



HEREFORDSHIRE
PROVINCIAL
NEWSLETTER

The Craftsmen

Issue 69 - June 2022



Late evening light over Hereford Cathedral and old bridge

Standing the Test of Time

The origins of the Ross
Masonic Hall

Cathedral Trail

Why not make an
afternoon of the
Cathedral Service?

Caeruleum Club Calendar

Light blues club events for
the rest of 2022

Out and About

A round-up of events
around the Province

Fun and Games

In T@3 with a word
search and 'Where am I'

Herefordshire Highlights

Highlights from the last
year

Golf Society Update

Monmouthshire Match
Report

Would I Know, Did I Know?

Exploring the origins of
Masonic Fire

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; I really would like to answer one of YOUR Questions. Please get in touch and let me find the answer for YOU.

An explanation of Masonic Fire was requested:

Masonic 'fire' is an old custom which may be derived from that of firing after toasts. The original practice was modified by our Masonic ancestors to suit their needs. The custom of gun-fire salutes after toasts already existed in the 17th Century, for instance at a celebration of the Preston Guild merchants, "at each health begun by the Mayor, a volley of shott from the musketeers attending, all present drinking the remainder."

Some believe, however, that such practice has nothing to do with the origin of the term, Masonic 'fire', but that it is rather the conversion into reality of what is really a metaphor.

It is unknown exactly when Masonic fire started and the New Book of Constitutions (1738) states only that the new Grand Master 'revived the old regular and peculiar Toasts of Health'. The earliest reference in England is contained in 'Three Distinct Knocks' (1760) and is described as following:

"Every man has a glass set him and a large bowl of Punch is set in the centre of the table. The Senior Deacon charges (fills) the glasses in the North and East and the Junior Deacon in the South and West. The Master takes up his glass and gives a Toast to the King and the Craft with Three Times Three in the Prentices, and they all say ditto and drink together following the Master's motion. They do the same with the empty glass as he does, i.e. drawing it across the throat three times, and then makes three offers to set their glasses down, at the third, they all set their glasses down together, which is called 'firing'. They then hold their left hand breast high and clap nine times with the right. Then all sit down."

Three is obviously important: "because there were but three Words, three Signs and three Grips, and three more were added, the grand sign of the Master, the pass grip of the Fellowcraft and pass word. This makes twelve; the Word Sign and Grip of the Entered Apprentice is three, the Word Sign Grip Pass-Grip and Pass-word of the Fellowcraft is five and the Master has Sign, Grand Sign Grip and Word, which is twelve" (Note 3+5+12 =20!)

The use of Firing Glasses is now much less common, however, and the 'fire' is more usually accompanied by clapping of hands instead.

There is no official form of giving 'fire'. Basically it is a variation of 'point-left-right (PLR) followed by 'three times three' hand clapping - a typical 'fire' procedure being PLR, PLR, PLR, then point to the left, then to the right, one clap and then three claps given three times.

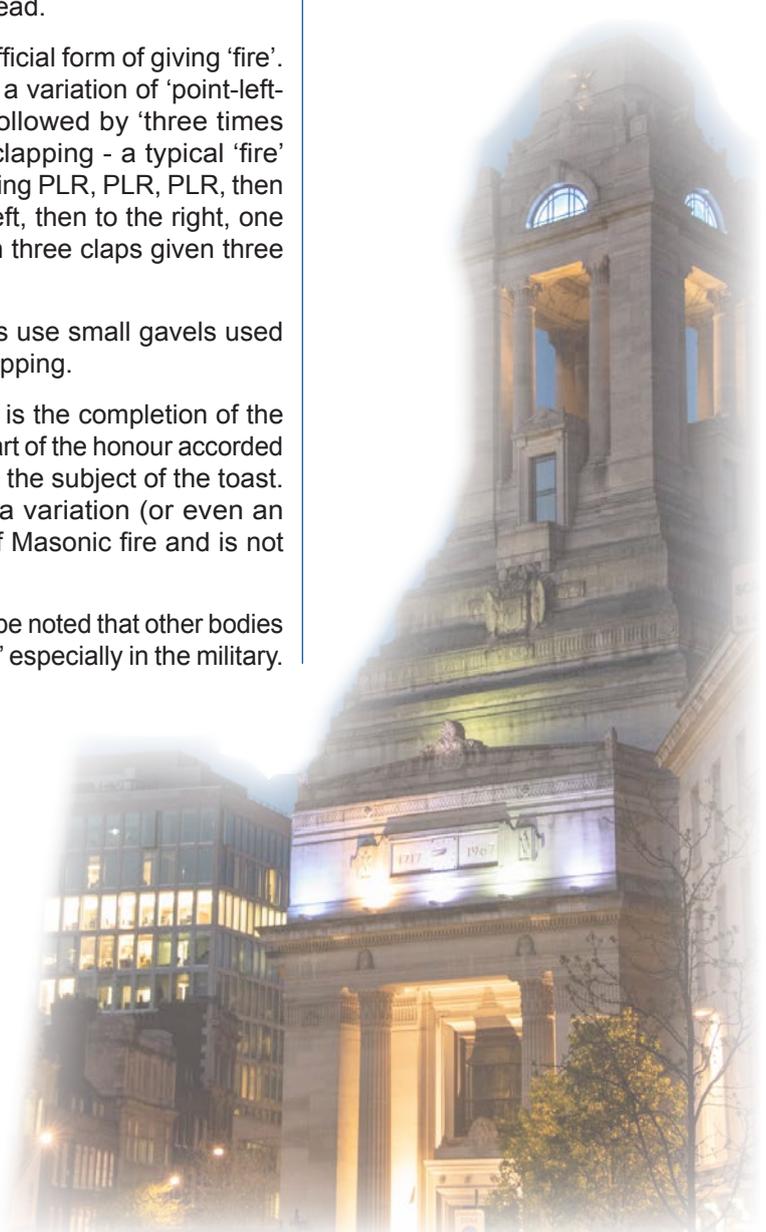
Some Lodges use small gavels used instead of clapping.

Masonic 'fire' is the completion of the toast and is part of the honour accorded to whoever is the subject of the toast. Silent fire is a variation (or even an aberration) of Masonic fire and is not popular.

It should also be noted that other bodies also have 'fire' especially in the military.

For next time; I really would like to answer more of YOUR Questions. Please get in touch and let me find the answer for YOU.

If you have not visited the 'Solomon' site lately, you should. There are now Videos, Podcasts and Webinars available for more in depth explanations. Useful for future meetings when no candidate is available.



Out and About



A round-up of events in and around Herefordshire Province

Fifty Year Certificate

EComp Michael T Holland MEGS presented John Gillo with his 50th Anniversary Certificate at the Festive Board following the meeting of Warrant reponement of Edward Jenner Lodge of MMM No 1803 held on Friday 20th May. This was in recognition of his Exaltation into Vassar-Smith Chapter No 2994 in February 1972 and his years of service in the Royal Arch.

John was exalted into Vassar-Smith Chapter No 2994 on 25th February 1972 and was also a Founder of Royal Forest of Dean Chapter No. 1067 and a joining member of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire 1st Principals' Chapter No 7900 and a PZ of all.



The Craftsmen Newsletter

Provincial Luncheon

EComp Michael T Holland hosted a luncheon on 22nd May to thank the officers of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Royal Arch, [@GlosandHereRA](#), and their wives and partners for their support over the last two years and to welcome the new officers who will be appointed in September and their wives and partners for their support too.



Pictured right MEGS Michael Holland, other officers and their wives at the luncheon.

Is This A Record?

On 22nd May 2022 the Masters of 1990-1992 held their Annual Luncheon at Ayleston Court in Hereford. (It had not been possible for the last two years). The remaining Masters of that era, together with wives and partners, met again this year to renew and continue their friendship over a period of 30 years. A very good meal in perfect surroundings and on a warm sunny afternoon was enjoyed by all 18 present, and all agreed to continue the practice again next year at the same venue. Very many thanks to Mark and Jean for the arrangements, once again.

Pictured left MEGS Michael Holland Presents the 50th Anniversary Certificate

Aid to Ukraine



Pictured left Eastnor Charity Steward, Paul Finlay and his wife Sharon with some of the donations.



Donations made via Ross on Wye

Thank you to all those Brethren and friends who supported the request for donations of urgent supplies for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.

A number of Brethren made donations at the collection points arranged by Eastnor Lodge in Hereford and Ross on Wye. Mr Guy Bodger, who has been organising and delivering relief aid for Ukrainian refugees, will be making the trip to Moldova to drop them off as soon as he has two van loads.

Bro Paul Finlay, Charity Steward of Eastnor Lodge, comments. *"Today was an excellent start to get Guy all he needs to take over to Moldova and he is extremely grateful for all Freemasons in Herefordshire are doing to support him."*

Forty Years Service

W Bro Tony Crockford celebrated 40 years in Freemasonry on the 27th April and to mark the occasion he was presented with a 40 year pin by W Bro Dave Griffiths at St Peter's Lodge Bromyard.



Born Sleeping Appeal

Two members of Palladian Lodge, Phil Burgess and Clive Edwards, presented a cheque for £1,085 to the Born Sleeping Appeal to help with the running of the dedicated suite in Hereford Maternity Unit.

The Born Sleeping fundraising appeal was launched in 2017, initially to build a dedicated bereavement suite within the maternity department. It opened in July 2019.

Through fundraising, the unit can fund items such as lanyards for mums returning to the hospital to identify them as having previously lost, thus preventing queuing and sitting in the main waiting room. The fund also provides literature for families coming into the unit. This includes simple information about the geographical layout of the hospital, the procedure, aftercare etc. The fund has also purchased books for both adults and children addressing the subject of baby loss.

The fund pays for ongoing training for staff, funding the initial year of the new bereavement midwife post, which has been an invaluable asset to the department.

Pictured right Clive Edwards (L) and Phil Burgess (R) make a donation to the Born Sleeping Appeal.



The latest purchase from the charitable fund is an air conditioning unit for the Blossom Room (ensuite bedroom). This was converted from a former office and was found to be very warm in summer and the opposite in winter.

The midwifery team manages the fund with patient representatives, a group of mums who have now formed a Hereford SANDS group (SANDS is the leading stillbirth and neonatal death charity in the UK). They meet monthly to discuss the needs of the unit and receive feedback from bereaved families that have been through their service.

The Fund is hoping to purchase.

- Additional memory making supplies, particularly casting hands and feet
- Specialist bereavement training for midwives
- Baby remembrance garden
- Air conditioning unit for the overnight room

ROYAL EDWARD LODGE 892 SUMMER BARBECUE

At the

Masonic Centre,
South Street,
Leominster,
HR6 8JQ

Sunday 31st July 2022

**1.30 pm onwards
(food served 2.00pm)**

To include

- Bbq – (Pork, Chicken, Beef Burgers, Sausages), Salads, New Potatoes
- Desserts
- Cheese & Biscuits
- Tea/Coffee
- Vegetarian Option (please pre-book)

Bar – Tombola – Raffle

**Tickets £14.00 per person
(Children under 10yrs no charge)
(Will be held indoors if inclement
weather)**

**For catering purposes please return
slip by Monday 25 July 2022**

Booking form on the
Provincial website [Here](#)



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN....

THE CAERULEUM CLUB

The Caeruleum Club is the official 'light blue' club for the Province of Herefordshire.

The club is for all 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.

The club also organises social and educational activities to nurture the brotherly bonds of the fraternity as well as supporting local good causes.

For more information visit our website below:

WWW.CAERULEUM.CLUB

Have a Lodge event to publicise?

Drop us a line so we can
include it in a future edition.

craftsmen@herefordshiremasons.org.uk

BOOK [HERE](#)

Freemasonry and the Royal Family

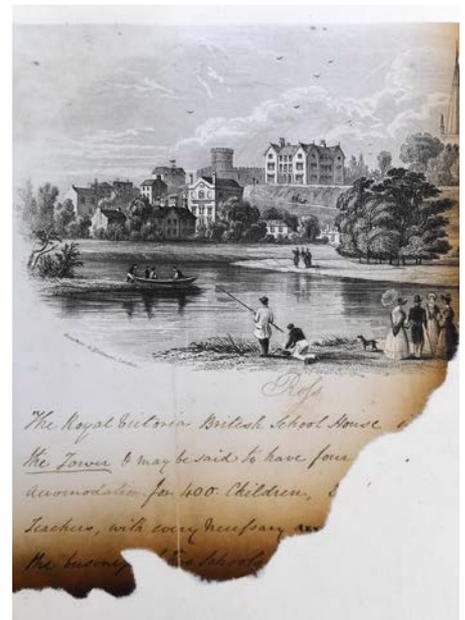
Freemasonry has been intrinsically linked to the Royal Family throughout history. In the month of the Platinum Jubilee, join us for an insightful chat with Prestonian Lecturer, Dr John Hawkins.



SOLOMON
LIVE



Tuesday 14th June 2022
at 19:30 BST



Archive images courtesy of BFSS Archives at Brunel University

Standing the Test of Time

W Bro Andrew Moore looks back at the Ross Masonic Hall through the ages.

Freemasonry in Herefordshire has a long a fascinating history none more so than the building we use. In the March Issue of *The Craftsmen* we looked at the history of the Masonic Hall in Hereford from its origins as washing baths and a swimming pool. The origins date back to the 1830s. During the same period Ross on Wye, or Ross as it was known then, was looking at the social issue of educating the young.

In December, 1835, a public meeting in Ross welcomed the plan of the British & Foreign School Society, on account of its liberal principle, its great simplicity and economy, and decided that the children of small farmers, little tradesmen, mechanics and labourers, residing in the town and neighbourhood of Ross were proper objects of this institution.

“To establish a school open to all sects and parties where a religious education shall be given, such as will afford the children the means of becoming respectable and happy in this life with the prospects of a blissful immortality in that which is to come.”

A plot of land 50^{ft} by 33^{ft} was bought for £60 and within two months the foundation stone was laid. On 19th September 1837 the British and Foreign School was opened. At its peak it had around 300 pupils, both boys and girls.

It remained open until 1873 when, as a result of educational reform, the children were schooled elsewhere in Ross. The building was auctioned in 1877 by the Charities Commission and had various uses over the next fifty years. These included an auction room, a Drill Hall for the 1st Herefordshire Volunteers, the liberal club and assembly rooms. The building was bought by Vitruvian Lodge in 1928 with the first regular meeting being held there on 3rd December 1928.

The building’s original use explains why the floor slopes down towards the WMs pedestal, as it formed the basis of the banked classroom, the teacher being where the WM is now. The external façade is still very recognisable and despite some alterations it’s origins are still visible to the passer by.

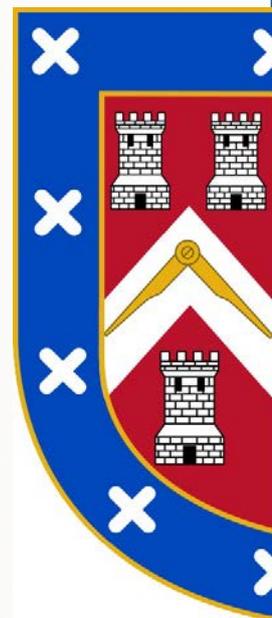


Membership

The Province processed a number of applications via the UGLE website, either from the National Digital Marketing Campaign (NDMC) or via the Provincial / UGLE Website direct.

It is interesting to note that three quarters of initiates have been introduced via existing Brethren, although the online route has provided an additional 25% of our initiates.

We all look forward to working with the Lodge Membership Teams to enthuse and retain our newly recruited Brethren and guide them along a fulfilling and enjoyable Masonic career.



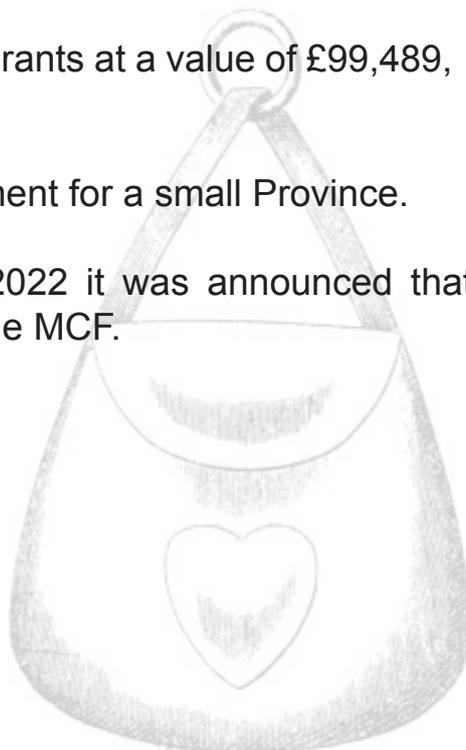
MCF Grants Received

The Province received 36 grants at a value of £99,489, just short of £100,000.



This is a massive achievement for a small Province.

At the Festival Finale in 2022 it was announced that the 2020 Festival raised a magnificent £441,421 for the MCF.



Charity

Since June last year, the Province donated £17,100 from Herefordshire Masonic Charity Association funds to local charities with additional match funding of £9,950 from UGLE.

Echo
Lifelites
The Cart Shed
Air Ambulance
Ross First Responders
Riding for the Disabled
Eastnor Parochial School
Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust
Ross Community Larder
Leominster Food Bank
Bromyard Food bank
Hereford Food Bank
Ledbury Food Bank
Yeleni Centre



CAERULEUM CLUB

Date	2022 Events
June - 18 th	Club AGM and Curry Our AGM will be held on 18 th June, at the skittles alley in the Barrels. This will be followed by a curry at the Marygold restaurant, Hereford.
July - 16 th	Morgan Car Factory Tour Behind the scenes at one of the world's most unique car manufacturers.
August - 20 th	Walking Tour of Hereford + Beer & Beefy A walking tour of the Masonic sites of interest around Hereford, culminating in a Beefy Boy's burger and your choice of refreshments.
September - 17 th	Pen-y-Fan Hike A club hike up the beautiful Pen-Y-Fan mountain.
October - 15 th	Frightmare Frightmare is a Halloween event held at Over Farm, the activities push the boundaries of human emotion, triggering fear, fun and everything in between, You can be scared, you can laugh, it's your experience.
November - 19 th	Metal Forging A Blacksmith's Forge in the Heart of the Herefordshire Countryside – make a sword, ring, knife...use fire to bend the metal to your will!
December - 19 th	Christmas Meal Join us for a meal out, where we can celebrate the end of the year together.

FURTHER DETAILS AND BOOKING ON THE WEBSITE [HERE](#)



Follow on Twitter [Here](#)



Follow on Facebook [Here](#)

Herefordshire Provincial Golf Society

The current list of matches agreed for 2022 are:

Match	Venue
Thursday 9 th June 2022 v Gloucestershire.	The Bells, Coleford (Home)
Tuesday 26 th July Masonic Open 4BBB	Bromsgrove GCC
Thursday 4 th August Triangular	Worcester/Herefordshire/Shropshire. Cleobury Mortimer
Sunday 4 th September Masonic Open	The Herefordshire Golf Club

We would welcome both new and existing members to the 2022 season. We would ask that all Brethren and members interested in playing and supporting the section to email their availability to David Gwynne the Club Secretary [here](#).



Herefordshire Provincial Golf Society

Match Report

Bro David Gwynne, the Society Secretary, gives us an update on the first match of the 2022 season



Pictured left Colin Kerfoot of Dean Waterfield Lodge and right Dave Gwynne Society Secretary.

The first match of the season was played at the Monmouthshire Golf Club at Llanfoist. The weather stayed fair despite the rain earlier in the morning.

There were five 'four balls' and we came away with a well earned half, represented by one win each and three halves. The course played well but you did need to be on the fairway or first cut. There were lots of runs on the greens so they were tricky. Overall, it was a very enjoyable round of golf with some interesting holes.

The staff at the Monmouthshire were very helpful and the catering provided fish chips and peas followed by sponge pudding and custard which went down very well. Well worth another visit and a big thanks to the Gwent Masons Golf section and we look forward to next year when we will be the hosts.

The next match is a home match against Gloucestershire on Thursday 9th June, first tee 11:20. We have agreed to play at the Bells at Coleford to help with their travelling and it is just over the border for us. I understand that there have been changes to

the course so if like me you haven't played it for some time it could be an interesting experience.

We are looking for twelve players to represent the Province, cost is £40 per player which will include coffee and a bacon roll on arrival, Beef and Ale pie chips and vegetables and a sweet of the day. 18 holes of golf a bargain!

Brethren please let me know if you are available for this match as soon as possible so as not to be disappointed. Email David Gwynne the Club Secretary [here](#).



Cathedral Service

26th June 2022

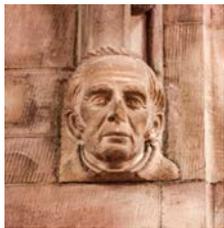
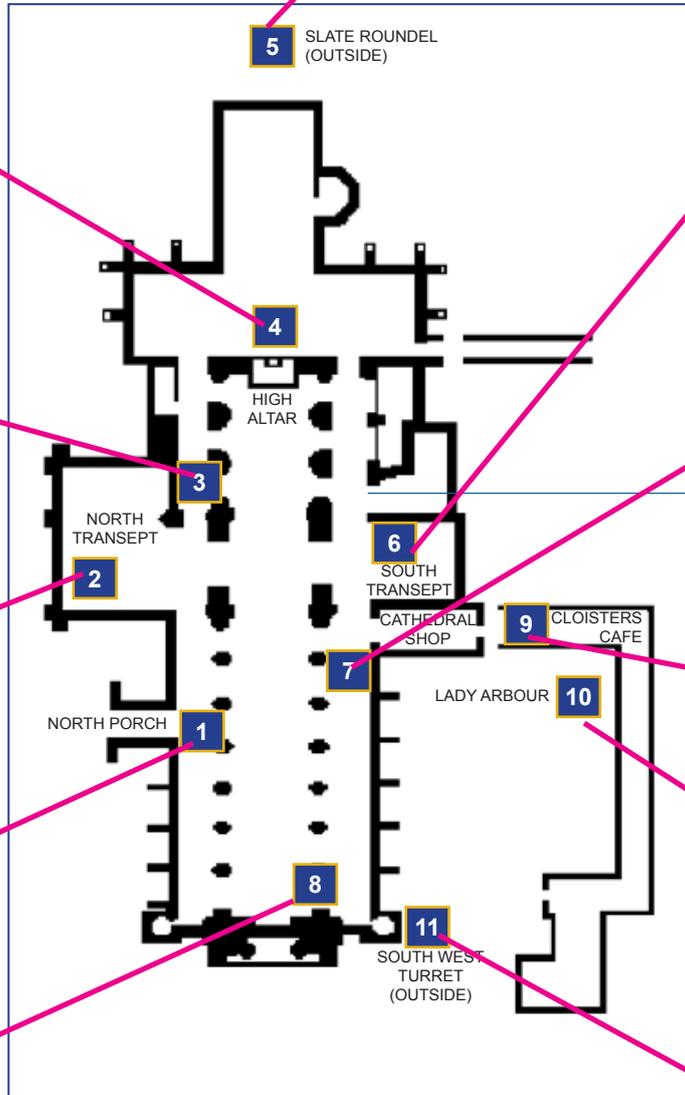
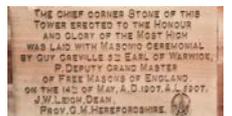
The Provincial Cathedral Service is later this month. Why not take the time to walk around the Cathedral Masonic Trail and see first hand the links with Freemasonry throughout the ages.

A printable copy of the trail by W Bro Egerton Parker PJDG and W Bro John Perris PProvSGW can be downloaded from the 'What's New' Section of the Provincial Website [here](#).





5 SLATE ROUNDLE (OUTSIDE)



Full details of the trail and a description of each area of interest are explained in the Cathedral Trail Leaflet.

These include Masonic symbolism, masons marks' and references to prominent local Masons throughout history.

The trail can be downloaded from the 'What's New' Section of the Provincial Website [here](#).

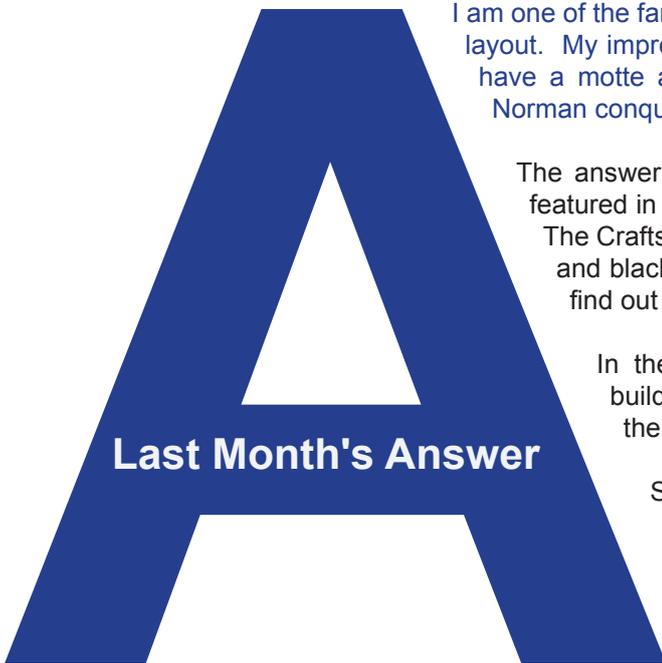


Download from the Provincial Website Here



WHERE AM I?

Last month we asked, can you identify this well known Herefordshire village?



I am one of the famous 'Black and White' villages. As a village I have a medieval layout. My impressive church has the second tallest spire in the county. I also have a motte and bailey castle, thought to have been built soon after the Norman conquest. Where am I?

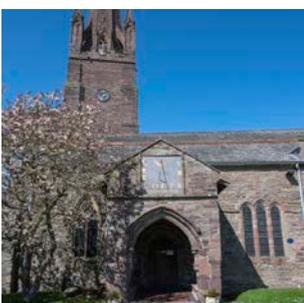
The answer was Weobley Village. Pronounced 'weblee', the village was featured in the Herefordshire Black and White trail in last month's issue of The Craftsmen. If you follow the trail from last month, look out for the pink and black house. If you are interested in the traditional Tudor buildings, find out more on the heritage trail signs dotted around the village.

In the village you can see excellent examples of timber-framed buildings, including Cruck cottages and Wealden houses, as well as the place where Charles 1st stayed overnight during the Civil War.

Stroll around the remains of Weobley Castle, a motte and bailey, thought to have been built soon after the Norman conquest. Wander over to the fine church of St Peter and St Paul with its 185 feet high spire, the second tallest spire in the county. It also has a sundial above the entrance to the church which is the oldest surviving building in the village.

For further details and a downloadable map of the Black and White Trail see the Visit Herefordshire Website <https://www.visitherefordshire.co.uk/see-do/scenic-trails/black-white-villages>

Or to download the full route osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/11375763/Black-and-white-House-Trail-Drive





WHERE AM I?

For this month, can you identify this well known Herefordshire church?

Q

This church was rebuilt in the 18th Century by the Bateman family and possibly designed by Horace Walpole

It has stunning stained glass windows by William Price the younger, and contemporaneous furniture

It is situated in a Site of Natural Beauty with outstanding views of Herefordshire

It was decided to relocate an important architectural feature of this church a few hundred yards away during the 18th Century when it was rebuilt

Where am I? - Answer next month.

Here are the answers to the Word Search from the May edition on Saxon Kings. This month's is on page 16.

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

This Month's Word Search



Do you know the twenty four types of British Spiders you are most likely to find in your house?

The answers can be in any direction, enjoy.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| BlackLaceWeaver | GiantHouse |
| Buzzing | GreenHuntsman |
| Cardinal | Jumping |
| Cave | Labyrinth |
| Cellar | Money |
| CommonCrab | OrbWeb |
| CommonOrbWeaver | RunningCrab |
| Cucumber | Sector |
| Cupboard | Spitting |
| EuropeanGarden | TubeWeb |
| FalseWidow | YellowSac |
| FourSpot | ZebraJumping |

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