

Ross Masonic Club



Supporting Local Freemasons

The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 4th May 2020

Issue Number Five

Welcome to the fifth 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.

In many ways there have been lots of positives that have originated from the last few weeks of being locked down. To a certain extent we have brought the Ross on Wye Chapter and Lodges closer together by acting as one unit to keep in touch. For those of us that join in the Zoom meetings we have probably found out more about each other, as the focus of discussion turns to our day to day lives and how we are coping in the current climate.

As we approach the 75th Anniversary of VE Day our thoughts move back to a fight with a more obvious historical enemy. I am the first generation of my family in 100 years to not have served in the armed forces during a time of conflict and yet we all have our battles to fight. The current one may be with an enemy we cannot see, whether it be a virus or the consequences of lock-down, but the physical and mental outcome can be just as severe.

Something that has provided a common thread throughout our battles, is the ability to pull together, adapt and change. As an example, look at the help many Lodges have offered the NHS and front line helpers. The amount of positive news coverage around Freemasonry and our increased presence on social media, twitter posts, facebook groups and virtual get togethers. It should give us hope that our wonderful institution can survive another 300 years while continuing with the traditions we all know and love.

I know the virtual world is not the only answer and is not for everyone, but the way it has brought us together, should give us hope for our future as a 300 year old institution with a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.

Keep safe Brethren and keep in contact.



Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

Social and Online Media Roundup



Facebook

We have set up a Facebook Group for Ross Masonic Club. We currently have 28 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!

Billy Russell has continued his hard work in organising a regular face to face (virtually) get together using the 'Zoom' App for video conferencing. Eleven of us met again last Friday to Toast Absent Brethren and we were joined by Malcolm Davies the Craft Provincial Almoner

Herefordshire Freemasons said there will be a focus on those who are socially isolated, as an estimated 10 per cent of Herefordshire's 45,000 residents over the age of 65 are veterans.

Ashley Winter, the local welfare officer for DMWS, is currently dealing with 49 cases in Herefordshire and say he ensures they are able live as normal a life as possible.

The grant from Herefordshire Freemasons comes through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by Freemasons, their families and friends, from across England and Wales.

Paul Gaffney, DMWS chief executive said: "We're very grateful to Herefordshire Freemasons for their generous grant. Thanks to them we'll be able to help more military veterans and the over-65s facing social isolation issues, to live independently in their own homes.

"Providing community connections for those in need gives a tremendous lift to their lives. Our vital service reduces unnecessary 'bed blocking' in hospitals, removing stress to the person and eases direct pressure on the NHS."

Michael Holland from Herefordshire Freemason, said: "I'm very pleased we've been able to help the DMWS, who do outstanding work backing our veterans. Far too many of them are stuck in hospital because they don't have proper support to safely return to their own homes or are lonely and isolated.

By helping to fund Ashley Winter as a local welfare officer, the quality of life of many of our veterans and their families will be greatly improved."

Words and Pictures from the Hereford Times [Original Article here on the Hereford Times Website](#)



Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

This Week In My Garden

Things to do in the garden during May

Reprinted from the Gardeners World website <https://www.gardenersworld.com/what-to-do-now-may/>

Flowers

- Prune spring shrubs, such as forsythia and chaenomeles, after flowering to keep them compact
- Plant out dahlia tubers and cannas after all risk of frost has passed
- Tie in the new shoots of climbing plants, including clematis, wisteria and honeysuckle, to their supports

Fruit and Veg

- Earth up potatoes, covering the shoots with soil as they appear
- Sow sweetcorn in deep pots, so the young plants are ready to transplant into the garden in June
- Reduce snail populations by going on regular evening hunts, especially during damp weather

Greenhouse

- Water thirsty crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers and courgettes regularly as the weather starts to warm up
- Tie the stems of indoor tomatoes, cucumbers and aubergines to canes as they grow
- Plant heat-treated freesia corms in pots for fragrant flowers this summer



In My Garden

British Summer Time Begins

Pictures from Gordon Stewart showing the sun still shines in Wales.

Especially over his garden in Abergavenny.



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

This is the 'Easy One'

Sudoku #5 , Puzzle No. 4056870
©Sudoku.cool

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

This is the 'Extreme One'

Sudoku #5 , Puzzle No. 4055395
©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 #4 , Puzzle No. 4056793
©Sudoku.cool

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

Answers to last weeks 'Extreme One'

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

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

Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor



**You will recall two weeks ago the starter line suggested by Emyr Jones.
The over 70's are on lock-down.....**

Patrick Eyre has made another contribution this week

<i>The over 70s are on lock-down</i>	<i>You cannot allow this of course</i>
<i>With nothing to do but to sit down</i>	<i>Feeding yourself like a horse</i>
<i>In front of the telly</i>	<i>So get on your bike</i>
<i>Feeding the belly</i>	<i>Or go for a hike</i>
<i>And exercise going to melt down</i>	<i>With mind over matter - the force!</i>



Arthur's words of wisdom

Sent in by Arthur Stonadge

It feels like I am 16 again, petrol is cheap and i'm grounded

A drop in petrol prices during the lockdown is like a bald man winning a hairbrush in the Lodge Raffle.

All those Grandparents who are missing the Grandchildren right now. Once this is over you can have them for a month, Sincerely all tired parents.

I overslept this morning and was late getting to the living room.

Is anyone else's car getting 3 weeks to the gallon?

Do you remember when we were young and had underwear with the days of the week on? How useful would that be right now?

Worst investment in 2019 – A 2020 year planner!

Home schooling update – my kids hope they don't have the same teacher next year.

Returned from the local shop with my husband. Took off our masks, turns out it was the wrong husband!. Please be careful and attentive!

'Old Age'

Sent in by Peter Wiles

There is nothing the matter with me
I am as healthy as healthy can be
I have arthritis in both knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze
My pulse is weak, my blood is thin –
But I'm awfully well for the state I am in.
Arch supports I wear on my feet –
Or I would not be able to walk down the street
Sleep is denied me night after night
But every morning, I find I'm all right
My memory is failing – my heart is in a spin
But I'm awfully well for the state that I am in.
The moral is this, as my tale I unfold
That for you and me who are growing old,
It is better to say "I'm fine" with a grin
Than to let folk know the state you are in.
Old age is golden, I've heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder when I get in bed.
My ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.
When sleep overtakes me I say to myself
Is there anything else I can put on the shelf.
When I was young my slippers were red
I could kick my heels right over my head:
As I grew older my slippers were blue,
And still I could dance the whole night through.
Now that I'm old my slippers are black
I walk to the shops and puff myself back
I get up every morning, dust up my wits
Then pick up the paper and read the "Obits"
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not dead
So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed.

Focus on the Caeruleum Club

Hello from the Caeruleum Club Chairman

Brother Tommy Santillo from Arrow Lodge No 2240



Thank you for inviting me to scribble a sentence or two for The Craftsmen. I am the inaugural Chairman for the Caeruleum Club - a club focused on engaging, exploring and encouraging the Light Blue masons within the Province.

Although the Covid-19 outbreak has put the brakes on our social calendar, the momentum within the club couldn't be stronger.

The club has recently made its first donation: a sum of £333.34 to Hereford and Worcester Animal Rescue who have been severely affected by the UK lock down, their founder, Carol Smith had these kind words to say:

"Thank you all so much, we are very very grateful for your support it means a lot. The dogs are all safe and well thanks to people like you giving us the means to carry on, again our grateful thanks to you and your fellow members" <https://www.hwanimalrescue.org>

It is actions like this, and responses like these, that serve as a constant reminder as to why I'm sure we all feel so strongly about Freemasonry and the good that we can collectively do.

The Caeruleum Club intends to make two further donations, details of which are being firmed up, to bring our total to a hair over £1,000 - an incredible milestone in our launch year.



As Chairman, I am incredibly lucky to be supported by a fantastic team, everyone involved with the club has been amazing and we've really come together throughout the formation and launch of this club as a truly cohesive team.

The Club is running a social get together every Thursday at 8:45pm via the Zoom App - everyone in the Province is welcome to join us for a chin-wag and light hearted banter. If you're interested, please contact Brother Billy Russell who is organising these meet-ups each week for an invite. Similarly,

if any brother is currently wearing a light blue apron and would like to know more about the Caeruleum Club please head over to our website www.Caeruleum.Club

I look forward to getting back to normality and seeing as many of you as possible in person, but in the meantime if any brother has any difficulty or distress that a younger brother may be able to help with, please get in touch with either myself or the club secretary - Brother Joseph Dignam.

Stay safe, take care and see you all soon.

Brother Tommy Santillo

Caeruleum (latin for Light Blue) is especially for those members of Herefordshire Lodges who have yet to achieve Provincial rank, with the aim to 'socialise, learn, and represent the views of the future generations of Freemasons.'

Laughter is the best medicine!

As it feels like the 107th March for some of us in lock-down - so here is something to hopefully make you chuckle. Sent in by David Hudson.

THE QUESTIONS ON BEING APPOINTED STEWARD.

Q. How were you first prepared to be made a Steward?

A. My coat sleeves and shirt sleeves were rolled up and a corkscrew thrust into my hand.

Q. What is a corkscrew?

A. An Implement fashioned like a winding staircase which our Ancient Brethren ascended to receive their beer

Q. What is "Beer"?

A. A peculiar product of alchemy, veiled in mystery, and illustrated by labels.

Q. How is it usually depicted in our Assemblies?

A. By a couple of hops near to a barrel of water.

Q. Where did our Ancient Brethren go to receive their beer?

A. To a convivial room adjacent to the Lodge.

Q. How did they receive it?

A. In tankards and half tankards.

Q. Why in this peculiar manner?

A. In half tankards - well knowing that the same could easily be replenished; and in tankards - from the great reliance that they placed on the mildness of the brew in those days.

Q. What were the names of the two embellishments which decorated the doorway or entrance to this convivial room?

A. That on the left was called "Bass", and that on the right "Guinness".

Q. What are their separate and conjoint significations?

A. The former denotes "Strength", the latter "Sustenance" and when conjoined in a haphazard manner "Instability". But when consumed without untoward excess they assist in promoting the spirit of friendship and harmony which should at all times characterise assemblies of Freemasons

Fact de Jour

Covid-19 could be considered toxic to humanity. The word derives from the Ancient Greek word "Toxon" meaning "arrow". It was customary then for arrows to be poison-tipped, so the two were so associated in the Greek mind, that their word for poison, "toxicon", was derived from their word for arrow. That part of the arrow which did the damage, the arrow-head was therefore "toxic".

I wonder how many toxicologists know of their connection to toxophilists (archers)!

" He who does not know his history, is destined to re-live it for himself " - General Eisenhower!

His Master's Voice

A message from a pensive Tim Fycun WM of Ariconium Lodge



His Master's Voice

Tim Fycun WM of Ariconium Lodge

Brethren/Companions, I greet you all well.

Good afternoon from a very wet and dismal Stalag Luft 3. The camp has been in good spirits and the escape committee is in good fettle. We have given up with the tunnels, well the dirt was playing havoc with the knees! So we have now decided to build an escape plane in the attic, the only problem is that building paper aeroplanes at the festive board from ones summons is one thing, one to carry an escape team is another, but we will persevere!

The camp commandant has allowed some exercise and this has given me a chance to try on my escape outfit (see pic), I am certain to blend in with the locals once I have escaped, or at least stand a good chance as the next Man from Del Monte!!

On a more serious note for a second, and I know what you're thinking Timmy being serious, well occasionally it does happen. Stay safe, keep well and I shall look forward to seeing you all very soon and I look forward to another Zoom meeting soon.

S&F

Tim



The Case of Mistaken Identity!! *By Nigel Donovan*

There was a young fellow called Bob
Who thought Masonry could be just the job
So he sat down to tea
With a committee of three
And they thankfully gave him the nod.

A colleague of Bob's, name of Joe,
Thought he might also give it a go
But he sat down to tea
With a different three
And was troubled when they said no!

That evening Bob and Joe met up
At the pub where they'd gone for a sup
It was only when Bert
Noticed Joe wore a skirt
That they realised what might be up!

They decided that Bert should try out
And see if skirt prejudice carried the clout
So he wore a smock
Which they mistook for a frock
And proved that the issue, no doubt

So Joe and Bert tried again
And this time we're suited, the same
The Committee this time
Thought their clothing was fine
As neither resembled a dame!

The moral of this tale I will tell ya,
A mason must be a fella
So to gather that prize
You must pleasure the eyes
Of Masonic committee as a Joe or a Bert, not a Bella!

And Finally

I felt the need to put pen to paper so here are my 'Working Tools of a Locked Down Mason'.



Through the medium of this Newsletter - I now present to you the working tools of a locked down Mason.

They are the 24-hour Virtual world, the Common Walking Shoes and the Fridge.

The 24-hour virtual world is used to communicate with our friends or brethren in times of distress, without detriment to yourself or contacts in MS Outlook.

The walking shoes are used to keep at bay all superfluous body fat and excrescences.



And the fridge is used to store our food which once it is further prepared will render it fit for the mouths of the more expert workmen.

But as we are not currently 'operative masons' for the foreseeable future, but rather distancing or isolated, we apply these tools to our lock-down existence.



In this sense the 24-hour virtual world reminds us that we are not alone and can contact our friends, family and brethren at any point during any 24-hour period; to spread joy, companionship or a listening ear. Therefore, it is up to us to change the virtual world into an operative one.

The common walking shoes teach us that they should be used to keep us in the due bounds of our belts during the aforementioned period even if it is just to walk around the garden on a regular basis.

The fridge points out the benefits of sensible eating by which means alone we can survive the current situation at a weight which was normal during any of the preceding Masonic season.

Thus, the working tools of a locked-down mason teach us to maintain contact, keep active and eat sensibly by which means alone we can look forward to a safe return to our native Lodges should we so desire.



I have recently found out that my three favourite hobbies are:

- Eating at restaurants
- Going to non-essential businesses
- Touching my face

Using 'The Force'
Quarantine day 55 – today I melted an ice cube with my mind just from staring at it.

It took a lot longer than I expected!



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?