



Week 24, 31st August 2020

Brethren, Week 24 and we start to hear of lodges planning their next socially distanced formal meetings, or holding informal social gatherings to keep in contact. Of course Zoom meetings are still being used prolifically to keep engaged with our current and future Freemasons.

It is good to see the coverage of Freemasons in the public arena now very much in a positive light – two excellent examples in this newsletter of which we should be very proud.

Listen to the smooth dulcet tones of our Provincial Orator and one of our Grand Officers, WBro Kerry Parkes in this week's Podcast as he talks about his plans for the lecture competition.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed

WBro Kerry Parkes



Click here to LISTEN

Recognition well deserved!

The following was received at Kings Heath Masonic Hall, addressed to "All Lodges"



As the representative of Her Majesty The Queen in the West Midlands, I would like to thank you for the contribution you have made to the County during these extraordinary and difficult times.

No matter how large or small, the innovation, collaboration, humanity and selfless service shown by so many across the region during the Covid-19 pandemic has been truly inspiring.

Thank you

John Crabtree OBE
Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands

It is with great sadness to record of the death of **WBro Paul Weston**, PAGDC formerly RW Prov Grand Master of the Province of Warwickshire in the Royal Order of Scotland.

Initiated into Gothic Lodge No. 7435, Paul became a Joining member of Wernlegh Abbey Lodge No. 6356 and along with David Kettle played a major role in the recovery of that lodge.

As former Police Chief Inspector, a few years ago in retirement Paul was seriously wounded when tackling a bank robber in Great Barr, who shot him in the leg, severing an artery and leaving him with a limp for the rest of his life. In recent years Paul suffered a debilitating stroke which seriously curtailed his activities and his speech which frustrated him.

Hitting the spot?

FREEMASONRY
IN WORCESTERSHIRE

The Best Hobby in the World!

To find out more about Worcestershire Freemasons and how we help our Local Community, our Fascinating History and our Famous Camaraderie,
Contact us by email join@worcestershireppl.org.uk
or visit our website www.woresppl.org

During the summer months, the Province's Social Media Team has been busy running a series of "boosted" Facebook and Instagram posts - or adverts - that promote Freemasonry across Worcestershire with a view to encouraging eligible men to apply for membership.

Facebook allows us to aim our message at those who are most likely to join us: we are able to target different age groups, particular postcode areas, and bring ourselves to the attention of those who have an interest in social, charitable and community causes. Our most successful post so far is "Freemasonry - The Best Hobby in the World!" produced by Assistant Provincial Grand Master WBro Mike Dykes.

Our Provincial Membership Officer, Bro Nick Thomas, processes all subsequent enquiries, and after a telephone interview directs potential new members to the most suitable local Lodges with regard to home or work address, friends or special interest.

Our posts have reached many thousands of potential new members and have already resulted in several requests for further information. They have also given us the opportunity to share "good news" stories, which has resulted in an increased number of "followers" and website readers; we have also received positive feedback from non-Freemasons, including comments from family members of Freemasons and local charities. Slowly, we are helping to get the positive message across - and it seems to be working!

So, if you are a social media user and notice one of our Facebook or Instagram posts, please "Like" and "Share" it, and consider adding a positive comment about your own experiences of Freemasonry. Real-life stories really do make all the difference, and your input could encourage someone to take that first important step to becoming a Freemason.

WBro Mark Lodge



Worcestershire Masonic Library & Museum



The long awaited re-opening of our Library and Museum has arrived! I am very pleased to announce that we are open again from September 1st.

Our opening times are Tuesday and Thursday Mornings 10.00 to 12.00.

We are able to take individuals (for visits or research) or small bubble groups for now, but regrettably we are not able to accommodate large group bookings at the moment.

Because circulation space is limited to keep within current Covid-19 requirements, we ask that you ring in advance to check that we are able to accommodate you. The telephone number for the museum is 01905 24971 Please ring during opening times.

We look forward to welcoming you all to this jewel in our province

www.worcestermasonicmuseum.co.uk

WBro Bob James PProvSGW
Curator, Worcestershire Masonic Library & Museum
Masonic Hall, Rainbow Hill, Worcester. WR3 8LX

PGM checks in!

RW Bro Robert C Vaughan paid an informal visit to view the progress at the new lodge rooms in Stourbridge.

The building was purchased with a gift from the widow of the late WBro JS Webb PPrGSwdB a member and PM 1987 of Crystal Lodge No. 8881

In memory and with grateful thanks the lodge rooms have been named the "James S.Webb Freemasonry Centre" (J.S.W.F.C.)



Photograph left to right are Ken Hingley (Secretary), Scott Winning (Treasurer), the PGM, Alan Payne (Chairman), David Bell (Building Committee) and Alf Edwards (Volunteer).

Bikers turn out for Matty

More than 350 riders show support for shielding teen



Building on last week's theme of specialist lodges, and also increased positive press coverage – the following article (abridged) has appeared this week in social media and national motorcycle magazines:



Between 350 and 400 bikers have taken ride in a mass ride-past to help raise the spirits of a 15 year old motorcycle fan with cancer. Matty Hatton is undergoing treatment for brain tumours and has been forced to shield during covid-19, but hundreds of bikers converged and performed a ride past at his home. Matty's mum Alison commented "we thought there would only be about 20 bikes, so it was amazing. The support is so important because it helps to make memories". Matty was also escorted into London for an overnight treat by members of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association.

MASONIC BIKERS GET MATTY TO THE HARD ROCK CAFE

Fundraising had been held to take Matty to his dream destination of the Hard Rock Café in London. Started by East Midlands Chapter who hoped to raise £400, many Freemasons, Lodges, Mark Masons and Widows Sons Chapters finally raised over £2,000!

On the 15th August, the WS bikers escorted Matty and his family to London, and were joined by other bikes from southern Widows Sons chapters who escorted him to his hotel – Due to social distancing these then had to head home, whilst a small number joined them at the Hard Rock Café and for a tour of the vaults and the Rock Shop.

WBro John Perridge who organised the trip quoted "We could see from the smiles on their faces that the Hatton's had the most amazing day and made some unforgettable memories."



Footnote: **West Midlands Chapter** covers the provinces of Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire. **East Midlands Chapter** covers the Provinces of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland and Northamptonshire.

Our numbers continue to grow, and we are attracting members who see what we do and are wanting to get involved with, or expand their Freemasonry.



This week listen to **WBro Kerry Parkes** as he explains his views on the many orders that he is involved in, what his position as Provincial Grand Orator involves, and the plans for the lecture competition in 2021

