



Week 31, 19th October 2020

Brethren, we are all trying to keep up with the new regulations and advice as it changes throughout the pandemic - this 31st week is no exception with the issuance by the Government of the new 3 tier system, which places parts of Worcestershire in different tiers and therefore rules. Please read below carefully.

Thanks to the submissions of entries and voting by the brethren, we now have a worthy winner of the photography competition.

Our podcast this week is from Brian Harper, who tells us about how he handles the current pandemic as Prov Grand Scribe E in Royal Arch.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed

E comp Brian Harper



Worcestershire PGL photo Competition Winner!



Congratulations to Bro Duncan Sutcliffe from Worcester Lodge No. 280.

Can you guess where this is? Answers to the Ed..



THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE & PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER of WORCESTERSHIRE



You will be aware that the area covered by the Province of Worcestershire as of 14th October 2020, is in part designated as 'High Risk' (Tier 2) due to the ongoing effects of Covid-19.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent are both of the opinion that, for the time being, all Masonic Meetings in the affected areas should be suspended. These areas (which are as at time of publication) comprise the Masonic Centres of **Northfield** and **Kings Heath**, therefore both Craft and Royal Arch Meetings will be suspended for the duration of that designation in those areas.

During that period, it will not be necessary to issue a Summons but a note explaining the circumstances should be entered in the Minute book.

Stand by to sign in for a new series of "An Audience with....."

Starting with a presentation from the Prestonian Lecturer WBro Tony Harvey on Tuesday 3rd November.

Further details and booking form will be in next week's Square News.

The Covid pandemic has for some introduced a significant and threatening financial strain. The Yorke Brooks Fund was established to "defray the subscription of any Worcestershire Craft or Royal Arch Mason due to his mother Lodge or Chapter, he being in temporary distress, where and in such circumstances as he might otherwise be lost to the Craft including the Holy Royal Arch".

Assistance is offered for the first year, and, to a more limited extent may be extended for a second year. Application may be made on behalf of a Brother/Companion by the Treasurer supported by the Master/Principals.

Further information may be obtained from the Provincial Grand Secretary.

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COVID-19 TIER SYSTEM

How it affects Freemasonry in England

TIER ONE (MEDIUM RISK)

Lodge and chapter meetings can continue but rule of 6 applies

TIER TWO (HIGH RISK)

Meetings must not take place and brethren resident in those areas must not attend meetings in a lower tier

TIER THREE (VERY HIGH RISK)

It should also be noted that if you live in one of the areas where the alert level is 'Very High' or 'High' you must not attend Meetings in another part of the Country even if they are in an area at a lower risk level.

Please be aware that this guidance may change at any time as Government regulations and designated areas change. Always check before arranging or attending any proposed meetings.

Check your tier by postcode here

[Check Tier Level](#)



Digital Alms

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>

Worcestershire Freemasons help to keep cancer-hit Bromsgrove boy at school

Freddie Holland, six, has been battling acute lymphoblastic leukaemia for two years but the side effects of chemotherapy have left him needing a wheelchair. The disabled young boy's parents have launched an appeal to raise £20,000 to keep him at the school he loves, by making Hanbury First School fully accessible.

Now his mum and dad Gemma and James are trying to raise enough money to enable structural work - including replacing steps with ramps.

Worcestershire Freemasons have made a donation of £1,000 to support this appeal. Freddie is the Grandson of Geoff Holland of Wyre Forest Lodge No. 8653

Let's hope they get the £20k and Freddie does not have to move.



On a Masonic Mission

Local mason WBro John Bibby of St. John in Bedwardine No. 7458, has been instrumental in spear heading many diverse local projects. This includes Community Action Malvern, where he has been driving their minibus to deliver food parcels on behalf of Malvern Food Bank and hopefully will be utilising the food bus to take OAPs and the disabled to the shops. He is a founding member of the Malvern Repair Café which is currently running an at home service, and is in the process of starting up Men's Shed of which he will be an instructor. He has somehow found time to be an Imagineering Instructor running an after school club in Malvern for over 15 years. Also just for good measure he has been involved in an IET initiative during the summer assisting local businesses to become more computer literate.

Please find below the email addresses of the groups concerned in case they may be of interest to you or indeed if you wish to help John Bibby.

- Food bank and minibus service: contact Sarah at sarahk@communityaction.org.uk
- Malvern Repair Cafe: contact Jan at repaircafemalvern@icloud.com
- Men's Shed: contact Corinne at corinnep@communityaction.org.uk

John is only one Mason from one lodge, and we know there are many more across our province making excellent efforts within our communities. Please let John Fennell know and forward any information you may have to John at jjfennell01@icloud.com.

This week listen to **E Comp Brian Harper**
Provincial Grand Scribe E



Hear about Brian's journey in Craft and Royal Arch, and what the role of Scribe E entails.



Being a Provincial Officer

by David Emery ProvSGW

It started with a phone call. Fishing my phone from my pocket, I stopped short when I saw the Deputy Provincial Grand Master's name on the screen. "Funny..." I thought, "...what could he possibly want with me...?"

I recall VVBro Stephen Wyer saying what a pleasure it was for him to make this call and I remember hearing the words "Provincial Senior Grand Warden" and at that precise moment I completely lost the ability to speak.

My instructions for the next few weeks were - learn the Addresses, agree dates for training and, worst of all, don't tell anyone about this for eight weeks! Pride comes before a fall.

Bernard Callow - the new ProvJGW - and I had both spent many years 'on the circuit' as ProvAGDC's, so we thought there would be virtually nothing new for us to learn, apart from how to enter a lodge room side by side and walk a few paces in step. How hard could that be? 'Harder than we ever thought possible' is the answer. Practice did make us better and we began to realise precisely how much work was required to do something so well that it looks effortless.

Our predecessors, Chris and Mark, were incredibly kind and supportive to us and I remember their warmth and sincerity when they quite unexpectedly presented us with cards and gifts just before the 2019 PGL meeting. I remember the hairs standing up on the back of my neck as I was installed officially and found myself sitting in front of 700 people, directly opposite not only the Provincial Grand Master but the Pro Grand Master too.

They say you always remember the first time, which means Old Bromsgrovian Lodge, the earliest Installation Meeting in the masonic calendar.

Another early highlight is the visit to Custos Lodge, a lodge formed by - and with membership restricted to - past Provincial Wardens. It takes a steady nerve to perform your duties in front of an audience where every member knows your role better than you do...

In the first year as a Provincial Warden - it's a six-year appointment - you attend around 40 meetings, some supporting the PGM, others supporting the Deputy PGM and each of the Assistant PGM's. Suffice to say I used a spreadsheet to work out my schedule!

Inevitably, there will be the occasional glitch, no matter who you are and how well you know the ritual. One day a random word will elude you and this is, of course, when the Provincial ADC will, like Jeeves to your Bertie Wooster, whisper a discrete prompt, usually without the brethren even noticing.

We are acutely aware that people's opinions of The Province will be shaped significantly by how we Wardens conduct ourselves. We recognise that we need to pay respect to the honour that has been bestowed on us. All of us hold a 'team ethic' and share a sense that we have been given a very special gift.

My personal high spot was at the occasion when I was due to deliver the Address to the Brethren at a meeting with more than 100 masons present including the current and several past Provincial Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters and Assistant Grand Masters, as well as - if I recall correctly - 19 Grand Lodge Officers. I felt a certain obligation to get this one right!

With five more years to go as a PProvSGW I look forward to the end of the current pandemic and a resumption of my duties.