

REPORT OF THE CHARITY COMMITTEE

R.W.Prov G.M. and Brethren,

I am pleased to present for the first time a brief report on the West Lancashire Mark Charities.

May I as Chairman thank each and every one of you for your continual support over this and previous years. The monies donated have enabled us to make numerous grants to Masonic and non-Masonic charities and to local organisations nominated by you. I urge you all to visit and use the Provincial web site there you will see the scope of the donations, they are varied both in value and content and cover the whole of our Province

In addition to our continuing support for local communities and causes our major contribution this year was support towards a new lifeboat for R.N.L.I. Our Provincial Charity Steward made an excellent approach to the Mark Benevolent Fund which resulted in them making a donation of £80,000 to which we added £20,000 making a total of £100,000.

Last year we introduced PSA testing which was well supported and proved to be a very useful venture. I am pleased to note that our example will be followed by PSA testing at this year's Craft Provincial Meeting next month

I want to take this opportunity to say a public thank you to the Provincial Almoner V.W.Bro David Fairclough, who retires this year after many years' service in that office. I wish him well for the future and welcome his successor W.Bro. Les Norton. We also said goodbye this year to our long serving treasurer W.Bro Frank Cooke who again I thank for his many years' service and I welcome W.Bro Maurice Evans who has replaced him. I also offer my thanks to the Provincial Charity Steward, W.Bro. John Sarti, together with the Honorary Secretary, W.Bro Cliff Hughes and to the Leaders and deputies of our five charity groups who all work quietly and efficiently in the background ensuring that the Charities run so effectively.

In conclusion given the uncertain economic times the level of support from you all for our Charities is as always undiminished.

Remember West Lancashire Mark Charity is your Charity. Please continue to support it, keep the requests for grants coming and above all please ensure that you continue to enjoy your Mark masonry.

John Dutchman-Smith

Chairman – West Lancashire Mark Charities Committee