HEREFORDSHIRE
PROVINCIAL
NEWSLETTER

The Craftsmen

Issue 66 - March 2022

Steam locomotive 7029 Clun Castle pulls into Hereford station 5th March 2022

Lodge 10K Consecration
Light Blues attend historical event

Vitruvian Installation
Light Blues support new Worshipful Master

From Humble Beginnings
The history of the Hereford Masonic Hall

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Examining the 'Attract' Section

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Golf Society Tees Off
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Partaking of the Leek
Coningsby Lodge Celebrate St David's Day

Would I Know, Did I Know?
We explore the Stewards Collar Jewel

The Craftsmen

The Official Newsletter of the Province of Herefordshire

Issue 66 - March 2022

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Vaga Lodge - Vacant
Cantilupe Lodge - Michael Francis
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Would I know the answer?

Did I know the answer?

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

Last time I asked:

The reasoning and symbolism of Lodge Officers Jewels- Steward.

Our first appointment to an office in a Lodge was usually as a Steward. It is also usually considered as the least arduous and straight forward office to hold. It does, however, offer great potential, not only for the holder of that rank, but for all other members of the Lodge. On appointment, the Worshipful Master explains the duties;- "to introduce visitors, and see that they are properly accommodated, to assist in the collection of the dues and subscriptions, to keep an eye on the Lodge expenses at refreshment, and to see that the tables are properly furnished, and that every Brother is suitably provided for; and generally assist the Deacons and other officers in performing their respective duties." A formidable list no doubt!

In practice it should be seen as an opportunity for the individual to be included and for the Lodge to encourage and support participation in the workings and business of the day. A Steward should be encouraged to start learning some small pieces of ritual, to be an inclusive and active member of the Lodge.

The jewel depicts a cornucopia, or horn of plenty. Traditionally it was a hollow goat's horn or similar shaped receptacle (perhaps in clay or basket weave) that is overflowing especially with fruit and vegetables (such as gourds, ears of corn, apples and grapes), that is used as a decorative motif emblematic of abundance.

There is no doubt that the Steward's Jewel should be worn with pride; a great opportunity to get to know the members of the Lodge, not only in meetings, but informally as well. It really is a unique start on any masonic path towards a fuller participation in Masonry.

available for more in depth explanations. Useful for future meetings when no candidate is available.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

The Members' Pathway

Attracting Members - Growing Lodges

Following on from last month's article on the 'Plan' section of the Members' Pathway we now look at the 'Attract' section. This consists of attracting new members and taking them through the interview process.

The guidance document for Promoting Your Lodge begins by stating.

If you want to attract new members to your Lodge, Freemasonry itself must be visible and appealing. The responsibility for making this happen is shared across all members and all levels of the organisation.

We have already seen that nine-tenths of all members join through personal or prior contact. Only ten percent join after having come forward in response to a promotional campaign. Therefore, Lodges whose members are able and willing to engage with others will be more successful at attracting new members. We cannot expect others to do this for us.

This was a talking point at the recent pathway presentation at Kyrle Street which emphasised the need to maintain our traditional methods of recruiting new members. In other words through personal contacts and recommendations.

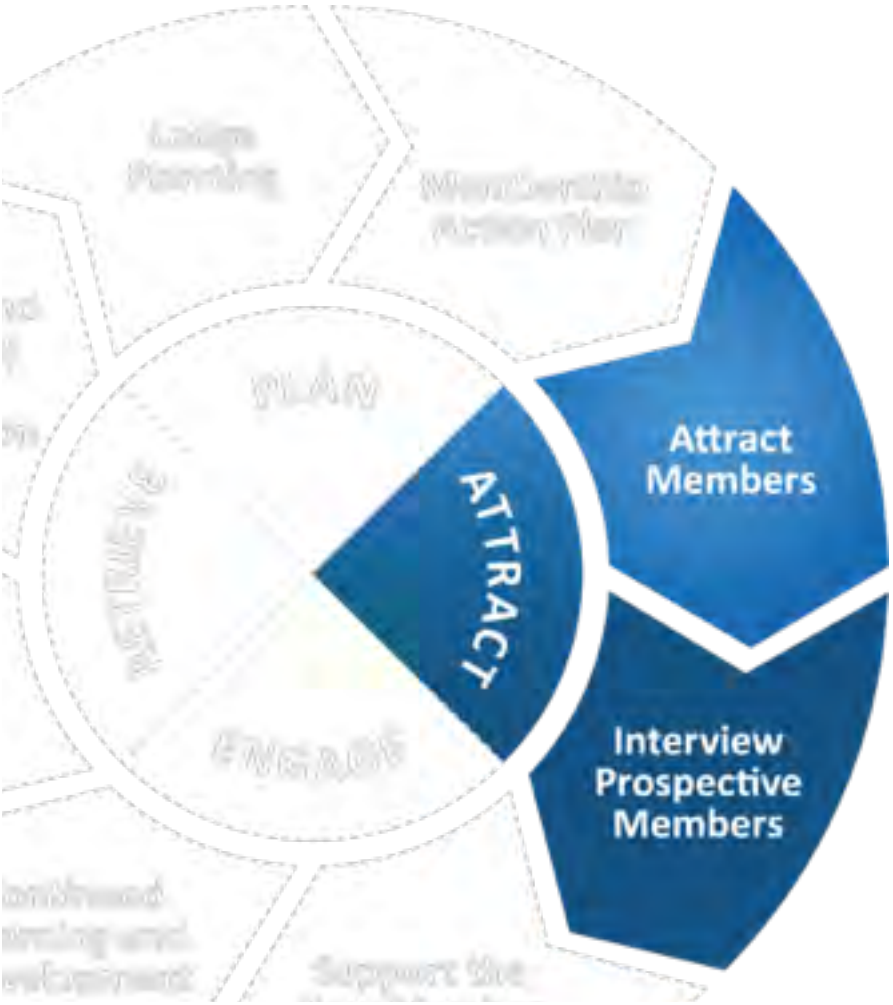
The Members' Pathway provides guidance on how to do this and to prepare for these conversations through the "Being proud to be a member guidance". It also covers other channels such as Social Media, social events and community events. This provides guidance to capitalise on opportunities to promote Freemasonry via these channels, the pitfalls and where you can seek support from the Province.

Guidance notes such as "Explaining to others what membership means to you" or the "Using the Lodge Outline and Candidate Profile" can assist in this process.

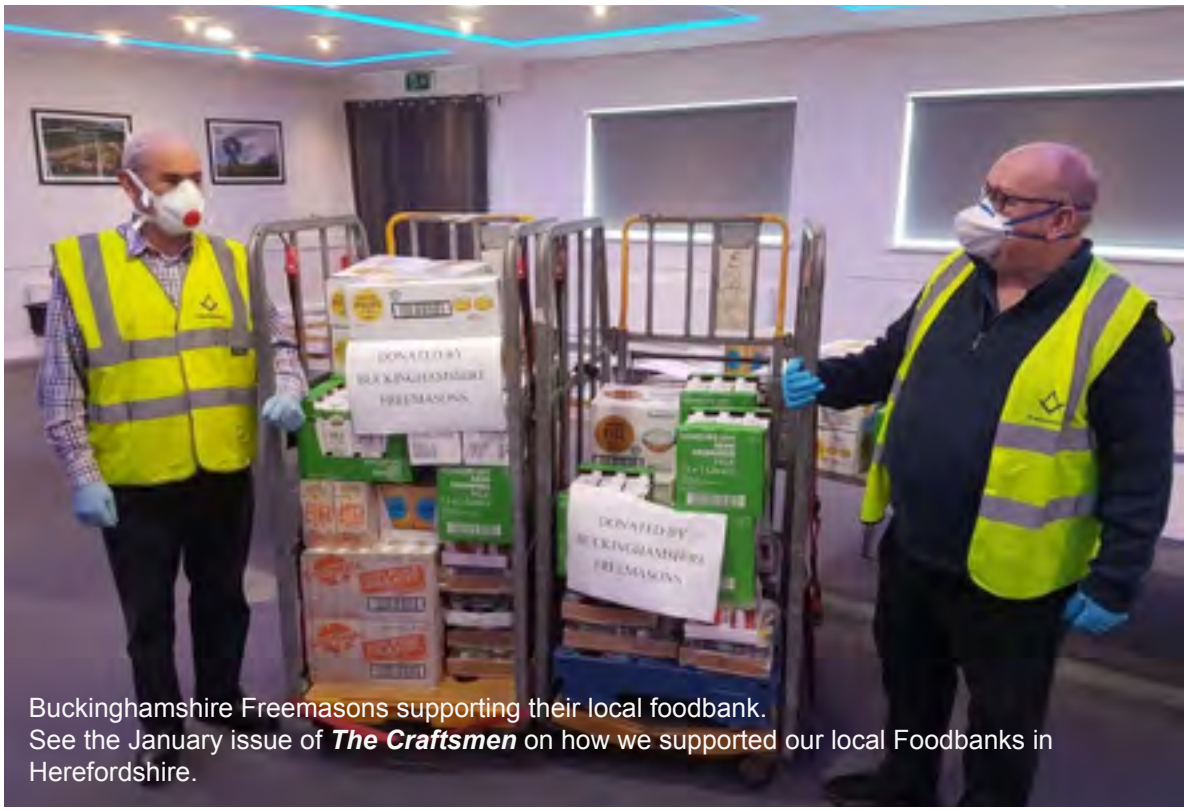
There are also guidance notes on managing enquiries, preparing for the interview and expectation management. The latter being particularly important in the process to retain members by correctly setting expectations and assigning a personal mentor to discuss and review their needs at regular intervals.

Many candidates will have read or researched Freemasonry before the interview. The guidance notes include a suggested reading list which provides a range of books, magazines and online publications providing an introduction to Masonic ritual, symbolism, history and other topics of interest.

The Members Pathway includes many useful guidance notes with examples to use at key stages. It is certainly worth a browse to review what is available and to download items as required.



Freemasons' Festive Support for Foodbanks



Buckinghamshire Freemasons supporting their local foodbank.
See the January issue of ***The Craftsmen*** on how we supported our local Foodbanks in Herefordshire.

We reported in our January edition the great work we have been doing in Herefordshire for Foodbanks. Nationally for years, Freemasons have been strong supporters of local foodbanks. With the growing need for foodbank services in communities across England and Wales, Freemasons have now stepped up their support with the help of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

The UK's 2,000 foodbanks are a vital source of support for many families and demand for their services is growing due to rising food prices, the increased cost of living and cuts to government benefits.

Last year, 2.5 million people in the UK used a foodbank – over 600,000 more than the year before. Recent government statistics have revealed that eight per cent of UK households reported their food situation as 'insecure', with charity often becoming their only source of support.

This is where Freemasonry steps in; one of Freemasonry's most important values is charity, which is why Freemasons are so committed to helping local communities.

The MCF has been committed to supporting foodbanks and food-related causes since it was established in 2016, but it has seen an 80 per cent increase in demand for foodbank services since the wake of the pandemic. As the need has grown, so has Freemasonry's response; the MCF, together with the Provinces, have given a total of £809,688 to foodbanks and food related causes and charities since March 2020.

Most recently, Freemasons and the MCF joined forces to support their local foodbanks over the 2021 Christmas period, helping 65,000 people struggling to put food on the table. In total £367,000 was awarded to 135 foodbanks across England and Wales.

With an increased demand on support services after a difficult two years, the MCF is continuing to closely monitor and respond to the areas of need affecting the most vulnerable members of our community.

MCF Support through Charity Grants

The MCF is tackling some of society's most important issues through grants to charities – both local and national – and partnerships with leading organisations in the sector.

Visit their website to learn more: mcf.org.uk/get-support/grants-to-charities/

Subscribe today and receive a free MCF lapel pin: access mcf.org.uk/sign-up or scan the QR code below.

The Vitruvian Installation

W Bro Andrew Moore PPSGD Vitruvian Lodge

The February Installation of Vitruvian Lodge marked a number of firsts.

1. The first installation ceremony in two years following the Pandemic restrictions. W Bro Nigel Donovan was finally able to install his successor, Bro Billy Russell.

2. It was the first installation of a Caeruleum Club Member, Bro Billy Russell, who was supported by a number of fellow Light Blues.

3. The return of W Bro Alan Miller to act as Senior Warden. W Bro Alan Miller is the most senior past master of the Lodge having been installed into the Master's chair in 1985. Work commitments took Alan away from the area, so he had not managed to attend meetings for some time. The Ross Masonic Club ran weekly Zoom meetings during the pandemic. Alan was a regular attendee which had enabled him to rekindle old acquaintances and such was the welcome, that he made the trip to Ross on Wye especially to take the Senior Warden's chair for the installation ceremony. A wonderfully positive outcome from the last two years.

The evening was enjoyed by a number of guests who had travelled from across the UK to join Billy for his special evening. In fact it proved difficult to find a venue that could accommodate the number of dining guests and so following the ceremony the attendees travelled the short distance to the Ross on Wye Bowls Club for the festive board.

As well as the Provincial Grand Master and members of the Herefordshire Provincial team, the evening was attended by the Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals and Provincial Scribe Ezra from the Royal Arch Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

Members of the Caeruleum Club support W Bro Billy Russell and the installing Master W Bro Nigel Donovan

Herefordshire Provincial Golf Society

Calling All Golfing Brethren

With the impending start of the golf season, the Annual Golf Meeting has been arranged for

Wednesday 9th March 2022

To be held at the Masonic Hall in Kyrle Street, Hereford.
Commencing at 19:00.

Following the meeting we hope to have a social meeting with light refreshments depending on numbers.

Over the past 2 years we have been affected with the 'COVID experience', resulting in cancellation of matches, illness of members and no possibility for social events or even completion of matches.

Let's make 2022 the start of time to catch up with Brethren, improve our golf, but overall to enjoy the golf year and support our Captain.

This invitation goes out to all golfing members of the Herefordshire Masonic family, whether new to golf or a seasoned player.

Please contact Dave Gwynne via email here to confirm attendance or apologies.

Consecration of Lodge 10K

Three Caeruleum Club Members join Lodge Sine Nominee Number 10000

Left to Right. Bros Harry Fellowes and Tommy Santillo of Arrow Lodge RW Bro Michael Holland and WBro Billy Russell of Vitruvian Lodge.

The consecrating officer was the Pro Grand Master M.W. Bro. Peter Geoffrey Lowndes.

In the magnificent setting of Lodge Room No 10 at Great Queen Street, five masons from Herefordshire Province witnessed the consecration of Lodge No 10000 named Lodge Sine Nomine (Lodge Without a Name).

Lodge 10k is described by UGLE as a special interest Lodge that is defined as being for and run by younger members. This newest Lodge – with an iconic number – will be run by younger members, who will gradually fill the principal and progressive offices and attract young initiates.

Bros Harry Fellowes, Tommy Santillo and W. Bro. Billy Russell, members of the Herefordshire Light Blues Caeruleum Club are proposed for Joining members. The three were accompanied by The Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro. Michael Holland and W. Bro Andrew Moore of Vitruvian Lodge.

It was a very special consecration ceremony attended by a number of light blues from across UGLE showing the global attraction of freemasonry. These included Barbadoes and the Eastern Caribbean, Bombay, The Eastern Archipelago, Ghana, Gibraltar, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, South Africa and South America.

The consecrating officer was the Pro Grand Master M.W. Bro. Peter Geoffrey Lowndes and founders included R.W. Bro Sir Hugh Wotton the Assistant Grand Master and R.W. Bro Sir Michael Snyder Metropolitan Grand Master both of whom were in attendance. The Founding Senior Warden was V.W. Bro David Staples the Grand Secretary. The principal and progressive offices will be filled by light blue members as they progress through the various offices.

The three Herefordshire Light Blues will become joining members at the next meeting in June when there are also 7 candidates for Initiation that evening!

The very impressive Lodge Room No 10 at Freemasons Hall. Photo Credit © Kenji Kudo

Future Planned Events include

- March: Clay shoot
- April: Morgan car factory tour
- June: Westons cider tour + meal in the restaurant afterwards
- October: Ghost hunting - Haunted Hotel stay at The Skirrid Mountain Inn
- We are also planning a quarterly communication visit to UGLE

Further details on the website Here

Follow on Twitter Here

Follow on Facebook Here

Eat Your Leeks Lads!

W Bro Dr Kevin Jones PPJGD of Coningsby Lodge No 6383 tells us how they pay homage to St David at their March meeting.

Leek Eaters: From left to right
Bros Jason Payne, Stephen Hunt, Richard Bettinson and W Bro Richard Cutler. Bro Richard Quinn offering the leeks.

Coningsby Lodge 6383 in the Masonic Province of Herefordshire once again, by popular demand, performed the tradition of 'Partaking the Leek' in fine Masonic splendour.

After singing the Welsh National Anthem (in English) the chosen Brethren were proudly marched in to drums to perform the tradition of taking and eating the leek in celebration of St David's Day.

Why Coningsby Lodge I hear you say?

Well one of our dear brothers, Roger Tomlinson, during his young army service days, was assigned to the Welsh Regiment as their bandmaster and thought he would introduce this to the Brethren of Coningsby Lodge and visitors and we have been carrying out this homage to the leek ever since.

Eat Your Leeks Lads!

W Bro Dr Kevin Jones PPJGD of Coningsby Lodge No 6383 tells us how they pay homage to St David at their March meeting.

And 'yes', they did complete the task, washed down with the loving cup of Welsh beer. It wasn't a pleasant smell. It didn't help that we had leek soup for afters! Very nice though, thank you to our catering staff.

Why leeks?

According to one legend recorded by the English poet Michael Drayton in the early 1600's, the leek was associated with St. David the Patron Saint of Wales who died in 589 AD. It is possible that the poet made up the story; however, it tells how St David ordered his soldiers to wear the leek on their helmets in a battle against the hated pagan Saxon invaders of Britain the battle itself is also said to have taken place in a field full of leeks.

It is indeed likely that the Welsh association with the leek predates St. David by hundreds and possibly thousands of years, to an age when people worshipped trees, plants and other such aspects of Mother Nature. To an age before Christianity, and perhaps to the last stronghold of the Druids on the Island of Anglesey. The Druids were not only the Priests, Doctors, Poets and Minstrels of ancient Celtia, they were also the teachers who retained the sacred knowledge of ancient times.

It is in such times that the leek's reputation as a medicine to cure a variety of illnesses would have been most appreciated and perhaps even revered. It was highly regarded as a cure for the common cold, alleviating the pains of childbirth and was a tasty, not only a healthy option in Welsh broth, it could seemingly offer protection against wounds in battle or against being struck by lightning (not tested yet), and was also a means of foretelling the future and for keeping away evil spirits. It is also claimed that by placing a leek under a pillow at night, young maidens could see the features of their future husbands.

And so today each year on St. David's Day the leek is worn in the cap badges of every Welsh regiment soldier and officer. Outside the army however, many other Welsh folk have substituted the daffodil for the leek, perhaps because it looks more attractive and certainly smells a lot better.

See you next year, a celebration not to miss and on behalf of the Worshipful Master and Brethren, you are all welcome, Welsh or not.

From Humble Beginnings

The History of Hereford Masonic Hall - An extract from a lecture by W Bro Tony Weal PPSGW

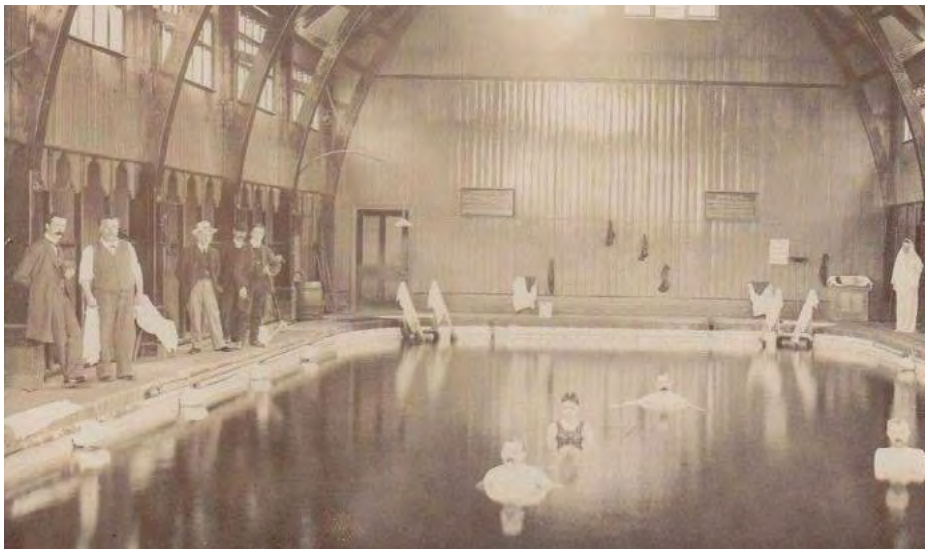
Most of us will have been to the Masonic Hall in Kyrle Street Hereford and may know some of its history. W Bro Tony Weal PPSGW has documented the history of the site and here we have provided a summary of some of the historical highlights.

The history begins back in 1832 when the current site was open fields outside of the city walls. At that time there were only two Masonic Lodges in Herefordshire, Palladian in Hereford and Vitruvian in Ross on Wye.

It was a time of great unrest following a number of new legislative acts. These included the Reform Act of 1832 which failed to extend the vote beyond those who owned property and therefore the Landed Gentry and was seen as an act of betrayal by the poor. The Law Amendment Act of 1834 added fuel to the fire of unrest and in 1838 the People's Charter was published. It was a six point Charter and included votes for every man over the age of 21 and no property qualification for being a M.P., thus enabling constituencies to return the man of their choice regardless of whether they were rich or poor. This was dismissed out of hand by Parliament and led to the Chartist riots throughout the UK (taking their name from the Act).

Unrest spread throughout the industrial areas of the UK, spreading from Abergavenny and Newport towards Ross on Wye. It was rumoured that the Chartists were assembling in the hills around Hereford. This led the local Magistrates to ban all public meetings which included Masonic meetings. This unrest continued till 1841 when a meeting was called of 'Men of Influence' including the Rev John Venn who provided a moving speech pleading for the poor of Hereford. This must have touched the conscience of those attending as it resulted in the founding of the 'Hereford Society for Aiding the Industrious'.

By the end of its first year it had purchased 28 acres of land within a mile of the city, which it rented out as small allotments enabling tenants to supplement their diet by growing vegetables and selling any surplus. By 1846 a flour mill was proposed and built by 1848. This enabled the society to mill the wheat grown on the allotments and by local farmers. The society purchased more land for allotments and provided loans for small businesses and soup kitchens.



The Swimming Bath circa 1910

One of the biggest issues was keeping clean. There was no sanitation as we know it today and often people shared a communal open cess pit or outside privy. Many died due to water borne diseases. By 1851 the Society had drawn up plans to build eight washing baths. These consisted of eight cubicles sited where the kitchen, corridor, robing room and lobby are now. These were heated using excess steam from the adjoining flour mill and consisted of First, Second and Third Class baths with a range of services including medicated baths, containing sulphur and saline baths at extra cost. There were also a few overhead showers available at a lower cost.

In 1870 the Rev John Venn persuaded the Society to build a swimming pool adjacent to the washing baths. The building was an add on to the slipper baths and is what is now the Temple and the dining room. The pool itself was from where the Worshipful Master sits, which was the deep end, up to the first pillar in the dining room,. Beyond the first pillar was used for other plant equipment and changing rooms. The pool was lined with plain white tiles and these can still be seen in what is now the cellar of the building which is under the temple and dining room. The pool was one of the first public swimming pools in the country.

The tiles can still be seen on the floor of the cellar.
Picture courtesy of Bro Tommy Santillo

By 1904 some 16,000 people were using the pool each year. By 1908 this had increased to 18,000, with swimming classes held for children of the local schools. The pool was closed in 1913 when the flour mill was converted to electricity. The city surveyor was consulted on how to heat the facility now that the flour mill

had been converted. It was decided that the only solution was to re-use the old coal boiler and the council agreed to provide a subsidy each year to pay for the coal. It was found, however, that the boilers took one ton of coal per day and by 1914 the baths were making a loss.

During the First World War the baths were used by local Regiments and military units stationed in Herefordshire and by the ladies from the Rotherwas munitions factory.

By 1926 the old boilers from the flour mill had become dangerous and were in need of replacement. The Council proposed the building of a new swimming pool on a site in Edgar Street where the Courtyard Theatre now stands, opposite Hereford United's Football Ground which was in use until 1979.

The old site was to be put up for auction. In 1927 the newly formed Hereford Masonic Hall Company met. It was agreed that the Baths building would be suitable for conversion into a Masonic Centre, however before the auction took place, the company entered into a private agreement with the City Council and purchased the site for £1,000. By June 1928 the plans had been draw up and the quotes for the alterations were in. Donations for the alterations did not meet expectations and so by December 1928 a modified plan was put forward and adopted.

It should be remembered that during this period there was also fund raising taking place for the Masonic Peace Memorial now known as Freemasons Hall in Great Queen Street London and so there would have been many calls on members finances.

By March 1929 the building quotes were in and the quote from W P Lewis was accepted and building work commenced to be finished by September 1929.

The Hall was formally opened on 16th September 1929 by the Provincial Grand Master, The Very Reverend Dean Leigh assisted by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. Edmund R. Dymond. Those also present included representatives of Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge of Herefordshire, Provincial Grand Chapter of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, together with Brethren from all the Lodges in Herefordshire. The first actual Lodge meeting to take place in the new hall was the September meeting of Dean Leigh Masters Lodge No. 3687.

Hereford Masonic Hall Youth Club Football Team 1944

In 1940 the hall received a requisition from the Department of Military Road Traffic to take over the building. This was very soon changed to the Ministry of Education under the auspices of Hereford Council and the Masonic bodies meeting there had to move out. The Lodges and Chapter moved to meet in College Hall in the Cathedral at a cost of 5 shillings per meeting with strong drink being banned. They had to be out of the Hall by 8.30 pm, except Mondays and Tuesdays when they had to be out by 6.30pm.

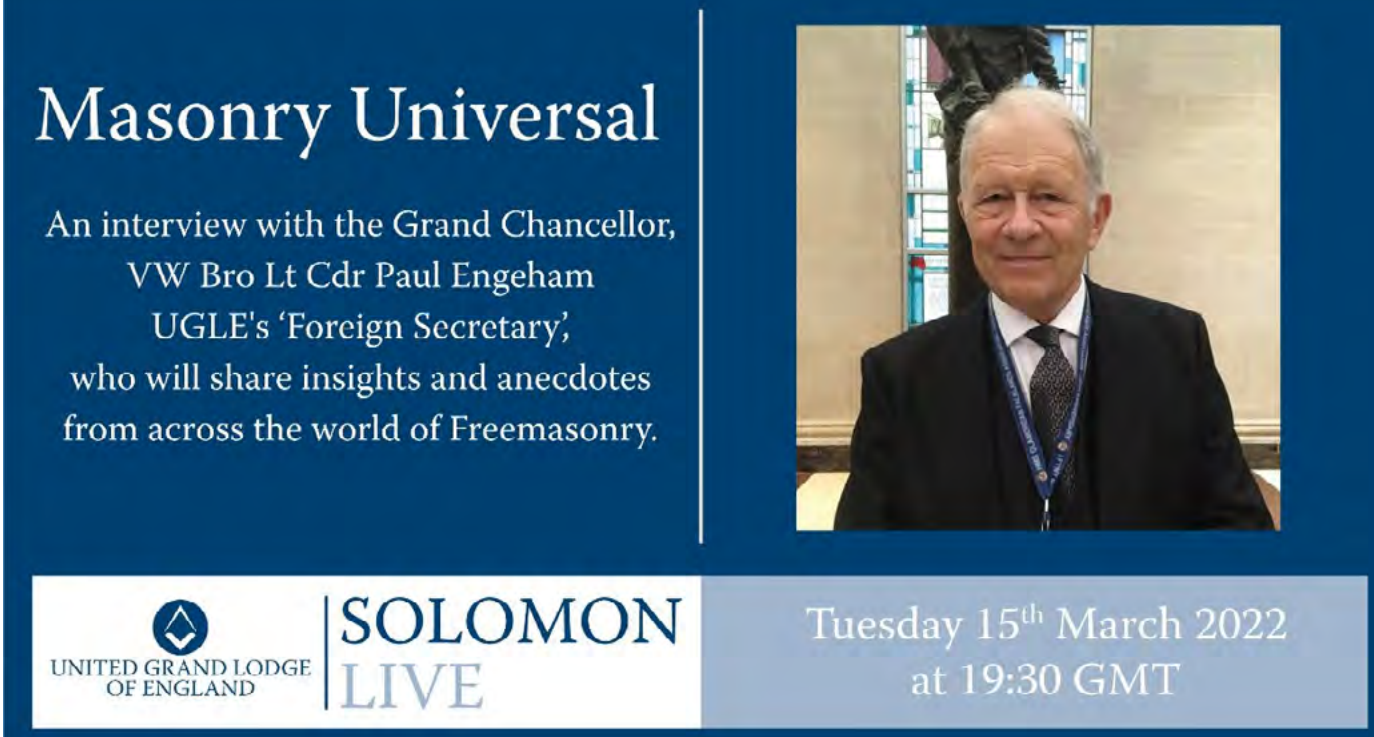
By day the Masonic Hall was a British Restaurant which also opened for school dinners. Five days a week it was possible to get a three course meal of soup, main course and a dessert without using their Ration Books for about 9d that is old money which is 4p today.

By night the building became the Herefordshire Masonic Youth Club. Table tennis took place in the lobby and other activities in the main hall, including Roller Skate Hockey. There was also a Hereford Masonic Youth Club football team, which played teams including the R.A.F at Credenhill and they even played an Italian Prisoners of War team who were interned at Ledbury. Saturday Night at the hall was dance night a stage had been erected where the bar is now.

After the War the hall was not de-requisitioned until 1948. Between 1948 and 1956 an immense amount of work was carried out at a time when building materials were scarce. The hall was officially reopened and the Temple re-consecrated on Monday 19th September 1956 at a meeting of the Dean Leigh Masters Lodge by the then Provincial Grand Master The Rt. Rev. Bishop Sara.

The Hall has stood now for some 150 years and due to its age it takes a lot of hard work to keep it up to a good standard and it is a constant battle for the Board of Management to keep the buildings and fabric in good condition within the realms of the money available to them. It is a never ending battle.

SOLOMON LIVE: MASONRY UNIVERSAL WITH THE GRAND CHANCELLOR



Meet the Grand Chancellor, VW Bro Lieutenant Commander Paul Engeham, UGLE's 'Foreign Secretary', who will share anecdotes from his journey across the world of Freemasonry.

These stimulating webinars are hosted by W Bro Brody Swain, PCO of Worcestershire, are designed to give us our #DailyAdvancement and will last approximately 45 minutes. We will cover popular masonic topics and offer the opportunity to ask questions.

Book here for 'Masonry Universal', an interview with VW Bro Lieutenant Commander Paul Engeham, at 19.30 on Tuesday 15th March.

BOOK HERE

Where Am I? - Answer to Last Month's Question

Last Month We Posed the Question,

Can you identify this well know Herefordshire Landmark?

I have been cleverly carved out of the trunk of a fallen oak tree which is just in Herefordshire by a whisker.

I am next to Knill church which is between Presteigne and Walton.

What am I?

Thank you to W Bro Allan Flexman PPrGStB (West Wales) Arrow Lodge for the answer, explained below

He says.

"This dragon, cleverly carved out of the trunk of a fallen oak tree is just in Herefordshire by a whisker.

It is next to Knill church which is between Presteigne and Walton. The B4362 road between the two villages twice passes from Powys in Herefordshire in the distance of six miles, but is Wales at both ends.

The dragon has an open eggshell in the curve of the tail, which people can sit in. The carving is detailed and must have taken a long time to complete.

The parish church is also worth a visit as some attractive heraldic plaques are attached to the ceiling, and some windows are very beautiful."

T@3

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

What am I? - The answer to last month's question is on Page 15. For this month, can you identify this well know Herefordshire Landmark?

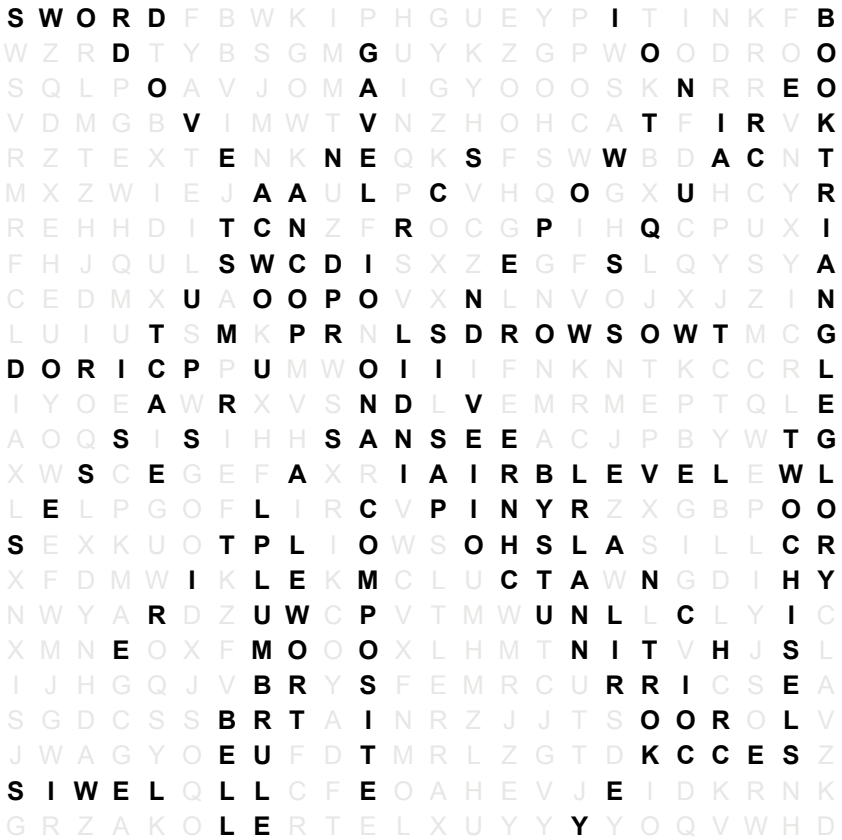
Standing in open countryside above the River Wye, this is one of the finest and best preserved of all English medieval castles. Boasting a fascinating history and spectacular views from the battlements.

What am I?

Answer next month.

Answers to the Word Search from the February edition. This month's is on page 17.

Jewels & Noble Orders of Architecture



Compasses Gavel Composite Corinthian Ionic Doric
Tuscan Sword Cornucopia Two Swords lyre Bell Lewis
Scrip purse Trowel Dove And olive branch Two chisels
Two Rods in Saltire Two pens in Saltire Key Book Triangle Glory
Plumb rule Level Square

This Month's Word Search

Can you find the British Garden Birds in the word search below?

British Garden Birds

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

Song thrush Woodpigeon Magpie Jay Jackdaw Bullfinch
Long tailed Tit Coal Tit Dunnock Goldcrest Wren
House Sparrow Blue Tit Starling Blackbird Chaffinch
Goldfinch Great Tit Nuthatch Robin