

Lockdown Special II

Back in May when I compiled Vivary News No.17 I had hoped that by the time that the next edition came out the world would have returned to normality but unfortunately that situation still seems a good way off. So welcome to Lockdown Special II another mix of Lodge news and an insight as to how some of the Brethren have been coping in Lockdown.

Bro. Mike Marshall Lodge Communication Officer

ALMONER'S REPORT

First of all I wish to report on a letter I have received from our dear departed worshipful brother Peter Light. This letter was handed to me by Peter's widow June subsequent to his funeral in May. My preference would have been to read the letter out in open lodge, but bearing in mind the uncertainty regarding future lodge meetings I have decided that is best to inform brethren now by publishing it in this newsletter.

The Beacon Centre

7 April 2020

Dear Bob,

I am writing this not knowing what the future holds but am just preparing.

Can I thank you and Joan for your friendship over many years and for doing your duty as Almoner.

In the last respect, when it is necessary could you please express thanks to all members of Vivary Lodge.

Thank them, on my behalf, for their friendship and help over many years.

I have always been proud to be a mason. An organisation welcoming all classes, creeds and races - tenets well practised by our Lodge with generosity and consideration for those less fortunate.

I trust I have served the Lodge well and am confident that the brethren I have introduced will have reflected honour on my choice.

I am also proud that Paul has followed me as a Lewis.

Whatever the future holds for me I look forward to a welcome from Ivor, Les, Tony and many others.

With eternal thanks.

Peter

As regards welfare matters I am pleased to report that the brethren of Vivary Lodge all seem to be in reasonable health and spirits. I can also report that our 13 Lodge widows all seem to be coping reasonably well bearing in mind the current restrictions.

Bro. Bob Town

Almoner

In Memoriam

W. Bro. Peter Light, Past Master of Vivary Lodge and 1st Principal of Chapter of St George No. 3158 passed to the Grand Lodge Above on Wednesday 6th May 2020 at home with his family around him.



Peter was born on the 8th October 1937 at Lychett Minster in Dorset, moving to Bisterne near Ringwood at the age of 12 he attended the local school and met his future wife, June. He attended Sparsholt Agricultural college where he was attained the top student award, before doing his national service in Cyprus and returning home to marry his childhood sweetheart June, a marriage that lasted 59 years.

The young Peter started to work for an agricultural merchant SCATS in Lymington who moved him to Sussex where June and he bought their first house and where the family was completed with the birth of twin boys, Paul and Nigel and daughter Sally.

Peter moved the family to Cornwall where he took a position with Shell Chemicals, once again involved in agriculture. It was about this time that Peter started to make homemade wine, a hobby that he continued for the rest of his life and even becoming a wine judge. He was the chairman of Taunton Winemakers' Circle for many years and under his charismatic leadership it became the largest group in Somerset.

He was always happy in the garden and gardening was also a big part in his life. Subsequent moves to Tiverton and Hampshire and Taunton gave him plenty of opportunity in bringing the new gardens up to his standard enjoying entering his produce in the Local Flower Shows.

On moving to Taunton Peter joined Vivary Lodge No. 8654, he was Initiated on 20 November 1992 being proposed by Bro. Mike Salway and seconded by W. Bro Les Johnson. He was Passed on 16 April 1993 and Raised on 18 March 1994 becoming Worshipful Master in 2008. In 2014 Peter received a Provincial rank of PPrAGDC in the Province of Somerset. For many years was Lodge Information Officer producing the very first edition of the Vivary News and remaining its editor until 2019 when he became the Lodge's mentor.

Peter fully embraced Freemasonry which included membership of the Holy Royal Arch being exalted into the Chapter of St George No. 3158 on 9th December 2010 and becoming its First Principal in 2019 and along the way holding the office of Calderly Liaison Officer. 2019 also saw Peter joining Somerset 1st Principals No. 3746.

Peter enjoyed all aspects of Freemasonry especially visiting other Lodges where his larger than life personality meant that he often found himself nominated to give the Toast on behalf of the visitors. He was a regular visitor at King Alfred's Lodge No. 3169 and was proud to see his son Paul installed as their Worshipful Master in 2018.



As the Covid-19 Lockdown was in operation at the time of Peter's funeral there could not be the usual service, family only could attend. As a consequence W. Bro Adrian Halliwell, a fellow member of Vivary Lodge, organised a Guard of Honour to line the approach road to the Taunton Deane Crematorium. Brethren of Vivary Lodge, other Taunton Lodges and Companions from Chapter of St George, including wives, formed the Guard of Honour in a show of respect.

Peter enthusiastically supported Freemasonry right up until the end with a reputation for helping and encouraging the newcomers and junior Brethren, he will be sorely missed. Peter leaves behind his wife, June, three children and four grandchildren.

Life in Lockdown

W. Bro. Adrian Halliwell

Bloomin' marvellous!

Congratulations to W Bro Adrian on his success in the Somerset Province in Bloom competition. Adrian was



awarded Silver by the judges for his wonderful garden. Gardening is the hobby of both Adrian and his wife, Anne. Whilst living in Wellington they tended not only their own garden but also two allotments and when they moved to Taunton



they bought their new home because of the potential that its garden offered. The garden was overgrown with trees and thick bushes which had to be ripped out and, as Adrian says, "the rest is history". The prize is a bottle of wine from the Provincial Grand Master's own cellar, (which I am sure that Adrian will share with his well-wishers – *editor*).

Life in Lockdown

Bro. Mike Marshall

Lockdown discoveries

Discovered – that time has no meaning anymore, before Lockdown I sometimes couldn't remember what day it was but now I have lost track of which week, month or even year we are in.

Discovered – that that if you order your groceries online you will constantly be amazed that what turns up is similar but completely unlike what you actually ordered.

Discovered – that our neighbours are seemingly so proud of their pots and pans that while we clapped the NHS each week they had to let everyone know what they possessed and would bring them out and bang them with kitchen utensils (which I suppose they were also proud of!)

Discovered – the joy of countryside walks and a renewed interest in the wildlife and plants passed on the way. Appreciating how lucky we are to live in such a rural area with plenty of footpaths alongside river, canal and through fields. Also in the absence of people cows have taken control of the stiles on the footpaths!



Discovered – the pleasure of wine making especially since it can be made from virtually any fruit or vegetable, in my case damsons found in the bottom of the freezer.

Discovered – Zoom meetings which have helped to keep in contact with brethren, good to see faces and in some cases just the tops of people's heads.

Life in Lockdown

W. Bro. John Rudge

Outdoor life

We have all been restricted during these unprecedented times but at least the weather has been very good overall and we must be thankful that we have not had to endure the lockdown during the autumn and winter when the days were dark. Initially Ann and I occupied ourselves with a number of challenging jigsaw puzzles but even these became boring after a time.



To our great relief the weather has enabled us to get into the garden which has given us so much pleasure. Despite the hard work and latterly the weeds our garden has never looked quite so good. Even that part devoted to vegetables has been fully planted and is now starting to produce the fruits of our labours. The greenhouse has also played its part initially with seeds and cuttings and now with tomatoes which will shortly be starting to crop.

A by-product of the garden this year has been an unusual influx of birds of all sorts, chaffinches, bullfinches, etc but especially blackbirds who patrol the lawns first thing in the morning and throughout the day. They have been particularly interesting as they built a nest in the bushes which prevented us clearing some unwanted creeper from the area. We also have the inevitable pigeons but I suppose we have to suffer them.

Life in Lockdown

Sheer Poetry!

This poem was jointly composed by Alwyn and Jan Clegg, Adrian and Anne Halliwell, Ray and Marion Hall during a Barbeque and possibly after taking wine.

Lockdown days have been just fine
Meals in garden lots of wine
Walks a-plenty, Gardening days
All has passed in sunny haze

Weeks went by and friends arrived
Made our bubble, still we strive
Barbecues at 12 and on till eight
Difficulty finding way to gate

Bubble been a godsend to us all
All of us on constant call
Wine and gin and friendship bound
Lockdown for us has been quite sound

Alwyn, Jan, Adrian, Anne, Ray, Marion



Life in Lockdown

Bro. Mike Marshall

Lockdown discoveries Part II

Discovered – that the British liked nothing more than a national celebration and despite Lockdown the village managed to celebrate VE Day with each household setting up a table in their separate front gardens and all taking tea at 3pm before joining in a socially distancing mass singing of “We’ll Meet Again”.

Discovered – the positive effect that Lockdown actually had on bolstering community spirit in the village with the elderly being helped by their younger neighbours to a degree not seen before.



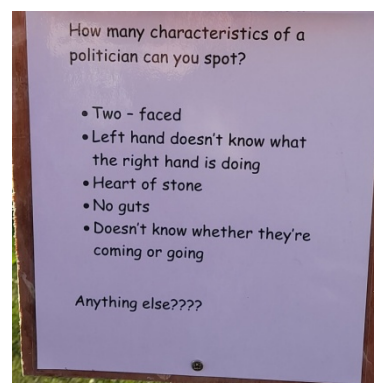
Discovered – that if you take all the cars off the road around the country it will result in glorious weather, evidence - April was the sunniest on record and May was the driest on record!

Discovered – that if you put the cars back on the road the weather returns to normal, evidence - thunderstorms in June.

Discovered – when finally the shops opened that cash was no longer acceptable as currency and in fact people recoiled when it was offered in payment rather than a Card.

Discovered – the strange experience of going into the Bank wearing a mask, if you had done this at the beginning of the year you would have been taken down before you reached the counter but now you will be stopped if you try entering without wearing one.

Discovered – that the British retained a sense of humour whatever the crisis and this was typified in our village’s annual Scarecrow Trail which we decided to go ahead with to bring a bit of fun to life in Lockdown. The scarecrows were placed in front gardens so that they could be enjoyed by people on their daily walks. One that raised the most smiles was entered by Vivary’s Bro. Tommy Tucker whose scarecrow seemed to hit the right note with everyone.



Life in Lockdown

W. Bro Mark Crawley

On yer bike



The past 5 months have seen me leave the car at home and take up cycling to work. It's only a 6.5 mile round trip but I've felt the health benefit and the roads have certainly been quieter. The problem is that the bike isn't mine; it's my son Matthew's, so there has been the odd clash on who takes the bike. A rough calculation would make the total miles cycled at about 420. But the saving on petrol is about £300!

We have continually worked all the way through the CV19 crisis with all our building sites remaining open with all the extra precautions in place. With reduced staff in the office due to social distance limits, Karen and myself have had a significant increase in workload. To give some idea how busy it's been, as a business we have increased our site-based staff by 7 since March.

Life in Lockdown

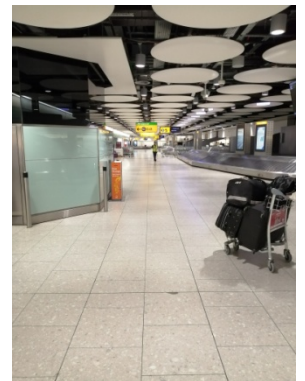
Bro. Phil Garvey

Back home

Hilary and I were away, celebrating our 40th Anniversary, visiting our younger son and family in the Persian Gulf on the island of Bahrain. We had planned to stay for a month, returning end March.

The causeway to Saudi had already been closed to all but commercial vehicles and hearing reports of the potential shutting of Heathrow along with flights being cancelled left, right and centre, we decided to make a break for it and returned Tuesday 24th March.

The airport at Manama was very quiet and the Dreamliner was practically empty with less than 40 passengers on a 250 seat 'plane. Heathrow was deathly quiet. (See right the picture of Heathrow baggage hall on 24th March).



On the good side, 'park and greet' worked like clockwork, no waiting for a bus, no lugging cases or walking/dragging to the car and the motorway was bliss – the only drawback was not being able to 'cut loose' and enjoy the emptiness and lack of traffic by having to abide by the 70 limit!

Arriving home in record time and after a much needed coffee and regrouping, although kind neighbours had stocked the fridge with 'essentials' we decided to try shopping – wow, what an eye opener, a 40 minute queue to enter, and although a one-way system as in operation the 2 metre distancing was 'hit-and-miss'. All went reasonably well until we joined the 'pay' queue here, no-one paid any attention to social distance/face covering etc. (The complete opposite to our experiences whilst in Bahrain, where sanitising of trolleys/distancing and face masks etc had been the norm). Anyway, we managed to refill our cupboards with all we needed save for flour/yeast.

Then, I suppose, our story is much the same as most, the garden is looking splendid, having had so much time and love expended on it. The house is 'up-together' as never before with all the 'I-must-get-around-to that' jobs done, re-decorating completed, all ship-shape.

Out of the blue, I had a call from Alan Clayton, which was much appreciated and re-kindled my contact with Vivary. I have actually used zoom successfully and have on occasion joined in with the Friday toast to absent brethren. Of course one of the highlights of the week has to be the much anticipated 'Mike's Sunday quiz' – which continues to entertain, requiring as it does some degree of mental dexterity. Looking around for something worthwhile to do and keep active I volunteered to help at the local food-bank, which takes up a few hours on a Friday. Now researching other areas where some help may be required.

Congratulations

Vivary Lodge's Almoner, Bob Town and his wife Joan celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary during Lockdown. Bob and Joan were married at Mornington Road Methodist Chapel, Bingley, Yorkshire on Saturday 23 July 1960 and can be seen here cutting the wedding cake at the reception. Congratulations Bob and Joan.



Vivary Past Master Adrian Halliwell and his wife Anne celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary on American Independence Day. Unfortunately the cruise that they had booked to mark the occasion had to be cancelled due to the prevalent pandemic.

Adrian and Anne were childhood sweethearts; Adrian's neighbour was Anne's Aunt who had thrown them together at every opportunity. They are pictured here on their wedding day, 4th July 1970, at St. Peter's Church, London Conley, Hertfordshire.

A message from our Worshipful Master W. Bro. John Rudge

I know we all look forward to the time when we can safely meet again but we must be patient. For the benefit of those not participating in the "Zoom" project I can tell you that the Masonic Hall is closed and may well not re-open until at least the New Year. This, of course, has financial implications which have yet to be considered by the Hall Company. Our Secretary, W Bro Alan Clayton, is keeping an eye on the various requirements so far as meetings are concerned but despite the announcement from Grand Lodge that they can re-commence from 17th July we are unlikely to meet until all government and any other restrictions are removed. I very much hope that we can all maintain contact with one another socially and if anyone has any interesting news or "titbits" please feel free to circulate them through Alan Clayton. Alternatively, you can resort to "Solomon".

Finally some relief for those who are still puzzling over the Quiz in Vivary News No.17 here are the answers!

Vivary News No. 17 Quiz Corner Answers

School Stuff That I Forgot!

1. 5 noughts, 15 ones, 6 fives
2. 15 extra men
3. Albert lost 7 marbles, Bob won 4 marbles, Charles lost 9 marbles & Dan won 12 marbles
4. a) 729 & 2187, b) 15 & 6
5. 790

The Only "Wordplay" in the (Somerset) Village?

1. Monksilver
2. Answer: Thornfalcon
3. Queen Camel
4. Cricket St Thomas
5. Henlade

Missing links

1. Water
2. Stitch
3. Dumb
4. Desert
5. Double

Contributions for future editions will be welcome by the Lodge Communication Officer – Bro Mike Marshall mikejohnmarshall@btinternet.com Back numbers of Vivary News can be viewed on Vivary Lodge web page on the Provincial web site www.pglsom.org. If any recipient does not wish to be included in the emailing list for Vivary News then please contact the LCO.