

AUTUMN 2018

In Touch

PROVINCIAL GRAND
ALMONER'S NEWSLETTER



PROVINCE OF HAMPSHIRE
& ISLE OF WIGHT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Plans for the 2018/9
Masonic Year

A new way of working
Responsibilities matrix



Provincial Grand Almoner
W Bro Neil Morse

Greetings from The Almoners office

Dear Brother Almoner and Visiting Volunteers

With the new Masonic season now underway, I thought it a good opportunity to reflect on the past twelve months but, equally important, to focus on the coming year and our Priorities for 2018/9.

Some of the highlights from 2018 include:

Over 200 individual visits have been completed by our 13 Visiting Volunteers.

Over £330,000 has been received by beneficiaries within the Province from the MCF.

Our Provincial Masonic Charitable Trust (MCT) has awarded over £60,000 in grants, including:

- Our Bournemouth Holiday scheme's 41st annual holiday, for 16 Provincial recipient
- A one week sailing adventure aboard one of the Tall Ships Challenger yachts for 12 needy youngsters from within our membership.
- Grants to Masonic Centres for improvements that enable better public access and facilities for our members.
- One off Financial grant awards for members and their families in need.
- A grant for each of our Amity/Social clubs to help them further support their membership and encourage people to help prevent isolation.

We have conducted 6 Area presentations to Lodge Almoners and those expressing an interest in the role, with over 200 people attending.

This has all been achieved through the hard work and dedication of many within our Almoner community and of course our Visiting Volunteers. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all of them for the roles they perform, and continue to undertake, on our behalf.

Kind regards

W. Bro. Neil Morse

Provincial Grand Almoner

Plans for the Masonic Year

Looking forward into the 2018/9 Masonic Year, I am pleased to say that we have made a budgetary provision with the MCT for the following activities:

- As a top priority over all other MCT Funding, to maintain a rapid response facility for Brethren, their families and dependents when in Financial need.
- To fund the Bournemouth Holiday programme for another year and 16 recipients.
- To fund a scheme to provide breaks for families that need the time to be together that otherwise they would not have,
- Further financial help for our Masonic Centres.

2018/9 will also be a year where we see additional changes within the Masonic Charity Foundation as they further enhance their own internal processes to support Freemasons in general. Whilst these should not affect individuals within the Province, there will be significant, 'behind the scenes' activity at Provincial Grand Almoner level to accommodate these changes. We will need to ensure that our Visiting Volunteers and Area Almoners (and their teams) are engaged and embrace these changes.

The new General Data Protection Regulations are now in force, necessitating a much clearer need to maintain Personal Data and adhere to the principles of the Regulations. Almoners are particularly reminded that the retention of Personal Data relating to members of their Lodges must only be kept for the time that is relevant to the matter in hand, it must be securely stored and destroyed when it is no longer needed.

To ensure our success in this area, and all our future scheduled activities, it is essential that we communicate clearly what we are trying to achieve and also provide guidance on the best processes that we can apply to help deliver the service that our members and their families are entitled to.

Having deliberated about how best we can go about planning for the future as well as meeting our day to day obligations, we will be implementing a Matrix based Area Almoner structure that maps onto the existing Area Structures.

Area Almoners will continue to be appointed within Areas (with input from the Provincial Grand Almoner), and Area Assistants and Lodge Almoner appointments will continue as present, so there will be no changes in these respects. Visiting Volunteers are appointed by the Provincial Grand Almoner, and are vetted, trained and authorised by the MCF. There will be no change to this process either.

So, what are we going to do?

We have identified six major areas of operation that we would like to address. The key difference here is that these operations will cover all Almoner and Visiting Volunteer activity within the Province.

These six operational activities are:

Visiting Volunteers	Almoner Communications	Almoner Projects
Pastoral Care	Almoner Processes	Amity/Social Clubs

The vertical structures within our Areas remain unchanged. A diagrammatic representation of the Matrix is shown overleaf. As there are no changes to the Vertical Area structures, the Horizontal structures will operate as follows.

Each aspect of the Horizontal operation will be led by two Area Almoners. The key objectives of the six categories are also shown in the Matrix. This approach to planning our future and current activity serves multiple purposes and delivers a number of benefits including:

- A common approach to all Almoner and Visiting Volunteer processes.
- A planned development and succession into some of our key roles.
- The adoption of best practice processes across all our activities.
- A consistent and timely communication process for all our plans and activities.
- An effective Change Management process that delivers our Projects and Changes.
- A vehicle to reach out to Freemasons and family members who would benefit from our Social and Amity club activities and help reduce isolation..
- Easy access to information for all Almoners, Visiting Volunteers and all Brethren

To achieve these aims the Area Almoners will not be working alone. They will be seeking input from Lodge Almoners and others who would like to contribute to the exercise. More on this will follow as we develop our plans.

Finally 2018 has been hugely successful and much has been achieved. 2019 promises further opportunity to reinforce the value of the role we perform. On behalf of all those that we have helped and continue to help, I thank you most sincerely.

Area	North Central	North East	Solent	South Central	South East	South West
Area Almoner	Malcolm Collier	Brian Lawrence	Peter Tautz	Jeff Godsall	Pat McCaw	Steve Price
Assistant Area Almoners	Tom Alford David Campbell Maurice Bailey	Mike Woodford Barry Farrington	Gary Elshaw Mike Fellows Jeffery Ball Rod Adams	Bob Holloway	Peter Buchanan Iain Bromley Tony Leaves	Trevor Sar James Prendergast Rick Ashton Kevin Smith
Function/ Lead AA						
Visiting Volunteers: Brian Lawrence Pat McCaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the Province has the correct number of trained Visiting Volunteers to meet the needs of our Brethren and their dependents. To monitor the workloads of the VV's and provide support where necessary To ensure updating of training as necessary or as prescribed To work with VVs to establish succession plans for each 					
Almoner Communications: Malcolm Collier Paul Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to achieve a Welfare section on the Provincial website and to ensure timely, ongoing updates To provide a consistent and timely Communications process through Area Almoners to Lodge Almoners. To provide common input to the In-Touch Newsletters, e.g. Diary Events, Promotions, Amity Club dates, Holidays To establish a process for the dissemination of important information and data to Area and Lodge Almoners, for example, Quarterly statistics, updates on Provincial and National Charities, RMBI home availability. To ensure that current MCF brochures and handbooks are available at all centres 					
Almoner Projects Ray Turner Peter Tautz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage the delivery of those projects within the PGA remit. Examples would include the Sailing Adventure 2018. To put forward ideas to provide further support to potential recipients To work with MCF/ MCT to extend the Provincial awareness of MCF holidays (e.g. Llandudno, Eastbourne) 					
Pastoral Care Jeff Godsall Steve Price	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop the appropriate shared Processes for Pastoral Care across all Lodge Almoners and to deliver such workshops and seminars to establish these practices within each Area and Lodge. Develop a library of standard letters that can be utilised by Lodge Almoners. Ensure Absence and sickness records are used to provide an audit trail of contact with sick or needy brethren Ensure that Lodge widow records are up to date and communicated to Province and Amity Club organisers 					
Almoner Processes Steve Price Neil Morse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish a library of best Almoner practices from within the Province and MCF. To promote the consistent use of these practices across the Province. 					
Amity / Social Clubs Malcolm Childs Peter Tautz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with the Amity Clubs to promote their activities within and outside the Province. To help co-ordinate activities and where possible support joint ventures To source a list of potential speakers that could be shared by the groups. To assist in obtaining financial support for the clubs to fund outings etc 					

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