



Week 29, 5th October 2020

Brethren, now in week 29, the summer sun seems to have shone and gone and the new season is very much underway, we see and hear a lot about other activities outside of the lodge room taking place.

Let us share your story - either in pictures with the photo competition or otherwise and show how freemasonry affects not just its members, but the wider community.

Pete Broughton, our well known Provincial GDC, in our podcast this week walks us through his journey as a freemason and what it means to him.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed

WBro Pete Broughton



Click here to LISTEN

Worcestershire PGL Photo Competition



Brethren, have you been out with your camera during lockdown and have you taken some photos that you would like to share? *

We'll put them up on our Facebook page and the photo that gets the most 'likes' will then have their photo become the new Facebook Page Banner Photo, Twitter Banner Photo and displayed on the Provincial Grand Lodge website.

Whether you have a small digital camera, big DSLR, Drone or just your mobile phone camera take a look at the photos you've taken through lockdown. It doesn't necessarily need to be linked to freemasonry but just the one that you feel most proud of.

Once you've picked your photo please send it in to worcspglcomp@gmail.com to enter.

(* Ed - please make sure any photos submitted have appropriate permission to share)

Northfield steps up....An emergency meeting of Lickey Hills No.5947 was held last week to ballot for a Master & Treasurer for the ensuing year.



...As does Worcester Masonic Hall....with The Sabrina Lodge No. 6595's first meeting for the new season.



Teddies for Loving Care continues..

SN talks to Phil Hannah.....



"Next year will see the 20th Anniversary of the Teddies for Loving Care TLC scheme. By then there will have been over 3 million teddies provided to hospitals to comfort children. THREE MILLION...wow! Who would have thought that the project would have taken off and continued so well?"

In the Province of Worcestershire it has continued for two reasons, firstly, because of the sterling and continued efforts of WBro John Gaston in running the scheme and secondly because of the generosity of you, the brethren of Worcestershire.

When the Provincial Grand Master asked me to take over the running of the TLC we were just at the beginning of lockdown. The Covid situation was starting to develop and the last thing on my mind, and no doubt yours, was Teddies for Loving Care. Although it is a scheme that I have been a passionate and active supporter of, as wearers of the silver teddy lapel badge will attest, it seemed relatively unimportant in the whole Covid era. Much more important was our own health, job, finances and freemasonry in general.

That was before I spoke to Dawn at Russell's Hall Hospital. This is how the conversation went:

"Phil" she said "I believe you are now in charge of the Teddies for Loving Care. We are running out of teddies. Can you get some to us please?"

I replied, *"but what about the restrictions and Covid and.."*

She gently interrupted.

"Phil" she paused with a sigh "children still get hurt every day. We don't turn them away and the teddy is such an important tool for us to settle them down so we can care for them properly"

At a stroke, I realised how much John Gaston had been working behind the scenes, on a daily basis, changing our donations into tangible help for children. I phoned Christine at Provincial Office, picked up two boxes (that's 144 teddies) and dropped them off to Dawn. The smile on Dawn's face told me everything.

"Phil, you don't know the difference these teddies make to a sick or injured child! Thank you and all your brethren" she said.

I didn't correct her, but she was wrong. Her phone call to me had done its job. I remembered why I was so enthusiastic about the scheme in 2000. It was because it was a way for us to make a real difference in the lives of children. We, with our donations, wipe the tears from a distressed child's face.

Well done John Gaston and well done the brethren of Worcestershire. Long may it continue.

WBro Phil Hannah JP, PPSGW

Newfields make over for 2021

We thought you may like to see what the Newfields Lodge Rooms in Halesowen have been up to during lockdown!

The rooms have been renamed as the “Newfields Banqueting suite” which can now hold functions such as Civil weddings.



Anyone interested should contact the Hall Secretary, Brian Harper, at brian.harper93@talktalk.net

The Provincial Grand Chapter of Worcestershire AGM

The PGC AGM, held over from April, was convened at Kidderminster on the 1st October. At this reduced meeting the MEGS, E Comp John M Phenix reappointed M D Cox as Deputy Grand Superintendent, A J Yeates as the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal and B Griffin as the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal. All appointments made in April were also confirmed. We give heartily congratulations to all!



Provincial Yearbooks can be ordered online from www.worcspgl.com/shop plus carriage.

Books **will not be** sent to the Halls nor will they be available to collect from the office for the foreseeable future due to the epidemic.



This week listen to
WBro Pete Broughton,
Provincial Grand Director of
Ceremonies

Hear about his journey into
Freemasonry and role as PGDC.



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Croeso I Dyfrinfa Dewi Sant

The latest in our series about special interest Lodges crosses the border into Wales. Or does it...

Attend a meeting of the Lodge of Saint David No. 9135 (Dyfrinfa Dewi Sant) and you might be forgiven for thinking that you had been transported to a Lodge in deepest Wales. But no, you will still firmly be in the Province of Worcestershire.



Cyfrinfa Dewi Sant was consecrated in 1985 and was founded by Masons with Welsh family connections. It is open to anyone with Welsh affinity, although as Lodge information officer and former secretary Graeme Collins explains: “Membership doesn’t require a Welsh family connection as a qualification – simply a love of all things Welsh is enough!”

Graeme says that the idea of a ‘Welsh’ Lodge in Worcestershire came from the late Ted Beech Rogers. “Ted was a Redditch solicitor but came from Denbighshire. He believed that a Lodge where like-minded men could meet, where the Welsh language was spoken and above all where the festive board could be enhanced by the joy of Welsh singing would have a wide appeal: not just among ‘ex-patriate’ Welshmen but anyone who is inspired by Wales and the Welsh.

Graeme says that apart from the Installation, the high spot of the year is the Festival Meeting in February, the closest meeting date to St David’s Day. “The Festival attracts a large number of visitors – last year, more than 60 Brethren were present. And what a festival it is, filled with Welsh tradition and – of course – singing!” With one foot on the table, the Master opens the Festive Board by three times demanding: ‘A oes heddwch yn Cyferinfa Dewi Sant?’, to which the Brethren heartily retort ‘Heddwch!’*

The Lodge feels an affinity to the 24th Regiment of Foot, the South Wales Borderers and performs an entertaining allusion to the 1880 Battle of Rorke’s Drift during the Anglo-Zulu war, immortalised by the film Zulu. Eleven VCs were awarded following the battle, seven of which went the 24th.

Of course, no Welsh Lodge would be complete without singing. Graeme also happens to be the Lodge Director of Music. “I hugely enjoy the preparation and work that goes into the musical planning of the evening. And we are all deeply grateful to our wonderful guest organist Irving Horne, whose wonderful playing adds so much to our meetings.”

The Lodge furniture is worth pointing out too. Says Graeme, “Our Volume of the Sacred Law is a large, beautiful leather-bound Bible with brass clasps. It’s in Welsh and successive Provincial Directors of Ceremonies have yet to confirm whether the VSL is opened at the correct page for Installation meetings. We consider this to be one of Freemasonry’s mysteries!”

If you have the remotest Welsh connection, then this is the Lodge for you. You can find out more on the Cyfrinfa Dewi Sant Rhif 9135 website. If you know someone with Welsh links and is thinking about Freemasonry, then where better to start a journey on the square? And, if you would like Summons to visit for the Festival, contact the secretary at cyfrinfadewisant@talktalk.net

*In case your Welsh is a little rusty, this means: ‘Is there peace in our Lodge?’ to which the Brethren reply ‘Peace!’

Ian Crowder

ED – Just to prove SN does get read, some feedback received from last week with an interesting twist!...“*Just a short note to say how much I enjoyed reading the article about the Lodge in the latest edition of Square News. One of the many highlights of my own Masonic career was the occasion when the Lodge held a meeting in my conservatory!! a true first.*”

Stuart Edwards PGSwdB, PDepPGM

