



Week 7, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Brethren, seven weeks and counting and the month of May comes around. This week, as we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE day on Friday, a more positive tone for the country as it was announced we are past the virus peak, have met the initial testing targets, celebrated Captain (now Colonel) Tom's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday as he raised over £30M for charity, but quite rightly still a long way to go before lockdown is relaxed.

So let's move on from the gravity of the situation and this week a focus on membership – please listen to the excellent Podcast from our Provincial Membership Officer Nick Thomas and read some advice and thoughts on candidates for the future.

Keep strong, keep in, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed



We offer our warm and sincere congratulations to the following eight Worcestershire Freemasons who have received an appointment or promotion in Grand Rank.

#### First appointments:

- Mike Dykes JGD
- Frank Spencer AGDC
- John Crowther PJGD
- Rob Wynne PAGDC

#### Promotions:

- John Phenix to PDepGSwdB
- Patrick Firminger to PSGD
- Christopher Grove to PJGD
- Irving Horne to PJGD

Had Freemasonry not been suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic, these worthy and distinguished brothers would have received their chains, collars and jewels last week at the UGLE annual investiture.

## Planning ahead.....

Some thoughts from Nick Thomas, Provincial Membership Office, on new candidates – identification, contact and Lodge profiling for when restrictions are lifted.

### *Using Social Media and the charitable efforts of our contacts, to list potential candidates*



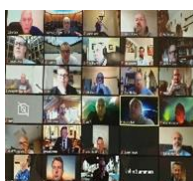
During this time of restricted activity – many of us find ourselves spending more time on social media. Likewise, we are seeing many more of our contacts posting about their charitable efforts to aid the NHS, Care Works, Key Works or any other essential service. Could these men, displaying that integral character of a freemason – be considered for an approach and introduction to Freemasonry, once we are back to (semi) normality. Step 2 of the Pathway initiative involves us listing potential candidates – could we use Social Media to assist with this step?

### *Staying in contact with planned initiates.*

With the suspension of all masonic activity, we are all missing our lodge, our meetings and our camaraderie. For those lodges with candidates in the pipeline – are you staying in touch with them? Could we use this time of suspension to get to know our candidates even better? Phone calls, Zoom conferences, even letters – it is a rare additional window of time, to better understand who our candidate is, his motivation and what he's looking for. Whilst assisting to build a better picture of his expectations, it also keeps him engaged, interested and shows we care about them.



### *Lodge Profiles – Utilising Zoom*



Step One of the pathway initiative asks us to pull together a Lodge Profile, engaging with the members of our lodge to build a picture of who we are, what type of candidate we're looking for, our history as a lodge and our unique features. Could we consider using Zoom or another online conferencing app, to pull together and publish our Lodge Profiles – ready for when Freemasonry recommends?

Please remember, we have a digital template available to assist with the formatting and presentation.

## VE Day - The nation sings at 9pm

Today (Monday) would have been the usual Bank Holiday, but of course this has now changed to this **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May** originally to enable us all to heartily celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, but of course events have taken over.

So – why not have a “stay at home” street party or local celebration – ensuring no travelling and strict social distancing of course. Sing along to the appropriate “We'll meet again” at 9pm!



## Monday Muscles!

Check out our very own award-winning Physiotherapist James Benson providing simple but helpful tips, Monday mornings on Twitter and Facebook!

CLICK HERE



Or follow  
@JbensonPhysio

Ed - Some words I've taken from elsewhere, but it reminds us that we are all individuals, each having different perspectives and situations in this current climate, which should be respected...stay safe all.



## WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT ...

I've heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be. Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial & family crisis. For some life carries on working even busier than before.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

Some were concerned about getting a certain chocolate for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus; some have already lost someone from it, and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing.

We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.

This week's podcast is courtesy of the Provincial Membership Officer **Nick Thomas**. He quotes "Recently, UGLE have announced an update to the members pathway, which can be found at; [b.ugle.org.uk/membership](https://b.ugle.org.uk/membership)."

This online resource brings together the information already released, with additional content and resources. They have split the page into three main sections, giving an overview of pathway, its key stages and deeper information.



Click here to  
**LISTEN**

Taking time to breakdown the stages within the pathway, understand which of these are suitable for your lodge and putting those steps into action – will help lodges review and refine their environment for new candidates, the journey they take through the lodge and the information available to them and their mentors." Nick Thomas.

*Ed – a great podcast and introducing this impressive quote: "the reason that people join is not the same reason they stay." Please listen!*

## 90 years young

*The words of Barrie Cooper – Past Provincial Grand Master*

90 years old last week. 69 of those as a proud member of 1874, The Lechmere Volunteer Lodge, 25 years within that were very happily occupied as APGM, 1980 and PGM 1993. A good career path you might say. A busy Birthday. lots of letters, cards, telephone calls from many of my old friends. No callers. Parties unfortunately deferred. So thank you all for your kindness and good wishes for my birthday. Very much appreciated.

You may also be interested to know that I received a substantial signed letter from the Secretary of State for Health. Conscious no doubt of my birthday, he has conferred a new title. In future all correspondence should be addressed to- Rt. WORSHIPFUL, THE MOST VULNERABLE, BROTHER, BARRIE COOPER.

It has long been my intention to congratulate the Editor, his team and all concerned with the hatch, match and despatch of the Worcestershire Source. I organised the funding for the first three editions, in I suppose 2003. Since then I have watched it blossom. At long last it has arrived, and it certainly enhances our provincial reputation. Thank you Team for all the hard work that goes into it - to keep us informed and for the pleasure it gives me and many others.

Difficult times for us all. Keep safe and smiling and we shall win the battle.

**Barrie Cooper, P.P.G.M.**

Ed's Footnote: I have managed to dig out the very first edition of Worcestershire "News" (as then) mentioned above, April 2003 which features RW Bro Barrie.

if you wish to read it, it is still available, click on the pic!

