



*WBro H Alan J Garnett, PJGD
Provincial Grand Secretary*

Province of East Lancashire

Jack Price

RW Provincial Grand Master

ME Grand Superintendent

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*EComp H Alan J Garnett, PAGSoJ
Provincial Grand Scribe E*

Circular No: 85

To: Past Provincial Grand Master
Members and Past Members of the Craft and RA Executives
Grand Officers
Lodge Secretaries / Scribes E
Members of the Province on email

20 January 2011

Dear Bro Secretary / Comp Scribe E,

Freemasons' Hall, Manchester

On behalf of the RW Provincial Grand Master / MEG Superintendent, Brother / Companion Jack Price, I am writing with exceptional news regarding the future of our Provincial Headquarters at Freemasons' Hall, Manchester. For a number of years the Province of East Lancashire, together with the East Lancashire Masonic Charity (which owns the building) have been developing an appropriate plan to preserve Freemasons' Hall as our Headquarters / administrative centre, whilst ensuring its future as a continued focal point for Freemasonry in the City. Progress until now has been impeded by various economic and legislative constraints, despite the hard work and commitment of many individuals over a considerable period of time.

I am pleased to be able to announce that an agreement has been made with a joint venture partnership, comprising a prominent developer and a leading corporate finance company. A new lease agreement satisfies both the needs of the Province and those of the Brethren / Companions of Manchester. The lease ensures that the ELMC retains the freehold of the building and Freemasonry will continue to be a key occupier of the Hall.

During the summer of 2012, the developer, with almost no disruption to Masonic activities, will totally renovate and refurbish Freemasons' Hall to provide 21st century accommodation for Masonic, business and leisure users, whilst retaining all of the architectural and Masonic features associated with this iconic Grade 2 listed building. The third floor will become our new Masonic home in Manchester and, although the plans are in their infancy, the long awaited upgrade to our amenities will be outstanding. The remainder of the building, with new dining, meeting and conference facilities, will serve public and business clients alike. This will permit us to develop stronger and more cohesive relationships with other users, helping to raise the profile of Freemasonry and to assist its further integration with the local community.

This is a landmark success for the Province and all concerned. We have every confidence that the outlook and potential for both City Freemasonry and the Hall itself are considerable and secure. Attached to this letter is a Provincial Newsletter regarding Freemasons' Hall; the Newsletter is also available to view or download on the Provincial Website: www.pglel.co.uk

Whilst I will be distributing this letter and announcement to all those indicated at the head of this letter, there will be members of East Lancashire Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters who are not registered with the Secretariat as an email user. Accordingly, if you are a Lodge Secretary or Chapter Scribe E, I should be most grateful if you would convey this superb message to your members, via your own internal mailing system and record this at the Second Rising of your Lodge / Chapter.

Yours fraternally,

Alan Gamble

Provincial Grand Secretary / Scribe E