



ISOLATION TIMES

Issue One: April 2020

Message From The PGM

At the outset of the Government's series of announcements and directives aimed at ensuring we prepared ourselves to face and ultimately defeat, the Coronavirus pandemic, there were repeated references to the fortitude of our nation during the Second World War. Within the membership of the Province of Nottinghamshire we have a number of Brethren who have first-hand experience of Britain at the time of the last global conflict who have confirmed that these days are as challenging if not more so than those encountered during their youth

It is the hope of the whole of the Province that as we see the back of the latest global threat, those Brethren, together with other members with health-related challenges, are able to add commentary which will surely be written, on the impact that a disease emerging from the Far East had on Freemasonry in Nottinghamshire.

Remember, Brethren until such time as we are able to be restored to our various Lodges and meetings...



Almoners To The Fore

When it became evident that the action to tackle the pandemic was going to result in the suspension of masonic meetings, one of the first actions by the Provincial Grand Almoner and his team was to contact each Lodge Almoner to discuss approaches which could be used to ensure that each brother would be contacted regularly during the isolation period.

It is pleasing to note that most, and possibly all, the lodges in the Province have systems in place to make sure that every member of a lodge is being contacted. In

some instances the Almoner is undertaking the work, for other lodges the Almoner has recruited a small team to assist him and for some the buddy system has been employed.

Irrespective of which mechanism is used, it is essential that no brother believes he has been forgotten. Some early feedback suggests that a telephone call is far more effective than an e-mail. The video below might be helpful.



and this can be viewed from the front page of the Provincial Website.

<http://www.nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk/>

Further advice, including that on support for those brethren for whom the pandemic has caused major problems, can be obtained from W Bro Urban Burrows, the Provincial Grand Almoner.

His contact details are

almoner@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk

Brethren, do not let a problem become a crisis: act now!

A Recognition of the Masonic Life and Times

Irrespective of the different and for many, difficult circumstances created by the Coronavirus pandemic, the circle of life continues to turn. The Province's administrative team has lost two highly respected and hard-working brethren through the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of:

W Bro Alan Shearer P Pr SGW, Provincial Grand Registrar and

W Bro Kevan Goddard P Pr G SuptWks, the Province's webmaster and the lead for e-communications.

In addition, the much lamented death of several other brethren has occurred since

the suspension of Freemasonry was announced and the isolation regime came into place. However, at the time of writing of this article, it appeared that no brother had died as a result of Covid 19.

It is hoped that Nottinghamshire Freemasonry will be able to celebrate the masonic life and times of those brethren who have died and were buried or cremated in the presence of very few, once the lockdown has been lifted. Although some initial plans have been put together, we are obviously not able to indicate any dates or venues at this time.

Absent Brethren



During the Festive Board of most lodges in Nottinghamshire, those present toast Absent Brethren at 9 pm. Under current circumstances we are all absent brethren and whilst the members of a number of lodges are, during virtual meetings, acknowledging those members who are absent, from a Province-wide position, it is hoped that each brother will raise a glass with the rest of Nottinghamshire Freemasons at 9 pm each Saturday until we can return to our regular meeting arrangements. If you are a social media exponent then think about sharing your engagement with your brethren through that medium.



The Provincial Grand Master. It's 9.00pm and Time to Toast [#Nottsmasons](#) [#TimetoToast](#)

Unsung Heroes?

...Not Anymore

The outstanding response from the general public to the appeal for volunteers to help the NHS was not unexpected but a total in the region of 750,000 is simply staggering and no doubt contains a number of Freemasons.

The Province is keen to record the efforts of its members who have supported the work to tackle the pandemic and if you have acted as a volunteer for the NHS in any capacity then please send brief details to the Provincial Grand Secretary. secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk

We are also aware that across the East Midlands a number of firms, owned by Freemasons, have adapted their production to provide personal protective equipment and other vital supplies such as sanitisers. It is again a contribution we wish to acknowledge so please advise the Provincial Grand Secretary accordingly.

Similarly, if you are aware of a brother who is going above and beyond in the community or for your lodges and members, again please get in touch.

My Favourite Time

It is hoped that future editions of Isolation Times will contain contributions from members of the Province. We offer the opportunity to any brother who would like to give us an insight into his favourite experience of Freemasonry to date. It need not be a ceremony or other aspect of a lodge meeting – it could be a social event or a time when Freemasonry contributed to a community or a charity. Brethren, we have much to be proud about so let us know what you have enjoyed. Please submit contributions to ecomms@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk

Please include photos if possible.

The Lighter Side

As in every difficult situation, the national spirit will find humour and below are two of those moments:

One member has reported using his garden shed for self-isolation and that the deep trench and barbed wire has worked fine to isolate him from the rest of the family.

Despite the closure of most garages, one of the Provincial Leaders has obtained a new car, it does 4 weeks to the gallon.

Is This a Blond Moment?

W Bro Adrian Bellamy has decided to raise money for NHS Charities Together by having his dark locks bleached blond. If you wish to donate then visit <https://www.justgiving.com> and then search for Adrian Bellamy

Are Communications Your Thing?



Be part of the Provincial Communications Team

In the next few days, the Provincial Grand Secretary will be circulating some information on opportunities to join the Province's Communications Team. If you have experience in media management in any of its various forms, we would like to hear from you.

Do You Need Something To Keep You Occupied?

Making a daily advancement

Solomon is continually updated with lots of new material, including interactive quizzes, new papers and sound files that you can listen to over a mid morning coffee – it also works with tea!

The Solomon website is

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

Provincial Quiz

We will be having a series of Provincial Quizzes which will appear on our Website. Perhaps this is something that you will want to consider mulling over when you want to check that you can still remember what you thought you knew. Keep an eye on the Provincial Website for these.

Pending Appeals and Initiatives

Do you have, or do you know of any businesses that have 3D printing and other manufacturing capacity that could assist with the further production of PPE for the NHS? (masks and visors are urgently needed).

If so, please contact the Provincial Grand Secretary

secretary@nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk

We will also be putting out a general province wide appeal for donations of PPE equipment for the NHS. Logistical arrangements are currently being investigated.

Brief News from UGLE

This week, a joint letter from UGLE and the Masonic Charitable Foundation has been sent to all Provincial members outlining our response to the Covid-19 pandemic and how we plan to go further in providing assistance to our communities.

<https://t.co/Z3sjiKrWpB>

Virtual Meetings



As already referenced, many brethren and lodges are using technology such as Zoom to keep in touch, including holding virtual meetings and this engagement and contact is encouraged. However please do take note of the Grand Secretary's guidance on virtual meetings circulated on the 20th March. Members can refresh themselves on that guidance by logging on to the Provincial Document Vault.

www.facebook.com/nottinghamshiremasons

www.twitter.com/nottsmasons

www.instagram.com/nottinghamshiremasons

Stay informed

Keep visiting the provincial website for the latest news and updates which will shortly include video messages and podcasts.

<http://www.nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk>