



# WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 12

## Province of Staffordshire, Provincial Grand Lodge 2022

### Address from the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro John Lockley

**Brethren.** Good afternoon and welcome back to the cow shed, or rather the AGM of Provincial Grand Lodge. Good things have happened in cow sheds and stables, and I trust good things will happen today. We've had a difficult time with our annual meetings and meetings in general, but we have survived them. 2020 rule of 6, 2021 rule of 30 but in the cooker at Burton on Trent. Thank you to the Deputy PGM for presiding without his jacket as I was in covid quarantine.

You my fellow brethren have not been idle during the difficult past couple of years far from it. You have practiced our precepts to the full. Our support of the community has been exemplary, and we have been recognised in social media and the mainstream press. The Lord Lieutenant and High Sherriff of Staffordshire have thanked us on many occasions. We were the first province to sign the armed forces covenant leading the way, as UGLE and many provinces have now signed. Our focus has been and must remain on and include our communities. Our profile is higher than it's been in our lifetime, and we should take every advantage of making the good men who like us and want to become members, members.

Lodges are getting back to "normal" however there are still some who remain reluctant to return, we must involve them in what their Lodges are doing. Many times, we hear problems with driving at night, call those brethren give them a lift to the meetings and take them home afterwards. The caring arm of freemasonry needs to be around everyone. Involve our newer members in all we do, give them jobs to do in the Lodge, shadow the inner guard and the deacons, sit next to them so they can see more clearly what they do and say, don't let their enthusiasm wain as in every case they are our future. Encourage them to



become involved in the Light Blues Club and to take part in their activities.

We look forward to a new era and a new Pro Grand Master who has a message for us. Stop saying “no, because” and use “yes, if”. Yes, if it’s good for all concerned and yes it will improve the outcome. Grand Lodge is launching its strategic roadmap entitled 2022 and beyond. A modern way of communication with each other and with non-masons. Building on our established foundations with a strong sense of purpose enabling us to grow our membership. More of this will follow as it’s rolled out across the provinces.

At Grand Lodge this year we celebrated with W. Bro’s Ralph Howarth and Selwyn Burton on their appointments in Grand Rank and W. Bro. Mike Santopietro on his promotion. Congratulations to them to enjoy their new and well-deserved appointments.

Congratulations also, to all those who have been appointed to or promoted in Provincial Grand Lodge. To the active officers, I urge you to visit as many lodges as you can during your year to show support to our Lodges, and to the new Provincial Stewards and Deacons, we want you, when you visit to ask the secretaries to give you the names of their brethren who are not provincial officers, who could be considered for appointment together with those considered for promotion. It is hoped that this new initiative will continue for a further two years after your appointment enabling us to have useful data supporting the VO’s and the Warden’s reports.

Next month we will be consecrating a new Lodge, The Science Fiction and Fantasy Lodge 10016. This will be the first new lodge in the province since 2016 and excitement is running high. Its phasers to stun and warp speed as we wish this new Lodge every success from star date 07072022 and beyond.

Our festival steering committee continues to drive us onwards and I thank each one of them for their continued tireless support and encouragement, especially during the pandemic when our income for the festival had inevitably suffered. We can now kick start our endeavours to make up for lost time. Madcap ideas, sponsored initiatives are all welcome and the Lodges supporting the Festival through their charity is needed more than ever, if we are going to hit our target. The MCF have been most generous throughout the pandemic which has gone a long way to cement our place in society.

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward W. Bro. John Skellern and I, continue to meet





recipients of grants awarded by the MCF. The work freemasonry supports locally, nationally and overseas is most heartening. Brethren, it's your money and you deserve to be proud of what you do and are achieving. The relaunch mid-summer ball on Saturday will fulfil many criteria, more community engagement, more armed forces support, bringing the festival to the fore and an excuse to have a really good night out.

Our provincial Membership Officer W. Bro. Ralph Richey is busier than ever as this year he has taken the lead on the UGLE programs of the membership pathway and its development together with everything it has to offer. If you're unsure about any of the features of the new pathway, please contact Ralph. He is here to help you grow our membership and just as importantly to engage with our members new, and not so new. It's never too late to take stock, every lodge needs to embrace this programme. We are a member organisation, and we need members. We know we have competition out there, but our offering is the best so let's maximise our efforts.



Communication between us and to those who are not masons is vital. Our social media platforms and public relations are expertly managed by the communications team consisting of W Bro's Chris Priestley, Neil Fantarrow and Selwyn Burton together with our Assistant Prov. GM's Mike Santopietro and John Derry.

We have overcome the stereotypes we've picked up over many years. We cannot be viewed as a secret organisation, especially as we are seen and known in our communities. It's obvious to us what we stand for and what we do, so we must counter the prejudice and nonsense. Integrity, respect, charity, and friendship ring as true today as they have ever done. I am extremely grateful to those Lodges and Masonic Centres who support local good causes and individuals who seek to help in our community.

Our future is in our hands. We continue to spend 1000's of hours in our communities working to make a difference. Let those we work alongside know we are Freemasons, and that Freemasonry is a force for good.

The close working relationship between the Craft and Royal Arch is a key player in our

success and I'm pleased to say it continues to be as strong as ever. It helps when our Grand Superintendent and his team work closely with the Craft team, and besides which, we work well together.

It is again my privilege to welcome on your behalf our distinguished visitors and the brethren from other provinces. We thank you for your support, fellowship and friendship, including the Dennis the Menace Society and their president who is with us today. You are all very welcome indeed.

Thank you to the outgoing Provincial team of active officers both collared and non-collared for your work in helping the province run smoothly especially the Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden Ralph Ritchey and the Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden Tariq Somra thank you, the endless miles travelled, together with the quality and detail in the reports.

And now to all who have made today possible, to those who have transported the furniture and set up our venue, to our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Jeremy Roberts and his team, to our Provincial Grand Secretary Matt Gibbons and his team including the ladies at 211 Tettenhall Road and to our Provincial Grand Stewards for all they do for the province. I know I can count on their support given to Lodges in need of help, but the Lodge must ask them if help is needed. Thank you all for coming today and if it's your first visit to Provincial Grand Lodge I do hope you have enjoyed the day.

It's a privilege to serve you as Provincial Grand Master in our wonderful Province and we can all be proud of what we achieved during the pandemic, and moreover what we strive to achieve in the coming year. Thank you all for your continued support and the warmth of your welcome around the province, enjoy your freemasonry and may the Great Architect of the Universe bless you and those you love.









# Keats & Shelley Lodge No. 1

**On the 28th May 2002, the Keats & Shelley Lodge No. 1** - an English-speaking Lodge in Rome under the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy, recognised by the UGLE after its Constitution in 1993 - held its Installation meeting in Perugia. It is a tradition of the Lodge to hold its Installation every 2 years in a different City, so as to make the event for English members and visitors more inviting - who came this year not only from Staffordshire, but also several other Provinces in England. There are 7 Staffordshire Freemasons who are members of the Lodge, which meets 4 times a year.

This year saw the visit of the MW Grand Master, Fabio Venzi, and the consecration of the Keats & Shelley Royal Arch Chapter.





# Phoenix Lodge No: 9319 and Concordia Lodge No: 5131

**Phoenix Lodge meets at Wretham Road, Handsworth** and will be of special interest to brethren who find attending a lodge in the winter months difficult owing to driving during dark nights and also those who wish to continue their Masonic activities during the summer months.

The Lodge enjoyed two wonderful meetings during the Summer, in June and July when ceremonies were conducted on behalf of Concordia Lodge No: 5131, the Universities Lodge who meet at Wolverhampton.



On Tuesday 28th June 2022, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro John Derry, three Grand Officers, the Provincial Junior Warden W.Bro. Reg Sargeant, two other acting Provincial officers and eighteen other visitors attended the Lodge.

This made a truly magnificent total of thirty-eight brethren who were treated to an evening of excellent Ritual, when Bro. Simbarashe Taderera was raised on behalf of Concordia Lodge and many of the brethren of his lodge were in attendance and were invited to occupy various offices during the ceremony.

On Tuesday 26th July 2022, A.P.G.M. W. Bro. John Derry, was again in attendance together with the Past Provincial Grand Master of Leicester and Rutland R.W. Bro. David Hagger, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire R.W. Bro. David Rawlins, three Grand Officers, three acting Provincial officers and thirteen other visitors attended the Lodge.

On this occasion thirty-four brethren were treated to another evening of excellent Ritual. But, unfortunately, the candidate Bro. Encousie Regan Wilson who was due to be passed on behalf of Concordia Lodge could not attend and so Bro Ke-Shaw Thornhill also of Concordia Lodge stepped in to act as candidate for a full demonstration of a ceremony of Passing. Brethren of Concordia Lodge were again in attendance in abundance and were invited to take





office.

Bro. James McLean occupied the office of Junior Warden, Bro. Thomas Handy that of Junior Deacon and Bro. Harkesh Ram Inner Guard during the ceremony. Whilst, Bro. Phil Prosser



of the Lodge of St Mathews No: 539 was invited to occupy the office of Senior Warden. Brethren of Noah's Ark Lodge No. 347 were in attendance and its Worshipful Master W. Bro. Steven Jackson was invited to occupy the office of Tyler. The extended working tools of a Fellowcraft Freemason were presented by W. Bro. Julian Hodgetts and an extended explanation of the Second-Degree Tracing Board by W. Bro. Simon

Martin both pieces of ritual being given in an exemplary manner to the obvious enjoyment of everyone in the Lodge.

W. Bro. Giuseppe D'Anna P.Pr.J.G.W. the Worshipful Master of Concordia Lodge, was present on both occasions with the DKW Cup on display in the Lodge and at what was a most enjoyable Festive Board.

The next meeting of the Lodge on Tuesday 27th September 2022 will be the Ladies and Guests to Dine when the festive board will follow a short business lodge meeting. This is the fourth and final meeting of our short season and the next meeting will be the Installation meeting on 16th May 2023.

Contact Phoenix's Secretary W. Bro J.C. Cairns P.Pr.J.G.W., P.Pr.G.StwD. (Shrop) for a summons and be assured of a very warm welcome and an enjoyable evening.

Brethren of Concordia Lodge also attended the consecration of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Lodge No:10016 on Saturday 9th July and Nomads Rugby Lodge No: 10015 in the Province of Derbyshire with the DWK Cup on Saturday 16th July to witness a ceremony many of the younger brethren had not seen before.





# Consecration of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Lodge No: 10016

**Saturday 9th July** saw 131 Mason's from Staffordshire and beyond descend on the Masonic Hall in Wolverhampton for the consecration of the United Grand Lodge of England's newest Lodge, the Sci-Fi and Fantasy Lodge No: 10016.





The Lodge has been created to have fun whilst also remaining dedicated to masonic traditions for its ceremonies. The traditional wands carried by the Lodge officers have been changed to the Staff of Gandalf the White and Gandalf the Grey from 'Lord of the Rings', and the wands carried by the Lodge Deacons have been replaced with 'Light Sabres' from 'Star Wars'. The Tyler has had his traditional sword replaced with a Klingon Bat'leth.

The consecration team were led by the Provincial Grand Master R.W. John Lockley, the Provincial Grand Master of Shropshire R.W. Roger Pemberton and P.A.P.G.M. Dr Mike Rawle, the Chaplain was W. Bro Reverend Edward Haycock. The rest of the team were, A.P.G.M. W. Bro. John Derry, and W. Bro's. Jeremy Roberts, the Director of Ceremonies, Dudley Ray, the Organist, and Adrian Yearsley and Matt Adderley.



Following the consecration, the D.P.G.M. V.W. David Thomas installed W. Bro Christopher Priestley as the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge and Chris then appointed and invested his officers.

The Festive board was most enjoyable, the meal afterwards was another treat with gifts for the consecrating team and mementos for everyone. Chris responded to his toast in the Klingon language and then again in English!

The Lodge have a Banner Dedication at their next meeting on Saturday 24th September, visitors will be made most welcome and I believe, a visit to Grand Lodge is planned!





# Introducing the Royal Arch Visiting Officer Scheme

## Companions,

We are all used to visiting officers from the Province in Craft settings and it is something that we, in the Royal Arch, have been looking at for some time.

Thanks to a great deal of hard work by the Chapter Support Group we are pleased to announce that the Provincial Grand Chapter of Staffordshire will be supporting our Chapters with the appointment of Visiting Officers from September 2022.

The role is one of support and should you wish to discuss any aspect of Royal Arch work with the Visiting Officer please feel free to do so. The "VO" is there to offer advice and guidance where needed (and asked for). They are not designated to particular Chapter, but will rotate around our Chapters and undertake "low key" visits.

They have each been selected because they have held active office in Provincial Grand Chapter and are known to be supportive, knowledgeable and helpful. The VO will be aware of available resources and to answer any questions that may be raised by our Chapters.

The whole ethos of this scheme is to ensure that all of our Chapters have the available tools and up to date information that they will need to fully enjoy and develop their Royal Arch Masonry. The Visiting Officers will be a useful source of information, whether that be about presentations that can be made in the absence of a ceremony, or where to seek help from should a Chapter be short of Officers.

This will be a "two-way street" and the VO will listen to what the Chapter wants and be able to offer their advice either at the time, or after researching the required information.

Above all we want the "VO" to enhance the Chapter's own skills and abilities, to help them develop the members (where needed and asked to support), and to assist our members in their enjoyment of our Supreme Order.

So, the only thing left to do is to introduce our new team of Visiting Officers and wish them well. They are are Excellent Companions Richard Bailey, Ted Kanas, Ivan Jones, David Hoole, Andrew Chell, Mike Cresswell, and John O'Leary.

The team are there for YOU and the members of your Chapters. Please support them as they will endeavour to support you.

**Ralph J Howarth**

**Second Provincial Grand Principal**





# FREEMASONRY AND THE RAILWAYS



In the early days of the railway some companies had such a strong Masonic connection that masonry became almost institutionalised. For example during the building of the Caledonian Railway, Freemasons employed by the company were authorised to hold and constitute meetings anywhere on Caledonian (latterly LMS) Railway property.

The Worshipful Master of the Permanent Way Lodge No. 9951, a railway themed lodge, mindful of the important part that tradition plays in our masonry, is keen to

recreate this link and to this end it is his intention to hold a masonic meeting once again on LMS property for the first time in over 150 years on 24th September 2022.

You are all invited to take part in this unique and historical event. The event will include masons and partners on a train ride departing from Shackerstone Station at 17.00hrs to Market Bosworth where a masonic meeting will be opened in the Goods Shed in the Lodge's own unique style whilst the business will have the theme 'An explanation of the First Degree ceremony.'

Our partners will continue on to Shenton for a demonstration of decorative glass blowing before returning to collect the brethren and enjoying a Fish and Chip supper. It is anticipated that the cost of the event will be £25 per person and will undoubtedly be a unique landmark in your masonic career.

The Lodge is inviting senior and junior masons from not only from its own province of Worcestershire also the provinces surrounding Shackerstone including Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire. At this time the W.M. is inviting expressions of interest but rest assured the spaces are limited and will be gone before you can say chuff, chuff.

If you wish to register your interest please contact Kerrion Marsh via email at [amastrabooks@gmail.com](mailto:amastrabooks@gmail.com) with your name, Lodge number and Province and number of potential attendees (including partners)





# St. Edwards Lodge No: 966 donate £2,000 to Leek Dementia Charity

**St. Edwards Lodge** who meet in Leek have donated £2,000 to the charity Approach Dementia Support, to assist with funding to set up a Dementia Support Garden in Leek on a previously unused grassed area at St. Edwards Middle School. The presentation took place on Monday 11th July 2022.



The project which needs to raise £12,000 will make a huge difference to the quality of life of those living with dementia and their loved ones. Gardening builds strength improves balance and can help to reduce stress and anxiety. For those living with dementia there are added benefits such as maintaining cognitive function and providing social interaction, helping people to remain stimulated, feel valued and helpful. The garden will be supervised by school staff and skilled support workers. Children from the school will be able to meet and work with the visitors in the garden, growing flowers, fruit and vegetables.

It is planned to grow a lot of fresh edible organic produce and once harvested much will be donated to a local foodbank providing a vital lifeline for many families and older people in the area who struggle to afford sufficient healthy food.

W. Bro. Selwyn Burton from St. Edwards lodge said, 'It is a pleasure to be able to

support such a worthwhile cause that will help the well-being of local people'. Paul Webster, the Grants Support and Projects Lead for Approach Dementia Support who received the cheque on behalf of the charity said 'I am so pleased to receive such a generous donation from the members of St. Edwards Lodge. The money will go a long way to helping people in need in the Moorlands'.





## Masonry Universal

**At the invitation of W. Bro Mark Walton** the Deputy Grand Master of the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary and the UGLE Chancellors department, arrangements were made for Universities Scheme members from ULS to visit St Stephens Lodge No: 7 in Budapest.

The Symbolic Grand Lodge of Hungary (SLGH) celebrated 250 years of masonry in Hungary in 1999, the year that St Stephen Lodge was re-consecrated having been forcibly dissolved in June 1950.



And so, in June Bro's Tim Knight, Alec Gethin and William Taylor made their way from Staffordshire to Stanstead Airport and on to Budapest for a most enjoyable weekend.

All the arrangements for their stay in Budapest were made by their Hungarian hosts who were most hospitable and ensured their guests were well cared for, they were met at the airport and entertained, throughout their stay.

The brethren from ULS witnessed an excellent Initiation ceremony which included an extended Emulation version of the First-degree Tracing Board, followed by a most impressive Installation ceremony.

Both were conducted in English and Alec Gethin was invited at short notice to take



part and perfectly presented the Third-degree working tools in the Installation ceremony.

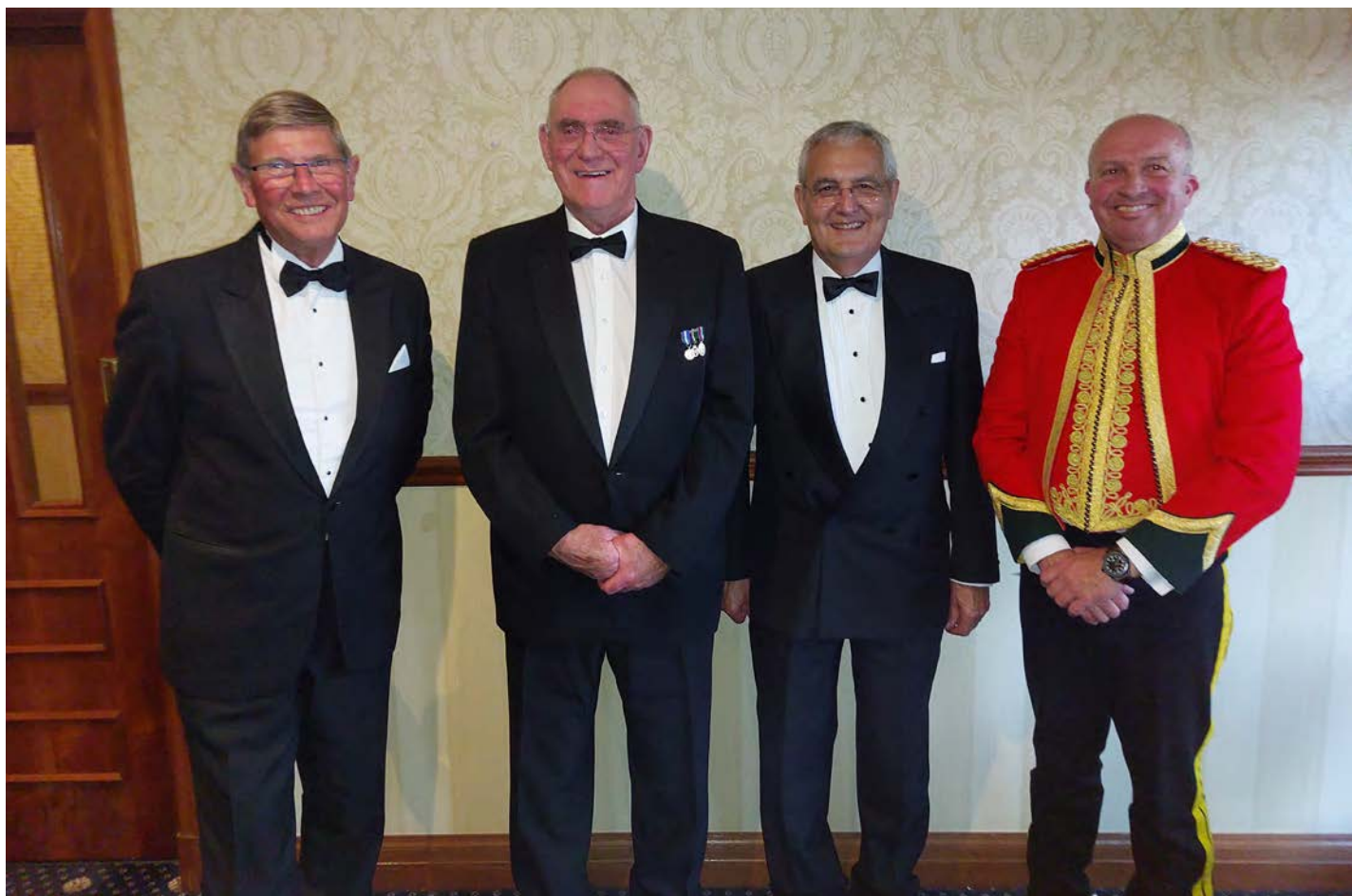
All then enjoyed an exquisite meal at the festive board and were made to feel most welcome by their hosts at a local hostelry, leaving them wanting to return soon. In fact, the group enjoyed themselves so much they even stayed over an extra day to go sight-seeing.



## Staffordshire Freemasons donation to SSAFA

**Saturday 26th June 2022** saw 150 Freemasons, their wives, partners and friends gather at the County Showground, Stafford for a Midsummer Ball.

Also present was the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire and President of Staffordshire Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Families Association (SSAFA) Mr Ian Dudson CBE, the Chairman of Staffordshire SSAFA Mr Colin Critchlow a retired major, and Lieutenant Colonel Toby Gaddum representing 22 Signals, Stafford.



After a sparkling reception and excellent meal, there followed a number of short speeches before the highlight of the event, when the Provincial Grand Master invited W. Bro. John Skellern the Provincial Charity Steward to make an announcement.

W. Bro. Skellern announced that £10,000 has been donated by Staffordshire Freemasons via the Masonic Charity Foundation to the SSAFA, he also commented "Staffordshire were the first Freemasons to sign the Armed Forces covenant in September 2021, pledging to support our Armed Forces and it is a pleasure to support such a worthwhile cause".

The representatives of the SSAFA were clearly delighted and Colin Critchlow thanked the everyone for the generous donation. During the evening a further £3,375 was raised towards Staffordshire 2024 Charity Festival.

**SSAFA is a tri-service charity who support members of the Armed forces and their families through whatever difficulties they are facing for as long as it takes.**



## Aldridge to Arezzo 2022

**In August 2019** I reported that how good friends and keen cyclists, Bro's Richard Archer and Mark Duce of Streetly Lodge No: 7448 at Aldridge had set off one early morning in May 2019 from Aldridge and cycled to Cavriglia, Arezzo, Italy.

They cycled the entire route apart from having to use the ferry to cross the English Channel and Lake Lucerne and raised nearly £3,000 for the 2024 Festival. Well, the intrepid pair couldn't sit still for long and here, is their latest cycling log.



The trip started at 9.00 am on Wednesday 25th May after a bacon sandwich with the P.G.D.C. W. Bro Jeremy Roberts there to make sure we left and who wouldn't go without an electric bike! Well, the first day was a steady 64 miles on our Dawes Touring bikes loaded with tents, camping equipment and clothing for the 3-week ride, through the Cotswolds to our camp site in Cirencester. Day 2 was also steady with regards to miles covered, but some serious climbing and I must admit some pushing of the bikes up the steeper hills. An acknowledgment that 3 years older since the last trip to Italy and not enough training may be part of the problem. Again, another night camping, but this time on a wild farm where we shared a field with Alpaca's and a single composting loo! Day 3 was quite short, just 47 miles to Portsmouth where we arrived in good time to have a couple of rehydrating beers and a carb loading doner kebab before boarding the

ferry to Santander. It is important to remember that as elite athletes we must stay fuelled and hydrated.

After 2 nights and a day on the ferry we arrived in Santander on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning and then, the proper cycling started. After 62 miles and 4,800 ft of climbing we stopped just short of Bilboa, but with no camp sites available, booked into a small hotel. After a decent night's sleep and a good breakfast and plenty of strong coffee we set off for what turned out to be a very tough day, which is not actually supported by the stats. Only 36 miles covered, and a mere 3,000 ft climbed, but the heat was intense and while the hills were short, they were incredibly steep. Again, a fair bit of pushing. We called an early end to the day and again booked into a small B&B. This is when the problems started. After a short walk we stopped at a bar for refreshments, when Richard went into AF. A heart condition which led to him taking up cycling 7 years ago and for which he







has had an operation to cure. A night on medication and still not feeling great we decided to catch the train to San Sebastian. It turns out that Richard's condition was brought on by caffeine, so no more coffee for him.

After a steady day the journey continued, only 13 miles to the French border and into France without a problem, past Biarritz and Bayonne before stopping at a small farm where we pitched the tents for the night. The next few days followed the same pattern. Approximately 60 miles a day in hot weather, camping each night, when the heavens would open. Packing a wet tent is not fun, but much better than cycling in the rain. The 'cycling gods' were certainly keeping an eye on us, as by now we were getting fitter and the days were getting longer, 71 miles into Carcassonne, and another 66 miles before we reached the Mediterranean.

After 6 days cycling, 5 nights camping, and we had made it from coast to coast. A steady day, into a strong head wind along the coast. The following day was a big day covering 83 miles into the heart of Provence, which meant just one thing. We had to celebrate with a glass or two of Rose'.

The next morning, we woke up to see the trees bending over double in the wind,



thankfully the wind was mostly behind us and not in our faces. We covered 58 miles but had to end the day early because the winds became so strong that it was dangerous to cycle on the main roads, we were on at the time. A nice little hotel in the town of Draguagnan, a few beers with the locals, a nice meal with a bottle of wine and then a night cap listening to rock music in the local square. A good end to an exciting day.





Next morning Richard had a flat tyre, so after a change of inner tube a late start. A steep climb out of town before settling into the days ride. We must be getting fitter as we both managed to cycle up the hills, without the need to push, 55 miles, 3,700 ft of climbing and we arrive on the Cote Du Azure, where we book into a little camp site. Pitch the tents, a quick swim and then to the camp site restaurant. Our French isn't great and their English, not much better, but we managed to order something along with what turned out to be the largest carafe of wine we have ever seen. Cheap, yes, good, no, but despite the fact that the red juice took the enamel off our teeth, we still managed most of it!

The next day saw us cycle through Nice, past Monaco, over the Italian border, through San Remo and on to Imperia. A total of 58 miles, which after an initial climb

of some 2,500 ft, after Nice was all along the coast. An amazing day cycling and 18 days after setting off we had made it to Italy. Another night, another camp site, which turned out to be the last time we camped. A quick swim in the sea before heading into town to find a nice little Italian bar.

A few beers, and some aperitifs, because that's what you do in Italy, and then a nice meal with lots of pasta and some nice wine, followed by a good night's sleep.

The next morning saw Mark having a fight with his tent which didn't want to be put away, much to the amusement of Richard, before we set off for another iconic day of cycling along the sea front. 64 miles before stopping at Arenzano, not far from Genova. A bright early start saw us cycling along the coast to Genova for rush hour. Quite exciting and a loaded Dawes, but what a nice city. Most definitely worth a longer visit next time. Then life got hard. We headed inland and the cool sea breeze was no longer keeping





us cool. Temperatures of 33 degrees at 9.00 am and 38 degrees in the afternoon, are not fun cycling up some of the steeper hills we were now encountering. A day of 60 miles and nearly 5,000 ft of climbing before stopping at a hotel in the middle of nowhere, but with spectacular views. The hotel was quite basic, with no aircon and shared bathroom facilities, but as is often the case a great restaurant. We had a very nice meal, but to this day, we are not sure that the



third bottle of wine with the meal was the best decision we made on the trip, even though it felt so at the time.

After a light breakfast we set off down the mountain, when Richard suddenly had to stop as the front wheel of his bike for some reason had come loose. Quite an exciting moment!!! Back down to the coast, through La Spezia and some wonderful flat coastal cycling before heading back in land to the wonderful walled city of Lucca. A total of 68 miles with just 2,100 ft of climbing. A

nice easy day apart from the intense heat, which started to take its toll, particularly on Mark. A lovely evening soaking up the atmosphere of Lucca and a wonderful meal before a terrible night's sleep due to the high temperature in the room which had inadequate aircon.

The next day was due to be our final day, but with the sun at its highest hitting 40 degrees and no cool breeze to help, Mark, suffered and after just 45 miles and 1,800 ft of climbing we had to book into a B&B, where after a cold shower Mark collapsed on the bed. Richard did the only sensible thing and left him to it while he went out and found a bar and a nice little trattoria.

The shower and early night did the job, and after an early breakfast, watching the hot air balloons glide by, we set off for our final destination. A mere 32 miles, 3,333 ft of climbing and we were there. Arrived at Cavriglia, Arezzo at 11.15 after a total distance of 1,199 miles with 53,450 ft of climbing in 21 days of cycling, during which we had one episode of caffeine induced AF and one case of heat exhaustion, one puncture and one lose wheel.

**But what a great trip, which way next ?**





## Inaugural Golf Competition

**Tuesday 26th July** saw the inaugural playing of the Midland Masonic Golf Competition, organised by Worcestershire Province at Bromsgrove Golf Centre. Ten teams took part.

Staffordshire's two pairs, being Kevin Spencer and Brian Cockersole plus Mark Mellor and Mike Hughes.



The trophy, the Paul Battle Jug was won by Herefordshire, ahead of hosts Worcestershire, with Nottinghamshire third, with 78 Stableford points, 77 and 75 respectively.

If you play golf, please contact our Secretary (Mark Ashton via [ashton@gmail.com](mailto: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





## Three times the fun...

**Masonic history isn't made by those who stand by and watch**, it is made by Brother's helping Brother's. Some might say we're crazy - but due to the large increase of new members, Legge has just completed its second "Super Saturday".

Saturday 23rd July saw the Master and Brethren of Legge Lodge 2784 perform three raisings in a row.

The Brethren had decided that the first parts of the Ceremony should be done individually to give the maximum impact, so W. Bro Clive Andrews-Lewis PrGPurs and W. Bro Ralph Howarth **PAGDC** both took deep breaths, and a large glass of water each to do those pieces 3 times (about 7,200 words in total), leaving W. Bro Clive "just" the 3rd part and ending to do to all 3 Brethren together.

They all agreed it was a wonderful ceremony to be part of, and the impact and deep meaning will sit with them for as long as they will live.



Following the ceremony the Brethren were delighted to retire to the Festive Board, along with guests, including visitors from the Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge, for a much needed drink - and a welcome meal, before the 3 candidates were presented with their patches as newly qualified full Widows Sons Members, by the West Midlands Chapter President W. Bro Ian Cole





# 2022 Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot

## In Aid of Staffordshire Provincial 2024 Charity Festival

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

Sunday 25th September 2022  
10.00hrs to 14.30hrs

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

Inscribed Trophy for High Gun Gentleman, Lady and Under 18  
The St. Giles Trophy for High Mason Gun  
(To be retained by winner until next shoot)

£30 per entry

Café available on site

Cartridges (12g) available at Circa £6 per box of 25 (50 required) £7.00 for 20g

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

Every entry helps your Province. Loan Guns available.

It would be most helpful if you will send your entry with fee to:  
David Watt, e-mail: [einhorrido@sky.com](mailto:einhorrido@sky.com)

