robins and Stuart Gordon. So do contact Ajay via ajay.passap@sky.com for further details or support.



"Dear Brethren, we (incoming overseers) are working on the arrangements for the Children's Christmas party 2019 event and in order to make it successful (as in previous years) we are looking for sponsorship, either corporate or individual, to go towards putting on this event. All sponsors will be acknowledged. Please help us to achieve our target to ensure the Children have a fantastic party."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Let's go to the seaside

The Mark Week-end will be held at our favourite hotel in Llandudno – the Imperial-between 11th and 13th October. Bookings are going well with 120 signed up so far- but there is room for more. Why not have a relaxing week-end away amongst good friends? Contact V W Bro Barry Clark (bc@smallcroft.co.uk)

Calling all Mark Masons

Why not come to Provincial Grand Lodge this year? It has been arranged for Thursday 17th October 2019 at 3pm (be in your seats by 2.45pm) at the County Showground, Stafford. A special welcome is extended to brethren below the Chair whether you decide to dine or not. Why not get up a table? Cost is £29.50 per head including wine. Every member should have had the flyer. If not, contact your Lodge Secretary for the booking form.

MAKING OUR MARK

Last year our PGM appointed Ian Dingwall (the Past District Grand Master for New Zealand) as the Chairman of the Mark Membership Committee. Ian says "We decided the best way to increase membership is to improve



communications and raise awareness of this beautiful masonic order. To that end we started a monthly on-line magazine called Making Our Mark, which is emailed directly to the Mark Masons of the Province. Whilst keeping our members informed of what is happening in the Province we also hope the magazine will show just how friendly the Mark Degree is and how much fun the members have at their meetings and at the numerous social events that are arranged outside of the lodge setting." It seems to be working because membership of the Mark is growing and word is spreading that this friendly order is an essential part of a Mason's career.

CHANGE AT THE TOP

Provincial Grand Lodge in October will see changes at the top of the Mark Executive. Following V.W. Bro. Ian Smith's decision to resign as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, I will be pleased to appoint W.Bro. Kevin Spencer as Deputy

Provincial Grand Master and W.Bro. Dennis Hill as Assistant Provincial Grand Master. W.Bro. Kevin Spencer is well known to you all as he has been Assistant



Provincial Grand Master for the last three years, a role he has carried out with great distinction, enthusiasm and commitment.

W.Bro. Dennis Hill should not be new to most of you as he has been the Provincial Charity Steward since 2015. A former senior civil servant working in the Inland Revenue Department, he is also very involved in Craft charities, being a member of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) (nominated by Shropshire Province) and recently



appointed to the Charity Grants Committee of MCF.

V.W. Bro Ian Smith has had an illustrious career in Mark Masonry. Advanced in 1981 into South Shropshire Lodge 1150 and Master in 1990, he is a founder of both Round Table & Rotary Mark Lodge in 1986 and South Shropshire RAM in 1990. After numerous Provincial offices he was appointed Senior Warden in 1998, having to wait until 2011 before being offered the job of APGM. He was promoted to DPGM in 2016. Ian has been a tower of strength to the Executive and has undertaken many tasks – all carried

out with thoroughness and diligence. We will miss his wise counsel and his happy and friendly disposition – although he promises to keep visiting us all!

Mike Heenan PGM

PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF NEW SUPPORT UNIT FOR ST JOHN AMBULANCE

Together with W. Bro Dennis Hill, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, I attended the Presentation and took part in the Dedication Service of a new Support vehicle and the Dedication of the new Union Park Facility in West Bromwich, which houses the administration and IT support facilities for the West Midlands and many of their activities over all areas of England for The Most Venerable Order of The Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. Better known to us all as St John Ambulance. On behalf of the donors (The Mark Benevolent Fund), Right Worshipful Brother Philip Wills, the Mark Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire presented the Support Vehicle to HM Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Mr John Crabtree, Mrs Diana Crabtree, the County President of St John Ambulance. Because of Christian


Heritage of the Order of St John, dating back to the times of the Crusades, the ceremony was of a religious nature carried out by the Reverend Canon Mark Pryce, the County Chaplain. Right Worshipful Brother Wills was joined by Right Worshipful Brother Eric Rymer, the Mark Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire and myself representing Staffordshire and Shropshire to assist in the dedication ceremony. Following the presentation and the Dedication of the new Unit, we were shown around the site which houses not only bays for equipping and maintaining the Ambulances and Support Vehicles but also the offices and IT facilities and also small conference and training units. Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the West Midland, Mr John Crabtree OBE, Mr Michael Kuo, the High Sheriff of the West Midlands

and Councillor Kathryn Evans, the Deputy Mayor of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough along with many Volunteers and Cadets from St John Ambulance were present and all seemed most appreciative of the generosity of the Mark Master Masons. Ian CM Smith, PGJO Deputy Provincial Grand Master

INFORMATION OFFICER

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Aldridge to Arezzo

W.Bro Richard Archer and Bro Mark Duce are members of Streetly Lodge No: 7448 who meet at Aldridge and they have been friends for many years. They are both keen cyclists and both have taken part in Eroica cycling events in England and Italy. Richard regularly travels to Tuscany to visit family and for business reasons.



Italy. And so our intrepid brethren met up at the Aldridge Compass Suite on the morning of Wednesday 29th May 2019 and they began their journey, which was particularly significant bearing in mind Richard only took up cycling in 2015 following major heart surgery.

Whilst they didn't use their prized retro bikes their journey

were hard packed stone or cobbles and races on them were struggles that fired the imaginations of bike fans.

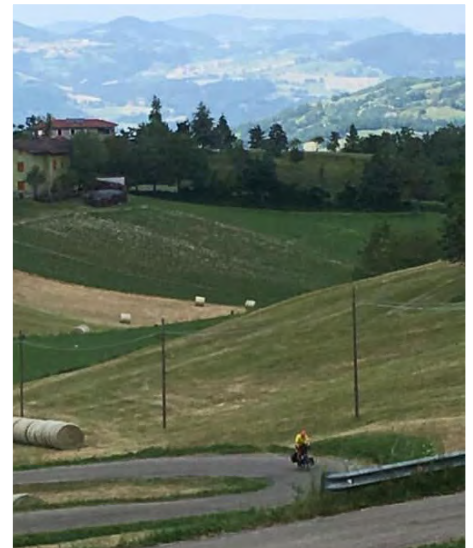
In conversation on one of their many trips it was decided to join their passion of

Eroica Britannia was recently held in Bakewell, Derbyshire but there are many Eroica retro cycle events around the world. L'Eroica to give it the full Italian title is the flagship event and held on the strade bianchi (white roads) of Gaiole in Chianti, Tuscany.

L'Eroica was inspired by classic cycling and aimed to rediscover the authentic roots of an extraordinary sport. The bikes are carefully preserved and lovingly restored classics, with history and pedigree. It harks back to an age when all roads



cycling and wish to raise money for the Staffordshire 2024 Festival and cycle to



lasted 20 days and they finally arrived in Caviglia, Tuscany on Monday 17th June 2019, having covered 1,928 kilometres and climbed a total of 16,170 metres. The pair cycled the entire route apart from having to use the ferry to cross the English Channel and Lake Lucerne. They travelled an average speed of nearly 16 kph along paved and unpaved roads, compacted gravel, cobbles and some asphalt roads.

I understand they enjoyed a cold Birra Moretti on arrival to celebrate raising nearly £2,600 for the festival, congratulations and thanks to them both.



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“Heavy Duty” Campaign

On Tuesday 13th August the Provincial Grand Master, John Lockley endorsed and launched a massive advertising campaign to support the Masonic Charitable Foundation and the work they do to help communities throughout England and Wales with donations to local charities.

the MCF marketing department team which resulted in the creation of the new artwork which is designed to carry the Masonic message across the entire length of the trailer and the rear doors.

The Staffordshire Provincial Team consisting of John Lockley PGM, Selwyn Burton Provincial Communications

on Tuesday. This venue being so chosen as the only site big enough to accept the massive trailer at its best angle for photographs.

The vehicle is breathtakingly large and very eye catching and will take freemasonry’s caring message far and wide.

John Lockley said ‘This is the only vehicle in the country to carry the message that “freemasonry cares”, many thanks to Danny and Jackie for their great idea and for allowing the use of this magnificent vehicle to help Staffordshire to promote the Masonic Charitable Foundation, nationally and internationally and also to Andrew Tomblin for his management of the project’.

If you see the lorry on the road and can take a photograph, please send it with the location to sburton@pglstaffordshire.co.uk when it can go onto the Provincial Facebook page. If you see the vehicle parked up, perhaps on a motorway service station, say ‘hello’ to the driver ‘Zibby’.



The massive advert is on the side of an articulated trailer owned by Danny Poole who owns a specialist chilled food distribution and transport business based in Stoke on Trent.

This giant trailer is 100 % decorated in specially commissioned MCF colours and branding and has just been launched onto the roads of the UK and Europe, in particular England, France, Germany and Belgium.

The idea was generated by Danny Poole and his wife Jackie. Danny approached the Staffordshire MCF Representative Andrew Tomblin and generously offered a trailer for decoration in full MCF colours to carry the Masonic message of Charity For All across the Country and into Europe. These trailers never stand still and rather like aircraft are out there somewhere constantly working and being seen by all.

Andrew took the idea and discussed the plan with

Officer (behind the camera), Neal Fantarow Media Officer, John Skellern Provincial Grand Charity Steward and Andrew Tomblin MCF representative waited in extreme anticipation at Andrew’s lubricating oil factory, Thames, for the arrival of the vehicle at 2pm



David W Philips Provincial Prior 2019

On Monday 3rd June 2019, at Wolverhampton, the colour and full spectacle of the Knights Templar Order was in full flow with the Installation of R. E. Kt. David W Philips as the new Provincial Prior for Staffordshire & Shropshire.

The Installation Ceremony was conducted by M.E.& Supreme Grand Master Paul R Clement GCT, who was accompanied by 14 visiting Officers of Great Priory, all of whom added a great lustre to the occasion, helping to fill every seat in the Temple.

The Grand Master, new Provincial Prior and all attending were respectful of the circumstances that led to the need for the Installation, that being the significant and sudden loss of the long-serving Provincial Prior, R. E. Kt. D. Gary Read KCT, who was respected by so many in Freemasonry in general.

The new Provincial Prior, R. E. Kt David Philips, commented "I inherit a Province in great heart, saddened to have lost its Provincial Prior in the manner that we did but all respectful of the fact that he would want us all to take this Province forward and enjoy ourselves. That, Bro Knights, is up to us all and I ask you to embrace that concept of being bonded together, caring for each other and extending that to the wider world"

Announcing donations to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital this year, raising in total £18,115.30, was suggested as being once of the biggest donations across the Provinces in the Order, something that everyone could be very proud of.

In October, it was announced, that a party, headed by the Provincial Sub-

Prior, V. E. Kt. Alan T. Howls P. Gt. Registrar, will be proud to see two swifts hung on the Peace Tree at the Muristan Clinic, in the old City of Jerusalem. One swift will recognise the work of the Province of Staffordshire & Shropshire and one will be hung in the name of R. E. Kt D Gary Read, KCT. It will prove a wonderful memorial to him.

After the morning Installation and an enjoyable lunch, the meeting reconvened to hold a Provincial Meeting and to Install the Officers of the Province for the forthcoming year. In the main the Officers were selected by the former Provincial Prior and it was fitting that their Appointments and Investitures was a continuance of his work and commitment to the Order in general and this Province in particular

Last, but not least, the new Provincial Prior invested his new Bodyguard, welcoming the new members and inspecting all on Parade.

A busy period followed the Provincial Meeting, in July,



with the Bi-Annual Church Service at the Royal Wolverhampton School, supported by members of the Rose Croix Order. The following week saw the repeat of last year's Barbeque at Kibblestone, which was also well attended, despite the torrential rain at times, but raising over £1,500.



Free Spirit Horse Memorial

The SMCA as a supporter of the Free Spirit Horse Memorial Project were invited to send representatives to the unveiling of the Memorial on Sunday 19th May 2019 at 11.00 pm and afterwards to All Saints Primary School, Alrewas for refreshments, celebrations, speeches.

The SMCA was represented by the Provincial Grand Master RW John Lockley accompanied by his wife Jane and W Bro J C Cairns, a SMCA Charity Representative, from Walter Walker and Sandwell Lodge 3847 and his wife Ann.

The memorial will provide a tribute to the millions of horses that have served mankind in times of conflict and work, providing recognition of their unfaltering qualities of companionship and loyalty.



The statue, clothed in equestrian protective equipment, was unwrapped in stages by local children and the whole event was filmed by BBC WM and was broadcast on Midlands news later that night.



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Staffordshire County Show



I am sure that our Provincial Charity Steward, W. Bro. John Skellern, and the rest of the Brethren who helped on the Staffordshire Freemasons Stand at the Staffordshire County Show, on 29th & 30th May, 2019, will agree, that it was the most successful of the Shows to date.

W. Bro. Dave Brownhill, of Dartmouth Lodge, again lent us his display trailer, kitted out to promote Freemasonry in Staffordshire and the work we do for Charity, and in this instance in particular, The Blood Bikes and the Air Ambulance. Many thanks Dave, for your continued support of this event.

In addition to the trailer, on one side, we had a Blood Bike and Rider, in the person of W. Bro. Phil Barley, of Gordon Lodge.

Phil and his bike were a great success last year and this year it was no different. Phil's easy and friendly manner was a big hit with the children, as Phil encouraged one and all to sit on the

bike and have their photograph taken. He even managed to get the Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire and Shropshire Mark Degree to pose for such a photograph! We may have to start calling Phil "Scoop"! Phil is passionate about his role with the Blood Bikes and never tires of explaining their purpose and the great work that they do, to anyone who will stand still long enough and listen. I would express the gratitude of the Province to The Blood Bikes, for lending us Phil and the Bike! Both are already booked for 2020!

On the other side of the trailer, we were delighted to have the Air Ambulance 'Pod'. This was a massive attraction and kids queued up to see inside the helicopter pod and have their photographs taken. Along with the Air Ambulance Pod, came Erin Hughes, Air Ambulance Fund Raising Executive, whose charming and bubbly personality had the visitors enthralled, and greatly contributed to the success of the two day event. Needless to say, her presence and that of the 'Pod' have been requested for 2020 and will be most welcome. We are very grateful to Erin and the Air Ambulance for their kind input to our stand

The footfall far surpassed past years and this year's combination of exhibits seems to be a winning one. Many visitors left the stand much more aware of the good work done by Freemasonry in general and by Staffordshire Freemasons in particular.

A particular bonus for the Staffordshire Branch of the MTSFC, was an invitation from Nick Collins, of Alarmspy.Com, who kindly offered his fishing section of the River Trent, at Alrewas, as a venue to host more fishing days. We will now be able to offer the Children of Walton Hall Academy, some coarse fishing experiences, as well as the current fly fishing days.

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W. Bro. John Skellern, kindly supplied the coffee and tea, along with a cheese and biscuit/bread luncheon on both days



My grateful thanks go to W. Bro. Dave Brownhill, W. Bro. John Skellern, W. Bro. Phil Barley, W. Bro. Bob Weaver, Izaak Walton Lodge (Secretary of the Staffordshire Branch of the MTSFC),



W. Bro. Mike Sharples, Staffordshire Knot Lodge (Our Official Photographer) and of course, Ms. Erin Hughes, from Midlands Air Ambulance.

A New Staffordshire Classic Vehicle Lodge

It is intended to form a new lodge in Staffordshire for all owners and lovers of any kind of Classic transport

Cars, bikes, scooters, you name it... all are welcome.

Special interest lodges have become hugely successful across the country and here in Staffordshire we are missing out.

The new lodge will be a working lodge but will also emphasize the use and enjoyment of classic vehicles with a strong social aspect

We would also hope to support Provincial initiatives when invited

It is thought the Lodge will meet initially 4 times a year (two summer meetings) with modest subscriptions and a central meeting venue.

All interested parties are invited in the first instance to register their interest by email to: scv.lodge@aol.com Or to the Provincial Office: secretary@pglstaffordshire.co.uk, It is proposed to hold a meeting for all those interested in early September



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A weather forecast of rain and thunderstorms at 2pm hung over the annual Brian Tennant Memorial Masonic charity bowls match held at Dilhorne bowling club Sunday 4th August 2019. And so it was a race against time and bowlers were promptly on the green and bowling by 10am. A splendid days bowling in the sun was enjoyed by everyone right up to the end.

Enjoyment and a very steep learning curve is the name of the game as each novice is partnered with an experienced Dilhorne member who is then responsible for all tutoring as the game progresses. It is fascinating to watch the progression of the learners and the very high standard they achieve by the time the finals are reached.

Breakfast is served all morning to provide sustenance to those who have had to get up early to attend and at 2pm a delicious and mountainous buffet is served. The competition has been revived and run by Andrew Tomblin for the last 5 years and has become so popular that the numbers of participants continues to rise.

After an extremely nail biting final this year's winners were Matt Adderley of Wedgwood Lodge 2214 partnered with Simon Bloor. The runners up were Sam Mountford, also of Wedgwood Lodge and Malcolm James. The sum of £500 was raised on the day for the 2024 Festival and the PGM R W Bro John Lockley was in attendance and kindly presented the trophies.





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Worcestershire Provincial Grand Lodge Festival 2022 – Summer Regatta

On Sunday 21st July 2019 Staffordshire brethren rose to the challenge and took part in this good-natured competition with teams from our neighbouring provinces of Warwickshire, Shropshire, Gloucestershire and of course Worcestershire. It was held on the River Severn using the excellent facilities at Worcester Rowing Club.

The Launch Event (Coxed Fours) was a head to head sprint race over 250m between Worcestershire's PGM, Robert Vaughan and the AGM, Sir David Wootton. The veteran oarsmen of the Cambridge crew led by the AGM, Sir David Wootton, ultimately claimed victory over the Oxford crew of the PGM.



The Full Regatta (Coxed Fours) then followed, this being a knockout competition between the teams with sprint races over 250m during the course of the afternoon, with other light hearted competitions and fund raising events also taking place.

Bro's Paul Harvey (Sutherland Lodge of Unity), Mathew Shaw (Ogley Hay), Laurence Bagguley (John O'Gaunt), David Raw (St Modwen's) and rowers from the club made up the two Staffordshire teams. Unfortunately, they lost both their races but they had a most enjoyable afternoon and what the team lacked in race experience, they certainly made up for with effort and commitment and won the dry race on rowing machines.

The latter stages of the competition were fierce, each team battling through to reach the final, which was eventually won by Gloucestershire Ancients just beating two Worcestershire teams. The afternoon closed with a presentation of medals to the finalists and a most enjoyable afternoon by the river was had by all.



The Widows Sons celebrate their 15th Anniversary with a massive fundraiser

The Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association (WSMBA) held their National Rally over the weekend of 26th to 28th July. This year is the 15th Anniversary of the Association which was born in a small room in Goldsmith Street by 5 founder members. There are now 1000 members within 23 Chapters throughout the UK. This year the Rally, held in Lichfield and hosted by the West and East Midlands Chapters, attracted 500 members, wives, partners and family plus several Masonic and local dignitaries including the Chair of Lichfield, the Mayor of Tamworth, our W. Bro. David Thomas DPGM, W. Bro. Kevin Parkes APGM and of course R. W. Bro. John Lockley our very own Staffordshire Provincial Grand Master - who was presented with his own Motorcycling Waistcoat or "cut" complete with the Roadname of **Lockers** by the President of West Midlands Chapter, W. Bro Clive Andrews-Lewis.



As with most of our National Rallies the weather was not kind, but this didn't dampen the spirits. Ride outs to the Triumph Factory, The National

Memorial Arboretum (including the Masonic Garden) and the Peak District all went ahead despite the rain. Yes - there was beer, laughing, joking, singing, music, friendship and bikes and some questionable attire over the weekend, friends old & new partied into the night and some into the morning.



There is of course a serious side to the event which is to raise money for Charities and the WSMBA are proud to announce that **£17,000** was raised and will be distributed amongst the chosen Charities. This is in addition to the **£147,685** that has been raised by various Chapters over the last year.

The Widows Sons are a fast-growing association whose members hold all those Masonic virtues of Brotherly Love, Relief

and Truth dear to their hearts.

On a slightly less happy note 6 Widows Sons members on their way to the Rally were involved in an accident when their motor home overturned on the A38 close to Burton on Trent.

A perfect stranger risked his own life by running across all 4 lanes of the road to smash the widows of the vehicle and pull the occupants from certain death, as ten seconds after they were pulled clear the vehicle exploded and burst into flames. The Widows Sons will be eternally grateful to this man for his bravery, they have his identity and will be making a personal thank you to him.



£17000!!
THANK
YOU



Legge Lodge

The Widows Sons have recently been instrumental in supporting and saving one of our own Lodges in Staffordshire.



Legge Lodge is now on solid foundations after a number of Widows Sons became joining members, and will continue into the future as the Staffordshire Motorcycle special interest Lodge. There has been a lively uptake in membership, and a waiting list of Candidates for initiation which will commence in October, when W. Bro Clive Andrews-Lewis will be taking the Chair.

Clive would like to encourage everyone to come and visit, motorcyclists or not, and says "the emphasis of the Lodge will be one of enjoyment, enhanced by excellent ritual and friendship. We will try and make the meetings Biker Friendly, but also welcoming and comfortable for everyone. I'd love to see you there"

Legge can be contacted via:

http://www.widowssons-wmids.co.uk/Legge_Lodge.html,

legge2784@emaildodo.com

or our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/LeggeLodge>

100th Birthday Celebration

On Wednesday 15th May 2019 W Bro Joe Nield P.Pr.A.G.Sec celebrated his 100th birthday with his family. He joined Freemasonry in November 1971 and he became Worshipful Master of Ethelfleda Lodge No: 6600 who meet in Tamworth in 1978. He was visited at home by W. Bro's Mike Powell and Barry Price who wished him well and passed

on congratulations to him with a card and bottle of whiskey from the lodge and flowers for his wife. Joe who is now an honorary member of the lodge, was on good form and remembered his many happy years in Masonry as they reminisced together over old times. I'm sure we all join in wishing him well and many more birthdays.



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Lifesaving Equipment support from Jasper Lodge

The Provincial Junior Grand Warden W Bro Andy Mapperson is also Chairman of Foley F.C. which has several junior football teams and whose club house also provides a welcome respite for the youngsters in one of the most deprived areas of Stoke-on-Trent. However, the club occasionally suffers from vandalism and theft, sadly in May the battery for the defibrillator held in the club house was stolen.

The defibrillator was purchased by the committee to ensure staff are able to offer assistance should anyone need it, having heard of problems at other football grounds around the country when a

defibrillator could have saved lives. The funding for the defibrillator came from club funds and also with a grant from Staffordshire FA.

Enquiries about a replacement battery were made, surprisingly it was rather expensive and it was something that had not been budgeted for, therefore a problem. But when Peter Hughes of Jasper Lodge No: 3934 heard of this, the Lodge came to the rescue and they immediately assisted in providing funds to replace such a crucial item of equipment.

On Tuesday 4th June 2019 the Charity Steward of Jasper Lodge W. Bro Norman Jones presented a cheque to W Bro Andy Mapperson to assist in obtaining a replacement. The battery was duly purchased and the defibrillator is now mounted in a more secure box, which is opened whenever a match is being played, or the club house is open.

The defibrillator, which fortunately has never had to be used and hopefully



never will be, provides reassurance to staff knowing that it is there in the event of an emergency and how it can save a life should it ever be needed. The committee are most grateful to Jasper Lodge for their kindness and generosity.



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North Staffordshire Masonic Study Circle

The North Staffordshire Masonic Study Circle hold their meetings at the Hanley Masonic Centre, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 4NA at 7.30pm on dates in October, December, February and May. They have a full programme of meetings which are not held on a formal basis and non-masonic visitors who have an interest in the craft are most welcome.

Thursday 17th October 2019

"Myths and Legends of Freemasonry"

by **W. Bro. R. Sherwin P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks.**

Wednesday 11th December 2019

"The Rosicrucians"

by **W. Bro. S. Markham P.Pr.J.G.S.**

Wednesday 12th February 2020

"The Lodge of King Solomon"

by **W. Bro. Dr. J. Clelow P.Pr.J.G.W.**

Wednesday 6th May 2020

"Pythagoras, Euclid and the Craft"

by **W. Bro. C. Yates P.Pr.J.G.W.**

If you are interested in attending please contact:

W. Bro. Andy Fear on NSMSC@Yahoo.com

Wolverhampton Study Circle

The Wolverhampton Study Circle hold their meetings at the Masonic Hall, 211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 ODD on the 2nd Wednesday in October, December, February and April at 7.30pm. A number of presentations have been organised and they have a full programme, members of the Order of Women Freemasonry are cordially invited to attend.

Wednesday 9th October 2019

The Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk on "Lady Freemasons".

Wednesday 11th December 2019

"The Third Degree, why do we need it"

by **W. Bro. Rev. P. N. Niblock P.Pr.J.G.W.**

Wednesday 12th February 2020

"Sacred Geometry"

by **W. Bro. M. J. Hargreaves P.Pr.S.G.D.**

Wednesday 8th April 2020

"Some differences in workings"

by **W. Bro. D. C. Orme P.Pr.J.G.W.**

If you are interested in attending please contact:

W. Bro. David Orme on dco7411@gmail.com

Ladies Gift Fund - Annual Spring Lunch

The Annual Spring Lunch, organised by the Ladies Gift Fund, took place on Sunday 7th April at the Kings Heath Masonic Hall. "The Ladies' Gift Fund" is a charity run by a committee of Ladies and helpers connected with Masonry in the three Provinces of Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire.

Their aim is to raise money for Provincial and National Masonic charities. The LGF is now in its 66th year and in that time has raised an incredible amount for our charities.



A capacity attendance of 155 enjoyed a splendid three course lunch, following which cheques were presented to the Provincial Grand Masters for the three Provinces. The cheques for £3000 each, were acknowledged by each in turn, and followed a similar pattern. The three Provinces are all in Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation, and each Province is due to complete in consecutive years - 2022 for



Worcestershire, 2023 for Warwickshire & 2024 for Staffordshire. Details of each Festival can be found on the MCF website.

Festival appeals are a vital source of funding and generate the majority of donations made to the Foundation. During usually a five year appeal, fundraising events and activities take place that make a massive contribution to MCF income. The MCF are extremely grateful to everyone who supports them. The Festival also provides an

opportunity to increase the awareness of the work the Foundation undertakes and the support it provides to Freemasons and their families, as well as many non-Masonic charities.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation will also receive a cheque for £1000 directly from the Ladies Gift Fund. On the day, in excess of £3000 was raised from ticket sales and a mammoth well supported raffle.

Commenting on the event, Mrs Sandra Rouse, Chairman of the Ladies Gift Fund said, "Thanks to everyone in working together towards today's event and giving your time and contributions for the charities we support. We should be pleased and proud that a good day has been enjoyed by all present, and that we have raised a substantial amount for Masonic Charities. I would also like to thank the many husbands who have helped to make today such a success."

The Wednesday Club.

The Wednesday Club continues to go from strength to strength.



On Thursday 4th April 2019 a number of the members visited the Lord Mayor of Stoke on Trent, Cllr Lilian Dodd to present her with a cheque for £100 towards the Lord Mayors Charities and 80 Easter Eggs for local children. The members were shown around the Council Chambers and Parlour and took tea with the Lord Mayor, she also kindly allowed our members the opportunity to try on the Mayoral Robes. A most enjoyable day was had by all.



Lifelites

Lift for Lifelites is a nationwide event being held by Lifelites to raise money for their work for children in hospices. Chief executive Simone Enefer-Doy has once again embarked on a tour through every Province in England and Wales, in a wide variety of weird and wonderful modes of transport.

Lifelites donates and maintains packages of assistive technology for the 10,000 life-limited and disabled children using every children's



hospice service across the British Isles. This technology gives them opportunities that they might not otherwise have to play, be creative, control something for themselves and communicate for as long as it is possible.

Lifelites was originally founded as a millennium Masonic project, but is now a well-established, independently registered charity, raising all its own funds. When Simone visited Staffordshire on Friday 17th May 2019 she was met by the Provincial Grand Master, John Lockley at Shugborough Hall, with other representatives of the Province including John Skellern the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Andrew Tomblin and Selwyn Burton.

The Province will in due course be making a donation to Lifelites.



“The Ladies’ Gift Fund”

is a charity run by a committee of ladies and helpers connected to Masonry in the three Provinces of Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire.

Their aim is to raise money for Provincial and National Masonic Charities.

This is achieved by staging the following events:

- **A Grand Christmas Raffle to be drawn on the 28th November 2019.**
Full details will be circulated to every Lodge in the three Provinces.
- **The Spring Lunch to be held at the Masonic Hall, Kings Heath, Birmingham on Sunday 5th April 2020**

Please check your Provincial web site for more information

Registered Charity No 519281

Patron of Masonic Samaritan Fund and Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys

President: Mrs Sandra Macey

Hanliensian Lodge No: 3935

Hanliensian Lodge having obtained a dispensation held a very special meeting on Thursday 7th March 2019, it was a very happy and enjoyable evening as all initiation meetings are but this was special for a number of reasons. Joshua Christie was initiated as a Lewis into Hanliensian Lodge by his father W. Bro Nick Christie P.Pr.J.G.W. and became the fourth generation within his family to be a mason. Also the ceremony was conducted only five days after his 18th birthday making him possibly the youngest mason in the Province. Joshua is well known to the brethren having regularly attended social functions from a young age, he is currently a student at Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College and hopes to continue his studies at Keele University in due course and we all wish him well.



The Initiate pictured with his proud father and the brethren of the lodge.

On Thursday 16th May 2019, Hanliensian Lodge celebrated their centenary meeting with a full visit from the Provincial Grand Master and Provincial team.



On Friday 10th May 2019 members of Round Table Lodge No: 8273 also celebrated 50 years



MTSFC Fishing Day

We had another fine day for the first of our MTSFC Fishing Events, held at Parkside Fly Fisheries, courtesy of Mr. John Read, who has hosted these events since the formation of the MTSFC Staffordshire Branch, and to whom we are very grateful.

At 0800hrs, Casters and Helpers enjoyed the usual high quality bacon rolls, expertly grilled by W. Bro. Ian Talbot and for which all concerned were hungrily grateful.

We were particularly pleased to welcome our newest caster, Bro. John Sealey, of Forresters Lodge, with us for the first time.



Medal and "Goody Bag" presentation, which presentation was made by our Provincial Grand Master RW Bro. John Lockley, who very kindly, as is usual, donated the goody bags. On this occasion, he was joined by our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Royal Arch, E. Comp. Robin Stubbs. Thank you for the continued support of Royal Arch, in making these events possible. Thank you both for giving your time and energy to the occasion.

Heartfelt thanks to all the Lodges and Chapters who have so generously donated to make these fishing days possible. On behalf of the Staffordshire Branch of the MTSFC, I express our collective appreciation.



After welcoming the twelve pupils from Walton Hall Academy, they were kitted out with Hats, Glasses and Water, and paired up with their caster for the day. An hour and a half later, having enjoyed the first fishing session, casters and pupils broke for a substantial and delicious lunch, prepared by our catering Team, of Mrs. Val Denne, Mrs. Angela Talbot, Mrs. Lyn Sharples, W. Bro. Ian Talbot and new members Mrs. Heather Sargeant and W. Bro. Bryan Sargeant. Heather and Bryan are particularly welcome as both are qualified First Aiders. We now have three in the Branch.

The fish were jumping well, though not all participants managed to land one. Nonetheless, after the second fishing session, post lunch, all participants happily gathered together for the Certificate,

Our next Fishing Day is scheduled for Thursday, 26 September, 2019. **Catch the Smile!!**



Long Service Awards

Roger Yates

Roger first became involved with Freemasonry in 1953 when his father died. He went to the Royal Masonic School for Boys in Bushey, Herts., leaving with with five 'O' levels.

Roger joined the RAF where he served for twenty three years and then worked as a Civil Servant for the M.O.D for eighteen years gaining a HNC in Business Studies. He then joined M & S for four years before retiring.

His interest started again while serving with the Royal Air Force in Cyprus. He joined Apollo Lodge No. 7886, was Initiated, Passed and Raised in that Lodge and used his father's apron in the third. On his return to the U.K. he didn't join another Lodge straight away but retained his Country membership of Apollo Lodge. He visited other Lodges and eventually joined Izaak Walton Lodge in 2001 but had no interest in progressing at that time as he still wore his father's apron and wished to retain it.

Then W. Bro Peter Kelsey approached him and he could not refuse his persuasions and his progress to

the chair began. He was Master of the Lodge in 2012 and then he was appointed PPrAsstGDC in 2017.

During his time at Izaak Walton Lodge he also joined:-

Staffordshire Knot Lodge of Mark Master Masons of which he is now PPrSGD.

Peace Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners where he is PrRAMGR.

Betheny Chapter Rose Croix in which he is now 30 degree.

Izaak Walton Royal Arch Chapter where he is now 2nd Principal.

Roger has been married to his wife Chris for 58 years and they have three sons, one living in Sydney, Australia and two living in Stafford. They have seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild and they are immensely proud of them all.

He has always had a great interest in music and has played regularly since leaving school.

He was a member of the RAF Voluntary Band System, Director of Music for S.C.B. for seventeen years and Principal Conductor. He continues to play in a small group called 'Musica'.

Roger will celebrate 50 years in Freemasonry at the meeting of Izaak Walton Lodge on 8th May 2019.



Roger Smith

On Wednesday 15th May 2019 APMG W Bro. K. J. Parkes together with W Bro. J Postans the W. Master of Patshull Lodge No: 6592 attended the home of W Bro. Roger John Asson Smith P.Pr.J.G.W. as he has been unwell recently and unable to attend lodge meetings.

This was in order to congratulate him and present him with his 50 year Certificate and a plaque from the Master to commemorate the event.

Roger had been initiated into Patshull Lodge in May 1969, served as Master in 1981 and then for many years as Secretary and Treasurer, more latterly as Almoner.



Jim Birkin

W Bro Jim Birkin celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry at the Minerva Lodge no 1942 on 7th May. The evening was very emotional and supported by a number of visitors including one special guest who travelled from Holland to be with Jim on this momentous occasion.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was pleased to attend on behalf of

the Province and made the evening much more special with a field promotion for Jim to the rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden.



Anthony Heaton

On Friday 26th April 2019 W Bro Anthony William Heaton celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry at St Modwen's Lodge No: 4850 and was presented with a certificate by the Deputy PGM W Bro David Thomas. Having been proposed by his father in law W Bro E.A. Boyce W.M. and later interviewed, he was initiated by his father in law on Tuesday 22nd April 1969, passed in February 1970 and raised in February 1971. Anthony is the last attending member who was initiated, passed and raised at the Town Hall, prior to the lodge moving to Ashfield House, Burton upon Trent in 1976. Being seen to be keen he asked to take the position of secretary a post held for the next 8 years, eventually reaching the chair in 1981. Sadly his father in law was called to the Grand Lodge above 6 months before his installation. Anthony held various offices within the lodge and was promoted to P.Pr.A.G.Sec in 1987, P.Pr.G.Swd.B. in 1997 and P.Pr.J.G.W. in 2014.



Potteries' Masons change Biscuits into Jugs

Turning lumps of clay into items of beauty has been a task undertaken by the potters of Stoke-on-Trent for centuries. In the mid-1700s they developed the Toby Jug, or Philpot, based on a seated person, and the Character Jug of just head and shoulders, usually of a well-known person, with the hat forming a spout for pouring. The name probably derives from Toby Philpot, a well-known Yorkshire drinker of the time, or possibly Sir Toby Belch, an intoxicated character in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

The six towns of the Staffordshire Potteries (Tunstall, Hanley, Burslem, Fenton, Stoke and Longton) are still known for their pottery and ceramics, and although the scale of the industry has reduced due to the low-priced competition from abroad, there are still a number of high-quality, sometimes small-scale, producers in the Potteries.

The Masonic Lodges in Stoke on Trent, meeting at Hanley Masonic Hall, Shelton, have many members who work, or worked, in the pottery industry.

Philip Plant, a member of Ceramic Lodge No.3827, has always worked in the pottery industry, including spells as Works Manager for Crown Stafford China and Royal Doulton, in Directorships at Royal Winton, Royal Albert and Spode, as a Head of Division at the British Ceramic Research Association, and from 2001 until

retirement in 2010 as a Consultant on Ceramics. Philip had the idea of making a Toby Jug representing Freemasons, and produced an original design and model.

Together with John Skellern, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, also a member of Ceramic Lodge, and David Truman of St. Peter ad Vincula Lodge No.6835, the idea was developed into producing a range of Masonic Toby Jugs

as part of the efforts to raise money for the recently launched Staffordshire 2024 Festival. David is a self-employed chemist in the ceramics industry whose expertise is in demand at home and abroad, and John is a dentist, but comes from a family with connections

Bairstow Manor Pottery, which produces a range of Toby Jugs and Character Jugs, notably of British Prime Ministers and American Presidents, was chosen to produce the jugs. This pottery bank was started up in 1938 by Percy Bairstow, who received the DFC during World War 2 while flying with 48 Squadron, and is now owned and run by his son, Roger Bairstow, who gave the pottery its present name.

The jugs are cast in plaster moulds, and after drying are 'fettled' (cleaned and tidied) and sponged to smooth the edges and joints. The clay jug is then fired at over 1100



degrees Celsius to give a tough 'biscuit', or bisque (better for painting

to the pottery industry, his father, Victor, having been Art Director at Josiah Wedgwood and Sons from 1934 until 1966.

quality than the more porous biscuit produced by lower temperature firing). After painting, the jug is dried, fired again at a lower temperature to harden on the

All profits for the Staffordshire 2024 Festival Appeal



colour, dipped in a transparent glaze and fired again at high temperature to produce a durable, glossy, protective layer.

The painting is undertaken by Dan Smith, who worked in the Prestige Department of Royal Doulton, and whose work is greatly prized, along with a team of other experienced artists. Being individually hand-painted, no two jugs are exactly the same, and there is flexibility in the choice of colours.

The Toby Jugs are produced to span a number of Masonic Orders, including Craft, Royal Arch, Mark, and Rose Croix, and there are Character Jugs of a Knight Templar and a Knight of Malta.

The entire proceeds from the sale of the 'Toby on the Square' Jugs will go towards the sum raised for the Province of Staffordshire's Festival in 2024, the target for the Festival being two million pounds, proceeds going to the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

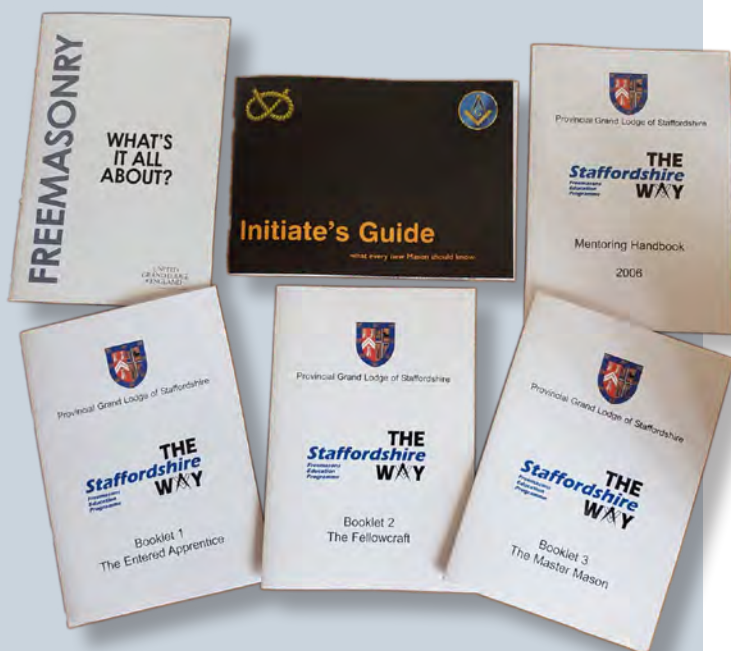


The Initiate's Guide - "what every new Mason should know"

The Initiate's Guide was first produced and distributed to every new Mason in London on his Initiation. It is intended to help form the foundation of Masonic knowledge and it is now available to all newly initiated Masons within this Province, having been prepared by the Provincial Grand Secretary, W Bro Dr Mathew Gibbons.

The 46 page comprehensive guide introduces Initiate's to 'The Craft' explaining what happens after initiation and the Lodge meetings. It details the origins and history of Freemasonry and what we stand for today. This useful guide also explains our structure, including UGLE, Provincial Grand Lodges and individual Lodges themselves. Whilst it is not intended to provide answers for every question it does explain the role of Lodge officer's, the Lodge items, the Lodge room and our regalia. It also helps with details of the customs and protocol within Freemasonry, Masonic symbolism and charity.

Provincial Grand Lodge have prepared a complete package to complement this guide, this includes The Staffordshire Way Mentoring Handbook, and the three supporting booklets for The Entered Apprentice, The Fellowcraft and The Master Mason. This package is designed to help and support the Lodge Mentor and is available from the Provincial Grand Lodge office for a small fee.



Why I became a Mason

Tobias' Story:

So why did I step out of the darkness into light? From a young age, I had been an actor performing in shows both on stage and television. I dreamt one day I'd be a drama teacher and this was the only career path I had planned and was full of confidence I'd achieve my goal. However, when I was 18, I had a personal experience in college that sadly ended up with me losing all confidence in myself and having difficulty interacting with people. I stopped acting completely and gave up on the idea of ever continuing in further education.

anxiety and that I had an interest in bettering myself and helping others. They advised me how Freemasonry would be a perfect way for me to regain my confidence, to make new friends and be able to help others through charity work and other activities. This sounded exactly what I needed so I petitioned the lodge for membership and was overjoyed when I found out that I had been accepted.

Since my Initiation, Passing, and Raising I feel a completely new person. I've been able to visit different lodges around the province and confidently talk to brethren, both young and old, who I have never met before. It has

Filippi have really helped me be the man and Freemason I am today.

Although my journey in the Craft and my studies in Theology at University have only just begun, I look forward to seeing where this adventure takes me and would recommend Freemasonry to anyone in my position, as it truly does improve who you are as a person and allows you to help others as well.

Bro Tobias Morgan

Connors Story:

My name is Connor Levers and I have been a member of The Concordia Lodge No: 5131; a University Scheme Lodge within the Province of Staffordshire, for approximately 18 months.

I have recently graduated from the University of Wolverhampton with a BSc (Hons) in Genetics and Molecular Biology and shall be commencing an MSc in Molecular Genetics and Diagnostics at the University of Nottingham in September. It was whilst at University as an undergraduate that I spoke about Freemasonry with one of my lecturers who so happened to be the Worshipful Master of newly ULS-affiliated, The Concordia Lodge.



One day while browsing the Internet I came across Universities Lodge of Staffordshire No: 9907 and noticed they had an open day. I had previously looked at Freemasonry a few years earlier as I liked the idea of esoteric teachings and helping others, but I never really gave it too much thought. However, this time I decided not to pass an opportunity that seemed to be calling out to me. I messaged the lodge and was swiftly invited to the Masonic Hall in Shelton where I met W Bro Peter Hughes and Bro Mark Coates.

We discussed Freemasonry at length and I explained about myself, my

rekindled in me a desire to learn, to keep improving myself and to offer my hand out to other people less fortunate than I. Freemasonry has given me so much in such a short time I truly appreciate it. This time last year, I would never have thought I'd be able to stand up in front of anyone and speak from my heart when performing ritual.

I've also met brothers who I'm sure will now be lifelong friends, two of them who were Initiated with me have been nothing but supportive to me and have even sat up until the early hours of the morning talking to me when I've not been 100%. Bro's Ed Hunt and Luca



The idea of joining a fraternity with a rich 300-year history, with members who played a significant part in history and a place where men of University age up to retirement age could come together socially, attracted me to the organisation. As far as I am aware, I am a first-generation Mason, so coming into the fraternity was a significant leap of faith. Thankfully it was one of the best decisions I made while at University and I have enjoyed every minute, my only disappointment is I couldn't have joined sooner. From the very moment I walked through the doors at my initiation to our final meeting of the Masonic season back in April, I have been treated with the greatest of respect and provided with ample opportunity to get involved.

It was following my Initiation and then showing a desire to get involved in the ceremony, I was tasked with performing various parts of ritual, which I willingly became involved in. I was soon Passed, Raised and began progressing through the lodge. If it wasn't evident to you already, one of my favourite parts of Freemasonry is its ceremonial side. I enjoy learning the ceremonies and then the social side which comes with attending the rehearsals. I believe well rehearsed and then well performed ceremonies are the key to keeping younger masons involved and enthusiastic.

The other key element of Freemasonry which I enjoy is the formality of the organisation, especially that which comes with the festive board. Freemasonry provides something which University students could not find elsewhere. Simply put, it's something which is lacking and not possible from other University clubs and societies. Furthermore, it breaks down the boundaries and builds up camaraderie between the older generation Masons and the newly initiated student members.

I have heard of some lodges within ULS believing that a relaxation of the formality entrenched within Freemasonry is the best approach to attract younger members to their lodge. I can confidently state on behalf of the vast majority of ULS student members that I know that this would have the opposite effect. Our attraction to the fraternity comes from the formality and its ancient customs; we want to fit to Freemasonry, not have Freemasonry fit to us!

Bro Connor Levers

UGLE Universities Scheme Summer Update

The two Staffordshire lodges who are accredited members of the Scheme are both working hard to ensure effective representation at the annual student fresher's fairs being held this autumn.

The Concordia Lodge will be at Wolverhampton University on Friday 27th September whilst Universities Lodge of Staffordshire will be at Staffordshire University on Monday 16th September and Keele University on Monday 23rd September. These are invariably long and busy days requiring much planning, with lodge members talking to students and answering questions throughout the day.

These are a unique inter active ways of engaging and getting to know the students and just as importantly for them to get to know about Freemasonry. Further meetings will then take place at Shelton and Wolverhampton Masonic Centres.

BI-Annual scheme conference

The bi annual conference will take place this year at Cheshire View, Chester on Saturday 16th November. There will be many guest speakers (including this year Lady Masons)

Everyone can attend and it is an event aimed at sharing best practise and innovation in all aspects of Freemasonry. Bookings can be made direct with the link through the UGLE website.

Student updates

We are very proud of the brethren from our two scheme lodges and

what they have achieved, indeed of every graduate we have been lucky enough to introduce to Freemasonry.

Connor Levers achieved a first class degree and is going on to his masters in molecular biology. Luca Filipi is shortlisted for a major history prize following his dissertation. Jamie Hill, who graduated two years ago with a first, has recently been offered a tenancy at a prestigious Barrister's Chambers in Manchester after completing his pupillage there.

Anthony Miller, a mature student who failed his 11+ and had no qualifications, has through sheer hard work gained a first class honours on graduation. He has been awarded a masters and called to the Bar, having been awarded the Denning scholarship by the Bar Council.

AMULL

The association of Medical, University and Legal Lodges are holding this year's Festival in the City of London on Saturday 12th October 2019. AMULL and Think & Thank Lodge are extremely fortunate in having been able to secure not one but two truly exceptional venues: St Martin within Ludgate, for the inter-faith service, and Apothecaries' Hall, for the lunch.

The AMULL Festival is held at a venue which is always unusual and often unavailable to the general public. It consists of an inter-faith service, an interesting and entertaining lecture, and a champagne reception followed by a lunch. The Festival also involves wives, partners, and other non-Masonic guests, as there is no Masonic ceremony (unlike the Public School Lodges' Festival), but there is always a Masonic theme.

TO ALL READERS OF WITHIN YOUR PROVINCE

Have you considered the opportunity to advertise your business in our magazine 'Within Your Province'.

The twice yearly publication is read by over 3,000 members, families and widows in this province and many others.

**Enquires to Ian Cheetham
advertising@pglstaffordshire.co.uk**

SQUARE WHEELS

The Square Wheels classic car club (SWC) which was formerly the Masonic Classic Vehicle Club (MCVC) and having existed for many years was relaunched following the success of the national Classic 300 classic car runs supporting the Tercentenary celebrations in 2017.



The SWC was relocated to Warwick and the next logical development was to found a Lodge whose passion would be Classical Vehicles, and so, on Saturday 13th October 2018

the Square Wheels Lodge No: 9966 was consecrated at the Heritage Motor Museum, Gaydon. The Lodge is open to all classic vehicle enthusiasts and owners as well as any other suitable applicant for membership.

A Staffordshire Classic Vehicle Lodge has recently been proposed and it is the belief that consecrating a new lodge would act as a most useful recruitment catalyst. There is not only the potential to recruit from a large and untapped constituency of Freemasons who own, use and enjoy the classic vehicle hobby. But also to involve and recruit new members from within the wider hobby at major exhibitions, shows, social runs etc. where enthusiasts who are not currently Masons may want to become involved.

There have been many vehicle or motoring based Lodges and Provincial clubs for many years, all operating happily, but independently. There is clearly a growing

interest in motoring generally and classic vehicles in particular, so there is now a proposal for a National Association of Motoring Lodges and Clubs (NAML). The aim now is to have a national forum to represent and provide mutual support for not only these existing units but also the many newly created and proposed Lodges all over the country. In its Mission Statement, NAML estimates that some 3,300 Freemasons own a Classic Car and outlines the benefits of coordination between the lodges and clubs. The ability to draw on those



through the Provincial office. There has been considerable interest in NAML from many Provinces - from West Wales to Lincolnshire and from Surrey to Yorkshire.

On Sunday 19th May the Square Wheels Club held a Sunday Lunch and Charity Auction at Alderson House, Warwick, and the event started with an interview with the British Racing legend Richard Attwood. Richard, who was born in Wolverhampton, is a former Lotus and BRM Formula 1 Driver and was the first ever winner of the 1970 Le Mans 24hr race driving a Porsche. A lunch and a lively auction followed a most interesting question and answer interview with over £1500 raised, which with Richard's approval will be presented to the Air Ambulance Charity. SWC propose a trip to Classic Le Mans in July 2020 if you are interested in this or other events visit the website and contact their secretary.



Lodges and Club memberships could achieve for example:

- Annual conference.
- A regular magazine which could also act as point of common contact and interest and expand to a 'for sale and wanted' section.
- A means of organising and promoting regional cluster meetings and events as well as national meetings and special events.

W Bro Peter Hughes of Jasper Lodge No: 3934, the Master Elect of SQWL is now championing the proposal of a Staffordshire Lodge and NAML. If you are interested in either please contact Peter



SUNDAY LUNCH & CHARITY AUCTION
Come and meet the
THE BRITISH MOTOR RACING LEGEND
RICHARD ATTWOOD
Winner of the 1970 Le Mans 24hr Race

Sunday 12th May 2018
at
Alderson House, 23 High Street, Warwick CV34 4AX

Tickets £20.00

10.30 am ARRIVE

11.00 am QUESTIONS and ANSWERS
with Richard

BUFFET LUNCH
Followed by
CHARITY AUCTION for prizes money can't buy.

Email - peterchristine@aol.com