

Surrey Risings



Who We Are | How to Join Us

SPECIAL EDITION #5

Members, please be aware that the usual edition of Surrey Risings will continue to be published on the first of the month. In the current situation it is important that we communicate regularly to keep you up to date with any changes and news, therefore we are publishing some interim editions to keep you informed and occupied during these times.

A Message From Our Provincial Grand Master

Brethren and Companions

How strange it is to be writing on a beautiful day in the warm spring sunshine but being effectively confined to barracks! It is, at this time of year, that I have a yearning to grab my fishing tackle and get out on the bank, but alas that involves unnecessary travel so I am reduced to making up more floats rigs and hook lengths, in spite of the fact I have enough for about two seasons!

Luckily my allotment is close by and thanks to Mr Gove it has been declared a safe pastime! So the allotment is getting a premium service and now one of the two plots is looking very smart indeed and the second is just a few days away.

I cannot impress on you all the importance of this lockdown period. The measures are extreme but essential and as Freemasons we will not do anything which may subvert the peace and good order of society. Indeed, many are taking the opportunity of practising that virtue which may justly be denominated the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart – Charity.

I have heard of so many wonderful stories of members supporting each other and those in the community who require assistance. Please read carefully, though! Please do not put yourself and those around at risk by treading into close contact with others. Even if you are helping someone out, social distancing should be maintained. The welfare note which came out last week sets out the steps to take when making deliveries of essential goods.

Staying in touch is vital. Social isolation is one of the greatest contributors to poor health, in particular mental health. There are now so many ways of maintaining contact that there really is no excuse not to keep in touch. As an Executive we will continue to meet using video conference facilities, which are free to use, and of course we have our own WhatsApp group.

I'm aware of some Surrey Freemasons and their families who have contracted the virus. I have passed on my best wishes to them and I know you will too. It is a stark reminder that this virus is here, it is dangerous and we must do everything we can to prevent its spread.

The NHS are under enormous pressure but are doing a remarkable job. Many of you have already picked up on the hashtag #timetotoast which has been promoted by UGLE. Members had started to do the nine o'clock toast but now we are encouraging you to do this every day and include absent family, friends, NHS workers and Brethren. This has inspired me to buy a selfie stick but I don't really know what I'm doing yet!

Keeping busy is important, I have somehow found about a month's work without a lot of effort! House maintenance, gardening and major engineering works will all be taking place in the Chandler household over the coming weeks. The major engineering work involves building a retaining wall and a minor bit of landscaping! There may be pictures, if I can get the selfie stick working!

To help you keep busy W Bros Kevin Todd and Ken Martin have devised a quiz, mostly Masonic, which they will publish on a weekly basis. I believe you may need a Solomon account to answer some of the questions! I am going to give it a go.

One thing we can all do is share stories about the good deeds members are getting involved in. I heard from W Bro Andrew Carr, whose 99-year-old grandmother lives alone in Berwick on Tweed. Andrew contacted a local Lodge and to cut a long story short within 24 hours they found someone to visit her, who was none other than the local Mayor!

This is just one small example of what being a Freemason is all about. Please let us know about your experiences and we will share them.

Please keep safe and look after those around you.

By the way, I have next to me a small blue book and a small red book - there is always something to learn.

Best wishes

Ian

Other News

A Message From The Provincial Charity Steward

[Read Now](#)



A Message From The ProvGSec, ProvGSE

[Read Now](#)



UGLE is asking members to Tweet a toast to Brethren every night at 9pm to help stay in touch as a community online. If we were able to have your support that would be amazing.



Croydon Halls have offered their car park in Stanton Road to the NHS at Mayday Hospital free of charge to help support their staff who are dealing with the Coronavirus outbreak.

If any readers have any other stories of community engagement and support by Surrey Freemasons then please let us know using the links below.

[An announcement regarding the MCF Ball due to be held in June 2020.](#)

[A message from the MCF to all members.](#)



[Easy Read Advice](#)
[Employers and Business Guidance](#)

[How Can I Help card](#)

The NHS is looking for volunteers to assist during this time. There are a variety of ways you can help.

[Please check out the page here.](#)



Test Your Masonic Knowledge With This Quiz

If you've missed any previous editions of the Surrey Risings you can check out the archive [here](#)

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.

