



My Beloved Brethren,

A Time To Plan for Success

August has been a relatively quiet month in respect of ceremonial duties however behind the scenes things have been as busy as ever. This has been a month largely for planning. In the short term it's been final preparation for the Tercentenary/Bicentenary Celebration Service at Ripon Cathedral on the 24th of September. Strategic planning has also featured with the Annual Rulers' Away Day Planning Event. A key item on the agenda for discussion was the future enhanced support to be provided to Lodges in respect of: Candidate Attraction, Recruitment and Retention. This will feature significantly as we go forward on the "crest of the wave" caused by the awareness created by the 2017 Celebrations.

New Provincial Grand Secretary

As announced, WBro. Mick Dyson will be appointed at the Provincial Meeting next May. Many Congratulations! WBro. Dyson will be continuing the work of an impressive line of distinguished Brethren who have held this important Office over the past 200 years.

2018 Provincial Quiz

Plans are now well in hand for the "2018 Provincial Quiz" with Area heats and a Grand Finale – More to come on this Fun Event soon! I do encourage every Lodge to participate.

Tercentenary Community Grants – Results are In! £79,000 Awarded

If you voted – Many thanks! 7 Local Charities within our Province will be receiving a donation from the Masonic Charitable Foundation as a Tercentenary Award. The largest donation being £25,000. I did chuckle when I read in a letter from the Grand Secretary that across the Country over 6,700 people who voted requested more information about Freemasonry. The strange thing is that in this number were 1,885 who stated that they were already Freemasons. Interesting!

Increasing Membership – A Matter in our Own Hands

We will be receiving details of non-Freemasons who have requested more information when they voted for the Tercentenary Community Grants and these enquiries will be managed by the existing efficient mechanism in this Province. It was reported to me that enquiries regarding membership in our Province have doubled in 2017 and that is encouraging.

The proven approach of "the right man for the right Lodge" will continue. As I said in my Address to Provincial Grand Lodge in May, this does not mean that we will accept all.

The protocols must be observed in the selection process to accept only suitable individuals who will reflect honour on our choice.

Making a Statement – This is Where We Meet!

Last month I reported that the Leeds Lodge, No: 9867 now have an impressive plaque on display at the entrance of the Cosmopolitan Hotel, Leeds. I now understand that the Lodges meeting at the Midland Hotel, Bradford have a similar plan. Well Done!

There are also plans in-hand for a "Welcome to the Province of Yorkshire, West Riding" Display and Information Board for Leeds-Bradford Airport.

Fraternal Regards and My Very Best Wishes to All,

David

Right Worshipful Brother David S. Pratt - Provincial Grand Master