



HEREFORDSHIRE
PROVINCIAL
NEWSLETTER

The Craftsmen

Issue 99 - June 2025



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Supporting the
Armed Forces Covenant

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We look back over the last
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This month we look at
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The Craftsmen

The Official Newsletter of the
Province of Herefordshire

Issue 99 - June 2025

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Published on the first Monday of
September, November, January, April,
June,

Deadline for article submission the last
Wednesday before each publishing
month

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Bringing you news from the Masonic
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Out and About

A round-up of events in and around Herefordshire Province



VE Day Celebrations



We supported the Royal British Legion at their VE day celebrations in Madley by marshalling the car park.

Also, as part of the VE 80 Commemorations, beacons were lit across the country. In Hereford, after a full day of commemorations including reading of the Peace Proclamation, wreath laying, participation in the Nation's 2 minutes silence and a cathedral service of thanksgiving, a beacon was lit on the traditional beacon

site in Churchill Gardens on Aylestone Hill. The event was organised by Hereford City Council and the City Marshall asked for support from Herefordshire Masons. Simon Glover answered the call, clearing the area, preparing the beacon and handing the torch to the Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Kevin Tillet to light the beacon.



May Installation Ceremonies

Royal Edward and Dean Leigh Masters both had their Installation ceremonies in May.

W Bro Nigel Gulliman was installed in the chair of Royal Edward Lodge watched by around sixty members and guests on 8th May and W Bro John Mole was installed into the chair of Dean Leigh Masters Lodge on 19th May watched by around fifty members and guests.



We wish Nigel, John and their teams a successful and enjoyable year.



Monday 19th May saw the Installation of a new Worshipful Master of Dean Leigh Masters Lodge No3687. We wish John and his team an enjoyable year.

Did you know? The Lodge is named after the Hon. James Wentworth Leigh, who was Dean of Hereford Cathedral from 1894 to 1919 and Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire from 1906 to 1923, showing the long standing association we have had as a Province with Hereford Cathedral. Don't forget the Provincial Cathedral Service on Sunday 8th June.



Not Forgotten Garden Party

The Not Forgotten charity supports veterans and service-people suffering from injury and illness by providing social, respite and challenge opportunities and a unique series of prestige royal events. A number of Masonic Provinces have come together to host events for the charity, and they gathered at Buckingham Palace at one of the charity's Garden Parties. We were blessed by a lovely sunny day, and it was great to be able to catch up with the other Provinces that have aided. A splendid afternoon wrapped up by beating the retreat from the Irish Guards.



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We will be running another Herefordshire based event in September with the charity.



Skittles Night

May also saw the annual Royal Edward Lodge v Eastnor skittles match. Eastnor won back the trophy but it was a close match and a great evening for all - with funds also raised for charity. Thanks to all that came along and took part.



There is always next year.....





The End or Beginning of an Era?

The final meeting of the Masonic year for Eastnor Lodge No 751 was also the final meeting at the Feathers Hotel. A short business meeting was held before the wives and partners were invited in to listen to a talk on the history of Eastnor Lodge and its long association with the Feathers Hotel. The talk, superbly delivered by Bro Nick Humphrey, was very well received and the warrant and banner were paraded out of the Lodge one final time, before all those present enjoyed a lovely Festive Board.



Grand Lodge Investitures

What a couple of days for VW Bro J Stuart Jones and W Bro Andrew Moore who received their Grand Ranks at the Craft Investiture on Wednesday 30th April, and Andrew was also invested with his Chapter Grand Rank on Thursday 1st May.

The Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall was full on Wednesday for the Craft Investitures with guests of both Brethren, together with the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Michael Holland, and Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Graham King, in attendance. It was great to see so many people there, with additional Grand Ranks awarded to Provinces that had performed well against their Membership Challenge.





Stuart Jones received his Past Grand Sword Bearer Rank and Andrew Moore his Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer rank, with the collars being presented by the Pro Grand Master MW Bro Jonathan Spence.



Donation Follow Up

We have received a number of 'Thank You' letters following the donations made at the Provincial Charity Presentation evening in March.

This is the latest one from 'We Are Farming Minds' from the donation made to celebrate the newly formed Herefordshire Masonic Charitable Trust.

Hereford Masonic Charity Association,
3 Kyrle Street,
Hereford,
Herefordshire,
HR1 2EU

Dear all whom are part of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Herefordshire,

I am writing on behalf of We Are Farming Minds to thank you for the incredibly generous donation of £3,000 from your Charity Association.

Every penny donated enables us to continue providing vital support to the farming community in Herefordshire, making a real difference to those who need it most.

Thank you once again for your kindness and for choosing to support our charity, it truly means a lot to us and those we support. If there is a certain project that you would like your donation to be put towards, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via the details below.

Kind regards,
Ellie

Ellie Pincombe
Fundraising & Marketing Coordinator



We Are Farming Minds is a registered charity, set up to help new recruits with awareness in the rural communities of Herefordshire and support the wellbeing of farmers across the land.
Registered Charity Number: 2294403

SUPPORT LINE: 0800 8020070
TEXT: 07766 209130



Rowing Training

Training is already underway for the Masonic Charity Regatta in Gloucester on 19th July. We will be entering three teams and hoping we can repeat our success of last year where the team from Vaga Lodge were overall runners up.

Well done to the Brethren who are training and good luck. Why not come along on the day to support and join in the fun?



Lodge Sine Nomine No 10000

Nineteen members of the Province attended an Emergency Meeting of Lodge Sine Nominee No 10000 in the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall in London's Covent Garden. The meeting was opened in the Grand Temple and Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master Jonathan Spence was received followed by a series of presentations on the Strategy Pillars and a video on the Lodge Arch.





Although the prize for the best dressed Brother at the Sine Nominee meeting goes to W Bro Billy Russell here sporting his Lodge 10K blazer.



A Special Night at St Peter's

The May Lodge night of St Peter's Lodge marked a very proud moment for the Taurus Chapter, and one they won't forget anytime soon.

With the kind permission of the Provincial Grand Master, they were honoured to be able to wear their cuts for some photos to be taken in the Lodge room after the meeting. Billy Russell of Taurus Chapter said:

"Being able to stand proudly in the Lodge room for photos, in our cuts, wasn't about making a statement, it was about raising awareness of who we are, what we do, and showing that although we're bikers... we are Freemasons first."

The Worshipful Master announced that the raffle proceeds from the night would be donated to our nominated charity, West Mercia Women's Aid. A sum of £230 was raised, which is fantastic. Thank you to St Peter's Lodge, the Provincial Grand Master, and all the Brethren who made us feel so welcome".



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Supreme Grand Chapter

It was a particularly warm and sunny spring morning as over forty Companions from Gloucestershire and Herefordshire made their way to London for the annual investiture meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter. It is at this meeting that appointments and promotions are conferred on members by the First Grand Principal, HRH The Duke of Kent. With around 2000 members filling the Grand Temple dressed in the distinctive and beautiful Royal Arch colours of blue and crimson, anticipation began to mount as the Grand Director of Ceremonies announced that the First Grand Principal was in attendance and would be presiding over the meeting. The meeting was opened by the Grand Principals and the First Grand Principal then entered to rousing acclamation and an emotional crescendo as he took the First Principal's chair.

The Duke of Kent then proceeded to appoint the Active Grand Officers of the year including:

- E Comp Peter Brindle, Innsworth Chapter as Grand Sword Bearer
- E Comp Ian Davies, Chapter of Sympathy as Grand Sojourner

Followed by promotions and then first appointments including:

- E Comp Mark Smith, Sherborne Chapter to Past Grand Sword Bearer
- E Comp Dereck Freeman, Chosen Hill Chapter to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
- E Comp Andrew Moore, Vitruvian Chapter to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies



After the conclusion of the meeting the Companions joined together for some photographs in the Grand Temple. As a tangible demonstration of the 'One Journey, One Organisation' message from The United Grand Lodge of England, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire was supported by the Provincial Grand Master for Gloucestershire and the Deputy Provincial Grand Masters of both Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Provinces, suitably dressed in their Royal Arch Regalia.



The majority of Companions had travelled to London by coach from Stroud and then after the meeting dined at the Trattoria Verdi on Southampton Row, which for many years has been expertly organised by E Comp Ray Bennett PGSwdB, PDepGSupt. The remainder attended the formal investiture luncheon held at the Grand Connaught Rooms before making their way back home.

Tickets are not required to attend this meeting and all Companions are encouraged to attend at some point in the future to experience what is always a truly memorable day, in great company and excellent hospitality. If you would like to find out more about visiting Supreme Grand Chapter or completing your journey in Pure Ancient Freemasonry by joining the Royal Arch then please speak with anyone you recognise in the photos or message the Deputy Grand Superintendent who will be pleased to put you in touch with a local Chapter.

Thanks go to the Deputy Grand Superintendent Mark Smith PGSwdB for the article.



Loyal Hay Chapter

E Comp John Lewis was invested as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the field by the DepGSupt at Loyal Hay Chapter Monday 13th May as the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent was inducted into the chair of 'J'. A full Provincial Team travelled to Hay on Wye on the Welsh border in what is one of the farthest outposts in our Province!

Many congratulations E Comp John.



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The Travelling Sceptre

A unique and symbolic moment at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Gloucestershire Annual Meeting with the presentation of the Travelling Sceptre to the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, further strengthening the bond between Craft and Chapter.

Watch this space on how this will be used around the Royal Arch Province in the future.



Reflecting on a good year and looking forward to the next

VW Bro J Stuart Jones PGSwdB

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master looks back at our Membership Challenge successes over the last year and forwards to the next.



As our 2024/25 season draws to a close, we are in a strong position with membership up by 4%, meaning we now have 516 members. We have initiated over 41 new members, passed 24 and raised 11. Resignations are down versus the previous year which, we hope, is a reflection of members in Herefordshire enjoying their Freemasonry.

Hopefully we can encourage more sharing of the ritual and encourage newer members to take part in ceremonies. We can achieve this by asking them to take on smaller pieces of work such as working tools or charges, then this will increase participation and thereby enjoyment for all. We have seen most Lodges now adopt double ceremonies across all 3 degrees, to great success, meaning we are progressing people sooner so they can fully partake in our activities.

We do need to ensure that we work to maintain the standard of our ceremonial work, through supporting those who may have difficulty in learning, through LOI meetings and Lodge rehearsals, accepting individual limitations for whatever reason and providing support, through Past Masters sharing the work in particular helping those who may have work and family pressures that make learning ritual a challenge. And I would ask all

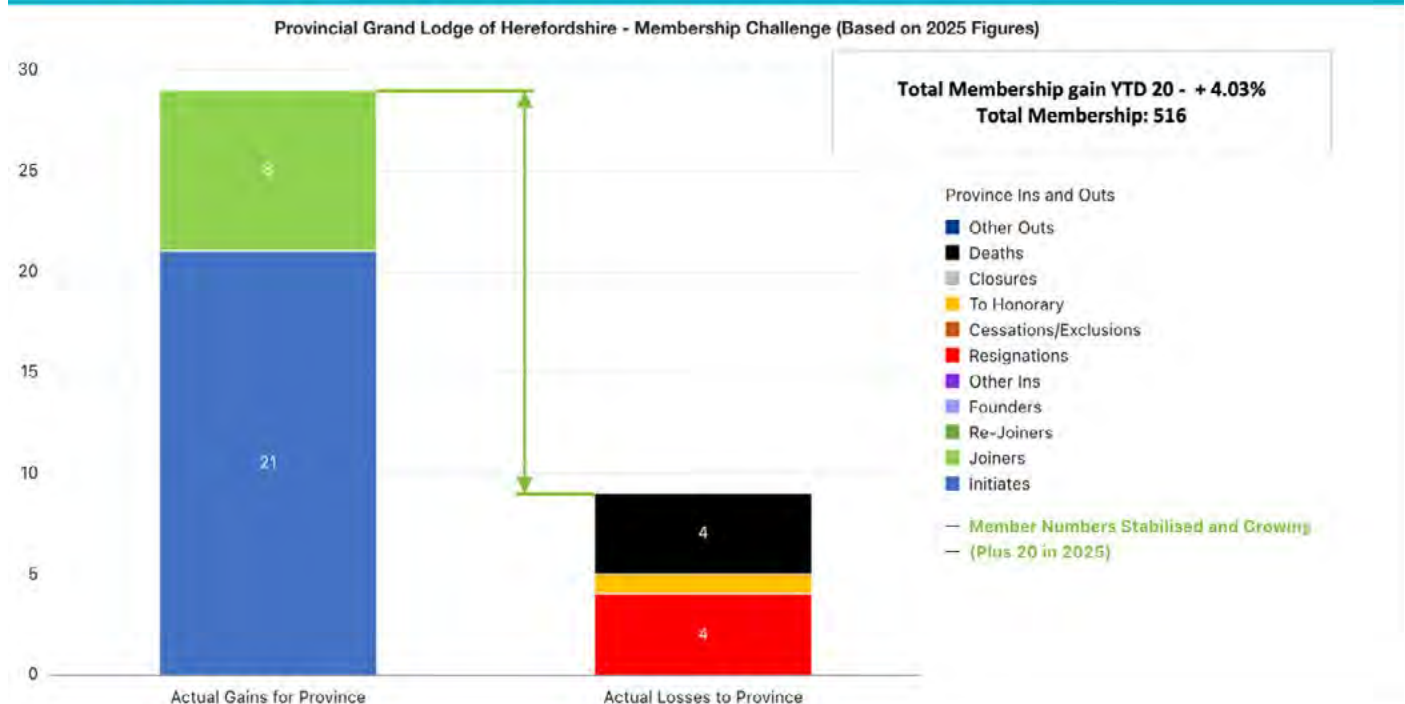
members to try their best to learn ritual but also not be afraid to ask for help when it gets too much.

As we start the new season you will learn more about the new "Building Together" Program that will look to create a single educational resource for all, by combining the Member's Pathway and Archway programs into one, strengthening the link between Craft and Royal Arch and ensuring that new candidates and existing members are aware of the four elements of Pure and Ancient Freemasonry.

We have 7 candidates awaiting initiation currently and, to help recruitment, we will hold our first Open Evening on 7th July in Kyle Street to which we already have around thirteen gentleman attending. We are also investigating running some local social media campaigns to help drive awareness and interest. This linked with our overall community engagement activities will help in finding new candidates and improve understanding of Freemasonry in Herefordshire.

So there is plenty to be proud of over the last year, but we need to remain focussed on building the future of our organisation and ensuring all members enjoy their Freemasonry.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Herefordshire - Membership Challenge



Would I know the answer?

Did I know the answer?

By W Bro Dennis W. Roberts, PAGDC

This month I ask: Changes?

Following on from my last article, the world events of the last few months with elections for political and spiritual leaders taking place and being influenced from many directions, I stopped to think of changes concerning Freemasonry. What would our forefathers make of how Freemasonry is projected today? We certainly would not expect to arrive to a Lodge meeting on horseback or even carriage, and the heating in the Lodge room would hopefully be more efficient! We do, however, still follow the same ceremonies, principles and ideals set out three hundred years ago, albeit with some slight modifications. (Look through some older copies of the Book of Constitutions for changes.)

The major changes appear to be in communications. As a previous Secretary of a Lodge, I remember the days of the dining table being covered with sheets for the Summons, Minutes, Dining and any other relevant material, to be placed into envelopes and posted in time for each meeting. Now, the press of a button on our computer, and, hopefully, all information is instantly available to members!?

I say hopefully because, of course, we still have members who require 'hard copy' since technology is not their thing.

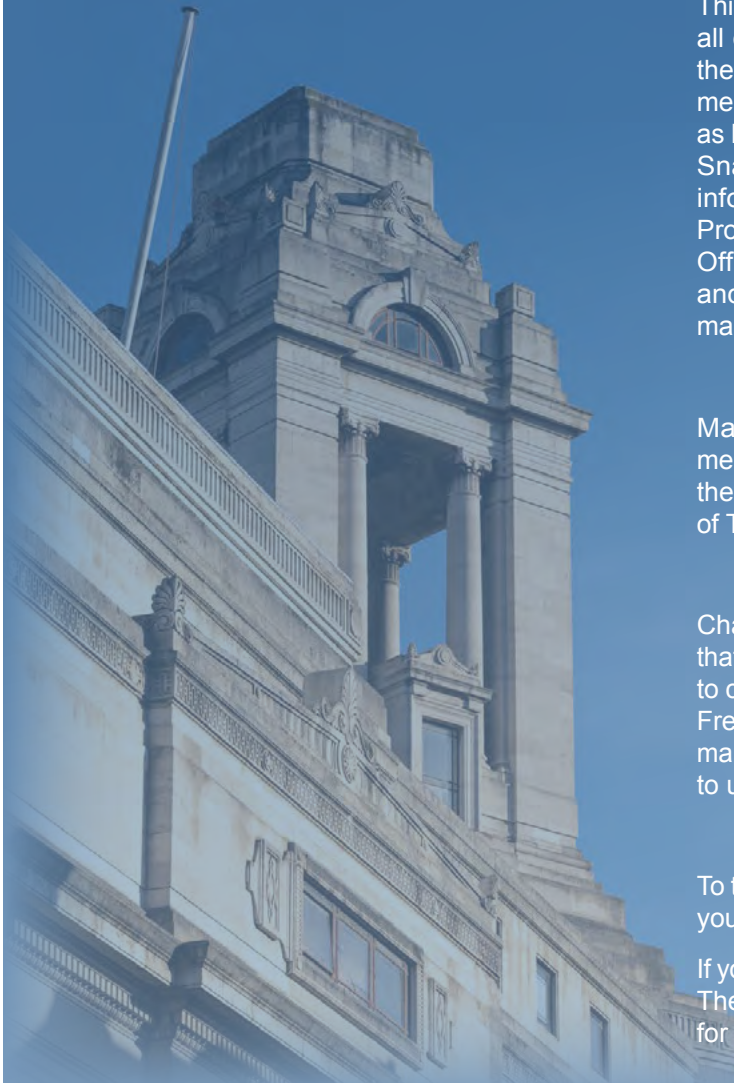
This leads me to consider how to get the information to all of our members since, as I have stated previously, the percentage of members who actually read electronic messages is small. As I am less able to get out as much as I used to, I rely on Facebook, X, Instagram, Whatsapp, Snapchat and others to keep in touch. Without this information I think I would be confused to see on the Provincial Summons the appointment of a Membership Officer, Communications Officer, Mentor and Learning and Development Officer. What would our forefathers make of that?

May I suggest that some explanation of what these members ideas and plans for Herefordshire are, and can they then be put down in print, perhaps in future copies of The Craftsmen?

Changes take place, and indeed must. But to get all of that information out to as many members as possible, and to carry them forward with us, is our next major problem. Freemasonry will continue to flourish I hope. It serves so many just causes in society, and this requires all members to understand and be part of this worthwhile fraternity.

To those of you who read my ramblings to the end I thank you.

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





INVITATION TO REGISTER

Join Portal:

Your Gateway To Freemasonry In A Digital Age

Portal is the new membership app for the United Grand Lodge of England and is accessible to all members through both a mobile device and computer.

You are being asked to participate and use the tool that will enhance your Masonic experience.

As part of the registration process you will need the following information:

- Your email address as registered on the UGLE Adelphi system
- Your full names
- Your data of birth
- Your Lodge or Chapter details in Herefordshire

In some cases you may need your Grand Lodge Certificate number and the month you were initiated.

There are a set of instructions and user guides on the Provincial Members Website here.

<https://herefordshiremasons.org.uk/portal/>

The user guide gives an overview of the app and how to navigate the features, and explains how your personal data is held and managed by UGLE.

If you have problems, your application will arrive on a work queue and one of the Provincial Team will contact you for to assist. Please email pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk

Use this link to access Portal on your desktop computer:

<https://desktop.portal.ugle.org.uk/>

Scan here with your mobile to begin your digital Masonic journey!



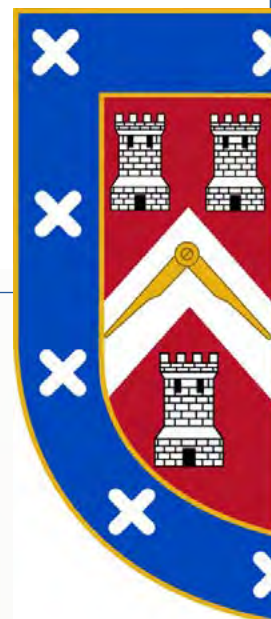
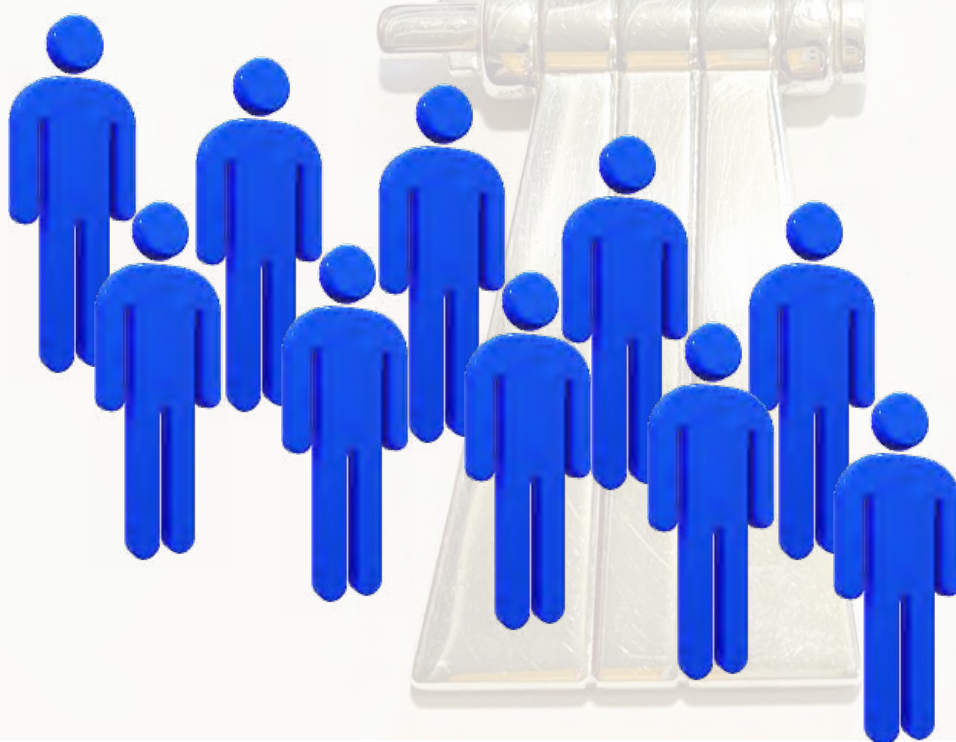
Highlights

The Province has been very busy ensuring we have a thriving membership and coherent organisation. During the last year we have.

1. Provided support via the Caeruleum Club at a number of community events
2. Runners up in the Masonic Charity Regatta
3. Ongoing support for the Armed Forces Covenant
4. Taurus Chapter Launched
5. Lodges executing multi candidate ceremonies
6. Inaugural Christmas Carol Service
7. Provincial Charity Presentation
8. Multiple Outreach events and lodge Open Days
9. Growth in memberships and reduction in losses
10. PSA Testing event with over 100 attendees

Membership

As we close our 2024/25 season with are in strong position with membership up by 4%, meaning we now have 516 members. We have initiated over 41 new members, passed 24 and raised 11. Resignations are down versus the previous year which, we hope, is a reflection of members in Herefordshire enjoying their Freemasonry.



Service and Charity

At the Charity Presentation event in March, we announced how much had been raised in since the previous presentation in November 2023 together with the number of community service hours in 2024.

£125,000 Donated.

**More Than 4300
Hours of
Community Service
Provided.**



MCF Grants Received

The Province received 25 grants at a value of £54,136, From 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. A great achievement for a small Province.

Our Impact 2024/2025

In Herefordshire

Local Herefordshire Community

From 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 we have received.



25
Grants



£54,136
The value of grants
awarded



These applications covered a wide range of uses.

The link below shows what can be applied for.

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

Taurus Chapter

The Taurus Chapter of the
Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association

Riding with Purpose



Leading on from our last edition of The Craftsman, where we covered the Widows Sons' inaugural ride, let's find out what the Taurus Chapter has been up to since then.

In the short time since our launch, the Taurus Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association has established itself as a visible, active, and welcoming presence in the Herefordshire Masonic and motorcycling communities. From long-distance rallies to local coffee stops, we've been embracing the open road and our core values in equal measure: brotherhood, charity, and purpose.

Growing the Chapter

Taurus is proudly inclusive. While full membership is open to Master Masons, our associate members, or "Greenhorns" include friends, family, and fellow riders who align with our values. This approach has helped us build a supportive, down-to-earth environment where everyone has a place and a purpose.

We've continued to grow our public presence too, sharing who we are through social media with posts like "Yes, we're bikers – but first, we're Freemasons", as well as regular introductions to our officers and updates from the road.

Monthly Ride-Out – 25th May

Our monthly Chapter ride on 25th May was another great example of what Taurus is all about. We had 12 bikes on the road, with 7 fully patched members, 3 riding Greenhorns (associate members), 2 non-riding Greenhorns, and 2 potential new members getting another official ride under their belts.

We gathered at Lock's Garage in Allensmore before heading out to The Oily Rag in Gloucester for coffee and

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catch-ups. From there we continued to Vintage Metals, a favourite stop for more caffeine and a bite to eat, before finishing up at another regular haunt—HR4K in Hereford. To round off the day, we were proud to patch in a new Greenhorn, welcoming another member into the fold. It was a brilliant day of riding, laughter, and meaningful connection and we're already looking forward to our next ride and AGM on 28th June.



Pilgrims Rally 2025

In May, four of our officers made the trip to the National Pilgrims Rally, a weekend event bringing together Widows Sons from across the country. Representing Taurus were President Jim 'Chippy' Turpin, Charity Steward Peter 'Chalkie' White, Treasurer Kyle 'Check in' Toolan, and Media and Membership Officer Billy 'Joker' Russell.

The rally was packed with good company, shared rides, and the unmistakable sense of belonging that comes from being part of something bigger than yourself. It was a proud moment for our chapter, and a reminder of the strength of the Widows Sons network.



Distinguished Gentleman's Ride

While the rally took place, Road Captain Joseph 'Pitstop' Dignam represented Taurus in the global Distinguished Gentleman's Ride, raising funds for prostate cancer research and men's mental health.

"Prostate cancer has touched at least two of my Masonic brothers," said Joseph. "That's why I thought it was important to take part."



Dressed in dapper attire, Joseph raised nearly £450, supported by family, friends, and Brethren. In a true show of commitment, he even shaved off his 20-year-old goatee for the cause!



Looking Ahead

There are some exciting moments on the horizon for Taurus:

- **On Saturday 14th June at 10am**, we'll meet with our chosen charity, West Mercia Women's Aid, for an official photo shoot at the Hereford Bull statue, by the Black and White House in High Town. This will mark the beginning of our partnership and public support for the vital work they do.
- **On Saturday 28th June**, we'll be attending the Clehonger Village Fete, not only representing the Taurus Chapter, but also proudly flying the flag for Herefordshire Freemasonry. It's a fantastic opportunity to engage with the public and show how Freemasonry contributes to community life in modern and meaningful ways.
- **And looking further ahead**, the last weekend of July sees Taurus travelling to the Widows Sons MBA National Rally at Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club, where we'll be officially presented with our charter - a major milestone in our journey and recognition of everything we've built together.

Whether we're riding 150 miles or popping out for a coffee and a catch-up, one thing remains constant: Taurus rides with purpose. We're a brotherhood on the move, grounded in Masonic values and open hearts. So if you see a line of patched-up bikes out on the road - give us a wave. You're seeing Freemasonry in motion.



Community Engagement



Supporting Herefordshire Veterans - Living up to the Armed Forces Covenant.

Herefordshire has a long history of supporting the Armed Services and in 2022 Herefordshire Province signed the Armed Forces Covenant showing the indissoluble link between Freemasonry and the Armed Services.

Forward by Colonel Andy Taylor

Colonel Andy Taylor is a member of Eastnor Lodge and the Honorary Curator of The Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum. He has been researching the Regiment for 40 years and his grandfather served in the Regiment during the First World War. His father served in the Herefordshire Regiment Home Guard in Ledbury in World War II and he was first Commissioned into the Herefordshire Light Infantry Cadet Battalion.



Historically, Herefordshire provided foot soldiers to the militia. In 1860, at the height of the Empire, existing troops were serving throughout the globe. There was a perceived French invasion threat to the United Kingdom and the Rifles Volunteer Corps was formed for home defence.

This was effectively the birth of the modern volunteer/part time soldier. Herefordshire formed a unit with detachments through the county and into Radnor. Men from the Herefordshire Rifle Volunteer Corps served in the Boer War in South Africa between 1899 and 1902.

A review of reserve forces saw the disbandment of the Rifle Volunteers and the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908 and the Herefordshire Regiment was formed. The Regiment was called up for wartime service in August 1914 and saw service in Gallipoli, the Middle East and the Western Front.

After the First World War, the Territorial Force was renamed as the Territorial Army and were again called up for War Service in September 1939 and landed over the beaches of Normandy six days after D-Day.

The period after World War II has seen constant reorganisation of the Forces; the Herefordshire Regiment was renamed the Herefordshire Light Infantry in 1946 and was disbanded in 1966 becoming two companies of the Light Infantry Volunteers and in 2007 the Light Infantry became part of the Rifles Regiment.

During the Second World War Herefordshire became a base for three airfields (Shobdon, Madley and Hereford (Credenhill)). Some Royal Navy personnel were also

based in the county and many Allied troops, especially Americans, were concentrated in the county in the build-up to D-Day.

Herefordshire has never had its own county regular regiment but the home of Special Forces is based here and many men and women from the county have served, and continue to serve, in all three branches of the services.

With this historical backdrop, and with many serving and veteran servicemen being members of Lodges throughout Herefordshire, it was particularly poignant that the Armed Services Covenant was signed in June 2022. The RW Provincial Grand Master, Michael T Holland, and

Col Andy Taylor, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, signed the Covenant in the Assembly Room of the Town Hall witnessed by a number of dignitaries.



Since then, Herefordshire Freemasons have provided support to many Veterans charities and provided support at Veterans events.

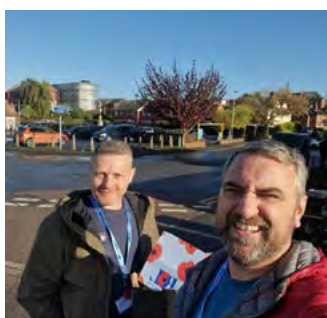
During 2024 we were able honour this commitment on a number of occasions.

In September we were able to answer an urgent appeal for help by the Provincial Grand Almoner from Suffolk, W Bro Jamie Gwatkin, who had developed a programme of Military Veterans Days across the UK in partnership with 'The Not Forgotten' charity. We managed to arrange at short notice Brethren to assist with car parking and distributing the food at a Veterans day in Allensmore. It was a sunny day with excellent entertainment and a very enjoyable day for all.



One Veteran provided this feedback at the end of the day:

"The day made me feel socially included, and I felt that I fitted in. Being a disabled Veteran with my injuries, it is very difficult to get out and about doing things that normal people do. After time, this does naturally chip away at the mental health and has [done so] personally for me. Before I discovered The Not Forgotten and attended your Drive-in, I was feeling very isolated, completely ignored, and frankly left to rot by the country I was injured in serving. I then came home from the Drive-in absolutely beaming with positivity and since that day my mental health and outlook on life has improved dramatically and I have not stopped talking about it since. I now feel strongly that my service to the Country was not all one-sided, and it is The Not Forgotten Team I have to thank, from the bottom of my heart."



In November, Brethren from the Caeruleum Club assisted with distributing poppies to around one hundred businesses and schools around Hereford, delivering packs and collections tins for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Eastnor Lodge went a step further by taking on responsibility for running the appeal locally in Ledbury. Over 60 boxes and tins were delivered around the town and outlying villages. Notices were sent to the another 30 groups wanting wreaths and deliveries were undertaken.

During the appeal, collection points were co-ordinated in superstores and the High Street, plus some training on using the card machines. Following the appeal the money was collected, counted and banked.

Each year Brethren attend a number of Remembrance Services across the Province to remember those who gave their lives in service of our country.



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2024 was no exception and wreaths were laid on our behalf at a number of locations including Hereford, Ledbury, Kington and Ross on Wye.



The Not Forgotten Garden Party

What a great sunny day to share with over 2,000 veterans, service personnel and their guests at Buckingham Palace for their annual Not Forgotten Garden Party, by kind permission of His Majesty The King and graciously hosted by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester.

Guests from the Navy, Army, RAF and Merchant Navy, from across the UK and of all ages from their thirties to 106, gathered yesterday afternoon for an unforgettable experience on the lawns of the Palace, letting them know their service will always be valued and they will never be forgotten. A number of Masonic Provinces were represented, who had assisted at events for the charity.

We are looking forward to assisting with an event later in the year in Herefordshire for this worthwhile cause.



As part of the VE 80 Commemorations, beacons were lit across the country. In Hereford, after a full day of commemorations including reading of the Peace Proclamation, wreath laying, participation in the Nation's two minutes silence and a Cathedral Service of thanksgiving, a beacon was lit on the traditional beacon site in Churchill Gardens on Aylestone Hill. The event was organized by Hereford City Council and the City Marshall asked for support from Herefordshire Masons. Simon Glover answered the call, clearing the area, preparing the beacon and handing the torch to the Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Kevin Tillet to light the beacon.





Herefordshire Provincial Golf Society Update

We are still looking for sponsors for holes at the 10 Provinces Match on 10th July.

If you are able to sponsor a hole then please contact the Golf Society Secretary W Bro Dave Gwynne.

The Golf Society secretary will be circulating full details of future matches to the members of the golf section, but if you are not a member and would like to be included for this or any of the fixtures please contact Dave Gwynne whose contact details are on the Provincial Website [HERE](#).



Match against Gloucestershire

16th July 2025

The Bells Golf Club

10 Provinces Battle Jug

30th July 2025

Ross on Wye Golf Club

2025 will be a particularly important year as the Province will be hosting the 10 Provinces Battle Jug event, which is set for 30th July and held at the Ross-on-Wye Golf Club. We are hoping to get sponsors for the holes on the course, the proceeds of which will go towards our Festival year 2026, so if you have anyone you think might support this please, bring it to the meeting.

Annual Triangular Match

6th August 2025

Telford Golf and Country Club

Tee off time 12:00hrs

Provincial Open Tournament

Date and Venue to be confirmed

For any further information regarding the Herefordshire Golf Society please contact W Bro Dave Gwynne, whose contact details are on the Provincial Website [HERE](#).



Summer Events And 2025 Look Ahead

Further details for each event on the Provincial Website Calendar [here](#)

JUNE	
7	Eastnor Outreach Event
8	Provincial Cathedral Service
11	Quarterly Communications - Freemasons Hall London
14	Taurus Presentation - West Mercia Women's Aid - 10am High Town Hereford
26	Eastnor Beer and Bite
28	Sue Parry Sports Festival - Marshalling assistance required 7am to 5pm
29	Taurus Outreach Event - Clehonger Village Fete
29	Dean Waterfield Lodge - Beef and Baps - Hampton Bishop Village Hall
JULY	
6	Eastnor Lodge - BBQ
9	Hereford Masonic Open Day - Masonic Hall, Kyrle Street, Hereford
13	Venus Walk 9pm to 2am - Marshalling and checkpoint help required
16	Herefordshire Golf Society - Match against Gloucestershire - The Bells Golf Club
19	Masonic Charity Regatta - Gloucester
30	Herefordshire Golf Society - 10 Provinces Battle Jug - Ross on Wye Golf Club
AUGUST	
6	Herefordshire Golf Society - Annual Triangular Match - Telford Golf and Country Club
25	Eastnor Lodge Outreach Event - Stand at Ledbury Carnival
29-31	Three Lodge Festival - Eastnor / Vitruvian / Royal Edward Lodge - Warwickshire
SEPTEMBER	
10	Quarterly Communications - Freemasons Hall London
13	Arrow Lodge Outreach Event
16	'The Not Forgotten' Charity Day - Marshalling support required
OCTOBER	
4	Dean Waterfield Lodge - 'A Night at the Races' - 7pm Masonic Hall, Kyrle Street, Hereford
NOVEMBER	
12	Supreme Grand Chapter - Freemasons Hall London
22	PSA Testing Day - Hereford Masonic Hall
DECEMBER	
6	Provincial Carol Service - St Martins Church, Ross Road, Hereford
10	Quarterly Communications - Freemasons Hall London

Looking Back

W Bro Malcolm Davies and W Bro Tim Bridgland Taylor reflect on the past twelve months.



The Provincial Grand Almoner, W Bro Malcolm Davies PAGPurs

Firstly, can I thank all the Almoners for the work they have done over the last year, including the Visiting Volunteers for their extensive work travelling to manage individual applications.

I would also like to welcome new Almoners and thank those who have passed the baton over.

For me, one of the highlights was helping Somerset Province who had an urgent need for mobility scooters. I met the Provincial Charity Steward from Somerset at an event in London. He told him about the urgent need for mobility scooters in Somerset. This led to the handover of a mobility scooter which was allocated to a very grateful recipient in Somerset the very same day!



As you can see from the highlights in the centre pages we have had a busy year, not just looking after Brethren who require support but also in terms of helping members obtain grants.



The Provincial Grand Charity Steward W Bro Tim Bridgland Taylor

There are lots of highlights I shall remember from the 2024/25 Masonic year but two in particular stand out.

Once again, the Province held a Charity Presentation in March this year. These events are always a great joy to me as Provincial Grand Charity Steward. They enable us to bring together a lot of the Charities who have benefited from our support, both via assistance at events or donations from both the HMCA and the Lodges or Chapters.

The event showcased our charitable service and donations and enables the charities to network with each other and the other guests from Herefordshire, which helps to highlight the work we do for the community in Herefordshire. This year the High Sheriff, Leader of the Council and Mayor of Hereford all attended.

I was particularly proud of the combined efforts lodges across the Province in raising £30,250 in such a short time for the St. Michael's Hospice October Fund Raiser. The Hospice were overwhelmed by what we raised. They were so pleased that they insisted each contributing Lodge/Chapter received a personal thank you note.

A personal thank you to all in the Province for their continued donations to alms, raffles and socials.

Finally, the Provincial Grand Master will be making an exciting announcement at Provincial Grand lodge. Look out for updates from our Communications Officer.



Thank you so much...♥



Thank you to each and every one of you for your incredible generosity and kindness that you have shown to St Michael's Hospice through your donation

This will make such a difference to the lives of so many people, both patients and their families

Coming Soon.....

*The launch of our 2031 Festival is just around the corner.
We look at what a festival is and what to expect.*



To raise money for the MCF, Provinces in England and Wales organise fundraising appeals known as festivals. Festival appeals usually last for five years and are a vital source of funding and generate the majority of donations made to the MCF. We are extremely grateful for the hard work and generosity of Freemasons who support their festival appeals.

Understanding the Festival System

A total of 44 of the 47 Provinces under UGLE take part in the festival system. Each Province typically holds a festival once every eleven years. Many Provinces elect to hold a festival appeal lasting between five and seven years; the Guidelines therefore follow this pattern meaning that the festival launch will occur between years four and six of the eleven year cycle.

The last festival held in Herefordshire was for 2020 but due to Covid this was extended to 2021. During that festival we raised the amazing total of £424,000.

What is a festival?

A festival is a fundraising appeal that is held to raise funds in support of the MCF. The festival consists of an 'appeal' and a 'finale'. During the appeal, members across the Province are encouraged to donate, raise funds, participate in events, learn about and promote the work of the charity and join together for the benefit of the Province, the members and the MCF. The result of the appeal is celebrated at a festival event when the total amount raised through donations is announced and the achievements and activities of the Province are celebrated.

A festival is very much a partnership with the MCF. Through the support given and the participation of the MCF in every aspect of the appeal and the festival, the MCF aim to work with the Province to deliver a successful outcome.

The importance of festival appeals

The MCF is often faced with the misconception that additional donations are not needed due to the income it receives from its investments and the Annual Contribution. In reality, around 60 per cent of our income comes from the contributions of today's Freemasons, the majority of which is raised through festival appeals.

In 2019/20 the MCF spent over £36.2m supporting beneficiaries and charities, whereas the income received from investments amounted to only £7.44m. This statistic clearly demonstrates that festivals are vital if the MCF is to continue its activities.

What next?

The Festival will be officially launched next year in 2026. We are currently in a planning phase to prepare for the launch. We have already set up the Relief Chest at MCF so it is possible to start making donations already. This is the QR code which will enable one off donations to be made although we will announce later how regular donations can be made as well as the Festival Target and other details.

It would be great to run a number of events at Provincial and Lodge level during the Festival period so get your thinking caps on so we can have a number of fun events as well as raising money for a great cause.

You can already make one off donations as the relevant 'Hereford 2031' accounts are set up with the MCF. A proportion of funds will now be kept in Province. Donations can be made using the QR code or by this link <https://gtap.uk/hereford2031>.



And a Final Thank You

To the team who helped with Comms and anyone that sent in ideas and articles for us to use - what a year it has been!



I wanted to say 'Thank You' to all those that have assisted with communications around the Province over the last year..

To Paul Sabel of Dean Waterfield Lodge and Christine Holland for managing the website for many years and to Paul for his Mailchimp support and Craftsmen Word Searches.

To Marc Hoffman of Cantilupe Lodge and Will Bevan of Ariconium Lodge for the redesign of the website and ongoing updates and ideas.

To Dennis Roberts for his regular articles (66 so far!) which have informed us and helped with our daily advancement.

To Geoff Wilding for his articles and the social media posts for Royal Edward Lodge.

To Paul Cooper of Cantilupe Lodge for his wonderful photos.

To Hilary Moore for her endless patience and proof reading skills which hopefully enable us to maintain some form of standard to our output.

To all those Brethren who repost our social media updates.

And above all the Brethren that have kept me sane (maybe debatable) by providing an ear and kind word when needed, a true definition of Brotherly Love. You know who you are and I am truly grateful for your support and friendship.

What a year it has been!

Andrew Moore PAGStdB
Provincial Grand Communications Officer



Last Month's Wordsearch Solution T@3



Did you find the Lepidoptera themed words?

Lepidoptera

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

Lulworth Skipper Swallowtail Rivulet Ringlet Red Admiral
Pupa Peacock Moth Monarch Knot Grass Hermit Grayling
Ghost Gatekeeper Emperor Dryad Danaid Comma
Cleopatra Caterpillar Cardinal Buff Tip Brimstone Atlas Blue
Apollo

Can you find the Grand Lodge Certificate related words?

Know Your Grand Lodge Certificate

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

Certificate Maul Chisel Perfect Rough Ashlar Immovable
Moveable Plumb Rule Level Compasses Square VSL
Globes Terrestrial Celestial Darkness Light Mosaic Abif
Tyre Hiram Solomon Beauty Strength Wisdom Corinthian
Doric Ionic Pillars Arms Grand Secretary Jewels
Ornaments Furniture