



# WORCESTERSHIRE SOURCE

The Newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons

## SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE 2016 PROVINCIAL GENERAL MEETING



*The grandeur of the occasion is captured by photographer Richard Weston as the 170th AGM of the Worcestershire Province gets under way in the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham. Richard Weston is a Past Master of Arter Lodge No. 2654.*

# Towards 2020 and beyond

How do you attract good and true men into Freemasonry? And having succeeded, how do you keep them happy as they take their first tentative steps into the mysteries and privileges of our ancient Order?

It's a subject that occupies the thoughts of Lodges throughout the country, yet little guidance has been given in the past.

Now all that could change. Grand Lodge has been seeking ways to improve retention of members and to ensure that we recruit only men who are suited to the Craft, understand what they are being asked to

### Province plays vital role in pilot plan

undertake, and that they are suited to the Lodge which they want to join.

A membership focus group has been developing a process for attracting, vetting, interviewing and preparing candidates. It's called the Members Pathway. A critical part of the Pathway is the conduct of the interview, including the questions to be asked and how we ensure that only well suited and well prepared candidates are accepted for initiation. This part of the Pathway is ready to be tested in a pilot study. The scheme was highlighted

by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Robert Vaughan, during his address to the 630 Masons attending the AGM at the University of Birmingham. He said: "You will all by now have read the UGLE document setting out the future strategy leading towards 2020 and beyond. The objectives of improving our performance in the areas of governance, recruitment and retention, and meeting place sustainability, are all being faced and addressed. "In that connection I must thank WBro Michael Dykes for accepting my

invitation to become our Provincial Membership Officer... Michael has taken to this task with great enthusiasm, its object being to help develop and deliver recruitment tools and to implement the strategy to promote membership growth and retention."

Part of the new team's role is to organise a pilot scheme for the Members Pathway. Worcestershire is one of ten Provinces who have agreed to trial two very important parts of the initiative, the Vetting and Interviewing of potential candidates. This will ensure that the Lodge receives

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# Stuart finds his feet at last



For Stuart Edwards it was a special moment. After 30 months being confined to a wheelchair he stood up on his own two feet! Yes, he needed support from a purpose-built wooden frame, but there he was, sampling the experience of actually standing up for at least 30 minutes on each occasion. "It was a wonderful feeling," said Stuart, "but also a bit disconcerting because I didn't know what would happen." He was in good hands, though, and it went well. He was spending five days at the world-renowned orthopaedic hospital at Oswestry for assessment and rehabilitation processes. "They were quite amazed at my progress," he said. "Things like being able to put on my own sweater! That might sound trivial but you have to remember I couldn't move at all after my accident."

The accident happened in March 2014. He slipped in the shower and broke his neck. Since then his wife Val has been unstinting in her support and Stuart himself has shown immense spirit and determination to get better. Those few minutes standing up were a sign of progress. And he's been told he can now use a shower chair, having experimented in the hospital and actually taken a shower. And he now has a new wheelchair which allows him to go out in his garden – a great joy denied him for a long long time. So, little by little, old freedoms are coming back into Stuart's life. Meanwhile, back home, the physio routine goes on. Two carers arrive four times a day to see to his needs and Val is always on hand.

*LEFT: A highlight for Stuart Edwards was his attendance at this year's Provincial AGM. "It's very good for me because I see so many friends there," said the former Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Here he is escorted to his place by Bernard Callow and Neil Crabbe, both Stewards.*

## Province taking part in recruit trials

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the right information about the candidate and that the candidate receives the right information about Freemasonry, all in a professional manner. Twelve Worcestershire lodges have been selected to take part in this initiative, all of which will have at least one potential candidate during the trial period.

During the next few weeks representatives of the lodges involved are being trained using guidance notes presented by four Interview Trainers. They are Brian Kent, Chris Overall, Chris Vendy and Peter Foulds. The pilot scheme will be put into practice at the individual lodges for six months from

September 2016 to March 2017, after which the results will be reported to Grand Lodge along with the pilot work from other Provinces. The participating Worcestershire lodges are:- **At** Halesowen, Wernleigh Abbey 6356; **at** Stourport, Vernon 560, Wyre Forest 8653; **at** Northfield, Northfield 5056; **at** Tenbury, St Michael 1097; **at** Redditch, Forge Mill 9658; **at** Worcester, Elgar 9254, Sabrina 6595, Page 3378; **at** Kings Heath, Trinity Blakesley 8586, Brandwood 7679, and Red Rose 7600. Michael Dykes, PPrJGW and a Past Master of Elmley Castle Lodge No. 6247, said: "The Members Pathway Initiative is just good common sense and passes on good practice to all Lodges. At present, too many newcomers fall by the wayside but it is hoped that by using correct



*Michael Dykes*

and professional methods this leakage will be greatly reduced. All the selected lodges understand that this will be a benefit to Freemasonry and are very enthusiastic to be taking part."

## Numbers are up this year

Membership figures for the first five months of this year showed a nett increase, the PGM pointed out at the AGM. It was, he said, the first time the Provincial Registrar, Barry Griffin, could recall an increase, but issued a cautious note when he added: "We can in no

way be complacent about this, it being a small statistical sample, but it is good news and does demonstrate that we can be confident and should encourage the more pessimistic amongst us to accept that recruitment, retention, and retrieval, can all be improved."



# 2017 and all that...

Next year is one of the most significant in the long history of Freemasonry as we celebrate the 300th year of Grand Lodge and Worcestershire is making a right royal occasion of it. Naturally, the Provincial Grand Master highlighted our celebrations in his address to the AGM. He said:-



“MFest300 at Weston Park on the 24/25 June next year is going to be a ‘spectacular’ in the true sense – a great occasion for all, family and friends, young and old, to enjoy, and definitely not to be missed.

“The amount of preparation work being done by the organising committee is extraordinary, and many thanks go to Iain Sharratt, our representative, supported by Raymond Rooke. I suggest that one of the first things you do when you get home is to go to the website, [www.mfest300.org](http://www.mfest300.org) and book your currently bargain price £10 tickets (children half price, toddlers free).

now have over £100,000 to distribute next year to local charities and good causes around our Province.

“As ever, the Provincial Lottery, led by WBro Derek Taylor, has been a great supporter. You can be very proud of what you have all achieved. Already, nearly 200 beneficiaries have been nominated and the dates for the celebratory presentation evenings to be held at all our meeting places throughout the Province have been set and will be announced soon.

“You cannot fail to have noticed that next year will also see the launch of our 2022 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The aim of the committee is to make it one of the best Worcestershire Festivals ever, and essentially one of the most enjoyable.

“Already the early planning work of the excellent Appeal Committee, chaired singly now by Patrick Firminger, is showing tangible results and there is talk of a wide range of fundraising events – anyone interested in being sponsored to jump out of an aeroplane, (preferably but not necessarily, with a parachute) for example, should apply in writing to Patrick!

“The official launch of the Festival will take place on Saturday 21 January 2017 at

the Chateau Impney Hotel in Droitwich and will be centred on the regular meeting of the Installed Masters’ Lodge followed by a grand Festive Board and entertainment open to all, including our visitors and ladies. Further details of this will be available soon. “Our Cathedral Service this year will take place on 11th September and I shall be disappointed if every Lodge in the Province is not well represented. I am delighted that R W Bro David Bowen has accepted my invitation to deliver the address

for which David, we thank you and look forward to welcoming you there.

“We will hold a special 300th Anniversary Cathedral Service NEXT year, and I am very

pleased to be able to tell you that the Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev John Inge, has agreed to be with us and will deliver an address, a unique event in recent times.

“Brethren, with the coming together of the Tercentenary, the launch of our Festival to support the new MCF, and the opportunities provided by the initiative promoted by Grand Lodge and locally, we are entering exciting times.

“Be involved – and don’t wait to be asked.

This is your province and it needs you.”



## Dates

## for Your Diary

With so many spectacular Masonic events taking place in the Worcestershire Province next year to mark the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England, we list them here so you can put the dates in your diary now.

**An extensive** public exhibition covering all aspects of Freemasonry in the historic Guildhall at Worcester organised by the Province’s own Library and Museum. It will run from **July 24 until August 4**.

**A special** Three Choirs Festival concert sponsored jointly with the Provinces of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire at Worcester Cathedral on Friday, **July 28**.

**A series** of presentations of cheques totalling in excess of £100,000 to a large number of local small charities throughout the Province as a result of the Provincial Grand Master’s special Tercentenary Appeal.

**A celebration** Cathedral Service at Worcester on **Sunday September 10 2017**.

**In addition** Worcestershire is joining the Provinces of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Shropshire in staging a spectacular fun-filled weekend gala in the magnificent grounds of Weston Park, Staffordshire, on **June 24 and 25**.

And please take note of the Celebration Dinner at Chateau Impney, Droitwich, on **Saturday January 21**, to mark the launch of our 2022 Festival for the MCF.

# New SW is a man of Worcester

"When I joined Freemasonry I never thought I'd reach these giddy heights." So said David Dey, newly-appointed Provincial Senior Warden. "It was a delightful surprise when Mike Cole, the Deputy PGM, phoned me last November". After checking the Year Book David found that only five members of his Lodge have been made Provincial Wardens during its 106 year history, the last 65 years ago. More significantly David is the first member of Page Lodge to have been honoured with the office of Senior Warden.

David is looking forward to visiting all the lodges in the Province over the next six years and adding to the number of his Masonic friends.

He was initiated into Page Lodge 3378 at Worcester in 1995 and was WM in 2006 and has been Almoner since 2007. He is also a member of Installed Masters and the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodges and in 2013 was MEZ of Page Chapter.

David 69 and retired is a local lad. Born in Worcester he attended the city's Grammar School. For most of his working life he was employed in the fine china and glass industry initially with Royal

Worcester Porcelain who promoted him to the position of Deputy London Manager.

He and Sylvia have been married for 47 years and have two children Andrew and Sally and 5.5 grandchildren. Five and a half? "Yes, we have another little granddaughter due in late July which will complete our family of six grandchildren, three boys and three girls."

Sylvia has been a very active charity worker. She was National Chairman of the Talking Newspaper for the Blind and her dedication to visually impaired people was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2007 when she was awarded an MBE.

## 36 hours in a day for Paul

Outside of his family, Paul Wong has two great loves – Scouting and Freemasonry, and he looks forward to his new challenge as Provincial Junior Grand Warden.

His Oriental features stem from his Hong Kong Chinese father, who came to England, set up a string of restaurants, married an English girl, and together created a family. So Paul was born in Bradford, schooled in North Staffs, and is "absolutely British."

He spent 30 years in the West Midlands Police Force and during that time obtained a Masters Degree in Investigative Management. This led him back to, though not in, the police force as a National Investigations Training Manager. This took him all over the world to places like Beirut, Pakistan, Canada and Germany.

While all this was going on he also became deeply involved in the Scouting movement and is now County Commissioner for

Roy Padden with his Certificate.



## 'A shock' for Roy

To warm applause, that most rare of honours, the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Merit, was presented to WBro Roy Padden (pictured) at the AGM.

Since being initiated into Sabrina Lodge in 1977 he has worked tirelessly for the Craft. He became a Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1993, PPrGSwdB in 1999, PPrJGW in 2005 and PPrSGW in 2012. He was a founder of Edward Fredrick Hanson Lodge and George Taylor Lodge and has held high office in Holy Royal Arch and Breme Rose Croix. The citation stated: "He is one of a number of driving forces at the Library and Museum at Worcester and enjoys the work and helping it to move forward as well as being a Director of The Worcester Masonic Building Company."

Roy's reaction afterwards: "The award was an absolute shock."



David Dey

the West Mercia Scout County covering most of the Black Country. He also has a great family life with wife Joanne their two boys aged 26 and 19.

No room then for Masonry? Wrong – or should it be Wong. Having been initiated into Northfield Lodge in 1995, Paul has branched out into a multitude of Masonic disciplines, including RA, KT, Rose Croix, Red Cross, Mark and Royal Ark Mariners.

The most unusual Craft lodge he belongs to is Unity, Peace, and Concord No.316, now based in London. It was a travelling lodge attached to an Army regiment and was in Hong Kong at the time of the Japanese invasion during the Second World War. It dispersed and the lodge artefacts were spirited away and hidden.

After the war the lodge was resuscitated, the artefacts were recovered, and are used to this day. The lodge is actually over 200 years

old but hasn't the proof of continuity to make it official. It now holds two meetings a year and Paul is the DC.

He looks forward hugely to the 40 or so meetings he will attend during his year as Pr. JGW with more to follow. How does he fit all this activity into his life? "It's easy," he says, "you just accept that there are 36 hours in a day."



Paul Wong



The Provincial Grand Master takes centre stage at the Annual General Meeting, flanked by his leading officers – Deputy Michael Cole and Assistant Grand Masters Stephen Wyer, Keith Evans, George Barrow and former Assistants Colin Brown, Colin Young and Raymond Rooke. Around him are leading officers visiting from other Provinces.

## Howard steps down after ten years

The PGM paid tribute at the AGM to Howard Wilson who has retired as Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

RWBro Robert Vaughan said Howard had held the office for ten years “and during that time has successfully led the way during a 2005 Appeal to raise over £200,000 to secure the future of the Library and Museum.”

He had also, said the PGM, successfully chaired the 2011 Festival, “and is even now providing the benefit of his experience as a member of the 2022 Festival Committee.

Beyond that, Howard has worked tirelessly to encourage and support lodge Charity Stewards and others and to strengthen this core element of Freemasonry.”

The PGM added: “He was for ten years an RMBI Council Member and now, together with Eric Bourne, is one of our representatives to the MCF.

“Thank you, Howard, for all that you have done and will continue to do. You have laid solid foundations for a very worthy successor in Chris Firminger.”

Howard said afterwards: “I felt it was the right time to

go. Ten years and that’s plenty.”

Over the years he has made a huge impact on Masonry, both provincially and nationally, none more valuable, perhaps, than his work in 2003 when he chaired a Library and Museum fund raising appeal which placed the L&M on a sound financial footing and so secured its future.

He worked in banking until retiring in 2002 which gave him more time not only for Freemasonry but for one of his other enthusiasms – field hockey. After playing the game at a high level he became a hockey umpire, and is today coach umpire in the National League .

At one time in his life he featured in some of the country’s leading brass bands as an award winning tenor horn player.



Howard Wilson



ABOVE: David Lane looks in relaxed mood as he mans the organ at the AGM. He has been Provincial Organist for three years and as a professional musician is a natural for the job. He became a church organist at 14 and now plays “at all sorts of functions” as well as teaching others to play. He is IPM of Arter Lodge No. 2654 having first occupied the Chair in 2009.



RIGHT: Pete Broughton has been Provincial DC for three years. His work brought him to Worcester in 2003 and he joined Page Lodge No. 3378 and is the current WM. Of his office as DC he says: “I love the job. It’s a challenge because Worcestershire sets very exacting standards.”



ABOVE: The AGM is over and it's time for snacks at the bar set up by Richard Macey. Among those in the picture are Ellis Salsby, Alan Payne, Keith Harris, Colin Davies, Richard Macey, Leo Brown, Kerry Parkes, Howard Carlton, and Royston Foster.



RIGHT: The Provincial Grand Master makes his way to the stage for his fourth time in charge at Annual General Meeting.



LEFT: Alan Wyer is in jovial mood as he prepares for the opening of the 170th Annual Meeting.

RIGHT: two former Provincial Deputy Grand Masters are escorted to their places – Dr John White. Deputy 1986-1993, and (in mobility chair) Stuart Edwards, Deputy 2013-21014.



Photographs at the AGM were taken by WBros Richard Weston, Iain Sharratt, and Simon Westwood.

# All the fun of the fair in the park

For the last 15 years Kings Heath WAML (formerly Group 12) have organised a free fun fair for disadvantaged children in Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, courtesy of the fair's owner, Bro Robert Wilkinson CM. Over the years some 7,500 children have enjoyed a very special day out and this year was no

exception. Guest of honour was the Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands, WBro David Bradnock, who was welcomed by our PGM, Robert Vaughan, and Brethren from various Lodges turned up to help.



After 15 years at the helm, chief organiser WBro Trevor Barnes is stepping down and next year WBros Leo Brown and Alan Breward

are taking over. In the picture David Bradnock and his daughter Laura and the PGM are joined by some strange company.



## A matter of Principal

A brass band, or at the least a fanfare of trumpets, would not have been out of place at the Installation of the three Principals at a meeting of the Worcestershire Installed First Principals Chapter No. 6889. The No.1 lodge room at Kings Heath was awash with a sea of blue and red regalia as around 100 Royal Arch Masons witnessed what was possibly a unique occasion

as the heads of three Orders took office. Robert Vaughan, RW Provincial Grand Master, was installed into the 1st Principal's Chair, Colin Young, PASstPGM and Intendent General of the Red Cross of Constantine took the 2nd Principal's Chair, and Colin Brown PASst PGM, Most Excellent Grand Superintendent They are pictured after the ceremony.

## The Wardens' Bash

The Fountain Inn at Clent was the scene of the 2016 "Wardens' Bash" skittle competition which, once again, demonstrated the friendly rivalry between the Provincial Directors of Ceremonies and the Provincial Wardens. The event was organised by John Crowther PrSGW, who invited several Past Provincial Wardens and the now newly-appointed Provincial

Wardens David Dey and Paul Wong together with the PrGDC Pete Broughton and a number of Provincial ADC's. More than a dozen brethren and their ladies attended which made for an enjoyable evening that combined friendly conversation, great food provided by mine host Richard Macey, and a fun contest. To top it all, £504 was raised for charity.

## Medal for Gordon after 72 years

It was 1944 and at the tender age of 20 Gordon Walker was in the thick of bitter and bloody battles as the Allied armies fought their way across France. Now, 72 years later, here he was being



Gordon and Brian

feted by his Masonic Lodge as his kid brother (and Brother) Brian invested him with a war medal to mark his courage and dogged bravery all those years ago. Such was the scene at a highly emotional meeting of St Edburgha Lodge No. 4621 at Kings Heath as Gordon became a Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, the highest honour France can bestow on a non-national. It all came about because Brian (who is only 79) saw a report that France had decided to award the medal to every surviving member of the Allied Forces who had helped to liberate them from the Nazi occupation. His plan was to obtain the medal and surprise his brother and all went well except that Gordon found out! Well, it was a forlorn hope especially as Gordon, at 92, is Secretary of the

lodge and doesn't miss a thing.

What Gordon did not know was how warmly his fellow lodge members would show their brotherly love and respect for this grand old man. They listened in awe as Brian traced Gordon's epic war exploits – from landing in France 48 hours after D-Day, battling across the Continent during which he was wounded five times, to later heroic service in Palestine.

The tale was told in the peace tranquillity of King's Heath No.2 lodge room. After Brian's address, Past Assistant Grand Master Colin Young read a letter from a French ambassador thanking Gordon and telling him that "It is to heroes like you that we owe our freedom" and Colin told Gordon: "It is an honour to stand beside you Sir."

# Bike triumph for 23-stone Richard



Richard Macey with one of his comrades on the ride - Oliver Freeman, JW of Victory Lodge No. 8506.

Biking through Wales for 105.9 miles is a stern task for anyone but when you weigh in at a rather substantial 23.5 stone then maybe a pint at the local is a better idea. But WBro Richard Macey didn't think so and when his mates suggested there was no way he could do it his competitive spirit came to the fore. That's why he found himself pedalling from Wolverhampton to Aberdovey along with 599 other hardy souls, all intent on raising funds for the Cyclists Fighting Cancer charity. Did he do it? Of

course he did despite being in the saddle for 8 hours and 13 minutes. In doing so, this Past Master of Old Edwardians Lodge No. 6141 has contributed £3,300 to the total of £83,000 so far raised

by the project. To support him, go to [www.justgiving.com/Richard-Macey1](http://www.justgiving.com/Richard-Macey1) And Richard, undaunted, said: "The ride was a challenge, but I enjoyed it and plan to do it again next year."

## 'The very heart of Freemasonry'

Disadvantaged children who have never seen the sea will be able to play on British beaches this summer thanks to Kidderminster Freemasons. The Masons have raised much needed funds to transform the long summer break for the pupils of Birchen Coppice Primary School.

Many of the children, aged from 4 to 12, are from broken homes and during school holidays some are left to their own devices, loose on the Birchen Coppice estate without food for the day.

Mrs Charlotte Jeynes, the School Events & Fund Raising Organiser, is passionate about the welfare of these children and is organising a summer club so, instead of hanging around the streets with nothing to do, the kids will be able to go to the school in Woodbury Road and have fun and lunch.

All sorts of activities, run by the dedicated staff who have volunteered to keep the school open, are

to be laid on, including pottery workshops, fishing, drumming, dancing, music, kayaking, and, the biggest prize of all, day trips to the seaside.

Martin Lawrence, Chairman of the Kidderminster Masonic Temple Association, said when handing over a cheque to the school headmistress, Kay Butler, that to support the Birchen Coppice scheme was "at the very heart of Freemasonry."

The school was expecting a cheque for £3,000 at the most, but the Masons raised £4,385 and headmistress Kay Butler said: "I'm blown away. This will make such a difference to the lives of these children."

The funds were raised by several Orders in Kidderminster plus donations from the Province and a hefty sum from the Red Cross of Constantine's Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund, which was arranged by Colin Young, Intendent-General of the West Midlands Division.

## A 2,000-mile marathon for Tim

For 11 gruelling days Tim Tilley gritted his teeth and biked 2016 miles from Vancouver in Canada to Tijuana in Mexico. Up and down nine mountain ranges, in temperatures from a pleasantly cool 12 to a searing 46 degrees, this 47 year old Worcestershire Freemason pushed himself to the limits.

"It was far tougher than I thought it would be," he said, "but I'm glad I did it."

Of course Tim didn't pedal all those miles himself. He was a member of a group of 18 riders taking part in the Border 2 Border Challenge to raise money for Hope House Children's Hospices. They split into teams of six and took it in turns to pedal, covering about 70 miles each every day.

The target was to raise £100,000 and at a recent count the fund stood at a mighty £140,000. The riders



Tim Tilley

pay their own expenses and every penny donated goes to the charity. If you want to support Tim you can do so on [www.justgiving.com/tilleyB2B](http://www.justgiving.com/tilleyB2B) selecting gift aid.

Now Tim is preparing to assume the Chair of Hagley and Holy Wells Lodge No. 7932 in October. It will be his second term as WM; the first was in 2007.

*It seems we were wrong when we reported in the previous edition of Source that three-times-Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin was a Freemason. "We can't find any evidence of him being a member of Worcester Lodge," says John Tapson, former Curator of the Library & Museum.*



Robert Vaughan, Provincial Grand Master, Mrs Kay Butler, Headmistress of Birchen Coppice Primary School, Martin Lawrence, Mrs Charlotte Jeynes, School Events and Fund Organiser, and Colin Young.