

R.W. Bro. David Nigel Hanson

Provincial Grand Master

Report of the Provincial Grand Secretary to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham

Brethren, I present my seventh Report to the Mark Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham. As you will see from the items listed below, a healthy number of advancees during the last 12 months has continued over from last year. As usual, I can announce that the general administration of the Province has continued to the normal set deadlines, and I rely on the various Lodge Secretaries to assist me in those matters, and I thank them all for their support over the last year.

Lodge Visits (17).

The Provincial Grand Master very much appreciates the support from his Team of Active Provincial Officers which has enabled him to accept invitations to make Provincial Team Visits to the following Mark Lodges:

Eclectic 39; Darlington Steadfast 250; Ravensworth Union 124; Wouldhave Tyne Dock 362; Bede 605; Jarrow 701; Auckland Hackworth 761 (Amalgamation); Barnard Castle 778; Unity 827; St. Andrew's 854; Bernard Gilpin 860; William Todd 925; Penshaw 1055; Walton 1106; Cestria 1151; Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters 1492; Ferryhill 1560 (Wardens Night); Ryton 1714.

Installations.

Over the last 10 months, numerous Lodges have held their Installation Meeting, at which the Provincial Grand Master has been represented by a cohort of willing volunteers from amongst the Provincial Wardens and the Grand Lodge Officers. I am indebted to them all for completing their Report Forms conscientiously, speedily, and to a high standard.

Visits to other Provinces.

Since our last Annual Meeting, the Provincial Grand Master has attended, or has been represented by members of his Senior Team, at the Annual Meetings of other Provinces as listed below:

Northumberland; North & East Yorkshire; Lincolnshire; Derbyshire; West Yorkshire; West Lancashire; East Lancashire; Worcestershire; Cumberland & Westmorland.

In addition, there have been 4 trips to Grand Lodge (London), all of which were attended by many members of the Province; the Provincial Secretary has represented the Province at the Installation meeting of the Provincial Grand Secretaries' Lodge (Nottingham); and there has been a large Durham presence at both meetings of the Grand Stewards' Lodge (London).

Mark Grand Lodge Honours.

Promotions and Appointments.

W. Bro. Alan Prest – P.G.J.D.

These Brethren will be invested at Grand Lodge on 9th September, from which date their new rank is effective.

First Appointments.

V. W. Bro. Paul Philip Paterson – Grand Chaplain (Acting Rank - Grand Lodge Promotion)

W. Bro. Richard George Scott – G. STWD (Acting Rank 1st Appointment)

W. Bro. Bryan Kennedy - G.J.D (Promotion but Acting Rank)

W. Bro. William Bentham – P.A.G.D.C.

W. Bro. Paul O'Doherty – P.A.G.D.C.

W. Steven Paul Swansbury – P.A.G.D.C.

These Brethren will be invested at Grand Lodge on 10th June, from which date their new rank is effective.

Other Events.

Several presentations of 50 year Certificates were carried out during the year, and we congratulate the recipients on their long service to the Order.

In September, a good number of members of the Province visited Grand Lodge the Promotions meeting, and it was very pleasing to see such support for the recipients. Again, we were well represented at the Grand Lodge business meeting in March, and we again finished with a tremendous turn-out of members at the First Appointments' meeting in June.

Saturday, 12th October, saw the Grand Officers' Dinner (Mark & RAM) held at Ferryhill. It was very pleasing to see this event so well supported, and a thoroughly enjoyable and most convivial evening was had by all. March again saw the Annual Wardens' Dinner held at Ferryhill Masonic Chambers. A good number of Past Wardens of the Province were in attendance, showing that this continues to be a very popular event. Both of these events were excellent evenings organised by John Dodds and John Nye, to whom we are most grateful.

Membership (all figures are taken as at 31st December 2024.

As of 31st December 2024, the number of memberships has risen from 890 to 892 during the calendar year (with adjustments made for Lodges closing and members transferring to other Lodges). During 2024, we have lost gained a net total of 2 memberships as compared to losing 14 in the previous year. Indeed, we do have signs for optimism – with 42 new advances having joined the Order during the Year.

Clearly, however, resignations continue to be an issue. All resignations are supposed to be followed up by contact from either the Deputy or the Assistant P.G.M., and it is imperative that details of all intended resignations are sent to Province as soon as Lodge Secretaries are informed of them – a follow-up phone call is useless several weeks later.

No.	Lodge	Installation 2023	Adv.	Join	Res.	Died	Exclud.	Hon Mem.	Total Members Installation '24
M39	Eclectic	24	1	0	0	0	0	1	24
M122	Percy	20	0	0	1	0	0	0	19
M124	Ravensworth Union	45	1	1	4	0	0	0	43
M250	Darlington Steadfast	31	1	0	1	0	0	0	31
M293	Industry	21	1	0	3	0	0	0	19
M356	Dunelm	34	2	0	1	1	0	2	32
M362	Wouldhave T.D.	32	4	3	1	0	0	1	37
M596	Auckland	16	2	0	2	0	0	0	16
M605	Bede	26	6	2	0	0	0	0	34
M701	Jarrow	21	0	0	3	0	0	1	17
M740	Harte	21	2	0	2	0	0	0	21
M761	Hackworth	33	0	0	1	0	0	0	32
M778	Barnard Castle	22	0	1	0	1	0	0	22
M827	Unity	19	2	1	0	1	0	0	21
M854	St Andrews	30	3	1	1	1	0	1	31
M860	Bernard Gilpin	21	0	5	2	3	0	0	21
M896	Clavering	20	0	2	2	0	0	0	20
M925	Moseley	17	0	0	1	1	0	0	15
M929	William Todd	21	1	0	0	1	0	0	21
M981	Spennymoor	19	0	0	0	1	0	0	18
M1055	Penshaw	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
M1093	St Lawrence	16	1	2	1	1	0	1	16
M1106	Walton	24	1	0	0	0	0	0	25
M1112	Elevation	18	0	0	0	1	0	0	17
M1151	Cestria	48	3	0	5	2	1	1	42
M1269	Ambrose Crowley	28	3	0	0	0	0	0	31
M1271	Sportsman's	40	2	0	1	1	0	0	40
M1492	Durham Lodge IMM	38	0	8	1	1	0	1	43
M1551	Stanhope	24	1	0	2	0	0	0	23
M1560	Ferryhill	24	1	0	0	0	0	0	25
M1626	George Washington	14	2	2	1	1	0	0	16
M1714	Ryton	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	26
M1806	Chief of the Builders	67	1	1	3	1	0	1	64
M1936	Indaba	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
	Totals	890	42	29	39	18	1	11	892
			Adv.	Join	Res.	Died	Exclud.	Hon Mem.	

Conclusion.

Brethren, I present my report for your information and consideration. As is usual in these Reports, my grateful thanks go to all the Lodge Secretaries for their help and assistance during the last 12 months, and I am sure they will continue the good work in their Lodges.

Particular thanks go to my Deputy Provincial Secretary W.Bro. Graham Wharton, my Assistant Provincial Secretary, W.Bro. Stephen Newell, and the Provincial Registrar, W.Bro. David Battensby. In particular, I express my sincere thanks to Graham who, during my enforced absences this year, has taken on a larger role than usual, and has acquitted himself extremely well. They have all executed their roles most efficiently, and I am indebted to them all.

Brethren, our annual expedition to the Lancastrian Suite in June is fast approaching. I am sure it will again prove to be a great success, and I look forward to seeing a great number of you there. I am confident that everyone will have a most enjoyable day. So, for now, Brethren, I wish you all well, and may the Great Overseer of the Universe look kindly upon you all and grant you good health throughout the coming year.

Obituary.

The Province has suffered the loss of many Mark Brethren, whose names are recorded below. We acknowledge the service they gave to the Order in general, and to this Province in particular.

W.Bro. David Edwin Vollans	P. G.St.B. N. & E. Yorks	Elevation Lodge 1112
W.Bro. Kevin John Dixon	P.P.A.G.D.C..	Harte Lodge 740
W.Bro. Stan Hunter	P.P.G. Reg.	Auckland Lodge 596
W.Bro. Brian Graham	P.P.G.J.W.	Ryton Lodge 1714
W.Bro. Kenneth Howe	P.P.G.J.W.	Penshaw Lodge 1055
W.Bro. John Brass	P.P.G.Reg..	Barnard Castle Lodge 778
W.Bro. Jeffrey Awdas	P.A.G.D.C.	St. Andrew's Lodge 854
W.Bro. Alan Greenfield	P.P.G.S.O.	Walton Lodge 1106
W.Bro. Harry Frederick Smith	P.P.G.Reg.	Jarrow Lodge 701
Bro. Alan Leslie Bliss		Darlington Steadfast Lodge 250
Bro. Robin Turbitt		Darlington Steadfast Lodge 250
W.Bro.James Stubbins	P.P.G.J.W.	Industry Lodge 293
W.Bro. Alfred Walter Lunness	P.P.G.S.O.	Jarrow Lodge 701
W.Bro. Lionel Danby	P.A.G.D.C.	Percy Lodge 122
W.Bro. Edward Mallaby	P.P.G.J.D.	Bede Lodge 1605
Bro. Gilbert Atkinson		Jarrow Lodge 701
V.W. Bro. John Bamborough Gibson	P.G.J.D.	Dunelm Lodge 356
W.Bro. Joseph Bulmer	P.G.S.D.	Ferryhill Lodge 1560
W.Bro. John Rowland	P.G.J.D.	Ravensworth Union Lodge 124

**“THEY REST FROM THEIR LABOURS, AND THEIR GOOD WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM.
THANKS BE TO GOD, THEY HAVE MARKED WELL**

**W.Bro. Allan Gurney, P.G.J.D.,
Provincial Grand Secretary, 6th June 2025**