

Ross Masonic Club



Supporting Local Freemasons

The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 18th May 2020

Issue Number Seven

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Ross Masonic Club Weekly Round-up. A chance to share what we have been up to, with some light hearted articles during the break in face to face meetings.

We are reminded this week that we live in the United Kingdom, countries within a country united by one sovereign. Personally if I travel to the right outside our house I encounter the Welsh lockdown restrictions but to the left I can take as much exercise as possible.

In reality we are shielding and so have not left the end of the drive since lockdown began apart from a weekly visit to the local shop and to make donations to the foodbank. My wife has been exercising daily by taking laps around the house to keep up her 10,000 steps per day. (With the added benefit that using the path around the back of the house has kept the weeds down too!)

Almost everything is now delivered. We have a quarantine area in our utility room where parcels are left for a day or so before unpacking although food is immediately unpacked and put away. The pet rabbit is looking less scared as the routine of food deliveries is improving!

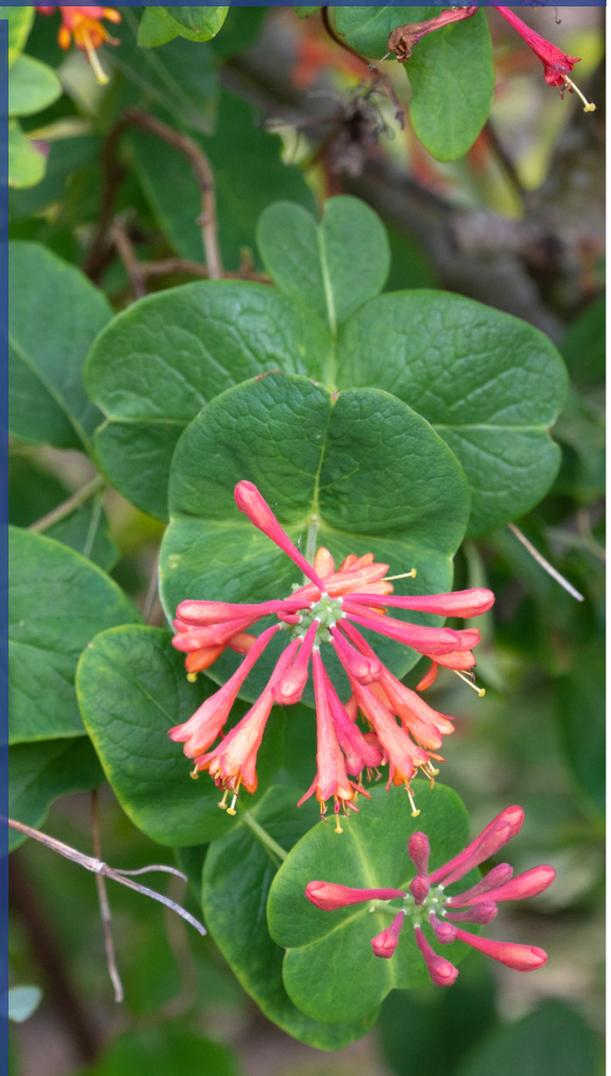
My wife stays up till midnight to catch the next delivery slots for her and my parents-in-law whom we also shop for. We celebrate when we have secured weekly food delivery slots 3 to 4 weeks in advance.

We regularly celebrate T@3 so our cake consumption has also risen. We have been eating more freshly prepared meals and sit down to eat as a family. The kids have taken to home schooling with the benefit of a mother who has worked all her whole life in IT to offer support.

Funny how adaptability has become the new normal.



Keep safe Brethren and keep in contact.



Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

Social and Online Media Roundup



Facebook

We have set up a Facebook Group for Ross Masonic Club. We currently have 28 members across the Lodges and Chapter. Any members of Lodges or Chapter that meet at Ross Masonic Hall are welcome to join in.



Caeruleum Club Donate Tablets to Hospital

Coronavirus patients at Hereford County Hospital who are not permitted visitors are set to benefit following a generous donation from the Hereford Masonic community.

The group, which has been keen to assist Wye Valley NHS Trust and help patients at the County Hospital, presented staff with four Samsung Galaxy A tablets to enable patients being treated at the hospital to enable them to stay in touch with loved ones

Local Freemason and Chairman of the Caeruleum Club, Tommy Santillo, said "The Caeruleum Club was launched this year to support young Freemasons within Herefordshire and we're delighted to be able to help local people stay in touch with their friends and relatives during these unprecedented times. We do hope that patients will continue to benefit from them beyond the current pandemic"

The news was also announced on Sunshine Radio. You can see the article [here](#).

Pictured: Local Freemason and Caeruleum Club Committee member, Harry Fellowes, handing over the tablets to Wye Valley NHS Trust Fundraising Manager Katie Farmer

Face to Face

In a virtual way!

Billy Russell has continued his hard work in organising a regular face to face (virtually) get together using the 'Zoom' App for video conferencing. Thirteen of us met again last Friday to Toast Absent Brethren.

This Week In My Garden

This week we re-visit the front cover pictures from the previous Newsletters

Can you name the flowers and the issue they appeared?



The working tools of a demented apprentice gardener are the 24 pronged rake, the common shovel and the trowel.

The 24 pronged rake is to level our work, the common shovel, to dig out all knobs of earth and other lumps, and the trowel to further prepare the ground and render it fit for the plants we purchased earlier.

But as we are not all professional gardeners, but rather amateur or peculiar, we apply these tools to our morals.



In this sense, the 24 inch rake represents the 24 hours of the day, part to be spent in looking after the wife, part in labour and going down the pub, and part in helping a friend or fellow gardener in providing him with an alibi, in time of need without fitting ourselves up.

The common shovel denotes the force of over exertion, which we should all keep down, and all thoughts of coveting our neighbour's gardens, which might come to mind during the aforementioned periods, so that our thoughts and desires may ascend polluted in the smoke of the bonfire.

The trowel points out the advantages of trial and error, by which means alone we are all rendered fit members of the local gardening club.

Robert Alder via Metropolitan Grand Lodge Facebook Group



Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

Coffee Break

Our Weekly Sudoku Challenges

Here are this week's Easy and Extreme Sudoku and the answers to last weeks



This weeks Sudoku Puzzles

4		6		2				8
								3
				3	7			9
6			8					7
						1		
		3		6			2	5
		2	7			8	5	4
7								
		1			5			2

				3			9	
2			1					
			5					7
6		3		8	5			
	2							6
		8					7	5
5				3			9	1
1		7					8	
		9		2			3	

This is the 'Easy One'

Sudoku #7, Puzzle No. 4057552
©Sudoku.cool

This is the 'Extreme One'

Sudoku #7, Puzzle No. 4055520
©Sudoku.cool

Answers to be published next week or visit <https://sudoku.cool> if you really cannot wait!

The Answers to Last Weeks Sudoku Puzzles

Answers to last weeks 'Easy One'

Sudoku #6, Puzzle No. 4057076
©Sudoku.cool

8	5	6	1	9	7	4	2	3
4	7	1	2	3	6	9	5	8
2	9	3	5	4	8	1	7	6
9	1	5	4	6	2	3	8	7
6	2	4	8	7	3	5	9	1
7	3	8	9	1	5	2	6	4
3	8	2	7	5	1	6	4	9
1	4	7	6	2	9	8	3	5
5	6	9	3	8	4	7	1	2

Answers to last weeks 'Extreme One'

Sudoku #6, Puzzle No. 4055512
©Sudoku.cool

1	4	7	8	3	5	9	2	6
2	9	5	1	4	6	3	7	8
8	6	3	2	7	9	4	5	1
9	7	8	4	6	2	1	3	5
6	5	1	7	9	3	2	8	4
4	3	2	5	1	8	6	9	7
3	1	4	9	8	7	5	6	2
7	2	9	6	5	4	8	1	3
5	8	6	3	2	1	7	4	9

Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

T@3

Even more entertainment!

Further contributions from Patrick Eyre and David Hudson and Facebook page 'Humor Train'



Patrick Eyre asks:-

Can anyone else remember this and have I missed a verse ?

*The Sun comes up and the Sun goes down
The hands on the clock keep goin' around
The sooner you get up its time to lie down
Life gets tedious don't it*

*My shoes untied but I couldn't care
I ain't a planning on going no where
I'd have to wash and comb my hair
That's just wasted effort*

*The Cows run dry and the hens won't lay
Fish were biting last Saturday
Trouble piles up day by day
Just can't depend on nothin'*

*The water in the wells getting lower and lower
Cant take a bath for 6 months or more
But I've heard it said and its true I'm sure
Too much bathing will weaken yer*

*There mouse a'chewin' at the pantry door
He's been at it for a month or more
When he gets through there he's sure gonna be sore
There ain't a darn thing in there*

*The tin roof leaks and the chimney leans
There's' a hole in the seat of my old blue jeans
And I've ate the last of those pork and beans
Nothin' left to live for*

*Hound dog howlin' so forlorn
The laziest dog that ever was born
He's a howlin cause he a sittin' on a thorn
Just too tired to move over*

*Bills keep coming pain and woes
Debts and taxes and so it goes
And I think I'm gettin' a cold in the nose
Life gets tasteless don't it*

S&F.

Patrick

Remember: Education is important But opening pubs is importanter

How are you going to plant flowers if you haven't botany?

How do you cut the ocean in half?
With a sea saw!

Growing up with a dyslexic father had its advantages. Whenever he caught me swearing, he used to wash my mouth out with soup.

Someone just threw a bottle of Omega 3 capsules at me.
Luckily I only have super-fish-oil injuries!

What beef only comes in 2, 3, 5, 7 or 11 ounce portions? - Prime Rib

Why can't you hear a Pterodactyl in the bathroom?
Because the P is silent

My Grandad always says "as one door closes another one opens" lovely man, terrible cabinet maker.

I asked my wife to describe me in 5 words. She said: i'm mature, i'm moral, i'm pure, i'm polite and i'm perfect. But then she also said she has no idea how to use apostrophes!

Have one wish - get another one free!



Hidden Mysteries? - No, Hidden Talents!

This week we focus on the hidden talents of John Sherahilo



Self-isolation is no stranger to those of us who strive to create, and we, as a breed, can isolate both indoors or out, it makes little difference to us, we do like it to be voluntary however!

In my case I have isolated by retreating to the west wing of our family country pile here in Brampton Abbots, specifically, into my self-designed art studio. That sounds a bit grand I know, yes perhaps it is. It's the west end of the shed garage to be precise, shared with tools, apple store, the occasional wasp and lots of jetsam, not quite so romantic now is it. I did add a double-glazed unit for more light, no I didn't pay for it, it was a neighbour's cast off and I installed it.

There are huge benefits to be had in the studio. I can listen to music and daydream into a blank canvas for hours and hours and come out to breath the fresh air, refreshed in the knowledge that I have been productive, even when nothing has gone onto the canvas itself! When Viv questions this activity I tell her "that's art".

The Wye Valley, whose beauty was discovered for the first time at the close of the 18th century when war against France forced people to take holidays at home, and now the Virus replacing the French, poor exchange whatever people say about the French.



So in such a recognised picturesque county one where people value the beauty, it's not difficult to identify subjects to study and with this in mind landscapes have come to the front in my current works.

I have used many art media in the past and continue to do so, but for now, my choice and preference are Alcohol Inks. They are brightly coloured dye-based inks that are most used in creating free flowing textures, which, when mixed with alcohol creates a flowing effect on the smoothed surface of a synthetic paper.

They also make you high in enclosed spaces so beware!

There are loads of methods I'm sure but you can see how I do it on the next page.

You can see my work and styles on line, at www.jisart.com and my Alcohol Ink images on www.jisart.org

Please feel free to leave a comment on the www.jisart.org site, the other is just for reference.

Enjoy. I do.

S&F

John

See John's artistic process on the next page.....

Spray the paper with 99.9% alcohol. Your best Vodka won't do and it would be a waste.

While it's still wet, I add the chosen coloured inks, in this example with a brush (it can be dripped on or spread with cotton buds or pads and probably other ways too) to give an outline shape, here blue for the sky and green and brown/oranges for the hills below.

Care needs to be taken to control the inks as they will spread uncontrollably on the alcohol and smooth paper and just create a mess, which I hope this isn't yet.



The clouds in the sky in this illustration just created themselves, very often they don't and need coaxing with a brush or blowing through a straw or adding more ink or alcohol or turning the paper.



When dry I add further ink, some pure and some diluted, to the hills part of the image, with a brush to create some clarity, form and shape where I thought it was wanted. That also spreads and needs a careful eye out.

I now feel that I'm sounding like Grayson Perry, without the clay, hair or frock or indeed the TV programme.

Next, I added some further detail in the forefront to represent bushes and trees to give some depth and contrast.



I added highlights in pure yellow ink to the closer hill, which although blends with the other inks and is toned down, still brightens it all up and gives more contrast and depth.

As an effect I brushed thin lines which removes streaks of the ink and created the impression of tree trunks.

Finally its sprayed with fixative varnish. And there it is a picture postcard sized alcohol ink interpretation of the Malvern Hills.



His Master's Voice *A message from Nigel Donovan, WM of Vitruvian Lodge*

When Jane, Sunny and I moved to Highfield at the end of July last year, embarking on the next phase of our life together, we were quite certain we had arrived in paradise, but only time would tell. The story of our move is an unusual one, which I have shared below.

Having sold the New Inn at St. Owens Cross in 2004, after a fifteen year party, we moved to Everstone Rise, an area of Herefordshire that most of you probably relate with W. Bro. Emyr, our Lodge Secretary, who was in fact responsible for finding us the accommodation there.

At that time, after months of surgery and convalescing, I discovered that no-one was in the need of a disabled ex publican, so for reasons best known to myself, I went back to my roots and retrained as a Property Surveyor and Energy Assessor. I then spent the next few years surveying, assessing and securing more and more qualifications which opened up further avenues in the property sector. Fifteen years into my latest career, I was asked to produce an Energy Certificate for a bungalow at Three Ashes called Highfield. On Friday 7th July 2019 on a hot and sunny summer afternoon I made my way to the appointment. Lo and behold, this was the property that I had dreamt of for probably 30 plus years. Within 20 minutes, Jane had arrived at my request, complete with Sunny who walked into the hall, laid down and went to sleep! This was indeed "it", and by Sunday afternoon, a deal had been struck and by the end of Monday a moving date of July 31st was agreed. The process of moving was a little embarrassing, as I was scoring a three day cricket match on moving day, the day before and the day after! Jane coped!!



None of these events phased us at all, it just seemed a normal thing to do, including a grand house warming party three weeks later, birthday parties, Christmas all came along as usual and were catered for as usual. Jane was very poorly at Christmas and the things we know now would tend to indicate that Covid-19 may have been with us then! Work and life continued "as normal" being lived flat out and totally exhausting, a daily challenge to health and humour, but just normal as normal has been for 40 or 50 years. Retirement was an occasional subject of discussion, but never any more than that, and really was not a financial option, having suffered more than our fair share of tragic events along the way.

Welcome to March 2020, when it was identified that Covid-19 was with us and taking hundreds of lives daily. Still working when lockdown was announced, my last survey being conducted wearing mask and gloves, with the house owners moving from room to room to avoid me which was all rather alien. Lockdown announced, a letter from the Government and NHS announcing that I am in the high-risk category as a result of my illness and medication, shielding advised and adopted. That was two months ago, neither of us have so much as been past the gate at any time, although Jane walks Sunny in the adjacent field which is their escape from me.

So, what is the point I am trying to make? It certainly isn't about my life story, that would take volumes and would not be permitted in a family publication! It is about how life bumbles along and we make decisions for all sorts of different reasons. We are still in high-risk shielding which may continue for some time.

That chance decision in July last year brought us to our dream property, in possibly one of the most beautiful locations in the Country. The opportunity to share it with so many friends within days of moving in. Having had all the family to stay several times and generally enjoyed every minute of being here. We have everything we could possibly dream of and are so very fortunate to have landed in paradise. There is no possibility of me returning to work any time in the near future. So, another unplanned decision has been made, to retire and spend my time in my workshop playing with all of my big boy's toys doing things with wood.

Covid-19 has changed our lives forever, some better, some worse. What it's demonstrated to me is that no matter how much you plan things in life, it can be changed by events that most definitely weren't planned, but when they happen, it is much more about how you react to them. For us, living out this period of incarceration in paradise is no hardship, but has proved to be one of the most influential and enjoyable periods of our life together. The New Inn introduced me to Emyr and Stephanie, they, in turn, organised our home three doors from theirs. It was Emyr that was responsible for introducing me to Masonry, which I mostly thank him for! So, here I am after all these coincidental events, living in paradise, Worshipful Master of the wonderful Vitruvian Lodge, enjoying every minute of every day, feeling blessed beyond anything I ever planned – perhaps that is just the way life should be. It is a wonderful journey with many different routes along the way. We make the choices which ones to take, so is it really just "good luck" or down to how we planned it? If only we knew.....

Community Hub

Local Services

A list of local suppliers and services who offer delivery services

Local Delivery Services and Community Hubs

Forest of Dean

Anyone living in the Royal Forest of Dean? This is a list of local producers who will provide delivery services <https://www.foresthub.co.uk/covid-19-home-delivery-services>

Llangrove-Llangarron-Llancloudy and Three Ashes Community Hub

Local Community Hub able to help with shopping, prescription collections etc

They are on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/Llangrove-Llangarron-Llancloudy-and-Three-Ashes-Community-104075311144231/>

Email address is communityhub22@gmail.com

Telephone number is 01989 770916.

They hope to answer all calls between 9am and 5pm but if they are engaged or you call outside of these hours you can leave a message.

Ross on Wye

Hanks Butchers

45 Broad Street

Ross

01989 562216

www.meatandgame.co.uk

info@meatandgame.co.uk

Meat, game, eggs

Pengethley Farm Shop

Pengethley Garden Centre

Peterstow

01989 730430

www.pengethleyfarmshop.com

sale.pfs@btconnect.com

Vegetables, dairy, bakery, meat, deli, general groceries

Ross Good Neighbours

www.rosscdt.org.uk

help@rosscdt.org.uk

01763 802046

Provide a number of helpful services to the Ross Community

Thank you to David Hudson, Geraint Bevan and Nigel Donovan for the useful information above.

Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor