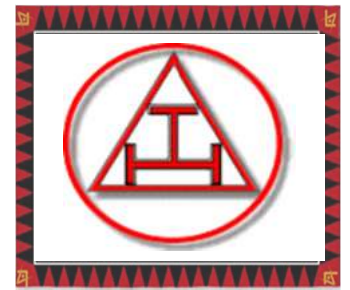




WEST LANCS NUGGETS

“PROVINCIAL NEWS DIGEST”



During the period of the Covid-19 outbreak this Provincial News Digest will be emailed to every subscribing member of the Province of West Lancashire to keep them in touch with Freemasonry. As well as messages from our Provincial Grand Master, important information from the Provincial Office will be included. In future editions, our Provincial Mentor, Stewart Cranage, will prompt us all to make ‘advancements in our Masonic knowledge’.

Issue 1: April 1 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER:

Brethren and companions

I do hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well during these very difficult times.

During the coming weeks, we will keep in touch with this News Digest, which is being produced by an enthusiastic Editorial Team led by the Deputy Grand Superintendent and Provincial Grand Mentor. This newsletter will also be available to view on the new Provincial website, which was launched on 1 April.

I am conscious that under normal circumstances, many of us would be in Blackpool at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. Sadly, as you are all aware, this has been cancelled due to the coronavirus, the effects of which will clearly be felt for many years to come.

On a lighter note, during my address, I would have been reflecting on another successful year in the life of this Province and remarking on the individual contributions of your time so freely given, in order to help those less fortunate.

I would also be thanking those brethren retiring from office for their support throughout the year and welcoming the newly-appointed and promoted brethren, with the hope that they will enjoy their new rank. It is my intention to hold a Provincial meeting later this year and look forward to congratulating you all in person.

For many of us outside the health and emergency services, there is little we may feel we can contribute to this ongoing crisis, but you would be wrong. We now have in place a Province-wide Welfare Plan to assist those of our brethren and widows in need and I would like at this point to give my thanks to the many brethren who have volunteered to help in this important role.

In this country, there are tales of ordinary people doing extraordinary things, in times of extreme circumstances. The ‘British bulldog spirit’ that has seen us through every kind of



difficulty imaginable, will also bring us through this crisis. I firmly believe that if we remain true to our belief in God, our country and our laws, if we demonstrate our core principals of kindness, tolerance and integrity, together we will get through all of this.

Freemasonry will survive and the brethren of this Province will still be there, proud to be Freemasons and proud to serve the communities in which we live.

Finally, Maureen and I wish you and your families well, keep safe and may God’s blessing be with you all.

PROVINCIAL OFFICE NEWS

Updates from the Provincial Grand Secretary / **Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra**



Provincial Welfare Plan

In response to the Covid-19 situation the Province has created a Welfare Plan, the details of which are as follows:

As you will see it is targeted at brethren and widows who are considered vulnerable and is in addition, to and complimentary of, anything that is currently being considered by those pro-active groups within the Province. Furthermore, it is intended to run parallel to and not interfere with, the current Care Structure, which has been working successfully for many years.

The uniqueness of the Plan is that it is not constrained by the group system, being totally dependent on where the volunteer lives, as opposed to where he enjoys his Freemasonry.

The Welfare Plan is to ensure the supply of life-essential goods and pharmaceutical products to the vulnerable, which commenced at 8:00am, Monday, 30 March and will operate as follows: **Please Note** : *further to the address from the Prime Minister, attached is a government document confirming that volunteers (at the moment at least) are permitted to visit the vulnerable.*

1. Callers will be required to ring the Provincial Office on 01772 623557, which will be answered by Violet in the morning and Diana in the afternoon, between the hours of 8am and 4pm. Volunteers will answer calls on a shift basis, between 8am and 4pm, when Violet and Diana are not available. eg, weekends.

2. Full details of the caller will be logged. (see below under General - DPA 2018).

3. A list of Province-wide, geographically placed volunteers will determine where a call is directed. Again, details will be logged accordingly.

4. The caller will be advised that the service is to provide those commodities which are considered to be 'life essentials' and medications. Such requests will be actioned as soon as is practicable or within 24 hours at the latest (this would depend on urgency).

5. Following acceptance of a call, the volunteer assigned will make contact with the caller to determine requirements and confirm that payment on delivery will be required.

6. Deliveries will be left on doorstep and payment presented through letterbox. No physical contact will be made with the caller, nor will there be entry into the caller's property.

7. Confirmation of a successful delivery, or otherwise, will be emailed to the office.

Job Description for Volunteers

- Able-bodied and hold a current driving license. Those Brethren considering volunteering should bear in mind the government guidelines as far as age and self-isolation are concerned. (ie, over the age of 65).
- Possess an email address and a mobile phone.
- Readily available at some point during the day or evening.
- Be prepared to travel within a 10km radius of their home.
- Duration of service will be determined by government policy concerning Covid-19

General

- If you are over the age that is considered vulnerable, you can still be involved in this Plan as a home-based volunteer, by assisting Violet and Diana in taking calls if the situation escalates.
- All information obtained will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

Peter Taylor
April 2020



If anyone has any suggestions for items to be covered in future issues, please e-mail Stewart Cranage, Provincial Grand Mentor: mentor@provinceofwestlancs.org