

## AMALGAMATION

The amalgamation of Lodges and Chapters is quite complex and most important and is principally dealt with in meetings, firstly between the Lodges concerned, then with their Group and Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and then, when a certain point has been reached, with the Province.

However, we offer a few observations here from experience of the process.

Most amalgamations have been successful, bringing life and vitality (with larger numbers) to the Lodges concerned. Those which have been less successful have been attempts to amalgamate Lodges which were already weak. There has to be a spark for the process to be successful.

Amalgamations of three or more Lodges are seen as having a better chance of long-term success than those of just two Lodges.

The process of coming together must be conducted in as natural and organic way as possible. There are many issues to be discussed and brought together and nothing should be forced. The test-phrase which the Province employs to judge readiness for amalgamation is that the Lodges have reached 'a Settled Will'. It is not difficult to tell when this position has been reached and it is very easy to tell when it has not.

A 'Settled Will' can be discerned in an absence of any further doubt between the parties involved, neither in principle nor in matters of detail. When they have reached this position it should, quite simply, be obvious to the observer that they are ready to go ahead.

But the 'Settled Will' should not necessarily be expected to arrive quickly. There are substantial issues to be decided upon, among them finance; ritual; property; charitable arrangements; succession of office and the timing of the amalgamation process.

Only when he feels that the 'Settled Will' has been achieved will the Assistant Provincial Grand Master recommend to the Provincial Grand Master that the amalgamation should go ahead.

You should also refer to the documents entitled below:

Guide to Amalgamation

Amalgamation - Appendices