

# SOURCE

The newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons

Issue 57  
September 2022

1926 - 2022





HER MAJESTY  
QUEEN ELIZABETH II  
1926 - 2022

*In Memoriam*

Thank you for your loyal service, Ma'am  
Rest in Peace



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## EDITORIAL

For those that missed us during our short summer break, welcome back - For those that didn't, let me know what content you would like to see in the Source to make it more useful!

Summer lodges and other Masonic activity aside (see the articles inside), our new season now starts with an earnest - with of course a brand new PGM, ably assisted by his new Deputy PGM, Assistant PGM's and the new Acting Officers of the year. Having witnessed Del and Neil in superb action in their first outing as the new Wardens at Old Bromsgrovian, we are in for a real treat during the year!

In this article we of course look back over some of the significant summer activities, as well as looking forward to what is to come. With an emphasis on planning and retaining members during what has been a particularly difficult time over the past couple of years, please check out the Members' Pathway article, and ensure your Lodge is actively involved.

Please support our new PGM and his team on the start of his tenure - but above all do it because you ENJOY your Freemasonry - so sit back, grab a coffee, have a read - and start getting your diary up to date for this masonic season!

**WBro A. J. Philpott**



UNITED GRAND LODGE  
OF ENGLAND

Friday 09 September 2022

It was with the greatest sadness that the United Grand Lodge of England learned of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, our longest serving British Sovereign.

Queen Elizabeth's father, His late Majesty King George VI and her consort, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, were both Freemasons. Her cousin, HRH The Duke of Kent, has been Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England since 1967, and will be sending a message of condolence on behalf of all English Freemasons to His Majesty The King. Another of her cousins, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, has been Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales since 1982, and an announcement is being made from Mark Masons' Hall.

God Save The King.

# Charity Regatta & Fun Day



During July, we held the Charity Regatta & Fun Day in Worcester, for the first time since before the pandemic, in aid of Festival 2022 and the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

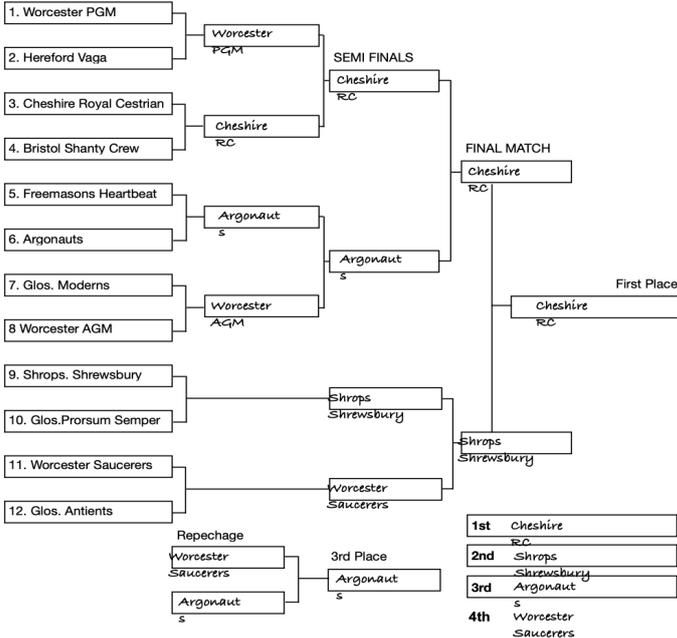
On a glorious sunny day, the fundraising event that was open to the public, took place at Worcester Rowing Club, with stalls, live music, street food and classic cars and bikes (supported by the Worcestershire Widows Sons) on Pitchcroft Racecourse, also keeping visitors entertained.

The Regatta first took place in 1919, but sadly Covid restrictions stopped organisers making it an annual event, until now.

The results of the Regatta saw Cheshire Royal Cestrian taking the trophy. All three Worcester boats managed to win their first rounds, but were knocked out after that. A valiant effort by all!

The day ended with a duck race on the river, where nearly 1,000 rubber ducks made a dash for freedom. Congratulations to John Gripton and Nicki Sheppard who have received their winning prizes.

[Ed's footnote - oh and I won 2nd prize in the vehicle competition with my Harley Motorbike ;) ]





# The Provincial Grand Almoner

*What's it all about ??*



When I first learned I was to be appointed Provincial Almoner, I was delighted and proud; but at the same time sad that Charles Gwynn, my predecessor, had to retire because of illness.

Before my official installation, I desperately set about trying to learn what I was going to need - nine years as a Lodge Almoner proving not a lot of help! Charles gave me as much help as he could, and ensured I registered myself for the excellent training provided by the MCF.

A very important part of my role is helping Freemasons in the Province and their families, who are in difficulty, with advice and assistance in obtaining help from the MCF. Here, I am assisted by a busy team of visiting volunteers.

There are close links with our Provincial Charity Steward, David Dey - and as retention of members, especially after the pandemic shutdown is also vital for our orders and freemasonry in general, I am working with our Provincial Mentor Chris Overall.

The Provincial Almoners role includes providing education and advice for Craft and Chapter Almoners; and we plan a number of training workshops around the Province in the coming masonic year.

What has made it all much easier is the kindness and support I have received from Lodge and Chapter Almoners, and from the Provincial Grand Secretary and Scribe, our PGM and his predecessor, and our MEGS.

Part of my role is to provide advice to the Rulers, when and where needed - at present they are advising me!

Communication is also vital - and I have the reassurance that Brody Swain and his team can be relied on for help.

Brethren, I have very big shoes to fill, and it will take me some time to become anywhere near as competent as my predecessor, so please continue to bear with me.

**WBro Bill Tucker**



The Pathway Provincial Team are pleased to announce the upcoming dates for the next “In Depth” sessions covering the specific Four “Elements” to the Members’ Pathway and invite you and the brethren of your Lodge to join us.

For those that attended the Zoom sessions earlier in the year—you’ll remember we introduced the recent updates to the Members’ Pathway—including the new concept of the “Hub” - a cyclical concept for Membership, rather than a linear “Start & Finish” principle.

The Team look forward to now taking you through the broader content within each of the 4 Elements, forming the Hub of the Pathway; Plan—Attract—Engage—Retrieve.

We will be hosting Zoom Sessions on the following dates—together with In-Person Presentations & Review sessions coming next year.

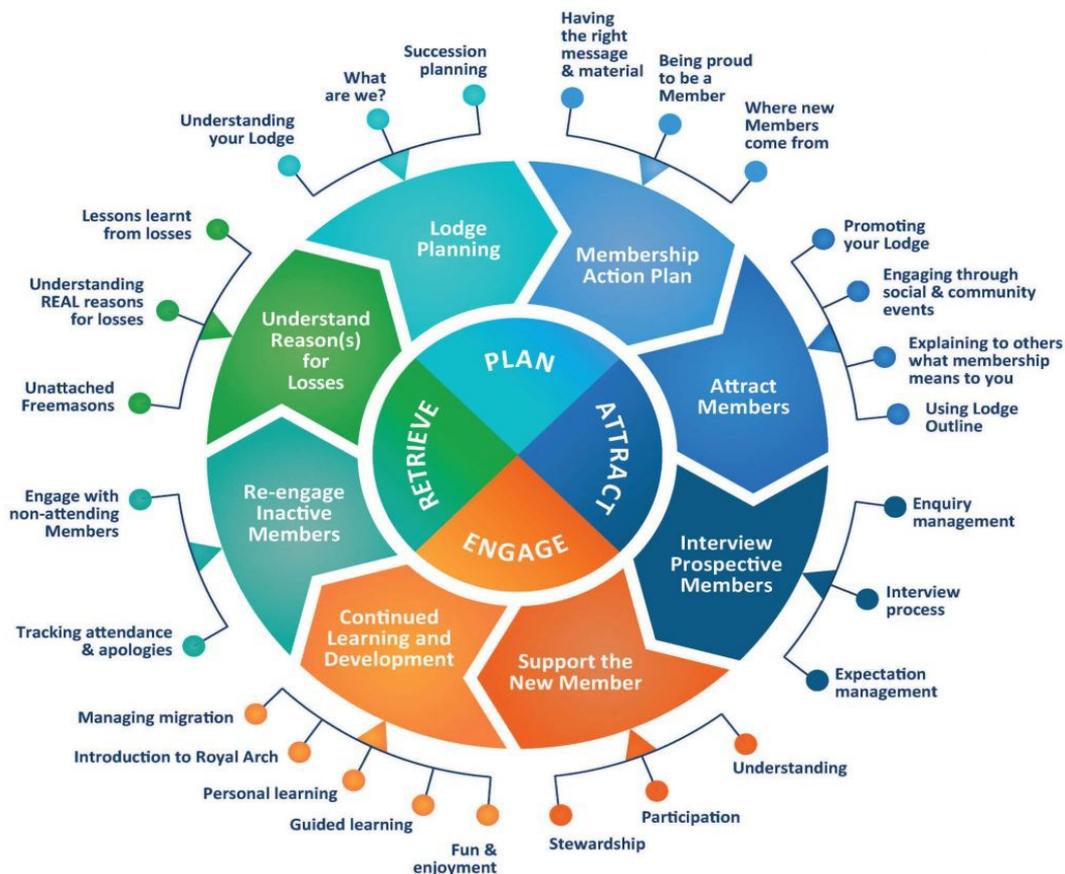
5th October—Plan

20th October—Attract

2nd November—Engage

17th November—Retrieve

Starting at 19:30 on each evening—we will be distributing invitations to all Lodges in the coming weeks. Its our hope that all Lodge Mentors, Membership Officers, Almoners and Worshipful Masters can join us and explore the materials and best practice available from UGLE



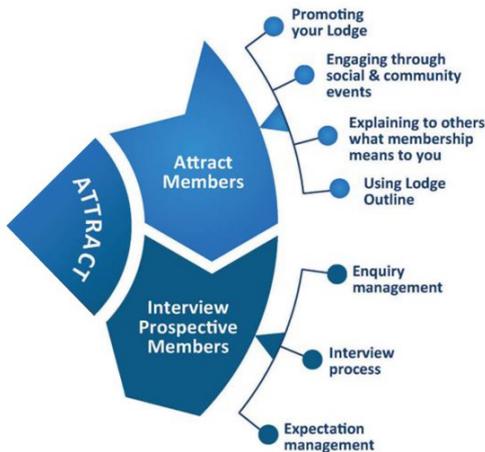
## Plan—Introduced by Bro Nick Thomas



The Plan section of the Members' Pathway covers all of the fundamental research and review work that existing Lodge Members should consider in the initial stages.

With a Questions First, Plan second approach, this element aims to understand the current position and health of the lodge, prompting discussions about improvements and working towards agreeing and implementing a Plan for Membership.

## Attract—Introduced by W Bro Karl Haines



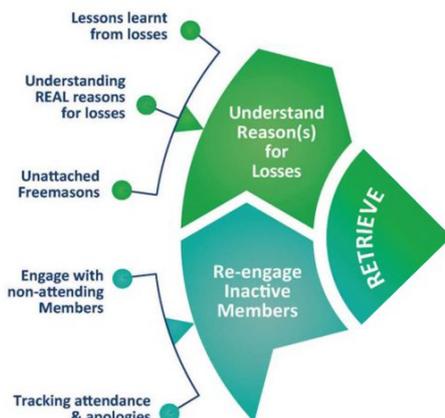
The attract element of the Members' Pathway provides a framework to enable Lodges to consider how and where to promote themselves in order to attract potential new members. It also provides clear guidance on how to manage the application and interview process so that applicants engage with the Lodge in a transparent reciprocal manner with agreed clear expectations.

## Engage—Introduced by W Bro Chris Overall



The engage section of the Members' Pathway helps you understand how to assist our new members in their journey in Freemasonry. It's not a prescription or fix, but a sensible and planned guide to help those who like a common structure. The threads in this section will give you ideas on how to proceed, guide and protect the newest of candidates.

## Retrieve—Introduced by W Bro Martin Findlay



The Final element of the Pathway promotes understanding of the reasons that members consider resignation and the steps that can be taken to prevent and reverse these decisions. Understanding how to observe early signs of disengagement and qualify the reasons that can often sit behind non-attendance and eventual withdrawal. Importantly, having a process to review and learn from losses and hopefully, address underlying issues.



# Midlands Masonic Golf Championship

*Could this be the beginning of a Masonic National Golf Championship?*



The Worcestershire Masonic Golfing Society (WMGS), hosted the inaugural meeting of the Midlands Masonic Golf Championship (MMGC), at Bromsgrove Golf Centre on 26th July 2022.

The ten provinces represented were Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Northants & Huntingdonshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, all of whom, form the Midlands Region of Freemasonry. Also present at the inaugural meeting were representatives from Bristol and Wiltshire, who hope to establish a South West Region Golf Championship in 2023.

For decades now, golf has been a popular and successful aspect of the social side of Freemasonry throughout the UK; and an attempt was made in 2018 to create a UK National Freemasons Golf Championship, by Bro Ben Derbyshire of Neptune Lodge No. 22, who is himself a Golf Professional. Due to the pandemic, the pursuance of a UK National Championships diminished but in 2021, WMGS were inspired to re-ignite the original 'UK' attempt, on a Midlands Region bases. The thought being if other Regions held a golf championship between their Masonic Provinces, ultimately we could then all play a further competition to decide the 'National Winner'.

The competition was held in ideal conditions, cloudy light wind and a reasonable temperature of around 20 degrees, which compared to the week before (40 degrees) was a real joy. The Worcestershire team, who came second to Hereford, comprised of David Hughes, Andrew Horn, Jack Badham and Tony Poyner.

The Worcestershire PGM, the RW Bro Stephen J Wyer, presented Herefordshire with the trophy, called the 'Battle Jug,' aptly named after the donor, Paul Battle.

After an enjoyable presentation the organiser, David Rushforth, passed the imaginary Mashie Niblick onto WBro Guy Raynor-Edwards, Derbyshire MGS, who will host the 2023 event.

For further details please contact WBro David R Rushforth [rushy53@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rushy53@yahoo.co.uk)

# Four PGMs

Uniquely in its long history, the Province of Worcestershire has three past PGMs in addition to our current PGM - and the opportunity was taken at a recent lunch held at Richard Goddard's house to record this fact with a suitable photograph.



Pictured standing are (L-R) RW Bro Robert Vaughan, the IP PGM; RW Bro Stephen Wyer the current PGM; together with past PGMs Richard Goddard and Barrie Cooper.

## PROVINCIAL GAZEBO



This is a photo of the Provincial Gazebo and Banners taken at the Worcester Show during August. They have also been used at the Tenbury Show, the Cubit Club Family Fun Day, Festival Regatta, Elmley Castle Garden Party, and will be out at the Pershore Plum Festival on the 29th August.

The Membership team want to remind you that if you have any event where you are promoting Freemasonry and require the use of a gazebo etc, it can be booked by contacting the Provincial Office in Bromsgrove.

# CATSHILL LODGE BAVARIAN NIGHT

**CATSHILL LODGE PROUDLY PRESENTS**  
**AN EVENING OF FUN AND FROLICS**  
**FROM THE RENOWNED**

**The Bierkeller Schunklers German Bavarian Oompah Band**

At 7.0pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
at  
The Masonic Hall, Rainbow Hill, Worcester  
Tickets £25.00 per person to include a supper  
of Sausage and mash.  
Tickets available from  
Bill Mason on "[mason.kempsey4@gmail.com](mailto:mason.kempsey4@gmail.com)"

Proceeds in aid of  
Festival 22  
and  
The Worcestershire  
Parkinsons Association

Enjoy a fun filled evening with interactive Oom-pah Band

Join us for a brilliant Bavarian night, with Steins and German beers available. Dress up in Lederhosen or other fancy dress. Shake off the cobwebs of Covid and the pandemic. Let your hair down and help raise money for Festival 22 and The Worcester Parkinsons association

If you have been to a Bavarian night before, you will know what to expect; if not come along and enjoy the night of your life.

Contact Bill Mason via e mail: [mason.kempsey4@gmail.com](mailto:mason.kempsey4@gmail.com) to book your place.

# WIDOWS SONS bring back memories



To mark the start of the foundation's Jubilee celebrations in June, the Worcestershire Chapter of the Widows Sons rolled up in style to the Worcester Warriors Community Foundation party, at Sixways Rugby Club. A group of ten bikes from the Chapter were on show for the attendees and their carers to look at, and talk to the members - for which a lot of memories were brought back, as many had been riders in the past.

The Dementia Charity part of the foundation were then presented with a cheque by the President Andy "Monte" Philpott, which had been raised by the Chapter, who are specifically supporting them during this year.

The ride-in and event was featured heavily in the local press - the article can be found here:  
<https://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/20181405.widows-sons-worcestershire-bikers-arrive-sixways->



# FREEMASONRY AND THE RAILWAYS



In the early days of the railway some companies had such a strong Masonic connection that masonry became almost institutionalised. For example during the building of the Caledonian Railway, Freemasons employed by the company were authorised to hold and constitute meetings anywhere on Caledonian (latterly LMS) Railway property.

The Worshipful Master of the Permanent Way Lodge No. 9951, a railway themed lodge, mindful of the important part that tradition plays in our masonry, is keen to

recreate this link and to this end it is his intention to hold a masonic meeting once again on LMS property for the first time in over 150 years on 24th September 2022.

You are all invited to take part in this unique and historical event. The event will include masons and partners on a train ride departing from Shackerstone Station at 17.00hrs to Market Bosworth where a masonic meeting will be opened in the Goods Shed in the Lodge's own unique style whilst the business will have the theme 'An explanation of the First Degree ceremony.'

Our partners will continue on to Shenton for a demonstration of decorative glass blowing before returning to collect the brethren and enjoying a Fish and Chip supper. It is anticipated that the cost of the event will be £25 per person and will undoubtedly be a unique landmark in your masonic career.

The Lodge is inviting senior and junior masons from not only from its own province of Worcestershire also the provinces surrounding Shackerstone including Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire. At this time the W.M. is inviting expressions of interest but rest assured the spaces are limited and will be gone before you can say chuff, chuff.

If you wish to register your interest please contact Kerrion Marsh via email at [amastrabooks@gmail.com](mailto:amastrabooks@gmail.com) with your name, Lodge number and Province and number of potential attendees (including partners)





# A Cubit Club Summer

If you are anything like me, as a new Mason you may be forgiven for thinking that Freemasonry stops during the summer. However, the Cubit Club has been busy over the recess, not just in organising itself at the AGM, but offering fun events for members and their families.

## Cubit Club AGM

On the 31st May the Cubit Club held its Annual General Meeting at Northfield Masonic Centre. This was the first time we have been together in the same room since the beginning of lockdown - and what a fabulous turnout!, including new initiates and the new Provincial Grand Master. We had lots to cover during the meeting, including the re-election of WBro Brody Swain as Chairman. There were membership, treasurer and mentor reports given, along with a question and answer session.



## Cubit Club Family Day



What has quickly become our annual family fun day, was held on Sunday 12th June at Kidderminster Rugby Club. This year we were not only just treated to a singer - but a full band, who were brilliant and kept us entertained all day.

The food was organised by WBro Chris Phillips, who I can thoroughly recommend as the "BBQ king", having sampled 2 or 3 of his burgers(!)



## Quarterly Curry Club

As you are aware, the Cubit Club is all about its members; and we are always listening and open to suggestions. The location was on a recommendation from a member, the night it was held was on request from other members, and the invitation of partners and friends was also on request.

This time it was held on Saturday 30th July at the Bangla Lounge in Halesowen. There was a large turnout, and an enjoyable evening was had, with great conversation and food (and even the odd Cobra lager!).

## Ambassador Update

I would like to welcome Bro Mark Luxton and Bro Darren Mears as our new Cubit Club Ambassadors. Mark joins us with many years' experience in Freemasonry, whilst Darren joins as a new Mason. We are still currently looking for Ambassadors across the Province, so if you feel you have the "right stuff", please do not hesitate to contact me for a chat at [jjfennell01@icloud.com](mailto:jjfennell01@icloud.com)

We have plenty, of up and coming events, to keep you entertained during the winter months, including a trip to Bristol, an evening of darts, and not to forget our Christmas jumper party. So keep an eye out on social media for dates.

If you are for any reason, not receiving emails from the Cubit Club, please log on to the Provincial website; under the section Cubit Club, follow the link to fill in your details to ensure that you receive forthcoming emails.

**Bro John Fennell**



# PLATINUM JUBILEE 70

## TENBURY FREEMASONS PARADE

Tenbury Freemasons were pleased to have been invited by the town council to parade for a service to commemorate Her Majesty on the special occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Freemasons from around the area were in attendance including our Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Stephen J Wyer.



Pictured are:

WBro D T Davies, WBro E J Humphries, WBro J H V Moore, Bro T Rumble, Bro D Mears, RW Bro S J Wyer, WBro A A Gould, WBro M Leake and WBro G W Munro.



# Holy Royal Arch Chapter

Following the disruption caused by the suspension of activity due to the Covid Pandemic, the Installed First Principals Chapter took the decision to return to its normal Installation date - and so, on Wednesday 15th June 2022, some 59 Companions convened in Number 1 Lodge Room at Kings Heath to conduct their Installation.

E. Comp. Eric Bourne, PAGSoj, Installed E. Comp. Gerry Jinks, PPrGSN, CM, who in turn Installed E. Comp. John Yeates, PAGSoj, PPrGH, followed by E. Comp. Geoff Weston, PGSwdB, PDepGrand Supt.

The ceremony was conducted to the usual very high standard, and it was a pleasure to welcome two of the Principals and the Scribe E from Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Installed Principals Chapter.



Also, to remind or inform all lodges that the Provincial "Talking Heads" Team are reconvening for the forthcoming 2022/23 Masonic Season. This presentation is of particular importance to all those Master Masons who have as yet to complete their journey in Ancient Freemasonry and is a very important part of it.

Lodges therefore that find themselves in a situation where they have no labour to conduct should contact the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal E. Comp. Tim Jones, at [excomptimjones2pgp@gmail.com](mailto:excomptimjones2pgp@gmail.com) to book their slot in the Calendar.

**Ian M Fothergill**  
Provincial Grand Chapter  
Communications Officer

# White Ensign Lodge No. 9169 Visit the National Memorial Arboretum



On Sunday 29th May, some 38 members, partners and friends of White Ensign Lodge paid a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum — to pay homage to all those Freemasons who made the Final Sacrifice in the service of their country. This was followed by a guided tour of the recently established Allied Special Forces Memorial Grove.

At the Masonic Memorial, the Worshipful Master, WBro Glyn Cardy, paid tribute to all those Freemasons who had lost their lives in the service of their country and laid an Anchor Wreath.

The party then moved on to the Allied Special Forces Grove, where WBro Ian Fothergill told the story of the founding of the SBS and Operation Frankton, and then laid a SBS wreath at the Cockleshell Heroes Memorial.

On completion, the party retired to the Royal British Legion at Alrewas to enjoy an excellent buffet lunch.



# Morgan Lodge No. 9816

## Morgan's future and the past



The Morgan Lodge No. 9816 held a Passing ceremony in June of the Secretary's son, Bro John Warner. After the ceremony we were honoured to have Charles Morgan, of the Morgan family, attend the Festive Board - and give a very interesting talk on the Morgan family; illustrated with some old photographs of the founder, HFS Morgan, Charles's Grandfather, and the rest of the Morgan Family. He followed the history of the company with a thought provoking argument to replace plastic in cars with sustainable products.

The meeting was well attended and £100 was given to Charles Morgan for his chosen charity which was the UNICEF fund to help the children of Ukraine caught up in the war. A substantial amount was also raised for the Provincial Festival.

**Richard Warner**  
Secretary - The Morgan Lodge

## Lodge of Perfection No. 8430

### 50<sup>th</sup> Certificate presentation

WBro Mike Dykes, APGM, presented a 50th Certificate to WBro Derek Wilfred Hill PPrSGW, at the Lodge of Perfection No. 8430 on 13th June 2022. The lodge also conducted a passing for Bro Craig Kesterton on the same night.

You will see from the photo that there was many esteemed and high ranking masons present who came to support Derek who is very well known in Kings Heath. Congratulations to both Derek and Craig!

Pictured in the front row Right to left: Bro Craig Kesterton, WM WBro C W Hadley and WBro Derek Hill



## Wyre Forest Lodge No. 8653 50th Cert Brian Hyde

On Monday 16th May, WBro Patrick Firminger, APM, presented a 50 year certificate to WBro Brian Hyde at the Wyre Forest Lodge No. 8653 Installation meeting - which saw WBro Josh Mortimer proclaimed for a further year.

WBro Brian is a founder of Wyre Forest Lodge, which was consecrated in 1975. The brethren present learned about WBro Brian's career in Freemasonry and in particular how he has been a diligent and dutiful Lodge Almoner for a great many years.

Pictured are L-R WBro Patrick Firminger, WBro Brian Hyde and WBro Taff Hill as Provincial ADC.



## PRESERVATION OF HISTORY



For those that noticed the article in Freemasonry Today over the summer, you will have read how in 2013, WBro Trevor F Wellings, loaned a rare Goss factory ceramic bust of King Edward VII as Grand Master, to the Museum of Freemasonry in Great Queen Street. Late last year, knowing that he was unwell, Trevor donated it permanently to the Museum. Trevor passed to the Grand Lodge above in February 2022. He was a prominent and prolific Mason - being a member of twenty-six(!) lodges in both Warwickshire and Worcestershire. He was also a founder of the "Freemasons Afloat" initiative which organised charitable events for Freemasons and their families onboard cruise ships.

The bust is now proudly on display in the North Gallery of the Museum.

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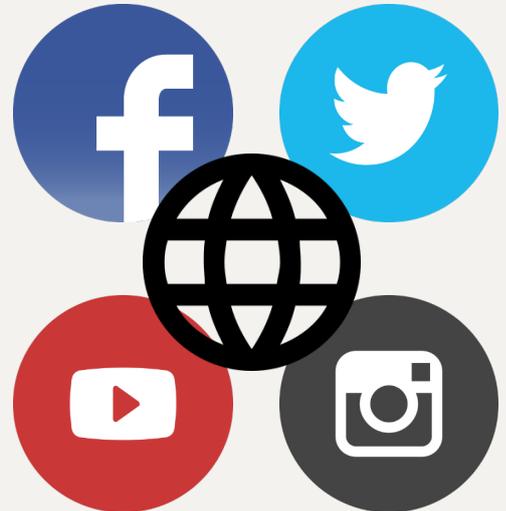
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