



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 34



Light

To the
INSTALLATION
of
John Standen Ratcliffe
as
Worshipful Master

Dinner at the
Hanley Masonic Hall,
Snow Hill, Shelton,
Stoke-on-Trent ST1 4NA

Tel: 01782 214412

Wednesday 27th May 2026

Page 2 - St. Giles Sesquicentennial Celebration



St Giles Lodge No 1587 Sesquicentenary and Installation Meeting.

On Wednesday 27th May, St. Giles Lodge, who would normally hold their meetings at Cheadle held their meeting at the Hanley Masonic Hall, Shelton, this venue was required due to the high numbers attending. This was a joint Craft and Royal Arch full Provincial visit, with over ninety in attendance.

The evening not only saw the Installation of the new Worshipful Master, W. Bro John Ratcliffe but also the Sesquicentenary celebration. The Provincial Grand Master W. Bro Jeremy F. Roberts invested W. Bro. Matthew Adderley as his new Deputy Provincial Grand Master, he also presented a Past Provincial Grand Master's Collarette to W. Bro. John Lockley.

A very busy and warm meeting was followed by an excellent meal.



Widows Sons Staffordshire Chapter Roar into “Bike for Life”

Members of the Staffordshire Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association joined forces with thousands of motorcyclists to support the annual Bike for Life Fest, cementing their commitment to regional charity and community initiatives.

On Sunday 17th May, the scenic grounds of Weston Park, located near Cosford, were transformed into a vibrant hub of motoring enthusiasm. As one of the United Kingdom's largest and most celebrated annual mass ride-outs, the event drew an extraordinary turnout of over 3,000 bikers and pillioners from across the country. The spectacular gathering serves a vital role in raising awareness and funds for life-saving air ambulance services.



The ride culminated in a spectacular arrival at the Weston Park festival arena, where riders were greeted by thousands of spectators, live music, and exhibitions.

The Staffordshire Widows Sons Chapter attended the event using the Staffordshire Provincial Trailer. Clive Andrews-Lewis, Phil Teirney, Lyndon Jones, Steve Watts and a Bad Penny (Associate Member) Berni Wilkins were on hand to bring Freemasonry and the Widows Sons Motorbike Association to the public as well as raising money for charity.

“Attending Bike for Life is always a highlight of our riding calendar, but seeing more than 3,000 bikes together this year was truly spectacular. For the Staffordshire Chapter, this isn't just about enjoying a fantastic route through the countryside; it's

about bringing Freemasonry to the general public while showcasing our extensive philanthropic endeavours”.

W.Bro Steve Watts, Vice-President, Widows Sons Staffordshire Chapter

The festival atmosphere provided an excellent platform for the Widows Sons to engage with the public, dispelling myths. Throughout the day, members shared insights into their charitable mission, which focuses on supporting local causes and groups across Staffordshire.

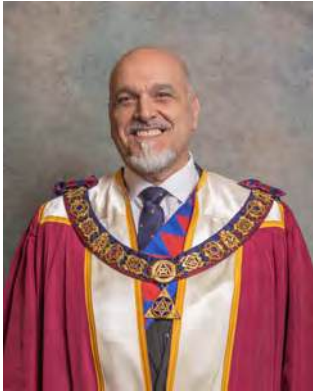
The annual Bike for Life ride-out remains a cornerstone event for regional road safety awareness, emphasising safe riding practices while celebrating the unique camaraderie shared among the motorcycling community. The Staffordshire Widows Sons have already confirmed their intentions to return next year to continue supporting this vital cause.



Who are the Widows Sons MBA?

The Widows Sons is an international Masonic Bikers Association formed by Freemasons who share a passion for motorcycling. The association aims to introduce the motorcycling community to the principles of Freemasonry, support localised chapters in their charitable endeavours within the community. The Staffordshire Chapter regularly organises and participates in regional ride-outs, charity events, and community support initiatives. If you're a Freemason and ride a motorcycle then your more than welcome to join us for a ride and coffee and cake!

A New Honour Recognising Distinguished Service in Staffordshire



A new award has been introduced this year to recognise Companions who have given exceptional service to the Order in Staffordshire. Intended to be bestowed only rarely in future years, the distinction has been launched with four inaugural recipients in order to acknowledge outstanding commitment already shown across the Province. The new Certificate of Merit has been created as a special mark of appreciation for sustained and distinguished service. While it is expected that no more than one Companion will normally receive the award in any given year, this first presentation seeks to recognise several deserving Companions whose contributions have had a lasting impact.



Recipients of the award will also be accorded special recognition in Chapter and at the Festive Board, together with appropriate seating and a place in processions at Provincial Grand Chapter Convocations. These honours reflect the esteem in which their service is held throughout Staffordshire.

The first recipients of the Certificate of Merit are Excellent Companions Howard Alcock, Rowland Chambers, Peter Robinson and Martin Waller, each of whom has given long, loyal and highly valued service in different ways.

Howard Alcock was exalted in 1995, less than a year after joining Freemasonry, and has since built an exceptional record of service. He has served as Zerubbabel on three occasions, including two terms of two years, and has also held the office of Charity Steward four times for a combined total of 10 years. Appointed to every other office during his Chapter career, he was Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2010 and has continued ever since to play an active role as acting DC at the AGM.

Rowland Chambers, exalted in 1985, celebrated 40 years in the Order in November. A member of Staffordshire Knot, Staffordshire First Principals and Old Denstonian Chapters, he has given notable service across all three. His years as Scribe Ezra in two of those Chapters amount to a remarkable combined total of 31 years according to Adelphi. Throughout the Province he is widely known for both his activity and his readiness to support others.

Peter Robinson, who was exalted in 1991, is a member of Dove, Staffordshire First Principals and Old Denstonian Chapters. He has served those Chapters in a variety of offices and has

been Zerubbabel in two of them. At Provincial level, however, it is as Organist that he has made a particularly enduring contribution, having served as Provincial Grand Organist for 29 years up to the present day — a remarkable record of faithful and distinguished service.

Martin Waller was exalted in 2001 in Marmion Chapter, already bringing with him more than 20 years of Craft experience. In addition to Marmion, he is a member of Staffordshire First Principals Chapter and London Staffordshire Chapter, and it is his work across all three, together with his service as Provincial Grand Charity Steward, that has earned this recognition. His contribution, both ceremonially and administratively, has been extensive and deeply valued.

Each recipient receives a certificate in recognition of many years of dedicated service, together with a lapel pin to be worn exclusively by holders of the award and an engraved paperweight presented as a personal gift from the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent. Collectively, these tokens stand as a lasting expression of gratitude for the invaluable contribution each Companion has made to the Royal Arch in Staffordshire.



Light Blues Communications 2026

On Saturday 30th May twenty-one Masons from across the province attended Grand Lodge for the 2nd Light Blues Communication, a special quarterly communication designed specifically for Light Blues and newly joined Brethren.

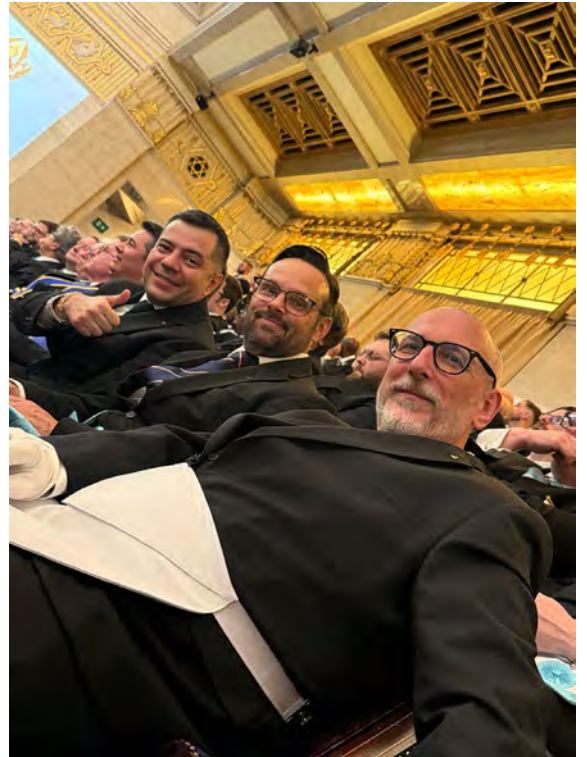
It was a fantastic event that provided valuable insight into the principles of Freemasonry, the importance of Light Blue Clubs, and the many volunteering groups that support our communities.

Key messages focused on sharing the excellent work that Masons undertake within the community, highlighting the positive impact of our charitable efforts, and helping newer members become more engaged and involved in Freemasonry.

The day also provided a wonderful opportunity to witness Grand Lodge opened in all its splendour and grandeur, to network with fellow Brethren, and enjoy a fun and memorable day together.

The visit was supported by our Provincial Grand Master, our Grand Superintendent, and our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, all of whom were there to demonstrate their support and share in the fellowship and laughter of the day.

Thank you to all our Light Blues for attending and making the event a great success.



W. Bro. Phil Smith 50th Anniversary

On Tuesday 21st April, Lewisham Oak Lodge No 9213 held a special meeting to celebrate a remarkable milestone, the 50th anniversary in Freemasonry of its current Worshipful Master, W. Bro Phil Smith.

The evening was made even more memorable by the presence of R. W. Bro John Lockley, attending in one of his final official duties as Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire.

In a unique moment for the Lodge and a first for the PGM, the PGM was invited to take the Chair and then conducted part of an initiation ceremony, inviting W. Bro Phil to reaffirm his obligation, creating a fitting and symbolic tribute to five decades of service.

The formal proceedings were followed by a relaxed 'fireside chat' between the PGM and W. Bro Phil, offering those present a fascinating insight into both his Masonic journey and personal story.

To round off the celebrations, W. Bro Phil was presented with a bottle of 50-year-old cognac by the Senior Warden, W. Bro Graham Johnson, his brother-in-law, who will himself celebrate 50 years in Freemasonry this September.

A memorable evening and a well-deserved celebration of an extraordinary Masonic career.

W. Bro. M. S. Ferguson

PrJGW



Chartley Lodge No. 7569 biennial visit to Zur Deutschen Burg Loge Nr. 294 21st-24th May 2026.

Brethren from Chartley Lodge, together with members of Robert Mummery Lodge No. 8331, Staffordshire Knot Lodge No. 726, Forresters Lodge No. 456 and their partners, spent several busy and rewarding days strengthening relationships across the water while attending activities organised by our hosts.

The first event was a wonderful meal at a charming Brauhaus, providing an excellent opportunity for all the brethren and their partners to catch up on the latest news and further strengthen the bonds of friendship.

The following day, the visiting brethren were honoured to attend the Masonic funeral of Bro. Knut, who had sadly passed away since our previous visit. The ceremony was jointly conducted by the Worshipful Masters and members of Zur Deutschen Burg Loge Nr. 294 and Heinrich Heine Loge Nr. 978. It was delivered in a moving, dignified, and highly professional manner, reflecting the great respect and affection held for our departed brother.



Later that same day, we had the privilege of attending a ceremony entitled "Temple Work in the First Degree". The meeting was filled with brotherly love, valuable Masonic learning, and many of the unique traditions and nuances that make visiting other lodges such a rewarding experience. The evening included W. Bro Volker Frisse being awarded with a badge of honour from the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (AF&AM) for his personal

service to freemasonry delivered by the PGM, this was heartwarming to watch as it clearly meant a great deal. The evening concluded by demonstrating the EA song & Masonic Chain and a raucous rendition of 'Viva la Compagnie'.

Zur Deutschen Burg Loge Nr. 294 meets in a beautiful modern building, rich with fascinating Masonic artefacts collected over many years. The host stewards prepared a meal fit for Kings, and the festive board that followed allowed for further heartfelt exchanges between the brethren. This was followed by a day of rest and recuperation which allowed for a visit to Cologne, which included a river cruise on the River Rhine, this allowed for some good discussion and reflection of the days before.

Overall, the visit was an outstanding success. It provided an excellent opportunity to reinforce and strengthen relations between the lodges, while also creating significant opportunities for Masonic learning on both sides. Plans for continued visits and ongoing friendship were enthusiastically agreed upon.

There is planning already taking place to host 'Zur Deutschen Burg Loge Nr. 294' and their partners in May /June 2027 on their return visit to us. We are also planning to attend 'Zur Deutschen Burg Loge Nr. 294' in May 2028. Should any brother be interested in being involved in one of these Masonic adventures. Please express your interest by contacting the lodge on secretary@thechartleylodge.org.uk

W. Bro Damien Legg
Chartley Lodge



Double Exaltation Marks a Memorable Evening for Wolverhampton Schools Chapter

Wolverhampton Schools Chapter No 7411 enjoyed a truly memorable occasion as Companions gathered to witness the double Exaltation of Bro Suni Dhadra, and Bro Jordan Forde. The evening was made even more distinguished by the presence of the Provincial 3rd Grand Principal, E Comp John Derry, attending on his first official engagement since his appointment.



Further excellence was demonstrated through the presentations delivered by E Comp Mike Skillern and E Comp Andy Brittle, whose contributions provided a fitting conclusion to a well executed ceremony.

The celebrations continued at the Festive Board, where a warm and convivial atmosphere prevailed. Companions joined together in extending heartfelt congratulations to our newly Exalted Companions, wishing them every success and happiness as they embark on their journey within this most special and inspiring Order.

E Comp Nigel Thomas

**MEZ – Wolverhampton Schools
Chapter No 7411**

The ceremony was conducted with precision and dignity, shared seamlessly between the Principals and overseen by E Comp John B. Edwards, who carried out the duties of Acting DC with characteristic assurance. E Comp David M. Edwards and Comp Ed Ireland delivered the Principal Sojourners' work with confidence and clarity, ensuring both candidates experienced an exemplary introduction to the Order.



Gnosall Lodge 9458 Charity Poker Night

In January this year, the brethren of Gnosall St. Lawrence Lodge No.9458 held a charity Poker night at the home of W. Bro Alan Gallimore to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society as well as the Royal British Legion. These charities were chosen by the lodge in memory of Alan's late mother as well as other family members.

It was a great turn out by the brethren, their family and friends. When the chips were down, the Cowboy hats were on, and the stakes were high, they didn't fold and the lodge were delighted to have raised the fantastic sum of £600. The monies raised were gratefully received by representatives of both charities.



Chartley Lodge Supports Katharine House Hospice, Stafford

Brethren of Chartley Lodge were delighted to pay a visit Katharine House Hospice to present a charitable donation in support of the outstanding care they provide to people and families across our local community.

The donation was presented on behalf of the Lodge by the WM W. Bro Damien Legg, IPM W. Bro Tony Dawson and Secretary W. Bro Adrian Scriven, with Bro Ben Clay (Treasurer) capturing the moment behind the camera.

Katharine House Hospice provides free care and support for people with incurable illnesses, helping them to live life as fully as possible and make the most of the time they have. Their support extends not only to patients,

but also to loved ones, with care provided in the community, at home and at the hospice itself. As a local charity, Katharine House relies heavily on the kindness and generosity of the community to continue providing these vital services.

A sincere thank you goes to all the brethren who have visited Chartley and contributed to this donation. The Lodge is proud to support Katharine House Hospice and the remarkable difference they make every day to local people when they need care, dignity and compassion most.

W. Bro Tony Dawson.
Chartley Lodge



Worshipful Brother Chris Hill of Barr Beacon Lodge in support of Prostate Cancer Research.

Members and friends of Barr Beacon Lodge 6109 are celebrating the outstanding efforts of Worshipful Brother Chris Hill, who successfully completed in the "100 Miles in May" challenge in support of Prostate Cancer Research UK.

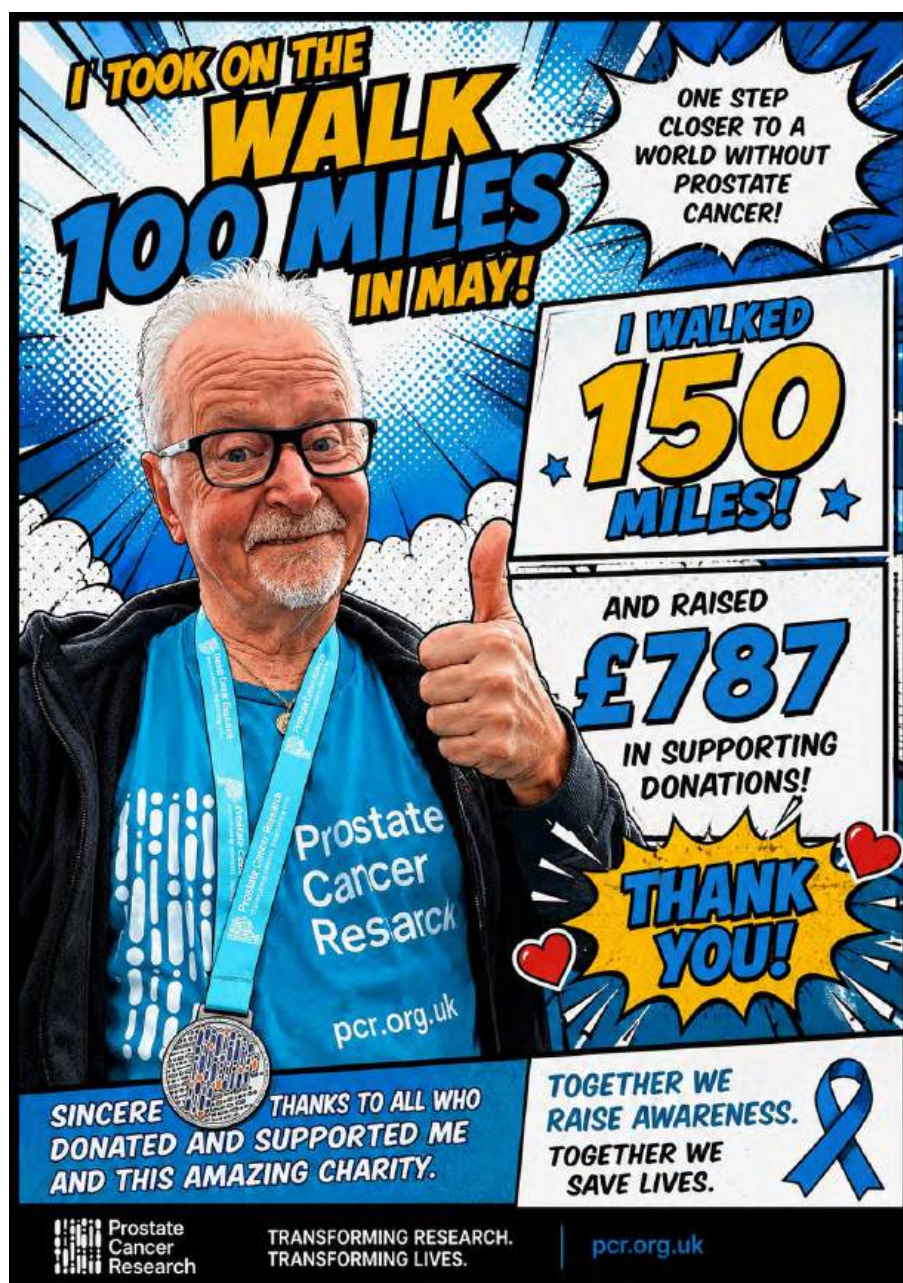
Throughout the month of May, Chris, who was successfully treated for Prostate Cancer in 2014, committed himself to walking up to 7 miles each day to help raise awareness and vital funds for a cause that affects thousands of men and families across the United Kingdom every year. Demonstrating determination, dedication, and community spirit, he not only completed the challenge but managed an impressive 150 miles and also exceeded expectations through the generous support of sponsors and well-wishers.

Thanks to the kindness and encouragement of supporters, Chris raised an impressive £787 with gift aid for Prostate Cancer Research UK. The whole Team, Prostate Cancer Research raised a total of £520,208 during the month of May. Every donation will contribute towards pioneering research, improved treatments, and greater awareness in the fight against prostate cancer.

Speaking after completing the challenge, Chris expressed his gratitude to everyone who supported him throughout the month, whether through donations, words of encouragement on his daily Facebook progress reports, or simply helping to spread awareness of the campaign.

The effort reflects the strong charitable values held within Barr Beacon Lodge 6109 and highlights the positive impact that individuals and local communities can make when coming together for an important cause.

Congratulations to Worshipful Brother Chris on completing the challenge and for supporting such worthwhile and life-changing work.



Project 1, 2, 3 Set to Bring New Life to Acorns Hospice Gardens

A major new community initiative is bringing Freemasons, families and supporters together to make a lasting difference for Acorns Children's Hospices. Project 1, 2, 3 will see the Provinces of Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire unite in a shared effort to transform hospice gardens into welcoming spaces for children and their families.

The ambitious initiative will take place across three locations, over three weekends, backed by three Provinces—a simple idea with powerful community impact. By combining practical support with a strong spirit of service, the project is set to create outdoor areas that offer comfort, enjoyment and valuable moments together for the children and families who rely on Acorns.

More than a gardening project, Project 1, 2, 3 is a powerful example of what can be achieved when communities work together with a common purpose. The partnership between Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire highlights a shared commitment to service and shows how collective effort can deliver visible, meaningful change.

The first location will be Acorns Children's Hospice in Worcester, where work will take place on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June with primary support from Freemasons of Worcestershire. Further phases of the project will then extend to Selly Oak, led primarily by Freemasons of Warwickshire, and Walsall, led primarily by Freemasons of Staffordshire, with dates for those events to be announced.

Organisers are encouraging volunteers of all abilities to get involved, with support welcomed from Freemasons, friends and family members aged 18 and over. Whether offering professional skills or simply a willingness to help, every volunteer will play a part in creating outdoor spaces where children and families can relax, connect and enjoy time together.

Mark Barber from the Province of Worcestershire, one of the organisers behind the initiative, said: "A truly inspirational opportunity to showcase the community spirit of Freemasonry, and shared values we all hold dear."

The opening phase of Project 1, 2, 3 begins at Acorns Children's Hospice in Worcester on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June.

Whilst the first event is being hosted in Worcestershire, supporters from Staffordshire are also being warmly invited to take part, underlining the spirit of generosity and cooperation driving the wider initiative.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring battery-powered lawnmowers, hedge trimmers and strimming tools where possible, along with hand tools, wheelbarrows and plenty of enthusiasm.

The work will focus on tidying and clearing garden areas following extensive gardening and landscaping improvements, helping prepare them for children and families to enjoy throughout the summer months. Organisers say

every contribution will help shape spaces that bring peace, beauty and moments of joy to those who need them most.

The project has the full support of the Most Excellent Second Grand Principal, Sir David Wootton, along with the respective Provincial Grand Masters and Most Excellent Grand Superintendents of the three Provinces. In a further sign of the initiative's significance, the Solomon Team and potentially the BBC are expected to attend and film on the day, helping showcase the positive difference the project aims to make.



As momentum builds ahead of the Worcester launch, Project 1, 2, 3 is already shaping up to be a powerful example of community action in practice—bringing people together, transforming vital spaces and helping ensure Acorns Children's Hospices can continue providing comfort, care and special moments for the children and families who need it most.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for Staffordshire, Michele Santopietro rounded off the appeal by stating, "This is how our community-based activities can demonstrate a clear aim within Freemasonry, and I urge you as Staffordshire Freemasons, to take part"

To take part, please register using the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1353452769935154>

Further details will be shared with volunteers following registration.

