

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 First 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 (18).

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; Ravensworth Union 124; Darlington Steadfast 250; Dunelm 356; Bede 605; Barnard Castle 778; Unity 827 (Centenary); St. Andrew's 854; Moseley 925; Penshaw 1055; St Lawrence 1093; Walton 1106; Elevation 1112; Ambrose Crowley 1269; Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters 1492; Ferryhill 1560 (Wardens Night); Some lodges were visited twice because of certificates to present

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, Cheshire

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 (Derby); 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. John David Watts – P.G.J.D.

WBro Graham Wharton – P.G.J.D.

These Brethren will be invested at Grand Lodge on 8th September, from which date their new rank is effective.

Re-appointment

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

First Appointments.

WBro James Jordan – G.Std.B. (Acting Rank 1st Appointment)

W. Bro. Dennis Armstrong - P.A.G.D.C.

W. Bro. David John Anderson – P.A.G.D.C.

W. Bro. Peter Athen Smith – P.A.G.D.C.

W. Bro Paul Weldon Johnston – P.A.G.D.C.

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

Other Events.

Several presentations of 50 year and 40 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, 18th 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

Although the numbers now show an increase in the number of memberships between installations in 2024 and now if you look at the obituaries you see we are getting more members than those dying and resignations but only just. The chart below is not complete because it is running for longer than a year and so some figures are missing, in future I intend to show it from May to May each year to give a more accurate figure.

Clearly, resignations and Deaths 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 2024	Adv.	Join	Res.	Died	Exclud.	Hon Mem.	Total Members now
M39	Eclectic	24		1		3			23
M122	Percy	19			1				16
M124	Ravensworth Union	43							40
M250	Darlington Steadfast	31	2	1					29
M293	Industry	19			2				18
M356	Dunelm	34	2	1					30
M362	Wouldhave T.D.	37	1						36
M605	Bede	34	6		2				46
M701	Jarrow	17							20
M740	Harte	21	3						25
M761	Auckland Hackworth	32	1		2				44
M778	Barnard Castle	22	1						20
M827	Unity	21			1				16
M854	St Andrews	31	1		2				28
M860	Bernard Gilpin	21	2	1					25
M896	Clavering	20	2	4					26
M925	Moseley	15		2	2				13
M929	William Todd	21			3				17
M981	Spennymoor	18			1				15
M1093	St Lawrence	16	1	1					19
M1106	Walton	25	1						26
M1112	Elevation	17		2					18
M1151	Cestria	42	2	1					46
M1269	Ambrose Crowley	31	2						34
M1271	Sportsman's	40	4	12	2				55
M1492	Durham Lodge IMM	43		1	2				40
M1551	Stanhope	23	1						25
M1560	Ferryhill	25	1		2				24
M1626	George Washington	16							16
M1714	Ryton	26		1					24
M1806	Chief of the Builders	64	1	5	1				64
M1936	Indaba	19	1						21

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. Stuart Tinnion, my Assistant Provincial Secretary, W.Bro. Stephen Newell, and the Provincial Registrar, W.Bro. David Battensby. 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.

WBro	Derek Martin	St Andrews 854
WBro	Edward Emms	Bede 605
V WBro	Derek Warneford	Ambrose Crowley 1269
WBro	Selwyn Smith Beattie	St Andrews 854
WBro	Allan Gurney	Unity 827
WBro	Joseph W PearsonDodson	Dunelm 356
WBro	Kenneth Peter Dale	Percy 122
WBro	Michael Richard Dickinson	Industry 293
WBro	William Crystal	Dunelm 356
WBro	Michael Richard Robson	Dunelm 356
WBro	David Thom Youngson	Eclectic 39
WBro	Ralph Jackson Short	Cestria 1151
WBro	Joseph Plews	Spennymoor 981
WBro	David Graham Shipley	Stockton-On-Tees 122
WBro	Francis Maxwell Sanderson	Stanhope 1551
WBro	Geoffrey Winston Hunt	Cestria 1151
Bro.	Peter Sotheran Hodgson	Eclectic 39
Bro.	Jack Guthrie	Ryton 1714
WBro	Robert Allan Bell	Darlington Steadfast 250
Bro.	Keith Richard Elliot	William Todd 929

V WBro	Keith Liddell	Ambrose Crowley 1269	
WBro	Robert Hoy	Ravensworth Union 124	
WBro	John William Lonsdale	Walton 1106	
WBro	Martin Tempest Elwick	Durham L.I.M. 1492	
WBro	Leslie Nevin	Eclectic 39	They
WBro	Thomas Henry Marchbanks	Bernard Gilpin 860	rest

**from their labours, and their good works do follow them,
Thanks be to God, They have Marked well**

WBro Graham Wharton P.A.G.D.C.

21ST May 2026