

# The Rock Star of the Royal Arch in Somerset

## DAVID JOHN SMITH

Known to us all as John, our Provincial Grand Almoner, is one of the most complete and down to earth Freemasons Somerset has seen.



John was born in Shepton Mallet, a Somerset town well known for its brewery and prison but set in the heart of Mendip quarrying country. In his early years he was a pupil at Wells Cathedral School and was later employed by Wainwrights Quarries where he served for 49 years attaining the position of Sales Manager.

John Wainwright & Co Ltd was founded in 1891 as independent suppliers of aggregates to the construction industry and at one time was the only Basalt stone quarry in the region, it is a family business that has moved into the 21st century. John played an important part in this development and gave him the right grounding for his Masonic success.

He is married to Joy and have two sons Paul and Ian and one grandson Reagan, all play their part in providing John's stable background and comfort in life.

He was initiated into Lodge of Love and Honour No. 285 at Shepton Mallet in 1986, was WM in 1998, appointed PPrJGD in 2004 and promoted to PPrGSuptWks in 2012.

His Exaltation into the Royal Arch was Royal Cyrus Chapter No. 285 being proposed at the time by the former Deputy Grand Superintendent, Idris Evans, he became MEZ in 2003. His talents were soon recognized when he was appointed PrGStdB in 2006 then PrGAlm in 2009. In 2014 he received the honour of SGC rank of Past Asst Grand Director of Ceremonies.

He holds the Office of Almoner in the Calderley Chapter of Union No. 906 and is Provincial Grand Almoner for Somerset.

John has experienced many challenges during his lifetime, particularly when he fell and had a serious injury in 2019, but he is made of tough stuff, must have been working with basalt rock all those years.



John spent many years with a love of cricket and is seen here with Somerset Capt Brian Rose and Glos Capt Andy Stovold on a lighter moment

when touring Barbados, on one occasion he was buggy driver for the legendary Geoff Boycott.

A relationship John is reluctant to talk about is his friendship with the famous comedy entertainer and

game show host Leslie Crowther. He would 'Come on Down' to numerous functions John was involved in through their mutual love of cricket and built a solid friendship.

On a trip to Hawaii he photographed a Masonic memorial to those who lost their lives in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour on December 7th 1941. John's travels showed Masonry Universal.

**N D John Smith—a man and a Mason we can all be proud to know**

