

Greetings Brethren

Today is yet another day of our four week (we hope only four weeks) lockdown.

I trust you are all complying with the instructions – stay home, save lives. And if we all play our part, hopefully things can start getting back to “normal” sooner rather than later.

The purpose of this is to suggest a small way in what you, as Lodges, are able to start to assist and check on your Brothers and Widows during this time.

Below is a process which Lodge Whitianga No 443 have set up and we, The Freemasons Charity Management Committee, think each Lodge should consider something similar (if they haven’t already!).

We are aware that there are a number of Lodges who have been pro-active and have similar schemes under way already – we thank you for that – this is us re-iterating and supporting all Lodges needing to have something similar in place sooner rather than later.

We suggest each Lodge commences a once a week (or more) telephone calls to each Brother and Widow, which will hopefully keep everybody in touch and informed.

Lodges can set up a number of groups, each with a Group Leader, who is responsible for a number of brethren and widows on the telephone list.

Basically, the Group Leader will make contact and check up on all brethren and those including Widows to place their fortnightly grocery order with their preferred local supplier, and request a home delivery. This is especially important for those over the age of 70 or those who are unwell. It also means that other Lodge members do not have to visit the supermarket for them which reduces everyone’s chances of possibly being contaminated.

However, we understand at present there is about a six day wait for grocery delivery which may not be suitable to all – in these instances, it is suggested that once the order has been placed, the Group Leader (or someone else nominated), collects the groceries for the Brother or Widow and delivers it to the door step. Remember, we only want a small number of people doing this, which lessens the risk to all.

We are also aware that there will be some brethren or Widows who are unable to activate this type of ordering. In this case, the Group Leader can place the order for the Brother or Widow, pay for the shopping through the Lodge account and then the Brother or Widow reimburses the Lodge.

If a Brother or Widow is advised that delivery is held up or is of an unacceptable delay, they then phone the Group leader – who will arrange for someone to collect and deliver it.

This process is great, and again, one we think each Lodge should put in place as soon as possible, if they haven’t already.

We thank you all for your support, compassion, time and effort during this unprecedented time.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Charity Administrator, Shelley Newson, on 04 3855748.