



Week 6, 27th April 2020

Brethren, we are now into our sixth week of lockdown and are seeing the reporting from the Government and experts talking about passing "the peak". No mention yet of how long it will take to start to get back to some sort of normality, but no doubt any changes are still a few weeks off, and it is likely to take place gradually over a long period of time. Social distancing clearly is still the key and it is great to see that Freemasons are honouring the instructions to remain apart, recognising how hard it is.

Our PGM has asked for a special "Time to Toast" at 9pm this Saturday – see the article below but get those pictures coming in!

This week a reflection on some of the activity both within and outside our order, but the overall message remains – "we are in this together and be proud of being a Freemason!"

Keep strong, keep healthy, keep in, and stay safe.

The Ed

Special 9pm Toast – Record the moment!

Join us at 9.00 pm **this Saturday 2nd May** when we will hold a Province-wide toast to absent brethren. We would like to make a record of this event, so please take a photo of yourself toasting and publish it as a Twitter tweet or Facebook post, remembering to tag our Provincial page (@worcsmaons) in the process and also include the hashtag #TimetoToast.

Alternatively, if you haven't yet signed up to Twitter or Facebook, please email it to: mark@depmod.net



"The future of Freemasonry depends upon being able to introduce and retain committed members who will contribute to their Lodges and enjoy a lasting membership" **Peter Lowndes, Pro Grand Master**



Now more than ever is a good time to think about how we can use the Members Pathway, as it is a system that teaches us communication, whether it be from how to promote lodges and attract new members to how do we retain and enthuse the one's we have.

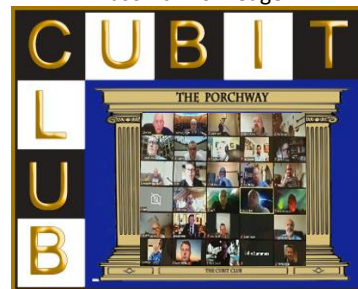
Click [here](#) to download the Pathway guide to attract, introduce and retain members.

Stay in touch and stay safe.

Chris Overall – Provincial Grand Mentor

Welcome to "The Porch Way"

Your entrance into a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.



With the current Covid-19 restrictions of isolation, the Cubit Club is here to keep us all involved in our daily advancement of Masonic knowledge.

Here is a reminder that the Porch Way Class of Instruction will take place, via Zoom every Friday at 8pm.

These meetings are open to all Brethren from our Province regardless of rank or position within the Lodge, and will commence at 8pm every Friday evening

Below is the link you need to join the meeting, it will help if you have downloaded Zoom to your PC, Laptop, iPad and or Mobile Phone. You can use this link for every meeting,

The meeting will last no more than 40 minutes and consist of about 10 to 15 minutes of Masonic Instruction. Brethren will then be able to ask the Mentors any Masonic based questions they may have.

Why not try it out and see what your fellow Brethren are up to!

CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING

*Paul Wong, Richard Macey &
Martin Lawrence.*

Mask appeal sets off chain of generosity and goodwill

"Recent support from our Freemasons involved in the Redditch Masonic Charity (RMC) has been particularly focussed of helping out various organisations and projects in the current climate, including the provision of 7500 face masks", reports **WBro Simon Sutor**, Chairman of the RMC.

£500 has been donated to "Acts of Kindness", a local charity that runs the "Redditch Food Bank". The services they provide in supplying food to the needy are in increasing demand in these difficult times

£250 has been donated to a crowd funding appeal to provide free tea and coffee to the staff at The Alexandra Hospital. The charity thought this to be the least we could do to support those on the front line.

£1000 to Mike Lowe an out of work chef who has been manufacturing face masks/visors for front line workers working in Hospital ICU wards, Care home's, as well as for Hospital auxiliary staff, Paramedics, Fire-fighters etc. Mike is based in Studley, so the face masks will be used locally.



Click to read the latest issue of *Better Lives* magazine and find out how the Masonic Charitable Foundation is supporting people through the coronavirus pandemic.



This week's podcast is courtesy of **Mark Lodge**, one of our Social Media Gurus for Provincial Twitter and Facebook feeds :) Hear some more tips about technology and keeping in touch with fellow Freemasons.



Heroes on two wheels!

We hear a lot about the NHS, key workers etc, but we want to highlight another group - 'Blood bikers' are motorcyclists who provide a service that supports the NHS. It works (normally) out-of-hours and transports whole blood, blood samples, pharmacy items, important medical notes and equipment. It is operated by volunteers and is wholly funded from charitable donations and fundraising.

At the minute we have seen an increase in test samples (inc COVID19 swabs) and an increase in drug deliveries from hospitals to homes (as drugs follow patients discharged earlier in the day).

Worcestershire is covered by a Blood Biking Group called *Severn Freewheelers*. They also cover the larger mid-Western area of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Herefordshire.

What has this to do with Freemasonry? The Mark Degree have been very supportive, and the motorcycle currently used for Worcestershire has been donated by the Grand Charity. Individual Worcestershire Lodges (eg Royds and Vernon) and Progress (Brothers on Bike) Lodge have contributed over the years.



Our brethren are also amongst the large group of riders / volunteers that make the charity work. At a recent handover of toxicology samples at Worcester Royal, two masonic bikes – one from Worcestershire and one from Gloucestershire – met up to relay medical samples to the Poisons Unit at Birmingham City Hospital. From one hand to another.

During the current crisis Severn Freewheelers are operating 24-7, with riders using their own motorbikes as well as those of the charity.

If you see a Blood Bike in your street delivering essential supplies you can proudly say 'we support them'.

Dr Mark Cooper, Royds Lodge No. 1204

♥ Find out how we are helping people who have been impacted by COVID-19

🏠 Read our top tips for staying busy whilst at home and take part in our puzzles for prizes!

CAN WE HELP YOU? if you are struggling – whether it's due to the coronavirus pandemic or not – please email our Enquiries team on help@mcf.org.uk.