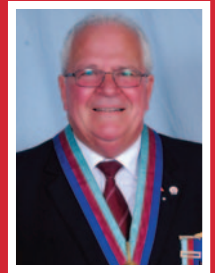




Dear Companions

At our recent 'Provincial Executive Zoom meeting', the likelihood of Chapters wanting to hold their own Chapter contact 'zoom' (on line) meetings was discussed.



That decision is of course for each individual Chapter to make, but if you do feel it is appropriate for your Chapter to hold a contact meeting, we thought it would be sensible to suggest the content that meeting should follow.

Taking the general advice given by UGLE/SGC we would recommend the following as appropriate:

- **NO RITUAL** - opening or closing
- **NO ODES ARE REQUIRED**
- **Welcome by MEZ**
- **Scribe E reports** on the Chapter - plus communication from Province and SGC Reports from: Almoner, Charity Steward and Treasurer
- Updates on potential Exaltees etc
- AOB

Toast to absent Companions (if required, at any time)

The object of these meetings, should you wish to hold one, is primarily for you all to keep in contact.

It will help to keep everyone up to date, and is a medium to have a lighthearted get together with your masonic friends.

If you do decide to hold one could I ask that you upload your Agenda through the Chapter website (as you do with summons) so members of the Exec are kept aware of meetings - they may ask to 'visit' for a few minutes!!

I hope this helps.

Keep well and stay safe.

Kindest regards Kelvin

Provincial Assistant Scribe E

Kelvin Larcombe PGStdB(ENG)

Everyone Mucked In

See back page



THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER of SUFFOLK



THURSDAY 14TH MAY 2020

would have been the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter at Greshams, we anticipated a gathering of 300 including many from other Provinces and London. However, with the suspension of Freemasonry due to the coronavirus our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent (MEGS) held several zoom meetings that day instead.

At the 11.00hrs meeting 25 of his active officers attended, he gave them all a hearty welcome and thanked them for their unstinting support of the events that had taken place within the Royal Arch Province and whilst making Chapter visits and escorting the Executives as they too went about their duty in the Province. He also welcomed the PGM and thanked him for his support of the Provincial Royal Arch. MEGS then congratulated the following; Raymond Pascoe his Deputy for being promoted to PGSwdB. Nigel Gregory appointed to Active GStdB, Kelvin Larcombe to

PGStdB in Supreme Grand Chapter.

The amount of communications coming from UGLE/SGC has been unprecedented due to the coronavirus pandemic and he thanked the Craft for including the Royal Arch in all communications.

An update was given by the Provincial Almoner who requested that all chapter Almoners keep in contact with their members and also to keep in touch with the Lodge almoners and share the load, in particular those companions who are unable to attend that frequently. Felixstowe care home and surgeries are being looked after by Lodges and Chapters in Felixstowe with plenty of support and creature comforts and flowers.

We were reminded that some have lost their lives to the Virus and a moment of silence was held. A request that families and next of kin are not forgotten.

The Treasurer gave an update on finances.

The PGM informed us that UGLE guide lines are being followed Suffolk COVID fund has been set up and match funding is done. Looking after our own people/group is important, we don't know what the future holds for us and what support may be required in the future when the lockdown is eased, we need to be prepared for a long haul. UGLE are supporting Time to Text, this supports the COVID-19 appeal. £10,000 has been match funded and £20,000 goes to UEA looking into the virus detection.

Dave Wilson the TLC rep reported that he has taken teddies to the hospital for distribution when its considered appropriate by the hospital.

MEGS thanked everyone once again and reminded them to keep safe and keep in touch. The use of Zoom is excellent and it allows those who are unable to attend regular meetings to get in touch and actually see many faces.

At the 3.00 pm Zoom meeting MEGS welcomed all the newly

appointed active officers and said he was very disappointed that actual physical hand shakes couldn't take place but he hoped that in the not too distant future he will be able to greet us all and we can begin to enjoy our Royal Arch ceremonies once again.

Provincial Scribe E, Nick Le-Grys gave his report followed by the Provincial Almoner/Mentor Paul Wreathall who requested the opportunity to be invited to any chapter that was having a social Zoom meeting just to make himself known and to find out how the chapter Almoners are managing.

Provincial Charity Steward, Brian Simpson gave his report which showed the support given to PGM 2019 festival along with support to many other causes.

The registrars report will be on the Royal Arch website.

The loss of companions due to COVID-19 and others due to other ailments was noted and a moments silence in respect of departed merit was noted.

MEGS thanked all who had been appointed and said he hoped it wouldn't be too long before we enjoy the physical and actual ability of attending our ceremonies and convocations. He then thanked the PGM for his support.

The PGM reiterated his support of our Province as a whole and said it is

our 1st priority. We are following UGLE guidelines and he gave an update on the area which we are part of which is Reginal coms Group 7. COVID-19 Suffolk appeal and if members wish to volunteer to add to it we shall get match funding.

MEGS then thanked everyone for attending the Zoom meeting and reminded everyone to be safe, take care and keep in touch.

At the 4.00 pm Zoom MEGS welcomed everyone and again in particular the PGM for supporting us. He congratulated all those who had received promotions and said he hope that in the not too distant future he will be able to physical greet each one of them.

Updates from the Treasure, Charity Steward were given.

The PGM again reiterated his whole hearted supported for the province as a whole. As a member of Regional Communications Group 7 £100,00 had been given to them and he gave updates on the support that had been given to UEA to support the virus detection project. He requested that we should have tight groups of supporters and to look after the health of each other.

MEGS thanked everyone for the support they are giving to the Royal Arch in Suffolk, their Chapters and to each other.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER of SUFFOLK

Dear Companions

I hope you and your family are safe and keeping well.

There is some confusion regarding Charitable giving while Freemasonry is suspended. I know from various requests that you are all keen to assist the many Charities that require help. However, I know that many are wondering how to do this when your by-laws require that a vote by the Chapter is required at a regular meeting, and these cannot take place. By-laws will normally permit the Principals to make a payment in an "emergency" and report it to the next meeting. You may be interested to know that Grand Lodge (and therefore Supreme Grand Chapter) has agreed that the present pandemic can be regarded as an "emergency" so it is open for the Principals to make a decision to make charitable or other payments on behalf of the Chapter. But Companions common sense must prevail, and the Principals would be unwise to make more than a small payment without knowing that it would be supported by the members of the Chapter. A solution that I would suggest is for the MEZ or Scribe E to either email/telephone/Zoom the majority of the Companions of their Chapter to suggest a donation. And would the said Companion support the donation, taking note of ALL contacted and who agreed.

When the Chapter resumes normal activity then this item should be included on the Summons for report, using the notes taken by the MEZ or Scribe E during the canvassing, so that it is included in the Chapter minutes.

Moving on from this, I hope many of you are now in receipt of our first "Royal Arch Newsletter" and have read about the task our Past Deputy Grand Superintendent Mike Caddock has set himself to support SARS-Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, which incidentally was Founded in 1972 by our Past Grand Superintendent Dr. Graham Bracewell, it is a registered Charity and I attach a few bullet point notes on a separate sheet.

In consequence of this I have decided to make this The Grand Superintendent's Appeal for Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service, therefore may I humbly ask if you could support this request, we have 32 Chapters and I hope each one will see fit to donate perhaps £25/£50 or even more if you are feeling generous. The RA Province in return will "match fund" from the Provincial Charity Account any amounts you give, hopefully making a substantial grand total to support this worthy cause.

Please do not use any giving site, but send the money or use your SPGCC account to E. Companion John Laverock who will collate the figures, so we will be able to match fund.



Everyone Mucked in...



ON SATURDAY 20TH JUNE, Being bored with decorating, car cleaning and other domestic chores during the 'lock down' & fearing Ashlar House being taken over by Mother Nature, a small band of Brothers decided to opt for a break from the Covid 19 crisis and tackle three months' worth of hedge growth and so on, within the grounds of **Ashlar House**.

The driveway and immediate environs had become very untidy and overgrown since March so with the help of a tractor mounted hedge trimmer; chain saws & other substantial equipment plus the offer of an 'almost out of date' free beer with a slice of home baked fruit loaf, off we went.

Nine members of Bury Lodges; seven from Abbot Baldwin (**also included four Abbot Baldwin Companions I hasten to add**) and two from Abbey ably assisted by our Hall Steward, Camilla, set about the task in glorious sunshine. Social

Distancing Rules were briefed beforehand and observed throughout but it was a refreshing change to speak to each other without having to log in.

Despite the warmth of the weather; everyone mucked in and just tackled whatever was in front of them resulting in a cracking job being performed and leaving Ashlar House grounds looking very smart; tidy and ready for the great day of reopening, whenever that may be. Another Tidy/Clean up event is intended in mid-July subject to HMG guidelines.



Those helping were:

W.Bro James Orlopp - Foreman and Hall Co Director

W.Bro Nick Wiseman - Chief Chain & Hedge Saw Operator

Bro Max Wiseman - Chief Grass Cutter

W.Bro Peter Knight - Chief Tractor Trimmer & Powered Blower Operator

W.Bro's Paul Rayner; Nigel Gregory; Mike Helliard & Brothers Murray Phillips and Scott Darnell - Chief grass cutters; trimmers; sweepers; rakers; weeders and wheel barrow operators.

© Nigel Gregory



In memoriam

Comp. **Peter Whipps** –
Phoenix and Ala 516

Peter was a joining member of Ala Lodge in October 2017. He had been unable to attend the Chapter in the few months prior to lockdown. It appears he was in Ipswich Hospital recovering from a broken hip when he became infected with, and succumbed to, Corona Virus. Peter was aged 77 years, a widower. He was also member of a London Lodge from 1977.



**THE PROVINCIAL
GRAND CHAPTER
of SUFFOLK**



**PROVINCIAL
CHAPTER
WEBSITE**

VISIT
www.suffolkpgc.org.uk