



# The Covid Times

Edition 7

Dear Brethren all, welcome to the 7th edition of *The Covid Times*, the online circulation which is read by more London AMD masons than any other publication in the world. This is good news and all credit must go to our editorial team – well done and thanks to them...

**By Colin Woodcock**

So, it is now one week until the world begins to get back to some sort of new normal; great, but if you watched television and read one of the inferior publications you would think the world had gone mad. Crowded beaches, street parties and Tooting Common left looking like a council waste tip – that might be unfair on waste tips. I suppose I could have guessed at such happenings, but it does show how difficult it can be to nudge the public along a particular direction relying on 'common sense' and 'doing the right thing'.

Hey ho, let's hope they have got it out of their system and things will calm down a little so that we can put this virus back into its box and lock it away.

I have mentioned before about online meetings – Zoom or Skype etc - which have really taken off but even in the last few days they have come in thick and fast. We have our usual AMD Saturday evening Zoom which was very good this week. I described it as being a little like standing in the bar at Mark Masons' Hall and one by one about 25 friends from across the District saunter in, we greet each other, have a chat, a drink and catch up and then go on our way rejoicing. Very nice. I have also held a Zoom Meeting for our Secretaries and in a week or so we shall have a Zoom for new members – both of these events in the past would have been a dinner but Zoom is a very good substitute – and cheaper!

**(continues below)**

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### **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.

Can I suggest that each of our Councils holds a Zoom meeting before the regular Masonic season finishes for the summer. If you need help to organise one then let us know and please send me an invite – I could make a virtual Official Visit!!!! No Delegation on this occasion!! It is a good medium for keeping in touch and communication at this time is so important.

I must mention my good find of the summer season – apart of course from the cat business I told you about which has been a great success and I can confirm that next door's cats do not enter chez Woodcock – ever. What a success. No, my great find is a garden shredder. I am always cutting back and pruning which I then cut into very small pieces so that it fills my garden waste bin. This process is very labour intensive and when it is my labour I do rather object. Some elementary research revealed that my favourite company (Ryobi) make one, so it was quickly ordered and arrived in the week. I put it together today and slashed away at the borders and, voila, all reduced to very small mulch. Wonderful – purchase of the year so far.

Take care all and, at all times, be safe.

### **Mental Health Post Lockdown**

As we ease out of lockdown, the Mental Health Foundation has published some [useful advice](#) on how to maintain your mental health.

### **Health & Safety?**

And as we come out of lockdown, perhaps [this video](#) will give us a taste of what social distancing might look like when we start visiting bars....!

### **Daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge**

In the [seventh podcast](#) from Neil Thomas Allen of Londinium Council, our very own Scott Cargill - Acting District Grand Secretary - talks about his Masonic journey, the Allied Masonic Degrees in detail and also takes on a challenge.



### Cartoon Caption Competition

In the last edition of *The Covid Times*, we asked you to come up an appropriate caption based on H M Bateman's famous cartoon series, "The Man Who...". We had a number of entries and after much deliberation (and bearing in mind all the submissions were anonymised) the Deputy District Grand Prefect selected "The man who announced the Grand Rank appointments". The winner is none other than the District Grand Prefect himself! Perhaps a promotion is now in the offing for Steve??



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 have spent your time in lockdown? Perhaps send us some photos of extreme facial hair growth (we've seen some impressive beards on the weekly District Zoom meeting) or of any extreme DIY haircuts.

Contact details can be found at the end of *The Covid Times*.

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## 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:

*America's Book of Secrets - Episode 2 Freemasons* - available on Netflix, the episode explores the secret history and rituals of the Freemasons, a "clandestine society with a membership so powerful it helped shape America".

*Ancient Illuminati - Riddles in Stone* - available on Amazon Prime. This film explores the occult history behind the Masonic and Rosicrucian influence so prevalent amongst the Illuminati's Founding Fathers as they planned the layout of America's Capitol. For years, extreme controversy has abounded as to the exact meaning of the occult symbols found within the street layout, the buildings, and the monuments of Washington, D.C. Get the facts in this in-depth investigation.

*Jerusalem and the Lost Temple of Jews* - available on Amazon Prime. In honour of God, Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem but it was destroyed by the Babylonians. A second temple built by King Herod was also dismantled by the Romans. This compelling story goes through history to figure out where these two temples were built and where a third might be built before the Messiah's return.

*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*.

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

- Here's another [Sudoku](#), courtesy of Steve Roberts.
- Seeing the Northern Lights in person is spectacular, but the next best thing is seeing them [virtually](#).
- Google has a host of virtual realities covering the arts, space, natural history and cultural venues. Click [here](#) to go on a virtual tour.
- 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 YouTube, 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](mailto: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](mailto:richard-criddle@rocketmail.com).

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