

Ross Masonic Club



Supporting Local Freemasons

The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 13th July 2020

Issue Number Fifteen

Welcome to the fifteenth 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 as always to our contributors this week.

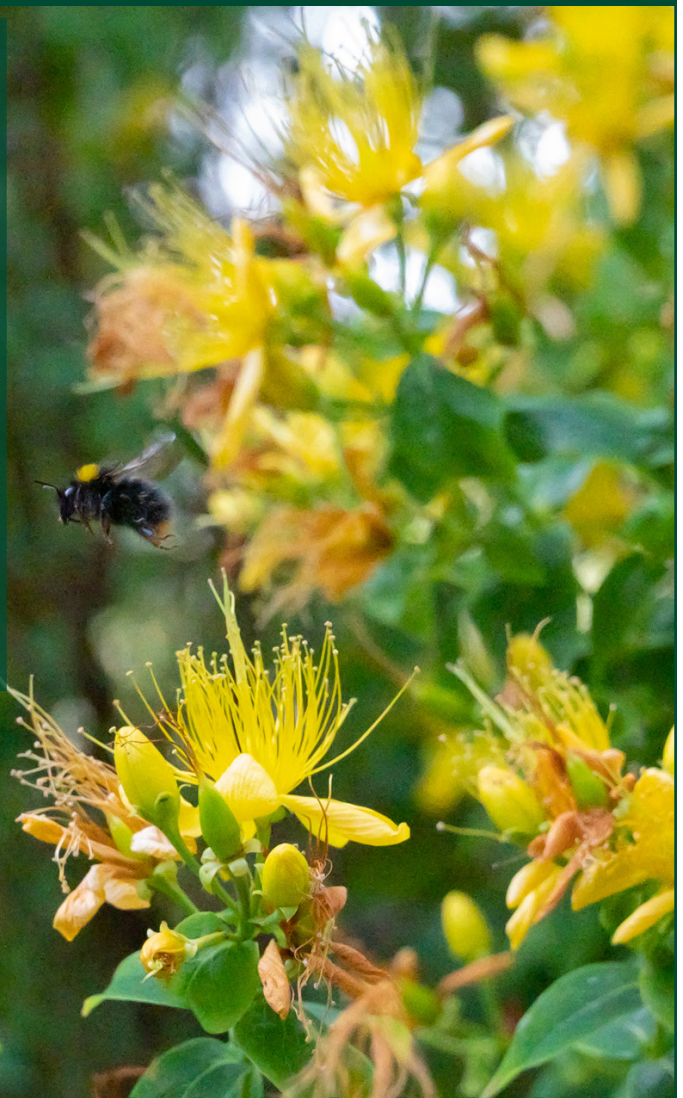
A strange time at the moment with some easing of lockdown restrictions in both England and Wales, but of course, still a lot of uncertainty on what the future holds. This makes planning difficult so I am sure our Secretaries and Scribe E welcome our support and understanding at this time.

In this issue we have another curiosity from Aeron, a use for Eric from John and Patrick tells us about his brush with Royalty and meeting his wife.

Alan reminisces on his childhood visits to his great-grandmother and a few things to amuse you from Martin.

More hidden interests from Nigel Donovan who shows us how to 'score'.

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.
You can come and go during these times as you please.*

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?

Please don't forget to respond to W Bro Dennis on his question posed last week.

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

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 name and John Thornton finds a job for Eric the West Highland Terrier.



Aeron's Curiosities - Last Week's Answer

This is a ladies skirt lifter! An ingenious invention to clip to the bottom of a lady's skirt and with a cord lifted the long skirt away from the water and dirt of the Victorian Streets.

A skirt lifter, also known as a dress lifter, skirt grip, dress suspender, hem-holder, page or porte-jupe, was a device for lifting a long skirt to avoid dirt or to facilitate movement. It clamped on to the hem and was attached to the belt by a cord, ribbon, or chain.

The first skirt lifters date from around 1846 and they were most popular in the 1860s-1880s



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.

I have finally found a job for Eric writes John Thornton

For years I have been trying to find a job for our West Highland Terrier to do. Whereas we value his companionship I sometimes think that perhaps we might find a more tangible way in which he could contribute to his upkeep!

Well I may have found it. I was recently cutting the box hedge which surrounds the raised vegetable bed. Normally Eric models himself on Monty Don's Nellie who does not interfere with his gardening; however on this day he just would not leave me alone and was trying get between the box and the wall. Eventually I finished the job and went in for lunch whilst Eric continued to be busy around the box. The next time I looked up he had placed a dead rat on the path.



Both my neighbours and I are delighted with this result as we have been troubled with the wretched creature for weeks and he had been breaking into the fruit frame and stealing all the strawberries (the rat not Eric!).

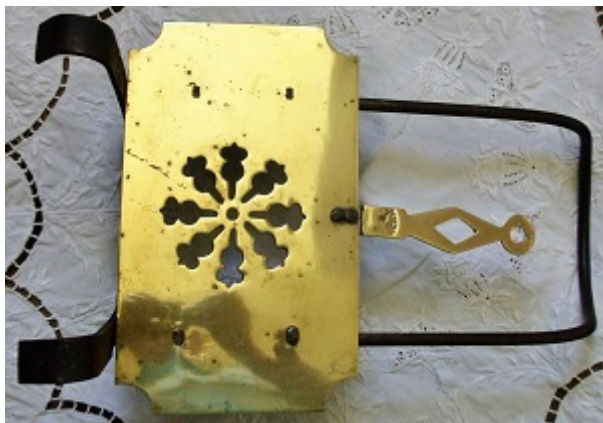
So I am now in a position to offer a service wherever required. The rates are very reasonable!

Polly Put The Kettle On

Alan Miller remembers his childhood visits to his Great-Grandmother

Musing on old domestic utensils, my thoughts wandered back to childhood visits to my maternal Great-Grandmother's home in West Derby, Liverpool. As a child, I would repair each Saturday to 10, Starfield Street, where a regular treat was to be expected in the form of a chocolate cream sandwich cake procured from Lefevre & Martin's patisserie around the corner on West Derby Road. Not that the shop was ever referred to as such, "Levy and Martin's cakeshop" being the accepted nomenclature !

Starfield Street, a typical Victorian "back to back" affair, built in the mid 19th Century and now long since demolished, took it's name from Starfield House, which formerly stood upon the site, home to the Astronomer, [William Lassell](#), who built an Observatory there which housed his famous 24-inch reflector telescope.



The focal point of life at Number 10, was the kitchen range, with it's gleaming brass and black-leaded grate, in which a fire always burned brightly and where a copper kettle would sit bubbling away, ever at the ready to make a pot of tea. In those days, nobody drank coffee, or insofar as they did, it was made on special occasions with milk and regarded rather as a treat ~ Happy Days

You can read more of Alan's musing in his Blog on his website here <https://www.applecrossantiques.com/>

Thank you to Martin Thorne for sending these in to help you smile!

*The grocery store in France
looked like a tornado had hit it.
All that was left was 'de brie'*

*Now is not the right time to be
surrounded by positive people*

Finland has just closed their borders. - No one will be crossing the finish line

*The World Health Organisation
has confirmed that you cannot
contract Covid-19 from dogs.
Dogs previously held in quarantine
have been released. It is now
clear WHO let the dogs out.*

*I'll tell you a Corona Virus joke
but you will have to wait two
weeks to see if you got it*

*Due to lockdown rules, I can
only tell you inside jokes*

Things To Do This Week

A few 'Parish' notices in-case you have missed any emails

Any Motorcycle Enthusiasts?

We are hoping to run a Motorcycle Special Edition over the next couple of weeks. I have contacted a few people who I know are enthusiasts and asked them if they can provide some items to include in the edition. Anything from a couple of paragraphs to maximum of 500 words with photos.

Do you have a particular skill or are a social rider with friends? We would love to hear the story.

If any of you are keen enthusiasts and would like to contribute please drop me a line with some words and photos.

Closing date for copy next Friday 17th July.



Mark Degree

If you are a member of the Mark Degree in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Province you may have missed the email containing this information.

Andy Fautley the Provincial Grand Secretary has prepared a form to gather important information for the PGM about being asked to resume masonic activity. You are not obliged to fill it out, but we do need a good number of responses to help the province do its planning. Your secretaries and scribes have already answered many questions on behalf of your lodge using the same type of form. You just need to click the link below.

These forms originate from your provincial website so please trust the link. It is our new way of gathering worthwhile opinions and facts, quickly and easily.

You can open the form here: <https://forms.gle/nzriqE9aH68Z8XkJ9>

Once complete, please just click the submit button at the end and it will automatically add your responses to others received.

Any problems, please contact Andy Fautley pqsl.sec@gmail.com

Craft 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 The scoring abilities of Nigel Donovan

Any of you who played cricket as a youngster, especially for the local men's club team will recall having a scorebook thrust into your sweaty little mitt, along with a chewed up pencil or pen and being told to "keep the score, fail at your peril"! Having no idea how to score, or who the players were, or what they were doing was not an excuse and your incapability not a reason to refuse the job.....of scoring! For me, this started around the age of 13 when I began playing for Blenheim Park Cricket Club, where I always assumed it was perfectly normal to play on the south lawn of a famous Palace! I soon discovered that the best way out of scoring was to take lots of wickets and bat for as long as you possibly could, meaning someone else had to do the job.

Many years later, when my son started playing, I was one of those parents who trekked from match to match watching and listening to the endless variety of excuses for no one wanting to score, from number dyslexia to complete illiteracy. One fateful day, I put my hand up to "support" my proud 8 year old budding cricketer and that began a route that I never expected to follow.



In the scorebox at Lords for Wales v MCC

The traditional "Box" method of scoring, an artistic challenge

Scorers have been a requirement for cricket from the very start of the game, and would be seen on the field of play, making notches on a stick, to keep a tally of the runs scored, so a winner could be determined, hence the term "notcher". Scratchers were so called for the same reason, scratching on a stick to keep the score.

The box method of scoring was first developed around 1877, not so named because the book is full of boxes, but named after the designer, Charles Box. Another method, known as linear scoring appeared around 1905, later refined by the renowned Bill Frindall, which provided another system for the same purpose. All of these systems are still used, but you don't often see anyone notching a stick anymore!

In my early days of scoring junior cricket, I made an error as a result of not being fully familiar with the "Laws of Cricket", and I think we all share that same feeling of hating to be seen to make mistakes. So started an amazing journey, with the first learning stage being an online teaching programme to achieve level 1 scoring status, a proudly earned qualification.

This really only got me to local club cricket and I had developed a hunger for more. The joy of keeping an artistic page of scoring and basking in the compliments of onlookers drove me on, as by now I was earning a reputation for keeping a "beautiful" book. It is amazing how much more notice people take of a well presented scorebook than one that looks as though a multicoloured spider has crawled across in a rainstorm! Prompted by this success and being asked to become involved with junior County Cricket when my son was selected for Herefordshire, I decided to study for my level 2 ECB qualification, which took a couple of years, and having qualified gave me the opportunity to score at a little higher level, scoring older age group County matches.

Linear scoring appeared around 1905 and was developed later by Bill Frindall

Hidden Mysteries? - No, Hidden Talents

Now starting to score at a higher level and being treated with some respect having become a member of the Association of Cricket Officials, I was invited to join the MCC panel and that resulted in being selected to score at Lords in April 2016 for a match between Wales and MCC, probably one of the greatest experiences of my life, launching me a little further up the scoring ladder and encouraging me to study for the highest level of scoring qualification at that time. Over the next couple of years, I made it to level 3, but in the meantime had become scoreboard operator at New Road, Worcester, for all of Worcestershire's home games, and getting paid to watch professional first class cricket has to be every cricket fan's dream.

During that period, things just got better, as with my regular spot in the scorebox well established, I became the "chosen scorer" for all the visiting touring sides, consequently ending up scoring for Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, India, West Indies and Bangladesh amongst others, all wonderful experiences, being accepted into the inner sanctum of International cricket. During that time, and my study for the level 3 ECB qualification meant I had to adapt my scoring skills on the computer, which over the past three or four years has developed into the most incredible interactive, database driven system, owned by the ECB, and is universally used in all levels of cricket in the UK. It is one of the most sophisticated and comprehensive pieces of software you could possibly use, connected to all of the "live scoring" platforms on the internet, providing worldwide information to the cricket world, besides all of the statistics that are calculated from your input! Live broadcasts are linked to Twitter, Facebook and most other live media platforms, and the information is transmitted live into the ECB database.

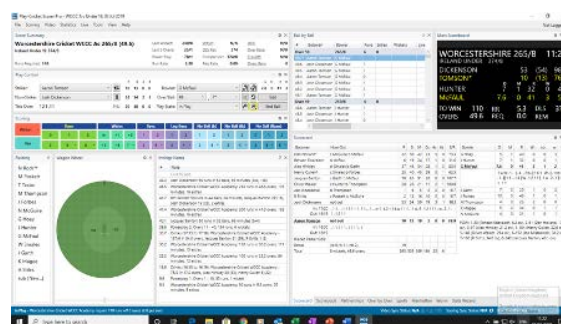
Wales v MCC at Lords, the scorecard is displayed in the Pavilion, this one in the members lounge



Today's computer scoring links directly to various "live" platforms

All of this came about through scoring for a small club, playing for a local club and wanting to do a little more than just sitting and watching! I am now a fully qualified ECB scorer tutor and observer, meaning I can now pass on all of my knowledge to anyone who wants to learn to score. Whenever you are watching cricket, bear in mind that there are always 4 officials working together as a team – the umpires and two scorers and what you see on your TV does not happen without them. It has been a wonderful journey and one which has resulted in all sorts of privileges, having scored throughout the disability World Series in 2019 and scoring for the Herefordshire blind cricket sides, both very humbling experiences.

This year, COVID-19 has brought the sporting world to a standstill, cricket being one of the greatest to suffer, with the season only just getting under way. Unfortunately, for me, I have had to make the decision not to score this year, as the environment would be far too dangerous for me to be involved. There is a danger that come 2021 I may no longer have the energy to concentrate for eight hours a day, over a four day match, recording every ball and incident, we will just have to see, there is a long time between now and then!



The programme now being used for all games in UK

Don't Look Back In Anger.....

This week Patrick Eyre looks back at his time in the Army which saw him meet with royalty and his future wife.

Patrick recounts:

It started in April 1947 in Caterham Barracks Surrey at the tender age of 17. Four months of square bashing under the beady eye of RSM Brittain - harsh discipline indeed. The loudest voice in the British Army could shatter a wine glass within a room.

Then on to Pirbright in Surrey for a further four months of tactical training. Learning how to shoot, dig, and sleep in slit trenches were the norm.

At the end of that year i was put on a on a troopship the 'Empire Trooper' out of Southampton, bound for Malta, and then a Royal Navy Corvette to Libya for so called peace keeping duties.

Some two and a quarter years later sailing back to Liverpool in the "Windrush" (yes it was a troopship) suitably tanned from those years in the Desert having volunteered for a parachute course in the UK.

Following that to Wellington barracks - next door to Buckingham Palace and my first introduction to the red and blue and the bearskin. It was called 'public duties' which meant you did guard duty on all the Royal residences including the Tower of London and the Bank of England. It also meant very proudly trooping the colour on Horseguards Parade, with Princess Elizabeth riding between the ranks, standing in for her father the King who was in poor health.

Then a year or so stationed in Windsor meant Castle guard duties and with the actual duty lasting 48 hours, I can boast to sleeping in the Castle

I met my future wife when guarding the main gate and it all took off when she asked me in a whisper 'Is your gun loaded'?

The rest as they say is history!



Yes - that really is me outside 'Buckhouse'.

RSM Brittain.

Ronald Brittain, MBE (2 September 1899 – 9 January 1981) was a well-known Regimental Sergeant Major (R.S.M.) in the British Army.

The Warrant Officer class 1, who was reported on widely in the newspapers of the day, featured in several British military training films during the Second World War. He was said to have possibly the loudest voice in the British Army

On retiring from the army in the 1950s, R.S.M. Brittain's fame enabled him to enjoy a career in advertising, voice-over work and acting, playing characters that resembled an archetypal Sergeant Major.

Source Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Brittain



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.