



SUSPENSION PLANNING GROUP BULLETIN NO. 10
Week ending 22nd May 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND SUPERINTENDENT, HOLY ROYAL ARCH

You'll Never Walk Alone

How very poignant that a song first released some fifty-seven years ago can be so meaningful in these present very trying times.

As Freemasons, we certainly do not and must not walk alone. Communicating with one another is key, whether it be via newsletter, social media, video conferencing or the good old telephone. As they say, "keep talking". It is essential nobody feels alone and not cared about.

The present times feel a little like looking at a beautiful rainbow after a heavy downpour of rain. The vibrant colours are there for all to see, but no matter how hard we try, we cannot get to the end of that rainbow. The end of this pandemic seems equally elusive but be assured the end will come, and we will all celebrate together.

Sometimes it takes an overwhelming breakdown to have an undeniable breakthrough. Times will change throughout the world in general and in Freemasonry in particular. When that time comes, we must all ensure the world is a happier place and Freemasonry is as strong and vibrant as it always was. It is tough at present, but we must keep cheering for each other.

We will return to happier times, enjoy one another's company, and the bonds of friendship will be as strong as they have ever been.

Remember - It always seems impossible until it's done.

E. Comp. Stewart G. Carley
Grand Superintendent, Holy Royal Arch.

1. MASONIC MEAL APPEAL - PLEASE CONTINUE TO DONATE

To date you have raised £17,902
A magnificent start!

The Appeal was launched on the 1st of May and look what you have achieved already. Given, not for want of personal recognition, but from a true Masonic desire to help where help is needed. We will use this money to give significant support to **the NHS, its Staff, Hospices, Carers and Frontline Workers**. The work of these sectors and people is not over, and the effects of the crisis will be felt by them for some time yet. **Please continue to donate if you can and, if you haven't done so yet, please read on.**

We suggest that each month, while Masonic meetings are suspended and are not a demand on finances, you could donate to this appeal, some or all of what you have saved.

As the expense of **one** typical Masonic meeting is between £20 and £30, a donation in this cost bracket is generous, affordable and still leaves many with a handsome saving. (You know who we mean - yes, you - out 2 or 3+ times a week!)



However, we appreciate that some Brethren will be experiencing financial challenges and may not be able to afford over generous donations or any at all. Don't feel obliged or fear being embarrassed. No record is kept of those who do, or do not, donate, and no Jewels or certificates of Patronage are to be gained. The amount raised will be sufficient proof of the generosity of Freemasonry of which we are all a part.

Donations can be made in 3 ways by, a) Debit / Credit Card transaction, b) Bank Transfer, c) Cheque. [CLICK HERE](#) to donate or for more information

2. MESSAGE OF THE PRO GRAND MASTER

Just after we had published our last bulletin, the Pro Grand Master of the UGLE, M.W.Bro. Peter Lowndes, sent an email message to everyone. If you didn't receive it, or have not read it, you are urged to do so and can go straight to the message if you [CLICK HERE](#). If you don't have an internet connection, contact your Craft Lodge Secretary and ask him to post a copy to you.

In his message, the Pro Grand Master praises the on-going generosity and work of Brethren during this time of crisis and encourages us to support the MCF relief chest. He makes specific reference to the provision of 1000 iPad Tablets distributed to Hospitals and Care Homes across England and Wales, 50 of which were donated to Children's Hospices in our Province. See the "Good News" story of the 9th May on the Craft website. [CLICK HERE](#) to read it.

Further in his message he remarks,

"The suspension imposed lasts until the end of July, but it is hard to imagine that it would be sensible, even if legal, for Lodges and Chapters to consider meeting shortly after that date."

The Pro GM assures us that UGLE will be keeping a very close watch on events and will endeavour to consider ways that Lodges and Chapters can meet, even if they have to adapt some of our usual customs to fit the situation.

Brethren, to add to the Pro GM's message, we must be patient and await developments. Be assured that this Suspension Planning Group and our Provincial Rulers are ready to react, when the time comes to, work with you on the journey back to normality, however long it takes.

3. MASONIC LIGHT WEBINARS

There will be regular West Riding Webinars through June and July. First Wednesday - First Degree. Second Wednesday - Second Degree. Third Wednesday - Third Degree. Fourth Wednesday - Something Completely Different! Full details and registration links on the Provincial Website. [CLICK HERE](#)

4. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT OUR MASONIC SUSPENSION:

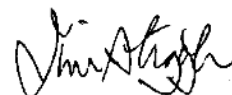
The Questions and Answers document on the Craft website, with links from the Mark and Royal Arch websites, is being **regularly updated**. As more questions are asked and more information is received from Grand Lodge at Great Queen Street and from Mark Masons Hall at St James', the content may be added to or amended, [CLICK HERE to keep looking](#). If you have unanswered questions to raise or need any assistance with documentation which has been circulated to you, please contact: advice@wrprovince.co.uk or ProvGSec@westyorksmark.org.uk



David S Pratt
Provincial Grand Master



Stewart G Carley
Grand Superintendent



James Steggles
Provincial Grand Master

PROVINCIAL WEBSITES

Keep looking at your Provincial websites shown below, also look at the websites of other Orders of which you may be a member, we do not have space for everything on these bulletins and other things will be happening.

Website Details

Craft www.wrprovince.org.uk

Royal Arch www.pgc-ywr.org

Mark www.westyorksmark.co.uk

LAST WEEK DID YOU SEE ACROSS OUR VARIOUS WEBSITES

- Updates on the Masonic Meal Appeal - new totals will be posted on Wednesday and Saturday each week [CLICK HERE](#) to see.
- The Mark Benevolent Fund and The Cleeves and Whitehead Trust supporting the communities of West Yorkshire [CLICK HERE](#) to see.

THIS WEEK ACROSS OUR VARIOUS WEBSITES LOOK OUT FOR

- Updates on the Masonic Meal Appeal - new totals will be posted on Wednesday and Saturday each week [CLICK HERE](#) to see.
- A list of and information on the Appointments to and Promotions in The District Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters West Yorkshire.
- Celebrations of Centenaries and Jubilee Certificates [CLICK HERE](#)

DO YOU HAVE A GOOD NEWS STORY? WHY NOT SHARE IT WITH YOUR BRETHREN ON THE WEBSITE

What are you, your Lodge, Chapter or Order doing during this suspension of meetings? Maybe you are on the frontline, if you are, we are interested to know what its like. Maybe you are helping the community or have found a way to make 'Lock-down' bearable. Maybe you just have an interesting or amusing story to tell. If you are willing to share it, contact W.Bro. David Simister at david@differentpr.co.uk

West Riding Masonic Charities Limited - your CHARITY

YOUR COMMUNITIES NEED OUR HELP

During the present crisis the PGM's Fund has **changed the emphasis of its grants** and simplified the application process to provide a much wider variety of help and assistance to our local communities and frontline staff. We have already supported Food banks, Baby clothes banks, the Homeless, those caring for the Bereaved, the Relief of Poverty and those working to prevent Domestic Abuse.

Support a charity Near You and Apply for a Grant - email the pgmfundadmin@wrprovince.com

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This week the PGM's Fund has approved grants of **£2000** for "St Vincent's Support Centre" and **£2000** for "Wath upon Dearne Community Partnership". Due to the pandemic the majority of food donations and income streams to both charities have ceased. The grants will assist in providing essential emergency food supplies to an increasing number in each area and PPE for volunteers.

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Since 1st March CHOICES has received 22 requests for assistance 16 of which are related to Covid-19. Total cost £19250.00 [CLICK HERE](#) For more information on the work of WRMCL