

Ross Masonic Club



Supporting Local Freemasons

The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 6th April 2020

Issue Number One

Welcome to the first edition of the Ross Masonic Club Weekly Roundup. A chance to share what we have been up to, with some light hearted articles during the break in face to face meetings.

Any thoughts on what you would like to see gratefully received and faithfully applied in a future edition.

Happy to have some regular features, puzzles, photos etc. Feel free to send them in via email and we will do our best to incorporate them into future issues.

Hopefully you have all received suggestions for your Buddy Groups. It's just another way of keeping in touch during the coming months when there are no physical meetings.

It's a big commitment to keep this Newsletter going on a weekly basis so any volunteers to contribute to a particular section, or ideas for things to include would be gratefully received! Just a few lines on something you think would share well or cheer people up gratefully received.

Greetings from the RW Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire and M E Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire

R W Bro Michael T Holland

I am delighted to have been invited to pen a few words to include in the inaugural edition of 'The Craftsmen.'

I must thank and congratulate the team who have worked hard to make this a reality and also for the other initiatives that you have put in place, to care for and remain in contact with each other. Well done Brethren of the Ross-on-Wye Masonic Club, I look forward to learning more and I encourage you to share your news and success stories on a wider basis.



Follow on Twitter <https://twitter.com/DGLBMason?s=20>

Any contributions or feedback please email the editor

Social Media Roundup



Facebook

We have set up a Facebook Group for Ross Masonic Club. We currently have 22 members across the Lodges and Chapter with members contributing on a regular basis and generally keeping in contact. Any members of Lodges or Chapter that meet at Ross Masonic Hall are welcome to join in.

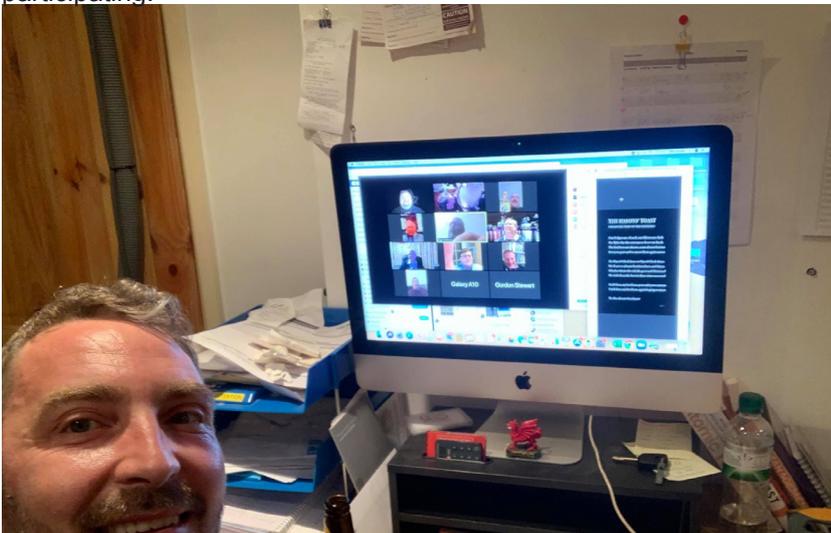


Twitter Roundup

#TimeToToast

In a wider audience, Grand Lodge have been running a campaign on Twitter with the hashtag **#TimeToToast**. Our very own Billy Russell and the RW Provincial Grand Master Michael Holland, as well as many other Brethren who are Twitter followers, have been posting pictures at 9pm each night toasting Absent Brethren or other worthy causes such as the wonderful key workers in the UK.

At one point **#TimeToToast** was in the top 20 posts on Twitter with Brethren from all over the world participating.



Face to Face

In a virtual way!

Billy Russell has also been organising regular face to face (virtually) get togethers using the 'Zoom' App for video conferencing. For the last two Fridays we have held a Virtual Toast to Absent Brethren via Zoom. Last Friday we had 15 participants. It was great to see each other's faces again, all be it on a small screen. Some may say that's an improvement! Below are the details for the video call at 20:45 on Friday.

The Zoom software for your computer, tablet or smartphone can be downloaded from the Zoom website or app store here. <https://us04web.zoom.us>

If anyone would care to join us this week's call will be at 20:45 on Friday.

Details to follow.....

This Week In My Garden

A Weekly Feature?

We are hoping this can be a regular feature but will depend on what you contribute. Thank you to Dennis Roberts for the photo of the yellow tulips.

Things to do in the garden during April (reprinted from the Gardeners World website)

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/what-to-do-now-april/> Top three things to do for April:

Flowers

- Sow hardy annuals, such as love-in-a-mist and pot marigolds, as well as native wildflowers, into gaps in borders
- Enjoy instant colour by planting primulas and polyanthus in pots and at the front of borders
- Continue deadheading spring bulbs and bedding, so they don't waste energy setting seed



Fruit and Veg

- Plant second-early and maincrop potatoes
- Place cardboard collars around the stems of brassicas to deter cabbage root fly from laying their eggs
- Pinch out the tips of broad beans if they're covered in aphids, or spray shoots with soap-based solution

Greenhouse

- Prick out seedlings growing in pots and trays as soon as they produce their first true leaves
- Sow sweet peas in deep pots and keep them frost-free in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill
- Start feeding houseplants once a week with liquid fertiliser, continuing through to autumn

In My Garden

British Summer Time Begins

This is a picture posted by Dennis Roberts on Twitter in which he said:

'Wanted yellow ribbons to welcome us back to our lodges as soon as possible, but tulips will have to do.'

Does anyone have any other pictures of their garden we can put in next week's issue?

Perfectly manicured gardens - piles of clippings - exotic weeds

Wildlife In My Garden

Who's watching Who?

This chap visits me when I am looking out of the window of my study on conference calls. He often makes more sense that the people on the call!

We have struck up quite a relationship over the last few weeks.

Anyone got any pictures of wildlife in their gardens they are prepared to share. If so send them in with a few words and we will include in next weeks Issue.

Coffee Break

Another Potential Weekly Feature?

We are hoping this can be a regular feature but will depend on what you contribute. Here is a fun fact and a couple of Sudoku games - answers to be published next week.

Any budding quizmasters that can send anything in - all gratefully received!

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				2			7	
						4	9	8
				1		6	4	
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4					7	5		9
	5	9	2					
		8	1		6			7
	4		8					

This is the 'Easy One'

Sudoku #1 ,
Puzzle No. 4055342
©Sudoku.cool

8					3		9	
		5			1			4
	1	6					2	
5		9			1			8
			7		2	3		
	7							
	9		8					
				3		8	2	
4								9

This is the 'Extreme One'

Sudoku #1 ,
Puzzle No. 4054716
©Sudoku.cool

Answers to be published next week or visit <https://sudoku.cool> if you really cannot wait!

Fun Fact of the Week

Did you know

The planet Venus and Pleiades, also known as the seven sisters, are only in conjunction once every eight years and it happened on Friday 3rd April 2020.

Amazingly there were clear skies so here is a picture.



Fun Fact too

Use of the word 'unprecedented' is at unprecedented levels in the media!

Any contributions or feedback please email the editor

Community Hub

Local Services

Is anyone aware of local suppliers who offer a delivery service or any other community services that may prove useful? If so send them in and we will publish them here for everyone's use.

Local Delivery Services

Forest of Dean

Anyone living in the Royal Forest of Dean? This is a list of local producers who will provide delivery services <https://www.foresthub.co.uk/covid-19-home-delivery-services>

Anyone have something similar for Ross on Wye, Monmouth or surrounding areas we could share next week?

His Master's Voice

Nigel Donovan WM of Vitruvian Lodge



As one of those identified by the NHS as "high risk" and vulnerable to the Covid-19 virus, I am now in isolation, tucked away in the beautiful hamlet (that might be generous) of Three Ashes for at least 12 weeks, with my wife Jane and our elderly, but lively rescue dog Sunny.

Sunny joined the family as a "foster dog" for two weeks about 13 years ago and had been subjected to a very tough life before coming to us. At the time, his age was indeterminate, but he was most definitely an adult dog, probably about two or three years old. He was scared of everyone and anyone and spent most of his time hiding in room corners or the garden. I am glad to say, that all these years later he is the most lovable, affectionate creature you could wish to share your home with, and at the grand age of 15 or 16 is loved by all that meet him. As with all males of a certain age, his life would not be complete without a lady in it - he is very fortunate that his "lady friend" happens to be another rescue dog who lives with W.Bro Jones, Vitruvian Lodge's own Secretary! So, our two dogs holiday together, sometimes with us, sometimes with the Joneses.

Quite how they are coping with self isolation we will never know, but Sunny must think that all of his holidays have come in one, as during this period, he has a lovely walk in the fields every day and has his "people" around 24/7.

So, if there is anything positive to be taken out of our current situation, that makes us very happy, it is the time we get to spend with him, and he with us.

Stay safe everyone, more next time.

Nigel



Friday 9 O'clock Toast

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Don't forget if you want to sign up for 'Zoom' and join in the 9 O'clock toast next Friday then please do.

If anyone would care to join us this week's call will be at 20:45 on Friday.

Topic: Ross Masonic Club Friday get together

Time: 10th April, 2020 08:45 PM London

Details to follow.....

And finally don't forget to keep a cable tow's length from each other!

Any contributions or feedback please email the editor