



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Provincial Bulletin 27

7th December 2021

Dear Bro Secretary,

I would be grateful if you will take note of the items below and circulate this bulletin to your Lodge Members, including Honorary Members and to your Visiting Officer.

1. A Christmas Message from the Provincial Grand Master

Dear Brethren,

We continue to be challenged in our daily lives by the impact of the pandemic. Many of us may be 'jabbed and boosted' and yet regulations still control to varying degrees the way that we go about our business.

Freemasonry has adapted as well as any other organisation to these changes, and, since the opening of lockdown, we have brought 70 members into the Craft, completed our lodge business, raised monies for Masonic and non-masonic charities and supported our local communities. Sadly, two lodges who are no longer able to fulfil their purpose will close.

This last week alone, I have, on your behalf visited Winchester Hospice, Hants & IOW Air Ambulance and the Cosham Masonic Centre (local non masonic Charity giving event) and presented cheques to these amazing causes. Your own pledges/lodge donations so far since the launch of the 2027 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation have been outstanding. Every day my emails, social media or phone calls point out the huge work that is done within this Province for those less fortunate than ourselves. It is simply humbling to hear and read.

I have attended over 50 meetings in the last three months and it has been a privilege to share the fellowship and camaraderie of all Brethren.

As our thoughts turn towards Christmas with families and friends, we especially think of those that have been affected by the pandemic and those who have cared for them.

Lynn and I hope that however you are able to spend this Christmas, you will have an enjoyable and peaceful one.

With fraternal best wishes to you all,

Jon

2. Appointment of the new Provincial Grand Secretary

As you may be aware, I will be retiring at our annual Provincial Meeting on 6th July 2022 and I am pleased to announce that the Provincial Grand Master has appointed W Bro David Ryan PAGDC to the office of Provincial Grand Secretary from that date. David is well known to many in the Province and is already a very knowledgeable mason. He will begin a full induction from 1st March 2022 and I would like to personally wish him every success in his new role.

3. Provincial Office Xmas and New Year Closing

Please note that the Provincial Office will be closed from Friday 24th December and will re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

4. In Memoriam

I am saddened to report the passing to the Grand Lodge above of W Bro David John Flemming PSGD, a Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master in this Province and a Past Grand Standard Bearer in the Royal Arch. John was APGM from 2004 to 2010 and later served many years as Chairman of the Hubert Giles Trust. He was also actively involved in other charitable activities in the Province.

We also mourn the passing of W Bro John Davis PJGD. John was a Past Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland and well known to brethren, particularly in the Bournemouth area.

The Province sends its condolences to their family and friends.

5. Lodge Erasures

As indicated in the Provincial Grand Master's Christmas message above, two lodges in this Province will close over the coming weeks. They are Portsea Lodge No. 7794 and Vespasian Lodge No. 4222.

Frank Milner
Provincial Grand Secretary