



Week 52, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Brethren, Week 52 and Square News turns one!!

In this edition, we "look forward by looking back". Recognising all that we have missed over the last year with a fantastic new video montage of masonic life as we knew it; but also taking stock that we are moving closer to normality with the superb news of three dates that are now scheduled in the diary looking forward.

The podcast is from yours truly, reflecting on what those 52 editions have meant for both myself and the Provincial Grand Master.

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

The Editor

**The Editor**  
(WBro Andy Philpott)



His recollections on  
the past 52 editions  
Click [here](#)

## Looking Back

Brethren, now we can see that there is a light at the end of this long tunnel, we want to now take the time to sit down, reflect on what we have done in the past and look forward to being able to do these things again. We hope that you enjoy the video that has been put together, so that we can reflect and hopefully it will make you excited for the future.



*We'll Meet Again...*  Click Play

We will also be putting out photos of past events over the coming weeks, to continue the theme of looking forward by looking back at our past. Here's to being able to meet again soon.

If you have a photo of a past masonic event that you'd like to share, please forward to WBro Chris Phillips at [chris.phillips325@gmail.com](mailto:chris.phillips325@gmail.com)



## Looking Forward

We are delighted – and hot off the press from the Provincial Secretary's desk, to be able to announce dates for the events which I suspect all Worcestershire freemasons regard as the highlights of our masonic yearly calendar – and this year's events will be even more poignant in many ways.

### Cathedral and Memorial Service

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Worcester Cathedral**

### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**

**University of Birmingham**

### Christmas Carol Service

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Pershore Abbey**

(Due to limited space, as in previous years, an online booking system will be set up, for a first come first served basis)

Note: All events assume the lockdown timetable continues as planned, but are therefore subject to Covid/Government restrictions and laws



This article was first printed on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020.  
Little would we know how much this would resonate even today!



## Where would we be without Covid-19?

It maybe in time that 'we' appreciate the opportunity which Covid has perversely contributed.

**WE** are becoming better communicators; with members, potential members, the press, in the community with UGLE and MCF with charities

**WE** put in more effort to contact members, especially isolated members.

**WE** are engaging more with the local community and being recognised for it.

**WE** have improved our technical skills.

**WE** are using social media more.

**WE** are meeting virtually through new technology.

**WE** are thinking more about our organisation, taking stock, evaluating, and deliberating on our response.

Jonathan Swift

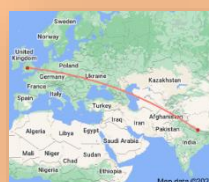
## Square News in Numbers!

Here are some statistics about the last 52 editions....



We have sent out **120,424** emails containing all the editions;

There were **2** hours and **16** minutes of podcast coverage, and **416** articles;



If everyone printed out all the editions and laid them out end to end, it would stretch the **7,300** km from Worcester to Nepal...

.....And be **812** times the height of Mount Everest!



Across the 52 editions there were **555,256** typed characters.

## Famous Freemasons

Col. Edwin Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin



Aldrin was the first Freemason to set foot upon the Moon. Initiated at Oak Park Lodge No. 864, Montgomery, Alabama, on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1955.

Aldrin under special deputation of the Grand Master of Texas, J. Guy Smith, was given authority to open a Representation of the Grand Lodge of Texas on the Moon and establish Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction there for the Grand Lodge of Texas.

The deputation was carried to the moon by Aldrin on Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969.

## Easter Surprise!



Worcestershire Freemasons are continuing to support those most in need in our community. At this Easter time, they have taken the opportunity to deliver Easter Eggs to brighten the lives of some of those children who are suffering more than most.

Our Provincial Charity Steward, WBro David Dey, delivered some Easter cheer to children at present living in a local Safe Refuge, and also to Worcester Foodbank to be added to food parcels for families in need.

The Photo (right) shows David with the Foodbank warehouse manager Nigel.



PGL of  
Worcestershire  
2022 Festival  
(E2022) donation

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>

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# Raising the White Ensign

Ian Crowder chats with Ian Fothergill, the lively 'commander' of White Ensign Lodge



That the lodge is firmly in 'dry dock' thanks to Covid, the skipper (or Master) of White Ensign Lodge No. 9169, Ian Fothergill, is certainly not downbeat about the enforced shore leave. In fact, he speaks with considerable enthusiasm about the Lodge and the prospects of 'putting to sea' again, as the icebound waters of lockdown begin to thaw.

"We may not be afloat at present, but it's certainly not stopping us from making the most of what we have. In fact, we hold a weekly Zoom meeting which helps us to keep in touch with one another during the lockdown and show that we are there, should anyone need help."

White Ensign Lodge, as the name and the references to seafaring suggest, was consecrated as a Naval Lodge, in December 1985. Explains Ian, who served for 17 years with the Special Forces in the Royal Marines: "It all started when Charles Shave, a Royal Navy Artificer, used to travel from the Midlands with a couple of 'shipmates' to the Installation at his mother White Ensign Lodge in Gillingham, Kent. He formed the idea of creating a White Ensign lodge closer to home, and Worcestershire was happy for it to drop anchor in the Province."

"In the event there were 17 founders. The requirement from the start, was that Brethren should have served in any rank, in the Royal Navy or the Royal Marines. The voyage got off to a great start, with new Brethren recruited from the Nautical Services Club. But more recently, we have broadened the scope to include any Brother who has served under the Crown and that includes civil servants. We also welcome initiates who have a connection – for example, the son of a former serviceman or who has served under the Crown."

All members wear a White Ensign pin badge – but 'special reservists', (permanently invited guests), receive a certificate and wear a red ensign pin. "But everyone is welcome, whatever badge they wear: we are Brethren after all, look out for each other, and collectively do a huge amount for charity, particularly service charities and Festival 2022," says Ian.

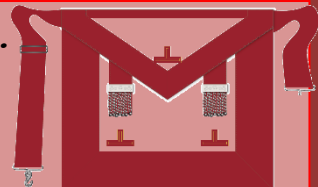
The Lodge originally met, oddly, on the first working day of the fifth week at Kings Heath, which began to prove difficult to schedule. In 2012, the Lodge set sail for Redditch, where it now meets on the last Friday of January, March, May and October and the first Friday in December for the Installation.

Not every brother may have served in the RN or RM, but the Lodge follows many Naval traditions. "We raise and lower the Ensign to a bugle call at the opening and closing of the Lodge, for example. And when we move to the Mess Deck (to landlubbers, the Festive Board), we start with a tot of rum – so you may be sure we are going to enjoy ourselves in the best Naval tradition," Ian adds, with a twinkle in his eye. "Of course, order is kept using a ship's bell, while a Master at Arms issues 50p fines for errors in the Lodge Room and misbehaviour at the Festive Board!"

"Our social events are a lot of fun too, not least Trafalgar Night, when the Mess Deck is dressed with bunting and it's fair to say, we really push the boat out. Similarly, we enjoy burn's Night, and in April, a triple event of revelry when we will celebrate St. George's Night, Shakespeare's birthday and the start of the asparagus season. It's clear that White Ensign Lodge is extremely lively and has a healthy membership of 40."

## A Daily Advancement....

The Red Apron - why this apron is so different to the others that you see in the Lodge.?



Read more on this topic [HERE](#)

## Superhero Surprise - Lockdown recognition



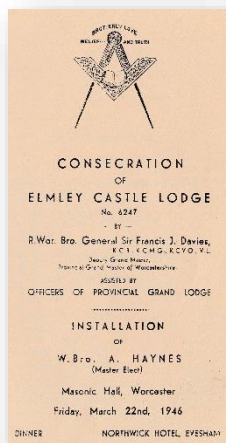
No one was more surprised than Bro Martin Carver, the Junior Warden of White Ensign Lodge No. 9169, when he opened his post on Wednesday 3rd March. He found he had been awarded a "Certificate of Commendation" personally signed by The MW The Grand Master for "...outstanding contribution to Freemasonry's role in our nation's fight against Covid-19".

Martin had been proposed by our PGM, for his splendid efforts of running Half- Marathons on behalf of the NHS, during last year's early lockdowns and featured in Square News at the time.



## Zooming in to 75 years - but looking forward!

On 17th March, there was a social meeting over Zoom, for members of Elmley Castle Lodge No. 6247.



It took place on what should have been their installation evening, but most important of all it happened to be the 75th Anniversary of Elmley Castle's consecration, giving cause to reflect on the history of the Lodge, its Founders, and the future.

Ian Southcott, the Lodge's secretary, commented: "It was quite a poignant moment, amid the banter of a gathering like this; and to reflect on the fact that Elmley Castle is in a good place to pick up when some kind of normality resumes. Fortunately, Elmley Castle has been able to continue to attract new members and when activities resume, initiations will be high on plans for the Lodge and hopefully, the unprecedented Covid hiatus will fade into history."

## A happy 1<sup>st</sup> birthday from all the Communications team!



Brody



Mark



Chris



Mike



David



Chris



Andy



Adrian



Ian



John



Ed



Paul



Paul



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