The Benevolent Committee of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham Lodge Closures and Widows

The Caring Committee consists of:

Ralph Boutflower, Provincial Grand Almoner (Chairman)

Anthony Raine, PPSGW, Treasurer

Ron Black, PAGChap, ProvGChap

When a Lodge indicates to Provincial Grand Lodge that it wishes to close and surrender its Warrant, Lodge members will be made aware of the Provincial Grand Lodge policy with regard to dependant widows of their Lodge. The ongoing responsibility for these Masonic widows will be transferred to the Provincial Grand Almoner who, with the assistance of members of the Caring Committee, will be charged with supervising their care and support from Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Committee will ensure that regular contact or visits are made to widows from a Member of the Caring Committee, they will also arrange any applications to Provincial or National Masonic charities. The widows will be sent a Birthday card and a Masonic Christmas Card together with, it is hoped, a financial gift similar to the amounts traditionally given by current Lodges.

The Committee has also helped form Broken Column Associations throughout the Province, where Lodge Widows and friends can meet socially and organise their own events.