



Week 44, 25th January 2021

Brethren, week 44 brings us to the end of the first month in 2021, and still of course in lockdown. Every brother will have received notice regarding the continued masonic meeting suspension until at least the end of March, and therefore the new initiatives such as the one from the Provincial Communications Team outlined below, are even more important. Please make every effort to keep in touch with all brethren as much as possible, not forgetting those that were on the path to initiation – we will resume one day and we need to ensure the up and coming new members are kept informed!

Communication on the progress of the Festival 2022 is just as key – hence “the way forward” meetings described below are important for your lodge perspective.

Please keep sending in reports of your activities outside of the lodge meetings, or events where you are able to invite other brethren to enjoy and participate in and keep the “essence of Freemasonry” alive, as outlined in the excellent lecture from Jonathan Swift, repeated at WIML zoom last week.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed



IMPORTANT JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE THE PROVINCE of WORCESTERSHIRE



All brethren will have received this week the notice from Provincial Office regarding the local area suspension of Masonic meetings.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent have reviewed the situation and are both of the opinion that, for the time being, all Masonic meetings in the province should be suspended further until the end of March.

- During the period of suspension, it will not be necessary to issue a Summons but a note explaining the circumstances should be entered in the Minute book;
- For the avoidance of doubt, no Lodge or Chapter business can be conducted over Zoom/Teams or similar digital media.



Festival 2022 “THE WAY FORWARD”



Over the last year, the MCF has provided such great support to so many of our Worcestershire members, their families, and the wider local community. If this is to continue, they need our help now more than ever.

The Provincial Grand Master is inviting all Worshipful Masters and Charity Stewards / Festival Representatives to one of a number of small virtual meetings. This will provide an update on the Festival; discuss how we can help and identify the way forward. These meetings will be held through February and into March.

The first three meetings are:

Thursday 4th February for the following 11 Lodges;
Bordesley Abbey, Old Bromsgrovian, White Ensign, Forge Mill, Aedificandum, Worcester, Semper Fidelis, St Michael, Page, Wyche, Pro Patria

Wednesday 10th February for the following 10 Lodges;
Fort Royal, EF Hanson, Unity, Sabrina, St John in Bedwardine, Catshill, Teme, Provincial Grand Stewards, Elgar, George Taylor

Thursday 11th February for the following 8 Lodges;
Abbot Lichfield, Avon, St Werstan, Elmley Castle, Permanent Way, Royds, Malvern Hills, Morgan

The invitations to the WM and Charity Stewards should arrive soon, but if by a week before, you haven't received anything, please contact WBro Chris Vandy at wfest2022@gmail.com

We Are All Almoners Day

February 7th 2021

Reaching out to show we care



During these continued difficult times, we feel that it is important to ensure that we don't just rely on Zoom meetings and online organised events, but that we remember to pick up the phone and talk to a brother.

This is why the Provincial Communications Team wish to introduce a new initiative.

“We are all Almoners Day”

This is about strengthening the hard work that our Lodge Almoners are already doing and having a day where we open up communications. The aim is to reach out to as many brethren as we can, see how they are doing, ask how their families are coping and maybe find out if we can lend a hand in some way.

On **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. If we all get on board with this new initiative, we can reach out and feel just that little bit closer to our brothers during this prolonged shut-down of Freemasonry.



On Monday 18th January, the Cubit Club held their belated AGM, but this year as with most meetings, it was held virtually, using Zoom.

The then Chairman, WBro Simon Rogers, gave his report and thanked everyone for their input, along with its President WBro Mike Dykes. He went on to specifically thank the hard work and efforts of WBro Paul Wong, WBro Richard Macey and WBro Martin Lawrence, who put the Club together just over 3 years ago, stating that without them, it would not have been as well thought of or as well recognised.

WBro Brody Swain was then put into place as the new Chairman, and stated that he was looking forward to all that the Club was going to be able to do moving forwards and that it was an exciting time to be in his position.

For the full write up, please click [HERE](#)

View from the East....

Continuing in the series, Ed Kimpton chats to **WBro Karl Nicholson**, aged 31, WM of Godson Lodge No. 2385, CIO of a Software Automation Company and an RAF Air Cadets Officer. He was Installed in April 2019, continuing into 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

How did you feel as you approached the chair?

Moving up through the chairs I was terrified. The jump from SW to WM felt huge. Once in the chair however, the fear subsided. There is no handbook, but the "security blanket" of supportive PMs brings-out the best in you.



WBro Karl and Godson Lodge on his Installation night

What are your lasting memories of your Installation?

It passed quickly, I was installed into the chair with some force which surprised me, I felt isolated on the elevated stage and the weight of responsibility was palpable.

How did the year progress?

By the next meeting I was terrified again and aware of my reliance on the wardens, it really is a team effort. Once I had grasped things, the fear subsided & duty took over, it meant something and felt pretty-awesome! We held an initiation ceremony for a close friend of mine. The ceremony was shared and went really well. I felt a stronger person having delivered that for a friend.

What did you do when the pandemic hit?

I was in Thailand on a late honeymoon. Our first concern was to make sure the older brethren were safe, so we created a 'WhatsApp' group, nominating members to contact them.

How has Freemasonry influenced your professional life & vice-versa?

It's a respite from work, the world stops spinning allowing you to pause and think. I am more confident speaking publicly.

Freemasonry guides overtly and covertly. The world is bigger than just you, as an RAFAC Officer, freemasonry aided me in the commissioning process, guiding me to articulate effectively and think collectively.

Professionally I deal with process-improvement and with the willingness and support of older brethren I have helped modernise the lodge.

What advice would you give to brethren approaching the chair?

The reassurance that everyone is there to help, you are not going to do anything that hasn't been done before.

When opportunity presents, embrace it. It's good to be a little scared, managing that is a good life-lesson.

50 years and counting, and a surprise for WBro Antony Watt

At the Severn Lodge No. 5583 21st Virtual Zoom Meeting, they were able to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of WBro Antony Campbell Watt.

The proceedings started with WBro Ken Prosser providing a reflection on Antony: *"His was the friendly face that greeted everyone. He recognised the qualities that define this Lodge. Friendly, Charitable, Funny, Warm and Willing. What he perhaps didn't recognise that those were his innate qualities too and he was transmitting them to the brethren of the Lodge, from the grandest to the humble Initiate."*



WHITE ENSIGN LODGE No. 9169



The Worshipful Master & his Lassie invite you, your lassies, and guests to join them for a

Virtual Burns Night Supper

On Friday 29th January commencing at 19:00
Bring your own victuals & liquor.

At the WM's table will be a haggis, properly addressed, and then served with neeps and tatties.

A selection of cheeses with the WM's port

Please contact the Mess Manager, WBro Les Leek to book your places. Email: md@sislondon.com

Dress Code: Shirt & tie wi' a bit of tartan, kilts if you must;
Lassies something smart wi' a bit o' tartan

Worcestershire Installed Masters Lodge No. 6889

The Lodge held a Zoom meeting at the time of the regular meeting, 11.00 am Saturday 16th January, with the eighty-six Brethren in attendance, resplendent in white shirts and Provincial ties which gave a real dimension to the meeting.



Worshipful Master John Yeates opened the meeting and spread New Year good cheer to everyone which included birthday wishes to the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Robert Vaughan and WBro Mike Taylor, a Past Master of the Lodge.

The Lodge and Provincial Charity Steward, WBro David Dey gave an overview of the charitable work of the Province and thanked the Brethren for their continuing support for good causes, hoping this would carry on, notwithstanding the impositions imposed by the pandemic.

Provincial Grand Mentor, WBro Kerry Parkes introduced WBro Jonathan Swift, winner of the Annual Lecture Competition, who presented his excellent and thought-provoking lecture entitled 'The Essence of Freemasonry'. Provincial Grand Chaplain WBro Justin Parker gave an informal, light-hearted blessing to the virtual gathering.

The PGM spoke of his thanks for the support of all Brethren of the Province for their unstinting support during the pandemic, hoping that we would be able hold physical meetings in the not-too-distant future.

The RW Provincial Grand Master Robert Vaughan then "virtually" presented a 50 year certificate (delivered earlier in the day). The PGM was then delighted to announce that in recognition of WBro Antony's dedication to the Lodge and to the Craft he was promoting him to PPrSGW with immediate effect.

To read a full account of WBro Anthony's celebration, click [HERE](#)