

# Ross Masonic Club



*Supporting Local Freemasons*

## *The Craftsmen*

Week Commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Issue Number Six

*Welcome* to the sixth 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.

As we eagerly await the impact of small changes to some of the lockdown restrictions, our thoughts turn to how we may be able to start the process of getting back to normality, whatever normality looks like after this is over.

Let's hope some of the positives stay with us, the sense of community, helping each other and looking out for our fellow man. All good Masonic principles by which to live our everyday lives.

We ponder over the missed Lodge and Chapter meetings, the missed Provincial meetings as our thoughts go out to those Brethren and Companions who were due to be invested in new active offices or receive Past Ranks.

I wonder, when we are able to meet again, how many will actually attend meetings to start with? Will our numbers be down for the rest of the year as Brethren understandably are reluctant to join in meetings, or will we need to find a way of social distancing during our ceremonies. All interesting challenges to solve and no doubt there will be guidance in the direction we should take.

Personally I doubt that we will simply return to our old ways come September and we will no doubt have to embrace change as we ease ourselves back into something approaching normality. But I am sure whatever the new normality looks like, we will pull together and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness.

**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.

### ← Tweet

PGM for Herefordshire, MEGS, Glos & Herefords and Caeruleum Club liked



**Billy Russell**  
@CarpetCareMan

[#TimeToToast](#), great Zoom meeting with the Ross Masonic Club tonight celebrating [#VEDay](#)  
[@UGLE\\_GrandLodge](#) [@hfdslightblues](#) [@PGLHerefords](#)



9:29 PM · May 8, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

5 Likes



## 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. Thirteen of us met again last Friday to Toast Absent Brethren and celebrate VE75.

# This Week In My Garden

This week we revisit Glyn Edmunds in his vegetable patch and something yellow from Aeron Lewis

Thank you to Glyn and Aeron for the lovely photos.



## The Good Life?

You may recall in the 20<sup>th</sup> April edition we featured Glyn Edmunds and his vegetable patch. Well things are coming on nicely.

According to Glyn:

We should be picking broad beans in 2/3 weeks. I plant them in the autumn.

Potatoes have been mounded up several times.

Lettuce ready in a few weeks.

Carrots, beetroot, spring onions up but I think parsnip seeds have gone to Australia!



And some Sweet Williams ready for picking shortly for the house.



And this one from Aeron Lewis of his lovely azalea in bloom.



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

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

This is the 'Easy One'

Sudoku #6 , Puzzle No. 4057076  
©Sudoku.cool

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

This is the 'Extreme One'

Sudoku #6 , Puzzle No. 4055512  
©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 #5, Puzzle No. 4056870  
©Sudoku.cool

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

Answers to last weeks 'Extreme One'

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

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

Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor



## Limerick Corner

**Patrick Eyre has made another contribution this week**

*A mason flew in from Bahrain  
With others he knew on the plane  
They all made it clear  
It was not for the beer  
But a hope they could start a new train*

*With a visit to UGLE so grand  
And the Savoy Hotel in the Strand  
But their prices won't strain  
The boys from Bahrain  
As their memories drift in the sand*

**And one from Emyr Jones**

*A toast to members of Vitruvian,  
Not forgetting our brothers in Ariconium  
Also, to Mark Masters  
And Chapter Members  
God bless all who are in self isolation*

**Chris Calvert is ready for VE75**



## Arthur's words of wisdom

**With apologies to Wordsworth! - Source Unknown**

*I wandered lonely as a cloud  
Two metres from the madding crowd  
When all at once my name was called  
To enter Waitrose hallowed hall.*

*This was the pensioners' special hour.  
I'd gone to get a bag of flour.  
But I forgot, when through the door,  
What I had gone to Waitrose for.*

*The Waitrose staff are extra kind.  
I told them it had slipped my mind.  
They asked what else I had forgot  
They clearly thought I'd lost the plot.*

*I phoned my wife again to ask.  
She reminded me of this special task:  
"I need some flour to bake a cake  
with all that cream you made me take."*

*"Ah yes I recall" I had to lie.  
I dared not ask what flower to buy  
But then I saw them next the tills  
a bunch of golden daffodils!*



**T@3 for Aeron and Vera Lewis and Neighbours suitably Social Distancing**



# Forget - Me - Not

An extract from Solomon prompted by a magazine cutting from the *Shooting Times* sent in by Nick Swan

## Expert tips and advice

### Native Britain

Plants, flowers and fungi of Great Britain at a glance

**Latin name:** *Myosotis sylvatica*  
**Common name:** Forget-me-not  
**Other names:** Robin's eye, snake-grass, love-me



#### How to spot it and where to

**find it:** Most people will have seen a bright blaze of blue in ancient and wet woodlands, hedgerows, roadside verges and gardens. Without those clusters of five-sided blooms, however, the forget-me-not is unprepossessing, with narrow leaves and hairy stems. It likes moist but well-drained soil in sun or in shade.

**Interesting facts:** In the language of flowers, the forget-me-not stands for friendship, loving remembrance and fidelity, and it was worn by lovers to ensure they would not forget each other while they were apart. Henry IV adopted the forget-me-not — and its French name, *souvenez-vous de moi* — as his emblem and motto in 1398. In Canada, the flower is worn on 1 July to remember those who died in World War I. When freemasonry was banned in Nazi Germany, it was said that the little blue flower appeared on discreet lapel pins so the brethren could recognise each other. After World War II, lapel pins exploded in popularity, becoming widely used to remember the sacrifice of masons during the war. It was a symbol that masonry was not dead but had merely gone dormant to weather the long winter. Much like the forget-me-not itself. **NJS**

Many masons wear a lapel pin showing the image of a forget-me-not. Here is the story behind it, which is set in pre-war Germany.

After the Nazis came to power, Freemasons became 'enemies of the state' and, like many others, were persecuted. In 1934, Wilhelm Frick, the Reich Minister of the Interior, declared: 'Freemason's Lodges should disappear in Germany...and if this is not realised in Masonic circles, I will soon help them in this direction'.



That same year, the 'German Grand Lodge of the Sun', perhaps seeing the writing on the wall, replaced their traditional lapel pin of the Square and Compasses with one with a blue forget-me-not flower. It had first been adopted as Masonic symbol in 1926, mainly because its colour resembled the pale blue found in Masonic regalia.

Coincidentally, four years later, the same manufacturer made similar lapel pins for the Nazi party's welfare branch's annual charity campaign, as it was rumoured to be Hitler's favourite flower. This unwittingly providing cover for the Freemasons who wore the lapel pin.

As the Nazis tightened their grip over the civilian population, Masonic Lodges in Germany 'went dark' and Freemasonry largely disappeared from the Third Reich, its occupied territories, and in Fascist Italy and Spain. It is estimated that at least 80,000 Freemasons died in Nazi concentration camps alone, and a further 120,000 died in Nazi-occupied countries. Freemasons in Russia faced a worse fate. Following the dissolution of all Masonic Lodges under the Bolsheviks, Stalin had Freemasons hunted down, arrested, and often executed. So exactly how many Freemasons lost their lives will never be known.

The reasons why both fascist and communist leaders felt threatened by Freemasonry is best explained in their own words. In 1938, Reinhard Heydrich, Himmler's deputy and head of the Nazi secret-police, wrote, in the preface to his book, 'Freemasonry, Its World View, Organisation and Policies':

'Masonic Lodges are associations of men who, closely bound together in a union employing symbolical usages, represent a supra-national spiritual movement, the idea of Humanity...a general association of mankind, without distinction of races, peoples, religions, social and political convictions'. Written by one of our worst enemies, this is an excellent summary of Freemasonry.

In the end, Freemasonry survived the best efforts of the forces of darkness to suppress it, and the Grand Lodge of the Sun reopened in Bayreuth in 1947. The following year, the United Grand Lodges of Germany held their first annual convention and adopted the forget-me-not as its official emblem. Today, it symbolises the survival of Freemasonry in adversity, and the desire never to forget our Brethren who died for their beliefs.

# Laughter is the best medicine!

As it feels like the 157<sup>th</sup> March for some of us in lock-down - so here is something to hopefully make you chuckle. No offence intended!

Thank you to David Hudson, Arthur Stonadge and Gordon Stewart for the below items.

## To ponder when you are bored

😞 When you are bored just think about a few things that don't make sense 😞.....like ;

1. If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous? 😞
2. Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C? 😞
3. Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned? 😞
4. Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V? 😞
5. Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and It just takes 75-100 years to fully work. 😞
6. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty. 😞
7. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims" 😞
8. 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses. 😞
9. If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them 😞

😞 Four great confusions still unresolved:

1. At a movie theatre, which arm rest is your's 😞?
2. If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around 😞?
3. Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator 😞?
4. Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made 😞?

## Headline of the week

'Man hiding from police blows cover with f@rt.'

'Officers from Nottinghamshire Police executed a warrant for an address in Harworth, near Doncaster, on Thursday and chased a man into woods near Brookside Walk.

But the search ended when they heard a noise "believed to be the sound of someone breaking wind from a nearby bush", a force spokesman said.'

Read the article here <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/man-hiding-nottinghamshire-police-fart-a4435641.html>

Also wins the prize for best URL - remember it's someone's job to construct that naming convention for the internet!

## Remember to eat sensibly Brethren!

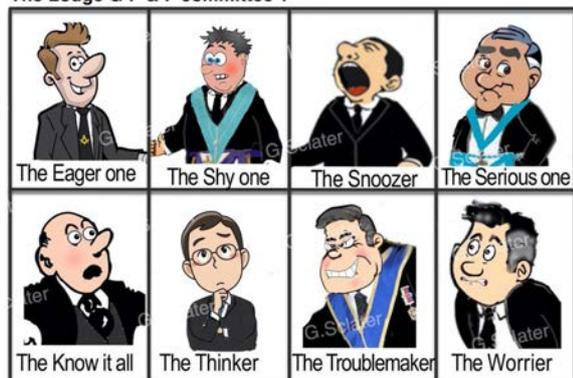
A wife, being the romantic sort, sent her husband a text: "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you!"

The husband, typically non-romantic, replied: "I am on the toilet. Please advise."



## Which One are you?

The Lodge G P & F committee ?



Pam Ayres  
@PamAyres

At last, we have a cure for all!  
Ailments large and ailments small,  
Good health is not beyond my reach,  
If I inject myself with bleach.

Radiant, I'll prance along,  
Every trace of limescale gone,  
With disinfectant as my friend,  
Like him,  
I'm clean around the bend.

8:59 AM · Apr 25, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

# His Master's Voice

*A message from a pensive Andy Jacobs MEZ of Vitruvian Chapter*



## His MEZ's Voice

*Andy Jacobs MEZ of Vitruvian Chapter*

Brethren/Companions, I greet you all well.

I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe during these extraordinary times.

May I first congratulate and thank Andrew Moore once again for all his hard work putting this weekly magazine together and of course to all the contributors making this a great read.

I would also like to take the opportunity once again to thank Billy Russell for his continuing hard work organising the Friday TAB sessions.

In my last communication I was telling you that all I had done since being furloughed was eat, drink, sleep and repeat. Well, after gaining a stone in the first 4 weeks of being furloughed I decided to get off my ever growing backside and do something about it! So it's now eat healthily, drink, exercise, sleep and repeat and after a few weeks I am starting to feel the difference but I have a long way to go. Sooooo by the time I get to see you I will be once again a slim Jim, hopefully.

Again I have nothing exciting to report apart from continuing on with Reggie's little adventure before lockdown.

A quick recap....

Reggie is a rescue we homed from a rescue centre in Guildford some two years ago. He is an Akita cross with a Staffy and he is just over 3 years old.

I was telling you that my partner and myself were just finishing off a 6 mile walk with him around the forest. We were in Linear Park near the treatment works at the time and 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!

After 5 minutes or so playing ball near the stream just up from the treatment works he vanished! The next thing I heard was a lot of squealing across from the stream. I shot over to where the squealing was coming from and to my horror my cuddly little boy who wouldn't harm a fly had his mouth around the throat of this huge boar! His jaw was locked on. I couldn't get close as this was going on in heavy brambles.

The boar then dragged him up behind the Cinderella site with his jaw still locked on and then they vanished. We were chasing up the bank through the stream looking for them but they were nowhere to be seen. By this time we were frantic and of course worrying about his safety and the boar's. We eventually found him an hour later without a scratch! A very lucky dog! Some locals who witnessed the end of the tussle told me the boar ran off unharmed after chasing Reggie into the stream.

I will end by saying once again, a big thank you to all the wonderful people who are on the frontline fighting Covid-19 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.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of those that lost their lives.

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

Andy (AKA AJ to some)



# And Finally

*This week we focus on Billy Russell the man behind our regular Zoom meetings and avid Tweeter and Facebook poster!*

## Who is Billy Russell?

I'm 41 years old, which has probably shocked a lot of people as I only look 25. I own a cleaning company and have been happily married (sometimes!) to Tanya for nearly 18 yrs.

I have a stepson Mike 26, son Kyle 21 and a daughter Eve 14, I also have 2 grandchildren Leighton 8 and Miah 4. Outside of Freemasonry and when I'm not working I like to spend time in the gym



## Tell me what made you join Freemasonry?

Well, after a few years of coaching football and playing rugby I realised with

running the business as well, my body just couldn't cope with the battering it would get every week so I retired, I missed the social side of being part of the rugby club, but it wasn't the same unless you were playing. My brother in law is a mason in East Sussex, he suggested I try Masonry. I met up with Mike Hopkins, he asked me if I knew any freemasons in Herefordshire. I didn't, he then gave me a book and said "see if there is anyone you may know." Low and behold, Aeron Lewis was in there, my old woodwork teacher, and a customer of mine as well, I rang Aeron and the rest is history.....



I am currently Senior Warden in Vitruvian Lodge and also Junior Warden in Ergon Lodge that meet at Great Queen Street in London. I am also in Vitruvian Chapter, Kyrle Mark and a founding member of the Herefordshire Light Blues Club, the Caeruleum Club.



## What would your autobiography be called?

The Sincere Joker.....

## If you could live in a sitcom what would it be?

Only Fools and Horses



Question	Answer
Coffee or Tea?	Coffee
Movies or Books?	Movies
Dog or Cat?	Dog
Morning or Evening?	Morning
Money or Fame?	Money
Steak or Chicken?	Steak
Beer or Wine?	Beer
Football or Rugby?	Football
Motorbikes or Cars?	Cars
Hot Weather or Cold Weather?	Hot Weather

# 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>

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### 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.

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### Ross on Wye

#### 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

#### Ross Good Neighbours

[www.rosscdt.org.uk](http://www.rosscdt.org.uk)

[help@rosscdt.org.uk](mailto:help@rosscdt.org.uk)

01763 802046

Provide a number of helpful services to the Ross Community

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

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Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor