

Ross Masonic Club



Supporting Local Freemasons

The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 6th July 2020

Issue Number Fourteen

Welcome to the fourteenth 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.

Thank you once again to all who have contributed and those that will in the future. We have a few regular contributors but I am always happy to shape any rough words you may have to create a story.

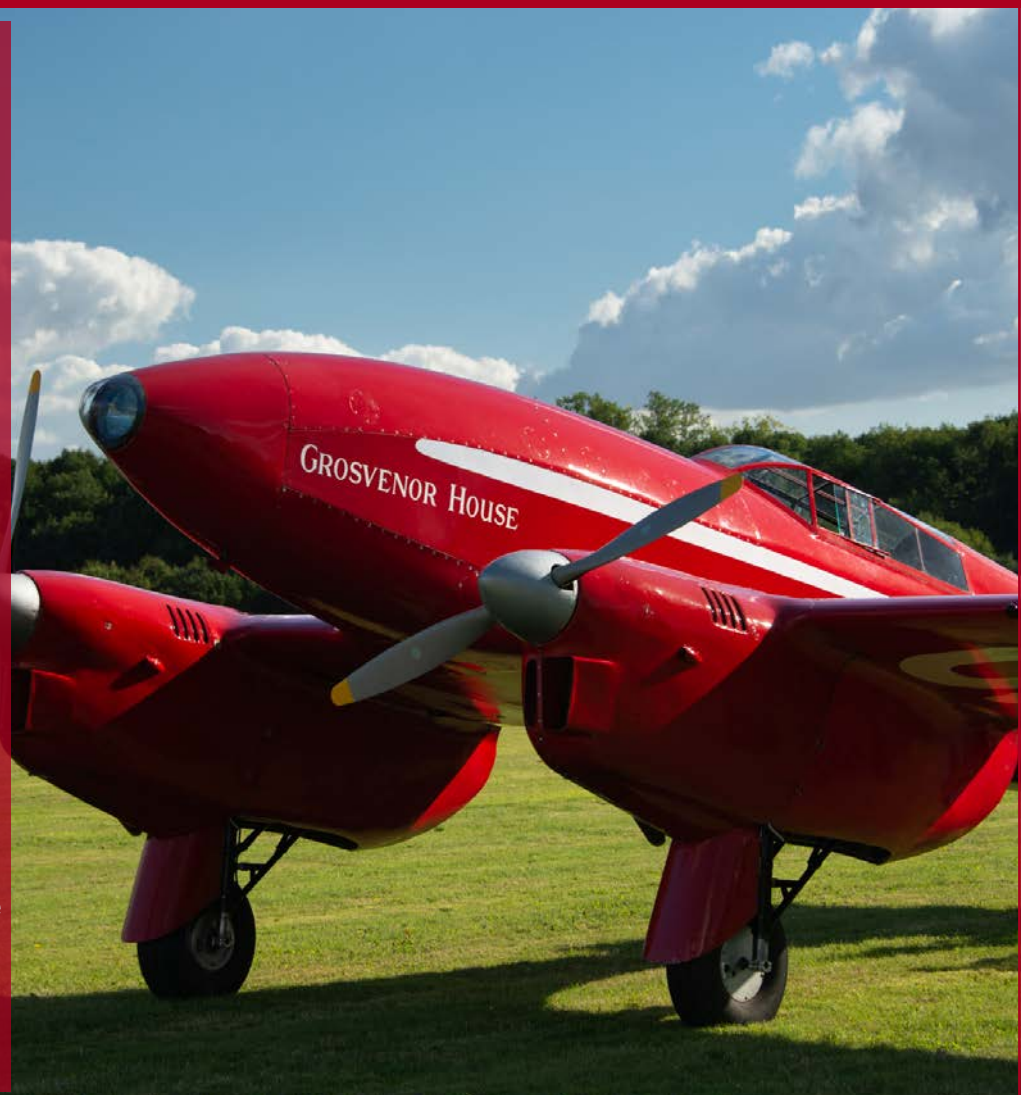
In this issue we have the return of our gardening section with jobs to do in July and a reminder about the Provincial Gardening Competition.

Dennis Roberts poses a masonic question and we have another curiosity from Aeron Lewis.

More hidden interests from Andrew Moore and the multi talented Glyn Edmunds.

Alan Miller follows up with more information on the man behind the origins of the name Vitruvian.

Keep safe Brethren and keep in contact.



Keeping in Contact

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 if you need it.

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

The response to my question of two weeks ago has been disappointing; no comments or responses at all!

What do we understand by a freemason being Just, Perfect and Regular?

Note the comma after 'Just'. The Lodge is 'Just' and 'Perfect' and 'Regular'. 'Just' because the Volume of Sacred Law is always open when the Lodge is at work. 'Perfect' because seven or more Freemasons make a Lodge 'Perfect', and there have to be seven Freemasons present for an Initiation to take place. 'Regular' because the Lodge has a Warrant from a Grand Lodge and it is on display.

In the same dialogue with the WM it is mentioned 'when the sun is at its meridian'. The Master is placed in the East because the sun rises in the East 'to enlighten the day'. The Master opens his Lodge and 'enlightens' the Brethren in Freemasonry.

The SW is placed in the West to mark the setting sun and to close the Lodge, 'having seen that every Brother has received his just due' (i.e. his wages). This refers back to the Middle Ages, when most people worked from dawn to dusk.

The JW 'marks the sun at its Meridian'. We can easily picture the Sun rising behind the Master's chair and passing over the Junior Warden's chair whilst at its Meridian (12 noon), before setting over the Senior Warden's chair.

As ever, it is a case of listening to our ritual and trying to make sense of it. Perhaps, when we return to normality, we will all pay more attention.

For next time, let me pose a practical question. Why do we 'Square' the Lodge?

This has a historical and practical reference for times past. You can always check your thoughts by visiting 'Solomon' of course!

By Dennis Roberts - Group Leader

Information and Guidance Group

e-mail: roberts.greeba@btinternet.com

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

This object is a 'Trout Spear' used for 'spear fishing' trout.

This version is an antique but Spearfishing is still a thriving sport in the UK as can be seen by this website.

<https://www.spearfishing.co.uk>

Although the apparatus has evolved somewhat!

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?

Answer in next weeks issue.



An Apology to Gordon Stewart

I had misunderstood Gordon's request when I published this last week. I thought he already knew what the regalia was for. Instead he was asking the question as he does not know himself !

I am sure someone can help him out by telling us what order or occasion the regalia is for. Please drop me an email if you know the answer and I can pass it on to Gordon or join our Zoom call next Friday and you can tell him yourself.

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?

A follow up from Alan Miller to last week's article A lecture presented to Vitruvian Lodge on 6th February 1995 by W Bro G Flowerday, PM

Those brethren who enjoyed W.Bro. Geoff Flowerday's 1995 lecture, printed in Issue 13 of The Craftsmen, and who may wish to investigate further the Roman Architect from whom our Lodge takes its name, will perhaps find the following links of interest.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vitruvius>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_architectura

De Architectura, otherwise known as Ten Books on Architecture, whilst available to purchase from Amazon, may be enjoyed at no charge online courtesy of The Gutenberg Project at :-

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/20239/20239-h/20239-h.htm>

Vitruvius Britannicus, the classic work of Eighteenth-Century architecture which built upon this foundation may also be purchased from Amazon at :-

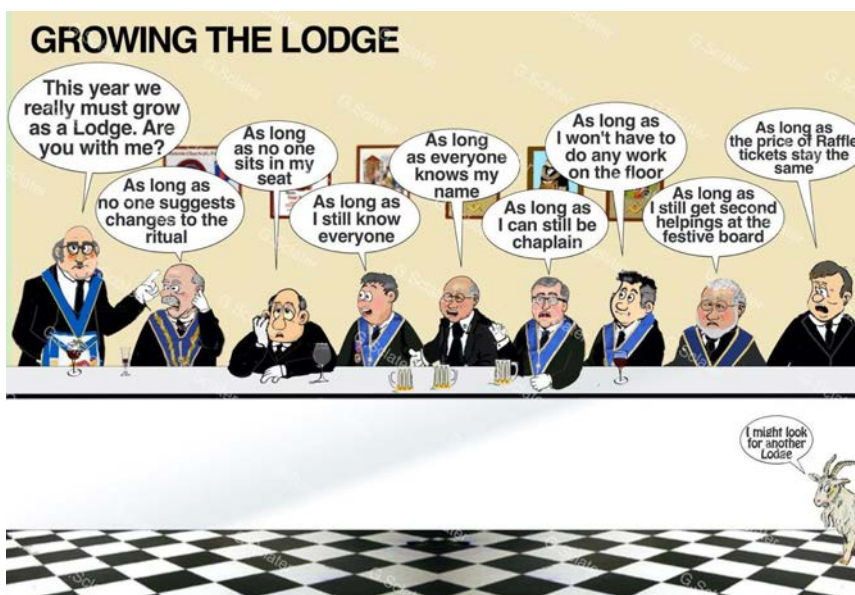
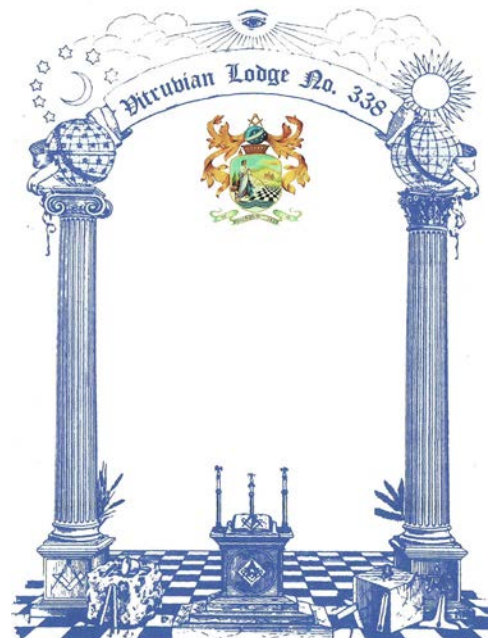
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Vitruvius-Britannicus-Classic-Eighteenth-Century-Architecture/dp/0486447995>

Those brethren interested in both architecture and furniture history will be familiar with the term "Vitruvian Scroll", details of which may be found here :-

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vitruvian_scroll

and finally :-

<https://www.leonardodavinci.net/the-vitruvian-man.jsp>



Implementing the Members Pathway?

Thank you to David Hudson
original source unknown

This Week In My Garden

Things to do in the garden during July

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

Flowers

- Cut lavender for drying, choosing newly opened flowers for the best fragrance, then hang up in a cool, dark place
- Give dahlias a liquid feed, keep them well watered and tie the shoots of tall varieties to sturdy stakes as they grow
- Hoe and hand-weed borders often, so weeds don't have time to set seed
- Water and feed sweet peas regularly, pick the flowers every few days, and remove seed pods to prolong flowering
- Plant autumn bulbs, including nerines, colchicums and sternbergia, in pots and borders
- Feed, water and deadhead summer bedding regularly, in pots, borders and hanging baskets

Fruit and Veg

- Check crops such as runner beans regularly for aphids, and rub or wash them off straight away, before they multiply
- Water thirsty plants such as celery, beans, peas, courgettes, pumpkins and tomatoes regularly
- Make the last pickings of rhubarb and remove any flower spikes that start to form, cutting right down at the base
- Thin out heavy crops of apples, pears and plums, and remove any malformed, damaged or undersized fruits
- Prune plum trees in dry weather, when silver leaf fungal disease is less prevalent
- Sow a last batch of peas and dwarf beans before mid-July for an autumn crop

Greenhouse

- Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days to improve air circulation
- Continue pinching out any sideshoots growing from the leaf joints of cordon tomatoes
- Take cuttings from fuchsias, coleus, pelargoniums, marguerites and other tender perennials
- Water tomatoes daily to prevent drying out, which can lead to split fruits and blossom end rot
- Order cold-stored potato tubers for planting in a greenhouse or cool porch next month, to harvest at Christmas
- Take large-leaved houseplants into the garden and hose them down to clean off accumulated dust

Provincial Gardening Competition

Don't Forget To Enter!

If you are in the Craft in Herefordshire you will have received details of the Provincial Gardening Competition.

Send your entries by email to pco@herefordshiremasons.org.uk.

You can send up to two photos, no larger than 2MB each.

Give each of them a title, and give a short description of what you have done in the garden during lockdown to get the results shown in the photos.

Don't forget to add your name, and which Lodge you're in. Good luck!



Hidden Mysteries? - No, Hidden Talents!

This week we focus on Andrew Moore's lifelong fascination with pioneering aviation

I have had a lifelong fascination with Aviation. My Dad was in the RAF during the war and had a fascination with engineering and aeroplanes which clearly rubbed off.

My parents would often take me to vintage plane air shows or for a day out at the Queen's building at Heathrow to watch the planes and see Concorde take off. I also had a friend of the family who took me to the Farnborough air show therefore aviation was in the blood.

My Dad worked for British Rail so all journeys involved a train, especially holidays, which could involve two or three changes of train to get to our eventual destination. A regular summer trip for us was to the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden Aerodrome near Biggleswade in Bedfordshire. This involved several changes of train and a 3 mile walk each way at the other end, but such was the norm in our family!

There is a fine collection of airworthy vintage planes at the Shuttleworth Collection and they also restore old planes back to their former glory. Back in the 1970s as they restored an aircraft they would sell off the old unwanted parts and I was lucky enough to acquire a few pieces of fabric, some of which were from pretty impressive planes.



Signed Fabric from Percival Gull G-ADPR

In my early years Alcock and Brown, Lindberg, Amy and Jim Mollison were my heroes. In fact even our local street names invoked an aviation past such as Mollison way near where the old de Havilland Aircraft factory was in Edgware. In my mind they were the real celebrities as they had earned our admiration (unlike a few appearances on a reality TV show which today seems to constitute celebrity!)



Jean Batten Memorial
© Egghead06

These people had planned and executed amazing feats with great bravery, launching themselves into the unknown. On one visit to the Shuttleworth collection we met Jean Batten. They had been restoring her plane and she was making a personal appearance. She became the best-known New Zealander of the 1930s, internationally, by making a number of record-breaking solo flights across the world. She made the first-ever solo flight from England to New Zealand in 1936.

She very kindly signed a piece of the fabric from her original Percival Gull Six G-ADPR which I have treasured ever since. Auckland Airport International Terminal is named after her. The Percival Gull G-ADPR in which she made the first solo trip from England to New Zealand in 1936 and many other record-breaking trips now hangs in the Jean Batten International Terminal.

I visited the airport in 2000 when I went to Auckland for a long weekend break – as you do, but that is a tale for another issue.

More about Jean Batten here

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statue_of_Jean_Batten



Percival Gull G-ADPR in Auckland Airport - source wikipedia

Hidden Mysteries? - No, Hidden Talents, well interests at least!



On another visit I acquired a piece of fabric from the de Havilland DH88 G-ACSS 'Grosvenor House', the winning entry into the 1934 MacRobertson Trophy Air Race. First off the line, watched by a crowd of 60,000, were Jim and Amy Mollison in the Comet 'Black Magic', and they were early leaders in the race until forced to retire at Allahabad with engine trouble. This left the DH88 Grosvenor House, flown by Flight Lt. C. W. A. Scott and Captain Tom Campbell Black, well ahead of the field, and they went on to win in a time of less than 3 days, (71 hours) despite flying the last stage with one engine throttled back because of an oil-pressure indicator giving a faulty low reading.



Fabric from the original G-ACSS

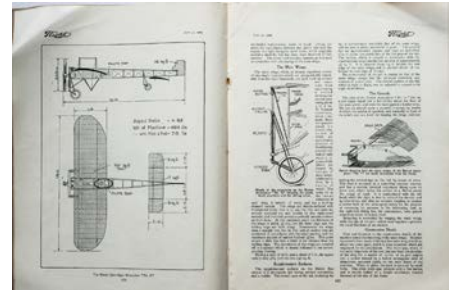
The aircraft G-ACSS is still resident at the Shuttleworth collection and regularly takes part in flying days. I went back with my daughter in 2016 to see the aircraft flying again and was hoping to return this year but current events have taken over. <https://www.shuttleworth.org>

I also inherited a couple of family treasures from my Dad.



Flight Magazine from 1909

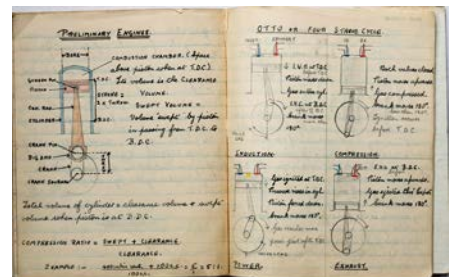
Firstly a set of Flight magazines dating back to 1909 and 1910. One of the issues pictured here celebrates the first crossing of the English Channel by Louis Bleriot on 25th July 1909. Although the articles are fascinating, the letters and adverts are equally so. One of the readers' letters is from Mr Edge who is urging us as a country to turn our attention to 'an urgent need that this country has for military airships' somewhat different from our current air defences!



Flight Magazine from 1909

Secondly his notebook from his Flight Mechanics course at St Athan where he trained during WWII. A far cry from my own children being schooled via video conference and submitting homework via email during the current situation. His notebook contains many hand drawn images of various engine parts and clear handwriting no doubt written in fountain pen.

How so many things have changed in the last 111 years since Bleriot made that first flight across the Channel. Or since the 1930s when air travel to Australia and New Zealand were very much in their infancy. Yet all these heroes paved the way for our ability to travel globally today.



Flight Mechanics Notebook

Fifty Sheds of Grey

This week we move away from wooden sheds to far more permanent structures, by looking at the hidden, but highly relevant talents of Glyn Edmunds. Article by Andrew Moore



We have already featured Glyn with pictures of his magnificent garden but his fingers are not only green but also highly skilled, not with plants but with stone as well.



This is a picture of a wall Glyn built behind Rockfield church about 20 years ago. It turns out Glyn has a secret talent as a stonemason. In fact his apprenticeship was as a stonemason which is how he started his career in local government.

He worked on the wall for four hours per week and although Glyn had the help of a labourer he built the wall himself over some considerable time as you can imagine. He cut and laid every stone himself and as you can see from the other picture it is still standing to this day.

But that is not all. Glyn's work can be seen all over Monmouth. Infact he has also worked on repairs to the medieval Monmouth Bridge about 40 years ago as well as many other structures around Monmouthshire.

Although his apprenticeship was as a stonemason, clearly from the recent garden pictures he can turn his hand to many things.

His handiwork is a lasting tribute to a very talented man (my words not his - he is far too modest!) and who knew we had a skilled operative mason amongst us.



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.