



# PROVINCE OF SURREY

W. Bro. Ian Chandler PProvSGW  
Chairman - 2019 Festival Appeal Sub-Committee



## Surrey 2019 Festival Appeal One Year On Presentation Notes

**7:30pm start**

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| <b>1. OPENING COMMENTS – Nick Parsons</b><br>Run through of the agenda and introduction of the team. | <b>2/3 minutes</b> |
| <b>2. FESTIVAL UPDATE – Ian Chandler</b><br>Facts and Figures<br>Beer mat challenge                  | <b>15 minutes</b>  |

Brethren, it is almost exactly one year ago that our ProvGM, the Festival President, launched us into our five year Festival Appeal.

The ProvGM set us the challenge of raising £3.25M. That is a lot of money and is perhaps quite daunting. I am going to put this into perspective and to do that I am going to talk about three things.

Firstly how are we doing

Secondly how have we achieved this

Lastly what we can do to make sure we achieve our final goal

To start with then, today we have raised £650,000. On a flat trajectory that means we are on par. This is great news and means we have got off to a really good start. But as the ProvGM said at the launch this is a marathon not a sprint. We are 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the way through and 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the way to achieving our goal.

Lets drill down into that a little more. Of the £650K we have raised 33% has come from individual donations. That means that 67% of our current total has been donated by Lodges and Chapters. That is what we would expect to see. Of our members 40% have made some sort of personal donation however only 19% members have qualified as a Festival Steward. I will talk more about that in a moment, but I think you will agree that one of our challenges is to convert the number of members contributing in Stewardships.

As you all know at the Launch we introduced Festival Achievement Awards. These are a stiff challenge so the Lodges and Chapters who have received one have earned them. So far Lodges have been awarded 15 bronze, 1 silver and three gold awards. Chapters have been awarded 14 bronze, 10 silver and 3 gold awards. That is a fantastic effort and many congratulations to the lodges and Chapters involved. I would encourage you all to go back and talk to your committees about what award you think you will be able to achieve.

Looking at the profile of donations from Lodges, so far the vast majority of Lodges have made a donation. But when we look at that profile 38 are either zero or under £100.

I would like to paint this picture. We are trying to fill a bath with £3.25M litres of water, yes Brethren this is a big bath! There are many ways of filling the bath. You can use a large jug and add large amounts at a time, equally as a wise man once said, the largest bath can be filled by a dripping tap!

So our challenge is to fill the bath by the use of both jugs and a dripping tap. I am confident that your Lodges and Chapters will do their part in filling jugs of water but it would be good to see the tap drip a little more!

So today we are launching the beer mat challenge. You will see a series of beer mats appear across the province asking members to take the challenge of donating a pint a month. You will also find on the beer mats information about the RMBI and in particular the residents but you will hear more about that from Paul later.

We think absolutely nothing of buying a brother a pint of beer in the various centre bars around the province. That is all we are asking, is for our members to sign up to donate £3.13 a month over the next 4 years.

I know I am here preaching to the converted, I am asking you to take this challenge back to your members and ask them to take the beer mat challenge. When you do this we are on hand to come along and help. We are happy to come to a meeting so that your members will be able to sign up to become a Festival Steward, and even better news they only have to complete one form!

Brethren are you up for the challenge?

### **3. RMBI – Paul Crockett**

**10 minutes**

#### **How is the money used, Who benefits, Why support, Case studies**

When the 2019 Festival Appeal was launched one year ago the Provincial Grand Master knew that the Challenge he had set before us would be a mammoth task, but he also knew that with the Province's history of giving, the members would rise to the occasion.

Well Ian has already spoken about the excellent start that has been made in the first year of our appeal and it is encouraging to know that over £650,000 has already been donated.

Of course this money is not just sitting in an account waiting until the Festival in 2019, it is already being used by the RMBI and is being put to remarkable use to provide care to elderly vulnerable people who have had incredible lives but now need some support and security in older life.

People like Julius Pachter aged 96 and a resident at James Terry Court in Croydon.

Julius was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1918 in Treblich in the Czech Republic. He moved with his family to Germany when he was aged 5 in 1923. All through his life he was blamed for things that he had not done, simply because he was Jewish.

At the time when Hitler became dictator, he was in Grammar School. The German's tried to get everyone to join them voluntarily, but the German definition of voluntarily was if you were not with them you were against them. So Julius soon learned to speak German as that was what was expected.

He and his fellow pupils were made to greet all teachers with the German salute and to say 'Heil Hitler'. By 1935 he was studying hard for his exams. He was not allowed to study with other pupils as he was Jewish. One day however he did join his classmates and upon leaving the building he was surrounded by Germans, threatening to castrate him to save Germany from another Jewish family. In 1939 Julius's family decided that to leave Germany and head for England. However they were stopped on their journey and put in a roped off area with other Jews there to be left behind. The only way to escape was to speak German in which he was now fluent, and to raise his arm and say 'Heil Hitler'

Julius was allowed to board the train and he started chatting to two soldiers in German, his family were told to report to a nearby school where they would then be taken to Poland to work for the Germans. His family did manage to smuggle a letter to Julius but this was the last time that he ever heard from them.

Julius parents and most of his family were either killed in the east or died at Auschwitz. Julius made it to England and found a new home and life.

He still has many visions and remembers the nightmares he suffered during that time of his life, but despite losing his family considers himself to be among the lucky ones.

A Festival is very much a *living, active*, appeal and one that is constantly moving forward. But it needs impetus and momentum to do so and that is why becoming a Festival Steward and/or gaining a Patronage is so important.

Those members who are able to make Regular Promise to Pay donations are ensuring that the appeal keeps on moving forward, and of course those donations are boosted by the tax that can be reclaimed under the gift aid scheme and this adds so much more as well.

This is the beauty of the way in which the festival system works and is why we need to keep encouraging every member to take part and support the appeal.

Because if you are supporting the appeal, then you are supporting people who have in the past supported others.

People like Alan Baker aged 88 and a resident at Queen Elizabeth Court in Llandudno.

As Alan got older he thought about Charity, particularly at Christmas. Alan had an idea at his local church and with some friends decided to become a 'phone in Father Christmas'. He and his friends would phone children, by appointment' and act as Father Christmas instead of them having to go to a Grotto.

He prepared information sheets which asked the parents for information about their children such as a time to call, their age and their likes and dislikes. The parents would then make a donation to charity and his team would call the child at the appointed time.

To add authenticity, Alan made a tape with noises from 'Father Christmas' Workshop', such as hammering, bells ringing and reindeers. As soon as he got home from work in the evening he would start making his calls.

As you can imagine there were lots of rewarding calls with children asking Alan questions such as 'How was he going to get down the Chimney' or 'does his beard get dirty when going down chimneys'.

In one particular family that Alan recalls, there were three children, Alice who was 3, Emma who was 5 and Tom who was 6. Alice wanted a teddy bear for Christmas and asked for her stocking to be left in her bedroom. Emma wanted a new doll. At the end their conversation she said she wanted to go to bed and asked Alan if he wanted to speak with Fiona. Alan said yes and Fiona came on the line. Alan proceeded to ask the usual questions, 'what did she want for Christmas, where did she want her presents left, did she go to bed early, did she clean her teeth, was she always a good girl. Having answered all of his questions Fiona ended the call by saying, 'by the way, I'm 19 and I'm the babysitter!'

The RMBI, like all four of the Masonic Charities, is not like other charities. Surrey Lodges and Chapters make donations to many local charities, the difference is that these charities also receive support from the general public. The Masonic Charities don't, they only get support from Freemasons like all of us here tonight. This is why it is so important to get behind this appeal.

The RMBI need our donations to ensure that they can continue to provide the essential care that they have been giving for over 160 years in its seventeen care homes across England and Wales. They are leaders in providing residential, nursing, respite and perhaps most importantly dementia care for elderly Freemasons and their dependants.

Or in some cases it is just about people who find it difficult to cope of their own after losing their husband or wife.

People like John Wadia aged 94 and a resident at Albert Edward, Prince of Wales Court in Mid Glamorgan

John Wadia was born in Bournemouth in 1920. He left school when he was 15 and found his first job when he was 16, working at a train construction company.

In 1942 John joined the RAF as a flight engineer for 578 squadron. He primarily flew Halifax Bombers which was nicknamed 'Leaping Lena'. His role was to sit behind the pilot and keep all four engines running. He flew 38 operations with his squadron during the war.

John then moved to 77 Squadron and towards the end of the war was flying American VIP passengers and cargo. None was more important than President Franklin D Roosevelt who he flew on a number of occasions. John remembers the President as being very pleasant and down to earth.

John left the RAF in 1945 at which time he was a Flight Lieutenant.

John met his wife and got married in 1950. They waited 10 years before a son, Patrick, arrived. John spent the rest of his working life as an electrician and ran his own business in West Wales.

After 56 years of marriage, John's wife passed away. He found it very difficult living alone and so in 2010 he moved into RMBI home in Mid Glamorgan. John has been a resident ever since.

In addition to the care provided in nursing homes, the RMBI has a national network of Care Advice visitors who provide information and guidance on all care related matters, as well as health and welfare rights and benefits.

Each year the RMBI has to find £5 million in order to sustain the level of care required to ensure our most vulnerable members and their dependants are safe. Of this approximately £600,000 comes into our Province to support Surrey beneficiaries. This is a truly a wonderful opportunity to give something back to this most deserving of charities.

#### **4. RMBI IN SURREY – Bro. Phil Warnes Willow Lodge**

**10 minutes**

My Father in Law, Iain Laughland, was a resident of Shannon Court at Hindhead for around 7 years. He was first a resident in Davis Wing and then due to medical reasons, transferred to the dementia unit in Alvernia Wing.

From the first day to his last, Iain had a wonderful and happy time. Every one of the staff were exceptional and caring. Whenever my wife and I visited we found him clean, well fed and more often than not, engaged in some sort of activity. We would always call first before visiting him, in case he had been taken out on a trip to the coast, to a sports event or even just out for a drink and meal away from the home.

The activity staff organised a multitude of events throughout the year from New Year, Burns Nights, and every occasion on the calendar, to choral society visits and other daily events.

The grounds are very well maintained and used by all residents.

Iain was a changed man from the moment he moved in. We have photos to show how his physical appearance improved. We had been told by doctors that he would not have long to live, but with the care he received at Shannon Court, we were lucky enough to have another 7 years of happiness with him.

We cannot express our gratitude enough to all those that cared for him with dignity and respect whilst he was alive, and it was moving that some even attended his funeral last year. In their own words, he was part of their family.

Iain had been a mason for over 60 years, and I now am seeing some of the things that he enjoyed too, so supporting The RMBI has become very close to my wife and I, and I hope that this small literary message will show those of you who have not seen the work they do first hand, a small insight.

Shannon Court is not just a Care Home, it was, and still is, a Home that Cares.

Phil and Sandie Warnes.

#### **5. SUPPORTING THE FESTIVAL – Paul Crockett**

**5 minutes**

**Snowdonia, Text giving, RPP, Charity Stewards Ball**

It is all very well talking about the Festival appeal and the RMBI but it only matters if we can raise the necessary amount that we have been challenged to achieve.

It is however really easy to donate and support the RMBI though the 2019 appeal.

The most effective way is to become a Festival Steward.

A donation of £150 which can be made over the next four years at £3.13 a month will qualify a member as a Festival Steward and will allow them to purchase and wear a Festival Stewards Jewel.

Larger donations of £300, £600 or £1200 will gain the member Vice-Patronage, Patronage and Grand Patronage respectively. Again these donations can be made monthly over a 4 year period.

If members choose to support the Festival this way then their donations can (if applicable) be increased through the Gift Aid scheme.

Additionally all donations and Gift Aid received for Stewardship and/or Patronage will go towards that members Lodge or Chapter total.

There are of course other ways to make donations.

For instance, Provincial Sponsored events will take place each year. Last year myself and small team, cycled from James Terry Court to Shannon Court, raising several thousand Pounds along the way. Sponsorship was received from many Surrey Masons as well as lodges and Chapters.

This year, on the 6<sup>th</sup> June our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Nick Parsons, will be leading a group of us to the top of Snowdonia. Details of how you can sponsor the team are available here this evening and will be sent to all Lodge Secretaries and Charity Stewards in due course.

Then there are social events. The first Charity Stewards ball was held in November last year and raised over £2000. The Ball was attended by over 200 people and such was its success that another is being planned for this autumn.

You can donate by text. Text giving allows you to donate £5 to the Appeal at any time using your mobile phone simply by texting a unique code to a short phone number. Your mobile network provider makes a secure payment that is then charged to you, either via your bill or from your available pay-as-you-go credit.

The Relief Chest will receive a notification that you have made a donation just a few minutes after you send the text message. The service has been purpose-built for Masonic donations and also allows the use of any applicable Gift Aid for each donation.

The donate by Text is a particularly useful way of donating when you are at a Ladies Night or Lodge social event as it is so inclusive and easy to use.

To donate this way you simply text word RMBI2019 to the telephone number 70500 from any mobile phone and your donation will be made.

Further ways to Support and Fund Raising Ideas are available on the Festival pages of the Surrey Pillars website. These include details of how to purchase the 2019 Festival lapel pins and ideas for individuals and for Lodges and Chapters to use to encourage support of the Festival.

In the end the most effective and simplest way to make a contribution to the Provincial Grand Master's appeal is to become a Festival Steward. But of course many of you already know this as you have already made your contribution, but many haven't. So please take this message back to your Lodges and Chapters and urge those who have yet to support the Festival to do so.

## **6. – Provincial Grand Master / Deputy Provincial Grand Master**

**5 minutes**

- We have got off to a great start and are doing well
- There is still a long way to go, this is a marathon and not a sprint
- Some Lodges are yet to get going, we hope that everyone gets involved
- Others have really gone the extra mile, a big thank you to them

- The RMBI only receive donations from Freemasons unlike other charities that can rely on donations from us and every section of society.
- We all have a role in taking back the message you have heard tonight.
- Please ask your members to take the beer mat challenge
- Thank you to the Stewards and the Festival Team for delivering these presentations. A special thank you to you for your attendance

**7. Questions and Answers**

**10 minutes**

**8. CLOSING COMMENTS – Nick Parsons**

**2/3 minutes**

Reminder to sign up to Festival Web updates

**TOTAL TIME**

**1 Hour**