The St Nicholas Lodge Bugle

February 2026



Dear Brethren,

Welcome to the February edition of the St Nicholas Lodge Bugle. January is out of the way, and given the weather that month, I don't think we will miss it's passing! At least the snowdrops are appearing now and I would recommend a day out to Burton Agnes Hall near Driffield to see them in all their glory and enjoy a day out - when the weather allows!

Our candidate of the evening was a Third Degree ceremony for Bro. Graeme Needham who was initiated in March 2025 and passed in July that year. The agenda was a busy one, and began at 6:30 to get through the packed agenda. Bro. Graeme answered the third degree questions brilliantly and was ably conducted around the lodge by the Senior Deacon, Tony Luddon.

The raising was done by W. Bro. John White who was excellent, and the traditional history and working tools were delivered by new double act, W. Bro's Roger Kaye and Jamie Wallis.

Following the raising we had a Grand Lodge Certificate presentation to Bro. Alex Blackman followed by a successful ballot for initiation for Steve Mangham (proposed by Bro. Nev Chambers) and Sam Shaw (proposed by Bro. Heath Samples).

We also noted the sad passing to the Grand Lodge above of W. Bro Don Grayson of the Leopold Lodge 1760. Many will remember him as the entertaining organist of that lodge as well as the guest organist in many others, including own for a time. Requiescat in Pace W. Bro. Don.

The ceremony was joined by 10 visitors from 4 different lodges. Bro. Graeme was treated to an excellent ceremony led by example by WM Alastair Yeomans who was brilliant doing his first, third degree. Stand in's on the night were, W. Bro Tony Hewitt as Senior Deacon, W. Bro. Geoff B Dove as

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Inner Guard and W. Bro. Jimmy Morrison as Tyler. The evening was very enjoyable and despite the packed agenda it finished at a respectable hour after the festive board! Well done the DC!



From Left, Tony Luddon (SD), Graeme Needham, Alastair Yeomans, & Alex Blackman (JD)



Bro. Graeme Needham with WM Alastair Yeomans

Looking Ahead



The next lodge of instruction will take place on Monday 16th February at 7:00pm in the upper temple. We will be going through a first-degree ceremony (we are going to need the practice with all these firsts coming up!).

Get Involved! - If anyone would like to learn the First-Degree Working Tools, Entrusting or Northeast Corner, please let myself of ADC Tony Hewitt know as we you will have an opportunity to do this in the coming months!

The lodge of instruction is the place for new and recent members to practice and learn more about the craft and what we do in an informal setting and whether you have anything to do or not, this is the opportunity to learn and discover more!

Next Lodge Meetings

March Meeting – 4th March 2026

- First Degree Initiation - Alex Armstrong

April Meeting – 1st April 2026

- DOUBLE First Degree Initiation – Steve Martin and Steve Mangham

May Meeting – 6th May 2026

- DOUBLE First Degree Initiation – Sam Baker and Sam Shaw

June Meeting – 1st April 2026

- Second Degree Ceremony – Graeme Cooper

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Social Events

Upcoming Events



Summer Ball



Bowling Night

- Summer Ball at North Cliff Golf Club – Saturday 27th June
- Rugby and dining at Scarborough Rugby Club – Saturday 21st March (**SOLD OUT**)
- Lodge of Alliance, Solihull Visit – Wednesday 25th March (See John White)
- Bowling Night and Fish & Chip Supper – Friday 10th April

Please see our social secretary, W. Bro. Roger Kaye for further details

Charity



St Nicholas Lodge Raffle

The raffle proceeds were on this occasion going towards York and Scarborough Hospital Charity - Maternity Bereavement Team for a cold cot. This raised a super £133.00 and together with a very kind donation from one brother and a top of £57.00 from the charity fund, we were able to make this to a total donation of £250.00.

Royal Arch Chapter

The Triple Tau – The Symbol for the Royal Arch

The Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem (Or just Chapter), Denison Chapter 1248 next meeting, which is **Wednesday 11th February.**

The Royal Arch together with Craft Freemasonry constitute 'Pure Antient Masonry'. Joining the Royal Arch after becoming a Master Mason is an **integral** part of your Masonic journey that has been taking place for almost 300 years.

Royal Arch Chapters meet independently of lodges and are usually made up of a mixture of 'Companions' from other lodges.

Learn more about this important and fabulous degree, which can only be joined after becoming a Master Mason. Discover more on the Provincial website. Royal Arch Masonry.

Should you like to know more and are interested in joining chapter, please contact our Chapter representative, W. Bro John White.



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Daily Advancement – Freemasonry Around the World



Freemasonry is one of those fascinating global traditions that manages to be local and universal at the same time. Masonry or the 'Craft' adapts to the culture it lives in, yet its core values — integrity, brotherhood, charity, and the pursuit of moral improvement — remain constant across continents.

In the first degree North East Corner explanation we are told that Freemasonry is spread over the four quarters of the globe, and here we take a look at how the same fraternity expresses itself in wonderfully different ways across the world.

United Kingdom & Ireland – The Birth Place of Modern Freemasonry

- The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), founded in 1717, is the oldest Grand Lodge in the world.
- English Freemasonry emphasises tradition, formality, decorum, and charity, with a strong focus on ritual continuity.
- The Grand Lodge of Scotland is also one of the oldest in the World, with deep roots, with the Grand Lodge of Scotland established in 1736. There are also many international lodges who operate under the Scottish rite.
- The Grand Lodge of Ireland was established in 1725, making it the second oldest.
- Lodges tend to be formal with a warm fraternal culture, structured, and deeply connected to local communities.

Coat of Arms for the Grand Lodge of England

United States – Diverse, Expansive, and Community-Driven

- The US has **50 Grand Lodges**, one for each state.
- American Masonry is known for:
    - Large charitable foundations
    - Public-facing institutions (Shriners Hospitals, Scottish Rite clinics)
    - A strong emphasis on civic engagement
- Ritual varies more widely than in the UK, reflecting the country's regional diversity and tend to be less formal, particularly with lodge dress codes e.g. shorts and T-Shirts!

France – Philosophical and Sometimes Political

- French Freemasonry includes both **regular** (traditional Grand Lodge of France) and **liberal** (more philosophical Grand Orient of France) obedience's.
- The Grand Orient of France - Liberal Grand Lodges often:
    - Admit women
    - Discuss philosophy, ethics, and sometimes social issues
    - Place less emphasis on the requirement for belief in a Supreme Being
    - The Grand Orient of France is not recognised by UGLE or most regular lodges.
- The result is a very *intellectual* form of Masonry.

The Grand Lodge of France

Germany – Reconciled Traditions

- German Freemasonry is unique because it unites **five different Grand Lodges** under one umbrella.
- It blends:
    - English-style ritual
    - Continental philosophical Masonry
    - Strong post-war commitments to peace and human rights

Brazil – Vibrant and Growing

- One of the fastest-growing Masonic communities in the world.
- Brazilian Masonry is known for:
    - Large, active lodges
    - Strong public charity
    - A warm, fraternal culture with a strong sense of ceremony

India – Ancient Culture Meets Modern Masonry

- Freemasonry arrived with the British but has become thoroughly Indian in character.
- Lodges often blend:
    - English ritual
    - Indian hospitality
    - A strong emphasis on education and charitable work
- Membership spans many religions and languages, reflecting India's diversity.



The Grand Lodge of India

South Africa – Unity Across Cultures

- Freemasonry played a quiet but meaningful role in bridging communities during and after apartheid.
- Lodges today are multicultural, multilingual, and deeply committed to reconciliation and charity.

Japan – Small but Highly Respected

- Introduced by Westerners in the 19th century.
- Japanese Masonry is:
    - Polite
    - Precise

    - Strongly focused on harmony and self-discipline
- Lodges are smaller but deeply dedicated.

What unites Freemasonry globally, despite cultural differences is: -

- A belief in **moral self-improvement**
- The use of **ritual and symbolism**
- A commitment to **charity**
- A sense of **brotherhood across borders**
- Respect for **tradition**

A Mason from Scarborough can walk into a lodge in San Francisco, Stuttgart, Sao Paolo or Singapore and feel instantly at home — the signs, symbols, and spirit are recognisable everywhere.

If you ever want to visit another lodge in another jurisdiction, it's essential to go through the lodge secretary to check if that lodge is recognised by UGLE and it helps to make introductions.

I hope you have enjoyed this edition, if you have anything that you would like to include, please let me know!

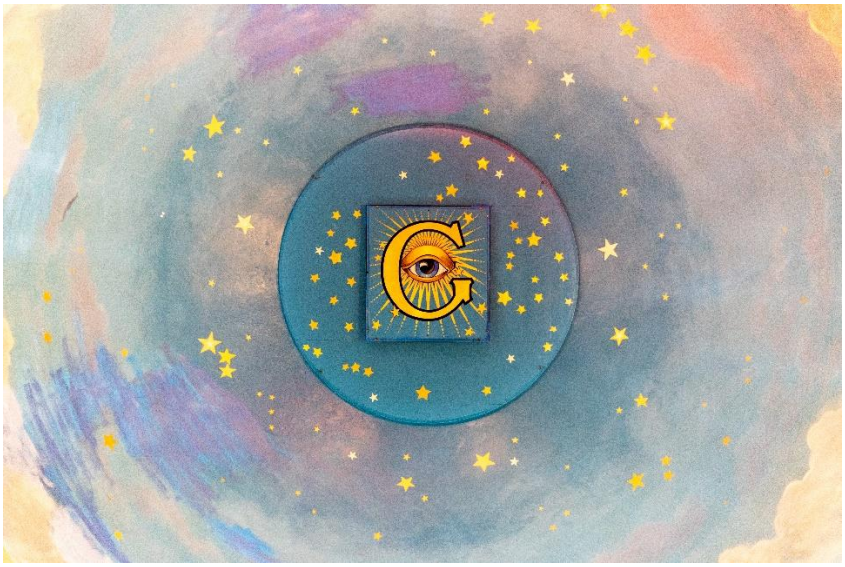
Yours fraternally

W. Bro. Jamie Wallis

Editor

The St. Nicholas Bugle

St Nicholas Lodge 2586 – Scarborough (stnicholasmasoniclodgescarborough.org.uk)



The celestial heavens and the all-seeing eye.