



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 20

*Province of Staffordshire
2024 Festival Gala Ball
Saturday September 14th 2024*



Reserve your place



Book your Hotel

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Children in North Staffordshire can enjoy the great outdoors, thanks to a grant of £57,812 from Staffordshire Freemasons. Well over 2,000 disadvantaged local children and young people will be getting close to nature, thanks to a grant through the MCF to the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.



The grant will support Wildplay sessions for children from under-represented urban communities in Staffordshire Moorlands and Stoke-on-Trent, including those in care, refugees, and those with special educational needs.

The Wildplay sessions will include creative play and crafting, exploring nature reserves and taking part in a wide range of activities from pond dipping to natural crafts to wildlife identification. The children will benefit from spending time outside and forming lifelong connections with nature. This money will help children and their families, and potentially change their lives.



The Trust believes everyone should be able to access and enjoy nature, no matter where they live. Hundreds of children and young people will benefit over the course of the project, which begins in January 2024.

Aimee Burrows, Wildchild and Engagement Lead for the Trust, said:

“We’re very grateful to Staffordshire Freemasons for their generous grant. This funding will allow us to bring the benefits and joy of nature to so many children that may otherwise not get to spend time exploring our county’s wild spaces. Spending time outside can boost mental



health - one study found that 95 per cent of those that took part in outdoor play saw improvements in just six weeks!”

The PGM RW Bro John Lockley recently enjoyed a great Saturday afternoon at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust near Rugeley and said: “I’m very pleased we’ve been

able to help Staffordshire Wildlife Trust with this vital project. It’s a sad fact that many children grow up without regular access to nature and wild spaces. Outdoor activities, like those included in these Wildplay sessions, have many benefits. They will help children and young people to feel happier and healthier. It’s hugely important for these families that this essential project is supported.”

Relief Chest Presentation, Shelton Masonic Hall

On Saturday the 28th October over 35 brethren representing lodges & orders throughout the Province having enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch, watched a power point presentation by Dilharni Jayasinghe the MCF Relief Chest Manager and Karen Dye on all aspects of operating a Relief Chest.



It was accepted that it will be a considerable time before GAE's are "Phased out" as many brethren are "Wary" of Online banking and using "Smart Phones" to make payments.

There followed a lively Q&A session when many "Myths" concerning Relief Chests were corrected and why "Dormant" relief chests (Those chests where no donations had been paid for two years) were in danger of being scrutinised by HMRC and having to repay the GAE tax back.

The PGM RW Bro John Lockley thanked the two ladies for coming from London on a Saturday to give us this presentation on how Relief Chests are run and looking forward to how they are to be developed in the next ten years.

Dr. J. Skellern Prov G.Ch. Stwd.

They extolled the advantages of lodges having their own relief chests, how they could reclaim tax back on donations and the various methods that money could be paid into a lodge relief chest or the Staffordshire Festival Relief Chest.

It seems that donations made via Gift Aid Envelopes (GAE's) nationally average £8 per donation while donations made digitally, phone, card etc average £20. The use of Direct Debit payments (DD's or RPP's) makes payments so much easier for lodge charity stewards/ treasurers especially with the closure of many high street banks making the paying in of cash difficult.

It costs nearly £4 to process each batch of GAE's submitted to London and some donations are incorrectly credited due to poor handwriting or failure to mark the lodge number on the GAE slip. The MCF spends over £60,000 per year in printing the envelopes.



Digital Donations

To make a donation, scan the below QR code

Staffordshire 2024 Festival
E2024

To make a donation
scan with phone camera to open
or visit URL

<https://gtap.uk/e2024>



OR

click the below URL

<https://gtap.uk/e2024>

Universities Lodge of Staffordshire No. 9907

On Wednesday 18th October 2023 the Met Office issued a weather warning as Storm Babet was expected to bring exceptional rainfall and impactful wind to parts of the UK. Heavy, persistent and widespread rain affected much of England and Wales over the next few days. Babet, not only caused localised flooding but also brought some very strong winds, causing widespread travel disruption.



However, despite the appalling weather conditions this did not prevent a substantial number of brethren from attending the Installation meeting of the Universities Lodge of Staffordshire No. 9907 at the Masonic Hall at Shelton, Stone on Trent on Saturday 21st October.



There were over 80 brethren present including the Co-President of the UGLE Universities Scheme, the Assistant Grand Master Rt W. Bro David Medlock who battled the elements for several hours to be there. The Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Lockley was in attendance and supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro David Thomas and both Assistant Grand Masters W. Bros Michele Santopietro and John Derry together with many Provincial Officers. Also in attendance were several members of the consecrating team who made a return visit. A splendid night was enjoyed by all.



That's my boy!

Monday 20th November 2023

was a very special meeting of Robert Mummery Lodge No. 8331, when the Worshipful Master W. Bro. Gary Jones initiated his son Joshua into the lodge. The meeting was well supported with 20 members and 18 visitors present to witness a very proud dad conducting the ceremony, this was clearly evident to all. The Master was ably assisted by his wardens and Joshua, who was spellbound by this stage heard a perfect delivery of the charge by the junior Warden, Bro Richard Smith. But then Joshua and the brethren also enjoyed a perfect rendition of Tracing board by the Senior Warden, Bro Paul Bullock. A really memorable night for father and son at The Chase Golf Club.



St Modwens' "Lewis"

On a special evening recently St. Modwen's Lodge No: 4850 who meet at Burton upon Trent celebrated the initiation of a new member, a "Lewis" Jack Clydesdale, son of Jason Clydesdale a Past Master of the lodge.

This memorable occasion was made even more significant as Jack's father had the honour of performing the obligation, creating a profound and heartfelt experience for everyone present.

The Worshipful Master W. Bro Nick Thomas handed over the reins to Jack's father, a dedicated member of the lodge to allow him to take on the role of performing the obligation, before retaking the chair of King Solomon to resume with the rest of the meeting.

As the ceremony concluded, Jack emerged as a newly initiated member of St. Modwen's Lodge, wearing a Masonic apron, and carrying with him the principles of Freemasonry. The smiles, handshakes, and words of encouragement from his fellow brethren but most especially his father, conveyed their support and eagerness to welcome him into their circle.

In a world where values and traditions sometimes seem to be fading, the initiation of Jack into St. Modwen's Lodge serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring importance of preserving timeless values, building meaningful connections, and fostering a sense of belonging. The involvement of Jack's father added an extra layer of significance to the evening, emphasising the generational continuity of Masonic teachings.



The Lewis

The origins of the Lewis as an instrument used in operative masonry is lost to history. It is known that the Romans used it and it probably goes back even farther than that. In modern times different types of tools are still referred to as a Lewis, although how they are used differs from the earliest forms. The origin of the name Lewis is also lost to history. There are some who believe Lewis was actually a proper name, perhaps the inventor of the tool. Others believe it could come from the Latin *leva* to lift (also *levavi* -lifted and *levatum* - raised).

The types of Lewis include the external Lewis, chain linked Lewis, split pin Lewis, two pinned Lewis and the three-legged Lewis. Regardless of the type of Lewis that is being



used the principals of the operation of the Lewis remain the same. By the use of friction and the weight of the object being lifted a Lewis is attached to the object and hoisted into place by attaching ropes or other appropriate lifting mechanisms to the Lewis.

With the various types of Lewis, the most commonly referred to in Freemasonry is the three-legged Lewis. This also goes by the names dovetailed Lewis, St. Peter's Keys and Wilson Bolt. The three-legged Lewis was inserted in a properly cut hole in the top of the stone. The object was then lifted into place and made part of the structure.

In speculative Freemasonry a Lewis is the son of a Freemason who joins the fraternity. As an analogy it is commonly meant that the father raised (*levatum*) the son into position to take his place as part of the structure of Freemasonry.

Interestingly in descriptions of how ancient operative masons lifted the objects into place it is said that additional strapping is used to prevent a bump into scaffolding that would temporarily take some of the friction away causing the stone to fall before it could be placed. Extending the analogy of the Lewis in regard to speculative masons, the straps could be viewed as other members in the lodge who assist in the raising of the new stone into place.

Some American lodges provide Lewis jewels for their members. Requirements vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction as to what makes an individual eligible for a Lewis jewel. It is almost always that the father and son are both masons. What can vary is when the father became a mason. In some jurisdictions it is required that the father be a mason before the son is born.

(Masonry Today 2016)

The Lambskin

It is not ornamental, the cost is not great,
There are things far more useful yet truly I state,
That of all my possessions, there's none to compare
With the white leather apron that all Masons wear.
As a young lad I wondered just what it all meant
When Dad hustled round and so much time was spent
On shaving and dressing and looking just right
Until Mother would say, It's the Masons tonight.
Then some nights she'd say What makes you go
Away up there tonight in the sleet and the snow
You see the same things every month of the year.
And Dad would reply, Yes I know it my dear.
For years I have seen the same things it is true,
And tho' they are old, still they seem new,
For the hands that I clasp, and the friends that I greet
Seem a little bit closer each time we meet

Years later I stood at that very same door,
With good men and true, who had entered before.
I kneeled at the altar, and there I was taught
That virtue and honour can never be bought.
That the spotless white lambskin, all Masons revere
If worthily worn grows more precious each year.
That service to others brings blessings untold
That men may be poor, tho' surrounded by gold.
I learned that true brotherhood flourishes there,
That enmities fade 'neath the compasses and square,
That wealth and position are all thrust aside,
As there on the level men meet and abide.
So, honour the lambskin and may it remain
Forever unblemished and free from all stain,
And when we are called to the great Father's love,
May we all take our place, in the Grand Lodge above

St Modwens Charity

St Modwens Lodge No: 4850 organised a special evening at the Mason Rooms in Burton-upon-Trent and over eighty masons and their guest attended and enjoyed a spectacular Indian Culinary delight.

The function was successful and raised a substantial amount of money, so much so that at their Installation meeting held in September the Lodge were able to present a cheque for £1000 to the presiding officer, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. John Derry P.S.G.D. for the 2024 Festival

W. Bro. R. Kasthuri, P. Pr. J. G. W.

R.W.Bro. Thomas D.C. Lloyd, PProvGM - 50 Years in Freemasonry

On Wednesday 15th November 2023 at the meeting at the meeting of Old Eversley Lodge No. 5259 a celebration of R.W.Bro. Thomas D.C. Lloyd's 50 years in Freemasonry took place. R.W.Bro. John Lockley, Provincial Grand Master along with V.W.Bro. David J. Thomas, PGSwdB, DeputyPGM, W.Bro. John Derry, PSGD, AsstPGM and many other active Provincial Officers and Grand Lodge Officers and other guests were in attendance on this most auspicious occasion.

Prior to the Provincial Grand Master presenting R.W.Bro. Thomas Lloyd with a 50-year certificate, they both had a discussion in the centre of the Lodge about R.W.Bro. Tom's distinguished service to Freemasonry. It was interesting to note every appointment that R.W.Bro. Tom received in the Craft was an Active office. Additionally all learnt quite a bit about R.W.Bro. Tom's interests in flying, skiing and sailing to name a few together details about his time in the Territorial Army and his role as Deputy Lieutenant for West Midlands. Not many knew that he holds a commercial airline pilot's licence and to this day still takes to the sky on a weekly basis, although not in commercial capacity. There then followed a presentation from

the Lodge of a couple of Gin goblets plus an appropriate bottle of gin with the Lodge's very best wishes for his inspiration and guidance to the Brethren of his Lodge over many years.

The meeting was also an opportunity to conduct the ceremony of Passing for Bro. Renan Reis dos Santos, which was conducted by the Worshipful Master, R.W.Bro. Thomas D.C. Lloyd assisted by W.Bro. Tony Marshall.





Remembrance

On Friday 10th November 2023 brethren, their wives, partners and friends gathered at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas near Burton-upon-Trent for the Staffordshire Masonic Remembrance Service which was led by the Provincial Grand Chaplain W. Bro Rev Eddie Haycock

The Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro John Lockley and the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters W. Bro's Michele Santopietro and John Derry were in attendance, also the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Robin Stubbs and his Deputy Ralph Howarth.

There were approximately forty present in total at The Masonic Memorial Gardens who took time to pay their respects and remember those in our armed forces who had fallen in the service of their country in the many conflicts around the world since the First World War.

Lest We Forget



Invictus Games Dusseldorf 2023

The Invictus Games were held in Germany for the first time in 2023. The German Armed Forces and the City of Düsseldorf jointly hosted this unique international sports event. The goal of the games is to give soldiers who are wounded, injured or ill in body and soul a greater awareness and recognition in society and to support their path in rehabilitation.

Under the motto "A HOME FOR RESPECT." the city, together with the German Armed Forces, welcomed around 500 competitors from 21 nations and approximately 1,000 family members and friends to compete in ten disciplines. Mathew Trigg, a Staffordshire Freemason and Junior Warden of Ceramic Lodge No. 3287 was a proud member of the UK wheelchair Basketball team who went to Dusseldorf.

After a couple of years at College, Matt, who grew up in Stoke on Trent joined the Army aged 19 as an armourer in the Royal

Electrical Mechanical Engineers and thought this was to be his career path. The Army actively supports many different sports as participation encourages physical fitness, mental resilience, leadership, teamwork, creates a competitive edge and inspiring a will to win.

Matt had been active in many sports including rugby and badminton, but he excelled at skiing and was selected to attend a course in Austria. But, whilst racing there unfortunately he suffered a serious injury shattering his femur, part of his pelvis and damaging three knee ligaments. He suffered a pulmonary embolism and had to be resuscitated, thankfully he survived but this ended his career in the military.

It took Matt nearly two years to learn to walk again and recuperate from these serious injuries which still affect him and his movement. After leaving the Army Matt



became involved in sales in 'civvy street', rising to management level before then joining the Home Office where he is currently employed. But his sporting interest never left him and despite having never played wheelchair basketball before, he became involved in the sport and over the next six years, he played at his local club competing in the national league.



The desire to compete and wish to become involved in the Invictus games drove him on and after rigorous multisport training camps and selection procedures with many other service personnel, Matt was interviewed and

eventually invited to join the UK Invictus team. It was a truly memorable and proud moment when he collected the team kit, with others who he had formed bonds of friendship with and a camaraderie which he had missed from his service days.

Despite their best efforts the UK team lost in the semi-final to the eventual winners, the USA. But Matt returned home full of pride with a bronze medal, incredible memories having made many new friends and meeting Prince Harry. Also, he was the only player to be presented with a USA team shirt by the Americans as he had scored the most 'baskets' against them.

Matt is now training hard for the next games in Canada, and we wish him well.



The Norah Mitchell (Minerva Lodge) Trust Fund

On the morning of Saturday 18th November at Hanley Masonic Hall in Shelton, Minerva Lodge No. 1942 held their annual Norah Mitchell Trust Fund charity grant event. This year £3,000 was donated to six local charities (£500 each).

The money was left to Minerva Lodge by a Norah Mitchell the sister of a lodge member with charity donations being given at various times from the lump sum.

The charities to benefit at this event were:

1. Mill Meece Pumping Station Preservation Trust.

Work to preserve the two steam engines and other items which pumped water from boreholes to supply Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle. They are now the only pair of steam engines of their type still in working order in Britain.

2. North Staffs Rowing Club.

Formed in the 1980s and based at Rudyard Lake. Its object is 'The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation for the benefit of the people of North Staffordshire by the provision of facilities for amateur rowing.'

3. Diabetes UK - North Staffs Local Group.

Supports Diabetics and provides funds for

research. Sponsors local children to special centres to learn how to live with diabetes.

4. Ruff and Ruby.

Based in Hanley. An award-winning faith-based charity, engage, energise and empower young people to realise their value, reach their potential and reframe their world by promoting posture, self-esteem and aspirations.

5. Tri-Services Veterans Support Centre.

Based in Newcastle. Run by veterans for veterans. Assisting armed services veterans with benefits, housing, wellbeing and health issues.

6. Mothers Mind (Staffordshire).

Based at Birches Head, Stoke-on-Trent. Provide support and advice for expectant and new mothers experiencing maternal mental health difficulties. Hold meetings twice a week which new mothers and their children attend.

The presentations were made by lodge members, Howard Alcock, Tony Berry and this year's Worshipful Master, Stephen Sweeney. The event was also supported by the PGM RW Bro John Lockley and APGM's W. Bro's Michele Santopietro and John Derry.



Victoria Chapter No. 2848 Celebrate Centenary

On Wednesday 11th October

2023 Victoria Chapter No. 2848 celebrated its Centenary exactly 100 years since its consecration on Thursday 11th October 1923. The meeting was held at the Masonic Rooms, Russell Street, Wednesbury and was attended by 37 companions. This included a Full Provincial visit which was headed up by E.Comp. Robin A. Stubbs, Grand Superintendent, E.Comp. Paul J. Lockley, PGStB, 2ndProvGP, E.Comp. Paul Foster, 3rdProvGP and many other active Provincial Officers and Supreme Grand Chapter Officers.

E.Comp. M.J. Woolley set the tone by expressing his sense of pride, reverence and humility as the M.E. Zerubbabel on the occasion of celebrating such an auspicious event and a true landmark in the Chapter's history.

During the course of the meeting the Grand Superintendent presented the Chapter with its Centenary Charter and jewels to



all the Companions of the Chapter. The Scribe E., E.Comp. K.J. Spencer delivered an abbreviated history of the Chapter's 100 years and everyone in attendance was presented with a copy of the Chapter history. Following the Convocation all Companions enjoyed an excellent 5 course festive board.



Etruscan Chapter No.546 celebrates its 150th Anniversary

On Monday 6th November 2023 Etruscan Chapter's regular meeting at Shelton, Stoke on Trent was given over to a celebration of 150 years since its consecration.

The Chapter was originally founded in July 1873 even though the Charter had been granted the previous November, and it met at the Masonic Rooms, Caroline Street, Longton, Stoke on Trent. It continued to meet there, the 'home' of Etruscan Lodge, until 1948 when it moved to its present base at the Masonic Hall at Shelton.

The evening was graced with the presence of the Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Robin Stubbs, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Ralph Howarth, the Provincial Second Grand Principal, E. Comp. Paul Lockley and 12 other Supreme

Grand Chapter (including the P.G.M. John Lockley) and acting Provincial Grand Chapter officers plus a goodly number of other guests and members.

The meeting began on a sad note with a eulogy and mark of respect in memory of E. Comp. Denis Fielding. Denis was installed as 1st Principal of the Chapter at the meeting in April this year but sadly died of a brain haemorrhage 2 months later. Then the mood lightened and this was followed by a near-faultless exaltation of Comp. Daniel Poole of Josiah Wedgwood Lodge during which E. Comp. Andy Mapperson acted as M.E.Z.. He then handed over control to the I.P.Z., E. Comp. Brett Turner-Farmer for the rest of the proceedings.



A short talk by the Chapter D.C., E. Comp. David Robinson, was followed by a presentation of a copy of the history of the Chapter to the Grand Superintendent who responded with some interesting “nuggets” of historical information concerning the period when the Chapter was founded. He and the Provincial Scribe E., E. Comp. Matt Gibbons, then presented the Principals with a certificate of congratulation on behalf of the Province.

Following the rest of the usual business items of the Chapter, which included a proposition to donate a further £400 to the Staffordshire Province 2024 Festival, the

Companions adjourned to the dining room. Despite an arson attack on the building the night before the meeting, a very pleasant and convivial festive board took place. There was amusement that, because the 1st Principal and Principal Sojourner were sitting at opposite ends of a very long table, the ancient toasts had to be almost shouted. The jovial atmosphere was further enhanced by celebrating the birthdays of both the Principal Sojourner and 3rd Principal with port being served to all who wished to partake. After all the usual Royal Arch toasts and speeches the Companions departed for their homes at around 10:15 pm.



Grand Superintendent Designate

On Friday 24th November the Grand Superintendent ME Comp Robin Stubbs having recently announced his intention to stand down announced that E Comp Michele Santopietro, had graciously accepted an offer of appointment and is now formally the Grand Superintendent Designate for Staffordshire.

Commenting “I am sure that you would wish to join with me in extending to Mike our sincere congratulations, together with a wish for every enjoyment and success in his new role from March 2024 as the head of the Royal Arch in Staffordshire” and indeed we do.

The Installation is expected to take place on the morning of Tuesday 5th March 2024 at the County Showground, Stafford, with the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter to follow in the afternoon.



St. Edwards Royal Arch Chapter No 966, Leek, Centenary Celebration.

On Saturday 28th May 1921 St. Edwards Royal Arch Chapter No 966, attached to St. Edwards Lodge No. 966, was consecrated in a room which was then the billiard room, much smaller than the current lodge room which was added in 1928. Forty-nine Royal Arch Masons attended to see local jeweller Frank William Goldstraw installed as the First Principal.



The centenary celebration was of course 2 years ago in 2021 but due mainly to Covid it was delayed, but on Thursday 23rd November 2023, thirty-seven members and visitors attended the centenary celebration meeting at the Masonic Hall in King Street, Leek.

The First Principal of St. Edwards Chapter E. Comp Kevin Gibbons, the Second Principal E. Comp Victor Evans and acting Third Principal E. Comp Christopher Lowe PPrGSwdB, welcomed everyone including the Grand Superintendent, Robin Stubbs, on his last official visit before he retires



from the post in February. Also present from the Province was E. Comp Alan Walker PGStdB, Past Provincial Second Grand Principal

(acting as Prov2ndGPrin), E. Comp Paul Foster, Third Provincial Grand Principal, E. Comp Matt Gibbons ProVGSE and E. Comp Ralph

Ritchey ProVGSN plus four Supreme Grand Chapter Officers and nine other active Provincial Officers.



All the members were presented with a centenary jewel by the Grand Superintendent, who was surprised when E. Comp Selwyn Burton PPrGSN, the longest serving member of the Chapter presented him with a centenary jewel as a memento of his visit The meal after the meeting topped off a great evening.

Support of the Shropshire, Staffordshire & Cheshire Blood Bikes Charity

It had been a busy start to the new Masonic season for the Master, Wardens and Brethren of North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge No 8355 with no less than 3 Raisings to conduct with the first two being held under Dispensation. At the first regular meeting of the Lodge on 19th October, part of that meeting included proposals from their Charity Steward, W Bro Mike Knight, totalling some £1,100 in support of local charities from both the Lodge Relief Chest and Charity Accounts.

The principal recipients were the Shropshire, Staffordshire & Cheshire Blood Bikes Charity. Inspired by a recent visit to the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No 9567, where a considerably large donation was made towards the cost of a new motorbike, the £500 donated by NSRTL8355 will go towards much needed maintenance of the bikes operating in the north of the Province and south Cheshire.

On hand to receive the donation was W Bro Phil Barley, a volunteer with the Blood Bikes who briefly explained the work of the Charity and emphasising the donation from this Lodge is extremely

appreciated and extremely well-timed.

Worshipful Master, W Bro Pete Nacson said "From my first visit to the Stewards Lodge, and seeing their enormous generosity towards this Charity, it was absolutely correct that we considered how we too can add to that overall amount given the extent of call-outs and demands on the time of the Charity volunteers. We are pleased and delighted the donation will be put to immediate use".



Staffordshire freemasons support blood bikes charity

Shropshire Staffordshire Cheshire Blood Bikes, (SSCBB), have recently received some generous donations from Staffordshire Freemasons.

Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge have presented a cheque for £4000, (£400 of which was donated by Gordon Lodge No: 2149) and Staffordshire Masonic Clay Shooting Association (SMCSA) presented another cheque for £500.

At the last meeting of Staffordshire Grand Stewards Lodge W. Bro. David Watt and Bro. Stephen Watts, (SMCSA Treasurer), presented the cheques to SSCBB Rider, W. Bro. Mark Fullwood. A few weeks earlier, Mark had presented a cheque to SSCBB from Barr Beacon Lodge No: 6109 raised during his year in the chair of that Lodge.

All the donations will contribute towards the

purchase of a brand new BMW motorcycle which will have a name connected with Staffordshire Freemasonry in recognition of the charitable donations made by members.

Of course it's not just money that Staffordshire Freemasons give to the Blood Bikes. When W. Bro. Mark Fullwood received the cheques during the meeting, he asked if anyone who volunteered for the Blood Bikes to stand and it was discovered that there was a total of four riders and a controller present who regularly give their time, free of charge to assist such a worthwhile organisation.

W. Bro David Watt commented he heard about the charity several years ago and was keen to promote SSCBB by arranging for another rider and Freemason, W. Bro. Phil Barley, to bring a liveried SSCBB motorcycle to the Staffordshire Freemasons stand at



The Staffordshire County Show. That bike was received so well that there has been a partnership at the show ever since, with benefits to both organisations.

Bro. Stephen Watts explained how the £500 was raised by the members of Staffordshire Masonic Clay Shooting Association, who meet every month at Doveridge Sports Centre near Uttoxeter. Each member who attends makes a small payment to participate. After a year these contributions are then donated to a charity and following a meeting of members and with the support of W. Bro David Watt, a member of SMCSA, the Blood Bikes were chosen to receive the £500 donation

The new BMW motorcycle should be ready for duty early in the new year. All SSCBB bikes are given a name, and this particular bike will have a name connected to Freemasonry, you may well spot the new Staffordshire Freemasons funded Blood Bike being ridden on Staffordshire roads. Look out for the name and any logo on the petrol tank!

Lynne Stone, SSCBB Vice Chair and Head of Fundraising said,

“ SSCBB are delighted to be working with the Staffordshire Freemasons and are delighted that one of our fleet will carry the Masonic name and symbols. We are indebted to our local Masonic groups for their continued support of our charity”





Shropshire • Staffordshire • Cheshire **BLOOD BIKES**



URGENT DELIVERIES • FREE OF CHARGE • BY VOLUNTEERS

13th December 2023

John Skellern

Dear John

On behalf of all of us at SSCBB, thank you and all the brethren of the Province of Staffordshire for their most generous donation of £10,500. As you know, we plan to use the funds to purchase a new blood bike which will carry a masonic name. We look forward to the official 'handover' of the blood bike in February 2024.

2024 will be a very special year for our charity as we will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary. We have been fortunate in those 10 years to have 4 blood bikes purchased for us by various Masonic groups.

SSCBB was established in 2014 and covers an extensive geographic area, in Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire. We have a mission to support the NHS by the provision of secure courier transport for any urgent medical requirements to enhance patient care; to promote a positive image of the motorcycling community and to encourage safe riding standards.

Urgent deliveries are completed on the Charities motorcycles ridden by advanced qualified riders. Our volunteer Controllers are on standby 24 hours a day to receive urgent requests. Another vital role within the charity are the Event Fundraisers who raise funds and awareness of SSCBB at supermarkets, bike shows and local initiatives. There is also an established 'Speaker Team' of volunteers who give talks at a variety of organisations.

Blood Bikes transport blood, platelets, various test samples, frozen breast milk, fnt, bone marrow as well as patient records and medical equipment. During the Covid pandemic, we were called upon to transport Covid samples, PPE, pulse oximeters and other vital equipment.

Yours sincerely

Lynne Stone, Vice Chair
Corporate Fundraiser

Shropshire • Staffordshire • Cheshire Blood Bikes



SSCBB, Watling Chambers, West Suite, 214 Watling Street, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 0BD
www.sbbgroup.org.uk • Email: info@sbbgroup.org.uk • Registered Charity Number: 1156212