

Surrey Risings



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IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM SURREY PROVINCE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS

To all Brethren in the Province of Surrey – Craft and Royal Arch.

Re Corona Virus 19

Thank you all for your flexibility and support as we respond to the particular challenges that COVID-19 presents to our families, Province and organisation. I want to say a particular thank you to staff in the Masonic Centres, The Provincial Office, Communications Team at UGLE and to you for all your hard work in keeping Brethren and Companions up to speed to manage our effective response.

I am sure that you are all aware of the current situation and have received the advice issued by Dr David Staples at UGLE, but I am providing a [link to it here](#) for completeness. As a Province, we shall continue to follow advice from UGLE. Indeed, we should do everything we can to assist in this strategy, in particular in supporting those who are vulnerable.

The Government has confirmed that we have moved from the contain phase of the COVID-19 challenge to the delay phase. This will mean an increase in our actions taken to slow down the spread of the virus. Not all these actions apply immediately and will be introduced as and when needed.

You will have already seen that some Units have delayed or abandoned their meetings to help manage the impact. The health and wellbeing of our members must come first. We plan to do more on this in the coming weeks, but today I am announcing the following measures to assist in delaying the spread of COVID – 19.

The key things for you to know at this stage are:

- The Provincial Office is closed to visitors for the foreseeable future
- Operation of the Provincial Office will continue, to support our members, Lodges and Chapters
- We will continue to take your calls and deal with your emails as normal
- You should continue sending us your summonses, Installation Returns and Annual Returns by post or preferably by email
- You can still contact us, and we will be happy to answer your queries
- The Secretary and Scribe Es Workshop planned for the evening of Wednesday 18 March has been POSTPONED and will be held at a later date
- Executive visits will cease for the foreseeable future relieving any pressure for vulnerable members to attend.
- Our BIG Handshake World Record attempt has been postponed ([See this link from W Bro Paul Crockett](#)).
- Official Visits may continue, however each visitor will assess this based upon their personal situation and vulnerability, while taking into account the wishes of the Lodges or Chapters.

The most frequently asked questions are for guidance on the rule relating to the scheduling and/or rescheduling of meetings. If members report symptoms make sure you take the appropriate action and let Provincial Office know. As a guide you should:

- Issue the Summons as normal.
- Encourage members to attend, as scheduled, particularly for election and installation meetings.
- Ensure you have the minimum number of attendees needed to perform the business of the Lodge and postpone ceremonies.
- If on the day of the meeting, you are unable to achieve a quorum of five members, then the meeting may be abandoned. That abandonment must be recorded in the minute book of the Lodge or Chapter.
- If in doubt, please refer to the Book of Constitutions and as a last resort email the office.

I have asked W Bro Stephen Jarvis, Assistant Provincial Grand Master to prepare a plan to provide support to affected members who may become isolated or in need of financial support. You will know which of your members could become isolated, in particular those who do not have family or friends on hand. In such cases please think about what your Lodge or Chapter can do to support them, without putting others at additional risk.

As you would expect, I am currently considering the best options for our Annual Convocation and Annual Meeting.

On my part, I have reduced my attendance at meetings, but not stopped them entirely. I am taking great care to wash my hands regularly, on every occasion I arrive at a premises. As you would expect I am not shaking hands!

As the situation continues to develop, our response may change quickly, but rest assured we will do all we can to keep you safe and updated.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Ian Michael Chandler

ProvGM/GSupt

Surrey Comms Portal

We want to hear from you!

Eagle-eyed Brethren, please keep your eyes peeled on the local press and let us know if you spot any items about Surrey Masonry. Use the email SurreyCommsPortal@surreymason.org.uk to let us know.

Do you have a story to tell us? Have you had an important event or is there one coming up? If you need pre and / or post event news coverage we can help. Use the Surrey Comms Portal Form via [this link](#) and send it to SurreyCommsPortal@surreymason.org.uk the Information & Communications Team contact point for your news.

This email is being sent to all members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey on behalf of the Provincial Information & Communications Team - please do not unsubscribe from this list, otherwise you will receive no further Provincial communications.

