



Week 27, 21st September 2020

Brethren, Week 27 sees the start of Autumn (did we see summer?) and as the Virus is spreading faster once again, further restrictions on lodge meetings in response to the new laws. I realise every brother will have received email notification, and it has appeared in numerous social media articles, but the guidance is repeated below for consistency!

Despite this, Lodges are meeting successfully in some fashion again, please keep sending in your pictures.....we feature more in this edition.

Our podcast this week is from the well know Bob James, curator of that splendid "jewel in the crown" masonic museum. Hear how Bob and the museum are now back in action and the range of treasures it contains.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed

WBro Bob James



UNITED GRAND LODGE
OF ENGLAND

RULE OF SIX - GUIDANCE FROM UGLE & SGC



SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER
OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF ENGLAND

Brethren and Companions,

Following a meeting of the Craft Rulers and the Standing Committee of the Board of General Purposes, and in consultation with the Royal Arch Rulers and the President of the Committee of General Purposes, it has been decided to restrict English Lodge and Chapter meetings to no more than six attendees. This is in response to the new laws which come into force Monday 14 September.

Larger meetings in Covid-19 Secure venues are permitted by the new laws, and this decision was not taken lightly, but it was felt that it would send entirely the wrong message to our members, and to the public, if Lodge and Chapter meetings of over six people took place at this time. This position will be kept under review and further measures will be announced shortly. UGLE and SGC remain committed to following appropriate official guidance, and to be seen to do so, whilst allowing individuals, Lodges and Chapters to decide what is right for their own particular circumstances. UGLE also now advises that face coverings are worn at all meetings, even though the law does not currently require this. For the avoidance of doubt those who are exempt under the law from wearing face coverings in shops are not expected to wear them at meetings.

The, admittedly small, good news is that if they wish, the six or fewer who attend a meeting may now dine together.

VW Bro/E Comp David Staples
Grand Secretary/Grand Scribe E

Weatheroak Lodge temporarily move house

A meeting was held at Northfield Masonic Hall last week as Weatheroak Lodge No. 7214, who normally meet at Kings Heath, held their latest meeting there to install WBro Brian Phillips.

Whilst only 6 brethren were permitted to attend, a full installation ceremony was held which was conducted with great attention to social distancing and awareness of the safety of all brethren. With no Provincial team present, all 3 addresses were given by members of the lodge.

Progress made at Northfield....

A further meeting on Saturday at Northfield Masonic Hall saw a socially distanced lodge meeting of six of the Lodge of Progress No. 9893 (AKA "Brothers on Bikes") resplendent in their biker gear.

Some urgent business of the Lodge took place, along with the proclamation of the Master WBro Andy Philpott for his second year, a new secretary, and the balloting of three new joining members.

Solomon

Fostering Curiosity- Developing Understanding

We have added seven items to "Seek and Learn: First Degree" of which you may not be aware. This includes a summary of the first-degree ceremony and illustrated guides of who does what in the Lodge room, the Tracing Board, the Working Tools and the Officers' Jewels.

This exciting development really brings the learning material on Solomon to life because it is illustrated, interactive and now has a voice over!

<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/course/view.php?id=79>

Please first login (top right-hand of the screen) and you will then be taken to a screen entitled "Enrolment options". Don't forget to scroll down because the "Enrol me" button (white text on a blue background) is towards the bottom of the screen and is easily missed.

We hope you enjoy the new interactive content. Stay safe.

UGLE L&D Team

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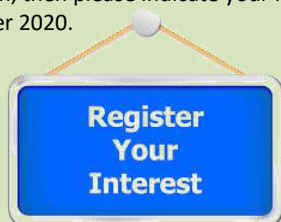
CALLING ALL, MOTORHOME, CARAVAN OWNERS & CAMPERS !

Many brethren have asked Province "is there a Provincial Caravan, Motorhome & Camping Club " similar to other initiatives in other Provinces. The straight answer is no.

My question to you all *"Is there a desire amongst the Worcestershire Masonic Camping, Caravan & Motorhome Fraternity to create one ??"*. If so how many of you would be interested in participating in it. The basic aim would be to bring together like minded Brethren of all ages, their families and friends to a few events each year where we can all meet and share in a common interest with our families and friends on a social basis. A lot of questions will need to be answered I am quite sure, but the first task is to canvass and gauge everyone's interest, as that will enable us to decide the way forward.

If you or your family are interested in taking part, if the Province of Worcestershire were to organise such a Club or Association, then please indicate your interest by clicking to register. Closing date 4th October 2020.

W.Bro. Iain Sharratt
Provincial Grand Secretary



Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder.



CHADD support nearly 1000 people in the Dudley area with housing and support care. They also provide a women's refuge service helping local women and their children fleeing domestic abuse alongside an outreach service for victims of abuse living in the community.

They have said they have seen a significant increase of victims of domestic abuse during the COVID 19 pandemic. Many of the women and children arrive with very little and CHADD help them set up home. So your donation will help make a place become a home giving them a safe new start in life.

So as you can see every donation we make helps dramatically within our local communities.

This story is related to the Dudley area. Please forward any charitable donations you are making so that we can assist with publicity and indeed let the province know of the good work you are doing.

Email John at jifennell01@icloud.com

This week listen to **WBro Bob James**, curator of the Worcestershire Provincial Masonic Museum - our "Jewel in the Crown".

Did you know it has been going for 133 years! The first masonic museum to attain accreditation. The museum is now open again so if you've not been, take a visit and book in, to YOUR museum.



A modern Lodge - with historic roots

The latest in our series of special interest Lodges pops in to Rainbow Hill, to meet the Brethren keeping the memory of **George Taylor** alive.

George Taylor: a name that, if you are familiar with the excellent Library and Museum at Rainbow Hill, will resonate. But, it was a name that UGLE didn't know as a small group of Worcestershire Freemasons discovered when their application to name a new Lodge after him was turned down.

Howard Wilson, a founder member of George Taylor Lodge No. 9819 and a past Master, picks up the story: "UGLE usually only agrees to personal Lodge names if the name has a strong Masonic connection and perhaps we didn't get that message over, but after a briefing it was readily agreed to. Thus George Taylor Lodge No. 9819 was consecrated in July 2006, at Rainbow Hill."

George Taylor, a past Master of Lechmere Volunteer Lodge, held the office of Provincial Secretary between 1881 and 1896. He was fascinated with the history of Freemasonry and an avid collector, of 'rare and valuable' Masonic memorabilia.

Howard explains: "He organised a Masonic exhibition at Worcester Guildhall - the first of its kind outside London with, astonishingly, over 1,000 exhibits sourced from collectors including some 100 of his own on display. Long story short, but subsequently George Taylor agreed to sell his entire collection to the Province of Worcestershire at cost and so began the Library and Museum we know and love today, the main room being named after him.

"Many Brethren will recall the Library & Museum appeal between 2003 and 2005 which remarkably, raised £204,000 which not only provided financial stability for the Museum but enabled it to be significantly expanded. At the end of the appeal, three of us who steered the appeal sat down to consider how we could provide a lasting recognition of that important work. The obvious solution was to form a Masonic research Lodge named after George Taylor who was, after all, one of the most respected Masonic historical experts of his time."

"We're a peripatetic research Lodge," explains Howard, who was founding Secretary. "Originally, to qualify for the Chair a Brother needed to give an original talk on a Masonic topic - and give another after his Installation. But we have broadened the remit and talks can be given by guests or members on almost any topic of interest.

Why should a Brother consider joining George Taylor Lodge? "This is a different form of Freemasonry. It is a joining lodge with the Installation of the new Master being our only ceremony. We enjoy fascinating presentations, visit extraordinary places - Covid-19 permitting - and it is very sociable. "You can 'try before you buy' by coming to one of our meetings as a guest!" adds Howard.

Find out more about George Taylor and the George Taylor room; contact the Secretary, Nick Plotnek at nplotnek@btconnect.com if you would like to come to a meeting - or indeed join!

The next article in this series will take a ride with the Masonic 'Brothers on Bikes'.

Article by Ian Crowder

