



Week 51, 15th March 2021

Brethren, Week 51 and we must take the opportunity to congratulate those recently appointed and promoted to Grand Rank in Craft and Royal Arch.

Congratulations must also go to our PCO, who has taken up another compering role in his already busy schedule, hosting, guiding and controlling the audience in a new UGLE series of Webinars.

Take a look at our next part in the series on Worcestershire development from WBro Bill Mason Also the opportunity to sign up to two more online activities over the next two weeks is highlighted - the next "An Audience With", and the first virtual Organ Concert from UGLE in 2021.

Keep strong, keep positive, take the vaccine and stay safe.

The Editor

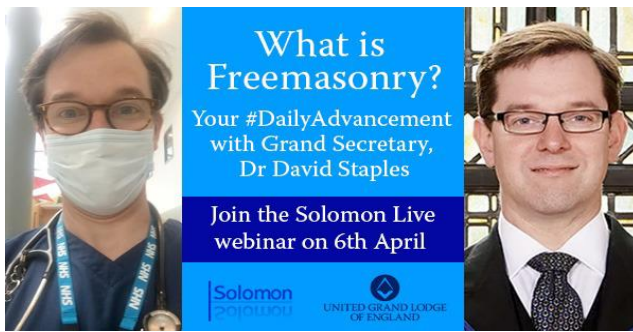
Our PCO strikes again.....

After the very well received Worcestershire's "An Audience with..." Dr David Staples, hosted by WBro Brody Swain, it would seem there is no keeping our Grand Secretary and Provincial Communications Officer apart.

On 6th April, Solomon is launching its series of lively, stimulating interviews and presentations, featuring a variety of masonic special guests, beginning with the Grand Secretary.

Hosted by none other than WBro Brody, Solomon Live webinars, designed to give us our "Daily Advancement" will last approximately 45 minutes. They will cover popular Masonic topics and will be followed by a Q&A session, for which you will be able to submit your questions in advance.

Please register for "What is Freemasonry?" an interview with the Grand Secretary, Dr David Staples, at 19.30 on Monday 6th April by clicking on the image below.



Grand Officer Appointments



Brethren, we would like to take this time to congratulate the following Brethren on the notifications of Grand Rank promotions and appointments:

First Appointment

WBro Ed Baker - Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Promotions

WBro Peter Manning - Past Grand Sword Bearer
WBro Anthony Harvey - Past Junior Grand Deacon

Reappointments

WBro Michael Dykes - Junior Grand Deacon
WBro Francis Spencer - Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Supreme Grand Chapter (to be conferred on 29th April 2021)

Appointments

E. Comp. Timothy M Wooldridge – Past Grand Standard Bearer
E. Comp. Howard G Wilson – Past Grand Standard Bearer

Promotions

E. Comp. A John Yeates – Past Assistant Grand Sojourner

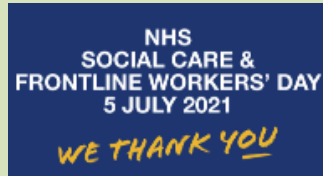
It is a fantastic time to be able to celebrate this news, and we are sure that all Brethren of the Province in both Craft and Royal Arch send their very best on this happy occasion.

72 admitted to hospital?

WBro Phil Hannah rushed to the Emergency Department of Russells Hall Hospital, on Friday 5th March. Thankfully it wasn't for a medical reason that he was there. He was delivering a further box of 72 "Teddies for Loving Care" teddies, on behalf of the Province to the hospital.

Ashley (pictured), one of the emergency nurses, was delighted to receive them, but wisely brought a wheelchair to transport the rather large box. Russells Hall Hospital have been receiving the teddies from the Province for some years now. Children arriving at the Emergency Department are given a Teddy, when appropriate, to distract them from the unfolding situation. Ashley said "Thank you so much and please thank the brethren. It is such a wonderful thing that you do and the teddies are a godsend. The children love them and it certainly makes our job a lot easier".

When the pandemic restrictions are over WBro Phil will be visiting the Department to see the "teddies in action". He will also be expanding the scheme to all of the hospitals in our Province. In the meantime he believes that grateful thanks are due to all the brethren of the Province of Worcestershire for their wonderful support of the scheme. Long may it continue.



PGL of
Worcestershire
2022 Festival
(E2022) donation

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>



The Development of Freemasonry in Worcestershire - part 3

Following the death of the first PGM, Sir Robert de Cornwall in 1756, there was then a hiatus of 36 years until John Dent was appointed in 1792. Born in 1761, he was a partner in the Banking Firm of Child and Co and a Member of Parliament for Lancaster from 1790 until 1812.

His climb in the sphere of Freemasonry was, to say the least, a rapid one. He was initiated into the Lodge of Friendship in 1788, and served as a Grand Steward in 1791 and Senior Grand Warden in 1793. It is of note that he was appointed Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire in 1792, just four years after his Initiation and at the ripe old age of 31. He became the first Grand Treasurer of the United Grand Lodge of England, having joined the Lodge of Antiquity just two months before the Act of Union in October 1813. You might think that his appointment to so high a rank after being so young both in age and Masonic years, might be down to his acquaintance with the First Grand Master of UGLE, Augustus Frederick – Duke of Sussex but I could not possibly comment! It is apparent that WBro Dent was an extremely busy person, both in his capacity as an MP and also as a partner of Childs Bank, as in the 34 years he was Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire, he allegedly never visited his Province once, and never made contact with any Worcester Lodge or Brother. In December 1812, WBro Dent was also appointed Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch in Worcestershire, and was Grand Treasurer from 1817 to 1825. During this period two Chapters were consecrated in Worcestershire, St Wulstan's Chapter then No 349, now No. 280, and the Chapter of Dudley, then No. 313 now No. 252. Similar to Craft he never made any contact with any Lodge or individual to promote Royal Arch. The initiative to form these two Chapters came from local enthusiasm. Is there any reasonable excuse for this apparent neglect of duty? We will never know.



Here are the winners of the March Lottery with lucky ball No 15.

Support your local charities AND win - just as all these supporters have!

- M W Amey, Wenceslas Lodge No. 9836
- A Barker, Lodge of Peace & Goodwill No. 6010
- J B Edwards, Chaddesley Corbett Lodge No. 8942
- Mrs B Howe, c/o Lodge of Fellowship No. 6707
- C J Scott, Lodge of Bon Accord No. 4935
- J E Tapson, Bordesley Abbey Lodge No. 4495

As ever, the Worcestershire Provincial Lottery will continue to donate to its chosen charities, including Acorns Children's Hospice, The Midlands Air Ambulance, and the Festival 2022 - which as we know, through the MCF, returns money to the Province at a greater rate than we give to it.

To contact the lottery for an application form please email wmcotot@hotmail.com

We know that his time was fully occupied by his Masonic duties in London and his Parliamentary career, and it seems likely that he treated his position as a sinecure, if that is the right word. Perhaps we are being a bit harsh on WBro Dent, as in those times the journey from London to Worcester must have been extremely arduous as no rail link existed until 1850, and the coach service took two days with an overnight stop.

Grand Lodge did not bother to inform anyone in the Province of the demise of their Provincial Grand Master at the end of 1826, and they might never have been any the wiser - had it not been for the Secretary of the Worcester Lodge who spotted the obituary in the newspaper.

Consequently he wrote to the Grand Secretary asking for a replacement. The reply was not encouraging, indicating that the appointment was the sole prerogative of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, and that he would only appoint someone personally known to himself or a noble or other brother of distinction. There was nothing new in this; the Duke of Sussex had ruled English Freemasonry in a most autocratic manner from his appointment at the Union of 1813 to his death thirty years later, choosing all the major office holders.

We have now covered the first hundred years of the Masonic history of the Province of Worcestershire down to the death of John Dent in 1826. Our next Provincial Grand Master was not appointed until 1851 – a further gap of 25 years.....To be continued!

Editorial Manager of Freemasonry Today. The presentation will take a look at the main three social media platforms currently used by Grand Lodge: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Shaun will discuss how Freemasons can utilise each of these effectively to improve public perception of the Craft and attract new members.

[Click here to register](#)



280 marks a 50th!



Worcester Lodge No. 280 was pleased to mark the 50th year of freemasonry for WBro Gerald Harris PProvJGW. Since a regular meeting was not possible, the Lodge organised a Zoom meeting, which was attended by the PGM Robert Vaughan, and a number of brethren from the Lodge. Also present (on-line) were Barry McCurdy and Arnold Allen from Gerald's mother Lodge Christs Hospital No. 2650, and Gerald's brother Richard, who is a member of Shenstonian Lodge No. 5544 in Warwickshire.

WBro Douglas Dale gave details of Gerald's working life, and his many contributions in and around Worcester. The PGM then gave us details of Gerald's Masonic career, and glasses were raised to toast the occasion.

Last week's Ed's competition - Congratulations to Tim Morris who correctly identified the Organ I was playing was the "Wanamaker" – the world's largest pipe organ, installed in Macey's in Philadelphia! Ed.

THE NEW NORMAL: THE FIRST ORGAN CONCERT OF THE YEAR FROM HOME

Freemasons' Hall has announced its first Organ Concert of 2021, which will take place by Zoom on 30th March at 7pm.

The concert is to be given by Carl Jackson, MVO, director of music at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music and he has held organ scholarships at Downing College, Cambridge as well as his current base of Chapel Royal.



Book your free tickets here

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Page 2 of 2