

Dear Brother Secretary,

Appointment of Provincial Membership Officer

In the summer of 2014, United Grand Lodge of England announced the formation of the Membership Focus Group (MFG). In the 2014 Autumn Edition of Freemasonry Today under the heading "Open Forum" you were given an insight into why the MFG was formed and you were invited to enrol to participate in a series of surveys which lasted for a period of six months. From the results of these surveys, together with information supplied by the Provincial Grand Masters, the MFG identified ten key elements in the recruitment and retention of the Freemason which collectively form the "Membership Pathway".

These ten steps take a gentleman who is interested in becoming a Freemason through a journey, which eventually will lead him to become a committed Master Mason. As part of the progression in these steps within the Provinces, each Provincial Grand Master was asked to appoint a Provincial Membership Officer.

I am pleased to inform you that the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master has appointed W Bro Richard E. Johnson, ProvDGDC to the office of Provincial Membership Officer. Contact details for Richard will be circulated shortly and he will report directly to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

On Saturday 5th March 2016 the Membership Pathway Project was launched. Derbyshire is one of ten pilot Provinces and will be piloting two of the ten steps, namely:

5. Preparing the prospective candidate for interview
6. Interviewing the candidate.

This pilot will run from the beginning of September 2016 to the end of March 2017 after which the outcomes from this pilot will be reviewed.

Richard will deliver his first address on this very important topic at the Derbyshire Lodge of Installed Masters on Wednesday 30th March 2016.

I trust you will all join with me in wishing Richard every success in this new role.

It is essential that we obtain information on prospective candidates well before they enter the formal system of being interviewed. If you are aware of prospective candidates for your Lodge or you have a candidate which you have yet to interview, please let me have details as soon as possible. The information I would like to know is:

1. At which stage of the recruitment process are you i.e. has he completed a Form P?
2. When do you expect to interview him?
3. When do you expect to propose him?
4. When do you expect to initiate him?

I am seeking this information on any prospective candidate during the period April 2016 and March 2017. Please let me have this information by the 31st March 2016 and continually during the period mentioned above.

Please circulate this information to all members within your Lodge and read out this letter in full at the Second rising.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

Edward Foulds
Provincial Grand Secretary