

# Ross Masonic Club



*Supporting Local Freemasons*

## *The Craftsmen*

Week Commencing 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Issue Number Four

*Welcome* to the fourth 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.

### **A message from R.W. Bro John Gillo, Provincial Grand Master of Mark Master Masons of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire**

Brethren,

I am delighted to have been invited to provide you with a few words. We are in worrying and unbelievable times. We must do all we can to support our brethren, their families and our widows.

I am optimistically looking forward to us resuming our activities from September. I am encouraged that our Orders are working so well together whether it be at Lodge, Provincial or Grand Lodge level. I followed the Twitter live session with the Craft Grand Secretary, one of the questions posed to him was :-

Excluding the Craft and Royal Arch, which of the progressive Orders sticks out to you as a personal favourite?

His answer :- "I like the Mark Lodge because I'm in a really fun Lodge".....

That is the approach which I have tried to inculcate in my five years as Provincial Grand Master, lets hope we can soon get back to being serious with our ritual but ensuring we have fun!!

I pray you and your families will remain safe and look forward to being with you in the new season, I am due to celebrate my fifty years in Freemasonry, and of course my mother Lodge Royal Forest of Dean was established by brethren of Vitruvian Lodge!

John Gillo



Any contributions or feedback please contact 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.



## Face to Face

*In a virtual way!*

We have continued our 'face to face' meetings via Zoom and with a bumper turnout last Friday with 17 attending.

**Twitter** – Our meetings have been suspended due to lockdown 

**Facebook** – I like doing nothing 

**Youtube** – These are amusing things I do during my day 

**Linkedin** – My skills include keeping myself busy 

**Instagram** – Here's a classic photo of me doing nothing 

**Blog** – Here's my doing nothing experience 

**Pinterest** – Here's a recipe I used while doing nothing 

## The Different Types of Social Media Posts Explained!!!!

## Daily Advancement

Has everyone been making use of Solomon during our break in face to face meetings?

It is a great source of research and knowledge and to fuel your hunger for learning and daily advancement.

More details can be found here.

<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>



Any contributions or feedback please contact the Editor

# This Week In My Garden

This week we focus on John Thornton - Scribe E of Vitruvian Chapter

## ALL CHANGE OR NO CHANGE?

I have been mulling over the last few weeks and have found that, to my mind, the results are mixed.

For many years I have kept a gardening diary in which I note when plants flower or start to shoot and yet again Mother Nature has kept to her usual time table. All is normal, no change there. Talking of gardens, there is a change there as I have never had such a well ordered garden before. Everything cut pruned and planted as never before. I cannot compete with tulips which are already past their best. However one of the Rhododendrons is looking splendid as is a Camellia as you can see from the photographs.



Something else that has not changed is my weight. Yes I am still the fuller figured mason which you all know! My wife has blamed my weight on the two or three Masonic meals I usually have a week, but my weight has not altered during this period of shorter rations! I have told her for years that I am at my weight, but she does not agree.

We have a West Highland Terrier called Eric and the changes have exhausted him. He is used to us going out and leaving him at home for a couple of hours every day when he can have a good sleep. Now, however, with us both being in all the time he does not have the opportunity as Carole keeps disturbing him; so instead of playing during the evening he just flakes out. He is however enjoying a walk with me in the woods every morning and a further one in the afternoon with my wife. We are lucky that the Forest of Dean is only a few minutes away. I enclose a photo of him in Newent Daffodil woods just before the lock-down.



Another downside is the television. I did not realise what unmitigated drivel my wife was watching when I was out and she is not necessarily enjoying my control of the remote. I have decided to make sure that she is not hugely upset on my return to Masonry by taking control.

I have a guilty secret. Yes I am starting to enjoy our weekly shopping trips. There is something convivial in chatting with other people in the queue. I take a very dim view of those who spend the whole time with their phones clamped to their ears moaning about their fate. However when we were in one queues

a couple of weeks ago we were pulled out of our place and sent to the front because we looked old. I was a tad upset because I felt that I am reasonably well preserved for 65 year old. Needless to say my wife was furious as she is much younger. I can now also recount that I have been chucked out of a supermarket, and this is a person who has not even been chucked out of a pub! The reason is not foul abuse for the lack of flour, but because they were only allowing one individual per family.

One final change is sartorial. Over the last weeks my dress code has slipped, scruffiness reigns. No more the suit and tie, just tatty old clothes. When did any of us last wear a tie? No more the daily shave; every couple of days will do. I notice that MEGS has even grown a beard. A step too far for me.



Any contributions or feedback please contact 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

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

This is the 'Easy One'

Sudoku #4 , Puzzle No. 4056793  
©Sudoku.cool

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

This is the 'Extreme One'

Sudoku #4, Puzzle No. 4055084  
©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 #3, Puzzle No. 4056211  
©Sudoku.cool

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

Answers to last weeks 'Extreme One'

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

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

Any contributions or feedback please contact the Editor



**1. What are the three most celebrated orders of architecture associated with Freemasonry?**

A. Ionic, Doric and Corinthian.

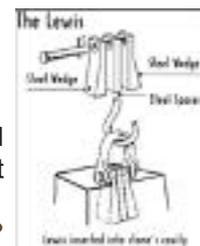
An easy way to remember their positions is; they are alphabetically placed clockwise, starting at the JW, Corinthian, Doric, Ionic, AND returning from the WM anticlockwise, denoting Wisdom, Strength and Beauty.

**2. What is the furniture of the Lodge?**

The Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square and the Compasses, also known as the 'Three Great though Emblematical Lights'

**3. Not who but what is a Lewis?**

A cramp [clamp] of metal, by which, when fixed into a stone, great and ponderous weights are raised to certain height and fixed upon their proper bases, without which, Operative Masons could not so conveniently do.



**4. To a speculative Mason what does the common gavel represent?**

The common gavel represents the force of conscience, which should keep down all vain and unbecoming thoughts which might obtrude during any of the aforementioned periods, so that our words and actions may ascend unpolluted to the Throne of Grace

**5. Fred and Charlie have recently appeared on the Masonic scene, who are they?**

Fred and Charlie have recently appeared on Solomon and may be found in the module Lodge Matters. One is a Past Master who doesn't know it all but knows where to find it and, enter stage right, an enthusiastic younger Mason who has an enquiring mind and a thirst for knowledge. It provides a thought provoking insight to Masonry. You may well recognise the traits of people you know!

**6. What are the Three Moveable Jewels?**

These are transferred to the new Master and Wardens at Installation

- The Square denotes The Great Architect and symbolises morality
- The Level represents equality
- The Plumb rule represents justness and uprightness in life and actions

**7. What are the Three Immovable Jewels?**

These are placed in a set position within the Lodge Room

- Tracing Board – for the Master to draw lines and plan designs upon
- Rough Ashlar – a block of rough stone for Enter Apprentices to work, mark and indent upon
- Perfect Ashlar – a perfect cube of polished stone for Craftsman to try and adjust their working tools on

**8. What does 'Audi, Vide, Tace' as seen on certificates etc, mean?**

These words are the motto of the Craft, and translate as, Listen, Observe, Be Silent. As seen on your G L Certificate.

**9. Why do we square the Lodge?**

Evidence shows that in early Speculative Freemasonry it was the custom to draw designs on the floor of the meeting room; the forerunner to Tracing Cloths and Tracing Boards. To ensure the chalked tracings on the floor were not spoilt, it was necessary to walk around them. This is yet another legacy, of early masons which now survives as 'squaring' today. (Note however, that Squaring is not done in all Lodges.)

**10. What is the difference between the Sign of Fidelity and Sign of Reverence?**

The sign of Fidelity is given by placing the right hand across the chest with the thumb raised in the form of a square. This is a recognised Masonic sign used as a mode of recognition and a mark of respect. Gradually in the 19th century it would seem that the sign was used as a general posture for prayers and during the obligation, but that it was modified by the loss of a digit (the thumb being kept parallel with the fingers during prayers). Whilst there are detailed instructions for the posture of candidates during obligations, there are no similar instructions for the Brethren in many workings. Interestingly, in Emulation Ritual, the Brethren are instructed to stand to order with the sign of Reverence during prayers.

It will be recalled that Freemasonry is a progressive science and the answers given above may not be what you expected. All our rituals bear the same message however there are many variations. It is therefore not surprising that variations in answers may exist – it is after all what keeps it interesting and promotes further discussions.

## Poet's Corner

**Limericks and Poetry to keep us sane during the current situation.**

Keep 'em coming but keep 'em clean!



**You will recall last weeks starter line suggested by Emyr Jones.**

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

Only one contender from Emyr himself!

The over 70's are on lock-down  
Staying home, streets deserted down-town  
They're saving their money  
But life's not so funny  
Sitting out in the sun getting brown

**And another from Patrick Eyre**

A mason flew in from Bahrain  
His passion in life was to gain  
A place on the square  
That would lead to the chair  
And a photo his mother could frame



**Patrick also provided a fun fact.**

Apparently there are also many lodges in Bahrain!

**🍌 A new poem by Pam Ayres - Brilliant! as always! Sent in by Arthur Stonadge 🍌**

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.  
You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.  
They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.  
We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!  
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.  
Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?  
We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full

But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!  
So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!  
It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no flaming flour!  
Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.  
At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!  
So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.  
We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

Masonic labour is purely a labour of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold or silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another, sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness and these are the wages of a mason.

**Bro Benjamin Franklin Grand Master of Pennsylvania 1790**

Any contributions or feedback please contact the Editor

# Laughter is the best medicine!

As it feels like the 97th March for some of us in lock-down - something to hopefully make you chuckle. 'Lifted' from the Shiremoor Bugle sent in by David Hudson.

## The Old Black Shoes

The old black shoes are looking glum As I pass the lobby door,  
"What's wrong with you?" they seem to say, "We're going out no more.  
We've taken not a single step, Not third or even first,  
And ne'er a sign we've seen you give, Has Masonry been cursed?"  
"It has", I said, "by virus vile, We have to stay at home  
Until such time the plague has passed, Then once more we can roam.  
The Masons' Halls are empty, Regalia put away,  
Gavels now stay silent, DCs hold no sway.  
Volumes of the Sacred Law On pedestals redundant,  
Now Brother Jim contacts his friends By social posts abundant.  
No handshake, word or secret sign, No friendly Festive Board  
No Tyler's song to say Goodnight, No organ's well-loved chord.  
"Black shoes," I said, "do not despair, Our Chain is firm and strong  
Our flag of love remains unfurled We'll sing again our song.  
And though our Brethren may have passed To Grander Lodge Above,  
We'll look upon their memories With everlasting Love;  
And in their name, we'll offer help And soothe the burdened heart;  
We'll comfort those who are distressed, Thus Masons play their part.  
And when this crisis is resolved We'll sing the old refrain,

Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part, Happy to meet again."

---

I'll tell you a tale, that's been recently written,  
Of a powerful army, so Great it saved Britain,  
They didn't have bombs and they didn't have planes,  
They fought with their hearts and they fought with their brains,  
They didn't have bullets, armed just with a mask,  
We sent them to war, with one simple task,  
To show us the way, to lead and inspire us,  
To protect us from harm and fight off the virus,  
It couldn't be stopped by our bullet proof vests,  
An invisible enemy, invaded our chests,  
So we called on our weapon, our soldiers in Blue,  
"All Doctors, All Nurses, Your Country needs you"  
We clapped on our streets, hearts bursting with pride,  
As they went off to war, while we stayed inside,  
They struggled at first, as they searched for supplies,  
But they stared down the virus, in the whites of its eyes,  
They leaped from the trenches and didn't think twice,  
Some never came back, the ultimate price,  
So tired, so weary, yet still they fought on,  
As the virus was beaten and the battle was won,  
The many of us, owe so much, to so few,  
The brave and the bold, our heroes in Blue,  
So let's line the streets and remember our debt  
We love you, our heroes,  
Lest we forget

Anyone want to buy 100 Scotch Eggs and 150 bite size sausage rolls? ....

I misread the headlines and thought everyone was picnic buying.

A lorry load of marmite has crashed on the A40 this morning ....

Police have said to avoid the yeast-bound carriageway.

My mate just said he's run out of toilet paper and is having to use lettuce leaves ...

Today was the tip of the iceberg

'Enter new password' - 'chicken' -  
'Password must contain a capital' - 'chickenkiev.'

What did the pirate say on his 80th birthday? ..... Aye matey.

I never wanted to believe that my mate was stealing from his job as a road worker ...

But when I went to see him all the signs were there.

In order to cheer my wife up ... and earn some brownie points  
.... I bought a large scale map of the World and pinned it up in the kitchen.

She asked me what I was doing, so I explained, .....

"Take this dart and throw it at the map" .....

"Why" she said ....

"Well," said I, "After the pandemic is over, we'll go for a fortnights holiday wherever it lands "

Apparently after the restrictions are lifted, we're going to spend two weeks behind the fridge.

# His Master's Voice

*A message from a pensive Nigel Donovan WM of Vitruvian Lodge*



## His Master's Voice

*Nigel Donovan WM of Vitruvian Lodge*

Brethren/Companions, I greet you all well.

So many of us have been affected in so many ways during what is still really quite a short period of isolation, and I think we all share an underlying wonder of how things will be when we are eventually liberated.

How will things have changed, will the pace of life have slowed, will the push and shove to always be at the front of the queue diminish, will we all suddenly care about each other even more, which as Masons we have all sworn an obligation to do?

One thing cannot change and unfortunately is a direct result of our isolation and that is the opportunity to have properly said goodbye to those we have lost during this tragic time.

Sadly, my wife's sister's father in law passed away in Hereford County Hospital around three weeks ago, just after lock-down. This meant that none of the family were able to visit or be with him at the time of his passing. He was not a victim of Covid 19, but the family were; denied the opportunity to see him or be there for him, through no fault of their own.

They are a farming family, so everyone lives together on and around the farm, and therefore see each other every day, for the length of their lives. They live together, work together and suffer together and are well known in the local community for their lifelong contributions to all around them.

Being a dairy farm, life goes on, every day of the year, come rain or shine. Eventually, that awful reality of a funeral comes along, at which you may only have a maximum of 10 mourners present – which in this case is the immediate family who all live on the farm.

On the day of his funeral, he was delivered to the farm wearing a beautiful wooden suit. His final wish was that his son should transport him to the local Church for burial, on what had become his daily transport - it's the way he wanted to go, although I am sure the thought of a frugal farmer had some influence.

So it was, that last Friday, Bill was laid to rest at Bacton Church, with none present but the closest family. No one else was permitted, he will have gone from us all, completely under the radar, with no great ceremony or celebration of his life.

This is the direct legacy of Covid-19, so very sad, but thankfully, I was able to raise a glass to him last Friday with a toast proposed by our Provincial Grand Master and in my own quiet and private way, it could not have been more fitting.

The image above is the start of his journey to the Church, and even the farm cat was in attendance – a lasting memory of our self-isolation.



## ***And Finally***

*I saw this on the Metropolitan Grand Lodge Facebook Page and could not resist 'lifting' it for the Newsletter. Uncredited on the Facebook Page, whoever it was we salute you!*

Brethren, as you have passed through the month of your lock-down, let me congratulate you on being a sensible member of our ancient and honourable institution. Ancient no doubt it is, as having subsisted from time when we used to meet, and honourable it must be acknowledged to be, as by a natural tendency it conduces to make safe those who are obedient to its guideline. Indeed, no institution can boast a more solid foundation than that on which Freemasonry rests - the practice of every safe and social distancing. And to so high an eminence has its credit been advanced that every day Grand Officers themselves, have not thought it derogatory to their dignity to exchange the black shoe for the carpet slipper, have supported our situation and not joined in our assemblies.

As a Freemason, let me recommend to your most serious contemplation the Volume of Government Guidance, charging you to consider it as the unerring standard of truth and safety, to regulate your actions by the information it contains. Therein you will be taught the important duties you owe to your wife, to your neighbour, and to yourself. To your wife, by never mentioning her choice of evening television remembering that before corona virus that was her company for at least three nights a week, and by looking up to Her in this emergency for comfort and support. To your neighbour, keeping your distance and not returning his gardening tools you borrowed two months ago in case you may be passing on the virus, by helping him without detriment to your own health, and by doing to him as in similar cases you would wish he would do to you. And to yourself, by such a course of discipline as may best conduce to the preservation of your safety and sanity thereby enabling you to once again at some time be of service to the Brethren and Freemasonry. As a member of the Province, I am to enjoin you to be exemplary in the discharge of your safety duties, by never exiting your house without due cause or by any act that may have a tendency to risk the health of a Brother, by paying due obedience to the guidance of any authority which has for a time become the place of your residence or afford you its protection, and above all, by never losing sight of the allegiance due to the Grand Lodge of your native land, ever remembering that its daily updates shows their indissoluble attachment towards you since your initiation.

As an individual, let me recommend the practice of every domestic' as well as public safety: let Prudence direct you, Temperance sustain you, Brethren support you, and common sense be the guide of all your actions. Be especially careful to maintain your health in its fullest splendour, which you have already amply illustrated by sobriety and temperance.

Still, as a Freemason, there are other excellences of character to which your attention may be peculiarly and forcibly directed: the foremost of these is safety. Safety consists in an inviolable adherence to the guidance you have received never improperly to expose yourself to any of those risks which have now been, or may at any future period be, entrusted to you to keep, and cautiously to avoid all occasions which may inadvertently lead you so to do. Your understanding must be exemplified by a strict observance of the Guidance of UGLE, by adhering to the directions of the document, by never attempting to evade or otherwise evading the issues raised, and by refraining from recommending anyone to a disregard of them. Your compliance must be proved by a strict observance of our directions, by prompt attention to all coughs and temperatures, by modest and correct demeanour in the virtual lodge, by abstaining from every topic of negativity.

And as a last general recommendation, let me exhort you to dedicate yourself to such measures as may at once enable you to survive, so as to be useful to mankind, and not just an ornament to the human race; to study more especially those television short information films as may be shown before your favourite soap opera, and without neglecting the ordinary duties around the house, to endeavour to make a daily advancement towards that glorious day when we all meet again.

From the very commendable attention you appear to have given to this charge, I am led to hope you will duly appreciate the value of safety, and indelibly imprint on your heart the sacred dictates of patience, of sensibility, and of survival.

# 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](mailto: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

Panic buying is ridiculous. I've just paid £15 for Oxo cubes ....  
The stock market's gone crazy.

#### Hanks Butchers

45 Broad Street

Ross

01989 562216

[www.meatandgame.co.uk](http://www.meatandgame.co.uk)

[info@meatandgame.co.uk](mailto:info@meatandgame.co.uk)

Meat, game, eggs

#### Pengethley Farm Shop

Pengethley Garden Centre

Peterstow

01989 730430

[www.pengethleyfarmshop.com](http://www.pengethleyfarmshop.com)

[sale.pfs@btconnect.com](mailto: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?**

I said to the greengrocer, "Can I have six onions?"  
He replied, "I've only got five onions and that shallot."

Any contributions or feedback please contact the Editor