

West Kent Communications Team

“Communications Update”

Thursday 19 April 2018

UP/07/18

This is Issue No.7 of the periodic “Communications Updates” - issued by the West Kent Communications Team.

The purpose of these “Communications Updates” is to keep you all informed about key events in the Province – with information from a variety of different sources.

Whilst some messages will still be issued as “stand-alone” e-mails to you all - the aim here is to cover a number of topics in one issue – and therefore cut down on the amount of electronic traffic you receive.

This issue includes:

1. Remembrance Day 2018 – a message from the Provincial Grand Master
2. Marine Lodge – a message from the Provincial Grand Master
3. Music Lodge – a message from the Provincial Grand Master
4. West Kent Public Facebook Site – a message from the Provincial Grand Master
5. Organ Concert at Freemasons Hall – Wednesday 13 June
6. Dartford Masonic Centre Open Day – Sunday 9 September
7. Filming at Provincial Grand Lodge – a message from the Communications Team
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Fred Halligan
Provincial Communications Team.

Remembrance Day 2018 - a message from the Provincial Grand Master.

The purpose of this note is to update you all on the Provincial proposals for this year's Remembrance Day events – which in 2018 has a special significance, marking as it does the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Given the importance of this very special community event, I would like to ensure that we have a coordinated approach to the management of this year's Remembrance Day events and how they are handled within West Kent.

The Province of West Kent will have a presence at each of major Civic Parades organised by the local authorities that fall within our boundaries. This will have to be co-ordinated and agreed with each local Council – as there may be restrictions on the number of people that can parade – and we must work within these set guidelines and organise our attendance carefully.

Given the importance of these events, I have asked Mark Eyles-Thomas, Deputy Provincial Grand Master designate to lead on this matter. He will report to me on developments as the plans progress.

He will be assisted by a small team, each with a specific area of responsibility, as follows: -

- **Fred Halligan** - Liaison with Local Authorities and Communications
- **Paul Holmes** – Liaison with RBL and West Kent representation at Civic Parades
- **Hari Williams** – Assistance from the Stewards' Lodge

All enquiries regarding an official West Kent presence at any of the Civic Parades organised local authorities must be routed through Mark Eyles-Thomas or Paul Holmes. Due to the potential restrictions in the number of participants, it may not be possible for individual lodges to arrive at these particular parades in, or out of, regalia and join in.

With regard to individual lodges wishing to lay wreaths, this is, as always, a private choice made by the members of the Lodge. However, where there is an organised Civic Parade taking place, this will need to be undertaken at the end of the formal proceedings.

This year, official Province of West Kent Poppy Wreaths, with a professionally produced centerpiece, will be available. Details of how these can be obtained will be sent to Secretaries and Scribes shortly, so that any interested parties can place their orders before the end of July.

I trust that the above is of assistance.

Mark Estaugh
Provincial Grand Master

Marine Lodge - a message from the Provincial Grand Master.

Following my recent Facebook post, a number of you previously expressed an interest in being part of a new Lodge with a maritime theme.

The purpose of the Lodge would be to bring together all those with an interest in sailing, motor boating, sub-aqua and marine matters, or just a general love for the water, who may wish to combine the joys of Freemasonry with this wonderful hobby. The potential for social engagement with our families, members and non-Masonic guests is limitless and a wide variety of opportunities exist for us to enjoy this hobby with fellow members.

With some 40 members who have already expressing interest, we now wish to move forward with the consecration of a new Lodge with this theme.

Expressions of interest are required no later than 31 May to Robert Armitage-Walker at marinelodge00@gmail.com and I look forward to hearing from you.

Mark Estaugh
Provincial Grand Master

Music Lodge - a message from the Provincial Grand Master.

I am writing to you following the recent and very successful formation of a number of themed Lodges in West Kent.

Whether you sing, play an instrument or have an appreciation of Music in all its forms, an opportunity exists to have a Music themed Lodge in our Province, which will enable members to enjoy Masonic camaraderie together with the activities associated with this wonderful pastime.

Should you have an interest in Music and wish to become part of such a Lodge, I would be grateful if you could email your expression of interest in this unique opportunity to the Provincial Grand Sectary at pgsec@freemasons-westkent.org.uk no later than Monday 30 April.

Providing there is sufficient interest to make such a Lodge viable, Chris Roberts, DPGM, will be in contact with those parties who express and interest in due course, to discuss the next steps.

Mark Estaugh
Provincial Grand Master

West Kent Public Facebook Site – a message from the Provincial Grand Master.

We will shortly be launching a new West Kent Public Facebook Site.

This is an exciting move, and reflects our intention to engage with as wide an audience as possible going forward.

Alongside our West Kent Website, this will be another “shop window” for the Province – where we can share our news and activities with the wider public.

This may also generate further interest in the Province, and will be a further channel for hopefully attracting potential new members.

It goes without saying that it is the responsibility of every West Kent member to exercise the very highest standards of Masonic behaviours when posting material on the public Facebook site.

You will all be, in practice, “publishing” material that will reflect on both the Province and Freemasonry in general. Any material should always be presented in a manner that the Province would be proud to be associated with.

More details of the launch date will follow – and I will keep you in touch with developments.

Mark Estaugh
Provincial Grand Master

Organ Concert at Freemasons Hall - Wednesday 13 June.

Dr David Staples, Chief Executive Officer of the United Grand Lodge of England, would like to draw your attention to the next Organ Concert, which will be held at Freemasons Hall, in the Grand Temple at 7:15pm on the next Quarterly Communication day, Wednesday 13 June and lasts for an hour.

The soloist is Richard Hills and his playing will be displayed on screens on the walls as usual. If your members need any encouragement they should watch him playing Tiger Rag at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWClq1Pr7hM>, which shows off his skills admirably.

Tickets are free but need to be booked at <https://event.bookitbee.com/13436/terms> .

Filming at Provincial Grand Lodge – 1 May 2018

Once again this year we will be filming the luncheon and the afternoon proceedings at Provincial Grand Lodge on Tuesday 1 May. If you do not wish to be photographed or appear in any videos which may later appear on the Provincial Website then please e-mail: communications@freemasons-westkent.org.uk

Please state your name, Lodge Name and Number together with your full contact details.

Fred Halligan, Provincial Communications Team.



The Masonic Province of West Kent

The Freemasons of Dartford

in conjunction with Heritage Open Days
cordially invite you to an

OPEN DAY

at

Dartford Masonic Centre

71 West Hill Dartford DA1 2HJ

on

Sunday 9th September between 10.00 am and 4 pm

Visitors will be able to access the whole building, which will include guided tours of the Masonic Temple.

On the ground floor there will be exhibits relating to the organisation and Masonic charities, with representatives of the Lodges and other Orders that meet in the Centre to provide information and answer your questions.

The Centre caterers, Martell Hospitality are providing refreshments throughout the day and will be available to advise on booking the Centre for your personal events.

Further information can be obtained at

Heritage Open Days

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Dates for your Diary – 2018

PSA Testing - Saturday 5 May - Dartford Masonic Centre.

A 5th PSA Testing Session will take place at Dartford Masonic Centre on Saturday 5 May. The session will start at 10:00am and finish at 1:00pm.

This session is open to our members, their families and close friends - aged 40 and upwards - who have NOT attended one of the previous sessions.

Booking is essential - simply e-mail Colin Wright at colinw69@sky.com

Membership Pathway Presentation	Tues 24 April	Oakley House
Membership Pathway Presentation	Fri 27 April	Welling Masonic Hall
Provincial Grand Lodge	Tues 1 May	Freemasons Hall
Provincial Church Service	Sun 13 May	Rochester Cathedral
Kart Grand Prix	Weds 6 June	Buckmore Park
MCF Ball (PGM President)	Sat 23 June	Grange City Hotel
Oakley State Fair	Sat 30 June	Oakley House
Raft Race	Sat 25 August	Greenhithe
Provincial Officers' Mess	Tues 18 September	Oakley House
Provincial Grand Chapter	Fri 9 November	Freemasons Hall

2019

Provincial Pantomime "Dick Whittington"	Sun 6 January	Stag Theatre Sevenoaks
Motown Night	Fri 8 February	The Warren

All the above dates can be found on the Provincial Diary Page of the Website
www.westkentmasons.org.uk