



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 26



Teddies for Loving Care:

Providing teddies for the comfort of children in distress

Cover story - Teddies for Loving Care



A hospital visit can be a frightening experience for a young child, especially in an emergency situation. Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) is a way of providing much-needed comfort to children in A&E departments, helping to reduce the shock and distress of their experience.

Every child that receives a teddy gets to take it home and since its inception in 2001, some 3.5 million teddies have been distributed to hospitals throughout England and Wales.

Teddies have gone to the A&E department at the Royal Stoke University Hospital and will also be used in Ambulances.

Provincial officer Kevin Gibbons is pictured on the Cover with his wife Rachael and children, twins Alex and Rosie-Lee both 6 and Sophia 11 delivering these Teddies to Debra who runs the charity at the hospital.

Thanks to all the Lodges and Chapters and everyone who have made donations to buy them.

Happy Birthday John

Several brethren from Gordon lodge No: 2149 who meet at Hanley Masonic Hall, Shelton recently visited W. Bro John Griffiths at his home as he was celebrating his 100th birthday.

John was attending the lodge regularly having been their Worshipful Master in 1991 and was attending the lodge regularly until the age of 95 years!!!

Everyone wishes John well and many more birthdays



Announcement of the Provincial wardens for 2025 - 2026

At the January meeting of Foster Gough Lodge No 2706 the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Lockley announced the Provincial wardens for 2025 - 2026, to be invested at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in May.

W. Bro Mathew David Griffin, (below) known to everyone as David, will be invested as Senior Grand Warden. David was initiated into Black Country Heritage Lodge No 9702 in 2000 and became their Worshipful Master in 2009. He is a member of several other Lodges and involved in other Orders including The Holy Royal Arch and Knights Templar.



W. Bro Alan Clark (above) will be invested as Junior Grand Warden.

Alan was initiated into Eccleshall Lodge No 5389 in 2003 and became their Worshipful Master in 2011/ 12, he is currently their Secretary and Almoner. Alan is also a member of the Holy Royal Arch and Knights Templar.



Celebrating 50 Years of Freemasonry at Dormston Lodge

Dormston Lodge had the distinct honour of celebrating a truly momentous occasion: W.Bro. Frank Tromans' 50th Anniversary in Freemasonry. The evening was filled with reflection, recognition, and a deep sense of Brotherhood, marking five decades of dedication to the Craft.

W.Bro. Frank's remarkable 50-year journey in Freemasonry was celebrated with heartfelt warmth and respect. The ceremony began with R.W.Bro. John Lockley, PGM, who presented W.Bro. Frank with his official 50-year certificate, an acknowledgment of his outstanding contribution to the Lodge and the Masonic community. During this time, R.W.Bro. John Lockley also took the opportunity to share a few words about W.Bro. Frank's Masonic and personal career, offering insights into his unwavering commitment to the principles of Freemasonry.



In a touching moment, R.W.Bro. John Lockley announced that W.Bro. Frank was promoted to PPrJGW, a significant recognition of his dedication and service over the years.

The Lodge continued the celebrations with the W.M. W.Bro. K.A. Hall, who presented W.Bro. Frank with a special 50-year certificate on behalf of the Lodge. But the most poignant moment came when W.Bro. John Hancox, a long-time friend of W.Bro. Frank, presented him with a stunning glass goblet, inscribed with the three Tracing Boards representing Frank's Initiation, Passing, and Raising, along with the dates of these key milestones in his Masonic journey. The goblet, a beautiful gift from the Lodge, was engraved with a personal inscription from the Lodge members, marking the depth

of affection and respect they have for W.Bro. Frank.

It was clear that W.Bro. Frank was deeply moved by the recognition and the meaningful connections he has built over the years. His 50 years in Freemasonry are a testament to his dedication to the Craft and the many Brothers he has met.

The evening held another touching moment: on the same night, Bro. A.L. Ravelli was initiated into the Lodge, beginning his Masonic journey. It was only fitting that W.Bro. Frank, with his wealth of experience, was invited to present Bro. Ravelli with his Entered Apprentice apron. This symbolic gesture highlighted the unique circle of Freemasonry, where seasoned members like W.Bro. Frank play a pivotal role in guiding the next generation.

As the ceremony concluded, the evening transitioned into a convivial Festive Board, where Brothers gathered to share in the warmth and hospitality that defines Freemasonry. Laughter, camaraderie, and Brotherly love filled the room, creating an atmosphere that exemplified the bonds of friendship and fellowship that W.Bro. Frank has enjoyed for the last 50 years.

For everyone present, it was a night to remember, one that celebrated the enduring values of Freemasonry, the personal milestones of W.Bro. Frank, and the continued growth of the Lodge.

As W.Bro. Frank moves into the next chapter of his Masonic journey and as Bro. Ravelli embarks on his, the evening reminded us all of the timeless traditions that bind Freemasons together. It was a reminder that every journey, no matter how long or short, is a shared experience and that the values of integrity, service, and Brotherhood will continue to guide us forward.

This special event was a fitting tribute to W.Bro. Frank's half-century of service and a reminder of the rich history and camaraderie that define Dormston Lodge. The Lodge looks forward to many more years of fellowship, growth, and milestones with its members.

W.Bro. D.J. Evans, PPrJGW



Dear Light Blue Brethren,

January 2025 Bulletin

Hope you've all had a Good Christmas and a Happy New Year

Since my last bulletin, I wanted to let you know what the team has been up to and what's planned for 2025.

- Over £160.00 has been raised and deposited for the 2024 Festival from the sale of the Light Blues Badge
- The Facebook page has grown to over 400 members, continue to post your enjoyable stories, visits and meetings dates.
- Get all lodge members to join the group especially newer members
- Relationships with other Light Blue Clubs to encourage visiting and wider participation
- Planning underway to visit Cambridge University Lodge rooms, Bristol for various Degrees including Chapter for a unique ritual done in Bristol
- Continue the presentation on Masonic Jewels to Lodges
- Continue the explanation of the 1st degree in Lodges
- Dedicated WhatsApp Group to ask any question or support needs
- Dedicated talks planned to raise awareness of other Orders and life after the 3rd degree
- Supporting summer Lodges with officers and candidates
- Charity Ball planned for Light Blues in Summer 2025
- Supporting and encouraging the Staffordshire Travelling Gavel – go and get it
- A Presentation has been submitted to UGLE on the great work you the Light Blues are doing in the Province
- Reaching out to more lodges to support a Light Blue wishing to visit with reduced dining fee, keep tuned on the Facebook page for notifications
- Visiting as many initiations to let the newer Light Blues know about the group and benefits
- Use the Facebook page to post visits on other orders outside the craft
- Launching a competition to design a new logo for our club to include other orders
- Please encourage all members of the lodge to post out meeting dates and join, you don't have to be a Light Blue to join
- Welcome any ideas or suggestions for this groups, let us know
- On a final note, arrange and attend your own local lodge socials and invite the group, let's make 2025 a fun masonic year

https://www.facebook.com/groups/staffslightblues/?ref=share_group_link

Sincerely and Fraternally

Harkesh Ram

Chairman of the Staffordshire Light Blues Club



Staffordshire Masonic Choir

The Staffordshire Masonic Choir has recently been putting its talents to good use. To be fair, not In Our Province, but in Shropshire. Please note – we're always happy to assist in any great and glorious undertaking. Which it certainly was.

On 22nd February, a new lodge was consecrated – St Cecilia, No 10064. As you might guess, from its name, it has many excellent musicians as its Founders. After all, St Cecilia is the Patron Saint of Music and Musicians. But those Founders were all very busy on that day, being Founders. So when the Staffordshire Choir were asked to help, they did so most willingly.

They received a most warm and brotherly welcome, and polished up their performance under the watchful care of their Musical Director, Worshipful Brother Dudley Ray. The

Consecration went off without a hitch, and it was even possible to commemorate the Choir's attendance with a picture. It is obvious that some of the members are taller than others ...

It is not the Choir's first Consecration, and it will be very happy if it isn't its last. It is always delighted to welcome new members. And not everybody reads music, but we all have a good time together. So if you have a Saturday morning free (first in every month – usually), get in touch with the Secretary, David Leigh (the small grey-haired one. He's at stone-mason@fleigh.uk

W. Bro David Leigh



50th Anniversary celebration at the Lodge of Honour No. 525

The Lodge of Honour No. 525 meeting at The Firs, Codsall, Wolverhampton on the evening of Friday 13th December 2024, was quite special, for W. Bro Robin. G. Brindley PPrJGW their senior Past Master who was celebrating his 50th anniversary in Freemasonry. The Lodge were pleased to receive the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro David J. Thomas accompanied by a Director of Ceremonies and several Provincial officers to celebrate with W. Bro Robin.

W. Bro Raymond. J. Haynes PJGD was invited and took the opportunity to say a few words to Robin and the brethren. He stated how honoured he felt to celebrate and pay tribute to his friend and brother, who he had first met when he was at initiated in January 1979.

He continued and commented how Robin was initiated into the Lodge exactly 50 years ago on Friday 13th December 1974, having been proposed by his father, Bro Bill Brindley. But there was a strong family connection to the Lodge as Bro Stanley Brindley, his uncle, a well-known and respected Wolverhampton Solicitor was also a member.

Robin progressed through the offices of the Lodge and became W. Master in 1986, installing his successor W. Bro Haynes in an exemplary manner the following year. Whilst Robin did not join any other Lodges or Orders, he continues to be a very active and a devoted member regularly attending the Lodge. Describing Robin as an excellent ritualist and having a quiet and reserved disposition with a very caring attitude.

Robin grew up in Codsall at a time when it was a small rural village, his father had started a garage in a small wooden shed on Birches Bridge in 1931 selling petrol and repairing cars. The business soon grew but was put on hold



by WWII. However, when Robin's father Bill, a Colonel in the Army was 'demobbed' the business resumed and in due course Robin, having gained his qualifications joined the Company in 1963, becoming the Managing Director in 1970.

Robin now resides in Bridgnorth with his beloved wife Jo and has a stepson Che, the company has expanded considerably over time and W. Brindley Garages Ltd has several outlets and dealerships employing over 300 people. After 60 years with the Company Robin retired in 2024, and he is now enjoying his retirement having passed responsibility to Che.

W. Bro Haynes congratulated Robin and the certificate commemorating his achievement was read to the Lodge by the Director of

Ceremonies before being presented to Robin by the DPGM. The DPGM also, thanked Robin for his dedication and duly promoted him to PPrSGW, presenting him with the badge and jewel of the office. Robin thanked the DPGM, and all the brethren present. The evening ended with a most enjoyable and friendly festive board.



Earl Shrewsbury Lodge 1520 Sesquicentennial Celebration



On Wednesday 20th January 1875, Earl Shrewsbury Lodge No 1520 was consecrated in South Staffordshire, exactly 150 years later, on Monday 20th January 2025, over 70 members and guests met at the Rugeley & District Masonic Centre, in Penkridge, nr Cannock to celebrate this achievement.

Also present were a significant number of Provincial officers present, including the Provincial Almoner, and member of the Lodge, W. Bro Tony Coates. He was most pleased to be invited to occupy the Masters chair during the evening, and proudly conduct a Passing ceremony for his son, Bro

Ryan Coates. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.



The Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Lockley was present, also the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Excellent Companion Michele Santopietro, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro David J. Thomas and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Jeremy F. Roberts were all there to support the Lodge and the Worshipful Master, W. Bro John Derry, Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



St Modwens 4850 hold 50th Anniversary celebration

On Tuesday 26th November St Modwen's Lodge No: 4850 who meet at Burton upon Trent were pleased to receive the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro David J. Thomas accompanied by a Director of Ceremonies and several Provincial officers. The meeting was of particular significance as W. Bro. Ian Mc Glynn was celebrating 50 years in Freemasonry

Ian was born in Liverpool but from the age of two he was raised in Carshalton, Surrey and as a teenager he attended Sutton County Grammar School. Ian liked music, especially rock music, so much so with his band he would play at local pubs and village halls and occasionally as a 'warm up' for artists such as John Mayall OBE and Graham Bond, both well-known blues and rock musicians and song writers, also the rock band 'The Herd' fronted by Peter Frampton.

Ian would have liked the trappings of the 'Rock and Roll lifestyle' of the 1960's, however, realising he could be no match for the likes of Eric Clapton or George Harrison, he decided on a Civil Engineering Course at Southampton University where he met his wife to be.

After University, whilst Ian took his first job with Greater London Council Dept. of Public Health Engineering, later to become Thames Water, his future wife moved to Australia to continue her education. She returned in the early 1970's and they were married in 1976. Ian later gained employment with Severn Trent Water, and they settled in Burton upon Trent to raise their young son and daughter.

In 1974 Ian had been initiated into Holborn Bars Lodge No: 5675 in London by his father who at the time was W. Master, Ian progressed through the offices and became W. Master in 1983 but by this time having a young family and difficulty travelling such a long distance, he became a country member.

In 1994 Ian joined St Modwen's Lodge and became W. Master in 2003 and then again twenty years later in 2023. But, in 2007 Ian had returned to full membership of his London Lodge becoming their W. Master again in 2009, then their Secretary until 2018, he received London Grand Rank in 2011.

After his retirement, Ian became self-employed as a water industry consultant alternating this with his work as a yachting instructor, which remains his great passion. Ian enjoys his sailing and work with the Nancy Becket Trust, a charity for maintaining a historical sailing boat for the development of young people, of which he is a Trustee. Ian now splits his time between this, Freemasonry and four grandchildren.

The DPGM discussed with Ian his life and Masonic career, thanking him for his dedication and promoting him to PPrJGW, much to the surprise of Ian and the brethren present. The certificate commemorating his achievement was read to the Lodge before being presented to Ian, who thanked the DPGM, and all the brethren present. The evening ended with a most enjoyable and friendly festive board.



**Midland
Karting
Wood End
Lane
Lichfield
WS13 8NF**

Staffordshire V Derbyshire Provincial Levians 24hrs Masons Supercar Race GO-KARTING

Drivers Entry fee
£40 Any
Sponsorship
Money Gratefully
Received

Saturday 24th May 2025
Gates open at 9am
Training 12.30pm
Race start 2pm



**WELCOME TO THE 2025
STAFFORDSHIRE V DERBYSHIRE 2HRS
GO-KARTING CHALLENGE, WHERE
TEAMS OF DRIVERS WILL BATTLE FOR A
PODIUM POSITION & COVETED
MASONIC PROVINCIAL RACE TROPHY**

**All you Need are 6 to 8 Drivers per
Team, Contact Mark for Bookings
aj-transport@hotmail.co.uk**

The PGM asks that you all have a fun
safe and an enjoyable time.

But most important, Don't let
Derbyshire Province win the Trophy
Full training will be provided to all
competitors Including Race Clothing.

Entry Fee Can be paid Via Bank
transfer on the booking form attached

Gnosall St Lawrence 50th

Gnosall St. Lawrence Lodge No: 9458 meet at Rugeley & District Masonic Centre, (Chase Golf Club) in Penkridge and Wednesday 13th November was a special meeting, for them and one of their founders, the current Lodge Secretary, W. Bro Christopher Roger Boston PPrJGW. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro David J. Thomas attended the meeting, accompanied by a Director of Ceremonies and Provincial officers in order to celebrate the evening with W. Bro Chris.

Chris was a 'War baby', born in Birmingham in 1943, he completed his education and became an accountant, later working at the renowned suppliers of Masonic Regalia, Light and Boston. He met his wife Barbara and in September 1969 they were married and were blessed with two sons Stuart and Andrew. They moved to Pelsall, where they raised their family and later moved to Church Eaton, Staffordshire. Both Stuart and Andrew

went on to university, they both married, and Chris and Barbara were overjoyed to have two grandchildren, Theodore and Imogen. Eventually in 2017 Barbara and Chris had the house to themselves, but sadly Barbara fell ill and passed away the following year.

Chris was supported by his family, friends and neighbours and only recently moved to a smaller property. He keeps himself busy and continues to enjoy his Freemasonry, having been initiated into Aston Old Edwardians Lodge No: 3857, a Warwickshire Lodge in October 1974, shortly after the birth of his children. Over the next decade Chris joined other Orders, he is active in Secret Monitor, Mark Master Masons and the Holy Royal Arch, holding Provincial rank in each.



But it was in 1992 that Chris became a founder member of Gnosall St. Lawrence Lodge, holding many offices over time and became their W. Master in 1998, 2013, 2014 and then again in 2017. However, Chris is most well-known for his involvement in the demonstration team of the Sutton Coldfield Study Circle, which enacts the Ancient Lodge workings of 1765, and he was their President twice. The team has performed not only around the Midlands but in various provinces around the country, also in Palma, Mallorca and Hamburg, Germany. The Team have raised more than £500k for various charities over the years.

The DPGM discussed with Chris his life and Masonic career, thanking him for his dedication and promoting him to PPrSGW. The certificate commemorating his achievement was read to the Lodge before being presented to Chris, who proudly thanked the DPGM and all the brethren present. The evening ended with a most enjoyable and friendly festive board.

The Derbyshire Motorcycle Chapter visit Burslem Chapter and things get savage!

On the 3rd February the Derbyshire Motorcycle Chapter visited Burslem Chapter to present the Savage ritual and exalt two new members to Burslem.



So, what is the Savage Ritual?

The Savage Club Chapter Ritual was rediscovered in the archive of the Savage Club Chapter No 2190, who meet in London, in the mid-2000s, and had seemingly been approved for use many decades previously but had never been brought into use. After members of the chapter read it, the consensus was that

they should move towards it.

It doesn't change anything about the underlying Royal Arch story or the message it imparts but allows the Companions and the candidate to appreciate the candidate's involvement and his reaction, because the story is easier to follow. It is a shorter, efficient and a more engaging experience and this is why it has become quite popular.

The most significant difference is that in other rituals the narrative and the performance aspect are split, which means the story essentially gets run twice, whereas this version has simultaneous acting and narration. This means there is less coming and going and it creates more roles for other participants.

It's shorter and more fun to participate in, but without losing any of the gravitas of the ceremony and its underlying story and it is hoped that this keeps the character of the story and that it is still clearly recognisable to anyone in the Royal Arch but is a little more engaging.





The evening was a great success and Burslem were honoured to have the MEGS from both Staffordshire and Derbyshire and their deputies in attendance

A fabulous evening with excellent ritual and workings with over 50 in attendance.

Welcome Companions Alistair and Ismail to the Chapter, we hope you have a great enjoyable journey.

And of course, being motorcycle chapters the Widows Sons from Staffordshire, Cheshire, Shropshire and Derbyshire were in attendance.

<https://www.burslemchapter98.org.uk/>

Comp. S. W. Watts



North Staffordshire Round Table Chapter No 8355

The Companions of North Staffordshire Round Table Chapter 8355 were delighted to receive the news during the summer recess the Chapter had been selected for a Full Provincial Visit at the Convocation to be held on 4th December 2024 at Shelton.



Initial planning for the Convocation suggested a double Exaltation. It turned out to be a single. Our First Principal, Excellent Comp Mark Ashton, would be recuperating

from his second hip replacement operation and unable to attend. Excellent Companion Tim Stott, our Immediate Past First Principal, took the reigns for the evening in exemplary style. Our second Candidate was caught by a change in work patterns, however, to change it up, the Ritual was dissected, and Solomon nuggets interspersed by the newer Companions added to the interest of the Convocation. Excellent Companion Andy Ford did an excellent job as Principal Sojourner during the Exaltation.

In addition, the Chapter invested their Second Principal, Excellent Companion Peter Nacson; and were delighted when the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent volunteered to present a Supreme Grand Chapter Certificate to a recently Exalted Companion, Karl Lees.

It was certainly a busy evening! Excellent Companion Chris Adams, PGtStdB, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, was unfortunately unable to attend at the last minute due to a migraine, so Excellent Companion Paul Crutchley, Provincial Grand Scribe N., did a terrific job at short notice to keep a hand on the proceedings for the evening.

The Candidate, Bro Scott Vodrey, was treated to a Chapter containing 58 Companions – with those in attendance from Provincial

Grand Chapter along with those eligible to attend from Provincial Grand Lodge. A highlight being the presentation of the Mystical Lecture by Excellent Companion Terry Pointon which was met with great acclaim.



Refreshments followed in the main dining room with a table layout that spanned wall to wall for a very fraternal dinner, and humorous toasts, making it a most enjoyable Festive evening.

The Companions of NSRTC8355 look forward to welcoming Companions from across the Province and wider area to break bread with us for the fulfilment of our Companionship of the Order where we are looking to Exalt more Brethren from the Craft, who enjoy their Freemasonry.

E Comp Paul Molley, PPrGStwd



Noah's Ark Chapter No. 347

On Monday 10th February 2025 at Edward Street West Bromwich seventeen Companions attended the Convocation as the Chapter Exalted Bro. Ronald John McCreery.

The Chapter, which is already low in numbers, was once again faced with unforeseen circumstances and work commitments of Companions, which meant that some of the visitors were invited to occupy various vacant offices so that the Chapter could be opened in due form.

E.Comp J C Cairns ProvAGDC was invited to act as J. for the evening which he was pleased to do and after the candidate was exalted he formally welcomed Companion

McGory into Royal Arch Masonry and the Province of Staffordshire on behalf of The Provincial Grand Superintendent.

The Three Principals and the Companions enjoyed a very convivial festive board and excellent evening raised £85.00 for the Chapter Charity.

