

**DEVA  
LODGE  
No. 3447**  
**SEPTEMBER  
2023**

# Deva News

[www.devafreemasons.org.uk](http://www.devafreemasons.org.uk)



Grand Patron of the Cheshire 2016 Festival

## *Worshipful Brother*

*Peter Michael Hughes* was Installed as the 107<sup>th</sup> Master in the Lodge's 113 years of existence on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Born in Yorkshire in 1965, the eldest of five children of Kate & Michael Hughes.

Peter began his Masonic activity with Whitby Lodge No 4309 in 2013 before becoming a joining member of Deva in 2016 climbing the ladder to lead the first team of floor officers to all be 'light blues' – the first time for some years.

Peter is the proprietor of the well-established Chester firm, Devaprint Ltd following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather.

He is married to Debbie, a former Paediatric Nurse now supporting students with additional needs in a sixth form college. She is also a soprano singer with the Kelsborrow Choir and the Nave Choir at Chester Cathedral. Both Peter and Debbie enjoy going to the theatre and in particular, support Chester's renowned, 'Little Theatre.' The main charities they support are Alzheimer's, MacMillan Cancer and Almost Home Dog Rescue.



Peter's father, Worshipful Brother Michael Olaf Hughes, PProvJGW was a Freemason in Deva Lodge for more than 40 years and was Secretary for 20 years and a Past Master of the Lodge. He was also a Past First Principal in Royal Arch Freemasonry with Clarence Chapter No 2386. In 2016 he was made an Honorary Member of Deva Lodge in recognition of his distinguished service to Freemasonry. Sadly Mike passed to the 'Grand Lodge Above' later that year.



## ***The Royal Arch***

At our Installation meeting in April, the "Rep", W.Bro. Paul Richards, a good friend of Deva, quoted, in all innocence, information given to him from Province, which was part of his brief. He said that in Deva Lodge only 39.1% of members were also companions in the Holy Royal Arch, compared to the Provincial average of nearly 50% and a target of 60%. The intended implication was that Deva Lodge and its Royal Arch Liaison Officer (me) were not doing enough to encourage brethren to extend their freemasonry into the Royal Arch.

In this Newsletter I hope to reassure Deva members that this is not the case. The nominal membership of Deva is 46, but includes 2 overseas members who continue their association with their "mother Lodge" but are never going to be available to join a Holy Royal Arch Chapter in Cheshire; it also includes 4 recent initiates not yet eligible for Royal Arch membership ("Master masons who have exercised themselves for 4 weeks and more"). At the time of our Installation meeting we had therefore only 40 members eligible to join the Royal Arch.

Our actual number of Holy Royal Arch members is 19; Province does not include in its statistics companions who are Royal Arch companions out with the county boundary - in our case members of North Wales Chapters. Our membership is thus 41% of nominal membership but 48% of eligible members.

We should additionally point out that since the relaxation of Covid restrictions Deva has initiated 9 new members, a record of which we can be proud. Excluding the as yet ineligible new Brethren, we had 5 members eligible to join Holy Royal Arch. and 4 have already done so.

Finally, we have at least 3 "lapsed" members of Chapter, of whom one has committed to rejoining.

I hope that this information will reassure Deva members (and Province ?) that Deva is doing well both in attracting new members and when appropriate, encouraging membership of the Royal Arch, an order for which I am a passionate advocate as a further enjoyable and enriching step on the "masonic journey".

***Bill Willetts, PProvSGD***

***Deva Lodge Royal Arch Representative***

## ***Deva Lodge Burns Night***

As many of you will know, for a number of years Deva Lodge has held a Burns Night on our meeting in February. We make sure that this is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Ceremony.

Over the years that I have been involved with the planning we have welcomed around 100 brethren to the meeting. Covid of course caused us to cancel, but we kept the plans in mind.

In 2022 108 brethren attended. However, having advertised on a wider scale, I am pleased to say that we had 160 attend this year. There were about 47 different Lodges represented. These included brethren from Wales, Buckinghamshire, Shropshire, London and all over the Province of Cheshire. I am most grateful to those brethren who helped by collating details of their Lodge members and of course collecting the dining fees. Many of those who attended on that night immediately asked to be included for 2024. I have a strong feeling that the numbers could increase. However, I will need to liaise with the staff at Cheshire View nearer the time to see if we can accommodate a slightly larger number. If that is not possible then I may have to defer to “first come first served.”

The Festive Board has always been a great success with its traditional fayre consisting of *Haggis, Neeps & Tatties and a wee bottle of ‘gravy’ - Roast Pork with all the trimmings - Scottish Oatcakes with a selection of cheeses.*

The Scots Guards Association Pipes and Drums (Manchester Branch) have attended each year and have been very well received by all when entertaining us at the Festive Board. *They are booked for 2024 already!*

I always take notice of any comments made. One made this year was that the Pipes and Drums did not play “Amazing Grace.” I have been in touch with Pipe/Sgt. Andrew Hay and he has assured me that it will be played next year and that he personally will play the solo.

It would be very remiss of me if I did not express my sincere thanks to everyone who took part in making this a very special evening. I must thank Mark and all the staff, including the catering staff, at Cheshire View who made sure things ran very smoothly.

I am pleased to report that we raised over £1000 for local charities and I look forward to 2024.

***Charles McIlwrick MBE PPGSuptWks.***

**The Master and Brethren of Deva Lodge No 3447**

**Extend a warm invitation to our lodge meeting on Wednesday  
6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Cheshire View, Plough Lane, Christleton  
CH3 7PT**

# **BURNS NIGHT**



**The Pipes & Drums of the Scots Guards Association  
with address to the haggis and Grand Raffle**

**The Festive Board is a special menu fitting for the occasion!**

**Haggis, Neeps & Tatties and a wee bottle of 'gravy' - Roast Pork with all  
the trimmings - Scottish Oatcakes with a selection of cheeses.**

**Lodge commences at 6.00pm – Cost to be confirmed.**

**Masonic Brethren only.**

**BOOK A TABLE FOR YOUR LODGE NOW**

**Booking forms with payment by Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 please to**

**W. Bro Charles McIlwrick, 35, Haymakers Way, Saughall, Chester**

**CH1 6AR Tel: 01244 880726**

**email: [charles.mcilwrick@gmail.com](mailto:charles.mcilwrick@gmail.com)**



## ***Charity – that distinguishing characteristic ....***

Charity has always been a priority in Deva Lodge's freemasonry as illustrated by the calibre of brethren who have held office as Charity Steward – W. Bro. Fred Richardson and R. Matthews-Jones, both founder members more recently, W. Bros. Mike Hogg (for over 20 years) and Gordon Glover. We may also include Charles McIlwrick and, I am proud to say, my father, Eric Willetts, Charity Steward 1958-1972. We can further point to the establishment of the 100 Club, initiated by Cyril Willetts (my uncle) which has been taken by W. Bro James Dandy (ably assisted by Jenny) to heights unimagined at its inception.

Today we are building our Lodge Charity Fund back up, having donated to several charities and providing "emergency support" for one of our own. We will continue to provide support where required.

However, on the downside, I have to acknowledge that we depend on around 50% of our members to continue our charity support or to be blunt half of our members do not contribute to the Lodge Charity Fund. This does not imply that those members make no donation to charitable causes; many, perhaps all, will support the Deva 100 club, and/or other non-masonic charities. For these reasons, I will never "badger" brethren for a donation. I am sure we all remember the words at our initiation "Charity, the distinguishing characteristic of a freemason's heart". But we must also remember that important caveat "such a claim on his charity as his circumstances in life fairly warrant". Charity must always be a matter for each individuals own conscience; all I ask is that brethren do include the Lodge Charity in their considerations and donate what and when they can.

***W. Bro Bill Willetts, Lodge Charity Steward***

## ***PROVINCE OF CHESHIRE 2027 FESTIVAL APPEAL***

The Charitable Festival System for Freemasons in England has been developed to specifically rotate fundraising evenly around the 47 Provinces. Traditionally each Province every 11 years is invited via their Provincial Grand Master to participate, to raise funds for Masonic charities by running a festival appeal. The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) invited our then Provincial Grand Master Stephen Martin Blank to support a 2027 Festival Appeal, which he accepted.

Festival appeals are a vital source of funding that generate most of the donations made to the Masonic Charitable Fund. During the appeal term fundraising events and activities take place across the Province that make a significant contribution to their income. The Festival also provides a great opportunity to increase awareness of the work the MCF undertakes and the support it provides to Freemasons and their families as well as other charities.

There was a great turnout at Cheshire View for a launch dinner of the 2027 Festival with presentations from the Provincial Grand Master and Howard Wilson a Trustee of the MCF and a target of raising £3.5 million was set.

## **DEVA LODGE 100 CLUB**

With your assistance W. Bro James Dandy has been doing sterling work in promoting the Club so much so now that he has now recruited the assistance of W. Bro Martin Owen as well as James' wife Jennifer.

Since 'lockdown' and the suspension of masonic meetings during that period it has been difficult to maintain contact with some members in order for them to renew their membership. If you are one of those who has yet to do so PLEASE get in touch with James or Martin without further delay. The Club donates at least £1,500 to charity every year and pays out £70 per month prize money, October to April plus occasional extra pay outs but remember *"You've got to be in it to win it!"* Your £10 per number helps fund donations to so many worthy causes.

This year we have donated £1,500 to the following worthy causes:-

<b>2027 Festival</b>	<b>£500</b>
<b>Head Injured People (HIP) Charity</b>	<b>£500</b>
<b>Hospice of the Good Shepard</b>	<b>£500</b>

## **Fraternal Greetings from Bro. Neil Collin, Master Elect of Motherland Lodge No. 3861.**

*Dear W. Bro Alan*

*Many thanks for your email. I completely understand the position of the Brethren and would ask you to give them my thanks for their kind and best wishes.*

*I will be sure to send you some pictures and a short update after the meeting.*

*It's my intention to be visiting family in early February 2024, and as you are all a part of my Extended Fraternal family I hope to be able to visit you then.*

*I'd also like you to convey to the Brethren my thanks for supporting the charities I've selected.*

*Should the vote be in favour please let me know. This will enable me to connect you with my Charity Steward and Commonwealth Loges association representative, they can tell you more about how your thoughtful donation will be applied.*

*As always I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Yours sincerely and fraternally*

*Neil*

## **Provincial Honours**

***Congratulations to the following Past Masters in Deva Lodge who are receiving provincial honours this year in recognition of their service to Freemasonry and this lodge. They are:-***

***W. Bro. Alan Johnson – promotion to PProvGSuptWks;***

***First Appointment***

***W. Bro. Jed Sindol - to PProvAGDC;***

***Holy Royal Arch***

***Congratulations also to W. Bro. Michael D. Edwards as Past First Principal in Clarence Chapter is to be honoured as an Acting Provincial Steward in the Royal Arch.***

## ***Installation 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023***

The Representative of the Provincial Grand Master this year was Worshipful Brother Paul Stefan Richards, P.J.G.D. His letter of thanks to the Lodge Secretary read as follows:–

*Dear W. Bro Alan,*

*Please pass on my most sincere thanks for the Deva Installation to the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of the Lodge.*

*A memorable evening for all who attended the very special event.*

*Rarely do you see rituals of such a high standard performed by all involved.*

*Best wishes for the year ahead.*

*Yours sincerely & fraternally*

***WBro Paul Stefan Richards PJGD  
Representative of the Provincial Grand Master***

## ***Cheshire View Masonic Benevolent Association***

We would like to hear from prospective grant applicants. Grants are available for tangible assets for local charities and good causes.

Please apply to the Hall Secretary, Samantha Platt at Cheshire View tel: 01244 332442 or email: [HallSecretary@cheshireview.co.uk](mailto:HallSecretary@cheshireview.co.uk)

## ***Do keep in touch with past, and some present, members of Deva Lodge including -***

Chris Sprake – Ashley Williamson – Russ Roberts – Ken Forster - Alan Mawdsley – Ernie Symmons - Mark Fortune – Adrian Adams, Les Bartley and other friends in Freemasonry across the country and throughout the world.

## ***Remember also to view Masonic Websites regularly to keep up to date with what is happening in Freemasonry.***

[www.devafreemasons.org.uk](http://www.devafreemasons.org.uk)

[www.ugle.org.uk](http://www.ugle.org.uk)



Visit the new  
Province of Cheshire  
Website



The Royal Arch  
take your next step in  
Freemasonry



Cheshire  
Freemasons Charity  
for online donations



Visit the Solomon Website  
for your daily advancement  
of Masonic Knowledge

## *From the Photo Album*



### **A remarkable achievement**

***W. Bro. Michael D Edwards, PProvGSuptWks*** completed 13 years as Director of Ceremonies of Deva Lodge. Here being congratulated on that achievement by the newly Installed Worshipful Master, ***W. Bro Peter M Hughes***.



**..... and there's more**



**Happy smiling faces prove that rehearsals can be fun too.**

We leave you to identify them.



**Four Members of Deva Lodge posing for a picture ....**

L-R Graham Stevens, Bill Willetts, Alan Johnson and Michael D Edwards

*and more .....*



*A couple of likely lads ....*

Members of Deva Lodge – Worthy Masons indeed, Michael D Edwards and Paul A Eeles.

*Meanwhile, at The Freemason's Tavern .....*

On 26<sup>th</sup> October 1863 the first and oldest football association in the world was founded at The Freemason's Tavern, Great Queen Street, London.

The FA played a significant role in formulating the rules of modern football and holds a special place in the history of the sport. Today it is a member of UEFA and FIFA and has a permanent seat on the international Football Association Board (IFAB).

All professional football clubs in England must be members of the Football Association to participate in their competitions. The FA is responsible for the management of the English men's and women's national teams, the organisation of the FA Cup – the largest and most respected cup competition in the country, and is also the roof association of the English Football League (consisting of Championship , League One and League Two. The Premier League on the other hand is self-managed.

The Freemason's Tavern was founded in 1775 at 61-65, Great Queen Street in the West End of London. It served as a meeting point for a number of important organisations from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century until it was demolished in 1909 to make way for the Connaught Rooms.

***Information provided by Freimaurer Johannissloge Helweg zu Bochum. Thanks to our own W Bro Vaughan Marks for passing it on to the Deva News.***

## *Finally, the Treasurer...*

It certainly doesn't feel like twelve months since I was last sitting at my computer typing this article for inclusion in the Deva News. It has been great to get out and about again, attending lodge meetings across Cheshire. It gives me an opportunity to chat with other Treasurers and to share good practices.



One main topic of conversation are bank charges and how these can be reduced. There are an ever-decreasing number of accounts which do not apply charges, therefore minimising the charges is the main focus. Paying by bank transfer does not incur any costs so please can I encourage you to adopt this method for as many payments as possible.

As a reminder, your dues or subscriptions are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. There are a number of ways to pay, but as suggested above, bank transfer is the preferred method. You can spread the cost by paying by Standing Order at the bank. The bank account details are as follows:

Bank:	HSBC
Account Name:	Deva Lodge of Freemasons
Sort Code:	40-17-14
Account Number:	70292435

I am pleased to confirm that the Lodge finances are in good shape, and this is because of you, Brethren. We are up to date with all our payments to the Hall which assists with their cash flow. In addition, we paid our Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge dues on time, well done to all.

It has been necessary for Cheshire View to increase the Capitation costs for all Brethren due to increased costs. I will be taking this into account whilst preparing 2024's budget to present to the October Committee meeting, for consideration and once agree, we will present it to the Brethren.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly on 07973 227704 or by email: [dadalrymple@btinternet.com](mailto:dadalrymple@btinternet.com)

Thank you for your continued support.

***WBro David Dalrymple – Treasurer Deva Lodge***