



Week 55, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Brethren, Week 55 saw the sad news of the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh - who if you hadn't realised was a fellow brother, having joined freemasonry in 1952. Our thoughts of course go out to Her Majesty The Queen and all the Royal Family.

On a lighter note, today of course sees the partial easing of Lockdown, with the return of non-essential shopping, being able to get your hair cut (!), and finally being able to meet in a pub, albeit outside.

The easing is a reminder that Lodges should now be thinking seriously about their plans for returning, and your program for the coming year. Don't leave it till the last minute!

Our next "An Audience with..." is open for registration – definitely one not to miss, and we continue with our series of a "View from the East".

As always, keep strong, keep positive, take the vaccine, and stay safe.

The Editor

## HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

In a statement on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April, the palace reported: "His Royal Highness passed away peacefully this morning at Windsor Castle."



His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh started his life in Freemasonry in 1952, at the age of 31. He was initiated into Navy Lodge No. 2612, on 5th December.

Navy Lodge has a storied past and an amazing roster of luminaries appear upon its membership roll. The Lodge prides itself on being the premier Naval Lodge in the world, with an unparalleled history that includes four monarchs as past members – King Edward VII, King Edward VIII, King George VI and King George II of the Hellenes.



The Duke of Edinburgh was the longest-serving consort in British history and was born on 10th June 1921, on the island of Corfu.

His father was Prince Andrew of Greece, a younger son of King George I of the Hellenes. His mother, Princess Alice of Battenberg, was the eldest child of Prince Louis of Battenberg and sister of Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Before his engagement could be announced in 1946 to the then Princess Elizabeth, he renounced his Greek title, became a British citizen and took his mother's anglicised name, Mountbatten. The day before the marriage ceremony, King George VI bestowed the title of His Royal Highness on Philip and on the morning of the wedding day he was created Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich.

His wedding to Princess Elizabeth took place in Westminster Abbey on 20 November 1947.

Read [Here](#) for a full obituary.

An Audience with... Worcestershire Provincial Grand Lodge

**WBro Justin Parker**  
Provincial Grand Chaplain  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 - 7pm



Register for our next "An Audience with...", which should be a night of entertainment, education, mirth and merriment, from our very own Provincial Grand Chaplain, **WBro The Rev Justin Parker AGC**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm

<http://Bit.ly/worcaaw>

### FREEMASONS TAKE LEAD ROLE IN NHS FRONTLINE WORKERS' DAY



The inaugural celebration of NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day is set to take place on 5th July 2021, with Freemasons leading the event.

UGLE is inviting our 200,000 members to fly specially designed flags at 10am on 5<sup>th</sup> July, to celebrate this unique day dedicated to the NHS, social care and all those that work on the front line, who have saved so many lives during the pandemic. The celebration will also remember those workers we sadly lost.

UGLE is one of the core supporters of the event alongside the Cadet Forces, English Heritage and the Women's Institute. A £5 donation from every flag made will be equally divided between NHS Charities Together and the National Care Association.

At 11am, Freemasons are planning a moment's silence and the day continues with a toast to the NHS at 1pm, raising a cuppa to the NHS during afternoon tea at 3pm, followed by an address to the nation at 6pm. At 8pm, the Freemasons will join the nation in an evening clap for NHS workers, while church bells are set to ring 73 times to celebrate 73 years of the NHS. Closing the celebrations at 9pm, there will be a #timetotoast for all NHS workers.

To find out more about NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day and to register your participation in the event, please visit: [www.nhsfrontlineday.org](http://www.nhsfrontlineday.org)



## A View from the East.....

This week, Ed Kimpton spoke to WBro Rob Crew PPrAGSec (Staffs), aged 67, an Alumni of Dudley Grammar School and WM of Old Dudleians No. 6734.

### How was your first installation?

It was in 2012 as WM of Oakswell No. 8117 (Staffs). I arrived two hours early and paced the room, frightened to death - which might seem surprising for a manager and amateur dramatist, but a few nerves always help the performance. It was a busy year with two initiations, a second and third degree.



I was in my comfort zone at the festive board, which was superb - I told myself "If I ever get to this chair again, I'm going to enjoy it" Consequently, my installation in 6734 was the pinnacle of my masonic career!

Socially, we held an introductory evening at 'Il Michaelangelo' in Brockmoor, where the late WBro Royston Smith gave a sincere and heartfelt welcome to our ladies and guests.

### How has the pandemic affected Freemasonry?

Like many lodges, we have suffered the sad loss of loved and revered brethren, but have also had time to reflect. We are out of the habit physically and mentally; it will be like starting again.

Pre-pandemic we had a full program, with junior brethren taking an active part. It would have been nice to see those brethren progress whilst I was in the chair, I'll miss that.

Our weekly zoom meetings have helped maintain bonds, but it's not the same. The face of masonry has undeniably changed, but we can't dwell on the past - reflection must bring about positive change. Our return will be an opportunity for a "reboot" and re-focus, which for Dudley Masons, will be in a new venue.

### How has freemasonry and your career influenced each-other?

Freemasonry is genuinely compassionate and was often an antidote to my banking career, which could by comparison, be dispassionate. Since changing careers, Freemasonry has given me greater confidence with the regulatory aspects of the care-sector, better prepared, with a more professional approach.

I bring my wealth of experience in management and personal development to The Craft, the two are indelibly linked. I'm better at speaking off-the-cuff and rarely end up saying what I have prepared, because something else noteworthy happens!

### Any last thoughts?

We need to better recognise our respective strengths. We all have different situations, time, skills and experience to give. It's not always about being a good ritualist. With only 5-6 meetings per year, it's finished before you've started, so learn, prepare, savour & enjoy.

Practice makes perfect & like amateur dramatics, the dress rehearsal is often terrible, but without fail it is always 'alright on the night'. The necessity to perform drives perfection.

It's an opportunity and honour many people don't get, grab it with both hands. "do it and go through it"

Email Ed Kimpton [HERE](#) to take part



Worcestershire  
2022 Festival  
(E2022) donation

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>

## Outstanding Citizens Awards for Brother Joe

WBro Joe Tildesley, from Francis Burgess Lodge No. 9287 and his wife Joan, along with their neighbour Phoebe, have been given bravery awards after attempting to stop a car from being stolen.



Joe and Joan Tildesley on the evening of the awards ceremony.

They were presented with the gongs at the Outstanding Citizens Awards, organised by David Jamieson, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, after the trio made courageous efforts to stop Phoebe's car from being stolen last November.

Three balaclava-wearing men broke into Phoebe's home in Solihull and assaulted her, before stealing the keys to her car. Two of the offenders then left the scene while the third got in the car but was unable to drive off.

After hearing Phoebe shouting, Joan, a retired Police Sergeant, bravely rushed outside to help her and attempted to open the driver's door.

Phoebe, still screaming and shouting at the top of her voice, had also managed to open the rear passenger door.

At this point, Joe, a retired Police Inspector, had left his house to find out what was going on. Sadly, as the offender finally managed to drive off, he hit Joe, who as a result, suffered five fractured ribs, fractured toe, damaged right knee and whiplash.

David Jamieson, said "The courage shown by Phoebe, Joe and Joan to intervene in this incident shows an incredible sense of community. I am very proud to see that even after retiring, Joe and Joan are still dedicated to protecting the residents of the West Midlands".

### What were we doing then?

Find out by clicking on our back dated Square News!



Issue 1 - 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

### A Daily Advancement

Do you know what is meant by a "Regular Lodge" and what that really refers to?

Click [HERE](#) for an exploration of the phrases, 'Duly constituted, regularly assembled and properly dedicated'.



Brother Callum Pye, from Severn Lodge No. 5583, has decided upon the "realistic", rather than "virtual" approach to the Easter Challenge, and will be cycling 100 miles around the roads of Worcestershire. Aiming to raise £800 for the Festival 2022 Appeal, he has set up a JustGiving page to keep track of the fundraising, which also allows the donations to go straight to work for the MCF.

Should you want to support Callum, the Festival and the MCF, please follow the link [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/callum-pye](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/callum-pye)

