



ISOLATION TIMES

Issue Nine: Feb 2021

Message from the PGM



June Could Be Busting Out All Over

I am sure it did not come as a surprise to many that the roadmap for exit from the national lockdown had an underlying level of caution and being cautious of course is not an issue for English Freemasons.

Given a very fair wind, there is a distinct possibility that we will be able to attend meetings of our lodges and chapters etc from Monday 21 June. I am sure Worshipful Masters, Secretaries and Directors of Ceremonies will be looking at how they can arrange the business of their lodges to get them back up to speed. For there to be a successful return to a practice of Freemasonry across the Province, it will be necessary for our masonic centres to prepare their premises and services for a very busy period. I am heartened by the professional approach which was taken by the management of the various halls to put in place arrangements to protect both their customers and their businesses during the lockdowns and I am sure that the level of commitment displayed augurs well.

Hopefully, all those connected with the Province are aware of the efforts which Nottinghamshire Freemasonry has made to help our communities since the onset of the pandemic. There is no better example of turning adversity into personal development and community benefit than that demonstrated by members of the United Service Lodge No 4068 – an account of their endeavours is given below.

It is as a result of the efforts of the Brethren of the Province during these challenging times that the reputation of Freemasonry has been enhanced. It is to be hoped that we can continue to build on the prominence which has been established as we re-embark on our masonic journey.

United Services Lodge 4068

Celebrating their centenary ...

and have provided us with this report. The Lodge was to have celebrated its centenary in July 2020; instead, the current pandemic is preventing us from meeting, let alone celebrating. However, in preparing for the centenary we drew up a revised Lodge Profile fit for our second century. We researched the formation of the Lodge, and the reasons why our founders had adopted the name 'United Service' rather than the more usual 'United Services' for an ex-servicemen's Lodge. It was clear that 'United Service' was chosen to emphasise the commitment of members to the service of the community.



On rediscovering the purpose set out for us 100 years ago, several members decided to demonstrate that commitment during the Covid-19 pandemic in a number of ways, including: **A team consisting of our WM, John Crofts, Ian Thornton (project manager), Mike Douglas, Chris Newton, Drew Pike, Richard Brailsford** and others gave their time and energy to build a substantial extension to the premises of a Nottingham charity, Mesopotamia, which distributes food and essentials to those in great need in the city.



Brotherly love, relief and truth

The following link shows a video of the construction and ends with clip of the Manager for the Mesopotamia Charity thanking the Lodge for their work and support.

<https://www.screencast.com/t/BQyZia4QYr>



In addition to building the extension:

Tim Carr became a volunteer Covid tester and now runs a Test Centre – a far cry from his profession as a caterer and event organiser. **Chris Newton** raised over £1,200 by running a total of 200 miles on his treadmill ('Run the Month Prostrate Cancer UK) – the treadmill needed replacing at the end of the run! **Sukhwant Sandhu** distributed over 400 food parcels throughout Nottingham, also raising a total of over £1,100 for various Nottingham Charities. **John Rourke** delivered cooked meals to those isolating in his locality as part of local support in his neighbourhood. Many other members have used the 'downtime' of the pandemic to keep alive the service to the community that our founders challenged us to continue. The Lodge is proud of all their efforts.

Mansfield LOI laptops



Update from Les Boyington on the Mansfield Lodge of Instruction Homework project.

We took the laptop donations over to Frances Rolland today. We delivered a total of 29 but still have a few to pick up from outlying halls and then our total will top 37.

Laptops can continue to be dropped off at Goldsmith Street on Wednesday mornings and Worksop Masonic Hall weekday mornings and elsewhere by arrangement with Les Boyington: secl01852@gmail.com

Short paper competition ...

Just a few weeks left until the end of March to get your entries in for the Annual Provincial Short Paper Competition. It could be you! But “you need to be in it, to win it”. Entries to provincialgrandorator@nottinghamshiremasons.org.uk before 26 March 2021.

Membership Clinics

Starting on the 24th February, the Provincial Membership Team will be holding regular online Membership Clinics to help you grow your Lodge membership. Now is the perfect time for Lodges to take stock, and to take positive action to keep their membership growing. These sessions are open to all Brethren but will be of particular interest to any existing Lodge Membership Officers, anyone aspiring to the role, or to any Brethren interested in helping the membership of their lodge to flourish. The sessions are interactive and collaborative and a chance to discuss membership with the team and Brethren of other Lodges. Join us for the next Membership Clinic to share experiences, generate new ideas and ask any questions. We look forward to seeing you there – **For the next Zoom meeting details, please contact:**

membercomms@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk

Finding new members



Learning & Development

Solomon challenge

Below is the opening paragraph to a remarkably interesting paper in the Solomon System

“Lodges under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) have six Lodge Jewels on display at every meeting, of which three are ‘movable’ and three ‘immovable’. The six are the Square, the Level, the Plumb-rule, the Rough Ashlar, the Perfect Ashlar and the Tracing Board. The Reverend Dr. George Oliver, a Masonic writer [and Notts Mason .Ed] who lived in the 18th century, said they were called ‘Jewels’ because ‘they have a moral teaching which renders them Jewels of’ inestimable value’. We still refer to them as Jewels today, and we are expected to moralise on them.

Brethren, the challenge for you, should you wish to take, it is to find the paper that this is taken from on Solomon and email a copy to pco@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk the first correct reply will get a mention along with their Lodge in the next edition of Isolation Times.

Solomon is free, Solomon is interesting and Solomon is accessible via <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk/>

Check regularly for new files and don't forget to subscribe to the Solomon Twitter [@SolomonUGLE](https://twitter.com/SolomonUGLE)

Charity Donations/Plaques

The province now has several plaques that will go to some of the charities/organisations we have supported over recent months. These can be put on display as a permanent reminder of our support.



St Giles Lodge Meet, Greet and Eat



Presenting a cheque for £500 from the Freemasons of St Giles lodge a few weeks ago, to help with an organisation called Meet, Greet and Eat who are using the kitchens at Welbeck Road, West Bridgford during lockdown to provide meals for the needy. A great example of charity continuing despite Freemasonry being suspended.

Communications Update



There have been a few changes in the comms team and Chris Starnes has taken on the post of Provincial Communications Officer. Many thanks to Justin Donne for all that he has done to move things forward.

Chris will be most ably assisted by three experienced Deputy PCOs each responsible for a particular area:

Dep PCO (TBA) - Press Officer and Media Ambassador

Paul Hancock – Webmaster and Photography

Glenn Hunter – Social Media Manager

Document Vault

Don't forget that lodge members can access a wealth of useful information in the Provincial Document Vault. If you are having trouble accessing the vault, then please contact the Pr.Grand.Secretary Secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk

Competition for new title

As mentioned by the PGM, the summer gives hope of a return to something like normality. To recognise this, at the appropriate time, we will relaunch the Isolation Times newsletter. Before that we will hold a small competition for a new title. Further details will appear in a future edition, get your thinking caps on!

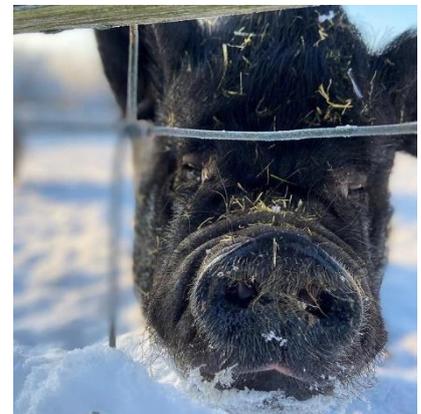
Hard Copy Magazine

The comms team are looking to re-introduce a hard copy magazine/newspaper, to be distributed to every member of the province and would welcome contributions from brethren and lodges. Information similar to the United Services Lodge story above, the St Giles item and also relating to lodge special events/centenaries etc. in the coming year would be particularly welcome. Get in touch using the email in the 'Keep Informed' section below.

Finally, to end with a smile

Stonebridge Farm has been supported by the Provincial Team and by Lodges over the years and like many charities their finances have been severely impacted by the pandemic. but they have been able to continue to look after the animals.

Primrose the Kune Pig having enjoyed a surfeit of snow is now also looking forward to Summer.



Keep informed

Visit our [Website](#) , [YouTube](#) , [Facebook](#) , [Twitter](#) and our [Instagram](#). If you have any news stories please [email](#) us.