



We enter edition 38 and with the further suspension of Freemasonry we should turn to our Brothers, friends and loved ones and make sure that they are safe and looked after. Instead of email maybe think of sending a card through the post as a pick me up.

Also make sure that you follow us on social media and keep up with our daily Provincial Advent Calendar.

- The Deputy Editor WBro. Chris Phillips

WBro. Peter Simner



Week 38, Monday 7th December 2020

WBro Tom Gray

With sadness we must announce the passing of WBro. Tom Gray to the Grand Lodge above.

A much loved character and diligent Mason in craft as well as many other progressive orders.

Click below for his full Obituary.

[Click here](#)

50th Certificate for WBro. Mike Bartels

A recent Zoom gathering of Vernon Lodge No. 560 was dedicated to the 50th anniversary in freemasonry of W Bro Michael John Bartels PPSGW.



The RW Prov Grand Master Robert C Vaughan then praised W Bro Bartels for his service to masonry, reminding those present of Michael's involvement with many progressive orders; with particular thanks for the work he carries out at Stourport Masonic Hall as Treasurer and Trustee he then congratulated him on this milestone.

The framed certificate, having been delivered to W Bro Michael that afternoon, was then virtually presented by the PGM in his usual eloquent manner. The Prov. Prior RE Kt. Laurence Eric Bourne JP then offered his own personal congratulations and thanked W Bro Michael for the help and guidance he had given him in his capacity as Vice Chancellor.

W Bro Bartels thanked the Assistant Secretary, who had presented a replica of the Lodge Summons of 50 years ago along with a reproduced copy of the minutes of the meeting. All placed in a package with the certificate marked "Not to be opened until instructed by the RWPGM".

Old Dudleian - Keeping Communication at the Forefront

In the middle of March 2020, the Old Dudleian Lodge No. 6734 was preparing to move its meeting place from Wellington Road, Dudley to the James S Webb Freemasonry Centre in Stourbridge. For most of us, "Zoom" existed only for those who can remember Fat Larry's Band.

Zoom seemed like a good idea to keep our Members personally involved in what was being done, and it started as a single event. It sort of grew from that into a regular weekly meeting.

We have a regular attendance of 8 or 9 Brethren, plus the occasional (welcome) visitor from another Lodge, and we keep it to the basic 40 minute schedule. It has continued throughout the various lock-downs; Ken Hingley, Secretary of the Stourbridge Masonic Management Ltd., is a regular attendee, and keeps us informed of the progress of the Stourbridge Centre. A surprise visitor in the early days was the Provincial Grand Master himself. Another of our regulars, Dave Loydon, joins us from North Wales, where for much of the year he has not been allowed to cross the border in person.

As it has developed, there is not very much of a Masonic nature involved in our "Zooms". It's just a group of fairly "mature" blokes chatting (rambling?), mostly with a glass of something at hand. We occasionally have an informal discussion of something affecting the Lodge, and in one case used the time as a Committee Meeting; it has proved to be an enjoyable way of keeping in touch through the year and hopefully relieving the boredom of lockdown.

Alan Hunt

To find out the 10 ways you can continue your masonic engagement in Worcestershire during lockdown. Simply click this button to see how

An Audience
with...

Worcestershire Provincial
Grand Lodge

SOLD OUT
Michelle Worvell
Communications and Marketing Director of UGLE
presents...
Communication for the 21st Century

Click here to book onto
the wait list



"An Entered Apprentice Grandad"

Like my Masonic journey I feel I am very much at the start of this journey "an entered apprentice grandad", plenty of ups and down and

a very big learning curve, unfortunately with this there is no book of constitution or ritual book to follow.

I am sure all you grandparents will agree with me when I say you feel you couldn't love someone as much as your children but then your first grandchild is born and you realise you can, then you also realise it is someone else to worry about.

We were delighted when Becca and Ed told us we were going to be grandparents. We worried about Becca through her pregnancy but she was amazing. It was hard for both of them with the restrictions that COVID placed on the maternity services, however thankfully Ed was allowed to be at Ashley's birth. Then we received the call we had been waiting for hours. "Hi grandma and grandad Becca and Ashley are both well and Ashley can't wait to meet you". I did shed a tear or two of happiness. Then they came home and I held Ashley for the first time and like holding his dad all those years ago a wave of love came over me.

It is wonderful watching Becca and Ed with Ashley it is like going back in time 23 years ago. I am so looking forward to being a big part of Ashley and any other grandchildren's lives and spoiling them rotten. And who knows maybe a sixth generation mason.

WBro. Paul Webber



WBro. Peter Simner

This week's interview is with WBro. Peter Simner, who discusses his position as the Provincial Pursuivant and his green fingers outside of Freemasonry.

Click Here

View from The East

With thanks to Ian Fothergill, PPrSGW, LGR, A former Royal Marine, retired CEO & Prov.A.G.Sec. WM White Ensign Lodge 9169, PM of 5429.

What is the lasting memory of your time as WM?

I was acutely aware that I was following extremely competent PM's, & despite my military & business experience, I was still nervous. It was daunting. I remember a very successful & unique ladies festival which I repeated for my ladies night in 9169. Second time around I was still apprehensive, but found the work much easier despite the large numbers at every meeting.

What advice would you give to a Brother taking the chair for the first time?

"Preparation" is the key. Start preparing for the chair as JW, store knowledge gained for future use. Your year as SW is an opportunity to watch, observe & learn.

Once in the chair, know the summons & your part in the delivery. Attend LOI & rehearsal, encourage others to join you it's vital to success.

Don't neglect the festive board, determine who is going to propose your toast, give them due notice & plan your response.

You will have the privilege of installing your successor, prepare throughout your year as WM.

Any final words of wisdom?

A ceremony is for the benefit of the candidate, good clear ritual is essential.

Look after your junior brethren, tend the 'young shoots' and they will prosper.

Fill your year with a strong social calendar, it's the sign of a healthy lodge. Consider how to make events a success.

Most importantly, enjoy it!

If you wish to take part please contact Ed at ekimpton@btinternet.com

A lesson from the Orator

In 1723 Brother James Anderson's Constitutions of the Freemasons appeared. It was purported to have been compiled from old Manuscripts and Records, many of which have doubtless been lost. Brother R.F. Gould calls attention to "three striking innovations" in the 1723 Constitutions, to-wit: "It discards Christianity as the (only) religion of masonry, forbids the working of the Master's part in private lodges, and arbitrarily imposes on the English craft the use of two compound words, Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft, which had no previous existence in its terminology." Brother Gould believed that at the formation of the grand lodge in 1717 it inherited from the time immemorial Masons only two degrees, and that the Fellow Craft and Master Mason were one.

WBro. Kerry Parkes - Provincial Grand Orator