

SOURCE

The newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons

Issue 47

August 2021

WE'RE BACK!



FOOTSTEPS

Back onto the square. The importance of LOI

SECRECY

A secret society or a society that values privacy?

IT'S RAINING, MEN!!

The Widows Sons ride round the Province

CONTENTS

1. EDITORIAL	02
2. MESSAGE FROM OUR PGM	03
3. GRAND SECRETARY / LOTTERY	04
3. LOOKING FORWARD	05
4. FOOTSTEPS BACK ONTO THE SQUARE	07
5. AROUND THE LODGES	09
6. SECRECY OR PRIVACY?	11
7. MESSAGE FROM GRAND LODGE	12
8. NHS DAY	13
9. CUBIT CLUB	14
10. IT'S RAINING, MEN!!	15
11. CLASSIC CARS & FAMILY FUN	17
12. FESTIVAL 2022	18
13. LIBRARY & MUSEUM	20
14. ALMONERS DAY / DIARY DATES	22
15. CONTACTS	23



EDITORIAL

As I write this, I'm reflecting on the past 18 months. Hopefully, things are now getting back to a "new normal", and one of these is a return to our first edition of a regular monthly Worcestershire Source.

Over the past 18 months, we have published 65 editions of our weekly two page Square News - quite remarkably, given not much was happening during that interim period. But as you can see from our new, revamped publication, we now start to look forward with a change in emphasis, on not so much immediate news, (our other social media platforms and website will take care of those) but on regular features, articles and up and coming events.

As always, we rely on you, our audience in letting the Comms team know of anything you would like to see; but my grateful thanks to all our feature writers who contributed in the past, and will continue to bring us newsworthy articles in the future. My thanks to our Deputy Editor, Adam Lewis, who has designed our very first edition. This will mature over time as we find our feet once again, and any comments, good or bad will be gratefully received, so that we produce something which hopefully will be useful, and a good read!

Freemasonry is now returning, albeit I'm sure with a new focus and perhaps slightly different emphasis and membership - but this can only be a good thing. I for one, am definitely looking forward to meeting more and more face to face and getting back to a regular schedule. We must still remember that every member has their own unique circumstances, which we all need to take into consideration when returning.

Enjoy the read!

WBro A.J. Philpott

REGULAR

MESSAGE FROM OUR PGM



Looking forward

It would be unwise to look forward to the anticipated full resumption of our regular meetings without putting it in the context of what has gone before. The challenges that so many of us have experienced during the last year and more, will have a number of effects. The important thing now is to support those who want to “normalise” as soon as possible and sympathise with those who feel more cautious.

All of us have become used to a different pattern of living, but I am certain that a return to the value and pleasure of masonic meetings is something that we are all looking forward to. What’s more, we have many prospective members waiting patiently in the wings and we must be grateful for their patience and give them the warm welcome that they deserve.

The fact that regular meetings have been suspended, certainly doesn’t mean that there has been a lack of activity elsewhere. Many meetings/ places/executives have worked tirelessly on building improvements and communications and membership activities are ongoing. Furthermore your charitable giving, especially through the MCF has continued at unprecedented levels.

We are planning to hold our Cathedral Service and Annual Provincial Grand Lodge in the early autumn and I look forward very much to your support there. It must be said that making arrangements for these in the present Covid related climate is very far from easy and huge thanks are due to Iain Sharratt and his team for facing up to the challenge.

Here’s to the future – I look forward to sharing it with you.

Robert C. Vaughan - Provincial Grand Master



Brethren, I am writing to congratulate you all on the relaunch of Worcestershire Source, which I understand to be an extremely valuable communications channel for the Province. The weekly editions of the newsletter continued through the first wave of the pandemic, and I'm sure played an absolutely crucial role in keeping Worcestershire Freemasons in touch with your fellow members — even when you were unable to meet in person.

As we approach the next step in the return to normal, I send my best wishes to you all and the very best of luck on the newsletter.

*Fraternally yours,
Dr David Staples
Grand Secretary*

Worcestershire Masonic LOTTERY

Last month's winner

Gerrard Oldham of Sebright Lodge of old Wolvernians, No. 8007

Message from the Provincial Grand Master

I continue to encourage participation in this very successful method of raising funds for charities and good causes. I ask all masons to join the Lottery and also to encourage family and friends to join in. Congratulations to all our lucky winners and thank you for your participation.



Click [HERE](#) to participate

Looking forward

A view from our rulers...

VWBro Stephen J Wyer DPGM



Like many of you, I cannot wait for the start of the new Masonic season and for a return to something at least approaching normality. In the weeks leading up to the restart in September, please use the time wisely to prepare, both individually and as a Lodge for the year. This will involve more than just familiarising yourself with the little blue book again. Make sure all of the members of your Lodge are comfortable with the return and, if some are a little more reluctant, be understanding and supportive as befits our organisation. Hopefully, you will have stayed in touch with candidates who may be waiting for initiation, but in any event do contact them again just to make any final arrangements and to answer any further queries they may have.

If your lodge does not have candidates or is anxious about the future, then do take advantage of the Lodge development programme being run by John Crowther and his team. They have some great ideas and practical help available to assist you in navigating the way forward. I am sure that over the next few years it will be more important than ever that our Lodges are seen to engage with the communities which they serve. We need to demonstrate that Freemasonry not only makes a key contribution to society, but that we have fun along the way!

I look forward to seeing you and to sharing good times with you all again shortly.

WBro Patrick V Firminger APGM



There is no getting away from the dramatic affect the pandemic has had on our freemasonry and particularly on Festival fundraising. Despite obvious challenges, Lodges and individuals have worked hard and slowly increased our total to £1,400,000. A fantastic achievement, but it still leaves us with a long way to go.

I am sure we are all looking forward to better times. It is for this reason your 2022 Festival Committee is building a series of events that you and your families will be invited to take part in. A list of dates will follow shortly which builds in excitement for all through to Spring 2023. Whether that be a walk over hot coals, Provincial Quiz, Zip Wire and weekend away or even a prize draw for a year's supply of wine, there are exciting times ahead. There will be others, but please come along and join in with the fun if you can.

As we emerge from the pandemic and enter the home straight, we would invite you and your Lodges to focus hard on the Festival for the short time remaining. It's not too late to take out a Direct Debit and it is easy to make use of the Festival QR code. Why not organise a Lodge or personal event? You might be brave enough to do a sponsored wing walk or parachute jump, but whatever you raise for the MCF will come back into Worcestershire. It will help many local charities, our members, their families and dependents who are in real need.

There is still a significant challenge ahead but let's give it our best shot and get as close as we can to £2,022,000.

WBro John H Crowther APMG



The clue is in the title. The role of an Assistant Provincial Grand Master is to assist the Provincial Grand Master and his Deputy in the ruling and running of Freemasonry in Worcestershire.

As APMGs, we are therefore involved and have input to every aspect, in addition to which the PGM delegates specific subjects to each. My specialist areas of responsibility are for (a) Eleven Masonic Meeting Places across the Province and (b) Guidance and support for lodges who need help.

No two meeting places are the same but all have been challenged to improve towards a set of standards designated 'Centres of Excellence'. It's exciting to see the amount of dedicated effort being applied by our meeting place committees for the benefit of all.

In my second area, this year we have launched the Lodges Development Program, encouraging each lodge to have a plan for the future and to reach outwards beyond the Masonic community to assist its publicity and growth. So far, the program offers assistance to produce an outward-facing website, get started with social media and the Lodge Twinning Scheme which many of you will have heard of. I am very grateful to the Development Team for all their work and excited about what can be achieved as the program gathers pace.

I am also involved in advising lodges who find themselves in difficulty due to reducing membership or who may be considering their future for whatever reasons.

WBro Michael J Dykes APMG



Throughout the pandemic, UGLE have been working incredibly hard to raise the profile of our organisation and to bring it up to date and relevant to today's world.

This has resulted in a rise in interest about what we do, so riding on the back of all this good publicity, UGLE are organising a huge recruitment drive which will take place in the Autumn. Hopefully this will bring in many new applications, so make sure your Lodge is ready. Following the Pathway Initiative is the easiest way to bring in new members ensuring that the candidate knows what he is joining and also ensuring that he is the right candidate for your lodge.

Good communication is very important not only to your members but also to the outside world. During the Pandemic we have all learned new skills and ways to communicate, so use these new skills to tell everyone about what your lodge does and the great work and assistance we give to our local communities. It will show your lodge in a good light and people will want to get involved.

It's exciting that Freemasonry is reopening and we will once again be able to meet and enjoy our common bond together. I look forward to seeing you all soon.



Footsteps back on to the Square

WBro K Haines - Preceptor of
Semper Fidelis Lodge of Instruction

For Karl Haines, being the Preceptor of Semper Fidelis Lodge of Instruction brings a multitude of responsibilities. These range from helping the brethren get to know the ritual, but to also see the little blue book as a friend and guide, not something to be either tamed, mastered or simply learnt by rote.

Perhaps the most important responsibilities are fostering understanding of the meaning of the ritual and to develop confidence around the timing and movement on the Square. Every mason knows, that while the blue book outlines the knowledge, it's the capability to execute the movement, that is the keystone to confidence. How often have you noticed that the best ritualists always know when and where they need to be on the Square? It's that ease in movement that leads to effortless delivery of the ritual.

Never has this been more important than now, as we begin our footsteps back into the Lodge room. The last eighteen months have been unprecedented in both their impact, but also the subtle shift in emphasis for both society and also for freemasonry in general. Karl explained that the masonic skills of overcoming adversity and being adaptable in the support of others is critical to the reopening of both society, but also of masonry in the province.

...overcoming adversity and being adaptable in the support of others is critical to the reopening of both society but also of masonry in the province.

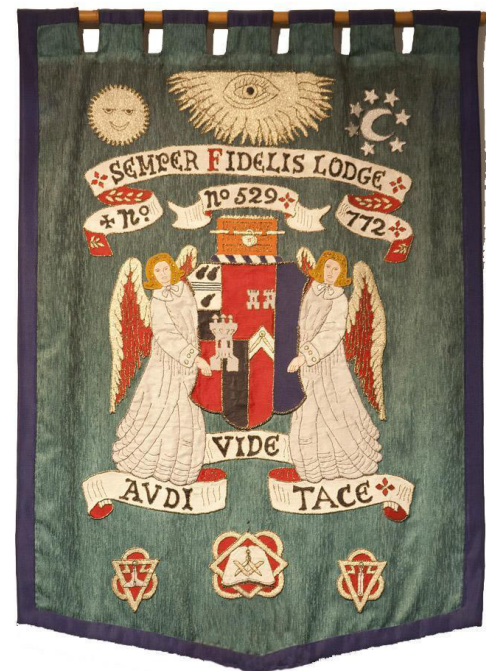
September will soon be with us, and it is at the first Lodge of Instruction that the foundation for the new masonic year will be laid. By having these principles in our minds will help to reaffirm the routine of the meetings. Karl also commented that the festive board will also act as perhaps the best aid to mental health. The freshness of conversation, the vitality of the evening and the genuine comfort of being back amongst friends is a true reward for the patience that Covid19 has taught us all to observe.

Karl also offered a wonderful preceptor insight. All masons are story tellers. By knowing the story of the ritual and the part we play in that moment, removes any fear, or worry from the ceremony. The real importance of the LOI is to remind all of us that we are amongst friends. The LOI demonstrates the support from all the brethren and helps us to understand what is going on during the ceremonies. That journey from darkness into light, from strangers into friends and the acceptance of being part of the family that is freemasonry, is built at the LOI.

Karl emphasised that to understand the message and convey the true meaning is more important than a faultless performance. If you know the actions, movement and order of the evening, then true enjoyment naturally follows. Karl also pointed out that the blue book is couched in “Edwardian English”. Hence the need to allow time to personally fit the ‘jigsaw of understanding together’.

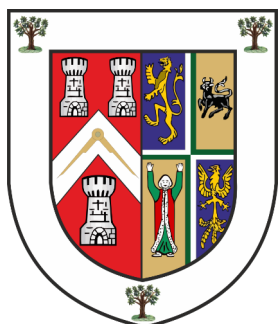
As Karl explained, in the LOI the environment is much calmer and offers every mason the ability to be more reflective and receptive. It is here due to that simplicity, that the values of “man might be useful” can be formed. Often leading many masons to re-establish both their identity and purpose, that enables “good men to become the best of men”.

Finally, Karl pointed out that help is all around us. Every Lodge has a Mentor, who are there to engender support, offer assistance and to vocalise that the Lodge wants every brother to succeed. Hence the LOI reaffirms that wish to do well, the Mentors offer a quite word where necessary, helping to make a difference on the night. **Ensuring the perfect steps when returning to the Square.**



The LOI meets on the 3rd Friday of each month. The usual pre-meeting will take place at 6:30pm under the direction of Preceptors, where any brother is invited and encouraged to practice lodge procedure, prior to the lodge opening at 7.30pm. If interested, please contact the secretary — Bro Adam Lewis at sfloi529@gmail.com

The Province of Worcestershire and the Royal British Legion



**Could you offer your help at any time between
30th October - 13th November 2021?**

Are you prepared to support Freemasonry in the Community?

We are looking to work with the Royal British Legion in this, their 100th anniversary year. We need volunteers who are prepared to man various supermarket locations across the Province, to sell Poppies, and promote our Order.

You will be allocated to a team working close to your home.

Interested in helping?

Please contact: WBro Ian Fothergill, PPr5GW, LGR at
constitutions@worcestershirepgl.org.uk

Around the Lodges



The Lodge, having obtained the necessary dispensation, held an emergency meeting on the 6th July to conduct business which, in normal times, would have been dealt with at the April meeting. The meeting lasted all of 15 minutes!

The highlights were the election of the Master for the ensuing year (Bro Derek Elwell) and the re-election of the Treasurer (WBro Ken Hingley) and the Tyler (WBro David Walters).

Despite the brevity of the meeting, the 18 Brethren including the Lodge's Provincial Representative, WBro Tony Edwards, had an enjoyable socially distanced time and, in particular, after a long layoff were able to reacquaint themselves with the delights of opening and closing the Lodge.

The accompanying photo, which was kindly taken by the Tyler, shows the assembled Brethren.

WBro D J V Morgan PProvJGW
Secretary

St. Kenelm Lodge No. 6082
Emergency meeting - 6th July 2021



Streak of tigers on the loose

Lechmere Volunteer Lodge No. 1874 and Weatheroak Lodge No. 7214



Two Masonic Lodges in the Province of Worcestershire have proposed a joint Motorcycle and Bicycle Challenge. Both Lodges are participating in an appeal in support of Festival 2022 through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, that aims to support local charities and individuals including: Acorns Children's Hospice, Dementia UK, Midland Air Ambulance, Cure Leukaemia & ACHD Unit at QE Hospital Birmingham Charity, Wolverhampton MS Centre, Marie Curie Cancer Care and SIFA Fireside, who need it the most.

The challenge for Brian Phillips and Dean Spencer will be to travel on their motorcycles to the furthest North, East, South & West Masonic Lodges, within distance of one day return journey.

The challenge for Simon Pearson, Danny Bromage (seated on cycles) Steve Stow & Jeremy Stone, will be to ride their bicycles to the furthest North, East, South & West Lodges in the Province of Worcestershire. They are all planning to complete their challenge between July & September.

Arrangements have been made for payments to be managed by the Masonic Charitable Foundation using the Just Giving website, which will include Gift Aid.

Please support this very worthy joint effort and donate online at

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/L1874-L7214>

Charity Motorcycle and Cycle Challenge



**WBro Ed
Kimpton**

**A secret society or a
society that values
privacy?**

SECRECY OR PRIVACY?

How often have we heard the all too common charge that Freemasonry is a “secret society” ? I and many like-minded brethren are very open about our membership of The Craft, indeed extremely proud to be so, but in our endeavours towards greater openness and transparency, our disclosure is often met with a similar retort.

I often respond by questioning how it could be regarded as secret when I have just openly declared myself as a Mason. To add to the irony, a quick google search will yield pages and pages of results, and a more specific search will lead you to your local province and the many individual lodges within it; and contact details to boot.

Indeed as a ‘secret’ society we are particularly easy to find, one might even say ‘open’. So what of our ‘secrets’ ?

Historically, terminology such as ‘signs, tokens and words as a guard to our secrets’ was common parlance, but it doesn’t resonate with today’s younger generation. There is however a solution and one which places our order in a thoroughly modern context.

I opened this article recounting the all too common allegation of masonry being a secret society, a retort often followed by a request to disclose the handshake; that being the subject of intense curiosity on the part of the enquirer. Refusal simply serves to cement their misguided opinion. So instead I reply with a series of questions:

- ◆ If I asked you for your bank account number and sort code, would you disclose it?
- ◆ If I demanded your PIN number, would you give it willingly?
- ◆ If I asked for your password, would you tell me?
- ◆ If I asked for your Mother’s Maiden name would you give it without question?

The answer is always a resounding and indignant “No of course not, that’s private!” and despite my insistence that I won’t use that information, the subject always (thankfully) maintains their position.

I go on to explain that their response is exactly what I would expect to hear and their unwillingness to disclose such information is admirable and sensible. After all, those signs tokens and words are a guard to their ‘secrets’. Careless disclosure could mean that their account is compromised, identity stolen, or worse.

In today’s society where data protection looms large and everything we value is protected by password, PIN’s, encryption and multi-layer security, in not disclosing the signs tokens and words, a mason isn’t being secretive but merely maintaining confidentiality. Just as careless disclosure of sensitive personal information could compromise something of value to the individual, careless disclosure of our signs tokens and words would compromise something we value. In the context of GDPR therefore, our ‘multiple-factor’ signs tokens and words make total sense.

Does that make us a secret society or simply a society that values privacy?

You Decide



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

NEWS FROM GRAND LODGE

End of lockdown in England

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister on 12 July, I believe it will be useful if I reiterate UGLE's stance, which will continue to apply when restrictions are eased in England from 19 July.

- 1 In holding Lodge and Chapter meetings it is essential that Brethren and Companions comply with all legal requirements from time to time in force.
- 2 Provided that they do so, it is not UGLE's policy to impose restrictions on meeting beyond those required by the law.
- 3 No pressure must be applied to anyone either to attend or refrain from attending meetings.
- 4 The same principle applies to the wearing of face coverings, which should be regarded as a matter of personal choice.
- 5 The use of the modifications to the ceremonies, introduced in the summer of 2020 to enable ceremonies to be performed, should cease as soon as is practicable, except where local legal requirements are imposed in relation to such matters as social distancing.
- 6 The ceremony of Raising (and of Exaltation in the Royal Arch) is once again permitted.
- 7 It is nonetheless sensible to ensure that a candidate for any degree, and in particular that of initiation, is made aware that the ceremony he will undergo will involve a measure of physical contact, so that he can make his own decision as to whether to proceed with it at this time.
- 8 Regulations 5 to 11 of the Temporary Emergency Measures for Covid-19 remain in force, to the extent that they are needed, until 31 December 2021, or such earlier date as the Grand Master or the Pro Grand Master on his behalf shall direct.

The Pro Grand Master has directed that Regulations 1 to 4 shall cease to apply from 19 July 2021 except in relation to the unexpired period of a suspension already notified in accordance with them.

Dr David Staples Grand Secretary

NHS SOCIAL CARE & FRONTLINE WORKERS' DAY 5 JULY 2021

WE THANK YOU

Brethren joined the PGM and others across the province to celebrate NHS and Front Line Workers Day and started their proceedings off with the 1pm toast

The directors of Northfield Hall opened up the hall for a full day of activities on July 5th. The venue was then open throughout the afternoon for brethren, families and guests to come along to see the amazing work that has been undertaken there during the last 12 months.

Amongst the visitors were managers from the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital who, having worked with the hall since March 2020, came for a tour of the hall to see the facilities there. They left impressed with the hall and its management. Managers at Northfield Masonic Hall and the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital have pledged to continue to work with each other going forward and not only will the car park be in use by NHS staff, discussions have begun to maybe make use of the hall by the NHS for meeting and training purposes.

Throughout the afternoon brethren from lodges who meet at the hall were visiting and a number brought along potential candidates for a visit to the hall. Four gentlemen came along and reiterated their desire to join freemasonry, we will look forward to seeing them initiated in the near future.

The day concluded with the Annual General Meeting of Northfield Masonic Hall Company Ltd. A new team of officers were elected and gifts presented to WBro Dave Morris and WBro Derek Davenport for their long service to the hall as Chairman and Secretary respectively.





updates

Bro John Fennell - Committee Member

As a new member to the Cubit Club Committee, I have been given the prestigious task of putting together the first regular article for the Worcestershire Source (no pressure).

Over the last eighteen months the whole of Freemasonry has been affected by the pandemic and the Cubit Club is no exception. But more on that in a moment. As the new boy, it would be remiss of me if I did not tell you who and what the Cubit Club is. We are a club formed for Young and New Masons.

Of course, we are here to help new Masons in their development within Freemasonry, but we also excel in the social aspect and along the way raise money for **charity**. Yes, you will meet people from all over the Province at the same stage as you and build lifelong friendships and as a big part of Freemasonry is visiting other lodges, the Cubit Club is a great way to forge ties. **New and strong relationships.**

Okay, rewind back to the pandemic, we have been very busy at the Cubit Club and I am sure you have seen or even attended one of our expert Porchway Zoom events which have covered many different aspects of Freemasonry. The break in normality has allowed us to stop, evaluate and restart, so watch this space.

On a final note, **WE WANT YOU!!** We are looking for a young or new Mason to become one of our Hall Ambassadors, to form a direct link from the Cubit Club to each individual hall. Interested? Want to know more? Click [here...](#)

We as a Province, have many new candidates waiting for their Initiation. So brethren, if you have nominated or seconded them, please point them in our direction. We can support and help them along their fantastic path in Freemasonry.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

University Freemasons Walk — Monday 16th August and Tuesday 17th August

We are looking for volunteers to walk with the team on both days. Monday: Stourport – Worcester – 18 miles. Tuesday: Worcester – Wickhamford – 20 miles. Now don't panic, you do not have to commit to the whole distance, just as far as you wish. You can drop in and out at any point. I am told there are many nice refreshment establishments enroute.

Clay Pigeon Shoot — Saturday 21st August 10:30AM

At the Bridge Clay Shoot in Shrawley - £40 per person, includes use of gun, cartridges and a sandwich on arrival – BE QUICK, LIMITED SPACES.

St. Mary's Hospice Quiz Night — Friday 10th September

This will be an online quiz and a cost of £5 per team. Start time 19:30. All monies raised will go directly to the hospice.

Cubit Club Family Party — Sunday 19th September 2PM to 8PM

At Kidderminster Rugby Club. Now what can I say... hope you are sitting down. We will have BBQ, live singer, bouncy castle, face painting to name a few.

Now at this point I need to tell you, you do not need to be a young or new Mason to attend any of our events, to the contrary, all are welcome. For further information click here...



WIDOWS SONS - WORCESTERSHIRE CHAPTER

IT'S RAINING, MEN!!

The outlook was definitely wet for the new Worcestershire Chapter of Widows Sons inaugural rideout, but would that dampen the enthusiasm – absolutely not! We talk to Andy “Monte” Philpott, the founding president. (“Monte”, after his favourite cigar he says!)

The new Worcestershire Chapter of Widows Sons was formed in March 2021, but due to Covid restrictions, any rideouts were of course delayed, which meant our first official event was 4th July 2021. We had 13 founding members, and by coincidence there are 13 masonic meeting places in Worcestershire, so it was fitting that our first ride visited each one of those locations, recording the event with a photo of the bikers and the hall, proudly displaying our new banner.

Starting off at Tenbury, the local Riverside Café opened up especially at 8am for us, for sustenance (and initial dry out!) for the long day's riding. We started off with 14 bikes, (with plans for others to join us along the way) and after the safety briefing and first photo opportunity, headed onto the open road and hills towards Malvern, followed by Evesham, Worcester and Bromsgrove School – after which we had the opportunity after around 100 miles for some of the smaller bikes to have a top up!

It was now around noon, we were up to 16 bikes and the weather up to now had been a mixture of intermittent heavy drizzle and sun, but the clouds were ominously gathering as we made our way towards Redditch.

One of the aims of the Widows Sons is to raise the awareness of freemasonry – which certainly happened as we were stopped here by someone asking how to join!

At which point, yes, boy did it rain! Travelling on towards Kings Heath was pretty painful for those with open helmets as it was coming down like stair rods - and most of us found just how waterproof (or not) our jackets and trousers were! Knowing that a warm drink and warm welcome was waiting for us at Northfield, our 9th stop, we quickly headed out in the deluge and met the very welcoming committee for a well earned rest, cup of tea and pleasant surprise of stickies and cake! Our grateful thanks to Paul Wong, Chris Philips and the hall committee for putting on a most welcome stop.

We now numbered 19, around 2.30pm and thankfully the rain had started to diminish so we headed off once again having drip dried, to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Kidderminster. At this point I must also say a big thank you to the volunteers who came out to video and photo us at various locations, mostly in the rain! - David Emery, Adam Lewis, Richard Weston and Mike Dykes, who have contributed to this article and excellent video memorial of the day...Click [here](#) to view.



Our penultimate stop saw us rolling up at Stourport, where we had a tour of the fantastic new temple and facilities, before heading off for our final 13th meeting place at the Lenchford Inn in Shrawley. We arrived around 4.30pm, amazingly keeping to the schedule originally planned, with all 19 bikes and bikers intact – having travelled around 144 miles in around 8 hours.

The original plan was for us to have a family event at the Lenchford, and to present our newly received chapter and Widows Sons patches to those eligible, but of course covid rules meant this was not possible at this time. One for a future event.

All in all, a most enjoyable day out – as the saying goes, there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing, which thankfully being experienced bikers we (mostly) all had dressed in the right gear. My thanks go to our founding Secretary Martin Lawrence, who planned the route and the whole event, which was a complete success.

For those interested in Motorcycles and in a Lodge in Worcestershire, The Widows Sons is an International Association, formed globally in 1998, which is open to all Master Masons who enjoy motorcycling and have a desire to ride with, and associate with their fraternal brothers. We are not formed as “Lodges” as such, and hence no formal masonic meetings in the traditional sense – our meetings are “ride-outs” or social gatherings, typically with a charity theme. The UK arm of the association, (formed in 2003) is split into 27 established Chapters, located all around the country, with over 1200 members.

With the blessing and support of our PGM, and with help from our supporting West Midlands Chapter, our new Worcestershire Charter was awarded on the 31st March 2021.

Andy continues – “My thanks to the hard work and perseverance of our founding secretary, Martin “Deuce” Lawrence and Vice president, Phil “Scooterboy” Underhill, in getting the Chapter up and running in these difficult times; and for our continuing expansion - as to date we have now doubled to almost 30 members which is absolutely fantastic.... For our partners and for those who are not yet Master Masons, we have our association – the Worcestershire Pear Drops, whose members are also eligible to take part in all our events, of which we have a full program of events, charity rides and get togethers during the remainder of the year, and we just hope for it occasionally to be fine weather!”

For those not yet in Masonry, we have our Worcestershire Motorcycling lodge – Lodge of Progress No. 9893, (for which Andy is also currently Worshipful Master) which is regarded as complementary to the Widows Sons and a route to being made a Master Mason - and then eligible for full membership of the Sons.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please email us at wsworcs@gmail.com and we will send you an application form. Membership is only £20 per annum - enjoy organised rides out, social events, good company and raising money for worthy causes!



FREEMASONRY IS BACK

Sunday 5th September 2021

New Season Celebration

National Masonic Vehicle Association

CLASSIC CARS + FAMILY FUN

Sunday 5th September 2021

Worcester Masonic Centre, Rainbow Hill, Worcester WR3 8LX

Display Vehicles: Free

Visitors: £5/adult in advance (£7.50 on the gate)

Family Ticket (2Adults+under 12s) £15 advance (£20 on the gate)

Display vehicles access 10.00am: Visitors from 12.00pm

Classic Car and Bike displays . Family Fun

Refreshments, Food, Pimms

Masonic Centre & Masonic Museum tours

Blue badge parking only on site

For all display bookings & enquiries contact:

Peter Hughes at peterchristine@aol.com

Tickets by Eventbrite www.eventbrite.co.uk

DUE TO PANDEMIC DIFFICULTIES

INTER PROVINCE CHALLENGE REGATTA 2021

AND

DUCK RACE 2021

POSTPONED UNTIL SUMMER 2022



All proceeds to Worcestershire Festival 2022





A message from the Festival Chairman

There is no escaping the cruel reality of this awful COVID-19 virus which has affected each of us in different ways. As we emerge from the pandemic, we now look forward to meeting up and enjoying our freemasonry again.

For the last sixteen months, whilst most Lodges were unable to hold normal meetings, the good work of freemasonry continued. Read on to find out what has happened alongside our ambitions and plans for the short Festival time remaining.

It is hoped that as we move through the rest of 2021 towards our festival finale in early 2023, we have greater optimism and a better idea of what the new normal will look like. Now is therefore the time to re-energise and consider how you and your Lodge can continue helping the MCF in their time of greatest need.

Patrick V. Firminger APM

Festival 2022

Update as at 30th June 2021
£1,399,252

THE PANDEMIC HAS INTERFERED WITH SO MANY EVENTS AND DRAMATICALLY COMPROMISED OUR FUNDRAISING ABILITY. NEVERTHELESS, THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT OUR FESTIVAL TOTAL CONTINUES TO RISE SLOWLY

Current fundraising events

MANY LODGES AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE DEVOTED THEIR TIME TO SUPPORTING THE FESTIVAL FOR WHICH WE ARE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL.

WHETHER IT BE A SPONSORED CYCLE OR EVEREST CHALLENGE, FOLLOW THIS LINK TO SEE SOME OF THEIR GREAT WORK.

<https://fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Festival-E2022MCF>

List of Provincial Social Events **COMING SOON**

YOUR FESTIVAL TEAM ARE WORKING HARD AND PREPARING A LIST OF FUN EVENTS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. WHETHER IT IS A WALK ON HOT COALS OR A ZIP WIRE WEEKEND AWAY IN NORTH WALES, THEY WILL BE EVENTS TO RUN BETWEEN NOW AND FESTIVAL END AND WILL CREATE SOME FANTASTIC MEMORIES.

PGL of Worcestershire 2022
Festival (E2022)

To make a donation
scan with phone camera
to open or visit URL

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>



FESTIVAL 2022 URL & QR CODE

Use it any way you wish, tick the gift aid box and save your charity steward hours of administration.

It will be credited to yourself,
your Lodge and the Festival



It's not too late, now is the time! Can you help us?

If you haven't made a regular giving pledge already, and its within your means, make one now until April 2025.

If you already have a regular giving pledge that finishes before the end of 2022 or if it has already come to an end, and its within your means, consider another until April 2025

UMBRELLAS ARE UP

PUT YOUR CHARITY MONEY TO GOOD USE
IT'S TIME TO EMPTY THOSE RELIEF CHESTS

AND CHARITY ACCOUNTS

Many Lodges have significant sums tied up in their accounts with no plans for its use. It will make such a difference so please consider emptying your relief chests and accounts in favour of the 2022 Festival **NOW**.

"WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING FOR A RAINY DAY, THE
UMBRELLAS ARE UP AND

ITS RAINING NOW"



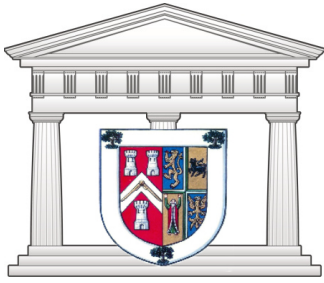
"A FESTIVAL MYTH"

Our Festival efforts go to London never to be seen again ... **NO!** – Averaging MCF support from recent years and applying the figures to our 11-year Festival cycle, Worcestershire is a net beneficiary. Based on these figures, **£2,689,025** would come back to the Province. Don't forget that in 2011 our Festival raised £1,680,000 and hopefully by Spring 2023 nearer £2,022,000

SUPPORT FOR WORCESTERSHIRE FREEMASONS, THEIR FAMILIES AND DEPENDENTS

In 2020 (year ending 31st March), Worcestershire Freemasons, their families, and dependents received MCF support totalling **£166,770**. This was made up of £113,934 help with daily living expenses, £33,834 with health, care, and wellbeing and £19,002 for education of children and young people.

Clearly this was not the pandemic period. However, from 31st March 2020 to the end of January 2021 (10 months), the MCF had offered further support to our members amounting to £137,000. Add to this £86,000 to local charities, annualise it and you notice that total MCF Grant support would amount to **£268,200**.



Worcestershire Masonic Library

WBro Bill Mason provides an update



Brethren

For better or worse I have been asked to keep you informed through the agencies of Worcester Source, on what is happening at the Worcestershire Masonic Library and Museum, to keep you up to date with various exhibitions, the personnel who help manage and the volunteers whose tireless input keeps the cataloguing and information up to date.

To provide you with various information and details on the numerous artefacts which may be of interest, what is available to you as Freemasons, and hopefully encourage you and your Lodges to utilise the services and resources which are available to you as Freemasons.

Many of you have commented on the recent series of articles I wrote for The Square magazine, published by Province throughout the pandemic. All the information I wrote was researched at the WML&M, which is available to all.

Each Lodge and Chapter in our Province is entitled to nominate one of their members as the Lodge representative to the WML&M. There are very few Lodges who have not taken advantage of this opportunity. A few Lodges are very supportive, but sadly to say, many have never seen the need to access the vast resources that are available to them.

Apart from the vast array of books and artefacts, the library has a Masonic Regalia outlet where you can purchase pre-loved regalia for all orders for a fraction of the cost of new. If you have recently been promoted, or are joining another order contact WBro Mike Pearman on 07931871474 or m.pearman@yahoo.co.uk who will be delighted to assist.

The WML&M is an interesting and exciting place to visit and is open for visitors between 10am and noon Tuesdays and Thursdays or other times by appointment. Contact the Secretary WBro Alan Dally on alan_dally@hotmail.com. Please contact Alan if you wish to visit outside normal hours.

At the Annual General Meeting on 21st June, our current Chairman W. Bro Colin Young, retired after 17 years of stalwart service, and the contribution he has made to the advancement and improvement of the WML&M is immeasurable. However, we are indeed fortunate to have a well-established and extremely knowledgeable successor in the appointment of WBro Phillip Serrell who needs no introduction from me as his prowess in Masonic Museum terms and his television programmes speak for themselves.

Our Library and Museum is regarded as “the jewel in the Crown” of Worcestershire Freemasonry, and is regarded as the best and most outstanding Masonic Museum outside that of Great Queen Street. It is ably led by the Curator WBro Bob James who works tirelessly on our behalf, especially when it comes to the renewal of our accreditation.



Bob and the rest of the team desperately need your help and support in ensuring the WML&M goes from strength to strength. We are desperately in need of volunteers to help in our work, either working from home, or joining our team at Rainbow Hill. Training will be given. We shall be utilising “Targeted Volunteers” so if you want to be part of this wonderful part of our Province, please contact the Curator, Bob James on 07889570483 or email “[jewel in the province@btinternet.com](mailto:jewel_in_the_province@btinternet.com)” who will get in touch. Please note volunteers do NOT have to be Freemasons, or even Male, so if you have someone in your household who may be interested, we will be delighted to welcome them on board.

The position of Deputy Curator is also currently vacant. If you are interested, in this vacancy, please contact the Curator, Bob James, (details as above). This is an important post so some experience will be required, as will availability on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and also other ad hoc occasions.

Full details and requirements will be forward to all interested Brethren.

Applications can be made in the first instance to the Curator, Bob James via e mail as above, or by written application to “The Curator, Worcestershire Masonic Library and Museum, Rainbow Hill, Worcester WR8 8LX.

To end on a somewhat surprising, and disappointing note, you may be surprised to learn that of the 200+ Library and Museum representatives, who have been appointed by their Lodges and Chapters, have never even visited the Library and Museum themselves; never given a report to their Lodges on the work and status of the WML&M, and in some cases do not even know it was located at Rainbow Hill.

Let us move forward in a more positive frame of mind now that the pandemic is coming to an end. Visit the Library and Museum, support when we need volunteers, and equally importantly make sure you and your members know that we are there to support you all, with guided tours, and even provide a Member of the Executive to give a talk at your Lodge.

**Next month
“How it all began”**

We are all Almoners Day

August 8th 2021

Reaching out to show
we care



You will remember some six months ago that we introduced

"We are all Almoners Day"

We are all Almoners Day was about strengthening the already hard work that our Lodge Almoners are doing. It was a day where we opened up communications, reached out to as many Brethren as we could to check in, see how they were doing, ask how their families were coping and maybe finding out that we could lend a hand in some way.

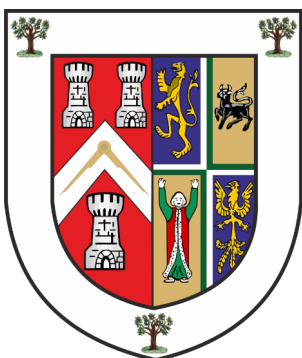
Although restrictions have now been lifted, some Brethren may still be nervous about coming back into larger groups. Some may have health issues that will affect them or their friends and family members.

It is for those reasons that We Are All Almoners Day will be returning six months after our first, on Sunday 8th August. We feel it is vastly important as we begin to meet in our halls and rehearsal spaces, that we stay in touch with those who are still isolated from us and may be for some time further.

Going with the same theme, starting at 10am, we would like each Brother to pick up the phone to someone that they may not have spoken to for a while, or perhaps someone that isn't on their regular contact list, and give them a call.

If we can all spend just a small part of our day getting in touch with others, it is just another part of the reason why our Fraternity is so strong and has weathered this terrible time.

**DATES
FOR YOUR
DIARY**



Sunday 5th September

**Vintage classic car and family fun
Worcester Masonic Hall
NB. Regatta postponed to 2022**

Sunday 12th September

**Annual Cathedral and Memorial
Service, Worcester Cathedral**

Saturday 2nd October

**PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE,
Birmingham University**

Sunday 5th December

**Christmas Carol Service,
Pershore Abbey**

Contacts

Editorial Team →

EDITOR - Andy Philpott ✉ AJP@philpott-online.co.uk ☎ 07515 558863

DEPUTY EDITOR / DESIGN - Adam Lewis ✉ adamrlewis@zohomail.eu ☎ 07817 285285

Provincial Office and Secretary →

94, Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove B61 0DF

Iain Sharratt ✉ Provincial@worcestershirefreemasons.com ☎ 01527 879300

Ruler - Communications Portfolio →

Michael Dykes ✉ MJD@worcestershirefreemasons.com ☎ 07773 581268

Provincial Communication Officer →

Brody Swain ✉ PCO@worcestershirefreemasons.com ☎ 07782 295508

Feature Writers →

CHARITY - John Fennel

PROVINCIAL - Paul Webber

LODGE - Ian Crowder

GENERAL - Chris John

GENERAL - Ed Kimpton

GENERAL - Mark Keepax



Webmaster →

Chris Phillips ✉ webmaster@worcestershirefreemasons.com

Social Media →

Mark Lodge

Chris John