

Right worthy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler

I have much pleasure in presenting my first report as  
Provincial Grand Guide

First I would like to formally record and express my thanks and appreciation to the Provincial Grand Visitors this year for visiting and supporting the Conclaves throughout the year. The Provincial Grand Visitors and myself have been able to attend every Conclave meeting in the Province this year

Two of the current visiting deacons are standing down in normal rotation this year WyBro Trevor Simcock and WyBro Othman Ghosheh and I thank them for all their assistance over the last 12 months. WyBro John Moritz, who I thank for staying on further year to assist the new team, and WyBro Bill Caren remain in office and will be joined by WyBro Charles Truman and WyBro Gary Oates. I wish them all well and look forward to working with them over the next 12 months.

Sir, this is your first year as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and your emphasis has been on recruitment, retention and promoting the Order. To this end you have offered to visit any Craft Lodge that is not doing a Ceremony in the Province to give a talk on the virtues of this fine Order. To date you

have given 5 such talks. Our newest Conclave Carreg Yr Wyddfa which meets at Bangor is going from strength to strength, the Conclave being so busy bringing in new members that Christleton Conclave kindly allowed Carreg Yr Wyddfa Conclave to do a double Princes Degree at one of their meetings.

To show the affection brethren have for this order one of our Conclaves was starting to struggle for members although well supported by visitors. Our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler put out an appeal for brethren to join the Conclave to boost membership. In answer to that call five brethren joined and one re-joined. Since then, the Conclave has carried out two Inductions and things are now definitely on an upward trend.

There are three team visits planned for the coming year plus the highlight for 2024 will be the Centenary of Fidelity Conclave No 50 at the Masonic Guild Hall, Stockport, at all of which you will be well supported by your acting Provincial Officers and your Provincial Arch of Steel Bodyguard. The Provincial Grand Counsellor and I revitalised and delivered a talk recently, about the role of the Visiting Deacon, and are willing to repeat this at any Conclave when asked.

These are still trying times for Masonry in general and the Companion Orders in particular. Recovering from the COVID

pandemic and high inflation is not a recipe for the recruitment of new members. Despite this, our Order is continuing to grow, and our membership is increasing. This year we have had ...17.... Inductions and ...12... Prince's Degrees. Of course, there have been deaths and resignations. Any resignation is regrettable but nearly all have been through age/ill health or work related.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler would like to see friendship meetings starting up again, with a view to encourage members to promote our Order.

The province continues to support and promote our sister Order the Scarlet Cord and each Conclave now has an appointed Scarlet Cord representative.

I believe that the province is in good health and there is enthusiasm at all levels in exploring the various mediums for attracting new candidates I am certain that we can look forward to the future with confidence.

In conclusion I would like to thank you Sir, for giving me the opportunity of carrying out the roll of Provincial Grand Guide and look forward to continuing to support you and the Province in the future.

That Sir completes my report.

J A Owens PGSt.B Prov. Grand Guide.