



WORCESTERSHIRE SOURCE

The Newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons

We've all been through it. Every Freemason – even the Provincial Grand Master himself – has experienced that state of being utterly bewildered for a considerable time after being Initiated into our ancient Craft.

So many questions, so much that needs explaining, so strong the feeling that never in a month of Sundays shall we begin to understand any of it. And quite convinced that no way will we ever reach the expertise displayed by these practised Masons who have just guided you into the foothills of what appears to be an unconquerable mountain of Masonic knowledge. It's not true, of course. Our forefathers knew what they were doing when they formulated "the

Friendly get-together for new members

mysteries and privileges" of the ritual so that, step by step, we become practised in the art. You will be amazed!

But if you are at present in a state of bewilderment, take heart! Help is at hand! On Sunday, September 25, the Provincial Mentor, WBro Mark Lodge, is organising the Provincial Grand Master's Welcome Brunch at Worcester Masonic Hall.

This happy gathering is aimed at our new members and their wives or partners. It provides a perfect opportunity for

our new members to meet each other, and offers a gentle introduction to Freemasonry for their guests.

All Worcestershire Masons who were initiated after September 2015 are invited, as are those brothers who haven't attended on a previous occasion. You can join this pleasant informal occasion – no regalia, smart casual – for just £8 per person.

To reserve your place, please do so by emailing WBro Mark Lodge at: mentor@worcspgl.org.uk

Choir will add lustre

A Provincial event not to be missed is the Annual Service when Brethren and their families and friends pack Worcester Cathedral for a truly inspiring occasion, so please note the date now: Sunday, September 11. As last year, the magnificent Cathedral Choir will add extra lustre.

The RWBro Rev. David Bowen, PGM for Herefordshire, will give the address.

Brethren not in the Processions (i.e. those below Past Master, Master or Warden) should be seated with their parties by 1.30pm and put on their aprons and white gloves there and then.

Many lodges arrange tea parties afterwards so why not call on your fellow lodge members and add something extra?

Except for the disabled, parking is not possible at the Cathedral but there are plenty of facilities close by.

Like to sing?

The Provincial Choir will be out and about over the next few months, particularly singing at the forthcoming Consecrations of Lodges.

The choir is currently looking to increase its numbers and if you enjoy singing and can join us please contact WBro Tim Morris on 01562 744333 or tim@timmorris.org

Spotlight on Mentoring

Making sure new members are happy when they join and are made to feel very welcome looms large in present day thinking and the Provincial Grand Master's Brunch is a very pleasant way of helping this aim along.

But the bedrock is naturally the Mentoring Scheme and, with this in mind, Mark Lodge is also organising a Mentoring Seminar and he urges all Lodge and Personal Mentors to attend

along with seasoned professionals who have been working hard during the past few years.

Seminar? The word conjures up visions of heavy dull lectures which may impel you to run a mile! But Mark assures us that this will be nothing like that.

"It will be a friendly, informal get-together," he says, "and I anticipate a very lively question-and-answer session so come

along and join friends old and new."

If you have any questions or comments Mark will be happy to hear from you. Just email: mentor@worcspgl.org.uk

And please note the date in your diary NOW : Wednesday 30th November at Kidderminster Masonic Centre at 7pm.

DIARY DATES

A spectacular year is looming for the Worcestershire Province. As well as all the events to mark the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England, on Saturday, January 21, we will officially launch our 2022 Festival with a Celebration Dinner at Chateau Impney, Droitwich. Details soon but meanwhile please ring-fence the date in your diary! The "Relief chest" is now open and regular donors receive a lapel badge.

Other 2017 dates to note:-

JUNE 24 AND 25: 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. Get your cut-price £10 tickets now.

JULY 24-AUGUST 5: An extensive public exhibition covering all aspects of Freemasonry will take place in the historic Guildhall at Worcester. It is the biggest event ever organised by the Province's own Library and Museum and the Curator, Bob James, is calling for any brother with an hour or two to spare to help. Contact him on 01531 650 563.

JULY 28: A special Three Choirs Festival concert sponsored jointly with the Provinces of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire at Worcester Cathedral.

SEPTEMBER 10: A celebration Cathedral Service at Worcester Cathedral.

IN ADDITION, a series of presentations of cheques totalling in excess of £100,000 to upwards of 300 local small charities are planned throughout the Province as a result of the PGM's special Tercentenary Appeal. Details are on the website.

ALSO, United Grand Lodge are to stage a spectacular celebration at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on October 31, which will be streamed live to every Province and District within UGLE to enable everyone to share the experience.

Getting the very best out of Freemasonry

by STEPHEN WYER
*Assistant Provincial
Grand Master*

Exciting times lie ahead for those involved in the provision of Masonic Training and Education within the Province of Worcestershire.

Worcestershire is at the forefront of the development of United Grand Lodge's Masonic Foundation and Masonic Pathway programmes which are designed to assist Lodge Mentors by providing them with events and resources which they can use to stimulate interest in Freemasonry amongst the membership, aid understanding, and thereby increase enjoyment.

Our programme will be coordinated by my team and will bring together the activities of the Provincial Mentor, the Provincial Orator, the Stewards' demonstration team, the Study Circle and the Library and Museum under one roof.

Write your own lecture!

by JEREMY MALLIN - *Provincial Orator*

As you will no-doubt recall, Worcestershire held its first Provincial Lecture Competition earlier this year and it proved to be a tremendous success and great fun.

So what made it a success? Well, the 11 entrants immensely enjoyed researching 11 very diverse subjects and, following the enthusiastic reception each lecture received, they have been travelling around the Province – and now into other Provinces – to educate, entertain and encourage Brethren in their daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

And what made it fun? Perhaps it was that from the start. No-one thought that they had to be a Prestonian Lecturer. All that was required was to research a subject relevant in some way to the Craft, banish nerves, and share with others the fruits of their labours.

The competition has enthused others to ask if they can have a go. And so we shall be holding another competition in January or February 2017. Precise dates and venues will be decided when

I should stress that we also encourage all Lodges to take advantage of the resources available to organise their own talks and demonstrations. There are a number which only take five minutes but would allow Lodges to include some "education" element at all of their meetings.

Details of the second Lecture competition being organised by the Provincial Orator in conjunction with the Study Circle are reported below. Then on Page One are details of a Seminar for Mentors to be held at Kidderminster on November 30 when the programme will be further explained.

Lodges will receive further details of the programme and the resources available in due course and I urge them all to grasp this opportunity. It will enable us to make Freemasonry in Worcestershire more stimulating and even more enjoyable.

Watch this space!"

we know how many Brethren want to participate.

So come on.....have a go!

You could talk about anything. Perhaps some history of your Lodge, what a Masonic degree means to you, your interpretation of ritual or furnishings, your view on the ceremonies' historical contexts, famous or infamous Masons – the scope is quite literally endless.

If the idea of a lecture makes you nervous, why not team up with some other members of your Lodge and enter as a team? Ask your Mentor for ideas and advice.

The talks will be judged by the Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Mentor, and me. After our competition earlier this year, the Provincial Grand Master declared that the three evenings during which we heard the lectures were among the best Masonic events he had attended.

To register your interest, please contact me: Jeremy Mallin, Provincial Grand Orator at jeremy.mallin@btinternet.com or 'phone 01564 773454 or 07947 299794