

REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARY
4th MAY 2016

R. W. Provincial Grand Master and Brethren,

In this, my first year as Provincial Grand Secretary, I must first of all express my grateful thanks to all the Lodge Secretaries and Scribes for their assistance and co-operation in ensuring that this large Province is administered efficiently.

I must also give thanks to my Deputy, W.Bro. Colin Mills and the Assistant secretaries, W.Bros. John Waring and Geoffrey Catterall as well as W.Bro. Derek Easton all of whom have been a great help in managing the copious amounts of information which passes through the office on a daily basis!

The website continues to be very popular due mainly to the topical and up to date reports which are submitted to the Webmaster, W.Bro. Mike Beesley, by the many brethren around the Province. I often wonder how he manages to update the site as promptly as he does and without his and your magnificent efforts the website would soon become stale.

Remember Brethren that you may submit any interesting articles for publication which need not be Masonic orientated.

Stories are worth telling and bring joy and interest to others.

Turning to the statistics of the Province, we still have 61 Mark Lodges and 24 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in the Province.

It is of some concern to report that there have been only 45 Advancements in Mark Lodges and 25 RAM Elevations which is down on the figures last year. However, we did see 44 members deciding to rejoin our wonderful Degree after a period of absence.

Brethren, it is important that we strive to increase our membership in both Degrees but we must also continue to support the Craft in attracting new members as these are our members of the future.

We also suffered 43 resignations last year mainly due to failing health and for personal reasons and regrettably one member had his membership ceased for 2 years arrears of subscriptions.

Sadly, as we have heard, we lost 15 of our Brethren.

The overall result is that we suffered a reduction of some 3% in our total membership on the figure last year.

I am pleased to advise that the Provincial Mark year book is now available. May I remind all Lodge secretaries and Scribes to collect their free copy from the Help Desk today and please **do not go home** without one.

Extra copies have been printed and can be purchased from the Help Desk for £3.00.

This brings me to one issue which I must stress to the Lodge Secretaries and Scribes. Every year when we publish the Year Book we receive calls from Masters and Past Masters of Lodges that the Year Book entry for their lodge is incorrect.

Brethren, we are totally reliant upon Lodge secretaries to submit the Provincial Installation Return **promptly** to my office, especially those Lodges who have their Installations in March or April, to allow us to include the new Master and Officers. It is also from these returns that we record all offices that members of the Lodge have held throughout their membership and this data is used when considering Provincial and Grand Lodge Honours.

Speaking of Grand Lodge Honours, the Province has again been recognised by Grand Lodge and a number of our Brethren will receive appointments or promotions in London on Tuesday the 7th June.

THREE of our Brethren will be honoured with Acting Grand Rank, namely:-

Howard Nicholas	Emmett	G.S.D.	Semper Fidelis	880
Peter	Hegarty	A.G.D.C.	Westhoughton	1006
Giles Frederick	Berkley	G.Stwd.	Bispham-with-Norbreck	866

In addition two other members of our Province have also received acting appointments:-

Revd. Bruce David	Harry	G.Chap.	Lebanon	T.I.
Ian Timothy	Sanderson	A.G.Reg.	Lebanon	T.I.

FIFTEEN other Brethren will receive either first appointments or promotions namely

W.Bro. Stephen Leach, our Provincial Grand Chaplain, is to receive the high rank of **Past Grand Senior Overseer**.

W.Bros. Ken Alker, Geoffrey Lee Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Terry Maybury and Paul Shepherd are all to receive promotion to the rank of **Past Grand Junior Overseer**

W.Bro. Michael Winterbottom is to receive promotion to the Rank of **Past Grand Senior Deacon**

and W. Bros. Geoffrey Catterall and John Mawdsley are to be promoted to the Rank of **Past Junior Grand Deacon**.

W. Bro. Bryan Fox will be appointed to the rank of **Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies**

W.Bros. Ernie Gavan, Barry Hesketh and Peter Weller are all to be appointed to the rank of **Past Grand Standard Bearer**

and W.Bros. Chris Furmston , David Hooley and Wilfred Spencer are all to be appointed to the rank of **Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer**.

On behalf of the Province, I congratulate them all and hope that they will enjoy their well deserved ranks and I am sure that you would like to express you congratulations.

Brethren, I hope that I have not sent you all to sleep with this my first report and may I wish you all a very successful year in your Lodges.

Thank you for your kind attention in listening to me and I wish you all well.

John Bicknell P.G.J.D.
Provincial Grand Secretary

4th May 2016