



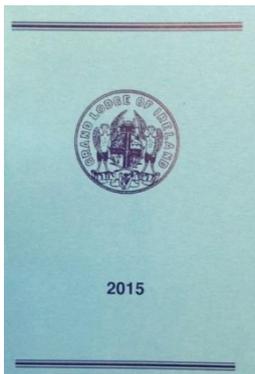
April, 2019

Dear Brethren,

Further to making several announcements at Communications from Grand Lodge, it has been decided to communicate these via a regular newsletter. This will enable you to read and digest the information at your leisure. I invite you also to regularly visit the Grand Lodge website (www.freemason.ie), where you will also find some of these updates.



Laws & Constitutions



An update of the Laws and Constitution are at an advanced stage and the Deputy Grand Master and his team are working towards the update and in due course will be released to all Provincial Grand Lodges and Lodges.

Decisions made by the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes will be released through our own Board of General Purposes.

CRM (Client Relationship Management)

A new database or CRM system is at an advance stage. Once a full audit has been completed the new system will provide many enhancements and improved communications with Provincial Grand Lodges, Lodges and Brethren. More details of this will be made known once the testing has been completed.

Data Protection

The Grand Lodge of Ireland including, Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland, Grand Council



of Knight Masons, Great Priory of Ireland, and the Ancient and Accepted Rite for Ireland have finalised the “GDPR Statement” and “Data Protection Notice”. Both documents have been distributed to Lodges and in addition they will also be available on the PGL website.



Greening the Building – St. Patricks Weekend



Vision 2020

Benevolence has always been the cornerstone of Freemasonry. Goodwill to all and a desire to help those less fortunate are fundamental principles of the Masonic Fraternity. The Grand Master's Festival was officially launched at the meeting of Grand Lodge on 27th December 2018. It is planned that the Grand Lodge will be arranging fundraising events including a music concert, Flower festival, and a further concert with the winners of the Young Musicians of the Year competition. We will be arranging our own events, the details of which will be co-ordinated by W. Bro. Wayne Oswald. If anybody has any suggestions, please let him know (wayne.oswald@gmail.com). The Grand Master is asking all Provinces and Lodges to please support this cause as it demonstrates Irish Freemasonry as being outgoing, as well as its well-known internal efforts.

Number Plate Surrounds.

A small number of these are still available. For just \$15-\$25 each, these are a great way to let the drivers around you that you are passionate about freemasonry and how to contact us should they be interested. Please contact your Lodge Secretary to place an order.



Grand Master, Honorary Member of the Grand Lodge of Scotland

The Grand Secretary has announced that at a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, M.W. Bro Charles, Ian Gorgon



Robert Wolridge Gordon of Esslemont appointed the Grand Master as an honorary member of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The last such appointments as honorary members of the Grand Lodge of Scotland took place during the 1980's when Lord Donegall and M.W. Bro. Michael Walker received such honours.



The PG Treasurer has advised that only 28 Brethren have taken up the offer from the Province to have a skin cancer check. Brethren, I have seen the consequences of what skin cancer can do, and unfortunately some of you have experienced it first-hand. I am aware that at least seven brethren have required further investigative work and/or surgery to remove diagnosed cancers. This represents 25% and if we project that out this suggests that over 42 could have this dreadful condition but have chosen to do nothing about it. This initiative was intended to be a kick starter to your own conscience and not an annual subsidised programme. However as the cost has fallen below the budgeted expectation, it has been decided by the Board to continue this incentive for those that are yet to have the examination. Please do it.



20th Grand Master's Millennium Cup 2019



Further to my own efforts to ascertain who plays the gentleman's game of golf within 348, Grand Lodge has announced that the on Friday, 23rd August 2019 at Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown, Co Tyrone, the Charities supported this year will be the Grand Master's Festival "Vision 2020", supporting RNLI, Medicines Sans Frontiers, Simon Communities of Ireland and Simon Community NI. If anybody will be in Ireland and interested to attend, the entry fee is £30.00, which includes green fees, entry into the Grand Draw and a £5 Voucher towards meal following your round of golf.

Full details can be obtained from the Competition Secretary, R.W. Bro. Noel Simpson, 13 Carneybaun Drive, Portrush, Co Antrim BT56 8JA

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I have also spoken with the RW District Grand Master of the NI DGL, GL of Scotland, Bro. Aldcroft and the Deputy District Grand Master from the NI DGL, UGLE, VW Bro. Farouk Khan; both brethren are in agreement with me to have our own local golf day. This is likely to be in May. The format will be an Ambrose tournament, where 'fun' rather than any individual's ability, or lack thereof will be

the focus. However it will still be necessary that you show some proof of proficiency, by at least, once in a while hitting the ball in the general direction of the intended hole. If anybody is interested please let me know. The fee will include a unique 'The Originals' Polo Shirt. One or two spare sets of clubs are also available if the last time you played Woods were actually made of wood and Plus Fours were the fashion.



The First International Masonic Clay Shooting Championship Cup Event

The National Association of Masonic Clay Shooting Societies in the UK have announced the First International Masonic Clay Shooting Championship Cup Event



will take place on Saturday, 7th September 2019 at Doveridge Clay Sports Shooting Ground, Eaton Hall Farm, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. The competition is open to all subscribing Masonic Clay Target Shooters from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and Crown Dependencies. The entry fee will be in the region of £50 and the Grand Lodge of Ireland will cover the cost of 10 entrants.

The Grand Secretary will contact David Lyness with a view to leading a team from the Irish Constitution.

(including 'liking' Facebook posts and Tweets), or re-sharing content to one's own connections.

The purpose of this article is to emphasise the highly public nature of social media channels, and ensure Freemasons use these powerful channels for public conversation in a responsible way.



A Freemason has a duty not to engage in any activity which may bring Freemasonry into disrepute.

Social Media



Social media platforms have become an increasingly popular channel for communication in the 21st century. They provide ways to share content with a wide audience, and as such are tools for sharing information about Freemasonry and Masonic activities.



However, as with any powerful tool, social media needs to be used with caution, as incorrect use can have a damaging impact on Freemasonry's public image, and therefore on Freemasonry itself. This guidance applies to posts made by Freemasons on all social media platforms. The term 'post' refers to any action taken on social media, whether sharing original content, making a comment on content someone else has shared



It is important to note that any interactions a Freemason has on social media may be visible to anyone in the world, for, while it is possible to restrict the audience of one's own posts, it is not possible to control how someone will react to them. A private post can easily be shared and reposted publicly by anyone who has access to it. Even if an original post is deleted or edited, someone could already have shared it in its original form. As far as social media are concerned, everything one does or says is permanently recorded, and there is no such thing as a truly private post.



Therefore, acting as an ambassador for Freemasonry online is part of a Freemason's duty. Rules (Civic and Masonic) and expectations that apply to one's daily conduct apply equally within the digital sphere, as comments may be taken out of context and used as representative of the views of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Listed below are behaviours and topics to avoid when posting on social media.



Provincial Grand Lodge of New Zealand

Under the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland



They apply to any Freemason who has identified himself as a Freemason online, whether he is posting in Masonic or non-Masonic channels. This list is not exhaustive but is intended to act as an introductory guide to topics or behaviours that are considered inappropriate for posting to any audience on social media.



When posting on social media platforms, a Freemason must not:

- produce, link to, or refer to any content that is illegal, defamatory, or likely to offend others
- cause or contribute to any hostile or unproductive arguments, or exercise any private piques or quarrels (good-natured debate is fine, but one should be prepared to abandon the exchange if it ceases to be friendly)
- discuss or allude to any of the Masonic Signs, Tokens, or Words (see the Obligation of the First Degree)
- claim to speak for any Masonic body (e.g. a Lodge, a Province or District, a charity or committee, or the Grand Lodge of Ireland) on whose behalf he is not expressly authorised to speak
- identify anyone else as a Freemason without his explicit consent, particularly when posting group pictures
- post any personal information about any Freemason without his explicit consent, such as address, telephone number, or anything else covered by General Data Protection Regulations.
- attempt to use Masonic channels as a vehicle for personal profit, or for any other form of self-promotion
- criticise the Grand Lodge of Ireland or any other legitimate Masonic authority



- there should never be posts related to the business of a Lodge and what is discussed within our tyled doors.

A Freemason may publicly share any Masonic content that contributes to a positive public image of Freemasonry, such as charitable work and events, good causes supported by Freemasons, and information about Masonic history.



Social media channels can also be used to share information only relevant to Freemasons, but care should be exercised to use a more restricted channel, such as a closed Facebook group. It should be noted that there is only one way that Masonic vouching can be carried out, so, unless each member of a closed group has been personally vouched, one cannot assume that a closed groups' members are all active Freemasons.



I hope this format is well-received and I wish you and your nearest and dearest all good health, and happiness in your Irish Freemasonry.

*RW Bro. AG McGregor
Provincial Grand Master*