



Provincial Assembly
of The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity
of Royal Ark Mariner

Friday 25th March 2022

Scribe's Report

The Fifteenth Annual Assembly.

Brethren,

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

Lodge Visits

During the past year, the Provincial Grand Master led Deputations to the following Royal Ark Mariner Lodges: Eclectic 39 (Centenary); Darlington 250 (Centenary); Bede 605 (Centenary); Durham Lodge of Installed Commanders 1492.

Installations

The Provincial Grand Master was represented at all the Royal Ark Mariner Installation meetings held since 1st September 2021, and the reports of the Representatives attending indicated that the ceremonies continued to be of a high standard. Thanks are extended to all those Brethren who represented the Provincial Grand Master so ably, and for compiling the reports to a very high standard. Grateful thanks also go to the Lodges for the courteous and friendly manner in which the Representatives and the Provincial Assistant Directors of Ceremony were received.

Grand Honours

In December 2021 the following Brethren received Grand Honours in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner from The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO:

W.Bro. Ellison Terry Hall	Stockton on Tees Lodge No. 122
W.Bro. Kenneth Ian Anderson	Bede Lodge No. 605
W.Bro. Sidney James Watson	Ryton Lodge No. 1714

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 2021

No.	LODGE	Total Members Installation 2020	Ele	J	Res	D	Exc	HM	Total Members Installation 2021
39	Eclectic	17	0	0	0	1	2	0	14
122	Stockton-on-Tees	19	0	0	1	0	0	0	18
124	Union	26	0	0	1	1	1	0	23
250	Darlington	20	0	0	1	1	0	0	18
293	Industry	30	0	0	2	2	0	0	26
356	Dunelm	25	0	0	1	1	0	0	23
362	Rockcliffe	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
605	Bede	27	0	0	2	0	0	0	25
761	Hackworth	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
778	Barnard Castle	23	0	0	0	2	0	0	21
854	St. Andrews	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
860	Bernard Gilpin	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
896	Clavering	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
925	Moseley	19	0	0	0	1	0	0	18
930	Castle Eden	11	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
981	Spennymoor	24	0	0	1	1	0	0	22
1055	Monument	15	0	1	0	0	0	0	16
1112	Elevation	23	0	0	1	1	0	0	21
1492	Durham Lodge of I Com	27	0	3	2	0	0	0	28
1551	Stanhope	21	0	2	0	1	0	0	22
1714	Ryton	15	0	0	1	0	0	0	14
1806	Chief of the Builders	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
		499	0	6	13	13	3	0	476

The Annual Lodge Returns show an overall decrease in membership of 23. This represents a decrease from last year of 4.61%. The overall trend over the last 5 years is a decrease of 17.93% from 580 members.

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

Now that we are able to meet again, let's see if this year's downward trend can be reversed by encouraging more of our Mark Lodge members to join this friendly and colourful degree. We must ensure that every one of our Mark Lodge members is aware of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree as the next step in their Masonic development.

Obituary

Since the last Annual Assembly, the Province has suffered the sad loss of the following 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.

Frederick Lonergan Crawford, Clavering Lodge 896.

Born 19th November 1936 - Died 8th May 2021.

John Brian Mitchinson, Stockton-on-Tees Lodge 122.

Born 4th November 1933 - Died 14th May 2021.

James Franklin Bird, Moseley Lodge 925.

Born 10th September 1942 - Died 24th May 2021.

George Martin, Castle Eden Lodge 930.

Born 20th June 1933 - Died 14th June 2021.

James Edward Harker, Bede Lodge 605.

Born 29th August 1933 - Died 5th July 2021.

John Connelly, Industry Lodge 293.

Born 19th January 1951 - Died 12th July 2021.

James Cole, Spennymoor Lodge 981.

Born 6th October 1930 - Died 18th August 2021.

Alan William Stapleton, Hackworth Lodge 761.

Born 19th March 1948 - Died 22nd August 2021.

Graeme William Telford, Eclectic Lodge 39.

Born 4th March 1963 - Died 3rd September 2021.

Raymond Norman Dinning, Dunelm Lodge 356.

Born 29th March 1934 - Died 13th October 2021.

John Michael Burdess, Barnard Castle Lodge 778.

Born 10th March 1948 - Died 8th November 2021.

Maurice Edwin Cooper, Dunelm Lodge 356.

Born 17th January 1934 - Died 6th December 2021

Leonard Armstrong, Stockton-on-Tees Lodge 122.

Born 22nd December 1929 - Died 16th December 2021.

Lawrence Tinkler, Moseley Lodge 925,

Born 17th December 1930 - Died 28th December 2021.

Conclusion

Brethren, I present my Fourth Report for your information and consideration. My grateful thanks go to all the hard working Lodge Scribes for the dedication they have shown in ensuring that returns are completed accurately and promptly.

My Deputy Provincial Grand Scribe, W.Bro. Graham Wharton, my Assistant Provincial Grand Scribe, W.Bro. Doug Quickmire, the former Provincial Grand Registrar, W. Bro. Malcolm Ormiston, and the new Provincial Grand Registrar, W.Bro. David Battensby, have all worked diligently, and executed their roles most efficiently. Their enthusiasm and assistance is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations are due to those Brethren being honoured here today, in this Provincial Assembly. 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.