



# WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



March 2022

## Staffordshire 2024 Festival Re-launch

**When we launched our 2024 festival in 2018 little did we know what lay ahead!**



As we slowly get Freemasonry back on track and begin to meet, there comes the realisation that unfortunately for just over two years donations to the Festival have been lower than needed.

Well, why should we then bother to try and catch up you may ask?

Are Festivals really necessary, after all, the main aim of Freemasonry is being a fraternal organisation, not a fund raising one!

*But isn't our charitable giving a major part of being a freemason?*

Freemasons have provided around £20.5M in Covid-19 support during the pandemic, by supplying masks, gowns, and hospital equipment. Foodbanks both nationally and locally within Staffordshire have been supplied with thousands of pounds to help those in need. In total, last year Freemasons have donated £51M to charitable causes, this money must come from somewhere and Provinces holding festivals contribute the major source of this income.

Do we still need to give? Well, as the impact of Covid in its various forms lessens with hospital admissions and deaths falling, it appears that the emergence of Long Covid is having a bigger effect on the population than was first thought. Many people including our brethren are suffering, and this is proving a major factor in their ability to return to

full time work or resume a normal life, continuing support both mentally and financially is needed.

The world is in turmoil, the price of fuel, food, mortgages, and the general cost of living is being forced upwards by tragic events abroad, millions of people are being displaced and in dire need. We as freemasons are doing what we can to help, this all takes money whether it is helping our brethren who find themselves in financial problems or those abroad.

**I therefore appeal to those of you who can afford to, please give that bit extra.**

Our festival finishes on Saturday 14th September 2024 at a celebratory dinner to be held at Keele Hall, Keele University when we will announce our festival total. Our aim is £2M, despite all the problems due to the pandemic and the British economy, let's see if we can reach that target and make Staffordshire Masonic Province Proud.

You can read more in the New Festival Brochure which is being distributed to ALL masons in the Province via their lodge Charity / Festival Steward.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK  
YOUR TICKETS FOR THE  
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S BALL**

SATURDAY 25TH JUNE 2022

The County Show Ground.

To lift your Spirits and get the  
Re-Launch off with a BANG.



A  
Midsummer  
Night's Ball

hosted by  
The Provincial Grand Master

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022**  
18:00 - 23:30

Ingestre Suite, County Showground, Western Road, Stafford, ST18 0BD.

**Sparkling Reception**  
**Grand Prize Draw & Raffle**  
**Charity Guest Speaker**  
**Dancing to The Soundations Band**

Menu

Starter

Salmon Tart with Hollandaise Dressing

Main

Breast of Chicken wrapped in Pancetta filled with Feta, Spinach and Tomato Mouse, Veloute Sauce

Dessert

Mixed Berry Eton Mess topped with Raspberry Meringue Crown

Tea or Coffee

Alternative dietary requirements can be selected when ordering tickets online.

Tickets £50.00 per person

visit [www.staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk/midsummerball](http://www.staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk/midsummerball) to purchase.

All proceeds to the Staffordshire 2024 Festival

Scan with phone camera



To make a donation  
to the 2024 Festival

**2024**

Scan with phone camera



To order your  
Mid-Summer Ball Tickets

## # IT'S WHAT WE DO

**W.Bro. Mark Fullwood** from Barr Beacon Lodge no:6109 is a volunteer rider with Shropshire Staffordshire Cheshire Blood Bikes. In this article he writes about the charity and what's involved in being a rider.



The charity and service began on 22nd January 2014 with just two motorcycles and covered the counties of Shropshire and Staffordshire. Over the following years membership grew and currently 15 liveried bikes are operated by the group and now a service is also provided to Cheshire Hospitals.

It's important that I emphasise that SSCBB is an urgent service charity, composed 100% of volunteers in various roles that provide a free of charge service to the NHS. Every single pound donated is used to provide the service and no individuals receive a salary, payment or expenses. The main roles are Rider, Controller, Fund Raiser and 'Talk' Provider. Of course we are lucky enough to have some members with specialist skills such as I.T. etc.



The mission of the charity is :

- To support the NHS.
- To save the NHS money which is currently diverted away from patient care.
- To promote a positive image of the motorcycling community within wider society.
- To promote safer riding standards.

The service we provide 24/7 is to transport transfusion blood, blood platelets, and other blood products between blood banks and hospitals or from one hospital to another. However, we also regularly transport donated breast milk for premature babies, urgent medical equipment and surgical instruments.

For years the NHS in the region, had to use taxis for these important transfers with some trips costing over £200 a time. With SSCBB having now completed over 30, 000 tasks, that represents a huge saving to the NHS.

There is a network of Blood Bike Groups around the UK which, like SSCBB, are members of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes or NABB. This means that, for example, should a blood sample or surgical instrument need to be transported from Stafford to Edinburgh,

a relay could be arranged involving several groups and riders to complete the task.

People often ask me why I became a volunteer Blood Bike rider. I'd say that when becoming a Freemason you



already possess that inner feeling of wanting to help others. Then in 2015 I was unlucky enough to have to undergo major heart surgery at Royal Stoke University Hospital. Following my recovery, I realised

that I needed to give something back to the NHS. I am a retired police officer and during my career I was trained to Advanced Level as a motorcyclist, so, having researched the charity, I thought that I wouldn't find a more suitable voluntary and worthwhile role for me. Riders have to hold a recognised Advanced Riding Qualification such as Police, I.A.M or R.O.S.P.A. Following an induction course and an assessment ride I was welcomed into the group.

Our liveried bikes are kept at secure locations across the three counties and riders use an on-line system to allocate themselves onto specific shifts on the rota. There are strict policies in relation to rider safety, especially with regards to icy road conditions. All protective clothing, including helmets, is paid for by the riders themselves so that nothing is

taken from the budget that provides the service.

Due to strict, confidentiality protocols, controllers and riders are not given any patient or other specific details about the blood samples they are transporting, but, it is great to know you may be helping a patient receive a prognosis much sooner than normal so that their treatment can be expedited.

My membership with SSCBB became more personal in April 2019, when I felt unwell and an E.C.G. showed I was going into 'heart block'. I was immediately admitted to the cardiac ward at Queens Hospital, Burton for tests. I had numerous blood tests which I knew were being initially dealt with by pathology staff I had met during the course of my blood bike duties. My illness was initially a mystery and I have no doubt my blood bike colleagues would have transported some of my own blood samples to other laboratories for analysis. My Cardiac Consultant informed me they were liaising with leading pathologists in London. After a few more days I was diagnosed with a rare and life threatening heart infection, endocarditis. This condition can lead to multi-organ failure. I was at high risk due to my earlier cardiac surgery where I had undergone an aortic valve replacement. Treatment for endocarditis is usually by means of anti-biotics given intravenously every four hours for at least six weeks. I had further daily blood tests taken so that the consultants could establish the most effective antibiotic to treat my infection. It was also suspected that the infection was attacking the mechanical aortic valve that I had been given in 2015, so I was transferred on blue lights to Royal Stoke University Hospital for tests and a C.T. scan. I was lucky enough to be seen by the same Cardiac Consultant Surgeon who had performed the valve replacement in 2015, Mr. Adrian Levine.

My worst fears were realised when he informed me that due to the infection, he would have to replace the aortic valve for a second time, and nine hours of cardiac surgery was performed the next day. This was followed by the six weeks of intravenous medication every four hours resulting in my only real sleep being interrupted by the regular visits of brethren from my lodge, who, together with my wife Ann, worked hard to keep my spirits up during that very difficult period.

My own story is just an example of one case that our Blood Bikes would have been involved in to assist. Everyday there are patients benefiting from the service and whenever I work a shift now I feel quite humble to be helping other patients and the N.H.S.

Of course without the volunteer Committee Members, Controllers, Fund Raisers, Talk providers and bike managers, there would be no service. Likewise, without the generosity of the public and organisations such as Staffordshire Freemasons and

Staffordshire and Shropshire Mark Master Masons, SSCBB would not be able to purchase, service and fuel their motorcycles. In 2018 alone, Staffordshire and Shropshire Mark Master Masons donated almost £27,000, which funded two new bikes which were named 'Mark Mason', and 'Mark Mariner'. This has been followed by a donation of £5000 to assist in the development of SSCBB's control and despatch system. A number of individual Staffordshire Craft lodges have also made generous donations. With the increase in running costs and the impact of Covid 19 on fund raising opportunities, donations are more precious than ever.

You can discover more about Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes on the charity's website, <https://ssbbgroup.org.uk> You will find an informative video and how you can help, either as a volunteer or by donating. We have volunteers who provide talks about the charity to groups and details of how you can book such an event can be found on the website.



# Long Service Celebration at Sutherland Lodge of Unity No: 460

Friday 19th November 2021 saw Sutherland Lodge of Unity celebrate the long service of two distinguished brethren, namely W. Bro Kenneth Williamson P.Pr.S.G.W. and W. Bro. Geoffrey J. Bean P.A.G.D.C. P.Pr.S.G.W. in the company of the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. John Derry P.J.G.D. accompanied by W. Bro Matthew Adderley Pr.A.G.D.C.

The celebration and presentation of both certificates had been delayed for many months due to the Covid virus. W. Bro. Kenneth Williamson had been initiated into the Lodge on Friday 21st October 1970 and W. Bro Geoffrey Bean on Friday 17th February 1971, the Lodge at that time held their meetings in the Masonic Rooms, Clayton Lodge Hotel, Newcastle under Lyme.

W. Bro Brian S. Machin, P.Pr.J.G.W. gave a brief resume of both men and afterwards commented how it had been



a great pleasure to have been a member of the lodge alongside two such worthy freemasons who were well respected and much appreciated by the members.

Bro Ken became Worshipful Master in 1983 and then took office as Charity Steward and subsequently became the Treasurer, which office he continues to hold today. He also joined St Thomas's Lodge No: 1914 who meet at Kidsgrove and became their Worshipful Master in 1986 and he is currently their Almoner and Charity Steward.

He was exalted into Kidsgrove Chapter in 1979 and was MEZ in 1988 and afterwards became a founder member of North Staffordshire Round Table Chapter becoming MEZ in 1997. He received many promotions and became P.Pr.S.G.W. in 2008 but he also joined many other orders in which he attained high rank.

Bro Ken was for many years a committee member and Treasurer of the now defunct Masonic Poetry Society, he was also active with the management committee of the Newcastle and Kidsgrove Masonic Halls. But away from freemasonry he is an active member of Kidsgrove Probus Club, the Church Lawton Retirement Club and Audley Male Voice Choir.

Bro Geoff first became interested in freemasonry after reading a supplement in The Observer in June 1967, but it was his Uncle Jack, a member of Rokeby Lodge No: 4118 who gave him advise on how to proceed. It was a colleague at Stoke City Council who gave him details of the Secretary and he duly joined the Lodge becoming Worshipful Master for the first time in 1993, then again in 2017, 2018 and 2022. However, Bro Geoff also became the first joining member of Sheltonia Lodge No: 8557 becoming their Worshipful Master in 1983, and then again in 2002, 2013 and 2017.

Bro Geoff was recognised by Provincial Grand Lodge and appointed Pr.G.D.C in 1998 and Pr.S.G.W in 2005, and in 2008 he

was appointed P.A.G.D.C in UGLE. These appointments, he states gave him the most overwhelming sense of privilege and responsibility and that he truly cherished the honour of being a Grand Officer.

Since the death of his beloved wife, Jean in 2013 and the relocation of his eldest son, Jeremy to the Falkland Isles in 2018, freemasonry has been the mainstay of his life. He continues to be an Honorary member and Visiting Officer to both St Edward's Lodge No: 966 and Ogle Hay Lodge No: 8917, also Visiting Officer to Dieu-la-Cresse Lodge No: 4169.

After the resume, the certificates were duly read to the Lodge by W. Bro. Adderley and then presented by the APGM, who congratulated both men on their achievement and commitment to freemasonry. Both responded and expressed their profound thanks and appreciation to all friends and brethren on this joyous occasion.



# March for Ukraine Campaign

## Donations needed

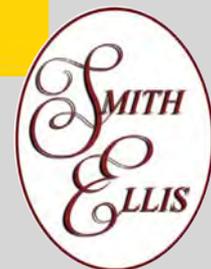


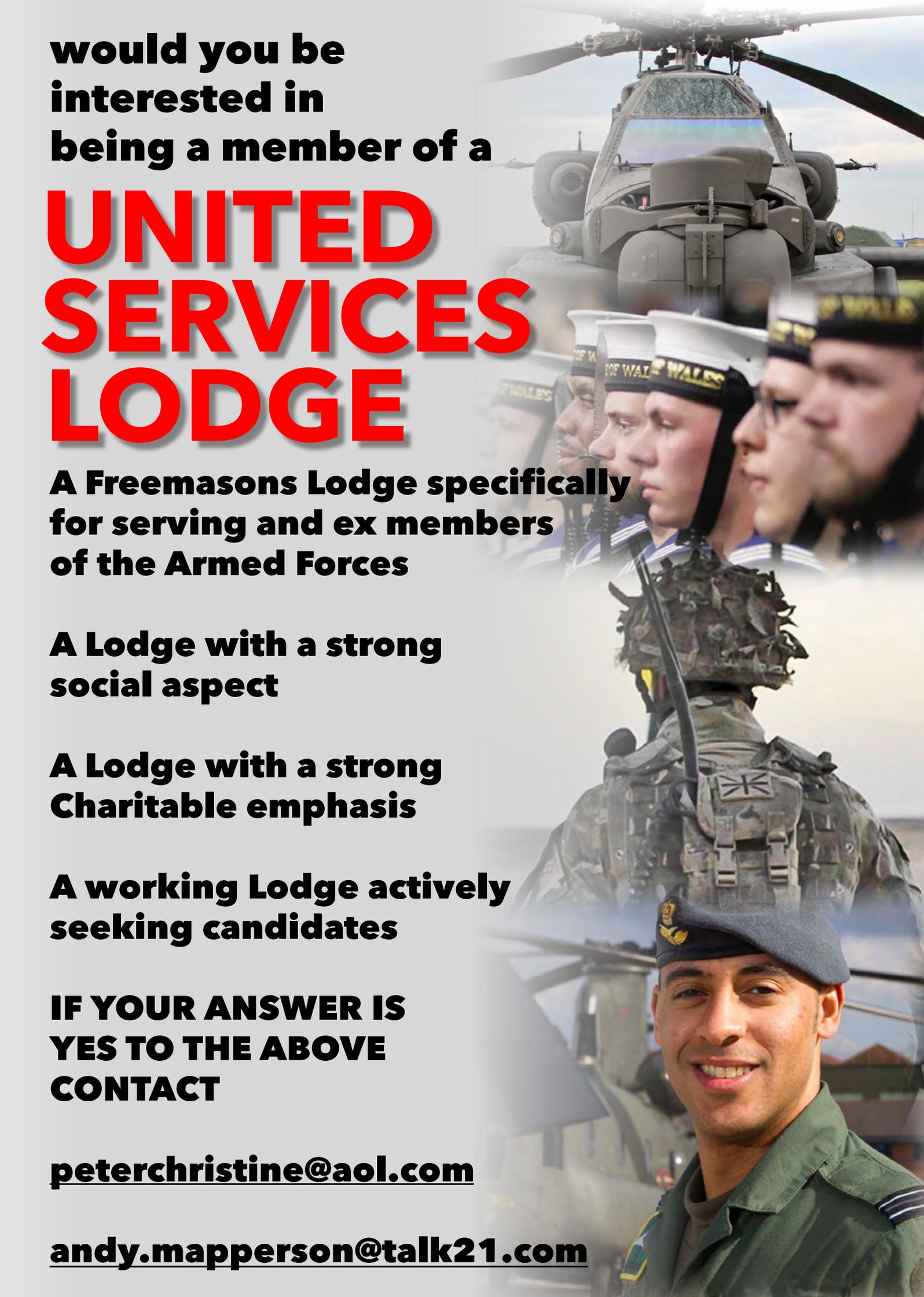
## We are a donation point!

### Smith & Ellis Butchers Tamworth

Among the most desperately needed supplies are:

- Nappies, wipes and children's colouring books and crayons/pencils
- Large blankets and sleeping bags
- First aid items such as plasters, bandages and antiseptic wipes/wash
- Protein bars, baby food pouches (which can't contain meat or milk due to border control), sterilising tablets, and dry foods such as pasta, rice, tea and biscuits
- Vests and new socks and pants
- Toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap and roll-on deodorant (no aerosols)





would you be  
interested in  
being a member of a

# UNITED SERVICES LODGE

**A Freemasons Lodge specifically  
for serving and ex members  
of the Armed Forces**

**A Lodge with a strong  
social aspect**

**A Lodge with a strong  
Charitable emphasis**

**A working Lodge actively  
seeking candidates**

**IF YOUR ANSWER IS  
YES TO THE ABOVE  
CONTACT**

**[peterchristine@aol.com](mailto:peterchristine@aol.com)**

**[andy.mapperson@talk21.com](mailto:andy.mapperson@talk21.com)**

## Rod Celebrates 50 years

W Bro Roderic Wallace Mitchell was initiated into Freemasonry in March 1972, and so on 1st March 2022 the Brethren of his Lodge, Minerva No 1942 were delighted to celebrate this momentous milestone with him. The Brethren of the Lodge were joined by a further 25 visitors; such is the esteem with which W Bro Rod is held.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a certificate to Rod by the PGM, RW Bro John Lockley, who attended despite still recovering from his recent injury. The presentation was made following a very interesting 'interview' conducted by both the PGM and his Deputy VW Bro David Thomas who was also in attendance.

As part of this interview, the assembled Brethren discovered Rod's deep regret

that he could not ultimately fulfil his desire for a career on the seas, and ended up being a (successful and well respected) accountant. He does however indulge his love of the sea through regular sailing on his boat which is moored in Plymouth.

To lighten the mood, Rod also informed the Brethren that he was actually ill on his initiation evening, and that in fact he ended up fainting at the point in the North East when asked if he had anything to give for charity! He assured everyone that this was in fact due to the illness and NOT as a result of the unexpected request.

The evening was a great success and attended by a good mix of Grand Officers, Dark blues, and Light blues.



# Newcastle Under Lyme Hall Welcomes Female Freemasons

Saturday 26th February 2022 marked a great day in the history of Freemasons Hall, Garden Street, Newcastle.

The Grand Master of the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF) RW Bro Christine Chapman, the Deputy Grand Master VW Bro Maxine Besser and W Bro Sharon Whatley PAGDC, chaired an historic informal lecture, which was attended by Deputy PGM VW Bro David J Thomas and Assist PGM W Bro Mike Santopietro, who along with the other guests, were given the history of Women's Freemasonry in Britain and around the world.

HFAF have chosen Freemasons Hall, Newcastle as the venue for the meetings of their new Lodge. One of the main tasks will be to help the Ladies from Keele and Staffordshire Universities to find out about the organisation and, if interested, to join the new University Lodge in Staffordshire for Women.

All those who attended, which included male and female freemasons, their partners, and some potential candidates, enjoyed the talk immensely and learned more about freemasonry in general. The presentation included a good question and answer session, and was followed by a delicious buffet.

Many new friends were made at the event, showing that Freemasonry has no boundaries when it comes to the universal values in freemasonry .

We wish the HFAF Universities Lodge in Staffordshire, all success in the coming future and offer our help and attention with promoting the Lodge.

**W Bro Mark J Sewell, W Bro Paul Gilbert, and W Bro Graham Deeth**

Freemasons Hall Newcastle Directorship



**Staffordshire  
Light Blues Club**



# **Initiates Brunch 2022**

Staffordshire Light Blues Club are delighted to host and invite you to the “The Initiates Brunch” at the Compass Suites, The Green, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8NH.

Held on **Sunday 12th June** it's a great opportunity to find out more about the Craft, it's associated organisations & side degrees, and a chance to meet the hierarchy and put faces to names. There will be Provincial presentations, Masonic stands, an open Lodge room and a Full Buffet.

All for £15 per head, wives and partners are more than welcome to come and find out more.

Contact the Light Blues via email at:  
**secretary@staffordshirelightblues.org.uk**

Full details are coming soon, numbers will be limited, so be quick!



**This event is run by the Light Blues for the Light Blues, please support it if you can.**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/staffsightblues/>

Payment in full to:  
Staffordshire Light Blues Masonic Association. 30-98-97 60654963

## Dormston Chapter Donation to Help Ukraine Refugee Crisis

The urgency of the refugee crisis in Ukraine and neighbouring states has affected us all and charities have rushed to provide relief to those escaping the conflict. One of the first off the mark is Wombourne based DMA Dance Charity which works to provide vital supplies to refugees in Poland. Working with the Jet Singh Foundation, also based in Wombourne, they purchased a number of portable cookers to enable those on the ground to provide hot food. Their first shipment has already arrived in Poland and the charity will continue to work to provide further aid. Their work was recently featured on BBC Midlands today.

Members of Dormston Chapter have already helped out by packing boxes of these urgently needed items for transport to Poland.

The Chapter has now donated £200 to DMA to enable them to continue their work. Chapter Charity Steward E. Comp. Alan Head presented the cheque at a 'Keep Fit' session run by the charity organiser Donna Ecclestone at Wombourne Civic Centre.

Receiving the cheque on behalf of the charity Donna said, 'We just spent everything we had to get those portable cookers out to where they were needed.



This donation will go a long way to helping those in such dire need'.

Dormston Lodge Brethren, many of whom are also members of the Chapter, were also anxious to help out and donated £600 as an emergency donation from their Community Chest to the appeal launched by the Masonic Charitable Foundation on behalf of the British Red Cross.



## Sheltonia Lodge No: 8557 Charity Donations

The Treasurer and Charity Steward of Sheltonia Lodge W. Bro Christopher M. Miles was pleased to present cheques on behalf of the Lodge.

The cheques were recently presented to the Donna Louise Trust for £400, the North Staffordshire Multiple Sclerosis Society for £500 and the Staffordshire Branch of the National Autistic Society for £500.



UNITED GRAND LODGE  
OF ENGLAND

Masonic  
Charitable Foundation

£250,000 has been donated to the  
Ukraine Crisis Appeal

## Jack Marshall, BEM...and now Freemason

Members of Universities lodge of Staffordshire No. 9907 were very pleased to initiate a quite remarkable young man into Freemasonry in November 2021. Jack Marshall, who is studying Law at Staffordshire University, describes himself as “unique”.

And he certainly is, having been awarded the BEM medal for his charity and advocacy work...all at the age of 20! Jack tells us more about his work. “I suffer from a very rare condition called Moebius Syndrome. This affects my balance and is often referred to as “Life without a smile” as one of my symptoms is limited facial movement. This is believed to affect around just 200 people in The UK . Despite this, I have spent my life, thus far, defying a great number of prognoses as to just what I could, or could not achieve. For example, I was not supposed to be able to walk or talk but, believe me, I can do both! I have demonstrated the strength of character, empathy and determination to overcome these challenges.

To raise money for a worthy cause, I climbed Ben Nevis in a memorable 19 hour journey, despite being tired and occasionally lost in the dark! I have also raised funds by participating in many events such as Sky-diving, and Charity Balls. Additionally, I competed in The Ethiopian 10 k run and am pleased to have been awarded The Stephen Sutton Team Hero Award for services to fund-raising. I am a two-time winner of The Yorkshire Young Achiever Award. I gave a speech in support of the importance of speech therapy at St. James’ Palace, an example of my advocacy skills.

As an example of my endeavours, I “encouraged” three MPs to try shopping in a wheelchair to experience just what a disability can be like at first -hand. It worked very well and I used a great deal of “HR Advocacy” to further the cause of Human Rights for disabled people. For these and other similar activities, at the age of 20, I was proud to be awarded The British Empire Medal for advocacy and fund-raising.

As part of my studies, I am involved with SULAC (Staffs University Legal Advice Clinic) and the North Staffs Citizen’s Advice Bureau, through which I work with the public in an advisory capacity to help them solve problems such as debt or sanctions. I research their issues and develop a programme to help them with their specific matters. In my studies for LLB., I have some experience of Human Rights legislation and one of the modules covers EU law. Additionally I am on the Representative Body for the Learning Disability England (advocating for those with learning disabilities) and work in partnership with The British Institute of Human Rights and help to review The Human Rights Act. As an essential part of being a law student during lockdown, I have, of necessity, had to be a self-starter and quick learner. I was delighted to be initiated into Freemasonry as part of the Universities Loge of Staffordshire 9907 in November 2021. I will now bring my experience of raising money for charities and helping others as part of my new freemasonic career. I have really enjoyed my first forays into the world of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and I hope to get started with some charitable work as soon as possible.”



## Harry Wilson Keys Memorial Fund

In 1974 the Harry Wilson Keys Memorial Fund was set up by the then Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. James E. V. Toney as a fitting memorial to his predecessor R. W. Bro. Major Harry Wilson Keys. The object of the fund was to provide care for able, aged Freemasons and their dependents together with other members of the community surrounding Rugeley and in the County. The particular aim was to provide suitable accommodation where they could spend their later years. A freehold site was eventually purchased in Rugeley by the Trustees of the fund. Funding came from the Trustees, Mark Master Masons in Staffordshire, the Masonic Housing Association, the Grand Charity, (now the Masonic Charitable Foundation). An application to the Housing Corporation eventually produced sufficient funding for the project to become reality. The land was leased to the Masonic Housing Association for 125 years at a peppercorn rent. The stone laying ceremony took place on 25th September 1991. The building was completed at the end of 1992. Our first residents moved in in 1993. The House was formally opened on 20th July 1994. It is situated at Deanery Close, Rugeley, Staffordshire. WS15 3JX We have 40 residents, all over the age of 60 years. One resident is 100 and several near to that magic figure. Our Scheme Manager is Mrs. Tracy Slater. 01889 576544. It is the largest ongoing Community Commitment in the Province.

It was funded and managed by Freemasons in the Staffordshire Province and assisted by the Masonic Housing Association in London. We have a House Committee made up currently of nine members. I am looking at succession planning and need to consider new

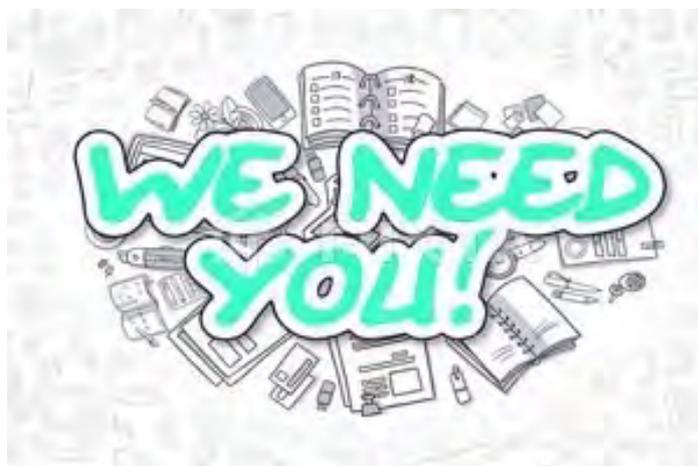


members. This doesn't just apply to Freemasons, and we have two ladies on the committee. The R. W. PGM John Lockley is our President, and I am currently the Chairman of the House Committee. I am looking at any person who might have some knowledge of care, housing issues, Social Services and anyone with a good knowledge of Equality and Diversity, as well as other areas. We meet quarterly. If you feel you can help please get in touch with Alan Walker at [walkerajc@aol.com](mailto:walkerajc@aol.com) or 01785 621223.

Thanks for any help and assistance you can give us.

**Alan Walker, MBE.**

Chairman of the House Committee.





## ARE YOU CONSIDERING SHELTERED HOUSING?

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

This attractive building, set in mature landscaped gardens, provides 34 one-bedroom flats for applicants over the age of 60, who want to live independently with some support. Applicants over 55 and registered disabled would be considered if our scheme would enable continued independence. Flats have alarm pull cords, providing assistance in an emergency, which are linked to the on-site Manager Monday to Friday 9am to 5 pm and connected to an emergency control centre out of hours. Giving residents and families peace of mind.

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

For further information please contact:  
Tracy Slater - Scheme  
Manager 1889 576544



[wilsonkeyswarden@btconnect.com](mailto:wilsonkeyswarden@btconnect.com)



**W.Bro Alan Howls  
PPrSGW (Shropshire)**

An illustrated talk entitled  
“Thomas Telford,  
Operative to Speculative  
Freemason”

Regular meeting will be held at  
The Masonic Hall  
211 Tettenhall Road,  
Wolverhampton, at 7:30pm on  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Our meetings are now open to  
Master Masons of the Order of Woman Freemasons  
& The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF)

FORMED  
1925

REFORMED  
1973

MEETING CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1973

Secretary / Bro. Rob Beaumont

## Mercia Lodge No: 3995

Mercia Lodge meet at Aldridge Masonic Hall, in Walsall and it is where W. Bro Eric Masih was introduced to freemasonry by his good friend and proposer W. Bro David Webb P.Pr.S.G.W.

Whilst he lives in Bedford, Bro Eric enjoys his freemasonry in Staffordshire and travels regularly to meetings with his son, who he introduced to the Lodge. He was Worshipful Master in 2018 and continues to take an active role in the Lodge, which is quite difficult considering the travelling, Eric's business, and the fact that he recently became the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire.

Eric was born in Punjab, India and was brought to the UK by his parents in 1967 and he continues to live in Bedford with his wife, and near to their four sons and four grandchildren. His hobbies include Asian classical music and martial arts, and he continues to practice as Southern Regional Area instructor for the Tetsudo Martial Arts Association.

Eric has been well-respected and a well-known face within Bedfordshire for several years. He started his working life

within the Geophysical Institute before moving into the insurance industry where he held a number of managerial and financial roles. But Eric's true calling came in 1996 when he entered the property and mortgage sector and established his current business, Gold Crown Estate Agent. He is particularly committed to providing affordable and social housing in Bedfordshire.

In 2013, Eric was appointed as the Chairman of Queens Park Community Organisation (QPCO), an organisation committed to building bridges between Bedford's diverse communities. Eric plays an active role in community cohesion and by the hosting of numerous fundraising events, Fayres, and activities he has very quickly gained the full support residents and local businesses.

