



# ISOLATION TIMES

Issue Eight: Jan 2021

## Message from the PGM



## New Year, New Hope

The start of a New Year brings with it, not just the reality of consigning its predecessor to the past but also the opportunity to develop fulfilling plans.

The increasing availability of a vaccine to tackle Covid-19 should mean that in due time, we will be able to return to practising our Freemasonry in a real not virtual setting and we all would agree, there is much work to do.

United Grand Lodge has not sat on its laurels during the suspension of our meetings and has continued to plan for the future far beyond the resumption of regular activities.

As part of the drive to modernise how Freemasonry develops, the informal or non-collared job of Provincial Membership Officer has now been established as an officer role under the provisions of the Book of Constitutions.

Should we be able to hold an Annual Meeting in May this year, then keep an eye out for W Bro. Tony Harvey being invested with the collar and jewel of Nottinghamshire's Membership Officer.

As PMO, W Bro Harvey will be part of the Province's Membership Team which is led by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and a further change in that team has been made necessary by the retirement of W Bro Jim Crossley PPrSGW as the Provincial Membership Administrator. **I cannot let W Bro Jim ride off into the sunset without expressing my sincere appreciation for his diligent and ground breaking work** which has been focused on assessing and then processing enquiries made through the internet or from other unsponsored applicants. The analytical detail which has been provided by W Bro Crossley has proved invaluable to the Provincial Executive. The replacement for W Bro Jim is W Bro Richard

Minshall who was Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 2019-20 and as we know from his work with the 2018 Festival Executive, W Bro Richard is a very safe pair of hands.

## John Mulholland Burgess



I would like to take this opportunity, both on behalf of our daughters, Rowena and Alexandra, and myself to thank all the Masonic brethren from all the Masonic Lodges who were kind enough to keep in touch with John during his illness through messages sent by cards, letters and by phone.

John was always quite buoyed up after talking to his many friends from the Masonic World and it was lovely to sit and talk afterwards about his conversations.

After John's passing we received so much correspondence full of tributes to John including many Members and Lodges offering a huge amount of support, physically, mentally and monetary for which we have been tremendously grateful.

This all contributed to us feeling very much part of the Masonic family which was so very important in John's life.

I also want to express my personal gratitude for the Guard of Honour which marked John's entry into the Chapel. I know for sure John would have been quite overwhelmed by this gesture especially as it took place in the worst possible weather.

He surely ought to have arranged that a little better!

Once again I want to thank everyone for the way that you showed what it means to follow the ethos of a true Mason.

With best wishes to you all for a Healthy 2021.

Kind regards,

*Victoria Burgess*

## Message from the Dep PGM



Whilst we all know that we cannot for the moment meet in our Lodges on a face-to-face basis, there is nothing stopping us using our enforced downtime to good effect.

With no Initiations possible, Lodge membership is in decline. For all sorts of reasons, members do continue to resign and of course we can do nothing about that eventual leveller of all human greatness – death. So now is very much the time to look at what your Lodge will look like when we do emerge into the post pandemic light.

We know once we can meet that ordinary Lodge business will take centre stage of necessity, so why not use this current time to look at your Lodge plans for membership?

Do you have a Lodge profile already or is it one of the jobs still to be tackled?

Do you have a framework to work towards for the Lodge to build a secure future?

All of these questions are posed by the membership team and with a new Provincial Membership Officer anxious to relaunch strategy, now is a good time to start to plan.

*"The future of Freemasonry depends upon being able to introduce and retain committed members who will contribute to their Lodges and enjoy a lasting membership"*

**Peter Lowndes, Pro Grand Master, UGLE**

## Prov. Membership Officer



Welcome, Brethren to this special edition of Isolation Times. May I start by thanking W Bros. Graham Riche and Jim Crossley, and those who worked with them, for pioneering membership development in our Province.

Their work has created the solid foundation for us to build upon.

My team and I have a simple remit but a challenging goal – to retain, attract and engage members.

Our vision will direct all our work:

*By 2025, Lodges in Nottinghamshire will be attracting and retaining new members and will be offering a greater experience of Freemasonry, which satisfies individual expectations and builds long-term commitment. As a result, Lodges in Nottinghamshire will be growing, will be stronger, and will be more sustainable*

What does that mean for you and your Lodges, Brethren?

We have researched the membership trends of every Lodge in the Province and it is clear that many have been in decline for some years.

We are asking each Lodge to undertake a comprehensive review of their practices and to build a plan of action to address areas of concern, retain more members and attract more men to join.

Now, during Covid-19 while we cannot carry out our ceremonies, is a great opportunity to do exactly this. The good news is we now have the methods, tools and skills to help Lodges reverse the trend and grow.

Over the coming weeks and months we will be sharing with you insights and approaches that have helped once declining Lodges thrive.

You can see the high-level strategy we have agreed with the Provincial Grand Master and Deputy [HERE](#), and a slightly more detailed version [HERE](#).

Our whole focus is to help Freemasonry in Nottinghamshire grow by offering as great experience of Freemasonry, one that satisfies individual expectations, retains current members and attracts new ones.

In this edition you find will links to useful resources, including the Members' Pathway, which I would recommend to your most serious perusal. So, what are we asking you to do?



In future editions we will introduce you to the Provincial Membership Team and explain their roles.

Our virtual doors are now open. If you have any questions, comments or simply wish to know more about how I can help you and your Lodge, please contact me at:

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

## Membership – our goals



## Hall Membership Officers



Hello, Brethren, for those who I haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting, I am W Bro. Les Boyington, the newly appointed Deputy Provincial Membership Officer.

One of the first actions in my new role is to oversee the selection and recruitment of Hall Membership Officers (HMO) at every Masonic Hall across the Province.

These HMOs will provide local support to each Masonic Hall, to help develop and adopt successful growth strategies and to facilitate individual Lodges' use of the Members' Pathway.

They will help Lodges in each Hall identify the best people to become Lodge Membership Officers and to help, support and guide these new and existing LMOs to produce successful strategies for growth.

I am very keen to hear from any Brethren who would be interested in applying for these positions. Full details of the role can be found [HERE](#) and enquiries should be directed to myself at:

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

## Unsponsored Enquiries

The enquiry system set up by W Bro. Jim Crossley is now run by the new Provincial Membership Administrator, W Bro. Richard Minshall. The best way to secure enquiries for your Lodge is to provide Richard with an up-to-date Lodge profile.

Guidance for this can be found in the Members' Pathway Richard can be contacted at:

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

## Further information

bUGLE provides a set of tools, documents and guidance to help members, Lodges and

Masonic Centres to build a positive reputation for Freemasonry in society today and to help attract and retain quality members.

Here you will find full details of The Members' Pathway which is a planned approach to attracting, introducing and retaining new members.

The Pathway draws on the experiences of and the techniques used by many strong and healthy Lodges across our constitution.

Each Step in the Pathway is available in a variety of formats, including a mobile app and web-based documents. All have been tried and tested and found to help, although each Lodge may select those that best suit their needs and circumstances.

As well as the Members' Pathway, bUGLE contains specific guidance for Mentors, Charity Stewards and many others, as well as a host of information to help members and lodges grow, retain and engage their membership.

## Measuring Our Success

	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Total Memberships above 2650 Total Members above 2350
	<b>LODGE PLANNING</b> 100% Lodge Profile Completion 75% Lodge Plan Completion 75% Lodge Succession Plan Completion
	<b>GROWTH</b> Initiations exceed resignations
	<b>RETENTION</b> Resignations within 5 years of initiation below 10%
	<b>ENGAGEMENT</b> Increased engagement across Lodge and Provincial activities

## Learning & Development

We all know of the 1723 Anderson Book of Constitutions, but who was the Revd. James Anderson and what influence did his Scottish ancestry have on English Freemasonry?

Find out more in the latest addition to the Famous Freemason archive: Revd. James Anderson: The Scottish influence in English Masonry

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