



SUSPENSION PLANNING GROUP BULLETIN NO. 11 - 1st June 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER OF MARK MASTER MASONS



The last time I have written this Bulletin Preface I mentioned first the Teddy Bears and then the Rainbows appearing in my neighbour's windows.

On VE Day every house on our street put up bunting and flags. We shared a two minute silence from our doorsteps and at 4 pm set up tables and chairs outside our own front doors for tea and cakes. The celebration was concluded by us all singing along with Vera Lynne. It was good to see everyone, even if only from our doorsteps.

Everyone had adjusted to what had quickly become a new normal for society

Our Freemasonry is experiencing that same transformation. We are continuously inspired by the goodness in our people and the genuine acts of kindness that we are seeing within our organisation every day.

We have adjusted just as quickly to what has become, and could remain for some time, a new normal for our Fraternity.

These gestures of warmth, strength and caring give us confidence that in time we will emerge closer and more united than we have ever been before.

We know that we will eventually reach that safer and better place, but in the meantime it is crucial that in getting there we harvest and respect the views, hopes and fears of all Freemasons in that journey.

R.W. Bro. Jim Steggles

Provincial Grand Master, West Yorkshire Mark Masons

1. MASONIC MEAL APPEAL

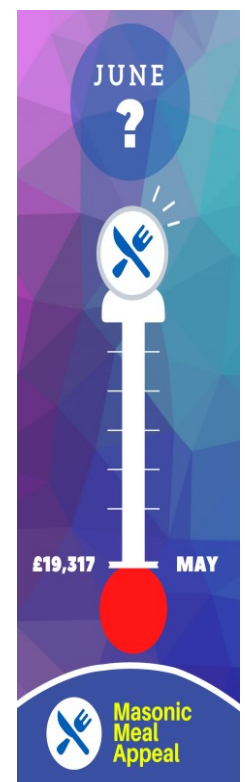
**During May, month 1, you raised £19,317!!
Can we match or beat that in June?**

Launched on the 1st of May look what you have achieved in just one month! A fantastic effort and 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**. Their work is not over, and the effects of the crisis will be felt by them for some time yet.

We now hope that you will make your donation a regular commitment during this suspension period giving the expense of **one** typical Masonic meeting each month, between £20 and £30. A donation in this cost bracket is generous, affordable and still leaves many with a saving given our normal Masonic expenditure.

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. 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 IN MEMORIAM SECTION

You will recall that this was set-up to enable us to note the passing of those who have passed to The Grand Lodge above whilst our meetings have been suspended. Please do take a look [CLICK HERE](#) and record your thoughts and memories of anyone that you knew. This is our opportunity to celebrate their lives.

3. [OUR CHARITY HELPING THOSE WE CARE ABOUT](#)

As usual we feature a separate section on our final page about our charity, West Riding Masonic Charities Ltd. Please **look at the fantastic support they are giving** to our communities and those of our brethren who need help. Over recent weeks the directors have overseen the allocation of £60,000 of our funds to support local charities and causes. See information below, in previous bulletins and in the 'Good News' section of the website who WRMCL have been helping on our behalf.



4. MESSAGE FROM THE PRO GRAND MASTER

Last week we reminded you of the message sent to all Brethren by the Pro Grand Master of the UGLE, M.W.Bro. Peter Lowndes and you can go straight to the message if you [CLICK HERE](#).

In his message he said,

"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 when it is safe to do so. In the meantime our Provincial Rulers are looking at what might be the principles to guide a return and will soon be looking to you to tell us what you think of their approach. **Please watch this space!**

5. MASONIC LIGHT WEBINARS

The first regular monthly Webinar programme starts in June and full details and registration links are now on the Provincial Website. [CLICK HERE](#)

6. CELEBRATIONS SECTION

As the suspension continues there are still Lodges, Chapters and other Orders that are celebrating special events in their history. There are also landmark events in the lives of some members who would in normal times have received a Jubilee Certificate to mark the occasion. We have been recording these events on the Provincial website for some time and they have now been pulled together into a single section to make things easier to find. Please take a look and feel free to offer your message to help them celebrate [CLICK HERE](#)

7. 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** [CLICK HERE](#) If you have unanswered questions to raise, 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

KEEP IN TOUCH

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.

Craft www.wrprovince.org.uk Royal Arch www.pgc-ywr.org Mark www.westyorksmark.co.uk

LAST WEEK DID YOU SEE ?

- Updates on the Masonic Meal Appeal – new totals are posted on Wednesday and Saturday each week [CLICK HERE](#) to see.
- A list of and information on the Appointments to and Promotions in Royal and Select Masters
- A message from the Provincial Prelate of Knights Templar [CLICK HERE](#)
- News of the progress of the new Barnoldswick Masonic Hall development [CLICK HERE](#)

THIS COMING WEEK LOOK OUT FOR –

- A new video message from our Provincial Grand Master
- Beacon Lodge Centenary Celebration on 4th June
- Celebrations of Centenaries and Jubilee Certificates in our new Celebration section [CLICK HERE](#)
- Updates on the Masonic Meal Appeal – new totals will be posted each week [CLICK HERE](#) to see.

DO YOU HAVE A GOOD NEWS STORY?

IF SO WHY NOT SHARE IT ON THE WEBSITE

david@differentpr.co.uk

West Riding Masonic Charities Limited - your CHARITY

YOUR COMMUNITIES NEED OUR HELP

This week four PGM's Fund grants have been awarded to **Harrogate Hospital Radio - £1,054** to enable two additional presenters to work from home. **Platform 1 Huddersfield - £5,000** a charity supporting mainly men from all backgrounds to reconnect with their families.

Kirkwood Hospice -£1,000 to match a Brothers fund raising cycle ride during lockdown. - **£1000 to St Mary's Community Hub** an emergency food bank providing food to deprived and vulnerable families in the Pontefract area since the Pontefract foodbank closed in March. The committee has also dealt with two applications for assistance in funding the manufacture of PPE clothing and scrubs for NHS frontline staff. **£2,500 to Harrogate Scrubbers** was approved and a further £2,500 was match funded by the MCF. **£2,000 - 'For the Love of Scrubs'** group in **Doncaster** was supported by the MCF Covid 19 Fund.

[Click Here](#) To see more about the activities of WRMCL

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

For help from our Care and Support Officers **ring the confidential help line on 03449 020220**. CHOICES Area Almoners can also be contacted through the helpline.