



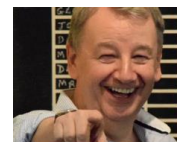
Brethren, Week 18 provides us with further clarity on the resumption of Masonic activities, as set out in a range of guidance communications both from UGLE and more directly from our Provincial Office.

Please take the time to read them, and of course discuss with your Lodges and Chapters as to how best your Masonic meetings can resume. Clearly the practicalities associated with your own Masonic Hall will dictate any return date – and of course whilst the embargo has been lifted, there are many conditions that need to be met, from the Government, UGLE and halls that will determine the next phase.

Keep strong, keep positive and stay safe.

The Ed

John Crowther
APGM



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Week 18, 20th July 2020

Resumption of Masonic Activities

Brethren, earlier last week everyone will have had a letter of guidance from the three orders of Craft, Chapter and Mark in the Worcestershire Province. In there, it set out general guidance for the resumption of masonic meetings after the expiration of the General Suspension of masonic activity which occurred on 17th July. Clearly this is a significant and welcome step forward, but as has been stressed in various communications masonic meetings will not resume immediately as there will be much to do before that can happen. However, the ending of the General Suspension will provide all our Lodges and Chapters with the opportunity to begin meeting again when the conditions are right for them.

Later in the week a further announcement was sent to all from the Provincial Grand Secretary and the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, which gave specific guidance on the effect of Coronavirus on Lodge Meetings, and various answers to practicalities and points of order. Whilst it was aimed directly at the Secretary, Scribe, Almoner and Master and Principals of the two orders, it is useful to all Brethren - and it answers a lot of the questions that we know have been asked. The directive from UGLE and the Province sets out in a Q & A the clear understanding of what you should do over the forthcoming months regarding your summons and dealing with abandoned meetings etc.

For Craft Lodges, the three main principles are as follows:

1) The Secretary of any Lodge that was due to meet during the period of the suspension, but was prevented from doing so, must enter into the Lodge Minute Book a statement substantially in the following form: "As a result of the suspension, owing to the Coronavirus pandemic, by the MW The Grand Master of all meetings from 17 March to 17 July 2020 the Lodge was unable to meet during that period."

2) If the Lodge's Installation meeting was due to be held during that period, the outgoing Master continues in office until the next Installation meeting by virtue of Rule 108.

At the first meeting held after the resumption of meetings the continuing Master must invest Officers in accordance with Rule 108(b), and an Installation Return must then be submitted to the Grand Secretary in accordance with Rule 151.

3) A summons must be issued in accordance with the Lodge's by-laws for every meeting that was to be held after the 17th July.

If, when the summons has been issued, it becomes clear to the Secretary that the number of apologies is such that a quorum will be unattainable, there will be no point in Brethren making an unnecessary journey. He should therefore tell the members so, and then at the moment when the Lodge is due to be opened (but not earlier) he may presume a lack of a quorum and treat the meeting as abandoned. However, the Secretary must not merely assume that the members of the Lodge do not wish to meet.

Similar in nature are the principles for Royal Arch Chapters.

All of these guiding principles and a comprehensive set of questions and Answers are available in the two downloads below. Please ensure that you take time to read them thoroughly.

Iain T. Sharratt
Provincial Grand Secretary

CLICK TO
VIEW/DOWNLOAD
CRAFT GUIDANCE NOTES

CLICK TO VIEW/DOWNLOAD
HOLY ROYAL ARCH
GUIDANCE NOTES

Brian R. Harper
Provincial Grand Scribe E.

Tweet away.....

Worcestershire Freemason Philip Serrell tweeted a story last week on Twitter, about a 5 year old boy who had an honesty box containing cash and goods his mother made worth £40 stolen from outside his house.

The posting was re-tweeted 28,000 times over the next day, made the local television news and immediately generated offers of help which encouraged the young retailer to continue his enterprise.



HELP WANTED

WANTED an Instagram enthusiast to work with the Prov Social Media Team.
Zero hours - Zero pay. Training as required will be freely given.



This week's podcast is courtesy of
John Crowther

John is one of the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, with a specific responsibility for looking after Masonic buildings and the Provincial Strategy on meeting places. (Did you know we had 11 buildings in the province!)

Hear how changes for Covid-19 are taking place in and around the province in this regard.



David Evans, a member of Halas Abbey Lodge No. 5407, works in prison as an Instructional Officer and talks about the work that inmates are carrying out to help the Corvid 19 crisis.....

For the past twelve weeks, the inmates and staff who are employed in the engineering workshops at HMPPS Featherstone, have been working seven days a week, excepting for Bank Holidays, producing beds destined for the NHS.

HMPPS establishments across the country with engineering workshops produce metal framed beds for the Prison Service the manufacture of which is on ongoing. However, when the Covid 19 situation escalated, an order was received from our headquarters in London for 2,500 beds intended for the NHS - apparently to be used at the NEC where an emergency hospital was being set up.

Up to date we have produced some 1,700 beds that have been delivered to our national warehouse in Burton. I am employed as an Instructional Officer teaching Fabrication & Welding and I feel very proud of the lads who I oversee and have trained as they have done a sterling job and there are a number of inmates who have volunteered to help out.

Some of my lads have been industrious in making various items for the Newfields Lodge rooms under my tutorage, for example they made the railings on the entrance steps, the wand stands in the temple, the knocker to announce the Worshipful Master entering the Festive Board and not forgetting the Gavel Keyrings that were advertised a few weeks back.

We have quite a few Masons in the Prison Service and at my establishment we have members from Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and East Lancashire. Perhaps one day we will have a Prison Officers' Lodge!

Stay Safe Brethren
WBro David J. Evans

Teddies for Loving Care



The Provincial Grand Master has appointed WBro Philip Hannah (left) to succeed WBro John Gaston, the long serving Worcestershire representative on the Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) initiative.

Teddies for Loving Care was born in 1999 and is a simple, but effective idea. Freemasons donate money to their lodge's TLC appeal and the appeal, now to be organised by Philip Hannah, donates teddy bears to the local A&E to be given to distressed children receiving treatment.

A hospital visit can be a frightening experience for a young child, especially in an emergency situation. Teddies for Loving Care is a way of providing much-needed comfort to children in A&E departments, helping to reduce the shock and distress of their experience. Every child that receives a teddy gets to take it home. A teddy also gives doctors and nursing staff a diversion to help get them get on with their work.

This September will see the 3 millionth TLC teddy which will make another child feel special. As an illustration, TLC furthers an awareness of the good work that we continue to contribute as Freemasons in the Community.



The Worcestershire Masonic Library and Museum is intending to re-open at the end of next week, subject to of course, the compliance of corona virus measures.