



Week 60, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Brethren, Week 60, and we now start the countdown to when our Square News Weekly edition will revert to our new normal, of the monthly "Worcestershire Source", coinciding with when restrictions are lifted, and our weekly editions finally retire at 65!

On a sadder note, I report on the passing of our previous editor, Peter Ricketts.

Our "jewel in the crown", the Library and Museum, is going to be open from tomorrow; and there is a call out for help in conjunction with the Royal British Legion for poppy selling – but also a great chance to raise the Order's awareness.

Get your Ducks in (!), learn about the RSM, and some wise words from our Membership Officer.

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

The Editor

## WBro Peter Ricketts PPrJGW CM

It is with the greatest sadness that we report that WBro Peter Ricketts passed to the Grand Lodge above on 7th of May, after a short spell in hospital suffering from a kidney infection.



Peter was the previous Editor for Worcester "Source" and a pupil of Kings Norton Grammar school. In 1944 Peter wanted to join the RAF flying Spitfires, however his parents had other thoughts and initially he became a Birmingham government junior clerk in the Rates office.

That didn't last very long, so he turned his hand to journalism - where he spent his working life with spells at the Daily Express and the Birmingham Evening Dispatch, concluding his career as golf and motoring correspondent and with the Birmingham Mail, as Features Editor.

Peter's Masonic career with Lodge of Hope & Charity No. 377, spanned over 60 years as WM, in 2008 & 2014. In 2013 he succeeded as editor of the Provincial magazine the 'Source', and in 2015 he was awarded the RW Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Merit.

Our thoughts and condolences are with his wife Jan and family for the life of a good man.

## The Province of Worcestershire and

### The Royal British Legion



Could you offer your help at any time between 30<sup>th</sup> October – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021?

Are you prepared to support Freemasonry in the Community?

We are looking to work with the Royal British Legion in this, their 100th anniversary year. We need volunteers who are prepared to man various supermarket locations across the Province, to sell Poppies, and promote our Order

You will be allocated to a Team working close to your Home

Interested in helping?

Please contact: WBro Ian Fothergill, PPrSGW, LGR at [constitutions@worcestershirepl.org.uk](mailto:constitutions@worcestershirepl.org.uk)

## Freemasons are supporting carers with advice, breaks and activities

Freemasons are leading a project to help up to 33,000 adult, young and parent carers, with donations of more than £715,000. According to Carers UK, the number of carers grew exponentially during the pandemic, reaching more than 13 million. The helping hand from the Freemasons is supporting them with essential items, life skills, counselling, crisis support, activities and breaks. Approximately 20,000 unpaid carers are receiving access to crucial support online, funded by the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), the governing body of the Freemasons. The UGLE is also working to protect young carers, who are under increasing pressure as they support family members during lockdown.

In particular, the Freemasons project is providing 870 young carers with respite through activities and breaks, while 760 young carers are being provided with essential items and life skills. Elsewhere, almost 100 schools are receiving assistance to identify hidden young carers and provide support. In total, more than 1,800 young carers are receiving advice, support and information. In addition to their help for young carers, the Freemasons are providing funding for crisis support, advice and information to almost 3,000 adult carers. Meanwhile, the project is also assisting 1,050 parent carers with advice and support.

Dr David Staples, chief executive of the UGLE, said: "These have been very difficult times for everyone and especially for carers. With the donations, we are helping with training, counselling, support, mental and physical health, as well as activities to reduce stress. We want to recognise the enormous contribution carers make to families and communities throughout the UK. They do their best because they want to make a difference and care deeply for their family members."





## Discover the World of Freemasonry



The Library and Museum will be open every Tuesday and Thursday 10.00am to 12.00 from TUESDAY 18TH May. Please ring and check there is room to take you or your party, or to arrange a date to visit on 07889 570483. This helps us to manage visitors whilst Covid precautions are still in place.

We look forward to seeing you!

Our **Pre-loved Quality Regalia shop** is also open at these times.

You can discuss your requirements and order over the phone and collect when your order is ready.

Please call Mike Pearman on 07931 871474, or email

[m.pearman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:m.pearman@yahoo.co.uk)

## Are you up to date?

Bro Nick Thomas, our Provincial Membership Officer, talks to Square News about looking after candidates, and some steps and points to consider.

"I hope that for many of you the new season brings with it, the prospect of bringing new life into the lodge. In some circumstances, this could be applicants that have been waiting for much longer than usual, and for some secretaries – could have been a while since the last time they went through the process!

1. Make sure you have all the details/information about your candidates. Have the P Forms been signed, are they within the correct time frame, are all the details correct and confirmed?
2. Are the candidates aware of the time and cost commitments as we begin meeting again? Are they still available on the same nights and times? How long since they were last given information about the nature and structure of meetings? Will that information have been retained?
3. Contact them and explain that we will be able to start to meet again soon. Having a night in mind to meet socially, in person preferable to zoom - you don't need to wait until our halls reopen you can meet them outdoors, in beer gardens, motorway services – anywhere neutral and non-imposing. The Proposer and Seconder need to get to know the candidates, and this should all be done digitally.
4. Give them a date when you will show them around the Masonic Hall and meet more of your members. Or better still – if the lodge is planning any summer social events within guidelines – could they attend?
5. Give them a pencilled in date for initiation – having a definite date to look forward to will make the process feel real again.
6. Keep in touch. With the uncertainty and upheaval of the last 18 months – having solid contact is reassuring.

### Tittle Tattle? - A recent tweet from UGLE....

Great article in the **Tatler** magazine about the growing numbers of young people waiting to become Freemasons after lockdown!

I hope we've all been brushing up on the blue book because Lodges up and down the country are going to be BUSY come 17th May.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full article

### The Freemasons club is seeing a revival in younger members joining the waiting list

*The historic organisation is having a modern day shake-up*



## FESTIVAL DUCK RACE

Sunday 11th July 2021

On the River Severn from Worcester Rowing Club

We have a flock of yellow ducks held in captivity awaiting their chance to escape to the waters of the River Severn to race for freedom.

Every duck needs a sponsor of £2.50 for their escape bid.

How many ducks will you help to bid for freedom?

The leading 3 DUCKS sponsored to be rescued will win

FIRST PRIZE: £250

SECOND PRIZE: £100

THIRD PRIZE: £50.

Entry forms and payment options available **HERE**, or email David Davis at [david.davis@didarchitects.co.uk](mailto:david.davis@didarchitects.co.uk)

## RSM on a quest?



Paul Milner, District Grand Director of Ceremonies from the Wyvern District of Royal and Select Masters, explains more...

The Order of Royal and Select Masters is more commonly known among English Freemasons as the Cryptic Rite. It is open to all Master Masons, who are also Companions of the Royal Arch and are Mark Master Masons.

The Order assists the mason who is in search of further understanding of Solomonian Masonry, with its particular quest for the Word; which was first lost and then substituted, as is well known from the Traditional History of the Master Mason's Degree. Moreover, there are a great many events and masonic legends omitted between Craft and Royal Arch. It is this great gap, which is one reason why the Cryptic Rite should be seen as essential, for a greater understanding of the masonic journey in search of the Lost Word.

Following the discovery and recovery of the word during the Royal Arch Exaltation Ceremony, the truly inquisitive Freemason will ask himself, "But how did it get there?"

The four Royal and Select ceremonies will take you on a journey of 470 years leading from the Third Degree to the Royal Arch. Conferred in chronological order they are: Select Master, Royal Master, Most Excellent Master and Super Excellent Master, and complete the Solomonian legend as they prove the essential link between the degrees of Mark Mason, the Raising in Craft, and The Holy Royal Arch. The ceremony of Royal Master, is generally recognised to contain some of the most beautiful ritual in Freemasonry.

My earlier question was, "But how did it get there?"

My final question is, "When are you going to come to find out?"

Worcestershire 2022 Festival (E2022) donation

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>

