

This week we enter into Edition 34 and we are all entering another lockdown together. We have now all received the news from the MW The Grand Master, his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent that all lodge meetings are suspended until further notice. This is the time to reach out to each other - be there for one another and support each other through these difficult and trying times.

- The 'Temp' Editor WBro. Chris Phillips

RW Prov Grand Masters Address



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Week 34, Monday 9th November 2020

WBro. Tony Hawkard PSGD PAsstPGM

It is with sadness that we announce that WBro. Tony Hawkard has passed to the Grand Lodge above. A full Obituary will be in the next edition. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

WBro. John McGann PAGDC

It is with a heavy heart that we must announce the passing of WBro. John McGann PAGDC.

Unfortunately, in his later years, he suffered a severe stroke and eventually was settled into residential care in Stourport. He was a dedicated Freemason and a great loss to the Province.

We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Margaret and their two daughters Debbie and Julia.



The Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge

PGL was held on 2nd November 2020 (just before the second

national lockdown) and was a very different affair this year. Government regulations in force meant that the venue had to be changed and Kidderminster Masonic Centre, which luckily was then situated in a Tier 1 area, kindly agreed to host the proceedings.

Our Provincial Grand Master was unfortunately prevented from attending, living as he does in Solihull a Tier 2 area, and the total attendance was limited to six people.

The Lodge was duly opened nevertheless with Stephen Wyer the Deputy PGM presiding, Martin Lawrence acting as Provincial SGW, Mark Gunton carrying out his duties as JGW, Peter Broughton doubling up as DC and Deputy PGM, Iain Sharratt as Secretary and Sean Warner doubling up as Pursuivant and Tyler.

Once opened the necessary administrative business of the Province transacted. This included confirmation of all those appointments to and promotions in Provincial Grand rank previously advised.

We hope and believe that normal service will be resumed next year and that we shall all be able to enjoy the Annual Meeting in each others company once again.

White Ensign Lodge 9169

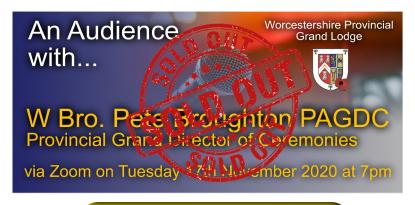


On Friday 30th October a "Rule of 6" Meeting of the Lodge was held at Redditch Masonic Hall at 11:00 am to conduct the necessary administrative business of the Lodge.

This was followed in the evening with what must be the most unique Trafalgar Night Mess held via Zoom with some 46 Brethren in attendance which included our Mess President for the evening, W. Bro. Capt. David Swain, RN, PJGD. Metropolitan Grand Secretary, the Provincial Grand Master, The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent with several other Grand Officers and Visitors "Taking Passage" from as far afield as Holland.

All the normal formalities were conducted with the PGM responding to the Toast to "The Rulers Supreme and Subordinate" followed by the most eloquent and absorbing talk and slide presentation by W. Bro. David Swain on his 35 year distinguished Naval career prior to him then proposing the Toast to "The Immortal Memory."

The WM, as is his want, in responding to his Toast focused on the Lodges Charitable affairs during the year and added his grateful thanks to both the Provincial Charity Fund and the MCF for their support. £1,250 had been donated to "Redditch Night Stop," £1,000 to "Forgotten Feet," £1,000 to the 2022 Festival. The WM then auctioned a unique Special Boat Service china mug which raised £500 and would be added to the £250 that the Lodge had already agreed to donate to the Special Boat Service Association from the neighbouring Province of Warwickshire



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Helping Hands during Lockdown

In February this year John Hayes was initiated into Freemasonry and as we know not long after this COVID started to take its grip on the country and this new made brother straight away stepped up to the mark.

When the lockdown first began John decided that he wanted to volunteer his time and "do a good masons work despite the lockdown."

Shirley, now referred to as Auntie Shirley was married to a mason and John was asked to do some shopping for her at the very beginning. It is clear that with John's good nature and Shirley's appreciation towards his good work she very quickly started sharing her interesting tales and sharing her humorous character. This was all shared through the car window as John was correctly making sure distancing was observed. Shirley was one of the first to have found out about John and Eva's engagement upon returning back from a Holiday in Malta in August. Eva has now joined in and does cleaning for Shirley a couple of hours a week. It may have started as just a few bags of shopping but now has grown into a beautiful family friendship.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Masters Address

The RW Prov Grand Master Robert C. Vaughan has recorded an address which covers the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting, Provincial Officers, Lockdown and staying in touch along with an update on the 2022 fundraising efforts and more. Simply click the button to view and enjoy.



A Message from our new Provincial Communications Officer



When Jonathan Swift mentioned to me that he was thinking about stepping down as Provincial Officer, my first thoughts were "I wonder who the new bloke will be" and "will I have such a wonderful working relationship with him?". Little did I know that a few months later, that new bloke was going to be me.

It is a massive honour to be given the role by our Provincial Grand Master and to take over from Jonathan. He leaves me with a rather large pair of shoes to fill but I will give it my best shot.

For the last five years I have been producing podcast interviews for the Province and since the start of lockdown, that has turned into a weekly event for the Square News.

I have spent the last 30 years working in broadcast media and I'm really looking forward to passing on some of that knowledge to the Province. Communication is more important than ever before during the Coronavirus pandemic and it is a privilege to lead the talented team that will be working tirelessly to tell our members and the wider world what a fantastic Province we have.

Please continue to share your wonderful stories and photos with us.

Remembrance Day 2020

November has for a very long time been a month to remember for me, she who must be obeyed's birthday is actually on the 11th and wedding anniversary a couple of days afterwards. Freemasons Hall was built as a memorial to remember all those who fought during the First World War, you may have seen the Hall Stone jewel worn by the WM's of lodges that contributed to the building of Great Queen Street. On the 11th we remember all those that served and have fallen on our behalf. In these uncertain times we should remember all of the brethren of our lodges and stay in contact where we can.

WBro. Chris Overall - Prov. Mentor









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