



ISOLATION TIMES

Issue Seven: December 2020

Message from the PGM



Whilst Christmas is unquestionably a time for families to get together and enjoy the festive spirit, the food, and the ever-present television repeats, it consistently offers a major challenge for parents in the search of the must-have gift. Those with long memories will remember the James Bond car, the latest Action Man, Cabbage Patch dolls, X-Boxes, the i-Pods and of late, the current manifestation of the i-Phone. For Freemasons, many of their letters to Santa have asked for 2 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. It is to be hoped that the programme to roll-out the vaccine will, by the Spring of next year, have enabled many Brethren to have the confidence to attend meetings.

No doubt a good number of Brethren decided that rather than send traditional Christmas cards this year they will send e-messages and donate to a charity. For this Festive Season, it might be worth considering contributing to the Lodge's Almoner's account or a ring-fenced fund held by the Treasurer. The basis for giving this approach some consideration is that several lodges are reporting that there are Brethren whose personal circumstances have been heavily damaged by the pandemic's impacts. Every effort should be made to support those Brethren and the oft quoted maxim of charity beginning at home is probably very apt at this time.

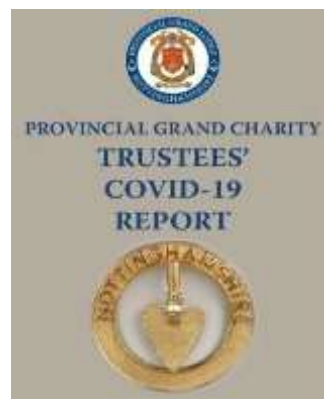
Hopefully, the Province as a whole is aware of the great support which has been provided to numerous charities

working to assist the disadvantaged or isolated whose life challenges have been made more difficult by the pandemic. A booklet detailing the work to date has been produced and copies can be obtained from Lodge Secretaries or Charity Stewards and it is also available in the Provincial document vault.

Although it is to be hoped that the demand on services provided by many charities will reduce as the pandemic is checked, work is still in train to utilise the last of the match-funding provided for Nottinghamshire by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

Covid-19 has robbed us of the chance to enjoy the masonic fellowship which always seems to have that extra dimension at Christmas, and I take this opportunity of extending to the whole of the Province and their families, my warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

Provincial News



As stated by the PGM, arrangements are in hand to distribute the Trustee's Covid-19 report. Members can find an electronic version of the report in the 2nd Rising section of the document vault.

Free sanitiser for lodge widows has now been distributed to those lodges who took up the fantastic offer. A high-quality product @ 80% alc. content and convenient size have been warmly received.



Some lodges did not take up their allocation so there are some surplus bottles and arrangements will be made to distribute these in the New Year.

Many thanks to our provincial events coordinator for initiating this project.

New Membership Team

W. Bro. Tony Harvey has been appointed Provincial Membership Officer (PMO) with W. Bro. Les Boyington taking up the role of Deputy PMO. W. Bro. Rob Smith will join the team with a focus on membership communications and marketing and will work closely with the comms team. Development of a Membership Strategy in line with work and campaigns emerging from UGLE will be very much an early priority for the new team.

Christmas Get Together

Remember our Provincial get together on Monday the 21st. How are you doing on the daily quiz questions?





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UGLE MCF News

FREEMASONS WILL GIVE OVER £850,000 TO PROTECT THE HOMELESS THIS WINTER

Having donated £1m between April and July to help those impacted by the Covid-19 crisis, Freemasons are now focusing on protecting the homeless, with a new series of donations across England and Wales. Please see the Provincial website for the latest UGLE press release.



This year's Impact Report is finally here! Discover how Freemasonry, through our work, provided **£19M** in support and services to help better the lives of thousands of vulnerable and disadvantaged people across England and Wales.

What is more, see how we've made a real difference to your local community! From the number of people supported to the total funding provided, get all the stats and information about our work in your area. [Click to get report](#)

Have you anything to give in the cause of charity?

If so, click [HERE](#) and it will be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

Charity Update - Recent Donations

Portland College The Freemasons of Mansfield Town Charity Committee appeared in the local press recently thanks to a generous donation of £2000 made to Portland College. You can read the story in the online edition of the Bramley [here](#) (p29)

TLC As reported in the Trustees Covid-19 report a donation of £2000 has been made to TLC (Nottingham). This has enabled Teddies to be donated to

supplement care packs for local women's refuges.



Above Lizzy and Izzy from the Newark Women's Refuge getting a helping hand for their care packs and packages below produced by the NIDAS team



Learning and Development Update

Hidden mysteries of nature & science

We are encouraged to study these. On Monday 21 December, just after sunset and looking South West, we will be able to see an exceedingly rare one. The planets Jupiter and Saturn will be in the same position in the sky. They have not been so close together and visible like this since the days of Galileo. Well worth a glance before the Provincial get together at 6pm.

Solomon

Following the installation meeting, when R.W Bro. Santa Claus was reinstated in the chair of the North Pole Lodge, No. 1, he told us a story about a young man he had recently met. To learn more, follow this [LINK](#)

Communications Update



Digital Toolkit

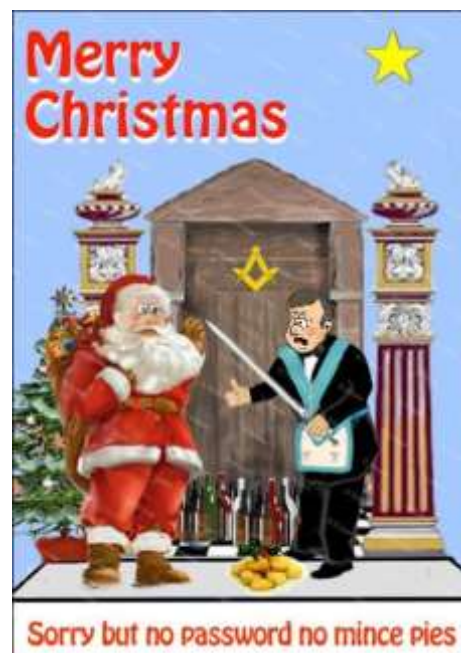


A limited number of hard copies of the communications toolkit have also be distributed to lodges at the same time as the Covid-19 booklets. Additional copies of these can be obtained from the provincial office.

Stay informed

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

Look out for a special announcement before Christmas on the website, finally ...



And please stay safe