



Week 58, 3rd May 2021

Brethren, Week 58 and we see some new updates from UGLE, which starts to highlight how the messages are getting out to the general public with modernisation and transparency.

See how one lodge is preparing for returning to meetings, and also how another has recently celebrated 3 important English birthdays at once!

Our next "An Audience With..." is with E Comp John Phenix, MEGS – register to book in early.

We are getting closer to our first physical meetings, so time to dust off the various blue and red books and try and see if it all comes back!

As always, keep strong, keep positive, take the vaccine, and stay safe.

The Editor

Freemasons' inaugural annual report showcases commitment to modernisation



As Freemasonry begins to emerge from the past year and its focus on helping our communities through the Pandemic, behind the scenes a great amount of work has been undertaken.

UGLE has launched its first annual report in our 300 year history, marking another major step forward in our commitment to modernisation, transparency, and normalization.

The annual report includes the new mission statement, which sits alongside the UGLE's four key values of integrity, respect, friendship, and charity. If you want to watch Dr Staples, our CEO of UGLE discussing the report on Sky News, please watch it [HERE](#).

The full 52 page edition can be read at your leisure [HERE](#) (don't worry, there are lots of pictures, but it is full of good stuff! - Ed)

Freemasons make no secret of need for younger members

On a similar theme, the following article (precis) appeared in "The Times" last week...

"Set in their ways for 300 years, the Freemasons are opening a lodge aimed at young people to combat a slump in membership. Having once boasted as many as half a million brothers in the years after the war — including Sir Winston Churchill and the Duke of Edinburgh, membership has fallen to 192,818. The lodge, which will open this year, will be run entirely by young members with the three leading positions — secretary, treasurer, and director of the ceremony — to be men under 35. Its activities will have an emphasis on environmental and mental health initiatives. It will also hold more social events than other traditional lodges."



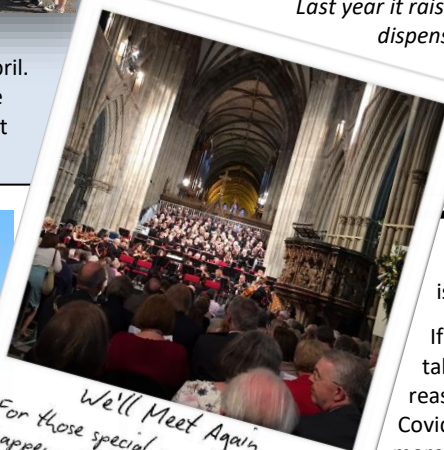
THE TIMES

Last year it raised more than £42 million for charity, with 10 per cent dispensed to members who had fallen on hard times and the rest to non-masonic charities.

This summer Freemasons' Hall, will open its bar and café to the public for the first time."

From our PGM:

Many thanks to the Spring Cleaning team at our centre at Kings Heath on Saturday 25th April. A few hours collective effort has made a huge difference to the outside of the building. Can't wait for it to be in full use again!



*We'll Meet Again
For those special occasions that
happen outside of the lodge room...*



As a reminder, the position in England[#] from **17th May** is that Masonic meetings of up to 6 people are permitted.

If a Masonic Centre has conducted a risk assessment, taken into account government guidance and taken all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19, then it may host Covid-Secure Masonic meetings of more than 6 people, up to the lower of:

- a. the maximum capacity in the risk assessment; or
- b. 30 attendees.

Dining is still restricted to groups of up to 6 people.

- note be aware that different rules apply to non-English venues



Triple celebration success for White Ensign

Friday 23rd April 2021, marked another superb virtual meeting for White Ensign Lodge No. 9169 and a host of visitors "Taking Passage" with us, (including Brethren from Holland and all points of the Compass in the UK) - in a celebration of St Georges Day, Shakespeare's birthday, and the first day of the Worcestershire Asparagus Season.



With excellent participation from all who took part, the WM WBro Ian Fothergill, issued prizes to the Hewitt's, for their English Morris Dancer's



attire and Gordon's excellent "dit" regarding a Sergeants Mess Top Table. Ian Hart gave an excellent rendition, properly dressed, from Shakespeare's Henry 5th, and Glyn Cardy proved to be the Mastermind winning the WM's Quiz covering, St. George, Shakespeare, and the Vale of Evesham Asparagus Festival.



The WM auctioned a superb bronze statuette of St. George slaying the dragon, which raised £180 - and the Charity Appeal raised a further £1,990. It is intended to donate a further £650 to PTSD Resolution UK, the WM's chosen Service Charity for this year, to provide a course for another veteran in the Worcestershire area; and like our Burns Night Charity Appeal, donate a further £750 plus Gift Aid from the Lodge Members donations to our 2022 Festival Fund which should take us ever closer to our target.

All in all, a superb evening thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

Bon Accord

As the fog of lockdown gradually clears, Lodges across the province are beginning to set their sights on resuming meetings and 'catching up' - and Square News will catch up with a few to find out how they are planning to emerge into the less restrictive future sunlight.



Bon Accord Lodge no. 4935 is one that has imaginative plans for the remainder of the year and WBro Rob Johnson, the enthusiastic 35-year-old Master of the Lodge, explains what they have in mind. If his name rings a bell, it may be because he 'starred' in "View from the East" in Square News no. 42.

"Like many Lodges we need to attract new members so we're putting a lot of effort into telling the public about Freemasonry and, of course, Bon Accord Lodge in particular. We are doing some of the obvious things, like developing our Facebook page - which already gets a lot of views - and a new website, which should go live soon.

"Of course, the best way to reach those who might be interested in Freemasonry is to talk to them face-to-face. So, we are taking a pitch at the Shirley Carnival organised by Shirley Lions. We'll have a couple of tables, exhibits such as aprons, ashlar, jewels and even a mannequin dressed as Freemason! That's on 10th July and of course we'd welcome any passing Brethren who'd like to say hello.

"We're printing leaflets too, to distribute at the event and indeed at any other opportunity."

'Bon Accord' translates as 'good agreement' and Rob believes that there is growing interest in Freemasonry from younger men who perhaps don't know quite how to find out more. He points to the recent positive article in The Times, an example of how Freemasonry is getting more widely seen. "Our display will offer the opportunity for local people to learn about Freemasonry, what it stands for, the huge amount of charity support it provides and why membership is such a worthwhile, fulfilling, sociable and enjoyable occupation. I'm sure that we'll find a lot of 'good agreement' about the benefits - I'll let you know how it goes!"

Having missed so many meetings and now into what would normally be the summer break, Bon Accord has arranged an 'emergency' meeting which will take place in July. "I can't wait to get back to lodge," Rob says. "This will be our first physical gathering in 18 months, and it will be a business meeting. We'll also be planning our future programme - which I hope, will include some initiations, if our 'show and tell' at the Carnival is a success!"

During lockdown Bon Accord hasn't stood still - and has run a weekly combined Zoom meeting for both the Lodge and its Chapter. "Lockdown has prompted some of our less IT-savvy Brethren to get to grips with Zoom and for some I think it has been a real lifeline. We are now well used to it and I think our future committee meetings may well be via Zoom - it saves a lot of time and cuts the need to travel."

If you are in Shirley on 10th July make sure you find Bon Accord's stand and join in the fun! Otherwise the Lodge welcomes visitors - contact the secretary, David Shrimpton: bonaccord4935@yahoo.com - you will be assured of a warm welcome!

Article by Ian Crowder, who was talking to Rob Johnson.



**Worcestershire 2022 Festival
(E2022) donation**

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>

An Audience with...
E Comp John M Phenix
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent
of Royal Arch Chapter
Wednesday 12th May 2021 - 7pm

[Click here to register](#)

A Daily Advancement

"...in every age Monarchs themselves have been promoters of the art, have not thought it derogatory to their dignity to exchange the sceptre for the trowel, have patronised our mysteries and joined in our assemblies" so goes the 1st Degree Charge

Remembering Bro Edinburgh, why not read the paper on the charge [HERE](#)



Solomon

Worcestershire Installed Masters Lodge No. 6889

WIML have arranged a zoom meeting for Saturday 8th May at 11.00am, where they will be looking back with fondness, and paying tribute to those thirteen member Brethren who have passed to the Grand Lodge above, since their last physical meeting.



If any member of WIML has not received their zoom invite please contact the secretary at stevemiddleditch@hotmail.co.uk

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