



Provincial Assembly
of The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity
of Royal Ark Mariner
Friday 26th March 2021

Provincial Grand Scribe's Report

The Fourteenth Annual Assembly

Brethren,

I present my third Annual Report for The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner within the Province of Durham. Our Provincial Grand Master now presides over his sixth Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly.

Lodge Visits

During the past year, the Provincial Grand Master was unable to lead Deputations to any Lodges due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Installations

The Provincial Grand Master was represented at no Installation meetings, as they were all unable to be held due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Grand Honours

In December 2020 the following Brethren received Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner from The Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Raymond John Smith. Although no Investiture meeting was held, these Brethren hold the rank of R.A.M.G.R. as of the 8th December 2020:

W.Bro. Gary Quinn, Union Lodge No. 124
W.Bro. George Samuel Savage, Dunelm Lodge No. 356
W.Bro. Allan Gurney, Bernard Gilpin Lodge No. 860

These Brethren are very well known throughout the Province, and congratulations are extended to them all in the hope that they enjoy good health to continue in their efforts towards the good of the Order.

Membership

Summary of Annual Returns of Lodges Year Ended 31st December 2020

No.	LODGE	Total Members Installation 2019	Ele	J	Res	D	Exc	HM	Total Members Installation 2020
39	Eclectic	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
122	Stockton-on-Tees	20	0	0	1	0	0	0	19
124	Union	24	1	1	0	0	0	0	26
250	Darlington	22	0	0	2	0	0	0	20
293	Industry	31	1	0	1	1	0	0	30
356	Dunelm	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
362	Rockcliffe	35	2	0	1	1	3	0	32
605	Bede	28	1	0	0	2	0	0	27
761	Hackworth	21	1	0	0	1	0	0	21
778	Barnard Castle	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
854	St. Andrews	18	0	2	0	0	0	0	20
860	Bernard Gilpin	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
896	Clavering	15	0	0	1	1	0	0	13
925	Moseley	19	1	0	0	1	0	0	19
930	Castle Eden	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
981	Spennymoor	25	0	0	0	1	0	0	24
1055	Monument	19	0	0	1	3	0	0	15
1112	Elevation	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
1492	Durham Lodge of ICs	30	0	0	2	1	0	0	27
1551	Stanhope	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	21
1714	Ryton	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	15
1806	Chief of the Builders	51	2	3	2	0	0	0	54
		510	10	6	12	12	3	0	499

The Annual Lodge Returns show an overall decrease in membership of 11 during 2020. This represents a decrease of 2.16% on the 2019 figures.

Recruitment of new members is so important if we are to continue to grow our membership base, as well as doing everything possible to try to reduce the number of resignations.

Hopefully, this year's figures (although probably affected by the Covid 19 Pandemic) show that the slowdown in the downward trend can be reduced even further next year, by encouraging more of our Mark Lodge members to join the Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. We must ensure that every one of our Mark Lodge members is aware that the Royal Ark Mariner Degree should be the next step in their Masonic development. Each Mark Lodge now has a nominated Lodge Representative to encourage members to join the Royal Ark Mariner Degree. However, we should all remember that we are all recruiters of new members.

Obituary

Since the last Annual Assembly, the Province has suffered the sad loss of the following 9 members of our Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. We acknowledge the service and dedication that they gave to the Order, and our thoughts go to their families.

Sidney Pattison, Moseley Lodge 925.
Born 28th October 1923 - Died 30th March 2020.

Peter Derek Jones, Ryton Lodge 1714.
Born 5th March 1925 - Died 26th April 2020.

Alan Hall, Bede Lodge 605.
Born 18th December 1942 - Died 15th June 2020.

George Edgar, Spennymoor Lodge 981.
Born 29th September 1927 - Died 31st July 2020.

John McCarthy, Elevation Lodge 1112.
Born 18th August 1927 - Died 18th October 2020.

John William Scott, Spennymoor Lodge 981.
Born 24th February 1939 - Died 3rd December 2020.

Robert Henry Greenman, Union Lodge 124.
Born 10th December 1931 - Died 22nd December 2020.

Peter Wiegold, Darlington Lodge 250.
Born 13th January 1940 - Died 9th January 2021.

John David Bell, Industry Lodge 293.
Born 1st October 1932 - Died 12th February 2021.

Conclusion

Brethren, I present my third Report for your information and consideration.

My Deputy Provincial Grand Scribe, W.Bro. Graham Wharton, my Assistant Provincial Grand Scribe, W.Bro. Doug Quickmire, and the Provincial Grand Registrar, W.Bro. Malcolm Ormiston have all worked diligently, and executed their roles most efficiently. Their assistance, and readiness to take on even more tasks whenever requested, is greatly appreciated.

The use of technology continues unabated. This past year has seen the birth of the 'Virtual Business Meeting' held online via ZOOM. This only serves to emphasize the fact that not only the Provincial Secretariat, but also the Lodge Scribe has to have a relatively large amount of computer skills. To those Scribes who are not sufficiently confident, or competent, at the moment, I would make a plea: take the time to hone your computer skills, because, Brethren, you can be sure of one thing, that the amount of secretarial work done online will only increase over the next few years. That, Brethren, is my only prediction for 2021 and beyond.

The Scribe's role this year has been a difficult one: with no meetings to act as 'marker posts', but still having to attend to all the annual administration; and coping with the extra paperwork and protocols demanded by 'VBM's' has not been easy. Brethren, I thank you all for your efforts in helping the Province to run smoothly.

As always, congratulations are due to those Brethren being honoured this year. No doubt they will continue to support the Provincial Grand Master, and will strive to work for the good of the Fraternity in general, and this very happy and vibrant Province in particular.

Allan Gurney, Provincial Grand Scribe.