



Brethren, our 25<sup>th</sup> weekly anniversary edition this time! We have not been going quite as long as Page Chapter though who celebrated their centenary last week. Please let us know of any socially distanced meetings taking place - send in your report and photos so we can record the events for posterity.

Some highlights on charity this week, including the activities of a very busy Peter Griffiths.

Did you know what an "Archivist" does? Listen to the Podcast from Martin Lawrence and find out all about it!

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed

WBro Martin Lawrence



Week 25, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## One Hundred not out....

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August members of The Page Chapter No. 3378 were invited to attend an "informal gathering" of the Chapter in the car park at Rainbow Hill on the day that the Chapter was Consecrated, 100 years ago. Sadly like most things Masonic, the formal Centennial celebrations had to postponed due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, but the membership were keen to mark the occasion.



Despite a day of torrential rain, at 6pm the sun was at its greatest altitude and managed to dart its' rays with meridian splendour on the assembled Companions just in time to hear E Comp Barry Benge give a brief précis of the history of the Chapter and our founder and Past MEGS of Worcestershire, E Comp William Thomas Page, followed by a toast to the Chapter given by our MEZ, E Comp Michael Pearman and a sampling of the cake "he" himself had made...or so he said !

So not quite what the Chapter had envisaged to celebrate its' Centenary on the day but a very pleasant hour spent in great Company and still with the main event to come, when we are so permitted.

E. Comp P J Broughton PPRAGSoj  
Scribe E. Page Chapter No 3378



(Ed – Great to see **Bro Steve Holmes** about, who we featured in an article after spending many weeks on a ventilator and over 3 months in hospital)

### Worcester Foodbank

Demand for foodbank services grew drastically during the pandemic. Hundreds of local people will be receiving parcels of food, thanks to a grant of £3,000 made by Worcestershire Freemasons to Worcester Foodbank. The grant has been used to purchase stocks of items for over 200 cooking parcels!

See [mcf.org.uk/covid19impact](http://mcf.org.uk/covid19impact)



### What a Difference a Mason Can Make!

Local mason WBro Peter Griffiths (Abbott Lichfield Lodge No. 3308) has made tremendous efforts in his local community during the lockdown during coronavirus. He has helped arrange multiple charity donations from the Masonic COVID fund.



These include Caring Hands in the Vale - £1600, All Saints Church food bank - £1600 plus £500 from Evesham Masonic lodges, Evesham Volunteer Centre - £1600, Wallace House Food bank - £1600. Thus making a great difference to the local community.

His charitable efforts did not end there, he also coordinated a group of some 200 people throughout Evesham, Bengeworth and Hampton. He also set up a phone buddy service for over 400 registered sick and elderly people. He assisted in finding new volunteer teams for Wallace House and All Saints as their volunteers were classed as vulnerable at the beginning of coronavirus.



Peter is only one Mason from one lodge and I know there are many, many more across our province making excellent efforts within our communities, so please let me know. Forward any information you may have to John Fennell at [jjfennell01@icloud.com](mailto:jjfennell01@icloud.com).

### Charity Support Update

In line with our efforts to keep all brethren up-to-date with our charity donations in the province, I am happy to inform you that charity donations up to 31.7.20 from lodges and individuals the COVID 19 total from Worcestershire was £20,375. In addition WBro David Dey Prov G Charity Steward confirmed some donations made through the Redditch Masonic Charity Funds:-

- CHADD - £1000 through the MCF;
- SCOUTS- £500 from Provincial Funds;
- OCG - £500 from Provincial Funds;
- HALAS HOMES - £1800 through the MCF.

As usual if you have any charity information please forward to me at [jjfennell01@icloud.com](mailto:jjfennell01@icloud.com).

John Fennell Provincial Comms team

## Mental Health Article

All of us at some point will have felt over the last number of months a shift in our mental health and this is to be expected. This can come down to many different factors and it's important to try and figure out what they are and what trigger points you may have. Mainly just the huge shift in the way that we need to live our lives and the restrictions on what we're allowed to do can cause how we feel and operate to change heavily.

It's not always easy to talk about mental health because it can make people feel nervous, embarrassed or it can make you feel like you're admitting that you can't cope and that afterwards you'll be treated differently. I suffer from anxiety and depression and realised about 18 months ago, that I wasn't OK, and that I needed to get some help. We all need help sometimes and we should feel extremely blessed that we are in a fraternity that gives us countless people to turn to, but that can still be difficult because you are opening yourself up to something very personal.

If at any point you feel that you need someone to talk to you will always be able to turn to a brother, however, there are many other avenues that you are able to take.



You are able to turn to your doctor, they have a huge amount of resources available, but then again, you may wish to look at something a little closer to home. You can use



the internet, again, a huge wealth of knowledge and excellent UK pages to visit such as [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk), [www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk), [www.rethink.org](http://www.rethink.org)

Being able to sit down and look at the normal stresses and strains of daily life and being able to understand whether you are coping with those are the stepping stone to gauging where your mental health is at. Sometimes just knowing that you have something to look forward to in a Zoom call from friends or family, meeting up with a friend for a socially distanced walk (or beer) can be enough to feel like a 'pick me up' but there are many things that you are able to do.

If you don't know how to approach someone to ask for help, allow me to assist you with a new bit of ritual.

Can: Bro Phillips have you any time?  
Bro Phillips: Always Brother, how can I help?  
Can: Bro Phillips, I'm not OK  
Bro Phillips: Bro - It's OK to not be OK... what can I do to help?

It's as simple as that Brethren, you can interchange my name for your best friend, your almoner, your Worshipful Master or your partner. It's important to remember that we are all in this together and are all here to help each other.

WBro Chris Phillips

This week listen to **WBro Martin Lawrence**

A chance for Brethren to find out more about the Archivist role and learn about the hard work that went into Kidderminster.



## The 'Permanent Way' ahead...

In the first of our occasional look at 'special interest' lodges we caught up with David Shrimpton, Master of the newest Lodge in the Province, **Permanent Way Lodge No. 9951** - for Freemasons with a professional or leisure interest in railways. It was consecrated at Kings Heath in 2018.



Railways and Freemasonry are intimately interlinked. The great Victorian development of Britain's railway network provided an efficient means of travelling and thus significantly encouraged the growth of Freemasonry.



Not only that, many prominent railwaymen were Freemasons, perhaps most famously, James Watt; and the creator of the Great Western Railway, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Brunel's right-hand man, Sir Daniel Gooch, was also a prominent Freemason, going on to become Provincial Grand Master of both Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Indeed, the Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No. 355, of which Gooch was master for two years, particularly

appealed to railway staff and for a time met in a room at the GWR's Swindon station. And, in 1871 Gooch was a founder of Gooch Lodge No. 1295, named in his honour.

Many other Lodges were created specifically for railwaymen – two examples being Caledonian Railway Lodge in Scotland and Terminus Lodge for Waterloo station staff in London.

David Shrimpton is the third Master of Permanent Way Lodge, following founding Master Robert Major; and Graham Kingston. *"I feel privileged to be Worshipful Master of a lodge of brethren with a common but varied interest in railways,"* he says. *We are an initiating Lodge but it has been an odd year as I have yet to preside over a meeting following my Installation – and all my plans for our year have been put on ice."*

Although a daughter of Elmley Castle Lodge No. 6247 at Evesham, only the Installation of the Lodge's four meetings is held there – other meetings are held at locations that could be anywhere in the UK, with appropriate dispensation. *"As an example, we enjoyed a meeting and visit at STEAM museum in part of the former GWR works at Swindon. It was also attended by Brethren from Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation which used to meet in Swindon station,"* says David. *"On another occasion we visited the West Somerset Railway and held a meeting followed by a white table supper at Watchet Masonic Hall in Somerset"*

Joining members are welcome as are any men who have an interest in railways and may consider becoming a Freemason. Contact the Secretary, WBro Keith Kingscott for more information – 07800 601963 or [thepermanentway@yahoo.com](mailto:thepermanentway@yahoo.com)

*The next feature in our series will take a look at The Morgan Lodge no. 9816 in Malvern. If you'd like a story about your specialist Lodge, contact Ian Crowder on 07775 566555 or [ian.crowder@icloud.com](mailto:ian.crowder@icloud.com)*

**Correction:** Proving that we do get some readers (!) WBro Alex Sinton has picked us up on a few details on the recent article about David Lane, for which we are happy to print a correction! *Samuel Wesley was not appointed Grand Organist until 1812. Also he was never a Cathedral Organist at Hereford or anywhere else. His son Samuel Sebastian Wesley, who was also a Freemason became Organist of Hereford Cathedral in 1832.* Thanks Alex! ED.