



Week 48, 22nd February 2021

Brethren, in week 48, we can celebrate that NASA's Perseverance rover landed safely on Mars! And closer to home, plans seem to be emerging from No. 10, about how the current restrictions may be lifted over the next few months. Light does seem to be glimmering at the end of the tunnel, but of course we are still a long way off - the current safeguards in place must clearly be followed, to ensure we do reach the end, and have the chance of some sort of return to the new normal.

From UGLE we have a talk on Wednesday given by our very own Philip Serrell, which I'm sure will be very entertaining....and a reminder to book in for the next "An Audience with...." Dr David Staples.

We have a return to one of our podcasts, from WBro Derek Taylor, who tells us about his life in freemasonry and the Worcestershire Masonic Lottery; Plus a great insight from one of our younger WM's, WBro Aaron Bourne.

Keep strong, keep positive, take the vaccine and stay safe.

The Ed

LADIES GIFT FUND FOR MASONIC CHARITIES



Sadly, after 67 years, the Ladies Gift Fund has been dissolved. It has become increasingly difficult to recruit ladies to serve on the committee due to changes in society in general, and with the present members getting more mature it was considered not to be viable for us to continue.

The origins of the LGF go back to 1952, when a group of ladies from Worcestershire commenced fund raising in support of Ben Marsh. He was the then PGM for Worcestershire, who was to preside at the 1956 Festival in London in aid of The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The first President of the LGF was Mrs Ben Marsh. Ladies from Warwickshire soon joined the group and ladies from Staffordshire formally joined in 1971, and the Gift Fund took on the identity that it has been to this day. Traditionally the two main fund raising events during the year were the Spring Lunch and the Christmas Fayre, over a total of 67 years.

Over the years the total amount raised was £374,622. Each year, a cheque was presented to the three Provincial Grand Masters for Worcestershire, Warwickshire, and Staffordshire at the Spring Lunch, with a further cheque being sent to the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

It was planned to hand over the final cheques to the three PGMs in April 2020 at an informal luncheon for Committee members and partners. Unfortunately, due to Covid, this did not happen, but I am pleased to say that cheques for £4,290 were sent to each of the three PGMs which were gratefully received. I would like to thank all committee members and helpers, past and present for all their help and support and on behalf of the Committee I thank everyone who has supported us over the years. Thank you.

Sandra Rouse
Chairman, Ladies Gift Fund

MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY - JOIN OUR ONLINE TALK: IN CONVERSATION WITH PHILIP SERRELL



Join "our local lad" and Freemason Philip Serrell, taking about his expertise of Royal Worcester Porcelain at the Museum of Freemasonry at UGLE. He will join the Curator, Mark Dennis, for an informal conversation on the Museum's unique collection. Of course this is only the starting point, for what will undoubtedly be a fascinating jaunt from Worcester to Freemasons' Hall and everywhere in between!

Wednesday 24th February 7.30 pm.

[Click here to register and receive login details!](#)

Reminder....

The next talk in our series is one not to be missed!

TUESDAY MARCH 2nd 7.00 pm.



Book your place NOW and don't miss out on the opportunity to join in this unique event, ask a question, and hear what Dr Staples has to say first hand!

[Book your place](#)



Festival 2022

Virtual meetings for an update on 2022 fundraising efforts

Please contact WBro Chris Vandy at wfest2022@gmail.com with any issues regarding any invites.

MEETING 6 – Monday 22nd February 7.30 pm for the WM and CS of Nautical Services, Frankley Beeches, Robin Hood, Endeavour, Fellowship, Brandwood, Red Rose of N. Worcs, Masefield, Kings Heath and St. Edburgha



A Daily Advancement....

Why do we wear gloves?

The origin and usage of 'gloves' in Freemasonry. Read more on this topic [HERE](#)

For those eagle-eyed of you who clicked on the link last week about wands, will have noted it went to the wrong place.

The correct link is [HERE](#)...oops..The Ed.



Here are the winners of the February Lottery with the lucky ball No 6.

Support your local charities AND win £100 - just as all these lucky supporters have.

- R W Cheney Avon Lodge No. 3569
- R Clark Moseley Lodge No. 5224
- A W Edwards Old Edwardian Lodge No. 6141
- S Singh Thistle Lodge No. 5064
- J R Walford Fort Royal Lodge No. 4565

Click on the link below to hear the Chairman of the Worcestershire Masonic Lottery, WBro Derek Taylor, talk about how the Lottery works, and on his life as a Freemason...



To contact the lottery please email wmcolot@hotmail.com

Freemasons invited to volunteer for vaccination drive.

UGLE is encouraging Freemasons to donate their halls, time, and efforts to help fight the virus.



Dr David Staples, chief executive of the UGLE, said: "In 2018, more than 18.5 million hours of volunteer work were undertaken by Freemasons.

Now that we have the vaccine in the UK, it is crucial that we help in every way we can to protect the population.

If the NHS needs people, then we are happy to encourage and emphasise the importance of this to our members. (It also emphasised that those volunteering should not participate if they are in an at-risk group.)"

To help the NHS in the vaccination campaign, volunteers should sign up [HERE](#).

A View from the East.....

This week, our guest is WBro Aaron Bourne (aged 33), the WM of Vernon Lodge No. 560, an English teacher and scout leader.

How did it feel as you approached the chair?

I understood I wouldn't be obliged to take the chair, but felt it was the natural progression - It's best described as nervous-excitement! Inner guard is a way-in, it's enjoyable and not too arduous. You must pay attention; there are pitfalls if you don't.

The chair became 'scarily-real' as JW receiving the APGM's address. SW wasn't quite as bad!

What are the memories of your installation?

It feels a long time ago, as though someone has 'flicked a switch'. I wanted to get the obligation right, people could forgive anything else. Once I had done that, a weight lifted. The B.I.Ms added an extra level of excitement. As centre of attention I felt exposed, it was strange. Being saluted by everyone felt awkward, but investing/appointing officers was enjoyable.

Despite the Pandemic, how have things progressed?

After two meetings we were stopped in our tracks. The second was an initiation - I was nervous, telling myself 'there was at least one person in the room who doesn't know if I make a mistake!' We have since held monthly zoom meetings, quizzes & discussions. Attendance varies, as some are not tech-confident or don't have access.

How do you see your role as master?

It's licence to put your stamp on things, but remember you are in charge of your ship, not the fleet. It's not your job to make the decision, but to steer and guide, striving to engender collective agreement; and fostering an atmosphere of trust when delegating work. Freemasonry is like an orchestra, no-one is trying to out-perform each other, but play their part in achieving overall harmony. As Master you are the conductor.

How does your profession and freemasonry interact?

Freemasonry put me back in the place of the learner, becoming explicitly aware of how I learn, and what it was like to be the one that doesn't know or understand. Consequently, I am more aware of the needs of that person, more patient, and available to assist. In teaching, you learn so much about yourself, reflecting on your own knowledge and how to improve it. If asked 'why?', you have to find the answer, making it accessible and relatable - I strive to do that in Freemasonry, assisting those who need help. I always prepare, mindful of the unexpected. I'm adaptable and think on my feet. If things go wrong, everyone looks to you for answers. You quickly learn that if look like you know what you're doing, everyone will think you do, and follow your instruction.

What advice would you give to brethren approaching the chair?

I learn by understanding, not rote and repetition. Establish how best YOU learn and ask questions - you are in a fraternity of people who are delighted to help. Don't expect perfection, simply completing a ceremony well is satisfying. Your brethren know when you are putting in the work. They don't mind mistakes and will be infinitely patient. The PMs are there to guide you, upholding traditions whilst giving you scope to do your own thing. The importance of visiting cannot be understated. Comparing your own ritual and style with other lodges, reinforces learning. When visiting, have a general structure for a toast. During the ceremony and festive board, make and note observations. If you then get the tap on the shoulder you are 'good to go'. Don't forget to rehearse the labour that follows the installation.

The Ed - We are looking for more WMs who are in, or have recently been in, to feature in the articles - to give the brethren approaching the chair an insight into how you felt and got on. If you would like to feature, please drop WBro Ed Kimpton a note [HERE](#)



L-R: Bro Andrew Chandler (JW), WBro Aaron Bourne (WM), WBro Simon Rogers (SW)



PGL of Worcestershire 2022 Festival (E2022)

A reminder how easy it is to make a one off donation - just point your smart phone camera at the pattern, or visit <https://gtap.uk/e2022>