



Week 54, 5th April 2021

Brethren, I trust you had a safe and enjoyable Easter break, with which week 54 begins with a statement from both our PGM and MEGS, regarding important dates to bear in mind when your lodge is discussing plans for resumption of meetings.

Looking back, we hear how Freemasons rose to the challenge during 2020 and have been helping during lockdown - not just monetary wise, but also donating significant time and effort. And looking forward, we see how another event is shaping up for the Festival 2022 Easter Challenge.

For those wondering how the man in the white suite came about – check out his story and how to avail yourself of his, huh huh, services.....

As always, keep strong, keep positive, take the vaccine, and stay safe.

The Editor



IMPORTANT JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE THE PROVINCE



Most of you will have now received a copy of the First Rising issued by UGLE, on Monday 29th March 2021. However, for the sake of clarity and the elimination of any doubt, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, wish to re-iterate that in order to comply with Government regulations and guidance from UGLE, no Masonic meetings may take place in England, until after May 17th, 2021 at the earliest.

During the period of suspension, it will not be necessary to issue a Summons, but a note explaining the circumstances should be entered in the Minute book.

Providing the timing of the Government's Roadmap for relaxing Covid restrictions does not change, then **post May 17th**, Masonic meetings of up to 6 will be permitted. However, if a Masonic Centre has conducted an appropriate Risk Assessment to minimize the transmission of Covid infection, then meetings larger than 6 may take place up to the maximum capacity indicated in the risk assessment, but in any case, no more than 30 people.

Further advice will be issued in May or earlier if Government guidance changes.

The rollout of the Covid vaccination program is progressing well, but we still need to exercise caution - we all miss our Freemasonry, but better to delay the restart a little longer, than jeopardize the advances we have made; and remember that no Brother or Companion should be urged to attend, if he does not feel comfortable in doing so. The health and well-being of our members is, and always will be, our number one priority.



*We'll Meet Again
To meet with friends en masse for
Sigger events*

We will meet again!

Whether it is "en masse", lodge or smaller groups - until that happy occasion, please stay safe, and keep in touch with your fellow Freemasons. An email, message or telephone call can make a big difference, especially to those who are lonely or isolated.

We can't wait to see your smiling faces again, and to enjoy your company.



PGL of
Worcestershire
2022 Festival
(E2022) donation

<https://gtap.uk/e2022>



Freemasons rise to Covid-19 challenge

Faced with the greatest global pandemic in living memory, Freemasons came together in 2020 and donated a total of £1m as well as their time to help those in need. The donations were used to help communities in various critical areas, including foodbanks, support for unpaid carers, personal protective equipment (PPE), supplies for hospitals and hospices, support for women's refuges, and funds for NHS workers, ambulances and equipment.



Freemasons also worked 18 million hours as volunteers in a range of different areas, where there was a need, including driving vulnerable people to hospital, preparing meals, taking care of people at risk, organising care packages, producing scrubs, PPE and hand sanitiser. At the start of the crisis in April 2020, some Freemasons adapted their businesses' production lines to produce nearly 5,000 visors for use in healthcare settings. Since then, Freemasons have produced or procured tens of thousands of pieces of additional PPE.

Meanwhile, to help protect women and children from domestic abuse, Freemasons donated more than £165,000 in 2020. The donation helped more than 2,000 women during the lockdown, who received more than 1,000 parcels containing essential items for women fleeing domestic abuse. Freemasons also focused their efforts on hospitals and care homes, donating nearly 1,000 tablets to provide vital contact between coronavirus patients and their loved ones. The tablets were provided to more than 50 hospitals, care homes and hospices. In London, hospitals including The Royal London, Queen Mary's and St Thomas' received approximately 115 tablets; while in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, some 200 tablets were donated.

Elsewhere, to support thousands of families struggling during the crisis, Freemasons donated 300,000 meals and 38 tonnes of food to homeless people, women's refuges and vulnerable people, supporting more than 120,000 people in total. Moreover, £560,000 was donated to provide meals and help numerous foodbanks.

Dr David Staples, chief executive of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), said: "No one in this day and age should have to worry where their next meal is coming from. We are so glad that we were able to provide thousands of families across the UK with a hot meal or food donations to help get them through this current crisis. Freemasons have achieved all of this in just a few months and have also given their time to produce and deliver food to the vulnerable."

The UGLE is also encouraging its members to roll up their sleeves and volunteer to help vaccinate the population. "More than 18.5 million hours of volunteer work were undertaken by Freemasons. Now it is crucial that we help in every way we can to protect the population. If the NHS needs volunteers, then we are happy to emphasise the importance of this to our members," said Dr Staples.

He continued: "Our response to the Pandemic shows what Freemasonry is all about; supporting those in need, giving back to our communities and volunteering where it can make a real difference. Freemasons have been doing this for over 300 years and I am proud of the time and commitment that our members have given to support the nation in its fight against Covid-19."

In addition to the £1m donated in 2020, the Freemasons have committed a further fund of £2.1m to support the ongoing Covid-19 crisis response. Of that £2.1m, £850,000 has been allocated to support homeless people through several charities with which UGLE partners. More than 40,000 homeless individuals are being provided with food and essentials, transport, help with accessing services such as counselling and healthcare, as well as employment and training opportunities.

Those boots are made for walkin' - Vern's Dormer Lodge No. 7294 Easter Challenge

For all of April, WBro Vern Littley will be on his next challenge for Festival 2022, completing the Dormer Lodge No. 7294 Easter challenge. He will be walking at least 72.94 miles and at least 72940 steps, to support the Province's Festival.

If any of our brethren want to join him then please feel free!

Or if you just wish to donate please visit

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Vern-Littley>

We are here for you.

Issues raised and topics discussed in the news over the last month may have weighed heavy on some of us.



For Freemasons or their families who have felt affected, our counselling service is there to support you, free of charge.

Call our enquiries team on 0800 035 60 90 or email help@mcf.org.uk to access the service.

Elvis is in the room

It all started about 15 years ago, when at a ladies weekend in Sidmouth with Royal Standard Lodge No. 498, the Hotel informed us that the entertainer had cancelled. Luckily, Phil Goalby was able to assist. He put his sound rig in the car, rushed to the fancy dress shop, bought a pair of glasses and a wig, and a great night was had by all!

On returning home, he decided to purchase an Elvis suit and the legend was alive and kicking again.

Since then, he's entertained many a ladies night, Masonic weekend and even cruise ship audiences, in places as far away as Singapore, the Caribbean and Hawaii. Also in exotic Walsall, Northfield and Dudley :)

Elvis is available to entertain your Ladies night. All he asks is that your Lodge donate a minimum of £100 to the 2022 Festival.

Huh Huh... Elvis is leaving the room.

