

Ross Masonic Club



Supporting Local Freemasons

The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 14th September 2020

Issue Number Twenty Four

Welcome to the twenty fourth edition of the Ross Masonic Club Weekly Round-Up.

A great big thank you to our two regular contributors to this issue, Patrick and Harry. I am sure we all appreciate your efforts each week. This week we have:

- A roundup of charitable donations from the Province during lockdown
- Gardening tasks during September
- Patrick and Harry continue the story of their varied careers
- An extract from the Hereford Times for the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in 1858
- Dennis provides an answer to the 'Would I know, did I know' question on the smooth and rough ashlar and poses a new question
- We show Glyn Edmunds receiving his prize for the Provincial Gardening Competition.

All thoughts and suggestions for future articles welcomed. Please keep your input coming with, once again, a special thank you to all those that contributed.

Keep safe Brethren and keep in contact.



Keeping in Contact and Staying Sharp

Facebook

A weekly Round Up of Local Reference on Social Media



Herefordshire Freemasons

Six months of Lockdown

An extract from the Herefordshire Masons Facebook Page



During the past six months, Herefordshire Freemasons have been busy working hard to support various organisations throughout the county with donations totalling in excess of £24,000. This brings the total donated to local charitable causes in 2020 to over £114,000. Michael Holland, the senior Freemason in Herefordshire said, "We've had to suspend our regular meetings during lock down, but we've been using online communications to keep in touch and to ensure that we continue our support of local causes."

During the past six months Herefordshire Freemasons have supported Breast Cancer Haven;

Herefordshire 4x4 Response Team, a group of volunteers who offer their driving skills, to support the local community in times of need;

For the Love of Scrubs, helping Davina Diamond's group of volunteers to produce scrubs, scrub bags, scrub caps and headbands for the NHS, and local community;

West Mercia Women's Aid, who have recently refurbished two houses, enabling the refuge to house abused women in a safe and secure environment;

Burghill Community Academy to refurbish the play areas at the school;

St Martin's Church Food Bank to help buy supplies for the bags of food they provide to those in urgent need;

Vennture's night-time Street Pastors who help distressed people on the streets of Hereford, by providing First Aid and counselling;

Ross Community Development Trust with their good neighbours scheme and their early lockdown campaign to encourage the wearing of washable face coverings;

The Marches Counselling Services with the purchase of computer equipment to enable their counsellors to communicate with their clients;

Riding for Disabled to help purchase a new horse for the centre;

Herefordshire County Hospital, by donating four Samsung Galaxy A tablets to enable patients being treated at the hospital to stay in touch with loved ones.

The amounts donated to each of these good causes range from just under £1,000 to well over £3,000.



Full details of all the donations can be seen on the Freemasons website <https://herefordshiremasons.org.uk/recent-news/>

This Month In My Garden

Things to do in the garden during September

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

Flowers

- Plant wallflowers, pansies, forget-me-nots and other spring bedding in pots and borders
- Collect ripe seeds from your favourite flowers and store in labelled envelopes, ready to sow in spring
- Plant up containers for autumn interest, using cyclamen, heathers, heucheras and other colourful bedding plants
- Bring any houseplants that you moved outside over summer back indoors, before temperatures start to drop
- Lift, divide and replant congested clumps of perennials, such as achilleas, once they finish flowering
- Apply vine weevil control to pots if plants show the tell-tale sign of notched leaf margins
- Fill any gaps with late-flowering perennials, such as sedums, to provide nectar for pollinating insects into autumn
- Plant spring bulbs, including crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths, bluebells and snake's-head fritillaries in pots and borders
- Take cuttings from fuchsias, salvias and pelargoniums
- Keep summer bedding flowering in hanging baskets and pots until the first frosts by deadheading and feeding regularly
- Trim conifer hedges to neaten them up and control height
- Leave sunflower seedheads in place for birds to feed on

Fruit and Veg

- Sow hardy greens, such as kale, land cress, pak choi, mizuna, lamb's lettuce and mustard, for winter pickings
- Prune out all the fruited canes of summer raspberries, cutting down to the base, and tie in new canes to supports
- Pot up herbs, such as chives and parsley, and place on a sunny windowsill to use during winter
- Start sowing hardy varieties of broad beans and peas for early crops next year
- Plant onion and shallot sets in a sunny spot, 10cm apart, with the tip just showing above the soil
- Cut away any leaves covering the fruits of pumpkins, squash and marrows to help the skins ripen in the sun
- Plant saffron crocus bulbs (*Crocus sativus*), so you can harvest your own saffron this autumn
- Pick apples and pears before the wind blows them down, and store undamaged fruits if you can't eat them fresh
- Store chillies by threading the stalks onto strong cotton or wire and hanging up to dry somewhere warm and dry
- Cut off trusses of unripe outdoor tomatoes before the weather turns cold, then ripen them indoors
- Lift maincrop potatoes, dry off and store in hessian or paper sacks, in a cool, dark, well-ventilated place

Greenhouse

- Plant prepared hyacinth bulbs in pots or hyacinth glasses, for fragrant indoor flowers at Christmas
- Take down greenhouse shade netting or wash off shading paint by the end of the month, as light levels start to fall
- Stay vigilant for pests and diseases in the greenhouse, and treat any you find immediately
- Plant dwarf spring bulbs in pots, including irises, crocuses, chionodoxa and scilla, for early flowers
- Pot up tender perennials, such as fuchsias and osteospermum, from summer displays and bring indoors before temperatures drop
- Repot moth orchids after flowering if they look like they're about to burst out of their pot
- Water houseplants less frequently and move them off particularly cold windowsills at night
- Plant hippeastrum (*amaryllis*) bulbs in pots for spectacular flowers over the festive season
- Plant Anemone De Caen corms for a vibrant indoor display in early spring
- Pay close attention to greenhouse ventilation, shutting vents on cool nights
- Check greenhouse heaters are in good working order
- Maintain good plant hygiene, picking off faded blooms and dead leaves before fungal diseases can take hold

Patrick Eyre continues to recount his career moves. There's more than one way to earn a living Part 8

Michael's car was parked overnight on his petrol station forecourt and when we got in I held my breath as he turned on the ignition. If you read my piece last week you will understand what I'm talking about.

We had visited his workshops on the first day of my visit to Northern Ireland and I was suitably impressed with what I saw. He only employed one full time welder/ mechanic who at the time was inside a mixer drum re-blading it, but there were several other trucks waiting to be attended to outside. The reason I had Michael in my sights as a future agent was because he was known to most of the people engaged in the ready-mixed concrete industry in both the north and south of the country. We covered a lot of ground and I was introduced to a number of his customers who seemed to be pleased to see a representative from England who had taken the trouble to visit their country under the present circumstances.

The company I worked for produced a great deal of sales literature and I had brought a lot of it with me. It was of the highest quality, and very informative and I was happy to leave some with them.

It was a Friday and an early start put us on the road to Dublin, and I was not surprised at the number of times we were stopped by police or British soldiers before we crossed the border with Michael going through his routine "Councillor Michael Mc'Iver and I'm carrying". It was just a two-way road to Dublin but we made good time to take Michael's customer out to lunch. A pint of their best Guinness helped the meal go down and gave me the chance to talk about what I could offer his ready-mixed concrete business including the truck mixer mounted concrete conveyor with all its advantages.

I must say I was taken aback when he ordered one purely on the strength of the photographic literature I had shown him but I thought he would change his mind once I mentioned it came as a package with the mixer

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unit as the drive system had to be compatible. But he didn't change his mind, and said he would be sending a Hino chassis/cab over to Hatfield when all the kit was in place. I learned that Michael's customer had a share in a business that assembled the Japanese Hino truck in Ireland which was sent over in kit form from Japan.

The experienced eye will note that the mixer drum is quite small; probably about 5m³ capacity, and is sitting on a 8-wheeler chassis. Probably a legal configuration but totally impractical in the UK. A British Leyland 6-wheeler chassis would take a 6m³ drum quite legally with a much improved payload and still within the 24 ton legal weight limit, as well as complying with individual EU axle weight regulations.

During lunch Michael received a message that one of his customers in Cork would like to talk some business with him whilst he was in the Republic but it would have to be the following day which was a Saturday. Michael said there could be a business opportunity for me too and would I like to accompany him. Naturally it would involve an overnight stay for us both, but I had planned to be back home this very day and it was not possible. In the event I hired a Hertz car and made my way to Belfast in the hope of catching the 10pm shuttle back to Heathrow. For many years I had always promised to be home at the weekend, Monday to Friday belonged to the company day or night, and

because I spent so much time on my travels in the UK or overseas it was only fair to my wife and family I made the airport by around 9.30pm. The shuttle in those days was a walk on and off service, so as long as you arrived for your flight in time to buy your ticket you were OK to board. The journey from Dublin to the border went without incident but I was stopped several by either police or soldiers, I thought it could be because the car had Republic number plates.

Like you can do today, the car could just be dumped at the Hertz desk, but all the way home I was thinking Northern Ireland is no place for me to be knocking on doors, the agency arrangement has to work, and Michael Mc'Iver will be the man to help me set it up. Although my MD will have the final say!!

A word about my move back to Maidenhead and how it involved my wife. When we previously lived in the town my wife was employed as the Head-Housekeeper at a multi room hotel which was part of well known hotel chain. When we moved to Halesowen she took over the same roll at one of their hotels in Birmingham. She had always hoped that one day she would own a hotel or guest-house of her own, and to that end we had purchased a large detached house with all the potential to make this happen, and I will keep you informed as we go along.

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

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

Last time I asked What is the significance of the Rough and Smooth Ashlars and what do they symbolise?.

The Rough and Smooth Ashlars, along with the Tracing Board, are the three immovable jewels which are on display when a Lodge is open. An ashlar is a square hewn stone intended for building purposes. It is not necessarily in the form of a cube, with all sides and faces equal, although that is how we most often see it presented in our lodges.

The stone is hewn out of the quarry and passed to the Entered Apprentice to work, mark and indent on. To do this he would have used his working tools, being a rule, gavel and chisel. His duty is to prepare it for the hands of the more expert workman, who would be responsible for perfecting the stone for its intended purpose. But since we are not all operative masons we draw different lessons from these jewels.

In this sense the rough ashlar is said to represent man at the start of life, when he has his natural wits, but no learning. Adults in his life are responsible for educating him so that he becomes a fit member of civilised society.

The perfect ashlar represents the ultimate product of this effort. It is a stone of true die or square, fit only to be tried and testes by the Square and Compasses. It represents a form of perfection that might be achieved by a good man in his later years, after a life in which he has demonstrated virtuous and pious behaviour, to be tried by the Square of the Great Architect of the Universe's Word and the Compasses of his own conscience.

The immovable jewels therefore teach us about our progress through the Degrees of Freemasonry as well as through the design of life, as we pass from inexperience of youth to the wisdom of age.

For next time, let me pose the question What is the significance of Reverence or Fidelity Signs? Thumb Up or Down? What does your Lodge do?

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
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Glyn's Glorious Garden Gains Gardening Glory

VW Bro Graham King Deputy Provincial Grand Master presents Glyn with his prize.

VW Bro Graham King Deputy Provincial Grand Master writes on the Provincial Website.

Many thanks to all those brethren who submitted entries to the Provincial Gardening Competition 2020. When we suggested this competition, we were uncertain as to whether people would respond in any number. However, we have been encouraged by the number of participants and by their efforts.

We feel and hope that, if people would like to do this again, we are more than willing to run a similar event next year. We would probably have a different theme as this year's subject was all about what people had been doing during the Covid 19 Lockdown. I would like you to think about next year and what a possible theme could be. So have a think and contact me with any ideas.

This year we received a total of 19 entries, all of a very good quality and covering many aspects of this summer's unusual circumstances. Covid 19 certainly changed many things and the way we approach daily life. The high standards of each entry certainly set our judges a difficult challenge to select the winners, many hours were spent deliberating and they finally selected the three prize winners.

There were 19 entries from members of the Province included entries from our own John Mole and Alastair Ross.

1st Prize Bro Peder Nielsen - St Peters Lodge Bromyard

2nd Prize W Bro Paul Sabel - Dean Waterfield Lodge Hereford

3rd Prize W Bro Glyn Edmunds - Vitruvian Lodge Ross-on-Wye



VW Bro Graham King Deputy Provincial Grand Master presents Glyn with his prize.

Further details can be seen on the Provincial website <https://herefordshiremasons.org.uk/provincial-gardening-competition-winners/>

Harry's in Hot Water! (Part VI)

The further adventures of Harry Holwell

I carry on my saga still in the Seychelles carrying out ocean surveys of the approaches to Mahe the main island of the group. We were always kept busy on-board. Besides the survey we also had all the routine maintenance required to keep a ship at sea working. I have said earlier, we did carry a doctor on-board and on occasion he sailed with us. On one of these occasions when he was on-board we answered a distress call from a Chinese fishing vessel. It had run aground off one of the islands. On arrival we found it was aground on one of the reefs about half a mile from shore and the closest we could approach was about two thirds of a mile. We launched our rescue boat, a large Avon rubber craft with a large engine. The sea between ourselves and the stranded fishing consisted of very big surf-like rollers. The craft had a crew of four. On its first attempt to approach the fishing craft it was turned over. The crew eventually managed to right it and eventually drew alongside the stricken boat. The vessel had a crew of ten. We were able to rescue them all, although one of them had a very serious skull injury with brain showing, he was unconscious. We returned them all to Mahe. They were all eventually repatriated to China. Even the injured man made a miraculous unexpected recovery with a plate in his skull.

By this time we were fast approaching the point where we would be sailing onwards to Singapore. I had to make a couple of decisions at this point. Firstly did I want to convert to becoming a Survey Recorder. This was no. I was preparing to leave the Navy and even if I hadn't I still don't think I would have joined the survey Navy. They do visit out of the way places but they also spend a considerable amount of time at sea, even compared with the regular Navy. I also had to decide whether I wanted to do the return journey home on the Beagle. That is, when we arrived in Singapore the ship was due a short maintenance period over Christmas. I was due to fly home during this period.

If I volunteered I could have rejoined the ship and sailed home carrying out the second part of the Seychelles survey and another couple of small surveys on route to our home port of Chatham. I decided that I would not rejoin the ship. I had only been married a short time and then I was away for almost 18 months. It was not fair to Sue. I had also decided it was time to commence my career as a Police Officer.

We finished our first part of the Seychelles survey and it came time to sail onwards. It was now December and I was due to take an RAF flight home from Singapore. We arrived in the port and before I knew it I was all packed up and leaving the Beagle. It was now 23rd December 1971. We were awaiting our departure at Changi. The VC 10 aircraft broke down, "foreign body" in the engine. They put us in a hotel overnight and we flew out British Airways the following morning. It was all panic as I had to send off a telegram to Sue cancelling her travelling to RAF Brize Norton to meet me. I arrived home in Chatham late on Christmas Eve to both Sue's and my own relief. I had a couple of weeks leave. I then had to report to Dryad training base for a Radar course. I had to take a short course for advancement. I then went off to join a new ship in Chatham for refit. This was HMS Llandaff, a Radar picket Frigate.

I recall this being a very busy time. I had put a report in to leave the Navy. I had to give a year's notice. I also had to decide which Police force to join. Sue and I did this in a very scientific way. We decided which area we wanted to live in and this was midway between Exeter and London. We circled the map, closed our eyes and stuck a pin in the map. Wiltshire was the choice. I wrote off to them. The next thing I had to take an exam in Rochester police station. I passed this and the Sergeant then tried to convince me to join the Kent force. I declined. A couple of months later I had to go off to Devizes for an interview.

I only had one suit at this point in my life, a navy blue pinstripe three piece. I'd had it made and worn it once on my wedding day. I stayed in the Bear Hotel, Devizes. The following morning I put on my suit to find my trousers fitted on the waistline fine but my thighs and calves had expanded somewhat. I made it to the interview and passed it despite my very tight trousers and squeaky voice!!!!.

This was in November 1972. Sue was now pregnant, expecting our first child. I received my date for leaving the navy, it was to be the following May. I notified Wiltshire Police and the fact I would require a police house to live in. This was a requirement at the time in the police. I found I was to be posted to Swindon. Lorraine was born in March 1973. I left the Navy on the last Thursday in May, we moved house on the Friday to Swindon. The following Monday, 3rd June, I reported for duty in Devizes. This was to collect uniform, complete formalities and a short induction to the Wiltshire force. The following Sunday afternoon off I went to Chantmarle police training unit in Dorset.

This was a shock to my system. It was a very tough course with lots of exams and tests. We had to learn word for word our powers and definitions of offences. We would be at school all day and spend most of the evening studying before a couple of pints and then bed. There was also lots of time for sport and cross country runs on a regular basis plus swimming and lifesaving. After thirteen weeks I passed out and Sue came down to watch the ceremony. I then went home to Swindon with Sue to start our real married life together. I had the long weekend off and was due to report to Swindon police station at 4pm on the following Tuesday.

Harry's in Hot Water! (Part VI)

The further adventures of Harry Holwell

Continued.....

I reported on the Tuesday and I was paired up with my tutor constable Ian Goodchap. He was with me for the whole of the following month. This first duty was a football special. Swindon v Cardiff City. A local derby. I felt very conspicuous in a police uniform for the first time in public. I soon got over this. I think within my first days on duty I was approached and asked if I played rugby. Before I knew it I was playing rugby every Wednesday afternoon. This was a boon as I got to know so many people very quickly. It was also a very good place to get rid of work frustrations.

I attended my first sudden death and a sighting of a dead body for the first time. My first attendance at a post-mortem. The first two years passed in a flash and during this period we had to attend regular law classes with regular exams on law.

I received a commendation during this time for an arrest of seven youths. We had a spate of burglaries on my patch including our Divisional Commander's house.

I was driving my Ford Escort panda car when I saw these youngsters walking along a path and something about this looked odd so I stopped and searched them. I found a screw driver on one of them. I arrested them all on suspicion of going equipped to steal and managed to get them all in my Panda car to cart them off to the Station. CID were dubious these were the burglars. They talked to a number of them with no results. I then had to take one of them to the toilet and I talked to him whilst doing so. In those few seconds he made admissions to me that they were the ones responsible for the burglaries. I earned myself a month working with CID and they admitted around 27 burglaries, a lot of them where the houses had been trashed. This month set out the remainder of my career. I decided I was going to become a detective at some point in the future.

At the end of my probationary two years I was approached by one of the detective inspectors and asked to apply for an attachment period on CID.

This was the normal route to becoming a detective. At this point in my career I felt I was still learning the basics of being a policeman so I said it was my intent to do so in the future but I still had a lot to learn.

I then went off to a section station, Wootton Bassett which meant moving house. In those times police officers up to the rank of Inspector were required to live in police houses. This was to enable the police to be able to move you quickly without the expense of all your costs if you were in your own house.

I spent the next four years at this station learning my trade. In this time I had a couple of short attachments to CID for offenders who I had arrested and the cases were taken forward by CID because of complexity of the cases and the amount of time and expertise required to complete the casework. I managed to get these attachments to gain these skills myself with the assistance of my section sergeant.

I will continue next time with Police regs changing in 1977 and being able to buy our first home and then becoming a detective.

An extract from the Hereford Times 25 September 1858

'Freemasonry in Herefordshire' Sent in by Geraint Bevan

In our Ledbury news we have chronicled at length the interesting proceedings connected with the opening of a lodge of freemasons at Ledbury, making the second in Herefordshire; the Vitruvian Lodge at Ross being at present in a state of suspended animation, if not actually defunct. On the day following the impressive ceremonial at Ledbury, the "brethren of the mystic tie" met in annual provincial grand lodge at the Green Dragon Hotel, in this city, the Rev. Dr. Bowles, vicar of Stanton Lacy, the Provincial Grand Master, presiding. The Chairman said he had hoped to be favoured with the Lord Combermere, but the noble Viscount had been prevented from attending by masonic duties in Cheshire. The P.G.M. then read the following letter:

"Combermere Abbey, Sept. 14, 1858. - Dear and Rev. Sir, - It would have been most gratifying to me to have attended your Provincial Grand Lodge on the 21st instant, if I had not to hold a Provincial Grand Lodge for Cheshire, at Crewe, on the same day. - I am, &c., COMBERMERE. - Right Worshipful the Rev. J. Bowles, D.D."

The usual routine business having been transacted, the brethren met at dinner at 4 p.m., when, besides the members of Hereford Palladian Lodge, a number of visitors from Eastnor Lodge, and from Oxfordshire and other Provinces, were present. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master (Dr. Bowles) occupied the chair and the vice chair was filled by the Grand Chaplain (Rev. J. Penleaze).

Amongst the members of the lodge and visitors were Col. Bowyer, the Grand Master of the Province of Oxfordshire; Captain Peyton; Messrs. Clement, Beddoes and Heathcote, from Shrewsbury; Mr. J. L. Randal, of Ludlow; Mr. Wigan, of Rhiwabon; Mr. John Smith, of Ludlow; W. Akerman, Esq., F. Edmunds, Esq., Messrs. Myers, Stephens, Russell, Piper, Francis, Phillips, Jennings, Clarkson, Ralph, H. Gardiner; and Mr. Williams, the Worshipful Master of the Palladian Lodge. An ample supply of venison was with the great liberality sent by Sir Watkyn Williams Wynn, Bart., from Wynnstay Park.

The dinner sustained the credit of Messrs. Bosley's famed cuisine, and the wines were of excellent quality.