



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOMERSET

To all Lodge Secretaries

6th May 2020

Dear Lodge Secretary,

Coronavirus Pandemic

Dear Brother Secretaries.

I hope you and all the members of your Lodge are keeping safe and well and hope we will be back to our normal Masonic activities before too long.

I wanted to let you know what the Province has been doing to bring a degree of comfort to not only our Brethren, but also to the communities in which we live. Your support has been overwhelming.

I have listed some of the Provincial activities as follows:

- 1 Lodge Match Funding to assist the Almoners to look after brethren with hardship grants to a Max of £250/Lodge, rather slow to begin with, but we have given 6 grants to the value of £1,400, please ask for more details.
- 2 Provincial Food Bank project, with the outstanding help of Martin Slocombe Provincial Assistant Grand Master, to assist all Lodges and Masonic Halls in supporting Food Bank funding in their communities, so far they have contributed a total of £15,000, as is rising, this has been match funded with grants of £10,000 from the MCF and £5,000 from the Somerset Masonic Charity. The total amount raised has now reached over £30,000. A huge success in raising the presence of Freemasonry in the communities in which we live.
- 3 Bath Masonic Hall have raised £25k Fund to make up to 100 meals/day for the vulnerable and distressed in the Bath and surrounding areas, this includes a grant of £7,500 from the MCF to help in this project
- 4 Chris Perry of Estune Lodge in Nailsea is making PPE for the Police and care home staff through the resources available to him from Nailsea school, a grant of £1,000 from the MCF will assist in the purchase of materials etc.

From the Provincial Grand Charity Steward. W Bro David J Maddern PAGDC
9 Lulworth Crescent, Downend, Bristol. BS16 6SB.

Telephone: 0117 956 5882 **Email:** david.maddern@hotmail.com

www.pglsom.org



[@MaddernDavid](https://twitter.com/MaddernDavid)



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- 5 Weston College are talking to Chris Perry about material sourcing as the college would like to begin using the resources they have at their disposal
- 6 We have now secured 50 tablet PC's for distribution to the Covid Wards of Royal United Hospital Bath, Yeovil Hospital, Taunton Musgrove Park Hospital, Weston General and Bristol Royal Infirmary, these to be used to assist patients to communicate with loved ones during their time in the ICU and the recovery wards
- 7 The MCF have asked for further applications for Match Funding with our Lodges and the Province, especially for community led initiatives, please let me know if you are considering such a scheme.

The last few weeks has been a very trying time for all of us and our families, the time and commitment shown by all the members in the Province has demonstrated all the best qualities of our Fraternity and what we stand for, please make sure all our families and friends are aware of the work we do and the support we can offer to those in need.

I wish all to keep safe and well and I look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

David Maddern
Director of Charity & Care

From the Provincial Grand Charity Steward. W Bro David J Maddern PAGDC
9 Lulworth Crescent, Downend, Bristol. BS16 6SB.
Telephone: 0117 956 5882 **Email:** david.maddern@hotmail.com

www.pglsom.org



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