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The newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons



VW BRO STEPHEN J. WYER
PGM Designate

CONTENTS

1. EDITORIAL	02
2. PRO GRAND MASTER RETIREMENT	03
3. PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER ELECT	04
4. DEPUTY PGM ANNOUNCEMENT / GRAND OFFICERS	05
5. UKRAINE BROTHER AND TEDS	06
6. FREEMASONS ON A MISSION / WBRO CHARLES MORGAN GLYNN	07
7. WORCESTERSHIRE INSTALLED MASTERS	08
8. BILLINGSGATE DAY OUT	09
9. 21st CENTURY LODGES	11
10. GLITTERING STAR LODGE	12
11. DofE CELEBRATIONS	13
12. CYCLING THROUGH FRANCE	14
13. PANDEMIC DONATIONS	15
14. AROUND THE LODGES	17
15. PROVINCIAL WARDENS BIOS	19
16. CUBIT CLUB	21
17. FESTIVAL 2022	22
18. LOTTERY	27
19. CONTACTS	28



EDITORIAL

Our thoughts and prayers this month of course, include the terrible events going on in Ukraine. Several articles in this edition cover the actions taken UK wide by Freemasons, as well as individual and lodge events that you can partake in.

The round of changes and appointments continue – starting at the top with the news that following the retirement of MWBro Peter Lowndes, the RWBro Jonathan Spence will be taking over as Pro Grand Master in September.

Closer to home, our PGM Designate has been announced as VWBro Stephen Wyer, and he will appoint as his Deputy PGM, WBro Keith Evans; The PGM and DPGM will be invested at The University of Birmingham on Saturday 14th May, along with all the other first time Provincial appointments and promotions. This event of course will be a rare and special occasion that not many will have seen, so please make every effort to attend and support them all. And to conclude, we are pleased to congratulate all those that are receiving Grand Rank appointments. Phew! What a month of changes.

As usual, lots of other activities, information, stories and events coming up in this issue for your delectation, including an update on the Festival 2022; so grab that coffee and take this edition into the sunshine for a relaxing read.

WBro A. J. Philpott



PRO GRAND MASTER RETIREMENT

Most Worshipful Brother Peter Lowndes

On the 9th March 2022, the Most Worshipful Brother Peter Lowndes announced his retirement from his role as Pro Grand Master, and that his successor, Right Worshipful Brother Jonathan Spence, will be installed in September.

Peter was initiated into Old Etonian Lodge No. 4500 on the 20th April 1972. He was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on the 8th June 1972 and was then raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on the 19th October 1972.

Peter served as Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1984 until 1987 and was promoted to Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1995 - a role he held for eight years.

In 2004, Peter was appointed Deputy Grand Master and held the role until 2009 when he was appointed Pro Grand Master.

When the Grand Master is a member of the Royal Family, he may appoint a Pro Grand Master to be his principal Masonic advisor and to act for him on occasions when, due to Royal engagements, he is unable to be present. Brother Lowndes has performed this role with wisdom, humility and with consummate skill.

On behalf of all Freemasons of Worcestershire, we thank him for his service to our Craft.



PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER DESIGNATE VW Bro Stephen J. Wyer

We are delighted to record the news that has recently been announced and wish our new PGM Designate every best wishes for the future!

We are pleased to announce that, by the command of the Most Worshipful The Grand Master, His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, KG, he has offered the appointment of PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER for the Province of Worcestershire with effect from 14th May 2022, to VW Bro Stephen J. Wyer, Deputy Provincial Grand Master

The PGM Designate would be pleased that all Lodges are represented on this special occasion at the Investiture, and to include all those who have been Appointed and Promoted this year.

The Investiture and Annual PGL will take place on Saturday 14th May 2022 at The Great Hall, University of Birmingham.

In order for brethren to attend, you will need to register both for the Investiture Ceremony, and optionally for the luncheon, which is limited to 150 people. Please see the Provincial website for details, or click [HERE](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT

From the PGM Designate

I am pleased to announce that VW Bro Stephen J. Wyer (PGM Designate) will be pleased to appoint and invest WBro Keith M. Evans as his Deputy Provincial Grand Master at the May Investiture and Annual Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Investiture and Annual PGL will take place on Saturday 14th May 2022 at The Great Hall, University of Birmingham.



GRAND OFFICERS



We are delighted to record the fact that the following brethren have received a first Grand Rank appointment:

WBro His Honour Judge Richard J S Foster AGREG

WBro Barry Griffin PAGDC

WBro Iain Sharratt PAGDC

WBro Richard Simmons PAGDC

and that the following have received a Grand Rank promotion:

WBro John Crowther PSGD

WBro Michael Dykes PSGD

WBro Michael Taylor PJGD

Congratulations to all!



Ukrainian Brother

We are all seeing the terrible pictures on TV and social media of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. I am sure, like me, you find it upsetting and wonder what you can do to help and support. If you multiply these feelings by a thousand, I am sure we still wouldn't be close to the feelings of Ukrainian nationals here in the UK.

One such is Brother Max Grygorov, a member of Abbot Lichfield 3308. Max has been in the UK for many years but still has direct family who are trapped in Kharkiv, Ukraine. There is no way we can comprehend this situation.

When asked how we can help, Max explained sending cash is no good as the banking system has collapsed and he was topping up mobile phone SIM cards so he may stay in contact with them hourly. It is a very challenging situation there and hopefully there is some light at the end of the tunnel for Max's family, but this is only one story in a country of stories.

Abbot Lichfield 3308 held a raffle at the last meeting which raised a sum of £200 which was given to the Ukrainian appeal. If you would like to support, I would encourage you to donate to the Ukrainian appeal.

Freemasons and others wishing to support Ukraine are encouraged to donate via the Relief Chest online appeal page.

[DONATE NOW](#)

Ted to Ukraine!



Worcestershire Masons once again are in the vanguard of charitable giving. On Wednesday, WBro Phil Hannah handed over 144 teddies to Amy Farmiloe. Amy is an Emergency Nurse Practitioner, at Evesham Minor Injuries Hospital, and had volunteered to deliver the teddies to Redditch, where the school bus laid on by the Polish Charity, Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity Foundation will be departing for Poland.

The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity Foundation is one of the biggest and most trusted charities in Poland. They are organising school buses to take supplies for Ukrainian children who are refugees in Poland.

Amy said "The teddies make a huge difference to the children in our unit when they come in. They will be hugely welcome to the poor displaced children from the Ukraine"

The bus left Redditch on 12th March and we wish them a safe journey.

Once again we have Masons putting deeds into action to back up their fine words.

FREEMASONS ON A MISSION



The Old Carolian Lodge No. 7599 intends to organise 2 large vans with specific aid items and we are asking for everyone to support us to help fill them, either as a lodge or with individual contributions.



Please no perishable food items. Tins should have a clear picture of its contents and have ring-pulls or keys attached, as refugees may not understand English and they won't be carrying tin openers.

Other essential requirements are medicines, female hygiene products, nappies, sleeping bags and heavy duty cold weather clothing. While England may be having mild spring-like weather, the temperature at night in eastern Europe drops below freezing.

We're hoping that by making contact with Polish Masons will expedite distribution of the vans contents. The mission is reckoned to cost about £2500, mainly in fuel. Whether your contribution is financial or in kind, it will be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

Yours sincerely,
Bro. Mark Tissiman
Master Elect

For further information contact W.Bro. Glen Collins
Phone 07530 411554 or E-mail glencollins856@gmail.com

WBro Charles Morgan Gwynn

It is with great regret that we announce that Mrs Sylvia Gwynn has informed us that her dear husband Charles, passed away peacefully at home on Friday 18th March, surrounded by his family, a victim of the cruel and incurable Motor Neurone Disease.

We know just how hard Charles worked as our Provincial Grand Almoner in Worcestershire and held high rank in many Orders, including having been Deputy Intendent General in The Red Cross of Constantine. The joy of his company, singing and good humour will long remain with us.

Further details will follow from Province. Our thoughts and condolences go to Sylvia and her family at this difficult time.

WORCESTERSHIRE INSTALLED MASTERS

What the future holds?

The next meeting of Worcestershire Installed Masters Lodge No. 6889 will be held at Kings Heath, at 6.00pm on Friday 22nd April - the date having been brought forward from 14th May to accommodate Provincial Grand Lodge.

This will be the Right Worshipful Brother Robert Vaughan's last meeting at the lodge before his retirement as Provincial Grand Master.

We are delighted to confirm that on this special occasion, Shaun Butler, Deputy Director of Communications & Marketing for UGLE and SGC, will be attending our meeting to give a presentation and discussion on:

"Communicating Freemasonry - What the Future holds"



Shaun Butler

Shaun Butler joined UGLE in 2017 and has recently been promoted to Deputy Director and is also Editorial Manager of Freemasonry Today, with responsibility for member communications. He is a member of Letchworth Lodge No. 3505 where he currently serves as Senior Deacon.

Shaun grew up in south east London, and is now a governor at Welling School where he captained the school First XV rugby team for 5 years as a student. He went on to study Politics at Royal Holloway University. Shaun is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Marketing. He is a dedicated fan of Newcastle United Football Club (oh dear), the England Rugby Team and the England Cricket Team (which will explain his weathered look...) - Shaun's own words!

This should be a really interesting session when it is hoped Brethren will engage - and be encouraged to pose questions regarding the future of Freemasonry and how we connect with the public.

This meeting is open to all Masons from all lodges in the Province, including Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts, so it is hoped that Brethren of the lodge will encourage visitors who will be most welcome.

Please contact the Secretary, WBro Steve Middleditch: stevemiddleditch@hotmail.co.uk

WORCESTERSHIRE'S

— Great get-together —

Now here is a curious thing. Two coachloads of Worcestershire Freemasons headed to London on Monday 7th March for a Lodge meeting at Great Queen Street – and what a venue, as the meeting was held in the stunning Egyptian-themed Room 10.

The lodge concerned is Billingsgate Lodge No. 3443, which meets four times per year. And, as the name suggests, it was consecrated in 1910 specifically for Brethren in the fish trade. So what was the occasion?

Simon Westwood, the lodge's Charity Steward, takes up the story. "What an extraordinary day it was on Monday 7th March!" he says. "The Master, WBro Neil Francis, was initiating his 19-year-old son, James. Neil decided that it should be an event to remember and, as a result, approaching 100 Brethren gathered to witness what was a highly polished initiation, followed by a perfect explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board."

The occasion, dubbed the 'Grand Get-Together', was all the more fascinating as Billingsgate Lodge uses Taylor's working – and many Brethren were trying to spot the often subtle differences between Taylor's (the Red Book) and Emulation (the Blue Book).

After the ceremony, there was clearly relief as well as joy on the faces of both WBro Neil and his son. James said: "I have been looking forward to this occasion, which was postponed because of Covid, with some nervousness but I was absolutely astonished when the hoodwink came off. An incredible place to start my Masonic career! The reassurance of hearing my father really meant a lot and I knew I was in safe hands."



One of the two coachloads of Worcestershire freemasons



WBro Neil Francis and his newly initiated son James

Later, Neil commented: "I have had so many messages of thanks and appreciation – full of kindness, warm and sincere. As for James, he has been exposed to the 'white noise' of freemasonry since birth – now he knows what 'learning my words' means!"

There was of course much merriment on the coaches heading home at the end of a truly wonderful day. The Festive Board, held in the vestibules adjacent to Grand Lodge itself, didn't include fish! The opportunity was taken by many Brethren to explore Grand Lodge and enjoy the breath-taking magnificence of Freemasons Hall.



Such an amazing occasion does, of course, beg the question as to how many Brethren are today actually in the fish trade.

Bryan Bradford, the Lodge Secretary, laughed at the question, "None!" he says – but added thoughtfully: "Well; we have one Brother who runs a fish restaurant!" Bryan says that at one time, the Lodge must have met somewhere in a pub near the Billingsgate Fish Market: "But our records were lost during the War so I can't say for certain.

"I joined in 1991 and was initiated by another Worcestershire member who happened to be a butcher. It was a strong Lodge and only three were not in the fish trade. Over the years, more Brethren have joined from Worcestershire as well as Northamptonshire and Shropshire – and it is growing, but the number of those in the fish trade has gradually fallen.

"Because of the strength of the Worcestershire connection, we are exploring the options for an affiliation with Worcestershire PGL. I don't doubt that without this 'inducement to move from the West to the East', the Lodge might well have handed in its Warrant by now."

Billingsgate Lodge would welcome joining members as well as initiates. Meeting at Grand Lodge is amazing and, as Neil adds, "no less so for meeting there regularly – there is always something to discover about the place which may justly be considered the centre of the Masonic Universe!"

If you'd like to find out more you can reach the Secretary, Bryan Bradford, at bradfordbryan@hotmail.com

21st Century Lodges

6.30pm Wednesday 27th April 2022 at Halesowen Lodge Rooms

A presentation by The Provincial Learning & Development team

Do you want to make Lodge meetings
more efficient and enjoyable?

Come along to this presentation and hear tips and tricks to
make your meetings run smoother and finish earlier.

To book your place & meal contact the Secretary of
Halesowen Lodge No5635 —halesowenlodge@gmail.com

Lodge Opens at 6.30pm – Dining at 8pm

Menu : Tomato & Red pepper Soup—Honey Ham, Egg & Pineapple
peas, new potatoes—Brownie & Ice Cream. Veggie option available of
Quorn Cottage pie.

£23 including wine.





GLITTERING STAR LODGE

Installation Event

I have just returned from a memorable Masonic weekend, held at Kings Heath Masonic Hall by one of our last two travelling Irish lodges - Glittering Star Lodge No 322 I.C. and witnessed their installation ceremony.

Glittering Star came into being on the 3rd of May 1759, when the Warrant was first issued by The Grand Lodge of Ireland to a group of military Brethren, all members of the 29th Regiment of Foot. Sadly, some quick adjustments had to be made to our day, as our Worshipful Master Elect was one of several Brethren, who was unable to attend due to Covid infections. We hope that they all enjoy a full and speedy return to continued good health.



Pictured are the visiting Glittering Star Lodge No. 332 (Irish Constitution) on their installation in Worcestershire, on the 19th March. A wonderful night, and as our PGM commented "We are very proud of this close association. Long may it continue".

With over 40 English UGLE guests in attendance, the necessary steps were taken to ensure that the afternoon went well. And so it did. Our Guest of Honour, VW Bro Stephen Wyr was present, and we learned, that he had just been informed earlier in the day, that he was now The Provincial Grand Master Designate, following the retirement in May of our current PGM

So all in all, it was an afternoon of great enjoyment. At the dinner afterwards, cheques in the sum of £1,000 for the Vision 2020 appeal, and a further £1,100 for the Grand Lodge of Ireland Ukrainian appeal were handed over. A final cheque for £250 was also presented to the PGM Designate, to support the Festival 2022.

VW Bro Robert Bashford
Past Grand Master's Standard Bearer
Secretary of the Lodge of Research
Lodge 200 I.C.

Celebration event at Freemasons Hall

A very special event took place at Freemasons Hall on 8th March, to celebrate the £300K grant given to the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards (DofE from the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF, on behalf of Freemasons from the UGLE. The event was also a tribute to H.R.H The Duke of Edinburgh, a Freemason himself, who founded the awards in 1956.

Along with our Provincial Grand Master, I was invited to attend this very special occasion in recognition for amounts donated to various Provincial Masonic charities from the W.M.C.O. Provincial Lottery, which I created in 2003.

The event commenced with an inspirational address from Spencer Aston, who was involved in a terrible car accident, which left him near to death and in a coma for months. Before the accident he had commenced the DofE Bronze challenge. Although now severely disabled after the accident, Spencer achieved all awards, including gold. The DofE scheme supported him throughout.

Interesting addresses were also given by several other speakers including UGLE CEO, Dr David Staples, and Les Hutchinson, CEO of the MCF.



After the addresses, in groups of 5, we were individually presented to honoured guests, our Grand Master H.R.H the Duke of Kent & H.R.H The Earl of Wessex. Without any shadow of a doubt, this was one of the most honoured and enjoyable moments of my Masonic life.

Afterwards we were invited to move to another room to enjoy canapés and drinks, where I had the pleasure of chatting to many interesting people, most, but not all, Masonic. As I was wearing a blue suit, I decided to wear my blue 'Lifelites' tie. As luck would have it, the photo of the PGM and I is with Simone Enefer-Doy, CEO and Chair of Lifelites, the charity that supports children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.

Derek Taylor

CYCLING THROUGH FRANCE TO SUPPORT LIFE SAVING CHARITY



Bro Richard, JW of Dormer Lodge 7294 recently participated in The 'Le Tour in 24' event which took place on Friday 4th February 2022 and Saturday 5th February 2022, in Solihull's Touchwood Shopping Centre, raising much needed funds for the charity, "Arrive Alive".



Arrive Alive funds vital lifesaving vehicles and equipment for Community First Responder groups (CFR's), who attend life threatening medical emergencies.

CFR's are trained volunteers who are dispatched via a 999 call and can reach a medical emergency in those vital seconds/minutes prior to a road or air ambulance, due to being directly based within the heart of the community.

In support of the charity, teams and individuals cycled the length of Le Tour De France on six stationary bikes.

Richard was supported with a donation from the Province, Match Funded by the MCF and was the highest single fundraiser taking part raising a magnificent £1,641.

Richard will be looking at further fundraising activities when he is installed as Master of Dormer Lodge in 2024.

**David Dey
PGChStwd**



WORCESTERSHIRE

Almost £5m Pandemic Donations

Worcestershire Freemasons, together with The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), has awarded more than £4.7m through four Covid-19 relief programmes, focusing on community support, food support, domestic abuse, homelessness and mental health.

Covid-related donations from Worcestershire Freemasons began in 2020 and since then they have contributed for a total of £4.7m to help those in need. The donations are being used to help communities in various critical areas, including foodbanks, support for unpaid carers, personal protective equipment (PPE), schools, mental health, homelessness, supplies for hospitals and hospices, domestic abuse, tablets, funds for NHS workers, ambulances and equipment.



To support the community, Freemasons also worked 18 million hours as volunteers in a range of different areas where there was a need, including driving vulnerable people to hospital, preparing meals, taking care of people at risk and organising care packages, as well as producing scrubs, PPE and hand sanitiser.

Worcestershire Freemasons helped to provide essentials to vulnerable people and those that were shielding, activity packs for isolated older people and young children, podcast recordings for those affected by vision impairment. They also donated care packages for care home and NHS staff, hardship grants for those in need, home comforts for Covid-19 patients, and transport and equipment provision for medical professionals responding in the community.



In addition, at least 141,150 visors and face masks have been donated, alongside more than 3,000 sets of scrubs and gowns to hospitals, care settings and hospices. Also, more than 130,000 meals have been provided for those in need and approximately 60 food banks have been supported.

Meanwhile, to help protect women and children from domestic abuse, Freemasons donated more than £165,000 in 2020. During the Covid-19 lockdowns, the donations helped more than 2,000 women, with parcels containing essential items for those fleeing domestic abuse.

To support mental health issues, more than 130,000 children and young people are currently being supported by the Freemasons. Alongside this, almost 1,400 adults benefited from better support. The programme is assisting those in need by giving 100,000 children and young people access to information, support and guidance online.

In addition, children are also being supported with mentoring and skills workshops. Teachers, professionals and parents are being supported via three projects, offering mental health first-aid training, learning events and parental support.

Concurrently, Worcestershire Freemasons are supporting homeless people with more than 30 different initiatives. A total of 39 charities have been helped. Of these, 15 individual Emmaus organisations have received grants. The funds have provided accommodation to 1,080 individuals, while 300 people have been supplied with food daily and 250 with food weekly. They have also been given access to services such as counselling, and employment and training opportunities.

Elsewhere, to support thousands of families struggling during the crisis, Freemasons donated 300,000 meals and 38 tonnes of food to homeless people, women's refuges and vulnerable people, supporting more than 120,000 individuals in total. Moreover, £560,000 was donated to provide meals and help numerous foodbanks.

Dr David Staples, chief executive of the UGLE, said: "During these last two years, we set out to donate at least £3m to Covid-related causes and we have exceeded our expectations by donating almost £5m. It is with great pride that I see all Freemasons have rolled up their sleeves and worked hard to do their best and help those most in need."

He continued: "Our response to the pandemic shows what Freemasonry is all about; supporting those in need, giving back to our communities and volunteering where it can make a real difference. Freemasons have been doing this for more than 300 years, and I am proud of the time and commitment that our members have given to support the nation in its fight against Covid-19."





Chaddesley Corbett Lodge No. 8942 Father and Son, Dual Province, Double Second



Chaddesley Corbett Lodge No. 8942, was very proud to hold a unique ceremony where we not only passed our own candidate to the degree of FellowCraft but also his son who is a new mason at Collegiate Lodge No. 9943 from the Province of Warwickshire

Peter James SMITH (father) and James Michael SMITH (son) of Trimpley, Kidderminster are father and son who joined Freemasonry in close succession but it was James (son) who joined Collegiate Lodge in Warwickshire first to be closely followed by his father, Peter, who joined Chaddesley Corbett Lodge in the following months.

James was able to see his father initiated and from that point the two lodges agreed it would be something truly special if they could go through their second-degree ceremony at the same time.

The Worshipful Master, officers and brethren from Chaddesley Corbett Lodge were joined by the WM and supporting officers from Collegiate Lodge alongside other wonderful visiting brethren (listed below) to make the evening a great occasion for both candidates.

Ian M Kearns
Website and Online Media



The photo shows both Peter and James accompanied by the Worshipful Master's of their respective lodges

St. Mary's Lodge No. 3879 60 at 600!

St. Mary's Lodge No. 3879 in Kings Heath Masonic Hall, was pleased to welcome honorary member RWBro Robert Vaughan to our special 600th Regular Meeting on 11th March, 2022.

He presented WBro Joe Jordan DL PPSGW (Warks) with a 60 Year Certificate. and appointed to the rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden. The PGM also presented a celebration cushion for the 600th Regular Meeting to the current Worshipful Master Bro Mukesh Patel, attended by WBro Nigel Bailey PPSGW Director of Ceremonies on the night



WBro Andy Johnson
Lodge Secretary

Abbott Lichfield Lodge Gets going!



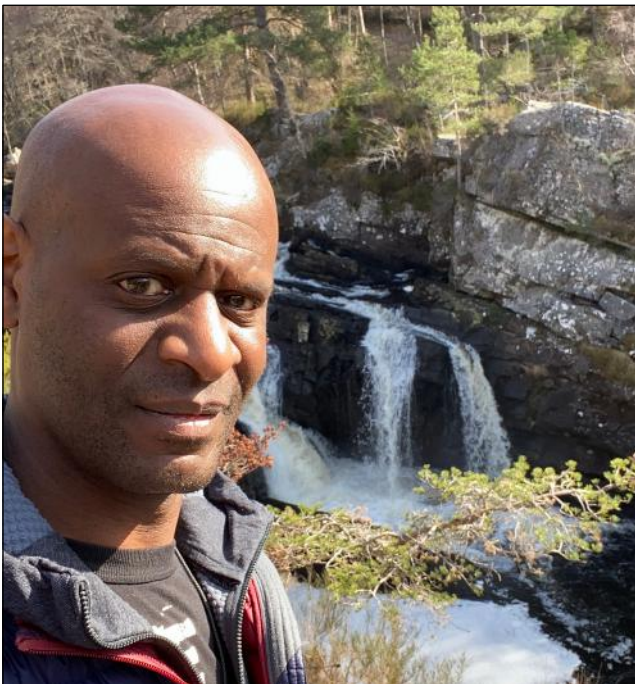
Abbot Lichfield Lodge No. 3308 has had a very busy opening to the year. WBro Steven Hillard was invested in the Chair in January. In February he conducted a first degree ceremony, and in March a third degree ceremony. The Worshipful Master and Abbot Lichfield have a very busy time ahead including a couple of initiations, a very special third degree (more on that to come later) and up to three second degree ceremonies - if he can fit it all in!

Bro John Fennell

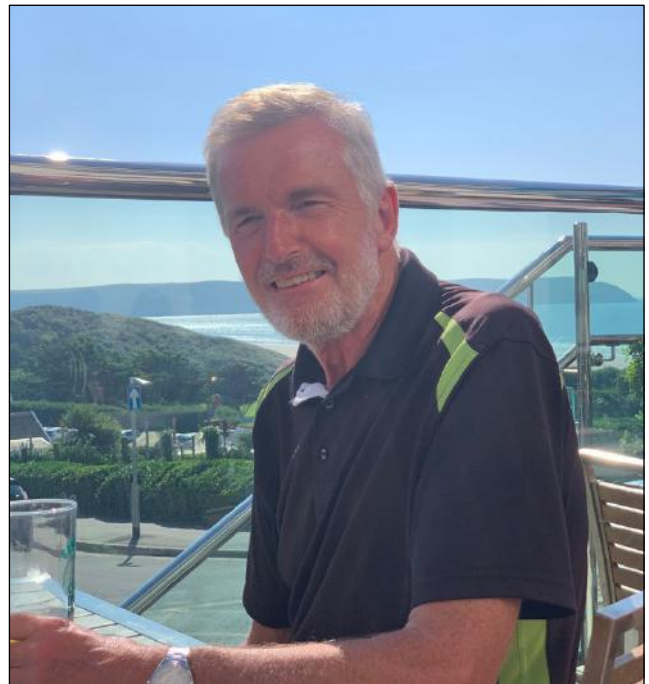
Get to know the new Provincial Wardens

Issue 51 announced our two new Provincial Wardens – WBro Del Padmore as Senior Warden and WBro Neil Nicholls as Junior. They will be invested at the May Provincial meeting in Birmingham – that’s when the hard work begins.

Ian Crowder has been chatting to them to find out more about how they came to be Freemasons and their view of the path ahead. Ian found them both to be extremely excited – if a little apprehensive – about their appointments but there’s no doubt that both will give 110% to their respective tasks!



Wanderlust Senior Warden, Del Padmore



Hole in One for Neil Nicholls, Junior Warden

How did you first become aware of Freemasonry?

Del: Well, I was on my knees at the time, when a chap called Ian Blackburn was helping me lay my patio! He happened to drop into the conversation that he had become a Mason. I said to Ian: “I’m quite interested in that!”.

Neil: At the 19th hole! I was invited by a long-term golfing friend, Andy Horn. We had talked about it before but after I had been lucky enough to retire, age 55, as a dentist, I had more time.

How did you come to be initiated and where?

Neil: I was initiated by Andrew, at Wyche Lodge no. 3638 in Worcester.

Del: Gosh, as soon as I said ‘I’m interested’, things seemed to move fast and I was soon initiated into Forge Mill Lodge no. 9658. I was 31 at the time, so comparatively quite a youngster.

So, the blind came off at your initiation – what was your reaction?

Del: I suppose my first reaction was awe and wonderment – and may be an element of ‘You’re taking the Mickey – what have I let myself in for?’ But the work in the Lodge was so smooth. Barry Griffin delivered the Charge as if he was having a chat. It was only later I realised that he had learned it!

Neil: A bit like Del, what really struck me was how the Brethren spoke without books, for example the charge. The realisation that it had been learned really amazed me.

So how did you get the knack for learning? After all, it's a pretty essential part of your new appointment!

Del: I quickly decided that I wanted to be a ritualist and received a lot of help from Barry – he is a shining star! Forge Mill takes a great pride in its ritual and that many members – including me – have gone on to active Provincial roles really speaks for itself. A good delivery is something candidates and Brethren remember and that has been something I've strived for. I like to make sure I am at my absolute best in whatever I do.

Neil: In a way this frightened me – approaching my passing I had to learn the answers to the questions. But I had never learned any text in my life and I didn't know how I could possibly do it. But, I love the use and meaning of language and so was determined to give it my all. In my view, many who struggle don't work out how best they learn and everyone is different. I thought back to doing my exams as a teenager and remember revising in a kind of geographic form, if you like 'mapping it out' in a visual way on the page and turning the pages in my mind. I learn ritual in the same way, but I must stress that a lot of hard work goes into it.

When did you reach the Chair?

Del: It was in 2010 that I became Master. Until then, I had always thought I couldn't be phased by anything, may be because of my police career. But being placed in the Chair, I admit I felt a bit of fear and asked myself, 'Can I do this?' Installing my successor came round too quickly though – it seems just as you are getting the hang of it, it's time to move on.

Neil: Like Del, I also seemed to progress quickly. I eventually became Master in Wyche in February 2017 and also in Mitton 6904 in April 2017, dispensation being obtained to allow me to be Master of two Lodges at the same time.

How did your first Provincial honour come about?

Del: It seemed to happen very quickly – I'd say within three years of being in the Chair which is pretty fast-track. I had thought that I'd like to go into Stewards Lodge and wear the red tie but somehow, I jumped past that to become an ADC and was extremely honoured to have been asked! I remember when Bob Vaughan was appointed PGM and watching the ADCs – I was hooked. To be appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden ... wow, just wow!

Neil: I was still in the Chair of both Lodges when I was surprised to be offered my first Provincial appointment, Provincial Grand Steward, in 2018 and wear the red tie, which I accepted with immense pride.

How were you told of your new appointment?

Del: I was at Stourbridge as a provincial rep, doing my duty at an installation. There was no team because of Covid but the Lodge wanted me to give the three addresses to the Master, Wardens and Brethren. As it happened, Stephen Wyer was there as a guest and he volunteered to do the address to the Master and I acted as his DC. Now just before it started, Stephen said: 'Can I have a word? The PGM has a job for you....'. I didn't know what to say except YES! – I was on Cloud Nine – so much so that I forgot my words at one point and the cheery voice of Justin Parker rang out to prompt me, after I have been prompting him all these years! I struggled not to burst out laughing!

Neil: Well, I was walking in the Malverns at a tricky spot with a very steep slope to one side. My phone rang and it was Stephen Wyer, with the news that the PGM would like me to be the Provincial Junior Grand Warden. I was so surprised that I almost missed my step, falling down the slope! I'm particularly thrilled about working with Del. I have watched him perform as a Provincial DC. He is mesmerising and to be accompanying him is just such a privilege – what an adventure this is!

Freemasonry has gone through some difficult months. How do you feel the province is placed right now?

Del: There is lots of work to do in crossing the age gap bridge between where the movement largely is and the group we want to be. Don't get me wrong, those bridges are being built but society is changing. The pomp and ceremony of Masonic life, wonderful though it is, is now largely gone from life in general and I think many young people joining us struggle to understand what we do and why we do it. Too many lodges are simply fading away with no succession and the gap between our elders and our initiates is widening. But, great things are happening. For instance, the revised Members' Pathway and Cubit Club give me great optimism for the future – they can help to make Freemasonry relevant to modern life. There are some incredibly enthusiastic and talented people at Grand Lodge – David Staples for example; and a lot is being done to open Freemasonry to the world. We all need to work on that middle ground.

Neil: I share Del's view about bridges needing to be built. There are many we need to entice back too, to remind them what they are missing. It's a big challenge to attract younger people in, family and work commitments are huge. It is particularly good seeing the number of new enquiries coming through the website and referred from UGLE. There is something for everyone in Freemasonry but I agree that there is a big gap between older Masons who may be struggling to keep their Lodge going and younger Brethren coming in now. Sadly I think we will see more lodges fail but if we retain those Brethren, that could give strength to others that are thriving. The solution is in our own hands and, fortunately, the membership decline seems to be levelling off. The PR is excellent and there has been some good stuff in the national newspapers and on TV. It's touching people who are looking for something in their lives that is really worthwhile and meaningful. We have a great communications team in Worcestershire too, getting positive messages out.

WBro Ian Crowder



CUBIT CLUB'S

Packed February Schedule

As we all know February is the shortest month of the year, however here at the Cubit Club it only meant we had less days to pack in our busy schedule. February brought our Class of Instruction (COI) road show to Rainbow Hill Masonic Hall in Worcester. This month's COI also included an added bonus, in a guided tour of the library and museum.



The focus of this COI was looking at Masonic orders that come after Craft. This led in to an in-depth explanation of the Holy Royal Arch - which meant it was handy to have the museum which helped explain the regalia. It was also explained why the Holy Royal Arch banners are seen in the lodge rooms.

The attending brethren had yet another treat in store for them as our own provincial DC, WBro Pete Broughton, gave a hands on demonstration on how we do things "correctly" in Worcestershire. Word is spreading rapidly on the Cubit Club's COI's, and numbers are increasing each and every month

February also saw the first ever Cubit Club Ambassadors' zoom meeting. As I am sure you are aware - Cubic Club Ambassadors is a brand new initiative introduced by Worcestershire, and we intend to have at least one Ambassador at each hall.

Our first zoom meeting was intended to just be a meet and greet, however in the true spirit of the Club it turned into an extremely productive meeting with ideas flying in all directions which I will have great delight in reporting back to the committee. It was obvious everybody had a desire and will to move the initiative of the Ambassadors forward.

Bro John Fennell

JOIN THE



CUBIT CLUB

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD BE A CUBIT CLUB HALL AMBASSADOR? I AM STILL LOOKING FOR BRETHREN TO BECOME HALL AMBASSADORS IN SEVERAL HALLS. IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES PLEASE CONTACT ME:
John Fennell - jjfennell01@icloud.com



FESTIVAL 2022 UPDATE



A message from the Festival Chairman

In recent times, it has been all too easy to forget the value of our Freemasonry, the good we do and enjoyment we derive from it. We must remain positive and ensure we protect what we have.

During the pandemic, the MCF and Freemasonry's good work continued, providing those in need with more help than ever before. That said, never has the fundraising challenge been greater than over the last two years. The pandemic has clearly impacted what we might raise and has compromised our ability to reach target, but will we reach it? I still believe we will. Your Festival Committee has been looking at our progress in all sorts of ways, and it shows us being tantalisingly close to reaching our goal. One thing we can say without fear of contradiction, we cannot do it without you.

However, we are back. We have just over a year to go, so I urge you all to give it one last push to get us over the line. Let's give it our best shot and see how close we can get to £2,022,000

I wrote to everyone just before Christmas, to see if we might reach £1.6m before Provincial Grand Lodge in May. It seemed like a tall order at the time, but since then the total has steadily climbed. On our present trajectory, we are going to be close, so if your Lodge is looking to make a festival donation, please send it in sooner rather than later. Provincial Grand Lodge is only a month and a half away.

Brethren, we are supporting a great charity. It is our Charity. If you wish to know more about why we are raising money for the MCF, then there is no better advert than visiting the MCF website at www.mcf.org.uk. More specifically, reading the better lives magazine by following the link shown in the coming articles.

With a year to go, now is the time to re-energise and consider how you can again fundraise and help support the MCF. Make them a charity of your choice.

Patrick Firminger
Festival 2022 Chairman

How is the Festival progressing?

As Freemasonry opened again, fundraising began returning to normal. Through your hard work and ongoing support, at the end of February our festival total stood at

£1,554,390

A figure of more than £1,550,000 is one we should be proud of!

In November last year we asked whether we might reach £1,600,000 by Provincial Grand Lodge. With two months until then, this is now within reach. If your Lodge was intending to donate, then please help by doing so as soon as possible.

COME DINE WITH THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER THE DRAW HAS NOW TAKEN PLACE. WERE YOU A WINNER?



Congratulations to the three lucky winners. They are:

W.Bro. P. Milner
W.Bro. J. H. Crowther
W.Bro. A. Watts



Thank you to all those who took part, and better luck next time for the rest of us. Thanks must go to W.Bro Richard Macey, who will be Chef for the evening. He will ensure they enjoy excellent food and wine, which will be enjoyed in good company. Enjoy the evening and we look forward to hearing all about it.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE WON COME DINE WITH ME, BUT THERE IS STILL TIME TO ENTER THE

GRAND WINE DRAW

The draw will take place on, or shortly after, 12th May 2022.
Please give it a final push and send in your returns as soon as possible. If you need more tickets, send an email to PVF@worcestershirefreemasons.com



FESTIVAL FINALE CELEBRATION 20th May 2023

The Eastside Rooms, Woodcock Street, Birmingham B7 4BL



The date and venue for the finale celebration has been set. Parking a minute's walk away, close to the City Centre and Moor Street Railway Station

The Eastside Rooms has been booked for Saturday 20th May 2023. Get the date in your diary and full details will be issued soon.

We have reserved the entire venue, including hotel rooms, so that we can enjoy a fantastic celebration of what the province has achieved over the previous years.

There will be a limit on numbers, so when full details are issued, you will need to get your name down and reserve your places as soon as possible

This will be a tremendous evening with entertainment and will be an event to be remembered.

THERE ARE A THOUSAND REASONS WHY WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE MCF
Make it a Charity of your choice

READ THE BETTER LIVES BI-ANNUAL MAGAZINE

Hearing about the MCF and its good work is one thing, but have a look at the Better Lives Magazine and you will find many real-life stories, advice for those needing support and lots more MCF news.

**SEE THE GOOD YOUR FESTIVAL FUNDRAISING
IS DOING FOR FREEMASONS, THEIR FAMILIES AND OTHERS**

www.mcf.org.uk/media/better-lives

UPCOMING EVENTS



Premiership Rugby

Saturday 30th April
2022

Warriors vs Saracens
Sixways Stadium,
Worcester
Reserved Seats and
Lunch
Kick off 3pm
£35

For full details and
booking form
See the Provincial
Website

worcestershirefreemasons.com

Join us for a
GARDEN PARTY
supporting the
 Masonic
Charitable Foundation

WORCESTER PITCHCROFT
16th & 17th July 2022

Street food, refreshments, beers, live music,
displays, stalls, family fun and more

National Masonic Vehicle Association
**CLASSIC & MILITARY VEHICLES
DISPLAYS**
For display bookings contact: Peter Hughes at peterchristine@aol.com

Worcestershire Inter Province
SUNDAY ROWING REGATTA
Headline Race featuring
Assistant Grand Master Sir David Wootton + crew
Rowing Crew entries contact David Davis at david.davis@djdgroup.co.uk

DUCK RACE

All proceeds to Worcester Festival 2022

SPONSORED WALK OVER HOT COALS

Watch out for this exciting event. It was to take place on "Burns Night" 2021 but had to be postponed. It will take place this Autumn

Applications coming soon.



EVENTS, EVENTS, EVENTS.

ORGANISE A LODGE EVENT. PERHAPS A LADIES NIGHT, BBQ, CHRISTMAS PARTY OR SPONSOR ONE OR MORE OF YOUR MEMBERS ON SOMETHING MORE ADVENTUROUS

If every lodge organised one or two additional events that raised £1,000 or more, it could raise £150,000 over the next 14 months. This would make such a difference.

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN

WAYS YOU CAN HELP WITH THE FESTIVAL

Would you like to get involved and help organise some of the current or additional Festival events?
If so, email PVF@WorcestershirePGL.org.uk
do it NOW!

PUT YOUR CHARITY MONEY TO GOOD USE

1



IT'S TIME TO EMPTY THOSE RELIEF CHESTS AND CHARITY ACCOUNTS

WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING FOR A RAINY DAY, THE UMBRELLAS ARE UP AND IT'S RAINING NOW.

Many Lodges have significant unallocated sums tied up in their accounts. They were raised for charitable purposes so unlock them and consider placing them in favour of the 2022 Festival now.

REGULAR GIVING

"With only two years to go, it's too late for me to take out a Regular Giving pledge and make it worthwhile"



If you take out a Regular Giving pledge today, to two years beyond Festival completion (April 2025), the **full** amount will be credited to the Festival, you, and your Lodge

2

LODGE COLLECTIONS

Whilst local charities are of course important, give consideration to allocating your Lodge collections to the Festival for the next year.

3

TIES AND JEWEL SALES

You can purchase ties and jewels from the following:

FESTIVAL JEWELS

Email
WBro David Rice (Festival Treasurer)
David.rice5224@talktalk.net

PROVINCIAL TIES

Email WBro Bill Tucker (Merchandise)
wfgtskin@aol.com



4

A BIG THANK YOU

To have raised more than **£1,550,000** so far is an immense achievement, but we still have a little way to go. This fundraising equates to approximately £635 per capita. The following shows some of the tremendous fundraising undertaken by us all.



**Provincial Grand Lodge of
Worcestershire
Worcestershire 2022 Festival**
As at 28th February 2022



	Lodge	Lodge	% members	total	per capita
	Name	Number	Reg. Givers	£	£
1	Old Edwardian	6141	15%	£27,984	£1,399
2	Elgar	9254	57%	£32,782	£1,171
3	Old Bromsgrovian	5743	28%	£70,932	£1,163
4	Elmley Castle	6247	10%	£45,544	£949
5	Moseley	5224	26%	£35,437	£909
6	Lechmere Volunteer	1874	26%	£30,496	£897
7	Remembrance	8323	47%	£16,912	£890
8	Fort Royal	4565	23%	£34,564	£886
9	Round Table	7961	71%	£21,234	£885
10	Teme	8491	39%	£15,850	£881
11	Page	3378	17%	£36,345	£865
12	Severn	5583	28%	£35,654	£829
13	St. Mary's	3879	4%	£22,229	£823
14	Vernon	560	15%	£46,556	£789
15	Perfection	8430	25%	£12,290	£768
16	Brandwood	7679	27%	£16,772	£762
17	Fellowship	6707	87%	£23,382	£754
18	Stability	564	46%	£18,281	£703
19	Lodge of Yardley	6324	38%	£9,069	£698
20	Red Rose of N. Worcs	8180	22%	£18,523	£686
21	Wyche	3638	21%	£12,896	£679
22	Wyche	3638	21%	£12,896	£679
23	Forge Mill	9658	60%	£28,361	£675
24	Avon	3569	45%	£13,320	£666
25	Unity	5812	4%	£17,018	£655
45	Lodge at No 45 Of 114		73%	£10,346	£470
65	Lodge at No 65 Of 114		17%	£10,223	£341
85	Lodge at No 85 Of 114		22%	£4,848	£269
105	Lodge at No 105 Of 114		0%	£0	£0

Worcestershire Masonic LOTTERY

As an added incentive, all those joining or taking out further entries between now and Provincial Grand Lodge on the 14th May 2022 (including entries subscribed on the day), will be eligible to be entered into a raffle for a bumper fruit and wine hamper - drawn on the day at PGL.

Last month's winners

J A Dayer of Wyche Lodge, No. 3638

I D Liversage of Elgar Lodge, No. 9254

M D Somauroo of Royal Standard Lodge, No. 498

W A B Sherlock of Remembrance Lodge, No. 8323

W F G Tucker of Elgar Lodge, No. 9254

P L Wong of Northfield Lodge, No. 5056

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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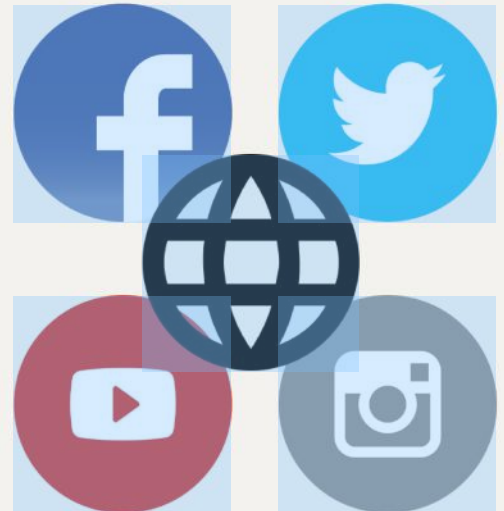
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