



SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN

CENTRAL OFFICE

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Reg. No. 174E

As we go into yet another month of lockdown at what is normally a very busy period for all of us, we are looking at the prospect of a long winter with little or no income. The Government extension of the furlough scheme into March looks very much like we are going to be fighting this pandemic well into next spring.

Those Showmen and fairs which have opened have demonstrated that we can operate Covid-19 secure events, we need to build on that and with the support of Government departments, we are working to ensure that Local Authorities are well aware of the guidelines & precautionary measures that we have in place to combat the spread of this pandemic and to demonstrate the physical and mental benefits of the public getting outside to enjoy themselves in a Covid secure environment.

We have made some good progress with the DCMS recently but contrary to rumours we have not received any grants - but we are very hopeful. We appreciate the work the Sections have done collecting the information we needed to show just how little help & support we have received from government sources since March. We will keep you updated with the progress we are making and the details of the several other business and discretionary grants which are available to the self-employed who's business has been affected since this recent lockdown.

Whilst this matter remains a priority, we are also looking ahead to next year to ensure we are not facing the same misconceptions and opposition to getting fairs re open. This is ongoing work.

We have recently completed the consultation on Red Diesel, submitting our presentation to the Treasury, in conjunction with the other Fairground associations and the Circuses to demonstrate that the retention on rebate fuel for showmen is essential to the survival of our industry.

There have been several changes at ADIP's and work is ongoing with changes and additional information on the responsibilities of the operators and the technical changes which should benefit the members.

We have had some fantastic support in Parliament with many MP's speaking on our behalf details of which have been posted on social media, however, we are being criticised for not getting enough information out to the members, information is out there and we are trying the best we can to update our members.

There are various new methods of communications which we are trying and have complimented the APP page and the section Facebook pages. We now have a dedicated Facebook page for the Showmen's Guild which the General Secretary can regulate, also an email Messaging service called "Mail Chimp".

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If you haven't already done so, please give your email address to your Section Secretary to sign up, if you want to receive regular updates via your mobile.

Another method is a new online independent Magazine called "The Showmen Times" which you can download for free and has a page of updates and latest information from the Guild as a regular feature.

Annual remembrance service Alrewas

Unfortunately, this year due to the lockdown we will not be able to attend the annual remembrance memorial service at the Arboretum Alrewas. This is sad because last year we could not physically get to the Memorial on the day due to the site being flooded. Hopefully we might be able to hold a service at a later date. If you haven't been to Alrewas Arboretum before, it's well worth a visit.

AGM's

Due to the timing of the lockdown most of the Section AGM and Election of Committees have had to be put on hold until it's safe to do so.

These are trying times, but we've tried to follow the Rules of our constitution as closely as we can in such difficult circumstances.

Like no other time in our history have we faced anything so challenging as this pandemic, it's at times like these that we need to pull together and show solidarity and as Thomas Murphy said back in 1940, The Guild is only as strong as its members and as fast as we overcome one set of difficulties another one arises and so it will go on! - how true is that?

As we go into the winter months and we are hearing of more positive testing of people close to us, families and friends, it's starting to hit home just how serious this pandemic is.

So, stay safe and we will pull through this together.

The Showmen's Guild Central Office Team & the Officials

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