

## Provincial Grand Registrars Report for the Year 2016

Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and Brethren, I present the Registrar's Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

I commence by thanking the lodge secretaries for their important role in providing the information forming the basis of this report that further supplies Grand Lodge with information for the Adelphi database. As a reminder to all members of Provincial Grand Lodge, you are obligated to keep your secretaries informed of your changing status and contact details.

Over the last twelve months the Province have lost **8** members (3127-3119) and **26** memberships (3655-3629). Whilst losses to masonry are always a concern, great efforts in recruitment, particularly with the use of the 'recruitment trailer' have proved beneficial in that the annual member losses of 8 are the lowest of the last 5 years. However, it is disappointing that 17 of the 72 lodges failed to attract an initiate although the **129** new initiates are up on last years' figures.

Whilst the incoming members and memberships can be controlled by our efforts of recruitment we have no control on those leaving masonry through death and honorary memberships. The deaths over the year are **41** the same as last year. Honorary memberships of subscribing members of the lodge remain at **14** with 88 % of them being 80 plus years of age - a great accolade for recognizing those having served their lodge so well over the past years.

The annual resignations figure of **157** is up on last year but still below average for the past 5 years. This is an area whereby a multitude of reasons are causes for leaving masonry, but the figure does not mean all are lost to masonry as some are resigning from multiple lodges. Of the 157 membership resignations 71 of them fall in the age bracket of 60 to 80 with a further 10 in the 80+ range. These figures are not surprising as of the 3629 memberships fall into the 60+ age range rising to 69%.

Cessation and exclusions again are higher than desired **25** but down on recent years - similarly many reasons may prevail. Secretaries and Treasurers should keep an eye on incoming subscriptions to ensure no shortfall should impinge on the lodge through non-payment. Lodges should maintain contact with those finding it difficult to meet their financial obligations and assist by helpful means. Many lodges offer use of Standing Orders as means of paying also bank transfer is being used as some banks are ceasing their cheque service, this option should be made clear to all members when invoicing for the coming years subscription.

All in all, the statistics to date are promising but we must not be complacent and the need to 'search' for those candidates with the qualities to uphold our values and traditions must continue. The Provincial Trailer continues to be a great success being prominent at many venues. The Norfolk Blues meetings are highly successful in creating a sense of achievement to new members and thus projecting them forward in the craft.

Above all we need initiates who are innovative to drive masonry forward, creating a foundation for the next 100 years.

In summary, Provincial Grand Master I thank you for the privilege of serving you and look forward to another year of achievement, where in future years we can look back, knowing Norfolk Freemasonry is progressing as it ought.

Julian Harrison  
Provincial Grand Registrar