



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 28



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Provincial Grand Masters' 2025 Address

“Brethren. Good afternoon and welcome to the AGM of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Again, we are separating the appointments and re appointments to active rank in Provincial Grand Lodge from those being promoted, the latter being the 20th of September at Burton on Trent with family and friends, wives and girlfriends who are not masons invited to be present to watch the proceedings. Our membership in the province shows a positive rate which this year resulted in an extra grand rank, but our membership team together with your lodges needs to keep up the drive as nationally freemasonry continues to face a numbers issue, and our own numbers are not growing as fast as we would like but quality not quantity should always be paramount. The challenged to raise our net membership by 1% remains ongoing. We remain good at initiating men into freemasonry, but we are losing good men through resignations. The investment in new masons must not be wasted by not looking after them. Get them involved with all aspects of our lodges. Encourage them to build their confidence on the lodge floor. Engage with them in social and fun events outside the Lodge. Their yet untapped talents are our future, they are our tomorrow. Look after the older members too and contact those who keep sending apologies which if left unchecked turn into resignations. Our members are the most valuable asset we have, we can't afford

to waste it. I make no apology for repeating this mantra as the issues remain. To increase our unit numbers by 1 is a decline, by 2 is a standstill and by 3 a gain. These figures are showering down on us from Grand Lodge. It's a big ask but keep these figures in mind.

Our focus in our community remains high on the back of the charity and service work we do by receiving a second High Sherrif award achieved by MCF funding in general and our own local efforts in particular both financial and hands on. This year we say goodbye to our Lord Lieutenant Sir Ian Dudson who is retiring after 12 years in post. Ian has been a great supporter of our community work and a great friend to us. He has invited us to an informal gathering to introduce the province to his successor and to the new High Sherrif. We have enjoyed great responses on both masonic and non-masonic platforms, this is our opportunity to invite those who admire us for what we do to consider being a part of us, and to share what we hold dear. Continue to encourage new members to become involved in the Light Blues Club and to take part in their activities. This year they are going from strength to strength as the 31st May sees a huge contingent from Staffordshire going to Grand Lodge for a special meeting under the guidance of W Bro Harkesh Ram. The club have introduced a new logo to incorporate new to Royal Arch members. More good news



from Wilson Keys Court under the care of W Bro Alan Walker has received the award for the best care provision in Staffordshire for a second year running presented last week. Wilson Keys is part of the Masonic Housing Association, and this year sees the MHA is celebrating their 50 years with a tea party at Grand Lodge on the 3rd of June to which Alan and I with others are invited.

We have seen significant changes in the provincial executive this year with long serving brethren stepping down from office. Provincial Grand Treasurer, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Provincial Grand Membership Officer, Provincial Grand Secretary and a Provincial Assistant Grand Master. I and I'm sure you all thank them for their long and devoted service to the province. We wish their successors well in their new roles with the knowledge they will be able to call on their predecessors for assistance if needed.

Brethren this time last year I urged you to give the 2024 festival a final push. As you know we achieved a magnificent total of £1.8m. I am very much aware that this is your money given freely through events, activities and general hard work. To be placed 5th overall in per capita giving is a fantastic effort. The feel-good factor we all share with a well-earned and heartfelt thanks to you all. A special thank you to Tony Coates and Ralph Howarth together with their ladies for arranging with Keele University our grand finale celebrations.

At Grand Lodge in April, we celebrated with W Bro Tony Coates on his appointment to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and W. Bro Chris Priestley on his appointment to Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer and Rt W Bro John Thompson on his appointment to Assistant Grand Master. We also claim Rt W Bro Steven Varley's re appointment to Assistant Grand Master. Promotions in Grand Rank for W Bro Jeremy Roberts to Past Senior Grand Deacon and W Bro Mike Santopietro to Deputy Grand Sword Bearer. Congratulations to them all on their new and well-deserved appointments.

Congratulations also to all those who have been appointed to or reappointed in active rank in Provincial Grand Lodge today. I urge you to visit as many lodges as you can during your year to show support to our lodges, and to the new provincial stewards and deacons we want you when you visit to ask the secretaries to give you the names of their brethren who are not provincial officers who could be considered for appointment together with those considered for promotion, and report your findings back to W Bro Chris Baker.

It is again my privilege to welcome on your behalf our distinguished visitors and the brethren from other provinces. We thank you for your support, fellowship and friendship, you are all very welcome indeed.

Thank you to the outgoing Provincial team of active officers both collared and non-collared for your work in helping the province run smoothly especially the Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden and the Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden. And now to all who have made today possible, to those who have transported the furniture and set up our venue, to our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Matt Adderley and his team, to our Ex Provincial Grand Secretary Matt Gibbons and his team including Debby in our office and to our Provincial Grand Stewards for all they do for the province. As we look forward to an exciting new year in the life of our wonderful Province, I thank you all for coming today and if it's your first visit to Provincial Grand Lodge I do hope you have enjoyed the day.

Brethren this will be the last time I will be able to address you at our AGM as Provincial Grand Master as my tenure expires in 2026. I have enjoyed the privilege of being your PGM and thank you all for your warmth and friendship on my journey. It's a privilege to serve you as Provincial Grand Master and we can all be proud of being freemasons. Thank you all for your continued support and the warmth of your welcome around the province, enjoy your freemasonry and may the Great Architect of the Universe bless you and those you love."

July 2025 - Armed Forces Day

The Provincial Trailer effectively promoted Freemasonry at the recent Armed Forces Day in Queens Park, Longton, with members from Shelton Lodges engaging the community and sparking interest in our activities and support for local charities. The event saw an estimated 4,000 people enjoying the warm weather and community-based stalls. Several positive enquiries about becoming a Freemason



were made, including one from a lady referred to the Order of Women Freemasons. Thanks to W Bro Mark Sewell, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, for arranging the trailer delivery & collection and the Freemasons who offered their time, and special thanks to Cllr Lillian Dodd for organising the event.



Most Excellent Grand Superintendents' 2025 Address

"Companions, I cannot quite believe that it has been nearly 15 months since I was formally installed as your Grand Superintendent. The time has passed by very quickly, for me anyway – perhaps very slowly for you all. I am delighted to advise you that so far, I have NOT broken the Province, and in fact this remains a very happy and enthusiastic Province.

First and foremost, I would like to make special reference to those Officers who have today stepped down after many years of service. In particular, I would single out Dr Matt Gibbons who has been Scribe Ezra for eight years, Chris Adams who has been DC for a similar period of eight years, Stuart Scott our Treasurer also for the last eight years, Ralph Ritchey who has been our Membership Officer, officially with a collar, since 2021, but in reality since 2016, and Martin Waller who has been Charity Steward for six years. These companions have done so much for the Order in this Province during their tenure and I know I speak for all of us when I thank them for their hard work over so many years. Their successors have big shoes to fill; however, I am equally confident in them, going forward.

To EVERYONE who has stepped down from

their active roles, I thank you very much for your service to the Province. To our outgoing Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah, Paul Crutchley, thank you for the time taken to visit our Chapters on their regular Convocations and for appraising us of their health and well-being. Paul, your input has been both valued and appreciated. Thank you.

A long list of thanks for today's experience too. To Dr Matt Gibbons, our outgoing Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra and his successor Chris Priestley. To Chris Adams our outgoing Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and his successor Paul Crutchley. These four companions have been busy organising this meeting for some time now and I thank you all for your efforts which I believe have resulted in yet another successful AGM. In addition, my thanks to Richard Parrott and his team for providing the necessary transport, collection and assembly of the Chapter furniture, as well as dismantling it immediately following this convocation and ensuring its safe return, and our Alms collectors who will shortly take your Alms collection. My thanks also, to Maurice Williams for his invaluable assistance in preparing for today. Finally, I also extend my thanks to Debby in the



Provincial Office and would ask our newly invested Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra to pass on my thanks to her.

Companions, for those of you who have placed bets on how long my address will take, I do not intend to be on my feet for much longer but I do have a few particular points I would like to make. However, anyone who has selected 15 minutes and 34 seconds will not be far off the mark.

Firstly, to those who I have appointed today, I congratulate you. These honours are very well deserved. To those who have been appointed to active office, you will have not only the opportunity, but you also have the added DUTY of supporting the Province and Chapters during your term in office. This means there is an expectation that you will visit Chapters at their Installation meetings and also at Full Provincial Visits. You will receive summonses for these meetings and, as was discussed with you on acceptance of the role, you will be expected to attend a reasonable number of these. This is a change to previous instructions where we would have traditionally encouraged these visits. It is now an expectation because the real difference between an active rank and a past rank is not in the rank itself, it is in the support for Province and the Chapters!

Secondly, I would like to report on membership. In previous years we have reported on membership from an angle of AGM meeting date to AGM meeting date. To ensure consistency, we will, in future, be using calendar dates of 1st January to 31st December, and we will own the figures, good or bad. We will only ensure improvement by accepting the reality of the situation, learning from it, and moving onwards and upwards. The Registrar's report shows an increase in members of 4 in 2024, having exalted 49 companions which compares very well with the previous year; however, the number of resignations was very nearly equivalent to that number, which really dented what could have been a hugely successful year. We need to stem the flow here. We need to make sure that companions enjoy their Royal Arch Masonry.

There has got to be a reason for them to keep coming back to the next meeting. We also need to identify the real reason people are leaving the order, as the data shows that reasons reported are vague, such as 'Personal'. Without proper data we cannot properly address the issues which exist. I ask you Companions to consider the situations in your own Chapters and to think about options which might make things better for your members. If finance is an issue, why not allow your members to pay in installments if the Chapter's finances allow this flexibility. If ritual is an issue, consider ways of making this less onerous, perhaps by sharing the work, and there is already a template in the Provincial Vault for Chapters to work from. There is also, already in place, an expectation from the Province that prayers and scriptures should be read to ensure their meaning is not diluted by misremembering the words. In addition, for the same reasoning, I would not be unhappy if obligations were also read. This would allow for the better understanding of the obligation but also allow the Installing Principal to concentrate on learning other areas of the ritual. Of course, the exaltation obligation could NOT be read as the candidate will still be blindfolded at this point. I am not proposing wholesale amendments to practices, but if you are in any doubt about some things you wish to consider, please speak to me, my deputy, or the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra. There is no doubt that membership is the main challenge that faces us. I had the pleasure recently to hear one of our high rulers speak at a Festive Board and make a statement that, although membership is measured in terms of quantity, the answer to how to approach this challenge is in terms of quality. The quality of our initial approach to the prospective exalteé, the quality of how we continue that relationship towards his joining the Order, the quality of the ceremony, the quality of the bonding process at the Festive Board and at future meetings, the quality of our approach in terms of his development through the offices, and it goes on. He is so right, Companions. The successful units of Craft, Chapter, and any other degree is

often characterised by the friendliness of its members, the bonding measures that take place (which includes social events), and the ability for those members to get involved in work at a time that suits them – and that can be earlier or later than the Chapter itself wants. Please be mindful of these points and particularly of the candidate's needs.

As an executive, we meet every two months, at least, to promote the Order and work through the strategy we have in place. Certain initiatives will have been more obvious to yourselves than others, such as a member of the Executive joining Chapters at exaltations wherever possible. Others are less obvious, but equally important in promoting this wonderful Order. These efforts continue to progress and we hope you will notice the benefits soon. One key action was the introduction of a list of expectations for each of the active roles, from Grand Superintendent and the chains to Stewards and the Janitor. Some of these roles will have extensive tasks to be completed and will need support. Our next stage in this, therefore, is to ensure some of these offices have a team of people taking on smaller tasks, but which will give us the best opportunity to achieve our aims. I ask you therefore to look out for my next communication which will come directly to your email inboxes, where I will break the roles down in more detail, and ask for volunteers to fill the offices. Unfortunately, I am not allowed to make these collared offices, but your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Companions, we are all aware of the importance of visiting. Many of the other Orders have introduced schemes designed to encourage more visiting such as the travelling gavel and the travelling keystone. In Royal Arch we have decided to follow suit and I am very grateful to Ralph Howarth for commissioning our own version which, unsurprisingly will be called the travelling sceptre! The rules for the scheme will be sent to all Chapters during the recess; however, in the meantime, the sceptre will be handed to the Chapter with the most Companions present today. Companion

Scribe Ezra, can you tell me which Chapter that is? Can I have a representative from that Chapter please, to receive from me the Sceptre?

I am delighted to see that the Light Blues club continues to be very active in the Province. Some of you will be aware that they are beginning to expand their activities into the Royal Arch as well. In fact they have been working on a new logo and badge which incorporates both Orders, to reinforce the one journey, one organisation approach in pure ancient freemasonry. I congratulate all involved in the extremely important role that the Light Blues have in the future of this Province. As if that wasn't enough decoration for your jackets, Companions, the newly appointed and invested Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra has commissioned on behalf of the Province a number of lapel pins which also reflect the connection between Craft and the Royal Arch. These very smart pins are available for sale for a very reasonable £3 each and someone will no doubt stalk you at the Festive Board in an attempt to prise some coins from you. I am extremely grateful to the Province of Nottinghamshire for not only the idea, but also for providing a supply to us, AT COST I HOPE!

Finally, Companions, my congratulations to all those who received first appointment to, or promotion in, Grand rank. Receiving first appointment to the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer were Paul Foster and Kyle Whitbread. In addition, David Philips was promoted to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner. Congratulations to you all!

Companions it is a great privilege for me to lead this Royal Arch Province. My predecessors have always signed off by stressing how important it is that you enjoy yourselves, and I continue to support that statement. Please enjoy your Royal Arch Masonry and I look forward to visiting your Chapters and enjoying your company too.

Thank you, Companions."

W. Bro. John J. Tristram PPrJGW 50 Year celebration.

At a recent meeting of Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No. 9567, members including the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro. John Lockley and other Provincial officers were present, together with many visitors to celebrate with W. Bro. John James Tristram his 50-years in Freemasonry. The PGM invited Bro John to join him to take seats on the Lodge floor before the assembled Brethren, where they discussed John's family, his working life and his extensive masonic history, much to the interest of the Brethren present.

John resides with his wife Denise, and they have four children between them and four grandchildren, following his retirement John enjoys DIY and gardening and he has a passion for restoring classic cars. John began his career with Express Lifts on an Electrical Technician Apprenticeship at their Northampton factory, but he moved to London to work in Sales Engineering at the young age of 18 years. John later moved

to work at a well-known Lift Manufacturer from 1969 until 1991. It was during this time he underwent intensive training and was promoted to Provincial and then to National Sales Manager.

Whilst employed at British Electrical Repairs John was able to build up sales and profits whilst also studying and obtained a Master of Business Administration qualification. He later moved companies several times, before eventually returning to the Midlands working as a Sales Director until his eventual retirement. But John, always being active he continued to act as a consultant having gained many further qualifications.

John has quite a connection to Freemasonry, with not only his father but both his paternal and maternal grandfathers were freemasons and so indeed was his late father-in-law. But it was whilst working in London with several Freemasons and having been invited to attend many social events that his interest in the Craft developed. When he enquired about



membership, he was advised to discuss this with his father, this was difficult, as it was following a disagreement with his father that John had moved to London. John returned to the Midlands and after much procrastination, he phoned his parents and what started as a tense conversation, soon eased and a discussion about Freemasonry followed. Their differences were resolved, John later joined Ethelfleda Lodge No. 6600 in 1974. John and his father became very close over the next 20 years, enjoying their Freemasonry together until sadly his father passed away in 1994. John describes his father as his "Best friend".

John became Worshipful Master of Ethelfleda Lodge in 1982 and then again in 2005, he was a founder member of Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge and became Worshipful Master in 2001 holding many offices including Charity Steward for many years. John was Exalted into Orpheus Chapter in Bristol in 1985 and became MEZ in 1992 and 2001. But John is not only a member of Warwickshire Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters, but also of many other Orders, in many Provinces and in which he holds high office. These include Mark Master Masons, Royal Ark Mariners, Knights Templar,

Knights Templar Priests, Royal Order of Scotland, Operatives and most notably Red Cross of Constantine.

Despite a very active Masonic life John has always found time to be active within the community, having been Chairman of the local Under 17's car club dedicated to training under-age drivers to develop their Road-craft skills. He was appointed High Bailiff of Henley-in-Arden Court Leet, a traditional body with roles that date back to medieval times. The High Bailiff was historically the custodian of the town and responsible for its upkeep, but these days the role is purely ceremonial. John has also been actively involved as Chairman and Secretary of Henley-in-Arden Guildhall Management Committee and assisted greatly in fund raising and reducing costs for the Guildhall which at the time was insolvent.

The PGM congratulated and thanked John for his long service to Freemasonry and presented him with a certificate to commemorate this and duly promoted him to PPrSGW. John thanked the PGM, and all the brethren present. A most enjoyable and friendly festive board followed.



Masonic Housing Association 50 Year Celebration, at Wilson Keys Court.

On Thursday 19th May 2025 Wilson Keys Court, situated in Rugeley, a Sheltered Housing complex owned by Staffordshire Freemasons and assisted in the efficient running by the Masonic Housing Association, (MHA) celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the formation of MHA. The House is the home of Freemasons and their connections as well as people from within the community with no masonic connections and is one of only five in the Country.

Enjoying the event was the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro. John Lockley and his wife Jane, who both have strong connections with the house. Also present was the Grand Superintendent E.Comp Michele Santopietro and the Provincial Grand Master of Mark Master Masons in Staffordshire and Shropshire, RW Bro Kevin Spencer

To celebrate the occasion members of the MHA board of management were also present, President Geoffrey Dearing and Chairman Oliver Lodge.

Also in attendance were local dignitaries, Glenn Kirkham Chairman of Rugeley Town Council and other members, The Town Cryer Adrian Basford and his Lady Consort. Also present were local trades people, representatives of the churches, residents of Wilson Keys Court, members of staff led by the Scheme Manger Tracy Slater. Members of the House Committee, Trustee Members of the Masonic Charity that supports Wilson Keys and local Freemasons. Brodie Swain was also present at the celebration the voice and face of Solomon, the masonic learning and development tool.

A delightful lunch was shared, being accompanied by a harpist. There were then two pronouncements made by the Town

Cryer.

The first one related to the Celebration of the Masonic Housing Association reaching it's 50th Anniversary. The second related to MHA and Wilson Keys Court having been chosen as the top Sheltered Housing Complex in Staffordshire for the second year running. Acclamation was given after each proclamation.

Flowers were presented by Oliver Lodge to the three members of staff, Tracy Slater, Jean Brown and Sara Walmsley -Lycett.

The toast to MHA was proposed by the PGM RW Bro. John Lockley, who spoke eloquently about the service that MHA provided for us and thanked the organisation for all they did in support. He also made mention that Alan Walker MBE was retiring as the House Chairman and accordingly made him President of the House. The toast was then responded to by Geoffrey Dearing who complimented everyone on the celebration and winning the top housing award for the second year running. He stated that it was a pleasure to be at Wilson keys Court and he hoped that the organisation would continue to be successful for as many years as possible. He complimented Alan Walker on the work that he had done over many years and complimented him on being made President.

An enjoyable time was had by everyone present.





Archway – a resource for Royal Arch Chapters

Companions, Archway is an interactive tool, designed by Royal Arch Masons, for Royal Arch Masons. Using the four sections of the arch supports the Chapter in developing and planning for the future. By completing each of the 'stones' you will see the good practice of your Chapter and be able to build on that. It has been tried and tested before the launch in 2024 and has proven to be an essential tool for the development of a Chapter.

Archway can be accessed via <https://b.ugle.org.uk/membership/archway>

Companions, why not nominate two of your members to look at Archway and begin by a review of your Chapter. Below is a precis of one of our own Chapters that used areas from Archway and are now thriving again. I commend it for your use and to help strengthen the foundations we have in Staffordshire.

Ralph Howarth – Deputy Grand Superintendent

Edwina Chapter No 4237

Where there is a will there is a way!

During the ravages of Covid19 the Royal Arch executive had suggested that we check on each other's well-being, and in particular how our Chapters would come through these dreadful times. So it began, catching up with a respected masonic friend in John Sheldon the long-standing Scribe E. of the Chapter it was obvious to us both that support would be needed once we were allowed to meet again. Johns' commitment and determination together with the fellow companions of the Chapter to do whatever it takes to keep afloat was obvious from day one and being part of a Royal Arch initiative at the time where we were actively discussing the formation of a Chapter

support group, the very least I could do was to put this into practice. Initially myself and my trusted companion, E. Comp Mike Skillen joined the companions for our first visit to Edwina Chapter at their masonic home in Halesowen. What a magnificent temple, and well-run Centre it is. Such a shame that so many masons have not crossed its threshold. The welcome alone is worth it let alone the building and its magnificent furniture. Another executive led initiative, that of the WhatsApp group and informing companions of various meetings, led to a wonderful show of support from Provincial Officers, present and past, and a number of companions from my own Chapter (Earl Shrewsbury) at one of their meetings. It always amazes me that this mode of communication works so much better than most.

We shared a wonderful evening of companionship and support for each other.

With Johns will power together with all the companions of the Chapter and their very supportive visitors those difficult years of concern and fears for the future have been replaced with a wonderful sense of optimism which bodes well. The natural magnetism and warmth of the companions has attracted exaltees and joining members, which is a wonderful reward for all concerned. Was there a magic ingredient that led us to where the chapter is today, confident of its future. NO.

Just companionship determination and support, a lesson to us all. We often say, (well I do) what is it about freemasonry that's leads us to devote so much of our lives towards its continued success?

I rest my case.

E Comp Andy Brittle

Izaak Walton Lodge No 4281 Charity donations.



Doug Dickenson, the Worshipful Master of Stafford's Izaak Walton Lodge No 4281 had a busy morning recently, presenting cheques to his chosen charities. He is pictured presenting a Cheque for £250 to several young adults and Managers at Chuckle Productions in Stone. Chuckle Production is a non-profit organisation that works with babies, children and young adults with profound and different needs. These include learning and physical disabilities, autism & those who are recovering from past trauma.

The aim of the organisation and the Arts-based training scheme for young adults is to help everyone shine - no matter what challenges they face in their lives. To provide young people with the skills and abilities they will need to enter the workplace and hopefully to lead more satisfying and productive lives.

To find out more about Chuckle please visit www.chuckleproductions.org.

Doug also presented a cheque for £750 to staff at Katharine House Hospice, Weston Rd, Stafford with a further £250 donated in memory of W. Bro Dick Fisher. He also presented a cheque to the RNLI for £500



Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society Tees Off 2025 Season at Druids Heath

The Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society launched its 2025 season in fine style with a spirited and well-attended opening match at the picturesque Druids Heath Golf Club on Wednesday, 21st May. Sixteen enthusiastic players turned out for what proved to be a memorable day of camaraderie, competition, and celebration.

The event marked the annual Spring & Warden's Combined Competition, a highlight on the Society's calendar. With the sun hiding, and the course in excellent condition, players competed both individually and in teams, showcasing skill, sportsmanship, and the enduring bonds of Masonic fellowship.

Individual Honours

The individual competition saw some impressive performances. Chris Clarke emerged as the overall winner, demonstrating consistency and composure throughout his round. Mark Ashton claimed the runner-up spot with a strong showing, while Nige Coleman secured third place, rounding out a competitive leaderboard.



Team Triumph

In the team event, two sides vied for the prestigious Wardens Trophy. This year, it was Team Provincial Junior Grand Warden, captained by the ultimate winner Mark Clark.



Prize Presentation

The day concluded with a warm and convivial prize-giving ceremony. Tony Marshall, the Society's esteemed team captain, presented the awards, congratulating all participants and highlighting the spirit of unity and enjoyment that defines the Society's gatherings.

This successful opening event sets a promising tone for the rest of the season. With more fixtures on the horizon, the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society continues to thrive as a beacon of fellowship, friendly competition, and shared values.

Sunshine and Sportsmanship: Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society Hosts Tri-County Clash at Trentham Park

On Tuesday, 10th June 2025, under a flawless blue sky and bathed in glorious sunshine, the

Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society welcomed fellow Masonic golfers from Warwickshire and Worcestershire for a thrilling three-way contest at the stunning Trentham Park Golf Club.

This annual fixture, another highlight of the Masonic golfing calendar, brought together players from across the region in a spirit of friendly rivalry and fraternal camaraderie. The course, known for its lush fairways and challenging layout, provided the perfect stage for a day of high-quality golf and fellowship.

A Tight Contest

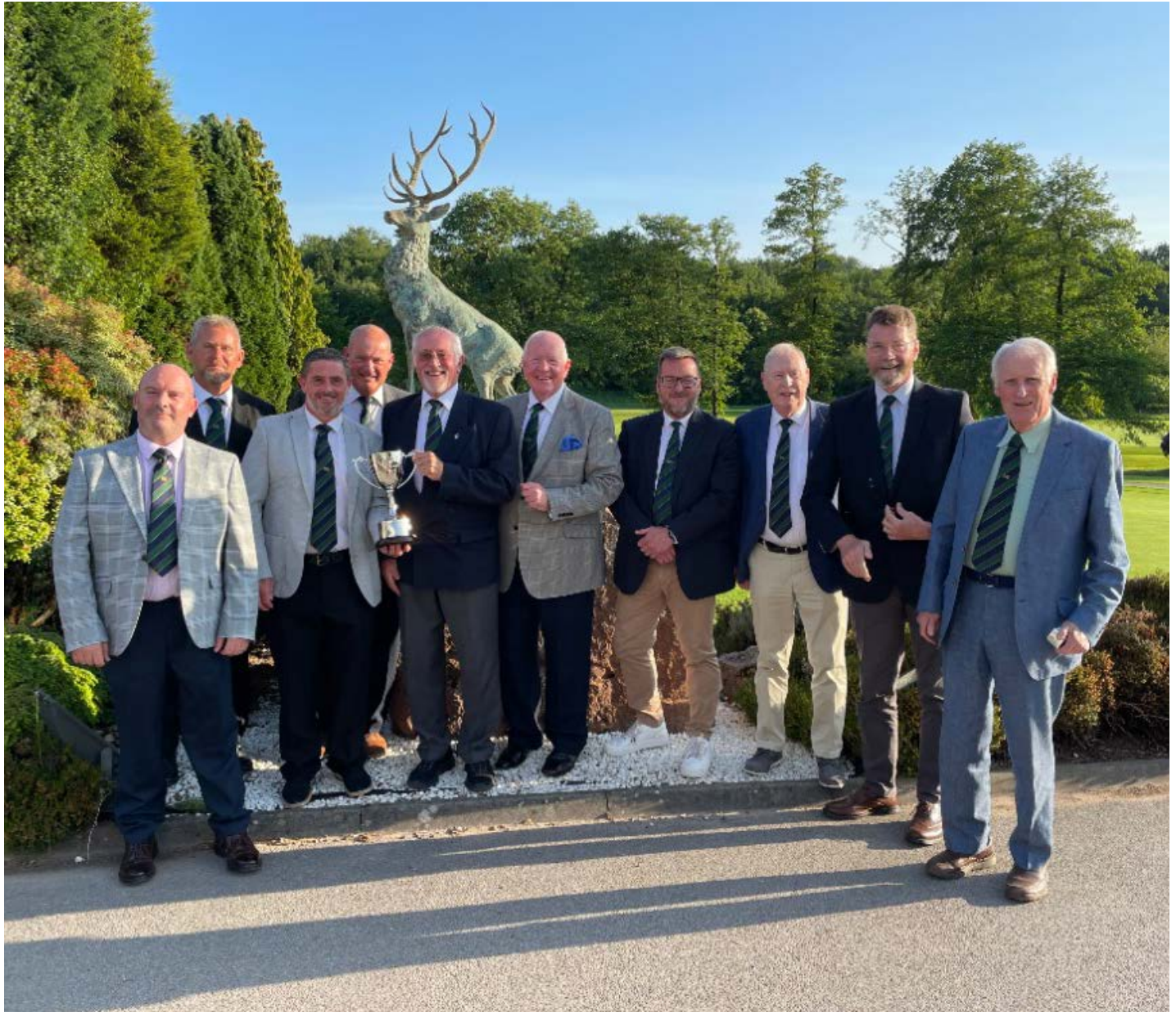
The competition was fierce but friendly, with each county team giving their all. In a nail-biting finish, Worcestershire edged out Staffordshire by a single point, clinching the overall victory. However, Staffordshire had their moment of triumph too, securing a solid win over Warwickshire in their head-to-head match.

Celebration and Unity

Following the final putt, players from Staffordshire gathered for a celebratory team photo with the trophy, capturing the spirit of unity and shared enjoyment that defines Masonic sport. The event was not only a showcase of golfing talent but also a testament to the enduring bonds between the provinces.

This memorable day at Trentham Park was a shining example of what the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society stands for: fellowship, fair play, and fun. With more events to come this season, the Society continues to build bridges through sport and strengthen the ties that bind Freemasons across the region.

For more photos and upcoming fixtures, visit the Society's website <https://staffordshiremasonicgolfclub.org.uk> or contact Paul Walters on paul_smgs@icloud.com



Keats and Shelley Lodge No 1. Gran Loggia Regolare D'Italia (GLRI)

Keats and Shelley Lodge was consecrated in March 1974 and meet in Rome, they are the founder Lodge of Gran Loggia Regolare D'Italia (Regular Grand Lodge of Italy) and conduct their meetings in English. Several Staffordshire Freemasons are members of the Lodge and have been active in Italian Freemasonry for many years and currently hold Grand Rank in GLRI.

W. Bro. Philip Bailey PPrSGD of St Peter's Lodge No 419 in Staffordshire joined Keats and Shelley Lodge in 2011 and became their Worshipful Master in 2015. He was again recently installed into the chair of King Solomon in May of this year by fellow Staffordshire Freemason, W. Bro John O' Leary PPrGStB of St Michael's Lodge No 2487. They were supported by several visitors including W. Bro. John Birchill ProvDGDC also of St Peter's Lodge and W. Bro. Ian Bennett PPrSGD of Bromwic Lodge No. 6773.

W. Bro. Bailey had been promoted to the Grand Rank of Past Senior Grand Deacon at the GLRI Communication held in Rome, on Saturday 5th April. There to support him were Staffordshire Freemason W. Bro Nick Emerton-Court PPrJGW, a Past Assistant Grand Master in GLRI but also W. Bro Antonio Brenca the current Assistant Regional Grand Master of Lazio, both members of Keats and Shelley Lodge.



Peter Dudney - 50 years in Masonry

This year will see many special 50-year anniversaries and Eccleshall Lodge no. 5389 had its own very special 50th year celebration; Worshipful Brother Peter Dudney's golden jubilee as a freemason! A special meeting was held at Stafford Masonic Hall on Saturday the 7th June 2025.

In attendance to share this special occasion was the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire (RWPGM), Brother John Lockley together with the Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Worshipful Brother John Cameron, along with members of Peter's own lodge, their adopted sister lodges Chartley No. 7569 and Seagrim No. 8161, other local lodge members and special guests from Peter's mother lodge, Irenic No. 4797 in London.

A simple ceremony was conducted with Peter in the chair, before being called-off to allow for Peter's family to join the brethren in the temple. And this is when the fun starts and the day becomes extra special for Peter and all those present! The RWPGM then engaged in a very insightful 'This Is Your Life' chat show interview with Peter. As a close friend of Peter for many years and with additional information provided by the family, the RWPGM was able to shine a light on Peter the mason, Peter the loving husband, father and grandfather, the businessman and avid sailor. But the best was saved till last; On concluding the exchange with Peter, the RWPGM then opened up the floor to questions from Peter's adoring family. A couple of general questions from Peter's grownup sons and daughter, then got overtaken by a barrage

of testing questions from his grandchildren and they just kept coming. The RWPGM handled the situation with great grace and sincerity and culminated in him taking two of the more inquisitive grandchildren up to the 'big' chair for a quick sit-down and gavel banging experience. The gavel banging did not end in the temple, with the grandchildren keeping control of the festive board and the toast schedule!



Reflecting on the day, the RWPGM said that, we were all delighted to have Peters family with us and they, especially the younger members, were instrumental in making the afternoon one to remember. I have never in all these types of meeting experienced the engagement of family members so enthusiastic as Peters grandchildren. I think we can all dine out on the interactions which took place which underlined our precept of community engagement and family first.

A great day was had by all those present and it is safe to say that Peter's family being in attendance, and their energetic engagement, certainly was the icing on the cake!



Staffordshire Freemasons Support Age UK, Stafford and District.

A chance visit earlier this year by Ralph Howarth (DepGSupt) and his wife, Julie, to Age UK Stafford & District led to a conversation about funding and equipment at the centre. After having a tour of the centre, Ralph saw that the outdoor furniture was in a poor state and asked a question about what the centre would ideally need to help their guests.



Age UK Stafford & District at Bradbury House, Weston Rd, Stafford provides day care and respite care for anyone aged over 50 from Stafford and its surrounding towns and villages. The charity provides care for 20-30 guests every weekday and also provides specialist dementia respite day care. They also have an extensive community program supporting clients in their own homes with daily living needs.

Sandra Highland (Chief Executive) told Ralph that funding was tight due to ongoing repairs needed to their minibuses that they used to bring their guests to the centre, but ideally the outdoor furniture needed replacing and they could go with two sets. They were also using an outdated, heavy piece of equipment to help their guests to stand, and Ralph noticed their main TV wasn't in the best of health either.

Ralph applied successfully to the Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association for funding and as a result, Staffordshire Freemasons have been able to supply this worthy charity with two new sets of heavy-

duty garden furniture, a new standing aid called a MoLift, and a new 55-inch smart TV.

The Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Lockley, the Grand Superintendent E. Comp Michele Santopietro, E. Comp Gary Evans, the Royal Arch Charity Steward, together with Ralph and Julie Howarth formally presented the equipment to the centre on Wednesday 2nd July.

Sandra Highland commented "I returned to work from holiday to be told we'd had a delivery. I never expected to see our wish list in reality and can't thank Staffordshire Freemasons enough for their generosity". Gemma (CEO Operations) at the charity commented "The new furniture arrived at a perfect time for our clients and they're already enjoying using the new tables and chairs. The MoLift is something we've needed since before Covid and is much safer and lighter for our clients and staff to use. It also helps people to maintain their independence".



Magical Midlands.

Charity, or Service, has, for many years, been a key area of promoting what we do as Freemasons. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Michele Santopietro, is keen to make sure that service in general, is at the forefront of masonry and as such, been actively seeking charity and volunteering opportunities that we can promote within Staffordshire and encourage members to take part in community activities.

On Saturday 12th July, members of Royal Arch Masonry in Staffordshire were pleased to support the Magical Midlands Girl-guiding event at Uttoxeter Racecourse, by acting as car-park attendants helping to make the day run smoothly for the 6,783 young Guides and their leaders. It was a long and very hot day, but their help and support were appreciated by the event organisers.

Many, many thanks for your support for the event, we couldn't have done it without you.

Best wishes

Claire, Julie & Maureen
Lead Volunteers - Magical Midlands
Girlguiding Midlands'



Masonic Salmon and Trout Fishing Charity

The weather was kind to us on Monday, 9th June, 2025, when the Staffordshire Branch of the Masonic Salmon and Trout Fishing Charity, held it's first Fishing Experience for ten pupils of Walton Hall Academy, since Covid struck in 2019.



The June 2025 Event, saw a change in venue, organised by the new Chairman of the Staffordshire Branch, W. Bro. Jon Sealey, of Forresters Lodge No. 456. The new venue was Ellerdine Lakes, Hall Farm, Ellerdine, Telford, TF6 6QR, an excellent facility, run by Ms. Jayne Upton. This venue is well set up to cater for private and charity days, such as MSTFC Days. It has full catering, toilet and disabled facilities and even accommodation! The owner Jayne, was kindness itself. Ellerdine Lakes has several ponds and provides coarse and trout, fly and bait fishing. This is the same venue as is used by the MSTFC Shropshire Branch, so the management is well used to the requirements of our days with the

kids and it's likely to become our regular venue. On the day, W. Bro. Jon, was aided and abetted by W. Bro. Jim Crow (Round Table Lodge No. 8273, Branch Treasurer), W. Bro. Mike Baker (Staffordshire Knot Lodge No. 726) and W. Bro. David Watt (Past Chairman and Current Food and Beverage Dogsbody).



Due to the Provincial Meeting of KT, being held on the same day, we were a bit short of our usual Staffordshire Casters. However, W. Bro. Chris Schup, Chairman of the Shropshire Branch, was there to assist, along with members of the Ellerdine Lakes Team. So, a great big thank you is due to W. Bro. Chris Schup and Ms. Jayne Upton and her team, which consisted of Mr. Mark Norman, Mr. Craig Johnson, Mr. Roy Timmins, Mr. Mike Williams, Mr. Gareth Hurley, Mr. Johnny Knowles and Ms. Cheri Williams.





Without their active participation and assistance, the day could not have happened. Thank you so much.

The kids caught lots of smaller coarse fish, Roach, Perch and Rudd (catch and release) and some were lucky enough to catch some fair size Trout, which headed to respective homes, for supper. In all my time with the MTSFC, I have never seen such a happy bunch of new fishermen and one fisherlady (who landed the first fish of the day).

The kids, carers and casters, enjoyed an excellent lunch and after the second, afternoon fishing session, the kids were presented with a Certificate of Participation and a "Goody Bag", provided by W. Bro. Jon Sealy.

All the Branch members agreed, that the day was a great success and a credit to the organiser, W. Bro. Jon Sealey. We are all looking forward to the next event. We are discussing with the Shropshire Branch Chairman, W. Bro. Chris Schup, the possibility of having a joint day to include ten of their kids, in addition to our own, Walton Hall Academy kids.

Inter Province Cooperation.
Tight lines and "Catch the Smile".

W. Bro. David Watt

