

Ross Masonic Club



Supporting Local Freemasons

The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 1st June 2020

Issue Number Nine

Welcome to the ninth 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.

I hope you have all been keeping safe and well.

This week we have a feature on the hidden talents of Martin Thorne and Patrick Eyre reminisces on a rhyme his brother used to recite. We also have the answers to last week's Garden Quiz and Peter Nash remembers the garden he and his wife left behind and the new challenge they have faced planting out their new garden.

Facing new challenges seems to be a bit of a theme. I am sure we have all found the current situation challenging in our own way. As some of the restrictions are lifted we will still need to be sensible, after all we have all been taught to be cautious!

Remember from today in England we have been told we can meet outside as a group of up to 6. Snow White says the Seven Dwarves are pleased they can meet up again although one of them isn't Happy. Boom Boom!

This week daughter No 1 returned home having been isolating in her accommodation at University since lockdown. That now means that there are four ladies in the house plus me. A great segway into what we hope may be a regular feature from next week. 'The Man Cave'.

We will start the series with Emyr Jones and his newly acquired garden shed which he is in the process of kitting out. Does anyone else have a man cave they would like to share so we can make a regular feature in forthcoming issues?

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.

Billy Russell writes;

I had the pleasure of attending a joint meeting via Zoom last Thursday, hosted by Prorsum Semper (Gloucestershire Light Blues) and the Caeruleum Club (Herefordshire Light Blues). The idea behind the evening was to give a background to the Holy Royal Arch and explain the connection to Craft freemasonry. It was given by RW Bro Michael Holland the RW Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire and M E Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

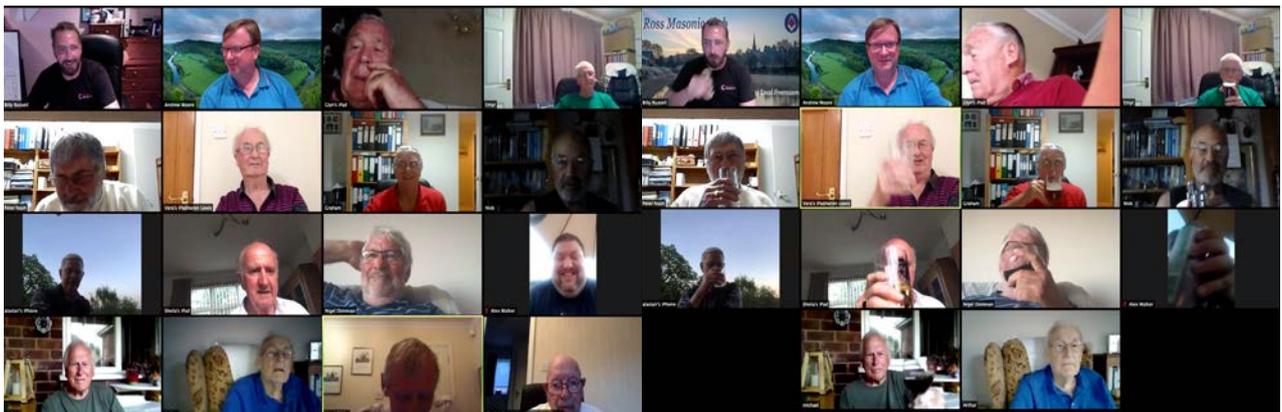
The presentation was open to all masons, including Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts as well as brethren who were already companions, I believe at one point we had around 75 Brethren/Companions in attendance.

It proved to be an interesting and informative evening, Even though I am already a Companion I came away with a better understanding and appreciation of the Holy Royal Arch.

It was very well presented and interactive as we were able to discuss and ask questions during the lecture.



#TimeToToast tonight albeit a slighter later one, due to a excellent presentation on the Royal Arch from Herefordshire's PGM @DGLBMason, delighted to spend this evening in the fine company of our brothers from Gloucestershire @prorsum_semper. Absent brethren 🍷



Face to Face

In a virtual way!

Billy Russell has also continued his hard work in organising a regular face to face (virtually) get together using the 'Zoom' App for video conferencing.

Sixteen of us met again last Friday to Toast Absent Brethren, our biggest ever turnout despite missing a few of our 'regulars'.

This Week In My Garden

This week we look at things to do in the garden during June and the English Country Garden of Peter and Barbara Nash.

Reprinted from the Gardeners World website <https://www.gardenersworld.com/what-to-do-now-june/>

Flowers

- Lift and store tulip bulbs after flowering
- Give wisteria its summer prune, cutting all the long sideshoots back to 20cm, to promote flowering next spring
- Plant up a new tropical display with tender exotics, including bananas, ricinus, coleus, cannas and amaranthus

Fruit and Veg

- Plant out sweetcorn after hardening off, arranging plants in blocks to aid pollination
- Cover developing and ripening fruits with netting or fleece to protect them from birds
- Enjoy the last harvests of asparagus this month, then leave the ferny top-growth to grow up over the summer

Greenhouse

- Sow herbs in pots to grow on your kitchen windowsill, such as coriander, parsley and basil
- Plant out tender vegetables raised indoors, including beans, tomatoes, pumpkins, courgettes and sweetcorn
- Put houseplants outside for the summer in a warm, sheltered spot to enjoy the fresh air and extra light

Peter Nash's English Country Garden



We moved from Lavender Cottage Bridstow in 2017 after living there for 32 years with our family and dogs, this was quite a wrench, as we loved the house and the large beautiful garden with an enormous variety of trees, plants and lots of old fashioned roses. The garden was Barbara's pride and joy. The garden was never my forte. I enjoyed sitting in it and admiring it, my only contribution was cutting the lawn and hedges from time to time, I have never been able to tell a weed from a plant until it blooms.

However after 32 years reluctantly it was time to move on to a smaller house and garden in Ross itself. We now have a much smaller garden which was totally laid to lawn when we moved in, not a flower bed anywhere to accommodate all the potted plants which Barbara had brought from Lavender Cottage.

My main task was then to make flower beds in and around the garden, (as directed). These are now becoming established much to Barbara's hard work and enthusiasm. Her one delight was her poppies at Lavender Cottage which were in abundance. The new garden is now beginning to take shape and everything is growing well, (including poppies), thanks to her..... maintaining the lawn is still my forte.

The two pictures above show some parts of the garden that we reluctantly left behind. The picture on the right shows some of the red Flanders poppies which are now in our garden in Ross.

Peter



Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

Coffee Break

The Answers to Our Weekly Suduko Challenges

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



The Answers to Last Weeks Sudoku Puzzles

Answers to last weeks 'Easy One'

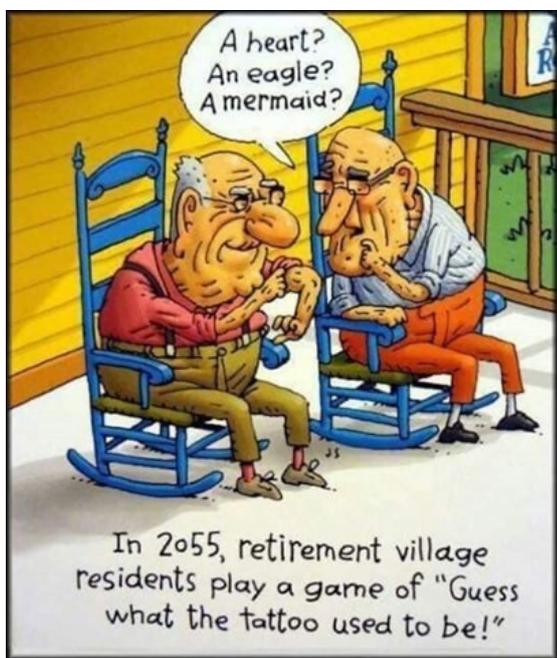
Sudoku #8, Puzzle No. 4057573
©Sudoku.cool

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

Answers to last weeks 'Extreme One'

Sudoku #8, Puzzle No. 4057542
©Sudoku.cool

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



Thank you to Arthur Stonadge for these cartoons.

Original Source Unknown.



Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor



Questions set last week

1. What is the popular name for the flowering house-plant *Impatiens Walleriana*?
2. What would a gardener do with a dibber or dibble?
3. Charles Darwin described this carnivorous plant 'the most wonderful plant in the world.' What is the name of this plant?
4. The love apple is the original name for what?
5. The Death Cap is the most poisonous variety of what?
6. What is the name given to the female reproductive organ of a flower?
7. A Kumquat is a small Japanese variety of what sort of fruit?
8. Why is Reindeer Moss so called?
9. Harry Wheatcroft was a renowned breeder of what?
10. What is the name of the 3 leafed clover associated with St Patrick's day?
11. Which part of a tree can be used to make cork?
12. What is the largest and tallest tree in the world?
13. What general term is given to those trees whose leaves fall in autumn?
14. Which tissue beneath the bark of trees forms wood?
15. Where in the flowering plant does the male gamete form?
16. Which cereal must be grown in water?
17. Which grain is used to make semolina?
18. Which part of a flower becomes the fruit?
19. Which part of a flowering plant is often used to make oil?
20. What is the name given to the technique of clipping trees and hedges into ornamental shapes?
21. What is another name for the Rowan Tree?
22. What flower is named after the Botanist Dr Leonard Fuchs?
23. What do Yew, Laburnum Seeds & Mistletoe berries have in common?
24. What is the popular name for the *Antirrhinum*?
25. What is the sacred flower of the Buddhist religion?
26. Which plant takes its name from the Italian phrase for Beautiful women?
27. Trees that shed their leaves every year; are called what?
28. Which liquid does a flower produce to attract insects?
29. How can you tell the age of a tree?

Answers

1. Busy Lizzie
2. Transplant seedlings and small plants
3. Venus Flytrap
4. Tomato
5. Mushroom
6. Pistil
7. Orange
8. Staple winter food for Reindeers
9. Roses
10. Shamrock
11. Bark
12. California Redwood
13. Deciduous
14. Xylem
15. In the pollen grain
16. Rice
17. Wheat
18. Ovary
19. Seed
20. Topiary
21. Mountain Ash
22. Fuchsia
23. They are poisonous
24. Snapdragon
- 25 Lotus
26. Belladonna
27. Perennial (deciduous)
28. Nectar
29. Number of rings

Questions sourced from <https://www.paulsquiz.com/science-and-nature-quizzes-mainmenu-341/202-free-quiz-questions/80-science-and-nature-quizzes/1414-plants-and-gardening-quiz-1>



Hidden Mysteries? - No, Hidden Talents!

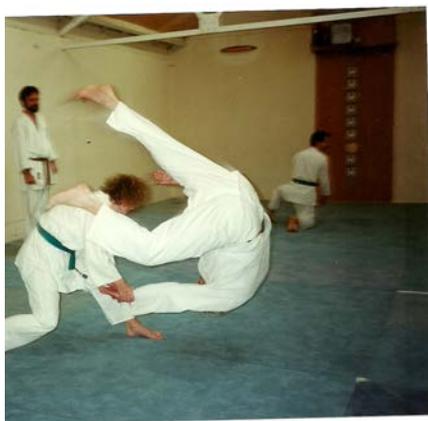
This week we focus on the hidden talents of Martin Thorne and the links between Aikido and Freemasonry

What, you may well ask, is the connection between Aikido and Freemasonry? Well, there are at least two of us in Vitruvian Lodge who are one-time practitioners of the art of Aikido who might be able to answer this question. And, assuming that we all have some idea of what constitutes Freemasonry, the next question must be: what is Aikido?

At its simplest, Aikido is a defensive martial art which was developed in Japan in the last century. Its essence may be summarised in the three syllables of its name: do being the method or way for the coordination or harmony, ai, of mental energy or spirit, ki, and because of the centrality of the ai principle, it is purely an art of self-defence – there is no attack in Aikido. It is also, by its nature, highly ethical. If and when attacked, the Aikidoka (i.e. the practitioner of the art) seeks to defend him or herself by neutralising the attacker, without retaliating in like form. In this sense, it differs from Judo or Sumo, which involve two people grappling for superiority, and from Karate or Tae Kwan Do, which involve people seeking superiority by punches or kicks. It also naturally follows that it is not a competitive sport, although there is a branch of Aikido that introduces competition. However, it is immediately obvious that the moment that the will to win takes over, Aikido goes out of the window. And, if all this sounds rather vague, just think of how you react when verbally attacked. Do you allow the attacker simply to walk over you? Do you immediately strike back with equal force? Or do you seek ethically to disarm the attacker?



This picture was taken when the British Aikido Association, of which I was chairman at the time, attended the international gathering in Tokyo about 1990, when we were one short for part of a demonstration and muggins volunteered to fill the gap.



This picture was taken at a local club, somewhat earlier. It shows me flying through the air at the hands of a mere green belt - not quite an absolute beginner but some way off a Dan Grade.

Central to the practice of Aikido is the awareness and development of ki, referred to above as mental energy or spirit, hard to define but real in experience, with its seat said to be the hara, or Centre, located just below the navel, coincident, of course, with the sacral chakra of Hinduism and a central concept of those who practice meditation. Indeed, any Aikidoka will stress that, without operating from this Centre, there is no Aikido. And that, of course, brings us squarely back to Freemasonry, with both Aikido and Freemasonry placing great importance on this undefined Centre – the point from which a Master Mason cannot err but equally the point from which an Aikidoka must operate to realise the full power of his or her art.

In Solomon, we read that the journey that all Freemasons are on is an interior one and that this journey, when followed, inevitably leads towards the centre, defined as that 'still point which lies deep within ourselves', which itself echoes the 'still small voice of calm', referred to in one of our favourite hymns. Freemasonry, of course, is a non-religious organisation, welcoming into its midst those of any religious belief and I, for one, find it gratifying that the centre plays such an important part in so many practices.

As an aside, I should report that after my wife and I had been learning Aikido for several years, she was asked if she now felt able to defend herself from an attacker. No, she replied, but I would no longer be afraid – which I think sort of sums up the ethics of the art.

Martin

Any contributions or feedback please email the Editor

Patrick Eyre, Remembering His Brother

If a brother ever wore a steel helmet he may remember this one. My birth brother fought through Italy in the 2nd world war as part of the Royal Fusiliers and the Gurkha's were attached to his Regiment. He recited this to me many times and I have never forgotten it.

There's a green eyed yellow Idol to the north of Kathmandu
There's a little marble cross beneath the town many times
There's a broken hearted women tends the grave of Mad Carew
And that little God forever gazes down

He was known as Mad Carew by the sons of Kathmandu
And he was hotter than they thought inclined to tell
But for all his foolish pranks he was worshipped in the ranks
And the Colonels daughter smiled on him as well

She was nearly 21 and preparations had begun
To celebrate her birthday with a Ball
On the night of celebration with the best of food and wine
Mad Carew stepped into that fated hall

He looked into her eyes and asked her what she'd like
All the while giving a handshake or a nod
She jokingly replied that nothing else would do
But the green eye from the little yellow God

T'was the night of the dance and Mad Carew sat in a trance
And the officers scoffed him as they smoked their big cigars
But for once in a while Mad Carew failed to smile
As he slipped out in the night beneath the stars

He came back in the dawn with his tunic ripped and torn
And a gash across his forehead dripping red
They patched him right away and he slept throughout the day
With the Colonels daughter praying by his bed

He awoke again at last and lying prone and still
He bade her search his pockets with a nod
And she drew forth in the light an object green and bright
T'was the green eye of the little yellow God

T'was a still and tropic night when the moon was at its height
She thought of him and hastened to his room
As she crossed the barrack square faint music filled the air
With a waltz tune drifting softly through the gloom

His door was open wide and the moonlight shone inside
And the floor was red and sticky where she trod
And a bloodstained knife lay buried in the heart of Mad Carew
T'was the vengeance of that little yellow God



The Gurka Knife.

It has been said that once a Gurka Knife has been drawn from its sheath it must draw blood, also if you look closely at the sheath you can see two other holders for smaller knives. This Gurka Knife was given to me by an elderly gentleman who had fought in the Second World War. Gurka Knife picture by Aeron Lewis



Patrick says: I believe the photo above is part of a victory parade in Milan at the end of the Italian campaign. In the centre of the picture could well be General Montgomery he's wearing light trousers, a sash across his chest and his favourite Tank regiment black beret. The regimental flags are those of the Gurkhas and the Royal Fusiliers.

The pictures below show the Regiments presenting Arms to one another and I suspect it was to mark the respect they had for each other or the breaking up of the union perhaps.



Blue Tits and Other Updates.....

John Mole's update on the Blue Tit fledglings reported on last week. Aeron Lewis's picture of Bernard Hackett Court and Pam Ayres Poem and a cartoon from David Hudson.

After constant feeding since last Saturday, I believe all three fledged this morning. 28th May 2020

There are many young birds on our bird table.

The box is now quiet but I suspect in a few days more eggs may be laid.

Regards,

John



Photo © Francis C. Franklin

The photo below is the elderly residents of Bernard Hackett Court clapping for the nurses last Thursday. Aeron Lewis sent this photo to the Ross Gazette and it was published last week.



Photo A Lewis



Illustration G Schlater

Thank you to Aeron Lewis for sending in this poem from Pam Ayres

Ode to Coronavirus

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s –
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

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