



HEREFORDSHIRE  
PROVINCIAL  
NEWSLETTER

# The Craftsmen

Issue 92 - May 2024



## A Masonic Mystery

Masonic Trowel reunited after travelling 200 miles

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A look at events around the Province

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Eastnor welcomes curious visitors

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Royal Edward Lodge Opens Its Doors

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In T@3 with a Wordsearch

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Sign up for your PSA test in November

## Four Province Charity Regatta

Details for the event in July

## Would I Know, Did I Know?

Salutations and Acclamations

# The Craftsmen

The Official Newsletter of the Province of Herefordshire

Issue 92 - May 2024

**Editor** - Andrew Moore

## Editorial Panel

Prov Comms Officer - Andrew Moore  
Palladian Lodge - Tom Spellane  
Vitruvian Lodge - Andrew Moore  
Eastnor Lodge - Nick Humphrey  
Royal Edward Lodge - Geoff Wilding  
Arrow Lodge - Tommy Santillo  
Loyal Hay Lodge - Tony Mercer  
Vaga Lodge - Vacant  
Cantilupe Lodge - Michael Francis  
Coningsby Lodge - Kevin Jones  
Delphis Lodge - Vacant  
Saint Peter's Lodge - Peter Hamblin  
Dean Waterfield Lodge - Paul Sabel  
Ariconium Lodge - Vacant

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The opinions herein are those of the authors or persons interviewed only and do not reflect the views of the Province of Herefordshire.

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## Visiting Light Blues

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## Norton Church

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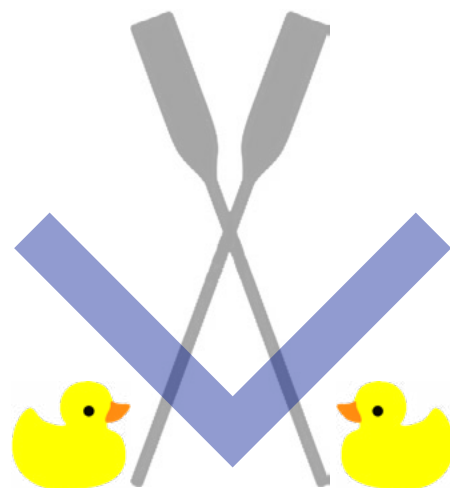
## A Masonic Mystery

The tale of a long lost Presentation Trowel reunited from Ross on Wye to Barton-upon-Humber.



## Four Province Masonic Charity Regatta

Seeking Race Teams and duck sponsors



## Prostate Cancer Testing

Details on how to sign up for your November PSA test.



## T@3 including this month's Word Search

This month's 'Hereford Fair' Wordsearch plus answers to last month's Wordsearch.

## Together with the usual 'Out and About' and 'Upcoming Events'



Bringing you news from the Masonic Province of Herefordshire

# Would I know the answer?

## Did I know the answer?

By W Bro Dennis W. Roberts, PAGDC

### This month I asked: Salutations and Acclamations?

Have you ever wondered why we salute our Provincial and Grand Officers with 3, 5 or 7? Well, one of our newer Masons in Hereford is curious, and I cannot find a definitive answer, either in my books or on the net. All of the answers I can find are speculative and the following explanation is most preferred.

The three is a reference to the three stages of entry to become a Master Mason, with a salute to the Junior Warden, then the Senior Warden and the Master to receive their reward. To distinguish the importance of a Very Worshipful and a Right Worshipful we add the five and the seven. This gives reference to the three, five and seven members of a Lodge who make it perfect; reference the Ritual. Perhaps there is some further research required on this topic, but as with many things in Freemasonry, it is perhaps lost in time!

What is also interesting is that there are no salutations in Royal Arch Chapter. Other Orders however do have different greetings depending on status and interpretation of their Ritual.

The same brother also enquired about Acclamation. I will start by stating that I am a firm Emulation Ritual follower and there are few occasions when acclamation is given; the presentation of an EA's apron, and the entrance and recession of distinguished guests. Some Lodges have a practice of giving acclamation after a Brother has completed a portion of Ritual and is indicated by a single clap. For me, this should be only when some achievement or appointment is special, and the practice is not extended to any work undertaken by the R W Provincial Grand Master or other Provincial Rulers or Officers. There are a number of Lodges however where acclamation is more than regular, either through 'tradition' or 'custom and practice'. Always remember, however, that any acknowledgements should be given under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies.

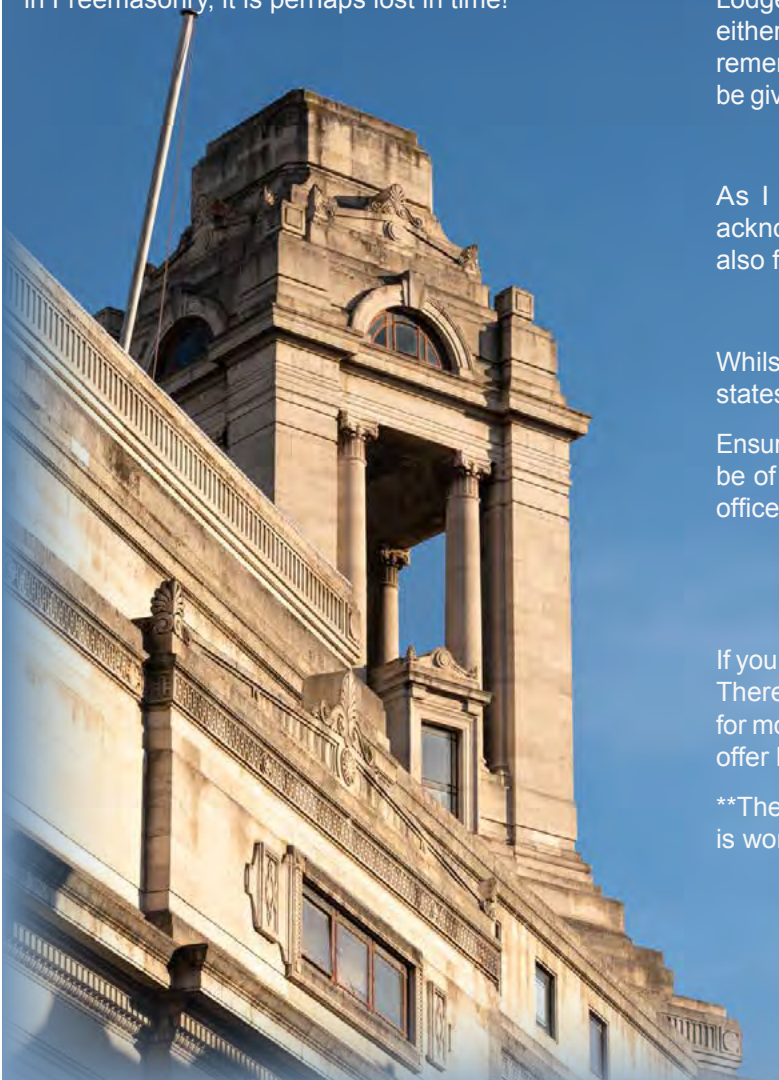
As I suggested earlier, applause is acceptable to acknowledge some special achievement or award and also for entrance and retiring processions.

Whilst on the point of Director of Ceremonies, the book states that he should also:

Ensure that the signs of every member of his Lodge should be of a high standard and correct and the senior Lodge officers should support him in good practice. Good luck!

If you have not visited the 'Solomon' site lately, you should. There are now Videos, Podcasts and Webinars available for more in depth explanations. Facebook and Twitter also offer links for more information.

\*\*There is also a new link to Royal Arch Chapter, which is worth a look.\*\*



# Out and About

A round-up of events in and around Herefordshire Province



## 50 Year Certificate

At the Ariconium Installation meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April, the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Michael Holland, presented W Bro Graham Every with his belated Fifty Year Certificate. The anniversary was actually during Covid so the presentation was delayed.

Graham was Initiated in 1971 into The Hampshire Lodge No 3538 and has kept his membership of his Mother Lodge, which later merged to become the Telephone and Hampshire Lodge No 3301. His Father took the chair during his three degrees and delivered the Charge, Second Degree Tracing Board and Traditional History.

In 2007 Graham joined Ariconium Lodge where he has been Director of Ceremonies or ADC over a number of years.

He is also a member of Royal Arch having been exalted into Gooch Chapter in 1985 and becoming MEZ in 1998. Graham is also a member of St Peter's Chapter. He is currently Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in the Craft and Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in the Royal Arch.



The PGM also walked through a number of key facts from 1971, for example, the Prime Minister was Ted Heath, Apollo 15 was launched under the command of David Scott, the first email was sent with an '@' address, the voting age was lowered from twenty one to eighteen and the first arcade video game was launched. Truly a momentous year!

## Ariconium Installation



**Pictured Right**  
W Bro Will Bevan the WM of Ariconium Lodge

At the Ariconium Installation meeting, W Bro Will Bevan was declared Master for a further year during an excellent meeting followed by a Festive Board.

W Bro John Mole was thanked for his twenty years service as Secretary as he handed over the position to W Bro Harry Holwell.

The Provincial Grand Master was well supported by the Provincial Team.



**Pictured Right**  
The Provincial Team ready to enter the Lodge at the Ariconium Installation

## Third Degree at Coningsby

An excellent Third Degree conducted by the Master, Wardens and Deacons of Coningsby Lodge for Bro Gareth Spreadbury. Congratulations to all involved.



**Pictured Left**  
Bro Spreadbury  
with the WM  
W Bro Basil  
Clement

## Dean Waterfield Installation

The new Master, W Bro Nigel Barrington, for Dean Waterfield was installed for the second time on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April. It didn't take Nigel long to start raising money for charity with his raffle, raising £263.50 for Teddies for Loving Care.



**Pictured Left**  
Dean Waterfield  
Festive Board  
Raffle raising  
money for TLC



**Pictured Right**  
The Masters  
Reunion outside  
Machynys Golf  
Club

**Pictured Left**  
Dean Waterfield  
Festive Board  
Raffle raising  
money for TLC -  
another winner!

## The Masters of '98

**Once again, the intrepid Masters' Reunion Group of the year 1998 has been on its travels.**

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April was the date selected to board the Heart of Wales line from Knighton to Llanelli. On a wonderfully spring like morning, with a nip in the air, there was rendezvous at Knighton station in time for the 9.48 to Swansea. Travelling through remote countryside with early lambs blossoming everywhere in the fields, the journey was a delight. Remote 'stations' on the route could be used as a request stop by signalling the driver! Many of the stations were well kept and nicely decorated with spring flowers by eager volunteers.

Main stations, with the alliterative names of Llandrindod, Llandovery, Llandeilo and then Llanelli, were twin tracked to give room for other trains to pass, all having to use the remainder of the single-track line. The two famous viaducts at Knucklas and Cynghordi were special to see as the train trundled over them.

On arrival at Llanelli the party was met by a coach, to be whisked out of town to the Machynys Golf Course and Spa for a very welcome bar-lunch, timed to perfection to allow them to make the return trip to the station and back to Knighton, with blue skies and lovely sunshine.

On the trip were Mike and Maggie Hopkins, David and Sheila Jenkins, David and Yvonne Hood, Glyn Edmunds, David and Ethel Joyce, and David's brother Peter and his wife Margaret, photographed outside the Machynys Golf Club. Sadly, they had received an apology from John and Sue Charles, who were not able to join the trip.



## Cantilupe Chapter Installation

The Cantilupe Chapter Installation Meeting was opened by E Comp Michael Holland the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire with the Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals E Companions Charles Perkins PGStB and Tam Morrison PPGSwdB. The Most Excellent Zerubbabel then took over and installed or inducted the remaining Principals who then invested their officers. A great ceremony and festive board attended by the Provincial Team.



**Pictured Left**  
The Provincial Leadership Team attending the Cantilupe Chapter Installation



**Pictured Right**  
E Comp Chris Bewley the Royal Arch Provincial Mentor walks through the Archway Presentation

**Pictured Left**  
Cantilupe Chapter set up ready for the Installation

## Archway Presentation

There was a large turnout for the Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Royal Arch Chapter Team's Archway Presentation at Hereford in April.

The team walked through the seven year strategy and how the Archway can help Chapters in planning for the future.

E Comp Michael Holland, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, E Comp Bob Stacey, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, and E Comp Chris Bewley, the Provincial Mentor, walked through the current membership challenge figures and the practical use of The Archway in planning and addressing the upcoming challenges.



**Pictured Below**  
Attendees at the Archway Presentation in Hereford



# PROSTATE CANCER TESTING

**16<sup>th</sup> November 2024**  
**Kyrle Street**  
**Hereford**



## Have you had your recent PSA Test?

It is recommended that men aged 40 years and over have a regular PSA test carried out.

Herefordshire Province are proudly partnering with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) to enable men to have a simple blood test that may indicate whether or not they have a possible problem with their prostate and should take further action via their GP.

We have arranged for GFCT to run an all day session at Kyrle Street on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November where Brethren and the public can have a simple blood test by preregistering online for an appointment.

Bookings are now open and will cost £10.

We expect this to be a very popular event as it is highly likely we all know someone who has been affected by Prostate Cancer. We have therefore opened the website for bookings now before we publicise more widely to the general public.

The link can be found here to register for your PSA Test:

<https://pglh.mypsatests.org.uk>

The test measures the level of PSA (prostate-specific antigen) in your blood.

PSA is made by the prostate gland. Some of it will leak into your blood, and the amount depends on your age and the health of your prostate.

The PSA test is a simple blood test used to help detect prostate cancer. In its early stages, prostate cancer generally produces no symptoms, so it is important to diagnose the disease before symptoms arise and while it is still potentially curable. Recent trials suggests that treating prostate cancer may significantly prolong a man's life

## Key Statistics

About 15% of all men with a 'normal' PSA level (under 4 ng/ml) may have prostate cancer.

Two out of three men with a raised PSA level don't have prostate cancer.

One out of three men with a raised PSA level will have cancer.

Two out of three men who have a biopsy don't have cancer.

Biopsies in one in five men fail to spot prostate cancer.

A blood test takes 5 minutes and could save your life!



The Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT Ltd), have been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service in November 2023. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.





# A Masonic Mystery

Bro Nick Lumb, Senior Warden

St Matthew Lodge No. 1447



As part of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, I was tasked with compiling a history of St Matthew Lodge No. 1447. Thus it was, that while conducting my research I discovered a surprising connection between ourselves in far-off Barton-upon-Humber, and Vitruvian Lodge No 338 in Hereford's fair shire.

It began on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1875, when in the presence of one hundred and six Brethren from the Provinces of both Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, the foundation stone of our Masonic Hall was laid by Bro Major W.H. Smyth, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Lincolnshire. As reported in the Hull and Lincolnshire Times:

"The novelty of the spectacle of so many members of the craft in full Masonic attire attracted considerable attention and curiosity on the part of the outside public".

After the stone was laid and duly proved, the Provincial Chaplain offered a prayer. Bro Smyth then scattered wheat on the stone as an emblem of prosperity and abundance. Following this he poured wine to represent cheerfulness and joy, then oil to represent peace and love, and finally he scattered salt as an emblem of purity and perpetuity. His concluding words were: "May peace, harmony, love,

and good feeling dwell amongst the Brethren of the Lodge till time itself should be no more forever." Following the ceremony, the suitably engraved trowel was presented to Bro Smyth by the Brethren of the Lodge.

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 1943 - the seventieth anniversary of the Lodge's consecration - the Lodge Secretary reported that an engraved silver and ivory trowel had been discovered in a street in Ross on Wye. This was the very trowel presented to Bro Smyth after the ceremony. The exact circumstances of how seventy years later it ended up two hundred miles and eight counties away may never come to light, but thanks to the good offices of W Bro. K. Watson of Vitruvian Lodge and the Herefordshire Constabulary, the trowel was returned to the Brethren of St Matthew. Returned, in the depths of global war, by the kindness of a brother Mason.

To this day it takes pride of place in our dining room.

As May next year will be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of that foundation stone, the Brethren of St Matthew will be raising a glass to Vitruvian Lodge No 388, and in particular one Worshipful Brother Kenneth Watson.





# FOUR PROVINCE MASONIC CHARITY REGATTA 2024



SPONSORED BY  
THE FOUR PROVINCES  
HEREFORDSHIRE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, SHROPSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024  
Worcester Rowing Club WR1 3EJ

## Headline Race

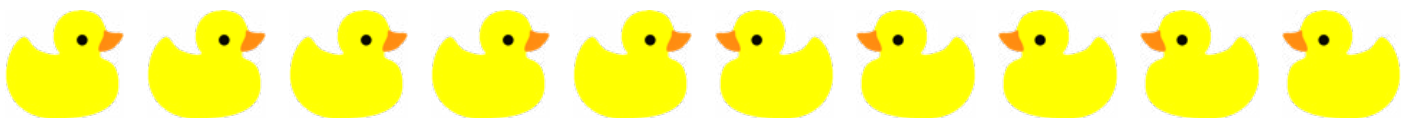
Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Sir David Wootton and crew v PGM's crew

This is a fun (if competitive) day and it is rowed in "Fat Boats" which are used to train people new to the sport and are more forgiving than the usual "fine fours" used at normal club regattas.

It is a short course – about 250 metres – but you really have to have some experience of rowing to enter. If you are a oarsman and unattached please let us know and we'll do our best to match you with a crew.

Entries for Coxed 4s sprints competition for the Rex Delicate Cup are invited at £50 / crew.

**Training is available. We want to raise at least two or three crews to represent Herefordshire. Contact Shane Allard via email [here](#) for rowing entries and more information as it becomes available.**



## Duck Race

The afternoon will conclude with a Duck Race on the River Severn. Hopefully recovery of the ducks and prevention of escape to the wild will be the most onerous task of the afternoon for our safety boat crews. Sponsor a plastic duck which will race downstream (hopefully) on the River Severn in Worcester before being shepherded by the official duck rescue service to ensure none escape. Entries will close at approximately 3:45pm, for a hopeful race start at 4:15pm.

### PRIZES

**1<sup>st</sup> Place £350. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place £100. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place £50**

### Proceeds to

- Air Ambulance
- Acorns Children's Hospice
- SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association):
- Masonic Charitable Foundation



<https://balloonrace.net/tluggw>

**Follow the QR Code or link to sponsor your ducks to enter the race.**

# Membership Matters

These are the ceremonies in the Province for the rest of the month. Details of how to book in for dining and copies of the summonses are on the Provincial Members website [here](#).

Lodge	Date	Location	Meeting Business
Vitruvian	06/05/2024	Ross on Wye	Third Degree - Raising
Coningsby	07/05/2024	Hereford	Third Degree - Raising
Royal Edward	09/05/2024	Leominster	Installation
Arrow	13/05/2024	Kington	Explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board
Eastnor	15/05/2024	Ledbury	The Walking Charge (In the Third Degree)
Cantilupe	16/05/2024	Hereford	Third Degree - Raising
Dean Leigh Masters	20/05/2024	Hereford	Installation
Loyal Hay	21/05/2024	Hay on Wye	See Website
St Peter's	22/05/2024	Bromyard	Third Degree - Raising OR First Degree Initiation
Dean Waterfield	23/05/2024	Hereford	Emergency Meeting - Third Degree - Raising
Manchester St Davids	08/06/2024		See Website
Ariconium	17/09/2024	Ross on Wye	Back in September
Vaga	28/09/2024	Hereford	Installation
Palladian	10/10/2024	Hereford	Back in October
Delphis	12/10/2024	Hereford	Back in October
<b>Chapter Meetings within Herefordshire</b>			
Loyal Hay	13/05/2024	Hay on Wye	Installation
Arrow	15/05/2024	Kington	To receive the Mystical and Symbolical Lectures
Royal Edward	28/05/2024	Leominster	See Website
St Peter's	11/06/2024	Bromyard	Installation
Palladian	23/09/2024	Hereford	Installation
Cantilupe	09/04/2024	Hereford	Installation
Vitruvian	21/09/2024	Ross on Wye	See Website

## PROVINCIAL EVENTS LIST – May 2024

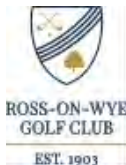
Date	Lodge / Chapter	Event/Venue
<b>2024</b>		
<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024</b>	<b>Provincial Grand Lodge</b>	Masonic, Hall Kyrle, Street Hereford
<b>Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>	St Peter's Lodge	Comedy Evening – Falcon Hotel Bromyard
<b>Sun 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>	<b>Provincial Cathedral Service</b>	<b>Hereford Cathedral</b>
<b>Wed 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>	UGLE Quarterly Communications	FMH
<b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>	Dean Waterfield Lodge	Beef and Baps - Hampton Bishop Village Hall
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>	UGLE Quarterly Communications	FMH
<b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>	<b>Provincial Grand Chapter G&amp;H</b>	<b>Crypt Grammar School, Gloucester</b>
<b>Sat 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>	Palladian Lodge	Ladies Festival (Venue to be confirmed)
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>	Supreme Grand Chapter	FMH
<b>Sat 16<sup>th</sup> November</b>	PSA Testing Day	Kyrle Street, Hereford
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>	UGLE Quarterly Communications	FMH

FMH – Freemasons' Hall, London  
LMC – Leominster Masonic Centre



# Herefordshire Provincial Golf Society

Provisional Dates for 2024		
Date	Venue	Details
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Monmouthshire Golf Club	Away match against Gwent
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Nottingham Province Open Rufford Park Golf Club	We have recently had an invitation to join Nottingham Province in an open, in support of their 2029 Festival Appeal. This is to be held at Rufford Park Golf Club on 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024. The cost is £50 per player and includes coffee and bacon cob, 18 holes of golf and a hot buffet, plus normal on course challenges. There is a maximum number of 60 places, and is open to both Masonic and Non-Masonic golfers, which would allow us to make up teams of member's friends or family. We have one team interest so anyone else who is interested please let me know.
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Match against Gloucestershire Wormsley Golf Club	Home match at Wormsley Golf Club on Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July. Tee off at 1300hrs. The cost of golf and a two course meal is £40.
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Ten Provinces Match Tewkesbury Park	Four Ball event. We are currently the holder of the trophy and I'm sure we will try and retain.
6 <sup>th</sup> August	Tri-angular Match against Worcester and Shropshire Burghill Valley Golf Club	Burghill Valley Golf Club. Tee off time of 1200hrs. The cost of coffee, bacon roll, golf and a two course meal is £48.



## CHARITY GOLF DAY

at

ROSS-ON-WYE GOLF CLUB  
HR9 7UT

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024

In Support Of

**MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION**

and

**St Michaels Hospice, Hereford**



Further details for any event go to the

**Provincial Members' Website**

<https://hmwma.herefordshiremasons.org.uk/events/>

- Light Refreshments on Arrival from 11.00 am
- Shotgun Start at 1.00 pm
- Two Course Buffet Meal Post Golf
- Auction to raise funds for the MND Association
- Raffle
- Team and Individual Prizes
- Nearest the Pin and Beat the Pro Competitions

- Cost - £300 per Team of Four Players

In Memory of Simon Smith who died in September 2022 of  
Motor Neurone Disease

**BOOK YOUR TEAM'S PLACE NOW!**

Please complete entrance form which can be found in the events section of the Provincial Members Portal. Link below

# Eastnor Open Day

A great day at the Feathers Hotel for the Eastnor Open Day with a slow but steady stream of people curious to find out more about Freemasonry in Ledbury and the history in the town.

A lot of effort was put in by the team setting up and preparing handouts and graphics for the day to explain about what we do, the charities we have supported and to actively recruit for new members.

The day was successful as there are two new potential joining members and a potential new Initiate.

Planning is already underway for next year's Open Day.



Details of the kit available to borrow for events can be found on the next page along with details of how to book.



# Outreach Resources on the Members Portal

**A reminder of the resource for use at open days, village fêtes etc and how to book.**

The Province has a set of 'Outreach Kit' available for Lodges to use during open days or village fêtes etc.

This is available to view and book via the Outreach Page on the Member's Portal. On this page you will find details of the current bookings and the checklist of available items you can borrow.

Bookings can be made by emailing the Provincial Communications Officer.

We are happy to provide advice and guidance on running your stand and how to get the best from the day.

## Outreach Kit available for use

- A gazebo measuring 3m x 3m
- Two pop up banners
- An 'A frame' poster
- Table
- Tablecloth
- 2 clear A3 poster frames with posters
- 3 clipboards with forms for prospective candidates

We also have an A3 Poster that can be downloaded and printed for use on noticeboards in local clubs, libraries etc.



It would be great if you could send any pictures of the stand and your Lodge in action so we can feature it on the Provincial website, in the Craftsmen Newsletter and Social Media.

Please get the permission of anyone in the pictures for use in this way. Also on this page is a link to the UGLE toolkit for photography which would be good to read before taking any pictures.

Bookings can be made by emailing the Provincial Communications Officer, W Bro Andrew Moore [pco@herfordshiremasons.org.uk](mailto:pco@herfordshiremasons.org.uk)

Further details on The Member's Portal here (login required) <https://hmwma.herefordshiremasons.org.uk/member-login/member-login/outreach/>

Provincial Outreach Calendar 2024											
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Denotes already booked out											
1 Jan	1 Feb	1 Mar	1 Apr	1 May	1 Jun	1 Jul	1 Aug	1 Sep	1 Oct	1 Nov	1 Dec
2 Jan	2 Feb	2 Mar	2 Apr	2 May	2 Jun	2 Jul	2 Aug	2 Sep	2 Oct	2 Nov	2 Dec
3 Jan	3 Feb	3 Mar	3 Apr	3 May	3 Jun	3 Jul	3 Aug	3 Sep	3 Oct	3 Nov	3 Dec
4 Jan	4 Feb	4 Mar	4 Apr	4 May	4 Jun	4 Jul	4 Aug	4 Sep	4 Oct	4 Nov	4 Dec
5 Jan	5 Feb	5 Mar	5 Apr	5 May	5 Jun	5 Jul	5 Aug	5 Sep	5 Oct	5 Nov	5 Dec
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7 Jan	7 Feb	7 Mar	7 Apr	7 May	7 Jun	7 Jul	7 Aug	7 Sep	7 Oct	7 Nov	7 Dec
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26 Jan	26 Feb	26 Mar	26 Apr	26 May	26 Jun	26 Jul	26 Aug	26 Sep	26 Oct	26 Nov	26 Dec
27 Jan	27 Feb	27 Mar	27 Apr	27 May	27 Jun	27 Jul	27 Aug	27 Sep	27 Oct	27 Nov	27 Dec
28 Jan	28 Feb	28 Mar	28 Apr	28 May	28 Jun	28 Jul	28 Aug	28 Sep	28 Oct	28 Nov	28 Dec
29 Jan	29 Feb	29 Mar	29 Apr	29 May	29 Jun	29 Jul	29 Aug	29 Sep	29 Oct	29 Nov	29 Dec
30 Jan	30 Feb	30 Mar	30 Apr	30 May	30 Jun	30 Jul	30 Aug	30 Sep	30 Oct	30 Nov	30 Dec
31 Jan	31 Feb	31 Mar	31 Apr	31 May	31 Jun	31 Jul	31 Aug	31 Sep	31 Oct	31 Nov	31 Dec

Please email [pco@herfordshiremasons.org.uk](mailto:pco@herfordshiremasons.org.uk) to make a booking



# Freemasonry in the Community

W Bro Geoff Wilding – Royal Edward Lodge No 892



Although not within the borders of our Province, this article is about a project which was recently completed in the village of Norton, where I live. It is situated just over the Welsh border in the county of Powys. However, to further complicate the story, it recounts the generosity of the Brethren of Teme Lodge, which is a small Shropshire Lodge, that meets in the Community Hall in Whitton, which also happens to be in the county of Powys. The link being that many of the Brethren of Teme Lodge are also well-known members of our Province.

The village of Norton evolved around a post Norman conquest castle and it's likely that the church was established at the same time, although little of this earlier church remains, following the substantial remodelling work undertaken between 1867 to 1868 under the supervision of George Gilbert Scott, which left the current Victorian gothic edifice. However, during the restoration, while taking down the casement to the south wall of the tower, workmen found a 12lb canon ball embedded in the masonry, plus evidence of a further two canon ball strikes. Unfortunately,

*The Craftsmen Newsletter*

my research has been unable to establish any historical reference to account for their presence although this area had been a Royalist stronghold during the civil war.

For most of its life, the church served as the heart of the village, but in common with many other village churches, as time went by, the ageing demographic and consequent fall off in church attendances led it to become unsustainable as a stand alone church.

The local residents therefore decided to look at ways of diversifying it's use, and in 2016, while still operating as a church, an application was made under a church grant scheme for funds to add a toilet and kitchen facilities. Unfortunately, this failed, and St Andrews Church finally closed for religious services in May 2022.

A survey of villagers was undertaken, and it became clear that the popular consensus favoured conversion of the empty building into a community hub.

In order to pursue this idea, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation was created called the Presteigne and Norton Community Trust, set up under the guidance of Mr John Rafausse, along with other members of the village. This enabled the Trust to negotiate a 30-year lease of the building from the Church of Wales and gave access to a greater number of charitable funding streams, including the National Lottery, the Architectural Heritage Fund, and a loan from the Church of Wales.

The Ludlow architect, Trevor Hewett, who has extensive experience in working with heritage buildings, was then appointed to oversee the project and the herculean task of raising over £200,000 for the work, got underway.



It was at this time that W Bro Jez George, a Past Master of Teme Lodge as well as being a Past Master of Arrow Lodge, who also lives in Norton, approached one of the Trust members to see if the project would benefit from a contribution from Teme Lodge.

The offer was favourably received and following further discussions between Mr John Rafausse, W Bro David Hedley and W Bro Jez George, Teme Lodge, which has a limited number of members, made the substantive donation of £2,260 towards the supply of the new kitchen equipment.

Actual construction works commenced in March 2023, and despite some challenges, which restoration work on ancient buildings always attracts, the villagers of Norton were invited to an open day on Monday 1st April, and all who attended responded favourably to the finished Community Hub, that I have no doubt will prove a splendid asset to Norton in the future.



If you would like to find out more about the Norton Community Hub project, please click on the link below.

<http://www.nortonhub.uk>



Another Great Month Around The Province

Thank you to all who contributed to our online posts during April 2024.

Send in your pictures of meetings or events to [pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk](mailto:pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk)

We will publish in The Craftsmen, the Website and on our Social Media feeds.

# Widows Lunch 2024

## Another Successful Widows Lunch

Seventy guests attended the Annual Widows Luncheon in Hereford where attendees were able to catch up and socialise with current members, their wives and the Masonic widows in the Province.

During the meal the head of Freemasonry in Herefordshire, Michael Holland, gave a brief welcome to the guests and Howard Wilson from the Masonic Charitable Foundation provided a typical case study and overview of the type of services offered by the MCF.

Following the meal guests were entertained by W Bro Robert Green with a sing-a-long to well known show tunes.

Thanks also to Cantilupe Lodge for their assistance on the day.



**Pictured Below** - W Bro Malcolm Davies Provincial Grand Almoner and W Bro Robert Green Provincial Grand Organist who provided the entertainment.



**Pictured Above** - L to R Howard Wilson from the MCF, W Bro Malcolm Davies Provincial Grand Almoner and PGM RW Bro Michael Holland



**Pictured Below** - The Cantilupe Lodge Members who very ably provided support to the event.



*The Craftsmen Newsletter*





# Visiting Light Blues

## Royal Edward Lodge - Encouraging Light Blues to Attend Initiation Ceremonies

W Bro Mike Hopkins, Provincial Learning and Development Officer



So far 2024 has been very kind to the Royal Edward Lodge. We have carried out an Initiation ceremony in January, February and March hence the Lodge was able to give each candidate a unique and personalised welcome and Initiation ceremony.

At each meeting we have had no less than 50 Brethren attending and, being an Initiation ceremony, we focused on inviting Light Blues to join our own Light Blue members.

In January, for the initiation of Bro Andrew McNabb Davies, we had 14 Light Blues, in February for Bro Chris Rooney, we had 16 Light Blues and in March for Ashleigh Layton, we had 18 Light Blues.

In April, we had a Past Masters 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and still had the pleasure of 17 Light Blues. It is felt important that at the festive board we mix our visiting Light Blues with our own members.

The photograph above was taken after the closing of our April meeting showing the Light Blues attending the meeting together with some of our officers.

In September we intend holding a Provincial Light Blues Lodge of Instruction at Kyrle Street where the First Degree ceremony will be demonstrated and will include a commentary explaining the points of interest.

It is intended that each Lodge will be represented by nominating one of their Light Blues to fill an active office.

Further details to follow.

Mike Hopkins  
Learning and Development Officer

Read the MCF Impact Report for 2023 to see the wide range of help provided during 2022/23

[https://mcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/4400\\_MCF\\_ImpactReport\\_23\\_AW\\_V3Spreads.pdf](https://mcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/4400_MCF_ImpactReport_23_AW_V3Spreads.pdf)



## MCF Grants In Herefordshire

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 we have received the following grants as a Province.



**3**

Grants



**£1,161**

The value of grants awarded

These applications covered a wide range of uses.

Please see the link below to show what can be applied for:

<https://mcf.org.uk/get-support/grants-to-charities/>



Over the last five years for the period from

1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

in Herefordshire, we have received a total of

**180 Grants totalling £458,776**



Did you find the 'April Fools Day' themed words?

## April Fools Day

K V V E P V O R K J E L V Y D J F N O M R J L R R X E B A E S  
D T D X H S O I F D S F O H Y F L A U G H T E R D S B W Z Y F  
Y S S O D X J X Z E H Y G E J E S Y F F Q J H X N Z A X A W L  
C P H S P X M A O B D U N Z I I N J U S N H W G C G X Z C M A  
F Z H J M M T A G E S X I Y D H E J N P C M L P A J F M E W B  
P Y D F V B Y P M N F M Y G F C K S N C S D Z P P Y Q U F G O  
M Q C G Q U B O R M C G A S R S B G Y C S Q K O X B A A B X D  
T L G E N V C G Y A B H L V K I G C X S Q F S Z M I P A A A L  
W T C D W E N G L A D S P H K M F E E R L O K O V R W O E S V  
D N L B J K V E V U V L U U I W L N J J E O B E I K H X V R E  
U M E L W F H I A U F J E B M Z H I U G G B O L D Q R P S J B  
L Z V D X Z F O J N A Y S Y A S Y Z V X C E F M H Y X S O Z E  
E G E K U F Q K S Z L C A K I B I Z E I T I Z A U L I E S K F  
S I R F D U R P J T Q A F L G A N K Y O R H M E P M E S C X G  
G V P R D A U D B F N O O L P J X O C S M O V F M I C G H P M  
A H E V C X H Y S N O O X A J E S T T I X L C D L T Z Y A J X  
G O F P K X A X U T F D N C O Z J V X S C P P T H D Y K D R D  
G U W P H H X A V L Z W Q W Q Y M B P P Q H M I T P N Y X W V  
I S W X R M L X F B J J R I I N K R V P P P U D F D N T V J I  
O M D J O K E Y F T T F O R H F I C X A V V A C V B Q Q Z Y F  
G V F A M I F O J K A B Z O Y N I X A I E Y C Q K T U K R C Q  
U X B X C S X F D D Z S P N G S V Z C W M S C U R L K Q G H K  
K D U A O G X F E B X O S O I T Z T C G Y G I Y B Z E A E V I  
W Q R B S G Y P O K F C S I L E I O Y S Z A K R X V N R F E L  
G W Q Y U G K L L G H T B W L M H L O E P N Y D P P V V S A D  
P I R F N P K G T N T V H S S L P J B W A O P C M R L R B L F  
U W S J F N B S V R D U Q S Q U Y T N R J Q U F A N U B R Q L  
X Q E F D L A T B C I A H S C Y Z I P X N J O J T Y G S Q I K  
P K M D O E J C X K D C U Y S S J C J Y C O J J X Z D F M W G  
E D A F K C Y Y L X J Z K G U I I S B S L N M G C W C C T F Q  
R T G G U T I X C M Z B Y J L I I A T M V D E T A R B E L E C

- Gags
- Jest
- Clever
- Chuckle
- Spring
- Playful
- Games
- Annual
- Victims
- Celebrated
- Playing
- Foolishness
- Laughter
- Wacky
- Trick
- Silly
- Hoax
- Prank
- Surprise
- Mischief
- Funny
- Joke
- Comedy
- Fool
- AprilFirst

Can you find the Hereford May Fair words?

## HEREFORD MAY FAIR

V Y G K K O H O H T P S Y Z B L S V V O H T M M X Z H U M G Y  
J S R J O W E T R O K W O V Y T T C O J B W S C M U Q H R P A  
K P W E H P G E T R O D N A D O H T R T W I S T N T Q W D H I  
N T C I H J J Y I X C K L D M T P D G F W W Y B O B O G V B T  
W T V X N C R M V B Z V A U Q W M Y S I P I H S E T A R I P C  
M E R U L G R V M B A U F D L J X K D F A N K F T C I U V K X  
J M E R D S B A P Q I M F T U G O Y W R V V Q H A V K C C L R  
W E P A M L C O E M D E R X Z C R D E V I L S W H E E L X E D  
P S L E N U A B A K A A D I O J K E K U Y O L D R S R T N D P  
Q U Y Y F L B F S T T Y P O T C W T T M H G O G G O B T W C R  
N O M Q A X V Z C M H U Z U W D K P W L G F T U L D I S P D N  
M H I M L Y Z N A B D L B Z K R E E B Z E R V L D G G N N C U  
N D R Z J F J A C N F E B I E N V Z P K E K A T W D W P Y W J  
S A L F K F B T U G U S U H D X O T W B N P S N L O H P W S N  
U M J Q M Q O O Q C T U J O S Y E W L N E H M R H U E A S O G  
M P R Z D U R W U G G O W Y Q P E E Y N R I K T E H E O B X J  
B H X Z Z H Z G H J H R N O F X H Y N R A F O X K T L O O N S  
A E Y B T U R K J P O A B P L T J Y S T J O I W Q F L Y T W X  
P R G K I O E F C R S C E S E F H B M T B B T X Y O R E U N W  
O E H L X P Z U F X T P G A A P G B P G E K T D X J T H H S C  
O F E B E V V C E F T O D B V A D D N B V A N S G F I Y G E O  
L O F C J E S R K E R H Y W C K Y I G O P A C J P A Q G C Z C  
E R A X A K H M C Q A S D T R F X Y X C C L X U F I R D X A O  
W D L B Y R E W E D I I K K H O N R O T O R V L P R K N S M W  
C M R V O F N H S G N B N L B U I I P L M O R L A S W U I R J  
U B P T O H B O N I D Z P R O L L E R C O A S T E R P X A O I  
G K X W J Q R V L Y R O M R H Z U B V I Y D G J G O H S G R L  
Q P F M H V P X Y L J R D T N O S I Q D Y I M X T P G D X R Q  
L X I J I V B E I C A G E X E F A Q Y J R I Q C O F V P F I X  
H Y V Y B Y Q D S E W B H F Z B V P T K Z B O C H X O U H M B  
R Z A T Q F V J W A L T Z E R S O F K C T J K Y G C O S E M V

- |               |             |               |            |             |          |        |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|-------------|----------|--------|
| Archery       | CandyFloss  | RollAPenny    | BigWheel   | BoxingBooth |          |        |
| GhostTrain    | HookADuck   | MirrorMaze    | Dodgems    | Twist       | Octopus  |        |
| Teacups       | BallonRace  | RoundUp       | Rotor      | Waltzer     | Madhouse |        |
| SwingBoat     | DevilsWheel | HelterSkelter | PirateShip | FerrisWheel |          |        |
| RollerCoaster | Carousel    | Rent          | Fair       | May         | Hereford | Bishop |
| Ethelbert     |             |               |            |             |          |        |

# HEREFORD MAY FAIR

## DID YOU KNOW?

The charter for a fair to be held on the Feast of St Ethelbert and two days following, was granted to the Bishop of Hereford in 1121 as a way of raising money for the Cathedral. A later document invited all the barons and burgesses of England to come to Hereford's fair and assured them of a good time!

During the fair, the Bishop had rights of control over all trade and those coming into the city, which caused many disagreements between the city officials and the bishop over the centuries. The fair was also a time when the rent was due - rents of cinnamon and pepper and cloves.

In 1838, control of the fair and all its rights passed to Hereford City Council and the duration was reduced to two days. At that time, it was one of eight annual fairs. Only the May Fair now survives.

As well as the pleasure fair that it is known as today, the fair in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century also sold livestock, poultry, butter and other produce and by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century was also a hiring fair for hiring new servants.

In 1912, the suffragettes took a stall and did a brisk trade in selling their paper 'Votes for Women' and in 1930, there was a rather different side-show when the public were invited to pay sixpence to look round the old prison (on Commercial Road) before it was demolished - the proceeds went to Hereford General Hospital.

W Bro Paul Sabel - Dean Waterfield Lodge

