

REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND GUIDE TO THE PROVINCIAL CONCLAVE OF WEST YORKSHIRE

Right Worthy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and Brethren all. I have the honour to present my report at the end of my first year as the Provincial Grand Guide for the Province of West Yorkshire.

I begin my report by formally thanking the Provincial Grand Visitors of the year. A year which began with the sad death of Wy. Bro. John Barlow, a loss which was felt at high level nationally over many Orders and more especially by the Brethren in this Province. The PGSR asked Wy. Bro. Graham Duffy to, once again, take on the duties as a Provincial Visitor and wherever possible cover Wy. Bro. John's agreed visits. Wy. Bro. Graham was able to cover 4 of those visits and between myself and the other Prov. Visitors we were able to cover the remaining 6. The Provincial Grand Visitors were Wy. Bro's Barry Wilson, Stuart Lines, Bruce Lowis and Graham Duffy. Between them they have travelled many miles and have carried out their duties with diligence and thankfully their ever present good humour. Wy. Bro. Jack Acton, of Westwood Conclave, joins the team this year and I wish him well, Wy. Bro's Wilson, Lines and Lowis having been reappointed.

Your Conclaves were honoured by 3 visits from Grand Visitors, 2 by V. Wy. Bro. Peter Gilkes to Lux Diei in October and to Chantry in November and V. Wy. Bro. Stephen Holcroft to Phoenix in February this year.

There were 3 Provincial Visits – to Dore on the 29th March, an excellent Induction Ceremony for Bro. Philip Drury, to Lux Diei on the 23rd October, a Princes Ceremony for Bro. Richard Brown and to Chantry on the 8th November where they witnessed a very good enactment ceremony. At all these Provincial Visits your team was there in strength, were warmly welcomed and enjoyed the hospitality of the host Conclaves in true OSM fashion. It is hoped that the forthcoming Provincial Visits to Skyrack in April, Westwood in May and Roses in July will prove equally as successful and enjoyable.

STATISTICS Membership stood at 217 as of 26th February 2020 a drop of 4 from last year.

Of the 45 meetings this year 12 were Installations, 12 Induction Ceremonies (a double at Bawtry in August) and 8 Princes Ceremonies, the remainder being Enactments and Lectures.

A total of 927 Brethren attended the 45 meetings (normally there are 44 meetings but because of the later date of the Prov. AGM the meeting at Westwood, which met on the 25th February, appears in this years report) the average attendance being 20.5 . The West Yorkshire Past Supreme Rulers Conclave No 429 meet twice each year and are not included in these statistics. The "host" Conclave provided 621 (67.4%) of the total attendance in the year and the visitors accounted for 306 (33 %).

From the total number of visitors 55 were visiting SR's from other Conclaves which is an encouraging increase on previous years , however there were several SR's in the year who were regular visitors to other Conclaves as a matter of course. There were 17 meetings where no visiting SR's attended which is in fact better than the previous year (21) though still a cause for concern.

723 (66%) of attendees at meetings throughout the year were Brethren who had passed through the chair.

There were 2 Conclave meetings where there was no Festive Board. Odersfelt on 19th July where 8 of the Brethren went to a local restaurant and Phoenix on 9th August, which was probably due to the regular

caterers simply not wanting to cater for a smaller than usual number. The toasts were recognised however. A total of 839 Brethren attended the other 43 Festive Boards (average 19.5).

Of the 12 Installation meetings 7 saw a Past SR take the chair and encouragingly 5 new SR's were Commissioned .

Your Prov. Visiting Deacons recorded conscientious work by the vast majority of the Visiting Deacons in your Conclaves and where they had failed to contact an absent Brother a report was given, on that Brother, from another member of the Conclave .

Using the present scoring system of 1-5 most of your Conclaves continue to demonstrate a high standard of ritual, not only in the opening, an average of 4.22 and closing an average of 4.36 . Of the 45 meetings 27 scored a combined average of 4.5 and above which relates to the opening, the closing and the ceremony. An overall average once again above 4 out of 5, however there are still a few of your Conclaves where the SR is reading his ritual which must be a concern for you.

Right Worthy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler I am happy to report that your Province is in good heart and you , together with your Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy. Bro. Alan P.K. Webster, continue to have the full support of your Brethren and we look forward to seeing the Province enjoy yet another successful year.

Wy. Bro. John F. Clough. G. Steward. Provincial Grand Guide.

February 2020