

A Shot in the Arm

A newsletter from the AMD District Grand Council of London - Edition 3

Welcome from the D.G.P.

Greetings to you all and welcome to the third edition of *A Shot in the Arm*.



Well, what a difference a few jabs can do! I am sure Henry Cooper would have agreed with that, but not in the present context by which of course I am referring to our brilliant national vaccination strategy. The bulk of the population, which encompasses most of our Masonic brethren of course, are now well on the way to full protection from the virus and, even better, reducing the chances of transmitting it to others. Wonderful news and that light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter by the day.

Such is the success that we have two dates to look forward to; firstly, 17 May when meetings of at least 6 - and depending on the centre up to 30 - can meet. All of London AMD meets at MMH so some sort of meeting can be held, and to make sure it can happen I have lifted the temporary suspension of meetings as from 17 May.

The next date is 21 June when all restrictions may be lifted by the Government. I expect that some limitations or precautionary rules will be in place so we must wait and see. I am, however, really hopeful that with the meetings from

September we will see a real return to regular events when we can catch up with our work, reignite our units and start to enjoy each other's company again. Please be assured that no pressure will be put on any member to attend until they are happy and confident to do so.

There is a very useful paper from MMH with frequently asked facts which answers most questions and will be a useful aide memoir to Secretaries. The District Secretariat (in the form our hard-working Secretary Scott Cargill and his Assistant Richard Criddle) are doing a superb job of keeping everyone informed and up to speed with the current process. My thanks to them. If you have any questions or need any help – please ask them.

As I have mentioned before, out of all of this should come some learning and some good. One thing I have enjoyed is attending the virtual events, whether they be Council meetings, our Saturday 'Bar' get-together or even the Zoom social events; they have been most enjoyable and give us a chance to see each other – screen to screen. There are some truly strange face whiskers out there!!! I must say that the Zoom social event with Mark Smith, the *Antiques Roadshow* VC expert, was superb; it was his second visit with us and he was as interesting and informative as ever – a great night.

Virtual meetings have shown us that we can do much more together by such means, so perhaps committee meetings or audit meetings can still be done in this way; it is completely up to each unit, of course, but anything that makes life easier must be a good thing. Certainly the District Social Committee has proposed (amongst other things) that we should have at least one of our social events using Zoom, which would enable members who are unable to travel into London (as per the feedback from last year's survey) the chance to participate. The attendance in April was very high and we had many messages of congratulation, so we know it works. Furthermore, the District Council of Instruction has made a brilliant job of meeting online; this is so impressive and all credit to them. If you want to see what you should be doing in September, then join in – all details are on the website.

Without getting too Churchillian, let's hope that this is really the beginning of the end and that we make sure that the 'new normal' is as good as the 'old normal' with some enhancement – whoever heard of toasting someone's health over a video link, you have now.....

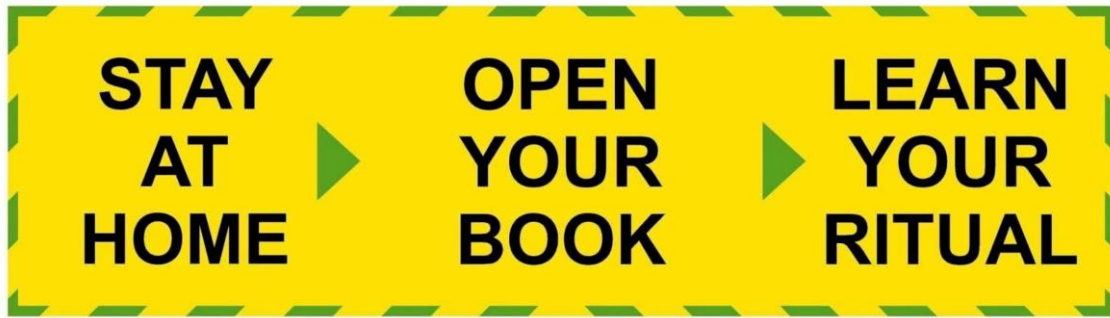
Best wishes to you all

Colin



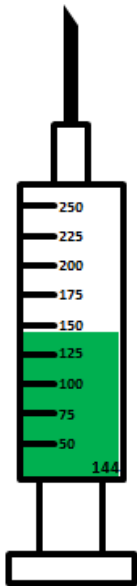
Spring Social Success

On 13th April, the District held its Spring Social online via Zoom, with Mark Smith delivering the second part of his talk on the Victoria Cross. Mark was excellent as always, and a full report on the event is on the website [here](#). You can also read about Mark's previous talk, given in the pre-Covid era, [here](#)!



The twice-monthly virtual Council of Improvement continues to attract a good number of brethren to practice their ritual ahead of the return to meetings. Join the team for a chance to see how it should be done, and take part if you want to work on anything!

More information on the [AMD London website](#).



Vaccine Counter

Even with some suspected under-reporting, the District's vaccine count is encouraging.

56% of members have received their first jab, and 14% report having had both!

Boredom Busters

As we approach a return to normality, we hope that you are able to get out and about to enjoy social interactions in a Covid-safe manner. There are still a number of excellent online events and resources for those rainy days in though...

- [Van Gogh Alive - the Experience](#)
 - [Keukenhof Park Virtual Visit](#)
 - [Timeline, World History Documentaries](#)
 - [Dr Mark Carney - The Reith Lectures. How we get what we value. From climate crisis to real prosperity](#)
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Virtual "bar" Meeting

Even with beer gardens re-opening, the AMD Zoom Bar continues to be the place to be on a Saturday evening. The District Grand Secretary continues to host an informal Zoom meeting every week. We usually get between 20-35 Allied members attending, including some from other Districts.

It's a chance for a quick catch-up on what everyone has been doing over the last week and usually ends with a toast led by the District Grand Prefect. Please do join us - Scott sends an invitation every week.



If you use Zoom for your Council's virtual business meetings, committee meetings or socials and feel constrained by the 40-minute limit, then fear not! The District has bought a professional licence for all Councils to use which gives unlimited time access to Zoom. To use the District's Zoom account, simply contact the District Assistant Secretary (richard-criddle@rocketmail.com).

Contributions Welcome!

Although this is the final edition of *Shot in the Arm*, we are always happy to accept submissions for our quarterly newsletter.

The next will be published in September, meaning you have plenty of time to get back to in-person meetings both inside and outside of the temple. Note down any newsworthy stories and interesting anecdotes...you can share them, along with photographs from your return to AMD Freemasonry, with us by completing our [submission form](#)!

Dates for the Diary

July 21 – New Members' Dinner

July 22 – Secretaries' Dinner

November 4 – Autumn Social

