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Tip of the day:

It is recommended that if you are printing this newsletter off, print at 2 pages per sheet as the content has been modified to suit this format.



EDITORIAL

We are now all starting to see the new Masonic season open up, and lodges and meetings returning to pick up where they left off - some perhaps from 2 years ago. New members start to be initiated, new Officers and Masters are installed, and we start to see the shape of our "new normal". All areas of life are returning, both to be celebrated and remembered – as is the case of the Provincial Cathedral Service which returned last month.

In this edition we have an article that sees a personal perspective of that great and grand occasion of the Service – marked this time by a moving reflection and remembrance of those lost during the last 18 months. We also highlight the fantastic work that Freemasons continue to do for the community, both in time and monetary support, some good news stories which have been picked up and gone viral, the dedication of a new Masonic Hall, events from around and about, and of course reporting on lodges that have started to return.

The green shoots of recovery have begun in earnest - so sit back and relax, take part where you can, and most of all enjoy!

WBro A. J. Philpott



The joyfulness and solemnity of the Cathedral Service

A personal reflection by Ian Crowder

There is surely little doubt that those entering Worcester Cathedral are awed by its colossal scale, its sheer beauty and spiritual peace that seems to touch the soul. Then thoughts perhaps turn to the skill and ingenuity of the ancient stonemasons who, over nearly 500 years from 1084, designed and built its soaring Norman and Perpendicular Gothic columns, and its exquisite stone tracery that has so firmly stood the test of time.

But, to attend a service in this glorious Cathedral Church, dedicated to the Blessed Mary the Virgin, takes that experience to a higher level. Not only is it deeply moving – especially when the congregation is made up of Worcestershire Masons and their families and friends – but filled with joy too.

The Annual Worcestershire Provincial Cathedral Service took place after a two-year gap for reasons we all understand. As the Senior Warden of Permanent Way Lodge no. 9951, it was for me a huge honour to parade with my WM, WBro David Shrimpton, into the great Nave to the thundering of the organ played by WBro David J Lane, Provincial Grand Organist.

Of course, the Province has the closest of links with the Cathedral having donated hundreds of thousands of pounds over the years, particularly to the cost of training the active Masons who maintain this majestic building. Indeed, it was interesting to learn that Worcester is one of only nine Cathedrals in the UK to have its own dedicated stonemasonry workshops and team. I felt proud of the part we play to ensuring the physical wellbeing of this glorious structure for generations to come.

This service was a both uplifting and moving occasion. Uplifting, in that we were able to gather again in this act of worship after the long lockdowns of the pandemic. Moving, because of the candle lit by the PGM, and on the Altar were the names of so many Brethren we have lost and the opportunity to pay tribute to them, to their families and the medical staff who cared for them was a brief but truly solemn moment.

They are now in the Grand Lodge Above – and I fancied that they may have been watching our gathering and nodding their approval.

All too soon came the 'goodbyes' and invitations 'to our next meeting'. I came away with the strong impression that Freemasonry – and our Province in particular – has emerged from one of the most challenging periods in its long history in good health and very good spirits.



Children in West Midlands schools will get role models thanks to Worcestershire Freemasons

More vulnerable children and young people across the West Midlands will be given access to a trained volunteer role model, following a grant of £5,000 from Worcestershire Freemasons to the Mentor Link charity.

Many vulnerable young people are easily taken in by negative outside influences, and mentoring gives them a positive adult role-model to offer reassurance, stability and guidance during difficult times in their lives, helping them to achieve positive changes both personally and educationally.

The children will be referred to Mentor Link when school-based mentoring is not appropriate or possible. Sessions will be delivered weekly and offer one-to-one social and emotional listening support to disadvantaged and vulnerable young people who are experiencing difficulties such as anxiety, self-harm and low-level mental issues; low self-esteem and confidence; bulling; traumatic bereavement; and family breakdown.

When the head of Worcestershire Freemasons, Robert Vaughan, visited Mentor Link, he met Marissa, who was herself supported by Mentor Link when she was in high school. At the time she was a young carer for her six siblings following her parents' separation. She was referred to the charity to help her cope with the demands of home and school life. She became a mentor herself in 2017, wanting to give something back.

She is now settled down and the proud mum of two children herself.

Part of the money from Worcestershire Freemasons will help train more people like Marissa to become mentors to vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in the West Midlands. The figures prove Mentor Link's success. Of the 453 mentees supported by Mentor Link in 2019 across the West Midlands. 89 per cent improved their confidence and self-esteem, 72 per cent their academic performance, 68 per cent their behaviours, 72 per cent improved their relationships with family, peers and teachers, 78 per cent their health and wellbeing, and 71 per cent improved engagement with their community.

The grant from Worcestershire
Freemasons comes through the Masonic
Charitable Foundation, which is funded by
Freemasons, their families and friends,
from across England and Wales.



The PGM together with Andrea Maddocks from Mentor Link and Marissa, a former mentee and now a trained mentor.



Andrea Maddocks, CEO at Mentor Link, said:

"We're very grateful to Worcestershire Freemasons for their generous grant. Mentoring can be an enormous help to vulnerable young people with their mental-health and wellbeing, and the distressing and destabilising time so many of them have had during the pandemic means our service is needed more than ever."

Robert Vaughan, Head of Freemasonry in Worcestershire, said:

"I'm very pleased we've been able to help Mentor Link with their excellent project to give vulnerable children an adult role model. It's a tried and tested way to help them improve their behaviour and self-confidence, not to mention their performance in the classroom. Children only get one chance at getting an education and Mentor Link's work can transform their life chances."

A MEMORABLE AFTERNOON 50 year certificate presentation



Provincial Grand Master Robert C Vaughan and members of Fort Royal Lodge at the home of our PastPGM RWBro Richard GH Goddard and his wife, Helena, when he was presented with a certificate marking his 50 years in Freemasonry.

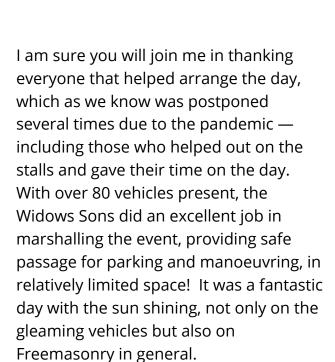


Freemasonry was back with bang, (wheeze, put put and roar!) as Worcester Masonic Hall hosted the National Masonic Vehicle Associations car, bike and family fun day, which raised funds for the Festival 2022. The display ranged from old classic and vintage cars, up to and including a dazzling display of new sports cars — as well as a splendid display of motorbikes from the Worcestershire Widows Sons.

The Masonic Hall at Rainbow Hill, opened its doors not only to the vehicle displays but also to a family fun day-where there was a whole range of stalls, things to do and prizes to be won, (including a splendid display of Bro Boffey's coconuts) and not forgetting the excellent hot food, ice cream and cake stalls which kept everyone amply refreshed, in the glorious sunshine.

The event was amply attended by members of the public and visiting brethren. Tours of the Masonic rooms and our extensive museum were available, for which we had excellent feedback. It was also the ideal opportunity to show round several prospective new candidates.





Article by John Fennell





Freemasons supporting over a million people with mental health issues

To help more than 1.4 million people experiencing mental health issues, Freemasons are donating more than £550,000 to help citizens across the UK.

Many people are reaching crisis point with their mental health due to the pandemic. According to NHS Prevalence Data 2020, one in six young people have a probable mental disorder, while the Young Minds Survey 2020 found 83% of young people said the pandemic had made their mental health worse.

To help the population exit the pandemic in a better state of mental health, the **United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE)**, the governing body for Freemasonry in England and Wales, are supporting various institutions, schools and universities.

Among the institutions receiving support, the Freemasons are donating £125,000 to Young Minds to help them to support approximately 1.4 million young people. The goal is to increase Young Minds' reach by 10% and help many more young people find the support they need, when they need it, and be able to take practical, actionable steps to improve their mental health.

The donation will enable the project to proactively recruit more young Black people and disabled people, to diversify Young Minds' pool of bloggers to expand the experiences and voices on the website. The idea is to create more content on racism and mental health, as well as for those living with bipolar disorder.

The UGLE and the Masonic Charitable Foundation's (MCF) - the Freemasons' charity - donations will also help 100,000 children and young people across the UK to access information, support and guidance online.

In addition, the donation will help to develop and pilot the Suicide Safer Schools programme in three to five schools in west Cumbria, supporting 1,000 young people and 500 parents, teachers and staff, by raising awareness of suicide prevention, understanding help-seeking behaviour, and training selected staff in suicide intervention.

In a separate project, the Freemasons also aim to reach 800 young people in London, who will benefit from better understanding about the prevention of young suicide through volunteers running awareness-raising events in their local communities.

Elsewhere, 2,188 children and young people through three projects will be supported with mentoring and skills workshops. About 270 parents/staff will receive awareness workshops and support, while 270 young people will be trained as peer mentors.

The Freemasons' donations will also support at least 600 teachers, professionals and parents, who will be provided with support through three projects offering mental health first aid training, learning events and parental support, and this will in turn will help 25,000 children and young people.



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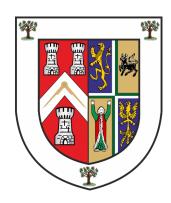
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Original article from the **UGLE website**



Sunday 5th December Christmas Carol Service, Pershore Abbey



Ed Baker

Chairman — Kings Heath Masonic Hall Board of Directors

Last month saw the exciting news that Worshipful Brother Ed Baker has been elected Chairman of the Kings Heath Masonic Hall Company with effect from 4th August, taking over from WBro Howard Wilson who has driven the refurbishment works over the last 18 months. The Hall was renamed at the same meeting and is now the Kings Heath Freemasons Hall (KHFH).

Ed is a well-known, highly respected and well-liked brother who has been a Worcestershire Mason for over twenty-five years. His mother lodge was Peace & Goodwill No. 6010 (formerly meeting at Kings Heath).

Ed has made clear his hopes for KHFH and its board members. To deliver an open transparent management approach, that consistently seeks actionable feedback. With the clear aim that it creates a sensible, consistent and considerate dialogue with all of the Masonic units Meeting at Kings Heath.



Another key tenet of the new approach will be to, where possible, reduce the financial burden on the existing lodges at Kings Heath. This will take the form of looking to gradually introduce workable external bookings and with the opening of the bar to encourage a more convivial atmosphere within the building and begin to repay the generous loans required to refurbish the Hall.

The great news is that the Hall is now fully reopened with new catering and management arrangements following the extensive building work that has taken place over the last eighteen months. The finances and published business plan are on track. More importantly, other projects are also being carefully looked at to ensure the future economic viability of the Hall.

Finally, Ed has advised that he is actively seeking additional new Directors with appropriate skills and experience to complement the Boards activities. Notification will be formally made in the coming weeks. All posts are of course voluntary, unpaid and governed by the KHFH board of directors code of practice.

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The charity work of Freemasons isn't just about monetary actions, it can also be about giving up some of your time up to help the local community.

A recent post on one of the Worcestershire bikers Facebook page saw a request from a mum of a schoolgirl, who wanted to go to her prom on a motorbike. Her mum stated that "Felicity had been bullied from her very first day of primary school, all the way through into her last weeks of high school. Felicity is 15 and has dyslexia and she is currently being diagnosed with Asperger's, so she finds making friends incredibly difficult". Felicity has a love of bikes and anything alternative - she loves to be in her boots and her leather jacket and for that she's been picked on". She continued "Felicity has been looking forward to her prom as she feels that this will be the point where she can show them (the bullies) that they can't hurt her anymore."

She was hoping that a "few" bikes could escort Felicity from Droitwich, to her prom at Worcester Rugby Club.

The Worcestershire Chapter of the Widows Sons (the Masonic Bikers Association, WSMBA) took up the challenge and agreed to take part and help marshal the event — and unbelievably, what actually took place was that over 250 bikes turned up! Just getting off the car park in Droitwich took over half an hour, explained WBro Andy Philpott, President of the Worcester WSMBA, and the route took them on a tour of Droitwich and surrounding area and onto The Rugby Club - to see the look on Felicity's face, and her family's, just showed how proud we were of all the bikers that took part, he said. Her father quoted "Proud of her doesn't even touch it, she's an amazing girl and she hasn't deserved any of this, so to see her light up like a Christmas tree was absolutely fantastic".

The news reports went viral on Facebook and Twitter, appearing in Worcester, Birmingham and other newspapers, and even made the Daily Mail. And to top it all, after reading these reports, the Widows Sons have now received an application from a non-Mason to join up, and hopefully be a candidate for the Lodge of Progress!





Stourbridge Dedication



STOURBRIDGE Freemasons have celebrated the opening of a new freemasonry centre in the town after quitting their long-time masonic hall at The Talbot Hotel where they had been meeting for centuries.

The Deputy Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Sue Greenaway, and her consort, husband Desmond, attended the official opening of the new base at the former Carlisle Hall in Victoria Street, just off the ring road, on Sunday August 29.





Update as at 25th Sept 2021

£1,412,723

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



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"



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, THERE 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



Friday 8th October 2021
Little Hereford & Brimfield Sports Club SY8 4BG
7pm for 7.30 prompt start
Bavarian Evening with the Vorsprung Durch Oompah Band



An evening of music, laughter & good company
2 Course traditional Bavarian Meal
(vegetarian alternative available if pre-booked)
£16.00 per person
Traditional dress optional

AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT - BOOK EARLY Please reserve places with

Phil Gibbs Cattershutt, Eastham, Tenbury Wells WR15 8NW 01584 781208

Barry Gutteridge Barn Cottage, Eastham, Tenbury Wells WR15 8QT 01584 781365

Priory Lodge No. 5545 Rise to the challenge

In April, Worcestershire lodges were encouraged to hold events and initiatives to raise funds specifically in support of F2022 which, due to the effects of the pandemic and brethren unable to meet, has suffered a significant fall in donations. Brethren of Priory Lodge 5545: who now meet at Halesowen following the closure of Dudley Masonic Hall, rose to the challenge with fantastic results.

Lodge Secretary WBro Les Charters explained :

"We met in October with only six brethren in attendance. It felt very strange not to have a Festive Board and the usual raffle and I realised that as a consequence our charitable giving had reduced, in particular to F2022.

I therefore sent a message out to all Brethren requesting that they make a donation towards the Festival 2022, as by not having meetings we had all saved a significant amount of money. The aim was to raise £1,000 but happily the brethren dug deep, and with an additional donation from lodge funds, we achieved £1,200.

We have also increased awareness of regular giving which is vital to the success of F2022."



F2022 Chairman WBro Patrick Firminger AsstPGM said "Without the kind of commitment and effort shown by Priory Lodge, the MCF would not be able to continue its excellent work in Worcestershire. From the local charities, our members, their families and dependents that this donation will help, an enormous thank you".

Pictured are WBro Les Charters and WBro Colin Cutler PPrAGDC (Treasurer) both of Priory Lodge, proudly presenting a cheque for £1200 to The RW PGM Robert Vaughan and WBro Patrick Firminger Asst PGM and F2022 Chairman.

WBro Les Charters Lodge Secretary

St. Kenelm Lodge No. 6082

Installation evening

The evening of the 21st September saw the first Installation ceremony to take place at the newly dedicated James S Webb Freemasonry Centre in Stourbridge when Bro Derek Elwell was Installed as Master of St Kenelm Lodge No 6082. It was a memorable occasion with the RW Provincial Grand Master in attendance as Presiding Officer accompanied by his two Provincial Wardens.

The meeting was enhanced by the RW Provincial Grand Master conferring a 'field' promotion on WBro Ken Hingley to the rank of PPrJGW to mark the considerable contribution that WBro Ken has made to the establishment of the JSWFC in Stourbridge and in the organisation and well running of both the opening ceremony and dedication meeting.

WBro D J V Morgan PProvJGW Information Officer



Back on the square

Abbott Lichfield No.3308 held its first regular meeting on Thursday 14th September.

It was well supported by its members with a large turnout who were happy to get back to their ritual and full of voice. As it was the first meeting back, a decision was made not to have a festive board but instead have a buffet to which they could invite their prospective candidates. Four of their candidates arrived and were immediately welcomed into the lodge and were able to get a small insight of what may be in store for them, as in good friendship and brotherhood. Abbott Lichfield has a busy end to the year in store with a 2nd in October, a double 1st in November and a 3rd to finish off the year in December.

Bro John Fennell



Abbot Lichfield Lodge No.3308



Charity Walk

On the 18th September 2021, Bro Mark Barber from the Lodge of Hospitality together with his friend, Chris Roberts, completed TrekFest, a 50km walk across the Brecon Beacons.

The walk was done in support of Festival 2022. Anyone still wishing to donate can still contribute using the following link.

Lodge of Hospitality **Lodge No. 8325**



To celebrate National Heritage Day the Masonic Hall in Evesham opened its doors on Saturday 18th September to the public.

Many of the local residents passed through the doors with plenty of questions. Most of the questions were what you would expect, however some you could say were off the wall, but our volunteers were more than a match and were able to answer them all. A special thanks goes to W.Bro Peter Griffiths who nearly met his match with one local. Well done Peter.

They had a large number of enquiries from prospective candidates and Masons moving in to the area looking to join a lodge. All in all, an extremely productive day.





Beer & Burgers

Bro John Fennell — Cubit Club Committee Member



Sunday 19th September, was the date set for the Cubit Club to hold their Beer and Burger event .

The idea for the day was for young and new Masons to meet up with their family and friends in a social environment with the emphasis on a welcome back to the Cubit Club and Freemasonry in general.

The idea was floated by the committee and placed in the very capable hands of WBro Ben Maffei. What a job he did and at this point I must mention WBro Chris Phillips (burger flipper extraordinaire) who single handedly kept us all fed.

There was a degree of nervousness within the committee as we (like the whole of Freemasonry) had not met for such a long time and the added pressure of looking after the new Brethren and even candidates that had not even joined in the last 18 months, wondered if anyone would attend. Well we needn't have worried, they came in droves (in fact over 100), so many that Chris did cook up a sweat as well as burgers. We even had a visit and support from the Widows Sons.

The venue, Kidderminster Rugby Club was an ideal setting and with the live music the scene was set for a fantastic day. Some great friendships were made and rekindled I can only say it was an excellent day.





A huge thank you goes out to all that helped and indeed to the Cubit Club. It was a true success!

Come and Join the Cubit Club for a Curry!

That's right brethren, you didn't misread that! We are starting a Quarterly Curry Club for the members of the Cubit Club. We would love to have time to sit down and talk to you with a beer and curry. The first one is going to be in Evesham at Riplys on the water front on October 29th - we will be looking at meeting up from 18:30 to eat around 19:00 / 19:30

If you would like to join us please use the button or link below to sign yourselves up.

Book your place

Worcestershire Masonic LOTERY

Last month's winner

A. J. Bagshawe of Hagley & Holy Wells, No. 7932

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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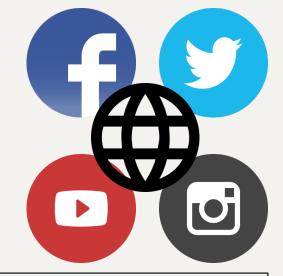
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