



## The St Nicholas Lodge Bugle

July 2025



Delphinium and Water Lily's – birth flowers of July

Welcome to the July edition of the St Nicholas Lodge Bugle. It certainly has been a hot June and a challenge for our gardens and farmers. Delphinium (or Larkspur) and the Water Lily are the birth flowers of July. Delphiniums symbolise positivity, dignity and joy and the Water Lily signifies purity, transformation and resilience.

If you like Water Lily's try Burnby Hall Gardens near Pocklington which is home to a National Collection of over a hundred different varieties.

July means we are now past the half way mark of our Masonic year and the months are flying by! Bro. Graeme Needham who joined us in March this year was this month passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. His answers to the second degree questions were done perfectly and were a testament to the work he has put in to memorise them.

The entrusting was delivered by W. Bro Cedric Thornton, the South East Corner by W. Bro John White with the Working Tools been delivered brilliantly by Bro. Alex Blackman. Summer always brings a few absences and some stand in's were W. Bro Geoff Dove as Tyler, W. Bro Tony Hewitt as inner guard and W. Bro Roger Kaye as Senior Deacon. Thanks everyone! Teamwork at it's best.

A new Solomon diploma was announced which has been achieved by W. Bro Jamie Wallis, making two now from St Nicholas Lodge. Bro Heath Samples has now completed the first three modules – congratulations! So far worldwide 365 Diploma's have been awarded and 100 of these have been from the Province of Yorkshire North and East Ridings, making us Solomon world leaders!

A lovely Festive Board was had where we were joined by six visitors from three lodges.



From Left, W. Bro Roger Kaye (SD), Bro. Graeme Needham, Worshipful Master Scott Davison and Bro. Tony Luddon (JD)

## Looking Ahead



## Lodge of Instruction

recess!

Will be back in September 2025!

- August

Second Degree tracing board explanation

- September

First Degree Ceremony

## Charity

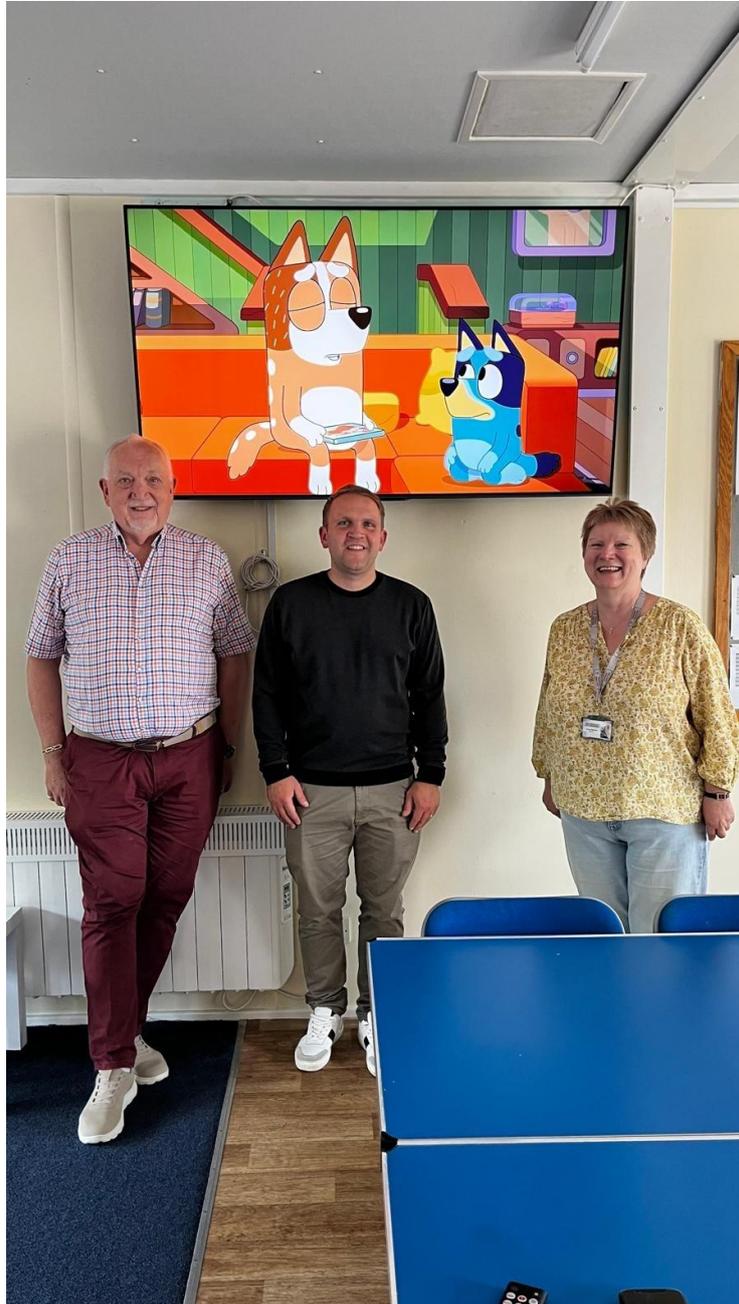


## Lodge Raffle

The Festive Board raffle proceeds went towards Westway Open Arms raised £105.00. The bottle of Famous Grouse was won by W. Bro Jamie Wallis and the four pack of John Smith's by W. Bro Roger Kaye (who donated it to W. Bro Jimmy Morrison as it was his favourite!)

## Westway Open Arms

The lodge recently donated funds for the purchase of a 65" T.V. for use at the community centre for Westway Open Arms in Eastfield which can be used to enhance the activities that take place in the centre.



Bernie Brown, Manager pictured with W. Bro Scott Davison and W. Bro Cedric Thornton



## Alex Blackman's 62 mile challenge for Cancer Research UK



Bro Alex Blackman, along with Haven colleagues in Thornwick Bay are undertaking a running challenge this July, attempting to run 62 miles to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.



If you would like to support Alex in his endeavours, please donate using the link below: -

[Alex's \(Thornwick Bay\) Giving Page](#)

## Man of Iron Daniel Watson



Bro. Daniel Watson undertook a challenge of his own by competing in the Ironman World Championships in Nice this June. Ironman is a long distance triathlon consisting of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bicycle ride and a 26.2 mile run – all in one day!

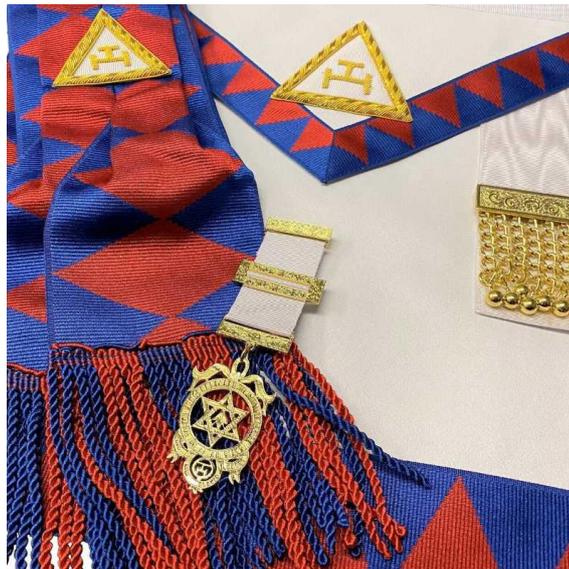
This challenging endurance event is considered one of the toughest in the world and Bro Daniel managed to complete this in 13 ½ hours! And came 809<sup>th</sup> out of 1,479 competitors.

A great achievement and Bro. Daniel he had a welcome rest on Wednesday night!



Bro. Daniel's finishing time of 13:31:20!

### Chapter



The Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch of Jerusalem (Or just Chapter), Denison Chapter 1248 is now in recess and our next meeting is on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October.**

The Royal Arch together with Craft Freemasonry constitute 'Pure Antient Masonry'. By joining the Royal Arch after becoming a Master Mason, completes a Freemason's journey and this has been taking place for almost 300 years.

Learn more about this important and fabulous degree, which can only be joined after becoming a Master Mason. [Royal Arch Masonry](#)

Should you like to know more and are interested in joining chapter, which is an essential part of your masonic journey, please contact our Chapter representative, W. Bro John White.

## Social Events

Our social secretary W. Bro Roger Kaye has a few events planned for the future:

Confirmed at the moment is:

- 25<sup>th</sup> August – The Cornerstone Circle have arranged a Masonic Tour of York which a number of our brethren have confirmed are attending. Following the tour the St Nicholas brethren will be undertaking their own cultural tour of York#

Planned Events

- Race Night
- Malton Cultural Tour

## Daily Advancement

### The Hidden Mysteries of Nature and Science



The "*hidden mysteries of nature and science*" in the Fellowcraft degree of Freemasonry draws on the intellectual and cultural context of the 17th and 18th centuries—when speculative Freemasonry began to formalise and spread throughout Europe.

Freemasonry as we know it today developed during the Age of Enlightenment (c. 1650–1800), a time of profound intellectual awakening in Europe. This period emphasised:

- Reason and empirical inquiry
- The scientific method
- A renewed interest in classical knowledge (Greek & Roman thought)
- Universal education and personal moral development

The "hidden mysteries" in this context are not arcane secrets, but rather the natural laws and scientific principles that Enlightenment thinkers were beginning to uncover—many of which had been previously obscured by superstition, religious dogma, or ignorance.

Freemasonry aligned itself with these values, promoting knowledge, tolerance, and scientific inquiry.

The Third Grand Master, the Rev John Theophilus Desaguliers, who popularised science in the London coffee houses was also co-author of the book of constitutions, giving the craft its enlightenment flavoured rules of tolerance and reason.



The Rev John Theophilus Desaguliers

### The Liberal Arts and Sciences

During the Enlightenment, the **Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences** were considered the proper education for a free man (a "free thinker"). They were divided into:

- **The Trivium:** Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic (focused on thinking, expression and the art of language)
- **The Quadrivium:** Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, Astronomy (focused on number and natural order)

These subjects were the backbone of classical education in medieval universities.

Masons used them symbolically to represent the tools of a rational and moral intellect and they tied Freemasonry to an older tradition of intellectual cultivation going back to the ancient Greeks, Romans, and Church scholars.

### Influence of Operative Masonry

The Fellowcraft degree also preserves symbols from the **operative stonemason guilds** of the Middle Ages.

A **Fellow of the Craft** was a trained journeyman, no longer an apprentice but not yet a master.

- In this stage, a historical mason would have been taught practical geometry, measurement, proportions, and engineering—all "sciences" used to manipulate nature to build structures.

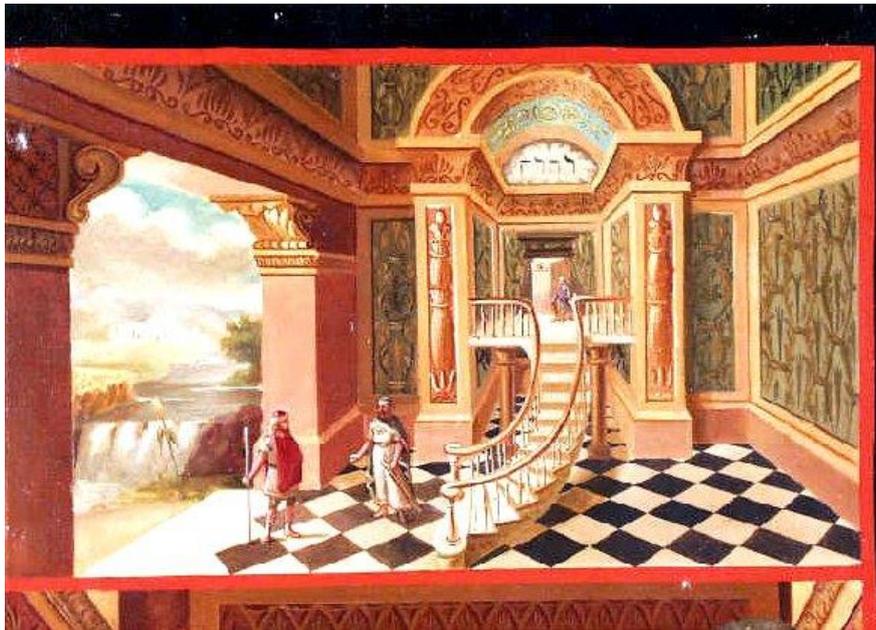
### Transition to Speculative Masonry:

- By the 17th century, Freemasonry had shifted from actual stonework to symbolic or speculative teaching.
- The "hidden mysteries" then became allegories for the moral, natural, and scientific laws behind both physical and intellectual construction.

### The Middle Chamber

In the ritual, the Fellowcraft seeks to ascend to the Middle Chamber of King Solomon's Temple, which symbolically represents the temple of knowledge and spiritual understanding.

- Along the way, he encounters symbolic teachings, such as the staircase with steps representing levels of knowledge and progress.
- This ascent symbolizes the journey toward discovering the hidden mysteries through perseverance, discipline, and enlightenment.



The Middle Chamber of King Solomons Temple

### Early Scientific Discoveries

The reference to "nature and science" also reflects the awe and wonder inspired by early scientific achievements:

- **Galileo** had revealed the motion of planets.
- **Newton** had uncovered the laws of gravity and optics.
- **Harvey** had explained blood circulation.

These were once "hidden" aspects of the natural world, now slowly revealed through observation, experimentation, and reason.

Freemasonry embraced the idea that through study and moral refinement, a man could come to understand the underlying order of the universe—God’s creation.

### **Philosophical and Religious Implications**

In the early 18th century, religion was still powerful, but rational deism (the belief in a rational creator who could be known through nature) was growing.

- The "Great Architect of the Universe" became a symbol for this rational, non-sectarian divinity.
- To study nature and science was, for Masons, a way to honour and understand the divine plan without requiring allegiance to any specific church.

Thus, the "hidden mysteries" came to represent:

- The secrets of God's design, embedded in creation.
- The moral and natural laws guiding the cosmos.
- Knowledge that had to be unlocked through education and self-improvement.

### **In Summary:**

The "hidden mysteries of nature and science" in the Fellowcraft degree urge the initiate to:

- Pursue wisdom through the study of traditional disciplines.
- Contemplate the deeper meaning behind natural phenomena.
- Understand that true knowledge requires both rational inquiry and spiritual insight.
- See science and nature as a reflection of divine order—not separate from faith, but in harmony with it.



I hope you have enjoyed this edition and please let me know if you would like anything included for future editions and I hope you enjoy the summer.

Jamie Wallis - Editor