



Week 61, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Brethren, having reached our "diamond" 60<sup>th</sup> edition last week, week 61 features several articles on the younger or less experienced freemason. As we start to return to physical meetings, and our candidates once again start to be brought into the order, I am sure we are all aware that as we move into this next phase and head towards (hopefully) the 21<sup>st</sup> June, that people will take responsibility for both their own, and that of others, health and safety.

There is a great example of general attitudes changing and becoming more positive and inclusive towards freemasonry, with a splendid article shown on the BBC News – please share amongst any of your potential candidates.

Book your tickets early for the masonic vehicle display to get a discount, and sign up to follow our Twitter feed!

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

The Editor

## Freemasons: Young people 'on waiting lists'

A recent BBC NEWS video articulates extremely well the attraction of joining Freemasonry to both men and women, in particular those in the younger age range. If you have a friend or colleague interested in joining, click below and share this, to explain some of the aspects and dispel some of the myths.



The BBC article quotes: *"The Freemasons is an organisation that conjures up images of secret handshakes, men-only rituals and power and influence wielded from behind closed doors."*

Now in a bid to be more open, the organisation has published its first internal report about the state of Freemasonry in 300 years. There are about 200,000 members across the UK, with the vast majority men aged between 65 and 80. But the new report showed those aged 18-34 were the most favourable towards Freemasonry, something the organisation said it was keen to capitalise on".

## Worcestershire Installed Masters Lodge No. 6889

The Worcestershire Installed Masters WM, Brother John Yeates, welcomed members and guests at the Zoom meeting on Saturday 8th May, to an opportunity to show our brotherly love for those we have lost.

A comprehensive summary of Masonic help and support, was admirably presented by Prov G Almoner WBro Charles Gwynn, who also volunteered a similar presentation available for Lodge meetings.

WBro Rev'd Justin Parker offered prayers of comfort, paying tribute to those Brethren who had passed to the Grand Lodge above since the last physical meeting.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Robert Vaughan, amplified the continuing need for charitable support for Festival 2022 - announcing the 2011 Rowing Challenge and Duck Race, which will be held at the Worcester Rowing Club; and the Car and Bike Display at Rainbow Hill, both on Sunday 11th July.

WBro Alan Wyer is to be installed as WM Lodge No. 6889 at the next meeting, on 16th October 2021.

Report by Jonathan Swift



## National Masonic Vehicle Association

John Fennell speaks to Peter Hughes, AGPur, to find out some information on the NMVA and the upcoming event at Rainbow Hill.

The National Masonic Vehicle Association (the NMVA) was formed during the first lockdown. Its main aim is to have a national forum, to represent and provide mutual support for existing motoring related units as well as for new lodges all over the Country. Among other things, the formation of the NMVA will result in a regular magazine and a means of organising and promoting regional meetings and events, and (as in the case of the following) a national meeting. There are currently over 30 Masonic car clubs with over 400 members. From this the NMVA was created to encompass all of these clubs and give it a national Masonic status.



The NMVA is holding a car show event at Rainbow Hill on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and is expecting over 100 vehicles from across the country to attend. The show is not only for freemasons, but also open to friends and family. If your friends have an interest in freemasonry, it is an ideal opportunity and event to introduce them to the Order!

For those of you that are particularly interested in two wheels, the recently formed Worcestershire chapter of the 'Widows Sons' will also be attending. There will also be several local Worcestershire based Masons from the Square & Compass in the Province of Worcestershire, displaying their scooters.

There will be plenty of things to see and do, alongside cars and bikes, and I am told by Peter a substantial prize for the raffle, (but unfortunately not one of the cars on show!). The show will be open from 12pm.

Any car booking enquiries email Peter [peterchristine@aol.com](mailto:peterchristine@aol.com) but to purchase visitor tickets (£5 advance, or £7.50 on the day) click below:



It promises to be an extremely busy day, as it runs in conjunction with the Masonic Regatta.

Can you help to get our Twitter followers to over 4,000? We are agonisingly close now at 3,923!

Just follow our feed @WorcsMasons



## The Order of the Secret Monitor

The latest in our series of "progressive" orders from Paul Weber, talks about the Order of the Secret monitor. The first known references are known to be Dutch in origin, being first mentioned in 1778 as the Order of Jonathan and David, in connection with an Order of Jesus Christ. However, the Masonic degree as we know it today, arose in America around 1850, under various titles – "Brotherly Love", "Jonathan and David", and finally "Secret Monitor" - as a side degree, conferred by any freemason who had received it himself.



It was brought to the UK by Dr Isachar Zacharie, when he returned from America following the American Civil War in 1875.

The Order is sometimes known as the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan and a Benevolent Fund was formed in 1901.

The Order is open to all Master Masons by invitation only and is administered from Mark Masons Hall.

The Order meets in Conclaves, each with a Supreme Ruler at its head. There are three degrees - The first degree, the Secret Monitor, is where the legend of David and Jonathan is acted out in the ceremony of induction. The second degree, the Prince degree, is the admission ceremony derived from the Book of Samuel in the Old Testament. The third degree, or Installation degree, is when a Supreme Ruler is installed, similar to the Installation of a WM in Craft and is normally carried out once a year at the installation meeting.

## The Rough Guide to Masonic Visiting

As we all prepare to return to meetings, an article by WBro Jonathan Swift on trying to de-mystify that sometimes confusing, issue of Masonic visiting.

### General

It is frequently said, that visiting other Lodges is kind of the life-blood of Freemasonry. The prospect of visiting other Lodges, seeing the many unique lodge variations, meeting other members as often as possible without detriment to yourself or connections, should not be overlooked.

### 'Simple' visiting.

You don't need to be invited to simply visit a Lodge meeting. Courtesy should demand, that you let the Lodge Secretary know that you plan to attend. If you are not known at that Lodge, then you should be prepared to prove yourself and take your Grand Lodge certificate. Visiting the lodge will cost you and the Lodge, nothing. The cost issues arise if you are staying for the festive board

### 'Rule 3'

There is no rule 3. It's a short-hand for the fact that you will be visiting the Lodge and paying for yourself. If you are invited to attend a Lodge and wish to do so, your host may mention 'rule 3'. If he doesn't, then it's a good idea to mention it yourself, just so there is no ambiguity about who is bearing the cost of the meal. As a rough rule of thumb, if you are invited to a Lodge, assume that you will be paying for your meal and act accordingly.

### 'Normality'

Many Masons who visit other Lodges are well-known to the Lodges and their hosts. There is a certain unspoken 'normality' that arises through familiarity. There are many Masons that I regularly invite to my Lodges and who regularly invite me to theirs. The issue of payment almost never arises because we know the score, and that score usually means the reciprocal payment of the dining fee. One of the huge advantages of the 'pay for yourself' or 'rule 3' approach, is that you can accept an invitation knowing that it's not going to cause your host any financial embarrassment. It also means that you can invite yourself to a meeting.

You may be invited to a Lodge and, on arrival or later, when you try to pay for your meal, find that your host has already covered it. This falls into the 'nice surprise' category and should be treated as such. Doubtless you will approach your host and try to pay him for your meal. If met with a firm refusal, accept it gracefully and enjoy the rest of the evening. You can always put a bit more in the charity box.

### Without detriment

Earlier I mentioned without detriment to yourself or connections. Please be mindful of your nearest and dearest. Do not turn their minds against Freemasonry by being out too much. Remember it's family first, job second and Freemasonry a distant third; it's a hobby when all is said and done.

### Conclusion

I do hope that has gone some way towards de-mystifying Masonic visiting. As Lodge mentor in my Craft Lodge I try to encourage newer members to visit as much as they can, subject to the caveat above. It is a great way to enrich the Masonic experience, as well as making advancements in Masonic knowledge.



The bonus ball on the first Saturday in May was No 14. Congratulations to all our winners below, and our heartfelt thanks to you all for supporting the Acorns Children's Hospice, The Midlands Air Ambulance, and the 2022 Festival.

The charities have been hard hit throughout the pandemic, so every penny is vital for them to be able to continue their good work.

- PC Band, Masefield Lodge No. 2034
- H Carlton, Old Edwardian Lodge No. 6141
- T Philpott, Supporter
- I Redfern, Vernon Lodge No. 560
- S Eagle, Halas Abbey Lodge No. 5407
- N Farrington, Wenceslas Lodge No. 9836

Click [HERE](#) for a Lottery application form.



Book [here](#) for "Mysteries of the Royal Arch", an interview with the Third Grand Principal Most Excellent Companion Gareth Jones, OBE, at 19.30 on Tuesday 8th June.

These stimulating webinars are hosted by our very own PCO WBro Brody Swain, and are designed to give us our "Daily Advancement", lasting approximately 45 minutes. We will cover popular masonic topics and offer the opportunity to ask questions.

## A daily advancement....

A guide to Masonic Etiquette for new Masons.



Click [HERE](#)

Worcestershire 2022 Festival  
(E2022) donation

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>

