



The Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland

William Ramsay McGhee, OStJ, D.L., Grand Master Mason

Brethren,

19th March 2021

First, my sincere apologies for the delay in getting last week's Update out to you but as you are probably aware by now, BT had a major outage in the area which caused all sorts of problems. Hopefully, this edition will be circulated without any problem.

Can I remind all Lodge Office-bearers that now is a good time to ensure that the Lodge Electrical Certificate and PAT testing are all up to date. I had a local electrician in yesterday at Lodge Seaforth – he was highly efficient, has almost given us a clean bill of health but uncovered two issues with earthing – that is being attended to and we now have the peace of mind that the building is safe and that all appliances are up to standard. On a more practical note, if you are not up to date your insurance cover could be in jeopardy.

This Saturday brings about the long-awaited Young Masons zoom conference. I am delighted to be hosting it and look forward to much healthy debate on the five main issues that have materialised from the survey. My sincere thanks to all those who have signed up to attend.



The final lecture in the fourth History & Heritage Group Series was given on Wednesday night by Brother Mike Craig, District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of East Africa. That brought to a conclusion five excellent lectures from Lebanon, Bahamas, Central South Africa, Sri Lanka and East Africa.

The good news is that a fifth series will begin on Wednesday 5th May. As we are now experiencing audiences in excess of 100, I'm sure the next series will prove to be even more popular. In the new series we will have presentations from our Districts of the Middle East, India, Newfoundland & Labrador, the Far East and from our Superintendency in Malawi. Please get the dates in your diaries now and fuller detail will be made available soon.



SCFS

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Scottish.Constitution.Freemasonry.Supports/>

The Group saw its membership rise to 4782 Brethren from not only the Scottish Constitution but from many of our Sister Constitutions throughout the world.

This week saw the total examples of charitable giving recorded within the group rise to 696, submitted by 263 of its members.

These updated contributions can now be attributed as to being made on behalf of 310 Lodges, from within all 32 Provincial Grand Lodges, 22 of its District Grand Lodges, Superintendencies and Lodges under the direct supervision of Grand Lodge.

The total identifiable monetary value of the contributions now recorded has risen to £1,027,625.

SCFS Overseas Report

- With the inclusion of the new members which we have welcomed from our Lodges overseas this week, our Overseas Membership has now risen to **1369** Brethren.
- New members have joined us from their Lodges in ... the Bahamas, Botswana, Central South Africa (RSA), Far East (Hong Kong), Jamaica, Middle East (Thailand), Newfoundland and Labrador.
- We had additional pleasure in welcoming **Brother Jayaraman Ramesh**, District Grand Master of Botswana, **Brother Robert Law**, Past District Grand Master of Central South Africa and **Brother Alphonso Smith**, District Grand Chaplain of the Bahamas to the SCFS group.
- Our International Constitution Members (ICMs) viewing the SCFS page has now reached a total of **402**. This week Brethren joined from the Grand Lodge of *New Zealand*, Grand Lodge of *New South Wales and ACT*, Grand Lodge of *India*, Grand Lodge of *Minnesota*, United Grand Lodges of *Germany*, Grand Lodge of *Newfoundland and Labrador*, *UGLE* (England, Fiji), Grand Lodge of *Victoria*, Grand Lodge of *Pennsylvania*. The published examples of the wonderful support which is being provided by our Lodges and Brethren are being recognised by a global membership which is increasing very steadily week by week.
- *Congratulations are extended to **Brother Brian Smith, PM**, Lodge Paranaki, No. 269, under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, who is our **400th** International Constitution Member.*
- An extremely interesting post was received from Brother Rinus Grau, District Grand Secretary, sharing the donations of cleaning materials and sanitisers by the Brethren in Zimbabwe to the two Masonic Homes in Harare.



Finally, as always, please stay safe and look after each other.

Ramsay McGhee

Grand Master Mason

