



Report Of The Provincial Grand Secretary To Provincial Grand Lodge

This is my first report as Provincial Grand Secretary and I am amazed at how the time has gone by. Although having served as Deputy for two years and working with W. Bro. David Purnell and Angela at the Provincial Office, I did not fully appreciate just what was involved as most of my time was spent learning and carrying out my own duties. When David announced his decision to retire, the Provincial Grand Master offered me the opportunity of taking on the office and by accepting, I then began to fully realise and appreciate just what the job of Provincial Grand Secretary meant! In April I began my steep learning curve which I must say is still continuing. I must thank David for all his help and guidance during those first few months.

The year started almost immediately with a bang. On 5th May, Lodge Fortitude 105 celebrated their 250th Anniversary at Plymouth with a really lovely and very special meeting. On 6th June Sun Lodge 106, Exmouth celebrated 250 years of their Warrant. On 24th June Lodge St John 70 celebrated their 250th Anniversary at Plymouth and last but certainly not least on 22nd of January 2010 Trinity Lodge 3403 held their Centenary Meeting at the Mount Edgcombe Masonic Hall Plymouth. All of which were truly great occasions in the Province of Devonshire and were supported by the Provincial Grand Master, the Executive and many Provincial Officers of the year.

September saw the Initiate's Evenings being held once again at the normal venues of Exmouth, Plymouth, Barnstaple and Paignton. These really do prove to be a great success and the feedback from those attending is highly positive. A great thanks must go out to all the Hall co-ordinators who make the venue arrangements with Angela at the office and for the superb refreshments that are always laid on.

Also in the year I have had the privilege of accompanying our Provincial Grand Master and / or members of the Executive to many Provincial Grand lodge meetings of Sister Provinces in Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire and Hereford to name a few. These have been most enjoyable and educational!

Due to extensive building and renovation work at the Exeter University this year, we have needed to look for an alternative

Venue for Provincial Grand lodge as stated in a previous Secretarial advice. Location, cost and facilities all had to be considered. I am delighted to say that with great assistance from W. Bro. Brian Kelly PJGD, this has been achieved and I say a big thank you for all his help on obtaining this venue. I must thank The Riviera International Conference Centre for all the help that they have also given, being most accommodating and as well really eager to assist.

There are some items that I need to mention. For a long time Lodge Secretaries have been requesting to send copies of the lodge summons by e-mail and I am pleased to say that a system has now been put in place to make this possible. A letter has been sent to all Secretaries by the Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary W. Bro. Chris Yard on what criteria is needed for this system to function and work properly and it is therefore very important that the guidance details given in the letter are followed.

This job would not be as enjoyable or for that matter possible without the help of many people in the Province. I must thank Angela for all her hard work and effort in breaking me into the job gently. She has a very good understanding of how the office functions and seems to know exactly when things have to be done. With her knowledge of the office and computer skills and my knowledge of Freemasonry we seem to have a good combination. So Angela a big thank you!

Now to The Assistant Secretary Chris Yard. Chris has settled in really well, nothing seems to faze him and he is very conscientious and willing to take on any task he can. Chris has been a tremendous help to both me and Angela and for Freemasonry in this Province. I thank him most sincerely for his help and friendship and look forward to our continued working together.

There are many others behind the scene who work tirelessly for the Province such as W. Bro. Colin Gale PAGStdB Provincial Assistant Grand Registrar who maintains the Provincial database. Colin I know spends many hours on the important task of putting data into the system to keep our Provincial records accurate. A job that

Lodge St John's 70 – 250th Anniversary



At a special meeting at Mount Edgcombe Masonic Hall Plymouth, on the Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist, Wednesday 24th June 2009, '70' celebrated 250 years of continuous working. In attendance was the Provincial Grand Master.

R.W. Bro. Michael T. Penny who accepted the gavel from the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Ian C. Scriviner, and presided over the Lodge together with his Senior Warden, W. Bro. Alan Cockman and his Junior Warden, W. Bro. Andrew Vodden.

The Provincial Grand Master congratulated the Lodge on being only the third in the Province to celebrate this important milestone in Masonic history. He made mention of the rich diversity of Brethren who have made up the Lodge's membership and also to the varied patchwork of visitors. In closing he referred to the inspiration afforded by the example of the Lodge membership over the last 250 years and wished the Lodge great joy, happiness and continued success for the future.

After the Lodge was closed, all Brethren retired to the Holiday Inn for a celebratory Banquet where they were joined by wives and partners. In true Masonic style, over £1,100 was raised during the evening for Charity including 'Teddis for Loving Care'.

The evening ended with happiness and merriment blended with high enthusiasm for the Lodge's next 250 years.

(A full history of the Lodge from 1759 – 1898 on CD-ROM (£10 minimum donation to the 2012 Festival, (incl. P&P) can be obtained from W. Bro. Bill abillseymourjones@yahoo.co.uk)