

---



**TALAITH SAERYDDOL DE CYMRU**   
**MASONIC PROVINCE OF SOUTH WALES**

---

### **Provincial Grand Charity Steward's report**

It has been an exceptional 12 months, where we have had some unprecedented events, which includes the Australian fires in January, Storm Dennis and the severe flooding in February and the global impact of Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic in March, resulting in a suspension of Masonic Business for 4 months. All of this has contributed to a significant increase in charitable work and activity across the whole of the Province.

I would like to personally thank all Lodge and Chapter Charity Steward's for the way in which they have gone above and beyond, to plan, coordinate and galvanise effort to assist those who are vulnerable and in immediate need of assistance. Something I am sure we will look back on in years to come and be very proud.

This increase in work and call to action has certainly brought the role of Charity Steward and Almoner at both Provincial and Lodge / Chapter level together and this has only been a positive experience for both the Brethren, Companions and the general public who have benefited from our support.

We continue in a positive manner to improve the communication of all our charitable activity across the Province. Brethren and Companions, we do such excellent work and we must not be afraid to share our success both internally and externally in our communities. This not only increases our profile to the general public but can have a positive impact on recruitment and retention within our fraternity.

Being a Charity Steward requires enthusiasm, energy, flair, tact and sensitivity, and the ability to build relationships with members of lodges and chapters to achieve a positive outcome. I would like to reiterate my sincere and most grateful thanks to all the Charity Stewards within our Province for their continued hard-work on behalf of their Lodges and Chapters, it is certainly not un-noticed and very much appreciated by the Executive of the Province. However, our Charity Stewards cannot do all the work on their own, your continued support for them is vital in ensuring the continued success of all the Lodges and Chapter across the whole of our Province.

On behalf of the RWPGM and the Festival Committee I would like to thank you all most sincerely for what you have done, and what I know you will continue to do.

Our target of £5 Million is to support the RMBI who fund and run 18 Masonic Care Homes across England and Wales. The jewel in our crown is the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court in Porthcawl and I would urge any Brother who has not yet visited the home to take advantage, once it's safe and permitted. It is an ideal opportunity for you to see first-hand how your financial support is benefitting others.

Qualification for a Festival Jewel could not be simpler. Just a minimum commitment of £500 during the period of the Festival will demonstrate your support for this wonderful cause. 3,987 Brethren have already shown their support, for those who have not, it is never too late, in fact you have an additional 2 years (until the end of December 2023) to spread your commitment.

The response from lodges to the Festival Appeal has been excellent with 38 Lodges who have achieved Gold status, 25 Lodges who have achieved Silver status and 69 Lodges who have achieved Bronze status. May I congratulate Lodge of St. Martin No. 8771 who are the latest to achieve their Silver Award and Glanogwr Lodge NO. 8508 who achieved Gold. This still leaves 29 lodges still to achieve Bronze status so there is still work to be done to achieve our £5million target in the next 16 months.

Raising monies is, as most Lodge Charity Stewards will tell you is not an easy task but fortunately some Lodges have found it 'less difficult' than others by adopting the Best Practice gleaned from previous Festivals of signing up members for a Regular Payment Promise (RPP) on or even prior to their initiation and ensuring that Gift Aid is claimed where appropriate.

Brethren just to remind you that you can continue to contribute on a regular basis until December 2023, which still allows a Brother who is either newly initiated or has yet to support the Festival the opportunity to receive a jewel by contributing just £10 per month + Gift Aid. In fact, it will never cost you more than £15 per month + Gift Aid even if you leave it until October 2021 to start your commitment.

All our 69 Royal Arch Chapters have also engaged positively by supporting the Festival individually, with many who are now using Gift Aid envelopes at all their Convocations. These amounts, along with a regular stream of lump sum donations, is providing a much-needed boost for the Festival from the Royal Arch

By Using our Festival Relief Chest (E0043), we have received in preferential interest payments since 2015 - £273,000, which is another huge addition toward our target. – Together Brethren, we CAN achieve this target and ultimately support those who need care from our Masonic Homes.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation is funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons and their families. The Masonic Charitable Foundation is one of the largest grant-making charities in the country. It's strap-line is "For Freemasons, for families, for everyone"

The Foundation brings together the work of our four national charities which had been operating separately under various names since the early 18th Century. These charities were The Freemasons' Grand Charity, the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, the Masonic Samaritan Fund and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. During their time of operation, the four charities each provided a specific type of support to meet various charitable aims in support of Freemasons and their families.

The latest example of support is a donation of £15,000 following the Super Cyclone which hit India and Bangladesh on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, which is providing much needed humanitarian assistance.

Closer to home Brethren, our province has again benefitted from the Masonic Charitable Foundation grants thanks to your generosity.

A total of £586,441 has been received in the last financial year (2018-19) into the South Wales Province. £531k to support Brethren and their families plus £55k in support to local charities. In addition to this figure from the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the RMBI has also financially contributed directly to the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court in Porthcawl.

Some of the recent grants awarded;

**City Hospice £1,000** based in Whitchurch Cardiff cares for patients across the city, managing their symptoms and offering essential support. Each person in their care can live their lives to the fullest for as long as possible. Patients are referred to City Hospice for care from the palliative care team at Velindre Cancer Centre, the University Hospital of Wales, or from a patient's own GP. They help patients with diagnoses such as Cancer, Dementia, Motor Neurone Disease (MND), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) or other life-limiting illnesses. They deliver community palliative care for the whole of Cardiff. All of their patients live within the capital, and range in age from 18 upwards.

**The Bracken Trust Cancer Support Centre £1000** is there to support people who are living with cancer and their families. Located in Llandrindod Wells, in Powys, they offer help by providing information, advice, support, counselling and complementary therapies. The Bracken Trust is about empowering people to live with, through and beyond cancer by bringing together professional help, communities of support and creating an exceptional centre for cancer care.

**Forget me Not Café £1,000** the Cardiff-based weekly group, offers support to dementia sufferers in the community. The 'forget-me-not café' community project is located at St Edward's Church in the Penylan area of the City and meets every Tuesday. It provides a friendly and welcoming environment for people with memory problems, people recovering from strokes, and people who feel vulnerable and isolated. They offer a wide range of entertainment and activities to engage and stimulate it's members in a warm and friendly environment

**Sandville Self Help Foundation £1100** established February 1983, located in Ton Kenfig, Bridgend is open to all people suffering difficulties, they offer help in a very relaxed and happy atmosphere. Sandville offers a people centred service with social and psychological care for patients and families. They can provide transport from the Bridgend area to Velindre Hospital for patients who require radiotherapy or chemotherapy. Every week they offer a range of complimentary therapies and activities including, Reflexology, Self-Hypnosis, Reiki, Hydrotherapy and Acupuncture. They also support continuing education with seminars and workshops and offer placements for Schools, Colleges and Nursing.

**Ty Hafan Children's Hospice £1,480** based in Sully is one of the UK's leading paediatric palliative care charities and offers care to children and support for their families, throughout Wales. They offer comfort, care and support to life-limited children, young people, and their families in the hospice, in the community and in their home so they can make the most of the time they have left together. They allow parents and carers to relax and recharge their batteries. And they make sure the needs of brothers and sisters are never forgotten. They use the term life-limited to describe a child not expected to live beyond 18 years of age, they have supported nearly 600 children since opening in 1999. They are there for families in Wales for however long they need them, at home, in hospital, at school and in their hospice. Importantly, they are also a family's safe haven when their child is close to the end of life, providing expert comfort and support in their darkest hours and beyond.

**Wales Air Ambulance £4,000** their four airbase operations in Caernarfon, Llanelli, Welshpool and Cardiff are ready to save lives across the whole of Wales; Crucially the team can be there for anyone in Wales within 20 minutes (known as the Platinum 20 mins) Every year their four helicopters attend around 2,500 missions. They do not just fly patients to hospital they bring A&E directly to the casualty. Their critical care consultants and practitioners have some of the most pioneering equipment and skills in the world, including blood products and techniques developed in the Armed Forces. This means that patients receive advanced care before they even reach the hospital.

**Action for Elders £15,000** The Action for Elders Balanced Lives programme helps older people to deal with problems of limited mobility and lost muscle strength with carefully supervised exercise classes. These are particularly useful for those who are recovering from a fall or after a hospital admission. The classes are also aimed at dealing with commonly occurring mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, as these often arise from extended periods of social isolation and loneliness, so the classes are very much aimed at being fun, social events. The charity aims to help many older people to live healthier and happier lives.

**School of Hard Knocks (SOHK) £92,418** SOHK for Schools is a unique three-year intervention that uses rugby coaching, classroom sessions and mentoring to improve attendance and behaviour at school. Their aim is to help at-risk children avoid permanent exclusion. They work with children, who are disengaged from education, have poor behaviour or who find school difficult due to difficult personal circumstances. They use rugby coaching and mentoring every week of the school year, beginning the programme during school time and then they run after-school sessions during the crucial GCSE years. Their coaches teach the game of rugby union and use SOHK's unique psychology and values-led approach to teach character and positive attitudes. They make sure the same staff work with the same children every week, to enable a consistent intervention with children who might otherwise become NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training).

**Forget-me-not Chorus - £13,000** runs nine choirs in Wales, bringing people together using song to overcome the isolation often experienced by those living with and alongside dementia. Its approach is not about bringing back memories singing old songs, but about using music as a tool for communication and engagement. Each choir is testament to the potential of music and creativity to enrich lives at a time often fraught with anxiety and loneliness. The charity uses a specially designed programme to work in care homes and hospitals, as well as community settings, for people with dementia and their families, and weekly rehearsals afford the family quality time with their loved one.

**The Windfall Centre - £6,000** supports the emotional and mental health of children and their families in mid and south west Wales through Play Therapy and other therapeutic programmes. The charity provides one-to-one therapeutic sessions with qualified, trained therapists and offers support for families and vulnerable parents.

Brethren I have been fortunate enough over the past 12 months to visit many of these organisations we support, so I can see first-hand the difference that we are making to others who are less fortunate.

Finally it was a pleasure to invite some of the recipients to our inaugural **Provincial Charity Awards** event which we held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in the RMBI Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court in Porthcawl. This was attended by over 100 guests including many Lodges and Chapters who were represented by their Charity Stewards. It was a delight to show case just some of our charitable support, whilst importantly being able to listen first-hand to the impact it has made on many lives throughout our Province.

So, I thank you for your constant commitment to **CHARITY**, I thank you for your **MONEY!** I thank you for your **TIME**, I thank you for your **HELP** and I thank you for your **CARE** and **COMPASSION**.

Be Proud Brethren, be very Proud, what you have done has made a **HUGE IMPACT** within all our communities and **ACROSS** our Province, just because you are a **FREEMASON** and you **CARE**. - Thank you.

Warmest fraternal greetings W.Bro./E.Comp. Robert Payne ProvGChStwd - South Wales

# Overview of our work in 2018/19

## SOUTH WALES

WE HELPED



**154** FREEMASONS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH GRANTS TOTTALLING  
**£531,103**

**£203,766**

TO HELP PEOPLE COVER THEIR ESSENTIAL DAILY LIVING COSTS



**£259,228**

TO GIVE ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING AND LIFE-CHANGING HEALTH SUPPORT



**£68,109**

TO HELP FAMILIES WITH CARE AND EDUCATION COSTS



OUR ADVICE & SUPPORT TEAM CARRIED OUT VISITS, CALLS & EMAILS

**97**

**4**

PEOPLE ACCESSED OUR COUNSELLING SERVICE



WE AWARDED

**10**

GRANTS TO LOCAL CHARITIES TOTTALLING

**£55,338**



Discover what else we achieved: [impact.mcf.org.uk/2019](http://impact.mcf.org.uk/2019)

