The St Nicholas Lodge Bugle

February 2026



Dear Brethren,

Welcome to the March edition of the St Nicholas Lodge Bugle. Dare we say it, but is Spring finally here? Punxsutawny Phil predicted six more weeks of winter on Groundhog Day (2nd February) but back then it certainly felt like a true prediction with the constant rain, cold and cloud! On a positive note, the Daffodils are out now and the best place to see them in their fullest splendour is Farndale where thousands are on display (said to planted by medieval monks from nearby Rievaulx Abbey). There is a 3.5-mile iconic walk along the river Dove there which is said to be one of the finest spring walks in the country – highly recommended! Visit North Yorkshire | Farndale Daffodil Walk

The better weather certainly brings more people out and about and everywhere does feel a bit livelier. This was certainly true at St Nicholas Lodge for our March meeting which was attended by a magnificent 18 guests from 8 different lodges.

The visitors were there to see our second, first degree ceremony of 2026, which saw the initiation of Mr Alex Armstrong who we can now call a brother. Led by the Worshipful Master, who was excellent, Bro. Alex was treated to a first-class ceremony and one which Bro. Alex will no doubt remember for many years to come. Welcome Bro. Alex!

Following the first-degree initiation we also had a Welcome Master Mason Certificate to be presented to Bro. Heath Samples, which was presented by lodge Mentor, Scott Davison, congratulations Bro. Heath. All the brethren are encouraged to take part in the Solomon course as it really does help with your daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

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From Left, Bro's. Tony Luddon, James Hayward, Alastair Yeomans (WM), Alex Armstrong & Alex Blackman



Bro. Heath Samples receiving his Welcome Master Mason Solomon Certificate

Looking Ahead





The next lodge of instruction will take place on Monday 16th March at 7:00pm in the upper temple. We will be going through a first-degree ceremony and all brethren are welcome attend, especially newer members as this is intended for you.

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

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

July Meeting – 1st July 2026

- First Degree Ceremony – Andrew Tunstall

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Social Events

Upcoming Events



Bowling Night

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

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 which raised a super £200.00!

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 15th April.**

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.

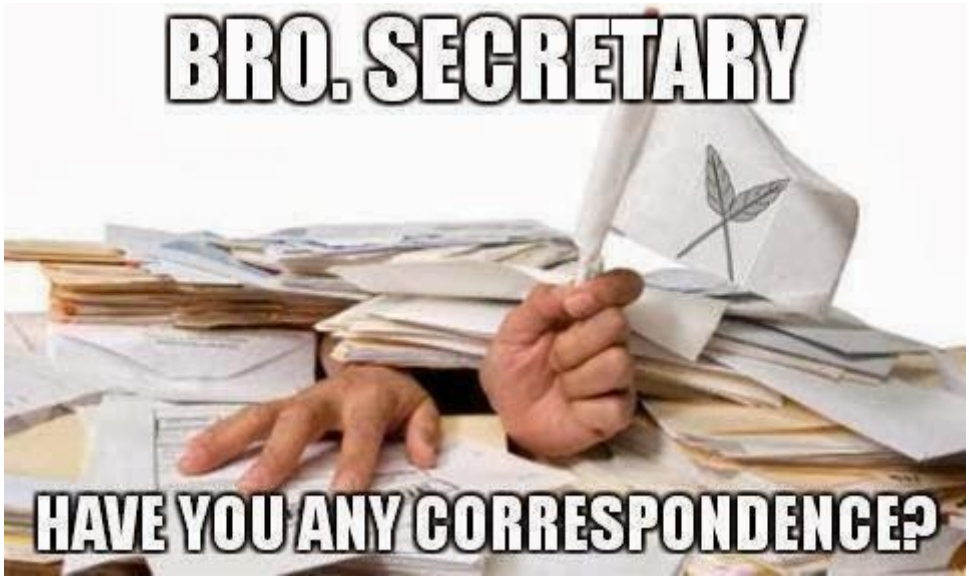


Requiescat in Pace

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Val Colley, the Widow of W. Bro Peter Colley. Many will remember Val from the time that she ran the Masonic club bar with Peter. In addition, Val was a very active member of the order of Women's Freemasons. Her funeral will be at Woodlands Crematorium on Wednesday 11th March at 12:00p.m.

Some of our members may remember Bro. Anthony (Tony) Mollon who was a member of the lodge for a number of years before moving away. Sadly Bro. Tony passed away at home on 21st February aged 74 years. The funeral will be held at Haltemprice Crematorium on Wednesday 18th march at 1:30p.m.

Daily Advancement – The Lodge Secretary



The important role of the Lodge secretary is one that is often overlooked, but it involves a lot of work and patience. Here we take a more in depth look into the role of the lodge secretary, W. Bro. John White.

If the Worshipful Master is the guiding hand of the lodge, the Secretary is the steady heartbeat that keeps everything running smoothly. It's one of the most demanding and essential roles in Freemasonry — part administrator, part communicator, part historian, and part problem-solver.

The Lodge's Chief Communicator

The Secretary is responsible for keeping the lodge connected and informed. This includes:

- Sending out summonses and notices
- Communicating with members, visitors, and Provincial Grand Lodge
- Ensuring everyone knows what's happening and when
- Liaising with the WM and Director of Ceremonies
- Multiple phone calls and chasing members for attendance confirmation
- Arranging lodge committee meetings

A good Secretary keeps the lodge informed, organised, and engaged.

The Keeper of Records

Sometimes we forget that behind every well-run meeting is a secretary who has:

- Prepared the agenda
- Recorded accurate minutes
- Maintained membership records
- Filed reports and returns on time

These records become part of the lodge's history, so accuracy and care are essential. This is a role that has been conducted by lodge secretary's since 1895!

The Lodge's Organiser-in-Chief

Largely seen as a behind the scenes role, the Secretary quietly ensures that:

- Meetings run smoothly
- Candidates are properly processed
- Officers have what they need
- Ritual books, regalia, and paperwork are in order
- Communication with the lodge caterers (menu and numbers)
- Seating arrangements are organised for the festive board

Much of this work is invisible — which is exactly why it's so important and it is as equally important that we communicate in return to make the role a bit easier!



The Secretary's jewel - Two pens in saltire (saltire in heraldry means a diagonal cross)

The Link with Grand Lodge and Province

The Secretary acts as the lodge's official point of contact with the wider Masonic world. They handle:

- Administrative requirements
- Annual returns

- Provincial communications
- Invitations, dispensations, and formal correspondence

This keeps the lodge compliant, connected, and up to date.

The Quiet Adviser

With their deep knowledge of procedure and tradition, Secretaries often become:

- A source of guidance for new Masters
- A steadying influence during busy periods
- The person who knows "how things are done"

Their experience helps preserve continuity and smooth transitions from year to year.

Why the Role Matters

The Secretary's work may not always be visible, but it touches every part of lodge life. Without their organisation, communication, and dedication, the lodge simply couldn't function. It's a role that requires patience, precision, and a genuine love for the Craft. So let us take this opportunity to thank W. Bro. John White for all the work he puts into St Nicholas Lodge – thank you John!

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

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