

As ever brethren can I thank you all for the continuous support I receive, it is a real honour to be your Provincial Grand Master. The hospitality I and my fellow Rulers receive when we visit your lodges is very much appreciated, in return we really enjoy our visits and I'm sure I speak for us all when I say that we don't mind never winning the raffle, as we do help to swell your funds. Without your support the office of Provincial Grand Master would be impossible, there would not be a Province without your co-operation in every facet of the way in which the province goes about its daily life.

I, my fellow Rulers and the executive put forward initiatives to drive the Province forward whether that be Recruitment, Retention of members, caring for Brethren and their families who have fallen ill or on hard times, our charitable giving or our social functions, but it is you who carry out our wishes. This is your Province; the success of this Province is entirely in your hands. We can only put ideas and suggestions forward, but without your full support it will fail.

The Recruitment drive, especially the "Mark meets the Craft" presentation evenings headed by V.W.Bro David Crofts and his team, has been a resounding success since its reintroduction in 2016. I do thank all the team for their efforts. The presentation evenings are an initiative that requires the lodges full participation. Its up to the lodge to attract as many non-Mark craft brethren to attend as possible. The team then gives an insight to the Mark degree, we the Rulers are present to answer questions and to light that desire in them to make further enquires about joining us, when the time is right for them. It is then in the hands of the lodge to follow up on the night and to ask that all important question, would you like to join.

Again, the Province can only do so much, its down to the individual members to fill the lodge with craft brethren then chase them up afterwards. To name two lodges that have done just that in recent years are, Abbot Hugh of Selby and Star in the East. They have transformed their lodges after the presentation evenings and have had multiple advancements, well done to both lodges. Other lodges have also benefited from these evenings, Victory, Brough and Minerva to name just a few have all gained new members. The one thing all these lodges have in common is that they have individual members who have worked hard at reinvigorating their lodges, well done to you all.

We have had 48 Advancements during the year, but because of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of a good number of our brethren and a small amount of resignations, mainly due to moving away from the Province or old age and health related problems, our numbers have remained static, at around 750 – 760 members. If we take into account the honorary members of the Province, we will have in excess of 800 Mark Men.

I must emphasise that I have told the Provincial Registrar not to accept any resignation until I have investigated the reason behind them. I can tell you brethren that I have managed to revoke a good number of resignations in the last four years.

The effort to find new candidates must continue and to run alongside the Mark meets the Craft presentation evenings I have asked the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro Paul Barham, to look through the new MRL Online, The Mark Resource Library to find suitable initiatives that we can implement in this Province. The MRL Online is the culmination of a year's work by a working party, of which I'm a member, set up by MMH last February. The idea is to have an online library comprising of initiatives and ideas from all the Provinces and Districts. The starting point was to find good practices that would help in Recruitment, Retention and Reinvigoration. I'm sure Paul, assisted by W.Bro Mike Collison and a small group will, during the year put forward initiatives that will enhance this province and hopefully help it grow.

One of the ways to reinvigorate your lodge is to call on the services of the PWRL. For lodges, both Mark and RAM, who require assistance whether to perform ritual or just to swell your numbers the PWRL are there to help.

As you all know I'm a great believer in enjoying masonry to the fullest, the best way to do that is to perfect our ritual, ceremonies without the use of ritual books, if at all possible, I know some of you have great difficulty in learning ritual. If that is the case then so be it, but for others don't take the easy route learn the ritual to the best of your ability. Nobody ever goes home thinking that was a great night when the ceremony was poor, but when the Worshipful Master puts in a good performance it lifts the whole lodge, do your best brethren.

Another aid to recruitment is through our Social events. Invite Non Mark Men to a social event, especially the Mark Ladies evening this year to be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at York Racecourse. Showcase our order, let them see the enjoyment we all share in each other's company. Please invite non masons to these events, what better way to introduce non masons to freemasonry; he may just join your Craft lodge then he will be a Mark Man for the future

We need to support the craft to the best of our ability, remember a strong craft will be better for all the orders of freemasonry.

My thanks to Bro. Frank Harlington and W.Bro Malvin Sharpless, the chairman and the secretary and all the members of the social committee for all the work they do.

My Address to you at these meetings has always been about enjoyment and membership figures, but there are a group of our brethren and their families that fall into a different category. Those that have fallen ill and unable to attend meetings, the widows of Mark men who need our support. They fall under to umbrella of our Provincial Almoner and his Assistants. W.Bro David Jennings our Provincial Almoner does a tremendous job of providing support for these brethren and their dependants but sometimes he doesn't discover that they are in need or they are unaware that help is only a phone call away. I would ask all Lodge Almoners and members to be proactive in making sure that all brethren are aware that help is out there, all they have to do is ask. W.Bro David is very eager to attend lodges to give a talk on the work of the Almoner, please take him up on this offer. I would also urge brethren to contact a member who hasn't attended for a while to check that all is well. The office of Almoner is probably the most important office in the Lodge.

The Provincial Charity Steward, W.Bro Stephen Hawkes, is also eager to visit Lodges and talk about the Provincial Charities and the Mark Benevolent Fund. I do thank you all for your continuous support of these charities, without your donations we could not support many local registered charities and the MBF. I must also remind brethren to make sure you display the certificate, we received from the Provincial Grand Master of the Craft, R.W.Bro Jeffery Gillyon in recognition of the £25,000 we donated to the Craft festival 2018 in your lodge building, you can find this on our website. Well done to you all for that magnificent sum.

Our Charity deed only allows us to make donations to registered charities within the Province of North and East Yorkshire. Realising that there are individuals that fall outside that remit I started a Provincial Grand Masters Discretionary fund. The fund has grown steadily over the last year, but I would ask if you could spare one raffle per year or put on a social event specifically for this fund, any donations should be without detriment to your charity giving's.

I thank W.Bro's Wilf Elliot and David Kirkham for putting on a musical evening at Stokesley which increased the fund considerably.

Recently, W.Bro David Jennings was made aware of two people that were in need of urgent assistance, after he contacted me, one received a cheque within forty eight hours, and for the other, money was transferred into a bank account immediately. This would not have been possible without the aid of this fund.

I'm pleased to say that we have supported, in large numbers, five events outside the Province this year. Sixty Six Brethren and their ladies travelled to Lincoln to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> MBF Festival Dinner which the Province of Lincolnshire held, well done to Lincolnshire for raising such a magnificent sum of money. Six of us accompanied by our Ladies travelled to Cyprus to attend the Cyprus District meeting, where we met up with W.Bro's Graham Fenwick and Phil Ellenor who were attending a KTP consecration. Who can forget the day out on the musical Fun Bus. Large numbers of us then attended the June Investiture meeting, the September Promotions meeting and the Royal Ark Mariner Investiture meeting, all held in London. My grateful thanks, to all those brethren and their ladies, who supported all these events.

I'm sure you would like to congratulate those brethren who received honours, during the year, but hold back on your acclaim until I have read all their names. Brethren, please stand and remain standing when I read out your name.

#### **First Appointments to**

**PAGDC – W.Bro Bill Glanville**

**PAGSwdB – W.Bro John Kilmartin**

**PAGSwdB - W.Bro Alan Rooke**

**PGStdB - W.Bro Stephen Hawkes**

**PAGStdB - W.Bro Terry Cook**

**Promoted to**

**PGJO – V.W.Bro John Kettlewell**

**PGJD – W.Bro Gordon Dudley**

**PGJD – W.Bro Tom Spinks**

**Celebrating the Star in the East 150<sup>th</sup> the DGM R.W.Bro John Prizeman made a field promotion of PGStdB to W.Bro Cedric Thornton**

**To RAMGR**

**W.Bro Roger Booker**

**W.Bro Ernie McGeagh**

**W.Bro Tony Clements**

Congratulations brethren.

To the 2018 Provincial team, thank you for the support and commitment you have shown this year, I hope the year has been enjoyable. Some of you will be remaining in office for a further year, some taking a well earned rest and possibly returning to the team in future years.

To the newly appointed team I congratulate you on your preferment and I and my fellow Rulers look forward to the year ahead with eager anticipation of another successful year. We also look forward to having your company at the installations and the Team visits that are planned for the year.

Whether it's a Grand Rank or a Provincial Grand Rank you have received, it doesn't mean that's a job well done and you can relax. That is far from the case, I expect your preferment to increase your desire to work even harder for the Mark, Promote the Mark to the best of your ability, attend the Provincial visits, attend the Provincial Social events and above all bring new members into the Mark. This also applies to all of you. If we all work together, hopefully, we can increase our membership over the coming years, don't just sit back and let others do it.

My grateful thanks to, W. Bro's Geoff Eastburn and Alan Hatfield and the members of the PWRL who have worked diligently to try to make this meeting run as smoothly as possible. My thanks also to the Provincial Tyler W. Bro Ken Lawn for making sure that the provincial furniture

arrived on time and the sound engineer W. Bro Mike Fila. My Thanks also go to the retiring sound engineer W. Bro. Francis Cammish.

A special thank you to the Provincial Grand Secretary W. Bro Bill Glanville, his deputy W. Bro Geoff Nicholson and the Assistant W. Bro Allan Williams for all the hard work they have put in for today's meeting and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies W. Bro Ron Campbell, his deputy W. Bro Les Richings and the Assistants W. Bro's Jon Smith and Steve Cox for all the work they have put into today's ceremonial.

Brethren, I thank you all for your attendance today, My wish to you in the coming year, is as always, enjoy your Mark Masonry, have Fun, please double your efforts to attract more candidate for Advancements.

I would also ask that you support the GMLOI team that will be demonstrating the Elevation and Advancement ceremonies here at the York Racecourse on the Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April. This is a great honour and privilege that they have asked to come to the Province of North & East Yorkshire, please support this event. I have witnessed two demonstrations, one in London and the other in Brighton and it is well worth seeing. Forms are on your seat, please fill them in and return.

Those that are not staying for lunch I wish you a safe journey home and I look forward to being in your company in the not too distant future.

Brethren I thank you for your very kind attention to this address and remember enjoy yourselves.