

A Shot in the Arm



A newsletter from the AMD District Grand Council of London - Edition 1

Welcome from the D.G.P.

Greetings to you, one and all. 2021 is here and, more than any New Year that I can remember, it is living up to its job and heralding a brighter future. We now see a way out of the plague which has been visited upon us; we have a vaccine which is being delivered in a most impressive manner - several millions have had it as I write with the promise that everyone should receive it by the summer. So thanks to our brilliant scientists, pharma companies, our wonderful NHS staff, the military and of course the small army of volunteers who are helping to ensure the distribution of jabs is efficient and effective.

Masonry has been at the forefront of volunteering during the pandemic and our own London AMD has been well represented be it on the medical side or the voluntary – quite right too but nevertheless, thank you to all who are ‘doing their bit’.

London AMD has tried to maintain communication with all of our members during the last year, be it via newsletters, website articles, online social events, our Saturday Bar chat, one-to-one conversations and our drive to make sure that every member has a digital device to access Zoom and so be able to keep in touch. It is that social interaction, which is so important to us as humans, that we have missed and we have tried our best to put something in its place.

We can now look to, hopefully, September for some kind of return (probably still with some restrictions) and that is good news - but still 8 months away. So let us look to get ourselves ready to return to our Councils, dust off the ritual

books, press our suits (and adjust the waistbands where needed!), sort out the Accounts, get the books up to date and start planning.

We have a new style newsletter – *A Shot in the Arm* - to carry us through to the re-opening. I am guaranteed that it will ward off boredom, loneliness and domestic strife; it will even cook a meal for you – well I believed it all when they told me, but I am still waiting!!! Nevertheless, it will keep us in touch and together.

We have a very active and well-run Council of Instruction (full details are on the website) and I really want as many as possible to take advantage of it. Our first meetings back will be strange and may well have the Installation ceremony as one of its first pieces of work. This only happens once a year anyway and it may easily have been several years since it was last performed, so I have asked the COI to concentrate on it and help London AMD be in a position to deliver the best performance possible so that when we get back together, we shall enjoy each other's company as much as we will enjoy the ceremony.

All best wishes to you and stay safe.

Colin

Council of Improvement



What is that?

Can you see that?

It seems to be getting closer.

There. That light in the distance, what is it?

It's your first regular meeting after suspension is over!

Are you excited? Will you be ready?

"Brethren assist me to open the lodge ..."

"Er!!"

It has been a while hasn't it?

Do you need to brush up a bit on your ritual?

Then the AMD Council of Improvement is the place for you.

We now meet twice a month via Zoom.

- 2nd Tuesday of each month – Installation practiced
- Last Tuesday of each month – Two of the 5 degrees practiced

So, don't "Er!"

Come join us

Get involved

Get ready for that grand day out when we can do it for real!

[AMD COI Information, Schedule & Registration](#)

Vaccine Counter

As the UK's vaccination programme picks up pace, the District Assistant Grand Secretary is keeping tabs on how many members have had their jabs!

275									
250									
225									
200									
175									
150									
125									
100									
75									
50									
25									
20									
15									
10									
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S

Email richard-criddle@rocketmail.com when you have yours so we can see the progress towards a fully protected District!

"Next slide, please!"



A Few Masks Left!

AMD masks are still available to order, with proceeds funding technology purchases to keep our members connected. At only £10, these accessories will no doubt be a popular feature when meetings resume! But get in quick, stocks are running low! [Order yours here...](#)



Virtual "bar" Meeting

The District Grand Secretary continues to host an informal Zoom meeting every Saturday night. We usually get between 15-25 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.

Boredom Busters

Fed up of being stuck in? Done all you can in the garden and sick of preparing elaborate meals that never quite work out? Check out some "boredom busters" to keep you occupied!

- [Natural History Museum Tours](#)
- [British Museum's Interactive Museum of the World](#)
- [Brick Lane Music Hall 360 Tour](#)
- [Free Operas from Glyndebourne](#)
- [Stories from the Rijksmuseum](#)
- [Ride the Underground Mail Rail \(Virtually\)](#)

Alternative Masonic Dictionary

Freemason	-	Member of a fraternal body
Mason	-	One who works with stone
Maisonette	-	Wife of a mason
Ma' Son	-	A Yorkshire Lewis
Illuminati	-	The brightest of your Mum's sisters
Festive Board	-	Feeling brought on by long speeches
Ceremony	-	Masonic Ritual
Ceremoney	-	Lodge Fees
Ceremonial	-	Objection to increase in lodge fees
Ode	-	Outstanding lodge fees
Apron	-	To do an impression of Ron
Jewel	-	Process of settling a masonic argument
Fidelity	-	Having trouble putting a tie on
Allied	-	To give the false impression that you have learnt ritual, as in "I said I'd learnt it, but allied"
Mystic	-	A piece of wood that is mine
Circle	-	A cool Knight
Privilege	-	A shelf in an outside toilet
Triangle	-	Have a go at fishing

Spring Social Confirmed



The District's Spring Social has been confirmed for Tuesday 13th April. Mark Smith will present the second part of his Victoria Cross talk, "Hearts of Oak". The event will be held online and further details will be released soon!



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!

We're looking for contributions for the next edition. Do you have a story to tell, news from your council, or something fun to suggest? Whether it is AMD related, generally Masonic, or just a pastime that is getting you through lockdown, share it with us by completing our [submission form](#)!

Dates for the Diary

April 13 – Spring Social Event

July 21 – New Members' Dinner

July 22 – Secretaries' Dinner

