

# SOURCE



The newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons

Issue 56

June 2022



---

# CONTENTS

---

1. EDITORIAL	02
2. PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE	03
3. THE TEN-MINUTE PPRJGW	05
4. BEYOND THE CRAFT	06
5. IN-FIELD PROMOTION	07
6. ARRIVE ALIVE	08
7. ARCHERY AND RIFLE SHOOTING	09
8. A FOUNTAIN OF DELIGHT	10
9. WHAT MAKES A MAN A MASON ?	11
10. FESTIVAL 2022	12
11. PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER	14
12. AROUND THE LODGES	16
13. CUBIT CLUB	17
14. ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR	18
15. LOTTERY	19
16. CONTACTS	20

---



## EDITORIAL

May 14th saw our glorious return to the University of Birmingham, for not only our 176th Annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, but also for that rare occasion of the investiture of our new Provincial Grand Master, by the Assistant Grand Master, Sir David Wootton. Read the reports of the events inside, along which you will see had a few surprises along the way!

As we move into the summer months, we highlight some activities and events which we have been notified of, as well as the latest from Festival 2022, including announcing the lucky winners of the wine lottery. So get your diaries out and make a note!

The usual round up of lodge activity (where we have been updated!) is featured, including of course our charitable work – the highlight being the donation of a vehicle to “Arrive Alive”, so read all about it!

The Source team will be taking a short break during our summer recess, but we will see you back with our next edition as we start to return after the holidays. Please keep any articles, stories, photographs and write ups coming through, or any event that you want to advertise - to make our editions as informative, useful and enjoyable as possible! Not forgetting that we can also feature these through our wider Provincial Comms Team, who look after the provincial website and social media, so keep them all coming.

Finally on behalf of all the team, whatever you are doing may we wish you a relaxing, peaceful and hopefully hot, summer!

**WBro A. J. Philpott**



## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

A call to the Great Hall at Birmingham University is not to be ignored. Not only is it a most impressive facility which has been fully refurbished in recent years, it has an outstanding organ, pipes soaring to the lofty trompe l'oeil domed ceiling located above its formal marble entrance. It is a magnificent venue in which to conduct a rare and important special meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire.

The special meeting in question was the Installation of VW Bro Stephen John Wyer as Provincial Grand Master, conducted by the Rt W Assistant Grand Master, Sir David Hugh Wootton.

Being in such a venue, the choreography and ceremony associated with such an event in such imposing surroundings and in the presence of Provincial Grand Masters and other guests from across England and Wales, is simply a jaw dropping experience. As the officers paraded in, WBro David Lane, Provincial Grand Organist, certainly 'pulled out the stops' of the splendid 1906-built Norman & Beard instrument, the notes thundering through this inspiring 'cathedral to learning'.

But if he was in any way un-nerved by the occasion, the Province's PGM-designate certainly didn't show it – taking his obligation with confidence and clear voice. "I felt ready for it", said the new PGM, "and I am glad it came over that way". During the ceremony, Stephen also pointed out that the apron he was then wearing was that of one of our past PGM's, Richard Goddard, who had kindly passed it on to Stephen.





After his Installation, the newly invested PGM clearly showed he is the master of the occasion as with humour and a beaming smile, he appointed his Deputy Provincial Grand Master – WBro Keith Evans; and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters – WBro Patrick Firminger, WBro John Crowther and WBro Michael Dykes, all of whom took their obligations in fine but solemn style.

After the meeting, Stephen commented: "It was an unforgettable day and I am so proud of all those involved within the Province who made it possible."

The lunch break was then taken, our brand new PGM animatedly chatting to many of the 520 brethren present.



The afternoon put the PGM to his first task, conducting the 176th Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. This also was a splendid occasion and there was a palpable excitement in the Hall as Brethren being given acting ranks, first appointment past ranks and promotions took their reserved seats.

**Congratulations to every one of you!**

**J Crowther**



# The ten-minute PPrJGW



There was one appointment of particular note at the Annual Meeting – and it represents perhaps one of the shortest appointments in the historic annals of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire.

WBro Paul Battle, representing Permanent Way Lodge no. 9951, was promoted to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden. But what he was not expecting (or for that matter, anyone else in the hall) was what happened next.

Not ten minutes after being honoured with his new rank, he was to his considerable astonishment, collected by WBro Peter Broughton and conducted to the PGM, who presented him with a framed Certificate of Merit for his extraordinary work for the Province - not least of which has, over many years, included the Provincial Golf tournaments.

Not only that, the PGM pointed out his rank, noted on the Certificate.

“That’s not a mistake,” he beamed. “I am also promoting you to Past Provincial Senior Grand warden!” So Bro Paul was a PPrJGW for a matter of minutes – and PPrSGW was one of only seven such appointments made that day to this rank.

Such applause that welcomed the award can rarely have echoed off the 122-year-old grand arches of the Hall!

Afterwards Paul commented: “I couldn’t believe what was happening and when Pete Broughton approached me I thought he was going to someone else! I really can’t remember much after that – it’s a miracle I didn’t stumble down the steps.

“I feel so honoured and I get emotional even thinking about it now. This honestly, is by far the happiest and most amazing days of my enormously happy Masonic career – and indeed, one of the happiest of my life!”

**J Crowther**

# BEYOND THE CRAFT



The evening of 24th May saw Kings Heath Masonic Hall awash with a room full of presentations - from not only the usual suspects of orders that one gets to know after your third degree, but also some of those lesser known progressive orders, resplendent in their colourful attire. A very informative evening for those looking for that next step!

In addition, a second room was full of extra curricular activities that can be joined - everything from the Cubit Club, car and caravanning clubs, golf and fishing societies and Widows Sons for bikers (who had a great display of bikes in the car park!).

The evening started with talks from Colin Young and Derek Owen on all aspects around "Beyond the Chair", and concluded with closing remarks from our new PGM Stephen Wyer. A great evening for all involved.



# IN-FIELD Promotion



On 28th April, WBro Roger Austin was presented with a promotion, with immediate effect, to PPJGD from WBro George Barrow PPAGM and WBro Eamon Thompson PADC on behalf of the PGM Robert Vaughan.

It was supposed to be presented at a meeting at St Michael's Lodge No.1097 at Tenbury Masonic Rooms, however as Roger was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health, WBro George & WBro Eamon took it upon themselves to meet up with WBro Jim Boffey (Son-in-law to Roger) in the afternoon, before the meeting, and visit Roger and his wife Carol at their home in Neen Solars and present the promotion in person.

WBro Roger had no knowledge of this, and Roger was totally surprised, deeply moved, and very emotional, and surprisingly for those that know Roger, he was speechless.

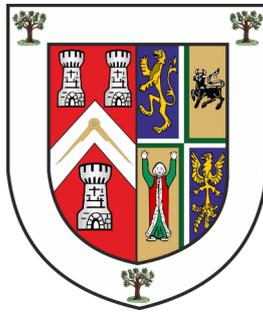
Later, at the Lodge meeting and after WBro George had presented WBro Derek Price PPrSGW with a 50-year certificate, at the second rising, WBro George explained what had happened earlier, after which WBro Eamon gave the proclamation in absentia.

St Michael's Lodge's Almoner WBro Brian Roberts and many of the brethren have been in frequent contact with Roger and I know Roger has been very moved and is grateful for their support and he wanted me to thank everyone for the time and the trouble everyone has gone to.

WBro Roger's daughter and grandchildren, Emma, Eloise & Ava are already planning on arranging WBro Grampy to receive his new regalia for Father's Day.

I'm sure I haven't done justice to how WBro Roger feels or to the brethren of St Michael's who came up to me and wished me to pass on their best wishes to Roger, or especially to the hard work and wonderful support from the PGM, WBro George, WBro Eamon and the rest of the Provincial team in making this happen... thank you just doesn't seem enough.

**WBro Jim Boffey**



# ARRIVE ALIVE

Worcestershire Freemasons have donated a vehicle to Arrive Alive, to help save lives across the county.

Arrive Alive was founded by Debbie Roscoe, following her daughter's life-threatening illness. Debbie found herself in a position that no parent should face, needing emergency medical help, following her daughter's illness being dismissed as a simple virus from a GP.

Within a couple of hours of visiting her GP, Ellie, Debbie's daughter, was in resuscitation at Heartlands Hospital in Birmingham. She was successfully treated by the Infectious Diseases Department at the hospital.



Arrive Alive is solely funded by public donations and is dedicated to funding vital lifesaving vehicles and equipment for Community First Responders (CFRs). CFRs are medically trained volunteers who are regulated and dispatched to life threatening 999 calls by West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS).

An Arrive Alive vehicle can reach a 999 medical emergency in those vital seconds/minutes prior to a road or air ambulance, due to being directly based within the heart of the community.

The car which has been donated to Arrive Alive by Worcestershire Freemasons will be used by the Vale of Evesham Community First Responders.

The vehicle will make a huge difference to the work they undertake in Evesham and Pershore, as well as Broadway and the surrounding villages, allowing the group to respond to more 999 calls than before. Indeed, the vehicle attended its very first call in Evesham on the evening it was donated.

# Catshill Lodge presents an Archery and Rifle Shooting competition



IN AID OF FESTIVAL 2022

For the “Sniper” Trophy and  
“The Robin Hood” Trophy



---

**On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June**  
**To be held at 1<sup>st</sup> Leigh Scout Group**  
**Leigh and Bransford memorial Hall**  
**Leigh Sinton, Malvern**  
**WR13 5DE**

**From 12 30pm onwards**  
**Entrance Fee £20.00 (Children under 7 years are free)**

**Which includes:**  
**Barbecue (Hot dogs and bacon rolls),**  
**Free soft Drinks, Tea and coffee.**

**Participants must be at least 7 years of age**

**Payment by BACS to Nat West Bank.**  
**Act. Catshill Lodge 8584. Act No. 37545272. Sort Code 523040. Ref “Sniper”**  
**Contact:- Bill Mason 0773189110 e mail [mason.kempsey4@gmail.com](mailto:mason.kempsey4@gmail.com)**

# A FOUNTAIN OF DELIGHT

## IN AID OF FESTIVAL 2022



Now here is a summer social event designed to delight - and at the same time, help to contribute to the Festival 2022 funds!

It's a garden party, on Sunday 10th July starting at 2.30pm, at the wonderful Stanway House and Garden - by kind permission of the 13th Earl of Weymss & March, Lord Neidpath. In the delightful grounds surrounding the magnificent sprawling Jacobean manor, is the world's highest gravity-fed fountain which reaches 300ft. It is also Europe's second highest fountain after the Jet d'Eau in Geneva, Switzerland.

The fountain will be worked specially for the event and close up, it's a sight not to be missed (making sure you are upwind of it!).

In the grounds is a tythe barn, if the weather happens to be inclement. Delights on offer include tea with buttered scones and strawberry jam, his Lordship's 'stable of racing ducks' as well as music from Badsey Brass Band, to say nothing of the fountain! There'll be a bar, too, which includes Stanway's own real ale.

It's only £10 per ticket - you can bring a picnic to make the most of the afternoon. There's ample car parking.

The event is being organised by the ever-inventive Charity Steward of Elmley Castle Lodge No. 6247 - to book tickets please contact Peter at [peterosco@aol.com](mailto:peterosco@aol.com)



## *What Makes a Man a Mason?*

What makes you a Mason, O brother of mine:  
It isn't the dueguard, nor is it the sign,  
It isn't the jewel which hangs from your breast,  
It isn't the apron in which you are dressed,  
It isn't the step, not the token, nor grip,  
Nor lectures that flow fluently from the lip,  
Nor yet the possession of that mystic word  
On five points of fellowship duly conferred,  
Though these are essential, desirable, fine,  
They don't make a Mason, O brother of mine.

That you to your sworn obligations are true –  
'Tis that, brother mine, makes a Mason of you.  
Secure in your heart you must safeguard your trust,  
With lodge and with brother be honest and just,  
Assist the deserving who cry in their need,  
Be chaste in your thought, in your word and your deed,  
Support him who falters, with hope banish fear,  
And whisper advice in an erring one' ear.  
Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly shine,  
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

Your use of life's hours by the gauge you must try,  
The gavel to vices with courage apply;  
Your walk must be upright, as shown by the plumb,  
On the level, to bourn whence no travellers come;  
The Book of your faith be the rule and the guide,  
The compass your passions shut safely inside;  
The stone which the Architect placed in your care,  
Must pass the strict test of His unerring square,  
And then you will meet with approval divine,  
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine

**Attr: Bro George H Free  
Printed in A Treasury of Masonic Thought, 1950**



## FESTIVAL 2022

# ONLY 11 MONTHS TO GO

**WE MADE IT!**  
**Thanks for your support**

We are thrilled to report that we have exceeded our interim 2021/2022 target of £1,600,000, that we had hoped to reach by Provincial Grand Lodge on 14<sup>th</sup> May – and we did !

**THERE IS STILL A WAY TO GO TO ACHIEVE OUR FULL TARGET OF £2,022,000, BUT OUR FUNDRAISING HAS MADE SUCH A DIFFERENCE. THE DIFFERENCE WE HAVE MADE IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF**



## **WERE YOU A WINNER IN THE GRAND WINE DRAW?**

To everyone who took part may we extend grateful thanks for your support, but congratulations go to

**WBro G.S.W. Simpson, Unity Lodge No. 5812**  
Who won the 1st Prize of £1,200 of wine!

also

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £200 – WBro I. Cooper, Wernleigh Abbey Lodge No. 6356  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - £100 – WBro G.W. D'Anna, St Werstand Lodge No. 4004



# MUCH MORE COMING SOON

## Watch out for your Festival Newsletter

You will soon be receiving a new and periodic festival newsletter containing much more including updates, events and festival progress. Exciting times ahead!

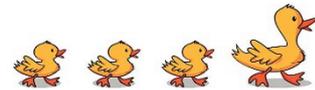
**SUPPORT OUR FUN WEEKEND AND REGATTA.** Bring your family and friends to a great day out



## REGATTA DUCK RACE

Your Lodge Secretary and Worshipful Master should have received a set of Duck Race tickets to distribute between your members. Search these out, buy your tickets and return the stubs with payment as shown on the ticket.

Good luck and let's hope you win!!



**Book your tickets now at**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/regatta-fund-day-2022-tickets-334651370257>

### SO MANY REASONS

To support the Festival

Not only is the MCF supporting our local charities but also, many of our members, their families and dependents. Read on ...

## KATE'S STORY



When Kate's husband was diagnosed with cancer, she had to give up her work to care for him.

**"When Mike joined Freemasonry, we were unaware about the MCF, until one of his friends in the lodge mentioned we should get in touch for support."**

"Because our income had dropped so much, the MCF started to help us with our everyday living costs. Then, when Mike's illness progressed, they helped to adapt our bathroom so that he could wash more easily and safely. They even supported our children with costs like school trips and a new computer, which has been absolutely essential during lockdown."

"When Mike passed away in 2019, I never in a million years thought that we would still qualify for support. I'm so grateful that we were made aware of the MCF before he died, because otherwise I might never have known that help was out there.

It's still really hard for us, especially with me being furloughed, but the support we've had has made a huge difference. Without it – once I've paid the mortgage and bills – we would have literally nothing. The MCF is the only reason we are able to live a normal life.

We're still taking it just one day at a time, but now we can relax a bit and spend more time together. I'm so glad we discovered the MCF, contacting them and asking for help is the best thing I could have done for my family."



# Provincial Grand Chapter

On a beautiful spring morning, on Saturday 9th April, with the campus at the University of Birmingham bathed in sunlight, some 176 Companions mustered for the first time in 3 years for our Provincial Annual Convocation - and, sadly perhaps for the last time, in the Avon Suite which had been very well prepared by the "backroom team" from Provincial Office as the Temple.

Following the processions of Grand Chapter Officers and visiting dignitaries, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent and his Principals, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer processed under their respective banners and Provincial Grand Chapter was duly opened.



The main focus of the Convocation was for the MEGS to confer Appointments and Promotions, and he commenced by re-appointing E. Comp. Michael D Cox, PGSwdB, as Deputy Grand Superintendent.



The MEGS then bade farewell and paid tribute to E. Comp. A John Yeates, PAGSoj, on his retirement as Second Provincial. E. Comp. John has given so much support to the Province, having served as both Third and Second Provincial Grand Principal, and was presented with a parting gift by the MEGS as a token of gratitude.

He then obligated, appointed and invested, E. Comp. Tim. M. L. Jones, PGStdB, the Prov DC, as Second Provincial Grand Principal.



Given all the uncertainty presented by the pandemic over the last two years, and to ensure he conducted a full year in Office, he re-appointed E. Comp. Keith M Evans, PGStdB, as the Third Provincial Grand Principal.



To replace E. Comp, Tim Jones as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, E. Comp. Alan Bolton was appointed and indeed ran the Provincial Convocation for the first time in an exemplary manner.

There then followed all those who had been re-appointed and awarded honours this year, all of whom deserve our congratulations.



At the Annual Investiture of Supreme Grand Chapter that took place on Thursday 28th April, four Companions of the Province received either First Appointments or a Promotion in Grand Rank:

E. Comp's. Barry Fitzgerald and John Hayward appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer, Gary Evans to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and Ian Fothergill Promoted to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner.

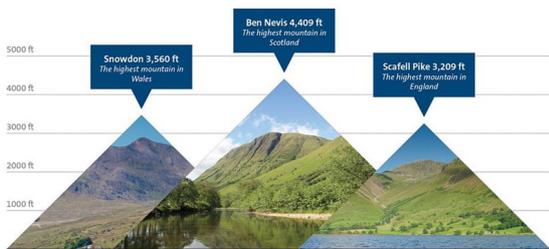


For the forthcoming 2022/23 season, the Provincial Royal Arch Training & Development Team - under the direction of E. Comp. Tim Jones, will once again be offering their very popular "Talking Heads" Presentation. If your lodge does not have a ceremony to perform and you are seeking a talk or presentation, consider "Talking Heads" and a team will be delighted to visit and conduct the Presentation.

Lodge Secretaries should contact: [ecomptimjones2pgp@gmail.com](mailto:ecomptimjones2pgp@gmail.com)

We conclude with a sad note in that on Thursday 19th May a packed Church at Lapworth bade a final farewell to E. Comp Richard B. W. Price who served as the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for the Province from 2004 – 2010.

**I Fothergill**



## Severn Lodge No. 5583 Three Peaks Challenge



The WM of Severn Lodge No. 5583, WBro Rick Sorano, along with WBro Ben Maffei, WBro Matt Davies and Bro Tom Minard, have set themselves the challenge of climbing the 3 highest peaks in the UK, 12th to 14th August - on behalf of the Festival 2022. Any support and donations you are able to spare they (and the Festival !) would be eternally grateful.

A Just Giving page has been setup to enable all the contributions to be made and to record progress - check it out [HERE](#)

## Lodge of St. George No. 5691 Richard Price 60th

On 20th April, VW Bro Richard Price was presented with his 60 year Long Service Certificate, by the PGM, RWBro Robert Vaughan at the meeting of The Lodge of St George, No. 5691



# INITIATES DINNER



WBro John Fennell recounts his experience of the latest initiates dinner.....

It was my privilege to attend the Initiates Dinner in April at Rainbow Hill Masonic Hall. This was my third initiates dinner and in my opinion, the best. The new initiates were treated to a tour of our excellent Masonic museum - with a question and answer session thrown in. We then went upstairs to the temple, which if you have not yet had the pleasure of viewing, I would definitely recommend doing so.

WBro Chris Overall, the Provincial Mentor, kicked off proceedings, followed by WBro Phillip Serrell who, as an antiques expert, gave us a tour of some of the furniture in the lodge. We were then treated to a wonderful and moving speech from the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Robert Vaughan. As I looked around the room, everyone was hanging on to his every word. How do you follow that I hear you ask? Well with our own Cubit Club Chairman, WBro Brody Swain, who took control of the room and gave the new initiates an insight to Freemasonry and what it means to him, including what they can expect and take away.

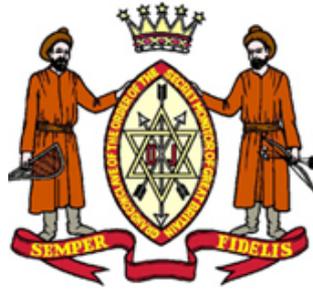
Just when you think the night could not get any better, we were all treated to a fabulous meal as I sat with two new initiates, Bro. Steve Worton and Bro. Mark Scollay (both Cubit Club members) and their partners.



At the dinner, we used for the first time, our new membership QR code which is a direct link to the Cubit Club joining page. I can confirm we had six new members joining on the night using the code. I am aware some people could not attend the Dinner due to commitments, but do not worry, you will be warmly welcomed at the next one!

**Bro John Fennell**





# THE ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR

The Order of the Secret Monitor in Great Britain and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas, subtitled The Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, is steadily growing and flourishing in the United Kingdom and throughout the world.

## **What's it all about?**

The ritual of the Order is based on the first book of Samuel, which contains the story of David and his remarkable friendship with Jonathan. The whole essence of the Fraternity is founded on this friendship, with special officers appointed to maintain personal contact with all members of the Conclave. Brethren of the order are challenged to apply, in a very real way, the practice of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

- During the first degree, or Induction as a Secret Monitor, the ceremony recalls the close friendship between David and Jonathan through trying times and against strong opposition.
- The second degree, or Admission as a Prince, recalls the persecution of David by Saul and the way in which David selected and proved his friends.
- Uniquely, the third degree is that of Installation, recalling the anointing of David as King and the opportunities and duties of leadership.

## **How does it work?**

Brethren of the Order meet in Conclaves, all of which are in Districts or Provinces and under the control of the Grand Conclave, based in Mark Masons' Hall, London.

Each Conclave is presided over by a Supreme Ruler, who is elected annually. Among the Officers are the four Visiting Deacons whose role is to maintain contact with members of the Conclave, offering steady, constant friendship, support and mentorship.

This Order is truly a friendly one. Brethren frequently visit other Conclaves both inside and outside their own District or Province. This spirit of friendship extends to the families of members, who are often included in social events.

## **Who can join?**

The only entrance requirement is that a prospective candidate must be a Master Mason, but it is equally correct to say that an essential qualification in every candidate is the willingness to offer support to others and to be responsive to the benefits and obligations of friendship.

**If anyone would like further information, please contact Dr Howard Carlton, the Provincial Grand Recorder, at [worcsosm@gmail.com](mailto:worcsosm@gmail.com)**

# Worcestershire Masonic LOTTERY

The Lottery draw in May resulted in the bonus ball number 39 being drawn, and we have the following winners on this extremely popular number.

**K Byrne, Holmes Lodge 4656 (Leics&Rutland) - £100.00**

**C R Fisher, Lodge of St George 5691 - £100.00**

**J Mytton, Norhtfield Lodge 5056 - £100.00**

**T.Parkes, Forge Mill Lodge 9658 - £100.00**

**R.Quarterman, Vernon Lodge 560 - £100.00**

**R G D Showell, Fort Royal Lodge 4565 - £100.00**

**M W Statham, Sure & Steadfast Lodge 9365 - £100.00**

Those of you at the recent Provincial Grand Lodge meeting will have seen the latest cheque for £9,000, presented by our Chairman WBro Derek Taylor for the Festival 2022 to the Provincial Grand Master, on behalf of all the brethren who support the Lottery.

**THANK YOU!**

Also the winner of the fantastic hamper, again drawn at PGL was Philip Stanton of Forge Mill Lodge No. 9658.

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](#).



# Contacts

## Editorial Team →

EDITOR - Andy Philpott

✉ AJP@philpott-online.co.uk

☎ 07515 558863

DEPUTY EDITOR / DESIGN - Adam Lewis

✉ adamrlewis@zohomail.eu

☎ 07817 285285

## Provincial Office and Secretary →

94, Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove B61 0DF

Iain Sharratt

✉ Provincial@worcestershirefreemasons.com

☎ 01527 879300

## Ruler - Communications Portfolio →

Michael Dykes

✉ MJD@worcestershirefreemasons.com

☎ 07773 581268

## Provincial Communication Officer →

Brody Swain

✉ PCO@worcestershirefreemasons.com

☎ 07782 295508

## Feature Writers →

CHARITY - John Fennell

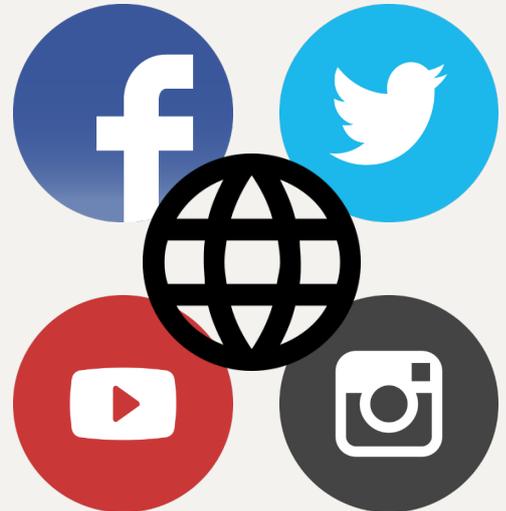
PROVINCIAL - Paul Webber

LODGE - Ian Crowder

GENERAL - Chris John

GENERAL - Ed Kimpton

GENERAL - Mark Keepax



## Webmaster →

Chris Phillips

✉ webmaster@worcestershirefreemasons.com

## Social Media →

Mark Lodge

Chris John