

A Shot in the Arm



A newsletter from the AMD District Grand Council of London - Edition 2

Welcome from the D.G.P.

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

So, at last, we have a roadmap which should guide and direct us out of this strange land in which we have been marooned for the last twelve months. We have wandered, mainly alone, often in circles, no roadside hostelry to stop for refreshment, no meeting with friends, no Council to attend - only wise counsel to attend to. Wash your hands, keep your distance and save the NHS – these phrases which would have been odd, if not downright strange, just one year ago are now in our daily lexicon and we shall remember them for the rest of our lives; they will be the defining sounds from this time.

Defining sounds though should not be allowed to define us; having been through an arduous, tragic, challenging and devastating period in our history, we must, as a society, now begin to redefine how we live, interact, communicate and generally get on with each other. The changes we have been through are too great to ignore going forward, and if we get it right there are huge benefits and advantages to be had.

Covid, Brexit, climate upheaval and environmental changes added to the above mean, at the least, there will be a different future for us all. Let us not be overly concerned about this but rather see it as an opportunity.

Our map out of the Land of Covid is a little blurred but as long as the path remains visible, and the figures remain within the parameters set for us, then the summer should be a time for celebration. I suspect that much steam will be let off – expect scenes reminiscent of the end of World War 2 and then a coming down to earth – and a hangover!!

This timeframe does not help us and our meetings; June signals the end of our Masonic season and as I said in the first edition of this newsletter, September seems the most likely time for us to return to meetings. We must plan for that time, let us refresh our Council administration, dust off our ritual books, start to speak with potential candidates, review the accounts and most of all, keep in touch and communicate with each other.

Elsewhere here you will be reminded of our District Zoom account which any unit can make use of, we have a strong online Council of Improvement with very impressive and ground-breaking graphics to aid learning (come along and see for yourself), our Saturday night Zoom bar is still going strong, and your hard-working Executive and Communications team have been working non-stop for the last twelve months to keep the District engine well-oiled and ticking over. We are ready to glide out of the sidings and once again take the AMD train to London.

As in our own lives and working environment we have learned lessons and adapted to change; the trick of us now is to see what worked, what was good and what do we want to keep in the brave new world. There is much we will be glad to say goodbye to, but the future will be shaped by us; we will not be defined by the past but use it to build the future.

Best wishes to you all

Colin

AMERICAN DISTRICT OF LONDON



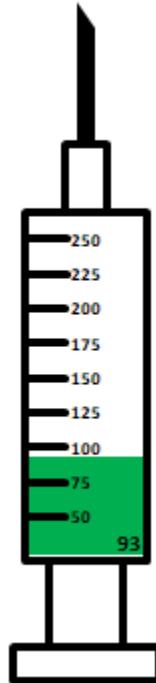
COUNCIL OF IMPROVEMENT



COMING SOON

Brought to you by Shot in the Arm Productions

Vaccine Counter



The District Assistant Grand Secretary is still keeping tabs on how many members have had their jabs!

As we approach freedom and hopefully a return to "normal", it is great to see so many members being vaccinated.

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

Four Freemasons

(With respect and gratitude to the genius of Tim Brooke-Taylor, John Cleese, Graham Chapman and Marty Feldman)

Four AMD Freemasons are sitting together in a Grand Temple waiting for a meeting to start...

Freemason 1: Ahhh.. Very enjoyable, this, very enjoyable.

Freemason 2: Nothing like meeting up with Brethren in a lovely Temple.

Freemason 3: You're right there.

Freemason 4: Who'd have thought forty years ago we'd all be sitting here for a meeting in a Grand Temple like this?

Freemason 1: But we were happy in them days.

Freemason 2: We were, we were.

Freemason 3: My old DC used to say to me, 'It's not the council room that makes you happy but the people you meet with'.

Freemason 1: He was right. I was happier then and we used to meet in this Masonic Hall, with greaaaat big holes in the roof.

Freemason 2: Masonic Hall?

Freemason 1: Yes.

Freemason 2: You were lucky to have a HALL! We used to meet in one room at the back of a local Pub, all hundred and twenty-six of us, no pedestals and half the floor was missing; so we were all huddled together in one corner for fear of FALLING!

Freemason 3: You were lucky to have a ROOM! Hundred and eighty of us used to have to meet in a corridor!

Freemason 4: Ohhhh we used to DREAM of meeting in a corridor! Would have been like a Grand Temple to us. Two hundred and fifty of us used to meet in an old water tank on a rubbish tip. The meeting often got interrupted by having a load of rotting fish dumped all over us!

Freemason 1: Well when I say Masonic Hall, it was only a hole in the ground covered by a piece of tarpaulin, but it was a Masonic Hall to us.

Freemason 2: We got evicted from our hole in the ground. We had to meet in a lake!

Freemason 3: You were lucky to have a LAKE! There were a four hundred of us meeting in a small shoebox in the middle of the road.

Freemason 4: Cardboard box?

Freemason 3: Yes.

Freemason 4: You were lucky. There were five hundred of us used to meet for three years in a brown paper bag in a septic tank. We used to have to arrive 6 hours before the meeting, clean the bag, perform a degree or installation ceremony and dine on a crust of stale bread, and if we got any ritual wrong our DC would thrash us with his wand.

Freemason 2: Luxury. We used to have to get to the lake 9 hours before the meeting and clean the lake, perform at least 2 degrees and dine on a handful of hot gravel, and if we got any ritual wrong our DC would beat us around the head and neck with a gavel, if we were LUCKY!

Freemason 3: Well we had it tough. We used to have to get to shoebox 12 hours before the meeting, and LICK the road clean with our tongues. We had to perform 3 degrees and dine on half a handful of freezing cold gravel, and if we got any ritual wrong our DC would slice us in two with the Tyler's sword.

Freemason 1: Right. I used to have to get to the site of the hole in road 6 months before the meeting; build the Masonic Hall; learn all 5 degrees, installation and lectures, and perform it all in Council before seven hundred District Grand Officers. We would dine on a cup of sulphuric acid and I would have to do all the toasts and responses at the festive board and if I got anything wrong our DC would kill me, and dance about on my grave.

Freemason 4: But you try and tell the young Admittees today that... and they won't believe you!

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!

- [Masterpieces from Buckingham Palace; The Queen's Gallery](#)
 - [Rubens and London by Professor Simon Thurley](#)
 - [Explore Blenheim Palace virtually](#)
 - [Wallace Collection, 45 years in 88 minutes by David Edge](#)
 - [Wigmore Hall, live-streamed concerts for free](#)
 - [The Changing Geography of Ill Health by Professor Chris Whitty](#)
 - [Simon Schama - The world in 2021 \(podcast\) What lessons does the past hold for our future?](#)
 - [The Metropolitan Opera, nightly free opera streams](#)
 - [The Royal Concertgebouw Amsterdam, watch free live streams](#)
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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 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.

Spring Social



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. But in the meantime, please pre-register [here](#).



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