



Week 30, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

The Grand Master has directed the adoption of Temporary Emergency Measures for Covid-19, which have been distributed in the latest edition #7 of First Rising emailed to all brethren.

**Click here** → [TEMPORARY EMERGENCY MEASURES FOR COVID-19](#)

## Worcestershire PGL photo Competition - Entries are in!

All the photo entries are now on the PGL Facebook account ([here](#)). Please vote for your favourite photo by clicking on the 'like' button.

The winner will be announced on Monday the 19th October where their photo will become the new banner photo on the Facebook Page, Twitter Account and be shown on the PGL website!

Brethren, time is indeed flying, we are now 30! (weeks old).

We see some new measures introduced this week by the MW The Grand Master to assist Lodges in these difficult and unprecedented times. Please make sure they are read carefully.

Please vote on the new photo competition below, you have until this weekend to make your choice! Let's see who wins :)

Our APGM Mike is the subject of this weeks' Podcast, hear his views on initiations in the current climate, engagement with younger brethren and planning for the future.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed

WBro Michael Dykes



[Click here to LISTEN](#)



## Digital Alms Pilot Scheme We need your help!



Worcestershire is privileged to have been selected by the MCF as one of four Provinces to take part in a pilot scheme to trial the collection of Alms digitally.

Using the "QR" code, or by going to the simple web page, you can make your alms payments or donations by credit/debit card, or even Apple or Google Pay. No need for those envelopes!

Just point your smartphone camera at the code below or click on the link directly on your computer/ipad/phone etc and just fill in your information. No app or software to download!

It is an exciting opportunity which will undoubtedly save our charity stewards lots of time and effort, not to mention the paperwork normally associated with envelopes. It is flexible, can be used at live Lodge meetings, virtually or in fact anywhere you wish. It would be of particular use at this time when we can only really meet on Zoom. You can display the QR code and URL on all summonses, emails and paperwork (just copy the image below), and even point your camera at the QR code from your zoom screen.

**If you're not able to participate in meetings, or your lodge meetings are suspended, this is the ideal opportunity for brethren to continue to give alms that you would have donated. Perhaps also consider adding the money that you are no longer spending on dining or on fuel?**

Your donations go directly to the Festival E2022 Relief Chest and credited to both yourself and the Lodge you nominate. Whilst it is currently difficult to have an alms collection in person, it is important we do not lose sight of our charitable principles for which we all joined Freemasonry for.

Please give it a go. Make use of it wherever you can and let us know how you get on as soon as possible. Any queries or feedback, please drop an email to WBro David Rice our Relief Chest Manager and Festival Treasurer at [David.rice8001@talktalk.net](mailto:David.rice8001@talktalk.net)

Point your camera at this QR Code

Or visit here to donate



<https://gtap.uk/e2022>

## What does Masonry mean to me?

*"When I heard the working tools for the first degree I didn't realise it was a guide to the way I could think and act. As you spend more time with your Lodge you realise what the friendship means and slowly appreciate the teaching in the ritual makes sense, and low and behold you get to the masters chair and it's time to repay the trust you've been given. So friendship, learning, and service make for a better Brother and I hope that's me."*

SY Olivia

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Here are the bumper lucky winners who matched the lottery bonus ball in the September Draw

- D Apps - Wyre Forest Lodge No. 8653
- D E Davies - Roysds Lodge No. 1204
- R R Major - Elmley Castle No. 6247
- N P Nicholls - Wyche Lodge No. 3638
- Isobelle Swift
- M S Taylor - Elgar Lodge No. 9254
- R C Vaughan - Lodge of St George No. 5691

Well done to those that have won this month. If you want to take part it really is as simple as filling in one form and sending it off, not only do you put yourself in with the chance to win each month but you are donating to charities local and across the country. If you have those pennies burning a hole in your pocket that you would usually spend on dining or on the raffle then join in!



Lottery Sign Up Form

There will be an online draw for a bumper £75 M&S voucher for all those joining or taking out further entries between now and the end of NOVEMBER. ACT NOW!

PLUS !! As a thank you for recruiting new members, should you recommend a new joiner between now and the end of this year, the Lottery Committee will automatically give a £100 donation to the Festival 2022 appeal IN YOUR NAME and in your LODGES' name

This week listen to **WBro Michael Dykes**



Hear about his role as Assistant Prov. Grand Master plus acting grand rank of Junior Grand Deacon, and his views on the learning and engagement of our younger brethren and new candidates.



#### NEW CANDIDATE FOR PAGE LODGE?

Brethren at this difficult time we are delighted to announce that we have a new candidate for Freemasonry. He is Mr Ashley John Arthur Webber.

it is expected that he will be initiated into Freemasonry at the December meeting in 2041 shortly after his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. He will be a sixth generation Lewis and hopefully will be initiated by his father Edward Webber assisted by his grandfather Paul Webber.

Congratulations to Bro Ed and Rebecca on the birth of their first child



## Scouting (and Freemasonry) for all!

There are an awful lot of parallels between Scouting and Freemasonry: indeed, WBro Tony Harvey in his 2012 Prestonian lecture commented that Scouting was 'formed out of the ideals of Freemasonry' (although Lord Robert Baden-Powell himself was never a Freemason).

Indeed, Scouting has spawned a number of Scouting Lodges across the UK – not least of them being Pathfinder Lodge No. 8596 which meets at Northfield.

As Charity Steward Paul Wong explains: "The Lodge was consecrated in 1974, by Scouters – and indeed, Brethren involved in the service of youth generally, who sought to draw like-minded Freemasons to form a Lodge. And of course, to attract Scouters to the fraternity and support local scouting, which we have done and continue to do to this day.



Today, Pathfinder Lodge is part of the nationwide [Kindred Lodges Association](#) for Scouting Lodges, which shares information and best practice. It holds two Festivals per year, in the Spring and Autumn, which Paul says is quite an event with a presentation or activities reflecting scouting. Sadly, though, Covid-19 has put these on hold.

"The meeting doesn't have to be in a lodge room," says Paul enthusiastically. "It could for example be at a campsite and that really takes you back to your scouting days!"

In 1984, Pathfinder Lodge hosted the Spring Festival at Rainbow Hill and will do so again in 2024, the Lodge's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Helping young people in their scouting or guiding development is fundamental to the Lodge's ethos. An initiative of past master Malcolm Bird was to support a group in Birmingham Children's Hospital – called the Onaway Scout & Guide Group. It follows a similar initiative run at Great Ormond Street.

"This is so important in helping hospitalised young people have a focus and something worthwhile to look forward to every week. We visit to run the group every Thursday – or at least we did before Covid-19 brought it to a halt. It's distressing for us and for the youngsters who are really losing out from something that is an important distraction from their illness. We also follow up with them after they leave hospital, to help them integrate with a scout or guide group of their choosing."

The Lodge meets five times per year. "Ah, but we do have a sixth meeting!" says Paul. "And that's perhaps the highlight of our year. It's the time when we host the Birmingham County Awards at Northfield – when young people, girls and boys and adults receive the top scouting awards. And sometimes, we find those who attend the ceremony decide they would like to join Freemasonry!"

Paul, whose family come from Hong Kong although he was brought up in Staffordshire, says: "You'll gather from this that to be a member, you don't have to have been, or be, involved in scouting – it could be any organised youth organisation. Or indeed, simply have an interest – that's sufficient!"

The Lodge would love to see any Brethren visiting who have an interest in scouting or other youth groups. "We promise you an interesting and enjoyable evening. And if you would like to join us then we won't stand in your way!" adds Paul.

If you would like to find out more, and to arrange your visit, then contact the membership secretary WBro Denis Biley at [denis.biley@uwclub.net](mailto:denis.biley@uwclub.net) or WBro Paul Wong at [paulw5056@live.co.uk](mailto:paulw5056@live.co.uk)

If you would like your Lodge included in this series contact Ian Crowder at [ian.crowder@icloud.com](mailto:ian.crowder@icloud.com)