
Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire

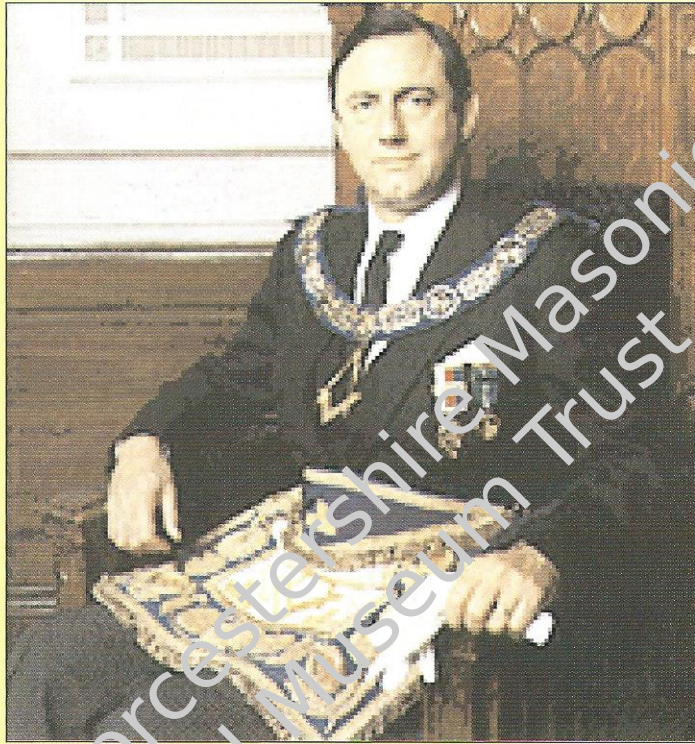


Festival 2000

in support of the Grand Charity

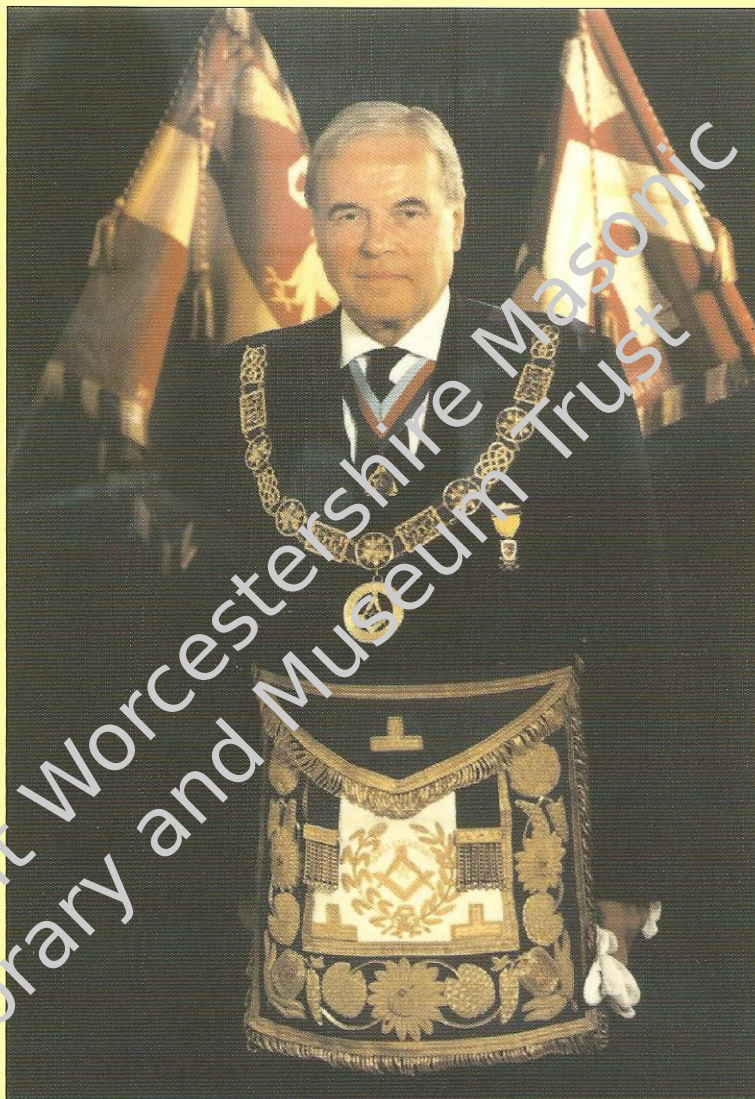
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Festival President:
The Right Worshipful Brother Barrie Michael Cooper JP
Provincial Grand Master



*Guest of Honour
The Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master
The Most Hon. The Marquess of Northampton, DL*

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*Right Worshipful Brother Barrie Michael Cooper JP
Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire*

*The Chain House,
Lapworth*

I welcome you all here tonight to share in the celebrations to mark the culmination of our Appeal for Grand Charity. I am sure it will be a happy and memorable occasion for us all.

Since the launch of the Appeal ten years ago, many members, and especially the Festival Committee, have given their time and worked so hard to ensure that the Appeal was a success, and I am delighted that these efforts have produced such a significant Festival total.

I am particularly grateful to all those Charity Stewards and other Brethren holding office in the Lodges and Chapters, who have not only relied on traditional charity that exists amongst us, but the Brethren and their Ladies who have also organised so many diverse events to swell our coffers. My very special thanks to you all for rewarding my faith in your generosity.

I would also like to thank members of the other Masonic Orders in the Province for their wholehearted support, in fact the whole Festival Appeal has been a Worcestershire family effort and we can take considerable pride in our united endeavours.

We are pleased to have the Marquess of Northampton, the Assistant Grand Master, and many other distinguished guests with us this evening to share our happiness and satisfaction in a task now completed.

Enjoy yourselves, and may we long remain a happy smiling and above all charitable Province.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Cook", followed by a horizontal flourish line.



Provincial Executive

Deputy Provincial Grand Master
V.W.Bro. R. E. Whitlock PGSwdB

Assistant Provincial Grand Masters
R. G. H. Goddard, MA, PSGD
D. Lewin, MSc, PSGD
K. A. Hawkard, MA, PSGD

Provincial Grand Secretary
W.Bro. Michael A. Bendall, PJGD

Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. D. E. Hopper, PAGDC

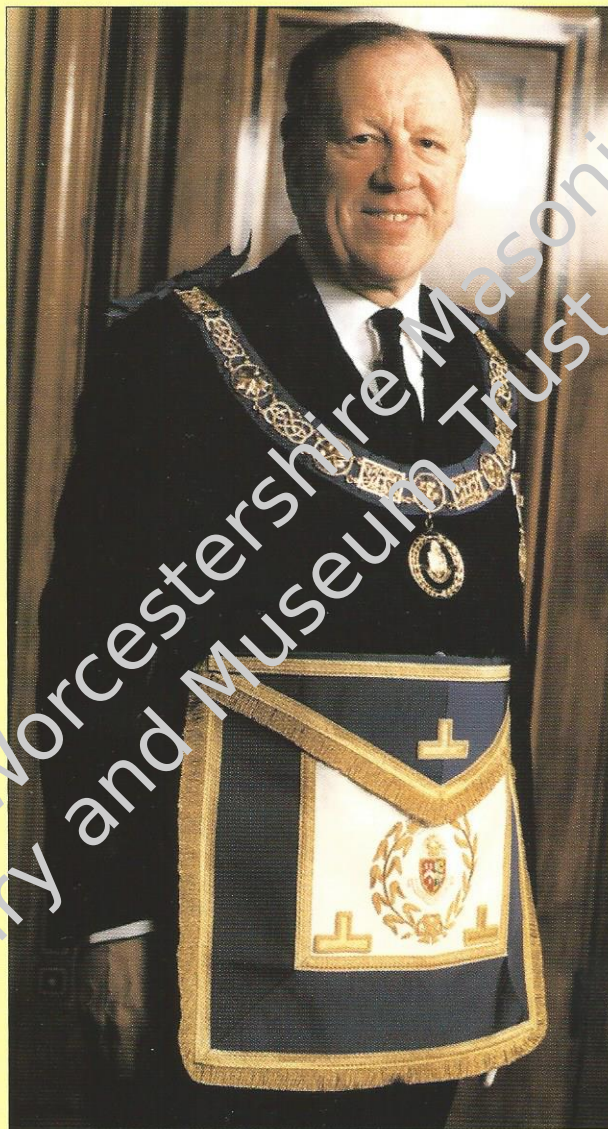
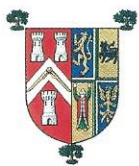
The Province of Worcestershire

The first record of Freemasonry in Worcestershire is the warranting of the Talbot Lodge No. 119 on 21st August 1733 to meet at the Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge, which is still a flourishing Masonic centre today. A second lodge followed at Worcester in 1757 and eight others, both Antients and Moderns, in varying parts of the Province before the Union of 1813. But, as was the sad circumstance of those days, most had a precarious existence and only two - Harmonic Lodge No. 252 and Worcester Lodge No. 280 - have survived to the present.

It was during these years also that Worcestershire acquired its first two Provincial Grand Masters: Sir Robert de Cornwall, Bart., M.P., 1753-56, and John Dent Esq., M.P., 1792-1826. Both were external appointments of patronage and, so far as can be ascertained, neither played any active part in the Province's affairs.

The history of the modern Province may be said to date from the middle years of the nineteenth century. The first official Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Guildhall, Worcester, on 17th August 1847; and the first of an unbroken line of Provincial Grand Masters - Henry Charles Vernon - was installed on 17th June 1851. From then onwards the Province began to flourish, the greatest period of expansion being under the Provincial Grand Mastership of General Sir Francis Davies, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., V.L., 1919-48, who was also Deputy Grand Master 1935-47, when the number of lodges rose from 24 to 72.

At the present time, with nearly 3,900 members in 130 lodges at fourteen Masonic centres, the Province may be regarded as of middling size. R.W. Bro. Barrie Michael Cooper, J.P., is the fourteenth Provincial Grand Master and also the twelfth Grand Superintendent, presiding over some 1,380 Royal Arch Masons in 49 Chapters.



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*Very Worshipful Brother Raymond J. Lye
President of the Grand Charity*

Message from the President of the Grand Charity to the members of the Province of Worcestershire

The support given by the members of the Province of Worcestershire to the Grand Charity, through this Festival Appeal, is vital to the work of the charity.

The Grand Charity answered calls for relief of needy Masons and their dependants alongside the relief of suffering caused by natural disasters throughout the world, at record levels during the past year. Help to virtually every hospice in England and Wales, as well as major grants to projects in welfare and medical research, have enabled Freemasonry to play an increasingly important role in charity funding, helping Masons and non Masons alike. The Annual Review makes interesting reading, for in 1999 the Grand Charity made grants totalling over £5 million, which placed it amongst the leading grant making charities in the United Kingdom.

This work would be impossible without the support of Masons, countrywide, but especially the support given by you in the Province of Worcestershire. To the Festival President, to all of you and your families, I send my thanks, and those of the Council, for the hard work and generosity that the Festival contribution represents.

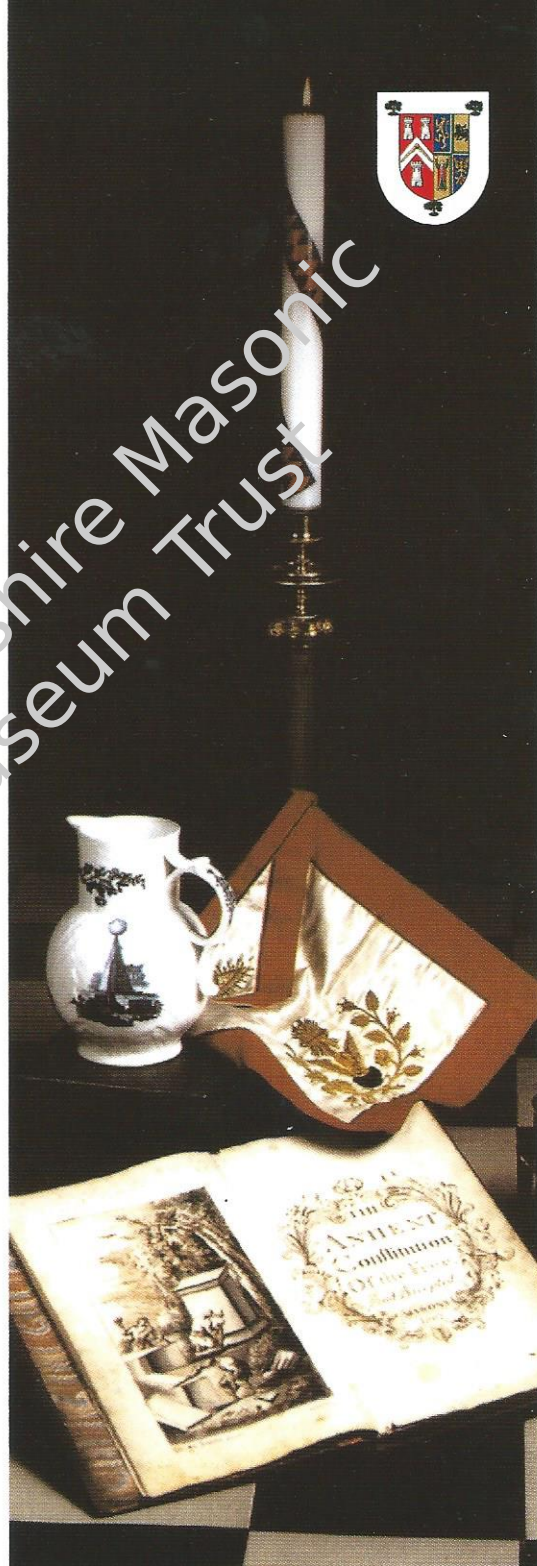
Thank you all!

Raymond J. Lye
President of the Grand Charity

Library and Museum

In August 1884 an enterprising Mason from Kidderminster named George Taylor organised a Masonic exhibition in the Guildhall, Worcester, under the joint sponsorship of the then Provincial Grand Master, Sir Edmund Lechmere, Bart., and the Mayor of Worcester, W. B. Williamson, who was a member of the city Lodge Semper Fidelis. This was the first such exhibition to be mounted in the Midlands and it attracted interest from all over the country, with over 1,000 exhibits loaned by England's leading collectors, about 100 of these coming from Bro. Taylor's entire collection, which he generously sold to the Province at cost price.

Such was the origin and nucleus of the museum. The first catalogue appeared in 1891, jointly compiled by George Taylor and the famous Masonic scholar William James Hughan, and it is still an invaluable work of reference. It shows that some of our most interesting exhibits go back to the Taylor inheritance, including the original 'Hogarth' Grand Stewards' Jewel, two of our antique manuscripts and other treasures. Since then the Museum has grown steadily



thanks to generous benefactions by Worcestershire Masons as well as judicious purchases from time to time: the most notable of these was the Shackles Collection, an internationally renowned assemblage of Masonic medals from continental Europe and elsewhere, which the Province acquired in the 1920's.

The exhibits include a selection of engraved glass, much of it from the 19th century, and almost all of it very attractive to the layman as well as interesting to the Mason; a very large display of ceramics - jugs, dishes, tankards etc. - decorated with masonic symbols, largely from the late 18th and early 19th centuries; a case devoted to curiosities - trivets, horse-brasses, meerchaum pipes, unusual gavels and other such Masonic bric-a-brac that always arouse interest. There is a remarkable collection of historic medals and jewels, both Craft and Royal Arch, and a very large group of more modern jewels appertaining to Worcestershire Lodges and Chapters on permanent display. There are several items of antique regalia including pictorial and hand-painted aprons, some of them from 18th century France, and some unusual items of Lodge furniture.

The Library is a very well-endowed facility for anyone interested in research into the history of Masonry. The large antiquarian stock includes early editions of nearly all the printed 'exposures' of the mid - 18th century (without which our knowledge of early Masonry would be far less complete) and five old manuscripts, three of which are among the earliest surviving versions of the Ancient Charges, the 'Wood', 'Inigo Jones' and 'Lechnere' MSs.



*General Sir Francis Davies, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.,
K.C.V.O., V.L.*

Deputy Grand Master 1935-1947

*Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire
1919-1948*

*He presided over the 152nd Anniversary Festival
held on 8th May 1940.*

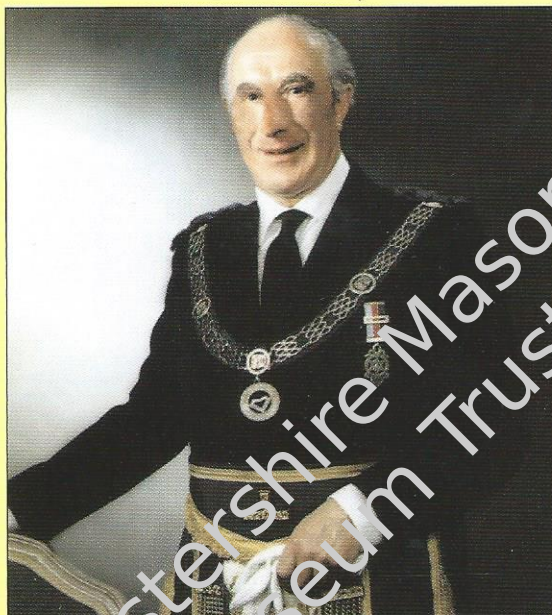
Worcestershire Festivals

Charity has always been one of the principle motivating forces in Freemasonry. From the earliest days of Grand Lodge individual lodges were required to contribute to a central Charity Fund; and the Festival system had its birth towards the end of the eighteenth century in support of each of the Masonic charities as they developed. During the nineteenth century Presidents of the Festivals were at first selected at random; but by the end of the century the present system had developed whereby each Province would be invited to adopt one of the charities for a particular year, and the Provincial Grand Master in question would preside.

Worcestershire has hitherto 'hosted' six festivals. In 1902 the Provincial Grand Master was Sir Augustus Frederick Godson, M.P., and he presided at the 60th Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; there is no record in the Province as to how much the 15 lodges raised on that occasion. General Sir Francis Davies presided over two festivals, the first being the 137th of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys on 10th June 1925 when 31 lodges raised £12,294. Fifteen years later, on 8th May 1940, and by now Deputy Grand Master, he presided over the 152nd Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls when 57 lodges raised £25,194 out of a grand total of £85,046.

The same three charities were supported in turn during the second half of the twentieth century. On 29th February 1956 Dr. Edward L. Bunting presided at the 114th RMBI Festival; 88 lodges raised £142,029 out of a total of £275,085. On 4th June 1969 it was the turn of Lt. Col. O. W. Dudley Smith to preside at the 171st RMIB Festival at which 106 lodges produced £327,461 out of a total of £467,620. Lastly, Frederick Hickton Griffiths, O.St.J., on 12th May 1982 presided at the 194th RMIG Festival; 121 lodges raised £868,523 out of a grand total of £1,004,534.

Today, and for the seventh time in one hundred years, it is Worcestershire's turn to host a festival for the Grand Charity, the central charitable fund of Grand Lodge following the reorganisation of the Masonic charities by the Bagnall Report of 1974.



*Chairman D. Lewin MSc, PSGD,
Asst PGM*

Appeal 2000 Committee

Secretary J Morris, PPSGW
M A Bendall, PJGD, Prov.G Sec.
B A Bayliss, PPGReg
D G Brockenshaw, PPSGD
D F Carvell, PAGDC
S I Edwards, PPSGW, Prov.G Treasurer
J C Hackett, PAGDC
A G Oxenbury, PJGD, Prov.G Charity Steward
G E Roberts, PGStB
B F Sigsworth, PPAGReg.
V Southan, PAGDC, Prov.G Almoner
D L L Taylor, PPGReg.



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