

Provincial Grand Charity Steward Report for Provincial Grand Lodge – 2021

I was appointed as Provincial Grand Charity Steward in March 2021, due to the sad death of my predecessor WBro Steve Clark. Steve had, at that time, completed round 2 of the Covid 19 Masonic Charitable Foundation [MCF] grants process.

My first action was to coordinate applications in the Province, for round 3 of Covid Grants; this round being for charities addressing mental health issues in young people. East Lancashire worked together with West Lancashire, Cheshire, North Wales and the Isle of Man, those Provinces constituting Regional Communications Group 2, throughout the three rounds. East Lancashire was successful with one proposal, resulting in the Province receiving grants in all three rounds.

The Covid pandemic has continued to affect the Province, however, Lodges have resumed meetings and donations to Masonic and non-Masonic charities have resumed. The Province is most grateful for generosity of the Brethren.

In my role as Provincial Grand Charity Steward, I am a member of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity (ELMC) Board, and an ex-officio member of the Grant Making Committee and the Committee of Benevolence. In addition, together with The Provincial Grand Almoner, I represent the Province at the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

In addition to membership of these committees the Provincial Grand Charity Steward keeps in close contact, via the District Secretary, with each of the 11 Districts in the Province,, with an aim of ensuring effective communication and encouraging our Brethren to subscribe to charity as an individual, as a member of a Lodge or through the District.

Throughout 2021 regular donations were made to the ELMC and in turn via the Grant Making Committee many payments were made to charities and worthy causes around the Province. One of those donations was organised by East Lancashire in collaboration with the Provinces of Cheshire, Cumberland and Westmorland, West Lancashire and Yorkshire West Riding to the Police Treatments Centre at Harrogate. This organisation looks after the treatment, health and mental well-being of injured Police Officers in each of the aforementioned Provinces and indeed further afield. The money donated provided a new treatment room.

In October I attended an MCF Conference, held in Bristol, together with WBro Terry Kakoullis, the Deputy Chairman of the forthcoming East Lancashire Festival 2026. This was extremely helpful in networking with those Provinces currently in Festival, or those about to enter into Festival.

As we move forward to the coming year my focus will be on the East Lancashire Festival 2026. As the Provincial Festival Steward I will be encouraging all members to make a regular

donation to the Festival fund, preferably through a regular payment promise, which incidentally can be made by following this link: -

<https://donate.mcf.org.uk/festival-or-appeal/?festivalId=19494>

There will be other ways to donate and information will be widely circulated for District, Lodges and Brethren to be actively involved. Throughout we should keep in mind that fund raising activities can be enjoyable and can involve the wider Masonic family.

I look forward to moving around the Province in 2022 and getting to know more of the Members in each of the Districts.

Brethren, I send you all my good wishes, please look after yourselves and stay safe. Thank you for all that you do.

WBro Bob Findlay

Provincial Grand Charity Steward