



WORCESTERSHIRE SOURCE

The Newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons

#ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

As most brethren will have heard, following a recent article in a national newspaper a personal letter by Dr David Staples, Chief Executive of UGLE, titled 'Enough is Enough', appeared as a full-page advert in several newspapers on 7th February 2018 calling for an end to the discrimination and misrepresentation against Freemasonry in the media, leading to a series of public TV, radio and press interviews.

Subsequently, the paper carried out an investigation and concluded that the article's headline and content conveyed a misleading impression and ran a correction (along with the several other papers who copied it), for the inaccuracies. The full text of his letter is available on the Freemasonry Today website or click [HERE](#)

Ed - Is there really anything in the phrase "There is no such thing as Bad Publicity?" Grand Lodge has reported a significant increase in membership queries since then, and our own Provincial Membership Officer described that particular week as "one of the busiest he has ever experienced in the number of applications!" Time will tell.

Lodge Consecration

Our third lodge consecration in recent times saw **The Permanent Way Lodge**, No. 9951 welcomed on time into the Province of Worcestershire.

In a capacity audience at Kings Heath, along with our PGM, APMG's and the Provincial team who all attended the ceremony for our newest lodge dedicated to Brethren who are keen on trains. Bringing up the rear in the last carriage was an excellent Festive Board and auction of "train memorabilia"

A special occasion and a special oration with great humour and much dignity ensured a good time was had by all!



172nd Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge



9th June, 10.00am entry
(Columns formed at 10.30am)

University of Birmingham
B15 2TT

New Provincial Grand Wardens
announced
(See page 5)

Festival 2022 - Regular Giving Statistics

Steward



292

Vice Patron



124

Patron



41

Grand Patron



99



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SAVE THE DATE

13 th March	Provincial Lecture – Halesowen
23 rd March	Provincial Lecture – Stourport
29 th March	PGM Welcome evening
6 th April	Provincial Lecture – Redditch
9 th June	PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
9 th June to 9 th July	Festival Fundraising Month
10 th June	Provincial Sponsored Walk
15 th -17 th June	Cubit Club Family Weekend
18 th June	L&M AGM, Rainbow Hill
9 th September	PROVINCIAL CATHEDRAL SERVICE
16 th December	PROVINCIAL CAROL SERVICE

Annual Provincial Cathedral Service



9th September
2pm

Worcester Cathedral

Please add to your diary and come and support our **RW Provincial Grand Master** - who hopes we can return to the point where the Masters and Wardens of ALL his Lodges can parade in the Cathedral on this auspicious occasion with their wives, partners, family and friends.

There are also several events being held afterwards around the area (including at the Worcester Masonic Hall) for light refreshments. More details to follow.

Recruitment Seminars

WBro Mike Dykes, (Provincial Membership Officer) and **WBro Tony Bates** (Provincial Social Media “guru”) recently presented several sessions around the province dealing with all aspects of recruitment. Delivering to a packed audience of Masters, Secretaries, Wardens and mentors, Mike covered several topics on

- (1) “Your Lodge and who is your ideal candidate”,
- (2) Five essential points around marketing:
 - Talking about Freemasonry to the public
 - Using Open Days to market your lodge
 - Use of Social Media
 - The use of Information Packs to convey information
 - Social events such as “Dine a Friend” evening
- (3) Consideration into appointing a Lodge Membership Officer, and
- (4) The UGLE pathway initiative.

In very interesting sessions, Mike asked the audience several hard questions, which quite rightly sparked debate, conversations and sometimes controversy – but all resulting in a number of actions which every participant could ponder on, starting with the basics of calling a meeting with all the members of their lodge to work out a plan for the future.

In conclusion, Mike finished “*During 2017 we have had the UGLE 300 year celebrations, the Sky documentary, and more recently further exposure with the UGLE #Enough is Enough campaign. This, throughout the UK has created momentum of interest in who we are and what we do, and we need to sustain that!*”



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Interesting stories from around the Province....

Worshipful Master Chef!!

Never one to be outdone, **WBro Dave Hadley** (Lodge of Progress No 9893 and Dartford Lodge No 662 in Shropshire) has now revealed that he is a contestant on this year's BBC MasterChef programme. Andy Philpott caught up with him..."I applied on line last year", said Dave. "After being whittled down from the tens of thousands that applied, a phone interview and an audition in Birmingham, I was awarded a slot on the show, which actually started filming in October 2017".



Despite offering bribes, he was tight lipped on the outcome, only stating that his first appearance would be in a few weeks' time! As for his motivation, Dave makes his own sausages, cures his own bacon and his kitchen is filled with accessories that would make a professional kitchen proud! His hero is the celebrity chef **Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall** and his series the **River Cottage** started him off some 15 years ago on his path to "removing the rubbish" and cooking everything from scratch. A Custody Sergeant for W Mids police, most of his spare time is spent cooking for friends and family, outside on the BBQ, or with outings on his motorbike with the "Brothers on Bikes" and the Widows Sons. MasterChef is on BBC1 starting 27th February – can he make it all the way? !



Freedom of the City

In a rare occasion in January, **WBro Chris Simmonds** (Fort Royal lodge no 4565 and IPM of The Billingsgate Lodge No 3443 in London) was conferred with the Freedom of the City of London.

Earlier in the day Chris had been admitted to the Freedom of the "Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers" on account of the patronage of his father, in a Ceremony conducted in London by the Clerk. Chris's late father was born and brought up in London and not only was he a Freemason but also a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers and a Freeman of the City of London.

Chris was presented with "The Copy of the Freedom" (a parchment document with his name beautifully inscribed by a calligrapher), together with a copy of the "Rules for the Conduct of Life" which dates from the mid-18th century. He was then extended the hand of fellowship, being greeted as "a Citizen of London".

Being advised that there is a tradition that following the Ceremony you should have a drink and toast the City of London before you depart from the City, Chris' arm was suitable twisted to comply 😊.. There was no mention though of any sheep being driven over the bridge!

Promoting Masonry...

Continuing the theme of raising our awareness in the community, our thanks must go to **WBro Scott and Emma McGann** who are sponsoring several barrels of Ale "Gravedigger" on behalf of Worcestershire Freemasons. The barrels are being used at two beer festivals around the area – the first being **Moseley & Kings Heath Charity Beer Festival** on the 9th & 10th March.

(The Ed has put these dates into the diary purely to cover for journalistic purposes....)



Sponsorship Opportunity?

We would love to send the source out in hard copy occasionally to all 2700+ Brethren. But in order to do so we need to raise funds through advertising revenue. If you are interest in having a slot, please email the Provincial Communications Officer Jonathon Swift for details at jonathanswift@btinternet.com





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Freemasons support launch of new Air Ambulance



On Monday 26th February, the new Air Ambulance for the Midlands was launched at the RAF Museum, Cosford.

The new Airbus H145 helicopter is a welcome addition to the vital service provided by the Charity.

The helicopter which is larger and more powerful than the 135 range, can carry more staff and is also able to convey a relative or friend of a patient to hospital.

Some great pictures showing the air ambulance badged up with the Masonic Logo.

Do you recognise this man?

No not him, the other one!
Of course, we all know "Boisey" from TV's, 'Only Fools and Horses', John Challis who is an Ambassador of the Midland Air Ambulance - who attended with other members of the Masonic community from Worcestershire and Staffordshire.



Answers on a postcard please to the Ed



A piece of history - Prince George!

On the 20th of February 2018, W.Bro Ken Elston (Chairman of the Masonic Philatelic Club) met with W.Bro Colin Young (Chairman of the Worcestershire Library and Museum) to present one of the original summonses issued by Navy Lodge for the initiation of **Prince George**, Duke of Kent in 1928. The summons was originally part of a collection belonging to W.Bro. Maurice Beazley a Vice President of the MPC.



The Club felt that an item of such historical importance should be available to as many people as possible and so where better than the Worcestershire Masonic Library and Museum. For information about the MPC visit: www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk

At the recent ladies' night of The Sabrina Lodge no 6595, the WM's wife gave a speech that was so well liked that many brethren have asked for it to be published. Here is the poem that Mrs Karen Philpott wrote for that occasion.

"A Worshipful Masters Wife"

My husband looked at me one day
And said life is such a bore
I want some more excitement
And he headed for the door

Oh yes, I thought, he's at that age
When men can go quite funny
Wanting motorbikes and sports cars
And spending lots of money

But what if it's another woman
I'd worry if that's the case
He's not getting any younger
And he'll never stand the pace!

But my fears, they were unfounded
As he came back fairly soon
With a great big smile upon his face
As he came into the room

He said I've solved the problem
I've met a man called Roy
I'm going to be a Mason!
Which I'm sure I will enjoy

A Mason? Are you serious?
Is that such a good idea?
They do things with goats, and
trouser legs
And odd handshakes, so I hear

No, no he said, you've got it wrong
It's really not like that
Roy told me all about it
When we had our little chat

It's not a big commitment
And this bit's really funny
It will only be 7 times a year
And it won't cost us that much
money!

I'm joining the Sabrina Lodge
And even better still
I don't have far to travel
For they meet at Rainbow Hill

He was initiated into Lodge
And got along just fine
So he decided to do a little more
In the rest of his spare time

He joined Rose Croix and Chapter
And the Sabrina Lodge Committee
And Billingsate, another Lodge
Who meet in London City.

Then there's the committee for the
lottery
And the festival one of course,
And although he's not a journalist
He writes the Worcester Source

He's also joined the Widow's Sons
And the bikers all named Bob
And the masonic group for
motorists
It's now a full time job!

So on rare night's we're together
And I have one too many wines
He'll sit down right beside me
And whisper Will you help me with
my lines?

I'm well practiced now in ritual
I'm up there with the best
I'm sure I'd know much more than
him
If you put us to the test!

Now, the downside of being a
Mason....
Is that his waist is getting bigger
All those nights out with festive
board
Have done nothing for his figure!

But I love that he's a Mason
It's become a part of life
So for this year I've been proud to
be
A Worshipful Master's wife

Ellard-Hanson House: Worcestershire Masonic Flats.

Two flats are currently available for retired Freemasons, their dependants, or relatives, at Bromsgrove. For Further details contact WBro George Barrow on 07803 517556



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Our New Provincial Grand Wardens

At the next meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge to be held at Birmingham University on Saturday 9th June 2018, our PGM has announced that he would be appointing **WBro. Chris Vandy** as Provincial Senior Grand Warden and **WBro. Mark Lodge** as Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

Chris, married to Hilary in South Staffordshire is a busy man with two children and four grandchildren.



Now retired, (Chris was employed in the Public sector in Training and Development), enjoys traveling both at home and far flung destinations in a Motorhome. He was initiated into the Wernlegh Abbey Lodge No. 6356 in February 2005, obtaining the Chair in September 2010. In 2016, he became involved in delivering the UGLE Members' Pathway Project Pilot in this Province. He also sits on the 2022 Festival committee as the Masonic Hall Co-ordinator. He is also due to receive provincial honours in Chapter as PrGStB in April.

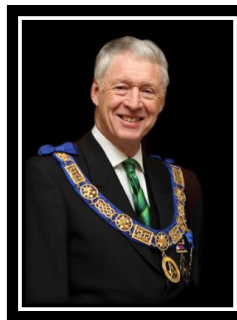


Mark was initiated into the Royds Lodge No. 1204 in February 2005, obtaining the Chair in May 2010. He was appointed a PrGStw in June 2013 and then Provincial Grand Mentor in June 2014.

He has given great service to the newer members of the Province and is a member of UGLE's IDG Membership Group. Outside Masonry, Mark enjoys swimming, cycling and hill running, although he says has drifted into laziness since hitting 40! He is currently a coach at Malvern Rugby Club, where his son Hugo plays in the under-6s team. Mark leads the UK Government's penetration testing and intrusion analysis teams. as a systems and software engineer.



News from Province



Provincial Lecture Competition

The Annual Lecture Competition sessions this year are taking place on **13th March** at Halesowen, **29th March** at Stourport, and **6th April** at Redditch. If you would like to enter a talk please contact the Provincial Orator, and of course please come along to support the brethren taking part. There are some very interesting talks lined up! Kerry Parkes, Provincial Orator. Email Kerry at kerryjparkes@gmail.com.



Grand Officer Appointments

Congratulations to the following who will be invested during March and April



First Appointments:

WBro Patrick Firminger to **PJGD**
 WBro Charles Dyer to **PAGDC**
 WBro John Phenix to **PAGDC**
 WBro Peter Broughton to **PAGDC**
 WBro William Caswell to **PAGDC**

Promotions:

VWBro Richard Wallis **PJGW**
 WBro Stephen Wyer to **PGSwdB**
 WBro Michael Cox to **PSGD**
 WBro A. John Yeates to **PJGD**
 WBro Howard Wilson to **PJGD**

We are also pleased to recognise the following brethren who have been presented with long service certificates;

The rare presentation of a 60-years' Membership Certificate to **WBro Peter Ricketts** by WBro Keith Evans, APGM at the Lodge of Hope & Charity, No. 377 at Kidderminster.

The following were presented with 50-year certificates:

- **WBro M B Simpson** at Royal Standard Lodge No. 498
- **WBro P Roberson** a Past Master of Bromsgrove Lodge No. 5414
- **WBro R Amey** at Saint Nicolas Lodge No. 4846.



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All Brethren will by now have received by email a brochure outlining the "Festival Fundraising Month" - a period which has been adopted to encourage each lodge to arrange an EXTRA activity, that would normally be in the summer recess to enable as many members, their families and friends as possible to take part.

The idea, as well as to raise funds, is of course to make it **fun, raise awareness and be family friendly!**

Several province wide events have already been scheduled – take a look!

Provincial Sponsored Walk



The Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and Assistants will be undertaking a ten-mile sponsored walk on Saturday 16th June, starting and finishing at the Cubit Club Festival. To sponsor them, click <https://e2022.everydayhero.com/uk/the-himbleton-ring-sponsored-walk>



Saturday JUNE 9TH
To
Sunday JULY 8TH,
2018

CUBIT CLUB FESTIVAL WEEKEND

15th and 17th June in Himbleton, Worcestershire

- Weekend family pitch (2 adults and 2 children under 16), which includes electric hook up, showers and toilets - £30
- Day Trippers, £10 per day
- Kids under 16 FREE



More Info -> www.cubitclub.org.uk

No Brochure? Email info@festival2022.org.uk to receive a copy

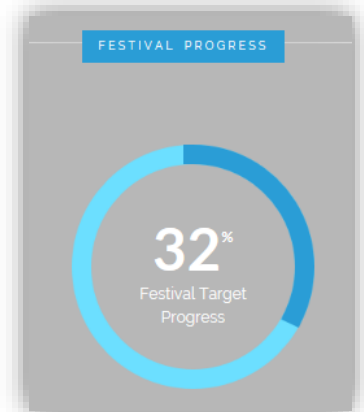


Have you got your Festival Jewel yet?

Regular giving and other donation forms, along with the Jewel application form, can all be found on the Festival Website

<http://www.festival2022.org.uk>

Or email info@festival2022.org.uk



Regular giving is by far the most effective way to have a chance of reaching the target fund in 2022. It's simple to do, and at just £5 or £10 a month spreads the costs to less than a cup of coffee or pint of beer a week!

It's easy to sign up, by phone, mail or online – See your Charity Steward, or all of the details are on the website at www.festival2022.org.uk Do it now! And you get the free lapel badge :)



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Library & Museum * * * STOP PRESS * * *

- A note of thanks to all who helped out during the "Love Worcester" fortnight.
- A volunteer is required to organise events for the "Friends of the Library and Museum". (Please see Alan Dally if interested.)
- A reminder to all L&M Reps – date of the AGM is 18th June at 7.30, Rainbow Hill.

Check out the current PODCASTS on the PGL [You Tube Channel](#), or click on each to listen...

- [Kerry Parkes - Provincial Orator](#)
- [Lecture Competition - Provincial Orator](#)
- [2017 Review - PGM](#)
- [Ted Mason latest adventures](#)
- [New Mason - Mark Babington](#)

New Caption Competition.....

Submit to the Ed who will select a few captions for printing next time!

Ed: ajp@philpott-online.co.uk

Do you have any interesting stories that would be of interest to our Brethren? Email them to the Editor.



PHAB Cheque Presentation

In January, WBro's Duncan Shephard and Brian Baston presented a cheque on behalf of Francis Burgess Chapter to around 40 members of the Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied society at Lickey Parish Hall.



Where Next?

WBro Derek Taylor, WM of Forge Mill Lodge No 9658 and Charity Steward WBro Barry Griffin, join the chairman of



Where Next Tim Twynam in presenting a cheque to the charity. *Where Next* is a local Charity offering quality day services for people with special needs.

Provincial Grand Master's 2018 Welcome Evening.

If you were initiated into Freemasonry in or after September 2016, The PGM like to invite you, and you wife or partner, to a 'Welcome Evening' at Worcester Masonic Centre, on 23rd March 2018 at 6.30 pm. The event will provide an excellent opportunity for you to meet the Provincial Grand Master and his wife Stephanie, together with the other Senior Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Reserve your place by emailing W.Bro. Mark Lodge, Provincial Grand Mentor, at: mentor@worcspgl.org.uk