



# The Masonic Order of Athelstan

## Provincial Grand Court of South Rheged



Provincial Grand Almoner

W. Bro. Dennis Slights KCM

The Grand High Almoner

The Masonic Order of Athelstan

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Dear Sir and Brother,

This is the Provincial Almoner's report for South Rheged, dealing with the month of January.

Well, it's a New Year and I think that there is perhaps a new optimism in our Courts, now that the vaccine is being rolled out at such a great pace, indeed a good many of our Court members have their first and some the first and second injection, of one or other of the vaccines. Indeed one of our very well known Masons, in South Rheged, Benjamin Addy, (he has given me permission to use his name in my report), has had both his injections, in fact his Court Almoner tells me, (tongue in cheek), that it shows how important the Order of Athelstan is, as Ben had his two jabs before the Queen had her first.

Joking apart, the Almoners have related to me how the members are "keeping their heads down" obeying the Government's regulations, observing the lockdown rules and looking forward to the day they receive the vaccine. In my area which covers Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Merseyside and West Lancashire, the vaccine is being delivered very swiftly, in my home town of Blackpool, the famous Winter Gardens, noted for conferences, ballroom dancing, and theatres, has been taken over for the purpose of administering the covid-19 vaccine. The Winter Gardens, has fond memories for me as Sue and I held our first Ladies Night there 25 years ago, almost to the day. So the feeling is that there is light at the end of the tunnel and it may not be too far away.

**\*Breaking News, our Provincial Grand Master and his wife have now had their 1st injection of the vaccine with no side effects, also I've just heard that our Deputy Provincial Grand Master and his wife have both, recently, proved positive for the Covid virus and have isolated for two weeks, thankfully both are now much improved and out of isolation. \***

The Brother Almoner, who had to spend 3 days in hospital with gall stones; is now about to receive the surgery he needs to remove them.

The Brother who had to have part of his lung removed, is at home recovering, and is now into a month of the 3 weekly cycles of a chemotherapy treatment, which will hopefully save any further need for more procedures.

The Brother, who has been waiting for a Hernia for very many months, has had his Pre Op and could be having the operation as I write.

This last month we have had Court Master Masons that have had a Carpel Tunnel operation, another had a heart operation, he was given the vaccine while in hospital, and one more is to undergo hospital tests for a bad stomach problem.

The Court Almoners, of South Rheged are once again doing a tremendous job in contacting members and providing me with the information I need for this report. They really are a pleasure to work with. Contact is still being maintained with the membership to a very high level and I am even told how each member was contacted, whether it be by phone, email, face to face, text or through "Assistant Almoners" and how often each member has been communicated with. Thus giving me the confidence to say the members of South Rheged are in good heart and well cared for by the Court Almoners.

Dennis, may I commend you and our Assistant Grand Master, on the Zoom meeting I was able to attend, it was good to be able to meet the other Provincial Almoners and listen to their comments, I was quietly pleased that the Almoners of South Rheged were meeting all the requirements put forward.

To conclude with a smile, one of the Almoners when sending an email to his members always finishes with a "funny" this is January's;

*We've just had a decorator in to do some work. I got to chatting to him and it turns out he is a British Airways pilot who's been furloughed and earning a bit of extra cash.*

HE MADE A LOVELY JOB OF THE LANDING....

I do hope, as always, this report proves satisfactory to you.

Best regards

D. John Forster

Provincial Almoner.