



# Worcestershire SOURCE

The Newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons

## Worcestershire Province Takes Part in National Heritage Open Days



### Appeal 2011 News

- Over £407,000 raised so far
- Plus £52,000 reclaimed from the Government
- More than 949 Festival Jewels now being worn

Find out how to get your jewel inside



The Province of Worcestershire welcomed the UK National Heritage Day 2008 by throwing open the doors of many of the Masonic buildings for free access to the general public.

A number of Lodge Rooms were open on the weekend of 20th and 21st September as part of the national scheme. Worcester Masonic Hall at Rainbow Hill was opened to the public, generating much interest from the local press. Graeme Collins, Press Officer for the Province, spoke to the Worcester Standard and explained some of the traditions of Freemasonry and information on how to become a Mason.

Reporters from the Worcester Evening Standard visited Rainbow Hill where the Provincial Grand Master explained "A Freemason will always be happy to declare that he is a Freemason. What people want to know is why there is this idea of a hidden aspect. But I can categorically affirm that if anyone wants to know anything about Freemasonry, I will tell them."

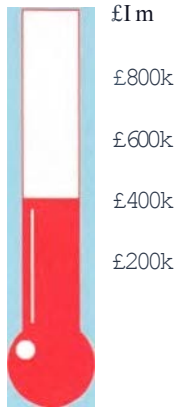
Several other Halls within the Province held Open Days, including Stourport, which registered twenty four visitors and Redditch which counted in seventy seven visitors, over fifty of whom were not Freemasons. At Kings Heath, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master escorted those interested around the Temple, where there was a display of regalia, artefacts and an audio visual presentation. As a result of their Open Day, Malvern Masonic Hall has four potential candidates, one of whom made a 200 mile round trip for the occasion!

## Festival Dinner

June 10th 2011 is the date for the Festival Celebration Dinner to be held at Worcester Rugby Club at which the Provincial Grand Master will present the cheque to RMTGB. Attendance will be limited to 750 - watch for further details.

Please start to make a difference now by taking out a standing order or making a "one off" contribution to the Appeal. Don't forget to GiftAid where ever possible. 28.2% from the Chancellor is an opportunity not to miss.

We thank you in advance for giving your support to making the Appeal 2011 a great success.



The Second half of the Appeal begins with a new Chairman. W Bro Howard Wilson Prov.G.Charity Steward has accepted the responsibility of the Chairmanship of the Appeal, as W.Bro Derek Taylor has unfortunately found it necessary to step down due to an unexpected increase in his business commitments. The Appeal currently stands at £407k plus £52k in GiftAid. Both the previous and new Chairman would like to say "Well Done" to all who have decided to make their mark on the Appeal's target of £1m (plus GiftAid). However, with 32 months to go we, as a Province are a little behind target. If we can aim to raise £20k per month for the remainder of the Appeal, that amount divided equally between the number of lodges in the Province (and we all know that that is never the case), equates to slightly more than £150 per lodge per month. With an approximate membership of 3,300, that becomes an even more tangible figure of less than £6 per member per month for the next 32 months. The good news is that the Provincial Grand Master is not asking each member to donate that figure, albeit many are, but to emulate those lodges with an active social and fund raising events schedule such as Brandwood Lodge, who have already contributed £15k with only 29 members. Not to be ignored but indeed thanked for their efforts are the other degrees and side orders, particularly The Holy Royal Arch Chapters who have contributed £27k and ofcourse the Provincial Ladies Committee who do such a wonderful job too, we thank them for their £5k thus far raised! (The rulers are now safe for a month or two).

Why are we supporting the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys?

Very simply, we in Worcestershire presently have 23 children benefiting from their endeavours. Last year alone. the RMTGB spent in excess of £7m helping a total of 1800 children in distressed circumstances. The Provincial Grand Master's 2011 Appeal is absolutely crucial for the future of the children whose lives are so enhanced by this charity and indeed the future of the RMTGB itself. If you simply take the 23 beneficiaries in Worcestershire alone, the potential cost is approx £75k per year. With the way that the Festival system is structured, we probably won't be asked to support the RMTGB again for another 40 years! This is therefore a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to make a difference ----- for their sake!

W.Bro Howard, who many of you will remember as the Chairman of the very successful Worcestershire Masonic Library & Museum Appeal which finished in 2005, will be organising a series of Appeal Workshops. These will take place at various locations throughout the Province where you will be provided with the facts and figures of where the Appeal is now and where it needs to be. There will be a question & answer session at each of these Workshops for you to really get to grips with the structure of the Appeal. Anyone can attend the workshops, but the Master, Wardens and Charity Steward of each lodge are particularly urged to attend.

There are a number of Lodges who have achieved honorific status and have either received or will be receiving certificates at the aforementioned Workshop meetings in recognition of their efforts to date. Two lodges have already become Patrons of the RMTGB, 4 lodges Vice Patrons and a further Twenty two Lodges have achieved Subscriber status.

## How Can I Help ?

Why don't you or your Lodge or Chapter organise an event to raise money for the Festival Appeal? What about such things as:

**Mobile Skittle Alley Night**

Contact W. Bro. Bob Clark on bob.pauline@virgin.net  
0121 705 6156

**Frog Racing Night**

Contact W. Bro. Rob Dewberry on  
01608 651 109 (Day) 01386 700370 (Evening)

**Fine Arts Auction & Valuation Night or Talk**

by W.Bro Philip Serrell

Contact W. Bro. Philip on philip.serrell@virgin.net

**Train Dining Trips (GWR or West Somerset)**

Contact W. Bro. Len Young on 01386 832702

**A Magic Evening With a first rate conjuror**

Contact John Milner on dmilner@blueyonder.co.uk

**Various Sponsorship Yents**

Slimming, Walks, Fun Runs etc. rt.harper@tiscali.co.uk

W. Bro. Derek Taylor has just raised over £2,800 for the Festival by losing 31 pounds!

**Ebay**

Ric Abbotts has offered to put items on Ebay if people want to get rid of them and they have a value. He will do all of the work and the proceeds will go straight to Appeal 2011.

Contact Ric at mail@ralassociates.com

## Appeal Lodge Honorifics

Through various fund raising activities, the following Lodges have made it to the Honours Board.

<i>Patron</i>	<b>£15,000</b>	
		Elmley Castle 6247 Brandwood 7679
<i>Vice Patron</i>	<b>£10,000</b>	
		Lechmere Volunteer 1874 Moseley 5224 Old Bromsgrovian 5743 St John in Bedwardine 7458
<i>Subscriber</i>	<b>£5,000</b>	
		Royds 1204 Masefield 2304 Arter 2654 Abbot Lichfield 3308 Page 3378 Avon 3569 St Mary's 3879 Bordesley Abbey 4495 Fort Royal 4565 Bon Accord 4935 Halesowen 5635
		Wythall 5665 Dofra 5775 Lickey Hills 5947 St Kenelm 6082 St Johns 6414 WIML 6889 Malvern Hills 6896 White Ensign 9169 Elgar 9254 Forge Mill 9658 George Taylor 9819

## Contribution by Lodge (per capita)

We are now half way through the Appeal and the following lodges have all reached half of the £300 per person target, great effort thank you !

	Lodge	Lodge Name	TOTAL	Gift Aid TOTAL	Overall TOTAL	Lodge Membership	Donations per capita
1	7679	Brandwood	14699.50	619.67	15319.17	29	506.88
2	6247	Elmley Castle	15820.43	1734.31	17554.74	56	282.51
3	9254	Elgar	6122.48	1507.94	7630.42	24	255.10
4	7458	St. John in Bedwardine	9369.50	991.36	10360.86	37	253.23
5	5635	Halesowen	5041.40	663.76	5705.16	21	240.07
6	1874	Lechmere Volunteer	9414.36	798.73	10213.09	43	218.94
7	5224	Moseley	8100.40	2228.62	10329.02	38	213.17
8	4935	Bon Accord	5690.10	680.72	6370.82	27	210.74
9	2654	Alter	5392.50	780.79	6173.29	26	207.40
10	6455	Futurity	3863.00	427.48	4290.48	20	193.15
11	2034	Masefield	5424.66	863.96	6288.62	30	180.82
12	5407	Halas Abbey	3222.41	597.49	3819.90	18	179.02
13	5775	Dofra	4966.11	547.39	5513.50	29	171.25
14	5665	Wythall	5967.55	1248.36	7215.91	35	170.50
15	8180	North Wares	3565.00	159.32	3724.32	21	169.76
16	5743	Old Bromsgovian	10557.01	1999.90	12556.91	64	164.95
17	272+	St. Lawrence	2625.00	533.75	3158.75	16	164.06
18	3308	Abbot Lichfield	7174.43	989.52	8163.95	46	155.97
19	5947	Lickey Hills	4733.80	955.88	5689.68	31	152.70
20	3569	Avon	4566.75	862.54	5429.29	30	152.23
21	6082	St. Kenelm	5460.09	1098.00	6558.09	36	151.67

## Contribution by Chapter (per capita)

1	C4001	Kings Norton	1589.50	188.79	1778.29	25	63.58
2	C7679	Brandwood	1257.20	51.66	1308.86	21	59.87
3	C3643	Campbell	647.00	84.59	731.59	12	53.92
4	C6879	Merston Culy	795.00	91.65	886.65	16	49.69
5	C4935	Wigomia	853.00	166.88	1019.88	22	38.77
6	C1874	Lechmere Hughes Volunteer	1050.00	0.00	1050.00	28	37.50
7	C5028	Mosaic	948.10	73.04	1021.14	28	33.86
8	C2034	Masefield	1419.47	266.15	1685.62	43	33.01
9	C2385	Godson	585.00	133.39	718.39	18	32.50
10	C252	Dudley	567.31	115.76	683.07	18	31.52

## Appeal Boxing Night

Once again W.Bro Vic Southan has organised one of his famous Charity Boxing Nights to be held in aid of the 2011 Appeal for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. This will take place from 7.30p.m. on Wednesday 29th October at the Kingfisher Country Club, Kidderminster Road, Wall Heath, DY6 0EN. Opportunities are available for advertisers at £50 and fight sponsors at £20 per fight. Raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated. The evening will comprise a three course dinner and coffee at 8:00pm with ten bouts of boxing organised by the ABA. Tickets at £30 per head are available from Vic Southan on [marvic@sky.com](mailto:marvic@sky.com)



## Ladies Luncheon



The first Ladies' Luncheon held while the Brethren attended Provincial Grand Lodge took place on Saturday 28th June at Moseley Masonic Hall, Kings Heath.

A bucks fizz reception greeted the 165 ladies attending, together with an opportunity to meet informally with the guest speaker, Henry Sandon, star of "The Antiques Roadshow", and his wife Barbara. During lunch, there was a fashion show from "Debut", a ladies dress shop in Hagley, and the models paraded a great variety of outfits, with an opportunity to try on and purchase them afterwards.

Helena Goddard thanked everyone who had supported her. Steve Vaughan, Greta Band, Valerie Edwards and Jan Young in their efforts, with a special mention of the brethren who had assisted in helping to make the day a great success and she hoped to see all the Ladies again next year.

The function raised £2059.08 for Appeal 2011 – added to the profit achieved from the sale of their eco-friendly bags last year, the Ladies are well on their way to reaching a significant amount! They are now busy preparing their next ventures – watch this space!!



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## News in Brief

### The Hand of Friendship

The Worcester Masonic Ladies Friendship Club provides a vital link between the Masonic Order and the widows and single daughters, of deceased Masons who live in or near Worcester.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining the club please pass on the following contact details and ask them to get in touch. They will be assured of a warm and fraternal welcome.

Liaison Officer:

Derek Nunney (Unity Lodge) 01905 451416

### Evesham Revamp

Evesham Masonic Centre under the Chairmanship of W. Bro Michael Blinkhorn moves into the 21st Century with the stone cleaning and re-decorating of the external elevations, the square and compasses firmly displayed in the most predominant position and a new public notice board for the further promotion of Freemasonry in Evesham and the Province. The Chairman and Board of Directors would like to thank the many people who made the above possible.

Significant building and car park improvements have also been carried out at Northfield and re-decorations at Kings Heath.

### The Freemasons' Grand Charity

Nearly £2 million is to be dedicated to helping charities delivering opportunities for young people, supporting vulnerable people and researching the cause and treatment of illness and disease. The grants to seventeen national charities were approved by hundreds of Freemasons at a General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity held in Bournemouth.

Some of the organisations that will benefit include the Scout Association which is set to receive £1/2 million as a contribution towards its *KidsOutdoors* Campaign and Ovarian Cancer Action.

## Golden Jubilee Celebrations



Old Carolian Lodge No 7599, consecrated on 1st September 1958 and Red Rose Lodge No 7600, consecrated on 5th September 1958, celebrated Golden Jubilee anniversaries recently. Established only a few days apart in 1958, each Lodge celebrated in style and their members and visitors enjoyed the very special festive boards commemorating 50 years of freemasonry.

## Training and Education

On 30th October at Halesowen Masonic Rooms there will be a session on running a White Table Evening. This is of interest to all Lodges for it is a relatively painless way of introducing non-masons to Freemasonry.

On November 3rd at Northfield Masonic Rooms there will be the follow-up session to the very successful evening held last year on creating a Lodge Website. Here brethren will be able to see examples, exchange ideas and views and, it is hoped involve themselves in a self-help group which the Training and Education team plan to establish to carry forward the whole programme of building Lodge Websites.

In December we explore something a little different. On December 4th at The Ramada Hotel, Bewdley which, incidentally, is the newest Masonic venue in the Province, there will be a seminar entitled Learning the Ritual. It is intended to give those attending useful and effective methods of committing ritual to memory and is based on well-proven methods.

Information about all these events is sent to the secretary of each Lodge and they have all details, but remember all are welcome.

## Christmas Fayre

The 56th Annual Christmas Fayre, presented by The Ladies' Gift Fund, will be held on Saturday 15th November, from 10.30a.m. until 12 noon. This popular event is to take place at The Clarendon Suite, Stirling Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.



Please come and support this enjoyable morning and bring your family and friends with you. There are attractions for all age groups, young and less young! You can purchase some cakes, greeting cards, presents, plants and Christmas decorations.

You can meet Father Christmas, be entertained with brass band music while having a coffee break and enter the raffle for Christmas hampers and lots of other brilliant prizes, so just generally enjoy the morning!

Tickets are available from all Lodge Almoners or Charity Stewards or you can pay 50p on the door on the day.

## Time for Change

The 24th June 2008 was a night of change within the Province of Worcestershire. Firstly, it was the Installation Evening for the St. John's Lodge, No. 64 14, and the final ceremony to be held in the Masonic Rooms at 'The Briars' in Kiddenninster, when appropriately Bro. Robert Bruce was Installed as the new Worshipful Master of St John's Lodge, on the anniversary of the famous victory by King Robert 'The Bruce' at the Battle of Bannockburn on 24th June 1314.



However, unlike Bannockburn, Bro. Bruce's installation was conducted in 'peace and harmony' by the Presiding Officer, the V.W. Bro. Robert C Vaughan, Deputy PGM, and although it was sad to leave these Rooms it was a most enjoyable and happy occasion, thoroughly enjoyed by the members of the Lodge and 33 Visiting Brethren.

For the immediate future the Lodges meeting at 'The Briars' have found temporary accommodation for the forthcoming season at the nearby Ramada Hotel. Finally, the evening also marked the 66th Installation Meeting attended by the Province's 'Peripatetic Provincial Steward', W. Bro. Adrian Harris, during his year in Office. It was certainly a night to remember and a fitting and happy ending to these Masonic Rooms.

## Lord Lieutenant at Lodge of St George

Following on from the great success of their last two midweek meetings, the Lodge of St George continues its lunch time meetings with the Guest Speaker, Mr Paul Sabapathy CBE, Lord Lieutenant for the West Midlands and Chairman and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Central England.

The Lodge is very privileged to have arranged this visit and hopes for a good attendance to hear Mr Sabapathy speak. The date is Wednesday 18th February 2009 at Moseley Masonic Hall, Kings Heath – full details will be published before the end of this year.

## Masonic Motoring

The Provincial Grand Master has approved the formation of a Motoring Club, open to all members of the Province, together with their partners. The purpose of the new club is to hold regular social events and visits with an interest in "all things motoring", including motor cycling, as well as the occasional friendly competitive occasion. The club was officially launched with a Barbeque held in August at the Chaddesley Corbett Sports Club.

If you are interested in receiving further details about the club, contact Bob Knight on 01926 84 2675

## Running for the Appeal



Ed Baker, Secretary of Worcestershire Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge No 9142, successfully completed his first ever full Marathon in the lovely

city of Wolverhampton, in the rain!

He completed the two lap course in 3hrs 43 minutes. Ed decided to do this run in aid of the 2011 Festival after managing to lose nearly five stone in weight in 2007, and then going on to run the Reading Half Marathon in March of this year.

If you would like to swell the festival coffers, its not too late – please either contact Ed on 07979 757074 or for those of you with access to the internet and a credit card, please visit [www.justgiving.com/edbaker6010](http://www.justgiving.com/edbaker6010) and join in - Just giving deals with all the gift aid reclaiming and significantly eases the burden on the Provincial office and the RMTGB offices too! Ed would like to thank all those who have already sponsored him and those who are still

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## Annual Provincial Golf Meeting

The 45th Annual meeting of the Worcestershire Masonic Golfing Society was held at Kings Norton Golf Club on 8th July 2008, attended by the President of the Society RW Bro. J G H Goddard PGM and Vice President VW Bro. R C Vaughan DPGM and together with 47 Brethren from 30 Lodges, competing for the Fellows Bowl (Individual event), Weatheroak Bowl, (Pairs event) and Veterans Cup.



The winners of the Weatheroak Bowl were W.Bro. A E Powers and Bro. A L Wynne, Elmley Castle Lodge No. 6247 with 64 pts.

The result of the Fellows Bowl was:

- 1st Bro. A T Hill, Halesowen Lodge No. 5635 with 35 pts.
- 2nd W.Bro. J F Icke, Elmley Castle Lodge No. 6247 with 34 pts
- 3rd W.Bro. F C Spencer, Red Rose Lodge No 7600 with 33 pts (back 9),

The winner of the Veterans Cup was W.Bro. G I Sykes, St Thomas Lodge No 7940, with 31 pts. The prizes were presented after the Festive Board by the Provincial Grand Master and the Society raised the sum of £248 in support of the Worcestershire Masonic Charity Organisation 2011 Festival Appeal.

## 30 Years Service

A Ian Bearman has recently decided to retire from his position as Treasurer of The Association of Halesowen Masonic Lodges after nearly 30 years of dedicated service in office. He reluctantly came to this decision after some months of indifferent health but still serves on that Committee as a consultant.

A quiet but most dignified man who loved his work at the Masonic Hall has surely earned himself a place in the history of Newfields which has patently benefited from his long term of office on the Committee that manage its affairs.

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## Godson Lodge 2385

The Brethren of Godson Lodge 2385 have generously donated holiday vouchers to the value of £4000 to Sandwell Young Carers to enable a group of young children aged ten and eleven to be taken on a well earned break. The organisation provides support to children whose lives are affected as a result of caring for a dependant family member.

## Letter to the Editor

Tenbury Masonic and Community Church Service - My wife and I had the pleasure of attending the Tenbury Masonic and Community Church service held in St Mary's Church Tenbury Wells on the evening of Thursday 25th September.

This is the second year The Lodge of St Michael No. 1097 has held the event and it was lovely to see a strong turnout by the Lodge members, their families and friends in support of the Church and its community all of whom were cordially invited. The service was led by Reverend Claire Lording who greeted everyone with a warm welcome and community spirit together with the Choir and Organist.

Readings were given by W Bros Lionel Conyers, Alan Dale and John Moore together with an enlightening talk about Freemasonry and Spirituality by W Bro Kevin Bryant which dispelled a lot of myth members of the community may have held.

The service was followed by refreshments in the Lodge rooms attended by all.

W Bro Julian Turner MBE Prov JGW

## Car Treasure Hunt Success for Mark Appeal



The R W Provincial Grand Master Frank Spencer and his wife Amanda joined members of St Egwins Lodge of Mark and Royal Ark Mariners, together with masons from across the province, at George and Jenny Simpson's home on Sunday 20th July for a treasure hunt and cream tea.

The sunshine was tinged just a little by a blustery wind but this didn't put off the teams who completed in the treasure hunt. The winning team led by Bro Allan Wynne scored a magnificent 30 points out of a possible 31 and were followed closely by Bro David Stean's family team with 29 points.

The collection of classic cars on show was worth the visit and for those who booked seats in the vintage Rolls, it was an afternoon to remember. Best of all was the wonderful £625 raised for the Provincial Grand Masters festival appeal.

Special thanks to George and Jenny Simpson and John and Carol Icke and to all who supported the event.



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## Appeal Contacts

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### Appeal Committee Secretary

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Home: 01527 541607

### Appeal Events Manager

Richard Harper: rt.harper@tiscali.co.uk  
Home: 01386 833791

## Diary Dates

Workshops:- Howard Wilson, the Appeal Chairman, will be giving a presentation about the Appeal plus Q&A session and presentation of Subscriber Certificates.

October 22nd	Worcester
November 3rd	Kings Heath
November 6th	Halesowen

Tea/Coffee from 7pm for 7.30 start

Please support the Provincial Carol Service which will be held at The Halesowen Parish Church at 6.30 pm on Sunday December 14th.

Refreshments will be available after the service for all friends and family.

### Training & Education

October 30th	Halesowen
November 3rd	Northfield
December 4th	Ramada, Bewdley

See page 5 for details

## Provincial Wardens

As a pair, they could be called the Mike and Baz Show. Mike Dancer and Barrie Simpson have completed their first year respectively as Provincial Senior and Junior Grand Warden and have become well known in the Province for their obvious enjoyment and enthusiasm for the jobs.

In the first year they each attended 50 installations, 25 of them together, and to ring the changes they alternate the addresses to the wardens and the brethren. "In fact we had to learn three pieces in case we are called on to do the address to the installed Master" said Mike, whose day job is running the long-established family clothing outfitters in Halesowen.

"Baz and I get on so well and have become good friends outside of Freemasonry. We naturally want to do a good job but have a laugh as well. "It takes up a lot of our time and I could not do it without the full support of my wife Diane and my family. Although we are now 'past' wardens, we have another five years to go. It's a pleasure being entertained by so many lodges and meeting so many nice people.

"One of the hazards, of course, is the tendency to put weight on, but I think I've coped with that. I've learned to differentiate between puddings and sweets!"

One of the lessons Mike has learned is to be at the lodges in plenty of time. "It avoids stress all round," he said, "and it stood us in good stead when we turned up at Northfield only to find the meeting was at Kings Heath!" Barrie Simpson echoed Mike's words. "We had never met before we became Provincial Wardens but Mike is a great bloke and we're having a wonderful time," said Barrie. Like Mike he has been well supported by his wife Hazel.

He is a past master of the Lodge of Bon Accord, SW of Moseley Lodge and JW of George Taylor Lodge. Well, he needs to have something to do in his spare time. In summer he is a dedicated cricketer. "I keep wicket and in the last match of the season I had a few teeth knocked out," he said, "but I'll still be there again next season!" Barry retired from West Midlands Police in 2000 as Detective superintendent in charge of murder investigations. Now he is a forensic archaeologist and is called in to help solve murders. Not much change there, then.

His forensic work has taken him all over the UK and also to Iraq for nine months, several missions in the Balkans and once to Ascension Island, where, he says, he was looking for shipwrecked sailors.

"I found one in Halesowen called Dancer," he added.

Written by WBro Peter Rickets, a Member of the Lodge of Hope and Charity No. 377



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