

WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



February 2022

A Message from the Provincial Grand Master

Brethren

I was due to visit several lodges in January and February but as you may know I was struck down with polymyalgia rheumatica and a trapped sciatic nerve. Both conditions are quite painful and precluded me from driving, but I continue to see a consultant and I have appointments with a chiropractor, as my condition slowly improves.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has sent messages and cards wishing me a speedy recovery, it made me feel so much better. But it couldn't have come at a worse time especially with our beloved Provincial Grand Secretary's accident putting him in hospital with nine broken ribs. I know you join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Like all large organisations we have backup plans and with my inability to function, my deputy, in the form of VW Bro David Thomas has indeed deputised for me brilliantly, also taking half of Bro Matt's duties too. 2022 will be another big year for us with the consecration of a new lodge together with several centenary celebrations.

Please support the upcoming Midsummer Night's Ball at The County Show Ground on Saturday 25th June where we will be supporting SAFFA the armed forces charity. SAFFA are providing one of their high-profile ambassadors who will give a light-hearted insight into the work of this wonderful organisation. There will be prizes, entertainment and dancing to a live band. Please, look out for the booking information. Staffordshire were the first Province in UGLE to sign the armed forces covenant and this event is one of the ways we can show our support for serving and veteran personnel who protect us at home and abroad.

I wish to apologise to lodges I couldn't attend but my period of recovery will soon be at an end, and I look forward to being in your company very soon.

Thank you for your love and kindness. I'm proud to call you brother.
Best wishes

John.





hosted by The Provincial Grand Master

> Saturday 25th June 2022 18:00 - 23:30

Ingestre Suite, County Showground, Western Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD.

Sparkling Reception
Grand Prize Draw & Raffle
Charity Guest Speaker
Dancing to The Soundations Band

Menu

Starter

Salmon Tart with Hollandaise Dressing

Main

Breast of Chicken wrapped in Pancetta filled with Feta, Spinach and Tomato Mouse, Veloute Sauce Dessert

> Mixed Berry Eton Mess topped with Raspberry Meringue Crown Tea or Coffee

Alternative dietary requirements can be selected when ordering tickets online.

Tickets £50.00 per person
visit www.staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk/midsummerball to purchase.
All proceeds to the Staffordshire 2024 Festival

Scan with phone camera



To make a donation to the 2024 Festival

2024

Scan with phone camera



To order your Mid-Summer Ball Tickets

Staffordshire Masonic Choir

The Choir has been active for around twenty-five years and now that the threat from Covid is significantly reduced we would like to have more members.

We are just a collection of masons who enjoy singing. Not all of us can read music very well but we can learn. So we meet on the second Saturday of the month at the Masonic Hall in Gaol Square in Stafford for a cup of tea, a biscuit or two and an hour of singing.

Our musical Director is the Provincial Organist, Dudley Ray and he is talented, tolerant and has a great sense of humour.

The Choir will sing in support of almost any Masonic function in Staffordshire if we can. We have sung at the Provincial Cathedral Services, at Lodge and Chapter Consecrations, at the Knights' Templar Church service, at several Carol Services and at Concerts.

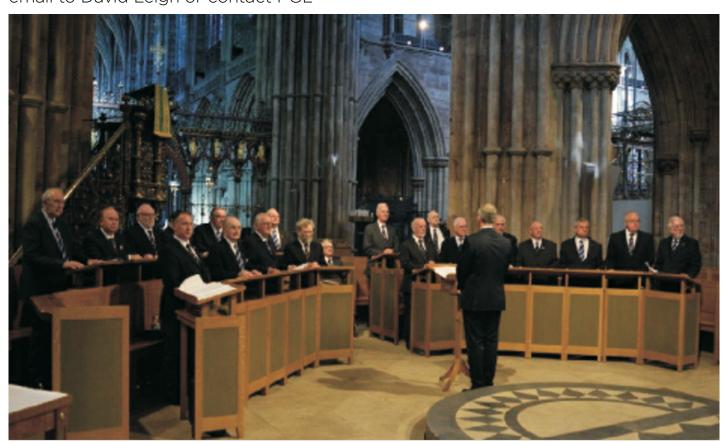
If you think you might enjoy it, drop an email to David Leigh or contact PGL

office so that we know to expect you and to keep the door open for you. David can also suggest where you can park.



Like all Freemasonry it is 'free' but there is a subscription of £25 a year which pays for the music and makes a contribution towards the conductor's costs.

We would love to welcome you to the choir.



Burslem Chapter banner Dedication meeting-" Making memories"

Like a Phoenix returning from ashes, Burslem Chapter has gone from facing closure five years ago to now being vibrant and beginning to flourish once again.



The oldest Chapter in Staffordshire sadly faced a decline in membership and talks began around 2018 to try to save this wonderful Staffordshire Chapter. Much of this work was done by E Comp Phil Baker who wanted to see the Chapter grow back to its former splendour and so he strived to gain new members and to maintain the existing membership.

The culmination of this hard work



was a link with Legge Lodge and the Widows Son's motorcycle association who have provided support and new Candidates and members for the Chapter, who all proudly wear the Burslem Patch on their "cuts". From 6 active members in 2018 the Chapter now has 22 members, at least 16 of which are active at the meetings. A move to the Chase Golf Club was negotiated and a new start for the Chapter was made in July 2021.

To celebrate these new beginnings Phil wanted something special to mark the occasion and so started work in designing and commissioning a banner for the Chapter. This was completed in December and on 17th February 2022 Burslem Chapter was honoured by a full Provincial visit where the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent dedicated the new banner. Something that had not been seen in Staffordshire for over 40 years!

39 guests and members attended the meeting, and the banner was duly dedicated to the honour and glory of the Most High and for the benefit of the Chapter.

Guests of honour at the meeting (in addition to the full Provincial team) were the Grand Superintendent of Worcestershire, E Comp John Phenix and one of our Past Grand Superintendents, E Comp David Hampson.



The Chapter would also have welcomed E Comp John Winter, but unfortunately illness prevented his attendance on the evening, though thankfully he is now recovered.

The ceremony is one that will live in the hearts and memories of all who were able to attend the a lifetime ceremony for a Chapter.



Faith & Works Chapter No 5079

Our Second Provincial Grand Principal,

E Comp Ralph J Howarth attended the meeting of Faith and Works Chapter on 22nd February 2022 to celebrate the 50 years of service to Royal Arch Masonry by E Comp Gerald (Gerry) Turner, PPrGSoj.



Gerry's Masonic career began when he was Initiated into the Lodge of Fellowship No. 3650 based at Bridge Street, Manchester in the Province of East Lancashire, on 16th March 1967 by his father. He was Passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on 21st December 1967 and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on 21st March 1968. Unfortunately, his mother Lodge handed in its warrant and no longer exists.

In 1992 he became a Joining member of the Tudor Lodge of Rifle Volunteers No. 1838 in this Province and in 1998 joined Foster Gough Lodge No. 2706, the Installed Masters Lodge of the Province of Staffordshire.

In the Royal Arch he was Exalted into Fellowship Chapter No. 3650 in the Province of East Lancashire On 7th January 1972, before joining Faith and Works Chapter No. 5079 in the Province of Staffordshire in 1997. Gerry was installed into the Chair of Zerrubabel on 28th October 2008.

He was honoured with an appointment in the Craft to the rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon in 1983 in the Province of East Lancashire, and Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon in the Province of Staffordshire in 2000. Since then, he has been promoted to Past

Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 2009 and again to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 2015.

In the Royal Arch he was honoured with appointment to Past Provincial

Deputy
Grand
Sword
Bearer
in the
Province
of East
Lancashire
in 1985 and
appointed
to the rank

of Provincial
Grand
Sojourner
in the
Province of
Staffordshire
in 2012, since



then he was promoted further in 2020 to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, again in this Province.

His hobbies include choral singing and motor sports, and he is the Chair of the Staffordshire Provincial Masonic Choir. He can often be found at Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb course in warmer weather enjoying the competition.

Thank you for your dedicated service to Royal Arch Masonry and your support of your Chapter and this Province Gerry, you are a credit to Freemasonry!

Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society calendar for 2022

Thursday 19th May	Aston Wood GC	Spring Comp. & Provincial Grand Wardens' Trophy
Tuesday 31st May	Druids Heath GC	Matches v Warwickshire & Worcestershire
Tuesday 26th July	Bromsgrove GC	Midland Region Team of Four (New)
Monday 1st Aug	Ruddington Grange GC	Matches v Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire
Tuesday 9th August	Wychwood Park GC	Valon Cup & Denne Shield
Tuesday 23rd August	Aston Wood GC	Six Counties Tournament
Friday 1st September	Market Drayton GC	Match v Shropshire
Thursday 15th September	Great Barr GC	PGM's Trophy

We welcome brethren seeking more details, and are always on the lookout to welcome new members.

Please email W. Bro. Mark Ashton using **msg.ashton@gmail.com**, or alternatively phone/text him on **07889 580000**.



W.Bro. Terry Pointon celebrates 50 years membership

Monday 20th September 2021 saw The Trent Lodge No. 4269 meet to celebrate the 50 years membership of the lodge by W.Bro. Terry Pointon, among the many members and guests in attendance was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W.Bro. David J.Thomas.

As it was the first meeting after the lock-down due to Covid, the first item of business was to declare W.Bro. Rob Adams as Worshipful Master. He then appointed and invested the lodge officers before W.Bro. Andy Edwards then presented a resume of W.Bro. Terry Pointon's masonic career.



W.Bro. Terry, a school teacher, was initiated into Trent Lodge on the 20th September 1971 - 50 years ago to the day. He progressed through the offices of the lodge being installed into the Chair of King Solomon in April 1981.

Since coming out of the Chair W.Bro. Terry has remained very active in the lodge. Although he hasn't been appointed to many offices he can always be relied upon to fill any office and whatever ritual he might be called upon to perform, you could be assured that

it would be performed in an exemplary manner.

His contributions have been recognised by Provincial Grand Lodge, being appointed to P.Pr.J.G.D, and followed by promotions to P.Pr.G.Swd.B and then P.Pr.J.G.W. Whilst, outside the Craft he has been active in Royal Arch, Mark, Royal Ark Mariners and Rose Croix and again his contributions have been recognised by the Provincial Ranks and Grand Ranks that he has received.

The Worshipful Master then presented to W.Bro. Terry with an engraved Regal Wine Glass in recognition of his

membership and his contributions to the lodge. The DPGM V.W.Bro. David J.Thomas congratulated W.Bro. Terry, on behalf of himself and Provincial Grand Lodge, on achieving the landmark of 50 years membership and presented him with a certificate marking his 50 years membership.

W.Bro. Terry responded to the presentations thanking the members for the gift, the DPGM for his attendance and presenting him with his certificate, also everyone present for their attendance in making the evening

special for him. This brought about an instantaneous round of applause from all present.

Finally for two of the lodge members at the start of their Masonic careers, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master presented them with their Grand Lodge certificates and gave them an excellent explanation of its significance. After the meeting the brethren retired to the festive board where a lively and enjoyable time was had by all to round off the evening.

Andresey Lodge Ladies Night in Las Vegas

67 members, wives, friends and families

flew off to Las Vegas to celebrate their annual Ladies Night.

Arriving at Ashfield House in time for dinner before embarking on a tour of the Casino roulette wheels and blackjack tables.



Competition was keenly contested to ascertain exactly who could lose the least money for the evening and with many celebrating their victory too early, the eventual winner was W.Bro David Toon who received a bottle of champagne for his astute efforts.

The chance to play James Bond stirred many into fantasy but mainly resulted in a shaken experience

Not everyone lost everything to the casino tables as the charity collection raised over £205 for dementia research.





It is intended to evolve one of Staffordshire's oldest and proudest Lodges Menturia No.418 into one for all owners as well as lovers of any kind of Classic transport

Cars, bikes and scooters owners and enthusiasts you name it, all are welcome.

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

Menturia will remain very much a working lodge but will also emphasize a strong social/family aspect

We would also hope to support Provincial initiatives when invited

FIRE

The Lodge itself will meet initially 4 times a year with modest subscriptions and meeting at Shelton

All interested parties their partners and friends are invited to join us at an informal meeting at Stone Golf Club off the A34 at 11 a.m. on April 2nd with a buffet (£10) to follow

email to book your place neilsimcock@btinternet.com,
OR if you prefer telephone 07715783413 to discuss