



ISOLATION TIMES

Issue Two: May 2020

Message From The PGM

In the 6 weeks or so since the decision by the MW The Grand Master to suspend all meetings of Lodges and Chapters was announced, Freemasonry rather than going into a form of hibernation has gone into overdrive. Almoners are ensuring that all members of our masonic family are able to access support and Lodge Mentors are contacting prospective candidates to let them know that we are thinking of them. Lodges are meeting through the various internet platforms and the toast to Absent Brethren has taken on a new significance.

All of this, whilst demonstrating the strength of our organisation, does not reflect the biggest contribution by Freemasonry which is simply a huge effort to protect the NHS and help the disadvantaged in our communities. Across the constitution there are Freemasons who are making and distributing PPE, whilst funding is being given to businesses and colleges which have refocused their activities to produce protective equipment. Those suffering food poverty are being supported as Freemasonry pumps a significant level of funding into food banks and organisations distributing food to the needy.

This period away from our regular meetings also allows time for reflection of what being a Freemason adds to our lives both as individuals and as part of a community. It is evident that our support for local charities, although not widely known, is much needed and that those organisations which we sponsor to receive major funding for research to make our lives better, would have their development programmes constrained if we were not around. All of what we strive to do is fostered by the principles

of Freemasonry. It is to be hoped that we will emerge from this pandemic with a greater understanding of the value of the fellowship which Freemasonry offers and that we can continue to make a real difference to the quality of life in our country.

UGLE Annual Investiture

Had the Pandemic not put a major spanner in the works, a goodly sized group of Nottinghamshire brethren would have attended the Annual Investiture meeting of Grand Lodge on Wednesday 29 April in support of the brethren of this Province who were to receive First Appointment To or Promotion In Grand Rank. W Bros Alan Black of Newstead Lodge No 47, Tony Narula of Royal Sussex Lodge No 402 and Paul Jackson of East Retford Lodge No 8152 now hold the rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. In terms of promotions, W Bro Peter Gregory Asst PGM, of Edwinstowe Lodge No 3998 is now an acting Senior Grand Deacon whilst W Bros Mike Page of Elliott Lodge No 8569 and Bill Russell of Royal Sussex Lodge No 402 are now Past Grand Junior Deacons. In addition V W Bro David Staples of Daybrook Lodge No 5522 has been reappointed Grand Secretary.

An Honorary Member of Welbeck Lodge No 2890, W Bro Cliff Phillips has been appointed an Acting Grand Pursuivant.



The leadership zoomed up with some of the brethren to personally congratulate them.

Feeling Tense About Life

Whilst Freemasons are generally a resolute bunch, to borrow a few words from our ritual, it cannot be denied that there are those who may find the lockdown and the challenges it creates increasingly difficult to deal with. If you are feeling stressed or find that tensions are adversely affecting your daily routine, then those with expertise in stress reduction would suggest that you follow some simple steps which may help you to reduce tensions:

- Speak to close friends as it is often better to talk, or
- Discuss your situation or circumstances with your Lodge Almoner
- Consider contacting the Masonic Charitable Foundation's Advice and Support Line – this is staffed by well trained and experienced individuals who, depending on your situation, can give you access to a counsellor. **The telephone number is 0800 035 6090 – it is there to help so make use of it.**

Funding The Fight

Members of the Province will, no doubt, be aware of the funding pot which has been created by Grand Lodge and the MCF which is used to support initiatives across the constitution aimed at fighting the pandemic.- see Issue One. The Trustees of the Provincial Charity are meeting via Zoom each week to identify where some of our funds could be directed. (See the update in the charity news section below). A number of lodges have made enquiries as to how they could support initiatives which focus on protecting the NHS or care sector workers. There is of course the Relief Chest specifically set up by the MCF to provide funding for schemes tackling the spread of coronavirus.

75 For 75 Appeal



to create a £75,000 fighting fund to tackle the consequences of Coronavirus in Nottinghamshire

“Hopefully all brethren are aware of the 75 For 75 Appeal launched a couple of days ago and due to end on Friday 8 May to coincide with the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. It is hoped with the monies raised from this short appeal, the Province will have sufficient financial clout to support Nottinghamshire Freemasonry and the county’s communities to deal with the fallout from the pandemic.”-PGM

Speedy Relief from some dreadful suffering

Another example of the Masonic Charitable Foundation moving with speed and purpose to assist a member of the Province has been reported. On 9 April a brother suffering serious ill-health enquired about the possibility of assistance with the purchase and installation of a stair lift. The Provincial Grand Almoner immediately engaged with the MCF and asked for an application to be processed as a matter of urgency. The MCF actioned this forthwith and even though resources are reduced due to the pandemic and the fact that the Easter weekend had to be factored in, by 21 April, the selected stair lift installer had prepared a scheme pending approval. On 29 April, a major grant had been approved by the MCF and it is expected that the stair lift will be fitted on 5 May. Incredible performance in anybody’s book

Provincial Charity Trustees Update

The MCF has set up a large fund in consultation with UGLE to provide funds to support initiatives to fight the pandemic.

From this MCF fund we are pleased to announce that following recommendation of the Provincial Charity Trustees we have successfully obtained the following Grants.

Ratcliffe College £2500 for a heavy-duty 3D printer to boost production of face visors which have been supplied to hospitals in the province

Eudaimonia £5000, providing 3 months fuel to support the delivery of meals to the vulnerable in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

Other Charity News

Thanks to the support of PGL, Old Worksopian Lodge and Worksop Masonic Club, Worksop College has been producing face visors for the NHS and other hospitals and care homes.



Here is Ken Chui, a Master Mason in Bentinck Lodge and a Radiographer at a local hospital, together with his wife who is a carer at a home.

Elsewhere, individual lodges have been doing their things to help in the community, for example, **Bramcote Lodge** members contributing their normal lodge night cost and donating £535 to the Nottinghamshire Hospitals Charity Appeal.

If your lodge has made donations, please let us know. Similarly, what has your lodge, or your members been doing to support the community and fight the pandemic?

secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk

How has the Pandemic Affected you?

Submit your short articles on how the pandemic has affected you and your families.

ecomms@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk

Are Communications Your Thing?



If you have experience in media management in any of its various forms, we would like to hear from you.

Annual Meeting of PGL

Friday 1st May 2020 when the annual meeting did not take place. However, it was still a busy day!

First, to mark the occasion the PGM posted this video blog and address to the brethren.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9tfUa-UQGU>

Then, the leadership “zoomed with” some of the outgoing provincial officers to thank them for their considerable commitment over the last year.



And a little later on with some of the incoming officers, to congratulate them on their appointment.



Stay informed

Keep visiting the provincial website for the latest news and updates.

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