



Week 53, 29th March 2021

Brethren, following our birthday last week, week 53 means we can finally start to realistically countdown to that day, when Freemasonry returns to some sort of normality.

This week, to remember what those days were like, we start our new series of "We'll Meet Again" images, on the back of that excellent video from Chris Phillips, published in last week's edition, of memories from the past.

We have some excellent news on Charter Mark rollout for Worcestershire's websites, the next instalment from Bill Mason on Worcestershire Province development, and a new appointment for the Cubit Club.

What is your lodge doing for the "Virtual 28 day Easter Challenge" for Festival 2022? – let us know!

As always, keep strong, keep positive, take the vaccine, and stay safe.

The Editor

View from the East

This week's guest is WBro Malik Shaqbikayee (43), WM of Priory Lodge No. 5545 meeting at Halesowen, a graduate of BCU, passionate Villa fan, avid car enthusiast, accomplished Martial artist and MD of an Open-Source Software Company.



Describe your Journey to The Chair.

My Initiation in 2012 was a blur, I can't even remember how I got to the lodge! After IG, I followed the various offices through to WM in 2019.

Approaching the chair didn't worry me, as I had seven years to observe and knew what was in store. My only worry was remembering the lines. I wanted it to be right. I overthink things and want to be on-point, which causes me to forget because I am thinking of the next item.

What do you remember of your installation?

As incoming master you again enter the unknown, so it's a bit of a "head-rush". It took 3-4 weeks to remember my obligation. I practiced thoroughly and had lots of help, even repeating it whilst driving to the lodge. Despite this, when I got to the lodge, I went blank and forgot everything!

Appointing and Investing my officers was memorable, I wanted to be clear when communicating their duties.

Being clapped into the festive board and receiving a toast from my proposer, WBro Kubba, made the evening very special. It took me back to my initiation, when I was told the next time I would be seated at the top table, would be at my own installation - it seemed like only yesterday, yet here I was.

How was your first year in The Chair?

We had a 2nd Degree, and I shared the work, doing half of the ceremony myself. A 3rd degree was planned but it was abandoned due to Covid-19. Since then I have kept in constant touch with my officers, and we have enjoyed regular Zoom meetings but very little else.

What does your professional life bring to Freemasonry and visa-versa?

I'm a process-driven person, I bring that to Freemasonry. Professionally, I am more disciplined in what I do and how I interact with people, more cautious, and aware of rules and regulations, more respectful.

What advice would you give to Brethren approaching The Chair?

Relax, it's more about doing it than being perfect. Don't overthink things, it's just another day in the lodge and it doesn't matter if you forget the lines, someone will always prompt you.

If anyone wants to volunteer in offering their insights, please email Ed Kimpton [HERE](mailto:Ed.Kimpton@worcestershirepgl.org.uk)



We'll Meet Again!

Starting our new series of images, in remembering those happy times and what normal Masonic life will be like soon!

If you have any photos that represent those good times, send them in and let's share them here!

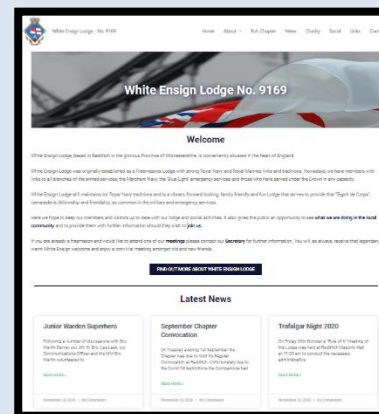
Email the Deputy Editor
Chris.phillips325@gmail.com

White Ensign steams ahead with first Charter Mark!

This week has seen the first of the Worcestershire Provincial Lodge Websites gain the first newly updated **Charter Mark Accreditation**.

You may have seen the news story on the Charter Mark on the Provincial Website, but UGLE have devolved the responsibility for looking after the websites to the Provinces themselves.

White Ensign recently had a meeting with one of the Web Team, who looked over their newly designed website; and were pleased to report it had passed all the requirements and granted the Brethren the use of the Charter Mark seal on their site - congratulations to them!



We hope to be able to share with you soon, any and all other lodges that gain their Charter Mark status!



Check it out - <https://whiteensign.org.uk/>



The Development of Freemasonry in Worcestershire – and withholding dues!

Part 4, 1826 onwards by WBro Bill Mason.

You may recall that in my previous piece, I mentioned the fact that Grand Lodge informed the Worcester Lodges, that the appointment of a Provincial Grand Master was the sole prerogative of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master – and that he would only appoint someone personally known to himself, or a noble or other brother of distinction. (There was nothing new in this, as the Duke of Sussex had ruled English Freemasonry in a most autocratic manner from his appointment at the Union of 1813 to his death thirty years later, choosing all the major office holders.)

John Dent, having died in 1826, we hear how the next Provincial Grand Master was not appointed until 1851 – a gap of 25 years.

Worcester Lodge took the hint and found a baronet, Sir Edward Denning, who was elected a joining member and attended a few times, but then dropped out. Next up, Viscount Deerpark, future Earl of Coventry, withdrew on the night of his initiation and was never heard of again in Masonic circles! Having failed locally, Worcester lodge continued to petition Grand Lodge, but always received the same reply; it was entirely a matter for H.R.H. and no business of theirs. So frustrated did they become, that in 1831, they took the drastic step of withholding their dues to Grand Lodge in protest.

In 1843, the now revived Harmonic Lodge of Dudley sent a deputation to the Worcester lodge, to enlist their support in approaching Grand Lodge on the subject. The Worcester Lodge reluctantly agreed but told the members of Harmonic Lodge that they knew exactly what the reply would be, ie – that the appointment was vested solely in the hands of HRH the Duke of Sussex. They did write, and they were right.

Finally, in 1851, the second Marquis of Zetland, who had succeeded the Duke of Sussex on the latter's death in 1843, appointed a new Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire; Henry Charles Vernon, a member of a distinguished Staffordshire family, and Deputy PGM for that Province. He had recently moved to Malvern, and in 1850, became a joining member of the Worcester Lodge. Grand Lodge had at last found the right man.



He was the third Provincial Grand Master, but the first both to live in the Province, and to take an active interest in its affairs.

He was installed, on 17th June 1851, in the City and County

Library at Worcester (Pictured), by Right Worshipful Brother Tucker, Provincial Grand Master of Dorset. A new era had begun!

New Cubit Club Mentor

John Fennel speaks to WBro Emerson Holder ProvAGDC, who the Cubit Club have appointed to the position of mentor.

“When I was offered the role of mentor, of course I jumped at it and immediately said yes; however, just between you and me.... once I got off the phone with then chairman elect (WBro Brody Swain), I quickly typed Mentor into a search engine to find out exactly what I'd signed up for!



There are many definitions, but I see the role as a counsellor (advisor) / confidante (listener), and a cheerleader (enthusiastic supporter) – the latter being the most important, as so many great ideas or views never see the light of day, because no one supported them!

Married to Reba, I took early retirement in 2019, but am also a Colonel in the Army Cadet Force (ACF) – with volunteer responsibilities covering Warwickshire and the southern part of the West Midlands.

I was initiated in 2003 and was honoured to be installed as WM of Lechmere Volunteer Lodge No.1874 in 2011. I was fortunate enough to be appointed as Provincial Grand Steward in 2017, and then promoted to Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, in 2020.

Having touched based with my fellow mentor, Simon Rogers, our former chairman, the Porchway class of instruction's theme for April is “Are you Ready to Return to Lodge?” Simon will cover the “things to-do or prep” and I'll cover “what to do in an emergency”. And beyond that timeline, to identify or establish, other initiatives to encourage more of our membership to move off the back-benches and get involved in their Cubit Club.”

As you can read, Emerson has some great plans for his role as mentor and is jumping in with both feet. From my time spent talking with him, I can reassure any new or young freemason of the Cubit Club, of his commitment to the role and excitement to help to mentor. He is definitely here to help you on your path, and like me, I am sure you will find him both very easy going and informative.

We wish him every success in his role with the Cubit Club!

The Sabrina Lodge No. 6595



The Sabrina Lodge No. 6595

are holding a Virtual Race night on
28th April at 7.30pm,

as part of their Virtual Easter Challenge fundraising
programme. All are welcome to join in!

Contact WBro Ian Trennan (i.trennan@sky.com) to register
interest, and further details of what should be a fun and
exciting event for all the family! £10 per family.

Famous Freemasons - Alexander Fleming



Scottish pharmacologist, botanist
and biologist, inventor of
Penicillin.

Bro Fleming was a member of
London Scottish Rifles Lodge No.
2310.