



As the Province's 2015 Festival has drawn to a close with the exceptional total of over £2.6million being raised on behalf of the RMBI, our own special Charity the ELMC, can now look forward to more rewarding years financially. Giving to charity will always be a priority and communication is so vital in assuring that every Brother has a full understanding of what the ELMC stands for, what it does, how we can support it and perhaps more importantly, why we should !. We do hope that ALL Brethren in the Province will promote the ELMC at every opportunity and thereby encourage giving in the future.

There will be new strategies implemented next year and leading the Provincial Charity Team will be Ken Davies MBE, who in November 2015 was appointed Provincial Grand Charity Steward following the retirement of Brian Sigsworth, who had held the post for the last six years. The Province and the ELMC would like to sincerely thank Brian for all his valued efforts during his term in office and acknowledge the excellent contribution he made, along with the District Charity Stewards, to a most successful 2015 Festival and the continuing work of the ELMC.

The new Provincial Grand Charity Steward Ken Davies, will chair this Committee and also a new ELMC Fundraising Committee that has been formed to encourage and support future giving and donations by Lodges, Chapters and Brethren to our Provincial Charity. The prime aim being to provide ongoing funds to fulfil the objectives of the ELMC. He is also very much intent on sharing ideas and suggestions relevant to all forms of charitable giving and fundraising, in addition to supporting the Province and our Districts. Another of his personal objectives is to encourage more of the Brethren to visit Hewlett Court, our Retirement Home near Bury, to witness the fine facilities and excellent care available to the residents.

Once again it is our grateful thanks to the sub- Committees ; Benevolence, Comforts Fund, Young Peoples, Community Fund and of course Hewlett Court, for all the sterling work they do in support of our beneficiaries and also assisting the District Charity Stewards to communicate the message of charity to those who are most in need.

To the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the ELMC and the Board of Directors, we offer thanks for all their assistance, guidance and support given to the District Charity Stewards during the year and also a special thank you to the Welfare Team, Julie Ward and Karen Hall and the Staff at Hewlett Court, all of whom play a splendid part in providing back up for our efforts.

Charity, whether it be the provision of financial assistance to our beneficiaries or support of local non-Masonic Charities and 'good causes', is still very much one of the fundamental principles of Freemasonry. The way forward is a dream, to bring success in future years and keep up with the challenges that lie ahead in this great Province of East Lancashire. We will continue to be very appreciative of your full support and involvement. Thank you.

The District Charity Stewards Committee.

Brian Sigsworth / Ken Davies MBE, Provincial Grand Charity Steward – 2015.