



Week 32, 26th October 2020

Brethren, week 32 and we hear about the next series of “an audience with....” Seats are going fast, so please book in early.

Check out the new initiative on featuring in our social media campaign, and our podcast this week is not from a Brother, but from one of our charity recipients who talks about how your donations help in the support of carers and sufferers from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. This was one of the grants made from the Province to support the community during CV19 using the funds from the MCF.

Please keep your stories coming in which would be of interest to our fellow brethren, and of your own Covid secure meetings. As news of any Tier changes come through, the link at the end of this newsletter will allow you to check your own location’s Tier level at any time.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed

John Hinckes
Vice chairman of
the West
Midlands OCD
group



One small step...

Covid-19 has put paid to “normal” Lodge meetings throughout the province and at present those that can take place are restricted to just six people, complying with government and UGLE guidance.



Elmley Castle Lodge No. 6247 is one Lodge that last week, managed to hold its first meeting at

the Swan Lane Masonic Centre in Evesham – but not in the Lodge room which is having new ventilation fitted to ensure that the venue is Covid compliant. Instead the meeting of just six Brethren took place in the dining room, which has good ventilation.

Ian Southcott, Lodge Secretary, said: “Essentially, this a symbolic gesture to show that we are trying to get up and running once again. It was a short business meeting for which a Summons was issued and it was minuted.

“We invited Brethren to say whether they were prepared to come to a meeting and six were selected, including newer Brethren, one of whom is an entered apprentice. We’ll ‘rotate’ attendance at future meetings to engage as many as we can.”

Peter Ross, the Lodge charity steward who set his iPad on timer to take this specially-posed picture, added: “It was so good to see the Lodge meeting once again albeit under such strange circumstances. We went above and beyond to ensure that we were self-distanced, surfaces and hands were sanitized and the room well ventilated – and naturally, all wearing masks!”

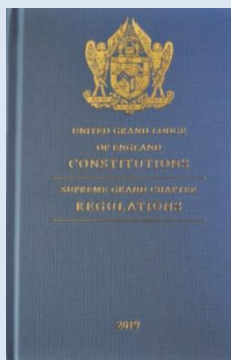
The picture was posted on the Lodge WhatsApp group eliciting comments such as ‘I’m so pleased to see this – look forward to my turn!’; ‘A pleasure to see, I’m very envious’; ‘Excellent news, well done!’.

Says Ian: “This might have been a small step for Freemasonry in Worcestershire – but it was a giant leap for Elmley Castle!”



We are starting the next series of our zoom presentations ‘an audience with.....’ commencing on **Tuesday 3rd November at 7pm** with WBro Tony Harvey PAGDC who will present “*Seven Habits of Highly Successful Lodges*”.

For more details and to register, click [HERE](#)



Bedtime reading?

by Paul Webber

When you are initiated you are presented with a “Book of Constitution”.

Along with everything else that happens on that special night, you are also given a book on Masonic Charities, the By Laws of your mother lodge and maybe other literature.

You are informed that the book of constitution “*will put you right with most queries*”.

But how many of us have read this book or referred to it ?

Yet we hear it referred to when electing a new master, treasurer, and new candidates. A new master also affirms his agreement to abide by its rules which are read to him from this book during his installation for his time as Worshipful Master.

However this book is much more than just a craft rule book; it covers other interesting subjects such as regalia, jewels and the aims and relationships of the craft. The book also covers information on Royal Arch Masonry, the Grand Charity and Lodges overseas.

During this time when we are restricted in our Masonic activity, should you have a little spare time make this part of your daily Masonic learning - take it off your book case and spend a few minutes reading sections of the book and you will be surprised what an interesting read it is!



Digital Alms

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>

Can 'ya guess what it is yet??



The winning photo by Bro Duncan Sutcliffe was taken of the trig point at the top of Snowdon at sunset.

Scottish airs and a grace



Our latest look at special interest Lodges goes north – well not quite over the border but certainly north of the Province where Thistle Lodge meets.

If the sound of bagpipes stirs your heart and sets your heart aching for the dramatic scenery and great cities of Scotland, then perhaps Thistle Lodge No. 5064 is for you.

Consecrated in Birmingham in 1929, Thistle Lodge was formed for those Brethren who perhaps were looking for a little 'home for home'. Indeed originally, a requirement for joining or being initiated into the Lodge was that you were born north of the border.

"But that changed over the years," says Ian McWilliam, the Lodge secretary, whose own Glaswegian accent belies the fact that he has been absent from his native Scotland since he was a youngster, well over 50 years ago. "As time went on Brethren had sons born in England and the rules were relaxed so they could join. Nowadays, it is quite sufficient to have an interest in all things Scottish. For instance, enjoyment of a good malt Scotch whisky will do just fine!"

The Lodge meets at Northfield seven times per year (October to April) and practices emulation ritual, rather than Scottish but Ian says that that are nevertheless plenty of reminders that this is at heart, a Scottish Lodge.

"Scottish airs are played on the organ during meetings but bagpipes are played during the Festive Board. And visitors who can play are invited to bring their pipes along too. There are also other practices that have a pure Scottish flavour," says Ian.

"For instance, we toast the Master with Highland honours at the Installation meeting – this involves standing with your left foot on your chair and right foot on the table. And when the toast is given to the visitors we sing '...Will ye noo come back again?'"

"And our January meeting is in effect our Burns Night although it is really a bit early – and that is certainly a night to remember. The Brethren attend in full Highland dress (or dinner jackets if you don't have a kilt) and of course we enjoy haggis for supper!"

The Selkirk Grace is also performed at every Festive Board. What does this involve? "Well, you'll just have to come to one of our meetings to find out!" Ian says with a twinkle in his eye.

The Lodge occasionally hosts a team from Dunoon in the Province of Argyll and the Isles, who put on a dramatic demonstration of a Scottish Initiation: "And I can assure you that this is quite a show and well worth seeing!" says Ian.



Thistle Lodge takes a pride in the way it approaches Freemasonry but, as Ian points out: "We offer the warmest of welcomes whether you are a visitor or feel that this little bit of Scotland in the Midlands is for you. We would be keen to talk to anyone with Scottish roots or interests thinking about Freemasonry, too – we might just be the ticket for their Masonic start in life."

You can reach Ian at jwmcwillian@gmail.com or telephone 0121 742 3228.

If you would like your Lodge featured in this series or have suggestions for a new series of Lodge profiles, let Ian Crowder know! ian.crowder@icloud.com / 07775 566555

Check your COVID Tier Level



Don't be like John! Click on the picture to watch the video and see all about

Solomon

Fostering Curiosity- Developing Understanding



I'm a site manager
I'm a dad
I'm a Worcestershire Freemason
To find out more, why not visit our website www.worcspgl.org
#worcsmasons
Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire

Volunteers wanted to appear in the latest social media campaign 'I'm a Worcestershire Freemason.....'

Please send a photo of yourself and let us know information about your job title, interests, or hobby. Submissions please to the [Provincial Communications Officer](#).

This week listen to **John Hinckes** of West Midlands OCD* Support Group, and how your donations are helping sufferers, especially during the pandemic.

*Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) is an illness characterised by obsessions and/or compulsions. Obsessions are repetitive, unwanted thoughts, images, or impulses that a person finds unacceptable but is unable to ignore them.

Compulsions are continuous, ritualistic actions which the person feels driven to perform in order to reduce the anxiety, brought about by the obsession.

