

Ross Masonic Club



Supporting Local Freemasons

The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 20th April 2020

Issue Number Three

Welcome to the third edition of the Ross Masonic Club Weekly Round-up. 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. This week we focus on the gardens of Monmouthshire sent in by members who live in the neighbouring county and the Diary of a Mason sent in by David Hudson.

A message from V.W. Bro Graham King, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire

I am delighted to offer my sincere congratulations to the team preparing the excellent Craftsmen publication. Both the Provincial Grand Master and I are grateful for the dedication and the effort being put in to producing a bright and informative newsletter.

My first connection with Ross-on-Wye Masonic Hall goes back to 1987 when I became Scribe E of the Filton Chapter of Fortitude and started to exchange correspondence with E Comp Arthur Sollars, the Scribe E of Vitruvian Chapter. The relationship with Arthur and many other Companions and Brethren of Ross-on-Wye has remained very close and rewarding throughout the years.

I am sure you all miss being able to attend meetings as I do and I am sure that we all look forward to getting started once again. For my part I will work hard to maintain contact and support whenever I can.



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 27 members across the Lodges and Chapter. Any members of Lodges or Chapter that meet at Ross Masonic Hall are welcome to join in.



Freemasons producing PPE for care homes

Nearly 5,000 visors have been produced by Freemasons who adapted production lines at their businesses to provide personal protective equipment to care homes.

While the NHS has been prioritised, care homes have struggled to source PPE. A dedicated group will now spearhead a campaign to further increase production.

The United Grand Lodge of England has 18 care homes through its benevolent institution.

Dr David Staples, the lodge CEO, said: "No elderly person – or the staff who care for them – should believe their life is at risk due to the lack of essential equipment."

Face to Face

In a virtual way!

We have continued our 'face to face' meetings via Zoom.

Billy is happy to talk you through using this on an iPad, Phone or Computer if you would like help in setting it up.

A bumper turnout last Friday and a special guest! The PGM [@DGLBMason](#) was a visitor and led the toast at 9 o'clock.

Great to see so many Masons tweeting about the piece in the Daily Telegraph on Monday 13th April.



Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

This Week In My Garden

This week we focus on our members in Monmouthshire.
Thank you to Glyn, Terry and Gordon for the lovely photos.



The Good Life?

Glyn Edmunds has been busy preparing his vegetable patch over the Easter weekend ready for the season ahead.

This year's planting includes:

- Early potatoes, Shallots for pickling, Parsnip, Beetroot, Carrots, Lettuce under cloche
- More later in season

Keep us posted Glyn



Monmouth in Bloom

Terry Garrett sent in the picture on the right of his garden in Monmouth.

There are some amazing displays of colour around this time of year.

Such a shame we cannot see them during lockdown so why not share them here instead?



Spring Time in Abergavenny

Gordon Stewart sent in the panoramic picture below of the spring time blossom from his garden in Abergavenny.

We are all so lucky to live in this part of the country during the current circumstances.

Keep the pictures coming.



Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

Coffee Break

Our Weekly Sudoku Challenges

Here are this week's Easy and Extreme Sudoku and the answers to last weeks



This weeks Sudoku Puzzles

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

This is the 'Easy One'

Sudoku #3, Puzzle No. 4056211
©Sudoku.cool

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

This is the 'Extreme One'

Sudoku #3, Puzzle No. 4054827
©Sudoku.cool

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

The Answers to Last Weeks Sudoku Puzzles

Answers to last weeks 'Easy One'

Sudoku #2, Puzzle No. 4056161
©Sudoku.cool

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

Answers to last weeks 'Extreme One'

Sudoku #2, Puzzle No. 4054754
©Sudoku.cool

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

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Just for fun - Masonic Quiz

Quiz questions provided by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire via John Thornton

1. What are the three most celebrated orders of architecture associated with Freemasonry?
2. What is the furniture of the Lodge?
3. Not who but what is a Lewis?
4. To a speculative Mason what does the common gavel represent?
5. Fred and Charlie have recently appeared on the Masonic scene, who are they?
6. What are the Three Moveable Jewels?
7. What are the Three Immovable Jewels?
8. What does 'Audi, Vide, Tace' as seen on certificates etc, mean?
9. Why do we square the Lodge?
10. What is the difference between the Sign of Fidelity and Sign of Reverence?

Answers to be published next week..... please don't send them in!

This weeks Limerick

Emyr Jones has risen to the challenge from last week's issue and sent in the following two limericks.

***To the Lodge - alas none are going
The older ones are self-isolating
Stay six feet apart!
(You'll still hear them fart)
Many keeping in contact by ZOOM-ing***

***We issue a weekly invitation
To brothers who enjoy competition
No matter your guise
There's no physical prize
Other than getting glowing approbation***

And another from Patrick Eyre

***A Mason came here from Peru
His apron was one of the blue
With the help of his brothers
He went for the others
His purpose in life coming true***

Patrick also provided a fun fact.

Apparently there are 17 lodges in Peru. Maybe one is the Paddington Bear Lodge?

Next week's starter line suggested by Emyr Jones.

Can you continue on to complete a Limerick using this as the first line?

The over 70's are on lock-down.....

Email in your efforts and we will publish them in next week's issue

Diary of a Frustrated Mason

Edited version of an original by Paul A. Robinson. Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity 663

Sent in by David Hudson.

Day 1 No meetings for 4 months! How will I cope? Found a strange woman in the house. Apparently, she's my wife. Seems pleasant enough though. We ate dinner last night, but she didn't do any toasts or fire.

Day 2 The good lady of the house tells me I don't need to say, 'Inquire who wants admission', every time someone knocks on the front door. I have now won the raffle two nights in a row - with only two of us in the place, what are the chances?

Day 3 The dog barked today. I looked up and stated, 'I acknowledge the correctness of your bark, see who seeks admission' Would you believe it, yet another raffle win - this is getting embarrassing

Day 4 I have received a warning letter from Royal Mail. Apparently, blindfolding the postman and putting a noose round his neck is not the done thing! Another raffle prize - despite putting it back, I still won it.

Day 5 At dinner last night, I proposed the visitors toast. Visiting is the life blood of Freemasonry - but in the current climate, 'Not visiting' may actually be the life blood! Is anybody else buying raffle tickets, or is it just me?

Day 6 Tip of the day - normal wine glasses should not be used as firing glasses. As an aside - can anybody give me a lift back from A & E? I won the top prize in the raffle last night - a toilet roll.

Day 7 Things are getting bad. I've talked the dog into completing a Form P. Told him he could eventually become the Worshipful Barkster. The cat was one number out in last nights' raffle

Day 8 The wife is not happy with the new black and white chequered carpet, but that's probably more so because I painted it on the existing carpet... The cat thinks I'm fiddling the raffle

Day 9 I have been reminded by my good lady that Feng Shui does not mean I can rearrange the living room to look like a Masonic Temple. I didn't buy a raffle ticket last night and still won!

Day 10 Some more good advice - a claw hammer does not make a good substitute gavel. Also - is anybody selling a dinner table? I gave the raffle prize away to the wife, but she donated it back for tomorrow's raffle

Day 11 I have invested my two dogs as Senior and Junior Wardens. The four cats are the deacons, Inner Guard and Tyler. Whilst the cats are unimpressed, the dogs think they've now got a chance at the raffle, which I won again last night.

Day 12 Got up to turn the TV off . I squared the room to do it. My granddaughter's geometry set of Square, compasses and a kitchen knife are now on the wall by the front door. The cats took the dogs raffle tickets out last night, and I won again.

Day 13 The wife gave notice of motion that tomorrow she would be proposing a shopping trip. Despite a trawl through the BoC there is nothing to prevent this. Still it's an opportunity to buy more raffle prizes – which, incidentally, I won last night.

His Master's Voice

A message from Andrew Jacobs MEZ of Vitruvian Chapter



His MEZ's Voice

Andrew Jacobs MEZ of Vitruvian Chapter

Brethren/Companions, I greet you all well.

For those of you who don't know me I am currently the MEZ of Vitruvian Chapter 338 and also WM of my Mother Lodge the Sure & Stedfast Lodge of the King's Messenger 9100 meeting at Freemasons Hall in London, SW in the Vale of Castiard 7186 meeting in Lydney and H in my Mother Chapter Cheerybles 2466 also meeting in London. A glutton for ritual!

Firstly I would like to congratulate and thank Andrew Moore and others for all their hard work in creating, producing and contributing to this weekly newsletter. What a brilliant idea!

Like all of you I do miss my Freemasonry and I am looking forward to things returning back to some kind of normality where we can once again all meet up and share a story or two over a beer and/or a glass of wine or two at the Festive Board and raise money for some much needed causes!

Much to my shame I have yet to visit the Craft Lodges meeting at Ross Masonic Hall but I plan on rectifying this when all this madness is behind us!

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Billy Russell for all his hard work organising the Friday Toast to Absent Brethren sessions. I have managed to join in on one to date but plan on joining in on more where possible over the coming weeks.

Personally all I have done since being furloughed is eat, drink, sleep and repeat. Nothing exciting to report, I guess that's the same for many of us furloughed lot? The dog you see in the picture on the other hand is called Reggie, a rescue that my better half and I homed from a rescue centre in Guildford some two years ago. He is an Akita cross with a Staffordshire Bull Terrier and is just over 3 years old.

Now, Reggie had a bit of an adventure just before the lockdown! My partner and I were just finishing off a 6 mile walk with him around the Forest. As there wasn't anyone around we let him off the lead to play ball. We both thought he would be too tired to get up to any mischief but we were both very much mistaken!

To be continued.... when I write my next piece for this wonderful newsletter. If we have more weeks of the same I have to write about something and I don't want to do it all in one go and have nothing to write next time! - Lol

I will end by saying, a big thank you to all the wonderful people who are on the frontline in our hospitals, our care homes etc and to those volunteers in our community and other communities doing all kinds of things to help out. You are all truly wonderful people, thank you.

Until we meet again stay safe and keep well Brethren/Companions.

Andy

(AKA 'AJ' to some)



.....a Tribute to Dennis Footitt

Celebrating the life of one of Ross on Wye's veteran Brethren

Words by Martin Thorne Photos Mike Hopkins

It was with great sadness that the many friends of WBro Dennis Footitt received news of his death on 3 April 2020 in Cheltenham Hospital at the age of 96.

Dennis had been living in Faithful House, Cheltenham for the last ten years or more of his life. The photograph below shows him, his late wife, Joan, and his daughter Linda on the occasion of him being presented with his 70 Year Membership Certificate there by RWBro David Bowen on 4 March 2016.



WBro Footitt, of course, had a long and distinguished career as a Freemason, having been initiated into Vitruvian Lodge as far back as 1946. His active life in the community restricted his involvement in Masonic activities in his early years but he duly rose through the various Lodge Offices to become WM in 1972, subsequently always being active in the Lodge and serving as Assistant Secretary from 1976 to 1984. He was elected a Lodge Trustee in 1994 and became an Honorary Member in 2010.

At the time of his death he was also the second most senior PastProvSGW in the Province and an Honorary Member of the Kyrle Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

He will be sadly missed.



Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

Community Hub

Local Services

A list of local suppliers and services who offer delivery services

Local Delivery Services and Community Hubs

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>

Llangrove-Llangarron-Llancloudy and Three Ashes Community Hub

Local Community Hub able to help with shopping, prescription collections etc

They are on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/Llangrove-Llangarron-Llancloudy-and-Three-Ashes-Community-104075311144231/>

Email address is communityhub22@gmail.com Telephone number is 01989 770916.

They hope to answer all calls between 9am and 5pm but if they are engaged or you call outside of these hours you can leave a message.

Ross on Wye

Hanks Butchers

45 Broad Street

Ross

01989 562216

www.meatandgame.co.uk

info@meatandgame.co.uk

Meat, game, eggs

Pengethley Farm Shop

Pengethley Garden Centre

Peterstow

01989 730430

www.pengethleyfarmshop.com

sale.pfs@btconnect.com

Vegetables, dairy, bakery, meat, deli, general groceries

Thank you to David Hudson, Geraint Bevan and Nigel Donovan for the useful information above.

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

Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor