

**Dear Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master,
And Brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge Committee,**

I have the honour to present the Provincial Grand Registrar's Report dated 8th June, 2020

The Registry has undergone considerable change of personnel in the past few months, with individuals of longstanding finishing in roles after many years of excellent service and I would like to record my personal thanks to them for the assistance they have provided. Firstly, W Bro Kelvin L. Jones PSGD has moved on from the role of Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar after 10 years in office; he has of course taken on new responsibilities as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master and I wish him well in this new Office. The gain to the Province by his promotion is considerable and so is the loss to the Provincial Registry. The next individual I would like to recognise is the W Bro Leslie Pickford PPrSGW. Bro Leslie has worked as a volunteer in the Provincial Office for over 19 years and was appointed as the Provincial Assistant Grand Registrar in 2012. These two Brethren have provided invaluable service to the Registry and the Provincial Office, for which I am extremely grateful.

W. Bro Melvin Jones PPrJGW will take over as the Provincial Assistant Grand Registrar and I wish him well in his new Office. Also, I would like to thank W Bro David Dyer PPrGSuptWks and the volunteers who continue to assist with retention and retrieval, which remains an important function of the Registry. Finally, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to W Bro Robert "Bob" Free as the new Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar.

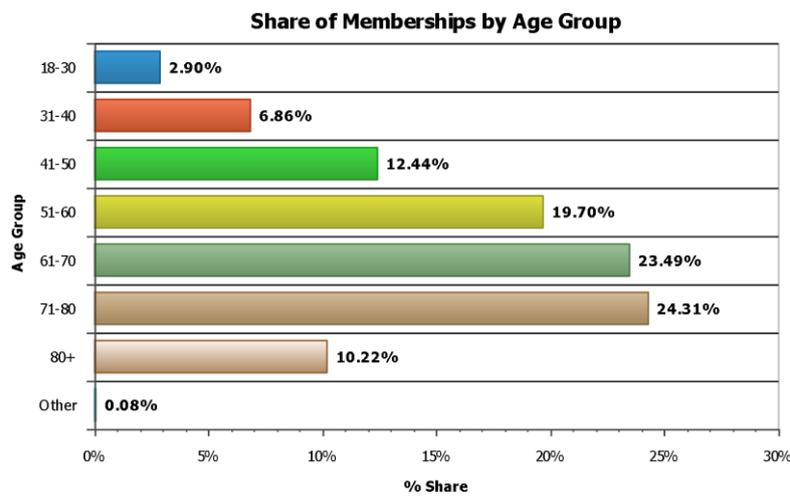
The United Grand Lodge of England administrative system Adelphi continues to develop with increased functionality, enabling users to extract reports and input changes of membership status quickly and efficiently. Of course, the administration of this system is dependent on timely returns and I would like to thank all the Lodge Secretaries who contribute to the management of the Provincial membership with the individual work they perform for their Lodge.

The next exciting development of the Adelphi system will enable Lodge Secretaries to input many of the administrative functions directly on-line. 'Project Hermes' is looking to empower Lodges to make changes of membership status themselves. While this project is still in development it is looking to provide an intuitive process that Lodge Secretaries will be able to use. Of course, we will be providing appropriate training from the Provincial Office as the system is rolled out.

The Registry is happy to provide training now for any Lodge Secretary that may require assistance with the current administrative responsibilities. Being a Lodge Secretary is not difficult, but it does require organisation and dedication. The Provincial team are available to help with the understanding of the procedures and documents that the role requires, particularly Secretaries new to the role.

The Province has not been left unaffected by Covid-19; in conjunction with UGLE we have been monitoring the deaths of members since the beginning of March and recording all Brethren that died with the virus. At the middle of June, since the 11th March, for the 3-month period, out of 27 recorded deceased members in the Province, 6 members died with the virus. Of course, given the profile of our membership it is not a surprise that we have been affected

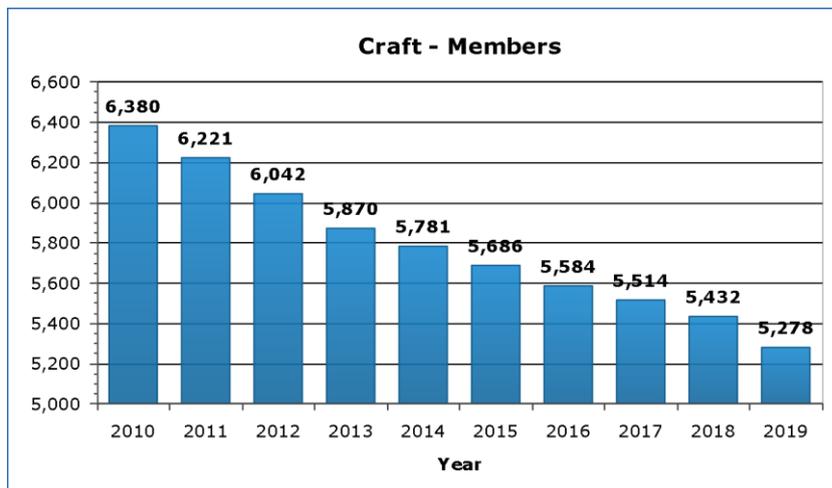
and it remains to be seen how this compares with the overall membership and the general population of the UK. The following table demonstrates the age profile of the South Wales Province which reveals how our profile has left us susceptible during this pandemic.

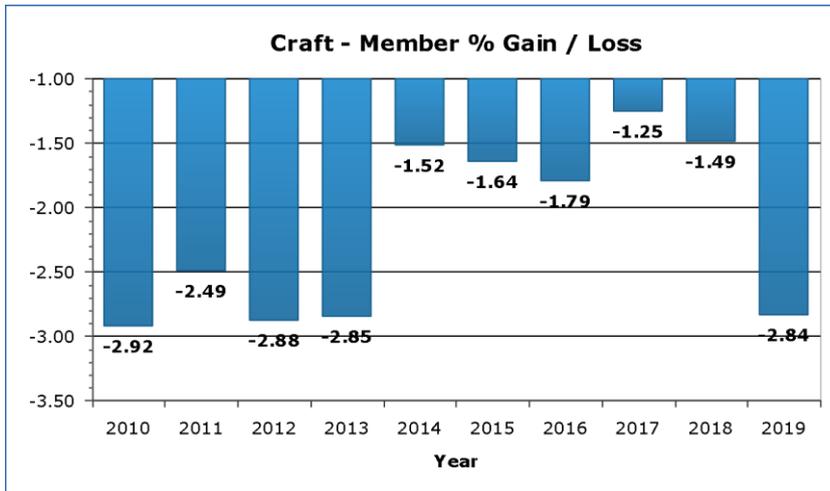


Provincial Statistics

There were 161 Lodges operating in 2019; members in the Province decreased by 2.84% during the year from 5,432 to 5,278. Membership of Lodges was also down during the period but a slightly lower percentage figure of 2.31% from 6,610 to 6,457. On a positive note there were 251 initiates, which equates to a % rate of initiates to members 4.62% and places South Wales in the top 10 of best performing Provinces.

Of course the concern remains the decrease in membership and the fact that for the tenth year we have shown a negative percentage growth in members, illustrated by the following two tables.





This is reflective of a National trend and highlights the need for the various local and national initiatives in terms of recruitment and the need to attract and just as importantly retain, new and younger members.

On a positive note it is pleasing to see that the figures for younger members in terms of growth are positive; the result for the year of the age range 18-60 show a plus membership total of 85. Additionally, the average age for new Initiates remains at just over 43, the same as 2018 and compares to over 52 years of age for the same period 10 years ago.

Age Range	M'ships Start 2019	M'ships End 2019	Difference
18 < 30	135	147	12
31 < 40	365	391	26
41 < 50	694	727	33
51 < 60	1246	1260	14
61 < 70	1457	1435	-22
71 < 80	1797	1719	-78
80+	902	787	-115

Another positive result to report is the number of Craft members that also belong to Royal Arch. During the year 2019 there were a total of 41.21% Brethren registered as Companions. This is the highest total since our records for this metric began in 2008.

In concluding my report, I would like to again make the plea that all Lodges use the Registry for any administration issues they have; my team are ready and willing to assist, particularly as we prepare for the implementation of 'Hermes', which promises to be an important development in the responsibilities of the Lodge Secretary.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours Fraternally and Sincerely,

(Signed)

Gareth J Jones PAGReg Provincial Grand Registrar