



Week 45, 1st February 2021

Brethren, week 45 – despite the odd bout of snow, hail and rain, the sun does occasionally break out and remind us that one of these days, venturing outside will be a lot more pleasant!

Last week, we saw the initiative launched about keeping in touch with our brethren, and we follow this up today with an article by our Provincial Mentor talking further how he sees his role in retention and education (even more key in our current climate, although as with anything somewhat restricted physically); Also read how one brother's journey has been temporarily halted, but remains positive, engaged, and enthused.

The next in the series of “..An audience with...” is announced, as usual book early to avoid disappointment, and check out the latest in this month's “First Rising” from UGLE.

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

The Ed



Every brother by now would have been emailed the latest in the series of the First Rising from UGLE.

In it you can read how you can sign up to be a volunteer with the vaccination effort. Dr David Staples, the Grand Secretary, said: “In 2018, more than 18.5 million hours of volunteer work were undertaken by Freemasons. Now that we have the vaccine, it is crucial that we help in every way we can to protect the population. If the NHS need people, then we are happy to encourage and emphasise the importance of this to our members”.

Check out and watch the new video of Freemasons Hall [HERE](#), and review a recap of the [MCF impact statement](#) for 2019/20, which reveals the difference Freemasonry has made to communities across England and Wales, through the charity's work.

A Day in the life...of the Provincial Grand Mentor

By WBro Chris Overall

When I was asked to take on the role of Provincial Mentor, besides being hugely honoured, it also scared the seven bells out of me. I made some enquiries as to what was required - not too much, I can do that (I thought)!

The realisation that a Provincial Mentor was responsible for the retention and education of our newer members became a sobering proposition. Having been involved with the original trials for the Members Pathway, I felt I knew something of what was required. Receiving the annual Lodge Mentors' reports is a chance for me to see how mentors and lodges are getting on, I always try to respond to all those reports I receive. The highlight of the year for me is the Initiates welcome evening, which unfortunately had to be cancelled this year, but is also one of those stressful occasions that you want to go well but can't be sure until its done!

As Provincial Mentor you go to all sorts of seminars and meetings around the province and indeed the country, but what a privilege to be allowed to present a book or a tie to a new member of the fraternity at his initiation.

As some of you may know I like to sail and am a member of a number of different yacht clubs, the similarity between sailing and Freemasonry didn't become apparent at first. However, we like to sail with a crew as a team, we acknowledge the other boats around particularly if on a rally or race and when we've finished for the day meet up for a communal meal.



Most of the clubs provide some education, we have a structure, which you can enter into and often raise money for some charity and of course you make friends for life.

One of the strangest things I've done of late was to give the Cubit Club Friday lecture whilst anchored in a bay sat in the back of the boat.

I've been very lucky in life and Freemasonry and thank all of you for your help and friendship.

We are all Almoners Day

February 7th 2021

Do you know who you're going to call?



A reminder of the “We are all Almoners Day” this **Sunday 7th February**.

We would like Worcestershire brethren to put time aside to sit down, pick up the phone and call a brother or two.



Please look out for the invites to the next set of virtual meetings so each lodge can get an update on the 2022 festival fundraising efforts

Invitations to the WM and Charity Stewards have been sent for the next meeting, on **Thursday 4th February** - please contact WBro Chris Vandy at wfest2022@gmail.com with any issues.

This next meeting is for the lodges of Bordesley Abbey, Old Bromsgrovian, White Ensign, Forge Mill, Aedificandum, Worcester, Semper Fidelis, St Michael, Page, Wyche and Pro Patria.

Provincial Communications Officer: Brody Swain (PCO@Worcestershireagl.org.uk)

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My Path During COVID-19

John Fennell caught up recently with **Bro Paul Humphrey** who is a member of Abbot Lichfield Lodge No. 3308 and has completed his first degree. If it hadn't had been for the strange time of the pandemic, Paul would have completed his second degree and possibly his third by now. Paul agreed to put in his own words how COVID-19 has affected his Masonic path. Has this deterred him or lessened the appeal of freemasonry? I will let you decide.



"Following my relocation to Evesham in 2018, I very soon began chatting with my brother-in-law about freemasonry as he'd recently joined. I was introduced to the brethren of Abbot Lichfield and was immediately taken with the

inclusivity and fraternity displayed by all towards me. This initial meeting of some of the members of the Lodge (pictured above) led me to the conclusion this fine band of brothers also had a taste for a curry and an ale into the bargain. Also taken by the charitable and community spirit of freemasonry, I was delighted to have my initiation the following April and as an Entered Apprentice was thus able to gain some insights into the ancient traditions and practices of the lodge as well as experience that common bond with my fellow Freemasons.

All was proceeding very nicely with the PGM's Welcome Evening and Initiates' Dinner followed by a bumper Christmas festive board in 2019. Of course, since then progress has slowed and although disappointing to not yet reached the level of Second Degree, life has been busy despite the lockdown. In keeping with the charitable framework of the craft, I decided, whilst furloughed, from my day (and night) job as a long haul pilot to get involved in the latest aircrew initiative of 'Project Wingman' - Providing coffee, tea and empathy in a 'first class lounge' environment for the doctors, nurses and support staff of the NHS at the forefront of the response to the Covid pandemic, in the Heartlands hospital in Brum.

I realised that this fabulous service would potentially work well at the Worcester Royal and being keen to bring this to our local amazing NHS staff, I volunteered to set this up. Cutting through endless red tape, we launched in June 2020 and as team leader was delighted that the lounge was so well received.



Worcester Royal Hospital Lounge

Fast forward to 2021 and a return to full time flying, I'm now looking forward to completing the second degree and more odes, toasts and songs that are so reminiscent of my time as an RAF pilot. Indeed, whilst at least the online meetings have their place and have afforded a degree of contact with fellow brethren, a return to some less unprecedented and safer times and the 'in person' practices of life on the square will be most welcome."

As you can see it hasn't dampened Paul's spirits. To the contrary I believe that this has shown him exactly the brotherhood he has become part of. Through the difficult times, keeping in contact and helping each other out.

So if you haven't guessed, I am the brother-in-law that introduced Paul to Freemasonry and would like to say how extremely proud I am of the brethren of Abbot Lichfield Lodge who have ensured that one of their newest members has been kept engaged and enthused with freemasonry during the pandemic.

Good news this week for Paul as it was confirmed (pandemic permitting) he will take his second degree in September/October!



An Audience
with...

Worcestershire Provincial
Grand Lodge



VWBro Stephen J Wyer

Presents...

The Provincial Five Year Strategic Plan
via Zoom on Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 7pm

Book your place here



WBro Alan as the first
Master of Forge Mill

WBro Alan Wright

With a heavy heart we announce the passing of WBro Alan Wright to the Grand Lodge above.

He was an honorary member of Custos Lodge No. 9320, a founder and Honorary member of Forge Mill Lodge No. 8658; He was a member of Worcestershire Installed Masters Lodge No. 6889 and an Honorary member of Bordesley Abbey Lodge No. 4495.

Initiated into Bordesley Abbey Lodge No. 4495 in November 1946., WBro Wright, had recently celebrated his 100 birthday. He was also awarded his 70 years certificate for his time in Freemasonry.

Alan was promoted to Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1964 and received Grand Rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies Alan will be sadly missed by his family, his friends and also his Brothers in Freemasonry.

Solomon

Ever wondered what happened at 9 o'clock on
Saturday 23rd October 4004 BC?

The world was born and Masonic time began!
We call it "Anno Lucis" meaning the 'Year of Light',
signifying the moment of creation.

Listen to or read the nugget on the Solomon website [here](#)

(Note, in order to read the article you will need to register on Solomon, which we encourage all to do, as it is of course a valuable source of information)



Wordsworth in Lockdown

*I wandered lonely as a cloud, two metres from the madding crowd,
When all at once my name was called, to enter Waitrose hallowed hall.*

*This was the pensioners' special hour, I'd gone to get a bag of flour,
But I forgot - when through the door - what I had gone to Waitrose for ?*

*The Waitrose staff are extra kind, I told them it had slipped my mind,
They asked what else I had forgot, they clearly thought I'd lost the plot.*

*I phoned my wife again to ask, she reminded me of this special task;
"I need some flour to bake a cake, with all that cream you made me take!"*

*"Ah yes, I recall" I had to lie, I dared not ask what flower to buy,
But then I saw them at the tills, a bunch of golden daffodils..... :)*

Anon