



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 24

Congratulations



Staffordshire Freemasons 3 Peaks Challenge Raises over £12,000

In the final fund-raising challenge for the Staffordshire 2024 Festival, a team of freemasons from across Staffordshire took on the local 3 Peaks Challenge in the Staffordshire Moorlands and in the process raised over £12,000 for charity. The distance of 18 miles was completed in 6 hours 50 minutes, 10 minutes inside the target time of 7 hours. The walk took in more than 2,800 feet of ascent. The team made the challenge more difficult by carrying packs of around 10kg each, the equivalent weight of the Festival 2024 executive and therefore the weight of Staffordshire literally on their shoulders for 'that extra mile' to raise vital funds for the Festival Appeal.

The Challenge set off at 7:00am on Saturday 27th July from Stake Gutter Farm, on the A53 just before the Winking Man pub to complete a circular route. The team of nine walked the entire distance linking each of the three recognised Staffordshire peaks of Oliver Hill (1,683 ft high), Cheeks



Hill (the highest and most northerly point in Staffordshire, 1,710 ft is near its summit) and they returned by traversing The Roaches (1,657 feet high) to complete the circuit which saw close to 3,000 feet of overall ascent.





The team was led by DPGM David Thomas of St Modwens Lodge and included the APMG John Derry of Earl Shrewsbury Lodge, Paul Molley and Mark Tarpey of North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge, Phil Spencer-Gray of Ethelfleda Lodge, Laurence Bagguley of John O’Gaunt Lodge, Mark Duce of Streetly Lodge, Andy Thompson and Nick Dermott of Trent Lodge.

They were ably supported by W Bro Michele Santopietro of Minerva Lodge, W Bro Adrian Yearsley of John O’Gaunt Lodge, W Bro Robert Adams of Trent Lodge and W Bro Peter Nacson of North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge

David Thomas, the driving force behind the Challenge, said ‘I have been inspired by the commitment of the walking team to be out there in all weathers in the past couple of months. Our training routes over the Peak District, have proved invaluable for this event as well as learning or refreshing life skills in navigation, first aid and project management. We have newer Freemasons as well some ‘old hands’ taking part in this tremendous event which we anticipate will raise more than £12,000 for charity’.



Following the walk everyone retired to The Reform Inn in nearby Thorncliffe for well-deserved refreshments.

Busy Weekend for Legge Lodge and the Staffordshire Widows Sons

On Saturday 17th August. The Compass Suites Building that hosts a number of lodges in Aldridge had an open house to invite people who are interested in freemasonry to drop by for a cup or tea or coffee and biscuits and have a relaxed chat to discuss being a mason and what that would entail

Legge Lodge No 2784 which is supported by Staffordshire Chapter was in attendance with W. Bro Andy Sawyer his officers and brethren along with Associate members nicknamed "Bad Pennies".

The weather was kind and the day went extremely well with 4 people expressing interest in joining a lodge plus some other genuine interest. Out of those 4 individuals 2 were interested in joining Legge Lodge which means good growth for Legge and 2 more members for the Widows Sons Staffordshire Chapter.

It was a superb and friendly event, and a great opportunity for the Aldridge Lodges to socialise together and build friendships and visiting opportunities into the future.

The Compass Suites are planning an open evening on the 25th September, for which an even better response is anticipated.

Sunday 18th August. Staffordshire Chapter headed off to the Hurricane Café at Shobdon in Herefordshire for what turned out to be a mini Widows Sons Rally! 5 Chapters were in attendance – Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Wyvern. The purpose was to offer support to the Masons in Hereford that were looking to setup a new chapter. I think the turnout demonstrated that we have a strong fraternal brotherhood that comes together or maybe it was just the excuse to have a great ride followed by a fried breakfast!



Freemasons Open Evening
at The Compass Suites in Aldridge
25th September 2024
Scan the QR Code for more info and to register!

OPEN EVENING

SCAN ME



Return to Gerards

The lead up to Mallory Park was very nerve racking to say the least, 2 weeks before my daughter Hannah said you must start to rebuild the bike. So with the help from Hannah we got the bike out, and within 2 days the bike started (all be it slightly rough). I called in a friend and Bro, Glenn Sharp, who stripped down the carburettors, cleaned and rebuilt, she ran sweet. The next thing was rebuilding the brakes and fitting the body work.



Bro Glenn Sharp travelled down to Mallory on the Friday, this gave us time to get the bike scrutinised for the big day. Saturday arrived and I was overwhelmed at the amount of support for my ride. P.G.M R.W. Bro John Lockley arrived with W. Bro John Skellern. The Widows Sons turned out to ride with me, The Staffordshire Blood Bike arrived to promote and support me. Bro Alex Hason from Chartley Lodge came to man the masonic trailer with Bro Jon Sealy. My family all came to support my ride, It was very emotional.

The time came to ride the track, my nerves kicked in and my legs started to shake. But as soon as we set of on to the circuit all came flooding back, but I was determined to take this by the throat. So much so that I road round Gerards the first time and did not realise as I was concentrating so much on waving to my family and following the 2 track marshals. The marshals pulled over and let me by them, everything fell in to place and I opened the throttle on the bike. It was shear joy as I entered Gerards at speed full of confidence and determination. The rest of the laps were just perfect and to make sure the demons were well and truly put to bed.

I would like to thank all who took part in the build up and on the day, Thanks to Mallory Park for the hospitality (they made us all extremely welcome). Thank you to all who have donated to this wonderful cause. But last but not least, Thank you to my family for being there from the start and helping me every part of my recovery and challenges.

W. Bro Mark J Sewell PPrJGW

Link for donations below:

<https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/masonic-charitablefoundation/e2024-staffordshire-2024-festival/13-yearcomeback-demon-dash-return-to-mallory>



50th Anniversary Celebration at Ready Lodge

On Wednesday 1st May the brethren of Ready Lodge No. 4008 met to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the initiation of W Bro Ian Leake PPrJGW and W Bro Don Leake, two blood brothers. The brothers were initiated into Freemasonry in March & April 1974 respectively, they were passed and raised the same year. This Rather unique event was attended by the Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro John Lockley who was accompanied by the PrDGDC Nick Collumbell. There were six grand lodge officers in attendance including the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire, 11 members of Ready Lodge and 34 guests. The guests included several brethren from St Martins, St Thomas's, Clough Hall, Sutherland Lodge and Smithchild, the mother and sister lodges of Ready, all attending to help celebrate this special occasion.

Several guests also assisted in taking office when the lodge conducted a ceremony of Passing on behalf of the Staffordshire Universities Lodge, before the Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro John Lockley invited W Bro Don & W Bro Ian Leake to take seats in the centre of the lodge. A 'This is Your Life' style conversation then took place between the PGM and the brothers in relation to their family lives, their work and their contributions to Freemasonry over the past 50 years. During which it transpired that their father and two other brothers had also been members of Ready Lodge and W Bro Ian Leake had moved to Berkshire after University and whilst still a member of Ready Lodge had also served Freemasonry in Berkshire. The Provincial Grand Master then spoke of their dedication and exemplary conduct to freemasonry over the years and presented them both with 50-year certificates at the same

time promoting W Bro Don Leake to PPrJGW with immediate effect. The Worshipful Master of Ready Lodge W. Bro Thomas Brocklebank then presented the brothers with a folder that contained the minutes and summons from when they were proposed, initiated, passed and raised but also a 50-year tie pin. W Bro Ian Leake then thanked the PGM and visitors for attending the meeting saying how they had made the evening more special for himself and his brother Don. W Bro Ian Leake also thanked the brethren of Ready Lodge for the gifts and said he and his brother Don had made many happy memories over the years as members of the Lodge. The celebrations were then continued at the festive board where a raffle took place raising £228 which was donated to the 2024 Festival.





2024 Festival

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Winners of the 10 Limited Edition Signed Mugs has raised
£1100.00 for the 2024 Festival

Thank you for your support

Contact Harkesh Ram on h.p.ram@hotmail.co.uk for collection

Mug Number	Ticket Number	Winner	Lodge
1	00214	Kasthuri Ramanujam	St Modwens Lodge 4850
2	01880	Mark Rea	Phoenix Lodge 9319
3	00240	Brett Turner-Farmer	Etruscan Lodge 546
4	00114	Peter Hill	The Royal Wolverhampton School 8170
5	01120	Mark Newton	Earl Shrewsbury 1520
6	01426	Hirendera Raval	Izaak Walton Lodge 4281
7	00995	Matt Clayton	St Michaels Lodge 2487
8	01396	David Blackhurst	Justice-cum-Waldron 4763
9	01480	George Bernard	Con Amore Lodge 3633
10	01407	Stephen Edwards	Menturia Lodge 418





St Michael's Lodge No. 2487 Charity Donations.

In May St Michael's Lodge who meet at Stone were pleased to donate £400 towards the newly proposed Stoke Air Ambulance. This service is not connected to either the Midlands Air Ambulance to the south which primarily covers the Birmingham area or the Northwest Air Ambulance to the North covering Manchester and Liverpool areas.

This is a separate charity, and which receives no government or NHS funding. The Stoke Air Ambulance will be covering a vast area from Congleton in the North to Stafford in the South and from Market Drayton in the West to Leek in the East. This clearly includes a vast rural area where urgent emergency response is imperative, whereby on scene critical care can be provided to help save lives and to facilitate quick safe transport to hospital.

In June several members of the Lodge met up to make another, similar donation of £400 towards the Oak Tree Farm Rural Project. This charity provides training and supported occupation for adults with learning disabilities in a rural environment, it is situated near the village of Hilderstone and part of the Harrowby Estate of Sandon.

Primarily a horticultural unit growing plants, cut flowers and vegetables, the farm also has beef cattle, poultry and small animals. There are craft and work rooms along with associated farm buildings, greenhouses and polytunnels. There is a fully equipped, purpose-built pottery workshop and computer room.

In 2011 the farm celebrated 25 years and proudly opened the new 'Oak Leaf Tea Room' offering catering and retail experience to some Team Members. People attend the farm on a part time basis, usually one or two days a week to fit in with other commitments. Help is given to improve and build on social and life skills as well as literacy and numeracy. Everyone is involved with the day-to-day activities of the farm and takes part in the various craft and artwork including hands on experience in the pottery and tearoom.

A number of Lodge members attended the farm and were given a guided tour by the General Manager David Moreton, who was presented with a cheque and was most grateful for the donation. The brethren met the team afterwards and enjoyed a cup of coffee and chat afterwards.



Staffordshire Provincial Old-English Night

Hosted by Jasper Lodge,
Kibblestone & Ceramic Lodges

All funds
raised are in
support of the
Staffordshire
2024
festival



23rd September 2024

Lodge tyles at 6pm
Social board at 8pm

Menu

Bacon & Cheese Oatcakes
Steak & Kidney Pie with chips

Price

£27.50 including a commemorative mug

Booking

Please email the Jasper Lodge Secretary
to confirm your place
sebdaly@yahoo.co.uk



Venue

Hanley Masonic Centre



The MCF's mission for mental wellbeing

It has been well-documented that mental health issues are on the rise across all age groups, which is something the Masonic Charitable Foundation (the Freemasons' charity) is working hard to tackle.

The MCF can help Freemasons and their families access mental health support if they're feeling down, have symptoms of depression, anxiety, stress or other mental health concerns. This includes widows and partners of Freemasons regardless of gender, as well as children, step-children, and grandchildren of Freemasons aged between 5-17 years old.

The mental health support service the MCF offers is delivered through an experienced and independent provider and gives access to fully trained and qualified mental health practitioners, ensuring that they receive the highest quality of care.

Children and young people



A recent study found that young people, aged 16-24 are the most affected by mental health struggles, with nearly a quarter (23.5%) describing their mental health as either bad or the worst it's ever been (Forth with Life).

Anna, aged 20, reached out to the MCF as she was struggling to manage her anxiety, and as



as a result struggled to complete her university coursework. She was offered a course of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) after an initial assessment where she discussed not knowing how to address her negative thoughts and emotions.

After 12 sessions, Anna has made significant progress and has learnt to manage her worry and anxiety. She is so glad she reached out to the MCF for support and found that the sessions massively helped her self-esteem and confidence, and taught her to understand herself more.

Steven, aged 13, also turned to the MCF for support after he began to struggle with his anxiety when going to school. In his initial assessment, Steven was lacking confidence and self-esteem and was referred to the MCF's external provider for six sessions of counselling. With their help, Steven challenged his thoughts and noticed his mood

improved and anxiety quickly became more manageable.

He also learnt to feel more comfortable reaching out for support and has since adapted the tools he learnt in counselling to better manage his wellbeing to feel less isolated.

Isolation in later life

Latest figures show that around 1.2 million older people experience loneliness in the UK (Age UK). Thanks to the £1million partnership with Age UK, the MCF has supported over 10,000 older people experiencing loneliness across the country, and more than half (56 per cent) of older people who had originally reported often feeling lonely, now reported lower levels.

Bereavement can have a significant impact on mental health, so it makes sense that widows and widowers frequently show a higher proportion of depression and symptoms of PTSD on average. This can be because many live by themselves, will face isolation, and will often withdraw socially.

The MCF supported Bill, an 88-year old Freemason, who struggled with loneliness since his wife, Nancy, passed away. He told the MCF, "I've never experienced anything like the help and



the wonderful feeling I've had dealing with the Foundation. I can't say thank you enough."

Could the MCF support you or someone you know?

Those seeking mental health support should contact the MCF's Enquiries team who will provide the details required to access the service. 0800 035 60 90 / help@mcf.org.uk

If you are experiencing thoughts of self-harm or suicide, it is essential that you seek immediate assistance. Please reach out to charity Mind, who can provide you with the necessary support to ensure your safety.

Learn more about the MCF's access to mental health support service: <https://mcf.org.uk/get-support/freemasons-and-families/health-and-wellbeing/>



Le Mansons

INTER

COUNTY



SAT
24TH
MAY

KART RACE

Midland Karting Ltd Wood End Ln, Lichfield WS13 8NF

Staffordshire are looking for 3 teams of 6 members to represent our province. If you wish to take part please forward your name and lodge to W. Bro. M. Sewell: aj-transport@hotmail.co.uk

Excellent Companion John Newill reaches 50

On 2nd May 2024 the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Ralph Howarth attended Wolverhampton Schools Chapter No. 7411 to support their Installation Convocation.

Apart from the usual formalities and ceremony, Ralph had the very happy duty of presenting a certificate marking 50 years of service to the Royal Arch to E Comp John Newill.

Before presenting the certificate, the Companions assembled were treated to a 'This is your Life' chat between Ralph and John who started life, as you would expect, as a student at Royal Wolverhampton School before furthering his studies and eventually becoming an electrical engineer.

John was initiated into Old Wulfrunians Lodge No 7411 on 18th December 1968. After completing his 3rd Degree, he was Exalted into Victoria Chapter No 2848 on 4th March 1974. John received his first Craft appointment as Past provincial Junior Grand Deacon in 1987 and has since been promoted three times and is now a Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden. He received his first appointment to provincial Grand Chapter in 1992 as Provincial Assistant Grand Scribe E and has been promoted three times since and now hold the rank of Past Provincial Grand Registrar. He is truly a hard-working Freemason and well-liked by his Brethren and Companions.

John and his dear wife have just celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary and received a card congratulating them on their Diamond anniversary from His Majesty King Charles and Queen Camilla.



On behalf of the Province, many congratulations to you and your wife on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary and for your dedicated service to Royal Arch Masonry in Staffordshire.

W. Bro James Davies PPrGReg, L.G.R. Staffordshire Knot Lodge No. 726

On Wednesday 15th May 2024, Staffordshire Knot Lodge, who meet at Gaol Square, Stafford welcomed several guests to their regular meeting, including the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Lockley who was accompanied by the Provincial DGDC W. Bro. Bret Turner- Farmer.

After the Minutes of the April regular meeting were approved by the brethren, they were duly signed by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro David Stewart and the Provincial Grand Master, who was then saluted as became his rank.

The brethren then witnessed an excellent ceremony whereby lodge member Bro David Kerrigan was duly obligated and Passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft by the Worshipful Master. The Working Tools were presented by the Bro. M. Baker, the SW and on returning to the Lodge W. Bro James Davies gave an exceptional presentation and explanation of the Tracing Board.

The P.G.M. then asked for two chairs to be placed on the Lodge floor and duly invited W. Bro Davies to join him, there then followed a most interesting discussion and celebration of W. Bro Davies' life, work and Masonic career of fifty years. The P.G.M. commented that he had known W. Bro. Davies for a long time, not only within Freemasonry but also as "Mr Mayor", as he had been Stone Town Deputy Mayor in 2015 and 2018 and Stone Town Mayor in 2016, 2017 and 2023.

W. Bro. Davies was initiated into the Lodge of Loyal Companions No. 6993 on May 11th, 1974 and progressed through the offices to become W.M. in 1984. He served as W.M. on several occasions, as well as occupying other offices when needed.

W. Bro. Davies had a long and illustrious career in the RAF, which not only took him around the world but thankfully to Staffordshire and eventually to Staffordshire Knot Lodge 726,

becoming a joining member in 2001.

The P.G.M. commented it was an honour to see W. Bro. Davies and praised him for his commitment to Freemasonry and the lodge for the high standard of ritual during the ceremony. The P.G.M. then presented W. Bro. J. Davies with his fifty-year certificate and proceeded to promote him to the rank of PPrJGW

W. Bro. Davies thanked the P.G.M. and commented "much had changed in Freemasonry since 1974; however, the G.M. HRH The Duke of Kent had not. Freemasonry was, and is a constant, Masonry is not good because it is old; it is old because it is good."



W. Bro. John Arthur Boyd Williams PPrJGW Patshull Lodge No. 6592

On Monday 20th May 2024, Patshull Lodge who meet at Edward Street, West Bromwich welcomed a considerable number of visitors to their meeting, including the Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Kevin J. Parkes PSGD who was accompanied by the Provincial AGDC W. Bro Kevin L. Gibbons.



The evening was a double celebration, for not only was W. Bro John Williams celebrating Fifty years in freemasonry but also the initiation of his son Edward 'Richard' Austin Williams into the lodge. The meeting started with the initiation, which was conducted in an exemplary way and John took an active part in the ceremony by presenting the Charge.

John was so proud that Richard had followed in his footsteps and becoming a third-generation freemason. John, like his brother Ted had been introduced to Freemasonry many years ago by their father Jack, who was a member of Noah's Ark Lodge No. 347. All had worked within the

family business and therefore due to work commitments whilst Ted followed his father into Noah's Ark Lodge, John joined Patshull Lodge.

John became Worshipful Master in 1986 and has held many offices within the lodge over the years, he is currently the Chaplain. The certificate was read to John, and he was congratulated before the certificate was formally presented to him to commemorate his achievement. John was most grateful, he thanked all the brethren present and was most surprised to be promoted to PPrSGW.

Richard was warmly welcomed into the Lodge and he will be ably supported by his father John and uncle Ted, who is an Honorary member of the Lodge.

The evening didn't quite end there, as a delegation from Dormston Lodge No. 7821 led by W. Bro Richard Whitaker PPrGStwd, all of whom had attended to support both John and the lodge duly claimed the Travelling Gavel from them.



Disadvantaged young people will get help to turn their lives around.

Over 300 local disadvantaged young people

will have the opportunity to turn their lives around thanks to a grant from Staffordshire Freemasons which comes through the Masonic Charitable Foundation to Sport 4 Life UK. The £60,000 grant will go help fund the 'Step Together' service and support the employment of Youth Engagement Officers (YEOs), who will directly benefit 350 children and young people, with an estimated 5,000 indirect beneficiaries through safer school routes and community engagement.

This project's heart is deploying six YEOs across three school routes in Sandwell, identified as areas most vulnerable to youth antisocial behaviour and crime. These dedicated officers will play a dual role: serving as a deterrent to negative behaviours and providing support and information to ensure young people's safety and well-being. In addition to on-the-street engagement, Sport 4 Life UK will extend its reach within local schools, mentoring those most at risk and organising community sports sessions to channel energies into positive, constructive activities.

This initiative is underpinned by compelling evidence of need, including a striking statistic from the West Midlands Combined Authority that 43 per cent of its population resides within England's top 10 per cent of deprived areas. With serious youth violence on the rise, the urgency for targeted, effective interventions has never been greater. The project's credibility is further bolstered by endorsements from key stakeholders, including the West Midlands Police Violence Reduction Partnership and a local school, attesting to Sport 4 Life UK's proven track record in improving behaviour, educational attainment, and confidence among youth, where 78 per cent of students have demonstrated a significant improvement in their life skills.

Sport 4 Life UK, a leading charity



dedicated to delivering sports-themed personal development services to support young people's journey through education and employment, is thrilled to announce the continuation of its impactful 'Step Together' service in the West Midlands. Aimed at supporting disadvantaged youth, including those at risk of unemployment or not in education, employment, or training (NEET),



this initiative marks a significant stride towards fostering safer, more engaged communities.

Sport 4 Life UK is committed to sustaining and expanding its efforts to monitor and enhance academic engagement and attainment in close collaboration with local schools and law enforcement. This approach aims to curb crime and antisocial behaviour and lay the groundwork for brighter futures through education and sports.

Matt Dandy, Mentoring Services Manager at Sport 4 Life, commented "Thanks to the generous support of Staffordshire Freemasons, we're able to provide much needed support to disadvantaged children in the local area. The 'Step Together' project offers both hope and safety, through targeted

interventions and by channelling energy into positive activities that will ensure that young people in Sandwell will have the best opportunities in life."

The Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro John Lockley said "I'm very pleased we've been able to help Sport 4 Life UK and support the essential work they are doing in our community. Serious youth violence can have a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of, not just the young people directly involved, but also in an indirect manner to those around them. This charity are taking on a critical role in engaging with disadvantaged young people."

NSRT Lodge No. 8355 - Supporting Our Community Volunteers

Whilst training for the Staffordshire 3 Peaks challenge members of North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge recently identified two crucial community volunteer groups who ensure our safety when outdoors in the local beauty spots of Staffordshire, and the wider Peak District area - for those who are a little more adventurous!



Their first donation was to the Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team (SSART), a purely voluntary team who assist in the search for missing persons or similar rescues but in the lowland settings of Staffordshire. They had an immediate requirement for additional two-way radios to be used by their water search team in canoes, so it was vital the equipment was



waterproof. Having sourced the equipment, it was presented to the Chair of SSART, Helen Morning at their HQ on Beacon Barracks, Stafford and put straight into operational use. Commenting on the donation, Helen said "We were desperate for more comms kit and the Lodge have been wonderful in their quick response to our request. These (radios) will make a positive contribution to our search and rescue capabilities" The Lodge will be working with another Shelton based Lodge, Trent Lodge No 4269, to provide further assistance for SSART. For those who may wish to hear more about the work of SSART, both Lodges are holding a joint emergency meeting at Shelton on Wednesday 18th September 2024

where key members of the SSART will be there to give an informative presentation and answer any questions. If you wish to attend, contact via email: secretary.8355@outlook.com



In a second appeal, this time by Kinder Mountain Rescue Team (KMRT), also a purely voluntary organisation ready to deploy like SSART at any time of the day or night, 365 days of the year, the Lodge were able to source and provide with the assistance of Halo Wheels and Ison Distribution, vital kit for the KMRT to operate their two other stretchers when on a call-out and during training. The wheels provide a more comfortable experience for the casualty and offer the team more flexibility in the amount of kit they carry to an incident. Amanda Howlett of KMRT said “The wheels are hugely appreciated and, as we mentioned last night (July presentation), will be used on a very regular basis. We take the stretcher and wheel out



for a large proportion of our call outs”. Attending the KMRT HQ in Hayfield, members of the Lodge presented the two wheels, tyres and other kit KMRT wanted to bolster their capabilities. The wheels and frames for the stretchers are an essential piece of kit used to transport equipment and casualties and this donation will give the KMRT the flexibility to be able to move multiple casualties at one incident and/or deploy at several separate callouts simultaneously.

STEPHEN

AS

Tickets:

01922

451123

James
Frankie

WALLI

AN AUTHENTIC TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF
FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS.

COMPASS SUITES, ALDRIDGE, WS98NH

FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2024 TICKETS £12.50 7:30PM

"HEARING IS BELIEVING"

SHERRY . BIG GIRL'S DON'T CRY . WALK LIKE A MAN
BYE BYE BABY . LET'S HANG ON . SILENCE IS GOLDEN . GREASE
RAG DOLL . BEGGIN' . DECEMBER 63 . WHO LOVES YOU
CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU . MY EYES ADORED YOU

FACEBOOK - @STEPHENJAMESASFRANKIEVALLI

Rising from the Ashes

Phoenix Lodge No. 9319

Phoenix Lodge meets at Wreatham Rd, Handsworth, four times during the year. It is a summer Lodge and holds the Installation meeting in May, with regular meetings in June and July and this year on Tuesday 24th September 2024 the Worshipful Master and Brethren will be holding a Ladies and Guests to Dine, this being the final meeting of the Lodge this year and everyone is most welcome.

This small, but friendly Lodge may be of special interest to Brethren who find attending a Lodge in the winter months difficult owing to driving during the dark nights, but also those Brethren who wish to continue their Masonic activities during the summer months.

The Installation meeting was held on Tuesday 28th May 2024, the Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro. John Lockley accompanied by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, four Grand Officers, nine acting Provincial Officers, the Lodge's Visiting Officer W. Bro. Tariq Somra, and fifteen other visitors were in attendance.



The Lodge, which is already low in numbers, was faced with a variety of unforeseen circumstances, which meant that only eight current members of the Lodge were present when the Lodge was due to be opened. So, some of the visitors were invited to and willingly agreed to occupy various vacant offices so that the Lodge could be quorate and opened in due form.

W. Bro. Mark James Rea PPrGReg (Warks) was proclaimed as Worshipful Master in an excellent ceremony by W. Bro. John Davis PPrGSuptWks. After which the Lodge was pleased to ballot for and welcome Bro Sean Borgazzi as a joining member.

On Tuesday 25th June 2024, the Lodge was blessed with thirty-six visitors, some of whom assisted by taking office, as the Lodge performed a Third-Degree ceremony and raised Bro. Jugraj Bahai on behalf of Victoria Lodge No 2848. The celebrations continued at the festive board as the Treasurer W. Bro James Cairns PPrJGW was surprised to be presented with a birthday cake by the brethren on his seventy-sixth birthday. "Happy Birthday Jim".



At the meeting on Tuesday 23rd July 2024, the Lodge was again supported by many victors, including the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. John Derry PSGD accompanied by a Director of Ceremonies, three Grand Officers, W. Bro. Tariq Somra, PPrJGW the Lodge's Visiting Officer and thirty-three other visitors, as the Lodge again

performed a Third Degree ceremony and raised Bro. Michael Chinn on behalf of Victoria Lodge No 2848.

Both ceremonies were conducted in a most sincere and dignified way by a different team of officers at each meeting, including both members of the Lodge and guests. W. Bro. John Davis having been invited to take the chair performed an excellent Raising and rendition of the Exhortation at both meetings. Whilst at the July meeting W. Bro. Patrick Dunne, P.Prov.J.G.W. provided a theatrical rendition of the twelfth chapter of Ecclesiastes over the grave much to the delight of all the Brethren. W. Bro. Tariq Somra took the Chair and performed an excellent explanation of the Traditional History and Bro. Steve Senairay again presented the 3rd Degree working tools.

All the Brethren enjoyed a very convivial festive board after each meeting, but the July meeting was made extra special as it was the last Masonic Lodge meeting that W. Bro Patrick Dunne, would be attending as he has retired from his working life and



all the Masonic orders of which he is a member, so he could pursue other challenges and adventures. Patrick took the opportunity to address and thank his friends and the Brethren present. He will be sorely missed, and everyone wished him well.

So, if you would like to attend or join this small friendly Lodge, then please make contact with the Secretary W. Bro J. W. Davis for a summons and be assured of a warm welcome and an enjoyable evening.

jdnumber37@gmail.com

Earl Shrewsbury Lodge No. 1520

The regular meeting of Earl Shrewsbury Lodge held on Thursday 25th April was a very special evening with a special candidate, Mr Ryan Coates, son of the Provincial Grand Almoner W. Bro. Tony Coates.

The Worshipful Master W. Bro John Derry, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, opened the lodge and after the Minutes of the March regular meeting were approved by the brethren and signed, the appropriate salutations were made.

W. Bro Derry then invited W. Bro. Tony Coates to occupy the Worshipful Masters chair, after which he then willingly agreed to act as Junior Deacon for the ceremony. A very proud father then initiated his son Ryan, in exemplary style. W. Bro Ralph Howarth, a close friend to Tony and the Coates family, and like W. Bro Derry a Past Provincial Grand Almoner, then presented the charge in a most sincere and dignified way.

The celebrations continued at the Festive Board with a wonderful rendition of the Initiates song and Masonic chain.



Walsall Samaritans Project 55

The Walsall Branch of the Samaritans

need £250,000 for a new building after 50 years at its present site in Bott Lane. The existing one is crumbling away, and they have launched 'Project 55', they are looking for 250 individuals, clubs or businesses who can pledge to raise £1000 during 2024. Walsall Council have been extremely supportive over the years and recently confirmed they can stay on the site in Bott Lane and that they can add a new structure.



On Saturday the 8th of June 2024 W. Bro J. C. Cairns PPr.JGW, himself a former listening volunteer at Walsall Samaritans for over ten years, met the current and former Branch Director's to present a cheque for £1000.00. This being on behalf of the brethren of Walton

Walker & Sandwell Lodge No. 3847, several of the brethren having a strong connections with both Walsall and Wolverhampton Samaritans.

The Samaritans charity helps people in crisis. People who are facing any form of personal crisis can ring toll free 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org and talk to volunteers, in confidence, without fear of being judged.

