The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 29th June 2020

Issue Number Thirteen

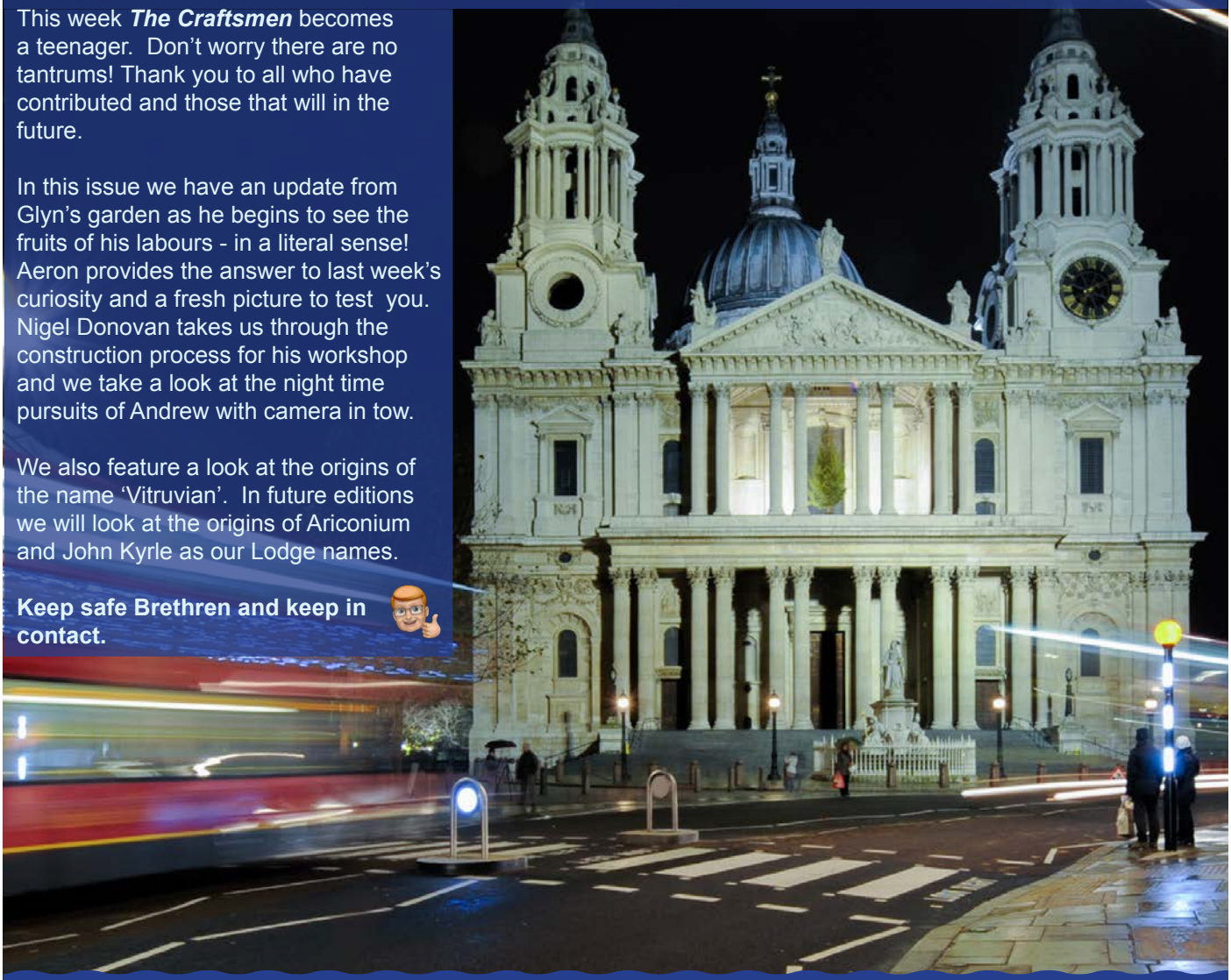
Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the Ross Masonic Club Weekly Round-up. A chance to share what we have been up to, with some light hearted articles during the break in face to face meetings.

This week ***The Craftsmen*** becomes a teenager. Don't worry there are no tantrums! Thank you to all who have contributed and those that will in the future.

In this issue we have an update from Glyn's garden as he begins to see the fruits of his labours - in a literal sense! Aeron provides the answer to last week's curiosity and a fresh picture to test you. Nigel Donovan takes us through the construction process for his workshop and we take a look at the night time pursuits of Andrew with camera in tow.

We also feature a look at the origins of the name 'Vitruvian'. In future editions we will look at the origins of Ariconium and John Kyrle as our Lodge names.

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 8:45pm meeting for the 9 o'clock toast.

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

Face to Face

In a virtual way!

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

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

It was an unusual meeting a number of ways. Firstly the attendees were not all human! Nick Swan showed the smallest and largest of his new puppy litter to suitable renditions of 'ahhh', and Glyn provided a number of impromptu gardening tips. Also Billy was our outdoor broadcast unit from East Sussex - coming live from an iPad near you!

You can see the fruits of Glyn's labours in our gardening section this week so we can all see he is actually a bit of an expert!

Tune in next week any time from 7:30pm to 9:15pm for free advice and a jolly good natter! You don't have to stay, feel free to come and go as you please between these times.

Coffee Break and T@3

This week Aeron Lewis provides us with a curiosity to see if we can name what it is and what it's for and Gordon presents an item of regalia.

Aeron's Curiosities

Last Week's Answer

Last week we published two pictures of a *'curiously wrought'* item that Aeron sent in.

They were of a Ticka spy camera deliberately shaped like a watch to disguise it's real use.

The camera was made in England by Houghtons, between c.1905 and 1914. The design is similar to the American Expo Watch Camera from the Expo Camera Company - both designed by Swedish engineer Magnus Neill.

The Ticka used a special 17.5mm roll film - loaded in cassettes - taking 25 16 x 22mm images. The case is 55mm in diameter and 21mm deep. An accessory viewfinder was available which slid into a groove on the "stem". A later version of the Ticka has a dummy watch face, with the hands indicating the angle of view. Also a sterling silver version was made which was properly hallmarked.

More information can be found here. http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Ticka_watch_camera

Aeron's Curiosities - This Week's Question

This week we publish a further picture of a *'curiously wrought'* item that Aeron sent in.

Can anyone hazard a guess at what it is and what it is used for?

A Question from Gordon Stewart

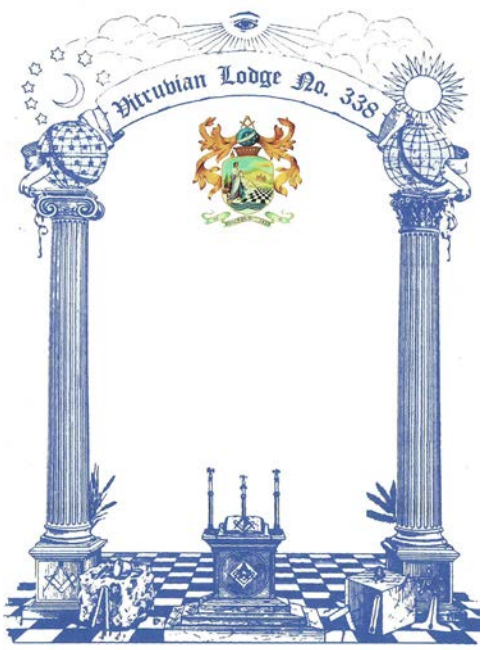
Gordon writes: Some time ago when I was buying my KT Kit I was offered a used apron as per the photographs below. I had never seen one before and being Scottish I accepted and now put it to the brethren to see if anyone knows the history to it and if it was for general meetings or a ceremonial apron.
A clue, it's Scottish!

Why the Name Vitruvian?

Republishing an extract from History of Vitruvian Lodge - No 338

A lecture presented to Vitruvian Lodge on 6th February 1995 by WBro G Flowerday, PM

In the first instance it is worthy of note that the Founders of our Lodge, one of whom was John Tristram, an Architect and the first Worshipful Master, were familiar with the classics and in their wisdom chose the name Vitruvian.



To give a more detailed explanation it is best if I read an extract from a paper given at the 150th anniversary celebration of the Lodge in 1963 by the late WBro G. E. Hardy, himself an architect by profession and WM of the Lodge in 1952.

"The name Vitruvian derives from a Roman Architect by the name of Marcus Vitruvius Pollio born in Formlae on the coast of Italy and practised about 80 B.C. He was a contemporary of Julius Caesar and Augustus and was in the service of the Emperor. His name is not famous for the works he produced as an Architect so much as the ten books he wrote on the 'Treatise of Architecture'.

This treatise deals with such diverse subjects as

- 'What is Architecture and its different branches?
- The education of Architects;
- The origin of buildings;
- Foundation of Balls, Towers and Buildings;
- Materials - Brick, Sand, Stone and Lime;
- Design aspect of Temples - origin of the different columns and their ornaments also Altars to the Gods;
- Design of Forum, Basilica, Treasury, Prisons, Theatres, Baths, Harbours and other buildings in water;
- Proportions and Proper Aspects of Private Buildings to the sites and to the different ranks of person;
- How to find water - the nature of waters and how to test for purity;
- The Universe and Planets;
- The Sun's courses and the North and South Constellations;
- Machines and Engines: The Principle of Mechanics and Engines of War;

Vitruvius dedicated his Treatise to Augustus and throughout the classical revival he was the chief authority studied by Architects and in every point his precepts were accepted as final. Bramante, Michelangelo, Palladio, Vignola and earlier Architects were careful students of the work of Vitruvius.

The Treatise was much valued in the Middle Ages and it was also considered of great importance until at least the beginning of the present century but today the young Architect has little interest in his works although in books and manuals by modern Architects, conclusions reached and methods advocated are very similar to those put forward by Vitruvius in his Treatise. So we have pride in our Lodge and greater pride knowing more about the origin of its name and whom we may regard as the Patron Saint of our Lodge.

Incidentally there is another Lodge by the name of Vitruvian, No. 87 registered under the United Grand Lodge of England, consecrated in 1810 and meets at the Freemasons' Hall, London. Over recent years visits have been exchanged by Brethren from both Lodges. Of more recent times it is interesting to note that there is also a 'Vitruvius' Lodge No. 9412 consecrated 1990 and meeting at Maidstone in the Province of East Kent.

This Week In My Garden

This week we get a visual update from Glyn Edmunds on the progress and results from his Vegetable Patch.

You will remember we featured Glyn's hard work in the garden in previous editions of ***The Craftsmen.*** This week we can see that he is starting to reap the benefits of his labours with a rich harvest of varied produce.

Looking good!

Veg for tea: New Potatoes, Lettuce, Onions and baby carrots.

Beetroot, carrots and runner beans

The first of the Tomatoes are coming on several of the plants

Cage to keep rabbits and pigeons out of the cabbage patch. They are not always successful!

The hanging baskets are coming on a treat but need watering 3 times a day - starting at 6am!

Geometry *- the branch of mathematics concerned with the properties and relations of points, lines, surfaces, solids, and higher dimensional analogues*

Hidden Mysteries? - No, Hidden Talents!

This week we focus on the hidden talents of Andrew Moore and his life long interest in photography

Since a very young age I have had a keen interest in photography, even to the point of considering it as a career choice when I left college.

My dad was a keen photographer and I was brought up in a age when you would be invited to an aged aunt's for tea to see her holiday slide show.

As a teenager I saved up my money from a Saturday job to buy a Pentax ME Super camera. I then went to Hampstead Heath, took loads of pictures, took the roll into the local chemist, and when the prints came back without the dreaded 'quality-control' stickers attached I was pleased. It spurred me on. Back then the sticker count on a roll of 36 was our version of 'Likes'.

Tower Bridge Onlookers

Millennium Bridge in the Rain

Deciding to continue with photography as a hobby and interest rather than my primary job I embarked on a career in banking and software, studying in the evenings and at weekends for my professional qualifications. In fact at college I gave up double maths with statistics 'A' Level to take up an additional Art 'O' Level to pursue my potential career in Photography (or to prepare me for editing newsletters nearly forty years later!)

I was also an active member of the Scout movement, often coming to the Brecon Beacons from London to either go hill walking or caving, both of which fostered my love of the outdoors. Infact I took part of my Queen's Scout award hike along the more remote stretches of Offas Dyke. Scouting also introduced me to Masonry as a couple of the other leaders had a joint interest.

As I had qualified as a 'Mountain Leader' I was often invited to help plan and come along on expeditions to the Brecon Beacons and other mountain ranges further afield. Little did I know then that I would be moving to the area in 1998 to continue a job in Cardiff. For the previous two years I had been living away from home staying in B&Bs in either Ross or Cardiff.

Paradoxically I now live in beautiful Herefordshire and live away from home in London a few days each week. In fact lockdown for me has been an absolute pleasure, not having to live out of a suitcase in cheap hotels all week. The one good thing about living away on a regular basis is that I can indulge my passion for photography. Most nights I can be found wandering the streets of London with camera in tow. There is nothing better than a rainy night where the pavements show off the reflections from the various light sources.

Reflective Thames with the Millennium Bridge and Shard

Hidden Mysteries? - No, Hidden Talents!

Contd

City Sunset from Tower Bridge

In the early 2000's I decided to go digital and at the time used to take pictures of motorcycle speedway while my wife Hilary ran a number of websites for the riders. Standing on the central green away from the crowds, It taught me to take pictures with my left eye so I could use my peripheral vision with my right eye to see if a riderless motorcycle was hurtling towards me at great speed!

Things have moved on again and I now use a Nikon mirrorless camera for its compact size and features such as vibration reduction and high ISO settings for my favourite nightscape photography.

Christmas Lights of Regent Street in the Rain

London is of course full of many photographic clichés that are endlessly photographed. I like to try and do something a little different. The millennium bridge in the rain with bright umbrellas, The River Thames during a blazing sunset or alternatively really work the cliché like a 'I love London umbrella' in the pouring rain! I keeps me amused during an evening and helps reach 10,000 steps on a regular basis.

Piccadilly Circus Reflections

I love to take rural landscapes too, but as I am (in no particular order!) a Freemason, husband and father of three talented daughters (who constantly need dropping off or picking up from events) it can be difficult to find the time to take pictures locally. I am hoping that after lockdown the travelling may be reduced enabling me to spend more time at home and enjoying the local landscape.

Further examples of my work can be found here;

Website http://www.incrementallight.co.uk

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1087257643

Instagram https://www.instagram.com/andrew.k.moore/

Twitter https://www.twitter.com/andrewkmoore1/

Fifty Sheds of Grey

This week Nigel Donovan walks through the building process for his Workshop

Having moved all the way from Peterstow to Three Ashes in July 2019, it was worthy of note that we spent just one whole day moving the workshop and timber (make that garage and wood!!). Not only was this very time consuming, but dusty as well and confirmed that there just is not enough room in the "workshop" for all of the wood, machinery, benches and me, so the decision was quickly made – we needed a shed to store the wood.

It was soon apparent that it also needed to accommodate a ride on mower, various gardening equipment and latterly the patio furniture, so you will gather, it grew by the week!

An important lesson in planning a shed – deciding what it is you want to do with it. Thankfully, we had as much room as we wanted, so space was not a restriction, but strength and longevity were a requirement, especially if the mower(s) were to live in there as well. So, the online search for garden sheds "from £400" started, but very quickly escalated from the 6'x4' shed with a door only just large enough for me to get through, to suddenly requiring double doors and growing to 12'x10', with a pro rata increase in cost! This needed to be done before the winter, so after some quite frantic communication, a very dear old friend of mine agreed to lay a concrete base for the shed over the next couple of weekends (don't forget to add on that cost!!). Shed ordered, we decided we should "have a go" at erecting it to save a little more outlay.

"We" being Emyr and me, those of you that know us have probably just taken a sharp intake of breath and shaken your head! Fred Carno's Circus springs to mind, with two very willing brains but not very much substance to support the thought. However, we decided we could have a go and if it was too much, call on someone else to do it. Over an afternoon in mid October, the cries of "up", "no, down", "lift", "pause", "stop", "rest" could be heard in the neighbourhood pretty much every 2 minutes or so, you can work out for yourself which were said most frequently! We are a cussed pair of old buggers as you know, and remarkably, by 5 o'clock, a shed had taken shape on said base, which had to be celebrated by the christening at the end of the day. Needless to say, two days of pain recovery and much more considered and gentle approach later, various finishing bits and pieces appeared (like a roof etc.).

As you will have gathered from my wasp's home pictures, this shed is most definitely not my "man-cave", I will treat you to that in a further ramble! Just be aware, sheds should not be taken on lightly, and Mr. Jones and I will be unlikely to be taking on any further "builds" in the near future.

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

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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.