



Week 17, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Brethren, Week 17 brings us the news that many of us have been waiting; the announcement by UGLE of the resumption of Masonic activities. However, don't expect to be attending your Lodge meetings as normal in the very near future, lots of work needs to be done in the background to prepare.

Specific Provincial guidance will be issued shortly to every member.

For this weeks' Podcast the Ed has had his arm twisted – Hear Andy Philpott talking about his Masonic life, what he gets up to during lockdown, and what it means to be Provincial Steward.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed

Andy Philpott

The life and times of a Provincial Steward



## Craft, Royal Arch and Mark Resumption of Masonic Activities



Brethren, the following announcement was included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the 1<sup>st</sup> Rising from UGLE issued last week, which states “...we are content that there is presently no requirement to extend the suspension in England (from 17<sup>th</sup> July), and accordingly Masonic meetings may begin again from this date.....Meetings may only be held in obedience to prevailing National Guidance, local rules from Hall and Venue Companies, and in conformity with the General Guidance given, jointly with Mark Masons' Hall, below”

A joint statement from: The Grand Secretary, United Grand Lodge of England  
The Grand Scribe E, Supreme Grand Chapter of England  
The Grand Secretary at Mark Masons' Hall

### General Guidance for the Resumption of Masonic Meetings

1. At all times, the judicious use of common sense is to be encouraged.
2. Prevailing Government guidance (UK, Wales or Scotland, as appropriate) must be followed, in addition to local rules from Masonic Hall companies etc.
3. Disposable/medical gloves should not be worn. They are far more likely to spread the virus (if any is present) unless used correctly as they are in medical circumstances by trained professionals. Regular handwashing and avoiding touching your face are far more effective.
4. In the absence of definitive Government guidance, members who wish to wear face masks during meetings are to be allowed to do so.
5. Nobody, particularly elderly or vulnerable members, should feel coerced into attending meetings – irrespective of their office.
6. The current, absolute, maximum number of members allowed to physically attend a meeting in England will be 30 but different limits may apply elsewhere. This limit will be determined by Government guidance and by the regulations set by the masonic hall or other meeting venue as judged by, for example, the dimensions of meeting spaces, relative ventilation etc.
7. In the event of a meeting being oversubscribed, the Lodge/Chapter/or equivalent Unit should decide who attends and should do so equitably.
8. Members who are unwell or have recently been unwell and those who are under advice to self-isolate must not attend meetings.
9. For the time being, there is to be no singing in meetings.
10. There are to be no Festive Boards after meetings. Presently, guidance does not allow for mass dining but as soon as the guidance changes to allow this, dining may then be offered.

“...At the instruction of the Pro Grand Master / Pro First Grand Principal, **temporary alterations have been made to the ceremonies of Initiation and Passing, and to the Opening and Closing of a Royal Arch Chapter as well as their respective ceremonies of Installation.** These are to be observed by any Lodge or Chapter that wishes to meet and perform such ceremonies until Lockdown restrictions are eased to permit normal working.

At the present time, **the Ceremony of Raising should not be performed** until Lockdown Restrictions ease to allow it to proceed without alteration”

Our PGM Robert Vaughan states “Before any meetings can take place, Hall Management Committees must demonstrate that each Centre is Covid secure. In addition each brother must consider his own circumstances, and no one should be encouraged to resume masonic activity earlier than is his wish

**Specific guidance from the Provincial Office will be published and sent out over the next few days to every member.**

Clearly the early priority is given to the preparation of the reopening our meeting places - where essential and authoritative advice in respect of the cleaning and clear communication of the responsibilities on all users, before and after every event is available. All lodges are encouraged to defer discussions until the formal notice and guidelines have been published.

Note that the Grand Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Ancient and Accepted Rite (“Rose Croix”) explicitly has confirmed that masonic activity within the Ancient and Accepted Rite **remains suspended** in England and Wales.

By WBro Peter Ricketts CM  
PM Lodge of Hope & Charity No.377 and former  
Editor 'Source'

In the early 1960's I played golf every Sunday morning at the old Kings Norton course and often there would be a young teenage boy gazing at us through a fence behind the 7<sup>th</sup> tee. One day I asked him if he wanted to play the game and he said yes, so I invited him to caddie for me.

Back at the clubhouse I introduced him to the professional and the lad became regular caddie and had lessons from the pro. In no time at all the boy became a fixture at the club, cleaning shoes and doing any other odd job that would earn money.

Before long he became a junior member and grew up to be a fine golfer good enough to play for the county, was elected to the committee, and later was a popular club Captain and then President.

The lad, of course, was Michael Cole, our much-missed former Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and his entry into golf was another example of the 100 per cent dedication with which he tackled any challenge that came his way.

A memory of VWBro Michael Cole 1946- 2020

## Bro Steve Holmes - My Covid-19 story



"At the end of March I was not feeling well and had trouble breathing - it got worse so I called an ambulance and was taken into hospital leaving my family behind, as my wife Laura was not allowed to come with me. They told me that I had viral pneumonia and I was tested for Covid 19 which came back positive - this was the start of my real problems.

After struggling for a few days with my oxygen levels they sedated me and put me onto a ventilator, where I remained for five weeks. At the end of May, Laura and my family were told to prepare for the worst. But I was fighting, and a week later I regained consciousness, to the point that I could speak to Laura on the phone for the first time in five weeks.

During my recovery I then had a stroke and was transferred to the Stroke clinic in Evesham where I started my full recovery. I targeted to be home for my granddaughter's birthday which after a lot of hard work I achieved.

I still have a lot to do having to learn to walk and talk again but I am making good progress. My Lodge - Page Lodge No. 3378 have been amazing and given my family so much support during my illness. My sincere thanks go to all my friends, members of my Lodge and Family - and above all the amazing NHS staff who have and continue to help my recovery.

I am now looking forward to the life I nearly lost and hopefully going into the Chair of Page Lodge next year.



## Lodge Secretary ZOOM Presentation Part 2 "The Form P"

\*\*\* REGISTRATION NOW OPEN \*\*\*

Time & Location  
Monday 20 Jul, 7:30pm  
ZOOM Online Event

**Register Now!**  
Click Here



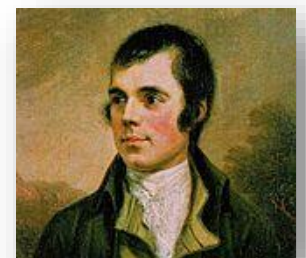
The bonus ball drawn this month was No 13, unlucky for some as the medieval saying goes. However our Lucky winners are . . .

- J Bennett Severn Lodge No. 5583
- P N Cowe Forge Mill Lodge No. 9658
- M C Douglas Lodge of St Oswald No. 5094
- P M Field Lodge of Stability No. 564
- R Lewis Frankley St George Lodge No. 8212
- M Mellor Godson Lodge No. 2385
- J Spurgeon Abbot Lichfield Lodge No. 3308

We may be locked down but that does not mean you cannot be a winner. Raising money for a good cause has been our aim since the Provincial lottery started. So download an entry form from the Provincial website, and who knows, you too could be a lock-down lottery winner!

## Did you know ?

On the 6<sup>th</sup> June in 1781, Brother Robert Burns was initiated into Freemasonry. Many of our Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters of course hold "Burns' nights" around his birth date (25<sup>th</sup> January 1759) to celebrate his life and poetry.



This week's podcast is courtesy of  
Andy Philpott



Andy is the editor of Worcester Source (now this weekly publication), and was one of last year's Provincial Stewards.

Hear about what that involved and how lockdown is treating him....



## Covid-19 Relief Chest

David Rice, Festival 2022 Treasurer recorded at end of June a total of £15,981.25 contributions from lodges and individuals, for the Covid-19 relief chest, with some additional gift aid to be added.

If your Lodge has unrestricted Charity reserves, a cheque to MCF will be credited with your contributions to Festival 2022.

The Covid-19 Relief Chest now stands at £800,000 toward the £1m target. If you have any suggestions of Worcestershire need for a Covid related grant please contact **David Dey**, Prov Charity Steward, by email at [david2dey@gmail.com](mailto:david2dey@gmail.com)