

# Annual Address of the Chairman of the Provincial Grand Charity

**17th May 2008**

Provincial Grand President, Ladies and Brethren,

When I look back on the year since our last Annual Meeting of May 2007 I can see that the progress we have made as members of the Provincial Grand Charity, concerned with the caring of others, has certainly met all my personal aspirations and I hope yours also.

Brethren, you have done all I, as your Chairman, asked of you and much more.

Today we will see in the culmination of one specific enterprise, the Air Ambulance Appeal, that your endeavours and generosity have reaped tremendous benefits, resulting in what I know you will agree is a great ending to a great cause. I extend my personal thanks to every one of you for such a magnificent effort.

Brethren, I am also warmed by the many stories of good works and excellent fellowship highlighted in the Local Newsletters that have started up during this year. I am informed that more will, in due time, be released so as to cover the whole of our Province.

I believe we have, collectively, increased and improved in our communication with each other and our communities. We can read, in these local issues, about our involvement within the community in general and of the benefits open to those brethren who may be in need of the services offered by the various national Masonic charitable organisations. I thank the Members of the Provincial Grand Charity who have led the way in preparing; editing and distributing these excellent Newsletters and I thank those who intend to take up the 'editorial banner' in the near future in order to further 'spread the word'.

Yes Brethren, it has been a good year and I have no intention of spoiling it by compiling a report that simply reflects all the information already given by me in my Annual Report that is incorporated into the published Accounts for the year 2007. However, I must record my grateful thanks to the Treasurer, W Bro Malcolm Booth, for all his work in compiling these accounts and in his immaculate reporting of financial progress throughout the past year.

Brethren, Malcolm's role requires immense skill, hard work and a dedication to his tasks. I, on your behalf, thank him for his contribution to the smooth running of the Provincial Grand Charity. Brethren, I ask you to do him justice by obtaining and reading these Annual Accounts and Reports, copies of which have been distributed to all Lodge Secretaries. I am sure you will find the contents enlightening.

I end my report by thanking all the other Officers and Trustees who have served alongside me on the Provincial Grand Charity during this last year, and over the many years I have had the honour to be a member. My special thanks go to W Bro Terry Crossley, Secretary of the Provincial Grand Charity: Terry like myself, steps down from office today and I also wish to put on record my appreciation of his valuable input. Terry, Brethren, was the one that made it all work.

Brethren, it has been a pleasure and an honour to have had the opportunity to serve my fellow Masons in my role as your Chairman. I will always have the memories, especially the smiling faces of those who received help through your unfailing generosity, to remind me of wonderful times past.

Brethren, I leave you knowing that **The Provincial Grand Charity is in Good Hands – Yours.**

Philip Stewart – Chairman