



Week 3, 6th April 2020

EASTER....Traditionally a time of joy and celebration, especially with friends and family. This time, of course, will be different – whilst we can enjoy the spirit of Easter it will have to be at a distant with our loved ones. There are therefore several articles on a range of the technology that can enable us all to speak and see one another. However, we all know there are Brethren, friends and family that may struggle with setting this up, so take the time to reach out to them with a call and spread the capability!

We hear that Social Distancing is perhaps starting to see “green shoots” of slowing down the rate of spread of the virus, but clearly still very early days and the peak is reported to be with us in about a week’s time, according to scientific advice. But that only will happen if we heed the instruction to stay in.

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

The Ed

Message from our PGM



Please Click to hear the latest message in these unique times from our Provincial Grand Master, Robert Vaughan



KEEP IN TOUCH

Use Social Media to keep in touch with the brethren of your lodge.

There are many different platforms or companies you can use, A very popular one that is safe, quick and easy to use is WhatsApp.

Setting up an account is easy. Open the app on your phone and follow the instructions and then start a group with your lodge name. From your phone address book invite all your members to join.

Lodge information, Photos, jokes, are easily posted to every member of the group.

It's easy try it today

CRACKPOTS

An ancient story taken from Indian & Chinese Folklore

A great way to use a bit of time at present is to have a look at what Solomon has to offer, from explanations of the degrees to why do we do it this way.

At my last lodge meeting (seems a while back now) we had the traditional explanation of the second degree tracing board and then an explanation read from Solomon of what that meant in today's language. A great little nugget I read recently is about the “Crackpots” seemed to fit really well with Masonry and how we find ourselves....Take 2 minutes out to read [here](#)

Stay Safe – Chris Overall, Provincial Grand Mentor

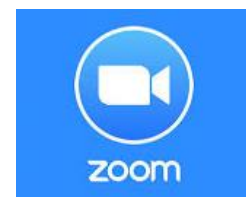
Solomon
2010WOW
solomon.ugle.org.uk



TIP! For those Lodges that have a website, use the time to make sure it's up to date during this period of isolation.

Those Brethren working from home will no doubt be familiar with many business group conference and video call technology, such as WebEx, Teams, Skype etc. Many Chat App solutions also contain video call capability, including WhatsApp, above but many are limited in the number of simultaneous callers. One that is a favourite at present is ZOOM – a free video calling app that will work on your PC, Laptop or smartphone and allow multiple people to joining in a video call at once.

Why not try it out with your Lodge and get connected! <https://zoom.us/>



Recently Brandwood Lodge No. 7679 held a Past Masters and Officers Business meeting via Zoom which was the inspiration of WBro Phil Atkinson Lodge Treasurer. 11 Members logged in from homes around the Province and even one from Spain. The system worked well and much was discussed about our individual mindfulness, wellbeing and life in general, we even found some time to discuss the ensuing Masonic Year. We are now planning to hold a 40 minute Zoom every week during our Masonic hiatus to which every member of the Lodge will be invited.

Other general ZOOM sessions are also running around the province – including one organised by WBro Rob Waldron in the IMF Facebook page for #TimeToToast at 9pm...check it out!

NOTE: A word of caution, please take note of the guidance below from UGLE regarding performing ceremonial “choreography” over video calling.

While we will all be required to make adjustments during this period of suspension, I would also ask that members fully acquaint themselves with whether certain adjustments can co-exist with the Obligation that we all took when initiated. It is the opinion of the Grand Registrar that it is an "Ancient Landmark of the Order" that Lodge meetings and the related ceremonies can only take place with all Brethren physically present in a properly tyled Lodge Room; however, it is acceptable for members to practise such ceremonies, most particularly those aspects which make up the spoken parts of the ritual, over the internet.



The security implications and pitfalls (for example the ability to record on a number of software platforms) unfortunately do not square with our Obligation to assure privacy and confidentiality of proceedings - and we therefore ask members to refrain from any demonstrations of those elements of the ceremonies covered in the Obligation, or any attempt to reproduce the 'choreography' online. We have no doubt that our Directors of Ceremonies will have no difficulty in putting our Brethren right on such things when we are happily able to meet again.

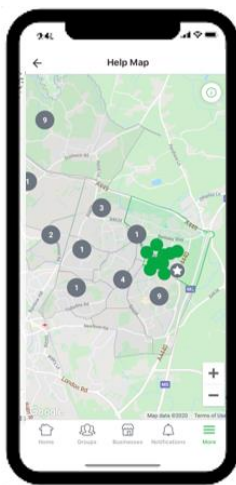
For these reasons please do not try to hold a genuine Lodge or Lodge of Instruction in a virtual form, but feel free to practise those elements outlined above.

Dr. David Staples, Grand Secretary



Neighbours can now mark themselves as available to help others using neighbourhood hub app **Nextdoor**. The app allows users who live in the same area to connect and discuss community issues.

It has grown in popularity during the coronavirus outbreak and has now launched a new, interactive Help Map - which shows local people who are willing and able to help others who are self-isolating or vulnerable. The feature will enable users who need help to check the map and see who could be able to assist them nearby, while those who choose to put themselves on the map can add details on the tasks they can help with. Log on, look at your area and try it out! https://nextdoor.co.uk/help_map/



Prof Chris Whitty CB - Local man in the news!



RW Bro Richard Goddard tells us that the Chief Medical Officer we see every day in the news is an Old Malvernian albeit he was not in his house and he didn't teach

him. However he did know his father quite well as he was a colleague until he left to work for the British Council.

Christopher John MacRae Whitty CB FRCP FFPH FMedSci (53) is a British consultant physician and epidemiologist, who is Chief Medical Officer for England, Chief Medical Adviser to the UK Government, Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department of Health and Social Care and Head of the National Institute for Health Research....All in all a pretty top chief chap!

Tweet of the week!



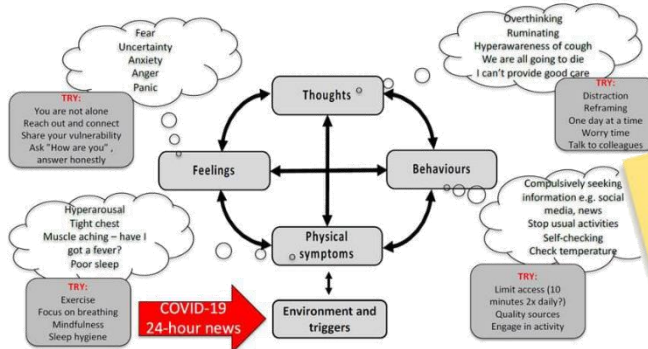
Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity No. 663
@Lodge663

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 11

I have invested my two dogs as Senior and junior Wardens. The four cats are the deacons, Inner Guard and Tyler. Whilst the cats are unimpressed, the dogs think they've now got a chance at the raffle ... which I won again last night.

9:48 · 28 Mar 20 · Twitter for iPad

10 Retweets 57 Likes



In these exceptional times for Freemasonry the work of the Almoner is of greater value than ever and there will no doubt be many calls on their time to report on the health and well-being of the Brethren and, in some cases, their close relatives.

Whilst undertaking this work it is important that Almoners do so within the confines of what is permissible under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) rules. In short, written reports or social media postings cannot contain details of a Brother's health unless his consent has been given.

STAY AT HOME!

ONLY GO OUTSIDE FOR FOOD, HEALTH REASONS OR WORK (BUT ONLY IF YOU CANNOT WORK FROM HOME)

DO NOT MEET OTHERS, EVEN FRIENDS OR FAMILY

IF YOU GO OUT, STAY 2 METRES (6FT) AWAY FROM OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES

WASH YOUR HANDS AS SOON AS YOU GET HOME

#TimeToToast 9pm

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