

# SOURCE



The newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons

Issue 62  
March 2023



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# CONTENTS

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1. EDITORIAL	02
2. COMPLETING THE QUADRUPLE	03
3. FESTIVAL 2022	04
4. UNSUNG HEROES	06
5. GRAND LODGE PROMOTIONS	07
6. LODGE OF PROGRESS SKITTLES	08
7. DEFIBRILLATOR DONATION	09
8. 75 AT THE DOUBLE	10
9. FREEMASONRY AND RUGBY	11
10. MEMBERS PATHWAY	12
11. PROVINCIAL PEOPLE	14
13. BIG HELP OUT	16
14. BILL SHERLOCK 60TH	17
15. TELEGRAPH ARTICLE	18
16. ROYAL ARCH	20
17. MOTOR RACING EVENT	22
18. CUBIT CLUB	23
19. AROUND THE LODGES	24
20. LOTTERY	26
21. CONTACTS	27



## EDITORIAL

For those of you that attended the PGM's 4 in 1 session, I hope you were as blown away as I was with the amount of effort that it must have taken to deliver all four ceremonies in the manner that it was – not disregarding the logistics behind the scenes to organise. A great credit to Freemasonry.

As we approach the end of the season for many lodges, there are still lots of activities going on – not withstanding of course the end of Festival Gala taking place in May – please see the article inside and book in for what should be an excellent evening, for a very reasonable cost – plus be the first to see if we have made our £2,022m target!

Read on for a round of up events that have taken place, and more importantly those to come; hear the news from the Royal Arch, including an interview with the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent; plus, the next in our "unsung hero" articles; and lots more! But as usual, if you don't tell us, we can't publicise – my contact details are on the back page, just let us know what is happening around and about.

**A. J. Philpott**



# Completing the Quadruple!

**Well, in the words of that great entertainer, didn't he do well!**

In a 14 hour marathon, our PGM, Stephen Wye, completed in great style, all of the four craft ceremonies - starting with the passing of Bro Brett Lavin, followed by the initiation of Mr Benjamin Allsop-Timmins. Following lunch came the raising of Bro Kyle Toolan; and finally the installation of the new WM for Dofra Lodge No. 5775, WBro P. Walker.

This was not just a display of excellence by the PGM and the brethren involved, but also a fundraising event for the Festival 2022. At the Festive Board, it was announced that over £7,000 was raised specifically by this event. In addition, in the 3rd rising, several cheques were presented totalling over £15,000 for the Festival, from the Worcestershire Masonic Lottery (a massive £10,000!), the Lodge of Progress, Worcestershire Masonic Motoring Club, Aedificandum Lodge, and Worcestershire Chapter of Widows Sons.





# HAVE WE ACHIEVED OUR TOTAL?

Join our honoured guest the MW Pro Grand Master, MCF, Provincial Executive and 600 others for a fun evening celebrating six years of festival fundraising, and to see if we have achieved our £2,022,000 total.

Don't delay! Book now by clicking the link below, and receive a drinks reception, gala dinner, half bottle of wine, a "few" speeches and entertainment which includes dancing until the early hours to Swing Central. Swing Central, a wonderful band, will bring the era of swing back to life allowing us to celebrate in true style. Like many others, if you don't wish to travel home afterwards, we have agreed preferential rates at the hotel.

## END OF FESTIVAL GALA DINNER

The Eastside Rooms, Birmingham

Saturday 20th May 2023

**Patrick Firminger**  
Festival 2022 Chairman

[BOOK HERE](#)

**Worcestershire  
Freemasons presents**



# Your End of Festival Gala Dinner Dance

Live band and surprise entertainment

**Saturday 20 May 2023**

**The Eastside Rooms**

**BIRMINGHAM B7 4BL**

Pre Dinner drinks 17.15hrs, Tickets £60.00pp (no booking fee)  
sit down 18.30hrs

Bedrooms available on site at The ALOFT Hotel:  
£130.00 inc VAT, Bed & Breakfast for double  
occupancy

For more information and to book, click  
the button below

[CLICK ME](#)

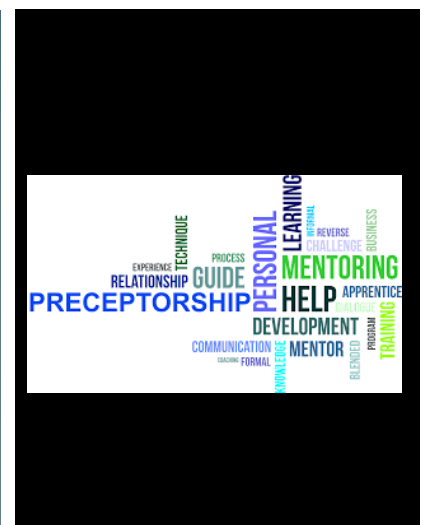
# THE BRETHERN YOU SIMPLY Can't do without

Mark Keepax explores the role of the Preceptor

One of the best experiences in Masonry is the joy of visiting a lodge where everything is well organised and runs smoothly to plan.

Ever wondered how a lodge manages to do this? Well in some instances, this is down to the work undertaken by this month's Unsung Heroes — the Lodge Preceptors. This article aims to shine a light on their often-overlooked work.

The Province of Worcestershire is blessed with wonderful Preceptors and the Rulers recognise their invaluable contribution.



All Preceptors ensure that a lodge operates within the governing principles set out by United Grand Lodge of England. The Preceptors remit however, covers way more than the mere formality of conformity. The dictionary definition being for a preceptor (from Latin, "praecepto") is a teacher responsible for upholding a precept, meaning a certain law or tradition.

So, what else does a Preceptor do? In essence, it breaks down into three distinct activities.

Firstly, that of giving counsel to the incoming new Master while assisting in formalising a well structured calendar of activity for him to preside over during his year in office. This involves careful guidance with recommending brethren for roles, advising on the promotions or advancements and help in identifying who will be undertaking the work.

The second set of activities extends way beyond the time they spend coaching and running the lodges of instruction to assist in mastering the proficiency of the formal ritual. It involves thought and action as to new members, resolving issues or concerns, while creating parties to support inter lodge visiting between fellow lodges.

The third element is to facilitate the building of true friendship between the brethren. It's this continued fraternity that is at the very heart of the craft. It is essential to masonry as it drives the allegiance that every brother feels for his respective mother lodge.

All these activities are framed against the backdrop of each lodge and conducted while upholding their rich traditions, pastimes and individual history.

Finally, the Preceptors also help the junior brethren to navigate the world that is not only Province but also the allied orders. It is through this shaping of thinking, careful advice on options or potential paths that ensures a lifetime of enjoyment for every brother.

This results in "Joined-Up Masonic Thinking", which is more than ensuring mere good sense as it's where collective intelligence flourishes. It's where we comprehend how interconnected we are, not only within our own lodge or allied orders, but with the Province and the wider world of masonry in the form of United Grand Lodge of England. Thus, strengthening masonry beyond the immediate boundary of the mother lodge room and securing its future.

This is a great epitaph for this month's unsung and simply irreplaceable hero, the Preceptor.



## GRAND RANKS ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to the following brethren, on receiving Grand Rank - either as a First Appointment or for Promotion:

Brody SWAIN - Grand Pursuivant

David L. DEY - Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Paul L. WONG - Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Lt Col Michael C. A. CASEMAN-JONES, TD - Senior Grand Deacon

Keith M. EVANS - Past Grand Sword Bearer





# **Lodge Of Progress/ Widows Sons Worcs Chapter Skittles Night**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 - 7:00pm for 7:30pm**

**Northfield Masonic Hall,  
641 Bristol Rd. South, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2JS**

## **Menu choices:**

**Fish, Chips 'n' Mushy Peas  
Beef or Vegetable Lasagne, Garlic Bread & Salad  
Under 14yrs, Chicken Nuggets 'n' Chips**

**Great Value - £12 adults / £6 under 14yrs**

**Email – [m.mackenzie356@btinternet.com](mailto:m.mackenzie356@btinternet.com)  
with names of people attending, please include menu  
choices for each person.**

## **Bacs Payments to: LODGE OF PROGRESS**

**Lloyds Bank Business Account**

**Sort Code: 30 96 12**

**Account No: 44314960**

**Reference: Skittles**





# Defibrillator Donation

**Thanks to Worcestershire Freemasons**, Droitwich AED has donated ten AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) to Worcestershire Police to help them provide lifesaving support should it be required. The donation was supported by the Freemasons charity, The Masonic Charitable Foundation.

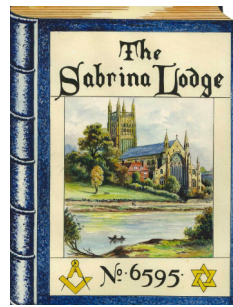
This follows a presentation earlier this month of five units to Kidderminster Police and five units to Bromsgrove Police, also sponsored by Worcestershire Freemasons.

**Peter Richards**, Founder and Trustee of Droitwich AED, said: It is a sad fact that most people suffering an Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) do not survive, currently only a rate of about 8.6%. This is mainly due to a lack of CPR and prompt defibrillation.

Defibrillators send an electric pulse or shock to the heart to restore a normal heartbeat. They prevent or correct an arrhythmia - an uneven heartbeat, that is too slow or fast. The lightweight battery operated portable device checks the heart's rhythm and sends a shock to the heart to restore normal rhythm.

**Stephen Wyer**, Head of Worcestershire Freemasons said: *"I am delighted that we have been able to increase the number of defibrillators donated to Droitwich AED. They will help Police Officers and staff to provide lifesaving support if the unthinkable happens across Worcestershire."*





*75 and a double!*



Last month saw not only the 75th anniversary meeting of The Sabrina Lodge No. 6595, but also the installation of WBro Jonathan Stubbs, into the chair of that lodge. He is, however, also currently in the chair of Sabrina Lodge No. 4158 (Shrewsbury) - the same name but pronounced slightly differently!; and the first time that this has occurred between the two lodges, for which, of course, a dispensation was required from both Provinces.

Visits between both lodges commenced in 1951. This collaboration, now in its 72nd year, is believed to be the longest such arrangement anywhere within the fraternity, and is recognised as such by UGLE. These visits are exchanged usually four times a year, and these pleasurable fraternal experiences were marked on the fiftieth anniversary in 2001, by an exchange of collarettes - of which Jonathan now needs to wear both of course!





As the Rugby World Cup is about to kick off  
**LONDON RUGBY LODGE N<sup>o</sup>. 857**  
INVITES OUR BRETHREN FROM ACROSS THE RUGBY  
WORLD TO

OUR LODGE MEETING  
**In the GRAND TEMPLE at Freemasons Hall**

For a CELEBRATION of  
**FREEMASONRY and RUGBY**

**On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 at 3:00 p.m.**

With guest of honour

**The Most Worshipful the Pro Grand Master (and rugby referee)**

**Jonathan Spence**

*AND we will be Initiating a 'well known rugby figure'!*

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**Reception and dining afterwards in the  
GRAND CONNAUGHT ROOMS**

Cost to dine will be £75

To reserve an individual place click [here](#)



To book a group click [here](#)



*NB The summons will be sent out nearer the meeting*

# The Members Pathway

Launched in 2017, the Members Pathway gave a framework for membership, it was a great success and well received by lodges through out the country.

In 2021 using feedback from lodges the Pathway was updated with a new design and structure but maintaining the core tools, techniques and message. Our Provincial Pathway Team, Nick, Chris, Karl & Martin hosted various Zoom sessions covering the main parts

## Plan Attract Engage Retrieve



We have received excellent feed from the zoom presentation, some lodges reporting that they have secured several re joining members by following the simple steps.

The next phase of the roll out is two Live presentations, one at Evesham and one at Northfield where our team will continue to explain the benefits of the Members Pathway.

## Two Live Members Pathway Presentations

**Evesham Freemasons Hall - Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7pm**

[www.eventbrite.com/e/worcestershire-members-pathway-presentation-in-person-evesham-tickets-591798123117](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/worcestershire-members-pathway-presentation-in-person-evesham-tickets-591798123117)

**Northfield Freemasons Hall - Friday 19th May 2023 at 7pm.**

[www.eventbrite.com/e/worcestershire-members-pathway-presentation-in-person-northfield-tickets-591792656767](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/worcestershire-members-pathway-presentation-in-person-northfield-tickets-591792656767)

**Book now using the links**



## Plan

The first section in the members pathway, titled “Plan” took the attendees through the two first Elements – Lodge Planning & Membership Action Plan.

The guiding principle behind these elements is to see the lodge move through the steps of Reflection, review, discussion and planning – all leading to the development of specific goals and the detailed plans to achieve them.

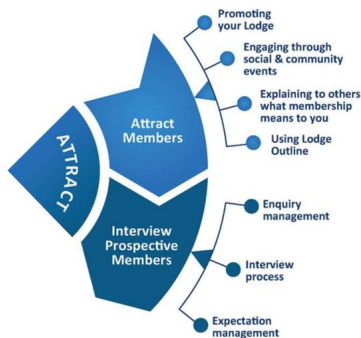
URL to hosted Video: <https://youtu.be/CarzsQAYNJ4>

## Attract

The second section, Attract, leads brethren through the stages of considering those opportunities to promote the lodge, be it in through events, community engagement online – or more specifically when presented with the situation of engaging with a non members. This section balances both the outward “marketing” plans of the lodge, together with the personal reflection required, to really consider and prepare an individual opinion and statement, ready for this engagement.

Additionally, it covers the steps involved in managing enquiries, interviewing and managing the expectations of new enquiries.

URL to hosted Video: <https://youtu.be/95-tBmnBoTw>



## Engage

The Third section, Engage, now directs its focus to the support and engagement of newly initiated brethren. It guides us through the process of understanding the desires and aspirations of new brothers, their needs in the lodge, the support they should be given and how to encourage their participation within the Lodges activity.

It extends into consideration of the planned learning, the progression, the mentoring and further, covers the introduction of the Royal Arch and where appropriate – managing Migration to other provinces.

URL to hosted Video: <https://youtu.be/XNxkQSB-kKQ>



## Retrieve

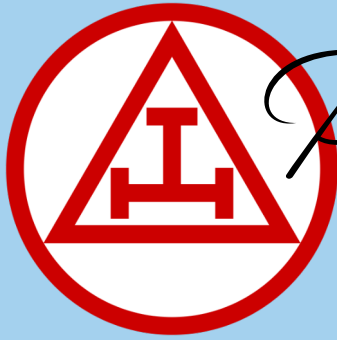
The fourth and final section in the Members’ Pathway covers the options and techniques available to re-engaging inactive members and the unfortunate, but necessary, steps involved in reviewing and understanding the real reasons for losses.

It begins with an overview and detailed suggestions for tracking attendances and apologies, to first highlight any possible issues and near-future resignations. It guides us through the hopeful re-engagement of those brethren, with suggestions and techniques for the outreach and communication required.

Where the resignations cannot be prevented – it then proceeds through explanations of unattached masons, seeks to explore the real reasons for losses and works to establish and refine a process for truly understand and more importantly, learning from those losses.

URL to hosted Video: [bit.ly/worcsretrieve](http://bit.ly/worcsretrieve)

**Put Simply : The Members Pathway works.  
Book your tickets to the live presentations and see how it will  
help your lodge**



# Provincial people

## JOHN M. PHENIX

***In this month's edition of Provincial People, WBro Mark Keepax is in conversation with the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for Royal Arch in Worcestershire, E Comp John M. Phenix.***

The Pro Grand Master/Pro First Grand Principal, Most Excellent Companion Jonathan Spence, believes that the next regular step for a Master Mason should be to join the Royal Arch. In his seven year strategy for Freemasonry, he emphasises the close link between the Craft and Royal Arch. We are One Organisation! On the Masonic journey this is where we discover the beauty of Companionship, and learn about the discovery of the Lost Word at the Building of the Second Temple. Hence the very close connection between Craft Freemasonry and the Royal Arch - and nowhere is that connection stronger than that which exists in the Province of Worcestershire.

The Provincial Grand Chapter of Worcestershire is the body for all the Royal Arch Freemasons in Worcestershire. Based in Bromsgrove, 'the Province' supports nearly 800 companions across 33 Chapters, there being at least one Chapter at every meeting place.

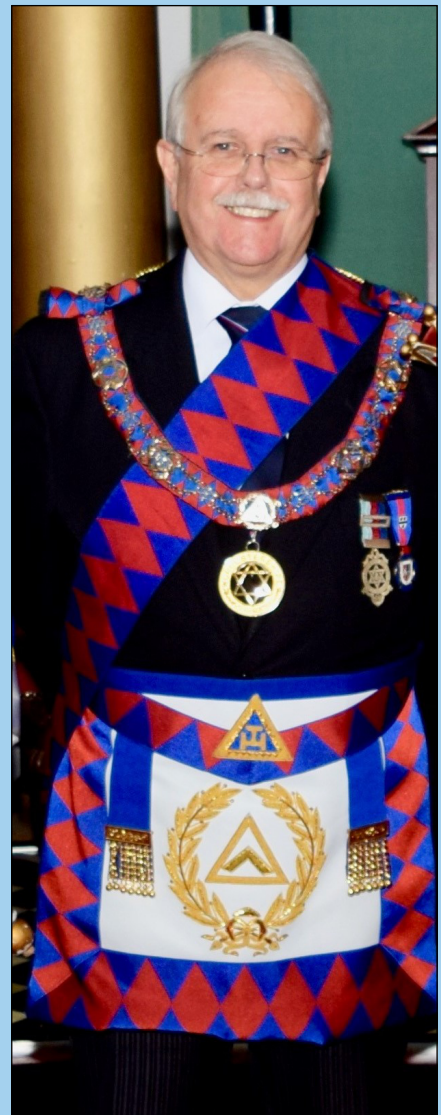
M.E.G.S. John Phenix follows in the steps of some of the most famous and distinguished Companions of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Worcestershire. These include Excellent Companions Ted Hanson, Barrie Cooper, Richard Price and more latterly Colin Brown.

In these post Covid times E.Comp. John is seen as being the "right man at the right time" and this article attempts to illuminate a little more as to why. It also shares some insights as to the current activity, and future focus areas for the Royal Arch in Worcestershire - as well as giving a background to the man, companion and the importance of Exaltation.

***Superintendent, welcome and can you tell us a little more about you and your Royal Arch background?***

I am married to Sandra, live in Staffordshire and outside of Freemasonry my interests include walking, reading, music and spending time with my family and many friends.

My Holy Royal Arch career began when I was Exalted into Wigornia Chapter No. 4935 in 1991 and installed as MEZ in 1998, 2004 and 2009. I served as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies from 2007-11, Prov. Grand Joshua 2014, Prov. Grand Haggai 2016-17 and was appointed Deputy Grand Superintendent in April 2018 and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in April 2019.



***Can you give some insight to the scope of the role of a M.E.G.S. in the Province?***

Within 12 months of taking over the leadership the world dramatically changed as we went into Covid lockdown. I am now entering my fifth year as M.E.G.S. and during May 2021 I put into place a range of plans and actions to reinvent and reinvigorate Royal Arch in Worcestershire.

Perhaps my biggest personal contribution is to lead the "get back to normal" in Chapter. While recognising and appreciating that there is still concern around attending meetings, my team and I are attempting to help all of the Companions to get the fullest enjoyment out of the close friendship and caring nature that characterises the Order.

Prior to March 2020 the role was firmly established along the traditional lines of the Order, but now it is somewhat different, given the post Covid world that Royal Arch now operates in. I lead the Province with the help of a multi-disciplinary leadership team of talented Companions, who play an ever increasing and important role in helping me facilitate the support and cohesion to the 33 Chapters spread across the Province.

***Moving forward can you share some insights as to your plans with regards to the work that will be undertaken in the next few years?***

My thoughts and actions are focused on maintaining all the good things that we currently do in the Province. I am also looking to supplement that work by focusing on both 'Recruitment and Retention'. A number of initiatives are already underway by the team that are bearing fruit on this front. I am confident that these will gain momentum in the coming seasons.

Due to the Covid legacy our personal concerns can cause us to miss the beauty of what's continually unfolding right before our eyes at every meeting within Royal Arch. In essence I'm looking to broaden that awareness in the Province and of the caring nature of the Order.

The emphasis is to focus on the closeness of the Order, as the meetings are more intimate in size. They are presided over by a team order style of approach that shares the work. This makes the exploration of the ritual and meaning of the ceremonies easier to deliver. Which when set against a backdrop of the discovery element makes Royal Arch a dramatic and enlightening signature moment for every Companion.

***Are you looking to emphasise any of the other unique elements of Royal Arch?***

I will continue to reference the way Royal Arch extends the links and people who make up the Province of Worcestershire. Chapter is an ideal way to make more Masonic friends and to network in an efficient and broader manner across the Province. It's directly from this people and connections element of Royal Arch and from engaging in a friendly fraternal manner, that leads to a deeper understanding of who is a member of the Province.

It's also important not to overlook the enjoyment and uniqueness of the Festive Board. The style and manner has some interesting ritual surrounding it which is highly entertaining and enticing - specifically in respect of the dialogue and interactions held between the MEZ and Principal Sojourner.

***Is there any Royal Arch Community Engagement work that you wish to highlight?***

Within the Province of Worcestershire Royal Arch has its own separate Charity Fund. This is the vehicle that allows donations to be made to the smaller and often overlooked local charities. It enables a direct connection to be made with the Community of Worcestershire at a local level. The donating of smaller amounts of around £500 to multiple causes has a tangible and measurable direct impact to the cause that is supported.

For example these have included supporting such organisations as the Black Country Food Bank. Which have been both in terms of money in the form of a small donation, but also time given freely by the Companions to undertake supporting tasks such as help stacking shelves. It allows the facility to be more than just a donation, but to be an active and direct participant in supporting critical local community charitable needs, demands and wishes.

***Finally, any closing comments that you would like to share with the Brethren?***

It is an honour to have the opportunity to take on the role of Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, to lead the Royal Arch community within the Province of Worcestershire.

I feel that my team and I can do some wonderful work and have a genuine impact for Chapter. Together we can build a coherent organisation that reflects the principles of Wisdom, Peace, Strength, Concord, Beauty and Truth that are the very essence of Royal Arch Freemasonry. While making it easier and a natural step to join Royal Arch. These are challenging times and I look forward to the future.

**WBro Mark Keepax**



Freemasonry places a great emphasis on helping those less fortunate than ourselves and supporting our local communities. To help achieve this aim, the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) is asking Freemasons to volunteer for The Big Help Out, a campaign to help improve our communities in commemoration of His Majesty the King's Coronation.

**The Big Help Out** is a not-for-profit fundraising campaign that promotes volunteering in the UK and provides people with opportunities to participate in and experience volunteering to create a positive impact in their communities. The initiative is open to everyone, and individuals or organisations can participate by joining or registering for an event. UGLE is backing The Big Help Out, along with some of the UK's leading volunteer organisations such as the Scouts and the Royal Voluntary Service.

This initiative will kickstart on Monday 8th May. It is an exceptional chance for Freemasonry to become a national partner and engage with its army of 165,000 volunteers. This initiative not only reinforces our historic ties with the Royal Family, but it also presents an opportunity for us to demonstrate our commitment to aiding those less fortunate than ourselves and improving our local communities.

To this end, UGLE is inviting all our members to get involved in this initiative and lend a helping hand in their community. We urge our fellow Freemasons to join us in this noble cause.

For more information and to sign up, click [HERE](#)

A dark blue rectangular graphic with a green border. On the left, white text reads 'UGLE IS INVITING ALL FREEMASONS' in large letters, followed by 'to roll up their sleeves and join the Big Help Out on 8th May to mark His Majesty The King's Coronation.' Below that, smaller white text says 'Share your Big Help Out story with us. The best stories will appear in FMT Magazine.' A blue button with white text says 'Click here and find volunteering opportunities big and small, near you'. At the bottom, green text says 'If you can spare an hour, fantastic. The day, amazing!'. On the right side of the graphic is the 'The Big Help Out' logo, featuring the words 'THE BIG HELP OUT' in colorful, stylized letters with mechanical icons.





# Bill Sherlock

## 60<sup>th</sup> CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

WBro William Sherlock, former chairman of Moseley Masonic Hall, and formerly of Remembrance Lodge, was recently presented with that rare item of his 60th Anniversary Certificate. It was presented by the Provincial Grand Master at the meeting of the Arter Lodge No. 2654, on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023, with a great number of old friends in attendance.



Pictured L - R: PGM, Christopher Hackett, William (Bill) Sherlock, and Robert (Bob) Tipping.

That same meeting also saw a third degree ceremony - to raise Bro Christopher Hackett, by WBro, Wing Commander, Doctor Robert Tipping, the Worshipful Master of the lodge and his officers.

Both Bill and Chris share an unusual distinction of been initiated into one lodge (in Bill's case, a Scottish Constitution lodge in India), but passed and raise in a different lodge.

**Photographs and article courtesy of Richard Weston**



# The Telegraph

The following (edited) article appeared in the telegraph this month, showing that good news is reported!

## **Leather-clad biker Freemasons accelerate membership drive**

For centuries the Freemasons have been regarded as a secretive society with ancient and arcane initiation ceremonies, whose adherents rarely discuss their membership.

But a surge in enquiries from people hoping to become initiated into the order is being spearheaded by a very unexpected group of Masons – leather-clad bikers.

Among the most high-profile and colourful of the Freemason's specialised lodges are those on two wheels. Their powerful machines and dramatic appearance along Britain's roads have helped drive up the number of enquiries about joining the Masons from 12,000 in 2020 to 18,000 in 2021.

There has also been a significant hike in the number of visitors to the website of The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), up from 65,000 in 2020 to 83,000 in 2021 – a rise of almost 30 per cent.

Among the most high-profile and colourful of the Freemason's specialised lodges are those on two wheels like the Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge (\* Ed - Lodge of progress in Worcestershire)

The Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association (WSMBA) said: "Our chapters have helped to increase Masonic membership through our presence and visibility during public motorcycle events and rallies."

There are nearly a dozen motorbike lodges, gathering together to support charitable causes and raise awareness of the order among other bikers.

These include the Mike Hailwood Lodge in Warwickshire, named after the world champion Grand Prix motorcyclist and racing car driver killed in a road traffic accident in 1981; the Freewheelers Lodge in Lincolnshire; Lodge of Progress in Worcestershire; and the Chevaliers de Fer in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Their initiatives included distributing food to vulnerable members of the community during the Covid pandemic.

But the motorcycling Masons are at pains to point out that although they wear patches and other identifying regalia on their leathers they are not biker gangs.

"They are bound by the Masonic Book of Constitutions and are expected to represent the fraternity positively at all times," said the UGLE, the governing Masonic lodge for the majority of Freemasons in England, Wales and the Commonwealth.



Ian Chandler, a former police detective and now provincial grandmaster of the Surrey Lodge, told The Telegraph: "Motorcycle lodges might be a long way from people's idea of the Freemasons, but it's the reality now."

Other specialised, trade- or hobby-based lodges include those for the armed forces, classic-car enthusiasts, farmers, golfers and rugby players.

Biking leathers have been added to the traditional garb of Freemasons. The growing interest in membership comes as the organisation urges existing Masons to be open about their affiliation and encourage others to join.

Jonathan Spence, Pro Grand Master of the UGLE, said: "We want to be a thriving membership organisation that people aspire to join.

"We have only recently been recording the number of enquiries given our new use of social media and this year was higher than last year, and we are extremely pleased with the volume we have received."

There is a waiting list of 6,000 people expecting to become members of UGLE, with more than 8,800 membership enquiries received in less than three months.

Mr Spence added: "We have been experiencing, post-Covid, an increasing trend of new joiners. We are certainly seeing the positive impact of converting enquiries into actual memberships.

Today's Freemasons insist the organisation's reputation for secrecy is far from the truth and is simply a hangover from the 1930s, when Freemasons were persecuted under the Nazis and maintained a low profile for self-preservation.

"We are not a secret society. We are about getting the best out of yourself as a human being while at the same time contributing to society at large," said Mr Spence.





## Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch Province of Worcestershire

**Well the last few months have been challenging for the Royal Arch.**

On 10<sup>th</sup> January, we saw the Chapter of Round Table hand back its Warrant. Those present will remember, with great emotion, the addresses to the Chapter from E.Comp Rob Fernyhough and E.Comp Keith Prescott . Whilst the Chapter may no longer exist, it is pleasing to note that many of the Companions have found a new home to continue their journey in the Royal Arch.

On 8<sup>th</sup> February, Arter Chapter also handed back its Warrant. It is always sad to mark such an occasion, particularly when the Chapter can trace its roots back to 1919 - having enjoyed its Centenary meeting only four years ago in 2019, an evening remembered by many . A heartfelt address was given by E.Comp Greg Boughton, who ended by exhorting the Companions of the Chapter to move forward and join another Chapter. Those Companions of the Chapter present, will be meeting for a curry night in the not-too-distant future, to reminisce of the joy they have shared within the Chapter over the years.



On a brighter note, Vernon Chapter played host to several visitors on 20<sup>th</sup> January, when members of the Provincial Presentation Team delivered the Commentary on the Ceremony of Exaltation. Credit must go to Ex Comp Colin Young, who was the author of this commentary a good few years ago, but it remains as interesting and enlightening now as it did when first delivered. Fortunately, two new Companions, Comp Chris Philips and Comp Paul Tuckely were present having been recently exalted, and were able to gain a real insight into the Ceremony of Exaltation.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January, one of the Provincial teams presented 'Talking Heads' at White Ensign Lodge No. 9169, who were joined by visitors from the other two Worcestershire Lodges that meet at Redditch. The presentation went very well, and there is at least one Candidate and a joining member for the Order. This presentation is aimed at those Master Masons who have yet to complete their journey through Ancient Freemasonry - and is designed to encourage them to seek to complete their journey by being Exalted into the Royal Arch, which is the climax and keystone of the whole Masonic structure.



The Travelling Sceptre is currently being held by Lechmere Hughes Volunteer Chapter, at Kings Heath Masonic Hall. A raiding party has been nominated, and are waiting for the opportunity to strike. Inside information suggests that this trophy could soon find itself sitting close to the River Severn, but it can only be there for a maximum of 3 months. Therefore, any Chapter who has yet to hold it, can apply to the next Holders and should get into training now, ready to swoop at the first available opportunity.

The Annual Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter will take place at Freemasons Hall, Kings Heath, on the morning of Saturday 15th April.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent is looking forward to welcoming all those who are to be Appointed and Promoted, together with those Companions of their respective Chapters attending to provide their support. As always it is to be hoped that every Chapter in the Province will be well represented.

### **E Comp Ian Fothergill**



*For all Masonic Motor Sport enthusiasts.*

*A Date for your diary!*

## *Minster Lodge No.5581*

*Regular meeting on Wednesday 19th April 2023*

*A Talk from W Bro Neville Hay entitled*

### *“Mostly Motor Racing”*



*W Bro Neville Hay has been a Freemason for over 60 years. A Lewis, he followed his father into Minster Lodge No5581 on the 19th December 1962. He was born in Kidderminster and worked in the family business for many years. His main claim to fame however, is through motor sport.*

*Neville has had a long career in commentating. His company, Neville Hay Ltd., now owned by his son, Richard, televised events all over the world. Neville began working as a commentator at club circuits in the UK, including Aintree where the British Grand Prix was held between 1955 and 1962. His skills at the microphone led him to work at major international events such as Grand Prix, the Le Mans and Spa 24 hour races. Between 1975 and 1991 he worked for BBC Radio and commentated on a number of Motor Sport events. He has also worked in television on the Indianapolis 500 in the United States, World Powerboats and for Channel 7 in Australia, commentating on the famous Bathurst Race.*

*We are hoping for a good turn out and that we may be able to make this a worthwhile charity fund raiser.*

*Please contact secretary John Pritchard for details at  
[john.pritchard23@btinternet.com](mailto:john.pritchard23@btinternet.com)*



# What a busy Cubit Month



Yet again, it has been an extremely busy month in the Cubit Club. Before I go any further, for those of you that didn't know, one of our founding members, WBro. Paul Wong, has been promoted to Assistant Provincial Grand Master. I am sure you will all join me in wishing him every success with his new role (well done Paul).

WBro. Simon Rogers held an outstanding Class of Instruction in Stourbridge, which had an impressive turnout for members - which included some seasoned COI members and some first timers. Simon is asking for members to suggest halls for upcoming COIs (let's have your thoughts). One of our first lodges of interest took place this month at Dewi Saint Lodge in Kidderminster - which was a meeting to be seen and had a large turnout of Cubit Club members. For those of you who were unable to attend, it even had an re-enactment of the Battle of Rorke's Drift at the Festive Board.

There are many more lodges of interest coming up this year. Keep an eye on our social media, and you can also check on coming events at "[thecubitclub.com](http://thecubitclub.com)", where you can find an events calendar.

The next quarterly curry club will be held in Northfield. This one is a must attend event, as it will be the last one for our current Chairman, WBro. Brody Swain (after two years in the chair). It would be great to see as many of you there as possible to raise a pint to our Chairman.



Bro John Fennell

# OLD BROMSGROVIAN LODGE NO. 5743

## *A rare 70 at 97!*

At the recent meeting of Old Bromsgrovian Lodge No. 5743, the PGM, Stephen Wyer, presented WBro Chris Price his 70 year long service certificate. Chris, at the age of 97, was in fine form, telling funny stories and holding the room in the presence of great company.





# AVON LODGE NO. 3569

## *Double Initiation*

### Seeing Double!

On 13th March 2023, Avon Lodge No. 3569 completed what is probably a very unique event - where a father and son were initiated into the lodge, in the same ceremony.

Bro John Morgan and his son Jack, were initiated in an excellent manner by the WM and his team, following by a lively festive board.



Pictured L-R: Bro Vincent Maher MBE (Junior Warden); Bro Jack Morgan (son); WBro Matt Hadden (Worshipful Master); Bro John Morgan (father); Bro Trevor McMillan (Senior Warden)

# LODGE OF BON ACORD NO 4935

## *50<sup>th</sup> Certificate*



### 50<sup>th</sup> Certificate

Congratulations to WBro Colin Ellis of Lodge of Bon Acord No 4935, who recently was presented with his 50th Certificate by WBro George Barrow.

# Worcestershire Masonic LOTTERY

March winners - Number 7

**S J Cartwright, Fort Royal Lodge No. 4565**

**N H D Farrington, Wenceslas Lodge No. 9836**

**N A Gordon, Lodge of Alliance (Warks) No. 5811**

**R Harrison, Bordesley Abbey Lodge No. 4495**

**P Petrucke, Lodge of Hospitality No. 8325**

All profit from the lottery goes to the West Midlands Air Ambulance, Acorns Childrens Hospice, and to the 2022 Charity supporting many different worthy causes across Worcestershire. Download an application form [here](#).



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