



# ISOLATION TIMES

Issue Five: Sept 2020

Message from the PGM



## Looking Forward To The Past

Many will be familiar with the opening line of The Go-Between by L P Hartley, "The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there." As we enter what we generally refer to as "the season", it is clear that many believe that the Freemasonry we were enjoying at the beginning of the year is a country which is a long way from home. We can only hope that the perseverance of scientists in developing a vaccine will soon mean those foreign shores become a much closer location.

The introduction of the "Rule of 6" by the Government effective from Monday 14 September, together with the direction contained in UGLE's First Rising issued the same day, clarify the maximum number of Brethren who may attend a formal meeting. It is reasonable to assume that as there is clearly no desire to introduce a further general suspension of Freemasonry, UGLE is leaving open the opportunity for lodges to meet. Having spoken to a significant number of Brethren, either through Zoom or similar platforms or in socially distanced meetings, it is evident that there is still much uncertainty over what lodges should be doing.

Without question, there are Brethren who want to support their lodge's meeting programme but who remain uneasy about attending a meeting irrespective of the safety measures which have been introduced in the centres/halls across the Province. Perhaps we are now at that point where lodges should examine whether a meeting with six members can possibly deliver that meaningful ceremony or project the level of personal development which are core elements of our beliefs and principles. No doubt that there will be instances where a lodge believes it has to meet to deal with urgent business and in such cases, a meeting can of course, assist the lodge as it plans for the future. However, for much of the work a

lodge is expected to do in terms of its governance and which cannot be carried out if meetings are abandoned due to the lack of quorum, the Book of Constitutions has a solution and once we are able to meet in greater numbers, lodges should quickly get back on track.

UGLE are currently looking at how lodges can formally conduct some business via zoom or similar and it is anticipated that some guidance on this could be issued in the next week or so. Clearly this will greatly assist lodges in the decision making process as to whether they need to meet or not.

There is an example of a meeting which needs to take place which is also very close to home in the form of the Province's Annual Meeting. In order to satisfy UGLE requirements, a meeting involving a grand total of six senior members including yours truly, is scheduled to take place on Thursday 1 October.

It has been stressed repeatedly that no member should feel pressured into attending a meeting, whilst lodges should not feel obligated to meet. Irrespective of what has to be postponed, be it an Installation, an Initiation or celebration, once control of Covid-19 has been achieved, all efforts by a lodge to catch up will be assisted by the Provincial Office.

Significant efforts have been made by the management boards/committees of our masonic halls to make the meeting places as safe as possible. We are indebted to those who were tasked with interpreting the mass of Covid-19 protection guidance which changes on a not infrequent basis and who have ensured the provision of the safest possible environment. The introduction of the aforementioned Rule of 6 has led to the boards/committees of several of our centres to decide to close their premises to masonic meetings until further notice – this is perfectly understandable given the cost of opening a building to accommodate six brethren with no possibility of income from the bar or meals. We must also recognise that at present, the number of Covid-19 infections is rising, a very disappointing situation to say the least. It would be a truly horrendous position for an incident of a spike in infections to arise which was connected to a masonic meeting and as indicated above, those proposing to meet should fully assess the need to do so.

Whilst it remains difficult to predict when we will be able to return to practising the full ceremonial which enriches our Freemasonry, the present situation offers the opportunity to develop a knowledge of many aspects of our organisation which cannot normally be covered at regular meetings due to time constraints. Any lodge which wishes to look into some of the history or practices which underpin masonry and wishes to make use of the knowledge which exists across the Province should email the Provincial Office at [secretary@nottinghamshireremasons.co.uk](mailto:secretary@nottinghamshireremasons.co.uk) with some details of the topic to be discussed and possible dates to be considered. It is likely that such opportunities to widen a Brother's knowledge of masonry will at this time, have to rely for their delivery, on the use of zoom or similar digital platform.

The comment that Freemasonry needs to look to the future to ensure its sustainability is regularly quoted in some circles but it is to be hoped that in terms of the true fellowship which membership offers good men, we will soon be celebrating a return to the past.

## Provincial Vacancies

### Provincial Membership Officer

### Retiring from Ground-Breaking Work

Wednesday 30 September 2020 sees the retirement of W Bro Graham Riche, PAGDC from the job of Provincial Membership Officer. It is a role which W Bro Graham has filled superbly with total commitment and bags of energy. The introduction of the Members' Pathway held no terrors for W Bro Riche who had been taking a key role as the lead for member development as well as fulfilling his duties as Provincial Grand Orator. If you look at the early stages of the Pathway's genesis, then there are echoes of several elements of the member development agenda which had been promoted in numerous seminars across Nottinghamshire for a period way before the Pathway had been formulated.

A tough act to follow – unquestionably – but an opportunity now exists for a member of the Province, who has a flair for creative thinking and a desire to make a difference, to join the Membership Team under the stewardship of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. As every Brother in the Province appreciates, this job becomes available at a

time when the demand for support by lodges and individuals will grow significantly, as they deal with the fallout from the pandemic, and the Team wishes to be ready to provide assistance when required. There is also the small matter of a re-worked Pathway to promote.

If you are interested in joining the Membership Team through the role as the Province's Membership Officer then please register your interest with the Provincial Grand Secretary at [secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk](mailto:secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk) before Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Further details will then be forwarded to each Brother who indicates he may be up for the challenge.

## Treasurer's Assistant

There is also another opportunity to serve your Province by getting involved in the running of the finances. Although the Treasurer's Assistant is a non-collared position, you will be a key person in controlling our Provincial funds along with the Provincial Treasurer, and reporting to the Provincial Grand Master. As we come out of Covid-19 restrictions our finance decisions will be vital; so accurate and timely financial information will be indispensable.

Experience of setting up Sage and using it will be needed but there is little complexity in the recording of our financial transactions. The software is primarily used to reduce the work required in sales ledger debt chasing. The Provincial Grand Treasurer states that he will be on hand to assist and advise, as required.

If you are interested in this post, please contact the Provincial Grand Secretary at [secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk](mailto:secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk) before Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

## Provincial News

### Short Paper Competition

The jury, in the form of the Robin Wilson Lodge of Research No 9844, has returned its verdict on the Province's Short Paper Competition for 2020 and this year's winning author is W Bro Forbes Mutch PPrJGW of the Royal Sussex Lodge No 402 with his paper titled "Periwigs and The Grand Tour".

The paper which can be accessed through the Provincial document vault, is a fine example to aspiring authors on how to look at the life and times of notable Freemasons whilst creating links to aspects of history which can clearly be recognised as influences on the development of masonry.

The 2021 competition is now open to members of the Province and there may be no better opportunity than this time, when practicing our craft is somewhat

constrained, for Brethren to expand their knowledge of Freemasonry by researching a topic for a short paper. Entries should be sent to [provincialgrandorator@nottinghamshiremasons.org.uk](mailto:provincialgrandorator@nottinghamshiremasons.org.uk) before 26 March 2021.

### When six, such as we ...



Although Festive Boards are not available to us at present, the recent changes on the number who can meet permit six people to dine together in a bio-secure environment. It may be appropriate therefore, for Brethren and their families to take advantage of the dining opportunities offered through both the Corinthian Restaurant at Goldsmith Street <https://www.corinthian-restaurant.com/>

and at The Welbeck Suite at West Bridgford. <https://welbeckhall.com/>

As well as being able to dine out with both family and friends, the use of the restaurant facilities at these two centres would provide much-needed income.

### Marking well ...

Here we see our Provincial Events Coordinator, W.Bro. Ian Wilson, enjoying the facilities in the Corinthian Restaurant after his installation as Worshipful Master of the St Albans Mark Lodge in the presence of VW Bro. Chris Adkin, Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge.



## Universities Scheme

We are pleased to report that the University of Nottingham Lodge has now joined Daybrook Lodge as part of the Universities Scheme. More information about the scheme within the province can be found here. [Nottinghamshire Universities Scheme](https://www.nottinghamshiremasons.org.uk/universities-scheme)

Also, to coincide with freshers week, UGLE have produced this short video which you can view here. <https://t.co/ftIWLwLMDc>

## Cheese and Wine

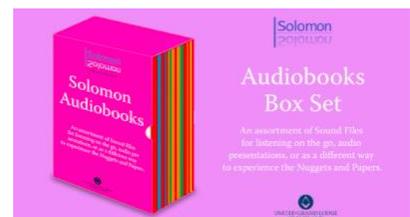
A big "thank you" to all those who supported the virtual Cheese & Wine event earlier in the summer. Not only did it bring many people together for a wonderful social gathering, it generated much needed funds for our centres, please see below for the breakdown.

Centre	No	Amount
Chilwell	2	£23.28
Nott. GSS	18	£209.51
Newark	5	£58.20
Mansfield	28	£325.90
Retford	3	£34.92
WB	14	£162.95
Worksop	9	£104.75
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£919.51</b>

It is hoped that cheque presentations can be made to all the halls in the future.

## Solomon

There has been a lot added to Solomon over the summer including: more information for new users (very useful for EA's and FC's), as well as "boxed sets" which enable you to download a bundle of items in a zip file.



Especially useful is the boxed set of audio files- which you can listen to at leisure and continue to make a daily advancement.

<https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/>

## Orations and talks

At this time of year, the Orators team would be taking bookings to visit Lodges and deliver orations, talks, presentations, and nuggets. Despite the current climate, this is still possible because the Orators team have been revising their material to make it suitable for delivery via Zoom and similar online platforms. Lodges and groups of brethren interested in booking such a talk should contact the Provincial Grand Orator at [provincialgrandorator@nottinghamshiremasons.org.uk](mailto:provincialgrandorator@nottinghamshiremasons.org.uk)

## UGLE Update-Testimonials

Freemasons across England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are proud of their 300-year history of helping those in need. Please read the testimonials received, here: [Testimonials](#)

## MCF Legacy Update



Did you know, six in ten parents do not have a will? Writing a will is by nature, something people prefer to put off for another day. Recent research revealed that more adults in the UK do not have a will than those who do – a concerning statistic, as the making of a will ensures the future protection for the people and causes you care about.

### Free will writing

MCF has joined the Goodwill Partnership to encourage more adults, both masonic and non-masonic to write their will. Access to the service is free to the user, by quoting MCF001.

For more information please visit the MCF website <https://mcf.org.uk/>

## Charity Update and Donations

Nottinghamshire Masons can be proud of supporting our communities and local charities during the period of the pandemic with total donations and grants of almost £40000.

A full storyboard will appear on the provincial website but here is just a little appetizer.

### Eudaimonia Super Kitchen

Early in the summer, Nottinghamshire Freemasons obtained a £5000 grant via the RCG6 MCF COVID Fund to enable Eudaimonia to continue to provide warm meals to the community in the Bassetlaw area of the province. Here they are delivering from their mobile kitchen van with the provincial logo added to their livery.



### Newark Community First Aiders



Ken Purslow handing over a cheque to Newark Community First Aiders for the purchase of new defibrillators.

### Hetty's



Tracey Crosby, the Occupational Lead at Hetty's, delighted with her cheque.

## Communications Update



## Digital Toolkit

Hard copies of the Digital Toolkit are expected to be delivered in the next

week and arrangements will be made for distribution (so no more excuses for not joining those zoom meetings!)

## Social Media Policy- we all have a responsibility

Brethren are reminded that they must at all times maintain the highest standards of behaviour when engaging on social media platforms and be careful not to bring Freemasonry into disrepute. This applies to all accounts whether private or public. Members can access the UGLE Social Media Policy here: Document Vault/UGLE/UGLE Guides

## Nomads Rugby Lodge

Interested in Rugby? The province of Derbyshire is looking to consecrate a new Rugby Lodge and Nottinghamshire Masons are very much welcome to join. If you require more information, please contact [nomadsrugbylodge@pm.me](mailto:nomadsrugbylodge@pm.me)

## Other News-

In July 2020, the East Midlands Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association became aware of the plight of a 15-year-old lad living in Mountsorrel in Leicestershire. Tragically Matty is suffering from terminal brain cancer. Enquiries were made of Matty's mum, Alison Hatton, to see if there was anything, we could do for him. We already knew he loved motorbikes, but we found out he has been longing to visit the Hard Rock Café in London. We definitely thought we could help with that. It was decided that between the members of the Chapter we could raise about £400. That would cover fuel and the meal at the Café. However, the power of social media took over and donations came pouring in. From Masons, Lodges, Mark Masons and other Widows Sons Chapters. We were on, we were going to get Matty to the Hard Rock Café as we had raised over £2000.00.



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