



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 29



buddy bag
foundation

Pages 2 & 3



Buddy Bag Foundation, making a difference to children in emergency care.



The Buddy Bag Foundation was created in response to the rising number of children who enter emergency care after fleeing violent situations at home. Restoring a sense of safety and security into a child's life during a traumatic time is one of the first steps to recovery. By providing these children with a few essential items, their mission is to help the transition into

emergency care a little easier and to provide comfort when all else has been removed.



It was during a visit to Australia in 2014 founder, Karen Williams OBE, was inspired by an article about The A & M Foundation which has delivered more than 100,000 Buddy Bags to children in emergency care in Australia since 2007. On returning to the UK, Karen researched the facilities available to children in emergency





care and discovered a huge need for Buddy Bags in the UK.

On Saturday 9th August 2025 Royal Arch Masons from all over Staffordshire met at Hammerwich Cricket Club, Burntwood to volunteer their time for the Buddy Bag Foundation. The event organised by Marisha Place, wife of E. Comp. Robin Place, was attended by The Grand Superintendent E. Comp. Michele Santopietro, the Third Provincial Grand Principal E. Comp. Paul Foster and a host of other well know senior Royal Arch and Craft members.

They were joined by several wives and family members volunteering their time to pack 216 Buddy Bags for children requiring emergency care. Every year it is estimated that 48,000 children in the UK enter emergency care and these bags are donated to help restore a sense of comfort and love at a difficult time.

Since the charity launched in 2015 volunteers have packed 70,000 bags, with that milestone having been reached at this bag pack. Bag packs take place regularly on Wednesdays and Saturdays in Hammerwich and volunteers are always welcome.

At the May meeting of the Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge a speaker from the Buddy Bay Foundation was invited and gave an excellent presentation. Should any Lodges or Chapters would like a similar presentation then please contact me. If you would like to know how to volunteer please visit their website - The Buddy Bag Foundation

E. Comp Robin Place



Provincial DC team

Dear Brethren,

The new Masonic season is upon us, and once again the calendar is full. There are over 120 Lodge meetings already in the diary where the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, and/or his Deputy, Assistants or representatives will be in attendance with a member of the Provincial DC team to celebrate Installations as well as Brethren's 50- and 60-year anniversaries in Freemasonry. These occasions will, as always, be supported by the Acting Provincial Grand Lodge Officers of the year, so please ensure they receive a summons from your Lodge Secretary.

I am delighted to welcome two new members to the team this season. W. Bro. Danny Reilly and W. Bro. Matthew Shaw.



W. Bro. Matt Shaw first joined the DC team in 2018 and has served in several roles, including Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. For 2025/26, he has been reappointed as Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Matt was initiated into Ogley Hay Lodge No. 8917 in October 2007 and became Worshipful Master in March 2012. Alongside his Craft

commitments, he is also a member of Queeselet Chapter and Queeselet St James Lodge No. 6887.

Away from Freemasonry, Matt has spent 26 years with West Midlands Police, where he currently serves as a Neighbourhood Police Inspector. He and his partner Tilly have two children, Emily (8) and William (14). In July 2025, Matt will graduate from Staffordshire University with a master's degree in international security and Cooperation, awarded with merit. When time allows, he enjoys hillwalking and cooking.

W. Bro. Daniel Reilly joins the DC team this year as an Active Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, following his first Provincial appointment as an active Provincial Grand Steward in 2024.



Danny was initiated into the Lodge of Honour No. 526 in March 2012, becoming Worshipful Master on three occasions, most recently in 2021. He is also Most Excellent Zerubbabel of the Chapter of Honour and serves as Secretary of the Lodge. His interest in ritual has led to involvement in Honour Lodge of Instruction, where he is Deputy Preceptor, and in 2017 he acted as Senior Warden at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement's Preceptors' Festival in London.

Professionally, Danny runs DJR Marketing Solutions Ltd., a Wolverhampton-based consultancy, after an international career in hospitality across Southeast Asia and Australia. A keen sportsman, he represents the Central Region Over-50s in walking football and is the current Lodge of Honour golf champion.

Together with the continuing members of the team, the Provincial DC structure for 2025/26 is as follows:

- W. Bro. Matthew Adderley, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies
- W. Bros. John Birchill and Matthew Shaw, Provincial Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies
- W. Bros. Kevin Gibbons, John Cameron, and Danny Reilly, Provincial Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies

I also wish to thank W. Bro. Brett Turner-Farmer for his dedicated service as a Deputy Director of Ceremonies, and for his commitment to the team over the last 5 years. We extend our best wishes to him for the future.

The DC team remains committed to providing service and support across the Province. Please do not hesitate to approach your duty DC for help or advice on ensuring your meetings and celebrations run smoothly and are enjoyed to their fullest. Likewise, if any Lodge requires advice or clarification on ceremonial or ritual matters, please reach out – we are here to assist.

On a housekeeping note, please remember to keep your Lodges tyled at all times, particularly during Installations when the Tylers and Inner Guards are changing.

And a reminder that CCTV cameras are not to be used within Lodge Rooms.

The Provincial DC team look forward to visiting your Lodges and spending time with you this season. Should I be able to help you, please contact me at dc@staffordshirefreemason.org.uk.

W. Bro. Matthew W. Adderley

Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies



Send your articles to: editor@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk

Staffordshire Provincial Grand Steward's Lodge 9567

Aims and Objectives

"Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge membership is drawn from those Brethren who have served in the rank of Provincial Grand Steward in the Province of Staffordshire or any other Province. Its aim is to promote best practice in Ritual and Ceremony and to provide such support for the Province at Provincial Grand Lodge, Provincial Visits to Private Lodges and to Private Lodges themselves as may from time to time be requested"

We welcome requests from Lodges to provide assistance or support for ceremonies that Lodges may be carrying out.

Should Lodges require our support please email: stewardslodge@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk giving as much detail as possible.

All we ask is that suitable notice be given. Each request will be taken on its merits and the availability of our members.

The Cornucopia is a symbol of plenty and abundance that stretches back to Classical Antiquity (a period of time in the Mediterranean that generally encompasses the Greco-Roman period). It is most commonly associated with Zeus, King of the Greek gods. When Zeus was born he was hidden away by his mother to prevent Kronos, his father, from eating him, as he

did Zeus' siblings. Kronos in doing this was trying to prevent the fulfillment of a prophecy that one of his children would destroy him. In modern times the Cornucopia has been adopted the world over as a symbol of prosperity and abundance. This is especially true in Western society. For example in Canada an annual festival called Cornucopia is held. In several Central and South American countries the Cornucopia is depicted on their coat of arms. In the United States several states have the Cornucopia on their state flags and on state seals. It is most closely tied in the United States with the Thanksgiving Holiday.



For Freemasons the Cornucopia is most commonly known as the symbol for the stewards, often one of the duties of the stewards is to help with meal preparation and other times when nourishment is provided to the members of the lodge.



Volunteers for the Potter's 'Arf Marathon

Brethren and Companions from 8355

Chapter and Craft pulled together to once again work as Marshals for the Potter's 'Arf Marathon on Sunday 28th September.

With more than 2,000 competitors taking part in a walking race, relay race and the running event, needs plenty of volunteer supporters. For these Masons the time was spent marshalling junctions for the Race Organisers ensuring the route remains traffic free to enable the spectators and competitors to have the best opportunity to get their best personal times.



Assisting the team from 8355 was E Comp John Cameron ProvAPGP in Chapter from Old Denstonian Chapter and E Comp Michael Knight of London Staffordshire Chapter, along with a couple of non-

Masons who we hope one day might wish to become Candidates for Initiation.

At the Section Briefing E Comp Michele Santopietro, Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, arrived to provide support to the team and wish them well adding "thank you so much for putting Service to our Community first and ensuring the public see



a positive side to how Freemasons work within their local Community. Very proud of you all"

As Marshals, the role of those in attendance was to ensure the welfare of the competitors, cheering them on and providing support for the organising team. At the end of the event Graham Smith, Race Director, thanked the members of 8355 for their time, enthusiasm and overall support of the event asking if Staffordshire Freemasons would consider becoming a future partner in the event for all marshalling duties? An opportunity for Staffordshire Freemasons to be widely seen in a huge community-based event!!

Congratulations to W Bro Tony "Awesome" Dawson competing in the event resplendent in MCF running gear!!



A Lewis by Name and Nature: A Family Bond Strengthened in Masonry

In a ceremony rich with symbolism and sentiment, Worshipful Brother Clive Andrews-Lewis had the rare honour of initiating his son-in-law, Mark Lewis-Baggott, into Freemasonry — a moment that perfectly entwined family and fraternity. Though not his own son, and therefore not a “Lewis” in the traditional Masonic sense, the connection could hardly be closer. The shared “Lewis” name and the deep familial bond made the evening a profoundly meaningful occasion, uniting generations through the timeless principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. W. Bro Clive said “I am hugely grateful to the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Adrian Middleton who, when we interviewed Mark, immediately offered to defer his chair to me for the Ceremony. I have no son of my own, so this was a fantastic offer and made it truly a night to remember”

The evening was further highlighted by a visit from the Provincial Junior Grand Warden, W. Bro. Alan Clark who witnessed Bro. Bill Cooper deliver the working tools in fine style, his first piece



of floor work, and by a superb delivery of the Initiates Charge from the Junior Warden, Bro. Luke Rushton-Marsh.

Brother Mark is already into the depths of Solomon, studying the questions for his next degree – and just 2 days after his initiation attended his first Lodge of Instruction and got to do some floor work.

1 in 8 men **will** get prostate cancer.



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4. At the bottom of the next screen select the time you want to be tested and book it! You will then receive an email confirmation

When: 22nd Nov - 10.00 - 16.00

Where: Chase Golf Course, Penkridge ST19 5RN



Brought to you by
Staffordshire Freemasons

Barr Beacon Lodge No. 6109 Charity donations

As Freemasons we understand that compassion and generosity serve as golden threads that bind communities together. Nowhere is this more evident than in the support extended to hospice charities, organisations dedicated to providing dignified end-of-life care to individuals and comfort to their loved ones.

The recent donation of £1100 to St.Giles Hospice in Whittington, Lichfield by Barr Beacon Lodge, shines a spotlight on the profound impact such gestures can make—not only in the lives of patients but also to their families. St. Giles Hospice receives only 18% of its running costs from Government, relying on charitable donations for the balance of costs.



At a Lodge Party held on 19th July at The Compass Suites, Aldridge, organised by Lodge member Dave Sanders, over 80 members and friends attended. Through ticket sales and an Irish Bingo, a generous amount of £1200 was raised. £600 was allocated to St.Giles Hospice with a further £500 donated from Lloyds Bank charity support fund, making the £1100 total donation. This was presented to the fundraising representative of St.Giles Hospice by Dave Sanders and Lodge Treasurer Gary Evans.

A second donation was also made following the generosity of the Lodge supporters, to Prostate Cancer UK. A cheque for £500 was donated

on behalf of the Lodge. This charity has been supported by Barr Beacon WM, Chris Hill over many years following his own cancer treatment some years ago. Prostate cancer is the only major cancer without a screening programme, but the end of this year, that could finally change with an update from the UK National Screening Committee and following Prostate Cancer UK emphasizing the need.

Both charities are important to members of Barr Beacon Lodge and we would like to thank all those who have supported our fundraising efforts in the past year.

The Working Tools of a Mason

I now present the working tools of a mason, they are Solomon, The Portal and the Provincial Vault

Solomon is an online platform to support you in learning and development. It provides a vast repository of materials, including articles, videos, interactive modules, covering the history, symbolism, and teachings of Freemasonry. It caters to Freemasons of all levels, from new initiates to experienced members, offering resources for personal study and lodge-based learning. It includes but is not limited to:

- **Extensive Learning Resources:** It hosts a variety of materials, including “nuggets,” papers, presentations, demonstrations, Q&A sessions, and quizzes, all related to Freemasonry.
- **Personalized Learning:** You can access these resources at their own pace and convenience, using devices like PCs, laptops, tablets, or smartphones.
- **Lodge Support:** It provides resources for your Lodge Mentor and those involved in Lodge of Instruction, allowing them to incorporate learning and development into meetings.
- **Onboarding for Freemasons:** It includes onboarding courses covering the first three degrees and eventually the Royal Arch, helping you understand the symbolism and lessons of each.
- **Continuous Development:** Solomon encourages ongoing learning and deeper understanding of our history, philosophy, and symbolism. Don't forget you can obtain Certificates of achievement in the First, Second, Third Degrees and Royal Arch!

The Portal is a membership platform to enhance your experience by providing a user-friendly system. Key Features and Contents:

- **Personal Profile:** Members can update their contact details, upload a profile photo, and view their Masonic history.
- **Lodge and Chapter Information:** Access details about upcoming meetings, consecration dates, and Lodge/Chapter officers, as well as member lists.
- **Lodge/Chapter Exploration:** Discover other Lodges and Chapters within the organization.
- **Skills and Interests:** Members can share information about their occupations, hobbies, and interests, which can be used to foster connections and facilitate support for local activities.
- **Enhanced Privacy Controls:** Members can manage who can view their personal data within their profile.
- **Integration with Existing Systems:** The portal is designed to coexist with and eventually replace Hermes and Adelphi, incorporating their functionalities into a single platform.
- **Future Enhancements:** The portal will





continue to evolve, with future updates potentially including features like calendar integration, side order information, and support for overseas Lodges.

The Provincial Vault is the information website of Staffordshire Freemasons the only place you will need to visit for Craft and Royal Arch resources, documents and information including Membership - Craft Resources / Pathway and Royal Arch Resources / Archway, Mentoring, Care - Charity & Almoner, Admin - Document's & Hermes. Also included in the Provincial Vault is the Staffordshire Freemasons Yearbook 2025 plus details for all Lodges, Chapters, Knights Templar, Mark and other orders

So, the working tools of a mason are wide and varied and are available now for your next step in freemasonry.

Got a question?

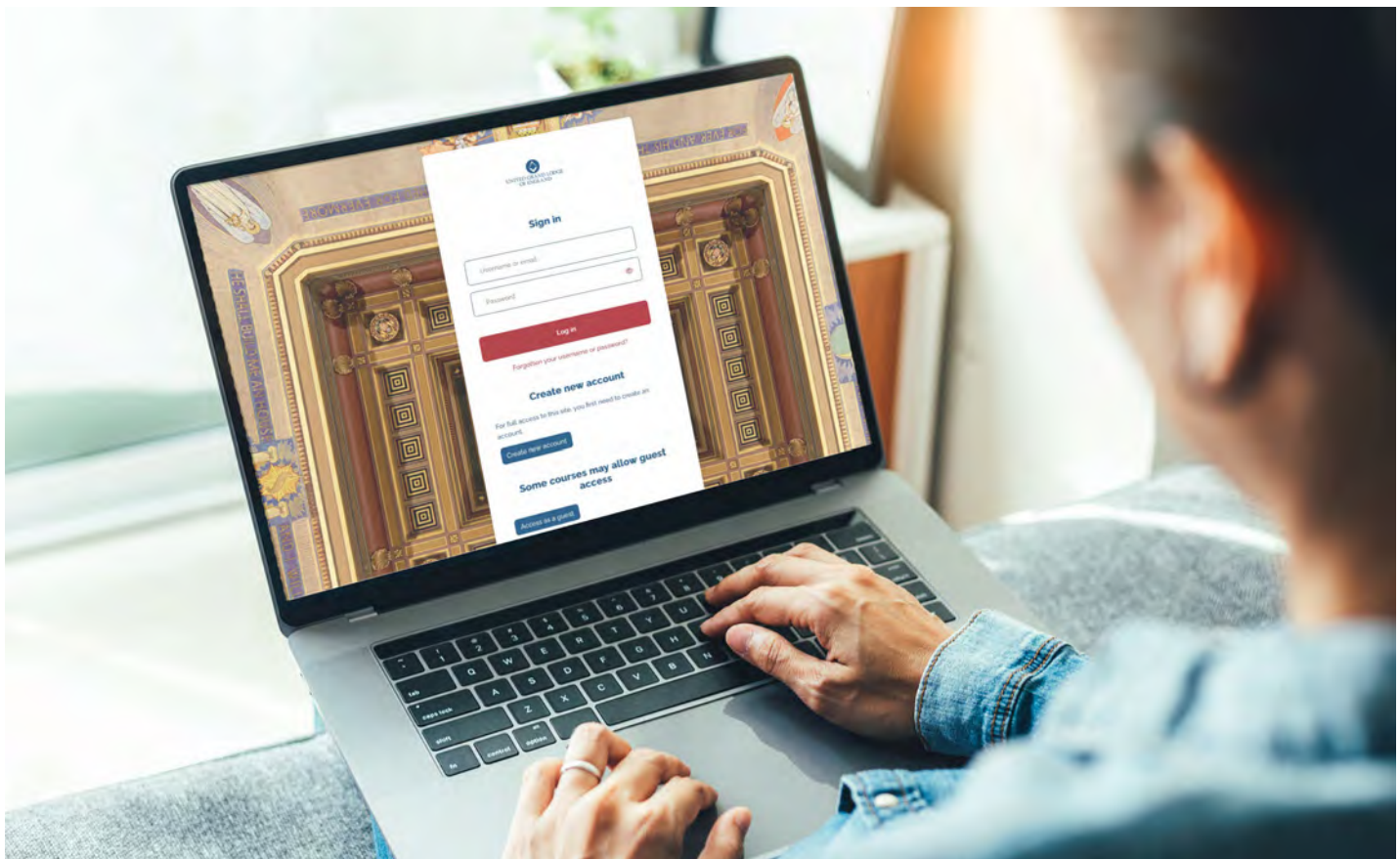
W. Bro Steve Watts

Provincial Grand Learning & Development Officer

Email learning@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk

Solomon Login <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/login/index.php>

Portal Login <https://desktop.portal.ugle.org.uk/auth/login>



Jasper Lodge No. 3934

The Staffordshire Real Ale Lodge

Jasper Lodge was consecrated in March 1919 and is one of the surviving Hallstone Jewel Lodges, having celebrated its Centenary in 2019. In recent years Jasper has met at Shelton Masonic Hall and amongst its alumni it has none other than Reginald Mitchell (the inventor of the Spitfire – not that he needs an introduction in this part of the country).

Over the past few years Jasper has had its ups and downs and at times been struggling, but with the history in the lodge we have decided against surrendering our warrant. Therefore this masonic season Jasper Lodge is reinventing itself as a special interest lodge, focusing on Real Ale.

The lodge has already had some joining members who are keen to support the history of the lodge and to support its evolution into a special interest around a topic a lot of us are very fond of.

As the lodge is an additional lodge to a number of our members we are keen to keep our costs down while we establish ourselves in this new guise, therefore we are going to meet four times a year. This year the lodge is meeting at Kidsgrove in September and November, Leek in January, and Shelton for our Installation meeting in March 2026.

Our September meeting at Kidsgrove will be on Monday 15th. We will hold a short business meeting in the lodge room upstairs then receive a talk from Rob Jackson, Secretary of the Potteries Branch of CAMRA, in the dining room. This should be interesting as it will be exactly one month before CAMRA's 40th Beer Festival starts in Kings Hall, Stoke-on-Trent.

Following the talk from Rob, we will have a "Crafternoon meal", which can include some craft beers to accompany the food. This is optional so that those who are driving do not have to pay for beer they will not consume. The costs will be £20 for the meal and another £5 to include two glasses of craft beer. Other real ales and soft drinks will also be available.

Plans are still being formulated for the November meeting but we are hoping we may be able to undertake a ceremony on behalf of the Universities Lodge of Staffordshire. If not, we will find another talk to whet your appetites. After the meeting, we will either have another Crafternoon meal or retire to the Red Bull Inn for our festive board and some beer.

To confirm the meeting dates and venues: -

1. Monday September 15th at Kidsgrove.
2. Monday 24th November at Kidsgrove.
3. Monday 19th January 2026 at Leek.
4. Monday 23rd March 2026 at Shelton.



For more information or details please contact:

Sebastian Daly – Secretary – sebdaly@yahoo.co.uk **07773 344331**

Simon Palfreyman – Asst. Secretary – sjpalfreyman@gmail.com **07943 289555**