



The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons
Freemasonry for Women
Friendship: Inspiration and Empowerment

To: Lodge Secretaries

Please ensure that the following information is given to all your members either electronically, by post or handed to them

**QUARTERLY COMMUNICATIONS, NEWS
and IMPORTANT INFORMATION - MARCH 2018**

1. **THE MWGM** is pleased to announce that Wor Bro Kim Wheeler of Nore Light Lodge No.35 is appointed as Clerk to Grand Lodge-Registry
2. **PR/PUBLICITY:** as a result of the publicity surrounding Freemasonry recently, an offer of a lecture from Dr Robert Lomas has been received. Robert Lomas is a well known writer on Freemasonry. The Gd Secretary has arranged for the use of the Egyptian Temple at Gt Queen Street on Sunday 2 September 2018. The talk at 3:30 will be followed by a Reception. Details to follow.
3. **CALENDARS:** these are now on sale at £3.50 each although every secretary has received an electronic version which can be transmitted onward to the members of their respective Lodges.
4. **PROPERTY:** as we are still being approached by developers, it has been decided to appoint an agent to deal with prospective buyers and also to find us a property. Although 402 will be marketed at £2.5million we have to be realistic and accept that we may only get £2-2.2million so our criteria may have to change.
5. **HERTFORDSHIRE:** a White Table Luncheon took place on Sunday, March 4 2018. A short presentation was given to introduce ourselves and promote Women's Freemasonry in Hertfordshire which resulted in five prospective candidates.
6. **AMBASSADORS/USA:** there will be 9/10 candidates coming at the end of May to enter our Fraternity. May 2019 is being planned for when the FFW contingent will travel to Washington to consecrate our first Lodge in the USA. In the meantime, anyone wishing to take part or just attend please contact VWB Bentley on 07818 455099 or susan_bentley@hotmail.co.uk (note the underscore between susan and bentley). Menus will be circulated shortly.
7. **MEMBERS DETAILS:** Lodge Secretaries must ensure that the Grand Registrar is kept updated with members details and offices taken or changed. Our database needs to be correct at all times.



8. **KNITTING:** RWB Emden, President of the Grand Lodge Charity, has just one or two of the knitted patchwork blankets left. If any Brother knows of any deserving person, please let her know. Her email is beverley@emden.me.uk
9. **HIGHGATE SCHOOL:** On 21 April 2018 the MWGM has been invited to give a talk at a very special event at Highgate School which will involve a tour; a Champagne Reception; a Banquet catered by a Master Chef; various entertainments and a party. The whole event will commence at 3:15 and is expected to go on into the early hours - cost of ticket just £75.00 for what promises to be an entertaining and exciting event and tickets are still available from the Gd Secretary.
10. **402:** it has been agreed that every Lodge has a responsibility to select two brethren to ensure the building is secured at night before the last person leaves.
11. **UNIVERSITY SCHEME:** A good relationship has been established with the new Chair of the UGLE Scheme. This will enable us to continue to go forward with the Scheme and work in tandem with UGLE and OWF on the project.
12. **HFAF FUNDRAISERS:** 500 Club tickets for 2018 are now on sale via the MWPGM Bernice Abram: tickets cost £18. Several new events are in the pipeline. Please contact Wor.Bro Cynthia Simmons by email at harcyn@virginmedia.com for information.
13. **FREEMASONRY FOR WOMEN:** it was agreed that **FREEMASONRY FOR WOMEN FFW** must take prominence over HFAF on all communications. Freemasonry For Women rises higher on search engines appearing above OWF and it also says exactly what we are whereas HFAF implies *very old Freemasons!* Secretaries are to ensure that Freemasonry For Women is prominent on all documents and letterheads. If unsure, please contact the Grand Secretary.

14. SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS:

It was agreed to **delete** the following from the list:-

- a) change of time
- b) more than five candidates
- c) Lewis
- d) taking office in more than one Lodge at the same time
- e) taking a higher Degree less than one month after preceding Degree
- f) working more than one degree at a meeting
- g) lecture not on the agenda

It was also agreed that a 'Candidate changing her Lodge before her Raising' would become a 'Special Permission'



The Special Dispensations remaining are:-

- a) Change of date or cancellation
- b) Emergency Meeting
- c) Candidate's name not on the agenda or not previously proposed
- d) Acting as a proxy for another Lodge
- e) Item not on the Agenda

It was further agreed that the cost of Special Dispensations and Permissions will be increased to £5.00 and all the above to take effect immediately after the Grand Lodge Meeting on 15 March 2018. This list will also be sent to Secretaries separately.

15. TYLERS: our current Grand Tylers are now in need of help therefore it was agreed that all Lodges working at 402 are to note that the Office of **Assistant Tyler** is now a progressive office and will appear on Installation Agendas. It will fall after the office of Steward but before that of Inner Guard. The office is for a period of one year and the Assistant Tyler is to help the Grand other Tylers at all meetings.

16. CALENDAR DATES: it was agreed that in an attempt to further ease congestion, the Grand Secretary is now permitted to insist that *Installation Meeting* dates only are moved.

17. ENQUIRERS/APPLICANTS: several enquirers or applicants appear to have dropped out of the system after having been passed to secretaries. It is essential that the Secretariat are informed why enquirers/applicants have not progressed or resigned for whatever reason. Once a name has been sent to a Lodge Secretary and Mentor, the Secretary must inform the Grand Secretary when a meeting has been arranged and its outcome. A spreadsheet of names will be circulated to each Lodge shortly.

18. MAGAZINE: Recorders are asked to abide by the deadline dates stipulated in order that their reports can be included in the magazine produced by Vy.Wor Bro Podro.

19. PRESENTATIONS: that the following Junior Wardens were presented:-

Bro. Susie Self presented by W.Bro Burnett-Benson WM - Justice Lodge No.4
Bro. Patricia Quinlan presented by W.Bro Mann PM - Doric Lodge No.11
Bro. Josie Whittingham presented by W.Bro Jennings WM - Cotswold Lodge No.51



GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren I am pleased to note what seems to be an upward trend in our membership. To use a medical analogy, it has been a long road to recovery. I have always been convinced that there is a great need for Freemasonry and its beneficial effects particularly amongst women. This has been very apparent with our overseas Lodges and I hope that we can now turn our attention to our UK Lodges and work on improving their Recruitment and Retention figures.

Christine Chapman - Most Worshipful Grand Master

NB: If anyone has a query about any of the above items, please contact the Grand Secretary for clarification.

SECRETARIES OF ALL LODGES INCLUDING THOSE IN OUTER LONDON, PROVINCIAL AND OVERSEAS:

Please circulate these Communications with the Minutes/Agendas of the last or next meeting. If they have to be read out, then items which are relevant only to Lodges meeting at 402 need not be read by Outer London, Provincial or Overseas Lodges.