



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Coronavirus Bulletin 17

8th January 2021

Dear Bro Secretary,

Happy New Year! I would be grateful if you will please note the following and circulate to your members including Honorary Members. I have repeated a couple of items from previous bulletins for clarity.

1. A Message from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master i/c

Dear Brethren,

I wish you and your families a very Happy New Year.

I start by thanking you all for your continued support to the Craft and our Lodges. Your efforts to keep in contact with one another and supporting each other are important and the backbone of what we stand for. Additionally, the stories of your volunteering and hard work within your communities continue to inspire me and make me proud to be a Freemason.

May I, on your behalf congratulate W Bro Peter Glover, WM of Aldershot Camp Lodge No 1331 on being awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours list for services to the NHS and his local community – very well deserved.

We start the year in the hope that it will become better with the vaccination programme now underway. Many of you will know that the St John Ambulance charity is close to my heart and I am volunteering with them two days a week. Mostly interviewing for vaccination and care volunteers. I am being asked a lot how we as Freemasons can help. Well, if you are interested in volunteering as a Covid Steward at a Vaccination Centre please log onto – nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk. They will welcome your help. I know our colleagues in various Rotary and Lions Clubs are also offering their services.

Our Grand Master and Grand Secretary both gave short virtual addresses as part of the UGLE First Rising communication recently – I commend them to your viewing if you have not yet seen them.

I look forward to meeting with you, virtually and at some time in person, this year.

Fraternal best wishes

Jon

2. UGLE Annual Returns

Will you please ensure that the paper copy of your Lodge Annual Return is sent to the Provincial Office for onward transmission to UGLE, together with the appropriate cheque (unless you are paying by BACS in which case, that should be indicated on the return). **We cannot accept emailed pdf copies of your return.**

As previously requested, will you please ensure that all your notifications are up to date otherwise you may find anomalies on your Provincial Dues Invoice which will be issued next week.

3. Current Lockdown

As you are aware, the country is in national lockdown as from 6th January. The administrative functions of the Provincial Office will continue as usual and we will be picking up mail from the Office on a regular basis.

Please be aware however that we are in unstable times and planning for future Lodge events (anniversaries, certificates etc.) may have to be put on hold. If you do send a request, this will be filed until such time as we are reasonably able to deal with it. I am afraid that most requests for dispensations will not be granted until we are sure that the request can be carried out.

4. Exclusions from last year

Several Lodge Secretaries have expressed their concern that due to the latest suspension they will be unable to exclude members for non-payment of subscriptions and consequently the Lodge will be liable for payment of next year's subscriptions. The answer to this issue was confirmed in UGLE First Risings #2 - that if the following conditions are satisfied, the fees for the ensuing year will be waived in respect of members who could not be excluded earlier because of the suspension.

- a. The member concerned must have been excluded not later than the first regular meeting held after the resumption of meetings (it will not be necessary to hold an emergency meeting specially for this purpose).
- b. The Provincial Grand Secretary must certify that:
 - i. The Lodge or the Treasurer has demonstrated to his satisfaction that all reasonable steps were taken to collect the subscription.
 - ii. The Lodge started to operate Rule 181 (including the service of the notices required by the Rule), but was prevented from completing the required process before the end of the subscription year only by the suspension of meetings.

The relief should be claimed when submitting the Annual Return accompanied by a certificate from the Provincial Grand Secretary that the above conditions have been satisfied (n.b. email the details to me and I will confirm by return). Please enter "Exclusion pending – R181 & By-law" against the Brother's name on the annual returns (both UGLE and Provincial), thereby flagging it for twelve months later.

5. Installation Meetings and Election of the WM

If your Lodge Installation Meeting falls within the suspension / lockdown period, you may re-schedule it within 5 weeks of the original date – Rule 108(a). Clearly, we do not know how long the current lockdown will last and the opportunity to re-schedule will depend upon the dates stated in the by-laws of your specific Lodge. If it is not possible to re-schedule, the current WM must remain in office for a further year (n.b. even if this means the WM carries on for a 3rd year).

If the election date for the WM falls within the lockdown period, the election is postponed to what would have been the Installation date and the actual Installation Meeting will then take place at the following regular meeting providing it falls within 5 weeks (see Rule 106 BoC for details).

Fraternal Regards
Frank Milner
Provincial Grand Secretary