



Week 9, 18th May 2020

Brethren, week 9 is now upon us, and Lockdown restrictions are slightly easing with garden centres, tips and golf clubs starting to reopen with social distancing. Exercise restrictions are now also more relaxed for those more energetic! This week read about some of our fundraisers, and a couple of important messages and advice.

Our Podcast talks to the recent story of the tablet donations, which we know are helping our local Brethren in times of need.

We still have a long way to go certainly before Masonic life returns, with as yet no expectation of when that will be. Please read the letter from the Pro Grand Master for an update.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed



UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

Please read the latest communication from the **MW Bro Peter Lowndes**, Pro Grand Master.



Youth Online...

Worcestershire Freemasons have donated £4,000 to the All Saints Youth Project at Kings Heath which will help to support young people, parents and carers during these difficult times.

Support and emotional wellbeing is so important when anxiety levels, confusion and loneliness strikes those confined to their homes especially whilst schools are forced to close.

All Saints aim is for every young person and young adult to have the opportunity to stay in touch, maintain positive and supportive relationships with staff and volunteers giving them the opportunity to respond to any worries and feelings expressed.

Using Zoom and Instagram, the project has set up virtual drop-in sessions and virtual inclusion sessions for young adults with additional needs. Their online presence has been enhanced to include live group activities, challenges, competitions, tasks and quiz games. The aim is to provide a platform for safe interaction, to overcome boredom and loneliness, to stimulate creativity and promote an active brain and body.



*And so our lodge has closed for now
our secrets locked away,
"But when we will we all meet
again?"
our brethren ask each day.*

*Remember this, my worthy friends
where were you first prepared?
I mean not in that outer room
in which you waited scared.*

*A lodge is not just the temple
it is each of us within.
So as a mason during lockdown
just where do I begin?*

*Think of those three pillars,
the wisdom, strength and beauty,
and consider how you might fulfil
Your masonic duty.*

*That noble charge of Charity
in the north east part,
will call to mind our obligation
to this noble art.*

*To help our fellow brethren
in their time on need,
by kindly thoughts and actions
through this crisis, we'll succeed.*

*Although with different aprons
those badges we have earned,
they signify our progress
through the lessons we have learned.*

*But underneath the trim and tassels
is leather white and pure,
as ancient as the ages
a symbol to endure.*

*So when will we all meet again?
The answer is today.
For brotherly love from me to you
is just a call away.*

Anon.

You say Sabrina, I say Sabrina..



For the last 69 Years, Sabrina Lodge No. 6595 (Worcs) and Sabrina Lodge No.4158 (Shrops) (pronounced "sa-breye-na") have met continuously twice a year at each other's Lodges, something that is recognised by UGLE as unique!

In order to maintain that tradition going without a break, a Zoom meeting was held this week on their anniversary between the two respective Lodges, and to take part in the 9pm Toast.

#AsktheGrandSec

- In a recent Q&A session on twitter with Dr David Staples, the Grand Secretary, this question was asked by one of the Brethren.. "When all this is over, and installations that should have taken place during the lock did not take place, is the feeling that the Masters in the chair now will stay until the next regular installation meeting"? This was Dr Staples interesting reply, so watch this space!

Dr David Staples Retweeted



United Grand Lodge of England @UGLE_GrandLodge · Apr 16

At present the rules are very clear. Installation dates for Lodges are set in their bylaws and installations may not occur on any other dates however, we will be reviewing this so that Lodges can decide what might be right for them. (1/3)

#AsktheGrandSec #Freemasons

Knock knock....

Bro John Chapman is raising money for the NHS by running a special offer of Miniature Gavel key rings:



Brass at £7.88 inc pp, or Stainless Steel £6.88 inc pp
All funds go to the NHS. Questions or for order information email John at chadjman@gmail.com

This week's podcast is courtesy of Jason Levy, Charity Director of Worcestershire Acute hospitals Charity



1,200 tablets have been donated to hospitals and care homes in England and Wales – Listen to hear about those that Worcestershire Freemasons have donated to the charity, how they are being used and the difference they make.

SUPER HEROES TO RUN AND WALK FOR 2022 FESTIVAL



Brother Martin Carver, JW at White Ensign lodge No. 9169 is raising money for both the NHS and Festival 2022. Martin, a former Non-Commissioned Officer in the Parachute Regiment and now turned Fitness Instructor at Redditch Council Sports Centre, currently puts on 8 online classes a week.



To raise money for both the NHS and Festival 2022 he is currently running around every one of the 31 communities in and around Redditch dressed as different Superheroes. He is already becoming quite a media star having appeared on many radio stations including BBC HW and WM to promote the event! To find out how to sponsor him check out the details on the PGL website [HERE](#) – Be generous!

Monday Muscles!

(this week muscle stimulation...)

[CLICK HERE](#)

Check out our very own award-winning Physiotherapist James Benson providing simple but helpful tips, Monday mornings on Twitter and Facebook!

Brethren

Don't unwittingly Violate your Obligation

Social Media Platforms like 'Zoom' are great ways to keep in touch, hold committee meetings and to help younger brethren achieve a daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge.

But please remember that these Platforms may not be secure and are recordable, both of which do not square with our obligations, so please **do not try to hold a genuine Lodge or Lodge of Instruction in a virtual form.**

Refrain from any demonstrations of those elements of the ceremonies covered in the Obligation, or any attempt to reproduce the 'choreography' online.

Hopefully, it won't be too long before we are back in our Lodge rooms ensuring the Privacy and Confidentiality of our meetings.

A CORONA VIRUS LESSON



This picture from World War II shows a soldier carrying a donkey. It is not that the soldier loves donkeys or has some sort of perversion. What's happening is that the field is mined and that if the donkey was free to wander as it pleased, it would likely detonate a charge and kill everyone. The moral of the story is that during difficult times, the first ones you have to keep under control are the donkeys who don't understand the danger and do as they please.

MASONIC MENTORING & Royal Arch Representatives

Brother Mentor

"it has to be right to explain to a brother what he has joined and to help him enjoy his masonry so that he wants to contribute to its future." MW Pro Grand Master

Besides all the information you can find on Solomon there is a whole host of information supplied by UGLE on a website called Masonic Mentoring at <https://masonicmentoring.org.uk>. If anything, this website has more content for mentors and lodges on the early stages of an initiate's career with explanations and guidance in the form of downloadable PDF files.

If you need any other information please come back to me.

Stay Safe

Chris Overall, Provincial Grand Mentor

#TimetoText

Text **COVID19** to **70500** to donate **£5** to the Freemasons' COVID-19 community fund, or visit mcf.org.uk/covid19fund