



Week 47, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Brethren, in week 47, read how that very well-known brother, Joseph Marzouk, recounts quite a memorable moment for him, (and indeed for everyone), some 49 weeks ago - and how he has used that time since, in very inspirational ways.

As you can see, we have a bit of a coup with the booking of Dr David Staples, The Grand Secretary - who is participating in the next "An Audience with..." on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Although we have again removed the restrictions on Zoom attendees, we are expecting a very packed audience, so make sure you book your place as soon as possible and get those questions rolling in!

Looking back even further than just pre-Covid times, you can read the start of a new series, which delves into the history of the Province of Worcestershire and how it came about, some 300 years ago.

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

The Ed



### Ever since the last time we've shaken hands!

Square News speaks to WBro Joseph Marzouk...

"On Sunday, March 8th, 2020, I made an entry in my diary that read: 'that was the last handshake'. This was exactly 49 weeks ago - but I never thought it would last that long - for there and then every friendly hug halted and each manly handshake ceased, and we started the awkward, but short-lived, elbow bump; only to find that 14 days later, we were on the verge of a national lockdown. On that same day, 23rd March 2020, the first Edition of Square News was published., which was wisely preceded 7 days before by a general Masonic suspension.



New expressions penetrated our daily vocabulary: lockdown, self-isolation, social distancing, and of course new platforms such as ZOOOOOOOOOM. So what did this lockdown do to us? Collectively, we have hardly met face-to-face, very few have only randomly met under the 'rule of 6'.

Personally, I found for a change, that I had much of that very precious commodity we called Time. During which I tried to practice those tenets we've always preached;

Firstly, 'Part to be spent in prayer to Almighty God', so that this COVID-19 viral menace may soon be lifted from the suffering humanity - with 112 Million people affected and 2.45 Million already dead, and the count still rising.

Secondly, 'Part in labour and refreshment'. And here I let you into a secret; labour consisted of 147 Zoom meetings, giving 7 Zoom talks and interviews, and writing 21 Masonic articles - as in 7 treatises, 7 modifications to suit the different Orders and 7 short exhortations of encouragement.

Refreshment consisted of a daily walk of 7 miles, come sunshine or rain and even in the snow, clocking a total of 2254 miles, i.e. walking from John O'Groats to Land's End, nearly three times over - and why not! when the air is fresher, the city hubbub is hushed and one can hear the birds singing again; as well as losing 42 lbs in the process, aided by missing out (not) on 133 fatty late masonic dinners, and not raising as many glasses of wine, that's 49 bottles.

And finally, but best of all, 'part in serving a friend or Brother in time of need' - our elderly neighbours were assisted with their food shopping and Pharmacy collections, but now as they are vaccinated, they decided to pay us back until we 'youngsters' have our vaccine; and, within a devised 5-a-day program I tried to contact as many of my Brethren, at least once, by phone, email or text message, more especially in the 4 Orders were I am a Provincial Ruler, or Deputy or Almoner. A total of 665 Brethren contacted.

Brethren, yes, the mathematically minded will notice, that all figures are 7 or multiples thereof. 7 being the perfect number, is not only my favourite, but also my inspiration to aim for perfection. And if there is such one among Masons, let us ALL strive to be him".

### WOW indeed!...The Communications team

have pulled out all the stops and managed to secure the "Top Man" to talk to Worcestershire Brethren on **TUESDAY MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm**



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 HERE](#)

### From Craft to Chapter...

Paul Webber talks to **Excellent Companion Keith Evans**, about his journey in becoming the Third Provincial Grand Principal in the Provincial Grand Chapter of Worcestershire.



"Most of you will know of me, having been on the Craft circuit for almost 15 years. Firstly, as an Assistant Director of Ceremonies - still the best job whether in Craft or Chapter - followed by Deputy Director of Ceremonies, Senior Warden, and then for 6 years as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Some of you may also remember that during this time, I was also fortunate to serve in Provincial Grand Chapter as Assistant, Deputy and finally, as the Provincial Director of Ceremonies. I was also appointed in Supreme Grand Chapter as an acting Standard Bearer and had the honour and pleasure of escorting the then Second Grand Principal, Excellent Companion George Pipon Francis, on a number of occasions. You can imagine my delight therefore, when later in that year I received a telephone call, advising me that our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Excellent Companion John Phenix, desired to appoint me as the Third Provincial Grand Principal at our annual meeting in April 2019. Whilst I knew I had a hard act to follow - Excellent Companion Barry Griffin has been excellent in the role after a discussion with my wife, I quickly said yes please.



There was much to do - but then...Lockdown!

Click [HERE](#) to read the rest of Keith's journey.



# The Development of Freemasonry in

## Worcestershire....

Square News has asked WBro Bill Mason to explain some of the history about the Worcestershire Province, and how it came about. This is his first article in the series....



*"Part One - an insight into the development of Freemasonry in Worcestershire, from its formation almost 300 years ago until the present day"*

You may well be hoping that my remarks do not begin with 'from time immemorial'. Well, I will not disappoint you — if only for the reason that, I regret to say, that the History of Freemasonry in Worcestershire is not so ancient; indeed, it is currently no more than a little over a quarter of a millennium old. To start, I am very much indebted to the research of our previous Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Richard Goddard, and the publication "History of the Masonic Province of Worcestershire" by Ray Sheppard published in 1989.

I regret to say also — at the risk of offending many of you — that our history is just eclipsed by the neighbouring province of Warwickshire; since it is generally believed that the first lodge to have been founded in this part of the world was the 'Woolpack' - named, as so many lodges were in the eighteenth century, after its place of meeting, The Woolpack Inn in the Market Place in Warwick. Its date of formation was 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1728. It was erased at the end of 1754.

The first Worcestershire lodge was 'the Dog' of Stourbridge, later and better known as the 'Talbot', founded as No. 119 on 21 August 1733. This Lodge was later renumbered as 104 in 1740 and 62 in 1755, as it was the custom of the Premier Grand Lodge (or the Moderns as they were later known) to close up gaps left by defunct lodges. The Talbot Lodge had a life of some thirty six years, being eventually erased in 1769. How unpredictable its history was is unknown as no minute books survive, but for a variety of reasons — as we will see in due course — eighteenth century lodges seldom had an easy existence.

It was at this point in time, with one lodge precariously in existence, that Worcestershire acquired its first Provincial Grand Master. In the Provincial Year Book, you will find published a list of Provincial Grand Masters "from the earliest record to the current year" (page 241). In 1753 Sir Robert de Cornwall was "appointed" Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Salop, Monmouthshire, and Herefordshire, and also North Wales. Some of you may question the word "appointed" or to use the correct terminology, "granted a deputation as Provincial Grand Master" rather than as we have today, the Installation. The ceremony of installation was in fact, a nineteenth century innovation. The word 'installed' would imply that he was placed at the head of an existing or newly created provincial structure. No such organisation existed and as I shall reveal later, in this province none was to do so for nearly a hundred years.

The other consequence of this "appointment" is the enormity of his task. The extent of his Province in square mileage was huge, but not in terms of the number of Lodges. Apart from the Talbot at Stourbridge and three Bristol lodges, only the Swan at Gloucester and the Three Horseshoes at Leominster existed in the Three Counties area, but at that time there was no expectation that a Provincial Grand Master was obliged to visit his province.

ED - In the next part, we shall learn more of the personal history of Sir Robert de Cornwall and the early development of Worcestershire as a nominal Province.

## A Daily Advancement....

### Why do Deacons carry Wands?



We know that the Deacons in some lodges use their Wands to form an arch over a visiting dignitary and processions in Open Lodge, but what else are their Wands used for, and where did they come from?

Like almost everything in Masonic Ritual, the Wands have several possible origins. You decide! Read more on this topic [HERE](#)



**PROVINCIAL  
GRAND CHAPTER  
of  
WORCESTERSHIRE**

A slightly different theme for Zoom audiences – and not to be outdone(!) - The Provincial Chapter Chat No 5 on Friday 19th February, has lined up yet another distinguished Freemason;

#### Most Worshipful Brother Christine Chapman

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons

with a talk entitled "Women in Blue"

On this occasion the talk is open to everyone, including Brethren and Ladies, so spread the word far and wide - Companions, Brethren, Wives, Partners, Girlfriends all welcome and the ladies do not have to be lady Freemasons to join in.

So please make a note of the date and time - Friday 19th February 2021 at 8.00 pm. If any none Royal Arch Mason wishes to participate, please contact the Provincial Grand Scribe E Brian Harper to request the login details [HERE](#)



## Festival 2022

Virtual meetings for an update on 2022 fundraising efforts

Please contact WBro Chris Vandy at [wfest2022@gmail.com](mailto:wfest2022@gmail.com) with any issues regarding any invites.

#### MEETING 4

February 16th (Tuesday)

7:30pm

Kings Norton, Northfield, Lickey Hills, Almacantar, Credence, Pathfinder, St. Laurence, Stechford and Thistle

#### MEETING 5

February 18th (Thursday)

7:30pm

Coston & Franchelie, Servator, Wenceslas, Dofra, Round Table Justice & Equity, Francis Burgess, Restoration and Progress



### Famous Freemasons?

Harry Houdini

Illusionist and stunt performer

Initiated into St. Cecile Lodge New York 1923

Do you know who your Acting Provincial Officers are for this year ?

Click [here](#) for the full list on the PGL website.

