



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Coronavirus Bulletin 3

10th April 2020

Dear Bro Secretary,

We are now in the third week of lockdown and I trust you and your family are coping well and keeping safe. The following notes will be useful to you in keeping abreast of the latest developments and ideas across the Province:

1. Support from the Provincial Almoner and his Team

In order to support the day-to-day activities of the Provincial Grand Almoner's office, the following activities are undertaken:

- Every other day video meetings are held with PGA and team to review all outstanding requests for support.
- Every other day conversations are held with our MCF representative regarding mutual progress on grants from both the national Masonic Charitable Foundation and our own Provincial Masonic Charitable Trust (MCT) charities.
- Once a week zoom meetings with all Area Almoners plus others involved in our Welfare Processes.
- Any calls to the Provincial Office are automatically diverted to the Almoner's email account, so no calls are missed.

Since the issue of the Provincial Communications on Coronavirus and the Questions and Answer documents:

- 11 applications to the Provincial MCT (and MCF) have been received and actioned. As a result, over £10,000 has been awarded from the Provincial Charity, over £4k of which is directly associated with the Coronavirus.
- A further £3,000+ has also been earmarked for further support should it be required prior to any MCF award being made. These applications are normally completed within a matter of days to help alleviate immediate financial worries.

The MCF is currently processing the same applications to determine what further, continuous support can be made available.

Your national and Provincial Charities remain very much open and active at these times. How to access this support is detailed in the Q&As which are attached to this bulletin and also published on the Provincial website.

2. Provincial History

W Bro Brett Clark has, for the past few years, been compiling a history of the Province, lodge by lodge. Now may be an ideal time for a member of your lodge to undertake some research and add to the contributions already made. Please visit the following link for further details:

<http://www.hantsandiowprovincialhistory.co.uk/index.php/more-menu-heading-top-menu/submitting-a-lodge-history-menu>

3. Innovative Ideas and Actions from around the Province

- a) 'Nextdoor.co.uk' App: This tool is very useful and readily available from App stores for those brethren wishing to keep in touch with their neighbours. You can log on with your address and give and receive notifications directly relating to your local area.
- b) Many lodges are making good use of WhatsApp in order to communicate with their brethren. When making a post, please ensure that it is appropriate and meets our expected high standards. There have been reports of inappropriate postings that have upset some brethren.
- c) Some Areas and individual Lodges are producing their own local bulletins, such as the South West Area's 'Lockdown Lowdown'; look out for these publications as a way of keeping in touch with local information.
- d) Several Masonic Centres have volunteered their car parks for use by NHS staff. Following the theft of several nurse's bikes at a local hospital, Bro Bob Ings of Twynam Lodge successfully instigated an appeal for bicycles to replace them.

4. Paperwork

The Provincial Office Team continues to be fully functional with members all working from home. We are collecting post from the office once a week, so if you have anything to send us, please do so.

We are taking this opportunity to catch up on any outstanding paperwork. If you have any outstanding Form Ps, Accounts, Annual Returns or Installation Returns, we would appreciate you giving this your attention. Of course, we would not wish you to prejudice your social distancing responsibilities by contacting other brethren directly in order to complete these.

5. Notifications

At this difficult time, it is important that Lodge Secretaries continue to complete notification forms for resignations and deaths – we have included an additional question in the 'notification of a death of a brother' form, to establish if this was coronavirus-related so that we can monitor and give support where appropriate. I have arranged to share this information with the other Orders.

6. Zetland Court

In order to protect both the residents and those of us supporting the event, this year's Zetland Court Summer Fete has been cancelled. The Fete has for a number of years marked the start of summer and has been a highlight for those Lodges taking part as well as being a great day for both residents and visitors alike. The fete also provided valuable funds for the Association of Friends of Zetland Court (AFZC) enabling it to enrich the lives of those who live at the care home. The cancellation of this year's event leaves a large hole in funding from the monies it would have collected.

If your Lodge members would like to make a donation in lieu of their attendance at the fete, all they have to do is click on the following link:

<https://mcf-relief-chest-scheme.everydayhero.com/uk/afzc-summer-fete>

Donations made using this page can, if your members wish and qualify, attract Gift Aid further adding to the funds available.

7. Q&As

There are no additions to the Q&As this week, although you will see that Q30 has been amended as the original advice was succeeded by Q33.

Bulletins will be issued on Fridays – either weekly or fortnightly depending on available content.

Fraternal Regards
Frank Milner
Provincial Grand Secretary