

Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works

Report for Provincial Grand Lodge: 21st November 2019

I am pleased to present this my first Report as Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works. I am delighted to hold this office and hope to be of assistance to all those involved in running our Halls.

The publication in FMT [Spring 2019], of the guidance manual – “Masonic Centres and the Law” has highlighted the importance of this area of operation and our responsibilities in this regard.

There are 26 Halls in the Province of East Lancashire, 22 of which are owned by Masonic bodies. Of those 22 Halls I have met with the Boards of all but 4 during my first year in Office. Running a Hall is not just looking after a building. It is running a small business with a diverse customer base that is going through major changes.

Hall Boards are expected to have the Halls ready for Lodge meetings with the buildings warm and dry, well lit and clean. They are expected to have the beer cold and the food hot and the Lodge rooms ready for each meeting. And all this at a cost that is, in certain cases, simply uneconomic to provide.

I have discussed with the Boards the challenges – and opportunities - that they are currently facing and have developed a better understanding of both of those.

I have reviewed the memberships of the Province over the last 15 years and attempted to forecast the memberships for the next 6 years as the Boards of the Halls have to be able to respond to the changing requirements of our members.

My objective over the next year is to encourage all the Boards to provide safer environments for our members to meet. Whilst many Halls have undertaken risk assessments not every Hall has had the opportunity of doing so yet. I will be available to help if and when required.

I have been greatly assisted by so many Board members who have patiently talked to me about their Halls. I think that every member of the Province meeting in a Hall has an enormous debt of gratitude to those Masons who dedicate so much of their time and efforts when they selflessly agree to help run their Hall.

Ian Paul, PProvSGW

Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works

Provincial Grand Almoner
Report for Provincial Grand Lodge: 21st November 2019

It was a privilege to be appointed the Provincial Grand Almoner at last year's Provincial meeting; the first twelve months in the role has been a very steep learning curve!

During that period I have familiarised myself with the day to day work carried out by our own Charity, the East Lancashire Masonic Charity [ELMC] and I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Julie Ward and Karen Hall for their support. My role as Provincial Almoner also involves supporting Lodge and Chapters Almoners. To this end I have updated the contact details of all the current Craft and Royal Arch Almoners across the Province for whom I am their first point of contact if they have any issues regarding their members who require our support.

In my role I sit on the Board of the ELMC, the Grants Making and Benevolence Committees. The Grants and Benevolence Committees carry out amazing work on your behalf both within the Province and the community.

I work closely with the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) on applications for support from our members and I am in regular contact with them. My role also brings me in contact with colleagues from other Provinces. As Almoners we meet twice a year for refresher training by the MCF. The Provincial Grand Charity Steward and I are the Provinces representatives on the MCF and we attend the AGM and other appropriate meetings.

My role also includes supporting the Provincial Welfare Officers (PWO). In the first 6 months of 2019 they carried out a total 51 visits to members and their families who required support from the MCF. I am pleased to say, during the same period the MCF awarded 59 Grants to our members of our Province totalling £119,267.58

During the year we held the annual refresher training day, led by the MCF and in April an outside charity, **Turn2Us** delivered a PWO workshop. **Turn2Us** provides information and support about welfare benefits and this has been of value in helping our PWO in their role. As a team we agreed to introduce two meetings a year where we can discuss issues or concerns. At our October meeting it was pleasing that our local Area Support Officer from the MCF was able to attend. These two meetings a year appear to have been received as a positive initiative by the team and I thank them for the excellent work they carry out on your behalf.

In the next twelve months, with the support of Julie Ward, we will be arranging Workshops for all Almoners, Craft and Royal Arch throughout the Province. Although I have spoken to many on the phone, I look forward to meeting them personally.

Finally, I am aware that the work involved by the Lodge and Chapter Almoner can be time consuming, frustrating, and sometimes upsetting. But, there is a reward in the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped a Brother or Companion and / or his dependants in their hour of need.

David Hudson
Provincial Grand Almoner

**Provincial Grand Charity Steward
Report for Provincial Grand Lodge: 21st November 2019.**

It is now 12 months since I was honoured to be appointed as the Provincial Grand Charity Steward by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and I am pleased to provide this, my first Report to Provincial Grand Lodge.

The role of the Provincial Charity Steward is varied and extremely interesting. I have the pleasure of being a member of the Board of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity [ELMC]. I am also an ex-officio member of a number of ELMC committees including the Committee of Benevolence and the Grant Making Committee. This work whilst challenging is very rewarding. In addition, together with the Provincial Grand Almoner, I represent the Province at the Masonic Charitable Foundation [MCF].

Thankfully, the work of the Provincial Grand Charity Steward is not restricted to committee meetings; the greatest pleasure of the role is in meeting representatives of charities and good causes who have been the recipients of grants from the ELMC and / or the MCF.

A major part of my role is to encourage Brethren to be generous in their minds regarding Charities, both in terms of making monetary donations and also in giving their time. I am very well supported in this task by the District Charity Stewards and the Lodge and Chapter Charity Stewards.

During the last year we have carried out a series of Roadshows around the Province to which current and prospective Charity Stewards have been invited. They have been offered on a District basis with the aim of increasing awareness of the work of the ELMC, particularly that undertaken at Hewlett Court and of course of the MCF.

The Roadshow has covered the variety of ways it is possible to contribute to the ELMC, and messages about good practice. I am grateful to have been supported at the Roadshows by WBro Chad Northcott, the Chairman of the ELMC Board, Julie Ward the ELMC Director of Operations and Karen Hall from the ELMC office at Hewlett Court. Their input and contributions have been invaluable and am indebted to each of them.

An objective for the next year is to increase the number of "Friends of the ELMC". That status can be achieved by committing to make an annual donation of £60 or more. I would be very happy to attend District Meetings, District Charity Stewards meetings with Lodge Charity Stewards or indeed individual Lodges to speak with the Brethren about this. I would be delighted to speak about Masonic Charities generally and the ELMC in particular if that would be of interest. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if I could be of assistance.

*WBro Steve Clark, PProvSGD
Provincial Grand Charity Steward*

Provincial Grand Mentor

Report for Provincial Grand Lodge: 21st November 2019

I have great pleasure in presenting my first annual report as Provincial Grand Mentor for the Province of East Lancashire.

Shortly before my appointment I attended a meeting of the District Mentors called by my predecessor, WBro. Alan Kirwilliam to introduce me to the team and it was clear from this meeting, as can be seen from the volume of Mentoring information on the Provincial website that I was in the fortunate position of taking over a well-run ship with an extremely capable crew.

Following the Masonic maxim of "if it ain't broke don't fix it" I have used my first year in post in ensuring that the foundations laid for the District Mentors prime functions, those of establishing secure relationships with their respective Lodge Mentors and ensuring that the Lodge's Mentors were active within their Lodges and well aware of their responsibilities, were well cemented.

Additionally, the District Mentors have been prime movers in liaising with their own District teams in arranging dates and Lodge venues in each District for the 2019 season of Third Degree Demonstrations presented by the Learning and Development Committee on which I also sit. In that capacity I am also a member of the Province's Recruitment and Membership Strategy Group.

Going forward into my second year, together with the District Mentors, I will be liaising and working with the Provincial Membership Officer and his team to put together a programme to assist Lodges with their adoption of the Members Pathway and with the Learning and Development Committee in rolling out Solomon throughout the Province through the provision of information, workshops and presentations.

Mentoring is becoming an increasingly important feature in Masonic attraction and particularly retention and requires much hard work and perseverance without forgetting that Masonry is there to be enjoyed by all.

I am extremely grateful to my District Mentors and their district teams for their continued co-operation and dedication and to my predecessor for establishing the structure on which we can now build.

I'm looking forward to the year ahead.

WBro Jo Glass, PProvSGW
Provincial Grand Mentor