



Within Your Province

The Magazine for Staffordshire Freemasons

Spring 2020

Issue 44



**Socially distanced,
Spiritually joined**

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A Message from the Provincial Grand Master



Dear Brethren,

As you are very well aware, the Coronavirus epidemic is sweeping across the country, and we are going through a period of unprecedented, worrying and uncertain times. In his recent letter the Grand Secretary

announced that the MW Grand Master has ordered that all Freemasonry is now suspended for a period of four months with immediate effect.

We all find ourselves in a difficult situation and we are all told by Public Health, England to stay at home. You don't need me to tell you how important this is in breaking the transmission of the virus to each other. We have a duty to ensure we keep safe and observe social distancing to protect ourselves, those whom we love, our future, the future of our country and our freemasonry. It is vital we break the link to stop the spread. Stay apart and stay safe.

I therefore announced that our planned meeting on Tuesday 12th May at the County Showground is postponed until the autumn when the situation can be re-assessed and further communications issued. I also declared that, from the summons issued for our 2020 Annual Meeting, all Provincial active and past rank appointments, as well as all promotions listed will come into effect on that date.

I wish to sincerely thank all of the current active Provincial officers of 2019 for their diligent efforts in supporting the Province, the Executive and individual Lodges over

the season. I also wish to congratulate all the newly appointed and promoted brethren in both Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge. You will have a unique place in our history and I look forward to the time we can resume normality and celebrate as before as friends and freemasons.

So Brethren, whilst we are now officially mothballed and cannot meet in person, we can stay connected through social media and e-mails. Please support each other and keep in touch, it is most important for our physical and mental health. Consider setting up a 'WhatsApp' group on your mobile phone, video calls or other social groups online including Skype or Zoom free video conferencing.

Also don't forget the UGLE **#TimetoToast** at 9pm, we may be absent in sight but united in love for mankind.

Together we can win the war against covid-19. I trust that you will all take care and stay safe.

It's an honour to be your Provincial Grand Master, I'm so proud to represent and serve you and look forward to sharing your company again.

God bless you all.

John



Within Your Province

Within Your Province is published twice yearly, in March and September and any contributions, ideas or suggestions will be welcomed by the Editor, W. Bro. Neil Fantarrow by e-mail to editor@pglstaffordshire.co.uk or by post to Neil Fantarrow, c/o Provincial Grand Lodge Office, 211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV6 0DD.

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Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

It is with regret that we record the passing of the following brethren to the Grand Lodge above.

Provincial Grand Lodge

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| W Bro D Copestick | Sutherland Lodge of Unity No No 460 |
| W Bro M Pointon | Lodge of St Matthew No 539 |
| W Bro A G Moseley | Lodge of St Matthew No 539 |
| W Bro F T E O'Connor | St Bartholomew Lodge No 696 |
| W Bro A W Horton | Marmion Lodge No 1060 |
| W Bro A G Moody | Hatherton Lodge No 2474 |
| W Bro B C Tyler | Victoria Lodge No 2848 |
| W Bro E Daniels | Ready Lodge No 4008 |
| W Bro W N A Willis | John O' Gaunt Lodge No 4054 |
| W Bro J G Harrison | Eccleshall Lodge No 5389 |
| W Bro D R C Richards | Chase Lodge No 6291 |
| W Bro G J Powell | Patshull Lodge No 6592 |
| W Bro E D B White | North Staffordshire |
| | Round Table Lodge No 6710 |
| W Bro B L Nightingale | Dove Lodge No 8519 |
| W Bro G Shaw | Sheltonia Lodge No 8557 |

Meet The Provincial Grand Wardens 2020 – 2021

W Bro Ralph Ritchey Provincial Senior Grand Warden 2020-21



Ralph was initiated into Sutherland Lodge no 451 in Shelton on the 19th November 1999. Serving as Master in 2005, 2017 and 2018. In every other year since his first Mastership he has been the Lodge Director of Ceremonies.

Ralph was approached by the then PGM RWBro Sandy Stewart in 2016 and became the first Provincial Membership Officer a role that he still holds to this day. Ralph is active within the Royal Arch having been the MEZ of both Sutherland and London Staffs Chapters in 2011 and 2016 respectively and he is the current Scribe E of Sutherland Chapter and holds the rank of PPrDGDC. In Knights Templar he is a past Eminent Preceptor of Godefroi de Bouillon Preceptory and has been an active member of the Prov Priors Body Guard becoming its Commander in 2016. Promoted to Prov Marshall in 2019 he is active throughout the Province.

Having served for 25 years in the Army Ralph became a Teacher, he is currently working part time and trying to retire! Ralph has a BA (Hon's) degree in Education. Is a Fellow of the Society

for Education and Training, a Chartered Member of the Institute of Logistics and Transport. Ralph enjoys being active and has represented the Services in Offshore Sailing and Slalom Canoeing and led numerous expeditions to far flung places such as trekking in Nepal and diving in Scapa Flow. Ralph is now focusing on travelling to locations that neither he nor his wife Sara have been to and keeping the garden tidy!

W Bro Tariq Somra Provincial Junior Grand Warden 2020-21

Tariq was born in Nairobi, Kenya and was resident there until the age of 18 years. He attended the Technical High School in Nairobi, was the School Head Boy and also captained the School 1st eleven cricket team and in 1963 was selected to play for Kenya Schoolboys against a touring MCC side which included a number of well known Test Cricketers. In 1964 Tariq was also

selected to go on an Outward Bound Course to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Tariq came to England in 1966 and in 1968 joined the Birmingham City Police becoming the very first officer from the South Asian community to be enrolled. He completed his 30 years service mostly as a Detective officer based in Handsworth, Birmingham but was often seconded to other Divisions and Forces across the country to assist in major crimes, mostly murders! During his career he was involved in nearly 40 murder enquiries.

Tariq is a very proficient Cricketer and has played the sport at a high level having played in the Birmingham League. He Captained the West Midlands Police for a number of years and has also played for Warwickshire Over 50's and Over 60's in a National competition. Despite his advancing age he still plays regularly for the West

Midlands Police Veterans.

Tariq is married to Zarin and is the father of 2 boys and grandfather of 3. His hobbies include reading, travelling, gardening and sport.

On the 3rd of March 1994 Tariq was initiated into the Lodge of St. Matthew No. 539 and became its Master in 2005 and again in 2006. In 2007 he was appointed Provincial Grand Steward and joined the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No. 9567 and was installed as its Master in 2017. In 2018 he was promoted to Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.

Tariq also received Provincial honours in Royal Arch Masonry in which he was appointed Acting Prov. 1st Assistant Sojourner and in 2018 was promoted to Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.



He has also held an acting rank in Mark Masonry (Prov. Junior Grand Deacon) and in 2019 was promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer.

News from the Provincial Grand Almoner

"It's okay not to be okay"



How many times have you felt down, low, depressed? It happens to all of us at some time in our lives - yet how many of us actually admit that

there is something wrong?

We're all guilty of keeping things bottled up - it's the "manly" thing to do.....or is it?

Depression and anxiety are very real and seem to carry a stigma for anyone that suffers with them, when in reality these conditions are no different to other illnesses and conditions. The symptoms are very real and have a huge impact on those who are suffering, their families and friends.

So, what can you do about this? Well, for a start you aren't on your own. Many people suffer in silence, but you don't have to.

There are various issues in life that can cause our mood to go down, to feel anxious and depressed. Debt, bereavement, illness or trauma, divorce, the list goes on.

Help is available in all of these situations from the MCF via the confidential counselling careline. No paperwork is needed, just by taking the first step in calling the MCF will help you on the road to recovery.

Life has its ups and downs and there are times that we need to speak to someone else outside of our family, or friends, to address the situation and this is where the MCF can help.

Just a simple call the team on **0800 035 6090** will get you that help from a trained counsellor.

It doesn't end there - if the counsellor feels that you need further specialist

clinical intervention (such as CBT, or other specialist support) then they will recommend that to the MCF who will then request a visiting volunteer, or member of the Advice and Support Team to come and see you to help in completing a formal application.

Just remember, you aren't on your own and there is someone available to talk to who will not make any judgements.

"It's okay not to be okay" - but remember, we can help.

W. Bro. Ralph J Howarth,
Provincial Grand Almoner

Tel. 07734 702231

Email - almoner@pglstaffordshire.co.uk

Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association

(via the Provincial Office)

Tel. 01902 745151

E mail - SMCA@btconnect.com

Masonic Charitable Foundation Tel.
0800 035 60 90

E mail - help@mcf.org.uk



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

Volunteering

Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge are very aware that our members, and their families do a lot for charitable causes, outside of simply giving money.

To try and measure just what we do there is a survey available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HPV3F5W>

So far, it has shown that on average members give 6 ½ hours each, every week, in volunteering! This is a huge benefit to those who need this support and also shows our principles and tenets in action.

To all those who give their time to help others - **THANK YOU!**

Grants update

Thanks to YOUR charitable contributions in 2019 the MCF was able to support 89 Freemasons and their families in Staffordshire. The beneficiaries received a total of £204,913.69 of support for their problems. Our Visiting Volunteer team made 68 visits, giving over 400 hours of their time to support those applying for grants. To our VV's my sincere thanks for all your hard work.

And finally....a huge thank you from me to you all for all of your support during my time as PGA. I will step down at our AGM in May, shortly after I take on my new role in the Royal Arch. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in office, and it has been a privilege to help and support our members. I look forward to handing over the baton to W Bro Tony Coates, who is a very capable successor, and wish him well for the future.

Staffordshire Masonic Choir

It has been a full year for the choir in 2019.

In its own way, it managed a birth, a wedding and a funeral.

The year ended with two carol



presentations: one in Stone, for the Provincial Carol Service, and one at Wilson Keys Court in Rugeley. We hope that the former will become as regular a fixture as the latter, where the choir members have been happy to join in for many years. That was on 10th December, where the Provincial Grand Master joined in the pre-Christmas celebrations. Later that week, in Stone on December 14th, they assisted him and his Officers again in the singing of many traditional carols, and had an individual opportunity of their own with the Coventry

Carol. It seemed an appropriate way to round off the year, even though it was, of course, in celebration of a birth.

In the middle of the year, on August 17th, they were asked to sing at a wedding, which was new venture for the choir. Amelia Gregory was married to Jake Burgess, the choir's assistance being arranged by Graham Deeth. It was one which was eagerly embraced, and the summer weather in Basford was a bonus. Just what was needed for a wedding, and the choir's thanks go also to the bride's aunt, Mrs. Audrey Deeth, Worshipful Brother Ivan Deeth's widow.

It was not quite such a happy occasion in Newborough on 18th October, when

they said goodbye to one of their stalwart members, at his funeral. The life of Worshipful Brother Gerry Peck, MBE, who had been a member of the choir for many years, was celebrated with fond memories. It was strange to have a service without his own voice joining in, but the choristers did their best for Sandra in his memory. The choir is going to hold an open day in 2020, at their Saturday rehearsal session starting at 9.30 am on April 18th. This will be in the "usual place" in the Masonic Hall in Stafford. It will be the opportunity for any brother (and family and friends) to come and join in, or just listen. The Musical Director, Worshipful Brother Dudley Ray – the new Provincial Grand Organist – will be putting the choir through its paces. The choir would be very happy to show what it can do: not only for the province, but also for the brethren. Ability to read music is not essential; although there is no warrant, it is as happy and fraternal as any Masonic meeting.



Katharine House Hospice, Stafford

A number of brethren from Robert Mummery Lodge No: 8331 visited Katharine House Hospice and presented a cheque of £500 to staff.

This was following the incredible care shown to W. Bro Turners brother in law who was given end of life care in the hospice last year, also the Embrace and Hospice at Home teams from Katharine House who currently care for his mother in law who is in heart failure palliative care.

Bro Turner requested the Lodge make a donation to the Hospice and the W. Master Lee Haysman proposed this at the officers meeting and a £500 donation was unanimously approved.

W. Bro Stuart Turner (Chaplain)



W Bro Ken Birch IPM, W Master Lee Haysman, W Bro John Hancock Charity Steward, Andrea Pugh Charity coordinator, W Bro Mike Reynolds (also having benefited from the hospice's care) and W Bro. Stuart Turner Chaplain.

Provincial Grand Charity Steward's Corner



Well, let me start of with some good news in these ever changing times.

The PGM's Zip Wire challenge against the Grand Superintendent last year raised in excess of £13,000

for the 2024 Festival fund, not £6,500 as previously reported. The Grand Superintendent maintains that he was the fastest and therefore won! The PGM's challenge this year is Go-Karting to be set sometime in June. This is to be part of a fun day and open to all, hopefully with numerous teams taking part, including we hope a ladies' team. The PGM, coming from a motoring background, is looking for revenge!

The Province has held a Provincial raffle for a Porsche experience day for two brethren and this has raised in excess of £2500 for the Festival. Other recent Festival fund raisers have included a Port bottle raffle and a Burns night at the County Show Ground. My thanks to ALL those who helped make these a success.

However, again I must emphasise how vital it is that we get as many RPPs (Direct Debits) completed in favour of the Festival as soon as we can as this method of collection of donations has been shown by all leading charities to be the most successful. By signing up now, for as little as the price of a cup of coffee a week, a brother, even the most "Hard up", can easily reach the qualifying level of Festival Steward and the Province can reach its target.

We shall be having the Air Ambulance Helicopter pod and the blood bikes at the Staffordshire County Show along with our new display trailer. Last year was our best show in terms of 'Footfall' and interest taken in our Masonic Charitable Giving. At last Freemasonry is getting itself known to be a force for good and not a society of 'Satanic followers'.

Did you know that the MCF offers access to the Counselling Careline for anyone struggling to cope? The Counselling Careline is a free and confidential support service operated by trained counsellors who will listen

to you, offer professional guidance and can arrange additional telephone or face-to-face sessions. This is a free service and requires no form filling or application. It is totally confidential and does not involve either Lodge or Provincial Almoners. Simply call the MCF on 0800 035 60 90 (calls are free).

We now have "Teddies" in ambulances operating from Stoke and hopefully these will shortly be carried in Fire Engines, thanks to the efforts by Mike Vozza who is revitalizing the scheme in the Province. The new teddies have padded feet where a child can personalise their Teddy by writing a name on the enlarged foot pad.

Following the success of the Prostate Screening last year we have managed to get Jyoti Shah, the Consultant Urological Surgeon and her team to come to **Wolverhampton on Friday August 7th 2020 for another day of Prostate Screening**. This is to enable those who missed last year to be tested. You must be between 50 and 80 years old on the test day to qualify and not had the screening last year. Last year the number of "Positives" was fortunately below the national average, **but you must not be complacent, Get tested, it could be YOU!**

We are also organising a screening day at the Hanley Masonic Centre in Shelton on 5th May 2020 to detect "Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms" for men aged 65 plus. These aneurysms are only found in men and are symptomless. Many of you will have already had this NHS test but it appears that some may have missed out for whatever reason, which includes me! The test is non-invasive and takes only a few minutes with an ultra-sound detector and the results are immediate.

However, should an AAA rupture (a bit like a bulge on a bike tyre) death is immediate! Detection can mean that the defect can be relatively easily fixed. Having been 'Missed' myself and recently had a family member die through a ruptured aneurysm, totally out of the blue, I shall be at Shelton Masonic Hall on Tuesday May 5th for my test. Please book for both Screenings through Marianne, Charity Office Manager, at the Provincial Office on 01902 745151. When booking, please have your 10 digit NHS number to hand as it will be required to secure the booking.

John Skellern
Provincial Grand Charity Steward
Sept 2019.

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Chartley Lodge No: 7569

On Friday 3rd January Chartley Lodge No: 7569 raised one of its members to the third degree but unknown to Bro. Alex Hansen there was another surprise in store for him when the President of the West Midlands Chapter of the Widow's Sons, W Bro Clive Andrews-Lewis invested Alex as a fully fledged member of the Widow's Sons and presented him with his new "patch". Congratulations Alex, here's to many enjoyable years in Freemasonry for you.

The Widow's Sons are a group of motorcycling Master Masons who work with their support group "The Bad Pennies". Membership of the WS is restricted to Master Masons who also ride motorcycles, but both masons and non-masons (including wives and partners) and non motorcyclists are welcome to join the Bad Pennies to support.

The WS can also offer a pathway into Freemasonry for those who may be interested via Legge Lodge 2784, of

which W. Bro Clive is also the current Worshipful Master, and is enjoying a lively & growing membership

Pictured are Clive and Alex supported by W. Bro. Andy Sawyer and Bro. Ian Cole, also members of the Widow's Sons



Two 'Doubles' for Legge Lodge No: 2784

Legge Lodge have been fortunate to continue their growth with 2 Double initiations in consecutive meetings.

December 16th saw them welcome Bros. John Hammond and Sidney Hearne with a fine ceremony performed in front of the Provincial Grand Master who was present with a large team to help them celebrate W. Bro Frank Kirks' 50th Anniversary.



The next meeting was on 24th February when Bros. Martin Preece and Steve Harris M.B.E. were initiated. Steve you may know as "Forrest" from the Channel 5 series "Emergency Bikers" and the support and charitable works he performs.



Very Illustrious Knight David J Leigh, Past Grand High Chancellor

The St Chad Conclave No 320 of the Order of The Red Cross of Constantine recently celebrated a very special occasion. In recognition of his long and dedicated service to the Order, their Marshal, Very Illustrious Knight David J Leigh, Past Grand High Chancellor, was presented with a 'Diploma of Merit' by the Intendant-General for the West Midlands Division, Rt Ill Kt John J Tristram.

The Intendant-General gave a brief summary of David's history in the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine. He was Installed as a Knight-Companion in Saye & Sele Conclave No 122 London in December 1975, and was Enthroned as Most Puissant Sovereign in that Conclave in 1989. David remains a member of that Conclave and is their current Marshal. He was also a Founder member of the Guild of Freeman Conclave No 483 and is currently their Recorder, an office he has held for 9 years.

David was a Founder member of St Chad Conclave, Stafford in 1977 and

became Most Puissant Sovereign in 2014. He was appointed to Grand Rank in 1988 and has received a number of Grand Rank promotions in recognition of his service, eventually becoming a Very Illustrious Knight on his appointment to the rank of Past Grand High Almoner in 1999. In 2013 David received a further promotion, to Past Grand High Almoner, the rank which he holds today.

The Intendant-General said that David's support for the Conclaves in Staffordshire and his dedicated service to the Order deserved to be acknowledge and rewarded and he was delighted to present David with his Diploma of Merit, the first to be presented in the West Midlands Division.

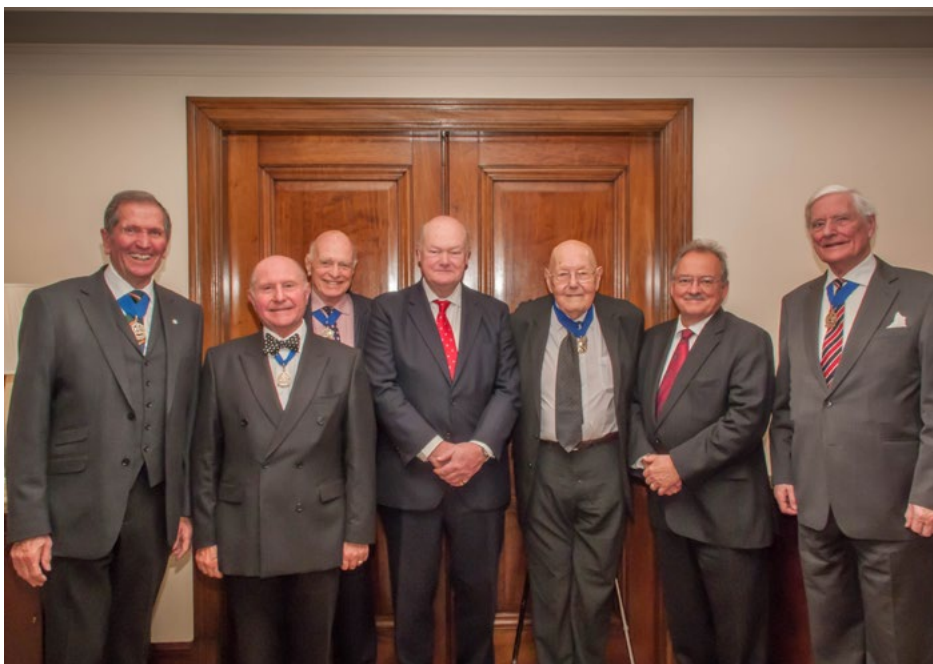
Congratulations to David.



Pro Grand Master Luncheon for Holders of Orders of Service to Masonry

The Pro Grand Master hosted a luncheon at the U.G.L.E. on the Thursday 20th February 2020, when

there were present 5 of the 7 holders of The Grand Masters Order of Service to Masonry. The photograph shows



from left to right. W.Bro. Eddie Ford PJGD, W.Bro. Keith Gilbert PSGD, R.W.Bro Sir John Welch Bt., PSGW, The M.W The Pro Grand Master Peter Geoffrey Lowndes, W.Bro. Professor Aubrey Newman PJGD, W.Bro. Quentin Humberstone Grand Treasurer and V.W. Bro.Charles Grace PGSwdB.

The Pro Grand Master clarified that it was the wish of the Grand Master that as the OSM is an acknowledgement of exceptional service to Freemasonry and is the highest honour the Grand Master can confer on any member it should be worn not only at craft meetings but also those relating to the Royal Arch degree.

The Order is a neck decoration in the form of a Garter blue ribbon from which hangs the jewel of the Order. The jewel is of silver-gilt, being a double-circle with a pair of compasses extended on the segment of a circle, and the letters O S M; beneath it is the motto In Solo Deo Salus "In God alone is our safety".

2020 Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot

In Aid of Staffordshire Provincial 2024 Charity Festival

To be held at Doveridge Clay Sports Ground
(On A50 near Uttoxeter)

Sunday, 13 September, 2020
1000hrs to 1430hrs

50 Sporting Targets
(Ten targets from five stands)
(re-entry permitted)

Inscribed Trophy for High Gun Gentleman, Lady and Under 18

The St. Giles Trophy for High Mason Gun
(To be retained by winner until next shoot)

£30 per entry

Café available on site. Cartridges (12g) available at Circa £5 per box of 25 (50 required) £6.50 for 20g

Come along and have some fun. Experienced shooters will be at every stand, for safety and to assist beginners. Ear defenders and safety glasses recommended. Bring your Non Masonic friends.
Every entry helps your Province. Loan Guns available.

It would be most helpful if you will send your entry with fee to:
David Watt - Tel: 07866-571180 E-mail: einhorrido@sky.com

SMCSA first Christmas Shoot

On Friday 27th December, 2019, SMCSA held its first Christmas Shoot. This was a light hearted competition that was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The competition consisted of a fifty bird

clay shoot. There was a goodly number present that and took part and we were particularly pleased to welcome our Provincial Almoner, Ralph Howarth and Mrs. Howarth, who were with us for the first time.

our own Chairman of the SMCSA, W. Bro. Chris Miles.

The event was organised by SMCSA Treasurer, Bro. Steve Watts. It raised a total of £250 towards the 2024 Festival, a cheque for which was presented by Steve to our PGM, at the January Meeting of Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge.



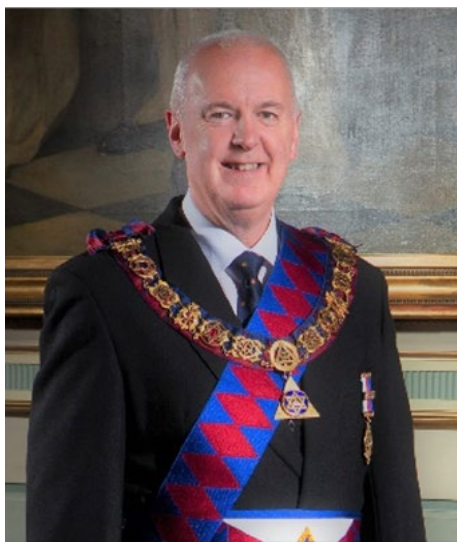
There was a raffle after the shoot, with donated prizes, the main prize being donated by W. Bro. Tony Spacey, a Derbyshire Mason. Tony is the owner of the Cigar Lounge, in Derby, so it was no surprise that the first prize was a box of five top quality Cuban Cigars. The winning ticket was Tony's! Other prizes included cartridges and a cartridge belt, fully loaded!

We were also joined by Louie Aylward, three times Annual Shoot Under Eighteens Winner and his younger brother Tom. The Top Gun was W. Bro. Tony Spacey, 2nd was another Derbyshire Mason and 3rd



News from the Royal Arch

A message from the Grand Superintendent



Hello Companions and welcome to the latest 'News from the Royal Arch'.

The last few months have been very interesting as you will see from the following articles. Please keep us up to date with any special events which take place in and around your own Chapters and we will try to feature them in future editions, and please make sure photos are taken showing you all in your very colourful regalia.

Please email communication@pgchstaffs.co.uk

Forthcoming events to take particular note of are:

The Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter will not now take place in view of the Coronavirus situation. However, on 7th April, all those Officers who were to receive first appointment or be promoted will receive those ranks in absentia and their new ranks will be valid from that date. I congratulate everyone on these appointments and in particular I am delighted to make the following senior appointments:

DepGSupt – EComp E A Ford, OSM, PGStdB (re-appointment)

2ndProvGP – EComp A P Brittle, PGStdB

3rdProvGP – EComp R J Howarth

ProvGSN – EComp S J Burton

EComps M Gibbons and C T Adams will continue as **ProvGSE** and **ProvGDC** respectively.

Supreme Grand Chapter Annual Investitures was due to take place on 30th April at Great Queen Street, but for the same reasons, the event will not now take place. As above, the appointments and promotions which were to be conferred will be effective from that date. We congratulate the following Companions for achieving these senior ranks:

EComp EA Ford – Promoted to **PGSwdB**

EComp M Santopietro – Appointed to **GStdB**

EComp M Gibbons – Appointed to **PGStdB**

In both cases of Provincial Grand Chapter and Supreme Grand Chapter, consideration is being given to how we might be able to acknowledge these appointments once the current restrictions on travel and group gatherings has been lifted.

Recent events within the Province...

Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum

Senior Officers of the Royal Arch Province of Staffordshire joined the Senior Officers of the Craft and a host of Masons for the Remembrance service at the National Memorial Arboretum on Sunday 10th November.



A most humbling occasion, and one we should never forget.

Presentation to Lichfield Cathedral

On Sunday 10th November, immediately following the Remembrance service, the Grand Superintendent accompanied by the Deputy Grand Superintendent and the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal attended a Choral Evensong service at Lichfield Cathedral, during which they made a donation to support fundraising for the St Chad Statue appeal:

<https://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate/st-chad-statue-appeal>

This is to raise funds to build a 3m high bronze statue of St. Chad on one of the approaches to the Cathedral (which symbolically conveys the message of welcome).



The Companions are here pictured with the Dean, The Very Revd Adrian Dorber.

DGS Full-Scale visit to St Johns Chapter

A Full Provincial Visit took place at St John's Chapter No 1039 at Tamworth Masonic Rooms. The Deputy Grand Superintendent, the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, and the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal along with a host of active Officers were present to witness an exaltation for Companion Dr Martyn King. The Chapter Principals, Excellent Companions Des Booth, Phil Rawlinson and Dr Daryl Brown headed up a superb evening enjoyed by all those present.



Ceramic Chapter Centenary Celebrations

Ceramic Chapter celebrated their Centenary on Monday 2nd December at Shelton Masonic Hall.

Designated a 'Full-Scale' visit, the Grand Superintendent led a host of visitors including the Provincial Grand Chapter team of active officers, and

was supported by a large delegation of the active Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, headed by the Provincial Grand Master, John Lockley.



This was the beginning of a new initiative between Provincial Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Chapter undertaking 'joint visits' to selected meetings of the Orders, to support each other and demonstrate the very close relationship and special partnership between them. In return, a Royal Arch delegation supported the Craft in a similar way for the Centenary meeting of Prince of Wales Lodge on February 27th in Wolverhampton.

We all wish Ceramic Chapter a happy birthday, and continued success for the next 100 years!!

50yr celebrations for EComp John E Griffiths, PGStB

At the regular convocation of St Peter's Chapter held on the 18th February 2020, John Egbert Griffiths celebrated 50 years as a Royal Arch companion.

John was exalted into St Peter's Chapter on the 17th February 1970 and

became their M.E.Z. in October 1981. In 1983 he became their DC, a position he held for 8 years. He was also a member of Staffordshire First Principals' Chapter for 18 years. He was a founding member of New Morning Chapter No 9207 being their M.E.Z. in 1996. He

remains a member of the Shropshire First Principals' Chapter.

It was no surprise therefore that at this meeting to celebrate his 50 years' service in the Royal Arch, nine Supreme Grand Chapter Officers were on hand to share this very special occasion.



Pictured with the DepGSupt Eddie Ford (presiding), who presented a personal chronicle of John's history and presented the 50-year provincial certificate, are John, the Chapter Principals, and the many Supreme Grand Chapter officers who attended.

50yr celebrations for EComp Alan Astle, PGStB

A goodly number of Companions joined Etruscan Chapter on 6th January to celebrate 50 years in the Royal Arch for Alan Astle.

A tribute to his long-standing service to the Order was led by David Robinson and continued by the Grand Superintendent, Robin Stubbs.

The evening was further enhanced by an Exaltation ceremony for a new Companion, and then the Grand Superintendent was put to work once again in presenting Certificates for another three recently joined

Companions. The evening therefore was a celebration of the past but also of the new!

Alan is pictured with just some of those who made the journey to support him on his special night.



Website and Social Media

A reminder that the website for the Provincial Grand Chapter of Staffordshire can be found at



www.pglstaffordshire.co.uk/ra

Provincial Grand Chapter also has a presence on Facebook.



The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/PGChStaffs> or you can search on facebook for "Provincial Grand Chapter of Staffordshire".



We are also represented on Twitter

@ArchStaffs, and the Grand Superintendent has his own account

@GSupt_Staffs. Please follow us so we can keep you up to date with what is going on.



If your Chapter has notable news items to share please send an email with the article and any associated photographs to the RA Communication Officer Mike Santopietro, at:
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A New Venture for the PrGM

Back in May 2019 W Bro John Murray P.P. S.G.Deacon was hoping to go back to Scotland to join in the celebrations of his Mother Lodge St.John,Stoneyburn 1186 at its Centenary.

This is no common occasion as when the Lodge was founded in a small mining village with a population of around 1,000 and many of them were Polish and Lithuanian Miners all Roman Catholics who had immigrated to work in the local mine and so were not involved in Freemasonry. The fact that this little Lodge has survived for 100 years is remarkable.

John however felt that as he can no longer drive the trip would be very expensive in travelling by train and attending the big event. John was delighted when R.Worshipful Bro. Mike Heenan kindly offered to drive him there as he was interested to see Scottish Freemasonry for the first time. They were accompanied by W. Bro. David Moore.

It is of a strange quirk of fate that the day they travelled up those two major motorways on 3rd May it was exactly 16 years to the day that John had travelled down them to start his life in the West Midlands.

The ceremony was to be held in a local hotel as the Lodge can only accommodate up to 70 persons. Before the meeting John was pleased to be able to introduce Mike to the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland Most Worshipful Brother W. Ramsay McGhee who on seeing Mike's English Grand Lodge Regalia immediately invited him to join in his procession of Grand Officers entering the Lodge.

The Lodge was opened in Due form by the R.W.Master Bro. Jamie A. Rafferty and the first procession was the Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. James Ellis and his officers of the Province of Linlithgowshire including 4 past P.G.Ms and 5 visiting Provincial Grand Masters. Of Lanarkshire, Fife, Stirlingshire, Glasgow and Edinburgh and Mid Lothian The second procession as Grand Lodge which included no less than 27 Grand Officers.

The Lodge was then adjourned for a period to allow photographs to be taken after which the Lodge was re-sumed and the ceremony of re-dedication was performed in a most exemplary manner by the Grand Master Mason and his Wardens all under the Baton of the

Grand Director of Ceremonies.

After the ceremony there was an intermission to allow the hotel staff to clear away the lodge and set up

the dining hall where 186 Brethren sat down to dine. The total number of Brethren present was just over 200 at the ceremony representing 30 Lodges from across central Scotland and 10 provinces including both Staffordshire and Shropshire Craft. It was indeed a wonderful occasion and John Murray is absolutely thrilled to have been a part of it and introduce his fellow English brethren to the full ceremonial of Scottish Freemasonry.

Article provided by W Bro John Murray P.P. S.G.Deacon

St BARTHOLOMEW LODGE OF ROYAL ARK MARINERS No: 650 CENTENARY MEETING

Tuesday 21st January brought about



the Centenary Meeting of St Barts RAM which was honoured by the presence of RW Stephen Davison, Assistant Grand Master, who presented the Centenary Warrant to the Lodge.

There was also the RW PGM together with his Deputy, Assistant and 23 Active Officers of the Provincial Team as well as 9 Past Officers and 7 Grand Lodge Officers. The Lodge was opened and the Pr Dep GDC W.Bro Pete Tyson demanded entry for Rt W.Bro Michael Heenan, PGM. The columns entered and once settled the Rt W.PGM explained to the Brethren assembled the purpose of the meeting. He wished all present a happy evening and the Installing Commander much success with his labours.

Installing Commander W.Bro Robert Matthews then Installed W.Bro Don Morris into the Chair of the Lodge with considerable skill and great style. W.Bro



Don has already served St Barts as Commander in 1983, 1992 and 2011/12 so it seemed fitting that he held office in the Centenary year. The Installation went without hitch and was added to by a superb Address to the Commander by W.Bro Andrew Beckingsale, Past Asst PGM. The Assistant Grand Master then addressed the Lodge commenting on its fine history and its success over the past 100 years. He then presented the Centenary Warrant to the Worshipful

Commander and handed out centenary jewels to all the members of the Lodge assisted by the Worshipful Commander and the PGM. The Commander then thanked him for his attendance.

Indeed the whole evening was a celebration not only of 100 Years but also offered a great example of the Fellowship of Grand and Provincial Officers showing full support for a lodge which, though low

in numbers, are very high in skills and commitment. Six offices were filled by volunteers from the start of the meeting but not so many were needed after Investiture. Further information in February MOM issue

Article by W.Bro Steve Bird PrGSW

THE TRAVELLING KEYSTONE MOVES ON.....

On Tuesday 14th Jan the Travelling Keystone made its first move of this Masonic year and was passed on from South Shropshire Lodge No 1150 to Severn Lodge No 1617. A large party of eight Brethren from Ludlow braved the torrential rain and floods to pass on the Trophy to their near neighbours in Bridgnorth. The Worshipful Master of 1150, W.Bro. Brian Bumford accompanied by both his Wardens Bros. John Alban-Davies and Graham Cannon and five other Brethren enjoyed

a superb evening of Mark fellowship. W.Bro. Roy Lees delivered the Lecture on the Mark Degree and also gave a short paper on Scottish Mark Masonry in the late nineteenth Century and VW.Bro. Ian Smith PDPrgM presented Grand Lodge Certificates to Bros Jason Wooley and Alan Quinlan.

A splendid Carvery Festive Board



rounded the evening off at The Oak Inn just opposite the Lodge Rooms at Alveley Village Hall.

The next meeting of Severn Lodge is on Tuesday 14th April when the WM W.Bro Steve Howells will be proclaimed for a second year and they also hope to Advance another candidate. To any Lodges contemplating a raid for the Travelling Keystone, the Festive Board alone is a fantastic inducement let alone the marvellous Mark welcome Severn Lodge will extend to their guests.

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION AT WOLVERHAMPTON RAM LODGE 186

In the usual custom of Wolverhampton RAM Lodge 186 Burns night has always been a tradition of celebration after the meeting on the third Friday of every January. The Burns night celebration welcomes the Good Ladies of the Lodge Members as well as any other guests masonic and non masonic. This years celebration hosted around 35 persons. The address to the Haggis was given by W.Bro Norrie Wright and the night was enjoyed by all. The raffle raised a sum of £135 which was in aid of the Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes. You may wonder about the two Brethren in the kilts as pictured to the left. To the far left we have a Scots Man



W.Bro N Wright in a traditional Scottish attire and to his right W.Bro D Evan a Welsh Man in a traditional Welsh attire. Even though the dress code look the same they are quiet distinct and are respectively made in their native land. Article by W.Bro Ajay Passap

MARK WEEKEND LLANDUDNO 2019

It had arrived !! the Event we had all been waiting for since we wearily made our way home from the Chester Mark Weekend 2018.

Traditionally, we all made our separate ways on the Friday towards the venue - The Imperial Hotel located on the spectacular Llandudno Seafront Promenade. Promptly booked in, it was into the bar to swap stories about our journeys, most of us had left a wet and dreary West Midlands, thankfully to arrive in lovely bright sunshine on the North Wales coast. W.Bro's Bob Osbourne and Pete Tyson were already in the bar, but drinking Coffee and looking very seriously at laptops and reams of paper on a large circular table. When asked about what they were up to, "Provincial Grand Lodge seating plan ! " Was the stern reply, -good idea leave them alone then.

Old friends were reunited, some who had not met for two years since the last time we were at Llandudno, those friendships really are one of the beauties of Mark Masonry and particularly the Mark Weekend. Friday evening saw an informal meal in the function room, good food and excellent company, and the Mark fellowship was

continued by many in the Hotel Lounge afterwards. Saturday was free time to enjoy the sights and attractions around Llandudno, a walk along the pier, a trip up the great Orme on the Historic Victorian Tram, or even Shopping! Saturday evening saw a more formal Dinner, 130 Brethren and ladies present, excellent food, the long awaited game of Bingo and the ladies receiving a lovely personal gift of a makeup bag. Also several ladies were presented with bouquets of flowers.

A short speech followed from the PGM, who thanked everyone for attending, wished them all well and also announced that next year we will all be off to Oxford Distinguished guests included the PGM, Assistant PGM (Deputy elect), Assistant PGM elect and

the PGM from North Wales RW Bro Peter Talbot.



Mrs Pam Tuckwell was celebrating her 80th Birthday and was also presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers. Sunday Morning came along all too soon, so it was

a hearty breakfast and farewells until the next time in Oxford Congratulations and our thanks must go to V.W.Bro Barry Clark and his wife Ann for another well organised and highly successful Mark weekend - Roll on Oxford!

Article by W. Bro David Prince P Pr G S O

ROUND TABLE AND ROTARY LODGE No:1630

Brian Lewis presenting 2 cheques to Shropshire Mind and Staffordshire Mind from our Charity account for £125 each. These were also match funded by the SSMB so we gave away a total of £500

Article by W.Bro Andy Delamere

Support the Stoke & North Staffordshire Deaf Childrens Society

The Stoke & North Staffordshire Deaf Children's Society is a local group run by parents and carers of deaf children, working together with local health and education specialists to support families with children or young people who are affected by hearing impairments, ranging from mild to profound deafness – whether temporary or permanent.

be part of the Sleeping Beauty Pantomime starring Jonathan Wilkes, which has been adapted for those with a variety of health issues to enjoy the full performance. Chairperson Justine Heathcote said, "We



Members of the North Staffordshire Round Table Lodge No 8355 were therefore delighted to be able to donate £250 to the Society to assist them in their important work. The presentation took place at The Regent Theatre where the Society had arranged for more than 50 tickets to enable those they assist to

assist us in delivering further initiatives to those we support. We are eternally grateful for their generosity"

Worshipful Master, Tim Stott said, "This is a side of Freemasonry not regularly seen in public. This group do tremendous work in assisting others in an extreme time of need and, as a

were absolutely delighted to receive this level of support from the Lodge, especially during the Festive Season. The Lodge's support will

Lodge we are proud to support them." Charity Steward, Michael Knight added, "Charity is at the forefront of what being a Freemason is all about. Not only were we able to support the Society financially, but we also arranged for some of the members to meet the leading man of the Panto back stage – Mr Jonathan Wilkes – who was keen to learn from them how to say 'What is your name?' in sign language"

To find out more about the SNSDCS – <http://www.snsdcs.org>

To find out more about NSRTL8355 and Freemasonry in general – <http://www.nsrtl8355.co.uk>

Elvis joins Andresey Lodge

In an attempt to increase attendance and provide something different at the annual Ladies Night of Andresey Lodge "Elvis" was invited to attend in the guise of Kevin Paul's Elvis tribute show. The night proved a great success particularly with the ladies. Pictured are the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. D.StClair his wife Mrs K StClair and "Elvis".



Walton Walker & Sandwell Lodge

On Thursday 12th December 2019

Walton Walker & Sandwell Lodge held their Christmas Lodge festive board and took the opportunity to present individual cheques to specifically



chosen local charities to a total of £1,600.

Acorn Children's Hospice Trust (Walsall) - £500, St. George's Hub for Homeless and Marginalised Men (Wolverhampton) - £500, Alzheimer's Society (Solihull) - £250, Sandwell Young Carers (West Bromwich) - £250 and The Haven, Domestic Violence Centre (Wolverhampton) - £100.

Charitable donations made by the Walton Walker & Sandwell Lodge No. 3847 in the last three Masonic seasons have amounted to £28,774.

W. Bro. R. J. Edis Charity Steward,



Izaak Walton Lodge No: 4281

Izaak Walton Lodge No: 4281

recently made a £500 donation to Chuckle Productions Ltd a registered

charity based in Stone. It is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to inspiring lifelong learning and helping

children gain a brighter future. It is administered by volunteers, some of whom are qualified professionals

in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and provides a safe environment for learning and social development.

The pupils and students experience a wide range of difficulties including Autistic Spectrum Difficulties, Down's Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Social Interaction Skills, Learning Difficulties and Behavioural Disorders, some have a combination of these.

'Chuckles' provides an unpressurised safe environment where they can learn and develop a variety of skills including basic life skills that will equip and enable them to have a degree of independence.



WM W. Bro Frank Pearson handing over the cheque for £500 to Sara Christie and Sharon Hudson

Provincial Prior supports Installation



On Tuesday 11th February 2020 at Godefroi de Bouillon Knights Templar Preceptory No: 42 there were nearly eighty present to see Comp David Bailey join the Order, all present enjoyed and witnessed an excellent ceremony. The Provincial Prior R. E. Kt David W Philips was in attendance accompanied by a retinue of Provincial officers and his Bodyguard. Also in attendance were David Bailey's friends from Cheshire including R. E. Kt Dr Anthony G Mathie the Provincial Prior for the Province of Cheshire and North Wales accompanied by his officer's.

Provincial Sub-Prior attends another Installation

V.E. Kt Alan T Howls attended Bernard de Tremelay Preceptory No: 170 at Aldridge on Thursday 13th February 2020 to witness Sir Kt John E G Brackpool installed as Preceptor, a number of the Provincial Priors Bodyguard and past members attended to support the Provincial Sub-Prior and John, who is a long standing member of the Bodyguard.



Godefroi de Bouillon Knights Templar Preceptory No 42 Celebrate in Style.

Following the end of the first world war members of Godefroi de Bouillon Preceptory held a Peace Festival on the 9th December 1919. As this was such an important event it was decided to have



a Black-Tie Centenary Celebration 100 years to the day of the initial festival. Tickets were priced at 30 guineas and many brethren could be seen trying to reconcile how much that related to in "real" money of today. The Brother Knights and their wives were treated to an excellent meal and entertainment

to everyone's enjoyment. The meal was hearty, and filling and the finale was the selection of sweets which the ladies were invited to have the first choice, before the men were able to allow their sweet tooth

to take over. Charity as ever was on the agenda for the evening and numerous raffle prizes resulted in the generation of a goodly sum to be dispersed to our charities.

At the original Peace Festival a jewel was produced to commemorate the event, not to be outdone this was replicated and many Bro Kts can now be seen wearing the lapel badge presented on the evening.

At the close of the evening everyone was provided with a slice of the Remembrance cake which had been baked specially for the occasion.



of the sort that would have been available to our predecessors at that time. Initially partaking of a welcome drink and a variety of Canapes before moving to the dining room where they were entertained throughout the meal by a violin soloist who performed a variety of classical pieces much



Sutherland Lodge No: 451

The Installation meeting of Sutherland Lodge No: 451 was held on Friday 21st February and was fraught with last minute cancellations due to ill health, also the Presiding Officer W. Bro Kevin Parkes APGM, PSGD being stuck on the motorway following a serious accident. The evening eventually got under way after amendments to proceedings

and W. Bro Parkes arrived to see the Induction of W. Bro Martyn Hunt into the chair for a further year. The WM was pleased to present a cheque for £500.00 to the APGM in support of the 2024 Festival, which when added to the proceeds of the raffle and alms

collections totalled £720.00. A most enjoyable night was had by all.

The Lodge had also recently donated £500.00 to the Douglas Macmillan Hospice.



W. Bro Hunt presenting a cheque for £500.00 to the CEO of the Douglas Macmillan Hospice.

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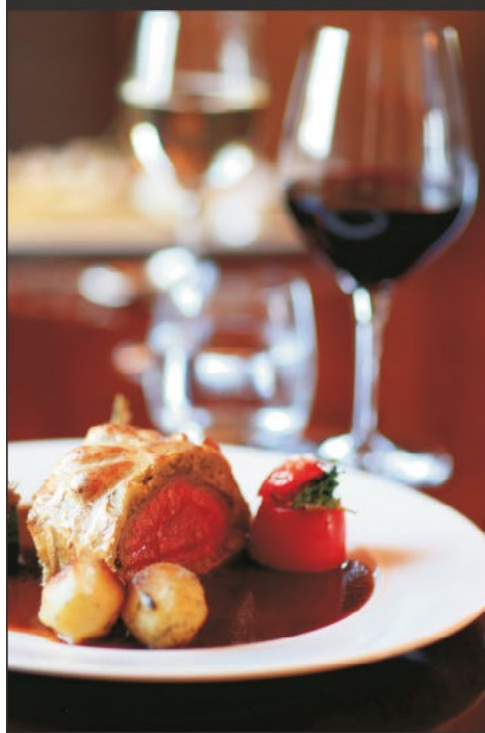
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Etruscan Lodge No: 546

Etruscan Lodge members were very pleased that the January Installation meeting was attended by a large number of visitors from the Province of East Lancashire. They travelled a considerable distance to join the Lodge members for the Installation of W. Bro. Brett Turner-Farmer into the Master's chair for the third time.

Another visitor, however, came from much further afield. Bro. Dragos Mateescu, the father of Lodge member

Bro. Alex Mateescu, also attended. He is a member of Tudor Vladimirescu Lodge No: 376, District of Bucharest, National Grand Lodge of Romania and being in the UK over the festive period, he was able to attend. Bro Dragos was delighted to present the WM with a medallion from his Lodge.



The previous WM, W. Bro. Mark Harrison was unfortunately struck down with the Norovirus a few days before the meeting and was unable to attend. W. Bro. Barry Parish stepped in at very short notice to Install W. Bro. Brett Turner-Farmer and a happy evening was had by all!



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Old Wulfrunians Lodge No: 7411.

On Friday 15th

November 2019, W.

Bro Rob Beaumont of Old Wulfrunians Lodge No: 7411 attended Palmers Cross Primary School, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton together with W. Bro Richard Webster, the Charity Steward of Idsall Lodge No: 7133 (Shropshire) Rob's mother lodge.

The cheque for £1200 was presented to the headmaster Mrs Sunita Richards to support children with special needs, with £700 having been raised by brethren from Old Wulfrunians Lodge and £500 by Idsall Lodge.



A New Staffordshire Classic Vehicle Lodge

It is intended to form a new lodge in Staffordshire for all owners and lovers of any kind of Classic transport

Cars, bikes, scooters, you name it... all are welcome.

Special interest lodges have become hugely successful across the country and here in Staffordshire we are missing out.

The new lodge will be a working lodge but will also emphasize the use and enjoyment of classic vehicles with a strong social aspect

We would also hope to support Provincial initiatives when invited

It is thought the Lodge will meet initially 4 times a year (two summer meetings) with modest subscriptions and a central meeting venue.

All interested parties are invited in the first instance to register their interest by email to: scv.lodge@aol.com Or to the Provincial Office: secretary@pglstaffordshire.co.uk, It is proposed to hold a meeting for all those interested in early September



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St. Michael's Lodge No: 2487

St. Michael's Lodge No. 2487 at their September meeting W. Bro Mark Roberts presented a cheque for £3000.00 to the Myotonic Dystrophy

Society in memory of W. Bro Philip Taylor, Worshipful Master in 2014/15, who suffered from this dreadful illness and as a result passed to the Grand

Lodge Above during the summer of 2018.



L to R Mrs Kathryn Taylor (widow of W. Bro Philip Taylor) Professor Brookes and Mrs Margaret Bowler (Myotonic Dystrophy Society). W. Bro Mark Roberts, W. Master Ian Brown and W. Bro Trevor Mardling



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Prince of Wales Lodge No: 4021 Centenary Celebration

On Thursday 27th February 2020, Prince of Wales Lodge No: 4021 who meet at Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton celebrated their centenary meeting.

The Provincial Grand Master led a host of many visitors including a team of Provincial Grand Lodge active officers. There was also a large delegation of Provincial Grand Chapter officers in attendance, headed by the Grand Superintendent as part of a new initiative between Provincial Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Chapter to undertake joint visits.

This was following the centenary meeting of Ceramic Chapter No: 3827 at Shelton Masonic Hall on Monday 2nd December 2019, both were most enjoyable and memorable events.



Peter Pan Centre, Newcastle.

Staffordshire freemasons have pledged over £4,000 a year for the next three years to the Peter Pan

Staffordshire, South Cheshire and Shropshire the best start in life.

The children receive one to one support, which includes stimulating games, specialist care for those with complex needs and teaches various life skills. The staff teach core communication skills to prepare children for the outside world. Also Physiotherapy is available for those who need such care.

The PGM John Lockley visited the centre with other brethren to see for themselves the fantastic work done by the dedicated staff. They were met by Sarah McDowell, the centre's manager and Catherine Cook, the centre's fundraiser and given an opportunity to see the staff working with children.



Centre in Newcastle with funding via the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The centre, which receives no government funding costs £250,000 a year to run, it provides life-changing care, education and development support for children with disabilities and special needs. It has for 50 years has been giving children from



(Photographs taken with the kind permission of the parents and the centre show John Lockley and staff members with three of the centre's children, Ethan, Enna-Rae and Hannah)

Twelfth Annual Provincial Charity Clay Shoot

Yet again the weather was kind to us, on the occasion of the Twelfth Annual Provincial Charity Clay Shoot, held at Doveridge Sporting Clay Ground, on Sunday, 18 August, 2019. The day saw sixty-six shooters taking part, along with other supporters and donors.

An unexpected increase in costs reduced the total amount raised but a surprise donation of £100, from Doveridge Sporting Clay Ground, offset this somewhat. The total raised for the 2024 Festival was £1010, which with Gift Aid resulted in £1235.

The High Mason Gun was, for the second time, Bro. Glenn Roberts, of Churnet Valley Lodge, Gentleman High Gun was Mr. Craig Hudson, Lady High Gun Ms. Adriana Klinecova and Under Eighteen High Gun was for the third time, Louie Aylward. Well done to all.

This year, due to slow recovery from an operation, I was unable to be there and I extend my grateful thanks to Bro.

Steve Watts, of St. Bartholomew Lodge, Treasurer of the Staffordshire Masonic Clay Shooting Association for stepping in and carrying out my duties.

Thanks also go to the instructors who manned the stands, W. Bro. Phill Speechley, Whittington St. Giles Lodge, Bro. Martin Graham, Sheltonia Lodge, Stephen Dawson, Instructor, Peter



Wroe, Instructor and Rob Ockwell. Thanks also to SMCSA Chairman Chris Miles, Sheltonia Lodge and Mrs. Pamela Miles. It couldn't happen without you all.

W. Bro. Chris Miles and Bro. Steve Watts, presented a cheque to W. Bro. Kevin J. Parkes, APGM, who accepted it on behalf of the 2024 Festival, thanking the members of the SMCSA for their generous donation.



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The Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club meet every month with the exception of June / July / August for lunch and friendship at The Masonic Hall, Snow Hill, Shelton. It is for wives, partners and female relatives of Freemasons from any lodge not just at Shelton. We enjoy a nice meal and are entertained by various speakers and demonstrations, if anyone would be interested in coming along please contact our Secretary Kath Roberts - email kr425@btinternet.com

At our AGM in November last year our Chair Person Mrs Hilary White stood down and Mrs Shirley Stanley was installed in her stead.



Mrs White was thanked for her hard work during her term of office. On Wednesday 19th February The Wednesday Club held their annual Iris Davies Charity Donation Lunch where donations are made to three local charities and cheques of £500 each were presented by Chairperson Shirley Stanley.

The three local charities this year are Equal Chances, which was set up in 2019 by the then Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent Lilian Dodd to assist young people in the transition of leaving care. A cheque was presented to John Boote to assist Riding for the Disabled at a stable in Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent. A cheque was presented to Nikki and Cheryl staff from Savana, a charity who provide support for anyone who has experienced or is affected by any form of sexual violence.

The Wednesday Club members commissioned W. Bro Peter Bone to custom make a lectern in memory of our late Chairperson Mrs Lynn Wright who sadly passed away in 2018 and will be used at every meeting.



(Photo shows our Chairperson Shirley Stanley, Angelique Wright (daughter of Mrs Wright) and Secretary Kath Roberts)



Falcon Lodge No: 1416

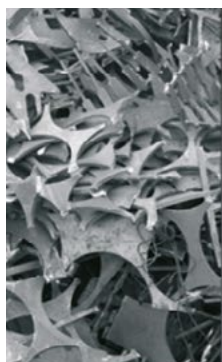
I first became a joining member of the UGLE in June, 1971, when I joined Falcon Lodge No. 1416 who meet at Thirsk, Yorkshire. After leaving the Royal Air Force, I located to Aberdeen, to work in the Oil and Gas Industries. Feeling sure that I would never live in that area again, I resigned from Falcon Lodge circa 1976. It was always my intention to return for a visit, but year on year, it just never happened.



However, I made a decision that come hell or high water, I would attend the Installation meeting of Falcon, in December, 2019. Having intimated my intent to do this to W. Bro. Kevin Parkes, APGM, Kevin asked if he could join me in this visit. I was delighted to have his company, and so we made the visit, some forty-five years since I last sat in Falcon Lodge. We were given a tremendous welcome and though there was only one Brother remaining, who was a member of Falcon in the years I was there, the fellowship was as great as I remembered. An excellent Installation Ceremony, where we saw Bro. Richard Parvin placed in the Chair, was followed by a very happy Festive



Board, at which we were invited to wear the white rose of Yorkshire. I won't leave it forty-five years until my next visit!



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|------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Thur. 28th May | Spring Comps. & Prov. Wardens' Team Challenge (Staffs Comps – everyone encouraged to play in these season opening events) | Aston Wood GC |
| Mon. 1st June | Match v Warwickshire & Worcestershire (Our team of 12 plays in this three Province event) | Shirley GC |
| Fri. 19th June | Match v Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire (Our team of 12 plays in this three Province event) | Horsley Lodge GC |
| Fri. 17th July | Match v Cheshire & North Wales (Our team of 12 plays in this three Province event) | Pryor's Hayes GC |
| Thur. 23rd July | Six Counties Comp. (Our team of 12 plays the Provinces of Derby, Leics, Notts, Warks & W. Yorks) | Aston Wood GC |
| Mon. 10th Aug. | Valon Cup & Denne Shield comps. (Staffs Comps – everyone encouraged to play in these historic events) | Stone GC |
| Fri. 4th Sept. | Match v Shropshire (Our team of 12 plays in this event) | Mile End GC |
| Tue. 22nd Sept. | PGM's Trophy (Staffs Comps – all welcome for our prestigious season ending highlight) | Trentham Park GC |

If you are golfer and would like to be a member of a friendly society please contact our Secretary and Treasurer
W. Bro Mark Ashton on msg.ashton@gmail.com all are most welcome for just **£10.00 p.a.**

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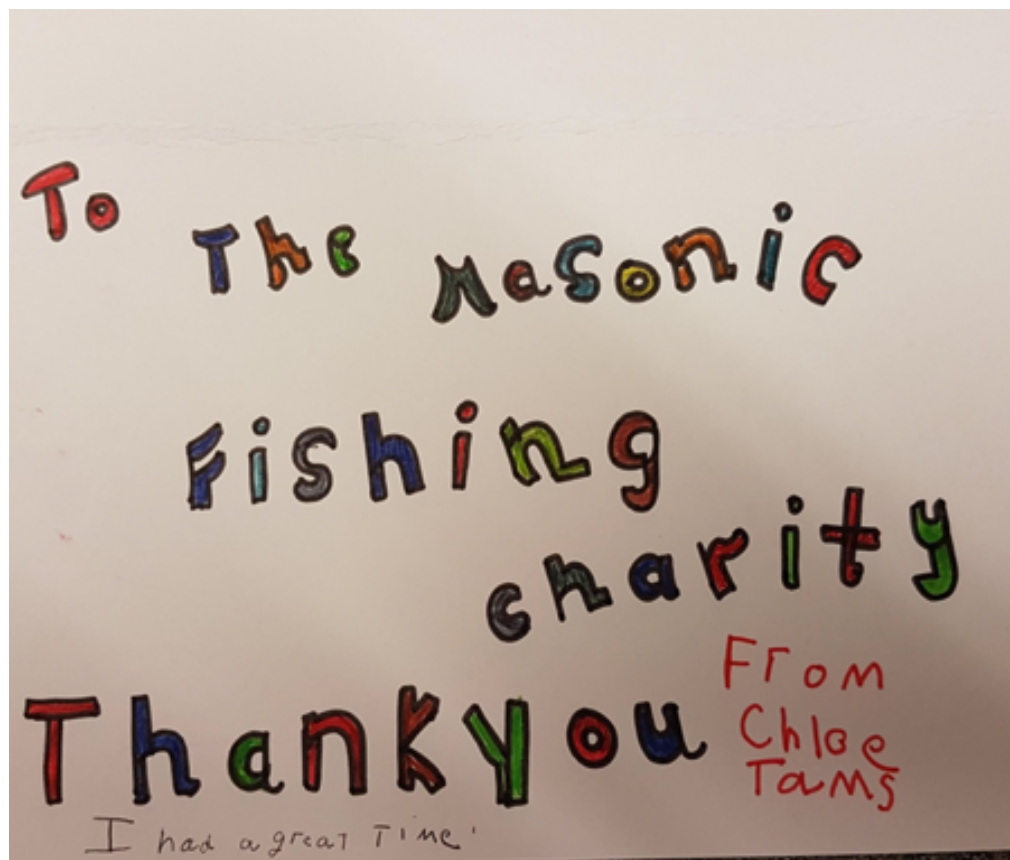


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MTSFC - Fishing Experience

The pupils from the Walton Hall Academy,

Stafford Rd,
Eccleshall had a most enjoyable
day on Thursday 23rd May 2019
at the Parkside Fly Fisheries,
Staffordshire. They were really
appreciative of their fishing
experience at the lakes and the
BBQ which followed. W. Bro
David Watt received numerous
letter of gratitude from the pupils
which had been forwarded on
by staff members Sylia Keris
and James Woodhorns. The
Staffordshire Branch of MTSFC
would be most appreciative of
any support from Lodges to assist
them "Catch the smile!"



Combined Burns Night

On Saturday 8th February 2020, Lewisham Oak Lodge No: 9213 and West Bromwich Masonic Hall held a joint Burns night with members from Walton Walker & Sandwell No: 3847 and Dartmouth Lodge No: 662 also in attendance

The charity for the event was The Black Country Women's Aid and a total of £800.45 was raised during the evening. But in addition to this W. Bro. M. Cresswell was able to present a cheque for £200 from Patshull Lodge No: 6592 on behalf W. Bro. J. Postans.

Also in December 2019 W. Bro. I. Baugh IPM of Dartmouth Lodge No: 662 had presented a cheque to the charity for £200 from his Ladies Evening. A number of other Lodges who meet at West Bromwich Masonic Hall had also made donations of monies, toiletries and essential clothing for which the charity were most grateful.

Chartley Lodge Burns Night

On Saturday 25th January 2020, Chartley Lodge No: 7569 Events Committee hosted a Burns Night at the Staffordshire Masonic Hall.



A number of members and their partners attended, all were welcomed then piped down to their meal where a three course meal was enjoyed.

The address to the Haggis was expertly done and a selection of poems was read throughout the evening which concluded with a spot of dancing.

There were a number of raffle prize gifts donated by lodge members and shirts by England Football Team Manager, Gareth Southgate OBE which helped raise a grand total of £1266.93 for the Festival.

The Provincial Burns Night

The Provincial Burns Celebratory Night was a fantastic success. Ladies Gentlemen and Brethren alike enjoyed an amazing feast and superb entertainment. The addresses and toasts were accompanied by the superlative Waterloo Pipes and Drums and Party Celtica. The evening raised a whopping £1500 with more to come. A wonderful night.



The cheques were presented to Mrs. Deborah Slater from The Black Country Women's Aid who was in attendance and gave a very moving speech, explaining what the charity did and how grateful the charity was to The Masonic Hall and all the brethren for their support.

In particular The Bucket and Spade appeal last year which enabled them to take mothers with their children to the seaside for the day, which was a wonderful day they could all enjoy, being able to get away from the worries and stress of their everyday existence and for some of the children their first visit to the seaside.



Long Service Awards

Frank Kirk

The PGM RW John Lockley visited Legge Lodge No: 2784 in January to congratulate and present W. Bro Frank Kirk with his Fifty Year Certificate in Freemasonry.

Frank was born in August 1940 and on leaving school at the age of 15, began a Five Year Apprenticeship with Arthur Price & Co Ltd. There then followed two years as a Project Engineer with British Silverware Ltd and further employment at Ever Ready, and George Salters Ltd. He moved to Scotland as a Production Manager for a while before returning to the region and was appointed Operations Director of Arthur Price & Co Ltd. He then spent the remaining years before his retirement in 2005 working for such companies as; GKN, and Formbend in senior company roles and also running his own company. In retirement Frank has kept himself busy as a Church Elder, Choir member, Asylum Support Group worker and dancing which he has enjoyed for over 33 years.

W Bro Kirk was initiated into Legge Lodge in December 1969, which at

the time held their meetings at the West Bromwich Masonic Hall in Edward Street. The initiation was under the guidance of W. Bro J K Bache and the presiding officer was the Provincial Grand Master RW. Bro H W Keys who was at one time Master of the Lodge. Frank became Worshipful Master in October 1977 and has held several offices in the Lodge over the years. He was appointed Lodge Secretary in 1996 and held that office for twenty-one years despite suffering serious illness, he was appointed Lodge Chaplain in 2017. Frank is also a member of several other orders.

Frank's first appointment was to that of Provincial Grand Steward and after the Lodge moved from Edward Street West Bromwich to its current home at Aldridge in 1990 he was awarded Progressive Past Rank appointments and currently holds the rank of P.Pr.J.G.W. which was awarded in 2010.

W. Bro Frank is pictured here being congratulated by the WM of Legge Lodge, W. Bro. Clive Andrews-Lewis.



Anthony Curzon

On Thursday 23rd January 2020 at Josiah Wedgwood Lodge No: 2214 W. Bro Anthony Curzon received his fifty year certificate from the PGM RW Bro John Lockley.

W Bro Curzon was born in 1946 making Tony one of the first so called "baby boomers" and he married his wife Sue in 1971, the same year that he qualified as a Solicitor. Tony joined the firm of Bailey Wain Solicitor's and became a Senior Partner in 1984, the same year that he was appointed Her Majesty's Deputy Coroner for Stoke on Trent. In 2000 he was President of the North Staffordshire Law Society and a year later, President of the West Midlands and Central Wales Coroners Society. How on earth did he find the time to be a Freemason!

Well... it all started in 1960 when his father, Spencer Roy Curzon joined Josiah Wedgwood Lodge, being proposed by Richard Evans who would one day become Tony's father in law. Tony was Initiated into the Lodge in November 1969 aged 23, Passed and then Raised in February 1970, when

his father was Worshipful Master.

In 1978 Tony became Worshipful Master, he then took on the role of Treasurer in 1982 and three years later he became Lodge Secretary for the next three years, both jobs not for the faint hearted. Tony over the years has supported and encouraged the brethren both in the lodge and socially, he is the epitome of a freemason, a good man and true....



Anthony Simey

Wednesday 26th February 2020 was a very memorable night for W. Bro Anthony G Simey PAGDC in particular and St John's Lodge of Lichfield No: 1039 in general. Bro Tony was initiated into the Lodge on Wednesday 25th February 1970. The WM at that time was W. Bro Peter Parsons and it was his first meeting as WM and his first initiation ceremony. Within a few weeks of his initiation Bro Tony was sent by

his employers, Dunlop Ltd, to India and shortly after his return in September 1970 he was transferred to Lagos in Nigeria. In the ten years he was in that country he met his wife, started his family and joined several Lodges becoming Acting SGW. On returning to the UK he settled in Surrey, joined Lodges in that area and in 1994 became an Active Assistant GDC in Grand Lodge.

However, he never gave up his membership and in 2016 he met up with

four Brethren of St John's Lodge. He was informed that there was vacancy in the progression of the Lodge and was invited to take the Chair, which he did in 2018. He has proved himself to be a great asset to the Lodge and with a round trip of some 240 miles he has not missed a meeting since. The presentation of his

Fifty Year Certificate in Freemasonry was undertaken by the PGM RW Bro John Lockley who paid a touching tribute to W. Bro Tony. This was followed by W. Bro Peter Parsons adding his own sentiments.



Ken Brown

On Tuesday 3rd December 2019 W. Bro Ken Brown P.Pr.J.G.W. of Forrester's Lodge Lodge No: 456 celebrated with his wife Shirley their 70th wedding anniversary. Unfortunately over recent years Ken has been ill and hasn't been able to attend the Lodge as frequently as he would like, but he was visited at his home by his friend W. Bro Nick Walters and the WM W. Bro Nick Collumbell. Ken was chirpy and reminisced about old times in the Lodge, having served as W. Master in 1979. He was presented with a bottle of whiskey and Shirley a bottle of Sherry and an orchid, all of which they greatly appreciated. In January Ken also celebrated Fifty years in freemasonry and was due to be presented with his certificate by the PGM RW Bro John Lockley but he was unable to attend due to his illness. The certificate was presented at his home by the WM W. Bro Nick Collumbell who was also able to confirm Ken's promotion to P.Pr.S.G.W.



Long Service Awards

John Dunmore

W. Bro John Dunmore P.Pr.S.G.W. was unable to attend the regular meeting of St Augustine's Lodge No: 1941 at Penkridge on Wednesday 5th February 2020 and so the PGM RW Bro John Lockley and brethren of the Lodge attended John's home to congratulate him and present him with his Fifty year certificate.



Robert Downes

At the Regular Lodge meeting of Ogley Hay Lodge No: 8917, held at Aldridge on Tuesday 28th January 2020, W. Bro. Kevin J. Parkes presided over the celebration of Worshipful Brother Robert S. Downes, P.P.G.Reg. 50 years in Freemasonry.

Bob was initiated into Marmion Lodge No. 1060 on 11th November 1969, by his father W. Bro. Robert Downes Snr. Worship Master at the time, assisted by W. Bro. Robert Lockhart as D.C. and Bro's. Robert. S. Scott as S.D. and Robert Hemus as J.D. With all the 'Roberts' involved, the ceremony was known thereafter as "The Five Bob Night !".

Bob became a Founder of Whittington St. Giles Lodge No: 8826 in March 1978 and W. Master in 1987. He also went on to become W. Master of his Mother Lodge in October 1980. He is an accomplished Organist and held the position as Provincial Organist in 1997/98 and was further promoted in 1996 as P.P.G.Reg.

In May 2006 until 2016 Bob was Guest Organist of Ogley Hay Lodge and other

Lodge's that meet at Aldridge and he was made an honorary member of the Lodge in 2018. He is 82 years young and has been married to his dear wife Jennifer for 58 years. They have two children Faith and Robert (III) who runs the family newsagent's store founded by his grandfather in 1964.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master invested W. Bro. Downes as Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden, a richly deserved honour.



Why I became a Mason

Shaun's Story:

My name is Shaun Michael Galloway and I have been a Freemason for 19 years. I am originally from Penticton, B.C., Canada. However, I have spent the past 28 years living, working, training



and studying abroad in 6 different countries, namely Japan, Australia, Greece, Hungary, Kuwait and now the UK for the past 16 years. My interest in Freemasonry began when I was

completing my Masters degree in Budapest, Hungary and I was exposed to Masonry through my studies and pastimes. I later read an article in a Hungarian newspaper for English readers, that there was to be an English speaking Lodge formed in Budapest. I was working in Kuwait at the time so I

had to wait until we completed our contract before my wife, newborn son and I moved back to Budapest. On our return I duly applied and joined St Stephens Lodge No: 7 of Symbolic Lodge of Hungary in 2003.

The Lodge was originally consecrated in 1864 as Hungary's first Budapest Lodge and operated in German, it has a long and very interesting history. In the 1920's there were a number Lodges in Hungary with over 10,000 members but this dwindled to less than 300 and by 1950 following the Communist takeover, the Grand Lodge was forcibly dissolved. However, following the fall of Communism Freemasonry flourished again. The Lodge was reborn and re-consecrated in 1999 to work in English and

uses a form of old Emulation ritual. This was the same year The Grand Lodge celebrated 250 years of masonry in Hungary. Its membership is drawn from both the Hungarian and expatriate

community in Budapest although it does boast a large international membership.

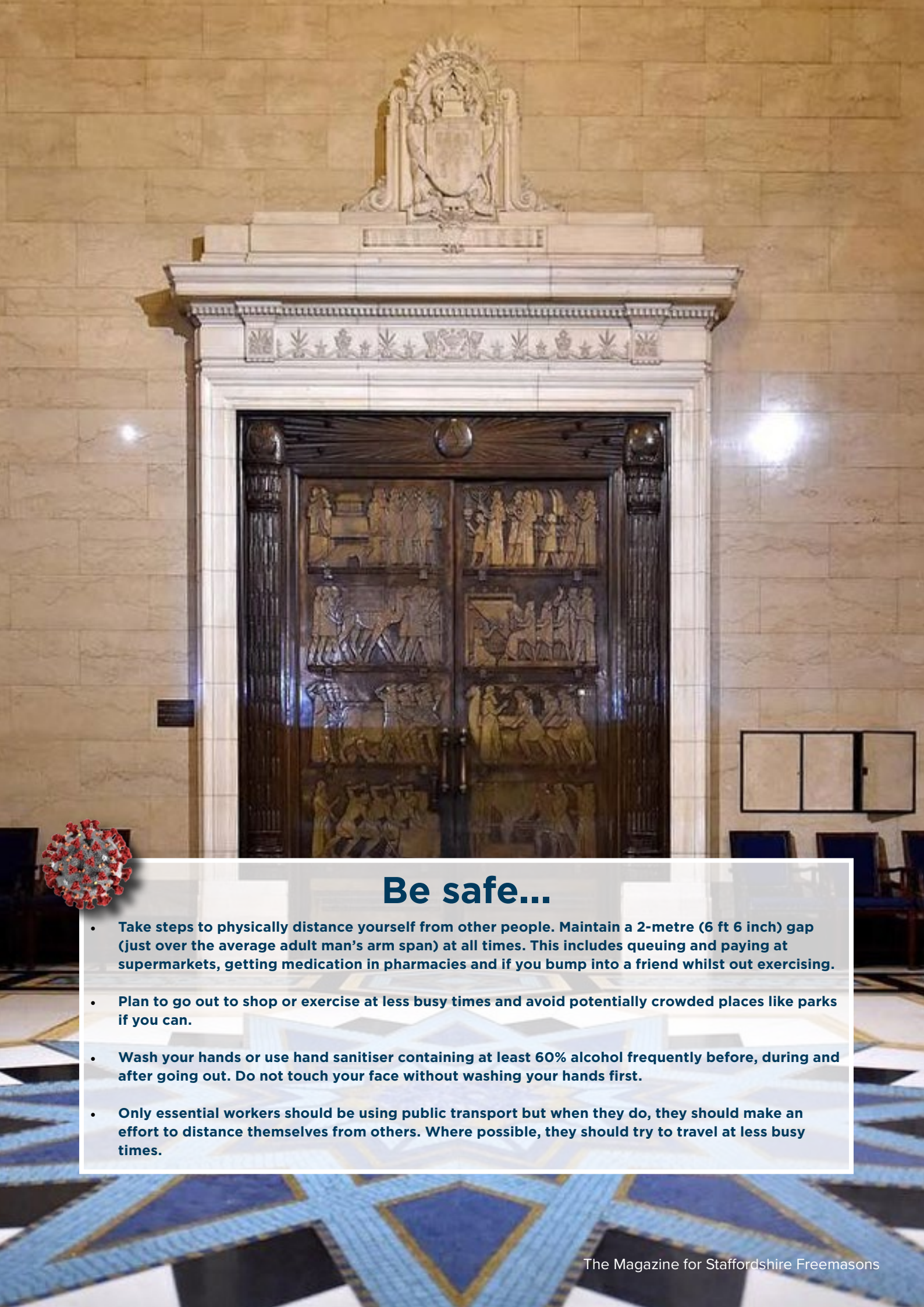
W. Bro Mark Walton, the Dept Grandmaster and past member of Etheldreda Lodge No: 2107 (UGLE) was one of the first people I met, he conducted the traditional interview and taught me more of the history of masonry as well as the history of Hungarian masonry in particular. I completed my PhD (Certified Psychologist and Psychophysiology of Sport) and was raised to a MM in 2005. I moved back to Canada for a year and then relocated to the Midlands and a new job at the University of Wolverhampton.

During that time I would visit my father in Athens, Greece and on one occasion we were having dinner together when he said something during the meal that made me think. I was curious and asked if he was a Mason and to my astonishment he was, neither of us knew the other had joined. He had joined St. Georges Lodge No: 52, an English speaking Lodge in Athens of the National Grand Lodge of Greece only a year after I had joined St. Stephens!

I often think about what drew my attention to masonry, I believe that it is the attention to detail and the way that the order and membership conduct themselves. I love the antiquity of the order; the manners; the pomp and circumstance but at the same time the kindness and brotherly love. I have been training in traditional Japanese karate for 38 years and precision, etiquette and symbolism are part of who I am - and I find that in Masonry to. The Japanese have a focus on consideration for others called "Omoiyari" (おもいやり). This compassion, consideration and empathy for others are also clearly a part of masonry and sadly something that society is sometimes sorely missing.

Having settled in the UK I visited and eventually joined Aldridge Lodge No: 7921 with the assistance of W. Bro Place, the secretary who helped me to deal with the intricacies of membership and joining. I have since joined Vernon Royal Arch Chapter No: 539, Croft Mark Lodge No: 1524 and Bernard de Tremelay Preceptory No: 170 of Knights Templar. I look forward to many more happy and enjoyable years in masonry and if my wife permits - the ability to join a few more orders!

Bro Shaun Michael Galloway



Be safe...

- **Take steps to physically distance yourself from other people. Maintain a 2-metre (6 ft 6 inch) gap (just over the average adult man's arm span) at all times. This includes queuing and paying at supermarkets, getting medication in pharmacies and if you bump into a friend whilst out exercising.**
- **Plan to go out to shop or exercise at less busy times and avoid potentially crowded places like parks if you can.**
- **Wash your hands or use hand sanitiser containing at least 60% alcohol frequently before, during and after going out. Do not touch your face without washing your hands first.**
- **Only essential workers should be using public transport but when they do, they should make an effort to distance themselves from others. Where possible, they should try to travel at less busy times.**