



DERBYSHIRE CIRCLE

ISSUE 14 – JUNE 2024

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Message from The Provincial Grand Master

It is with the utmost pride and honour that I stepped into the role of Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Royal Arch of Derbyshire in April this year. This appointment fills me with a profound sense of responsibility, and I eagerly anticipate collaborating with the new Provincial Team. Together, we shall continue the tireless efforts of our predecessors, ensuring that our fraternity maintains its trajectory of growth and positive impact. I am looking forward to visiting as many Royal Arch Chapters as possible in the coming year.

I extend my sincere congratulations to those Derbyshire Freemasons recently appointed to United Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter. Your dedication and service are an inspiration to us all, and I wish you every success in your future Masonic endeavours.

It brings me great joy to witness the continued expansion of our membership in Derbyshire. This heartening trend speaks volumes about the enduring appeal of our values and traditions. My sincere gratitude goes out to our diligent membership team for their unwavering commitment. I must also acknowledge the vital work of the Provincial Retrieval Team in helping to reduce the number of members departing our brotherhood.

Brethren, the responsibility for further fostering Freemasonry in Derbyshire rests upon all of us. Let each lodge work together with our membership and retrieval teams, ensuring the sustained growth and development of our cherished fraternity. Let us remember that the strength of Freemasonry lies in our unity of purpose and steadfast commitment to brotherhood.

May the light of Freemasonry continue to shine brightly across our Province. I look forward with great optimism to the journey ahead, knowing that together, we can continue to make a positive contribution within the communities we serve.

Enjoy this edition of Derbyshire Circle.

Ian Copestake

Ian Robert Copestake
Provincial Grand Master

++Stop Press++
++Stop Press++
++Stop Press++

The PGM didn't blow his own trumpet!

The Provincial Grand Master shown here with our MMM PGM Graeme Hutchinson, was also promoted recently to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Derbyshire and has just been awarded Grand Rank as Past Senior Grand Deacon. This goes to show there exists a very good relationship between the Craft, Royal Arch and Mark Masonry.



Cover: Emily Mclean

Derbyshire Circle is published by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Derbyshire Communications Team

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Contributions and suggestions are always welcome and should be submitted to derbyshirecircle@derbyshiremason.org or richard.hill978@hotmail.com

Welcome from the new editors

Without the benefit of an installation somehow the new editors have ended up taking over the workings of the Derbyshire Circle.

Bro Tom Tait who has now stepped down from the role has left a huge legacy to continue. Bro Tom's fantastic efforts have given us a few pointers and we have been scouring over his past issues and there were some incredible articles submitted. Kings, Queens, Emperors, Bishops, poets, Musicians and we seemed to find quite a few Scottish-related articles and also the railway seemed quite prominent, we happen to know that Tom could be described as having a very slight interest in steam engines. So should one happen to take the Flying Scotsman, surely a related article might make pleasant reading for Tom, perhaps sat beside a pool somewhere not sipping cocktails but cheering on two of his very talented grandchildren.

So now that we have taken the footplate, it's not quite clear who's going to be the driver or the fireman. Uniquely, however, this is a publication that ultimately relies upon its readers for content. Over the next few issues, we hope to have a few regular features and a few differing ones each issue, so brethren will you assist us to write this magazine?

**Bro Richard Hill and
Bro Paul Hamilton**

*Bro Richard Hill
Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge No 9950*

*Bro Paul Hamilton
Rutland Lodge No 1179*

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As we enter the final stage of the Festival, with July 2025 in sight. It is amazing how we have overcome the unforeseen obstacles to our success. We can all be rightly proud of achieving over £1.2 million; however, we still have some distance to go.

The last few miles of a marathon are always the most challenging, fatigue is setting in, and we must dig deep into our reserves. This is where it is important to remember why we are doing this.

Last year the Masonic Charitable Foundation provided grants worth £222,827 to our local charities. 76 of our members and their families received support to the value of £231,197.

It does not have to be hard work; some Lodges are running social events and parties to raise addition funds for the Festival. These are not just fun but provide an opportunity to let those who are not, yet masons get involved. Who knows they may like what they see and wish to join us.

The Festival team would like to thank everyone for their fund-raising efforts and remind you that if your Lodge is one of the 34 who have reached their target, or you have contributed £350 to the Festival then you are entitled to wear with pride a Festival Jewel. Details of how to apply for your jewel can be found in the 2nd Rising.

Inter-Lodge Go-Kart Challenge Update

Over the Bank Holiday Weekend 11 Derbyshire Lodges took part in the first Go-Kart Challenge for the 2025 Derbyshire Festival.

Driving away as champions and lifting the trophy were Bretby Lodge with the driver of the day going to Tom Moxon of Cavendish Lodge.

The Managing Director of Midland Go Karting also very generously had Derbyshire Freemasons balaclavas made and donated £100 towards the Festival helping us towards our target of over £5000 for the event.



Faster than a speeding bullet. Faster than a racing snake.

For initiates to freemasonry what happens during their initiation feels swift and is a bit of a blur, for the Burgess Brothers that cannot be truer.

On the night of their initiation, we all nearly blinked and missed it as the lodge was opened and the Worshipful Master then handed over to Worshipful Brother Dylan Burgess to take the chair and welcome both his sons into Freemasonry at the same time in a fantastic multiple ceremony. Unlike in many lodges where the work is shared with others to conduct different bits, Dylan did the lot with the charge being an absolutely stand-out piece spoken at what might be world record speed.

I knew it was going to be a night to remember when I got to the car park, it was packed full like a tin of sardines. Walking around the hall before the lodge was opened, the air was full of an electric buzz, an unseen tension of energy but that was probably just from the energy, that emanated from Dylan. Seeing his smile that night was priceless. For those of us who know Dylan, his enthusiasm and energy for Freemasonry is almost unbounded.

The night did turn out to be extraordinary the lodge room was packed almost to the rafters. Any initiation is special, but when we welcome a Lewis (son of a Freemason) it feels even more so. When this happens in any lodge some of the brethren present will have known the candidate a long time, may have watched them grow up etc. So to get 2 for the price of one made it even more significant.

I don't think the brothers knew what to expect. One great piece of advice when I first approached Freemasonry through an internet application was given by



Double Time



a very experienced mason in my own lodge. "Never look at what's coming up next, it's all out there but you will spoil the experience for yourself". I would caveat that though with a different bit of advice that he gave me subsequently. If anyone asks what Freemasonry is all about, showing them the charge certificate explains it all. From what I do remember from my initiation with a now good friend Dennis. We hadn't met before the day properly, it was a bit of a blur. The brothers probably did have an advantage having dealt with their dad's speed for years but like all initiates I meet at the meal after the meeting I give the same advice, "go and see another one soon to appreciate what just happened".

So what next for the Burgess brothers? Brother Dylan's had his first Grand Rank appointment and with his work as Provincial Membership Officer, he's set for a busy year. Dylan gave me the figures of how many people we have waiting to be initiated into Derbyshire and it was over 150. If we get everyone in this year who's waiting we will have one of the best years for growth the Province has ever seen beating what was a great year last year and breaking news, his new goal is project 3k to grow the province to over 3000 members over the next few years.

So I think we will see a lot of multiple ceremonies around the province in the future. The video that was sent from Grand Lodge earlier this year is some great advice on how to do a multiple, but, for anyone who needs advice there are quite a few experienced directors of ceremonies who will give advice, there is also plenty of opportunity to go and see one. If you need to know where to find one reach out to a Porchway Club member to see if one has been listed on the calendar.

The two Lewises, Brother Leon and Brother Gareth obviously will have a busy few years ahead working their way up to Master Mason and then Royal Arch. And if dad does the lot again I'm sure those ceremonies may be done at a speed that will have them, and all of us that attend, thinking again what happened, as if Roadrunner came flying through the lodge room.

Para Ice Hockey is a sport that celebrates resilience, inclusion, and diversity, and challenges the stereotypes and barriers that people with disabilities face in society.

It is a fast-paced and highly physical sport that is played by athletes with a lower-limb impairment. The sport follows the rules of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) with some modifications, such as using sledges instead of skates and two sticks with a spike-end and a blade-end. Para ice hockey made its debut at the Lillehammer 1994 Winter Games and has since become one of the largest attractions for spectators at the Paralympics. In the UK, para ice hockey is played at league level by both disabled and able-bodied players on the same team, making it a fully inclusive sport.

One of the emerging talents in this sport is Emily Mclean, a 29-year-old from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, who has already made a name for herself in the sport. Emily, who has cerebral palsy, works as a full-time community care assistant for AMG Care & Nursing, where she works with children

and adults on end-of-life care. She was a frontline worker throughout the pandemic and had to balance her work and sport commitments, which helped her cope with the stress and challenges of the situation and kept her motivated and positive.

She comes from a sporting background and has been playing wheelchair basketball for 15 years, during which she played at the first Under 25s women's European championship. Emily got into ice hockey by answering a call on social media for disabled women in the sport. She first tried para ice hockey in October 2021 and instantly fell in love with the sport.

Emily's dedication and passion for the sport paid off when, ten months after starting the sport, she was invited to join the GB Women's team, which was formed in 2021 to compete in international events. She made her debut at the 1st Women's World Challenge in Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 2022, featuring four international teams, which was the first International Paralympic Committee (IPC) sanctioned event for women in this sport, where she scored GB women's first ever goal!

Emily says "Sport has always been a big part of my life and it has given me so many benefits, both physically and mentally."

It has helped me stay fit and healthy, improve my confidence and self-esteem, make new friends and have fun. It has also given me new goals to work towards and a sense of achievement and satisfaction.

Sport has made me who I am today, and I can't imagine my life without it. It was an amazing experience to represent my country and play against some of the best teams in the world. The thing I love most about para ice hockey is the feeling of going on the ice and forgetting about all the off-ice stuff! It's a very inclusive sport and everyone is welcome, regardless of their ability or disability. It's also incredibly challenging and rewarding, as you have to learn new skills and techniques, such as how to balance, steer, and shoot with two sticks. I was immensely proud to score the first goal, which was a great feeling. It was also an excellent opportunity to meet other female players and make new friends. I learned a lot from the tournament and hope to improve my game and help the team achieve more success in the future."

Emily, who has free gym membership under the Sheffield City Council 'Talented Athlete Programme', has ambitions to be the best para ice hockey player that she can be; and to be a role model for other girls and women who want to try para ice hockey and show them that they can do anything they set their mind on.

Formerly, Para ice hockey was played solely by men's and mixed teams. The Great Britain 'Women's' para ice hockey team is the first of its kind in Europe and aims to inspire more women to take up the sport and compete at the highest level. The women's para team is coached by Breanna Wagner, whilst Peggy Assink coaches the mixed para team. The GB women's team has shown exciting potential and enthusiasm and there are high hopes to see them qualify for the Paralympics sometime in the future.

Derbyshire's Emily Mclean: A Rising Star in Paraplegic Ice Hockey





Para ice hockey at a local level has enormous potential and Emily wants to see the sport become more popular and accessible in the UK, and to have more support and recognition from the public and the media. She is excited to be part of its development and hopes to see the sport grow in the UK, creating more opportunities for women to play at the highest level.

Anyone who is interested in paraplegic ice hockey is encouraged to try it and to contact their local club or the British Para Ice Hockey Association (BPIHA) for more information. The sport is suitable for anyone, regardless of their age, gender, or disability, and they will find a welcoming and supportive community.

"Don't be afraid to try something different," Emily says. "It's not as cold as you think and it's a lot of fun. You will meet some wonderful people and have some amazing experiences. You will also discover new things about yourself and of what you are capable. Paraplegic ice hockey is more than just a sport, it is a way of life. We look to continue to grow the sport and get more countries involved so that the women's fans can get involved and participate in a future Paralympics."

The 2024 Women's Para Ice Hockey World Challenge, details of which are yet to be announced, will be in preparation for the inaugural Women's 'World Championship' that is scheduled for 2025. It is hoped that this event will lead towards eventual inclusion in the Paralympic Winter Games programme.

Additionally, the 2024 World Para Ice Hockey Championships B-Pool will take place in Skien, Norway from 15-20 April 2024, featuring six teams: Norway, Germany, Sweden, Kazakhstan, France, and Great Britain, for whom Emily is a reserve.

Being involved in all of this requires much time, money, and dedication. WB Rob Wadd from Cavendish Lodge (3055) first met Emily at a Rotary meeting. He felt that she was a very deserving case for financial support, so he proposed that the Lodge should support her, which approved a donation of £400.

Another Brother from Cavendish Lodge, WB Michael Wall, decided to do a sponsored Sky Dive on Emily's behalf, which raised a further £1100. Both of these donations made a real difference and enabled Emily to participate in the 2nd Women's World Challenge 2023, which was once again held in Green Bay, followed by her selection for a Pool-B World Championship in Kazakhstan in October 2023.



Subsequently, the Province of Derbyshire has decided to help fund Emily by donating an amount of £150 per month for 12 months to assist with her ongoing equipment, training camps, travel, and food & accommodation costs, with the possibility of a further donation next year.

In addition to her selection for the GB Women's team, Emily attends a monthly training camp in Widnes and has one or two further camps each month, which are held all across the country. She has also just completed a recent trip to Finland in March 2024 to attend a training camp with the Finnish squad.

I cannot begin to think of how difficult my life would be in Emily's situation, but I would hope that I could muster just a fraction of the energy, commitment and passion she has for her sport.

By Bro. Ron Enock,
Cavendish Lodge No 3055.



Bro. Morse. The Winter Riddle.

Calling all Derbyshire Freemason detectives Morses. This case needs your keen eyes and historical knowledge to crack a conundrum. Not quite the Masonic Mysteries of Morse but maybe even you have a Lewis or two that can throw a different angle on this puzzle.

A photograph, unearthed from the depths of WW Winter's archives (Derby's oldest photographic studio, established 1867!), presents a captivating mystery. The image depicts a distinguished gentleman, undoubtedly a Past Grand DoC adorned in attire that hints at the 1930s-1950s era.

Can you help us identify this enigmatic Brother?

The Clues:

- Photo Studio: WW Winter, Derby
- Subject: Male, Past Grand Deacon (PG DoC)
- Estimated Date: 1930s-1950s (based on clothing)

Do you recognize the Brother in the photograph? Perhaps you've seen him in old lodge photos or have knowledge of Past Grand Deacons from that period. Any information, no matter how small, could be a crucial piece of the puzzle.

Here's how you can contribute:

- Share this image within your lodge or among fellow Derbyshire Freemasons.
- Review historical records of your lodge if possible.
- Contact the Derbyshire Circle if you have any insights or leads.

Together, let's unravel this Masonic mystery and bring this Brother's story to light!

If the gentleman is identified, returning the negative or plate to his family could hold significant sentimental value.

Remember, even the most seasoned detective needs a helping hand. Let's combine our collective knowledge and unveil the identity of this Past Grand Deacon, adding another chapter to Derbyshire's rich Masonic history.



The importance of Visiting

Attendance and visiting fell markedly following the Covid lockdown and limitations on socializing.

It is noticeable that it has not recovered to the previous normality which prevailed. This situation is not unique to any one Lodge, or to Freemasonry. It is time that we made positive efforts to improve attendance and to foster visiting.

Our ancient and time-honoured fraternity places great emphasis on friendship as one of our 4 cardinal principles. These bonds of friendship cross many boundaries, in particular race, nationality, and religion. One of the ways in which this sense of brotherhood is expressed is through the custom of visiting other lodges. At the heart of this experience is the principle of 'brotherly love'. Masonry is founded on the idea that all men are brothers and that we have a duty to support and care for each other. When a member visits another lodge, he is not only welcomed as a brother but is also treated as such.

Visiting is an integral part of Freemasonry, providing an opportunity to connect, make new friends, exchange ideas, knowledge, and experiences. Whichever lodge in the world you visit, you become a part of the family for the evening.

Every Lodge is different. There are many ways that we work and quite a few versions of ritual. These differences can help us to learn and expand our own knowledge. There is, of course, a tendency for some to find that they are comparing the standard of the ritual with their own! The ritual might be very good indeed and we could feel quite intimidated and conclude that we must work harder to improve our

own and make it really slick. Providing a comparison, however, is no bad thing as it can enable us to examine ourselves and prevent standards slipping. The only way to appreciate this variety is by visiting other Lodges and witnessing their ceremonies. Differences between Lodges can also extend into the Festive Board. Again, there are formalities in terms of toasts given, but each lodge will have its traditions.

Visiting is a great way to meet new people and to enjoy an evening of Freemasonry without having the responsibility of taking part. It is an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of other aspects of the fraternity. Masonry is a complex and multifaceted organization that can be difficult to comprehend in its entirety. By visiting other lodges, we can gain greater understanding of how other lodges operate, about their customs and traditions, and how they approach the principles of The Craft. Such increased understanding helps us to appreciate similarities and differences between lodges, and perhaps to find new ways to improve.

Visiting is an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood within our worldwide organization, and an excellent way to expand networks of contacts, build new friendships, establish connections with members of other lodges, broaden horizons, share knowledge and experiences, and deepen a commitment to Masonic principles. There is the opportunity to experience good food and good conversation. Masonry is known for its conviviality and hospitality, and visiting is an excellent opportunity to experience this first hand. Remember also that most Lodges meet only four or five times a year and the majority of us enjoy our Masonry too much for that to suffice.

With respect to the host Lodge, it is good to have visitors because it shows that other Lodges want to be represented here, that they see us as a worthwhile Lodge. Visitors act as an audience - someone to show off to, and to keep us on our toes. It is a real disaster for a Lodge to have no visitors. It is also good to welcome old friends

and to entertain them and make them feel welcome. It is a way of cementing the bonds of Brotherhood of creating that one Fraternity that we uniquely are.

It must be emphasised that visiting other lodges is an incredibly important part of Freemasonry. It allows us to support other lodges, learn from them, exchange ideas, and form bonds of brotherhood beyond our own lodge. It helps serve as a guide in our search for meaning and understanding within our Masonic journey.

One drawback of visiting, I have heard described, is that you might be asked to respond on behalf of the visitors following the toast at the Festive Board. Rather than regarding it as an onerous task, take the opportunity to thank the hosts and compliment them on the quality of their ritual. Be careful of trying to tell jokes and relate risqué stories as they often backfire! Keep it simple, is the rule.

To summarise, visiting another lodge is a rich and rewarding experience that offers many benefits. These include pleasure, meeting old friends, getting to know new friends, a chance to combat loneliness for those living alone, and the opportunity to experience another Lodge's ritual. It is an opportunity to experience masonic friendship, to enter an open and welcoming environment, to enjoy good food and good conversation, and to gain a greater understanding of the fraternity. By visiting other lodges, we can deepen our commitment of the principles of Masonry and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood that unite them.

So how do we move forward? I propose that each member undertakes to bring along two (or better, more) external visitors to as many meetings as possible. It can be the same visitors on each occasion. In addition, to balance this out, each member should visit at least two other Lodges (of which he is not a member) each on one or more occasions during the year. This way we will be starting to re-invigorate our visiting, our learning of our Craft, and our enjoyment of what is a marvellous organisation.

**W Bro Professor Brian J Pollard, MD,
PPrGSwdB (Notts), PPrGSwdB (Derbys)
March 2024.**

Umbra Lodge

Looking through the list of Lodges in the Province you may sometimes not recognise a name or its derivation. Some have Latin or Greek roots, such as Tyrian and Trisantona in Derbyshire and outside of the Province you find even more, such as Aetos.

So where is Umbra lodge, where do they meet, and can you visit? I will come back to that.

Looking at where a lodge derives its name can throw up all sorts of different avenues of interest. Some are quite easy to work out Derbyshire Classic Car Lodge for example others a little more subtle digging is needed Vulcan Lodge for instance. Vulcan references the Roman 'God of Fire & Metalworking harking back to the professions of the lodge founders just over 100 years ago. Going around and out of the province you will find all sorts of references to similar derivations. A name that sticks out to me out of the province is Apollo several lodges share that name. (One of which does large multiple ceremonies as a standard practice) It probably sticks out due to my interests in space exploration and the NASA Apollo Programme.

Looking at the Apollo Programme the second man to stand on the moon Dr Edwin Eugene Aldrin Jr. better known as Buzz is a Freemason. Putting a human on the moon could be seen as one of the

greatest feats of engineering ever done but it was built upon the success and failures of prior missions like the Gemini Programme. The Apollo Programme wasn't without tragedy with the untimely deaths of three astronauts in a fire in January 1967. But even with this setback, the programme continued a backup crew was already in place and stepped in the same happened if you have watched the film Apollo 13. Someone was shadowing and learning the duties in the background. NASA runs lots of disaster drills and has a backup plan ready to go one wonders if Freemasonry played a little part there with the entered apprentice's chain and someone applied that lesson learned, elsewhere. That's one of the beauties of even as a 'young Freemason' I'm learning that freemasonry helps you to apply what we learn as we progress and use it elsewhere in our lives for the benefit of society as a whole.

But I've still not answered about Umbra Lodge where is it and should I visit I think so is one we should all visit I didn't have the benefit of Latin at school, and I know many in

the province who will by now worked out it translates as shadow lodge.

If we think of setbacks that organisations can face, the loss of a key player can be exceptionally detrimental you can even insure against it we don't have that luxury or do we the answer is yes by getting a backup for our key lodges officers in place can future proof your lodge and also get newer our younger brethren more involved and also so helps to foster that which we all seek in the lodge, brotherly love so if a calamity should occur then you have someone to step in or when there is a hand over of a Key office such as treasurer. The brother who steps in is far more prepared to help continue the great works of his predecessors.

Bro Ricardus Collis



Rutland's Lewis

There is no prouder moment in a mason's career than to be installed into the chair of his mother lodge. It is the culmination of years of dedicated work and service to his lodge and with the combined respect and support of the brethren who have both supported and been supported by him. Having spent his time at all the floor stations, he has built his knowledge to a point where he can confidently lead his lodge and be a guide to the brethren.

Daniel Roe is just such a mason. Having been initiated in 2016, passed in 2017, and raised in 2018, he has worked his way through the stations to take his rightful place as master of Rutland Lodge 1179. But Dan is a very special Mason being a Lewis. Dan's father Worshipful Brother Mike Roe is the secretary of Rutland lodge and has been a key part of Dan's Masonic career. Mike himself, a highly respected Mason. First initiated into the craft in 1979, he is Director of Ilkeston Masonic Hall Association, Worshipful Master of Cantelupe Lodge 8247 in 1988, Worshipful Master of Rutland Lodge 1179 in 2016, Excellent Companion in Royal arch Chapter, as well as Mark Degree, Royal Ark Mariners and Rose Croix. So it is no surprise that Dan follows in his fathers illustrious footsteps. But it was not as simple as that; "When Dan was young" says Mike "I used to come home from a Cantelupe meeting and knock three times on his bedroom door and say 'whom have you there?' Put my head around the door and say 'Mr Daniel Francis Roe a poor Candidate in a state of darkness etc. etc.' to which he would reply "go away Dad, I'm never joining!"

But it seems that eventually Dan saw the light and asked his father about Masonry, and his journey begun on the 12th of October 2016 when Mike was himself in the chair of Rutland Lodge. So Mike was able to initiate his son into Freemasonry as well as install him into the chair. Both wonderful honours for any father. But the opportunities for family and masonic bonding did not stop there as Mike also passed and raised Dan being offered the chair by the current masters in their respective years. Mike says "I am immensely grateful to W Bros Garry Edwards, Chris Hill and Peter Royle for their selfless acts of generosity in allowing me to Pass, Raise and Install my eldest son Dan during their respective years in the chair. Without them, I wouldn't have such very special memories of being part of Dan's complete journey in freemasonry so far."

Dan's Masonic career so far has had several highlights, not only being a hugely active member of Rutland Lodge and an exemplary ritualist, his delivery of the Second-Degree Tracing Board has been faultless. He has also participated in the

Derbyshire Lecture Festival delivering ritual to the highest standard, joining many young masons in proudly wearing the Lecture Festival pin. "I do know that Dan enjoys his freemasonry very much and those who know him are also well aware. He particularly enjoyed being part of the Lecture Festival Team under the coaching and guidance of Worshipful Brother Nick Daines and I am extremely proud to have witnessed his deliverance of this element of ritual on several occasions."

The lodge and the exiting Worshipful Master Worshipful Brother Peter Royal had the honour of hosting Worshipful Brother Martin Giles, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, to witness the proceedings and add his congratulations to both Worshipful Brother Roe Senior and newly installed Worshipful Brother Roe Junior. Along with 58 brethren present in the lodge to witness the ceremony. The festive board was a joyous occasion with the many visiting brethren partaking of Rutland Lodges famed hospitality. The new worshipful master was finally sung into his seat by his father in what was an emotional and unforgettable evening. The Assistant PGM joined with all the brethren by congratulating Worshipful Master Roe on his Installation and wished him a prosperous and most importantly enjoyable year in the chair of Rutland Lodge.

Bro Paul Hamilton



The Porchway Club

Freemasonry has seen efforts in recent years to engage and attract younger members, often through initiatives such as new lodge formations, outreach programmes, educational and social events tailored to the interests and needs of younger individuals. These efforts aim to ensure the continuation and vitality of Freemasonry, bringing in new perspectives and energy which is at the heart of the Porchway Club constitution.

But what actually is the Porchway and why is it symbolised in this Club? Some of us may remember the words from our Initiation into Freemasonry, others will have had their memories jogged when witnessing another Brother Initiated, but we will all have heard the words recited “at the Porchway or entrance”. In Freemasonry, the term “Porchway” typically refers to the entrance or gateway into a Masonic lodge or temple. Symbolically, it represents the threshold between the profane world and the sacred space of the lodge where Masonic rituals and ceremonies take place. This threshold holds significance in Freemasonry’s symbolism and teachings. It often serves as a reminder to Masons

enlightenment and fraternal bonds, the same transition experienced in the Porchway Club. Members can join following their Initiation but must leave following enlightenment and reaching the chair. During this period of self-improvement, they can offer and receive support from other like-minded members forming fraternal bonds that will last past the chair and into the future, which has proved one of the most important corner stones of the club.

The Porchway Club was formed in 2018 by a small number of new and young Freemasons in the Province of Derbyshire as a means to socialise and meet like-minded people of a similar stage in

are young in age and not all members waiting to go into the chair are new to the organisation. What was very clear, was that regardless of age or experience within lodges, all have a combined interest in that of coming together to support each other in their individual and combined journey to the chair.

For some, this is an easy transition, like riding a bike: learn the ritual, recite it when required and complete the relevant offices. However, for most, this is a juggling act between work, family and the lodge which does not come easy. The road to the chair has many twists and turns and the occasional rocky pass stuck in the way. Imagine if you could race in



of the importance of transitioning from mundane concerns of everyday life to the more profound and contemplative atmosphere of the lodge room. As candidates enter through the Porchway, they are symbolically leaving behind their worldly preoccupations and entering into a space dedicated to self-improvement,

Freemasonry. It is a club, free to join, not a lodge and it will always be this way. Its primary role is to support its members through their early years in Freemasonry. It started under the guise of New and Young Freemasons which seemed to be a misunderstood phrase, as it became quite clear that not all joiners to Freemasonry

the Tour de France on a tandem, with a friendly face to assist you when the going gets tough, someone to help you over those hills and navigate the rocky pass - that is the point of the Porchway Club.

Not all those joining Freemasonry have connections to a lodge or know its members. The next generation of joiners



are looking at the organisation on the internet and deciding that they want to be part of this worthy fraternity that has stood the test of time and is still making a difference in this trying world in which we live in. When the blindfold is removed and they are amongst strangers who are far more experienced than they are and are not able to see the full goings on in the lodge because of their position, they often feel left out and undervalued. Having a support structure of like-minded people who are there to answer those questions, that you are afraid to ask the senior members of the lodge, is of comfort to many. This was highlighted during the COVID pandemic when new members were feeling alienated because they were yet to form lasting bonds with their lodge. Many reached out to the Porchway Club for support.

Visiting other lodges is something that is part of the brotherhood of Freemasonry. Meeting like-minded individuals and seeing how other lodges go about their business is both enjoyable and enlightening, which is why it is such an important part of the journey. However, finding someone from your own lodge available to visit may be difficult unless you are in touch with a multitude of other similar members who are happy to point you in the right direction or assist you in your visit by jumping on the bike with you. Often, all it takes is a quick message and you are no longer looking at being that stranger in the lodge but a welcome

Visiting other lodges is something that is part of the brotherhood of Freemasonry.

face with an assisting support to help you enjoy your evening with a friendly face to point you in the right direction.

In summary, Freemasonry has stood the test of time for a reason and this is primarily because it is bursting with good members who want to better themselves and do good things together.

In Derbyshire, we are fortunate to have many successful lodges, holding regular Initiations ceremonies but when becoming a Mason, it is common that your Masonic circle of friends is small. The Porchway Club is set up to support candidates through their initial steps all the way to becoming Master of their own lodge. The club is not trying to replace the support of the lodge members, it is trying to assist them. Its members are part of Freemasonry for the same reason: when the hill ahead gets steeper, it is much easier to overcome the challenge when you have somebody on the bike with you, than it is by yourself. The old analogy of what team stands for (Together Everyone Achieves More) is at the forefront of the Porchway Club, as by helping each other to experience the best of Freemasonry, it helps our members to give their very best to the lodges and the organisation as a whole.

Bro Nick Barnwell

Chairman of the Porchway Club

Rock Music Lodge No. 10052

3 years ago, stimulated by the other special interest lodges appearing in the Province.

After discussing it with some like-minded brethren including Pete Chapman, Steve Frixou, Philip Meynell and Tom Tait, I decided to look at the possibility of forming a lodge that would combine music and Freemasonry, both passions of mine. Steve and Phil had formed the covers band, the Band of Brothers which seemed to be getting some great attention, as such and with the full support of the lads, I decided to push forward. Phil had been heavily involved in the formation of the Motorcycle Lodge so we had some templates already in place, and for that, I'm eternally grateful.

A letter was sent to the PGM at the time, RW Bro Steven Varley, laying out our ideas for taking the concept of a Rock Music lodge forward. It was signed by the six of us who had set up a working party, namely Phil Meynell, Steve Frixou, Stuart Riley, Martin Giles, Tom Tait and myself. The PGM could not have been any more enthusiastic and he has been a great supporter all the way down the line.

The next step was a Facebook page to gauge interest and helped by Tom, it wasn't long before I felt we had enough genuine interest to move to the next stage.

We defined Rock Music as a form of popular music, initiated by the electrification of instruments that evolved from American Southern Blues and Gospel Music and progressed through rock and roll and pop music during the mid and late 1950's and 1960s. It currently covers many sub-genres

to include Rock and Roll, Blues, Folk and Country Rock, Progressive Rock etc. to include the popular music played under various guises in today's music listings.

The hardest part of course was getting the message out beyond the province, as we needed a number of non-Derbyshire masons to commit as founding members before we could proceed. Over a period of our target was reached, and with the constant help of Pete Chapman and Jim Shaw, we were delighted when Royal Alfred offered to act as our sponsoring lodge as the idea is to bring a lot of fun into our workings.

We managed to get around 30 masons from inside and outside the province to sign the petition, and after a period of time lapsed, some questions had to be answered but we were given the green light, and more importantly our very own number-10052.

Our consecration is scheduled for 6th July 2024, at Derby Masonic Hall. The festive board will include spouses and partners and will include, as one would suspect live music.

It will be a fun lodge, following traditional masonic values, centred around popular music with the advantage of starting our own in-house customs and musical traditions. Our team will ensure that good masonic etiquette is maintained under the watchful eye of our DC, W Bro Martin Giles PSGD, our Primis Master, W Bro Steve Frixou PPGStwd and his two wardens; WBro Pete Chapman PAGDC, W Bro Jim Shaw ProvJGD. and Myself as IPM.

The lodge will meet at Alfreton Masonic Hall in March (3rd Wednesday), April (4th Wednesday), October (4th Wednesday) November (3rd Wednesday) and I am pleased to say that we already have both joining members and candidates waiting patiently in the pipeline.

by George Carruthers



Caption this picture!

*"He's got a
new apron
and it's this
big!"*





The annual Provincial Grand Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter of Derbyshire meetings are one of the most important events of Freemasonry in the province. I like to think of it as something of an embodiment of what we do and celebrates the core values of the organisation: integrity, friendship, respect, and service.

A Celebration of Masonic Values



The day is meticulously planned, with the Provincial Grand Chapter meeting held in the morning and the Provincial Craft meeting following seamlessly in the afternoon. The flawless execution is a testament to the organizational skills of those involved – they could certainly excel in event management or wedding planning!

While the opening and closing ceremonies are a sight to behold, featuring time-honoured traditions accompanied by the grandeur of organ music as the Grand Lodge and Provincial officers process in, the true essence of the event lies elsewhere.

For any Freemason, a palpable sense of anticipation fills the air.. looking at those masonic tenet's above Friendship, permeates the atmosphere, transcending the confines of the lodge no matter how closely tyled. The camaraderie amongst Masons when meeting in public spaces is often mistaken for big reunions by outsiders, who are surprised when we say "no we saw each other last week" and that such enthusiastic greetings stem from a shared bond, nurtured not just during meetings but also in everyday life.

Freemasonry isn't about constructing physical structures; it's about building individuals. Looking around the room, one sees brothers from diverse backgrounds united in mutual respect. Freemasonry transcends social and cultural boundaries, fostering a sense of belonging and a common purpose. Witnessing the collective effort and camaraderie within the lodge is a powerful experience.

Those getting the promotion will also have shown Integrity the kind of person you can rely on. Someone who always strives to do the right thing, holds compassion for others the foundation stone on how act, and expects our fellow masons to act.

Seeing your fellow Masons have the opportunity to represent the province as provincial officers to visit lodges and be the cement that helps not unite our lodges in the province, showing to those starting their masonic journey who may not have met other masons from outside their lodge yet that others in our wider community hold the values we share is priceless. During the meeting seeing the smiles on the faces of all in the room as brothers receive their first active appointments and others are conferred their first past ranks is a truly heart-warming experience.

Finally, the concept of service goes beyond simply accumulating time as a

Mason. It's about selflessly extending a helping hand to others in their time of need, without expecting anything in return. This spirit of service is the very foundation of Freemasonry.

This principle of service extends further to that of servant leadership those who have been promoted will have the opportunity to display this concept that is unfamiliar to many some people see leadership as power or confuse leadership with management. Servant leaders put people First. They prioritise the needs and development of their team members. They create an environment where people feel valued, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential. Servant leaders see their role as one of service, not command. They are there to support their team, remove obstacles, and provide resources for success.

Servant leaders are good listeners who actively seek to understand the needs



and concerns of their team. They show empathy and compassion. Importantly servant leaders are committed to the growth and development of their team members. They provide opportunities that help people reach their full potential. A journey as a Freemason starts as an entered apprentice and no man can plan for where that journey will end all he can do is strive to do his best to show integrity, and respect, create fellowship opportunities, and serve the needs of others to the best of his ability if he does that with fun on the way he has reached his full potential of being a pillar of society.

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge and Royal Chapter meetings are a celebration of our Masonic values. They provide a rewarding opportunity for those that go to witness the positive impact Freemasonry has on individuals and the wider community.

Bro Richard Hill





Logo pending approval

Music is the Servant of the Divine



The Provincial Grand Lodge of Derbyshire

-Notice-

CONSECRATION OF A NEW LODGE

A ceremony not to be missed, the
Rock Music Lodge, No. 10052,
will be consecrated at Derby Masonic Hall on

July 6th at 2:30 pm

(open to all Master Masons in good standing)

The Festive Board will begin at 5:00 pm and it is
open to all Brethren, Partners and Guests.

Dress for the meal will be smart casual.

Evening's Entertainment

Live Music

Please complete the form accompanying this notice if you wish to attend
or contact secretary@derbyshiremason.org, headed 'Consecration R(DL)', if out of Province.