



HEREFORDSHIRE  
PROVINCIAL  
NEWSLETTER

# The Craftsmen

Issue 89 - February 2024



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## Would I Know, Did I Know?

The Provincial Banner

# The Craftsmen

The Official Newsletter of the Province of Herefordshire

Issue 89 - February 2024

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  
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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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The Craftsmen Newsletter

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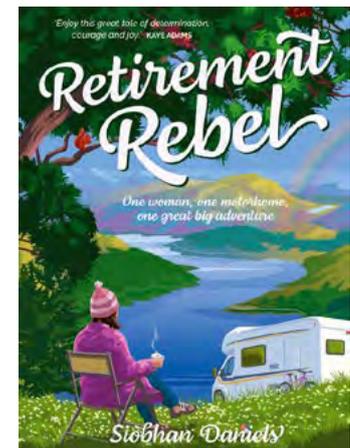
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## T@3 including this month's Word Search

This month's 'Valentine's Day' Wordsearch plus answers to last month's Wordsearch.

## Together with the usual 'Out and About' and 'Upcoming Events'



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

### This month I asked: In plain sight; What do I see?

Sometimes we all take things for granted and do not examine and ask what it is that we see, and why. For me, a real example of this is the Provincial Banner. It is always on show for the Provincial meeting, and permanently displayed in the Hereford temple. But it has meaning and reasons for its various parts, which few of us even question. All Provinces have a banner and each is peculiar to them, but nevertheless linked to Grand Lodge.

In the centre is the arms of Grand Lodge which are an amalgamation of those used by the Moderns in 1717 and the Ancients in 1750, which were then merged in 1813.

This banner is, of course, not the first for Herefordshire. The first was provided in 1817 by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Richard Scudamore, but there is no trace

of it today. A second banner was presented in November 1880 by the newly installed PGM, RW Bro Sir Joseph Russell Bailey, afterwards Lord Glanusk. This framed banner is in the dining room in Hereford and has an explanation of its history; well worth a read. The third banner was commissioned by Provincial Grand Lodge and presented in the Province on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1994, and hangs in the Lodge Room in Kyrle Street.

In the top left are the arms of the Scudamore family showing three stirrups leathered and buckled, surmounted by a ducal crown and 'bears paw'. Top centre are the Square and Compasses enclosed in a laurel wreath of honour. Top right is the arms of the City of Hereford showing three lions passant guardant holding erect a sword in the Dexter paw.

The Centre Shield is supported by two cherubims and comprises three castles and a chevron on which is an open set of compasses, and on the right a lion, an ox, a man and an eagle, symbols which will be familiar to those who are members of the Holy Royal Arch. The shield is surmounted by The Ark of the Covenant. The motto, 'Audi, Vide, Tace' translates as 'Listen, See, Be Silent'.

On the bottom left is the Sun (to rule the day), bottom right is the Moon (to govern the night), both being messengers of His will and His law in concord. The emblem at bottom centre is of the Royal Arch Chapter, comprising a double triangle (the Seal of Solomon), with the letter G in the centre. A fuller explanation of this emblem can, of course, be learned by becoming a member of the Holy Royal Arch Chapter; much encouraged by our leaders today.

Again, I am indebted to the work of WBro Alwyn Williams' book 'A History of Craft Freemasonry in Herefordshire', for dates and other details. Perhaps it is now time to look again in detail at your own Lodge banner and discover the thinking behind those who first designed it?

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



## Two Fifty Year Certificates

January 2024 was a special month in Herefordshire as two Fifty Year Certificates were presented.

One to W Bro Michael Littlefield PPrGReg at Ariconium Lodge on 16<sup>th</sup> January by VW Bro Graham King DPGM and one to W Bro Anthony Greene PAGDC at Cantilupe Lodge on 18<sup>th</sup> January by RW Bro Michael Holland PGM.

Michael was a founder of Ariconum Lodge having been initiated into Delphis Lodge on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1973. He was Master of Ariconium Lodge in 1984 and again in 1997 and held various offices including Charity Steward for nine years.



**Pictured Left**  
The DPGM and W Bro Michael Littlefield at Ariconium Lodge

Anthony was initiated on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1974 and has enjoyed a long and distinguished masonic career seeing him be a founder of three Lodges and take the Chair of Cantilupe lodge in 1997. His Masonic career spanned the Provinces of Herefordshire, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire and Warwickshire.



**Pictured Left**  
The RW PGM and W Bro Anthony Greene PAGDC at Cantilupe Lodge.

To put their distinguished careers into perspective, in 1974 Abba won Eurovision singing Waterloo, the World Cup was held in West Germany and in boxing Mohammed Ali beat George Foreman at the iconic “Rumble in the Jungle”.

The Cantilupe Meeting was also a double Initiation performed in an excellent manner by the Worshipful Master, W Bro Andy Cartwright watched by the initiates’ close friends, many visitors and Brethren.



**Pictured Right**  
The Worshipful Master Andy Cartwright, and Initiates at the January meeting of Cantilupe Lodge



At the same meeting of Cantilupe Lodge the PGM was able to present a number of Grand Lodge Certificates.

## Mobility Scooter Available

The mobility scooter that was used by W Bro Ege Parker, and which has since been used by one of the Arrow Lodge widows is now available for use by anyone else in need, within the Province.

Brethren can contact Allan Flexman the Almoner of Arrow Lodge to discuss arrangements if they wish.

## Light Blues Making a Difference

Three 'Light Blues' stepped up and took on three pieces of ritual at the last Dean Waterfield Lodge. The Initiation was a great success not least because the Junior Deacon leading the Candidate, the Working Tools and Charge in the North East were all delivered by three Light Blues showing that they were very happy to take on pieces of work and delivered them with great success.



We hope the candidate, Stephen, had a chance to enjoy the night and look forward to seeing him visiting other Lodges to see an Initiation for himself.



## Palladian Installation

**Pictured Right**  
The DPGM, Worshipful Master and members of Palladian Lodge at their Installation Meeting in January.



Kicking 2024 off in great style the Palladian Installation meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Great to see so many Brethren taking part and the DPGM accompanied by many Provincial Officers. We wish W Bro Green an enjoyable and successful year. Without time to pause for breath, in February Palladian carried out an Initiation.

**Pictured Left**  
The three Light Blues who performed key pieces of ritual at the Dean Waterfield Lodge Meeting.

**Pictured Right**  
The RW PGM, Worshipful Master and brethren with the Initiate at Palladian's February meeting.



## Arrow Ladies Festival

Around forty people enjoyed the joint Teme and Arrow Lodge Ladies Festival held at the Cider Barn in Pembridge on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

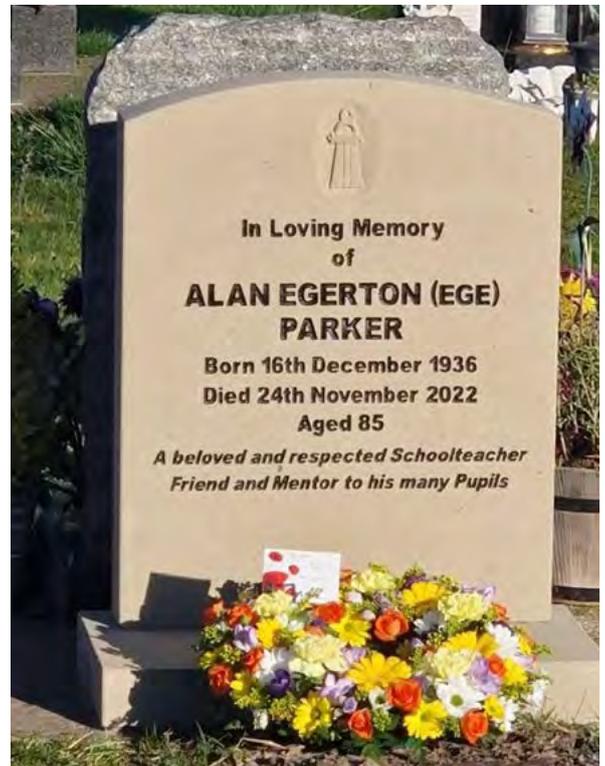




## In Memory of Ege Parker



**Pictured Left**  
The RW Bro Malcolm Lane officiating with W Bro Malcolm Davies



W Bro Malcolm Davies, the Provincial Grand Almoner, and all the Brethren of Vaga Lodge would like to thank all those that contributed to the headstone and who attended the day.

R W Bro Malcolm Lane officiated at the dedication ceremony for the headstone for W Bro Ege Parker at Hereford cemetery which was attended by a number of Brethren and friends from Herefordshire and beyond.

These included the PGM, DPGM, Les Hutchinson from MCF, representatives from Hereford Cathedral School and from Peace and Harmony Lodge No 60 and Old Masonians Lodge No 2700 who had kindly helped with donations towards the gravestone.

**Pictured Below**  
Those assembled for the dedication



# Kirkwall Scroll Presentation

"An excellent and interesting presentation"

Rt W Bro Michael Timothy Holland - Provincial Grand Master - Herefordshire

"One of the best lectures Portsmouth Lodge has ever had"

W Bro Roger Barnard - Secretary

For further information and booking availability please contact **Geoff Wilding** on [ks.talk23@gmail.com](mailto:ks.talk23@gmail.com)




Please send in your pictures and a few words from your meetings or events and we will publish in the **Craftsmen** and on the website and social media.

[pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk](mailto:pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk)



# Herefordshire Provincial Golf Society

Dear Golf Brethren,

I thought I would give you a reminder for the coming year so you can put it in your new diaries. We have already arranged two matches for 2024, commencing with our regular fixture against Gloucester which will be a home match at Wormsley Golf Club. Details are in the table below.

We still have a few more fixtures to sort out but I will keep you updated on those, I have been in contact with Gwent and Tim Huckel, their secretary, and he will be in contact shortly.

We are hoping that South Wales are going to run their charity match in Bridgend this year, so when I have further information I will circulate Our A.G.M. is on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at Kyrle Street, 1900hrs.

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 and to look at increasing new members to the section.

*Dave Gwynne*

Provisional Dates for 2024		
Date	Venue	Details
8 <sup>th</sup> March	AGM	Kyrle Street 19:00hrs
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Nottingham Province Open Rufford Park Golf Club	We have recently had an invitation to join Nottingham Province in an open, in support of their 2029 Festival Appeal. This is to be held at Rufford Park Golf Club on 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024. The 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 allow us to make up teams of potential member's friends or family. We have one team interest so anyone else who is interested please let me know
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Match against Gloucestershire Wormsley Golf Club	Home match at Wormsley Golf Club on Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July. Tee off at 1300hrs. The cost of golf and a two course meal is £40.
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Ten Provinces Match Tewkesbury Park	Four Ball event, which we are currently the holder of the trophy and I'm sure we will try and retain.
6 <sup>th</sup> August	Tri-angular Match against Worcester and Shropshire Burghill Valley Golf Club	Tee off time of 1200hrs. At Burghill Valley Golf Club. The cost of coffee bacon roll, golf and a two course meal is £48.



# Provincial Widows Lunch 2024

The Provincial Luncheon for Widows will be held at the Masonic Hall, Kyrle Street, Hereford on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 12.30pm for 1.00pm.**

Ideally all widows should be invited to attend, irrespective of whether your Lodge holds its own function, as it is an opportunity for the widows across the Province to re-kindle friendships.

The cost will be £20 per head, inclusive of a wine and sherry reception. The cost for each widow attending is £10, which the lodge may wish to pay on behalf of the widow, with the Province subsidising the balance of £10.

Please send a list of those Brethren/partners and widows who are attending with payment to the Provincial Grand Almoner. Details for payment have been sent to every Lodge Almoner and Secretary.

When submitting your Lodge return, please indicate any other dietary requirements. Also, anything that specially marks the day for any of our guests, such as a birthday.

**Closing date for bookings is Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

**Dress smart casual - jackets and tie.**

MENU	
<b>Starter</b>	Vegetable Soup or Melon
<b>Main Course</b>	Roast Chicken (carved) or Salmon (Vegetarian option available)
<b>Sweet</b>	Lemon Meringue or Cheese & Biscuits (all alternatives must be pre-ordered)
Tea and Coffee	



# 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
Palladian	01/02/2024	Hereford	First Degree - Initiation
Vitruvian	05/02/2024	Ross on Wye	Installation
Coningsby	06/02/2024	Hereford	First Degree - Initiation
Royal Edward	07/02/2024	Leominster	First Degree - Initiation
Delphis	10/02/2024	Hereford	First Degree - Initiation
Arrow	12/02/2024	Kington	First Degree - Explanation
Cantilupe	15/02/2024	Hereford	First Degree - Double Initiation
Loyal Hay	19/02/2024	Hay on Wye	Third Degree - Raising
Dean Leigh Masters	20/02/2024	Hereford	Talk on the 'Operatives' Degree
Eastnor	21/02/2024	Ledbury	Second Degree - Passing
Dean Waterfield	22/02/2024	Hereford	See Website
Vaga	24/02/2024	Hereford	See Website
St Peter's	28/02/2024	Bromyard	See Website
Ariconium	19/03/2024	Ross on Wye	See Website
Manchester St Davids	08/06/2024		See Website
<b>Chapter Meetings within Herefordshire</b>			
Cantilupe	13/02/2024	Hereford	Symbolical and Mystical Lectures
Vitruvian	16/02/2024	Ross on Wye	Exaltation
Royal Edward	26/02/2024	Leominster	See Website
Loyal Hay	04/03/2024	Hay on Wye	Next Meeting March 2024
St Peter's	12/03/2024	Bromyard	Next Meeting March 2024
Arrow	20/03/2024	Kington	Installation
Palladian	25/03/2024	Hereford	Exaltation

There is a matrix of all Craft and Chapter meeting dates across the Province on the Members Portal [here](#) (Login Required).

<https://hwmma.herefordshiremasons.org.uk/member-login/member-login/provincial/summonses/>

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

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

## PROVINCIAL EVENTS LIST – February 2024

Date	Lodge / Chapter	Event/Venue
<b>2024</b>		
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Royal Edward Lodge	Race Night - Ploughman's Supper and Dessert - LMC
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024	Dean Waterfield	Ladies' Festival (Venue to be confirmed)
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	St Peter's	Winter Social – Falcon Hotel Bromyard
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	UGLE Quarterly Communications	FMH
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Dean Waterfield Masquerade Ball	Masonic Hall, Kyrle Street, Hereford
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	GRAND LODGE Annual Investiture	FMH
<b>Thur 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>	<b>Supreme Grand Chapter</b>	<b>FMH</b>
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	Provincial Grand Lodge	Masonic Hall Kyrle Street Hereford
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	St Peter's	Comedy Evening – Falcon Hotel Bromyard
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Provincial Cathedral Service	Hereford Cathedral
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	UGLE Quarterly Communications	FMH
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	UGLE Quarterly Communications	FMH
<b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>	<b>Provincial Grand Chapter G&amp;H</b>	<b>Crypt Grammar School, Gloucester</b>
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Palladian	Ladies Festival (Venue to be confirmed)
<b>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>	<b>Supreme Grand Chapter</b>	<b>FMH</b>
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	UGLE Quarterly Communications	FMH

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

The Caeruleum Club would love for you and your family to join us for....

**CLAY SHOOTING** FOLLOWED BY **FRY UP IN HEREFORD**

LOCATION: LOWE FARM, HEREFORD, HR2 8DG  
 WHAT3WORDS: SHIPWRECK.WOMANLY.RATING

March 16, 2024 | H S Activities | 11:00 am

Register at [www.Caeruleum.Club/Clay2023](http://www.Caeruleum.Club/Clay2023)

**Further details of all Caeruleum Club Events at**

<https://caeruleum.club/club-events/>

# Membership Update

*An update for February 2024 from the Provincial Grand Membership Officer, W Bro Stuart Jones.*



We have got off to a great start in 2024 with Lodges having initiated eight new members into the Province.

We welcome Ian, Stephen, Matthew, Andrew, Luigi, Jason, Paul and Steven.

We hope you all have a happy and rewarding membership of your Lodges and the wider Masonic fraternity.

In addition to initiates we had 2 joining members, welcome Stephen and David, welcome back!

Also we still have twenty four candidates awaiting Initiation, so a lot of work to be done this year by all.

Don't forget to try and welcome these candidates as soon as possible into your lodges; include them in social activities prior to their Initiation so that feel included and welcome. Also talk within your Lodge about doing double ceremonies so that these gentlemen can take an active part in your lodge.

The Provincial Mentor and Director of Ceremonies can always help with guidance and suggestions.

Finally please keep supporting your newer members in Lodge, ensuring they are involved as much as is reasonable and that time is taken to explain our ceremonies and traditions, all of which will help them enjoy their membership

Thank you to all who contributed to our online posts during January 2024.

Send in your pictures of meetings or events to [pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk](mailto:pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk) and we will publish in The Craftsmen and on our Social Media feeds.

**HEREFORDSHIRE FREEMASONS**

**Postcard from a successful January 2024**  
*Many new members, two 50 Year Certificates, two Installations and 'light blues' taking on much of the work. Looking forward to a great 2024. Why not be part of it? - link in BIO.*

The collage features seven photographs: 1. A circular logo for Herefordshire Freemasons. 2. Two men in regalia, one presenting a certificate to the other. 3. Two men in regalia, one presenting a certificate to the other. 4. A group of men in regalia seated in a lodge. 5. Three men in regalia standing together. 6. A group of men in regalia standing in a line. 7. Three men in suits standing together.

# *Providing Freedom from the effects of Trauma*

*Bro Gareth Evans talks about his own life journey and how Freemasonry has helped many on the road to recovery.*

*“Freemasonry is an amazing and beautiful organisation that provides people with purpose, direction, companionship and hope.”*

Bro Gareth Evans is the current Senior Warden of Delphis Lodge No 7769 and hoping to progress to the chair in October this year.

Born in Leominster, Gareth now lives in Essex with his wife and children. Despite coming from a military background, with postings away from Herefordshire, he has only missed three meetings since being initiated in 2017 and these were for family rather than logistical reasons.

Gareth says,

*“I travelled from Northern Ireland for all my Degrees. I currently live in Essex but commute to Hereford once a month to visit family and attend Masonic meetings”.*

*“I previously served 20 years in the British Army, including 15 years with the Royal Scots Dragoon where I was deployed constantly to both Iraq and Afghanistan”.*

*“I lost friends and colleagues in various kinetic engagements and, subsequently, I was diagnosed with PTSD”.*

*“I have always taken a keen interest in helping people and in 2016 I decided to transfer to the Army Welfare Service (AWS) where I spent 5 years helping soldiers and their dependants through bereavement, anxiety, couples therapy and anger management”.*



***“I spent years analysing my own trauma and I overcame PTSD by a method I came to teach myself.”***

***“In 2020 I decided to become self-employed in the field of mental health, as I was able to reflect on my own traumatic background and harness my in-depth knowledge taught to me by the AWS and an effective form of trauma recovery called Rapid Transformational Therapy (RTT)”.***

Gareth left the army in 2021 and has used his background, together with retraining as a hypnotherapist, to dedicate his life to helping people and forming a rapid therapeutic coaching company called ‘Remaster Your Mind’. Gareth says,

***“I strongly believe in using one’s voice to uplift people rather than bring them down. I have the privilege to go beyond using just my voice. Using my training I can engage with the subconscious and help people understand the reasons behind their struggles”.***

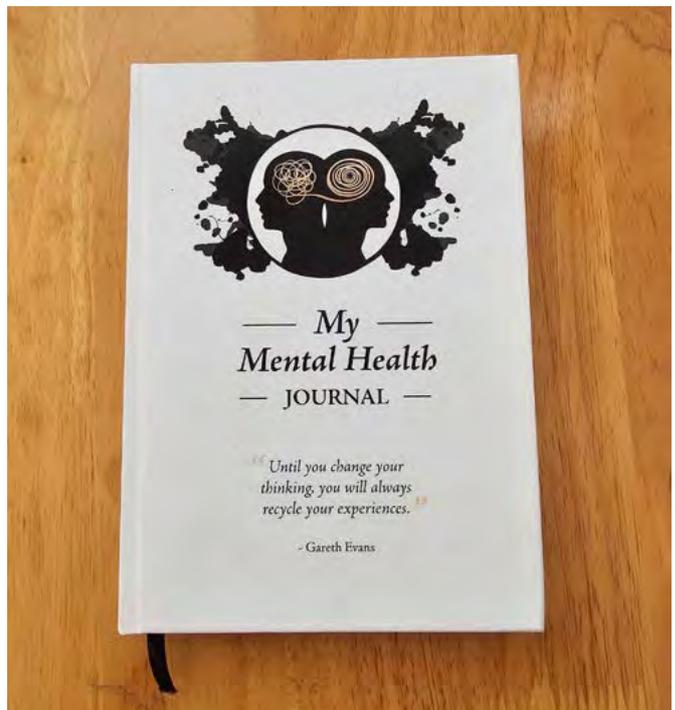
He has treated many people suffering from a range of emotional issues including PTSD. Some of Gareth’s clients have been ex-military and he has devised a Theta programme, a six week hypnotherapy strategy tailored to individuals to help overcome long-standing emotional issues. These have included C\_PTSD, Depression, Bipolar, Chronic Back Pain and MS. His clients have experienced huge improvements in their lives as a result. Gareth puts some of his success down to Freemasonry.

He says,

***“One of the two pillars of PTSD is depression, and one of the four pillars of depression is isolation. I’ve observed that when many Masons retire from their professional jobs, they often turn to Freemasonry as a crutch to avoid slipping into the abyss of isolation and depression. This crutch then becomes a way of life. Freemasonry is an amazing and beautiful organisation that provides people with purpose, direction, companionship, and hope.”***

Gareth has produced a book entitled ‘My Mental Health Journal’ which has a five star rating from readers.

Further details can be found on his website.  
<https://remasteryourmind.co.uk>



# RUM JARS

## Bro Andy Taylor of Eastnor Lodge delves into the archives of the Herefordshire Regiment Museum

I am sure many readers will have seen stone jars bearing the letters SRD and, perhaps, wondered what they were!

These are Army rum jars, sometimes called 'jordies'. It was the practice in the Army to issue soldiers with a tot of rum in arduous conditions. During the First World War this issue was widespread and certainly well received in the trenches. The issue played several roles:

- Providing warmth (and cheer) in cold and damp trenches - probably its most frequent use.
- As a nerve settler - less often than one might suppose
- As a reward, often for arduous or dangerous work (including trench raids and attacks) - sometimes in copious amounts resulting in drunkenness.
- Used externally as a Trench Foot preventer - quite a rare event as most preferred to apply it internally!
- As a pain killer

The ration was supposed to be two tablespoons per soldier but was often more and some men did not take their issue and often units were under strength but full rations were drawn/issued.

We are all aware of the danger of excess of alcohol, and whilst modest amounts can provide a boost, in excess it can exacerbate exposure symptoms and give false warmth and a loss of reality; this happened to the troops, including the Herefordshire Regiment, at Suvla Bay. They were evacuated from the trenches after 4 days of continual rain, snow and freezing conditions, and were much debilitated when they came across dumped rations including full rum jars. Many soldiers drank to excess and curled up to sleep and in the morning were found dead – literally frozen stiff.

The initials SRD were a mystery to many soldiers! Even officially it is not entirely certain what it stood for – the most accepted version is 'Service Resupply Depot' but also quoted are 'Service Rum Diluted' and 'Services Rum Department'.

The soldier however interpreted them differently: 'Soldiers



Rum jar fragments picked up at Suvla Bay in 1998



Rum Jars – one gallon and half gallon – the half gallon was sometimes known as the officers' jar.

'Run Dry', 'Soon Runs Out' and probably the most favoured 'Seldom Reaches Destination'!

It was generally the Sergeant Major's job to dole out the rum and trench songs were created around this:

If you want to find the sergeant-major,  
I know where he is,  
He's boozing up the privates' rum

One soldier remarked (rather poetically!):

*And then there's rum. Rum of course is our chief great good. The Ark of the Covenant was never borne with greater care than is bestowed upon the large stone rum-jars in their passage through this wilderness. The popularity of rum increases, till the hour when it is served tends to become a moment of religious worship. After the divine pattern, its celebration is administered by priests in the presence of higher dignitaries. When these priests happen to be old-time N.C.O.s, they want watching, or the communicants are apt to go short, to the degradation of the priests.*

Sometime soldiers not used to drink over-indulged:

Although not an habitual drinker I enjoyed my Rum ration. On one occasion our corporal had managed to pinch a Jordy of Rum, swapping a Jordy of Lime Fruit Juice. A generous helping out of this Rum Jordy put me out of gear for nearly two days. They hid me in a dugout and covered me with sandbags till I came round."



However the general opinion was that the Rum ration in moderation was a good thing; certainly there were many soldiers that welcomed it and any attempt to withdraw it would have a serious impact on morale. One division did replace the rum ration with hot soup – but it was seldom hot when it was issued and was generally not well received!

The Times in 1916 reported that the import of foreign spirits had increased to 929,000 gallons, almost entirely accounted for by the rum issued by military authorities.

**Afternote:**

The Royal Navy tot was stopped in 1970 but can be authorized for exceptional circumstances. The Army still issued rum in the Second World war and Korea and there are accounts of rum being carried by LRDG/SAS patrols in North Africa.

Rum can still be issued to the Army, but only under exceptional circumstances and then only on the authority of a Medical Officer. In 33 years service I have only known it be issued once and then the authorizing officer had to justify his decision to the Brigadier and if I remember correctly he had to replace the issue at his own cost!

Colonel Andy Taylor is a member of Eastnor Lodge and the Honorary Curator of The Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum. He has been researching the Regiment for 40 years and his grandfather served in the Regiment during the First World War, his father served in the Herefordshire Regiment Home Guard in Ledbury in World War II and he was first Commissioned into the Herefordshire Light Infantry Cadet Battalion.



Bruce Bairnsfather cartoon - Soldiers enjoying their tot.

# Herefordshire Strategy Update



Since the launch of the UGLE Strategy in 2023, Herefordshire Province has been building on our existing heritage, foundations and strengths to find new ways to adapt.

As a Province we already had a number of good practices in place. The Membership Team have built on these by developing a number of templates and best practice examples to help Lodges individually improve their own ways of working. These are available on the Members' Portal.

One of the key strategic pillars is to have a **'Thriving Membership'**. 2023 saw Herefordshire deliver an overall growth in membership of 1.8% with most Lodges seeing a steady growth of members. This was coupled with working to improve engagement with existing members and ensure shared succession plans are in place so that members can better plan their roles into the future. It is critical that we engage with all members, listen to their views and adapt to our collective changing needs.

On delivering a **'Coherent Organisation'**, the comms team have updated the public and members website to ensure we have a consistent message echoed in the material we use. There is also a Provincial Engagement or Outreach Kit which consists of a branded gazebo, pop up banners, posters brochures and business cards which can be used by Lodges at local fetes etc. It was used several times last year to raise awareness and we hope that more Lodges will look for opportunities to use it to engage the wider public. This will soon be available to book through the Members' Website with a calendar of events and booking system.

As for **'Community Engagement'** and Service, this has always been a strength within the Province and 2023 was no exception. We celebrated our first Charity Evening held at Kyrle Street with over one hundred charity representatives, Lodge members and invited guests. It was a very successful event showcasing the support we give to our local community in Herefordshire and helped to raise our profile via social media and press coverage.



Lodges have continued to support local charities with both money and equally importantly time. This has included working with foodbanks, local community transport and clearing churchyards! This great work reinforces our core values of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Service.

We need to continue our journey and build on the great work across all three pillars to ensure we achieve our long term goals and ensure the future of Freemasonry in Herefordshire.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. We would love to receive your success stories so we can all learn from each other. We can publish them on the website, social media and in the Craftsmen to raise awareness of the good things we do.

If you need any more information or support the please contact the membership team.

**Provincial Membership Officer:**

W Bro Stuart Jones  
[pmo@herefordshiremasons.org.uk](mailto:pmo@herefordshiremasons.org.uk)

**Provincial Communications Officer:**

W Bro Andrew Moore  
[pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk](mailto:pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk)

**Provincial Mentor:**

W Bro Ian Talboys  
[provgmentor@herefordshiremasons.org.uk](mailto:provgmentor@herefordshiremasons.org.uk)



## TalentAid

### The MCF Talent Aid Scheme

Talent Aid helps the children and grandchildren of Freemasons who are exceptionally talented in music, sport or the performing arts. Grants can be awarded to assist with ongoing costs such as sports coaching, advanced music lessons and the purchase of one-off items such as a musical instrument or sports equipment.

Support is agreed for a set period of time and subject to both an annual financial review and confirmation that the candidate's talent continues to develop. The scheme is competitive and has limited funds.

#### Eligibility

All applications are subject to the following criteria:

- The candidate must be the child, step-child or grandchild of a Freemason. (Please be aware that if the Freemason's membership is not active there is a set period of time after the membership ended in which an application can be submitted. Please contact us for further information before submitting an application).
- The candidate must be aged 25 or under and in full-time education.
- A financial assessment of the family's household income.
- Candidates must apply for all other sources of available funding such as grants, scholarships and sponsorship.
- Candidates must intend to pursue their talent as a career and must be able to demonstrate exceptional talent by passing recognised examinations, gaining entry to highly competitive schemes or by performing at regional and national levels.
- Grants are not available to fund a hobby or so that an academically gifted child can attend a better school.
- Assistance with school fees for performing arts students can only be considered if they attend a Dance and Drama Award (DaDA) accredited or Music and Dance Scheme (MDS) accredited establishment, see the DaDA list and MDS list.
- We are only able to consider assistance with school fees for other disciplines if the

applicant attends a choir school, a specialist music school or a sports college based on their exceptional talent.

Please note: you are not required to have an offer of a place at your proposed school, college or university in order to apply for the TalentAid scheme. In most cases where grants toward fees are agreed, parents will be expected to make a contribution.

#### Application Process

The scheme is competitive and has limited funds. All TalentAid applications for each upcoming academic year will be considered the preceding July and you will be notified of the outcome of your application in August.

For those seeking support for the 2023/24 academic year: The TalentAid scheme has closed for this academic year, so we are not accepting any further applications.

For those seeking support for the 2024/25 academic year: Applications are now being accepted.

#### How to Apply

There are three parts to the application:

- 1 – Application Form
- 2 – Supporting Statement
- 3 – Tutor/Coach Reference Form

The Tutor/Coach Reference Form and Supporting Statement must be completed for an application to be considered. These forms are used to help us identify the very best candidates. We will not accept alternative documents in place of any of the three TalentAid forms. The Tutor/Coach Reference Form will be emailed directly to the nominated tutor/coach once your Application Form is received.

The Tutor/Coach Reference form will be emailed direct to the nominated tutor/coach once your Application Form is received.

# Charity Updates



If we do not receive all three parts of the application, together with supporting financial documents, your application will not be progressed.

The deadline for completed applications (comprising Application form, Supporting Statement and supporting documents) is 9am Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Any application received after this date will not be considered.

Completed forms should be returned to:  
[talentaid@mcf.org.uk](mailto:talentaid@mcf.org.uk)

You will receive an acknowledgement email once your application has been received.

## Further information

Further details can be found on the MCF website here  
<https://mcf.org.uk/get-support/freemasons-and-families/family-education/talentaid/>

If you have any questions about the TalentAid scheme, please call 0800 035 60 90 or email [talentaid@mcf.org.uk](mailto:talentaid@mcf.org.uk).

## Read the MCF Impact Report for 2023 to see the wide range of help provided during 2022/23

[https://mcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/4400\\_MCF\\_ImpactReport\\_23\\_AW\\_V3Spreads.pdf](https://mcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/4400_MCF_ImpactReport_23_AW_V3Spreads.pdf)



## MCF Grants In Herefordshire

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 we have received the following grants as a Province.



**21**  
Grants



**£84,202**  
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/>



# HMCA Charity Updates

At the recent HMCA meeting the following grants were agreed.

Charity	HMCA	MCF	Reason
<b>South Marches District Scouts</b>	£1,300.00	£1,300.00	To purchase a battery for their new HQ to maximise the use of their solar panels
<b>First Light Trust</b>	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	To enable them to continue their work supporting armed forces & blue light veterans in Herefordshire
<b>Royal National College for the Blind</b>	£1,750.00	£1,750.00	To enable the college to purchase a modern Juliet 120 embossing Braille machine so improve their capability in the education of the blind students.
<b>Hereford Hospital Urology Department</b>	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	To upgrade the Template biopsy machine. The above machine takes biopsies from the prostate to test for the type of cancer. The machine has been in place for many years and was in need of an upgrade. One in Three men are diagnosed with prostate cancer so the Template biopsy machine is very important to all of the male population.
<b>Herefordshire Riding for the Disabled</b>	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Well supported by the Herefordshire Province over the years and it is great that we can continue this support so the charity can continue to give people with learning and physical disabilities the joy of horse riding.
<b>Happy Days</b>	£1,200.00	£1,200.00	This donation is to assist disabled children of Herefordshire enjoy days out that. Happy days charity specialise in organising these trips.
<b>Herefordshire Expedition Group</b>	£500.00		A local group that takes youngsters aged between 15 -17 on expeditions to places like Belize to meet the local population so they can experience real life in far off places. These are not sun holidays!  The youngsters have to fundraise for their own trip. This donation is to help the leaders set up the expedition.
<b>West Mercia Search and Rescue</b>	£1,000.00		The PGM had been asked by the Grand Stewards Lodge if the Province could donate to their charitable fund for the RNLI.  As we are an inland Province and do not have a Stewards Lodge it was agreed to donate to the West Mercia Search and Rescue instead.
<b>Wyeplay Sea Cadets Lads Club Hay Dial a Ride</b>	It was agreed at the HMCA meeting that HMCA would match fund any donation up to £500 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ross Lodges donated to Wyeplay</li> <li>• Cantilupe donations to the Sea Cadets</li> <li>• Cantilupe donations to the Lads Club</li> <li>• Loyal Hay if they donations to Hay Dial a Ride.</li> </ul>		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>HMCA £10,750</b>	<b>MCF £9,250</b>	<b>Grand Total of Donations £20,000</b>

# Freemasonry Gives

Powered by Relief Chest Scheme

Will you be fundraising 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

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

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



## 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

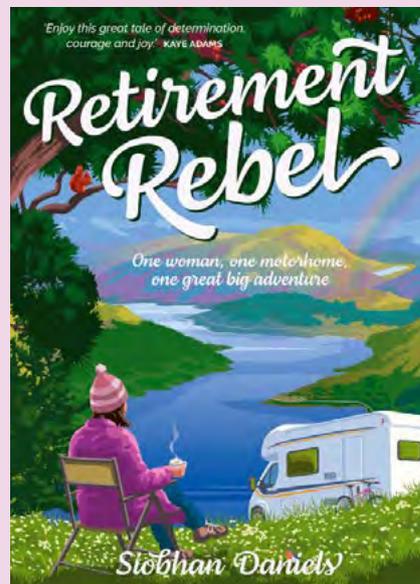
# Ladies Lunch Club

Kyrle Street, Hereford 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at the Kyrle St Masonic Centre, forty four ladies attended their usual monthly meeting. This was a special occasion as their guest speaker was Siobhan Daniels the author of the much read book "Retirement Rebel". Siobhan is a motivational speaker and gives inspiring talks to women's groups and corporate events all over the country.

Approaching retirement and frustrated with her job, Siobhan made a big decision to start living life on her own terms rather than hiding from life's challenges'. So in July 2019 Siobhan retired from her job as a journalist which included working for the BBC as a Radio and TV presenter for 30 years during which time she was subjected to bullying and harassment. She sold her house and possessions, bought a motor home and travelled the roads of Great Britain and Ireland and is passionate about helping to change the narratives from 'Anti-aging' to 'Pro-aging'. She was then nicknamed 'Shuvon Shuvoff'.

Siobhan has written for national newspapers and magazines and appeared on TV, Radio and numerous podcasts. She is a motivational speaker and gives inspiring talks to women's groups and corporate events all over the country. Siobhan explained that she wants her uplifting book to stimulate conversations among women, young and old, to change how they see ageing. Her story can inspire us all in that her message is that we can all make simple lifestyle changes to feel happier and more fulfilled because at the end of the day, age should not be a barrier to having an adventure.



A reminder that the Club is open to ladies with or without a Masonic connection. They meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month September-June at the Masonic Hall in Kyrle Street, Hereford. A variety of speakers to suit all tastes each month after a two course meal. All ladies are welcome and just need to get in touch with either:

Diane Cox - email [here](#) or Gill Tudor - email [here](#)



# Dean Waterfield Masquerade Ball

Saturday 16th March 2024

7 for 7.30pm

Masonic Hall

Kyrle Street



Dancing to the Silverlining Roadshow



**Tickets £35 each**

Be astounded by our  
magician and his  
magic tricks

Book early to avoid disappointment

*Closing date 8th March 2024*

**4 course meal**



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

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

**Carriages at Midnight**

Dress:- Masks, DJs or Smart  
Casual and Posh Frocks



# Last Month's Wordsearch Solution T@3



Did you find the New Year themed words?

## Happy New Year

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

AuldLangSyne    New    Poppers    Run    Diet    Gym    FirstFoot    Kiss  
Sweep    Coal    Yippee    Midnight    Champagne    Happy    Clock    Countdown  
Celebration    Cheers    Confetti    January    Party    Year    Beginning  
Goals    Balloons    Resolutions    Hourglass    Time    MirrorBall    Fireworks



Can you find the Valentine's Day themed words?

## Valentine's Day

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

Surprise Romance Valentine Party Gift Sweetheart  
Chocolate Kisses Red Dozen Flowers Roses Secret  
Darling Present Dinner Love Treat Card Date  
Fourteen Bow Arrow February Cupid