

GUELPH



Nº 1685

NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS-2020



FREEMASONRY - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

There are 250,000 Freemasons belonging to 8,000 lodges throughout England and Wales and Districts overseas. Worldwide the figure rises to 6,000,000 Freemasons all with their own special reasons why they enjoy Freemasonry. For some it's all about new friends and acquaintances. For others it's being able to help deserving causes -- making a contribution to family and society. But for most of us it is simply an enjoyable hobby. Every Freemason has his own reason for joining. What's yours?

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest and largest non-religious, non-political fraternal and charitable organisations. For many, its biggest draw is the fact that members come from all walks of life and meet as equals whatever their race, religion or socio-economic position in society.

Its values are based on integrity, kindness, honesty and fairness.

Freemasonry does not discriminate on grounds of race, colour, religion, political views or social standing.

Freemasonry provides a unique environment for people of all backgrounds to learn skills, make lasting friendships, and above all, have Fun. What is more, the organisation provides a valuable forum for discussion between members in an open environment, so helping to build Trust.

Freemasonry prides itself on its transparency. Not only are Freemasons completely free to acknowledge their membership, they are encouraged to do so.

There are no closed doors in Freemasonry, anyone can visit its Headquarters at Freemasons Hall in London--which in itself is an experience -- and Lodge meeting places throughout the country.

These venues regularly open their doors to visitors. For everyone Lodges offer a place of harmony and tranquility.

Freemasons make a major contribution to society through their own charities, as well as through donations to UK charities and worldwide disaster relief funds, with members playing an active role in their communities.

Freemasonry does not undertake any external fundraising, all money donated comes from its own members.

Freemasonry is more relevant and important to society today than ever, as it encompasses and embraces all the fundamental principles of good citizenship.

Many of these are learnt through rituals that take the form of three act plays, leading to increased self-esteem and confidence. Every Freemason embarks on his own journey of self discovery when he enters the organisation.

With three levels of Freemasonry, the progression through to senior roles within a Lodge can be seen in much the same way as a person progressing in his career - each promotion bringing greater understanding and responsibility. Freemasonry helps to build confidence enabling you to tackle challenges you might otherwise shy away from.

So, Join, make lasting friendships, be equal, build on confidence, and be HAPPY and have FUN

DID YOU KNOW that it is a legal requirement for London Black Cabs to have a turning circle of 8 metres in part so that they can navigate the small roundabout in front of the Savoy Hotel?

DID YOU KNOW that it is 50 years now since the Royal Navy stopped the daily ration of RUM to all its sailors? This tradition started in 1655.

DID YOU KNOW that the hymn Amazing Grace is thought to have been performed more than 10,000,000 times a year, and has appeared on more than 11,000 albums?

RESIGNATION

It is sad to report that Bro. Richard Lowe has decided to resign from Guelph Lodge due to personnel reasons. He joined us just over a year ago. All the best Richard. That leaves just 13 members with only 11 active. Where o where can we find worthy men to join our great Lodge ?

DID YOU KNOW that since our consecration in 1877 , GUELPH LODGE has initiated 554 members.? We have had 106 Masters of which 10 have served for more than their one year in office!

So over the 143 years of our existence we have, on average initiated just 3 per year. Also over the 56 years I have been a member ,some 29 brethren have not stayed the course and disappeared never to be heard of again!!!

Is it something I said !!!

GEOMETRY

Why is it that when Pizzas are made, they are ROUND, then they are put into a SQUARE box and then when we eat it, it is cut up into TRIANGLES ?

GUELPH LODGE MEMBERSHIP 2020/2021

W. Bro. Mike Smith SLGR 56 years	W. Bro. Peter Gonnet LGR 48 yrs
W. Bro. Pat Maloney LGR 40 years	W. Bro. Steve Freeth LGR 28 years
W. Bro. Paul Smith LGR 25 years	W. Bro. Mike Jones LGR 21 years
W. Bro. Adam Ginder 9 years	W. Bro. Daniel Ginder 9 years
W. Bro. Jim Smith LGR 8 years	Bro. Grahmk Hall 6 years
Bro. Alex Mislin 6 years	Bro. Marty Nardelli 5 years
Bro. Brent Maritx 2 years	Bro. Charles Lovatt 18 years
W. Bro. Peter Hawkes LGR 8 years	Hon. Mem.

We thank W. Bro. David Hobart of Chiltern Lodge No.9394 and W. Bro Clive Curtis of Ellenbrook Lodge No.,8155 for their continued support &friendship.

Famous Quotes shared by W. Bro Mike Jones

I had a rose named after me and was very flattered....but I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue which said...No good in a bed but fine against a wall

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, and to have these two as close together as possible.

Santa Claus has the right idea in visiting people only once a year.

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe.

Only Irish coffee poured into a single glass has all four essential food groups.....Alcohol , cafeine , sugar and fat .

Money cant buy you happiness, but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery.

Until I was thirteen years old, I thought my name was Shut up.

Dont worry about avoiding temptatiom.. as you get older it will avoid you.

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he is too old to go anywhere.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

The fattest man at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumfertence. He acquired his size from too much pi.

Byall means, Marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy ; if you get a bad one , you'll become a philosopher

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying.

I never drink water because of the digusting things that fish do in it..

Maybe its true that life begins at fifty, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out or spread out.



CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

This has been a terrible time for the human race all over the world, with families, communities and society torn apart.

Freemasonry has excelled itself in many ways in providing, caring, suppling and generally giving all it can to those in need, dependants from our members aswell as t/e wider community.



UGL and the Provinces have gone out of their normal charitable ideals to help provide essential items such as PPE, meals from centres, raising money, transport, comfort to those confined at home, to our Brethren and those outside the Craft.

These are extraordinary times which require extraordinary measures to maintain life as we know it and the hope to bring things back to a normality later.

Millions of pounds have been donated from London and the Provinces to make a real difference to peoples lives. We have 18 care homes with some 1000 residents through the RMBI. Great efforts have been made to keep these homes COVID 19 free from contamination, with members providing face masks, visors, antiseptic wipes etc. There are some who are making all these essential items for the NHS and organisations outside Freemasonry, which includes vulnerabl children, social services, nurses, doctors, police, the aged souls who cant get out of their homes or flats.

There are thousands who have put their lives on the line, some of which have cost them their lives, to save those who fall ill from this pandemic the like of which mankind has not known in modern times.

All this fantastic aid is not just confined to this country, but is happening in the 25 Districts around the world.

I could go on pontificating about all the amazing aid and work being done by Freemasonry and others, but this is really just to remind us what our organisation is about, and that Charity, Kindness Friendship, Coutesy, Sincerity, is our aim always.

As for Guelph Lodge--I am glad to say that we all appear to have been spared the virus and are generally safe and well.

W.Bro. Adam and Daniel have been busy dealing with the situation, amongst others, and we thank them for that.

An Obituary from the London Times----COMMON SENSE

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved friend ----COMMON SENSE who has been with us for many years.

No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in beaucroatic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as----knowing when to come in out of the rain ; why the early bird catches the worm ; life isnt always fair ; and maybe it was my fault.

COMMON SENSE lived by simple, sound financial policies, like dont spend more than you earn, and reliable strategies, like adults not children are in charge

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-informed but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports that a 6 year old boy, charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

COMMON SENSE lost ground when when parents attacked teachers for doing their job that they themselves had failed to do in disiplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student, but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

COMMON SENSE lost the will to live as the churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

COMMON SENSE took a beating when you could not defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

COMMON SENSE finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlment

COMMON SENSE was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Resposibility, and by his son, Reason. He is survived bt 5 step brothers, I know my rights; I want it now; Someelse is to blame; I'm a victim; and Pay me for doing nothing.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he had gone.

So if you still remember him. pass this on..if not, join the majority and do nothing.

IT AINT 'ARF HOT MUM

DID YOU KNOW that, this year, the highest temperature ever recorded on this planet, Earth, was 130°F thats 54.4°C.

So if you thought the heatwave in July was hot, spare a thought for those inhabitasnts of Death Valley in California. This temperature was actually reached in a place called Furnace Creek, a village of 25 inhabitamts on Sunday 15 th August 2020.

This area also records the highest temperatures each year which average out at 54°C or 129°F.

The highest temperature recorded in this country was last July, in Cambridge at 38.7°C or 102°F.

THOUGHTFULNESS

A little thought goes a long way. The sort of thought, we mean, ofcourse, is that which involves the weell-being of others.

It is not just good enough to THINK of others in mellowed terms. One has to follow thought with action.

The quality of thoughtfulness is a priceless gift. It removes all trace of personal egotism, points the way to outward instead of inward thin.king.

So how can thoughtfulness be used to best advantage?

By remembering other peoples anniversaries.

By visiting the sick and infirm.

By tending to the needs of the poor.

Or by solicitude to the bereaved.

Thoughtfulness then is the art of reminding oneself that you are ~~am~~not the only person in the world!

That odd telephone call, the letter, the email, the little gift, some flowers all help to make someone happy.

Sometimes it is not easy to realise that everyone is interdependant on others.

We are the first to complain when others forget to think of us. Communication in every form is essential to us all.

So remember to think of that sick friend, that book you borrowed and never returned, the money you owe someone, that message you promised to deliver and that offer you made and never fulfilled.

Thoughtfulness is something we can apply every hour of every day, by not making too much noise, by being pleasant to all our friends and family.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION

Did you know that it was in 1993 that W. Bro. Martyn Ginder made a room above his Funeral Parlour in Abbots Langley a permanent place for us to hold our L of I ?

Since then we have enjoyed a peaceful, comfortable venue for Guelph Lodge members to rehearse our ritual. It was made into a Temple with squared carpet, comfortable seating, show cases and all the general Lodge furniture, together with a winding staircase!

Today, some 27 years later we still have this asset which many other Lodges do not --all for free.

We meet every Tuesday from September to May to learn our various parts so that our ceremonies can be performed with sincerity and as near perfect as possible !!!

Only 4 members usually turn up out of the 13 active members, so please do come along and help Guelph Lodg maitain its standards.

THE BATHTUB TEST

During a visit to a mental asylum, I asked the director, 'How do you determine whether or not a patient should be institutionalised?

'Well' said the director, 'we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub'.

'Oh, I understand', I said. 'A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup'.

'No' said the director, 'A normal person would pull the plug out. Do you want a bed near the window?'

Questions which must be answered by the Steward before appointment

- Q.1 How were you first prepared to be made a Steward?
Ans. My coat sleeves, shirt sleeves and vest sleeves were rolled up and a corkscrew was placed in my hands.
- Q.2 What is a Corkscrew?
Ans. An instrument fashioned like a winding staircase which our ancient Brethren descended to receive their beer.
- Q.3 Where did they receive it?
Ans. In a convivial room below the chamber.
- Q.4 How did they receive it?
Ans. In half tankards and tankards.
- Q.5 Why in this peculiar manner?
Ans. In half tankards well knowing the same could be replenished, or in tankards in the great reliance they placed in the mildness of the brew in those days.
- Q.6 Name the two advertisements that hang at the door or entrance of the chamber?
Ans. That on the left BASS, that on the right GUINNESS.
- Q.7 What are their separate and conjoint meanings?
Ans. The former denotes NO.1 the latter X.X.X., and when taken together INSTABILITY.
- Q.8 What is beer?
Ans. A peculiar product of chemistry veiled in mystery and illustrated by labels.
- Q.9 How is it depicted?
Ans. By a couple of hops near a barrel of water.

ODE TO A MASON

Short ones and tall ones, fat ones or thin,
But if you are a mason it matters not a pin.
They really are a lovely bunch and have lots of fun,
I know they march about and bang tables one by one.
It's obviously a dirty job for aprons must be worn
Although the ones I wear at home are plain, no jewels adorn.
It makes them very hungry it's very plain to see
They always need a four course meal to charge their energy.
I really know so little, there's no reason why I should
But they seem to be a happy crowd, they do lots of good.
A kindly thought, a helping hand, it's all part of the plan.
For if he is a Mason, he is a better man.
I'll leave it there, 'tis said and done
I know, because I married one.!!

...a wife's view of us.

THE PANAMA CANAL

I wonder how many of us know anything about the Panama Canal...the waterway joining the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean which bisects the Americas.

The canal was first built in 1881 by the French and then finished in 1914 by the USA.. / These vast construction works presented great difficulties due to the terrain, which included lakes, rivers and high ground.

The whole idea was to shorten the sailing times for shipping, which until then had to go round the Cape of Good Hope in South America, which took weeks apart from the turbulent winds and high seas.

Since its completion about 850,000 vessels pass through the canal which takes some 12 hours to negotiate.

With the introduction of bigger and bigger container ships and cruise ships something had to be done to accommodate them.

So in 2007 work started to provide wider access through the Canal, which meant bigger locks at each end. Now not many people realise that there are huge canal locks at each end of this waterway.

The terrain is not a relatively flat area. There is a huge lake in the Panama called the Gatun lake.

The vast lake is actually 85 feet above sea level. In the early days it was decided not to dredge the lake to deepen it to sea level due to the immense cost.

So huge canal locks at each end were constructed to raise and lower the water levels to that of the lake.

Obviously nothing could interrupt the running of the canal, so in 2007 work started on new bigger locks at each end with sliding lock gates weighing thousands of tonnes, with the water from the lake being used for the make-up ponds required at each operation.

Canal boats in this country go through many locks to get around the system, but to imagine or even see ships of thousands of tonnes being lifted from sea level to lake Gatun and then down again by the technology of the lock system is amazing.

All this new work was completed in 2017-----I hope you found that interesting !

GUELPH TO GUELPH IN GUELPH

Brethren I can't believe that it was 20 years ago that W. Bro. Martyn Ginder organised the trip for our Guelph Lodge No. 1685 to visit Guelph Lodge 258 in Canada to celebrate the millennium. Sadly to say only three of those members who went to Canada can remember that wonderful trip--namely W.Bros Steve Freeth, Peter Gonnet and me Mike Smith.

I went go into all the memories of the CN tower, Lodge rooms, Lodge meeting and presentation dinner etc and the excellent hospitality we all received.

But for my part I remember the Flights there in a 747 and back in a 777 and being put in business class because I had just had my hip operation, and being invited to the flight deck and seeing the sun rise at 36,000 feet. Memories, memories

It is sad that we have lost all connections with Guelph 258. The organisers and hosts of the time have all probably passed to the Grand Lodge above as did dear old Martyn.

PARADES AND PAGEANTRY

This year Freemasons celebrated 11 years of participation in the Lord Majors Show in London.

The worlds oldest and most splendid civil procession, the annual Lord Majors Show is a stunning and remarkable pageant that draws thousands of spectators, --7000 participants -- including 200 horses--and around 150 floats. Amid the carriages, military bands, and spectacular costumes, 60 Freemasons from Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Chapter gathered with representatives from several charities to welcome Alderman William Russell as the 692nd Lord Major of London.

The Metropolitan Grand Lodge float was composed of a fire engine with turntable ladder carrying a giant banner highlighting our £2,500,000 donation to the London Fire Brigade.

Flanking the fire engine were delegates from several charities supported by London Freemasons, including Dementia Club, Lifelites, the League of Remembrance, music in Hospitals & Care, Vocal Eyes, Share Community and Others.

Freemason Ben Sargeant-Cain was dressed up in giant Teddy Bear costume as part of the Teddies for loving care which have been given to more than 2,000,000 children in A & E Units across the country.

This pageant provided a great opportunity to appraise a worldwide TV audience about the millions of pounds that Freemasons donate each year to Charity.

Freemasons processed the three mile route to rousing cheers from over 400,000 well wishers that weve donated £2,500,000 to the LFB and also received rapturous applause from St. Barts Hospital in particular for our continuous support.

What a day for Freemasonry who were honoured to play a part in this 800 year old pageant.

I must mention that our own W. Bro. Adam Ginder has taken part in this pageant a few years ago!

TEDDIES FOR LOVING CARE

The idea of giving children Teddies when attending Hospital for any reason all started in the year 2000. by the wife of an Essex Freemason. Trauma Teddies was the name given to this idea to the Essex Fire and Rescue Services and ,in turn , to the idea of extending it to children in A&E. In the first year 25,000 teddies were donated and to date it is probably near 500,000.

Children can be shown what their problems are by using Teddy to show what is going to happen to them. Bandages, casts, injections etc can be simulated to Teddy, and there are no tears so confidence can be established between the Doctors and Nurses and the Child. Teddies are, ofcourse a comfort toy to children at any time so to receive one on entering Hospital is more than just a nurses toolkit!

Provinces throughout the country have gifted nearly 3,000,000 bears to A&E departments and some local ambulance sevicees.

So Brethren buy a TLC teddy badge and wear it with pride .

Hello Brethren of the Guelph lodge.

What a year we have all had. Who would have thought last Christmas that the next 12 months would turn out to impose such restrictions on our Masonic activities. I sincerely trust that you are managing to take care of yourselves and have stayed out of trouble, from whatever source. W.Bro. Michael tells me that there will be a Christmas Newsletter this year so I have put together these thoughts for you to peruse and which I thought you might find of interest.

Of recent times there seems to have been a lot of papers written about events occurring round and about the time that Grand Lodge was formed in 1717, which set me wondering as to why it came to be formed at all at that particular time. What would it have been like to be living just before or at about 1717? What was the social atmosphere that prompted the formation of a controlling element for Freemasonry? How did the political and religious environment of the time impact on every day life? To satisfy my curiosity I started reading up on the social history of the time to try to gain some insight into the nature of the living conditions that would have prompted the the four London lodges to take such action.

I was surprised to find that the political and social atmosphere must have been every bit as disturbing, with intrigue, political wrangling, financial greed and warring parties as evident as they are today. I had somehow expected that life would be a lot calmer and simpler than our present social conditions but from what I have read, I now suspect that for a lot of people their basic daily life was possibly far more traumatic than that of our own. Certainly in the life of the well off there would have been a fair share of social activity and in-spite of the prevailing political unrest a continuity of surface calm would have been present but for the not so well off, day to day living would have been possibly even more unpredictable than ours is at the present time.

The country was in the throws of transformed itself from a principally agricultural country to a maritime force with many overseas investments. All of which seems to be an incredible time for a movement such as Freemasonry to formalise itself. Imagine with so many pressures occurring throughout the country and such uncertainties needing to be resolved that a group of men should decide that this was the time for a more defined plan to be put into place for their fraternity. It may well be that our forefathers sorely felt the need for a more formal structure to help them and others to survive, certainly judging by the way the membership increased in the 20 years following the formation of Grand Lodge, this could well have been the case.

Was then the unrest and ignorance that existed the reason that Freemasonry found it necessary to take on a more defined structure? Keeping in mind that meetings prior to Grand Lodge were mostly not formalised by date or intention but rather on an "as and when needed" basis. With the Whig leaders being in such disarray, could it be that a mutual development to achieve social reform was the intention? Where the existing wealthy Freemasons of the time in need of a solid platform to achieve their philosophical, political and personal objectives? It would seem to be without doubt that the country at the time was not only suffering from ignorance, lack of communication and dominance by those in power but also by unrest, rebellion and greed. Could therefore the social turmoil that existed be the reason for the original creation of Grand Lodge?

From all of these past considerations it seems to me that in such troubled times it is at least possible that the getting together of the London Lodges was indeed a need to form a greater bond of unity so as to increase their social support with each other. As a final comment I would like suggest that it seems quite likely that the philanthropic nature of Freemasonry as we know it today evolved gradually over a very long time, it did not, I believe, have such a defined purpose at its start.

It only leaves me to wish you all A Happy Christmas and most certainly a much better New Year. Hopefully Masonry will be back up and running next year and we will be able to meet as ever on the square.

All the best from the depth of Cornwall's outback.
Peter



THE JUMBO JET AEROPLANE

Did you know that the Jumbo Jet, or more technically speaking, the Boeing 747 airliner has now been grounded for ever ?

British Airways and Virgin Atlantic have both had to ground their fleets mainly due to the lack of passengers because of the Covid19 epidemic and the spiralling costs of running these planes.

First manufactured by Boeing in 1969, it first took to the air as the fastest jet airliner in 1971.

The Queen of the Skies, as it is generally known, has been the flag carrier for British Airways since 1971 even under the flag of BOAC.

British Airways had 31 Jumbo Jets, and had originally decided to phase them out by 2024, and replace them with the more modern Dreamliner 787 and the Airbus 350. All these planes are to be broken up and scrapped and bits used for parts where applicable. These planes which made BA to become the world's favourite airline are a blow to the 600 odd pilots and the ground staff who maintained them.

In the last 50 years these Jumbo Jets have transported some 3.5 billion passengers around the world, equivalent to half the world's population, and tons of cargo as well.

The speed of the Jumbo was normally some 550 mph but can have a top speed of 650 mph making it the fastest jet airliner, and one of the most recognisable aircraft after the iconic Concorde.

The ever increasing costs of running the plane, such as £ 13000 just to land at Heathrow and £4000 environment tariffs apart from the inefficient fuel consumption of its four engines, has not helped its demise.

The 747-400 was the most used of its variant. Notable special versions were Air Force One for the President of the USA and carrying the NASA Space shuttles on its back to various locations. The usual passenger load was about 350 but in 1991 the El-Al airline lifted 1,088 Jews out of Ethiopia.

So its goodbye to the largest, fastest, double decker, and most iconic jet airliner ever built.

Have you ever wondered how a Jumbo jet weighing some 560 tonnes fully laden gets into the air?

The terrific thrust of its four engines to gain speed down the runway and then the phenomenon of the wing to lift this colossal weight into the air is truly amazing!!!! Then add the weight of a NASA space shuttle on its back and still lift off.....!

MY BROTHER

Welcome Brother, we meet again. We are but links in a worthy chain.

Of Brotherly Love, and Fraternity, whether by birth, or what may be,

Our aim in life and our belief, we pledge ourselves in each degree.

To bond ourselves in unity.

We look in time to reach the chair, and rule the Lodge by the Square

Our meetings over, we retire to dine, and honour our Masters with a measure of wine,

Too soon the Tyler gives the last toast of the day and its time for good Masons to be on their way

THE RITUAL

Have you ever thought or wondered about how we deliver the various parts of the Masonic Ritual?

Since our Initiation we have to realise that in a few years time we are obliged to take up the Offices of the ladder and become Master of the Lodge. So we should not just sit there, at each meeting, and let all that is going on pass by without paying some attention to the proceedings and what will be required of us in the future.

There are three ways of delivering the various parts of our three act play which we all perform.

ONE, is to learn by heart the parts or whole of the ritual and deliver it with meaning, understanding and perfection.

TWO, is to read from the book and hopefully deliver it with the same meaning, understanding and perfection, and

[THREE is to try and learn the ritual, by stages, deliver it in a monotone, sometimes without punctuation, being prompted at various intervals by the DC and others who think they know it so well with neither feeling or understanding.

We all try to our best at the time of asking, so watching and listening, to learn the ritual, is an essential part of the problem !

There is a distinct difference between those who have attempted to learn it, those with retention problems and those who make no effort at all.

Most of us come under category THREE for some reason or another. There are few of us who can retain the ritual easily and let alone understand the odd English that is written. So it's not until you've been in the Lodge for some time that the ritual suddenly sticks in your mind.

Lodge of Instruction is the place to learn the ritual, bit by bit. We all make mistakes and it is by mistakes that we learn. Learning, at home, is difficult what with family life, stress at work, travelling, nerves etc which in some cases leads to non-attendance and resignation. Masonry should be fun, have a laugh at mistakes, enjoy others' efforts, and try to be good yourself.

We must accept that our ceremonies run more smoothly when the words are read thus avoiding the embarrassment of being prompted every few phrases. Some Brethren have their books concealed and can just glance down for assurance. But when you are Master and the centre of attention then you rely on the IPM.!!!

Visitors to Lodge aren't too impressed by ceremonies that don't flow easily with meaning, and may not want to come again. But then they themselves may be in the same boat and can sympathise with the situation.

The Lodge must be a happy place to be in. In order to learn and enjoy your contribution to a ceremony. Criticism is all very well if done kindly and sincerely, but it can drive away new members very quickly.

Freemasonry has but one aim in view, to unite in the Grand Design of being happy and communicating happiness. So enjoy what you have to do, join in, take part, and the ritual will come to you without all the stress and nerves and misunderstandings.

Believe me Brethren, I know from experience that it will be alright !!

Remember--Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can

• MEMORIES FROM THE DC OR DEACON •

As a Mason, on returning my wand to its stand outside the Temple door, I pondered for a moment outside the empty Temple, paused and opened the door and looked into the darkness. I put my hand on the light switch, turned it on, and looked around

Three empty chairs stood in this room,
Three candles to disperse all gloom
The chequered tiles, black and white,
Our sorrow and joys before our sight.

The tracing boards were facing in,
The organ to which we sing,
Our Opening and Closing Odes,
With familiarity it bodes.

The merry Masons I could hear afar,
In this room, -not from the bar,
From years of loving Brotherhood,
I, for a moment humbly stood.

The ghosts of Deacons and Wardens walked
With wands of Office and talked,
Of familiar ancient lessons taught,
By Plum and Square and level thought.

The Master watches o'er all,
Past Masters at the 'Wailing Wall',
With heads in hands they sighed,
No matter how the Masons tried.

I smiled and felt a comfort strong
Amongst the company in this empty room,
And turning, I stepped and saluted those
Who came before.

Back in the bar, they asked me where I'd been,
I replied, that the company I had been in
Respect demanded, so I was delayed,
Whilst to our Brothers, homage paid.

IT'S UP TO YOU TODAY

Have you made someone happy, or have you made someone sad?
What have you done today, with the day that you had?
God gave it to you to do just as you may.
Did you give out a smile, or did you give a frown?
Did you lift someone up, or did you push someone down?
Did you lighten someones load or some progress impede?
Did you look for a rose or just gather weed?
What did you do with your beautiful day?

THE OLD BLACK SHOES

The old black shoes are looking glum as I pass the lobby door
Whats wrong with you they seem to say, were going out no more
We've taken not a sinble step, not a third or even first
And ne'er a sign we've seen you give, has Masonry been cursed?
It has I said by virus vile, we have to stay at home
Until such time the the plague has passed, then once more we can roam
The Masonis Halls are empty, regalia put away
Gavels now stay silent, DC's hold no sway
Volumes of the sacred law on pedestals redundant
Now Bro. Jim contacts his friends, by social posts abundant
No handshakes, word or secret sign, no friendly Festive Board
No Tylers song to say Goodnight, no organs well loved chord
Black shoes I said do not despair, our chain is firm and strong
Our flag of love remains unfurled, we'll sing again our song
Amd though our Brethren may have passed, to Grand Lodge above
We'll look upon their memories with everlasting love
And in their name we'll offer help and soothe the burdened heart
We'll comfort those who are distressed, Thus Masons play their part
And when this crisis is resolved, we'll sing the old refrain
Happy to meet, Sorry to part Happy to meet again

From Bro. Chic via W. Bro. Daniel Ginder

Charity Steward's Report 2020

Dear All

Please find enclosed the Charity report for 2020

Well im sure it has been said in this newsletter many times that this year is not normal. One of the things that has been hit very hard this year is Charity donations and as we have not had any meetings this has been a challenge.so way back in April a National appeal for Covid19 was launched by Grand Lodge which Guelph lodge donated Five hundred Pounds. This was raised by the lodge over several WhatsApp calls discussing how we could help in this cause.

We have also donated our yearly membership donation of sixty pounds to the Prince Michael of Kent court in Stratford Road Watford. This is a care home for Masonic and Non masonic residents the care that is given to the residents is second to none and over this pandemic there has only been one case of covid19 in the home. This is fantastic news so this year's report may be extremely short but does end with very good news. Looking forward to reporting to you next year hoping it will be full of good health and Happiness.

Stay Safe

Mike Jones.

A Message from Prince Michael of Kent Court Nursing Home, Watford

Dear Supporting Lodge

You are receiving this correspondence as you are currently a Supporting Lodge of the Association of Friends of Prince Michael of Kent Court, the RMBI care home in Watford. **Please feel free to circulate this to your members.**

I hope all your members are keeping well in this strange world we now live in. It has been some time since we last gave you an update, so here goes.

The first thing to say is that PMKC has lost no residents to COVID-19. There was one case early on but the resident made a full recovery. I would like to put on record what an incredible job that Home manager Beverley and all her staff have done to ensure the safety of the residents.

Although lockdown restrictions have eased generally, this does not change the current restrictions that PMKC has in place and they are continuing to operate under a strict regime. The RMBI have confirmed that at present they will not be implementing changes in line with general events. Whilst it is true that the infection rate continues to be low in the general population, care homes are a different environment entirely, with those who are most vulnerable living in a more dense situation being more susceptible to COVID-19.

The new 'safe' visiting room has been a huge success with residents and their families with a positive response from those that have been able to visit the Home. The Association of Friends funded a new veranda which over the summer provided an outdoor space for visits to take place while adhering to social distancing guidelines. Visiting will continue to be on a 'by appointment' basis with restricted visiting times and numbers of visitors allowed.

Sadly, the Association of Friends has been unable to arrange events at the Home since the start of the pandemic, although we are planning to go ahead with our annual fireworks display in November, when we can remain outside in the garden, whilst the residents enjoy the spectacle from the safety, comfort and warmth of their lounges and conservatory.

We have purchased a new duck house for the Home's pet ducks and their new home is aptly named Duckingham Palace.

The next project that the Association of Friends are undertaking is to build a new shop for the residents and it is hoped we can have this completed and opened for Christmas.

As I am sure you may recall, Prince Michael of Kent was due to attend the 25 year celebration of the opening of the home and to officially open the new Orangery last year, but unfortunately he was indisposed with a small health matter. The visit was rearranged for a private visit a couple of weeks ago, but the Palace did not think it appropriate for him to attend during the current pandemic, so this was again cancelled. Prince Michael has insisted on participating a Zoom meeting with the residents and staff as he is very keen to keep contact with the home.

We would like to thank you for your continued support in these difficult times. I hope we can all meet at PMKC in the not too distant future.

Yours Sincerely and Fraternally

Doug Brodie - Trustee

www.pmkcfriends.co.uk



@FriendsPMKC

WORKING TOOLS OF AN E-- MASON

I now present to the Working Tools of an E--Mason
They are the MOUSE, the KEYboard and the ROUTER.

The Mouse is to move within the Desktop

The Keyboard is to input the data and

The Router is to publish the data to cyberspace.

But as we are not Computer Nerds, but rather as operative or E--Masons, these tools are downloaded as vehicles of moral significance and to show the meaning of E--Masons, and thus we apply them

The Mouse teaches us to keep within the bounds of the screen--a square wherein which we must all meet.

The Keyboard is to us that communication will lead us to better understanding to each other and the rest of mankind.

And the Router to teach us that even when we are alone on the most remote part of the globe, we may meet and gain sustenance from each other and thus learn more of the wonderful works of the GAOTU

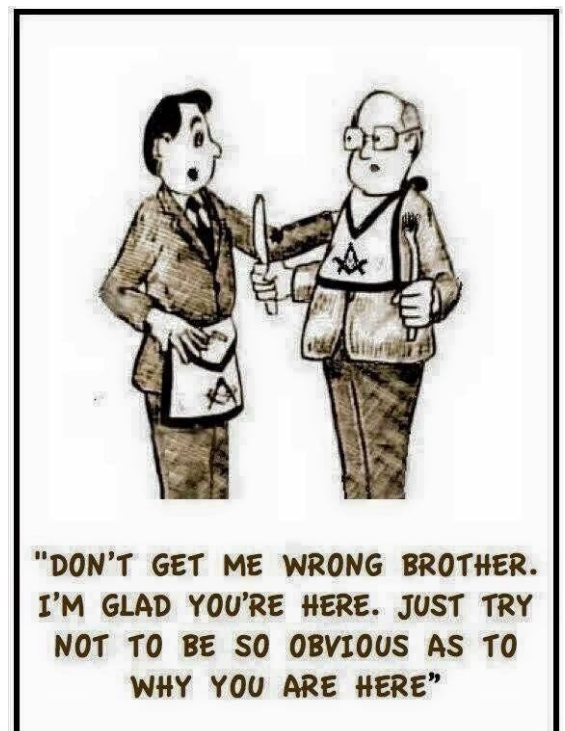
DID YOU KNOW that the Blackpool Illuminations had only 8 lights when they were originally switched on in 1879 ?

DID YOU KNOW that the Hubble Space Telescope travels at 17000 mph around its orbit at a height of 340 miles above the earth?

DID YOU KNOW that the Isles of Scilly are the darkest part of England with 91% of the night sky having no light pollution?

DID YOU KNOW that a F1 car engine only lasts for 7 races?

DID YOU KNOW that it was in 1896 that Alfred Nobel left more than 32 million Swedish Krona in his will to establish the well known awards that bear his name? equialent to £160,000,000 today.



MASONRY

Masonry, dear reader, according to the general acceptance of the term, is an art, founded on the principles of geometry, and directed to the service and convenience of mankind. But Freemasonry, embracing a wider range, and having a nobler object in view, namely, the cultivation and improvement of the human mind, may with more propriety be styled a science, inasmuch as availing itself of the term of the former it inculcates principles of the purest morality, though veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. To draw aside this veil, therefore, or more properly speaking, to penetrate throughout it, is the object of rulers in Freemasonry, and by a careful and appropriate attention to them, we may hope, ultimately, to become acquainted with all its mysteries.

Freemasonry, from its origins to the present time, in all its circumstances, has been the steady, unvarying friend of man. It has gone forth from age to age, the constant messenger of peace and love, never weary, never forgetful of its holy mission, patiently ministering to the relief of want and sorrow, and scattering with unsparing hand blessings and benefits to all around. It comforts the mourner, it speaks peace and consolation to the troubled spirit, it carries relief and gladness to the habitations of want and destitution, it dries the tears of the widow and orphan, it opens the sources of knowledge, it even seeks to light up the darkness and gloom of the grave by pointing to the hopes and promises of a better life to come.

All this Freemasonry has done, and is still doing. Such is Freemasonry, and such its mission, and we should never forget, while enjoying its benefits and appreciating its value, the duties we owe to the Order, for there is no fight without a parallel duty, no liberty without the supremacy of the law, no high destiny without earnest perseverance, and no real greatness without self-denial.

A Freemasons Lodge is the Temple of peace, harmony, and Brotherly Love, nothing is allowed to enter which has the remotest tendency to disturb the quietude of its pursuits.

The object, however, of meeting in the Lodge, is of a two-fold nature, namely, moral instruction and social intercourse. Our meetings are intended to cultivate and enlighten the mind, to induce the habit of virtue, and to strengthen the fundamental principles of our Order- Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. And if these meetings are blended with social mirth, and a mutual interchange of fraternal feelings, then Freemasonry will be shown in its true light, as an institution which fosters and improves the best affections of our nature, and carries into active operation the practice of the four cardinal virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice, combined with the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, thereby demonstrating to the world at large that in Freemasonry is found the true import of the three great social treasures of Fraternity, Liberty, and Equality. Therefore, the utmost extensions of fraternal feeling and affection which can exist between man and man is expected to be displayed amongst the Brethren in a Freemasons Lodge, and then will be attained the chief point in Freemasonry, namely, to endeavour to be happy ourselves, and to communicate that happiness to others.

So if you see a man who quietly and modestly moves in the sphere of his life, who without blemish fulfils his duties as a man, a husband and a father, who is pious without hypocrisy, benevolent without ostentation, and who aids his fellow men without self-interest, whose heart beats warm for friendship, whose serene mind is open for licensed pleasures, who in vicissitudes does not despair, nor in fortune will

be presumptuous, and who will be resolute in the hour of danger.....

The man who is free from superstition and free from infidelity, who, in nature sees the finger of the Eternal Master, who feels and adores the higher destination of man, to whom Faith, Hope and Charity are not mere words without any meaning, to whom property, nay, even life, is not too dear for the protection of innocence and virtue, and for the defence of truth.....

The man who towards himself is a severe judge, but who is tolerant with the debilities of his neighbour, who endeavours to oppose errors without arrogance, and to propagate intelligence without precipitation, who properly understands to estimate and to employ his means, who honours virtue though it be in the most humble garment, who does not favour vice though it be clothed in purple, and who administers justice to merit, whether dwelling in palaces or in cottages.....-

The man who without courting applause, is loved by all noble minded men, respected by his superiors, and revered by his subordinates, the man who never proclaims what he has done, will do, can do, but where need is, will lay hold with dispassionate courage, circumspect resolution, indefatigable exertion, and a rare power of mind, and who will not cease until he has accomplished his work, but who then, without pretention, will retire into the multitude, because he did the good act, not for himself, but for the cause of good.

If you, dear reader meet such a man, you will see the personification of Brotherly, Love, Relief and Truth, and you will have found the ideal of a Freemason.

Christmas Word Search

Firstly, find all the listed words in the grid below. Once you have found them all, use the 10 unused letters in the grid to spell another word associated with the "Christmas" theme.

Y	E	N	M	I	H	C	E	S	O	O	G
C	B	T	S	L	E	D	G	E	E	T	N
A	E	E	R	T	I	N	K	L	N	T	I
R	L	L	S	T	I	A	D	E	W	U	D
D	L	O	E	K	C	N	S	T	A	R	D
S	R	L	C	B	A	E	S	I	E	K	U
F	U	O	I	C	R	E	V	E	V	E	P
Y	T	R	A	P	L	A	D	O	L	Y	S
S	A	C	K	S	A	N	T	A	L	U	A
E	V	S	T	F	I	G	E	I	S	C	M
L	D	N	O	E	L	E	A	E	O	Y	X
F	A	I	R	Y	S	L	J	W	O	N	S

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| Angel | Noel |
| Bell | Party |
| Cake | Present |
| Candle | Pudding |
| Cards | Reindeer |
| Celebration | Sack |
| Chimney | Santa |
| Clove | Sledge |
| Elf | Snow |
| Fairy | Star |
| Frost | Stocking |
| Gifts | Tinsel |
| Goose | Tree |
| Ice | Turkey |
| Ivy | Xmas |
| Jesus | Yuletide |



Some things to make you smile!

The European Commission

The European Commission has announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the EU, rather than German, which was the other contender. Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had room for improvement and has therefore accepted a five-year phasing in of "Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make sivil servants jump for joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of the "k", Which should klear up some konfusion and allow one key less on keyboards.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f", making words like "fotograf" 20% shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling can be ekspekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of the silent "e" is disgrasful.

By the fourth yer, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" can be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters. After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and everivun vil find it ezi to understand ech ozer. ZE DREM VIL FINALI COM TRU!

Herr Schmidt

English is easy?

Homographs are words of like spelling but with more than one meaning. A homograph that is also pronounced differently is a heteronym.

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

The fact that Ewan McGregor's brother, Colin McGregor is a pilot in the Royal Air Force and his aviator nickname is "Obi-Two" is my new favorite bit of knowledge.



Four engineers get into a car. The car won't start.

The Mechanical engineer says:
"It's a broken starter".

The Electrical engineer says:
"Dead battery".

The Chemical engineer says:
"Impurities in the gasoline".

The IT engineer says:
"Hey guys, I have an idea how about we all get out of the car and get back in".

IF DONALD TRUMP HAD CAPTAINED THE TITANIC

- There is no iceberg.
- We won't hit an iceberg.
- I knew it was an iceberg before anyone else knew.
- No one knows icebergs better than I do.
- The penguins brought the iceberg here.
- No one could have predicted the iceberg.
- We cannot allow an iceberg to stop our ship.
- The crew is spreading fake news about icebergs.
- Some of you have to drown.
- I am the best captain, ask anyone.

WE DON'T EAT EGGS, MEAT, FISH, DAIRY, OR GLUTEN. WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND?

A TAXI.



Anatidaephobia is the fear that somewhere, somehow, a duck is watching you.

Some signs seen outside a restaurant in Austin, Texas during the lockdown

IF YOU'RE UGLY
WITH PRETTY
EYES, THIS IS
YOUR MOMENT!

MY BODY HAS ABSORBED
SO MUCH SANITISER,
THAT WHEN I PEE, IT
CLEANS THE TOILET

THE BUTTONS ON MY JEANS
ARE TAKING
THIS SOCIAL DISTANCING
THING TOO FAR

IN 20 YEARS OUR
COUNTRY WILL BE RUN BY
PEOPLE HOMESCHOOLED
BY DAY DRINKERS

NOTHING IS
TRULY LOST
UNTIL YOUR MOM
CAN'T FIND IT

SMILE AND THE
WORLD SMILES
WITH YOU, FART AND
YOU STAND ALONE

I DON'T NEED THE
"PREVIOUSLY ON..."
I'VE BEEN WATCHING
THIS SHOW FOR 10 HOURS

NOT ALL HEROES
WEAR CAPES,
BUT A WHOLE LOTTA
THEM WEAR SCRUBS

WHERE DO
MANSPLAINERS GET
THEIR WATER FROM?
A WELL, ACTUALLY

THANKS TO
MASKS, MY
B*TCH FACE CAN
FINALLY REST

2019:
AVOID NEGATIVE PEOPLE
2020:
AVOID POSITIVE PEOPLE

HOPE THE WEATHER'S
NICE TODAY FOR
MY TRIP TO
PUETO BACKYARDA

DUE TO CURRENT GUIDELINES,
YOUR
MILKSHAKE CAN BRING 9
BOYS TO THE YARD, MAX

SOUNDS LIKE THUNDER
BUT WITH THE WAY
2020 IS GOING IT
COULD BE GODZILLA

I HAVE A ZOOM
MEETING TODAY! TIME
TO CHANGE INTO
MY BUSINESS PYJAMAS

REMEMBER WHEN YOU
WISHED THE WEEKEND
WOULD LAST FOREVER?
HAPPY NOW?

CLEANING IS
JUST PUTTING
STUFF IN LESS
OBVIOUS PLACES

WHAT DID THE
DRUMMER NAME
HIS TWIN DAUGHTERS?
ANNA 1, ANNA 2

HATE IT WHEN I GO
OUT IN PUBLIC
AND THE PUBLIC
IS THERE

THE TEACHERS THAT
SAID MY CHILD
WAS A JOY TO
TEACH LIED

THE TWO UNWRITTEN
RULES FOR LIFE ARE:

PROS & CONS OF
MAKING FOOD –
PROS: FOOD
CONS: MAKING

I NEED TO
PRACTICE SOME
SOCIAL DISTANCING
FROM THE FRIDGE

UNLESS YOU FELL ON
THE TREADMILL NO
ONE WANTS TO HEAR
ABOUT YOUR WORKOUT

9 Handy Body Hacks You Might Have Missed

Brain Freeze Be Gone

Ice cream and other cold treats are great, but eating them too fast can cause brain freeze, a very uncomfortable sensation in your head. Take your tongue at thrust it at the roof of the mouth as hard as possible. This warms the nerves that are responsible for the brain freeze sensation and alleviates the headache.

Get Rid of Jitters

Many things, such as public speaking and your first date, can make you nervous and speed up your heart rate. Normalizing your heart rate makes you feel more at ease and helps your confidence. Target the nerve that controls heart rate by simply blowing on your thumb like a trumpet (without letting air out).

Fight the Fire in Your Belly

Heartburn is something most people deal with and there are medications that work, but you can also adjust your sleeping habits to get relief. Those with acid reflux disease should start sleeping on their left side. Sleeping on the left puts the stomach below the esophagus, which reduces stomach acid backup.

Say Goodbye to a Stuffy Nose

Draining your sinuses is necessary to alleviate a stuffy nose, but most people turn to medications that only provide temporary relief. You can drain your sinuses at home by pushing your tongue toward the roof of your mouth and moving it from side to side, then use your pointer finger to press between the eyebrows. This drains the sinuses in about 20 seconds by moving the vomer bone.

Get the Most Out of Your Ears

A person who mumbles or a very soft tune are not easy to hear, but if you use the right ear, sounds are clear. If you are chatting it up with someone who is mumbling, lean in toward them using your right ear because this ear is better at following rapid speech rhythms. Your left ear, however, picks up music tones better, making it best for soft music.

Scratch Your Ear for an Itchy Throat

A tickle in your throat is uncomfortable and it makes you feel as though you need to cough to make it go away. However, there is a more pleasant and less forceful remedy you can use and all you need to do is just tickle your ear. Scratching the ear stimulates nerves and this induces a muscle spasm that alleviates the tickle.

Cough Before Getting a Shot

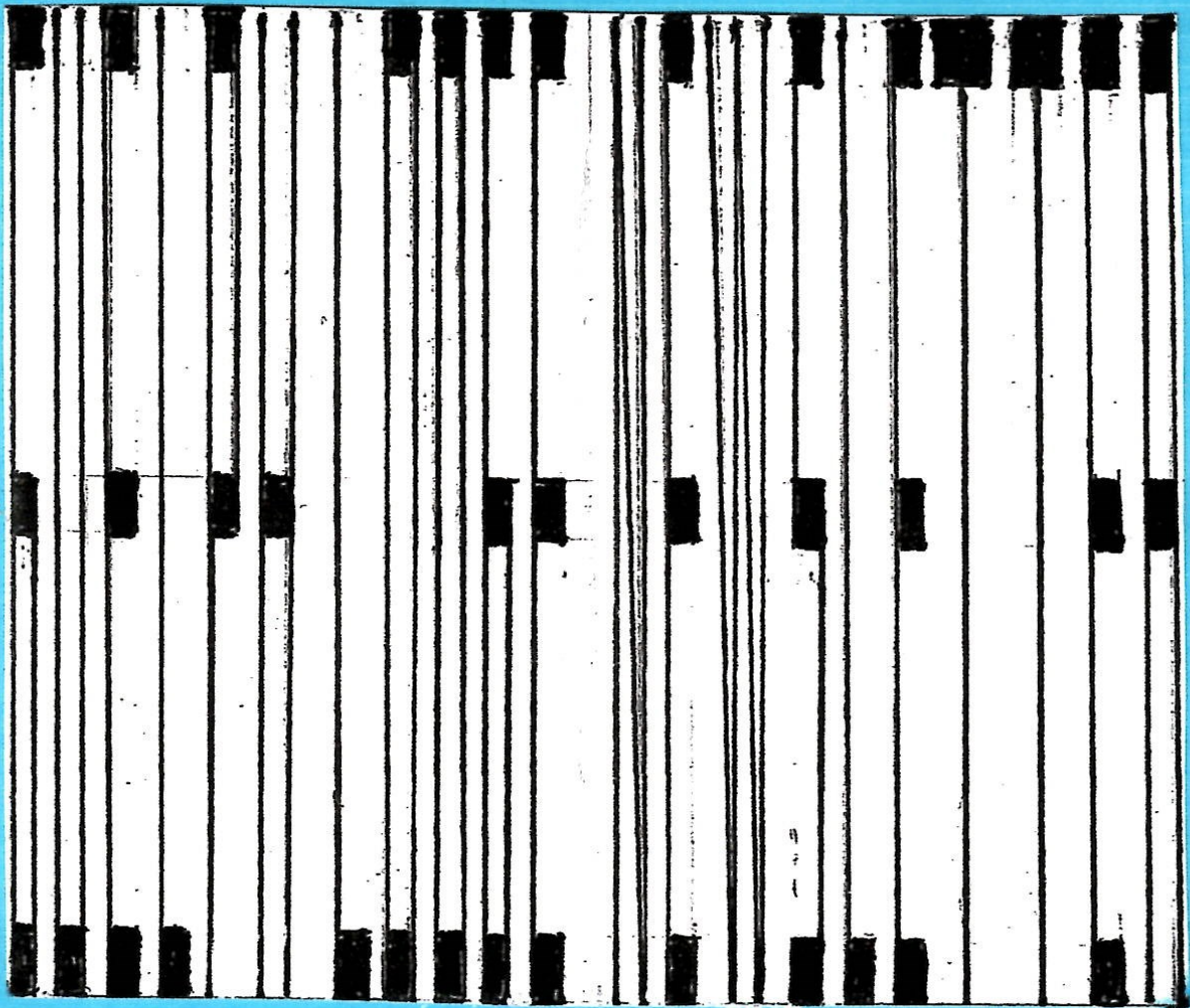
Getting a shot is no fun, but it does not have to be miserable. As the injection occurs, cough a little to inhibit the structures in the spinal cord that inhibit pain. Now, it is important to not cough too hard because you want the doctor or the nurse to be able to accurately insert the needle.

If You Have to Pee, Think About Sex

There are times when you have to pee, but you either do not have time or there is no restroom nearby. Preoccupy your mind by thinking about sex because this alleviates the discomfort associated with needing to empty your bladder, but not being able to.

Ice for Toothaches

If you have a toothache and you can't get to the dentist right away, try rubbing a piece of ice on the back of your hand and between your thumb and pointer finger. This area has nerve pathways that will block pain from that area.



...CHRISTMAS 2020...