



Week 56, 19th April 2021

Brethren, in Week 56 we hear from John Fennell on how our Masonic Halls are getting ready for return - and what work has been done to each to get them prepared for our eventual return to physical meetings.

Follow an interesting insight into what help the MCF has given over the past 5 years and don't forget to book in for our next "An Audience with...", which takes place tomorrow.

We celebrate two new Worcestershire events that have recently taken place, and report on the relief chest opened to support the memory of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

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

The Editor

Just what are our halls up to?

A round up by John Fennell on each of our halls getting ready for our return.... To quote John: "Like me, I am sure you are looking forward to the return of our masonic meetings, in every lodge that is within the province of Worcestershire. There are eleven halls in total, which I am sure many of you have visited. There is always a lot of work to do during the summer recess on these halls in any normal year, however, the last year has by no means been 'normal'.



Stourbridge MH

This has meant that not only normal maintenance and repairs have been conducted, but our halls have also had to make themselves Covid-19 compliant. "Covid-19 ready" means different things to different people, however in relation to our masonic halls, Covid-19 ready means that all halls are government and health and safety recommendations compliant, in readiness for reopening in the next few months.

Each hall has had to assess the relevant government information, in relation to what specific work is required to bring it up to standard. This has been different for each hall, which has in some instances meant major rebuilding work; and in others, very little.

Stourbridge, being a new hall which is yet to open, found itself in a unique position as it was being specifically designed since its purchase in 2019, and has required very little remedial work. Likewise, **Kidderminster** Masonic Hall, only opening in 2011, also found itself in a much better starting place in becoming Covid-19 ready. **Worcester** Masonic Hall, due to the foresight in its development, found itself in the enviable position of being already compliant to the government recommendations to airflow and fresh air supply. An unknown source said this has for many years stopped the senior brethren in the Southeast from nodding off!



Kidderminster MH



Evesham MH

At the other end of the spectrum, there is **Evesham** Masonic Hall, who found itself falling foul to the government recommendation regarding airflow and fresh air supply. This meant it had to install a MVHR (mechanical ventilation with heat recovery) system to comply. It has also had a lot of building rectification work. Many other halls, including **Northfield**, have taken the time to redesign and redecorate their halls and dining rooms. Northfield was the first in the province to obtain an anti-bacterial fogger. **Kings Heath** have taken the time to undergo major development work, including the removal of asbestos. Other halls have also undertaken building work such as **Tenbury Wells**, who have installed a stairlift, and **Redditch** who have upgraded their kitchen facilities and completed decorating.

Malvern, like all other halls, have installed new equipment such as hand sanitisers, signage, PPE, hand held temperature devices and a fogging machine. **Halesowen**, as with others, has ensured that safety inspections, monitoring systems, fire alarms are all certified.

Stourport has undertaken much work in becoming Covid-19 ready and has made great strides in all the safety aspects of the hall. It is also worthy to note Stourport had an appeal throughout April, to support their waitresses, which saw a total of £1400 being dispatched in two instalments, which received thanks.



Stourport MH

Many of us will see great differences to the halls when we return; new decorations; new equipment; new rules in relation to Covid-19, which is designed to keep us all safe - but we will see the same faces, same friends and a very warm welcome.

Car Park Clean Up!

Kings Heath Masonic Hall are needing a team of volunteers to help tidy-up the car park, sweep leaves etc.

This will be NEXT Sunday 25th April, from 10:00am to 1.00pm.

Volunteers will need to bring their own tools (brooms, shovels, rakes etc.) and maintain safe social distancing.

The toilets will be available.

Any help really appreciated!



Worcestershire 2022
Festival
(E2022) donation

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>



New life in Worcestershire



WBro Ben Maffei and his wife Victoria, would like to welcome to the world and of course the Province of Worcestershire, their new baby daughter Giavanna Maria Maffei; born Easter Sunday 04/04/21 weighing 6lb 15oz.

Ben, of Severn Lodge No. 5583, is overjoyed with the birth of his first child, as is WBro A.P Maffei (grandfather) and Bro W.A Maffei (uncle), also of Severn Lodge.

Ben hopes that his daughter Giavanna has his brother Westley's Wisdom, his Father Tony's strength and his own good looks :).

Vernon Lodge ride to the challenge...

Cycle the Stourport Canal Ring.



Freemasons Ian Redfern and David Bedford of Vernon Lodge No. 560, have taken up the Festival 2022 Easter Challenge, by attempting to cycle from Stourport to the Diglis Basin in Worcester, then along the canal via Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and back to Stourport - A total of 85 miles. Help them to support the Festival by donating at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/vernonlodge560



More new Worcestershire life....

We talk to the new Worcestershire Chapter of Widows Sons, "born" on 31st March 2021, and it's founding President Andy "Monte" Philpott (not quite as photogenic as the article on Giavanna (left), born a few days later!).



"The Widows Sons is an International Association, formed globally in 1998, which is open to all Master Masons who enjoy motorcycling and have a desire to ride with, and associate with their fraternal brothers. We are not formed as "Lodges" as such, and hence no formal masonic meetings in the traditional sense – our meetings are "ride-outs" or social gatherings, typically with a charity theme. The UK arm of the association, (formed in 2003) is split into 27 established Chapters, located all around the country, with over 1200 members.



Worcestershire was traditionally covered by the West Midlands Chapter since its formation in 2014, but during January of this year, there was sufficient interest to form a specific Worcestershire Chapter itself.



With the blessing and support of our PGM, a group of Worcestershire bikers recruited 13 founders, and submitted the request to the national body - and our Charter was finally awarded on the 31st March 2021.

Andy continues – "My thanks to the hard work and perseverance of our founding secretary, Martin "Deuce" Lawrence and Vice president, Phil "Scooterboy" Underhill, in getting the Chapter up and running in these difficult times; ready for when lockdown eases and we can all enjoy those rides again.... For our partners and for those who are not yet Master



Masons, we have our association – the Worcestershire Pear Drops, whose members are also eligible to take part in all our events. Our founding ride, given we have 13 founders and 13 masonic meeting places, will be to visit all of these places on the 4th July, ending up at the Lenchford Inn for our

members to receive their patches, at our founding family event. Aside from that we have a full program of events, charity rides and get together during the remainder of the year, and we just hope for fine weather!"

WBro Peter Younger, the National Chairman quotes "You have done an amazing job in getting the chapter to this stage in what has been very challenging times, and I hope that as we emerge from the current crisis, you will have the opportunity of riding with Brethren and enjoying your Widows Sons membership, and more especially, your new chapter.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please email us at wsworcs@gmail.com and we will send you an application form. Membership is only £20 per annum - enjoy organised rides out, social events, good company and raising money for worthy causes!

Don't forget - register for our next "An Audience with...." which is TOMORROW, and should be a night of entertainment, education, mirth and merriment, from our very own Provincial Grand Chaplain, WBro The Rev Justin Parker AGC

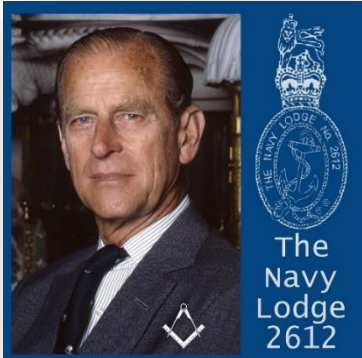


<http://Bit.ly/worcsaaw>

Duke of Edinburgh

We are delighted to launch The Duke of Edinburgh Memorial Fund with the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Freemasons' charity, will be making a significant donation to one or more of Prince Philip's supported charities on behalf of Freemasons in England & Wales, to mark the decades that he was a member of the Craft.



The Prince supported charitable organisations in the fields of scientific and technological research and development, the encouragement of sport, the welfare of young people, conservation and the environment.

Should you feel so moved to contribute to his memory, donations will be added to the total and we have opened a relief chest (DoE2021) to support that purpose.

You can donate directly to that relief chest [HERE](#)



A Daily Advancement

You say "hele", I say "hale"...let's NOT call the whole thing off!

Ever wondered? Click [HERE](#) for a variety of explanations of the origin and pronunciation of the phrase "Hele, Conceal and Never Improperly Reveal".

What were we doing then?

Find out by clicking on our back dated Square News!



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