



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 31



2026-2027 Wardens

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Announcement of the Provincial Wardens for 2025 – 2026

At the recent Meeting of Foster Gough Lodge, the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Lockley announced the new Provincial Wardens.

The new Wardens for the coming year are: -

Provincial Senior Grand Warden, W Bro Michael W Seddon of St Giles Lodge No 1587 and as Provincial Junior Grand Warden, W Bro Mark S Ferguson of Lewisham Oak Lodge No 9213.

Mick was born and lives in Stoke-on-Trent having spent his young childhood years between Stoke and Liverpool, his father's family home.

He has been married to Diane for over 50 years and they have one daughter and two married sons, five grandchildren and three great- grandchildren.

After leaving technical school he attended Sutherland Institute of Art, Stoke Polytechnic and Stoke-on-Trent College of Building. He is a degree educated member of The Chartered Institute of Building and owned a building contracting business until sold in 2000. He was a part-time lecturer in construction studies at Stoke-on-Trent College and retired from active employment in 2010 as Construction Manager for Kier (Stoke) Ltd.

Mick was initiated into St Giles Lodge No 1587 Cheadle in 2001, was Master in 2016 and has been the Lodge Treasurer since 2004. He was appointed as Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 2022, Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 2025 and Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 2026.

Other Masonic activities include the Holy Royal Arch, where he was St Giles Chapter MEZ in 2023, is currently the Provincial Assistant Director of Ceremonies and is also a member of Knights Templar and St Thomas of Acon.

Interests outside of Freemasonry include:

Dining out,

Travel – he has visited every continent in the world (except Antarctica),

Compiling and organising quizzes,

Football – after playing he was President of Foley Football Club for twenty years,

Walking and keep-fit (now limited) – he did The Three Peaks Challenge, Snowdon, Sca Fell and Ben Nevis in 36 hours in support of Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Mike was also an active volunteer team leader for ADSIS, the drug and alcohol rehabilitation organisation in Stoke, offering help and guidance to carers of those afflicted.

W. Bro. Mark was introduced to Freemasonry by his uncle, Frank Rollason, and was initiated into Oak Lodge No. 9213 (now Lewisham Oak Lodge No. 9213) on 9 October 1995. He first went into the Chair of his mother lodge in 2004 and has had the honour of serving as its Master on three occasions. In 2010, he was appointed Provincial Grand Steward and joined the Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge in the same year.

His subsequent promotions have been to Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon, Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer, and, most recently in 2024, to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden. he is currently the Worshipful Master of the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge. He was exalted into the Royal Arch in Lewisham Chapter No. 2582 in January 1998 and currently holds the rank of Past Provincial Grand Sojourner.

Professionally, he began his working life as an accountant but later chose to pursue a more creative path, retraining as a graphic designer. This led to several years working within the music industry, designing for artists including Eric Clapton and Tony Iommi. He later transitioned into automotive design and now works as an Art Director, collaborating with internationally recognised brands such as Jaguar Land Rover and Harley-Davidson.

Outside Freemasonry and work, Mark is married to his long-suffering wife, Sadie, and they have a 17-year-old daughter who he is currently teaching to drive—an experience that has proven both challenging and memorable. Mark is also the owner of two Bedlington Whippets who ensure every day begins early with a brisk walk, regardless of the weather. His passions are surfing, camping in his camper van, collecting board games (now numbering over 200), and perfecting the art of cocktail-making, a pastime much appreciated by friends and family alike.



The Good Shepherd Ministry, Charity in Action

On Thursday, 18th December, representatives from ten Units across the Black Country visited The Good Shepherd Ministry on Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton. The visit was a powerful demonstration of Freemasonry's enduring commitment to charity and service in our local communities.



On behalf of the Units involved, a cheque for £1,275 was presented to assist with the Ministry's running costs, support that is especially significant during the winter months.

The Good Shepherd Ministry works tirelessly to support some of the most vulnerable and

marginalised individuals in Wolverhampton, offering practical help alongside dignity, respect, and hope.

Their work encompasses a wide range of essential services, including hot meals, shower facilities, structured user-support programmes, and advice or referrals related to accommodation, addiction recovery, and mental health. At any one time, more than 20 people are sleeping rough in Wolverhampton alone, underscoring the scale and urgency of this work.

Fundraising and development officer Lucy Cox warmly welcomed the delegation, including Chloe Bladen, Service Manager, who is responsible for how the donation will be spent.

A tour of the premises provided insight into the breadth of the Ministry's operations. Facilities include a communal counselling room where individuals are supported through some of





life's most difficult challenges, and a busy kitchen where volunteers were busy preparing a Christmas dinner for 150 vulnerable people, an endeavour that exemplifies care, inclusion, and fellowship.

The food larder was particularly noteworthy, well stocked with provisions for families in need, supported by generous supermarket donations averaging over 20 tonnes annually. Not only is food needed, but toiletries are essential as well. This remarkable level of support underscores both the trust placed in the Ministry and the vital role it plays within the community.

This initiative originated with W. Bro. Mac Jarvis of Dormston Chapter, who reflected:

"I had just collected £80 at our Festive Board for Charity. It was a cold, wet, and miserable night,

and I thought of those sleeping rough. I put this to the rest of the Companions, who all agreed to give to The Good Shepherd."

That single act of generosity quickly inspired others. Units meeting at Codsall pledged their support, followed by contributions from Units from The Chase and West Bromwich, culminating in a united charitable effort that truly embodied the principles of Freemasonry.

The visit proved both humbling and thought-provoking. It reminded all present how easily we can take for granted the warmth of a safe home, regular meals, and the comforts of daily life, privileges denied to many within our own communities. As Freemasons, we are taught not only to feel sympathy for those in distress, but to act upon it.

Brethren are therefore encouraged to support The Good Shepherd Ministry wherever possible, whether through financial donations, volunteering time, or raising awareness of their work within Lodges, Chapters, and Units. By doing so, we continue to put our principles into practice and extend relief to those who need it most.

Further information about The Good Shepherd Ministry, including opportunities to volunteer or donate, can be found at:

www.gsmwolverhampton.org.uk

W.Bro. D.J. Evans, Dormston Lodge



Why I became a Freemason

My name is Cornelius Sekyere, born in Accra, Ghana and married to a very supportive and beautiful soul, my wife Charlotte. I am a security officer with over a decade of experience. I hold a diploma in private investigation and am currently pursuing a degree in Construction Management.

I have always been a curious person, and my dream has been to search for the greater understanding of Mother Nature, to live for the benefit of humanity, and to the glory of God. My initial exposure to Freemasonry was through rumours of dark secrets, strange rituals, which made me initially sceptical but undeniably more curious. This led me into researching further into freemasonry.

The catalyst for my joining was due to the bold public exhibition of UGLE membership by the Ghanaian Ashanti King, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, and the former President of Ghana, His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, both men whom I deeply respect. W.Bro. John Kufuor was appointed as Senior Grand Warden in United Grand Lodge by The Grand Master. It was through these Worshipful Brothers and other individuals that changed the perspectives of some Ghanaians from the negative stigma to what Freemasonry truly represents: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Having approached the Staffordshire Provincial Office a meeting was arranged with the secretary of the Lodge of St. Matthew 539, W. Bro. Paramjit Ram (Bonny), and the late W. Bro. Dave Timmins, who guided me throughout the joining process. I was eventually Initiated and now serve as Senior Deacon in the Lodge. I raise a glass to the memory of the late W. Bro. Dave Timmins, for his contribution in making me a better version of myself and to W. Bro. Paramjit Ram for his ongoing guidance and support.

For me, Freemasonry immediately felt like coming home. The values are not abstract concepts but practical guides for living. Before joining, I often felt fragmented, balancing my ambition with my desire to contribute meaningfully. Freemasonry has provided the framework for me to grow. It has not changed who I am, but it has definitely refined how I operate. I find myself listening more patiently, judging less quickly, and always seeking to understand the 'why' behind people's actions.

The structured rituals, which I initially found intriguing, have become a form of reflective meditation, reminding me of my obligations. I find immense joy in every aspect of my Masonic life. I cherish the ritual work, appreciate the historical and philosophical depth of the lectures and ceremonies in the Lodge. The commitment to perfection in the ritual is something I find both humbling and inspiring. The festive board brings the true sense of brotherhood that shines brightest for me. Away from the formal setting of the Lodge room, the banter, shared laughter, and deep conversations over a meal forge an unbreakable bond.

Currently, I am an active member of two Lodges, Lodge of St. Matthew No. 539, Staffordshire, my mother Lodge who meet at Aldridge, and Tenbury Wells Summer Lodge No. 10053, Worcestershire. Additionally, I have progressed to the Holy Royal Arch (Vernon Chapter No. 539), viewing it as the culmination of my journey in Pure Ancient Masonry. I appreciate the allegorical continuation of the moral lessons taught in the Craft Lodges, providing a brighter, more spiritual conclusion to the symbolic narrative.

I joined Freemasonry in search of the greater light, but found life and boundless love in addition.

Bro Cornelius Sekyere



Staffordshire Masonic Choir

The Choir has been active for around twenty-five years and now that the threat from Covid is significantly reduced we would like to have more members.

We are just a collection of masons who enjoy singing. Not all of us can read music very well but we can learn. So we meet on the first Saturday of the month at the Masonic Hall in Gaol Square in Stafford for a cup of tea, a biscuit or two, and an hour of singing.

Our musical Director is the Provincial Organist, Dudley Ray and he is talented, tolerant and has a great sense of humour.

The Choir will sing in support of almost any Masonic function in Staffordshire if we can. We have sung at the Provincial Cathedral Services, at Lodge and Chapter Consecrations, at the Knights' Templar Church service, at several Carol Services and at Concerts.

If you think you might enjoy it, drop an email to David Leigh or contact PGL office so that we know to expect you and to keep the door open for you. David can also suggest where you can park.

Like all Freemasonry it is 'free' but there is a subscription of £25 a year which pays for the music and makes a contribution towards the conductor's costs.

We would love to welcome you to the choir.



Don't Put It Off: My Story of Prostate Cancer

I never expected that a simple act of helping out would quite literally change my life.

On 9th March 2025, I assisted at a Staffordshire Provincial PSA testing day, organised by W. Bro. Ralph Ritchey. While I was there, it seemed only sensible to take advantage of the opportunity and have a PSA test myself. I felt perfectly well. I had no symptoms. I certainly wasn't worried.



A few days later, the results arrived — and they came back with a “Red Traffic Light”.

My PSA level was 5.6. The normal threshold for someone my age is generally considered to be below 4.0–4.5 ng/mL. It wasn't wildly high, but it was high enough to raise concern.

First Steps and First Tests

I contacted my local GP surgery and managed to get an appointment a few days later. We discussed the reading and I had a DRE (Digital Rectal Examination). The doctor was initially unconcerned and couldn't feel anything abnormal during the examination.

However, a few days later I was called back in for another PSA test.

This time, the tone had changed. The results confirmed there was something to be concerned about, and it was recommended that I seek specialist advice. I was referred to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. I had a phone consultation, during which it was agreed that an MRI scan would be needed. That's when another complication arose — I

have a metal cage in my back and plates in my arm, which could potentially interfere with an MRI. So, off I went to Heartlands Hospital for a round of X-rays to determine what metal they were made from and whether an MRI would even be possible. All of this took a few more weeks. Eventually, I was given the green light and had my MRI.

The MRI and a Clearer Picture

The MRI showed a lesion (or tumour) and resulted in a PI-RADS score of 4. For those unfamiliar with the term, PI-RADS (Prostate Imaging-Reporting and Data System) is a scoring system from 1 to 5 used by radiologists to assess the likelihood of clinically significant prostate cancer. A score of 4 indicates a high likelihood that cancer is present. The next step was clear: a biopsy.

The Biopsy (Not as Bad as You Think)

My biopsy appointment came in September. I had a trans-perineal biopsy, carried out under local anaesthetic. The most uncomfortable part? The freezing spray — jokingly referred to as “footballers' freezing spray”. I can honestly say that was the only discomfort I felt, aside from seeing some rather monstrous needles. My wife, Pauline, came with me and sat in the room, fascinated by the live ultrasound imaging used to guide the sample taking. The nurses and doctor were absolutely fantastic — making light of the rather undignified position I had to sit in, chatting and keeping me relaxed and calm throughout. Twenty-four cores were taken. Then came the wait.

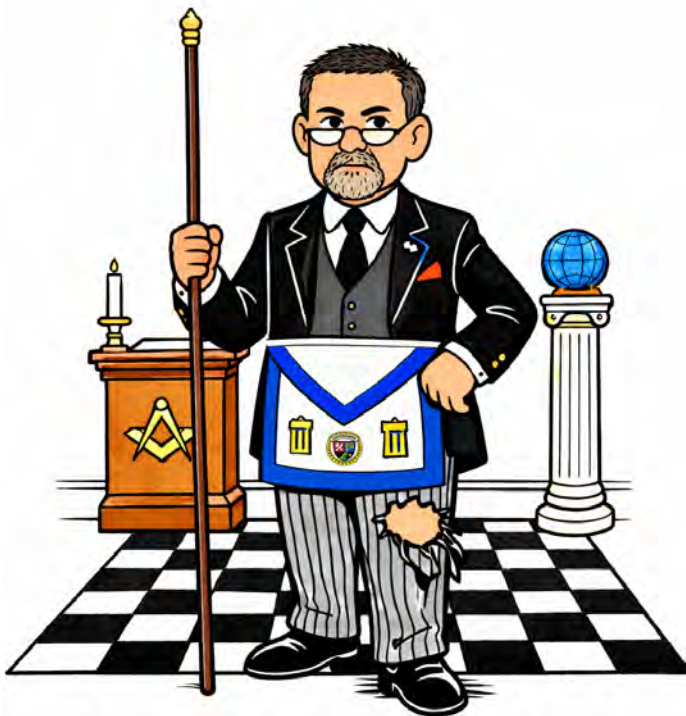
The Diagnosis

A few weeks later, Pauline and I were called in to see a Prostate Cancer Specialist at Good Hope Hospital. She was lovely — calm, clear, and compassionate. The results confirmed that I did indeed have Prostate Cancer. Cancer was found in 4 out of the 12 cores that were taken from the right side. The left side was clear. My Gleason Score was $3 + 4 = 7$. The Gleason Score grades how aggressive prostate cancer cells are, based on how much they differ from normal cells. Scores range from 3 to 5 — with scores of 3 and 4 sitting in the intermediate category (the score of 3 was the most prevalent, and the more serious score of 4 less present). Then came

the sentence neither of us were expecting. There were lesions visible in my bones, and there was concern that the cancer might have metastasised. Pauline and I were taken aback. While we remained pragmatic — prostate cancer caught early is highly treatable — this was still a shock. We hugged in the corridor afterwards, and I'll admit, I had a bit of a moment.

The “Radioactive” Interlude

The bone scan at Good Hope Hospital followed fairly quickly. I was injected with radioactive material (which is as fascinating as it sounds) and instructed to avoid close contact with my wife and young children for a day or so. I even had to use the “radioactive toilet”. The most uncomfortable part of the day, however, was falling over in the car park on the way out — grazing my knees and ripping my Masonic stripes. I had a meeting at Legge 2784 that evening, and as DC I spent the night with a flap of cloth swinging from my trousers. The running joke of the evening was simply: “I’ve had a fall.”



“I’ve had a fall.”

The Call We’d Been Waiting For

A week or two later, we received the phone call. I was in the clear. The lesions were something entirely benign called bone islands. No metastases. No bone cancer. Relief doesn’t quite cover it.

Choosing a Treatment Path

Now it was time to decide on treatment. The NHS options included:

- Surgery — specifically RALP (Robotic-Assisted Laparoscopic Prostatectomy)
- Traditional radiotherapy
- Newer ultrasound-based treatments (HIFU)

I’m fortunate to have BUPA health insurance through work, so I contacted them and was referred to a prostate specialist at Spire Hospital, Little Aston. The consultant was excellent and walked us through every option in detail. It became clear that I was a strong candidate for a modern form of radiotherapy involving just five very high-dose sessions, guided by live MRI imaging. We were then referred to Dr Dan Ford, a true specialist in this field. He spent several hours discussing my case in detail and explaining exactly what he could offer. Pauline’s initial reaction to my diagnosis had been very much “Surgery — get rid of it!” Dr Ford’s patience, clarity, and depth of knowledge gave us both enormous confidence that the best option for me was MR-Linac radiotherapy. MR-Linac combines real-time MRI imaging with radiotherapy, allowing the treatment to be adapted daily with extraordinary precision — targeting the cancer while minimising damage to healthy tissue. After handshakes and hugs all round, Dr Dan took on our case and handled all the administration with BUPA.

Treatment Begins

By December, we were contacted by Genesis Care in Oxford. Six appointments were arranged:

- One for mapping and targeting
- Five treatment sessions

Treatment began just after New Year. Every few days, Pauline and I were chauffeured to Oxford and back in a private-hire Mercedes — a small but welcome luxury during an otherwise daunting time. The treatment itself is completely painless. You arrive with an empty bladder, drink a measured amount of water, wear non-metallic clothing (I invested in some jogging bottoms), and each session lasts between 30 minutes and an hour. You wear headphones and get to choose your music (Pink Floyd and Ibiza Chillout for me). I’m not claustrophobic and found myself drifting



off during sessions. The only indication that treatment is happening is a faint alarm when the linear accelerator is running. I did suppress a chuckle, the Doctors and Technicians to my eyes looked barely young enough to shave – they were, however, superbly professional, very proficient – and highly talented. Dr Ford was there one day, very pleased with my progress, and gave me another massive hug – by all accounts this is very much in his nature. So friendly and approachable.



Where I Am Now

That's me done. Recovery takes 2-3 weeks post-treatment, with possible side effects such as fatigue, urinary issues, erectile dysfunction, and hair loss potentially taking several months to resolve. In my case, side effects have been minimal. The cancerous cells will continue to die off over time. I have a follow-up in early February, a PSA test in March, and ongoing monitoring for the next few years. All being

well – and the odds are very good – I should be cured (in remission, I don't believe there is a true cure for Cancer just yet), with a strong likelihood that the cancer will never return. I am optimistic, pragmatic and can look back on what's happened with a smile on my face – and the comfort of the ability to share my tale and offer help and support to anyone setting out on their own journey.

I have had the support of the most fantastic and loving woman, my beautiful Pauline, who without a moments hesitation put her pains and suffering to one side to support me and take every step of this journey with me.



A Final Word to the Gents

This is a shameless, warts-and-all story and a plea to get yourself tested.

Be prepared to leave your dignity at the door, it's not a problem - they've seen it all before.

For me, the entire process was, at worst, mildly embarrassing – no pain, no sickness, and minimal side effects. I was lucky. I caught it early.

**Please don't put it off.
It might just save your life.**

W. Bro. Clive Andrews-Lewis PPrGPurs
Ashmole 8405, Legge 2784 - and more!

W. Bro. B. S. J. Sharratt PPrJGW 50 Year Celebration

On Thursday 27th November, the Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro John Lockley together with several Grand lodge, Provincial Grand lodge officers and visitors from far and wide, attended the installation meeting of Josiah Wedgwood Lodge No.2214 at the Masonic Hall, Shelton. But the lodge were also celebrating with W. Bro. B. A. J. Sharratt, affectionately known to the brethren as John, his 50-year membership in Freemasonry.

The Provincial Grand Master addressed the lodge during the meeting and requested two chairs be placed in the centre of the lodge and asked Bro. John to join him. The PGM then proceeded to discuss with John his career and masonic membership, much to the interest of



EMA members. RWM Dion Vanijk, Lodge Wellington No. 1385, in Belgium and W. Bro Neil Latham, Southport Temperance Lodge No.2815, Lancashire.

the brethren present who were unaware of the extent of his life's journey.

John was born in Burslem and educated locally before studying Hotel and Catering at North Staffs Polytechnic, where he met his wife Pam. He built an early career in hospitality, progressing rapidly from student work to hotel and restaurant management.

He joined Joules' of Stone as restaurant manager and as the manager of the Crown Hotel in Stone he became the youngest licensee in Staffordshire. Joules' a brewery which has an extensive history and dates back to the 16th century, was sold to Bass Brewery in 1973. John moved into a senior corporate career with Bass, holding multiple management and director-level roles across the UK and contributing to enduring brands such as Toby Carvery, Ember Inns etc.

In 1973 John moved with his family to Wales to take on work responsibilities, and then back to

Birmingham, finally with ten Bass colleagues, they formed the Voyager Pub Company, taking on 1000 pubs from Bass. John retired in 2003 aged 54, but he undertook consultancy work, served in advisory and trustee roles, and was recognised for services to the licensed trade. John married Pam in June 1973. John and Pam have three children and growing grandchildren, now enjoying retirement, he enjoys travel, and continued service, including RNLI involvement.

Having expressed an interest in Freemasonry to his Father-in-Law who was a member of Josiah Wedgewood Lodge. John was Initiated into Freemasonry in 1975, and has had a long and active Masonic career, serving as Worshipful Master in 1987, remaining loyal to his Mother Lodge, and joining several lodges and chapters following moves within the UK. John has been very active in the European Masonic Association (EMA) since 2007, serving as Speaker and travelling widely.

John joined The Striguil Lodge No. 2186 in Monmouthshire in 2007 and was exalted into Striguil Chapter in 2013. He was a joining member of St. John's Lodge No.818 and St. John's Chapter in Monmouthshire in 2015. He is also a member of Charles Lyne - Installed Masters Lodge No. 2964. In Monmouthshire John was appointed P.Pr.J.G.W. in 2025 and in Staffordshire Province he was also appointed P.Pr.J.G.W. the same year.

The Provincial Grand Master asked the attending Director of Ceremonies to read the Fifty-Year Certificate and the P.G.M. then presented the Certificate to John, thanking him for his long service to Freemasonry, before promoting him to P.Pr.S.G.W.. John warmly thanked the P.G.M. and all the brethren for their support, some visitors having travelled a considerable distance. A most enjoyable festive board followed.



Send your articles to: editor@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk

Norah Mitchell (Minerva Lodge 1942) Trust

On the morning of Saturday 8th November, at Hanley Masonic Hall in Shelton, Minerva Lodge held their annual Norah Mitchell Trust Fund charity grant event. This year a total sum of £3,000 was donated to six local charities, a sum of £500 each. The money was left to Minerva Lodge by the widow of a member of the Lodge with donations being distributed at various times of the year from the lump sum.

These charities to benefit at this event included: -

MIND NORTH STAFFS No. 700788

A mental health charity established in 1976 and based in Hanley. Supports adults, children and young people suffering from mental health problems through counselling and other therapeutic activities.

APEDALE VALLEY LIGHT RAILWAY No. 1100827

Based in the Apedale Valley Country Park, Chesterton, Newcastle. Operated by volunteers and provides trips alongside the country park from spring to autumn using historic steam and diesel locomotives and rolling stock.

OUR SPACE (STAFFS.) LTD No. 1169347

Based in Newcastle. Provides play, recreational and educational facilities for children and adults with all forms of disability, also providing respite for their families.

BENTILEE VOLUNTEERS No. 1175754

Established over 35 years ago and based on a large estate in Stoke-on-Trent. Offer services to the residents of Bentilee and the surrounding area by providing support and services that help raise aspirations, enable and empower

local people, support the disadvantaged and improve quality of life.

WALK, TALK, ACTION No. 12230721

Based at Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent. Aims to help those with a range of mental health problems get back to a better state of mind, principally by walking in groups. A ten step programme offers a bespoke walk, talk, action plan when goals are set to work towards.

GREYHOUND GAP No. 1158499

Based at Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent. The primary role of the charity is to take in, rehabilitate, and rehome greyhounds and lurchers which find themselves in a 'put to sleep' situation. Also takes in other dogs and is able to accommodate 40 to 50 dogs. All dogs are assessed before being matched to a new home.

The event was attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W. Bro David Thomas and the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Michele Santopietro and several other Staffordshire Freemasons. The presentations were made by several members and the current Master of the Lodge, Rod Mitchell. As well as the recipients many others including friends and family attended to support the various charities, and all were given a guided tour of the Masonic Temples at the hall.

W. Bro Howard Alcock, P.Pr.J.G.W.

Trustee and Secretary, Norah Mitchell (Minerva lodge) Trust Fund



MENTURIA 418 - FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH



Founded in 1834, Menturia is one of Staffordshire's oldest Lodges and one of the Province's distinguished 'Hall Stone Lodges', that donated to the Masonic Million Millenium Fund which was launched in 1920 following an appeal by Prince Albert, His Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught and Strathearn KG, PC, KT, KP, GCMG etc., the MW

Grand Master at that time. The primary goal for this proposed construction was to provide a fitting memorial which would honour those brethren who made the 'Supreme Sacrifice' during the course of the Great war 1914-1918. The aim would be to replace the building that stood on Great Queen Street, London which we now call the Headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England.

The Masonic Million Fund Commemorative Jewel was for individual Freemasons - a silver breast jewel cost 10 guineas or 100 guineas for a gold one. The second jewel designed was The Hall Stone Lodge Jewel which was awarded for Lodges who had paid an average of 10 guineas per member. The Provincial or District Hall Stone Jewel - The largest Hall Stone jewel is made of 18 ct. gold and is embellished with coloured enamels. To qualify for this jewel, the Province or District must have contributed an average of 500 guineas from its component Lodges. Hall Stone Lodge and Provincial Jewels are passed from Master to Master in recognition of their donations at that time.

Our History

The Lodge warrant was dispatched by coach from the United Grand Lodge of England on 17 October 1834. The first meeting took place the following Monday at the Albion Inn, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, with Ralf Stevenson as Worshipful Master. Originally numbered 606, the Lodge was renumbered to 418 on 1 July 1863. Following the example of the Hall Stone Jewel donation, the Lodge is reputed to be one of the first to support veterans of the First World War with charitable giving. Menturia has sponsored 29 daughter lodges: 25 in Staffordshire and 4 in Derbyshire, a significant contribution to Freemasonry across the region.



Recent Evolution

Over the past century, the Lodge has adapted to survive two World Wars and changing member interests. It evolved into a special interest Lodge for Classic Vehicle enthusiasts before re-rolling as an Armed Services Lodge in 2025 meeting four times a year. The Lodge aims to be a joining member of the Circuit of Service Lodges.

Current Charity

Following the ethos of the forebears of this Lodge, the current membership arranged a celebratory VJ event in 2025 raising a considerable sum that was



used to assist veteran personnel; in March 2026, members of the Lodge are taking part in the Royal British Veteran Enterprises Great Tommy Sleep Out to raise funds for the Charity that creates safe places for homeless veterans and offers them work placements.

Anticipated Meetings



Being an Armed Services Lodge, the aim will be that all veterans and serving personnel, whether current Freemasons or Initiates from the Armed Services, will feel that familiar brand of humour alongside a strong work ethic. Visitors will always be welcomed with open arms to enjoy the military precision

and style of the Lodge room followed by the "Force Fellowship" of the Festive Board where those who are eligible are encouraged to wear miniature medals at dinner.



The Lodge will be a working Lodge as well as a Lodge of interest. Guest speakers will be drawn from military backgrounds and visits to other Armed Services and Combined Services Lodges will be encouraged. Of special interest will be the visits to military sites and memorial locations.



Forces Fellowship

A Lodge for serving personnel and veterans from all branches, where shared military experience strengthens the bonds of brotherhood. None more evident than at the Installation meeting held in December 2025.

Our impact 2024/25 Staffordshire



TOTAL SUPPORT

£27,387,558

overall support provided

- **373** grants awarded to local and national charities totalling **£6,637,013**
- **2,883** individuals helped through grants totalling **£14,330,545**
- **£6,420,000** in support provided for residential care



LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

£139,966 given to charities in Staffordshire

- **£8,400** for children aged up to five affected by poverty and neglect
- **£120,000** for children affected by domestic abuse
- **£9,566** given through Hospice UK grants in your Province
- **£2,000** for other charitable causes

5 Staffordshire charities supported

Top charities supported include

- Pathway Project, Lichfield **£60,000**
- The Haven Wolverhampton **£60,000**
- Brierley Hill Babybank, Kingswinford **£8,400**

£208,822 given to Staffordshire charities from Relief Chests

Support for Staffordshire individuals and families

- **35** grants awarded totalling **£114,512**
- **24** individuals and families helped



“

This funding has been used to continue to support SPDC to offer a wide range of activities for children and young people with disabilities and their siblings to take part in. We have also continued to consult with children and young people to ensure that the activities offered represented their aspirations and wishes to maximise participation in them, as the underlying reason for this work is to reduce the social isolation and lack of self-esteem that participants tell us they experience.”

Sandwell Parents for Disabled Children

Information, Advice and Guidance

- **42** times support was given by our Advisers
- **9** times individuals and families received a visit from our Visiting Volunteers

Scan the QR code using your phone camera to view the national impact summary as well as other Province's impact posters or visit mcf.org.uk/impact-report

