



Week 14, 22nd June 2020

Brethren, for week 14 we feature an update from Patrick Firminger, our Festival 2022 Chairman, on the Festival target and activities, the work of the MCF, other charitable activities and announcements.

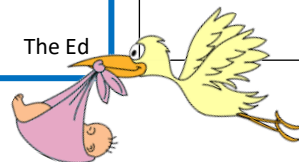
On our Podcast this week we hear from Joseph Marzouk, well known throughout Worcestershire in his 21 years in the Craft, but also his very busy time as the head of two other orders!.

Join Martin Carver in his weekly zoom workout and don't forget to order a set of the unique First Day Covers which are being issued from the 2nd of July.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.



 [Click here to LISTEN](#)



A NOTE FROM THE FESTIVAL CHAIRMAN.

It seems an age since we were with friends enjoying our ritual, a festive board and not to forget those all-important and much enjoyed social events. It is such a shame so many had to be cancelled or postponed after organisers spent their time arranging a ladies' evening, garden party, zip wire or even a regatta and duck race. Rest assured though, some sense of normality will return but when and what that means remains to be seen.



Coronavirus stalled Festival progress but things have slowly ticked along. At 31st May our total stood at **£1,227,185**, with a significant amount credited from recent donations to the MCF's COVID-19 Relief Chest. A fantastic testament to the unparalleled effort and generosity of so many.

We should be proud of our MCF and the tremendous work they are doing. If you read the National, local or Provincial Press, it cannot have escaped your notice the invaluable work they are doing to help those most affected by Coronavirus. The MCF deserve our support now more than ever so please help if you can:

- If your Lodge has unrestricted Charity reserves, send them to Festival 2022 so they can be used now.
- Set up a Festival 2022 Direct Debit. It is not too late.
- Undertake a fundraising event. Perhaps a sponsored walk or something similar to the Cubit Club's virtual cycle ride from Lands' End to John O Groats. You could even encourage your Lodge members to donate the cost of a Lodge Dinner that they are currently unable to attend.
- Start planning a significant event for when we come out of lock down. Something to look forward to.

On behalf of all those for whom your generosity is making a huge difference may I offer sincere thanks. Stay safe, keep well and let's look forward to some brighter times.

Patrick V Firminger, APGM

Congratulations to Nick Thomas, Prov Membership Officer, (who featured in one of our recent Podcasts) on the birth of their daughter Elsie Mary Thomas.

Born in lockdown last Friday 19th June at 4.23am at a massive 9lb 8oz!

Nick is "Chuffed to bits, and both are doing great."



Zoom away !

If you had said "Zoom meeting" a year ago, most of us would have thought that a motor racing lodge had been founded. But with the advent of Covid-19 and the need for social isolation and social distancing, we are all starting to become more "tech savvy".

If your lodge is holding such meetings and are now looking for something more to do than just chat, there is plenty of information on the **Solomon web-site** about how to hold meetings, what we should and should not do.

Better still there are several presentations and quizzes ready to be downloaded and used for your next Zoom conference. Just download the files and the simple guide on how to use them; it is very instructive.

You will find everything you need in the " I want to Share and Encourage" section under "Lodge Matters". There is a whole section about "On-line Masonic Gatherings"

Let me know how you get on!

Kerry Parkes, Provincial Orator.

Can you help ?

South Birmingham Community Food Hub need temporarily a building where they can have 24-hour access with vinyl or wipeable floor, hand-washing area, toilets with a room to place six commercial fridge freezers and 16 sets of racking. It is important to have no damage to the ceiling or property where cross contamination can happen. Required for a commercial kitchen so they can train and cook for the homeless.

Contact: Justin Powell South West & Midlands Regional Manager
Mobile: 0737 7866347.

Don't delay "Post Haste"

Don't miss the 2nd July issue date for the First Day Covers celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower.



All brethren will have received a copy of the application form and details in the post which highlights the links of Edward Winslow to Worcestershire.

At Just £10 plus P&P, please take advantage of this unique opportunity, supporting the festival and the fantastic work of the MCF during these difficult times.

it's easy to do – just do a bank transfer, fill in the and take a photo of the application form and send or email it to David Rice at David.rice5224@talktalk.net



Rubric...

When you first get your little blue book of ritual, the amount of content looks a bit daunting - but once you have taken out the instructions of where to be and what to do it becomes less so. If only life had its own set of red writing things would be a lot easier and become less complicated. I'm sure there will be a bit of rust when we get back together and the little blue books will come into their own.

In these days of lockdown it's still good to stay in touch with the Brethren of our Lodges and be ready for the start up when it comes.

Keep Safe

Chris Overall, Prov Grand Mentor

Face Masks

If you know of any organisation who need Face Masks please contact Lorraine Hutton (our caterer at Kings Heath) with contact details at pwcatertingtd@gmail.com



Provincial Communications Officer: Jonathan Swift (jonathanswift10@btinternet.com)
Editor: Andy Philpott (ajp@philpott-online.co.uk)

Help for Hospices

The MCF continue to support the Hospices within our Province. Those Hospices helped in the past will automatically be sent details to allow them to reapply this year.

However, if you are aware of any Hospice in the Province not listed below please let David Dey have their details and he will then contact them.

The hospices in the Province of Worcestershire that will be invited are:

- Acorns Children's Hospice - Three Counties (Worcester)
- Kemp Hospice
- Mary Stevens Hospice
- Primrose Hospice Limited
- St Richard's Hospice Foundation

Applications can also be made by using this link:
<https://mcf.org.uk/apply-hospice/>

Note the deadline for applications is **Friday 7th August 2020.**

David Dey, Prov MCF Representative

This week's podcast is courtesy of Joseph Marzouk



Joseph is very well known and respected within the Craft but is also the head of two different orders in Worcestershire: Rose Croix and the Order of Secret Monitor. Hear what retired surgeon Joseph has been getting up to in Lockdown



Masonic Workout

Brethren, do you and your partner need a bit of exercise? Why not join Bro Martin Carver on a Wednesday morning at 9.45 for a gentle workout.

All that is required is a bit of space, the lounge, kitchen or bedroom, a chair and two containers filled with water (empty milk ones are ideal) and access to Zoom.

It is not a boot camp, the aim is to keep your body and joints supple, to improve your general wellbeing and balance, by some gentle exercises. Martin states that "your brain and body are most important and if you do not use them you will lose them".

Martin runs classes for the NHS and has offered these to his Masonic friends and their partners, so why not join him on a Wednesday morning using the **Zoom ID 764 791 2311.**