

## **Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works**

### **Report for Provincial Grand Lodge**

I am pleased to provide this, my third report, to Provincial Grand Lodge as Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.

At long last our Halls are coming back to life and are able to welcome us once more. With financial support and guidance from the Province, Halls have received grants and financial support of some £1m. Brethren will see that some Hall Boards have completed much needed refurbishments and that their Halls have been improved during the shutdown, making good use of that support. Some of that work has been undertaken by volunteers and I am extremely grateful to all of you who gave up your time to become involved.

The difficulties resulting from Covid have presented a real challenge to every member of every Hall Board. Those difficulties continue to this day. Supplies of foodstuffs are becoming increasingly expensive and not as readily available as they were pre-lockdown. Staff shortages are reported daily and staff costs are rising rapidly – not just in Masonic Halls but across the entire Hospitality sector.

Many Hall Boards will have to consider their pricing but all are trying to minimise this and any disruption arising from the pandemic.

As Freemasons who are members of Lodges we have to play our part. We must let our Secretaries know in plenty of time if we can or can't attend our meetings. If service is slower than we would have hoped for don't complain loudly – a reduced staff are trying their best. Our Treasurers have to pay the Hall bill promptly, so as individuals we have a responsibility to pay our subscriptions and dues as soon as we are asked.

Hall Boards have made strenuous efforts to ensure that the Halls which they manage are safe and compliant with Government guidelines. With the help of ongoing guidance provided with the assistance of WBro Jim Fallow and WBro Mike Stubbs, to whom I remain most grateful, many of our Boards invested in making their Hall COVID prepared. Some of those measures have caused inconvenience but you appear to be accepting of that. New measures might be announced at any time and we will continue to support the Halls to implement these.

Not for the first time I would like to personally thank every Board member for your assistance. You have faced challenges that were unimaginable a mere two years ago and you continue to rise to those.

I wish you all well as we move in to 2022.

Ian S Paul, PAGDC  
Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works