

WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 15



EMULATION LODGE *of* IMPROVEMENT

BICENTENARY YEAR 1823 - 2023

BICENTENARY YEAR ANNUAL FESTIVAL 2023

FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY



Please join us at the first of our three Festival programme for our Bicentenary year. The Annual Festival 2023, will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, where members will demonstrate four sections of the Lectures.

We are pleased to announce that Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire, **RW Bro Anthony Howlett-Bolton OBE**, is to Preside and it is expected that he will be joined by several other very senior Brethren. Ticket costs £65 for Temple and Dining and £10 for Temple Only. Dinner will be served in Freemasons' Hall.

This event is open to all Master Masons and Past Masters regardless of rank or ritual background. Should you wish to attend please make your booking via the link on the website www.emulationloi.org. Alternatively a booking form is attached. Please return your cheque, made payable to Emulation Lodge of Improvement, to Scott Cargill at the address as shown below.

Doors open at 4:00pm

Festival will start at 5:00pm

PATRONS:

Grand Charity
RMTGB
RMB1
MSF

FREEMASONS' HALL

Great Queen Street
London
WC2B 5AZ
www.emulationloi.org

SECRETARY:

S A J Cargill
45 Windmill Road, W4 1RN
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Tamworth Gala Ball

In May 2022 the first 'Freemasons of Tamworth' Gala Ball was held having been organised by W. Bro Paul Turner the hard working secretary of Ethelfleda Lodge No: 6600 and the function, which was well attended raised a substantial amount for the 2024 Festival.

At the Installation meeting of Ethelfleda Lodge in October a cheque was presented by W. Bro M. Powell, the Festival representative, to the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Michele Santopietro.

A further function has been organised and announced, this will be held on **Saturday 6th May 2023** and hopefully just as successful.



Noah's Ark Lodge No:347 - Over 200 years old and finally moving with the times



Noah's Ark Lodge number 347 was consecrated in 1815 and is the second oldest lodge in the Province. Within the lodge there is a plethora of masonic history, knowledge and experience but until recent times we have struggled to bring ourselves into the modern world and have an online presence despite previous attempts.

In 2021 it was decided amongst the brethren that once and for all, Noah's Ark Lodge was going to launch a website and bring themselves into the 21st century. Worshipful Brothers Rod Hall and Tom Booth agreed to take up the mantle and ensure the task was completed to a standard befitting of such a well-respected lodge.

After many hours spent viewing other lodge websites for inspiration, we put all our ideas together and spoke with the Dynamize Group to help us. We explained to them that we wanted to capture all things Noah's Ark including both the old and the new; particularly because in 2013 we left our old home at The Royal Oak, Dudley Port to move to our current home at The Masonic Hall, Edward Street, West Bromwich, and we wanted to pay homage to each.

The team at Dynamize went above and beyond to encompass everything Noah's Ark, including adding some very modern artistic photographs along with some of our old lodge room and delivered a first-class service and a modern website; when seeking approval to launch the site, the Provincial Webmaster, Worshipful Brother Chris Priestly commented:

"you have done a great job... clean, straight forward and stylish, with some nice pictures too, well done."

The site is now live and can be found at noahsark347.com it includes an events calendar detailing all lodge meetings and charity events being held by the lodge so please feel free to have a look, book a visit with our Secretary or buy a ticket to one of our events.



How to get your Lodge on line!

The Province of Staffordshire has almost 100 Lodges, and each one is different. These variations should be recognised, welcomed and promoted to individuals outside the Lodge who may be interested in joining the fraternity.

So how can you do so?

You could take inspiration from Noah's Ark Lodge , who having realised that they were still in the dark ages regarding the use of technology and how it could help them to generate a new interest in Freemasonry decided to design and develop their own Lodge Website. They have now done so to a very good standard.

But if your Lodge doesn't have the technical know-how, or you are short of funds, why don't you consider writing a Lodge Profile. It costs nothing except the time it takes you to put something together that is interesting about your Lodge and would interest a potential candidate.

In either case once your web site or Lodge Profile is completed it can be linked to your Lodges name on the roll of Staffordshire Lodges on the Provincial website, thereby giving you an outward facing opportunity to impact on anyone who wishes to become member.

There is a "What If" document within the Provincial Vault that can help "You to engage with the public" and to generate a website and a "Guide to cheap and free emails" for use by your Lodge.

For further support please contact the Provincial Membership Officer, who will be happy to help.

Are You Considering Sheltered Housing?

WILSON KEYS COURT is a Masonic built and run Scheme situated in Deanery Close, Rugeley only a few yards from Rugeley town centre.

This attractive building, set in mature landscaped gardens, provides 34 one-bedroom flats for applicants over the age of 60, who want to live independently with some support. Applicants over 55 and registered disabled would be considered if our scheme would enable continued independence.

Flats have alarm pull cords, providing assistance in an emergency, which are linked to the on-site Manager Monday to Friday 9am to 5 pm and connected to an emergency control centre out of hours. Giving residents and families peace of mind.

Our indoor and outdoor social spaces provide opportunities for varied social activities.

For further information please contact:

Tracy Slater - Scheme Manager 01889 576544

wilsonkeyswarden@btconnect.com



Wilson Keys Memorial Fund

In 1974 the Harry Wilson Keys Memorial Fund was set up by the then Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. James E. V. Toney as a fitting memorial to his predecessor R. W. Bro. Major Harry Wilson Keys. The object of the fund was to provide care for able, aged Freemasons and their dependents together with other members of the community surrounding Rugeley and in the County. The particular aim was to provide suitable accommodation where they could spend their later years. A freehold site was eventually purchased in Rugeley by the Trustees of the fund. Funding came from the Trustees, Mark Master Masons in Staffordshire, the Masonic Housing Association, the Grand Charity, (now the Masonic Charitable Foundation). An application to the Housing Corporation eventually produced sufficient funding for the project to become reality. The land was leased to the Masonic Housing Association for 125 years at a peppercorn rent.



The stone laying ceremony took place on 25th September 1991. The building was completed at the end of 1992. Our first residents moved in in 1993. The House was formally opened on 20th July 1994. It is situated at Deanery Close, Rugeley, Staffordshire. WS15 3JX We have 40 residents, all over the age of 60 years. One resident is 100 and several near to that magic figure. Our Scheme Manager is Mrs.



Tracy Slater. 01889 576544. It is the largest ongoing Community Commitment in the Province.

It was funded and managed by Freemasons in the Staffordshire Province and assisted by the Masonic Housing Association in London. We have a House Committee made up currently

of nine members. I am looking at succession planning and need to consider new members. This doesn't just apply to Freemasons, and we have two ladies on the committee. The R. W. PGM John Lockley is our President, and I am currently the Chairman of the House Committee. I am looking at any person who might have some knowledge of care, housing issues, Social Services and anyone with a good knowledge of Equality and Diversity, as well as other areas. We

meet quarterly.

If you feel you can help please get in touch with Alan Walker at walkerajc@aol.com or 01785 621223.

Thanks for any help and assistance you can give us.

Alan Walker, MBE.

Chairman of the House Committee.

Ashmole 8405 celebrates W. Bro. Dr E. N. Browns' 50 years in Masonry

Ashmole Lodge No. 8405 were delighted to receive the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro John Lockley on Friday 20th January.

After refusing the Gavel offered by the WM W. Bro Clive Andrews-Lewis, the Provincial Grand Master settled down to a Past Masters Night and an excellent 3rd Degree Ceremony, after which the PGM asked W. Bro. Dr. E. N. Brown to join him for an informal chat about his life, his work and Masonic Careers.

Ever the raconteur, Dr. Brown was able to hold the temples' rapt attention while he described his history and the path that took him to become one of the leading experts in the subject of Dyslexia in Education, the founding of Maple Hayes School - and it's future under his Sons' Headmastership.

Neville is married to Brenda, his wife of many years. They have two sons. Neville and Brenda bought Maple Hayes Hall and turned it into a school for dyslexia sufferers. He is a world expert on dyslexia. His son W. Bro. Daryl, is now the head teacher there. Daryl is currently our DC. Neville is currently Ashmole's organist, and is a superb musician. Apparently he once had a jazz band.

Although Dr Brown is beyond usual retirement age, he is still principal of the school and its related charity, The Foundation for the Education of the Underachieving and Dyslexic. His dedication was marked last year with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the British Dyslexia Association. In 2008 Dr Brown was voted ITV's Midlands Teacher of the Year at the Pride of Britain Awards.

Neville also has the distinction of owning a deer park, adjacent to the hall. Whenever there is a function there, venison is always on the menu.



Trent Lodge Centenary

The Trent Lodge No. 4269 was duly consecrated at the Kings Hall, Stoke on Trent on Monday 25th April 1921 at 3.30pm by W Bro George C Kent PAGDC DPGM acting as Grand Master assisted by and supported by 150 brethren which included the founders.

The founders had chosen a name "Trent" which would commend itself to every Freemason not only in the province of Staffordshire but in adjoining provinces through which ran the famous river.

W Bro Kent said "... he believed the lodge be like the river from whence it took its name, beginning in a small way but gradually enlarging itself, until, like the river, it becomes Great in the History of Freemasonry"

On Monday, 21st November 2022, slightly later than planned due to the dreaded pandemic, the current Brethren of Trent Lodge were able to celebrate the 100th Birthday of the Lodge and were joined by some 116 brethren including the Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire, a full delegation of Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire, a contingent from the Provincial Grand Chapter of Staffordshire accompanied by the Grand Superintendent and many brethren from lodges across the province and other provinces across the country.



From the initial entry into the temple and seeing two rows of Grand Lodge seats at the top, three rows of seats for the brethren down the North and the South side and taking in the sheer quantity in attendance, the evening got better and better, not one but two processions into the lodge by the Provincial Team - something normally only reserved for Provincial Grand Lodge at Stafford and I believe the first time ever performed in a Private Lodge.





The delegation of Royal Arch chapter led by the Grand Superintendent was part of those processions, again a first in a Private Lodge. The Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies really put on a show for us, interlaced with special moments of applause and humour throughout the night.

W. Bro Andy Edwards P.Pr.J.G.W. of Trent Lodge, gave a thoroughly enjoyable and well researched brief history of the lodge taking us on a winding and informative journey from our Consecration up to the Present Day, it was a pleasure to listen to and absorb everything he was telling us together with the stories of old.

The Lodge now have another Warrant for the Centenary which will be duly framed and stand proud each night we meet as a reminder of the milestone that the lodge has reached and not just reached but crossed with a team of Light Blues in waiting that will take us formidably into the next decade and beyond!

All of the Past Masters of the lodge and I'm certain each brother too was so proud of the ceremony and celebration that we managed to produce together, it was a real team effort and one worthy of praise for everybody.

Happy Birthday Trent Lodge No. 4269

A fantastic and truly memorable evening was had by all that attended and over £1100 was raised for charity and a cheque for £4269 was presented to the Provincial Grand Master for the 2024 Festival. Also, a personalised 8" plate was given to each brother in attendance to commemorate the evening.

Thank you to all that attended and made the evening so enjoyable and memorable.

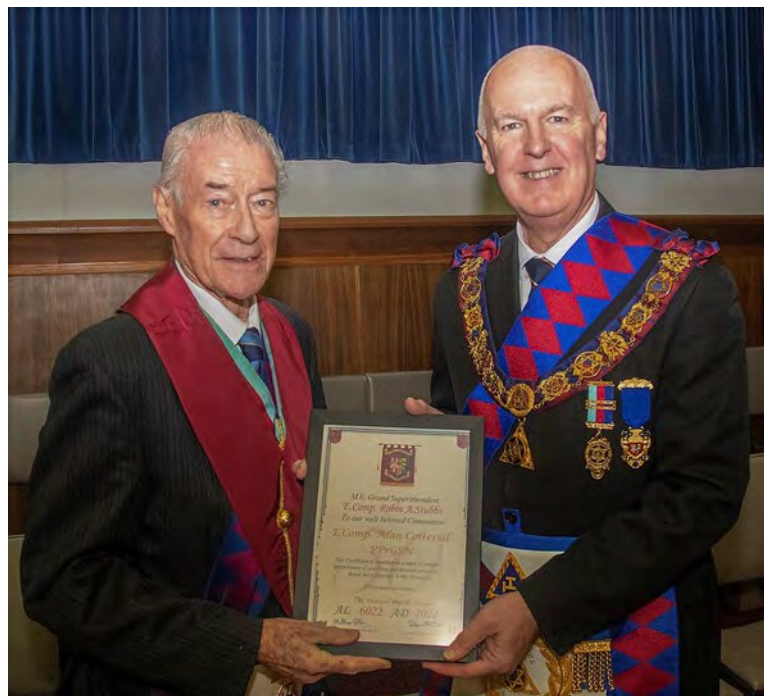
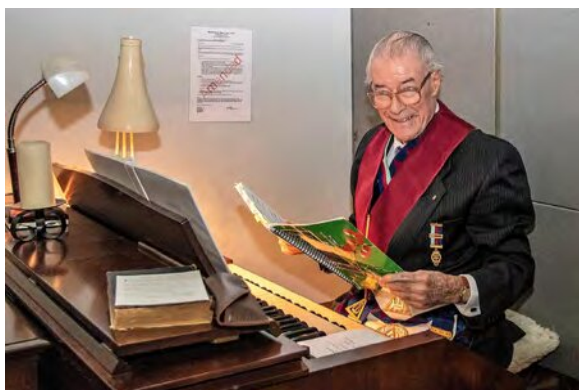
W. Bro. Robert Adams P.Pr.J.G.W.

Secretary of Trent Lodge 4269

St Peter's Chapter celebrates with EComp Alan Cotterell, PPrGSN, his attainment of 50yrs in the Royal Arch

On 10th December 2022, Grand Superintendent Robin Stubbs attended St Peter's Chapter No. 419 with a delegation of acting Provincial Officers, to join with members and visitors in celebration of EComp Alan Cotterell reaching the milestone of 50yrs membership, not only of the Royal Arch, but also of this Chapter.

The Chapter's Director of Ceremonies, EComp Gordon Nicklin, commenced the celebrations by introducing Alan and his earlier life, adding amusing anecdotes which were enjoyed by all present.



The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, EComp Chris Adams (also a member of St Peter's Chapter), read the certificate from the Province which the Grand Superintendent formally presented.

The Grand Superintendent then congratulated Alan, ran through his Provincial history, and observed that he had been appointed as the Chapter's Organist two years after his Exaltation, a position that he has occupied for 48yrs. He also commented on the fact that Alan had seen seven changes of Grand Superintendent since his Exaltation, and had the rare privilege of getting to know three of them personally, as EComps John Wellings, Ron Stevens and John Robbins were all members of St Peter's Chapter when he joined.



New Appointments to the Royal Arch Executive

On 2nd November, at the Installed First Principal's Chapter, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent announced his intention to make changes to his Executive team. In doing so he gave especial thanks to the outgoing Deputy Grand Superintendent, Excellent Companion Eddie Ford for his many years of service to Masonry in general, but to the Royal Arch in Staffordshire in particular. Eddie will no doubt be of great support to the new executive even after the new officers are appointed at the AGM in May 2023.

Below is a short biography of the new officers.

Deputy Grand Superintendent designate - Excellent Companion Ralph Howarth

Ralph became a Freemason in 2005 and was initiated into Chartley Lodge No 7569 becoming Worshipful Master in 2012 and again in 2017. Ralph is now a member of Legge Lodge No 2784 and is its ADC.

He was Exalted into Izaak Walton Chapter No.4281 in 2006 and became MEZ in 2013 and again in 2020, he is still the Chapter's First Principal. Ralph is also a member of Burslem Chapter No. 98 and is the current Scribe E.

He received his first Provincial appointment in 2015, being appointed as a Provincial Grand Steward.

In 2017 Ralph was appointed as Provincial Grand Almoner in both Craft and Royal Arch and introduced the MCF Visiting Volunteer scheme to the Province. He remains a member of the team and has assisted numerous Brethren and their families.

In 2020 he was promoted to Third Provincial Grand Principal and in 2021 became Second Provincial Grand Principal. He works with the Chapter Support Group, as well as his other duties on the Provincial Executive. During the pandemic Ralph worked on the membership support fund, with W Bro David Phillips and W Bro Tony Coates PGA, helping Brethren maintain their memberships despite being in difficult circumstances brought on by Covid 19.

In 2022 he was honoured by Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter and was appointed as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and Past Grand Standard Bearer respectively, a rare double honour.

Ralph is a member of the Foster Gough Lodge No 2706 and is the current Junior



Warden and is a member of Staffordshire First Principal's Chapter No. 2706. In other Orders he is a member of Knights Templar, Knight Templar Priests, Rose Croix and the Red Cross of Constantine orders and has served on the KT Provincial Prior's Bodyguard for over 10 years.

Ralph is happily married to Julie and has two children, Niall aged 25 who is an aerospace technician and Niamh aged 21 who has just finished her degree studies in clinical psychology at Lincoln University.

He retired as a Police Sergeant in 2014 and at the start of the pandemic they began volunteering at a vaccination centre. As a result of his work Ralph was honoured with an award from the local NHS. Both Ralph and Julie continue to support the local schools immunisation service in Staffordshire as a vaccinator and administrator respectively.

You'd think that Ralph didn't have time for much else but he and Julie do take time out and enjoy touring the UK and Europe in their Motorhome. They also enjoy travelling to destinations for holidays further afield.

2nd Provincial Grand Principal designate - Excellent Companion Paul Lockley

Initiated into St Michaels Lodge in 2003, Paul became a Steward and then Lodge Treasurer for several years before progressing through the Wardens' chairs and becoming Worshipful Master. Paul was exalted two years later into Eccleshall Chapter in 2005 and is one of the first Masons in Staffordshire to go through the three Principals' chairs before becoming Worshipful Master of his own Lodge in 2013.

In Craft he is also in the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, having been made a Provincial Grand Steward and then subsequently promoted to his current rank of Past Senior Grand Deacon.

In Royal Arch, Paul is also a member of Staffordshire First Principals Chapter. Having been Provincial Grand Standard Bearer and then Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, Paul is currently 3rd Provincial Grand Principal.

Paul is also a member of Knights Templar and Rose Croix Orders and is currently Deputy Commander of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard in KT.

Outside of freemasonry Paul enjoys watching and coaching rugby union and is a keen supporter, player, and coach of Eccleshall RUFC for over 30 years. As a qualified black belt Kung Fu and Kick Boxing instructor, Paul has been training and coaching adults and children for over 20 years with success in tournaments at senior black belt heavy weight level.

Paul has two children Emily (15) and Oliver (11) and lives with his partner Frankie and their dog Hugo in Stone.

Working in the family business Paul is lucky enough to be able to enjoy his freemasonry and still balance a family, social and business life.



3rd Provincial Grand Principal designate – Excellent Companion Paul Foster

Paul became a Freemason in 2000 and was initiated into Bretby Lodge No. 9063 becoming Worshipful Master in 2007 and is now the Lodge DC. He is also a member of the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Derbyshire No. 9925.



He received his first Craft Provincial appointment in 2014, being appointed as a Provincial Grand Steward. In 2015 Paul was appointed as Provincial Senior Grand Deacon and in 2019 was appointed as Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

He was Exalted into Regis Chapter No. 4463 in 2008 and became MEZ in 2013. He is now a member of Chapter of Justice No. 253, where he holds the office of Scribe N, and Mercia Chapter No. 3995, where he is the current 3rd Principal. He is also a member of Staffordshire First Principals Chapter No. 2706.

In 2016 he was promoted to Provincial Grand Standard Bearer and in 2018 was promoted to Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. This year, Paul was promoted to his current office of Provincial Grand Scribe N.

In other Orders, Paul is a member of Knights Templar, Red Cross of Constantine and the Order of Athelstan.

Paul has a happy marriage with Paula, who runs her own domestic cleaning business, and has a 22-year-old daughter, Katie, who is a beautician and make-up artist. If you have visited ScreamFest at the National Forest Adventure Farm in Burton, you will undoubtedly have seen Katie's work!

Paul is a General manger at Cineworld Cinemas in Nottingham and is preparing for a busy Christmas with the release of Avatar: The Way of Water.

Outside of Masonry and work, Paul, perhaps unsurprisingly, enjoys watching films, with a particular interest in the sci-fi genre. He also enjoys cycling and taking a relaxing break in the sun with Paula.



New Provincial Wardens announced

At the meeting held on Saturday 21st January the members of Foster Gough Lodge 2706 were delighted to hear the announcement of the Acting Provincial Wardens for the 2023-24 season.

W. Bro. Richard Archer PSGW elect

Richard is retired having previously worked in the International Leather trade, importing/exporting etc from premises in Walsall.

He is married to Maddie from Tuscany, Italy and they have two daughters.

Richard has twice cycled to Tuscany to raise money for the 2024 Festival. He is current IPM of Streetly Lodge having been WM in 2012, 2018 & 2021.



W. Bro. Mark John Sewell PJGW elect

Mark is Secretary of Castellum Lodge 6710 at Newcastle, where he is also a Liason Director.

He is Scribe E in Sutherland Chapter of Unity 460 and RAC coordinator for North Staffs, he's also involved in Hermes training.

Hailing from the Staffordshire Moorlands and retired from the Transport Industry, Mark, when not committed with his Freemasonry, restores motorcycles and repairs anything with an engine. He is also organising the Karting Race for the 2024 Festival

Science Fiction and Fantasy Lodge No 10016 lifts off..!

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Lodge No 10016 were delighted to perform a ceremony of passing on behalf of the North Staffs Round Table Lodge no 8355, on Saturday 10th December. Despite the weather, almost 50 Brothers turned up to a cold Wolverhampton morning, some travelling for many hours from London, Dorset, Hertfordshire, Bristol, Derbyshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, and Cheshire, to name a few.



Notwithstanding the cold and the distance involved, brethren were able to witness the first ceremony to be performed by the Lodge officers – the previous two meetings having been the consecration of the Lodge followed by the Banner dedication.

Brother Mark Tarpey was the guest of honour

as the candidate and was accompanied by seven other members from the North Staffs Round Table Lodge to witness the event. Despite the differences in ritual and local traditions experienced by the members of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Lodge, from their various Provinces, the ceremony was performed well, and included a faultless presentation of the extended version of the 2nd Degree Tracing Board by w Bro Jon Rees. We once again demonstrated some of the slight “modifications” to normal Lodge equipment: the Master and his Wardens use



‘Thor’s hammers’ (otherwise known as a Mjolnir) instead of gavels; the Deacons use Light Sabers instead of wands; the DC and the ADC use Gandalf wands and the Tyler has a fearsome looking Klingon Bat’leth rather than a sword. In addition, the IPM has a pin attached to his collar representing the King’s Hand, made famous in the television series Game of Thrones. There’s even a ballot box in the form of a Tardis!

The members of the Lodge process into the room in darkness, accompanied by appropriate music which builds up the atmosphere, and the procession out is formed up and accompanied by music which ensures the Brethren are ready for a lively and original Festive Board!

Once the meeting and ceremony is completed in the traditional manner and kept truthful to the emulation ritual, the Festive Board is where members engender entertaining elements. The Lodge has many traditions for such a young age! The wine taking involves everyone in the room, the toasts are greeted by a ‘running fire’, there is a fine mechanism in place for members who have forgotten to bring their gavel to the dining room. Toasts are limited to the formal wording apart from the Installation meeting.



On the occasion of this meeting, an added element was allowed. By no means compulsory, but for the Festive Board, anyone who wanted to, could get changed and enjoy the dinner in Cosplay. For those of you not aware of that term, this is where you can dress up as characters from the genres – in our case, Science Fiction or Fantasy. So the tables were graced by the presence of a Starfleet Admiral, a Centari Ambassador, the Captain of the Serenity and a Jedi Master.

Peter John Clempson 50th Certificate

On Wednesday 14th December 2022, at the December regular meeting of Marmion Lodge 1060, W.Bro. Peter John Clempson celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry. The meeting was attended by 41 members and visitors, including a large delegation from our daughter Lodge - Ethlefloda 6600, of which W.Bro. Clempson is also an honorary member.

Despite being the centre of attention for the evenings proceedings, W.Bro. Clempson undertook his role of Lodge Organist for the whole evening! W.Bro. J. Derry - Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Past Junior Grand Deacon presided on the evening on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, ably assisted by W.Bro. S. Jones - Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.



W.Bro. Peter was initiated into Marmion Lodge 1060 on 13th December 1972, passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft on 14th April 1973 and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on 11th April 1973. He was Junior Warden of Marmion Lodge 1060 in 1980, Senior Warden in 1981, and Worshipful Master in 1982. He was appointed Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon in 1989, promoted to Past Provincial Grand Registrar in 1999, and

promoted again to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 2010

In advance of recognition of W.Bro. Peter's 50 years in Freemasonry celebrations, he was made Honorary Member of Marmion Lodge 1060 in November 2022. Following a second degree ceremony, W.Bro. Derry invited W.Bro. Clempson to join him on the Lodge floor and conducted an interesting informal discussion with him about his life and Masonic career.

W.Bro. Derry congratulated W.Bro. Clempson on his amazing achievement of 50 years in Freemasonry, to which W.Bro. Clempson responded by thanking him and adding with his own unique sense of humour 'but I'm not finished yet!' W.Bro. Jones read the salutation on the certificate marking 50 years in Freemasonry, after which W.Bro. Derry presented W.Bro. Clempson with the certificate.

W.Bro. J. Derry drew W.Bro. Clempson's attention to the Provincial rank recorded on the certificate, particularly as it read Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden. W.Bro. Derry then announced that he had the great pleasure of promoting W.Bro. Clempson on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master to the rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden. The Worshipful Master of Marmion Lodge 1060 then presented W.Bro. Clempson with a new apron badge and jewel on behalf of the Lodge. W.Bro. Clempson took the opportunity to thank W.Bro. Derry and all of those present and immediately changed his collar jewel.

W.Bro. I. Semple visited W.Bro. Clempson the following day and reported that he was 'still on a high' after such a wonderful evening. All of which rounded off a perfect week for W.Bro. Clempson, which started by his 94th birthday!!



Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society

The Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society

having been formed in March 1968 celebrates 55 years this year and wishes to call upon all brethren and companions of all golfing abilities, who enjoy the game to get involved and become a member.

The Provincial Wardens team's competition was held at Aston Wood GC on Thursday 19th May 2022 and won by Simon Palmer and the Provincial Junior Grand Warden R Sargeant.



Unfortunately, the society weren't successful in several Midland Provincial competitions and whilst they didn't win, they did come close and played some exciting and challenging games at prestigious clubs.

The Valon Cup and Denne Shield held at Wychwood Park GC on Tuesday 9th August was won by Kevin Spencer and Andy Hill.

The Provincial Grand Masters trophy was also won by Andy Hill at Great Barr GC on Thursday 15th September.

The Golfing Society held their AGM in December and their long serving Chairman Dr Mike Rawle was thanked for his service as he handed over the reigns to APGM John Derry.

The 2023 programme will be announced soon so all of you who have received Christmas golf gifts of any description or your golf club membership anywhere has lapsed, please dust off your clubs and contact Mark Ashton (msg.ashton@gmail.com).



Christmas Donation to the Royal Stoke Children's Hospital

Combining the strength of both the Lodge and the Chapter, the Charity Stewards of NSRTL8355, W Bro Michael Knight, and, their Chapter, Bro Dave McGuinness, were royally supported by the Brethren and Companions in their annual donation to the Children's Hospital with more than 100 selection boxes and tins of sweets for the nurses.



A parent helper commented to the Brethren that she "Had first hand experience of their generosity and thoughtfulness last Christmas when her own daughter was on one of the Wards experiencing treatment over the Christmas period. The gifts and shared sweets were a huge fillip to not only the patients, but the staff and parents alike!"



Charity coordinator, Becky Bate, from the UHNM Charity team said "We are once again overwhelmed with the generosity of the Freemasons from the Round Table Lodge in Shelton. We cannot thank them enough!"

During the presentation that took place outside the hospital, W Bro Michael Knight was interviewed for the Charity Team's Christmas Special Broadcast around the hospital. He said "Christmas is a time for the children. None of us want to see ours in a hospital over Christmas, but sadly some are. If this brings some joy over the Festive Period, then as a Lodge and Chapter we have fulfilled one of our aims - supporting our Community".



Two More For the Score...

Having successfully initiated two Brethren at the Biennial Meeting in June 2022, North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge No 8355 went on to Initiate a further two new Brethren at their Round Table Night Lodge Meeting in November, which is attended by representatives from across the 46 Round Table Lodges under the UGLE banner.

Successfully steering the team through a double initiation, the Worshipful Master, W Bro Shaun Henry commented "This has been an absolute delight to preside over a double Initiation once again. In June I was not fully ready having only been installed in April and relied heavily on the rest of the team. This time, I was ready and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience in a full Lodge Room".



The Lodge wishes both new Brethren a long and happy association with the Lodge who look forward to assisting them on their Masonic journey.



SciFi Lodge Assist NSRTL8355

Focussing on their June Candidates, the Brethren of North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge No 8355 were delighted to accept the offer of assistance from the recently formed Science Fiction & Fantasy Lodge No 10016 to Pass one of their recent Initiates.

If you have not yet experienced a Lodge meeting hosted by the Sci-Fi Lodge, may we urge you to do so! They meet at Tettenhall Road on a Saturday. On Saturday 10th December, they invited one of the Initiates from NSRTL8355 to be Passed by the Brethren of their Lodge being the first official ceremony undertaken by the Brethren of the Sci Fi Lodge.



What an excellent Lodge meeting it turned out to be and the warmth of the welcome and hospitality was second to none. A thoroughly enjoyable Saturday afternoon in the lead up to Christmas and a memorable event for Bro Mark Tarpey who as Passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft.

The thanks of the Lodge are extended to the Master, Wardens and Brethren of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Lodge No 10016 – Live long and Prosper Brethren!!!!



Staffordshire Masonic Clay Shooting Association 2023 Winter Charity Shoot

8th January 2023 the forecast wasn't the best with heavy rain the night before and more rain in the forecast but 29 Brethren and friends came out to support the shoot at Doveridge Sporting Clay Ground, near Uttoxeter, Apart from the Province of Staffordshire we had masons from Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Shropshire.

The top gun trophy was won by Brother Neil Johnson, of Dale and Erewash Lodge, in the Province of Derbyshire, with a 49/50 score. Second was Brother Jon Sealey, of Forrester's Lodge, in the Province of Staffordshire with a 41/50 score (Jon is also Chairman of the Staffordshire Light Blues Association). Third was Alan Oakley a friend of the SMCSA with a score of 40/50. The trophies were presented by Staffordshire Masonic Clay Shooting Association Chairman, W. Bro. Chris Miles, of Sheltonia Lodge.



The Shoot raised a total of £620 for the 2024 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The committee would like to thank everyone that helped and also participated in the day to make it such a success. We meet at Doveridge on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to join us drop us an email letsgoshooting@smcsa.org



Deputy grand master drops in

As Freemasons, we regularly toast the Deputy Grand Master. It's not very often he actually visits your Lodge!!

On the recent occasion of the Installation of St Martins Lodge No. 98 the R W Deputy Grand Master, Sir David Hugh Wootton, joined the other 60+ attendees to be treated to an excellent evening of fellowship at Shelton.

St Martins Lodge No. 98 is the oldest Lodge within the Province. Numbers have dwindled in the past so, with the assistance of several Provincial Officers, Past Provincial Officers and a little bit of arm-twisting, they managed to secure over 60 to attend their Installation on 16th January 2023 where W Bro Paul Lindop handed over to Bro Neil Russell. The brethren attending the Inner Workings were treated to a superb rendition of the Lodge's Ancient Workings by W Bro Peter Clewlow, much to the delight of the Deputy Grand Master,



and our own Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro John Lockley, and both our Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, W Bro Michele Santopietro and W Bro John Derry, accompanied by three further Officers of Grand Lodge, and six acting Provincial Grand Lodge Officers.

Once in the Chair of King Solomon, the new Master under the direction of their Director of Ceremonies, W Bro Stan Malpass, went about

the installation of his Officers and the rest of the business on the Summons in a positive and confident manner.

The “Light Blues” from North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge No. 8355, provided the necessary perambulations in almost military fashion much to the delight of those in attendance. The Working Tools were superbly presented by W Bro Phil Baker, W Bro Andy Edwards and W Bro Malcolm Rowley.

W Bro Edwards became a Joining Member of the Lodge and was immediately invested as Secretary which prompted interest from four other Brethren visiting the Lodge for the first time to also ask for their Form P to join! The Lodge has an initiate for their meeting on 16th March 2023 to which they would be pleased to welcome any further visitors.

At the Festival of St John which followed, W Bro Neil Russell once again demonstrated his confidence in the handling of the business of the Festive Board when thanking the Brethren who had assisted the Lodge. The Deputy Grand Master commenting that he has had a “marvellous time indeed”.

Overseeing the whole meeting was the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies,



W Bro Jeremy Roberts, in conjunction with the Deputy Grand Master's Escort, W Bro Peter Clarke.



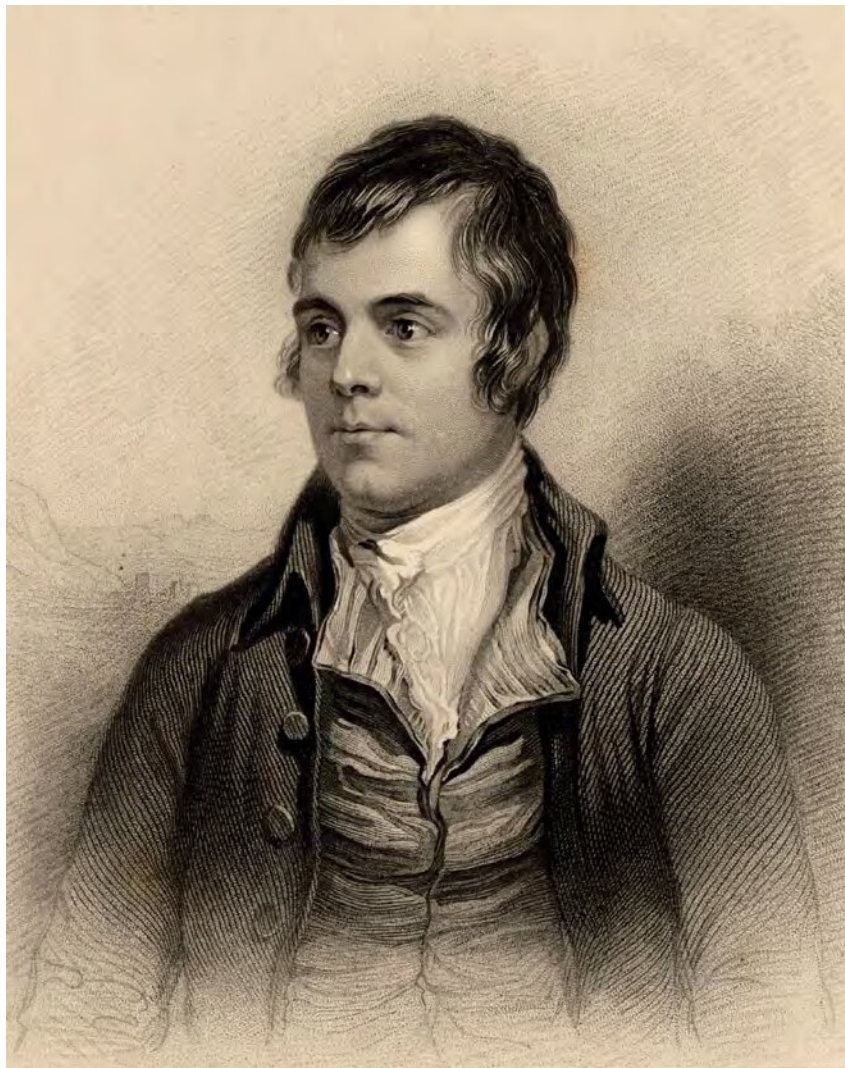
Foster Gough Lodge No 2706 125th Anniversary Special Lodge Meeting

Saturday 21st January 2023 saw the members of Foster Gough Lodge 2706 welcome Lodge Alexandra No 1282 of the Scottish Constitution to present a 'Demonstration of a Scottish Second Degree Ceremony'.

A well rehearsed and beautifully crafted Scottish 2nd Degree ceremony was performed for the instruction of the Brethren, with some apologies for the broadness of the accents. However the signs, tokens and words, whilst somewhat, familiar highlighted the differences in ritual between constitutions and were followed with interest by all.

Retiring to the Festive Board, a Haggis was piped in, suitably addressed and *"cut up wi' ready slight, trenching your gushing entrails bright"* - which with the suitable neeps and tatties made a fine first course.

Following main and dessert, there followed the "Immortal Memory", a mainstay of Burns Suppers, the Immortal Memory celebrated Burns' enduring spirit. It was a fitting tribute for one who himself did so much to preserve and popularise Scotland's rich historical, cultural and literary heritage.



Rent a Ruler Results

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STAFFORDSHIRE



211 Tettenhall Road
Wolverhampton
WV6 0DD

Tel & Fax 01902 745151

24th January 2023

TO: All Lodge Secretaries

Dear Sir & Brother,

The Rent a Ruler draw took place at the Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge last night. 27 lodges took part with 37 tickets being purchased and raising £1,850.

We look forward to the Rulers and lodges announcing the work that is being carried out and hope that there will be a good audience to see if the Rulers can still deliver the ritual.

That the results are:

- 1st Minerva Lodge 1942 - PGM
- 2nd Marmion Lodge 1060 - DPGM
- 3rd Clough Hall Lodge 7481 - APMG Derry
- 4th St Augustine's Lodge 1941 - APMG Santopietro

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Dr Matthew Gibbons PAGDC
Provincial Grand Secretary