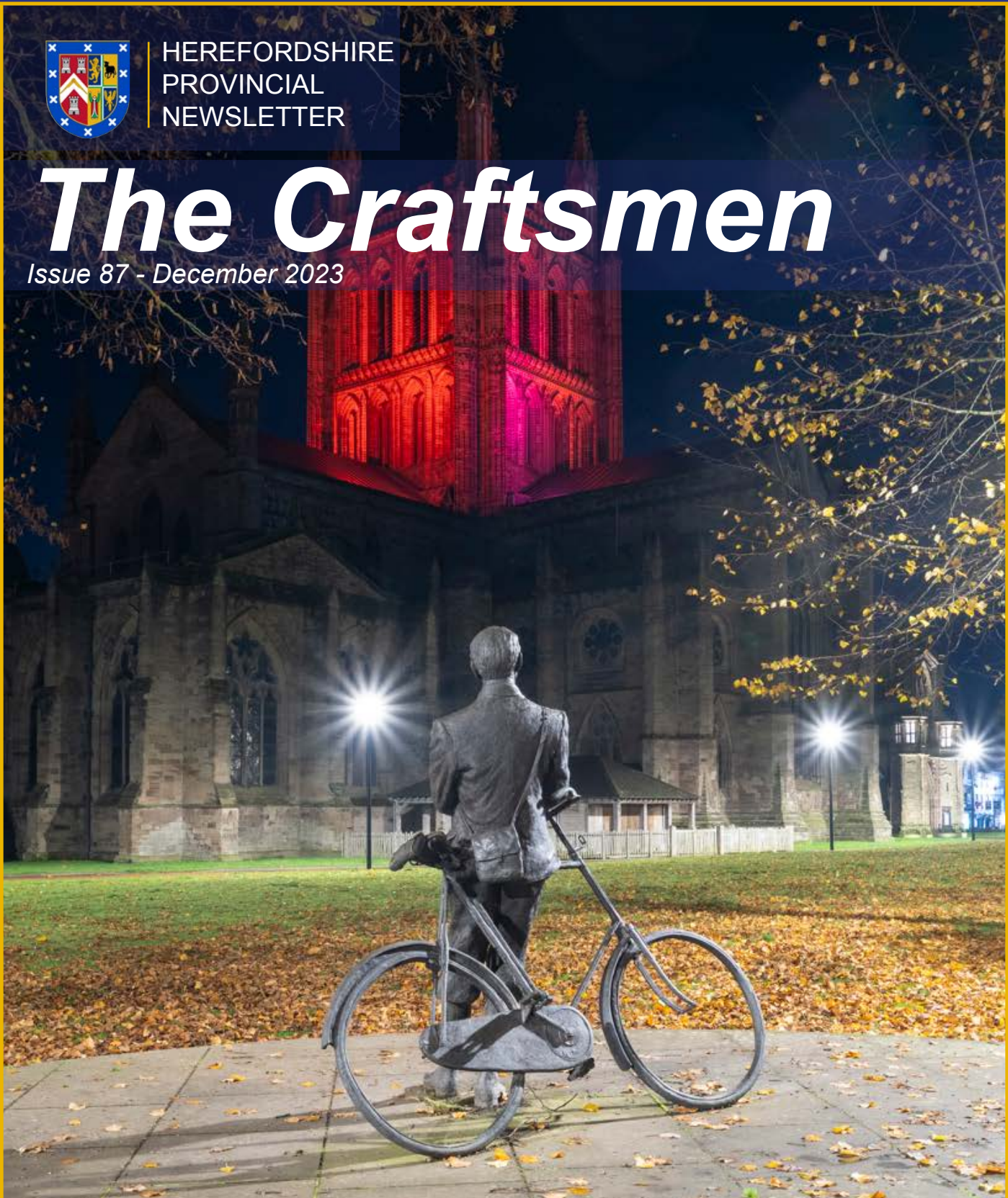




HEREFORDSHIRE  
PROVINCIAL  
NEWSLETTER

# *The Craftsmen*

Issue 87 - December 2023



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The apron tassels

# The Craftsmen

The Official Newsletter of the Province of Herefordshire

Issue 87 - December 2023

Editor - Andrew Moore

## Editorial Panel

Prov Comms Officer - Andrew Moore  
Palladian Lodge - Tom Spellane  
Vitruvian Lodge - Andrew Moore  
Eastnor Lodge - Nick Humphrey  
Royal Edward Lodge - Michael Hopkins  
Arrow Lodge - Tommy Santillo  
Loyal Hay Lodge - Tony Mercer  
Vaga Lodge - Vacant  
Cantilupe Lodge - Michael Francis  
Coningsby Lodge - Kevin Jones  
Delphis Lodge - Vacant  
Saint Peter's Lodge - Peter Hamblin  
Dean Waterfield Lodge - Paul Sabel  
Ariconium Lodge - Vacant

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Bringing you news from the Masonic Province of Herefordshire

# Would I know the answer?

## Did I know the answer?

By W Bro Dennis W. Roberts, PAGDC

### I was asked: What is the reason for Tassels on the apron?

Like most things in Freemasonry, we rarely question much of the symbolism: the progression through the degrees, three different aprons and each have their own interpretations, and again, like Freemasonry, there are differing explanations.

Ideally, an apron is to protect the wearer and prevent our clothing from being ruined. The Entered Apprentice apron however is a mark of favour from the Worshipful Master. This apron symbolises purity and innocence. The second degree apron has two blue rosettes to show progress in the science of Freemasonry. I can find no explanation for the sudden addition of the rosettes or their colour. The Master Mason's apron however, changes to one with a sky blue ribbon around the apron and an additional rosette on the triangular flap. The white strings are replaced with a sky blue ribbon and clasped together with a metal serpent. The explanation is simply "to mark the further progress you have made in the Science."

I have however discovered that some Lodges offer an extended alternative for the Senior Warden which goes as follows:

"The colour of the silk, the triangle and the three rosettes have special meanings. The vertical ribbons typify the two pillars, the import of which has already been explained to you. To each of these ribbons seven tassels are attached to remind us that no Lodge is perfect unless seven Brethren are present, that in olden days the seven ages of man were thought to be influenced by seven then known planets, and no MM was considered efficient unless he had some knowledge of the seven liberal arts and sciences."

There is a problem however for the original aprons of Freemasonry appear to have no ribbons or tassels. The creation of the United Grand Lodge of England formalised many different aprons and uniformly agreed the apron we see today.

The number seven is a reoccurring theme in the Craft; 3 principle officers and 2 Deacons, Inner Guard and Tyler, (or two Entered Apprentices). These represent the "seven fold" constitution of Man's nature, which are: the Body, Vitality, Astral Body, Animal Soul, Human Soul, Spiritual Soul and Spirit.

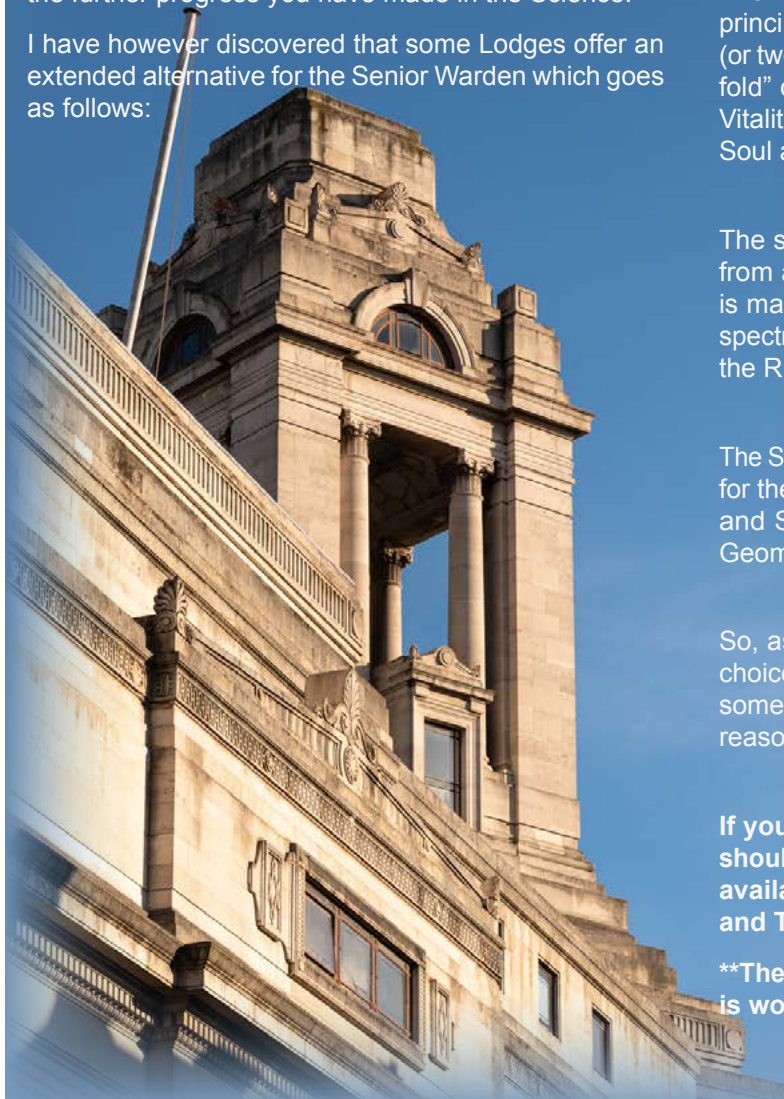
The seven silver tassels represent the light that comes from above, illuminating man's intelligence. White light is made up of seven waveforms of the electromagnetic spectrum. (Perhaps this concept was unknown at the time the Ritual was developed.)

The Second Degree Tracing Board give further explanations for the number seven being used. The seven liberal Arts and Sciences; Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy.

So, as usual in Freemasonry, you must make your own choice, but at least it will make you think that someone, sometime and somehow tried to link our symbolism with reason and rationale. Or just confuse us, again!

If you have not visited the 'Solomon' site lately, you should. There are now Videos, Podcasts and Webinars available for more in depth explanations. Facebook and Twitter also offer links for more information.

**\*\*There is also a new link to Royal Arch Chapter which is worth a look.\*\***



# Out and About

A round-up of events in and around Herefordshire Province



## Sixty Years Certificate

VW Bro Graham King presented a sixty year certificate to W Bro Peter Like of Loyal Hay Lodge No 2382. Peter was unable to be present at the Lodge meeting and so W Bro D Price arranged for Graham to visit Peter at his home and, after a most enjoyable time talking about memories and highlights of Peter's Masonic career, they adjourned to a local hostelry and enjoyed a pleasant lunch.



**Pictured Left**  
The VW DPGM  
and W Bro  
Peter Like



## Christmas Spirit

The Christmas season got off to a great start in Ross on Wye at the Vitruvian Lodge Christmas Lunch.



**Pictured Left**  
Vitruvian  
Christmas  
Lunch in full  
swing.

## GL Certificate Comes Home

At the November meeting of Vitruvian Lodge VW Bro Graham King reunited a Grand Lodge Certificate for Bro John Strange originally presented in 1927.

Passing on the Certificate to W Bro Peter Dunn who was in the chair for the evening, VW Bro Graham explained that he had been given the certificate by Bro Iain Jamieson of Vassar-Smith Lodge No 2994.

He in turn had received it from a free-miner friend of his who had an interest in collectables and antiques. When he checked some old books, the certificate literally fell out of the book and, knowing that Iain was a Mason, he appreciated the importance of such a document and gave it to him so he could get it back to the Lodge.

**Right**  
The DPGM  
hands the  
Grand Lodge  
Certificate to W  
Bro Peter Dunn



## Kirkwall Scroll Presentation

The evening of 24<sup>th</sup> November saw W Bro Geoff Wilding giving the presentation on the Kirkwall Scroll to Portsmouth Lodge 487 in Hampshire.

It was well received, and at the after proceedings the Brethren held a raffle, which, along with a private contribution, presented me with a £100 donation for the HMCA.

W Bro Roger Barnard, Portsmouth Lodge Secretary, commented “Completely absorbing and one of the best lectures Portsmouth Lodge has ever had.”

Any Lodge interested in hosting the presentation should contact [W Bro Geoff Wilding](#)



**Pictured Right**  
MW Bro Jonathan Spence updates attendees.

**Left**  
W Bro Geoff with a copy of the Kirkwall Scroll.

## Members' Pathway

A number of members of the Provincial Team attended a presentation in Bristol on the Members' Pathway and Strategy.

Headlining was MW Bro Jonathan Spence, the Pro Grand Master. There were a number of presentations and interactive sessions on aspects of the Members' Pathway, new features of Solomon and a chance to share experiences with other Provinces.

Solomon has had a number of updates recently including some interactive sections with quizzes and videos etc. If you have not looked recently then it is worth catching up on the new content.



## Remembrance Day

During Remembrance Day, Bro Mike Francis of Cantilupe Lodge was 'on duty' as The RW Mayor of Hereford's Mace Bearer, but managed to pose with the Provincial Grand Master for this picture on the steps of the Town Hall.

**Pictured Right**  
Bro Mike Francis with the PGM

**Left**  
The Provincial escorts and the DPGM waiting to go into the Dean Waterfield Lodge meeting



## Provincial Team Support

The Provincial Team have been out in force during November supporting the Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Provincial Grand Master at the Installation Ceremonies and Official Visits.

Here the team are seen at the recent Dean Waterfield Lodge who were carrying out a Third Degree.



# Membership Matters

These are the ceremonies in the Province for the rest of the month. Details of how to book in for dining and copies of the summonses are on the Provincial Members website [here](#).

Lodge	Date	Location	Meeting Business
Vitruvian	04/12/2023	Ross on Wye	Demonstration - opening and closing in three degrees
Coningsby	05/12/2023	Hereford	Installation
Palladian	07/12/2023	Hereford	Third Degree
Delphis	09/12/2023	Hereford	Third Degree
Arrow	11/12/2023	Kington	Installation
Loyal Hay	12/12/2023	Hay on Wye	Meeting and Christmas Dinner
Royal Edward	14/12/2023	Leominster	Second Degree
Eastnor	20/12/2023	Ledbury	Third Degree Walking Charge
Cantilupe	21/12/2023	Hereford	See Website
Ariconium		Hereford	Back in January 2024
St Peter's		Bromyard	Back in January 2024
Dean Waterfield		Hereford	Back in January 2024
Vaga		Hereford	Back in January 2024
<b>Chapter Meetings within Herefordshire</b>			
St Peter's	12/12/2023	Bromyard	Exaltation
Vitruvian		Ross on Wye	Back in February 2024
Royal Edward		Leominster	Back in February 2024
Palladian		Hereford	Back in January 2024

## PROVINCIAL EVENTS LIST – December 2023

Date	Lodge / Chapter	Event/Venue
<b>2023</b>		
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	UGLE	Quarterly Communication, FMH London
<b>Sat 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Royal Edward	Candlelight Supper, LMC
<b>2024</b>		
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	Ladies' Lunch Club	Speaker Siobhan Daniels – Retirement Rebel
<b>Sat 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Royal Edward Lodge	Race Night - Ploughman's Supper and Dessert - LMC
<b>Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024</b>	Dean Waterfield	Ladies' Festival (Venue to be confirmed)

FMH – Freemasons' Hall, London  
 LMC – Leominster Masonic Centre

Social Event Details on the Members' Portal here <https://hwmwma.herefordshiremasons.org.uk/events/>



# Herefordshire Provincial Golf Society



## Dear Golfing Brethren,

I know this is a little early and the season for summer golf has finished, but I thought I would give you a heads up for next year, so you can put it in your new diary's.

We have already arranged two matches for 2024, commencing with our regular fixture against Gloucester, which will be a home match.

### **Wormsley Golf Club**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**Tee off at 1300hrs.**

**The cost of golf and a two course meal is £40.**

**The annual Tri-angular Match against Worcester and Shropshire will be at**

**Burghill Valley Golf Club**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Tee off time of 1200hrs.**

**The cost of coffee, bacon roll, golf and a two course meal is £48.**

We still have a few more fixtures to sort out but I will keep you updated on those.

We have recently had an invitation to join Nottingham Province in an open, in support of in their 2029 Festival Appeal. This is to be held at Rufford Park Golf Club on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, cost is £50 per player and includes coffee and bacon cob, 18 holes of golf and a hot buffet, plus normal on course challenges. There is a maximum number of 60 places, and is open to both Masonic and non-Masonic golfers, which would potentially allow us to make up teams of members friends or family.

Any members who would fancy this can let me know and I will make the bookings.

Our A.G.M. will be in March 2024. We would like to see as many members as possible in attendance as it might be the opportunity to discuss our thoughts on running a similar open in respect of our forthcoming festival.

S&F

W Bro. David Gwynne  
Golf Society Secretary.



# Community Involvement

*Royal Edward Lodge celebrate their charitable activities during 2023.*

## **Bro Jed Watkins Royal Edward Lodge No 892**

Jed wanted to help his local charities and also the MCF by taking part in the Frankfurt Ironman Mainova Triathlon on 26th June 2022. The event entails Swimming 3.8km, Riding 180km and Running 42.2km.

After grabbing a quick breakfast, Jed left the hotel at 4:30am to arrive at the lake to start the 3.8km swim. The canon went off and he found himself in the middle of the arms and legs of 2500+ competitors.

With the swim completed, Jed headed off on the bike for the 180km cycle ride over rolling hills and steep climbs with fast descents. As the day and ride progressed, the heat increased to well over 34°C and on the second 90km lap the heat could felt bouncing off the tarmac. However, Jed managed to complete the 180km ride.

Jed then donned his cap and put on his trainers, plus more sun cream, and set off on the 42.2km run consisting of 4 laps through the city and along the River Main. As the race progressed, the heat climbed to well over 40°C but, with the tremendous support of the crowds that lined the route, Jed was able to complete the 26 miles.

Jed's ultimate goal was to complete the task and raise money for Masonic Charities via the Relief Chest Scheme and, thanks to everybody who supported and sponsored him, he raised the magnificent sum of £2,720.



**L-R Bro Jed Watkins, W Bro Carl Dakin, VW Bro Graham King and W Bro Tony Neave**

## **The Chris Neave Memorial Challenge Paddle – Cycle – Climb 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**

The challenge was completed by W Bro Tony Neave, accompanied by W Bro Carl Dakin, of Royal Edward Lodge No 892

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2022, Tony's younger brother, Chris Neave, passed away after a long battle with poor health. He spoke often about conducting adventures in Scotland if he was of good health.

Hence Tony, accompanied by Carl attempted the first Caledonian Adventure Triathlon which consisted of:

**Paddle** from Fort William, on the West Coast of Scotland, to Fort Augustus at the start of Loch Ness. This takes 2 days and covers 52km.

**Cycle** from Fort Augustus around Loch Ness via Inverness on the East Coast. This takes 2 or more days and covers 120km, both on and off road.

**Climb** Ben Nevis which takes 1 day and climbs over 1300m for a distance of 17km.

The money raised by this challenge was split between The Dogs Trust, Soldiers, Sailors & Airforce Families Association (SSAFA) and the Herefordshire Masonic Charity Association (HMCA). Tony was able to present the HMCA with a magnificent sum of £1,000 resulting from the sponsorship received.



**United in raising funds for charities and good causes**



# THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



## To Join Our Team

*Dear Brethren,*

I would like to start by wishing you and your family a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Over the past twelve months, the Board of Management for the Masonic Hall in Hereford has seen a fall in membership due to the sad loss of W Bro Denis Cox and the retirement of W Bro Vernon Davies. Both Brethren worked tirelessly for the benefit of all who use the building.

W Bro Tim Bridgland-Taylor has also given up his role as Secretary due to his important duties as Provincial Grand Charity Steward. I am pleased to say that Tim remains a member and contributes to both the hall and the bar for the benefit of us all.

I would like to invite anyone who feels they can join the team and give time to oversee the maintenance of the hall and the many improvements yet to be made. We are not looking for Brethren with specific trade skills, as all work carried out on the building is by a strict policy of using non-Masonic tradesmen to provide separation between the users of the hall and the management of the limited company. The other roles may find you doing small jobs with a broom, screwdriver, paintbrush, or find yourself killing weeds! Anyone joining would need to have the ability to discuss rationally the hall finances, to contribute to the continual improvement of the hall and to have the safety of all who use the building paramount in all discussions

We are also looking for a secretary. There is no need to be involved with Companies House or any legalities connected with the hall, as W Bro Tim Bridgland-Taylor can continue with that important role. The duties of the secretary will be to prepare minutes and reports for board meetings which happen every six weeks.

You will definitely be welcomed to the board by a very enthusiastic team, with all meetings being business-like but also very convivial. Most of the meetings are held on Fridays at 2pm as it is difficult to find evening slots. This also allows, on some occasions, for emergency work to be carried out after the meeting.

If you feel able to join the team, please contact me via [email](#). I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours S&F

W Bro Chris Burrow.  
Chairman



# Acts of Remembrance Across The Province

Many Lodges across the Province took part in acts of Remembrance on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, to pay their respects to those lost in conflict.

Eastnor Lodge laid a wreath in Ledbury.



Ariconium and Vitruvian Lodges did the same in Ross on Wye.

In Hereford the Provincial Grand Master laid a wreath as part of the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial in St Peter's Square.



In Hereford, the November meeting of Delphis Lodge coincided with 11<sup>th</sup> November and so they held a special act of Remembrance just before the Festive Board.

W Bro Paul Young of Delphis Lodge recited The Fallen by Laurance Binyon and W Bro Steve Pritchard Jones of Shropshire Round Table Lodge No 9104 played the 'Last Post' on the bugle. (Pictured below)



Excerpts of this can be seen in a video on the Public Website here.  
<https://herefordshiremasons.org.uk/remembrance-day-3/>

I am sure anyone who has been to the Hereford Masonic Centre will have seen the tribute on the wall near the bar to the six Brethren who fell during WWI.

W Bro Wilfred Carless PPrGStB Palladian - Lodge No 120  
W Bro Fredrick Cooper Vitruvian - Lodge No 338  
Bro Gerald Anthony - Eastnor Lodge No 751  
Bro Harry Smith - Eastnor Lodge No 751  
Bro Rhys Roberts - Arrow Lodge No 2240  
Bro James Brackner D.S.O - Loyal Hay Lodge No 2382



## For The Fallen

By Laurance Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.



# CHARITY PRESENTATION EVENING

Feedback from the Attendees

Reasons to be Proud to be a Freemason in Herefordshire



Here is just some of the feedback we received from the Charity attendees from the Charity Presentation evening.

Thank you all for your participation and work you have undertaken for charitable donations and volunteering hours during 2023.

A video of some of the feedback can be found on the Provincial Website in the news section [here](#). Also press articles in the Ross Gazette [here](#) and Ledbury Reporter [here](#).

Here are just some of the responses from the charities after the event.



Good afternoon Sir

We would like to thank you for the kind invitation to the event held on the 4th.

We very much enjoyed the evening and it was humbling to be included in such a worthy group.

If there is ever anything we can do in support of any of your colleagues, please feel free to reach out. You are all also welcome to drop in for a tea or coffee any time.

With kind regards  
Sean and the VSC team

Sean Gane  
Veteran Support Centre Manager

**Herefordshire.gov.uk**



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**SAFE**  **HEREFORDSHIRE**

## Hereford Foodbank

Good morning Tim

I just wanted to mail and say thank you and the Herefordshire Freemasons for a fantastic event on Saturday evening.

I am sorry that I had to leave before I had the opportunity to speak to you or collect the cheque.

You, or members of the Herefordshire Freemasons, would be most welcome to visit the Hereford Foodbank at any time.

Kind regards  
Helen



I want to thank you for your hospitality on Saturday and congratulate you on the enormous generosity of the Masonic Province of Herefordshire in making the awards you did that night and also for the long record of charitable giving in our county, of which you must be very proud. A real engine for good in Herefordshire.

I thought it was a great idea to open the Temple and to invite people to see real Freemasonry in action in that way. Firstly I think it is only right that people should have some idea of what you do on the charitable front and secondly, to have so many people from so many arms of the charity sector in the same place at the same time is a very welcome innovation. As we were saying on Saturday they do tend to talk to just about everyone except one another. A lot of people remarked on that and I'm sure they benefited enormously from it. If it was ever to become a regular fixture in the calendar I think everyone would really benefit from it in so many ways. I hope you thought it was the success everyone else did.

Finally, to thank you for your very kind donation, via the Herefordshire Community Foundation under whose umbrella it sits, to the High Sheriffs Fund. This was unexpected and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

With very best wishes  
Robert

Robert Robinson  
High Sheriff of Herefordshire 2023-24  
[www.highsheriffherefordshire.org](http://www.highsheriffherefordshire.org)

### **NHS Wye Valley Charitable Trust**

Dear Tim

Just wanted to reach out to say thank you for Saturday evening. Wye Valley NHS Trust is incredibly lucky to have your support, we are grateful for all that you do for us.

On a personal note, I know you were a little nervous about the event but you delivered in spades. It was so well done, you should be chuffed to bits.

The networking session worked brilliantly. I bumped into a colleague that I haven't seen in years, we had a long natter and agreed to catch up over a coffee.

Take care, Tim, and thank you again

Ali



### **RNLI**

Dear Tim & David,

Just a note to thank you so much for inviting us to the Herefordshire Freemasons' Charity Presentation Evening on the 4th November as representatives of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Although we understand it was your first event with this type of format we thought it was very well-organised and the evening proved to be most enjoyable. The range of charities to which you awarded funds was quite amazing, covering as it did a whole spectrum of organisations. Many congratulations on the amount you and your colleagues have raised and distributed through your combined efforts.

With best wishes and our sincere thanks once again for your generous donation to our work.

David & Julia  
RNLI Gloucester & Forest of Dean Branch.

# W Bro R Cross and his Silver Matchbox

*W Bro David Sayers recalls an Excellent Mason and Emulation Ritualist.*



## Introduction

Without fear of contradiction, W Bro Cross was one of the leading exponents of Emulation Ritual during the last century. He arrived in Leominster towards the end of the 1920s and became a joining member of Royal Edward Lodge. He became DC in 1930 and continuously held this position until 1960. He was responsible for the introduction of Emulation Working strictly in accordance with that which was worked at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement and REL was renowned for its high standard.

I was proposed into Royal Edward Lodge (REL) by W Bro Cross and was well drilled by him whenever I had work to do in Lodge. Immediately after I was initiated and we were out in the car it was soon "Where were you first prepared to be a Mason?"

Even after he retired as DC, he still took part in the ceremonies and performed major pieces of work including the lectures. When he was last seen in REL he was approaching ninety years of age.

When he died at the age of ninety-two his regalia and memorabilia came into the possession of REL. Included in these items are the silver matchbox and silver pencil that bears his name. These have been on display in our glass cabinet but as with the other items in it, there is no information as to what the items refer. This talk has come about from my wish to do a card providing details of these two items for the benefit of the future Brethren and visitors.

## Initiation and Grand Lodge Certificate

Reginald Cross was initiated in Commercial Temperance Lodge No 3144 on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1911 in Windsor. I am passing round his Grand Lodge Certificate as it is one in the original form both in Latin and English and many of you will not have seen one like this, although the old form is often referred to when current certificates are presented.

## Silver Matchbox

I needed to make some enquiries to ensure that the information I was providing to go in the cabinet is accurate and it is as a result of these enquiries that I gleaned such information that it formed the basis of what I trust will be of interest to you all.

I am passing round the matchbox and pencil together with the photographs provided by W Bro Lee. The gold chain was appended to the matchbox but it has no significance in connection with that which I am about to relate.

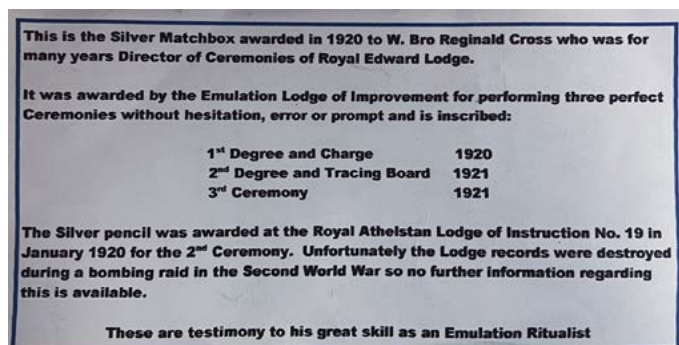


I will come on to the pencil later. The matchbox, to give it its proper title is known as an Emulation Silver Match Safe. These are awarded by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for a perfect rendering of Masonic Ceremonies according to Emulation Working. They have been awarded since 1898 to Brethren who have worked any of the three degrees or Installation Ceremony. Up to date there have been 347 issued. Of these 118 have been awarded to Brethren who have worked all four ceremonies without error, hesitation or prompting. This is known as a complete record. I also have some current year books from the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for you to peruse.

As you will see from the engravings on this matchbox W. Bro Cross worked the three degrees during the 1920/21 session. I do not know if he ever attempted to work the Installation Ceremony. He did once tell me that at that time he was the only person who had worked the three degrees during the same session. This matchbox is recorded as No101.

The Emulation Lodge of Improvement, meets at Freemasons Hall every Friday from October to June. It first met in 1823 and every effort has been made to preserve the original working except where subsequent changes have been approved by Grand Lodge.

An interesting feature of their meetings is that someone is delegated to turn up late on purpose in order that the procedure for dealing with the reports on the door may be practised on each occasion. They also call off and on.



“Masons.” In another ceremony the Candidate made an error and, whilst this would not cause disqualification, the fact that the error was not corrected did. In yet another someone watching spoke and this was deemed to be a prompt. Another working the second degree when explaining the tracing board pointed to the wrong spot when referring to the letter “G.”

You will now appreciate that only the very best ritualists are awarded a silver matchbox and Bro Cross was no exception. There have only been fifty matchboxes awarded to brethren who have gone on to complete the three degrees so you will all appreciate the fact that we have a relatively rare treasure in our possession.

This is the Silver Matchbox awarded in 1920 to W. Bro Reginald Cross who was for many years Director of Ceremonies of Royal Edward Lodge.

It was awarded by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for performing three perfect Ceremonies without hesitation, error or prompt and is inscribed:

1 <sup>st</sup> Degree and Charge	1920
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree and Tracing Board	1921
3 <sup>rd</sup> Ceremony	1921

The Silver pencil was awarded at the Royal Athelstan Lodge of Instruction No. 19 in January 1920 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ceremony. Unfortunately the Lodge records were destroyed during a bombing raid in the Second World War so no further information regarding this is available.

These are testimony to his great skill as an Emulation Ritualist

## Silver Pencil

With regard to the silver pencil I am afraid that this is something of a mystery. The inscription “RA LOI No 19” relates to the Royal Athelstan Lodge, London. Whilst the Lodge is still running, the L of I is defunct. Unfortunately most of the records were destroyed during a bombing raid in the last war. There is however a bicentennial history of the Lodge and in this is the following passage. “W Bro Cambell-Everden was a great exponent of ritual and in March 1914 was presented with “the Matchbox” by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for his rehearsal of the ceremony of Installation. The matchbox was also awarded to Bro Brownrigg in October 1920 and to Bro Cross the following month. Later they both worked another ceremony word perfect. Actually I am not sure that this is strictly accurate for Bro Brownrigg is only recorded as having completed the third degree. Incidentally his was the 100th matchbox awarded.

I mentioned the Lectures that Bro Cross delivered from time to time. These are rarely heard but they are practised regularly at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. There are seven lectures associated with the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, five with the second and three with the third. They consist of generally short questions and much longer answers. At the Emulation Lodge of Improvement they note in their minutes that the lectures are worked by the Brother who asks the questions and make no reference to the Brother who provides the answers; this being the major part of the work.

To obtain a matchbox, the ceremony has to be exactly correct in all respects and they are incredibly strict. Every syllable and movement has to be precise.

To give you an example of this here are some recent reasons for failure.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree a Brother said “Freemasons” instead of

Regrettably there is no record of the silver pencil being awarded so I can only assume that it was issued by the Lodge of Instruction for a similar rendering of the second degree in January 1921.

There were therefore three members of that Lodge of Instruction holding matchboxes at that time - not a place to stutter I would imagine.

# Are You Fundraising?

*Did you know there is an alternative to Just Giving run by the MCF?*



Will you be fund raising for your Lodge or HMCA?

Then here is a FREE and easy to use alternative to JustGiving.

## Freemasonry Gives

Follow the link: <https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/masonic-charitable-foundation>

Choose your Lodge or HMCA Relief Chest and click on 'Become a Fund Raiser'.

Remember everything you raise in sponsorship goes to your chosen Relief Chest.

No hidden costs, no fees to any fund raising page.

A free resource supplied by Freemason's charity the MCF

## Charity Updates



## MCF Grants In Herefordshire

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 we have received the following grants as a Province.



**15**  
Grants



**£53,366**  
The value of grants  
awarded



These applications covered a wide range of uses.

Please see the link below to show what can be applied for:

<https://mcf.org.uk/get-support/grants-to-charities/>





# Royal Edward Lodge Race Night



## Ploughman's Supper and Dessert

Tote



Bar

Leominster Masonic Centre, South Street, Leominster

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Paddock Opens 6:30pm

Under Starters Orders 7:00pm

Entry by Race Card: £12.00 pp

Why Not Buy a Horse for £12.00 / Sponsor a Race for £45.00



*Royal Edward Lodge*

### CANDLELIGHT DINNER



*Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2023*

The Leominster Masonic Centre

Please enter your menu choice numbers and send this slip by **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** to:

Booking details on the website

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Names	Starter	Main	Sweet

Booking details on the website

*Tickets £30. Dinner Jackets or Lounge Suits. 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. prompt*

*Musical Entertainment provided by "Smokestack."*

*Traditional Christmas Raffle*

Starters Choices	Main Course Choices	Sweet or Cheese Choice
1 Broccoli & Stilton Soup	4 Roast Turkey with Traditional Trimmings	7 Brandy Snaps filled with Cream & Raspberries,
2 Prawn Cocktail	5 Vegetable Lasagne	8 Apple Pie and Cream
3 Pate with Caramelised Onion Chutney	6 Nut Roast	9 Cheese & Biscuits with Grapes

**Further details for any event go to the Provincial Members' Website**

<https://hmwma.herefordshiremasons.org.uk/events/>



Did you find the Gunpowder Plot themed words?

## The Gun Powder Plot 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1605

QQELMLD TUOVI D QFXMNKUZ JQNGIV NHXL  
 RYNEJID ZCAGYTE EURIBYRTMKUI O VNBH  
 JOSTATEEGBMXSRGGXFTQQVGMPT JGAMY  
 GEBFEPVMR JZPLBIN GUNPOWDERY TJOK  
 XACEPXFWEYZTPCRANMITGNLRHERUVS  
 FCGGRNRCKVTEJTXMAHVUGOTDOSIDFHY  
 JOYPMTO LXKNRTNARGQUZTTHSNYVJUY  
 YDFARQWRBSADATLMNUFEIRZSBABHNPA  
 YHWBPPGIRQEITU EUNSLLRGLXODQOBSN  
 DRAWNUOANGDIHEQDOTNFXC SBAHXQJRA  
 DGYJDUASRTFAPDYITEQYAXHHGMKVEUS  
 KGNALSHZCNOQWTQIVJCTHPUFZJDRCOB  
 GHKPVVYTNIEUJGLETRENYNTICDNYGTT  
 ONRAZXMSRALTRYTIESGTJTCTBIQTCNN  
 ZCIYSXREUVVOESLPBONVPTREEHWUOIC  
 RBBNBLZKATIRHUZYEEFTMBNEXXNZQWD  
 BOUOEJSWKESHSGTJJMLRAGLTSSTFISZ  
 IBWULPTAKPQJISAAEXQE QSHQE H QIGAM  
 BYDRUF OFMRWDFKICYOUADZXM BHA YWMO  
 VVBXGMZUCVNKBLOWUPSPXADCEHMHO  
 KLQSJRJHMJIOFRRQJDHHOVJGSYRPMWHT  
 DTZDNQICRCTAQP LVBZRNGHFJNZHRXTV  
 JVMRFA XUOOPGUEHHWYONVYOWP FJKLLX  
 OMMOE FAXES OSXDVREGIOXRVBGXAWLFP  
 KLP LSYPYMIAKEAANYKYVHYJQDN YMG EQ  
 YAYNUTVNIRMZWKZFKJZTXADHPWB DUL  
 FNGYOEMOFQLJKOEZPSNLGBEKWSYNGTI  
 ZBNLHLGZFRTPVVOKFTOYUFJKYXXHDI  
 QQPOXPLXEAHOJULDONT PGRPACVJABTD  
 ENSGLFXICOVD ETARTSACEOVVPSXXCEP  
 HGLDRGBFPXRFI ZCIWXMZRUIYVNVBEP

- Opening State Tresham Lords House Blowup Parliament
- Castrated Quartered Drawn Hanged Plot Gunpowder
- Treason Catholics KingJames Garnet HumphreyLittleton
- StevenLittleton Fawkes Rookwood RobertWintour Keys
- ThomasWintour Bates Grant Digby Percy Catesby

Can you find the Xmas Fayre?

## Xmas Fayre

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

- |                |           |             |              |             |            |         |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| Cloves         | Dates     | Onion       | Sage         | Chestnuts   | Pickles    | Port    |
| SloeGin        | Trifle    | Truffles    | Breadsauce   | Satsuma     | Grapes     |         |
| RedCabbage     | Figs      | Nuts        | Stilon       | BrandySauce | Chocolates |         |
| Sprouts        | YuleLog   | Carp        | Salmon       | Goose       | Porkpie    | Sausage |
| PigsinBlankets | Stuffing  | Cranberries | Ham          | Turkey      | Stollen    |         |
|                | Panettone | Mincepies   | Figgypudding |             |            |         |