

The Worcestershire Second Risings



*Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch
Province of Worcestershire
Spring 2020 Edition*

This Second Rising Communication is for distribution by the Chapter Scribe E to all Chapter members either by email or sent as hard copy by post.

Introduction

By the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

Companions, welcome to this Spring Edition of Second Risings.

When I wrote the introduction to the New Year edition, only a few weeks ago, none of us could have imagined the massive changes to our everyday lives that we are today trying to cope with!

Freemasonry has been suspended for four months, social distancing is a new phrase in everyday use and most recently we have all been on lockdown.

Despite all of this our wonderful Doctors, Nurses, Carers, Delivery Drivers and Bin Men have all continued to provide a magnificent service in the most trying circumstances. Our most sincere thanks go to each and every one of them.

At a recent Provincial Executive meeting we all agreed that keeping in touch was of the utmost importance, not only for us but for all our Chapters and their Companions. PLEASE make sure that by any means possible you ensure that the Companions of your Chapter do not feel isolated and forgotten. Whether you use telephone, e mail, social media or good old-fashioned letters let your Companions know they are important to you and you are there should they need help. We as a Province will support you in every way possible, you only need to ask!

My congratulations, and those of the whole Province, go to those Companions due to be Appointed or Promoted in Provincial Grand Chapter and Supreme Grand Chapter this month. These honours are fully deserved and I look forward to being able to congratulate you personally as soon as is possible.

I hope that by the next edition of Second Risings we may be in a better situation and looking forward to getting back to "normal". In the meantime, please stay home and stay safe, you will save lives!

Finally, may the T&LGMH keep you and your loved ones in his care now and always.

1) Supreme Grand Chapter



With the current suspension of all Masonic activity our Annual Coach Trip to the April Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter has had to be cancelled. This meaning that we have missed the opportunity to witness and share in the day of those Worcestershire Companions who have been Promoted in or Appointed to Supreme Grand Chapter Rank.



Our Deputy Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Michel D Cox. Promoted to **Past Grand Sword Bearer**, and our Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra and Provincial Grand Registrar, E. Comps Brian Harper and Royston Foster both Appointed to **Past Grand Standard Bearer**.

Our heartiest Congratulations go to them all.

2) Provincial Grand Chapter

a) The current Suspension also means that we have had to cancel our Provincial Grand Chapter Meeting scheduled for the 15th April.

The result of this is that those Companions Appointed to Acting Office, Promoted or Appointed to Past Provincial Ranks will be entitled to assume their Office with effect from that date, with the exception of the Third Provincial Grand Principal Designate, E. Comp. Keith M Evans, **PGStB**,



Keith will be Installed as soon as is conveniently possible once Masonic activity resumes.

Once again, we send our heartiest congratulations to them all and look forward to seeing the Acting Officers attending any scheduled Provincial Visits to our Chapters and as many Installations as possible.

Behind the scenes the Provincial Executive continue to conduct all the administrative tasks required and indeed managed to hold a "Zoom" Video Meeting on Friday 3rd April, where they were able to diagnose the current situation and make outline plans for the future.

Of particular relevance was Communication with the Companions and whilst the Provincial Team will be conducting a "Personal Contact" Campaign, Chapter Almoners are reminded that one of their most important roles is retaining contact with the Companions, especially those who are required to self-isolate and may well be in need of assistance in shopping and collection of Medical Prescriptions.

It is also a time when the Charitable side of Freemasonry has a very important role to play

b) The Travelling Sceptre



The Sceptre is currently in the possession of Semper Fidelis Chapter C529, and it is hoped

that as soon as we return to normal activity, a Chapter or indeed Chapters, may wish to send delegations to lay claim to this new Provincial Treasurer.

To remind you all of the requirements you must send a Party of at least 3 Companions from your Chapter to lay down the challenge and, in the event that there is more than one delegation present the Sceptre will be transferred to the Chapter who has the newest Member of our Order in attendance.

c) Solomon

If you find yourself isolated and wish to make the "Daily Advancement" in Masonic knowledge, Companions are reminded that they can turn to Solomon by visiting the website

<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>

3) Provincial Royal Arch Charity Fund



Companions may I, on behalf of our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, make a plea to you all to consider those small local charities and good causes who are possibly struggling under the current Coronavirus outbreak.

If the major National charities are already seeing their "income" being vastly depleted then imagine what our local causes are suffering.

While we are unable to meet together it is important that we do not lose sight of our Charitable aims. As Freemasons, and Companions in particular, I ask you to look to your local small charity groups that we - from our Provincial Grand Charity Fund - may be able to help, albeit in a limited way.

I have, already, had a request from White Ensign Chapter & Bordesley Abbey Chapter to "help" the Redditch Masonic Hall initiative that is to fund the

provision of hot drinks to the NHS staff at the Alexandra Hospital, as their canteen facilities have been closed down, due to the outbreak.

Please forward the details of any similar causes or charities which you believe will gain benefit from a donation at this difficult time and we will try to assist as many as we can.

Will you please pass all details - contact name(s), email address, phone no(s) to: -

PGScribe@worcestershirepgl.org.uk or
PGAScribe@worcestershirepgl.org.uk

Remember that together we can make a difference and do our bit locally to help.

Thank you
E Comp John Wright
Provincial Grand Charity Steward

4) Chapter News

a) Mosaic Chapter C5028



Mosaic Chapter was consecrated on the 21st February 1945 following preliminary work on its formation towards the end of 1944. Those who attended the Consecration on the 21st February would have been either too old to serve in the armed services or perhaps some of them were in reserved occupations. Whilst we have no idea what was going through the minds of the Companions who came to Dudley on that overcast and windy day, we can guess that many of them would have had worries for family members and friends who were on active service. The Consecration probably provided some light relief in those troubled times and, despite rationing being in force, the Companions were

able to enjoy a festive board for seven shillings and sixpence including wines.

So, what was happening in the war on the 21st February 1945?

Bomber Command at its bases in Lincolnshire and elsewhere was preparing to fly to Germany and that evening Duisburg was to receive the last major Bomber Command raid on that city. Worms was subjected to the first and only large-scale raid by Bomber Command. The Mittelland Canal was also raided. The total effort for the night of the 21st/22nd February was 1,110 sorties with 34 aircraft lost, that is 3.1 per cent of the force taking part.

British and Canadian Armies were fighting the Germans in Operation Veritable, also known as the Battle of Reichswald, which was the northern part of an allied pincer movement along the German border with Holland. During the battle the British took the town of Goch on the 21st February.

Moving to the Pacific, the battle for Iwo Jima, was raging between American and Japanese forces. The US Navy lost its carrier, the USS Bismarck Sea, to Kamikaze attacks on the 21st. Two days later on the 23rd February that famous photograph was taken of two US Marines raising the Stars & Stripes on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima although the battle would not be won until the 26th March.

In Burma, the British and Indian Armies were battling the Japanese in the Battle of Ramree Island, which was part of Operation Matador, the battle ending in an allied victory on the 22nd February.

Let's now turn to the peacetime era of the Chapter.

Death of King George VI

The death of King George VI shortly after the Chapter's Convocation in February 1952 was marked on the summons for the Convocation for the 4th April 1952 and the minutes record that, 'The MEZ referred to the loss which had been sustained by Freemasonry in general and this Order in particular with the passing of His Late Majesty King George VI and the Members of the Chapter stood in silence as a mark of respect to his memory'.

Installation Convocation 7th February 1969

Throughout that day there had been heavy falls of snow and drifting had made many roads impassable. The approach to the Masonic Hall in Wellington Road was blocked by queues of motor vehicles moving very slowly. Snow up to six inches in depth covered the car park at the Masonic Hall. At the time appointed for the Convocation only five Companions were present including a certain E Comp Tony Walker.

With the distinct possibility in mind that the meeting might have to be abandoned. E Comp Walker took the opportunity to practise at the organ. A number of visiting Companions managed to make it, so at 7 pm it was decided to open the Chapter, deal with the formal business and defer the Installation to a special meeting convened for that purpose.

The Chapter was Opened at 7.10 pm, there was a report on the door – it was announced that, having commenced their journey from Edgbaston at 4.30 pm, the ME Grand Superintendent, E Comp F H Griffiths, the Second Provincial Grand Principal, the acting Third Provincial Grand Principal namely E Comp L B Heynes, and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, E Comp A R N Hurdman were in attendance with a number of other Companions. The Installation then went ahead.

1970 –the Chapter's high-water mark

This was the year the Chapter marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of its Consecration. This also marked its 'high water mark' for subscribing members. On the summons for the Convocation in February 1970 there are 47 subscribing members listed. That pertained for a short while but was never to reach or exceed those dizzy heights again.

Cardboard cut-outs

And, finally, I found this gem in the minutes. Poor attendance merited the following comment in the minutes of the Convocation held on the 5th April 2013: 'There were no propositions but it was suggested that the vacant spaces in the Temple be filled with cardboard cut-outs to make up for missing Companions'. The name of the Companion who made the suggestion is not recorded!

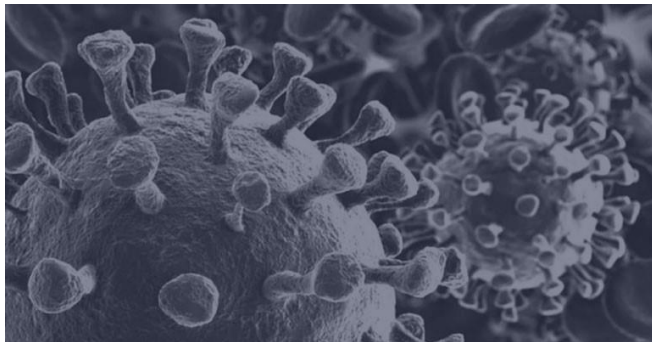
Editor's Note: Extracts from the History of the Chapter prepared for the Final Convocation by E Comp D J V Morgan, IPZ, 7th March 2020

b) Abbot Lichfield Chapter C3308



The Centenary Celebrations originally scheduled for St George's Day, 23rd April, have of necessity had to be postponed. The Chapter are hoping that they will be able to reconvene, all things being equal, for this important event at a date to be confirmed in September,

4) Final Thoughts in these difficult times;



I'll tell you a tale, that's been recently written,
Of a powerful army, so Great it saved Britain,
They didn't have bombs and they didn't have planes,
They fought with their hearts and they fought with their brains,

They didn't have bullets, armed just with a mask,
We sent them to war, with one simple task,
To show us the way, to lead and inspire us,
To protect us from harm, and fight off the virus,
It couldn't be stopped by our bullet proof vests, an invisible army invaded our chests,

So, we called on our weapon, our soldiers in Blue,

"All Doctors, All Nurses, our country needs you,"
We clapped on our streets hearts bursting with pride,
They struggled at first, as they searched for supplies,
But they stared down the virus, in the whites of their eyes,

They leaped from the trenches and didn't think twice,
Some never came back, the ultimate price,
So tired, so weary, yet still they fought on,
As the virus was beaten and the battle was won,
The many of us owe so much to the few,
The brave and the bold, our heroes in Blue,
So, lets line the streets and remember our debt,
We love you, our Heroes,
Lest we forget.

Copied from an NHS Facebook.

Editors Footnote: Companions, to be successful any communications media needs to be two-way. Please forward any information that you believe would be helpful to the Provincial Information Officer:

E. Comp. Ian Fothergill
imfandif@btinternet.com or use the website address www.worcspgc.org.uk

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