The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 12th April 2021 Issue Number Fifty Three

Welcome to the fifty third edition of the Weekly Round-Up for the Province of Herefordshire.

Thank You to all of our contributors to this issue.

This week we have:

- A poem from W.Bro Tim Bridgland-Taylor
- Further Blue Light Tales from W.Bro Allan Flexman
- A glimpse into the spring colours of the gardens of W.Bro Dennis Roberts, and W.Bro Glyn Edmunds
- W.Bro Stuart Powell turning his hobby into a profession
- Bro Gordon Stewart relates the help of his therapeutic companions
- A reminder of the question in 'Would I know, did I know'
- Our regular Fun and Games at T@3 with curiosities and a Word Search

Keep safe Brethren and keep in contact.

Cover Picture
Back garden bluebells.

We were all deeply saddened to learn of the passing of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The Provincial Grand Master expressed the condolences from the Province via Twitter saying.

"Herefordshire Freemasons are deeply saddened by the news of the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Our thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty The Queen and members of the Royal Family at this difficult time."

HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh was a member of Navy Lodge 2612. He was initiated on 5th December 1952 at the age of 31. He was passed to the Second Degree on 6th March 1953 and raised to the Third Degree on 4th May 1953. The United Grand Lodge of England issued his Grand Lodge Certificate on 7th May that same year and he has remained a member to this day. He was known to drop into lodge meetings almost unannounced.

The Lodge prides itself on being the premier Naval Lodge in the world, with an unparalleled history that includes four monarchs as past members – King Edward VII, King Edward VIII, King George VI and King George II of the Hellenes. Other members of Navy Lodge included three winners of the Victoria Cross and the polar explorers Sir Ernest Shackleton and Robert Falcon Scott.

Many Freemasons joined the Grand Secretary and Pro Grand Master on Friday Night at 9pm for *#TimeToToast* via Twitter and Youtube. The Toast coincided with the Members of the Ross Masonic Club weekly Zoom meeting. They toasted at 9pm and then joined the Pro Grand Master online to join in the *#TimeToToast*. It was attended by 10,000 members live.

You can watch the toast here.

According to The Grand Secretary, Dr David Staples, in an interview with the BBC, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh exhibited many of the values of Freemasonry during his life.

The First Degree values of respecting your fellow man and supporting charity. He supported some 800 organisations, with special interests in scientific and technological research and development, the encouragement of sport, the welfare of young people, and conservation and the environment.

The Second Degree values of improving yourself through education. His Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has helped countless young people with key life skills.

The Third Degree, make the most of your one life, he very much lived respected and died regretted.

You can watch the interview here

Would I know the answer?

Did I know the answer?

By W.Bro. Dennis W. Roberts, PAGDC Group Leader Information and Guidance Group

A Reminder of the question from last week

What do you know about the Square pavement and its tessellated border?

You can always check your thoughts by visiting 'Solomon' of course!

https://solomon.ugle.org.uk

Dennis Roberts - Group Leader Information and Guidance Group

e-mail: Dennis Here

Inside The Wardrobe

By W.Bro Tim Bridgland-Taylor PProvSuptofWorks

I open the door to select my clothes
And there lying and resting, looking forlorn,
Is my case of regalia, so sad and forgot,
It's not been out since my Masonry stopped,

So, I take it out, to give some air,
I look inside, the regalia still there,
Ready for the time when the Covid has gone,
When again, we as Brothers will meet as one.

My Hobby As A Radio Ham Became My Profession

W.Bro Stuart Powell - Dean Waterfield Lodge No 8089

My hobby is Amateur Radio and my interest in communications started at the age of around 12 years old when my Father told me about what he did during the Second World War.

He joined the Royal Signals before the war, training at Catterick Camp and was attached to the 8th Army as a radio operator and served in the Middle East. When war broke out he saw action in the desert and also had a spell in Cairo sending five figure group morse code messages back to the UK.

He showed me an ex RAF morse key, and with a battery and a door buzzer he demonstrated sending me morse code, I found this fascinating and decided I would learn the code. I still have and treasure that old morse key to this day and his actions steered me into my career in communications.

Dad purchased an old broadcast receiver which had short wave bands on from Brownbridge's radio shop in Commercial Street and I would spend hours listening to foreign Radio Broadcast stations like Radio Sofia putting out propaganda, and if you sent them a letter reporting hearing their transmissions they would send you a nice thank you letter and postcards and information about their country. Tuning around I found Local Radio Hams talking to other Hams all over the world. One notable Ham was Peter Jones, Callsign G3ESY who was the Council Electoral officer and lived in Putson. He had a very powerful 150 watt transmitter and communicated all over the world. I could only listen and decided then that one day I would be a licensed Radio Ham.

To obtain a GPO transmitting licence in those days you had to take a City & Guilds 2 hour written exam. This covered basic electronic theory, draw out circuit diagrams of parts of a Transmitter or Receiver, all based around valves at that time, describing how they worked. Also questions

on capacitance and resistance, formulas, ohms law and frequency bands that we were allocated. Quite a wide syllabus. Another exam was also required, sending and receiving morse code at 12 words per minute. I took a City & Guilds course and exam at Hereford Technical College but my maths for the formula questions let me down, but with some coaching from a Ham that worked at Henry Wiggins, I passed on the second attempt. The Morse test was taken at a Post Office marine training establishment in Cardiff. That was the easy part.

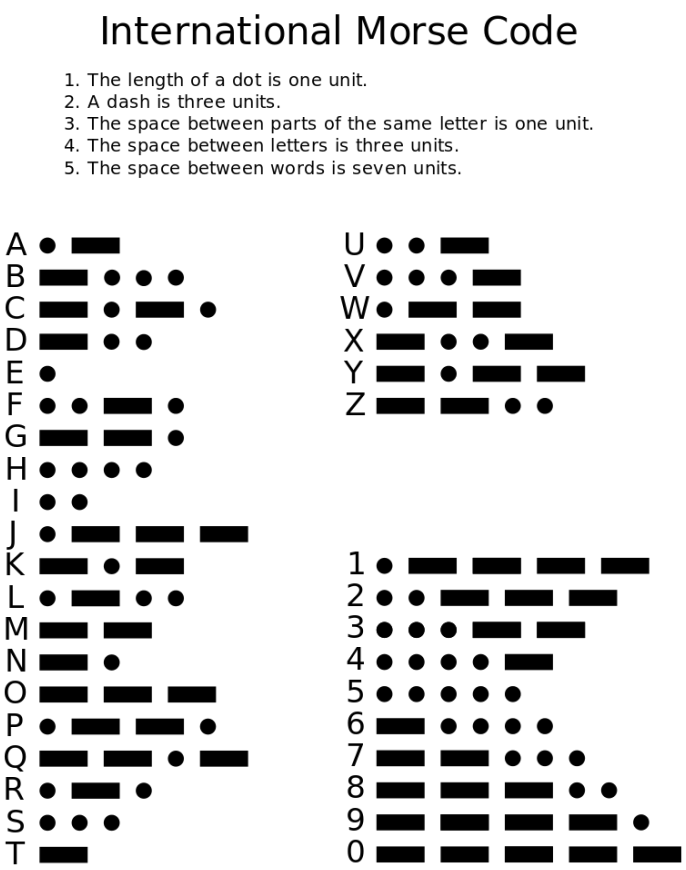
I received my Licence in August 1967 and was soon on the air with my callsign G3WRA. My Dad had promised to buy me a Short Wave Transceiver when I passed my test and I became the proud owner of one of the latest American-built high power SWAN 500 transmitters and was soon talking to Hams all over the world from my Radio Shack in my bedroom see photo (note the hair!)

My Hobby As A Radio Ham Became My Profession

W.Bro Stuart Powell - Dean Waterfield Lodge No 8089

I joined the Royal Signals TA in 1967, attached to the Royal Monmouthshire Engineers. They had a D11 signals wagon fitted out with radios and a teleprinter. It was staffed by a Royal Signals Sergeant he was amazed that I had my own Radio Station and could send and receive morse code and had Creed Teleprinter, which coupled to my receiver, could pick up News Agencies like AFP from around the world, getting up to the minute news and football results on a Saturday. Basic training was hard and exhausting but I did learn to strip down and reassemble a Bren gun and fire it at the range. Further education came at annual camp in Hameln Germany, when we were let out of camp on a Saturday night to savour the delights in the local clubs. Quite an eye opener for a young lad.

Over the next ten years I built equipment using valves and transistors, experimented with aerials and got interested in VHF and UHF frequency bands which gave local UK and Europe coverage.



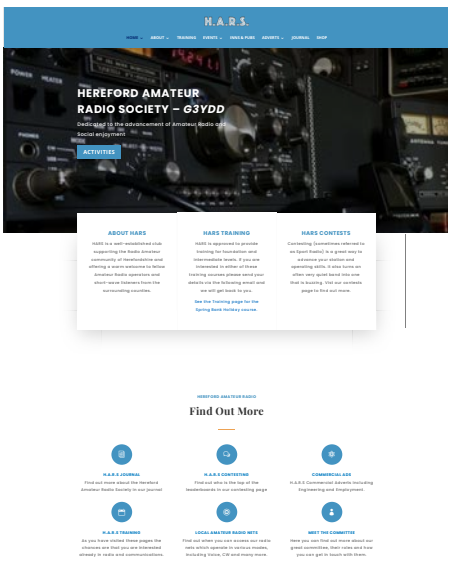
In 1979 I teamed up with another Radio Ham who lived in Stourbridge and we set up a business in Hereford called Mercia Radiotelephones supplying, servicing and hiring out base, mobile and hand-held walkie talkies to a wide range of business users dealing mainly in Motorola equipment. We have installed several town shop and pub links with connections to Council CCTV rooms. We own and operate hilltop radio repeaters on the Malvern Hills, Clee Hill and Dinedor which extend customers coverage over a wide area.

We have a busy hire dept hiring out equipment for all sorts of events jazz, pop, folk festivals, showgrounds, regattas, sports stadiums, farming, Security a whole range interesting customers. From a simple pair of hand portables to complex Internet linked systems with GPS tracking as used by the parking wardens in town. The hobby is varied we cannot only use voice, morse code, video and digital modes, some even reflect signals off the moon, have communicated with Helen Sharman on the International Space Station. In my current shack I still have the old SWAN 500 and morse key but also some new high tech radios covering frequencies from 1.8 to 1296 Mhz. and an array of aerials outside.

Within our Lodge 8089 we have and have had several Radio Hams. It is much easier to obtain an Amateur Radio Licence now and a short weekend course given by members at the club can get you on the air. As in Masonry we have three degrees of licence and as you gain knowledge and experience you can progress to higher power equipment and more frequency bands. We have members still at school that have passed the exam in a weekend and morse code is no longer a requirement unless you want to use it.

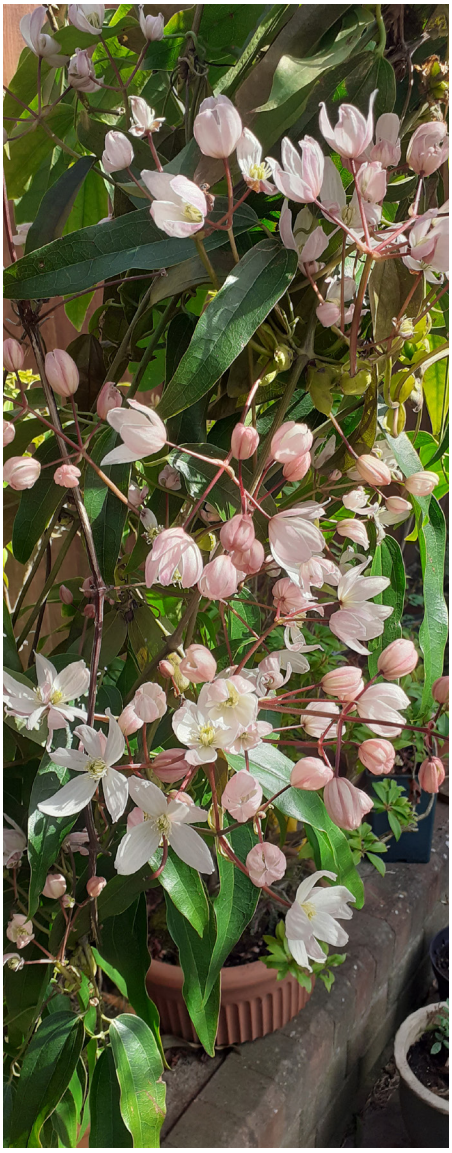
For more information on its activities Google ‘Hereford Amateur Radio Society’ or follow the link here.

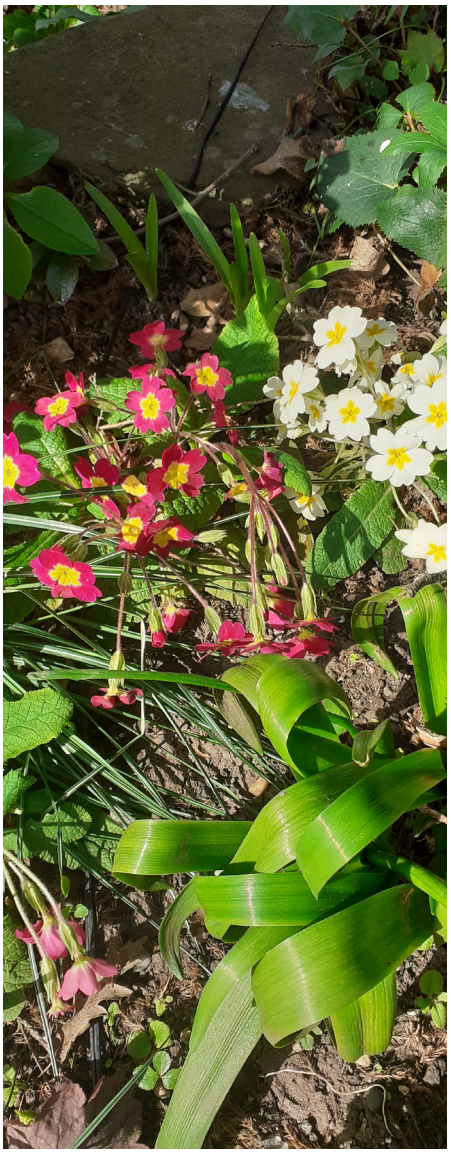
On the website you can read the monthly Journals on a wide range of activities.



Spring has arrived.....

A selection of pictures from gardens around the province.





The three images above were sent in by W.Bro Dennis Roberts, from his garden in Ross on Wye.

The four images to the left and right are from W.Bro Glyn Edmunds from his garden in Monmouth.

Anyone else have a garden that is starting to show colour?

If so we would love to feature your photographs if you can send them in and tell us where they are from.

An Easy Way To Raise Funds for HMCA

W.Bro Chris Holt ProvGStB
Coningsby Lodge No 6383

easyfundraising
feel good shopping

Chris says:

Further to our successful raising of almost £1100 in free donations towards the Festival from easyfundraising, I have had the cause amended to the HMCA, so that we can continue raising free money which we can then donate to local worthy causes via the HMCA.

We get free money when people shop online and buy their everyday purchases using the link.

Which is here: LINK

Additional information on great opportunities to raise some larger amounts :

Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online. Over 4,400 shops and sites will donate to Herefordshire Masonic Charity Association, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, M&S and Just Eat!

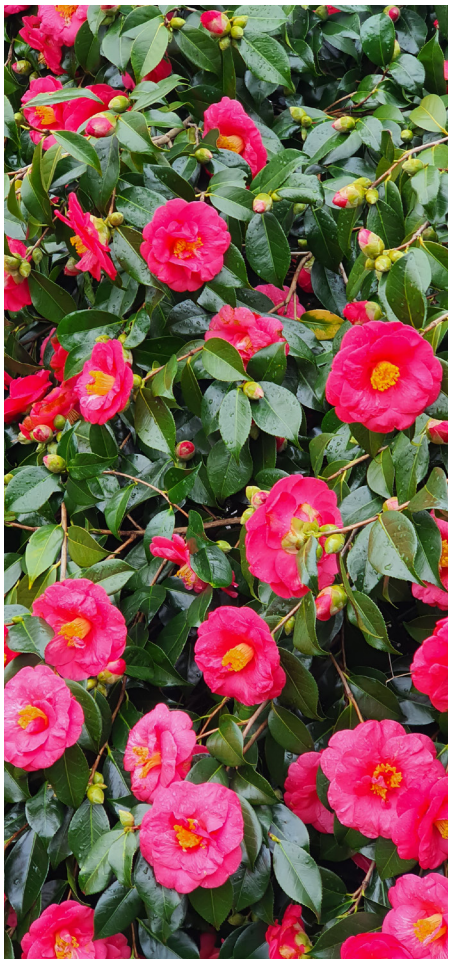
We could raise up to £215 when you use easyfundraising to save money on your household bills including car and home insurance, energy, phone contract or broadband. Uswitch, GoCompare, Confused.com and many more will all donate to us for FREE!

If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

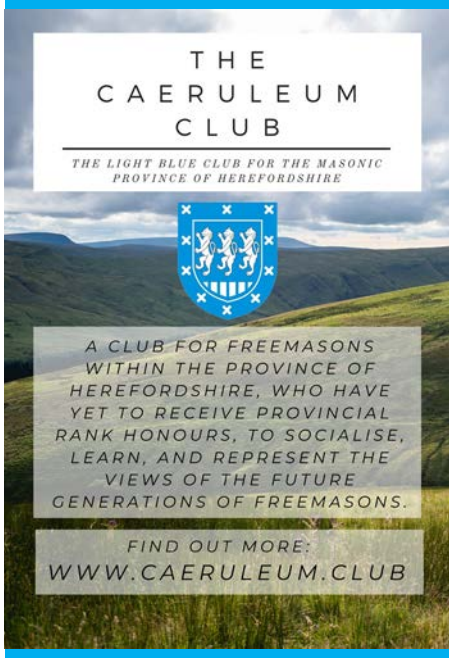
Many thanks

Chris

Springtime is blossoming in W.Bro Gordon Stewart's garden in Abergavenny.



The Herefordshire Provincial Light Blues Club



Further details on the website Here

Follow on Twitter Here

Follow on Facebook Here

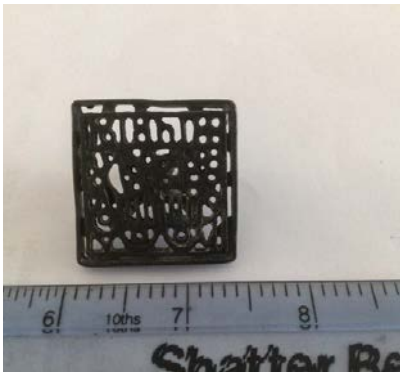
T@3

Some light-hearted treats to keep you amused. With thanks to W.Bro. Paul Sabel.

This Week's Question
Can you help Aeron Lewis identify this curiosity?

W.Bro Aeron Lewis from Vitruvian and Ariconium Lodges has this cap badge but does not know its origin. It looks naval with the rope and anchor.

Does anyone know who would have worn such a badge?



Last Week's Request from W.Bro Allan Flexman

There were no answers to last week's question to help out W.Bro Allan Flexman with his curiosity.

If anyone has any ideas what the object is then please drop us a line so we can pass it on.

Close Up Challenge

Do you know what the object is in the close up below?

The Weeks' Curiosity

Can you identify what this curiosity is and what it was used for?

Answers to the Word Search from the 5th April.
This week's Word Search is on page 9.

Commemorative stamps 2020

S C B E I T K S Z D A K **Q** E S Q L D L R Y P K B
A N L G M **R** H Y J X W K R **U** I Q K F G B P K D E
D R Q K **U** C Z A **K** A D O Q M **E** X G Y L Q W A **N** C
F Q G **P** F B N M **E** Q V Q M U A **E** **W** Y S A Z **O** S F
V U **E** T E Q W P **R** C V K O L C **O** **N** X **E** K **I** K V X
S **R** Y H D P X Q **T** Q V E V **E** **R** S L **N** X **T** **S** E H R
T M W E X H Q N T G K Z **S** **L** H E **D** N **A** **T** W M Q R
U Z Y X **S** **G** **U** **B** S M U **R** **D** M C A Q **N** **A** Z **R** M G M
K B Y W D O G S **F** **O** **E** Q I E R V **O** **M** O R R **A** H W
B I **S** **E** **C** **O** **N** **D** C **V** Q M H M Y **R** **P** R O **D** G O **E** A
B K N **S** A **P** L I **I** **S** Q W I P **O** **S** P **C** M E **N** E B **B**
C R **T** Q S **O** Y **N** X **E** R F **S** **C** Q W **W** **I** **S** C F **O** K F
Q **A** K L H **E** **U** M E **M** S J **H** F K P **A** **T** **A** U D C **B** K
R V Y J S **T** X J Q **A** R A **E** K S E **R** **N** **M** L E F E B
M N C Y C **S** G E N **J** D D **R** F H **T** X **A** **T** D T M I F
C O M M I Q V I U **E** **C** **A** **L** **A** **P** **N** H **M** **S** N **E** **H** **T** W
I N W S Q V R T O X Q F **O** G Q **A** S **O** **I** K O O H U
W **E** **S** **T** **M** **I** **N** **S** **T** **E** **R** I **C** U N **I** T **R** **R** T E C P B
G Q H Y W **R** Y P **N** I F E **K** **S** O **L** T V **H** I O W C C
Z S I A G **O** J F A **O** Y Z **E** D C **L** I D **C** F O Z M J
A A F M I **M** H Z U S **I** **M** G Y M **I** I **S** **T** **R** **E** **E** **T** J
E I T Q S **A** P O C F **A** **S** F Z Y **R** S **V** **I** **D** **E** **O** J F
I G J H S **N** U V C **G** R K **I** Q Y **B** X **N** **I** **A** **T** **I** **R** **B**
B P N V D P R Z I I R S Z **V** Q W G U O L A P J T

Stamps Video Games Visions Of The Universe James Bond Romantic Poets End Second World War Coronation Street Roman Britain Westminster Palace Rupert Bear Brilliant Bugs Christmas Star Trek Sherlock Queen

This Weeks Word Search

Can you find the single malt scotch whiskies below?

Single Malt Scotch Whisky

M F F C Z J D E I N E V L A B U Y G R S Y L F X
D V S A T N D E N N I A H B A T L L A N U B A V
O H G U B I J B U W R F A B E R L O U R H L O H
R T K L B A L L E C H I N P Z M A L T S C A V U
P Z F T A R R A N C I K W P P M E B B S A I E N
X Z T M V D B E N R O M A C H D E U J N I R N Z
J N U O M X Z E F H F T C E I H X V T T R A A D
O C V R S K P L D Z F H V S F S R K E Z N T U U
H P V E L R Z G R W F F N A B B V S V Y E H C Q
S M C N K D I N Q T E O C G E B R I I Y B O H S
U U H S E B O I Z I V T T N U O H O L P Q L E W
B F B D P R O S E A S B R N D E B R N Q S T N K
L R I W Q O X N N O E I N T R E H H E X K K T C
B X U C N R M Y S N N A P O N F C C L P C H O Y
C G O I W A X V N N H C M W B S A U G K I R S M
V B H G C D S E E A Y D Y A A E N A F Y K H H A
U I T L N H V S B G R V L X M E E R O D B C A Z
K A P J J I L H H A I B M X F S M K S L F O N R
P R R M S A A A X S L L B F E P L K E E K N P X
F D O P Q I T H D A L H G P I M A H A F N D G D
H B C O N C N A I D O E U J Q Q B O R R Z N N U
C E L G A Z A R S G I C K B X M J E B E B A V A
W G H G O X T Z S P I C P H E Y H B P B O L P T
I E R O M W O B Y Z T D H M R R P J B A Z B C L

Single Malts Bunnahabhain Bruichladdich Brora Braes of Glenlivet
Bowmore Blairathol Blandnoch Benromach Benrinnes Benriach
Ben Wyvis Ben Nevis Banff Balvenie Balmenach Ballechin
Balblair Avonside Aultmore Auchroisk Auchentoshan Arran Ardmore
Ardbeg Ancnoc Allt A Bhainne Aberlour Aberfeldy

Therapeutic Companions

Bro Gordon Stewart, Junior Warden of Loyal Monmouth Lodge No 457 and member of the Kyrle Mark Lodge in Ross on Wye, tells us how Maggie and Boris have helped him and his wife through recovery from serious illness and lockdown.

I have always had dogs and when I got married to Gill my 14-year-old Dalmatian Cassie was in her final year of life, I never thought I would have another dog when she left

Cassie the Dalmatian.

Maggie and Boris, that's me in the middle.

However, my sister-in-law, who owned an 8-month-old Bernese Mountain dog, advised that the family was moving from Wales to Australia and was looking for a new home for her. My wife and her sister, being Welsh, spoke in their native language and in the discussions, Gill said, "as a last resort if you don't find a home, we will take the dog". In a rough translation for those who do not speak welsh that translates to "where do we meet to take ownership of Jo Jo the Bernese". And so, our journey began with the first "adopted" Bernese Mountain dog breed. Jo Jo was a gentle giant, loyal, protective, easily trained and fantastic with children, she was something else. You could not get a more lovable dog. Unfortunately, she passed away at a young age of 6 with cancer and I swore that I would never get another dog.

My career took us to South Africa where owning a dog was a necessity. Here we rescued a Bernese Mountain dog again, "Ouchie", a 2-year-old bitch that had been attacked by other dogs. We nursed her over the next two years and she turned out to be a wonderful healthy friend. However when we had to leave the country and come home, we could not obtain the necessary papers for her to come back to the UK and had to re-home her with a good family.

Back in Wales where we settled and 10 years on, I was diagnosed with cancer. My treatment was brutal but successful. Unfortunately, it left me with lifelong debilitating side effects which caused depression, and it was during this period that the cancer consultant suggested to Gill that I get a therapy dog to help me to move on. Following discussions with old friends in The Bernese Mountain Dog Club I was put in contact with a breeder who was retiring a 4-year-old bitch "Maggie". We went to see her, and the owner advised that she was reluctant to let her go without her 2 year old son "Boris" as they were very close. And so, we adopted them both.

They have now been with us for two years, two great years that has help me a lot in getting to grips with my limited lifestyle. They are as mad as hatters, obedient, friendly to everyone they meet and such a great companion to Gill and me. During this lockdown they have helped greatly. Being in self-isolation, our only comfort and exercise was Maggie and Boris. They love to please and training is a great pastime for them both, but only if there is a treat at the end of it, for the dogs and me!

We were over the moon when we were approached on a recent walk by a member of the Welsh Therapy Dog Charity and asked if we would be interested in volunteering Maggie and Boris to go into hospitals to give emotional support.

Boris as a pup.

Once the coronavirus situation is over, we will be taking Maggie and Boris for their certification then on to hospitals where others like me can share the benefits and happiness that they bring.

Blue Light Tales

By W.Bro Allan Flexman PPrGStB (West Wales), Almoner of Arrow Lodge

W.Bro Allan recounts his early years as a Policeman around London and the Home Counties.

Old Age - in Reverse.

About 20 miles southeast of Pulborough is Worthing, or "Costa del geriatrica" as we referred to it. It was a favourite retirement town for Londoners, who formed a large part of the population. About 9 miles west is Petworth, which has a walled park open to the public, and housing a rather tame herd of fallow dear and a flock of black Welsh mountain sheep.

One Sunday afternoon I was on the road from Petworth to Worthing when a car approached - going backwards! I stopped it and said to the elderly male driver, " Why are you driving like that and where are you going?" He said that he had been to Petworth park with his wife and when they came out he had to turn the car round. In doing so the gear lever got stuck in reverse. He could not think of any way to get home other than drive in reverse.

I soon changed his mind on that and called out the foreman of our local garage.

Not Firework Night ?

You will be excused for thinking this tale far-fetched, but I can assure you it is true. I was on traffic motorcycle patrol when I was sent to a farm field beside the road leading to the seaside resort of Bracklesham Bay. A farmer clearing his ditches with a machine had turned out a number of identical objects that looked like rolls of sausage-meat from the butchers. Except that, on the wrapper of each piece was printed, "Polar blasting gelignite, Alfred Noble & Sons, Glascoed." I have since discovered that Glascoed is a village near Usk, where we had our first farm. Civilian type explosives were usually dealt with by Home Office experts, while Army experts deal with military ones. On this day a Staff Sgt from the Royal Engineers was in the area so he was sent to deal. My job was to keep the public at a safe distance and, if necessary, stop the traffic on the road. The Sgt said that the explosive was sweaty and not safe to transport, and the sticks were each 1 lb in weight.

He scraped out a shallow hole in the edge of the field, well away from the road, attached a fuse and detonator to one stick, and we all retired. There was a bang, some earth was thrown up and nothing spectacular. He did the same again with the same result. He then decided to speed up the operation and blow two sticks together. His time there was a much bigger bang, and immediately the deep drainage ditch started filling with water.

The area south of Chichester is very flat and the household water supply gets its pressure from a large concrete water tower about ¾ mile from where we were. The Sgt had just severed the large main supplying the tower! There were still quite a few sticks of "gelli" left, so our forensic officers hastily contacted the Home Office explosives department, who advised that the sticks were probably safe to transport with care, and that each was 2lbs, not one. So they were placed in a box and taken carefully to our Police Station from where they were collected later that day by the proper officer. As far as I was aware, no one ever owned up to loosing so much by theft or burglary. Perhaps they were scared of loosing their licence to keep explosives?

My Way to Give Up Smoking.

As village bobby at Singleton I met up with one of the villagers called John who had gone blind late in life, but still loved to go sailing, so I took him in his boat, sailing out of Emsworth. Another officer, had a sailing cruiser, and he invited John and I to a day trip in the Solent. It was a pleasant summers day with a light wind but an uncomfortable swell and I quickly got a feeling of sickness, which is unusual for me. I went down to the cabin for a lie down. Meanwhile the two Johns were in the cockpit, one smoking cigarettes made of Old Holborn, and the other a pipe of Erinmore Flake, and the awful aroma wafted down to me in the cabin, making me feel worse. As we came back to the harbour, it was low tide and the boat dropped between two swells just as it was crossing the bar (a shingle bank created by the water). The keel dug in for a moment, causing the boat to brake and making an unexpected loud grating noise. I leapt off the bunk and immediately the sickness was gone. The boat continued without further problem, but I never smoked again!

In 1977 we celebrated the silver jubilee of our Queen and she held a review of the fleet at Spithead. There was an area set aside for the public to anchor their boats and watch the spectacle. John T and I planned to go in his open keel boat, and we took my father and my young daughter, aged 8. The tide was right for us to leave Emsworth early morning and we sailed for about 30 miles to get to the anchorage in good time.

The weather was a bit hazy, and all the ships were rather distant. As we were in a small boat we were low down, so the view was restricted. We listened to the commentary on a portable radio and John made a log of the day on his portable tape-recorder and I still have a copy of this. We made our way back up the harbour, past Hayling Island, in the setting sun, to the sound of the wading birds, with a very warm feeling on a truly memorable day.

The Craftsmen

Published every Monday

Deadline for article submissions Friday

Articles to be submitted to

craftsmen@herefordshiremasons.org.uk

Previous Issues can be found on the Provincial Website **Here.**

The Province on Social Media

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Caeruleum Club

A club for Freemasons within the Province of Herefordshire, who have yet to receive Provincial Rank honours, to socialise, learn, and represent the views of the future generations of Freemasons.

Follow the Caeruleum Club on Twitter Here

Follow the Caeruleum Club on Facebook Here

Further details on the website Here

Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Royal Arch Chapter

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Further details on the website Here