

PORTCULLIS



The newsletter of Westminster Lodge No. 308

March 2020



Presentation of Cheque to DCM. From left Matthew Mawkes and Rebecca Scott DCM and Terry Wellington and Graeme Gibson WL 308

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COMING UP?

All formal gatherings
suspended at the request of
Grand Lodge [and Government]

**Turkish night @ the Wellesley
POSTPONED**

FROM THE EDITOR



With the suspension of Lodge meetings this issue of Portcullis has taken on quite a different function. It is my

intention to continue publishing it as long as there is a need to keep our Brethren informed at a level more specific to us than that being disseminated by Government and Grand Lodge alike.

Information in this edition may be out of date before readers have a chance to absorb it, such is the rate of developments and the lifestyle changes we all need to make.

Stuart and Kathleen Brooker have made a great effort to set up contact pods for all of our Brethren and Widows. These are detailed at the end of this newsletter.

We look forward to a new dawn.
Morris Robertson

THE MASTERS PEN



We are all working through the impact in our day to day lives of this COVID-19 phenomena. The focus from Grand Lodge and the District Grand Master has

been consistent. Stay safe and look out for each other. My thanks to those of you offering to be directly engaged in providing active support to any of our members who need it.

My management team will be looking at ways over the next week where we can engage and ensure our Masonic enjoyment continues and enhanced.

I share with you the disappointment of Eyuphan Ozdemir where we were not able this month to welcome him into our Ancient and Honourable institution.

While we work through a period where we are not able to meet formally it is my

intention, in a sensible way working with Steve Wallace, to continue the processing of persons who have shown interest in joining Freemasonry and Westminster in particular. Under this heading I would like to formally welcome Henry Davies as a member of the Investigating Committee. Having introduced an element of change to the Westminster membership process, Steve Wallace is your first point of contact where a person is showing interest in becoming a Freemason. Steve will then work through the process with you and your candidate.

Stay safe and look out for each other.

Terry Wellington

WHERE'S THERE A WARWICK THERE'S A WAY



Warwick Bell, in consultation with the Master, and with only two hours notice set up a spontaneous Zoom Chat, which attracted 14 of our Brethren covering a range of ages including jd Dallas from Shiyon and Andrew Jack from Suva. Warwick said that everyone who attended appeared to find it a worthwhile catch-up and got to meet brethren they didn't know that well, if at all.

In this period of COVID19 physical isolation, it need not be social isolation. Terry and Warwick have agreed to do it again next Friday at the same time, same number <https://zoom.us/j/381821934> – That gives time to work out a Zoom connection – drop Warwick an email if you wish to trial.

So, arm yourself with a drink, a comfortable seat and come in for a chat. If you're overseas, even if you haven't interacted for some time with the Lodge, it would be great to see you.

With many more people, participants need to be careful about interrupting and perhaps Warwick will try and facilitate more next time. Intending speakers can indicate by the 'Chat' mechanism and/or Hand=up function when they are keen to contribute.

DCM PRESENTATION



Our Master, Terry Wellington and SW, Graeme Gibson, visited DCM to pass over to Michelle Scott and Matthew Mawkes, the additional support we received from the Freemasons Charity for purchasing supplies for DCM's Foodbank which helps Wellington's homeless. This brought the total contribution in our Christmas appeal for the Foodbank to \$3000. See heading photo.

LOOKING UP – A MESSAGE FROM jd DALLAS



Things here in Shiyan City, Hubei Province are certainly improving. No longer the dire days when even the front door to our apartment building was chained shut (not to keep others out, but rather the residents in.) Now the inconvenience for the most part is behind us. There have been no new notifications of the dreaded lurgy for well over 14 days in Shiyan.

Little by little the travel restrictions are being lifted. Initially you weren't allowed out of your home. Then, for a few days, nobody could even get to the local grocery store unless they possessed a card duly stamped and dated by the local authority.

People still get their temperature checked everywhere they go, but now the cards seem no longer to be required.

Li and I are now free to move anywhere within the city limits; we have been 4 days in a row to see her father at the Old Folks Home where he currently resides.

We are awaiting the arrival of an antidote or an effective vaccine to counter the disease so we can return safely, first to Zhuhai (to collect our luggage), and thence to NZ. Here's hoping.



Potential escape pod:
Shiyan – Wuhan High Speed Railway

KEEPING IN TOUCH

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE ALMONER VW Bro Stuart Brooker

I was Assistant Almoner, in the latter part of Geoff Todd's term as Master, looking after the "widows" and helping Henry Davies cope with the job.



Previously the job of Almoner was carried out by Bernie Harris and of course before him many others. How they coped I will never know because I can hardly cope with keeping in touch with the widows let alone those of our fellow brethren who are ill or who have become infirm through age or sickness.

I need the help of all brethren if the job is to be carried out in anything like a thorough manner and I respectfully ask for your assistance.

We need to ensure that none of our brethren, either personally or their wives and families, are in need of assistance and, if we find they are in need, to provide whatever we can to help them. No one person can do that for our 80 or so members.

I have divided the members into geographic groups which I have called "Pods". Please advise me of the errors I have made so that I can correct them. There are of course some that we rarely see. If they are in your Pod please contact me to discuss how we could contact them and perhaps involve them in the future. Remember they have not resigned and still pay their dues.

I have separated out "Lodge Widows" (I prefer the expression "The 'Widows' of former Members") and Kathleen has agreed to help me keep in contact with them. I have called this group "Pod 1". As well I have divided the "Country" Pod 9 into two Pods "9. Country (NZ)" and "10. Country (O/Seas)".

For each Pod (except 1 and 10 which Kathleen & I will look after) I, after consultation with the Master, have appointed a "Contact - Assistant Almoner" who is expected to keep in contact with the members of his Pod and report to the Almoner or the Master any assistance that that the Lodge can provide. It is not just our Lodge that can help. Major problems may well involve confidential applications to Freemasons Charity.

BUT REMEMBER, just keeping in touch, so that the member or widow knows that they are not forgotten and that, if needed, we are willing and able to help in these difficult times may be very comforting.

The Pods are as follows with the Assistant Almoner/Contact Brother shown in bold. Where there are two names in bold the role is being shared.

1. Lodge "Widows" looked after by - Kathleen & Stuart Brooker as Almoner

Belgrave	Judy
de Bes	Caroline
Brokenshaw	Jaqui
Calderwood	Elaine
Dick	Eileen
Field	Ann
Hercus	Janet
Gillies	Joan
Hazlett	Cora
Milnes-King	Catherine
Parnham	Robin
Potts	Angela
Reeves	Sue
Sheehy	Gay
Woolf	Gillian (Jill)

2. Kapiti Dacombe-Bird Jaray

Millage	Paul Robert
Parkin	Barry
Scott	Lloyd
Thomson	Michael
Simpson	Peter
	Richard

3. Johnsonville to Pukerua Bay

Chaney	Mark
Crookston	John
Fryer	Tony
McArdell	Patrick
Muller	Sean
Stokes	Ken
O'Callaghan	Damien

4. Khandallah, Ngaio, Crofton Downs & Wadestown

Bambery	Dexter
van den Broek	Paul
Halsted	Peter
Moss	Geoff
Pennicott	James
Robertson	Morris
Scott	Robin
Taylor	Rob
Uridge	Grant

5. Karori, Northland & other Western

Brooker	Stuart
Coker	Geoffrey
Coomber	Martin
*Dallas	jd
(after return from China)	
Nimot	Jeff
Parbhu	Jeetan
Wallace	Steve

6. **City**
 Bell Warwick
 Cockburn Aldwyn
 Cullen Peter
Illingworth Richard
 Martin Graham
 Robinson Edward
 Saban Ken
 Thomas Andrew
 Webster Brian
 Wellington Terry
 Woods Grahame

7. **Southern & Eastern Suburbs**
Celik Hakan
 Harris Bernie
 Todd Geoff
 Trott David

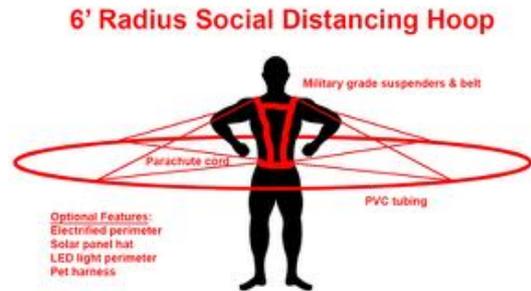
8. **Eastbourne, Hutt Valley & Wairarapa**
 Ackeus Ulf
 Bott Michael
 Crickmar Kieran
 Davies Henry
 Gibson Graeme
 Grandy Leon
 Lues Wilken
 Molotsky Steven
 Mordaunt Trevor
 O'Brien Roger
Sims Alex
 Wellington Chris
 Willis Peter

9. **Country (NZ)**
 Arrell Marty
 Bubendorfer Bob
Chamberlain Kent
 Hamilton Ian
 Holbrook Ron
 Kelly Phillip
 Liddiard David
 McMillan Don
 Oliver Peter
 Seed Peter

10. **Country (Overseas)**
 (looked after by **Kathleen & Stuart Brooker**
 as Almoner)
 Goodwin Nick
 Hughes Chris
 Ibbetson Oliver
 Jack Andrew
 Pirogov David
 Wilton David

SOCIAL DISTANCING

The Editor's nephew, James Hodges, in Calgary, Alberta has devised a social distancing tool of approximately 2 meters radius. He suggests, for optional extras, electrified perimeter, solar panel hat, LED light perimeter and a pet harness!



May Freemasonry remain strong in these times of trial

REMINDER

If any brother is aware of the passing of any brother or widow, urgent notification to the Worshipful Master is requested. Brethren are also requested to notify the Worshipful Master and/or Almoner in the case of any sickness or distress among brethren, family or widows.

ALMONER – VWBro Stuart Brooker, Phone: 973 5599 or 027 486 8249