

# Ross Masonic Club



*Supporting Local Freemasons*

## The Craftsmen

Week Commencing 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Issue Number Thirty

**Welcome** to the thirtieth edition of the Ross Masonic Club Weekly Round-Up.

A great big thank you to all of our contributors to this issue. I am sure we all appreciate your efforts each week. This week we have:

- Patrick and Harry continue the stories of their varied careers
- Dennis provides an answer and fresh question in 'Would I know, did I know'
- Two new regular features:
  1. 'When I were a lad' - do you know who is in the picture?
  2. How I became a Mason, where John tells his story
- A focus on the Online Communication Toolkit
- The Masonic Timeline
- Some fantastic autumnal pictures from Gordon
- A fun wordsearch and Paul's curiosities with answers published next week

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.**

*Andrew Moore*





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

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

You can always check your thoughts by visiting 'Solomon' of course! <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

Dennis Roberts - Group Leader Information and Guidance Group e-mail: [roberts.greeba@btinternet.com](mailto:roberts.greeba@btinternet.com)

Last time I asked The Tracing Boards: what are they for?

Originally, Freemasons got together to discuss the liberal arts and sciences, (grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy), and some of their topics, (was the world flat or algebraic symbols) could not be discussed in public for fear of ridicule or even witchcraft or heresy. Hence Freemasons met in private, often in a room in a public house or inn, with a guard, or Tyler, outside the door, with a doorkeeper just inside the door.

The meetings would take place around a table with the Master at the head, all eating drinking and talking. At other times they would draw a 'Tracing Board' on the floor with chalk or charcoal, and it would be the job of a new made mason to clean the floor with a mop and bucket at the end of the meeting. This led to a change in Lodge ritual, when the brethren stood outside the drawings, later a floor cloth, and looked on. Floor cloths were not hard wearing, and the problem with secrecy, when one was found hanging publicly, saw their quick demise.

As Lodges acquired more permanent accommodation they could be laid out in a fashion more common today. Following the foundation of the United Grand Lodge in 1813, it was required that the old practice of meeting in a Lodge room around tables, with the juxtaposition of dining and ritual was to cease; a clear line was drawn between the two activities. Brethren now sat around the edge of the room with the Master at one end. The whole floor was now free, and the drawings on the floor or table could now be provided on a fuller and more ample scale, and more objects could be laid out on the floor of the Lodge room. The idea of having more permanent tracing cloths, and then boards, began to catch on, and as the room

became owned rather than rented, a large carpet could be provided.

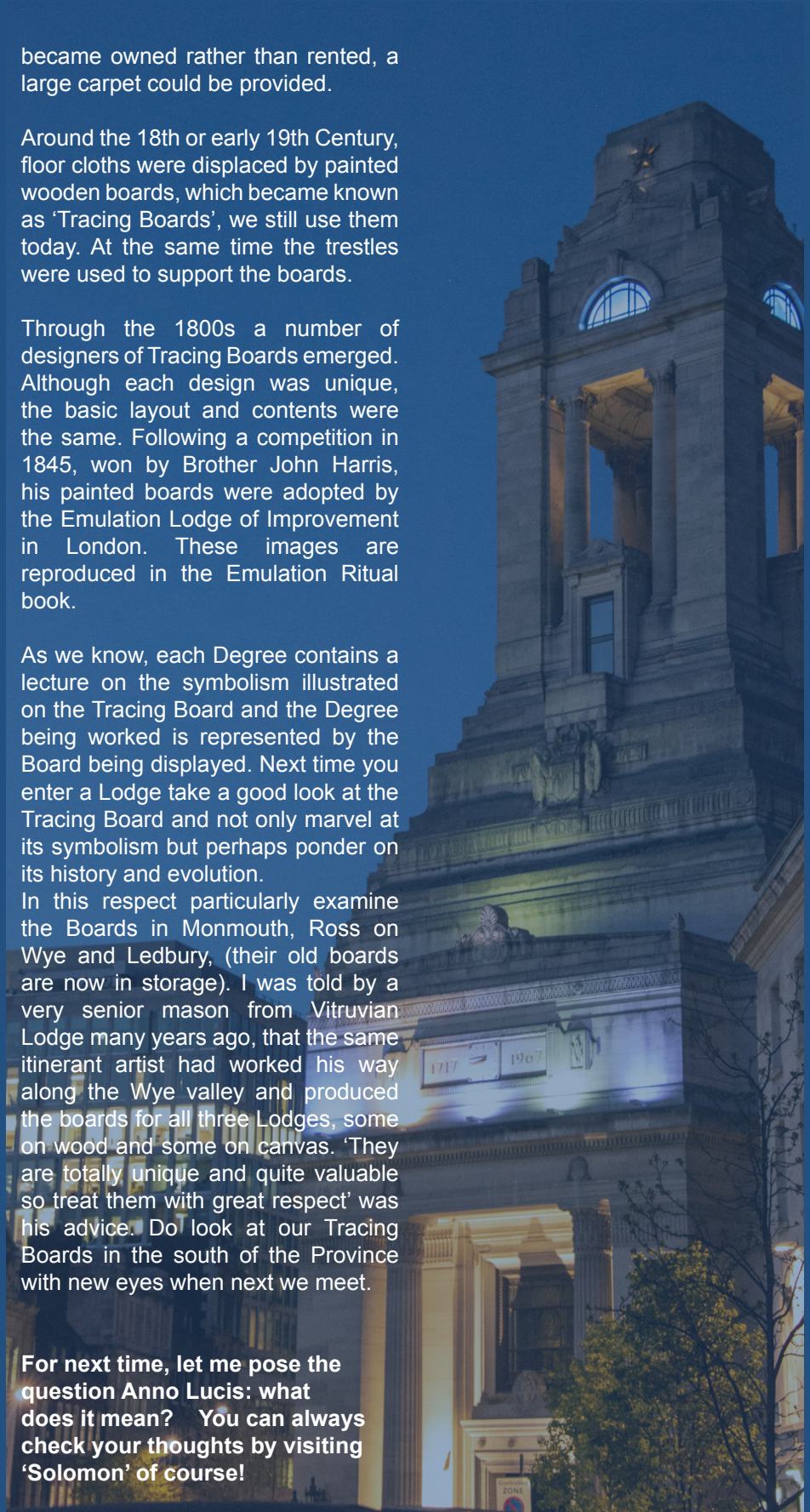
Around the 18th or early 19th Century, floor cloths were displaced by painted wooden boards, which became known as 'Tracing Boards', we still use them today. At the same time the trestles were used to support the boards.

Through the 1800s a number of designers of Tracing Boards emerged. Although each design was unique, the basic layout and contents were the same. Following a competition in 1845, won by Brother John Harris, his painted boards were adopted by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in London. These images are reproduced in the Emulation Ritual book.

As we know, each Degree contains a lecture on the symbolism illustrated on the Tracing Board and the Degree being worked is represented by the Board being displayed. Next time you enter a Lodge take a good look at the Tracing Board and not only marvel at its symbolism but perhaps ponder on its history and evolution.

In this respect particularly examine the Boards in Monmouth, Ross on Wye and Ledbury, (their old boards are now in storage). I was told by a very senior mason from Vitruvian Lodge many years ago, that the same itinerant artist had worked his way along the Wye valley and produced the boards for all three Lodges, some on wood and some on canvas. 'They are totally unique and quite valuable so treat them with great respect' was his advice. Do look at our Tracing Boards in the south of the Province with new eyes when next we meet.

**For next time, let me pose the question Anno Lucis: what does it mean? You can always check your thoughts by visiting 'Solomon' of course!**



# The History of Freemasonry

## MIDDLE AGES

The questions of when, how, why and where Freemasonry originated are still the subject of intense speculation. The general consensus amongst Masonic scholars is that it descends directly or indirectly from the organisation of operative stone masons who built the great cathedrals and castles of the middle ages.

Elias Ashmole recorded his initiation with these words: 1646 'October 16, 4.30pm - I was made a freemason at Warrington in Lancashire with Colonel Henry Mainwaring [a Roundhead parliamentarian friend related to his father-in-law] of Karincham in Cheshire. The names of those that were then at the Lodge, Mr Richard Penket Worden, Mr James Collier, Mr Richard Sankey, Henry Littler, John Ellam, Richard Ellam and Hugh Brewer.' This is the first evidence of the initiation of an English speculative mason - notwithstanding the fact that those present and listed would have certainly been initiated at an earlier date.

1646

1660

From the 1660s more evidence exists of gentlemen being made Masons in non-operative Lodges.

On St John's Day, 24 June 1717 four London Lodges, which had existed for some time, came together at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern in St Paul's Churchyard, declared themselves a Grand Lodge and elected Anthony Sayer as their Grand Master. This was the first Grand Lodge in the world.

1717

1723

By this time the new Grand Lodge had published its first rule book - The Book of Constitutions of Masonry - and was meeting quarterly and recording its meetings. It had extended its authority outside London.

The Grand Lodge of Ireland was established.

1725

1736

By this time the new Grand Lodge had published its first rule book - The Book of Constitutions of Masonry - and was meeting quarterly and recording its meetings. It had extended its authority outside London.

A rival Grand Lodge appeared in London. Its original members were Irish Masons who claimed that the original Grand Lodge had made innovations. They dubbed the first Grand Lodge the Moderns and called themselves the Antients. The two existed side by side - both at home and abroad - for nearly 63 years, neither recognising each other as regular.

1751

1813

After four years of negotiation, the two Grand Lodges in England united on 27 December 1813 to form the United Grand Lodge of England. This union led to a great deal of standardisation of ritual, procedures and regalia.

Some 647 Lodges were in existence. The 19th century saw a great expansion of Freemasonry - both at home and abroad.

1814

1900

2,800 Lodges had been established despite losses when independent Grand Lodges were formed in Canada and Australia in the later part of the century.

The two World Wars both had a great effect on English Freemasonry. In the three years after the First World War over 350 new Lodges were set up, and in the three years after the Second World War nearly 600 new Lodges came into being. In many cases the founders were servicemen who wanted to continue the camaraderie they had built up during their war service and were looking for a calm centre in a greatly changed and changing world.

## WORLD WARS

1967

On 14 June 1967 the 250th anniversary of Grand Lodge was celebrated at the Royal Albert Hall. Centrepiece of the celebrations was the installation as Grand Master of HRH The Duke of Kent, who still holds that office today.

On 10 June 1992 over 12,500 freemasons and guests gathered at Earls Court in West London to celebrate the 275th anniversary of Grand Lodge. For the first time press and television were present at a meeting of Grand Lodge and the event featured on television newscasts around the world.

1992

2017

The tercentenary of Grand Lodge in June 2017 was celebrated in style throughout the year, culminating with an Especial Meeting of Grand Lodge in the Royal Albert Hall, which was presided over by the Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent KG, and attended by representatives of 136 sovereign Grand Lodges from around the world.

Sourced from the UGLE Website  
Further details on the UGLE Website [here](#)



## 'When I Were A Lad'

### Can you guess who these Ross Masonic Club Members are?

Please send in your pictures of you as a child and a short clue. We will publish the photo one week so people can guess who you are and publish the results the following week. Either a scanned image or take a picture of the photo with your phone and send it in with a few words of description. Just for a laugh - nothing too serious!



Did you Guess? This is Gordon Stewart the IPM of Kyrle Mark Lodge.



Here is Gordon as a regular attendee of our weekly Zoom Meetings



Any idea who this young chap is? He says. This photo was taken in May 1941 when my Father was on leave from the RAF, I was three months old.

## Herefordshire Lodges

J J L H X X V K S Q E P S Y D V R Y T P P D V H  
F L O Y A L H A Y Q A D D L F K J L Q N U C H V  
Y R S Z R H Z F P E E G E N H C E L T X Y P O X  
S S R R L W U O D T B I E S N N T V S B E A A F  
D X E T W V I Y Z R F G S V P A S F F R D L W V  
I B T D A U H V P R E U W M O O P U U K N L V S  
V L S R K D D I E O L K G U F O M S J N Z A A C  
A D A Q O X T T Q H P C S F U P X I Y P L D G W  
D T M A L Y A W J S R E T E P T N I A S J I A V  
T P H X M W A O S G J A N W G Z F Z R Y F A A I  
S E G W N H J L J I Q Y I C B S I D E E J N A K  
R F I A I W O J E E H A R I P V O I Q I P R X L  
E X E W A A X P J D R P A W X T I W R F I G F R  
T D L N N C K O A R W D L X U P K R L C A Q C M  
S W N A F K B Z O U B A F E Y P K U O J S I E O  
E D A I J A T W W E J Q R B D F A N X U U T T Z  
H A E V I Y F P H B C A S D B Z I R Q Z P M N L  
C Y D U N X O G D E L G V N P U D O X A A V B V  
N F J R R Z H V O V N H C K M L X N L N P C D T  
A K J T Q G X Z B I E P U L I T N A C C B X F X  
M F C I S V W T N C W O E I C H Q C B N H P W U  
G B R V C Z V O L G X W A U D E A F W Z T N D Y  
P U N Y P N C C A S K M H F B M L E E W Q K L H  
Z H R I A C A E M O Y U L Z Q K J Z A G M O Z E

## Answers to last week's Word Search

With thanks to Paul Sabel.

**This week's** is on the last page.

In case you want to print it out

Ariconium    DeanWaterfield    Delphis    SaintPeters    Coningsby  
Cantilupe    DeanLeighMasters    Vaga    LoyalHay    Arrow  
ManchesterStDavids    RoyalEdward    Vitruvian    Palladian

# Harry's in Hot Water! (Part X)

## The further adventures of Harry Holwell

### Bristol Regional Drugs Wing

I will continue with my life on the regional drugs wing at Bristol.

Being away from home so much was hard on my family back at home. I would often find myself away overnight, or sometimes a week. I often got home after they had all gone to bed and then would leave the next morning before they all got up. I had about an hour's journey to work each way so it didn't make life easy. I completed five years on the drugs wing and it was now almost time to return to my home force. I applied for a Detective Sergeant's position in Swindon. After interview I was informed I had the position so I returned home.

I must say on returning I found after a couple of weeks how tired I had become. I didn't realise it at the time but the long hours and travel had caught up with me. I felt like a balloon deflating. The hours were now much shorter, the travel to work was 20 minutes. It took some 3 months to readjust. I was now working in Swindon Central police station. The work hadn't changed. The faces around me and on my shift appeared as though they should still be at school. Times had changed.

I quickly settled back into a routine and the work was varied. I was required to do a week's night call out every six weeks or so. We always had a night DC in Swindon. They would be capable of dealing and coping with most incidents but if there was a really serious assault that was life threatening, a suspected rape, a murder or unexplained death then they would have to call out the duty Sergeant. If I attended and I thought a sudden death was more than just unexplained I would call out the duty senior officer for the force. If you had a murder then those early hours of the investigation are really important to capture that evidence that may be otherwise lost, including witnesses.

One of these cases I was called out to, was a young man who in the early hours of the morning approached

a burger van parked near the club land part of town. He was waiting and then suddenly collapsed. He did have some blood on his head. I was called out about an hour after he had collapsed unconscious. He had been taken to hospital where they were monitoring his condition. No one knew what had happened. I was called after he had been fully examined and his consciousness was deteriorating.

Having spoken to the hospital they were trying to stabilise him. We started a possible murder investigation as he appeared to have suffered a small head injury and we didn't know how. We swept up all the witnesses from the burger van and the scene of the collapse. They kept the young man in Swindon Hospital trying to stabilise his unconscious state which they considered dangerous due to the amount of swelling in his brain. On the Monday they transferred him to Oxford specialist head unit. They operated but, unfortunately he didn't make it.

I had in the meantime a team continuing with enquiries. We traced him to a dance club. He had been drinking. Not excessively but too much. We obtained CCTV and saw him in the club dancing with various girls. We then saw him start to leave and he tripped and fell. Again, nothing serious or apparent injuries. We saw him leave the club by a rear entrance and the burger van was close by. Shortly after he collapses. We worked the timeline back but could find no assault of any kind. His parents and brother were living in South Wales. They had been kept up to date by us. They had been in the hospital when he died.

The following Wednesday I went to Oxford and took a statement from the brain surgeon who had performed the operation. He was able to tell me that the deceased suffered from a fractured skull. However, he suffered from a hereditary condition whereby the skull is extremely thin. This was a genetic condition. This had ultimately caused his death as any bang to the

skull could cause a fracture and the problems that go with it. We met his parents and brother later that day and they and the deceased were aware he had this condition. The twin brother had the same condition. Growing up they had always worn a head guard and in their teens had not drunk alcohol because of the need for care. In recent years the deceased now in his mid twenties had rebelled against his condition and drank more than he perhaps should have. There had been no assault. A stumble and fall probably because of drink had ultimately caused his death. When I spoke to the surgeon at Oxford he told me that had the young man been taken straight to Oxford that Friday night when it first happened and they had operated immediately he may well have survived. I always felt working in Swindon over the years that we had occasional serious head injuries where they were deemed too ill to be moved to Oxford. By the time they were stabilised and moved it was often too late. I felt if they had serious head injuries the hospital maybe should take the chance regardless and move them to Oxford. They could probably show different.

We were now into the mid to late 1990s. They opened a new Police station at West Swindon and myself and my shift of Detectives moved to it. I mentioned a little earlier that my team seemed very young. After being at West Swindon for a short time one of the officers on my shift didn't turn up for work one morning. She should have been in at eight. At about 8.45am I called her flat which happened to be at one of the local stations. I spoke to her flat mate to find out why she was not at work. A few moments later she returned to the phone to tell me she couldn't rouse her and she was cold. What a shock. I responded immediately and some ten minutes later was at the scene. She had died during the night in her sleep. She was fit and healthy with no conditions. A post mortem could give no reason for her death. The coroner found her to have died from sudden death syndrome. There is no reason, the

# Harry's in Hot Water! (Part X) Contd....

*The further adventures of Harry Holwell*

## *Bristol Regional Drugs Wing*

heart just stops. If someone had been there and aware they could probably have revived her. This happens all over the world occasionally and is a recognised cause of death to a small number of young people.

In my home life we had moved house to a larger place which needed complete renovation. I also had my youngest daughter at university studying for her teachers degree. The house took up a lot of our spare time. We also now had a hectic social life. We made up for lost time. I was also aware of a job someone was working at in Swindon involving computer memory. I was supervising the officer who was looking into this. It was just bubbling with my occasional input. I will return to this case later.

Having worked in Swindon police station for most of my career I saw lots of really funny incidents and eccentric people including policemen. One of these used to work on the front enquiry desk at Swindon Central. The enquiry desk had a counter with the public on one side and a PC on the other. The PCs would often be running the clock down on their last couple of years of service prior to retirement. One of these was a very eccentric officer who would wear plus fours and a deer stalker hat on his off duty clothing when out and about. It

was like meeting Dr Watson even down to the pipe. He was behind the enquiry desk and when dealing with the public he would often tell the public who he was dealing with to just wait a moment whilst he went to the basement to find the document he required. He would walk long the desk getting lower as he went down the steps to the basement. Moments later he would reappear the same way. But there was no basement access from the enquiry office and there were no stairs and just to amuse himself and his colleagues he would just walk along the desk lowering himself down to his knees. It was extremely funny to watch!

The same would happen in the control rooms. Older officers at the twilight of their careers would serve out their time in the control radio room at Swindon. On one occasion in the middle of the night they received a 999 phone call from a male. He was ringing from a call box in one of the seedier parts of town. All telephone calls are recorded. The call went, "I'm in the call box naked", "You're naked in the call box are you," "Yes I am", "Why are you naked in a call box in the middle of the night", "My clothes have been stolen", "Your clothes have been stolen have they? and how did that happen?" "I'd rather not say", "And why would you rather not say". This

call continues for about ten minutes in this vain backwards and forwards. Anyway, what had actually happened was the man had been in his car and picked up a prostitute. Hence he was in a quieter part of the seedier part of town. He had gone in his car with her to somewhere quiet. Unfortunately for him he had been drinking so before they could talk further, after stripping down he had to leave the car to relieve himself. Whilst doing so the girl drove off in his car with his clothes leaving him naked, compromised and cold because it was a cold winter night. He ended up in the phone box calling 999. Officers went to him with a blanket. They took him home in the early hours of the morning and not having his keys had to ring the bell. His wife answered the door and the officers left him going through the door, whipping the blanket back from him trying to explain to his wife why he had no clothes on! His car was recovered the following day, together with his clothes. The only thing missing was the money in his wallet. These things actually happened and are exactly how I describe them.

I seem to be running out of space so I will end for now and carry on with the computer memory case I have mentioned in passing.

## *Autumn Colours Shining Through*



*Overlooking the Wye Gorge from Seven Sisters Rocks*



# Members' Online Communications Toolkit

## Helping you stay in contact

The past six months have seen considerable challenges for all of us, and not least in how we communicate with each other. Below is the Online Communications Toolkit from UGLE which has some great practical tips and advice for both newcomers to online communications and experienced old hats. Despite the general suspension of Freemasonry being lifted in July this year by UGLE, many of us are unable to resume what we would recognise as our normal masonic activity, and for us keeping in touch with our family, friends, and our fellow brethren is absolutely vital. The ability to be able to do this online makes it simpler and quicker, but also keeps us safe. The goal is for this "Online Toolkit" to assist and help those who are not conversant in the "new world" methods of communication, to stay in touch and know that they are not on their own, or alone. UGLE inform us that this will be available in a booklet which will be sent to all Provinces very soon to help those who are not yet online. The toolkit can also be downloaded [here](#)

### The Province of Herefordshire has a number of 'Official' Twitter Accounts with the following #

PGL Herefordshire [@PGLHerefords](#)  
PGM and MEGS Michael Holland [@DGLBMason](#)  
Dep PGM Graham King [@GrahamCKing1](#)  
Caeruleum Club [@hfdslightblues](#)  
Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Royal Arch [@GlosandHereRA](#)  
Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Mark Province [@PGMMarkGandH](#)  
If you use Twitter why not give them a follow and like their tweets?

The Province regularly promotes our newsletter which is also available on the Provincial website [here](#)

The Province also has a facebook page [here](#)

Also the Chapter [here](#)

## KEY TERMS

(from the Online Comms Toolkit link above)  
Here are some definitions for commonly used online terms:

### A Antivirus

Software that detects and prevents known viruses from attacking your computer.

### Apps (applications)

A type of computer program that you can download for your computer, tablet or mobile phone. There are hundreds of different apps available, some for free, which do lots of different things, from playing games and puzzles, to helping you remember to take your medications, or allowing you to access your bank account.

### Attachment

Files, such as photos, documents or programs, which are sent along with an email.

### B Browser

The computer software or app you use to access the internet. Examples include Internet Explorer, Google Chrome and Safari.

### H Hack

An attempt to gain unauthorised access to a computer or account.

### M Malware

Malware is short for 'malicious software'. A general term used to refer to hostile or intrusive software.

### O Operating system

The software that manages different programs on a computer.

### P Phishing

An attempt at identity theft in which criminals direct users to a counterfeit website to trick them into disclosing private information, such as usernames or passwords.

### Profile

A description that may include your personal details and is used to identify you on a social networking website. This can be set as public (viewed by everyone) or private (only viewed by certain people).

### R Router

A device that connects your computer to a broadband-enabled telephone

line and emits your home internet signal.

### S Smartphone

A mobile phone that, as well as making calls and sending texts, can connect to the internet, send emails and perform a number of other functions like a computer.

### Social networking website

An online community where you can connect with friends, family and other people who share your interests. Examples include Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

### Spam

A commercial email that you did not request, also known as junk mail.

### Spyware

An unwanted program that runs on your computer, which can make it slow and unreliable or even make you a target for online criminals.

### T Tablet

A larger handheld device with a touchscreen, which can connect to the internet and be used as a portable computer.

### V Viruses

Programs that spread from one computer to another by email or through malicious websites. They can slow your computer down, display unwanted popup messages and even delete files.

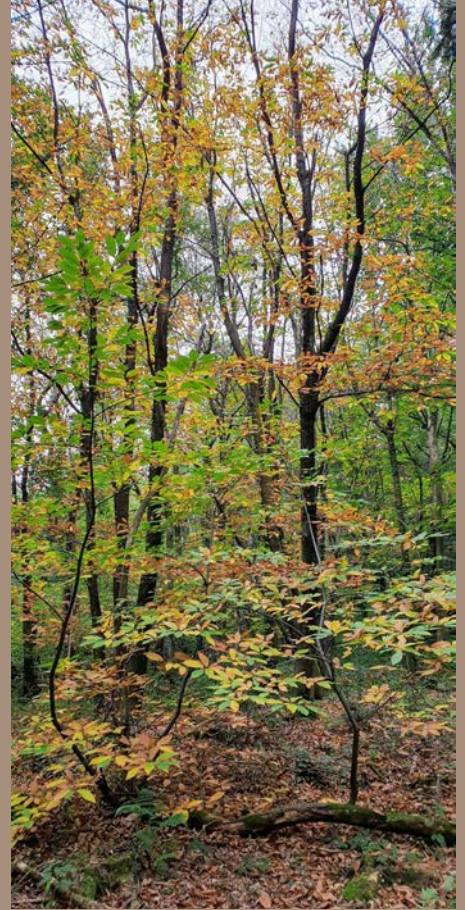
### W Wireless network

Also known as WiFi, this is a way for your computer to connect to the internet without using wires or cables.



## ***Autumn Colours Shining Through***

*A selection of autumnal images from Gordon Stewart*







*Some light hearted treats to keep you amused*

## 'Close Up Challenge'

### Last Weeks Answer



Last week's picture was a close up of an Orange.

Did you get that?

### This Weeks Question



Can you guess what this object is in the close-up picture?

## Paul's Perplexing Puzzle

*With thanks to Paul Sabel*

### Last Weeks Answer



### Answer to last weeks curiosity

A Fluting Iron - This was an essential tool in Victorian households. Both parts pictured here were heated, and a piece of fabric was placed between them. When the iron was rolled over the fabric, it created stylish pleats for women's and children's clothes. It may also be what Lizzie McGuire used to get her perfectly crimped hair, but that has not been confirmed.

### This Weeks Question



Do you know what this strange object is for?

**Answers in next weeks issue**



## There's more than one way to earn a living Part 13

Patrick Eyre continues to recount his career moves.



During the five years I served with the company I made much progress in the sale of batching plants and truck/mixers but the sale of conveyors was a great disappointment, and the whole exercise in financial terms just about broke even. As I mentioned previously the failure occurred on two fronts, the first and most prominent was the commercial aspect, and the second was the high maintenance costs. This had nothing to do with why I left the company after just five years service. My MD was most disappointed, but I did find my replacement from the ready-mixed concrete industry. When my MD interviewed him I was asked to join in. By all accounts he did very well but I understand he didn't sell a conveyor.

The fact remains that my wife, and mother of my children, had cancer. She had suffered for many years, long before we took on the guest house, but she was determined to succeed in the business she had always craved to have. This she had done on her own, very successfully, and had put up with my many absences on business without complaint. What I did do to help was deal with the expansion and modifications to the building. Dealing with the County Council planners, the architects, and builders, sometimes from afar from telephone boxes,

and hotels, but one way or another I always made it home for the weekend.

By 1985 my wife's health had deteriorated to such an extent that my absences on business, particularly abroad, could not continue. I had to find employment that would give me more flexibility and allow me to be home each evening. At the age of 55 even with my experience in business no one would employ me, and the house was still on mortgage so I had to find something. At a push the B&B would have kept the wolf from the door but I needed something that would keep me fully occupied.

I certainly had all the qualifications to obtain a transport operator's licence and finding work and an operating centre wouldn't present a problem. All I had to do was find a truck to do the job so the search was on. I contacted a company I had previously worked for who owned a gravel pit in Chertsey, just west of London and 25 minutes from Maidenhead. They promised me all the work I could handle so the hunt was on for a suitable tipper truck. I recalled the same company had a stone quarry and a large fleet of vehicles based in Somerset. Knowing the local transport manager quite well he assured me he had a number of vehicles I could choose from that had

run their course mostly over 7 years, and had been replaced with new

A friend drove me down there on a sunny morning to a quarry I had not visited before. After being served with a cup of tea the transport manager showed me to a row of about 6 eight wheeled Foden tippers. None of them had covered less than 300,000 miles but that was OK as all of them had the reliable Gardner 6 cylinder diesel engine which will run for ever. However, it was more about the rest such as suspension, transmission and tyres. I didn't envisage running it for more than a couple of years so my choice would be based on that. In any event all of these vehicles would have been subject to rigorous monthly inspections in their extensive workshop facilities, but they would have been retired for some reason, and I was told that the particular vehicle I had my eye on had been part of a general programme of upgrading the fleet and for no other reason. I had to take his word on that!!

All 12 tyres were legal and had some mileage left in them and £4000 cash for the whole shebang one can't expect everything. With 2 new twelve volt batteries fitted she "Betsy" started immediately, and I was invited to drive it around the quarry roads. Rather a waste of time because I couldn't get up enough speed to engage all 13 forward gears in 3 ranges but managed the 3 reverse gears OK. With a final inspection of the aluminium body being in good condition we shook hands on the deal and I prepared myself to leave and park it overnight at the Maidenhead batching plant close to home. Always trying to be helpful, the transport manager suggested that I could start earning money with it immediately by delivering a load to Wimbledon the following morning after parking up in Maidenhead overnight. To be honest I would've been happier to have driven it home empty in order to get used to the gearbox and general feel, particularly having noticed the very steep hill leaving the quarry. The mere thought of this filled me with dread but I had no



## ***There's more than one way to earn a living Part 13 Cont.....***

*Patrick Eyre continues to recount his career moves.*

wish to show this and drove round to the loading area to receive 20 tons of limestone scalplings carefully placed in the body by a huge loading shovel. The driving lesson started immediately as I engaged first gear to pull away but the truck barely moved so I tried second gear which didn't make much difference and I realised the gearstick was in low range. By moving the lever on top of the gearstick to the next range the 30 tons all up weight began to move. I found out very quickly that on level ground one engaged 4th low shifting to 1st in medium range but only when loaded.

Trucks at this time were fitted with a crash gearbox so one has to double the clutch when changing gear. In other words one has to pause in neutral after shifting the gearstick in combination with the clutch before selecting the next gear. The Gardener engine has a very long stroke bore and takes time to wind down between doubling the clutch and to combat this when going down the gears up a steep hill, Foden fitted a device called a clutch brake which meant that by

pushing the clutch pedal right down to the floor when changing down one could go straight into the next gear without waiting for the engine revs to die and doubling the clutch. Under normal driving conditions one only has to depress the clutch pedal halfway down. To my horror halfway up the hill I needed to activate the clutch brake but it wasn't working and I came to a stop with a stalled engine. Very embarrassing for it was a long hill and a single track road. I was holding up all the traffic most of them tippers out of the quarry because I couldn't engage a higher gear. It was an experience I will never forget. It took me some time to get my head around that gearbox after fixing the clutch brake but once I had it was a pleasure to drive, especially in that 13th gear which of course was the overdrive for motorways or fast roads. Saturday mornings were reserved for maintenance whilst parking at the Maidenhead batching plant. All of which I did myself as access to all the truck parts was so easy to reach with a tilting cab and propped tipper body exposing the

engine and all the transmission.

I made lots of friends with the other truckers. With every body on CB radio we were talking amongst ourselves most of the day whilst driving, warning each other of traffic jams and where the best 'greasy spoon' was. The amazing thing was the number of people had it installed at home, some of whom were disabled and couldn't get out but in the main the elderly who were glad to tell you how to find your destination if you were in a place you were not familiar with. They would be listening to truckers conversations and would butt in if they knew you were lost. To my knowledge the use of CB Radio still goes on today between truckers.

Two years later I left it all behind when sadly my wife became terminally ill and I gave it up to look after her. "Betsy" was the oldest truck in our CB family but because of her reliability several guys wanted to buy her so shortly after I retired she was sold for the same price I paid her for. Parting is such deep sorrow

## ***How it All Began***

**John Thornton describes his route Into Masonry.**

## ***How I nearly did not become a Mason.***

The 1<sup>st</sup> January 1988 was a big day for me.

It was the day I became a partner in a firm of Chartered Surveyors and also the day I was to become a mason. I knew I had to be at the Lodge by 6pm and that I was to go to my first partner's meeting in another town at 2pm that day.

Things at the meeting progressed, but it became clear that I would not be back in time for the lodge meeting.

I telephoned the Secretary (my proposer) at about 5pm to say that I could not make it, not realizing what problems I was causing. He managed to find somebody to drive 10 miles to collect me from the meeting which I had to leave just before it finished.

We arrived at the Lodge with minutes to spare and I was duly Initiated. Looking back the whole episode gives me the horrors.

Masonry has far outlived my time in that unhappy partnership and has given me far more pleasure than the partnership ever did.



# A Word Search of Herefordshire Lodge Names

*With thanks to Paul Sabel*

## The Road to The Lodge

P K V Z K H Q M K L Y T E E R T S E L R Y K H N  
N Z Q N Y P C A I E H Z H B A F O N F U E W D H  
Q D E S G G X Z K I S N A X V H N D C Y M A M R  
K F Q Y D M X H F N S A O D T Y G N D D R B O S  
T Y V B W A O Z I M Q I K D H T O P A Y F J H A  
X E X E P E O Y D X F T L H H X H O V O M W C Q  
D B E Z B E N R G M I O I A K L R F I B V N J P  
G D J R X H G K N R R W G G S N Z K X G I F K M  
A C Y Z T K X S X O U U G E O X H C S S F I X W  
X P A Q Z S X L P U T X V C E C L V V N T I A Y  
A Z F V O O D X J O R L E R D F W E E M P U W R  
G U U J O E I A R X Y R I P Q W Y T E P B V G U  
U K T G H K C K O J B A I W O Q C L C O D Q V E  
E Y P M V J E L D R E I S C W G W G D H H A J A  
Z W D J Q P N O Y R B L H P X N X O J C D N V J  
O K Y W N P L L S H T E E S U P X R H X K H Q V  
C J K I W Z I Y E C A S F I B T X B B Y I I Q X  
S H Z F P M X B Q D O W Y E K W Y N E K C W F H  
T Z O B E G A W B N K J G L S G M P B R R O A L  
R I I E B D I R F C T F Q T B Z S G U O T G Q V  
G Q I U H J O W L V C K F I Q E X O V C R V R X  
C R E L X O S O Q W S O U T H S T R E E T U E A  
N R H I K L F Q F L G U L H V M T B T L B K D X  
F Q J V E K R I L X P G T E E R T S H G I H F X

BroadStreet    BreconRoad    Headbrook    SouthStreet    HighStreet  
WiltonRoads    KyrleStreet