

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren,

This is my first Herald column as Master of the Lodge, and I would like to first start off by thanking the Brethren who lead the communications in our Lodge.

I am grateful to WBro Hadyn Nicholls who month after month produces an interesting and well-designed Herald. There is always wisdom and knowledge to be gained by reading our Herald - and the recipes are well worth trying out!

Thanks also to WBro John Patterson who diligently handles the important role of Secretary - a role which is often taken for granted but would be very quickly missed if not filled.

I have visited two Lodges since my Installation - Lodge Aquarius for a presentation on the ranks within Freemasonry, and Lodge NZ Pacific for a very enjoyable Third Degree.

When visiting, we regularly hear reference to the expression of "an evening of profit and pleasure". I have been reflecting on what these descriptions mean, especially within the context of visiting.

'Profit' from visiting would be gaining new insights from charges, absorbing ritual, seeing new ways of performing ritual, building connections, and gaining confidence by public speaking.

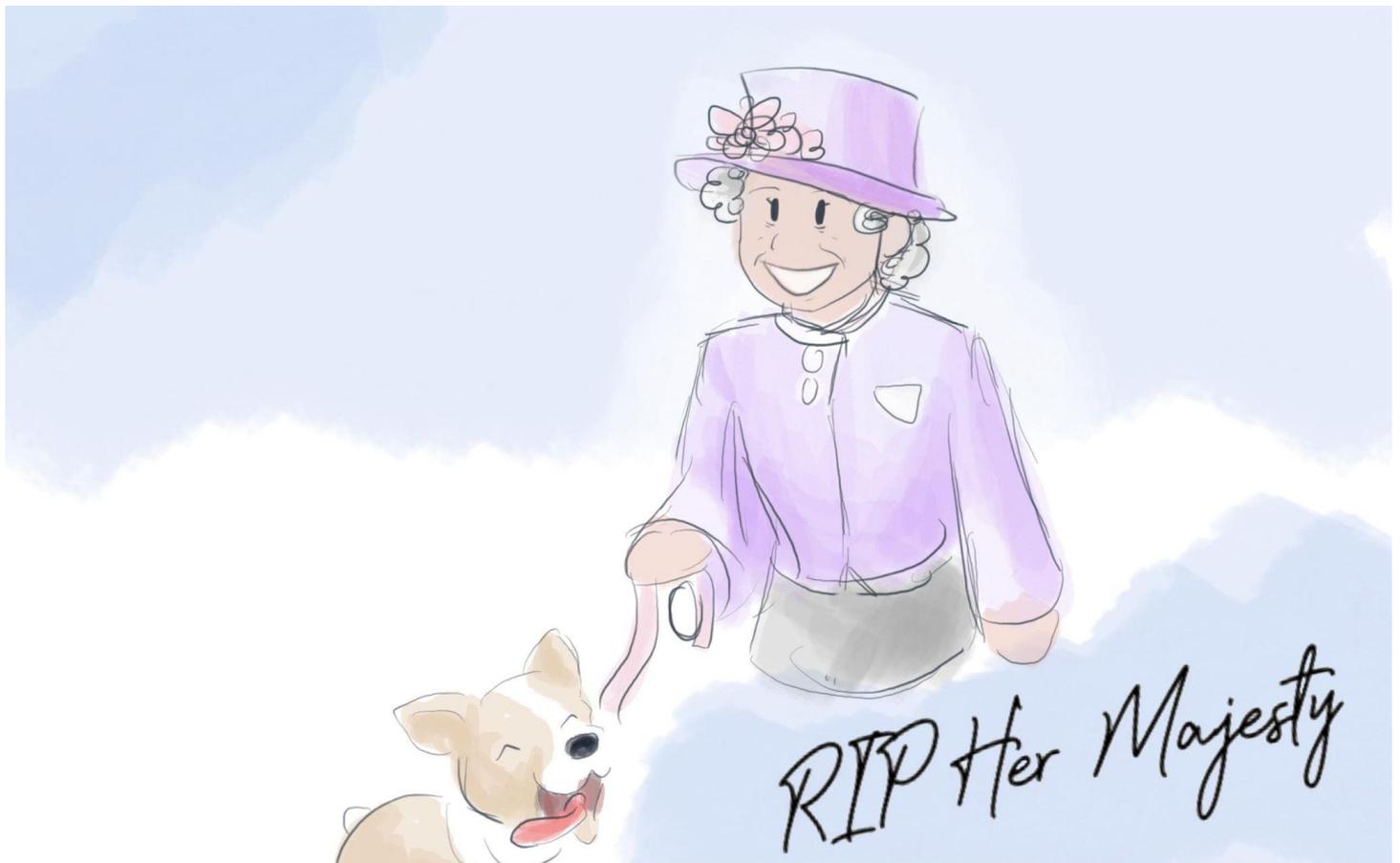
But there are also many 'pleasures', such as: the conviviality of refectory and the satisfaction of a hot meal after a long meeting; making new friends and renewing old friendships; and the Lodge atmosphere of peace and harmony. By visiting, we also give other lodges pleasure by giving them the opportunity to show hospitality - an important Masonic value.

Nothing beats experiencing the welcome and kind acceptance in arriving as a visitor at another Lodge. In these moments, one feels part of something bigger - and part of wider Freemasonry - and that you are here to help do good in the world.

And this month, we had the very sad news that our beloved Monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, passed away after 70 years of service to the Commonwealth and her subjects. May we humbly wish that she rests in peace. Long live King Charles III and may he have a long and successful reign. We will now have some changes to our toasts in Lodge.



*Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
David Barnes*



Drawing by the daughter of Bro Dominic Nicholls

Queen Elizabeth II – 1926-2022

The Queen ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe. Over 70 years, Her Majesty was a dedicated Head of the Commonwealth, linking more than two billion people worldwide.

When Her Majesty acceded to the throne aged just 25, her life changed overnight from that of a young naval wife and mother, to a busy Head of State. She was to become known for her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service and was an important figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth during times of both crisis and celebration.

The working Queen

Travel in the UK and overseas dominated much of Her Majesty's working life. Before she became Queen, she had said, "There is none of my father's subjects from the oldest to the youngest whom I do not wish to greet." During her reign, she visited every realm and every region of the UK, returning to some many times over.

Though much of Her Majesty's daily working life was spent in contact with her UK and Commonwealth ministers and representatives, it was her presence in these places during her many official visits which carried the most significance for those who lived there.

State duties

The Queen's famous red boxes carried the State papers which Her Majesty was presented with every day of her working life. Her duties included formally agreeing to make bills into Acts of Parliament, or laws.

She also had a special relationship with her Prime Ministers, meeting with them on a regular - usually weekly - basis. She was famously able to 'encourage or warn' whilst always remaining politically neutral.

The Queen was served by 15 UK Prime Ministers during her reign, beginning with Winston Churchill in 1952, as well as many Prime Ministers across her Realms.

As Head of State, she also acted as diplomat and hostess, welcoming over 110 Presidents and Prime Ministers to the UK on official visits.

Patronages

The Queen saw public and voluntary service as one of the most important elements of her work. Her Majesty had links - as Royal Patron or President - with over 500 charities, professional bodies,

and public service organisations. These varied from well-established international charities to smaller bodies working in a specialist area or on a local basis only.

As Head of the Armed Forces, Her Majesty had strong links to Naval ships, Army regiments, and Air squadrons both in the UK and throughout all her realms.

The Queen's Patronages and charities covered a wide range of initiatives, from creating opportunities for young people, to preserving wildlife and the environment. As Royal Patron or President Her Majesty provided vital publicity for the work of these organisations, and allowed their enormous contributions to society to be recognised.

Recognising achievement across the Commonwealth

Her Majesty supported and encouraged achievement in many different ways. The UK honours system enabled her to confer titles such as MBEs, OBEs and CBEs on people from all walks of life in public recognition of their merit, service or bravery. Recommendations were made by the Prime Minister's Office, but it was The Queen (and members of the Royal Family working on her behalf) who presented tens of thousands of people with their insignia over the course of her reign. "Some of them are very cleverly discovered," she said. "That's very important, that the system does discover people who do unsung things, that perhaps the local people know about but nobody else does, and that's very satisfactory."

There were also Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, receptions and other awards given in her name. This allowed her to say 'thank you' to just some of those who had made a significant contribution to the life of the nation.

In 2014 The Queen's Young Leaders programme was launched. The programme aimed to find exceptional young people who were addressing challenges facing their communities, and to support them in practical ways to ensure that they reached their full potential.

Family and faith

For most of her working life, The Queen was supported by The Duke of Edinburgh who accompanied her on visits in the UK and overseas, and was by her side for all of her ceremonial duties, from the State Opening of Parliament to State Visits and annual Remembrance events.

Her Majesty raised four children whilst undertaking her duties as Queen, later welcoming grandchildren and great-grandchildren to the Royal Family.

The Duke of Edinburgh was – in her own words – her 'strength and stay' during her reign, whilst other members of the Royal Family offered vital support through their work in the UK and overseas including accompanying her on many engagements and tours or performing duties on her behalf. In her later years, The Prince of Wales accompanied her to the State Opening of Parliament and Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings.

During her exceptionally busy Golden Jubilee year, The Queen thanked her family for their support, saying:

"Our children, and all my family, have given me such love and unstinting help over the years, and especially in recent months."

The Queen was also buoyed by her Christian faith, often reflecting on the perspective and solace it had brought her, particularly during her annual Christmas Broadcasts. For her 2014 broadcast she spoke of what she had learnt from the teachings of Jesus, "For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none."

From Royal.uk



From the Grand Lodge – Passing of Queen Elizabeth II - requirements

1. With immediate effect, the Loyal Toast changes to 'The King and the Craft'.
2. Where the National Anthem is sung, the words change to 'God Save the King'.
3. As there is now a 10-day period of official mourning, photographs and/or painting of Her Majesty in Lodge Rooms and Refectory may remain in place until midnight on Sunday 18 September 2022, after which they must be removed. It is recommended that where practical, the official portrait may be draped in black in acknowledgement of her commitment and loyalty to the Craft.
4. National Office will be obtaining an official photograph of King Charles III for use in our Lodges. No other photograph of King Charles shall be used in the meantime, and the change will not take place until the official mourning period has been completed.
5. The Book of Constitution at CR38 provides for a Lodge to go into mourning on the death of the Grand Master, a Past Grand Master, or the Deputy, but is silent on the death of the Reigning Monarch. However, Lodges may acknowledge her passing in open Lodge in an appropriate manner, but the token of mourning detailed in CR38 do not apply. Breast Jewels and the badge of officer shall continue to be worn as normal.

Movie review: Operation Mincemeat

Operation Mincemeat is a 2021 war drama starring Colin Firth. That's the good news. The rest is bad news.

I was so looking forward to watching this film but never got a chance to head out to the Lighthouse Cinema in Petone. Fortunately, the film was on my flight to Canada in August, so I got to watch it for free, which is a good thing as I would not otherwise pay to see it.

I like war dramas, and at least the underlying story of Operation Mincemeat fits the bill. It's based on a true story of the British tricking the Nazis into thinking that they would invade Europe in 1943 through Greece. The real objective was Sicily. The British plant fake papers implying a Greek invasion on the corpse of a British soldier whom they throw into the sea off Spain for the Nazis to find. The corpse floats ashore, the Nazis get their hands on the documents, the trick works, and the British and allied forces invade Sicily with minimal resistance, leading eventually to the end of World War II.

There were a few war and action scenes, but not many, so I wouldn't really call it a war drama. The film was more about the relationships between the staff members in the planning team in the UK, so the main themes were love, lust, jealousy, romance etc - not really my cup of tea.

If you're looking for a bit of action, don't watch this film. If you want to be bored, go and watch it. I'll give this film two stars out of five.

David Ryan



Poem – The Master's Apron Robbie Burns

There's mony a badge that's unco braw,
Wi' ribbon, lace and tape on;
Let Kings and Princes wear them a',
Gie me the Master's apron!
The honest Craftsman's apron,
The jolly mason's apron,
Bide he at hame, or roam afar
Before his touch fa's bolt an' bar
The gates of fortune fly ajar,
'Gin he wears the apron!
For w'alth and honor, pride an' power,

Are crumbling stanes to base on;
Fraternity sh'u'd rule the hour
And ilka worthy Mason!
Each Free Accepted Mason!
Each Ancient Crafted Mason,
Then, brithers, let a haesome sang
Arise your friendly ranks alang!
Gudewives and bairnes blithely sing
Ti' the ancient badge wi' the apron string
That is worn by the Master Mason! "

Recipe – Pizzoccheri



Ingredients

500g buckwheat flour
200g butter
250g Valtellina Casera cheese (fontina or Gruyere can be used as a substitute)
150g Parmigiano Reggiano
200g Savoy cabbage, cut into strips
250g potatoes, peeled and diced into 2cm pieces
1 garlic clove, thinly sliced
Pepper to taste
Water

Method

1. Mix the buckwheat flour with water gradually until you have a workable dough, and then knead the dough for about two minutes, adding buckwheat flour to your pastry board as needed.
2. Roll the dough on a marble or wooden pastry board until it's about 2-3mm thick, and cut it into two 7-8cm rectangular sheets.
3. Stack those sheets on top of each other and cut them into 5mm-wide strips. (Pizzoccheri can be delicate depending on the amount of starch in your buckwheat flour, and Scínetti recommends cooking the pasta immediately as the strips may break if left in the refrigerator for too long.)
4. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of salted water with the potatoes to a boil, and after about 5 minutes, add the cabbage. Continue to boil for an additional five minutes, or until the cabbage and potatoes are soft, then add the pasta, cooking for an additional 10 minutes.
5. Melt the butter in a shallow saucepan and then add the sliced garlic, simmering over medium heat until brown specks appear.

6. With a slotted spoon, remove half of the pasta and vegetable mixture from the pan, transfer it to a casserole dish, or shallow pot, and cover it with the grated cheese. Add the remaining vegetable and pasta mixture to the dish and cover it with cheese.
7. Scrape the saucepan to capture the brown milk solids at the bottom of the pan and pour the browned garlic-infused butter over the pasta dish. Serve with freshly ground pepper.



Hearing aids can help you hear a lot better if you have hearing loss, they can improve your sense of wellbeing, independence and confidence.

There are various styles of hearing devices that vary in size, type, and technological features



If you are experiencing loneliness, depression, despair, distress or suicidal feelings, call 0800 72 66 66 now.

Samaritans operates a 24/7 crisis help line. Our phones are operated by volunteers from the community for the community. We receive no direct government funding.

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you”

Maya Angelou