



The Covid Times

Edition 6

Greetings once again brethren and welcome to the 6th edition of *The Covid Times* – the most read on-line magazine for AMD masons in the UK and probably the world! This is no mean feat and much credit has to go to our hard working editorial team – thanks to them.

By Colin Woodcock

Well what a strange week; we seem to have begun to come out of lockdown, although around here the locals have pre-empted the government announcements and decided it is all over – it is not yet!!! Some folk – joggers and cyclists in particular - take a weird delight in passing me well within the social distancing rules. I am reminded of the great film *Ben Hur* – the 1959 version not the poor remake in 2016 - and am trying to devise some sort of sharp blade on my shoes (remember Rosa Klebb in 'From Russia with Love'?) to 'accidentally' shred the tyres of speeding cyclists who pass too close. Best keep it in my dreams....

But talking of revenge, I have had several messages regarding my cat-wars activity; the sonic booms issued by the cat-scarers are working very well as the cats have visited my garden far less than before, and when they do a mix of the powder granules and these devices prove very effective. The cat-scarers certainly don't worry the birds; the other morning each one had a bird sitting on it completely unaware of the powerful anti-cat weaponry beneath them!!! Success.....

They tell me that pubs and clubs will be the last places to open for 'business as usual'. This does not augur well for us but it is even worse for pubs. The industry thinks that maybe 40% could close - *quelle horreur* - pubs are so quintessentially British and I love them. They mean everything that is good about living in our country - that sense of community, friendship, society, good company, a good pint and that sense of being at ease with oneself and the world. This is very much like our Allied Masonry, all of those...

(continues below)



Virtual Get-together

Why not join the District Grand Prefect and other members of the District at a virtual get-together - every Saturday at 8pm. Attendance is growing on a weekly basis! Keep an eye on your inbox for the invitation from Scott Cargill.

...attributes I can associate with us and our meetings and it seems very poignant that we shall both emerge from this pandemic at the same sort of time. I imagine us to be like a 'Doom Bar' chrysalis, emerging from the cocoon of Covid-19 and transforming into the happy and vibrant entities that we were a short time ago.

Zoom has certainly taken off, hasn't it? Each Saturday night a growing group of us get together from London AMD; it is great to see and (sometimes!!) hear everyone as we have a laugh, catch up with news and meet new friends. We have people turn up from Mexico, Turkey, Brazil, Bolivia and Bromley – we are a global bunch. Drop a line to Scott Cargill for the log-in details; it will be nice to see you.

(continues below)

Mental Health

The NHS has some excellent advice on maintaining your mental well-being, which can be found [here](#).

Physical Health

Exercise continues to be very important at this time, so here are some useful videos for indoor exercise - [strenuous](#) or [not so strenuous](#).

Lockdown Recipes - Baked potato with bacon, taleggio and leek

In the last edition of *The Covid Times*, we celebrated the glorious weather with a recipe for Summer Pudding - but now that the weather has turned, why not try this perfect [recipe for a rainy day](#)?

Please do let us know if you have tried any of these recipes, or perhaps suggest a few of your own.

GOOD DEED FEED

Many people are helping their local community or fellow Masons. If you are one of those superstars, why not click on the button above to let us know what you are doing and we can then share the stories with the District.

Julian Trought of the Goose & Gridiron Council writes:

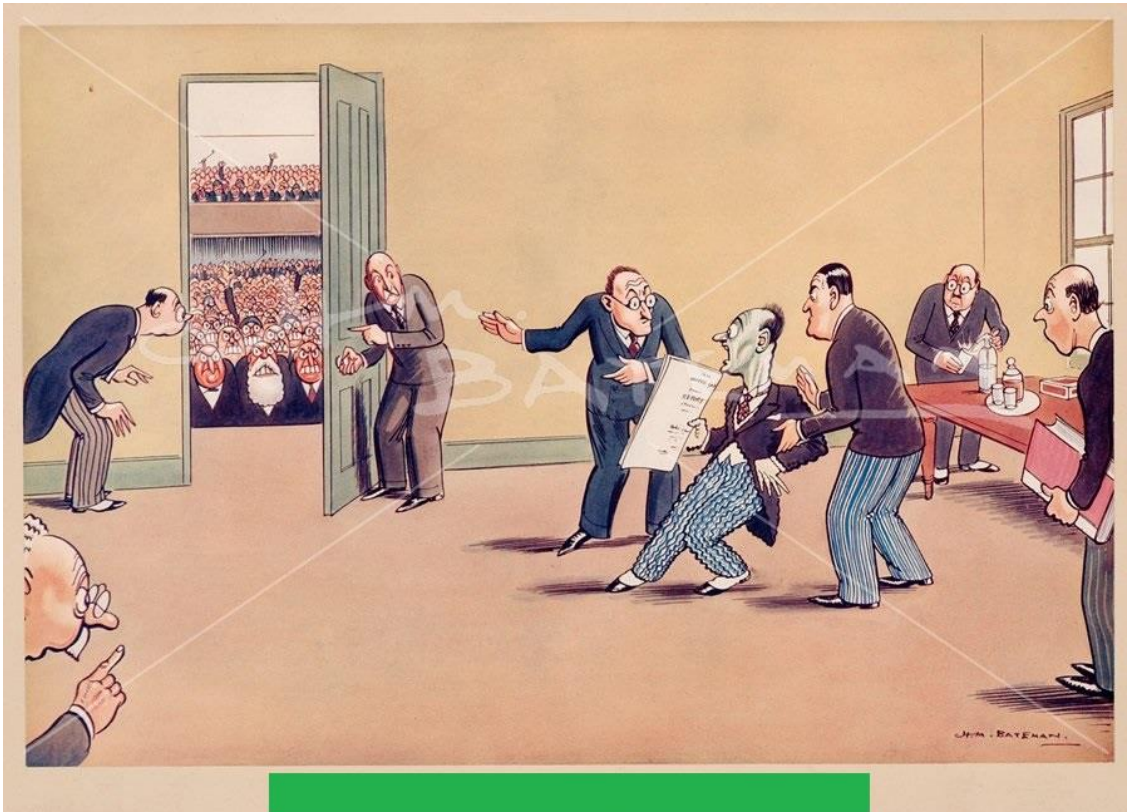
When the lockdown took hold in mid-March, my plastic manufacturing company in South East London which supplies the chemical, pharmaceutical and food industries with liquid transfer products re-purposed the manufacturing process to produce ventilators for the NHS, as the machine technology was transferable to making the hose and tube fittings needed. The company then also began donating cash on a weekly basis to local food banks via The Trussell Trust.

But the community focus didn't end there. After realising the major issues and struggles providing PPE for frontline health workers as well as all other areas of key workers, the company quickly developed and tooled in record time a full face visor for personal protection in the fight against Covid-19.

We shall be holding our annual Secretaries' meeting on Zoom this year; it is an interesting development and I can see we shall make much more use of this type of communication medium in the future and even when we are past this current period. I can see myself sitting in the pub, wearing my butterfly wings and Zooming on my laptop - bliss. Stay safe.....

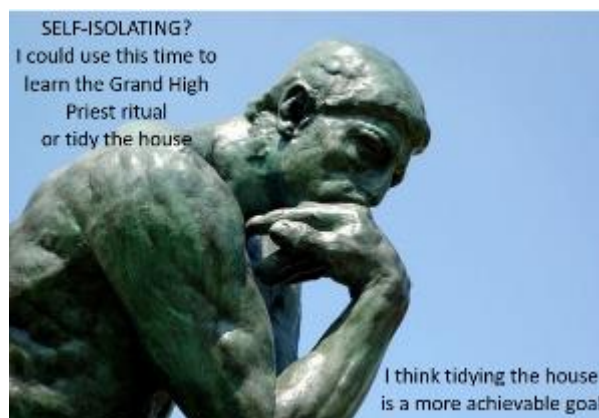
Daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge

In the [sixth podcast](#) from Neil Thomas Allen, Rod Bradley - who is the District Grand Director of Ceremonies for London in the Royal & Select Masters (also known as the Cryptic Degree) and also a member of The Brigadier Galloway Council - is asked about what got him into RSM and a little about the history of the Order itself.



Cartoon Caption Competition

Based on H M Bateman's famous cartoon series, "The Man Who...", can you come up with an appropriate caption for this cartoon? Suggestions can be emailed to Richard Criddle (details at the end of the newsletter) and we'll publish them in the next edition of *The Covid Times*.



Although we are not holding any Council meetings, the **District photo competition** is still very much running. Why not send us pictures of how you are spending your time in lockdown? Contact details can be found below.

Freemasonry in Film and TV

Do you know of any instances of where Freemasonry has appeared in film or TV? Why not write in (contact details are at the bottom of *The Covid Times*) and let us know? Below are a few examples for your "televisual" delight:

The Man Who Would be King - available from Amazon Prime, Google Play and YouTube, the film tells a Kipling story containing many Masonic references including the degrees, forms of recognition, overall Lodge hierarchy, and certain aspects of the Initiation process (with thanks to Tom Auber).

Inside the Freemasons: The Grand Lodge Uncovered - available from Amazon Prime. This documentary discusses the hidden rituals and buried secrets of the Freemasons, including a glimpse inside UGLE.

Ashes to Ashes - in this episode Gene Hunt, one of the main characters, is initiated (with thanks to Terry Hall)

Da Vinci Code Decoded - available from Amazon Prime, it is the definitive documentary on the theories behind the novel

The Adventures of Robin Hood - well worth watching the entire episode

The Secret World of Female Freemasons

And for a bit of light relief: *Hale & Pace* or *The Simpsons*

We'll add to this list with each edition of *The Covid Times*.



There's no need to be bored during the period of lockdown, especially with this list of activities on offer...

- The solution to the wordsearch in edition 5 can be found [here](#).
- Fancy something of a "pun-fest"? Then click [here](#) for a chuckle...
- Why not make a virtual visit to Amsterdam's [Rijksmuseum](#)?
- And continuing the Dutch theme, this year the USA, The Netherlands and England are commemorating the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. Embark on [a virtual voyage](#) to the beautiful Dutch city of Leiden.
- Join a five-minute meditation with the [National Gallery](#), based on artist Odilon Redon's painting *Ophelia Among the Flowers*.
- Ride the underground [Mail Rail](#), virtually, with The Postal Museum's narrated 10-minute video.
- Take a virtual tour of "Britain's Sistine Chapel" and marvel at the Baroque interiors of the [Painted Hall](#) at the Old Royal Naval College.
- Hear a global cast read complete Shakespearean works every Wednesday at 7pm. Click [here](#).

- Keep your green fingers active with top tips from Covent Garden's Head Gardener and horticulture expert Kenny Raybould. Click [here](#).
 - Go behind the scenes of iconic Regent Street shops and restaurants, including tasty recipes from The Langham and Sakagura, and Untold Stories from retailers. Click [here](#).
 - Sing along to some of Andrew Lloyd Webber's biggest West End musicals with [The Shows Must Go On](#), including *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*. Every Friday at 7pm.
 - The likes of Jo Brand, Russell Kane and Professor Brian Cox are putting on live podcasts and comedy during [The Stay at Home Festival](#) – the shows are free but tips are welcome! Various dates.
 - Discover the riches of the [British Library](#) – locate old maps, view virtual books and turn the pages, take a virtual highlights tour.
 - The [National Theatre](#) is streaming some of its NT Live productions on Thursday evenings on You Tube, including *Jane Eyre*, *Twelfth Night* and *Treasure Island*.
 - The [London Symphony Orchestra](#) will be streaming full length concerts on Thursday evenings – click on “Always playing”.
 - Scrabble online - click [here](#).
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The Covid Times is brought to you by Richard Criddle and Steve Roberts, and edited by Scott Cargill. All feedback and contributions are welcome and can be emailed to richard-criddle@rocketmail.com.



And if you would like to volunteer to help compile ***The Covid Times***, or assist the District Comms Team generally (eg: as a Delegation Photographer or Events Planner), then please do get in touch with richard-criddle@rocketmail.com.
