

Ross Masonic Club



Supporting Local Freemasons

The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 22nd June 2020

Issue Number Twelve

Welcome to the twelfth 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?

'Sheds and Bikes and Hockey Pucks'

This would be a good title for this week's issue, as we find out more about the hobbies and interests of our members. We find out about the adrenalin fuelled talents of Godfrey Hannam, yet more talents from Graham King and updates from John Thornton and Emyr Jones on their hockey and shed antics respectively.

We also start a new feature from Aeron Lewis who will be sending in pictures of obscure curiosities each week to see if we can identify what they are and what they may be used for. We also have a follow up from Dennis Roberts on 'Would You Know The Answer' with an answer on which columns are placed at the Master and his Wardens' chairs.

Next week we will have more shed adventures with Nigel Donovan and further curiosities from Aeron.

If you have a hidden talent we could feature, or have a question about masonry you would like answered then drop me a line and we will try to include it in a future issue.

Keep safe Brethren and keep in contact.



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.

More opportunities to Zoom together

If you have not previously joined in, we now have a meeting that starts earlier on a Friday at 7:30pm as well as the 8:45 meeting for the 9 o'clock toast

It's simple to setup and Billy can help with support of you need it



Caeruleum Club

18 June at 21:36 · 🌟

Just wanted to say a great big thank you to everyone that has liked our page, we've hit the 200 likes.

We're so grateful to everyone who likes and shares our posts and to hopefully share with people what we're doing for our community



Face to Face

In a virtual way!

Billy Russell opened the Zoom session at 7:30 last week so anyone wishing to meet earlier could do so.

We had a number of members join at 7:30 who remained on till the second 'batch' joined at 8:45 to toast absent brethren at 9pm.

We will continue to do this so as many people as possible can join in if they wish.

If you would like to join at either time please see the details in the email circulating the newsletter.

The Caeruleum Club reached a milestone this week with 200 followers on Facebook. The Facebook page enables the Club to share news of their events and what they have been doing to serve the local community. It is one of the many ways we have been communicating to the general public the efforts, we as local Freemasons have been going to in helping local causes during recent times.

Coffee Break and T@3

This week John Thornton follows up on his article about Hockey and Aeron Lewis provides us with a curiosity to see if we can name what it is and what it's for.



Hockey Part Two

Graham King's comment about the roll in when the ball went out of play reminded me of all the other things that made hockey distinctive have also been done away with. From the bully, to hand stops at short corners and the obstruction rule, not to mention the off side rule. When I started playing you had to hold the stick right handed and boys who were left handed had to learn how to hold it the other way or they would have been causing obstruction and been penalised. We had the odd situation where they batted left handed but played hockey right handed.

I also remembered that Roger Edgar the Provincial Prior of Knights Templar is also a retired hockey goal keeper.

During my last period of captaincy of the 3rd XI at Newent I had about six young lads playing for me. It became clear that schools were not teaching hockey any more, certainly to boys, but much less to girls. We decided to set up a youth training scheme and now we have about 50 youngsters coming to the sessions each week. They have special teams playing at the weekend. Recently, at my instigation Newent Daffodil Lodge were kind enough to donate £250 which has enabled us to buy more equipment.

John

Aeron's Curiosities

Here are two photos of a '*curiously wrought*' item that Aeron has sent in.

Does anyone know, or hazard a guess at what it is and what it was used for?



Would You Know The Answer / Did I Know The Answer?

Dennis Roberts helps us with our daily advancement while we are away from Lodge Meetings.

Would I know the answer? Did I know the answer?

The response to my question of two weeks ago has been overwhelming by its absence; not even a DC was prepared to make suggestions!

I am not really surprised since exploring such a simple answer is not an easy task. Solomon does not give straight forward answers to this poser. References are made in various places, and I quote from one of the 'plays':-

"We say that a Lodge is supported by three great pillars, representing Wisdom, Strength and Beauty. Wisdom assists us in all that we do, Strength is that power that we can call on when we face difficulties, and Beauty is that spirit that will show us the character of our souls. The three pillars, are shown as columns, are of the Ionic, Doric and Corinthian orders of architecture.

They are represented of the pedestals of the WM, the SW and the JW. "

But still no suggestion of which goes where.

The explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board offers another way forward:-

"The three pillars of a Freemasons Lodge are emblematic of the Divine attributes, Wisdom, Strength and Beauty, and further represent Solomon King of Israel, for his Wisdom in building completing and dedicating the Temple at Jerusalem; Hiram King of Tyre, for his Strength in supporting Solomon with men and materials and Hiram Abif, for his curious and masterly workmanship in beautifying and adorning the temple." I do hope that the Chapter masons also recognise this and will encourage those who are not to complete the full journey into Freemasonry. This still does not make the positioning of the columns any easier.

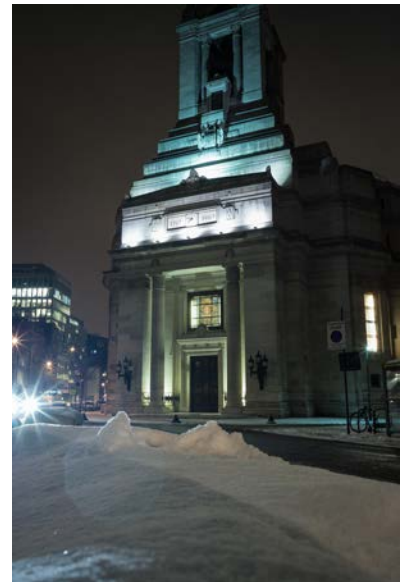
The Presentation of the Grand Lodge Certificate gives us the proper answer, though how many of us remember it, or have thought of it since?

"The outstanding feature on the certificate is the representation of the three great pillars. These are said to support a Freemason's Lodge. These pillars are physically represented in the Lodge by the candlesticks supporting the three lesser lights; that by the Master being of the Ionic Order denoting Wisdom, that by the SW is of the Doric Order, denoting Strength, and that of the JW of the Corinthian Order denoting Beauty." So, going back to my question two weeks ago, there is no simple answer, we need to take more notice and listen more carefully. The 'prettiest' column does not belong to the Master !

Congratulations to the ONE person who noticed the spelling mistake on the columns; not WIDSOM !!! My Question this week is:- What do we understand by a freemason being Just, Perfect and Regular? Please get in touch.

W.Bro. Dennis W. Roberts, PAGDC
Group Leader
Information and Guidance Group

roberts.greeba@btinternet.com

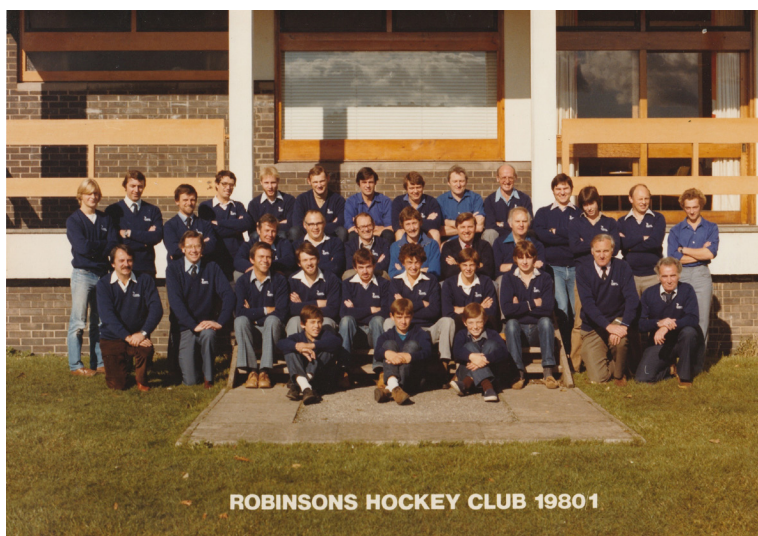


<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

Hidden Mysteries? - No, Hidden Talents!

This week we focus on the hidden talents of Graham King who, like John Thornton has a long history of hockey playing.

I must agree with the sentiments expressed by John Thornton and his reflections of his time playing Hockey. A game that encouraged loyalty to the club, a sense of belonging, sporting commitment and fairness. I started playing club Hockey back in 1966 for a club called Robinsons, a company side which was based in South Bristol and as a company club we enjoyed wonderful facilities at the company sports ground in St John's Lane. Now long gone it's become a housing development. As John said you never questioned the umpire and you played hard but fair, in over 22 seasons and something nearing 600 games for the club plus 60 on tour I was never sent off, in spite of my reputation of being a fierce and physical goalkeeper. I will however admit to having perfected certain techniques that were most certainly not included in the coaching manuals.



Picture in front of the clubhouse St Johns Lane

Like John I have many happy memories of playing at many interesting venues from the West Midlands to South Devon and South Wales, and a large number of favourite pubs on route to and from fixtures. Particular favourites were Sophia Gardens, a great grass pitch, and two other county cricket grounds at Bath and Imperial Bristol.

As a club we always went to the Easter Festival at Torbay where many clubs from all over the country played a minimum of 6 games in 4 days (how hard done by are these footballers)? The quality of the hockey was of a very high standard considering the fragile state of many of the players on the morning after a heavy session the night before.

The introduction of league hockey changed things considerably, Robinsons fixture list was virtually dismantled, most of our fixtures to the South were taken away. We were placed in the northern section of the Sun Life Western Hockey League, which in 1985 introduced us to clubs such as Hereford, Leominster, Newent, Ross and Lydney. The advent of astro turf pitches being a requirement for league fixtures also changed the dynamic of the game. Different start times had to be introduced as the new pitches had to be used several times a day. Hence 1st XI starting at a near to normal time with 2nd XI and 3rd XI starting very early or much later so the ritual of the whole club getting together for a beer or two after the games become much more difficult.

I finished playing in 1988. My last game was at Weston Super Mare we played out a 1 – 1 draw, I saved a penalty flick and as I left the ground I broke my stick across my knee just to make sure I would not be tempted back in September. I was installed as WM of my mother lodge The Lodge of Sincerity No 7658 in December 1988 so I am sure many of you will understand why there was never the time to reconsider starting to play Hockey again.



Our 25th tour in the early 1970's taken at the front of the Hotel Capri Paignton

Hidden Mysteries? - No, Hidden Talents!

This week we focus on the hidden talents of Godfrey Hannam and his life long interest in off road motorcycle sport.



On my 1966 250cc Sprite in Stroud

Since the age of around 15 I have had a great interest in Off road motorcycle sport.

Initially as an 'Observer' or more familiarly speaking a 'temporary official' on the day assisting the Clerk of the Course (CoC) of an organising Motorcycle Club running the event of Observation Trials. The Observer watches each competitor in turn ride through a marked section of ground and records his performance through and/or over the hazards, as plotted by the CoC, by recording how many marks, if any, he dropped whilst traversing the observed section. The winner of the event is the Competitor who records the lowest recorded score.

The observed sections (up to around 30 to 40 in number) could be up a rocky stream, in quarries over boulders and rocks, up and down steep, and often muddy, hills with tree roots and tight turns to be negotiated without aiding balance or forward movement by using a leg or both legs. Touching the ground once lost you one mark, twice or a hundred times (ie paddling the bike forward having lost traction in the muddy going) was three marks and when the front wheel spindle ceased forward motion, even momentarily, it was five marks lost.

From aged 17 years, when I had saved up enough money from my measly salary as an Apprentice Engineer, I started to compete in events in the 'Novice' class. My first machine was a 250cc 'Sprite' Trials Bike which was sold back in the day in kit form (to avoid the dreaded purchase tax) and manufactured by a chap called Frank Hipkin from Wolverhampton. The machine was powered by the commonly used Villiers 2 stroke engine which was fitted in many of the British marques which used 2 stroke machines in the 1950's and 60's. ie Greeves, Cotton, James, Francis Barnett etc.

After a couple of years on the Sprite I bought a second hand 250cc Spanish Trials machine made by Bultaco which had a much better performance and on which my results and placings greatly improved. That one was then part exchanged for a brand new 250cc Bultaco in 1973. On this machine I was really riding very well and eventually achieved 'Expert' status.



On my Ariel HT 500 at the 2006 Scottish pre 65 2 day trial

Hidden Mysteries? - No, Hidden Talents! Contd



1956 Ariel HT 500

I also tried my hand at Moto-Cross (or Scrambling depending on how old you are!) but did not do very well as I was never fast enough when going down hill! Up hills and along the flat I was holding my position and doing OK. I then had a couple of seasons racing Grass track on a variety of bikes in the 250cc & 350cc class (BSA engines) and also 350cc and 500cc class with JAP (that is 'J A Prestwick' not Japanese) engines

All this came to an end in November 1976 when I joined the Royal Navy.

Many years later having got married, had 2 children, and left the Navy I eventually took up Trials riding again. By this time there was a movement called 'Pre 65' (All the machines had to have been manufactured prior to 1965 which was the date of the Spanish Invasion (Bultaco, Montesa and Ossa) of very competitive lightweight mainly 250cc 2 stroke machines which spelt the death knell for the big British 'Bangers' of 350cc or 500cc 4 stroke machines made by the likes of BSA, Ariel, AJS & Matchless etc.)

The pre '65 events were just like the events I remembered when I competed as a young man and not at all like the modern day Trials events utilising 'monoshock' machines - which have disc brakes, water cooled engines and exceptional power to weight ratio. These newly developed machines enabled the 'sections' that were plotted to be almost impossible to be ridden on an old twin shock British bike.



On my Ariel HT500 at the 2006 Scottish pre 65 2 day trial

These modern events, whilst the majority of competitors are very skilful and talented, to my mind are more like a circus act as they can stop, hop the machine about, and do seemingly impossible things, which, due to a change in the rules became possible.



On my Ariel HT 500 at a trial in Pateley

I competed in pre '65 Trials for a period of some 10 years and achieved quite a few successes along the way. However, regaling you with that story will have to wait for another edition!

Fifty Sheds of Grey

This week we catch up with progress on Emyr's 'Man Cave'

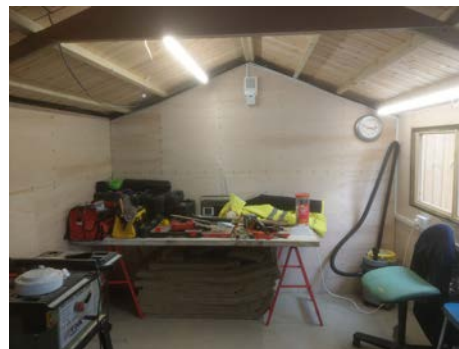
WELL, someone out there, loves me and my SHED!

(I think it's Andrew Moore), because he has asked for an update on my SHED (Ad)venture.

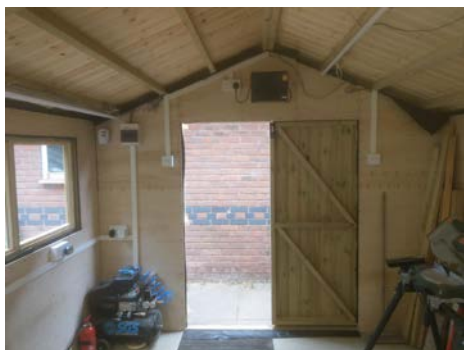
And so, for you sad "Sheddites" out there, I have put quill to parchment, to bring you up to date.

My efforts over the last few weeks, have largely been concentrated on enabling me to use it all-year-round, without suffering the indignity of hypothermia, or overheating during warm weather.

I had initially intended to build the shed 'completely' from scratch, but the lockdown forced me to revert to Plan X – buy one in! In the ideal (non Covid-19) world, I would have insulated the underside of the floor, weatherproofed the walls on the outside with PVC membrane, and then added the external boards. However, this was not to be, and I've only been able to insulate the walls and apply a membrane from the inside – definitely not my chosen option, but if the shed lasts 40 years – that's OK with me.



Anyway, I overlaid the thick (by non-bespoke shed standards) 22mm (7/8") wooden floorboards, with 22mm flooring grade chipboard, with a membrane between, to give me some extra insulation and draught-proofing. The walls were infilled with 50mm Rockwool, sealed into place with thick PVC membrane, and 9mm Plywood screwed to the 3" x 2" framework. Whilst there are some outstanding bits to complete (the ceiling and doors) the shed is now virtually draught free.



One of the things that I've been reminded of constantly, is the combined effect of gravity and old age. Is there a NEWTON Law for this I wonder?

Fitting the floor and wall boarding within the shed has involved much crawling around on all fours, using screws like they were going out of fashion (it's far easier to put too many in than have to adopt the position again), and then the difficult task of getting back up. I should have built the shed 10 years ago, before arthritis and other ailments set in!

I have also been busy on the electrical installation, having decided to keep all of the equipment and cabling on the surface of the shed, within plastic trunking. This way, there will be no chance of accidental damage to hidden wiring. The decision was also taken, to use 6' LED Battens to light the interior, which are individually switched for lighting performance, convenience and economy. The lights are all fully working, but completion of cabling will only occur when the ceiling insulation, membrane and lining are themselves completed, and then I can fix the remaining trunking.

By damn it's hot in here, even when the two windows and doors are open!

So, to make things more comfortable, I've installed an extractor fan in the far wall that's been 'in stock' for more than 20 years. I knew I'd use it one day!

If it's really cold in the winter, as well as wearing numerous layers, I've catered for this in-shed eventuality, by installing a 2Kw fan heater above the entrance doors (which also gives me cool air if required). Well, that's as far as I've got to date, but more materials are 'on the way', to enable me to continue.

My Finance Manager is currently evaluating the Future Spend Profile, and is likely to 'cap' the project at some stage (soon).

I have succeeded in carrying out some small jobs, on my 'temporary' bench, which is very encouraging – after all, this is what I am building the SHED for - honest!

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.