



# ISOLATION TIMES

Issue Three: June 2020

Message from the PGM

To Zoom or not to Zoom,  
that is the question

At the start of the suspension of Freemasonry when Zoom was first mentioned, some brethren of a certain age probably wondered how a multi-coloured ice lolly which was popular when they were young was going to help to keep people in touch. Of course, the more enlightened saw it as an opportunity to discuss how the brethren of their lodge were faring. If it wasn't to be Zoom then it could be Microsoft Teams or the Google platform. It is to the credit of many lodges that 'Zooming' has become a regular occurrence, and it appears that many brethren have made some significant daily advancements in technical knowledge as a result of the lockdown.

The Province's leadership is happy to support efforts by brethren to keep in touch, and any lodge which would like one of the leaders to drop into one of their Zoom meetings should advise the Provincial Grand Secretary who is co-ordinating the requests. Details of the meeting should be sent to [secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk](mailto:secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk).

Hopefully brethren will have received the recent news releases from UGLE, including the initial edition of The First Rising and the move to improve communications between UGLE and all members of our constitution is to be applauded. Accordingly, it is felt that brethren may wish to learn more about how UGLE is planning to increase its engagement with the brethren of English Freemasonry, and to that end a Question and Answer Zoom session is being considered. W Bro David Wall, Assistant Provincial Grand Master and the Province's lead on communications, together with W Bro Roger Cheetham,

Provincial Grand Secretary, will run the Q&A session, so if any brother, as an individual or on behalf of a lodge, wishes to pose a question on masonic business during the lockdown, or the development of communications and marketing, then he should send his contact details and his question to [secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk](mailto:secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk). The level of interest in the session will determine whether a second Zoom meeting will be necessary.

## 75 For 75 Appeal

In response to an enquiry from the UGLE comms team, the PGM provided the following commentary:

The 75 for 75 Appeal emerged from discussions about the abandonment, (as a result of the pandemic), of the celebrations which several lodges were planning to mark VE Day. One of the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters suggested launching an appeal on Friday 1 May, which was the day on which our Annual Meeting was to take place and the basis of the appeal was to raise £75K by VE Day i.e. 8<sup>th</sup> May – hence 75 For 75. The objective was to raise monies to support initiatives to tackle the longer-term effects of coronavirus. At this time, it looks as if the calls will come to support community infrastructure, but we will have to see.

"I held my breath and pushed the go button for the appeal and the Province responded magnificently – we raised around £60k in less than a week and the Provincial Charity Trustees are considering a contribution to make the total up to £75k. It seems simple doesn't it, but given the current environment and significant challenges faced by many, it seemed a bit of an ask, but I need not have worried. Freemasons eh! – they continue to step up to the plate".  
-PGM

## The amount donated is now a fantastic £63541

All Lodges that have contributed will receive an appropriate certificate.



## Provincial Charity Trustees Update

The trustees have approved the following donations and special grants, ranging from support of PPE production for the NHS and key workers, food banks/community kitchens, and wellbeing/support organisations.

Charity	Amount	Source
Eudiamonia Super Kitchen	£5,000	RCG 6
The Friary	£3,200	PGL
Hope House	£5,000	PGL
NIDAS	£1,250	MCF -19
SHE	£1,250	MCF -19
Live at Home Newark	£1,000	MCF -19
Live at Home Southwell	£1,000	MCF -19
Live at Home - Worksop	£1,000	MCF -19
Temple Lodge NHS Charity Trust	£250	PGL
Ratcliffe College	£2,500	RCG6
Emmaus Trust - Newark	£1,050	MCF - 19
Pulp Friction	£136	PGL
Worksop College	£250	PGL

The trustees and other charity team members meet via zoom weekly.

Here they are on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May with the PrG Secretary getting into the swing of the 75<sup>th</sup> VE day anniversary celebrations!



We have had some wonderful feedback from the charities and organisations which have received donations, typified by the following from Hope House:

*“Hope Nottingham is currently providing food to 1500 people per week across the greater Nottingham area. This is a 500% increase compared with our normal provision. In addition, we are co-ordinating food supply for all the foodbanks in the Nottingham City area. Recently we placed an order with a local supermarket for £20,000 worth of food. This, together with supplies from Fareshare and other food donations will serve the city’s food banks for 2-3 weeks. Thankfully we have been receiving tremendous support including a great deal of volunteer help. The £5000 grant from the Freemasons is very welcome indeed and will enable us to continue to support people in great need at this time”.*

## Other Charity News

Nationally UGLE has been publishing ongoing press releases, the latest being related to Food Banks and Food Donations; the figures are amazing

More than 120,000 people have been helped by Freemasons with a variety of food donation initiatives across England and Wales.

Homeless people, women’s refugees and vulnerable people have been provided with 300,000 meals, which equates to 38 tonnes of food donated by Freemasons.

More than £560k has already been donated to provide meals to help numerous foodbanks during the pandemic.

For our part, through our donations to several charities, we are providing over 1000 families per week with hot meals and/or food parcels - Well done

Nottinghamshire Freemasons! Full details can be found on the website.

In addition to UGLE and PGL supported donations, many lodges have been making their own donations supporting their local charities. Welbeck Lodge donated £1500 to Nottingham Hospitals Charity and an edited extract from their reply can be seen below.

*We were incredibly grateful to receive your recent donation of £1500.00.*

*What an incredible amount, which will make all the difference to our Hospitals. Your generosity makes Nottingham’s hospitals better for patients and their families. It also gives the hospital staff a huge boost to hear about such wonderful kindness, which has a real impact on their work.*

*Because of your support, we are at the heart of your care at Nottingham’s Hospitals – thank you so much.*

If your lodge has donated, please inform the PrG Secretary

[secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk](mailto:secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk)

## Solomon

Masonic Alchemists, whatever next? The latest developments on Solomon are the “boxed sets” through which you can download a bundle of nuggets, papers and sound files. Make your daily advancement and visit



## National Portrait Gallery- Hold Still Competition

The National Portrait Gallery is currently running a photography competition surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic called ‘Hold Still’ (<https://www.npg.org.uk/hold-still/>).

Spearheaded by The Duchess of Cambridge, Patron of the National Portrait Gallery, Hold Still, a portrait of our nation in 2020, is an ambitious community project to create a unique

photographic portrait which captures the spirit, mood, hopes, fears and feelings of the nation as we continue to deal with the Coronavirus outbreak.

With all the amazing work we are doing during the current crisis there are certainly some opportunities for submissions.

The deadline for submissions is 18 June. Please share on social media using the hashtag #HoldStill2020.

## Derbyshire 2025 Festival

Keeping to the photography theme, Derbyshire PGL has a competition in support of their 2025 Festival. Details here: [Derbyshire PGL Photo Comp.](#)

## Carers’ Week

This year, **Carers’ Week** is between 8th and the 14th of June.

It will be a good opportunity to highlight the Freemasons’ work with young carers during these difficult times.

Please submit your stories ASAP to

[Ecomms@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk](mailto:Ecomms@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk)

## Choppers Podcast

Listen to Dr David Staples outline the work of Freemasons in response to the Covid -19 pandemic

<https://youtu.be/hlh6Up6iUuw>

## Communications Update



The last few weeks has seen some positive local media coverage, including.

Newark Advertiser [Reach Learning Disability](#)

Workshop Guardian [Workshop College](#)

Mansfield Chad [Freemasons raise £1m](#)

Please take the opportunity to read the articles.

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