

**Supreme Grand Royal Arch
Chapter of Ireland
Annual Report 2018**

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Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland*



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Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland's Report 2018

2018 was a sad year for the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland and Freemasonry in general with the passing of the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. Michael James Ward. Having loyally and graciously served Freemasonry for some fifty-five years Michael, as he was affectionately known, passed away suddenly but peacefully on 12th April 2018.

Michael was a devoted family man, a keen horticulturalist, specialising in the cultivation of prize-winning daffodils. Michael, who regularly supported his Church was also a member of Kiltarnan Country Markets for many years.

He was Initiated into Freemasonry in 1963 and in the following years he attained high office in all branches in the Irish Constitution and served as the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King of the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand Chapter of Ireland for eleven years prior to his passing. He held several honorary ranks in the Irish Constitution and in many other branches of Freemasonry throughout the world.

His knowledge and expertise of Freemasonry was invaluable, and he will be sadly missed. We will miss his friendship and company, but it is said that to live on in hearts left behind is not to die, but we in Freemasonry in Ireland will remember a man and a Freemason who truly has left his footprint in the sands of Irish Masonry.

During March the Assistant Grand King, represented the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland along with the Grand Registrar and their respective partners attended the Annual Installation Convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland and the Festival of the Vernal Equinox. There was a large attendance at the Convocation and the dinner that followed. The representatives of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Ireland were the gracious recipients of the generous hospitality of their hosts.

The May Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter was held at the Walter Raleigh Hotel, Youghal, Co. Cork hosted by the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster, where we had an excellent attendance. Congratulations to the District Grand

King, Officers and members of the District for the superb arrangements.

A service of thanksgiving took place during the meeting for the life of Most Excellent Companion Michael J. Ward, led by Rev. Edwin W. Hunter and Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble. During the service M.E.Comp. Gordon Leathem BEM paid tribute extolling M.E.Comp. Michael's extensive Masonic career and the high esteem he was held throughout the Masonic fraternity.

Prior the above Convocation the Officers of the District Grand Chapter of Munster processed to their seats emblazoned in their new, recently acquired, colourful robes.

The Companions of Youghal Royal Arch Chapter No. 68 entered carrying a "Royal Arch" to mark the 275th anniversary of the original procession down the main street of Youghal.

A periodical – Faulkner's Dublin Journal, dated 14 January 1744 – reported the following:

'A great St John's Day (27 December 1773) procession was held in the town of Youghal when the Masonic Lodge (No. 19, warranted in 1733) met, after which the procession left the lodge premises and marched through the town to the church for service. The town was en fete; ships in the harbour were decorated and fired a salute of guns, while flags and bunting were everywhere displayed. The procession was headed by a band of musick, deacons and wardens carried their mauls and badges of office, the worshipful master being preceded by a Royal Arch.'

As the September Convocation the Grand Director of Ceremonies presented M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM, Grand King elect, for installation. The Grand King elect's sponsors were M.E.Comp. Brian G. Bradshaw and M.E.Comp. Kenneth Abernethy; his Stewards E.Comp. Sean L. Turner and E.Comp. Ian H. Lawther; Chain Bearer M.E.Comp. Kenneth Vance; Sceptre Bearer M.E. Comp. John Bell; Grand King's Standard Bearer E.Comp. Ronald G. Abbott and Grand Sword Bearer E.Comp. William R. Wallace.

The Grand King elect was conducted to the pedestal where he was Obligated



and he was then brought forward for Investiture, Installation and Proclamation by M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon Thomas H. Trimble, as the new Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland. M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM was saluted followed by sustained applause, all the Companions standing. The Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King thanked the Companions and proceeded to Install his Deputy.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies presented M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon Thomas H. Trimble to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King to be Obligated, Invested and Installed as Most Excellent Deputy Grand King. M.E.Comp. Trimble's sponsors were E.Comp. William P.H. Trimble and E.Comp. Harold Loughlin; his Stewards V.E.Comp. Alan D. McLorie and V.E.Comp. Cecil J.E.M. Wilson; Chair Bearer E.Comp. James Moore and Sceptre Bearer E.Comp. Geoffrey Browne. He was saluted and applauded, and he replied suitably.

At the Installation Convocation we were delighted to welcome deputations from several Constitutions, some of our old friends had been with us in the past and others were with us for the first time. The deputations and their delegates were as follows:

- Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of England and The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales – M.E.Comp. Peter Lowndes, Pro First Grand Principal and V.E.Comp. Shawn Christie, Assistant Grand Secretary
- Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland – M.E.Comp. Rev. Joseph J. Morrow, First Grand Principal, M.E.Comp. Douglas Philand, Depute First Grand Principal, M.E.Comp. Jim Turnbull, Second Grand Principal, R.E.Comp. Grahame Smith, Grand Scribe Ezra, R.E.Comp. John N. Steel, Grand Director of Ceremonies, M.E.Comp. Gordon W.T. Hynd, Past First Principal and M.E.Comp. Derek Reekie, Past First Principal.
- United Supreme Grand Chapter of Mark and Royal Arch Masons of New South Wales and the Australian Territory – M.E.Comp. John Anderson, First Grand Principal.
- Supreme Grand Chapter of the Holy Royal Arch in the Netherlands – V.E.Comp. Herman Lioe-A-Tjam, Third Grand Principal.
- Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of India – M.E.Comp. Ashwani K. Gupta, Second Grand Principal.
- Supreme Grand Chapter of British Royal Arch Masonry in Germany – M.E.Comp. Arthur Beardmore, First Grand Principal and M.E.Comp. Michael Cooper, Past

First Grand Principal and Chairman of Foreign Relations.

- Supreme Grand Chapter of Spain – M.E.Comp. Ian Scambler, Grand Scribe Ezra.
- Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Greece – R.W.Bro. Dimitris Mamas, Past Grand Senior Warden.
- Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Greece – M.E.Comp. George Deligiorgis, First Grand Principal.
- Royal Arch Grand Chapter of Estonia – M.E.Comp. Anti Oidsalu, Past First Grand Principal and R.E.Comp. Reimo Metskull, Grand Treasurer.
- Symbolic Grand Chapter of Hungary – M.E.Comp. Mark Walton, Past First Grand Principal.

As the September Convocation the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies presented M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King to be Obligated, Invested and Installed as Most Excellent Assistant Grand King. M.E.Comp. Olden's sponsors were M.E.Comp. Brian G. Bradshaw and R.E.Comp. Robin E.W. Newenham; his Stewards V.E.Comp. Alan D. McLorie and V.E.Comp. Cecil J.E.M. Wilson; Chain Bearer M.E.Comp. J. Barry Jenkins and Sceptre Bearer E.Comp. Johannes K.C. Haffner. He was saluted and applauded, and he replied suitably.

During October the Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon Thomas H. Trimble, the Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Philip A.J. Daley and the Grand Master M.W.Bro. Douglas T. Grey constituted the 5th Royal Arch Chapter Kuantan, Malaysia, Kuantan Royal Arch Chapter, No. 946 at the seaport of Kuantan, off the east coast of West Malaysia. The ceremony was conducted with great dignity by M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon Thomas H. Trimble. In attendance were also representatives of sister Irish Royal Arch Masonry Districts from the Far East as well as New Zealand.

As we leave a year with mixed emotions, I trust that Royal Arch Masonry will flourish and thrive and on behalf of all the Companions throughout the Irish Constitution I would like to express our congratulations and best wishes to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM, the Most Excellent Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon Thomas H. Trimble and the Most Excellent Assistant King, M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden as they embark on their leadership roles in the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.

*Philip A.J. Daley
Grand Registrar
June 2019*



Grand Officers 2018

Michael J. Ward	M.E. & Supreme Grand King (Deceased April 2018)
S. Gordon Leathem	M.E. & Supreme Grand King (Installed September 2018)
S. Gordon Leathem	M.E. Deputy Grand King
Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble	M.E. Assistant Grand King
H. Crawford Mitchell	M.E. Grand High Priest
Ivan A. Meldrum	M.E. Grand Chief Scribe
John S. Haynes	R.E. Grand Treasurer
Philip A.J. Daley	R.E. Grand Registrar
George M. Graham	R.E. Grand Director of Ceremonies
Rev. Edwin W. Hunter	V.E. Grand Chaplain
Rev. Kenneth W Gamble	V.E. Grand Chaplain
J. Walter Wilson	V.E. Grand Captain of the Host
William T. Brown	V.E. Grand Superintendent of the Tabernacle
Guy L. St. Leger	V.E. Grand Royal Arch Captain
Keith J. Bates	V.E. Grand Captain of the Scarlet Veil
Desmond M. McCormick	V.E. Grand Captain of the Purple Veil
Selwyn S. Davies	V.E. Grand Captain of the Blue Veil
Hugh St. Leger	V.E. Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Alan D. McLorie	V.E. Grand Steward
Cecil J.E.M. Wilson	V.E. Grand Steward
William R.J. Moore	V.E. Grand Sword Bearer
John N. Rowden	V.E. Grand Organist
J. Stephen Thompson	V.E. Deputy Grand Organist
Roy F. Humphries	V.E. Grand Chapter Standard Bearer
David C.R. Jones	V.E. Grand King's Standard Bearer
Brian N. Morrison	V.E. Grand Janitor
Samuel Scott	V.E. Assistant Grand Steward
Norman E.R. Kelly	V.E. Grand Registrar for Instruction
Michael M. Costello	V.E. Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction

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Stated Quarterly Convocations of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter

The Stated Convocations of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland were held at Freemasons' Hall, Dublin, on Wednesday, 7th February 2018, Wednesday, 19th September 2018, Wednesday, 7th November 2018 and on Saturday, 5th May 2018, at The Walter Raleigh Hotel, O'Brien's Place, Knockaverry, Youghal, Co. Cork.



District Grand Kings 2018

District	District King
Antrim	Jon McA Pollock
Armagh	John A McGowan
Down	Neil A Coey
Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone & Fermanagh	Ray Hetherington
Munster	Edwin W. Hunter
Meath & North Connaught	Richard A. Howard
North Munster	Cyril R. Foster
Wicklow & Wexford	Neil H.H. Fenton David J. Rhodes (Installed April 2018)
South Eastern	Ian J. Devonport
The Midlands	Erwin J. Cobbe
South Africa Northern Natal	Andre F.F.G. de Roubaix Anthony J. Espag
Ghana	Seth O. Aniniagyei
Southern Cape	Dan Buckle
India	Rajiv Dave
Far East	Chamson Chau

Provincial Grand Superintendents

New Zealand	Roland J Whyte
South East Asia	Lau Kee Siong
Zambia	David J. McCabe
Gibraltar	John Bugeja
Nigeria	Fidel I. Chinetalu (Deceased May 2018) Ernest N. Ezike (Installed November 2018)
Zimbabwe	Mark R. De Villiers (Deputy)
Jamaica	Hardly Lewin



Honorary Past Grand Ranks

The Grand King with the concurrence of Supreme Grand Chapter, conferred the following Rank:

Past Grand Superintendent of the Tabernacle

R.E.Comp. Tjaart L. Adlem on promotion from Past Grand Royal Arch Captain.

Past Grand Royal Arch Captain

V.E.Comp. Antonie C. Bosch Past King of Tirmochree R.A.C. No. 523, Boksburg, South Africa.

V.E.Comp. Nicolas M.A.S. Benson Past King of Eric R.A.C. No. 364, Orange Grove, South Africa.

V.E.Comp. William Rice Past King of Shamrock R.A.C. No. 338, Boksburg, South Africa.

Warrants Returned 2018

During the year, the following Warrants were returned to Supreme Grand Chapter.

- Royal Arch Chapter No. 97, Belfast
- Royal Arch Chapter No. 160, Templepatrick.
- Alexandra Royal Arch Chapter No. 371, Sydenham
- Wright Royal Arch Chapter No. 448, Newtownards.
- Royal Arch Chapter No. 489, Lisburn
- Stewartstown Royal Arch Chapter No. 783, Lisburn

New Grand Representatives

From the following Grand Chapters:

Victoria	V.E.Comp. Peter Rowntree, Past King of R.A.C. No. 403, Hollywood
Western Australia	R.E.Comp. Terence Luney, Past King of R.A.C. No. 486, Hollywood
Netherlands	R.E.Comp. Philip G. Brisbane, Past King of R.A.C. No. 470, Cookstown
Delaware	V.E.Comp. Robert R. Mitchell, Past King of R.A.C. No. 52, Londonderry
Georgia	R.E.Comp. James McFarland, Past King of R.A.C. No. 64, Belfast
Idaho	R.E.Comp. James B. Wilson, Past King of R.A.C. No. 54, Belfast
Illinois	V.E.Comp. James K. Prime, Past King of R.A.C. No. 173, Loughbrickland
Kentucky	R.E.Comp. David J. Rhodes, Past King of R.A.C. No 228, Gorey
Ohio	R.E.Comp. Robert McCosh, Past King of R.A.C. No. 537, Cullybackey
Oregon	V.E.Comp. James D. Hanna, Past King of R.A.C. No. 144, Kilkeel



from the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons:

France R.E.Comp. Roy F. Humphries,
Past King of R.A.C. No. 207, Ballymacarrett

At the following Grand Chapters

New South Wales R.E.Comp. John Burton Anderson

Alabama Comp. Nicholas R. Barnes

Massachusetts R.E.Comp. Kevin A. Harte

New Hampshire R.E.Comp. Paul M. Leary



Grand Chapter Representatives

Grand Chapter	Rep Here	Rep There
Scotland		Earl of Elgin & Kincardine
England		
Alberta	Mervyn Galbraith	William W. Patton
British Columbia	Ivan Gillespie	John Young
Canada (in Ontario)	Roy Fynes	Jim Koral
Manitoba	Stephen Bryans	Donald Beattie
New Brunswick	A. Noel Develin	Donald P. Jones
Newfoundland		George Joseph
Nova Scotia	Derek J.M. Moffatt	Gary C. Patterson
Quebec	John Richardson	Lawrence M. Pye
Saskatchewan	Noel E. Bishop	Alvin A. Makowsky
New South Wales	G. Selby Nesbitt	John Burton Anderson
Queensland		William F. Sugars
South Australia	J. Alan Hanna	M. Dundas
Victoria	Peter Rowntree	Wayne Lee Smith
Western Australia	Terence Luney	Stewart Stenhouse
Tasmania	John S. Haynes	Paul Shane
New Zealand	Gary R. Brandon	Ian J. Nathan
Belgium	Robert M. Cupples	Claude Martin
Estonia	George Adams	Paul Himma
Finland	John S. Traill	Atti Arjas
France	Bernard V.A. Woods	VACANT
Germany	Stephen A. Arnold	Richard Struve
Germany (BRAM)	Brian Mooney	Michael A. Cooper



Greece	Kenneth Abernethy	
Iceland	Derek Rankin	Thordur Oskarsson
Italy		Fabio Venzi
Netherlands	Philip G. Brisbane	Robert Schultink
Norway	James H. McClurg	Bjorn Bakken
Switzerland	William H. Reid	Jean-Pierre Dousset
Alabama	Hugh M. McClements	Nicholas A. Barnes
Alaska	Thomas M. Yarr	Len O. Hannaman
Arizona	John A.G. James	Joseph F. Edwards
Arkansas	Alan R.G.R. Patterson	John Leonard Gates
California	Richard Adair	J. William Allen Jr.
Colorado	John N. Rowden	Wesley Campbell
Columbia, Dist. of		Albert H. Saunders
Connecticut	William J. Rutherford	Charles A. McCollum
Delaware	Robert R. Mitchell	Herbert P. Fulmer II
Florida	Neil A. Coey	Glenn E. Chandler
Georgia	James McFarland	Marion A. Jones
Idaho	James B. Wilson	Craig M. Davidson
Illinois	James K. Prime	Milton D. Dirst
Indiana	Reginald B. Richards	Martin A. Evans
Iowa	Samuel D. Richardson	Phillip A. Severson
Kansas	Gordon A. Thompson	Ernest M. Griffiths
Kentucky	David J. Rhodes	C. Victor Ramey
Louisiana	Thaddeus L.P. Hayes	Stephen C. Eyre
Maine	Noel J. Ryan	Orland D. Shorey
Maryland	William T. Scott	Joseph Frank Chalker
Massachusetts	Robert Johnston	Kevin A. Harte
Michigan	Richard Ward	Brent A. Helm
Minnesota	J. Barry Jenkins	Michael Denke
Mississippi	J. Stephen Thompson	Stanley J. Hamilton
Missouri	Edward F. McClenahan	James M. Williams
Montana	Alexander McA. Ireland	Robert A. Dill
Nebraska	Desmond M. McCormick	David A. Johnson
Nevada	Thomas S.G. Millsopp	Eugene B. Sullivan
New Hampshire	Hubert C. Mitchell	P.M. Leary
New Jersey		John J. Corringan
New Mexico	R. Brian Kearon	Dewell A. Dempsey



New York	Alan Ferris	Theodore H. Jacobsen
North Carolina	David C.R. Jones	Ludwik J. Wodka
North Dakota	John Magee	George Kwitka
Ohio	Robert McCosh	Franklin C. Boner
Oklahoma	Herbert Knowles	Robert G. Davis
Oregon	Robert M. Wilson	Jerry Muceus
Pennsylvania		Norman E. Flaherty
South Carolina	Neil H.H. Fenton	T. Henry Waldrep
South Dakota		William D. O'Connor
Tennessee	Michael M. Costello	Glen G. Pitts
Texas	Cyril J.W. Moore	Ronald D. Park
Utah	Henry S. Harding	Michael L. Busby
Vermont	Francis Brown	P. Howard Flanders
Virginia	Arnold Imrie	Robert M. Cannon
Washington	David L. Blair	Louis E. Bartrand
West Virginia	John T. Price	Robert L. Caldwell
Wisconsin	Francis J. Craig	Michael L. Fairbanks
Mexico	J. Walter Wilson	Charles D. Freer
Argentina	Leslie G. Evans	Charles Halperin
Venezuela	Samuel Brennan	Stephen Goss
South Africa	Ian W.G. Rudd	
India	George W. Kidd	VACANT
Philippines	Dennis W. Wheavil	Antonio D. Meru
Israel	Selwyn S. Davies	Mordechai Blazer

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons	Rep Here	Rep There
England & Wales	S. Gordon Leathem	John Hale
Estonia	George Adams	Paul Himma
Finland	John E.V. Smith	Kari K. Salminen
France	Roy F. Humphries	André A.G. Bassou
Greece & Cyprus	Ramon H. Gillis	Dimitris Mamas
South Australia	Edmund C. Ferguson	Colin David Preece
Switzerland	Desmond E. Shackleton	Jean-Pierre Dousset
Togo	William T. Brown	Roggi K. Paass
Victoria	Gerald A. McFarland	Kenneth C. Mawson



Obituaries

Supreme Grand Chapter noted the passing and saluted the memory of the following Distinguished Companions:

M.E.Comp. Michael J. Ward	Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King at the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland
M.E.Comp. John A. Hove	Past District Grand King and Honorary Past Grand High Priest (Natal)
M.E.Comp. Fidel I. Chiwetalu	Provincial Grand Superintendent, Nigeria and Honorary Past Grand Chief Scribe
M.E.Comp. David R. Higginson	Provincial Grand Superintendent, Zimbabwe and Honorary Past Grand Captain of the Host
M.E.Comp. William Kerr	Past Grand High Priest and Past District Registrar, Armagh
V.E.Comp. Harry R.J. Bonner	Past Grand Sword Bearer
V.E.Comp. Edgar White	Past Grand Organist
M.E.Comp. Alan H. Green	Foreign Grand Representative, Illinois
M.E. Comp. Albert Rooney	Past Foreign Grand Representative, New York
E.Comp. Thomas Frame	Emeritus Member of the Grand Chapter of Instruction



Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction

V.E.Comp. Norman E.R. Kelly, Grand Registrar for Instruction

Open Convocation Saturday 20th January 2018

The Very Excellent The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction of the Most Excellent the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland met in Open Convocation on Saturday 20th January 2018 at 2.30 p.m. in the Mount Masonic Centre, 45 Park

Avenue Belfast. The Chapter opened in due form, the Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem B.E.M. on the throne. M.E.Comp. James McFarland acted as Registrar.

Welcome Distinguished Guests

The Deputy Grand King gave a warm welcome to the District Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh, M.E.Comp. Ray Heatherington and his Assistant R.E.Comp. Robert Wilkins. In reply M.E.Comp. Heatherington stated he was delighted to be present and wished the exemplifying team, Newtownstewart Royal Arch

Chapter No. 547 well, adding he was looking forward to an instructive and enjoyable afternoon. Present and Past Supreme Grand Chapter Officers, Foreign Representatives and present and past District Grand Chapter officers, were also welcomed and saluted.

Minutes

The minutes of the open Convocation held in the Mount Masonic Hall, 45 Park Avenue Belfast, on the 21st October 2017 were read, confirmed and signed by the Deputy Grand King, countersigned by the Registrar and the Chapter Seal affixed thereto. The Registrar then announced the principal business of the Convocation was to witness an exemplification of the opening of a Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the Degree of Mark Master Mason, by Newtownstewart Royal Arch Chapter No. 547, and the exemplifying team occupied their appointed places as follows;

Very Worshipful Master	Bro. M. Gamble
Senior Warden	Bro. J. Bimson
Junior Warden	Bro. J. McCormick
Director of Ceremonies	Bro. A. Forbes
Master Overseer	Bro. R. Canders
Senior Overseer	Bro. H McFarland
Junior Overseer	Bro. M.A. Hunter
Senior .Deacon	Bro. G. McFarland
Junior Deacon	Bro. C. Hamilton
Chaplain	Bro.D.A. McCormack
Inner Guard	Bro. L. Twaddle
Tyler	Bro. R. Moors
Secretary	Bro. R.J. McCallan
Candidate	Bro. R. Finlay

The opening ceremony of a Lodge of Mark Master Masons was performed in a dignified manner under the guidance of Bro. Gamble as a very competent Very Worshipful Master and the few comments by the Registrar took nothing away from the quality of the working. The team then proceeded to the first part of the degree in the Quarries with the Senior Deacon, Bro. G. McFarland giving clear and precise instructions to the Candidate. All the Offices were discharged in a very meaningful manner which attracted no questions from the audience.

The team then proceeded with the second part of their program and the Candidate being readmitted was received by Bro. McFarland, Obligated by the Very Worshipful Master Bro. Gamble and his instruction completed by Bro. McFarland and although the Registrar offered some corrections it was intended to make good work better.

The team rounded off their work with an excellent closing ceremony after which the members of the Grand Chapter of Instruction resumed their Offices.

In proposing the vote of thanks, the High Priest M.E.Comp. Ken Abernethy stated that the team had obviously put in a lot of hard work in preparing for the exemplification which had been a great pleasure to witness and looked forward to seeing them in action again in the not too distant future. The Chief Scribe V.E. Comp Jack Kettle said it



afforded him great pleasure to second the vote of thanks so ably proposed by the High Priest. He said that he could only reiterate everything that the High Priest had said and also on the sincere and meaningful manner in which the work had been presented. Supporting the vote of thanks, the Registrar thanked Newtownstewart Royal Arch Chapter 547 for a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon which had been a great pleasure to watch and that the only losers were the Companions who had not attended to witness the exemplification.

The Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Gordon Leathem then invited the District King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh, M.E.Comp. Ray Heatherington, to comment on the day's proceedings. He congratulated the team on an excellent performance saying it was a privilege,

pleasure and an honour to have been present to witness such an exemplification, notable for the fact that it drew no questions from the audience and only one or two comments from the Grand Registrar of Instruction. In conveying the vote of thanks, the Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Gordon Leathem said that it was pleasing to hear the reports so ably proposed by the High Priest, seconded by the Chief Scribe and supported by the Registrar. He said that the team had worked well together as loyal and true Masons in a spirit of Brotherly Love and Truth and hoped that they would be longed spared to exemplify again before the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction.

There being no further business the Very Excellent the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction closed in Peace, Love and Harmony and with Prayer.

Open Convocation Saturday 17th March 2018

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction of the Most Excellent the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland met in Open Convocation on Saturday 17th March 2018 at 2.30 p.m. in the Newtownards Masonic Hall, Regent Street, Newtownards. The Chapter opened in form with M.E. Comp. James McFarland presiding. As Registrar (acting) M.E.Comp. Keith Bates. M.E.Comp. Neil Coey the District Grand King of

the District of Down was given a warm welcome and saluted. In reply he welcomed all present to the District of Down adding that he also intended to appreciate the occasion and that he was looking forward to a constructive and enjoyable afternoon. Present and past Supreme Grand Chapter, District Grand Chapter Officers and Foreign Representatives were also welcomed and saluted.

Minutes

The minutes of the open Convocation held in the Mount Masonic Centre, 45 Park Avenue Belfast on the 20th January 2018 at 2.30 p.m. were read,

confirmed and signed by the Very Excellent King, countersigned by the Registrar and the Chapter Seal affixed thereto.

Main Business

The Registrar then announced the principal business of the Convocation was to witness an exemplification of the Royal Arch Degree by the North Down Class of Instruction and the members of the exemplifying team occupied their appointed places as follows;

Excellent King	E.C. Nigel Williamson
High Priest	E.C. Harold White
Chief Scribe	V.E.C. Norman Moore
Registrar	E.C. Peter Armstrong-Woodruffe
Director of Ceremonies	V.E.C. Chris McCullough

Chaplain	I.C. Ian Butler
Almoner	E.C. Ian Drakely
Captain of Host	R.E.C John Bell
Superintendent of the Tabernacle	V.E.C. Sean Turner
Royal Arch Captain	Comp. Jonathon McCullough
Captain Scarlet Veil	E.C. William Torrens
Captain Purple Veil	E.C. Sean Graham
Captain Blue Veil	E.C. Peter Pollock
Janitor	E.C. Ian Graham
Candidate	E.V. Martin Halliday



The opening ceremony of a Royal Arch Chapter was performed in a most dignified manner under the guidance of E.Comp. Nigel Williamson as a very competent Excellent King and drew no questions from a small but appreciative audience, the few minor slips being commented on by the Registrar. The Reception and Passing the Veils was then demonstrated. E.Comp. Ian Drakely gave an almost flawless Obligation in a most dignified manner. E.Comp. Craig Wilson then led the candidate in the ceremony of the Passing of the Veils. The Captains of the Veils recited the explanation of their own veils with distinction. The Chaplain, E.Comp. Ian Butler, read the scriptural extracts with great dignity. The instruction for the Descent and Ascent was given by V.E.Comp. Sean Turner and no questions were asked. The Exaltation of the degree was also demonstrated by V.E.Comp. Turner with authority, distinction and almost theatrical manner which was greatly appreciated by the audience.

Proposing the vote of thanks, the High Priest M.E.Comp. Jack Kettle congratulated the team and thanked them for a wonderful afternoon. He stated that it was marvellous to see the way the Degree had been divided up with so many companions involved, and he hoped to see them again in the near future. The Chief Scribe, V.E.Comp. Alec Ireland in seconding the proposal, said he was enthralled by the degree and the

way it had been delivered. Supporting the vote of thanks, the Registrar said that he had been delighted by the performance of the North Down class and that it had been rewarding to see all the hard work they had put in over the past few months finally paying off this afternoon. The Very Excellent King then invited M.E.Comp. Neil Coey, the District Grand King to comment. He thanked M.E.Comp. James McFarland for the opportunity to speak and said that he was pleased and proud of this team of dedicated Royal Arch Masons who had exemplified the degree this afternoon.

In conveying the vote of thanks to the team the Very Excellent King said it was pleasing to hear the vote of thanks so ably proposed by the High Priest seconded by the Chief Scribe and Supported by the Registrar. He praised the team leaders, for giving of their time and talent. He also said that he had been very impressed by the Captains of the Veils and the Lecturer and thanked all the team for a wonderful exemplification. In reply E.Comp. Sean Turner thanked the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction for the opportunity to exemplify their work and the team leaders for all their efforts in preparing them. He was sure that all the team enjoyed and learned from the experience.

There being no further business the Very Excellent the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction closed in Peace, Love and Harmony and with Prayer.

Stated Convocation Thursday 17th May 2018

The Very Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction of the Most Excellent the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland met in Stated Convocation at Freemasons' Hall, Dublin

on Thursday 17th May 2018 at the hour of 1.30 o'clock p.m. The Chapter was opened in form with M.E.Comp. James McFarland on the Throne. The other offices being suitably filled.

Obituaries and Illnesses

The Very Excellent King referred to the recent death of the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp Michael J. Ward listing the High offices he had attained in all other branches of the Order up to Supreme Council and that he was an International Ambassador for Irish Freemasonry and well known and respected around the World. He then invited further comment.

The Grand Treasurer, R.E.Comp. John S. Haynes referred to his many travels around the world

with Michael when he constituted many new Chapters among many other duties.

The Grand Registrar for Instruction said he had been very approachable and helpful to him.

M.E.Comp. David Rhodes said he had attended at a U.K. meeting recently and all referred to the loss of Michael J. Ward, who had been held in high regard. He was then saluted with the customary ancient salute after which the Companions stood in silent tribute in respect of his memory.



Minutes

The Minute of the Stated Convocation held at Freemason's Hall, Dublin on Thursday 19th October 2017 were read. These were confirmed and signed

by the Very Excellent King, countersigned by the Grand Registrar for Instruction and the Chapter Seal was affixed thereto.

Correspondence

Letters of apology from M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon Harry Trimble, Deputy Grand King Designate. V.E.Comp. Harry Nichols, representative for the Midlands District and V.E.Comp. Alec Ireland, elected member, were read.

Election of the Grand Registrar and the Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction.

The Very Excellent King thanked the Grand Registrar of Instruction, M.E.Comp. Norman Kelly, and his

assistant, M.E.Comp. Michael Costello, for their work and dedication during the year. M.E.Comp. Cecil Burns proposed and M.E.Comp. Shadrach Bailie seconded the re-election of M.E.Comp. Kelly and M.E.Comp. Costello as Grand Registrar and Assistant Grand Registrar respectively. There being no other proposal it was put to the meeting and passed, subject to approval of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Election of Elected Member

The Very Excellent King instructed the Director of Ceremonies to prepare the ballot for the following candidate; Excellent Companion Edwin McComb, Past Master of Divis Lodge No. 679 and Past King of Ligoneil Royal Arch Chapter No 513. Proposed by M.E.Comp. James McFarland, Cecil Burns,

Norman Fairley and Norman Kelly. The ballot was clear, and the candidate was declared an Elected Member of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of |Instruction, subject to approval of Supreme Grand Chapter.

Ritual and Ceremonial

A written question comprising 5 clauses with regards to Mark Master Mason Ceremonial was submitted by M.E.Comp. C. Burns as follows:

1. Lifting the tokens. This was demonstrated by the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar. Also, the grip given to an installed Very Worshipful Master.
2. It was confirmed that in the installation ceremony the procession goes directly to the East where the deacons divide and the Director of Ceremonies, the Very Worshipful Master elect and escort go straight up to the Very Worshipful Master.
3. When the Brethren are recalled and the Very Worshipful Master saluted, the deacons go back to their places.
4. A pedestal should be placed in the East to place the Collars of the new officers when being presented to the Very Worshipful Master to be installed / invested as both hands are needed to salute.
5. A suitable Brother should be seated in the north to take the place of the Senior Deacon if he is advancing to Junior Overseer.

V.E.Comp. J. Kettyle asked for clarification of the salute to the officers after they are all installed. He said that he had been instructed that it should be 3 twos and not six. The Very Excellent King said that we are saluting a group of Officers and that it should be six. V.E.Comp. J. Kettyle said that the office is being saluted and asked why it should not be three twos. The Very Excellent King said we are not saluting the office in this case as we are saluting all the Officers together. The Registrar for instruction confirmed the salute was a straight six and that this be accepted.

V.E.Comp. J. McGookin asked who appointed the class leader in classes of Instruction, as he had attended classes where the members elected the class leader but had been informed that class leaders were appointed by the Grand Chapter of Instruction and asked for clarity. The Very Excellent King said that there was only one class leader who is appointed by the Grand Registrar for Instruction. M.E.Comp. K. Abernethy agreed that it should be the Grand Registrar for instruction who appoints class leaders but, from his own experience, it was sometimes difficult to introduce change. The Grand registrar referred to correspondence on the subject confirming that the Registrar appointed class leaders.



V.E.Comp. McGookin also requested that the numbers required to open a Chapter and the numbers required to confer a degree be confirmed as 6 and 9 respectively. This was confirmed.

Stated Convocation Thursday 18th October 2018

The Very Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction of the Most Excellent the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland met in Stated Convocation at Freemasons' Hall, Dublin on Thursday 18th October 2018 at the hour of

Welcome Distinguished Guests.

R.E. Comp. Philip J Daley, the Grand Registrar and ex Officio member was warmly greeted and

Correspondence

Letter from Supreme Grand Chapter, stating that my re-election as Grand Registrar for Instruction and the re-election of V.E.Comp. Michael M. Costello as Assistant Grand Registrar for instruction were approved.

Investiture of a newly Elected Member

The Director of Ceremonies conducted our newly elected member, V.E.Comp. Edwin McComb, to the Very Excellent King who presented him with

Ritual and General

V.E.Comp. Keith Bates said that while researching on another subject for a subordinate Chapter discovered that Supreme Grand Chapter Officers should be addressed with the word THE in the title. For example, Very Excellent The Grand Captain of the Host, Very Excellent The Grand Royal Arch Captain, Very Excellent The Grand Janitor etc. as listed on page 7 of the Laws and Regulations and enquired if this was still valid. The Very Excellent King stated that as this had been approved by this body that there should be no changes.

V.E.Comp. J. Kettyl said that some Chapters

Open Convocation Saturday 20th October 2018

The Very Excellent The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction of the Most Excellent The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland met in Open Convocation on Saturday 20th October 2018 at

The Very .Excellent King thanked everyone for attending and contributing to a successful meeting.

1.30 o'clock p.m. The Chapter was opened in form with Most Excellent Companion James McFarland presiding and the other offices being suitably filled.

saluted, to which he suitably replied.

E.Comp. Edwin McComb's election to Membership of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction was also approved.

The other correspondence were the written letters of apology.

his Jewel of Office on behalf of the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, in a very sincere manner. He was then saluted and suitably replied.

used the Superintendent of the Tabernacle as a progressive office, enquiring if this was permissible. The Very Excellent King stated that only Past Kings were allowed to be in the Council Chamber adding that at an installation the Superintendent of the Tabernacle is instructed to see that the symbols were arranged in proper order which he could not do if he was not a past King.

There being no further business, the Very Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter closed in Pace Love and Harmony and with Prayer.

2.30 p.m. in the Ballymena Masonic Centre. The Chapter opened in form with M.E.Comp. James McFarland presiding, the remaining offices being suitably filled.

Obituaries and Illnesses

The Very Excellent King announced that the family of V.E.Comp. Raymond

Boothe had suffered a bereavement, but we had no further details. He also said that the daughter



of V.E.Comp. Barry Crawford was very ill and conveyed good wishes towards both families.

Welcome Distinguished Guests

On a happier note the Very Excellent King gave a warm welcome to the District Grand King of Antrim, M.E.Comp. Jon McA. Pollock and had him

saluted, remarking he was delighted to see him as he had been told that he may not be able to make it due to travel difficulties. M.E.C. Pollock suitably replied. Present and past Grand Chapter Officers, Foreign Representatives, and present and past District Grand Chapter Officers were also welcomed and saluted.

Main Business

The Registrar then announced the principal business of the Convocation was to witness an exemplification of the opening of a Royal Arch Chapter and the Installation of the Excellent King

and Council and Officers by the Seven Towers and Massereene Class of instruction, and the exemplifying team occupied their appointed places.

	Outgoing	Incoming
Excellent King	E.Comp. Sam Eccles	E.Comp. Tommy Dowds
High Priest	E.Comp. Tommy Dowds	Comp. Joe McKeown
Chief Scribe	Comp. Joe McKeown	Comp. Mal Bellew
Registrar	E.Comp. Andy Kennedy	
Director of Ceremonies	E.Comp. Alan McCullough	
Chaplain	R.E.Comp. Robert Wilson	
Almoner	E.Comp. Sam Wilson	
Captain of Host	Comp. Mal Bellew	Comp. Stephen Hughes
Superintendent of the Tabernacle	V.E.Comp. D Henderson	
Royal Arch Captain	Comp. Stephen Hughes	E.Comp. Lexi Scott
Captain Scarlet Veil	E.Comp. Lexi Scott	E.Comp. Hugh Millar
Captain Purple Veil	E.Comp. Hugh Millar	Comp. Joey Douglas
Captain Blue Veil	Comp. Joey Douglas	Comp. Brian Johnston
Janitor	Comp. Brian Johnston	E.Comp. Sam Eccles
Installing Officer	E.Comp. Russell Stirling	
Standby	E.Comp. Jimmy Crawford	

The opening ceremony of a Royal Arch Chapter was performed in a most dignified manner under the guidance of E.Comp. Sam Eccles as a very competent Excellent King, and drew no questions from the audience, the few minor slips (nerves) being commented on by the Registrar and the team soon settled down.

The installation of the Excellent King and Council was then demonstrated by the Installing Officer, E.Comp. Russell Stirling, who gave an exemplary performance and drew no questions from an appreciative audience. The few comments made by the Registrar had already been expected by

Russell. The newly installed King, E.Comp. Tommy Dowds maintained the high standard of the entire demonstration by installing the remaining Officers in a most meaningful and almost faultless manner. Again, there were no questions asked and although the Registrar added a few comments of his own these did not detract in any way from the standard of the working and stated that he was satisfied that this team would conclude the remaining work in a similarly polished manner and this was forgone with the Elected Members resuming their original roles.



Proposing the vote of thanks, the High Priest said that he did not wish to single out anyone in particular; however, the Installing Officer, was exemplary in installing the new Excellent King who in turn installed his Officers with aplomb. He said that the Chaplain was to be congratulated for reading the scriptural extracts with pleasant dignity. The dignity, authority and precision maintained by the whole team deserved great credit and reflected well on their Instructors.

The Chief Scribe said it afforded him great pleasure to second the vote of thanks so ably proposed by the High Priest. He said that the team had obviously worked hard in preparing for the exemplification and it had been a great pleasure to be present to see. Supporting the vote of thanks, the Registrar thanked the Chapter for a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

The District Grand King, M.E Comp. Jon. McA. Pollock was asked to comment and said he was delighted to see the Ballymena Seven Towers and Massereene Class going from strength to strength. In conveying the vote of thanks to the team the Very Excellent King, M.E.Comp. James McFarland said that the praise given to the team for the “Ballymena working” was thoroughly deserved and he hoped that it would not be long before they exemplified a Mark Master Mason degree in their own inimitable manner. This was

met with loud applause. Responding on behalf of the exemplifying team E.Comp. Tommy Dowds expressed his thanks to the previous speakers for their compliments and the companions in general for supporting them, adding he was proud to be a member of the class. He also thanked their Instructor V.E.Comp. Roy Lamont and their Registrar V.E.Comp. Jim McGookin for all their hard work and assistance.

There being no further business the Very Excellent the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction closed in peace Love and Harmony and with Prayer.

In closing I would once again thank all those who supported the Grand Chapter of Instruction, however it is becoming more and more difficult to find teams to exemplify and I ask for help in filling up the calendar for future exemplifications – PLEASE. Not forgetting my grateful thanks to all who contributed in ensuring another successful year in the history of the Chapter, viz the demonstrating Teams and their supporters, the Classes of Instruction, our hosts, our District Grand Kings who seek to encourage the continued practice of pure and meaningful ritual, the Grand Registrar and the office staff, the Deputy Grand King who is very much involved in the well-being of the Chapter and the Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction.

Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction

V.E.Comp. Michael M. Costello, Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction

This year was notable for low attendances at the Very Excellent Grand Royal Arch of Instruction. In fact, the February 2019 convocation could not proceed for want of sufficient Companions on the night. Despite low numbers however, convocations that did take place were always enjoyable and worthwhile. Newly exalted Companions always learn something new and experienced companions benefit from revision of the ritual and enjoy assisting others and sharing experiences.

The Open Convocation of 19th April 2019 had R.E.Comp. Leslie G. Evans on the throne. He was assisted by V.E.Comp. Harvey H. Heavener as High Priest and V.E.Comp. Michael J. Curran as Chief Scribe. Other Offices were filled as follows: Captain of Host M.E.Comp. Neil H.H. Fenton: Superintendent of the Tabernacle E.Comp. A. Gordon Allen: Royal Arch Captain R.E.Comp. Philip A.J. Daley: Captain of the Scarlet Veil Comp. John Denham: Captain of the Purple Veil Comp. Paul Bowen: Captain of the Blue Veil Comp. Ronan Mills and Janitor V.E.Comp. Selwyn Davies.



V.E.Comp. Michael M. Costello was Assistant Registrar for Instruction and acted as Chaplain. Apologies were received from M.E.Comp. David Rhodes, R.E.Comp. Brian Kearon, R.E.Comp. John S. Haynes and M.E.Comp. Rev. Edwin Hunter.

Obituary

The Convocation was meeting in a cloud of sadness following the sad and recent death of our much respected Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. Michael J. Ward. Royal Arch Masonry was in mourning. The V.E. King R.E.Comp. Leslie G. Evans spoke at length in tribute to the memory of our Most Excellent Grand King referring in particular to his unlimited masonic knowledge and his contribution to, not only Royal

Welcome

The Very Excellent King in welcoming everybody present concurred with the general view that it would have been the wish of our late Grand King

Minutes:

The Assistant Registrar for Instruction, having explained that the February 2018 Convocation did not take place because of lack of sufficient numbers present, proceeded to read the Minutes of the Open Convocation held on Thursday 16th

Business:

The business of this Convocation was conducted in a different format than our usual one. There being no demonstrating team this meeting was aimed especially at newly exalted Companions who were invited to attend and practice basic ritual such as the Opening and Closing of a chapter; to refresh the Words and Signs of the Ceremony of the Passing of the Veils, and to ask any questions about the degree of Royal Arch.

Once the formal matters of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction were attended to the Companions once again practiced an Opening of a Chapter. Newly exalted Brethren were permitted to use the ritual book initially to assist learning but then these were put aside, and they proceeded without them. Minor word errors were then corrected as necessary.

The Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction assisted by E.Comp. Gordon Allen then demonstrated the Ceremony of the Passing of the Veils to the new Companions. The Words and

Arch Masonry but to every branch of the Order. M.E.Comp. Ward was an Elected Member of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction since 1972. He was a past Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction. V.E. Comp. Harvey Heavener in his tribute referred to M.E. Comp. Ward's invaluable support of the GRAC of Instruction. Warm tributes were also paid by Ex. Comp. Gordon Allen, V.E. Comp. Michael M. Costello and R.E. Comp. Philip A.J. Daley, Grand Registrar. The memory of our late Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King was then saluted in accordance with ancient custom. This was followed by prayer after which the Companions remained standing in a period of respectful silence and reflection.

that the business of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction should continue.

November 2017. These were confirmed by the members present, signed by the Very Excellent King and countersigned by the Assistant Registrar for Instruction and the Chapter seal affixed thereto.

Signs at each Veil were taught and practiced in detail. That included instruction in how to divide the Words and Signs when being examined to prove they were Royal Arch Masons. After some errors were corrected and the methods of giving the Signs were clarified repeat practice was soon perfect.

It was interesting to note that the new companions said that they had only the most minimal recollection of the details of the degree even though they were exalted just some weeks previously. They expressed appreciation for the instruction, saying it was like hearing it for the first time!

Part 2 of the Degree was not covered on this occasion. The Very Excellent King R.E.Comp. Leslie Evans said that it would also be best not to deal with Mark Master Masonry either as to go into more Signs and Words would likely cause confusion. He felt it better to concentrate on the work just done.



In conclusion, the Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction said he would consider if the format of the evening might continue to be an option for some future meetings on evenings when there is no demonstrating team available. The positive response of the few newly exalted companions present is encouraging.

There being no further business the Very Excellent King, R.E.Comp. Leslie G. Evans closed the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction in Peace, Love and Harmony and with Prayer after which the Companions retired to the dining room for light refreshments.

An Open Convocation was held on Thursday 15th November 2018 again with R.E.Comp. Leslie G. Evans on the throne. He was assisted by M.E.Comp. David Rhodes as High Priest, and M.E.Comp. Neil H.H. Fenton as Chief Scribe. The officers were made up of those attending which included E.Comp. Gordon Allen and Comp. Antonio Garcia. The Assistant Registrar for Instruction was V.E.Comp. Michael M. Costello who also acted as Chaplain.

After the Opening the Very Excellent King welcomed the District Grand King of Wicklow and Wexford, M.E.Comp. David Rhodes who has been a great supporter of the GRAC of Instruction. M.E. Comp. Rhodes was then saluted to which he suitable replied.

Also welcomed was Comp. Antonio Garcia, a recently exalted companion from the District of Wicklow and Wexford, attending for his first time. Apologies were received V.E.Comp. Harvey H. Heavener and from R.E.Comp. John S. Haynes, Grand Treasurer.

After the Minutes of the previous Open Convocation of 19th April 2018 were read and confirmed the Business of the meeting, consisting of a Questions and Answers session, commenced.

There being no exemplifying team the entire meeting was devoted to instruction, revision and practice. Our newly exalted Companion in particular, keenly sought further teaching of the Signs and Words. These were demonstrated

in great detail by E.Comp. Gordon Allen who conducted the Ceremony of the Passing of the Veils in an exemplary manner needing little or no assistance from the Very Excellent King or the Assistant Registrar for Instruction.

The mnemonic given after the ceremony at the Scarlet Veil was given as a memory aid to our new Companion.

Several other aspects of Royal Arch Masonry were discussed and as usually occurs on such occasions one question or answer led on to another making the meeting interesting and very informative.

The Very Excellent King thanked those present for their support. The Grand Registrar for Instruction said he continued to hope that more companion may interest themselves in Royal Arch ritual and in due course may become eligible as Elected Members. Our numbers in this region are low at this time.

There being no further business the Very Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction closed in Peace, Love and Harmony and with Prayer.

To conclude I would like to thank all those regular supporters of the Chapter of Instruction without whose aid and encouragement it would be difficult to continue during this current period where there is a temporary drop in attendances. On our part we are endeavouring to improve lines of communication as the Order's database is being updated and we are grateful to the Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Philip Daley for this work and also for the great interest he has in the Chapter of Instruction.

With only five active Elected Members in this region it has not been possible to hold any GRAC Convocations in the Southern Districts. Hopefully newly exalted companions will be encouraged early in their masonic careers to participate in degrees and eventually appreciate our wonderful and unique ritual and in due course become Elected Members.

Finally, I must thank the Head Tyler, E.Comp. Barry Fawcett for his help and courtesy at all times in preparing the Rooms for our meetings.



DISTRICT REPORTS

Antrim

M.E.Comp. Jon McA. Pollock, District Grand King

It is a pleasure for me to report that the District of Antrim continues to be well supported and I thank the Companions for their encouragement. Unfortunately, during the year three Chapters returned their warrants. Most of the companions affiliated to other Chapters but I understand some other Chapters are considering closure.

The Stated Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim was held on Saturday 27th January at 2.15 p.m. in First Larne Presbyterian Church, Larne. I was pleased to welcome and salute Past District Grand King, M.E.Comp. E.C. Ferguson. I was very pleased to welcome and salute, the District Grand King of Down, M.E.Comp. Neil Coey, accompanied by R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris, his Deputy and his Assistant, R.E.Comp. Roy Humphries. I was also pleased to welcome M.E.Comp. Dr. Ray Hetherington, the District Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh and R.E.Comp. Robert Wilkins, District Assistant Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh. I am always privileged by the presence of present and past Supreme Grand Chapter Officers, Foreign Representatives, Elected Members of the Grand Chapter of Instruction and many Distinguished Officers from other branches of our order at all our convocations. I appreciate their continuing support.

The Officers for 2018, were presented and I was pleased to invest them with a personal word for each Officer. In my closing remarks I referred to Redhall RAC 260 who were celebrating their centenary and thanked them for hosting the convocation. I was pleased to report £7,755.00 had been raised, to date, for Diabetes (UK) NI, the District Grand King's charity. I expressed my thanks to all the Officers who had contributed to the success of the convocation.

Our April Stated Convocation was held on Monday 23rd April at 7:30 p.m. in Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim.

Unfortunately, I had to refer, with great sadness, to the death of the M.E. and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. Michael J. Ward. After having read an obituary, a muffled salute of honour was accorded followed by the playing of solemn music and prayer. The business of the convocation was restricted as a mark of mourning. I also referred to the passing of R.E.Comp. Harry Morrison, Past District Grand High Priest 1985/86.

I was pleased to welcome many Companions but particularly, Past District Grand King, M.E.Comp. E.C. Ferguson, the District Grand King of Down, M.E.Comp. Neil Coey, accompanied by R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris, his Deputy and his Assistant, R.E.Comp. Roy Humphries and thanked them for their attendance. I was pleased to welcome R.E.Comp. Will Shaw, District Grand Registrar of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh.

Redhall RAC 260 were thanked for their arrangements in hosting our last convocation and M.E.Comp. Bill Scott for arranging the replacement of our stands for the veils. Registrars were reminded of the Nomination of Officers for 2019/2020. Nominations close on 30 April.

The Banner magazine had been circulated and V.E.Comp. William Brown was congratulated and thanked for his work.

The Stated Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim was held on Saturday 2nd June at 2.30 p.m. in The Royal Court Hotel, Portrush.

I was pleased to welcome many Companions particularly the District Grand King of Down, M.E.Comp. Neil Coey accompanied by R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris and R.E.Comp. Roy Humphries. I was also pleased to welcome the District Grand King of





Armagh, M.E.Comp. Jack Magowan, accompanied by R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp, District Deputy Grand King of Armagh and R.E.Comp. Fred Cooper, District Grand Registrar. The District Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh, M.E.Comp. Dr. Ray Heatherington, was welcomed accompanied by R.E.Comp. Will Shaw, District Grand Registrar. I thanked them for their attendance and had them saluted. M.E.Comp. Jack Magowan replied.

I was pleased to welcome The Provincial Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand RAC of Argyll and The Isles, M.E.Comp. Iain Morrison, and his delegation. They were saluted. M.E.Comp. Morrison replied and was pleased that the thirty-year relationship continued.

District Chapter was pleased to be able to welcome many distinguished Officers from other branches of our order.

I was pleased to present V.E.Comp. Samuel Matthews, RAC 414, with his certificate of past rank as a District Inspector and had him saluted.

I referred to a visit to Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter held in Youghal, Co. Cork. I was accompanied by my Deputy, Assistant and other District Grand Royal Arch Chapter Officers. The convocation was also a memorial service for the late Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, Michael J. Ward.

The Stated Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim was held on Monday 22nd October at 7:30 p.m. in Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena. I was pleased to welcome many companions but particularly, Past District Grand King, M.E.Comp. E.C. Ferguson, the District Grand King of Down, M.E.Comp. Neil Coey accompanied by R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris. I was also pleased to welcome the District Grand King of Armagh, M.E.Comp. Jack Magowan, accompanied by R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp, District Deputy Grand King of Armagh and R.E.Comp. Walter Wilson, District Assistant Grand King. R.E.Comp. Fred Cooper, District Grand Registrar. The District Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh, M.E.Comp. Dr. Ray Heatherington, was welcomed accompanied by R.E.Comp. David Blair, Dist. Asst. Gd. King. I thanked them for their attendance and had them saluted. M.E.Comp. Neil Coey replied.



The Excellent King of RAC 775 welcomed District Chapter to Ballymena as part of the Chapter's 125th. Anniversary. I congratulated the chapter on this milestone. The Officers nominated were elected for 2019/20 and my personal appointments announced. District Grand Chapter's support of Diabetes UK (NI) continues with further donations being received from three chapters this evening. It is my intention to conclude this appeal shortly.

The next convocation would be held on 26th January 2019 in The Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim, preceded by lunch.

I wish to place on record my thanks to all the Chapters and Companions in the District who have welcomed me and my Senior Officers with generosity and hospitality during the year.

I want to thank my Deputy and Assistant for their help. I would also thank the District Grand Registrar, and Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Registrar who between them carry the burden of the administration for the District with the assistance of Ronnie Cromie from the District's Arthur Square office. I am also indebted to all District Grand Chapter Officers for their support.

The Provincial Grand Master of Antrim and his staff in High Street give this District valued support and I thank them.

The Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Phillip Daley has given the District Grand Registrar and myself great assistance and I thank him and of course not forgetting Ms. Heather Gyles who is a font of all knowledge.

I extend to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, his Deputy and Assistant my thanks and assure them of the continued support of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim for the future.

Armagh

M.E.Comp. Jack McGowan, District Grand King



The Chapter Installations for me began on the 6th of December when I attended Newbliss Royal Arch Chapter 794. I was on this occasion accompanied by the District Deputy Grand King R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp and the District Grand Registrar R.E.Comp. Fred Cooper we received the usual warm welcome from the Companions of Newbliss. This year was unusual in that The McMahon Royal Arch Chapter 328 in Richhill met before District Chapter it usually meets the following evening on this occasion, I was accompanied by the District Deputy Grand King, District Assistant Grand King, District Grand Registrar and the District Grand Treasurer. This was followed a visit to Royal Arch Chapter 409 Armagh thus bringing the year to a close.

After my visit to Royal Arch Chapter 409 my installation season came to an end due to ill health, I am grateful and indebted to the District Deputy Grand King R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp and the District Assistant Grand King R E Comp Walter Wilson for their support and assistance in visiting the Chapters over the installation period.

On the 10th of April I had great pleasure in attending a Convocation of Monaghan Royal Arch Chapter 351 accompanied by the District Deputy Grand King R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp, District Assistant Grand King R E Comp Walter Wilson and the District Grand Registrar, I was delighted to be able to present V E Comp Wilfie Garland with his 50-year jewel.

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the unexpected passing of our Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King M.E.Comp. Michael J Ward to the Great Chapter above on the 12th of April, this plunged the District into a period of mourning with only the very basic business being carried out in the Chapters. He was a great friend to the District and we fondly remember the visit of Grand Chapter in May 2017 when he was on the throne. On behalf of the District I extend our deepest sympathies to his wife and family.

The first quarterly Convocation of District Chapter was held in Lurgan on 8th March this was also my first meeting of the year where I was pleased to welcome R.E.Comp. Thomas McCurley District Deputy Grand King of Antrim and R.E.Comp. Roy Humphries District assistant Grand King of Down

also present where Past Grand Officers including, M.E.Comp. T. Robert McDowell Past Grand High Priest and Provincial Assistant Grand Master, M E Comp John Richardson Provincial Assistant Grand Master, R.E.Comp. RDavid Hamilton Provincial Grand Master and R.E.Comp. Gilbert Irvine the Provincial Grand Secretary.

On the 2nd of June it gave me great pleasure to attend the convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim of in the Royal Court Hotel Portrush on a very foggy summers day, I was accompanied by the District Deputy Grand King R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp, and the District Grand Registrar R.E.Comp. Fred Cooper. It was great day with excellent ritual complemented by a visit of the Companions from Argyle and the Isles, which unfortunately we could not see on the day due to the sea mist, but this was more than compensated for by the warm welcome from the Companions of Antrim.

In June District Chapter held its Convocation in the Masonic Hall, Monaghan hosted by Royal Arch Chapter 351, when we had a good turnout on a fine summer's evening. Present on this occasion were the following distinguished Companions; M E Comp Thomas Gardiner Past District Grand King, M.E.Comp. Neil Coey District Grand King of Down, R E Comp Thomas McCurley District Deputy Grand King of Antrim, R.E.Comp. Roy Humphries District Assistant Grand King of Down and other past and present Grand Officers. It was also present on this occasion and R.E.Comp. David Hamilton Provincial Grand Master of Armagh, R.E.Comp. Ossie Steenson Past Provincial Deputy Grand Master and R E Comp Gilbert Irvine Provincial Grand Secretary. A tribute was paid to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King M.E.Comp. Michael J. Ward by M.E.Comp Tom Gardiner and he was afforded a final salute. I was pleased to be able to present V.E.Comp. Wilfie Garland with his 50-year Certificate which had not been available in April.

At the beginning of September, I was back out on the road again and I was pleased to attend and enjoy the Companionship of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter



of Down quarterly Convocation in Dromara, I was accompanied by the District Deputy Grand King and the District Assistant Grand King.

The quarterly Convocation in September was held in Armagh with an early start of 6:30pm. I was unfortunately unable to be present at that Convocation and I left it in the capable hands of the Deputy District Grand R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp. Present on that occasion was; M.E.Comp. Thomas Gardiner Past District Grand King, M.E.Comp. J. Rodgers Past District Grand King of Armagh, R.E.Comp. Tom McCurley District Deputy Grand King of Antrim, R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris District Deputy Grand King of Down, R.E.Comp. Roy J.F. Humphries District Assistant Grand King of Down R.E.Comp. Bob Moore District Deputy Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh, M.E.Comp. Robert Wilkins District Assistant Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh and Past Grand High Priest. E.Comp. Reverend Richard Moore Provincial District Deputy Grand Master, also present were other past and present Grand Officers along with Foreign Representatives.

The District Deputy Grand King R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp presented a cheque for £2,100 on behalf of the District to E Comp Rev Richard Moore Provincial Deputy Grand Master to go to the Provincial Grand Masters 150-year anniversary appeal in aid of Cancer Charities in the Province.

The District Deputy Grand King announced on my behalf that I had appointed as my Standard Bearer for 2019 V.E.Comp. Stanley H. Harrison Past King of Acacia Royal Arch Chapter No. 24 Lurgan and the District Grand Sword Bearer V.E.Comp. Ken H. Ramsay Past King of St John's Royal Arch Chapter No. 384 Dundalk. I also announced the appointment of two new District Inspectors V.E.Comp. John Montgomery of Royal Arch Chapter No. 352 Castleblaney to replace R.E.Comp. Andrew R. Lambe who was stepping down and V.E.Comp. Andrew Murphy of Seagoe Royal Arch Chapter No. 851 Portadown to replace V.E.Comp. A. Mark Wright QGM. The Officers of District Chapter for 2019 were duly elected to be installed in December.

I had received the resignation from R.E.Comp. Walter Wilson District Assistant Grand King after 4 years in that office and I was pleased to have the District Deputy Grand announce that I had appointed R.E.Comp.

Andrew R. Lambe of Monaghan Royal Arch Chapter No.351 to be installed at the December Convocation in Portadown.

On the 25th of September accompanied by the District Deputy Grand King R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp, the District Assistant Grand King R.E.Comp. Walter Wilson and the District Registrar I visited the joint Convocation of Acacia Royal Arch Chapter No. 24 and St Johns Royal Arch Chapter No. 134 Lurgan.

I was pleased to be able to attend the 150-year celebratory meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Armagh on the 18th of October in the Seagoe Hotel Portadown I was accompanied by the District Assistant Grand King and the District Registrar. It was a great Milestone in the history of the Province and a unique occasion when cheques where distributed to various Cancer Charities, and the installation of R.E.Comp. Gilbert Irvine was installed as a Provincial Assistant Master.

On the 22nd of October I was able to attend the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim in the Tullyglass House Hotel in Ballymena enjoying the hospitality of the Companions of Antrim on that occasion was the District Deputy Grand King R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp, the District Assistant Grand King R.E.Comp. Walter Wilson and the District Registrar.

I was unable to be present at Supreme Grand Chapter in November to see R.E.Comp. Walter Wilson the District Assistant Grand King being invested as Grand High Priest an event I had been greatly looking forward to.

The quarterly Convocation of District Chapter of Armagh was held on 13th December in Portadown when I had great pleasure in installing R.E.Comp. Andrew R. Lambe as District Assistant Grand King and then proceeded to install the remaining District Grand Officers for 2019. I was glad to welcome M.E.Comp. Tom Gardiner Past District Grand King, M.E.Comp. Joe Rodgers Past District Grand King. It gave me great pleasure to welcome M.E.Comp. Walter Wilson Grand High Priest and immediate Past District Assistant Grand King on his first visit in that office. We were also pleased to have the company of; R.E.Comp. Tom McCurley District Deputy Grand King of Antrim, R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris District Deputy Grand King of Down accompanied by R.E.Comp. Roy Humphries District Assistant Grand King of Down, R.E.Comp. David Hamilton, Provincial Grand Master of



Armagh, together with several past and present District Grand Officers. We were again royally entertained by the Companions from the Portadown Chapters in the Function Room after the Convocation.

Looking back over the year that has passed it was always sad to report the passing of fellow Companions or their loved ones and in this year District Chapter has bade farewell to several Companions. District Chapter lost notable Masons such as M.E.Comp. Bill Kerr Past Grand High Priest and Past District Registrar, M.E.Comp. Tommy Lawson Past King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 789 Tartaraghan (The Head O' The Road), E.Comp. R.W. Wilson and E.Comp. V. Compston both Past Kings of Royal Arch Chapter No. 623 Armagh, E.Comp. Ian Collie Past King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 352 Castleblaney, E.Comp. Tom Hewitt Past King of Abercorn Royal Arch Chapter No. 219 Portadown an accomplished Commonwealth and Olympic Clay pigeon Shooter and E.Comp. Wilfie McNeil Past King of Acacia Royal Arch Chapter No. 24 Lurgan an accomplished musician. I offer my sincere sympathy to all Companions and families who were bereaved during the year and assure them that our thoughts still go out to them. Also to all those Companions who during the year have suffered illness may I wish you all a speedy and full return to good health.

The Classes of Instruction in Lurgan and Armagh continue their work in improving the standard of the Royal Arch Ritual throughout the District and our best thanks goes to the Leaders and all who help in this work and I would encourage all the Companions progressing towards the East to attend their local Class and gain more knowledge of our Ritual.

I am pleased to note that the campaign that I had commenced some 3 years ago is starting to bear

fruit with brethren coming into the Royal Arch Chapters starting to increase.

My sincere thanks and that of District Chapter goes to the hard-working band of dedicated and loyal Officers of District Chapter including my Deputy, R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp and Assistant, R.E.Comp. Walter Wilson, the Treasurer and Registrar R.E.Comp's. Bobby Robinson and Fred Cooper who look after the administrative matters. I am looking forward to working with the newly installed District Assistant Grand King R.E.Comp. Andrew Lambe. We are also very fortunate to have Directors of Ceremonies of the quality of R.E.Comp's. Bob Smith, M.E.Comp. John Richardson and R.E.Comp. R. Barrie Crawford keeping our ceremonial on track. I also thank the



District Grand Inspectors for the encouragement they give to the Chapters throughout the District and to all those who in any way help in the efficient running of District Chapter please accept our grateful thanks.

Finally, I thank the Grand Registrar and the staff in Molesworth Street for their kind help and co-operation during the past year, I extend to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, his Deputy and Assistant the best wishes of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Armagh and assure them of our continuing support in the future.



Down

M.E.Comp. Neil A. Coey, District Grand King

The Stated Convocation on Saturday 3rd March 2018 was held in the Kilmorey Arms Hotel, Kilkeel at 2.30 p.m. at the kind invitation of Kilkeel RAC No. 144 on what proved to be a very cold and snowy day.

It was my sad duty to refer to the passing of V.E.Comp. Alaistair McCreery, District Grand Janitor who died on 12th December 2017, V.E.Comp. Sam Thompson, Past District Grand Standard Bearer who died on 31st December 2017, V.E.Comp. Ben Marshall, Past District Grand Superintendent of the Tabernacle who died on 5th January 2018, V.E.Comp. John Bain, Past District Grand Steward who died on 12th January 2018 and V.E.Comp. Thomas Nelson, Past District Grand Captain of the Purple Veil who died on 13th January 2018. The memory of our departed Companions was honoured with the final salute.

I was pleased to welcome and salute present and past Supreme Grand Chapter Officers, Foreign Representatives, Elected Members of the Grand Chapter of Instruction, past District Grand Chapter Officers and visiting District Grand Chapter Officers. I also welcomed Distinguished Companions from other Masonic Disciplines and thanked them for their support.

The following Companions were then Invested and Proclaimed: E.Comp's. Noel Cowden Past King, Royal Arch Chapter No. 501 and Graham Walker Past King, Royal Arch Chapter No. 147 as District Grand Inspectors and E. Comp. David Clements Past King, Royal Arch Chapter No. 1009 as Honorary Past District Grand Captain of the Scarlet Veil. All were saluted and suitably replied.

I had great pleasure in presenting Certificates of Past Rank for 2016/17 to the following V.E.Comp's: Douglas Murray, Trevor S. Lovell, Paul Dugan, James K. Prime and S. David McClelland.

During my remarks I announced that District Chapter would hold a social event in the form of a BBQ on 15th September

in Newry Masonic Hall and a District Chapter Tie had been designed and would be available from April. I congratulated M.E.Comp's. Terence Luney and David Hanna on their recent appointments as Foreign Representatives of Western Australia and Oregon respectively, at Supreme Grand Chapter.

I announced the appointment of V.E.Comp. Alan Wilson Past King Slieve Croob RAC No. 498 as District Grand Inspector. The Charity Collection was taken up and amounted to £412.00.

The Stated Convocation on Tuesday 5th June 2018 was held in Comber Rifle Club, Railway Street, Comber at 7.30 p.m. at the kind invitation of Friendship RAC No. 447.

Following a fitting tribute to our recently departed Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, Michael James Ward the Companions honoured his memory with the final salute.

It was my sad duty to refer to the passing of V.E.Comp. Charles Gray, Past District Grand Royal Arch Captain who died on 20th March 2018, V.E.Comp. William Clark, Past District Grand Captain of the Host who died on 24th April 2018, and V.E.Comp. Cyril McFadden, Past District Grand Royal Arch Captain who died on 19th May 2018. The memory of our departed Companions was honoured with the final salute.

I was pleased to welcome and salute Past District Grand King, M.E.Comp. Ken Abernethy and Past District Assistant Grand King M.E.Comp. James Copes. Both suitably replied. I was also pleased to welcome and salute the District Grand King of Antrim, M.E.Comp. Jon McA Pollock, his Assistant R.E.Comp. Jim Lynch, the District Deputy Grand King of Armagh, R.E.Comp. Thomas S Millsopp and Assistant R.E.Comp. Walter Wilson and the District Assistant Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh, R.E.Comp. Roy Wilkins. M.E.Comp. Pollock suitably replied on behalf of all.

Present and past Supreme Grand Chapter Officers, Foreign Representatives, Elected Members of the Grand Chapter of Instruction, past District Grand Chapter Officers and visiting District Grand





Chapter Officers were also welcomed and salute I also welcomed Distinguished Companions from other Masonic Disciplines and thanked them for their support.

M.E.Comp. Rev. Charles McCurdy was escorted to the Dias. I, along with my Deputy and Assistant, paid tribute to his achievements and service to District Chapter over the last 40 years and to mark the occasion presented him with a Bible, a Jewel and a small token of our appreciation. He was saluted and received a standing ovation. M.E.Comp. McCurdy suitably replied and stated he hoped to be around to see a Fifty-Year bar added to the Jewel in years to come.

During my remarks I announced that M.E.Comp. Charles Ruttle had decided to stand down as District Grand Organist and M.E.Comp. Frank Craig had decided to stand down as District Grand Inspector, both having served in those Offices for over 11 years. I thanked them for their contribution and dedicated service to District Chapter. To fill these vacancies, I was pleased to announce the appointment of: E.Comp. Alistair Douglas Past King Cottown RAC No. 430 as District Grand Organist, and Comp. Sam Snodden Past King Union Star RAC No.624 as District Grand Inspector.

A vacancy having arisen for a Joint Chairman of the District Support Team I was pleased to announce that V.E.Comp. Chris McCullough had agreed to take on this role and responsibility. The Charity Collection was taken up and amounted to £867.10.

The Stated Convocation on Wednesday 5th September 2018 was held in St. John's Parish

Church Hall, Dromara at 7.30 p.m. at the kind invitation of Slieve Croob RAC No. 498. It was my sad duty to refer to the passing of V.E.Comp. Ken Hughes, Past District Grand Superintendent of the Tabernacle who died on 30th June 2018, and V.E.Comp. Billy Downes, District Grand Inspector who died on 18th August 2018. The memory of our departed Companions was honoured with the final salute.

I was pleased to welcome and salute Past District Assistant Grand King, M.E.Comp. James Copes who suitably replied. I was also pleased to welcome and salute the District Deputy Grand King of Antrim, R.E.Comp. Tom McCurley, the District Grand King of Annagh, M.E.Comp. Jack Magowan, his Deputy R.E.Comp. Thomas S. Millsopp and Assistant R.E.Comp. Walter Wilson and the District Assistant Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh, R.E.Comp. David L. Blair. M.E.Comp. Magowan suitably replied on behalf of all.

Present and past Supreme Grand Chapter Officers, Foreign Representatives, Elected Members of the Grand Chapter of Instruction, past District Grand Chapter Officers and visiting District Grand Chapter Officers were also welcomed and saluted I also welcomed Distinguished Companions from other Masonic Disciplines and thanked them for their support.

The following Companions were then Invested and Proclaimed: E.Comp. Alistair Douglas Past King Cottown Royal Arch Chapter No. 430 as District Grand Organist, E.Comp. Sam Bell Past King Magherally Royal Arch Chapter No. 203 as District Grand Janitor, V.E.Comp. Alan Wilson Past King Slieve Croob Royal Arch



Chapter No. 498 and E.Comp. Sam Snodden Past King Union Star Royal Arch Chapter No.624 as District Grand Inspectors. All were saluted and suitably replied.

I had great pleasure in presenting Certificates of Past Rank to the following Comps: M.E.Comp. Charles Ruttle, Past District Grand Organist, V.E.Comp. Ronnie Bradford, Past District Grand Janitor, M.E.Comp. Frank Craig, Past District Grand Inspector, and V.E.Comp. Will Dewart, Past District Grand Inspector. The Charity Collection was taken up and amounted to £801.40.

The Stated Convocation on Saturday 1st December 2018 was held in Freemasons Hall, Newtownards Road, Belfast at 2:30pm. It was my sad duty to refer to the passing of M.E.Comp. Albert Rooney, Honorary Past District Grand Captain of the Scarlet Veil and Past Grand Chapter Representative for New York who died on 27th October 2018. The memory of our departed Companion was honoured with the final salute.

I was delighted to welcome the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King M.E. & S. Comp. S. Gordon Leathern BEM to our District on his first visit since becoming Supreme Grand King. M.E.& S. Comp. Leathern accepted my invitation to occupy the Throne, was saluted and suitably replied thanking all from the District who had supported him by attending his Installation. Following the announcement by M.E. & S. Comp Leathern that, at the last Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter, I had been reappointed District Grand King, I was saluted and suitably replied. I proceeded to reappoint and salute R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris as District Deputy Grand King and R.E.Comp. Roy Humphries as District Assistant Grand King. Both suitably replied. All permanent Officers were reappointed and saluted.

I was pleased to welcome and salute Past District Grand King, M.E.Comp. Ken Abernethy and Past District Assistant Grand King, M.E.Comp. Jimmy Copes, both of whom suitably replied. I was also pleased to welcome and salute the District Deputy Grand King of Antrim, R.E.Comp. Tom McCurley, and from Armagh the District Deputy Grand King, Thomas S Millsopp, the District Assistant Grand King R.E.Comp. Walter Wilson and the District Assistant Grand King Designate R.E.Comp. Andy Lambe. R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp suitably replied on behalf of all.

Present and past Supreme Grand Chapter Officers, Foreign Representatives, Elected Members of the Grand Chapter of Instruction, past District Grand Chapter Officers and visiting District Grand Chapter Officers were also welcomed and saluted. I also welcomed Distinguished Companions from other Masonic Disciplines and thanked them for their support. As part of their 60th Anniversary celebrations E.Comp. Peter Carvill EK of Wellington RAC No. 200 presented me with my portrait. I advised I would keep it safe until such times as I retired, and a suitable place could be found to hang it. I thanked them for their generosity and wished them every success for the future.

During my remarks I congratulated the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E. & S. Comp. S. Gordon Leathern BEM and his Team on their recent Installation, wished them every success and pledged our ongoing support to Supreme Grand Chapter. I announced that the BBQ on 15th September in Newry Masonic Hall had proved a great success and thanked all involved in the organisation and all who had supported it. Next year's social event would be a Dinner Dance in Millbrook Lodge, Ballynahinch on Friday 1st November. I congratulated M.E.Comp's. James K. Prime, Peter Rowntree and Roy J.F. Humphries on their recent appointments as Foreign Representatives of Illinois, Victoria and the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of France respectively, at Supreme Grand Chapter.

I advised that a programme of Seminars for Directors of Ceremonies was being organised for September/October next year. More details to follow. I congratulated V.E.Comp. John C. Clarke on his recent Installation as Provincial Grand Master and assured him of our ongoing support and our support for their Galwally House Project. The Charity Collection was taken up and amounted to £787.50.

My sincere thanks go to my Deputy R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris and my Assistant R.E.Comp. Roy Humphries for all their help and support throughout the year. The best thanks of District go to all our permanent Officers and especially our hard working and dedicated administration team of Treasurer R.E.Comp. Cecil Wilson, Registrar R.E.Comp. Terry Luney, Assistant Treasurer V.E.Comp. John Robinson and Assistant Registrar V.E.Comp. Norman Kelly to whom we are all truly indebted.



Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone & Fermanagh

M.E.Comp. Dr. Ray Hetherington, District Grand King



Summary

Having completed my second year as District Grand King, I have reviewed the past year in the life of the District Grand Chapter in 2018 and reflected on what has been achieved. I am pleased to report that the District Grand Chapter

continues to be well supported by the Companions and as you will see that both the Chapters and Companions in the District have had a busy year.

Convocations

Our first Convocation was held Donaghendry Parish Hall, North Street, Stewartstown Co. Tyrone on Thursday the 8th March 2018 at the invitation of Stewartstown Royal Arch Chapter No. 479.

The Excellent King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 479, E.Comp. John Nicholl, welcomed the District Grand Chapter to Stewartstown. This was an evening Convocation with some 140 Companions in attendance.

I also had the pleasure of welcoming R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris, the District Deputy Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Down.

At this Convocation I had the honour of presenting V.E.Comp. Cyril G. H. Gilbert of Unity Royal Arch Chapter No. 396 Cookstown and current District Grand Royal Arch Captain with his 50 Year Jewel and Certificate and I congratulated him on achieving such a memorable milestone in Royal Arch Masonry.

During the Convocation the following Past District Grand Officers were presented with their Certificate of Past Office in recognition of their Service to the District Grand Chapter; R.E.Comp. A. Allen Wallace, District Grand High Priest; R.E.Comp. Raymond Millar, District Grand Chief Scribe; V.E.Comp. J. Nevin Hamilton as a District Grand Steward; V.E.Comp. John Orr as the District Grand King's Standard Bearer and R.E.Comp. J. Bryan Dunlop BEM a Permanent District Grand Organist.

I reported that I had invited E.Comp. Colin Jardine of Cappagh Royal Arch Chapter No. 350 Omagh to fill the vacant office of Permanent District Grand Organist which he had accepted.

I thanked E.Comp. Ross M. Hussey of Cappagh Royal Arch Chapter No. 350 Omagh for presenting



me with the District Grand King's neck jewel which was last worn by M.E.Comp. Captain George R. Deverell R.N. the District Grand King from 1969 to 1971. E.Comp. Hussey having seen the Jewel for sale on an auction website had purchased it at his own expense on behalf of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter. I appreciate E.Comp. Hussey's generosity in acquiring the Jewel.

The charity collection amounted to £941.

On Thursday the 14th June 2018 the District Grand Chapter Convocation was held in Faughanvale Presbyterian Church Hall, Killylane Road, Eglinton, Londonderry at the invitation of W.E. Scott Memorial Royal Arch Chapter No. 554 Campsie Londonderry. This was an evening Convocation with some 165 Companions in attendance.

E.Comp. Philip Colgan, a member of the host Royal Arch Chapter for the Convocation welcomed the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter to Faughanvale. We were honoured by the presence of M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble, the Most Excellent Assistant Grand King who I welcomed and proffered him the Sceptre and invited him to occupy the Throne. I congratulated M.E.Comp. Trimble on being appointed as Deputy Grand King elect. M.E.Comp. Trimble was then saluted in the traditional manner followed by acclamation. M.E.Comp. Trimble thanked the District Grand Chapter for the welcome and congratulations and the Companions for their salutation.

I also had the honour of welcoming and saluting M.E.Comp. Jon McA. Pollock, the District Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim and R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris the District Deputy



Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Down.

I expressed sadness in having to refer to the passing to higher service on the 12th April 2018 of the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King Michael J. Ward. The Most Excellent Assistant Grand King delivered a tribute to the late Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King. After which the final salute was accorded.

At this Convocation I was delighted to invest E.Comp. Colin Jardine as a District Grand Organist.

V.E.Comp. Robert J. Moore of Omagh Royal Arch Chapter No. 332, a retiring District Grand Inspector and Very Excellent Companion Samuel M. Gardiner of Commercial Royal Arch Chapter No. 164, a Past District Grand Steward in 2017, were presented with their Past District Grand Officers Certificates and thanked them for their service to the District Grand Chapter.

The Charity collection was £1,008.

On Thursday the 11th October 2018 the District Grand Chapter Convocation was held in The Freemasons' Hall, Bishop Street Londonderry at the invitation of Commercial Royal Arch Chapter No. 164 Londonderry. This was an evening Convocation with some 133 Companions in attendance.

V.E.Comp. Samuel Gardiner of the host Royal Arch Chapter for the Convocation, welcomed the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter on behalf of his Chapter.

We were honoured by the presence of M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble, the Most Excellent Deputy Grand King. After congratulating M.E.Comp. Trimble on his Installation as the Deputy Grand King and the eloquent manner in which he conducted both the business of the September Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter and his Installing of the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, I proffered him the Sceptre and invited him to occupy the Throne. On taking the Throne Most Excellent Companion Trimble thanked the District Grand Chapter for the welcome and salutation. M.E.Comp. Trimble then gave a detailed report of his recent visit to Sri Lanka and Malaysia and the current healthy state of Irish Freemasonry in South East Asia.

I also had the honour of welcoming and saluting M.E.Comp. Jon McA. Pollock, the District Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim; R.E.Comp. Thomas J. McCurley the District Deputy Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter

of Antrim and R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris the District Deputy Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Down.

At this Convocation I was delighted to Invest E.Comp. Noel A. Drain of St. Alban's Royal Arch Chapter No. 719 Limavady and the current Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Lodge of Londonderry and Donegal as an Honorary Past District Grand Chief Scribe.

During the Convocation I had the pleasure in congratulating the following Companions:

Most Excellent Companion Philip G. Brisbane of Cookstown Royal Arch Chapter No. 470 on being appointed the Foreign Representative of the Supreme Grand Chapter of the Holy Royal Arch in the Netherlands.

Most Excellent Companion Robert R. Mitchell of Victory Royal Arch Chapter No. 52 Londonderry the District Grand Chapter Chaplain on being appointed the Foreign Representative of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Delaware.

Very Excellent Companion Ronald G. Abbott of Ecclesville Royal Arch Chapter No. 202 Fintona on being appointed as the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King's Standard Bearer for 2019.

During the Convocation I announced the following: After fourteen years as District Grand Treasurer, R.E.Comp. Richard M. Lyons wished to retire which I accepted with regret and thanked R.E.Comp. Lyons for his distinguished service to the District Grand Chapter during that time. I reported I had invited R.E.Comp. Allen A. Wallace of Pioneer Royal Arch Chapter No. 271 Letterkenny to fill the Office of District Grand Treasurer which he had accepted.

Due to the appointment of R.E.Comp. Allen A. Wallace as the District Grand Treasurer it resulted in a vacancy as an Inspector for Group D and I had invited the current District Grand Steward, V.E.Comp. S. Alwyn Robinson of Donemana Royal Arch Chapter No. 256 to accept the Office of District Grand Inspector which he had accepted.

After seven years as District Grand Chaplain R.E.Comp. Robert G. Quigley had indicated he wished to retire due to his many Masonic commitments. I thanked R.E. Comp. Quigley for his service as District Grand Chaplain and I announced I had invited E.Comp. Robert G. Dane of Erne Royal Arch Chapter No. 586 Enniskillen to accept the Office of District Grand Chaplain.

After eight years V.E.Comp. David D. Bratton wished to retire as a District Grand Inspector for Group



C. I thanked V.E.Comp. Bratton for his service to the District Grand Chapter and I announced I had invited E.Comp. Robert Paul of St. Columb's Royal Arch Chapter No. 640 Londonderry to accept the Office of District Grand Inspector.

By invitation from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland I had nominated The Deputy District Grand King, R.E.Comp. Robert S. Moore for Progressive Office in the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter. On his Installation as R.E.Comp. Moore would become a permanent member of the Royal Arch Board of General Purposes and to maintain the current District representation I invited M.E.Comp. Garry R. Brandon of Cappagh Royal Arch Chapter No. 350 Omagh to become a representative on the Royal Arch Board of General Purposes

As M.E.Comp. William W. Wilson of Temple Royal Arch Chapter No. 138 Londonderry was retiring as a member of the Royal Arch Board of General Purposes I invited Most Excellent Companion Philip G. Brisbane of Cookstown Royal Arch Chapter No. 470 Cookstown to fill the vacancy.

The charity collection amounted to £728.

On Thursday the 13th of December we assembled for our usual Christmas Lunch and Installation Convocation in the White Horse Hotel, Campsie Londonderry which was extremely well supported with 130 at the lunch and over 180 at the Installation.

At this Convocation I was delighted to welcome and salute a number of distinguished visitors namely: The Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, the Most Excellent Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. McA. Pollock the Most Excellent District Grand King of the District Grand Chapter of Antrim, M.E.Comp. Neil Coey the Most Excellent District Grand King of the District Grand Chapter of Down,

Visits During 2018

I attended the Installation of Ancient Donegal Royal Arch Chapter No. 588 on the 21st February and presented Right E.Comp. E. Haslett Moore with his 50 Year Jewel in the presence of his Son, Excellent Companion James Moore who was Installed as King on the same evening.

As a guest I attended the 150th Anniversary and Celebratory Dinner of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone and Fermanagh held in the Killyhevlin Hotel Enniskillen on Wednesday the 28th February.

On Thursday the 5th April I attended the Installation in Gorey, Co. Wicklow of M.E.Comp. David J. Rhodes District Grand King as the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Wicklow and Wexford,

M.E.Comp. Richard A. Howard the Most Excellent District Grand King of the District Grand Chapter of Meath and North Connaught and M.E.Comp. Kenneth Abernethy the Past Most Excellent District Grand King of the District Grand Chapter of Down.

I was delighted to welcome and Install the following new District Chapter officers: Excellent Comp's Robert G. Dane, Royal Arch Chapter No. 586; Neil Jardine, Royal Arch Chapter No. 482; Geoffrey A. Browne Royal Arch Chapter No. 588; J. Stanley Moffatt Royal Arch Chapter No. 586; David Bailey Royal Arch Chapter No. 287; Robert Paul Royal Arch Chapter No. 640 and V.E.Comp. S. Alwyn Robinson Royal Arch Chapter No. 256.

During the Convocation I had the pleasure in congratulating the following Companions: The District Deputy Grand King, R.E.Comp. Robert S. Moore on being appointed the Foreign Representative of the Grand Lodge of the National Grand Lodge of Guinea at the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The District Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. William G. Shaw on being appointed the Foreign Representative of the Grand Lodge of the National Grand Lodge of Greece at the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

E.Comp. Jonathan W. Woods of Enniskillen Royal Arch Chapter No. 205 on being appointed as the Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone and Fermanagh.

V.E.Comp. James Moore of Omagh Royal Arch Chapter No. 332 on being appointed as the Provincial Deputy Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone and Fermanagh.

The charity collection which will be donated to Air Ambulance NI amounted to £1,363.

accompanied by the District Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. William G. Shaw and M.E.Comp. Jon McA. Pollock, the District Grand King of Antrim.

I attended a Choral Evensong Service on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Armagh held in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Sunday the 22nd April, accompanied by the Deputy District Grand King, R.E.Comp. Moore.

On Saturday the 5th May I attended the Convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Convocation in Youghal and I thank those District Grand Officers, Foreign Representatives and Companions from



the District who made the effort to attend the Convocation. I believe the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter had one of the largest representations from the Northern Districts present, if not the largest. I congratulate the District Grand King and Officers of the District Grand Chapter of Munster for a most enjoyable and memorable Convocation which was held at an excellent venue, proceeded by a delicious lunch and I wish to express my gratitude to all those involved in making the day such a success.

On Saturday the 2nd June I attended a Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim in the Royal Court Hotel, Portrush accompanied by the District Grand Registrar where a delegation

Obituaries

R.E.Comp. Cecil Robert Ardley Wilkinson (Known as Cecil) Aughnacloy Royal Arch Chapter No. 230 a Past District Grand High Priest;

V.E.Comp. William Alfred Wilson (Known as Freddie) of Unity Royal Arch Chapter No. 531 Moneymore, an Honorary Past District Captain of the Host;

Honours

I wish to record my congratulations to the following Companions and their Family Members who have received honours in both the Queens 2018 Birthday List and the New Year 2019 List;

Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)

R.E.Comp. John McRobert a Past District Grand Chief Scribe and Past Registrar of Curran Royal Arch Chapter No. 532. A Principal engineer, Department for Infrastructure. For services to engineering in Northern Ireland.

Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

Paula, the Daughter of V.E.Comp. David McIntyre of Coleraine Royal Arch Chapter No. 754 for services to food, drink and hospitality sector in Northern Ireland.

British Empire Medal (BEM)

Companion Robert Norman Espie of Stewartstown Royal Arch Chapter No. 479 National Standard Bearer, The Royal British Legion. For voluntary service to ceremonial duties and remembrance.

from the Provincial Grand Chapter of Argyll and the Isles were present.

On Thursday the 20th September I attended a Convocation of Clogher Royal Arch Chapter No. 451 where I and the Deputy Grand King presented V.E.Comp. Canon George Little with his 50 Year Jewel.

On Monday the 10th December I attended a Communication of Royal Blue Lodge No. 404 Portstewart where M.E.Comp. Desmond Shackleton the Past District Deputy Grand King was presented with his 50 Year Jewel and Certificate and I congratulate M.E.Comp. Shackleton on this significant milestone in Freemasonry.

E.Comp. Alexander Caldwell Moore the Treasurer of Cookstown Royal Arch Chapter No. 470 who died as the result of a tragic farm accident;

E.Comp. William Millar Farr the Almoner of Stewartstown Royal Arch Chapter No. 479.

Diana, the Wife of M.E.Comp. Ian Rudd of Temple Royal Arch Chapter No. 138 Londonderry for services to Girl Guiding and young people in Londonderry.

The Installation season has been extremely successful, and I thank my Deputy and Assistants for their assistance and support during this busy period. I wish to place on record my thanks to all Chapters and Companions in the District who have welcomed me and my Senior Officers with generosity and hospitality.

The District Grand Chapter is looking forward to hosting the stated Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter at the White Horse Hotel Campsie, Londonderry on Saturday the 4th May 2019.

Finally, my thanks to the Grand Registrar and the Staff in Molesworth Street for their help and co-operation during the past year. I extend to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, his Deputy and Assistant the best wishes of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh and assure them of our continuing support in the future.



Munster

M.E.Comp. Rev. Edwin Hunter, District Grand King

Already it is 2019 so time to remember what happened in 2018. For the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster 2018 was a memorable year of highs and lows.

Traditionally the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster installs its officers in Mid-December, so we steal a little of 2017 for the 2018 installations. This event featured the usual promotions and the semi-permanent officers reinstalled. The meeting was sorry to hear our long-standing Treasurer give notice that 2018 was to be his last year, we will miss his expertise and service of many years, a job he has done with distinction.

January brought the start of the usual round of Chapter installations where some new Companions appeared, and old semi-permanent members continued. My thanks to my Deputy who covered some of these events and of course the District Inspector ever present to observe and help with Ritual.

Every year the District moves out to one of the country chapters for its April meeting. This year it was the turn of Skibbereen to host us. Unfortunately, the writer was unable to attend so my thanks to my Deputy for stepping in and chairing the meeting. I am told that a good night was had by all and thanks to our hosts for looking after all so well.

Hard on the heels of this came a low point as the news filtered through of the sudden and unexpected passing to the Great Chapter above of the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King M.E. and S. Michael Ward. Shock and disbelief was felt everywhere while a period of mourning was ordered by the Deputy Grand King, and a large and representative attendance was at the funeral.

Meanwhile Munster or more appropriately Chapter 68 Youghal was preparing to host the May meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter as the 275th anniversary of the first mention of Royal Arch Masonry anywhere in the world which took place in Youghal. At that time great public displays of Masonry were common, and on that occasion a great procession left the Lodge and proceeded through the town, with the "Royal Arch" being carried by two "Super Excellent Masons" to the Collegiate Church of St. Mary for a service.

At our meeting the Deputy Grand King (now the Grand King), was in the chair, although only out of hospital, and prior to opening the Supreme Grand Chapter the historical event was marked by a colourful procession of Robed officers of The District of Munster. Followed by a small re-enactment of the original procession by the Robed officers of

Youghal Chapter 68 as they paraded in carrying "The Royal Arch". It should be noted that "Robed officers" are peculiar to The District of Munster and RAC 68 Youghal and it makes a colourful spectacle.

This meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter was the first since the sad passing of M.E. & S Michael Ward, a short Memorial service took place led by the Grand Chaplains Rev. Edwin Hunter and Rev. Kenneth Gamble. Scripture Reading by the Assistant Grand King Rev. Canon Harry Trimble and a most moving and appropriate address was given by the Deputy Grand King M.E.Comp. Gordon Leathem.

So Many people worked hard to ensure the success of the meeting and my thanks to them all and to the Walter Raleigh Hotel who as the advertisement runs "Did what it says on the tin".

It is gratifying to report that once again Royal Arch numbers show an increase. This bears out the correctness of the policy of giving every chapter a realisable target for a minimum of two new members each year. With rises there are also falls and we were all shocked to hear of the passing of Past District High Priest R.E.Comp. Leslie Smyth. Our sympathies are extended to his widow Joy and her Family. Also, we sympathise with other members who suffered bereavements in their wider families.

The year continued with more highs as we were privileged to attend the installation of our new M.E. & S. Grand King, S. Gordon Leathem B.E.M. The impressive ceremony witnessed by many visiting delegations was followed by an equally impressive one for the installation of M.E.Comp. Rev Canon Harry Trimble as Deputy Grand King. We wish both every success in their new and important offices.

The Year ended with the nomination of Former District Grand King of Munster Charles Olden as Assistant Grand King. We wish him well and his installation will be reported in 2019 report.

Finally, on a personal note I had hoped that 2017 would have been my last report as I had written to the Grand King tendering my retirement as District Grand King of Munster last April. However, circumstances intervened which delayed my departure and an appointment of a successor. So, life goes on and I once again thank my Deputy R.E.Comp. Robin Newenham for his unending support and my District officers, and especially District Registrar Guy St. Leger who keeps me on track.

Thanks of course to all at Molesworth Street especially The Grand Registrar for all their help and support during the years.



Meath & North Connaught

M.E.Comp. Richard A. Howard, District Grand King

It is with great pleasure for me to report that the District Grand Royal Chapter of Meath and North Connaught continues to be well supported and I thank all the Companions for their encouragement. It was with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King Michael J. Ward in April, to his wife and family we extend our most sincere sympathies.

I have visited along with R.E.Comp. Ivan Bournes many of the Chapters in the District throughout the year and had the pleasure of being offered the Sceptre on all occasions and duly taking the throne for a short time on each occasion. In January the District Grand Chapter of Meath and North Connaught Convocation was held in Cavan and I had the pleasure of Installing the Officers of Meath and North Connaught.

In April the District Grand Chapter Convocation was held in Mohill. The July the District Grand Chapter Convocation was held in Bailieborough. The Officers for 2019 were nominated and the locations of convocations was decided. In October the District Grand Chapter Convocation was held in Sligo where the District Grand Officers as nominated in July were elected. I was delighted to welcome the Most Excellent Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble to Meath and North Connaught who occupied the

Throne for reading of the minutes. I had the pleasure of attending the Installations in Longford 76 in November, Mohill 495 in November, Cavan 90 in December and Bailieborough 796 in February, these Installation Conclaves were well attended, and I thank them for the invites. I encourage all companions to attend District Grand Chapter where they will be most welcome indeed. I want to thank the Companions of Chapter 76 who have taken to carrying out the degree of Mark Master Mason with enthusiasm.

Finally, I want to thank all the District Grand Officers and all the Companions of the District for their loyalty and assistance in the past year, and to the Grand Registrar and staff at Molesworth Street for their help and guidance a sincere thank you.



North Munster

M.E.Comp. Cyril R. Foster, District Grand King

It gives me great pleasure to present my report on the activities of the District Grand Chapter of North Munster for the year 2018.

The year 2018 was a fairly busy year in the District, with activities in all three Chapters. The activities included five advancements, four exaltations, one affiliation and two resignations.

The usual four Convocations of the District were held during the year. The January, April and November Conclaves were held in Limerick, with the September Conclave as usual being held in Galway. The meetings of the District were well attended with November being the Installation Convocation. This meeting was followed by a Festive Board, which was well attended and enjoyed by all present.

Royal Arch Chapter 14 advanced Brother Duke to the Mark Degree and subsequently exalted him, together with Brother Casserly to the Royal Arch Degree. Unfortunately, the Chapter also had two resignations. On the plus side they did benefit from the affiliation of M. DaCosta from a Royal Arch Chapter, E.C. They also held their Annual Dinner in November at which it was my great pleasure to be a guest. As usual this was a most enjoyable occasion.

Chapter 73 had two exaltations, W Dalton and G Cook.

Royal Arch Chapter 333 advanced four Brethren to the Mark Degree, Brothers Khalife, McMahon, Kavanagh, and Maher.

To all these Brethren and Companions we offer our congratulations and hope that they have a very happy time in Royal Arch Masonry.

I would of course like to take this opportunity to thank all the Officers of the District for their support and assistance to me in the year 2018. In particular I would like to thank the District Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. B.P. Ruttle for his help in the running of the District during the past year.

My grateful thanks also goes to my Deputy, R.E.Comp. R.S. Hackett for his continued unfailing support during the year 2018 and in particular for his enthusiasm in supporting and assisting Chapter 14 in Galway.

Finally, I also extend my good wishes and thanks to the Grand Registrar and his staff in Molesworth Street for all their assistance, and I send my good wishes to them for the year 2019.

Wicklow & Wexford

M.E. Comp. David Rhodes, District Grand King

It has been a very eventful year for the District and me personally.

It started as far as I was concerned with me being invested District Grand King on the 5th of April. We were honoured by the presence of the of the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King Michael J. Ward (at that time we did not know that that would be the last meeting he was to attend due to his passing a few days later) there were other distinguished guests including the M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble, the Grand Treasurer R.E.Comp. John Haynes the Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Philip Daley and the Districts of Antrim, Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone & Fermanagh, the Midlands, Munster and South Eastern plus other guests. I would like to thank the Past District Grand King M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton and our

Director of Ceremonies V.E.Comp. Neil Mathews for the practise that allowed the ceremony run so smoothly together with my sponsors & chain bearer, and companions who took part. I was invested by M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble in a fine and sincere manner.

The officers elected for 2019 were installed. A presentation to R.E.Comp. Jose Good of a Certificate & Past Grand High Priests Jewel. Presentation to the Past Grand King M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton of a wall clock for all he has given to the District. Presented by Past District Deputy. Grand King R.E.Comp. Ken Tucker. Then to complete the meeting a 50-year jewel was presented to the Past District Grand King Neil Fenton by the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King. This was followed by good food,



good wine and very good company at the festive board. It was announced that V.E.Comp. Shane O'Brian was to be the next Deputy District Grand King.

A number from the district made the journey to The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland that was held at the Walter Raleigh Hotel, Youghal Co Cork on the 5th May. The Deputy Grand King. M.E.Comp. Gordon S Leathem B.E.M. took the meeting. Following the opening, Tributes were then played to Late Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King M.E. Comp. Michael J Ward. The meeting was held in Youghal to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Chapter No 68. The normal business Grand Chapter was carried out. The highlight as far as I was concerned was the parading in of all the officer of Chapter No 68, who were in the regalia and dressed in accordance with members of the time who marched through the streets of Youghal to the opening meeting.

District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Wicklow & Wexford 4th October

Not only was this my first meeting as District Grand King, it was also the installation meeting for our new Deputy Grand King V.E.Comp. Shane

O'Brian. The meeting was held in Gorey instead of Carlow to allow more room for the presentation of the incoming Deputy District Grand King. Our visiting guest from Midlands, Munster and South Eastern were paraded in together with the Past Deputy Grand King R.E.Comp. Ken Tucker. The Chapter was then opened. We then paid due respect to the parsing of the late Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King M.E.Comp. Michael J. Ward. Our guests saluted, minutes read. Then V.E.Comp. Shane O'Brian was conducted round to the alter, the obligation was then given by Past District Grand King M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton. The Deputy District Grand King was presented with his chain of office by the District Grand King, he then took his appropriate place on the dais and was saluted. The normal business of the chapter was then carried out.

A vote of thanks to the stewards, sponsors and chain bearer in there perambulating together with D.C. V.E.Comp. Neil Mathews. I would again like to thank all who came to the practice. A past Kings Jewel was presented to Past District Grand King M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton. Lastly, I would thank the entire officers who stood in on the night.

The Festive Board & Toasts

Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem & the Officers of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Ireland proposed by the District Grand King and the reply by R.E.Comp. Guy St Leger. The District Grand King & Officers of the District Grand Chapter of Wicklow & Wexford proposed by Comp. Tim Carr and the reply by M.E.Comp David Rhodes. The Deputy District Grand King, R.E.Comp Shane O'Brian proposed by M.E.Comp. David Rhodes and the reply by R.E.Comp. Shane O'Brien.

The Masonic Charities proposed by V.E. Comp Sean Rafferty. Our Gusts proposed by M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton and the reply by M.E.Comp. Edwin Hunter, District Grand King, Munster. Replying M.E.Comp. said our M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton had contributed to promote visiting between the Districts, as before his time the districts tended to only visit in their own district.

The District looks to going forward with a good attendance at all our chapters. Chapter 877 had 3 Companions advanced. Chapter No 116 had two affiliated with one Brother taking

his Mark Degree in November. Chapter 700 having one Advanced and 1 affiliated. With one proposed companion for 228. All Chapters maintained their membership with passing of one member and two resignations.

At our District meeting on the on the 1st November I gave a talk on fitting out a cabin cruiser to encourage our members to talk on any item they enjoy. I am looking forward to getting out and meeting you all at our chapter meetings and hope we can all work together in promoting the Chapter to enjoy the company of fellow Masons. I certain that I will be joined in this thought by our Deputy District Grand King R.E.Comp. Shane O'Brian.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Past District Grand King M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton for all had achieved for the District in his 15 years he held the office as District Grand King. To end the year M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton accompanied me to The District Grand Meeting in Munster for their installation of officers on the 12th December. Were we were well received and enjoyed the meeting.



South Eastern

M.E. Comp. Ian Devonport, District Grand King

The installation ceremonies were conducted with good humour and great attention to the detail of our ritual in Waterford, Kilkenny and Clonmel. Kilkenny companions were fortunate that the heavy snow fell on the day after their Installation and thus avoided any disruption to their plans.

Numbers in the district have increased during the year, albeit by a net figure of 1, but further candidates are already approved for 2019.

In March I was pleased to be able to again attend the District Grand Chapter of the Midland Counties for their Installation of Officers and this was followed by a visit in early April to Gorey where the District of Wicklow and Wexford also installed their officers. Great credit is due to M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton for his energy and drive in encouraging the adjoining Districts to visit each other.

To celebrate the 275th Anniversary of Royal Arch being first recorded, a tremendous celebration was held in Youghal both in their own Chapter and by the Grand Chapter convocation over the first weekend in May. I am delighted that the physical wooden Arch from Waterford was carried in

procession into Grand Chapter in memory of the same procession recorded 275 years ago. A note of sadness was the absence of Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King Michael J. Ward who had died a few weeks before the Anniversary event.

In December, several Companions from South Eastern again visited Cork to witness the colourful robes on show during the installation convocation of the District Grand Chapter of Munster. We wish our friend M.E.Comp. Edwin Hunter a long and enjoyable retirement.

Our District Grand Chapter Officers were installed in March at Waterford and we welcomed many visitors from our adjacent Districts. I thank the Officers of our district for the valuable work they perform during the year. The great assistance of M.E.Comp. Eric Good in preparing the rooms is worthy of public acknowledgement. He does much work 'behind the scenes' in Waterford and continues to give loyal and valuable service in the various offices he holds in masonry.

I also thank those in the office at Molesworth Street for their hard work and assistance.

The Midlands

M.E.Comp Erwin Cobbe, District Grand King

How time flies as it seems like only recently that I wrote last year's report.

Our eight Chapters continue with their convocations, very quietly and graciously installing officers, and performing degrees on new candidates, all which keep the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter ticking over. For all this, I thank them most sincerely.

In March, the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter convocation was held in Mountmellick, when we had our installation of officers. The ceremony of installation proceeded in a most dignified manner, in no small part due to the guidance of our director of ceremonies, V.E.Comp. Neville Magee. Our outgoing High Priest, R.E.Comp. Loftus Warren, was thanked for his many years of dedicated service. M.E.Comp. Leslie Evans was presented

with a Past High Priests Jewel, in recognition of his dedicated service to Royal Arch Masonry, not least his seventeen years as District Grand Registrar.

We were delighted to have with us on that occasion, the Assistant Grand King, M.E.Comp. Rev Canon. T. Henry Trimble. It is always a pleasure to hear his wise council. Also present, were the District Grand King of Wicklow & Wexford, M.E.Comp. Neil H.H. Fenton, his Deputy R.E.Comp. David J. Rhodes together with the Deputy District Grand King of South Eastern, R.E.Comp. Ian McCullagh. All were saluted and suitably replied.

In March, I visited the South Eastern District convocation in Waterford and I was accompanied by V.E.Comp. Neville Magee and V.E.Comp. Alan Chapman.

In April, I attended the District Grand



Chapter of Wicklow & Wexford Convocation in Gorey, accompanied by my Deputy, R.E.Comp. Raymond Stanley and V.E.Comp. Neville Magee. On this occasion, we were delighted to witness, the installation of their new District Grand King, M.E.Comp David J. Rhodes. Sadly, it was the last time that we were privileged to have the pleasure of the company of our Past Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. Michael J. Ward.

Also, in April our District Convocation was held in Portlaoise and after business including the nomination of officers, a most interesting and informative talk was delivered by E.Comp. Richard Brophy, on the history of Portlaoise Lodge and Chapter in particular and Masonry in Laois / Queens County in general.

May brought us to Youghal for a lovely convocation which included a moving service of remembrance for our past Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King. Very well done to Munster and Youghal. May also saw twenty-four companions attend a convocation of Chapter 215 in Newbridge and this which was followed by a most enjoyable festive board at Toughers' Restaurant. Well done to 215.

In September we had special reason to attend Supreme Grand Chapter in Molesworth Street to witness the installation of the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem, together with the installation of his Deputy, M.E. Comp Rev. Canon T. Harry Trimble. On the same occasion, our very own V.E.Comp. Roy Wallace was installed as the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King's Sword Bearer, an honour for him and our District.

We were again honoured to be invited to Gorey and attend the installation of the District Deputy Grand King of Wicklow & Wexford of R.E.Comp Shane O'Brien, where a great night was had by all.

Our October Convocation was held in Tullamore, where we were royally entertained. Sadly, throughout the year we suffered the loss of some of our most loyal and distinguished companions and these include; R.E.Comp Cecil Cole who served in the District from 1996 / 2005, V.E.Comp. Dougie Hughes, Past King of Chapter 167, E.Comp. Tommie Harris, Past King of Chapter 167, E.Comp. Noel Poynton Past King of Chapter 215 and E.Comp. Kenneth Magee, Past King Chapter 215.

I wish to thank all those chapters who hosted District Convocations throughout the year and for their hospitality and such a welcoming reception. In addition. I wish to thank all the District Officers for their regular attendance and attention to detail, especially remembering our Registrar, R.E.Comp. Paul O'Connor for his attention to detail, and our Director of Ceremonies, V.E.Comp. Neville Magee. I especially wish to thank my Deputy, R.E.Comp. Raymond Stanley, for his help and guidance and his endurance on our many miles together.

Finally, a special thank you to the Grand Registrar and staff in Molesworth Street for their ever willingness to help and support us in our endeavours. I extend to the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, his Deputy and Assistant, the very best wishes for the future from the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of The Midlands.

South Africa, Northern

M.E.Comp. Andre de Roubaix, District Grand King

It is my privilege to present this report related to the activities of the District of South Africa Northern, on the role of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Ireland, for the period September 2017 until end August 2018.

We lost, in the course of the year, a few Companions to the Grand Chapter Above, namely M.E.Comp. James E. Thomson and John Hammill, both of Royal Arch Chapter No. 364 and after a long illness, R.E.Comp.

Andries Erasmus of Tirmochree RA Chapter no. 523. They will be remembered for their friendly and very active participation in the course of so many years.

This period has been again a very busy, non-stop, active exercise. Many matters have been worked on in the period of the last twelve months to manage the District but mainly to increase our membership.

The number of aging Brethren remains for all of



us of a great concern and it remains difficult to attract new members. Some Brethren are too easily attracted to our Sister Constitutions offering easy access to many side and / or higher degrees. Keeping them in the Irish context is often difficult.

We count at present only 62 Companions in the Northern District. Not a big difference in comparison with last year. We only booked an addition of four new Companions. But this is not sufficient to compensate and fill up the ranks. There are changes of tide in the Craft and this, let us hope, will result in an increase of interested young Brethren, becoming at a later date Companions. Several have already shown interest. All efforts are placed in the balance and we remain confident that, it perhaps does not show right now, but that we will, slowly and surely, turn the actual trend into a positive growth. Increasing our numbers is challenging!

Regular visits to all Chapters have reinforced the bounds between the Companions and the management of the District. Informing, recommending and helping in all possible actions and necessities are major goals for the Chain Bearers and several Officers. We are not a big number of Chapters and Companions, but the quality is palpable and all participate in promoting our Order. I thank the Companions who accompany me regularly during these visits.

My Deputy, R.E.Comp. Thinus Kriel and Assistant, R.E.Comp. Justin Dawe are permanently cooperating to our activities and do not spare time and efforts in assisting in the management and promotion of the Order. Again I thank them sincerely for all performed and results achieved.

We cannot forget the achievements generated with the cooperation of some dedicated and often younger Companions. We appreciate immensely their enthusiasm and dedication. I will never stop repeating that our activities are "TEAM WORK", from the youngest to the oldest member of this District.

We are not only financially sound but, have now a solid foundation on which we continue growing. Some investments, very well managed and controlled, have brought very positive results. Our dedicated District Grand Treasurer, R.E.Comp. Bill Rice deserves a big thank you for his work and perseverance.

Our internal and external communication is improving. The new "Irish Masonic web site" covers many items related to our Province, Royal Arch District, Knights Masons and Knights



Natal

M.E.Comp. Anthony Jack Espag, District Grand King

It gives me great pleasure to present this report for the District of Natal for the year 2018.

It was with extreme sadness that I was notified of the passing to higher service of M.E.Comp. Michael J Ward the Supreme Grand King of Irish Royal Arch Masonry.

During the year three of our District members namely E.Comp. Colin Wassink of St. Stephens Chapter, E.Comp. Charlie Lotter of Civic Chapter and a past King of St. Patricks Chapter and V.E.Comp. Chris Haridsty all passed to higher service.

We have visited a number of our Sister Chapters in the other Constitutions and have always been well received. At the end of the year, under review, I attended the Installation Convocation of the Scottish Royal Arch in Pietermaritzburg and we were made most welcome by M.E. Comp Ken Tucker the District Grand Superintendent, who is stepping down and handing over to M.E.Comp. Mike Woolridge. We extended to him our best wishes for the future and pledged to give him the support of the Irish constitution. I was greatly honoured to be awarded Honorary Membership of the District Grand Chapter of Natal under the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.

We attended the Installation of the District Grand Chapter of England and Dromedaris Chapter of The Grand Lodge of South Africa and once again were well received.

The various Chapters in the District are holding their heads above water but there is much to do in the future as our numbers are slowly beginning to decline as the Irish craft Lodges numbers are shrinking.

I mentioned in last year's report that our chapter in Mandini Zululand, St Patrick's was in danger of closing. This unfortunately has come to pass, as only 4 members remain, and the Excellent King feels the end has come and the warrant was handed in at the beginning of the year, a very sad occasion.

The GLSA constitution has started a most innovative initiative that of combined workings in the Mark degrees. On two occasions this year several Irish Chapter members participated with their English, Scottish and GLSA Companions in conducting a Mark Master Masons degree on two candidates. These workings were most successful and attracted many Royal Arch Masons from other chapters to attend.

I have once again appealed to all companions to make a concerted effort to encourage new members to join this order or return if they have resigned. We need to improve communications to the Craft to encourage Master Masons to join the Royal Arch as to complete their Masonic journey as without the Mark and Royal Arch there is a story still to be told.

Our Board of General purposes meetings have been well attended and all matters resolved.

I would like to thank the Registrar R.E.Comp. R. Walker for all the work he has done with regard to smooth running of the District and keeping me informed of all relative matters. At the end of the year he suffered a stroke, but I am pleased to report that he has recovered fully.

To the Treasurer E.Comp. Lance Stanley goes my, grateful thanks, for all you have done in looking after the finances of the District, not an easy task at the best of times particularly all the problems associated with Banking in this country.

I wish to single out three of the stalwarts of the District, namely R.E.Comp's. Gidion, Swanepoel and Gwynn. I would like to extend my gratitude to R.E.Comp. Malcolm Wright, who is also willing to assist whenever needed. My Deputy M.E.Comp. Stan King has been of great assistance over the past year and I will be handing much more over to him in the future due to my failing eyesight.

In conclusion I pledge the support of all Irish Royal Arch Masons in Natal to the Supreme Grand King his Supreme Grand Chapter Officers and to wish him and all Officers a very successful and rewarding year in office.



Ghana

M.E.Comp. Seth Okyere Aniniagyei, District Grand King

The District Grand Royal Arch of Ghana has been faring well over the past years. We have lost a number of Companions of the District who have been called to Supreme Grand Chapter Above.

The District in the past year has held its Half-Yearly Convocation in May and its Annual Convocation in November of 2018.

At the Annual convocation, which was well attended, a new Deputy from a Chapter in Lomé, was invested to supervise the Chapters in Lomé. Other Officers were appointed, and some promoted to fill vacant offices.

Some months after the Annual Convocation the District Grand Registrar had to resign due to ill health. A search for a new registrar was a daunting task but eventually a Companion was found to act till the next Annual Convocation of 2019 to be formally invested with the consent of the District Grand Chapter Board of General Purposes.

The District has been working on acquiring an office to improve our administrative practices and make it more visible in the Masonic circles in Ghana. This quest was made known at the Annual Convocation. I am happy to announce that this has come to a reality. The District now has an Office in the Airport Residential Area of Accra. There will be an official opening of the office before the Annual Convocation of 2019.

On the subordinate Chapters; four are very active and meet regularly. Three other Chapters are working fairly well, with a few challenges, but the board has put in place measures to help them become as active as the other four. One Chapter needs a total overhaul and rebrand to get it working, with this the Supervisor in charge has put together a programme to achieve this, including an action plan which is currently a work in progress.

We Pray the Supreme King of Heaven and Earth to bless our endeavours and guide us aright.

Installation Convocation of Chapter 887 - Feb 2018 – Tokin Casablanca – Lomé.

Seated from left:- 1. RE. Joseph Kossi Ayeh; 2. Ex. King of 887; 3. ME Seth Okyere Aniniagyei (ME District Grand King); 4. RE. Ekow Bentsi-Enchill (Assistant District Grand King); 5. RE. George Koffi de-Souza (ME Deputy District Grand King)



Southern Cape

M.E.Comp. Dan Buckle, District Grand King

Introduction

I was installed as the Most Excellent King of the District in September 2017 and it is a great privilege to present my first report on the District of the Southern Cape for the year ending August 2018.

The year was marked by a new beginning for, and a revitalisation of, the Royal Arch in the Southern Cape. A new District team was appointed and we all started from scratch, but with an enthusiasm not seen in a long time.

Administration

The first step was the review of administration and to ensure that all returns and reports were handled professionally and in accordance with Grand Chapter rules and regulations. This was accomplished after many hours of hard work and

dedication. We now have a District Grand Registrar who is completely dedicated to the smooth running of the administration of the District. R.E.Comp. Harry Archer has been an absolute cornerstone and not enough praise can be heaped on him.

Finances

As with the administration, the entire finances of the District were overhauled, and compliance is now strictly enforced. This has borne the expected

fruit and the District is on a sound financial footing. This bodes well for the future.

Chapters and membership

The Chapters and their membership were discussed and reviewed. Sharman Crawford Royal Arch Chapter No. 608 was a mirror image of Excelsior Royal Arch Chapter No. 388 in Cape Town and it was decided to ask permission from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter to move Sharman Crawford Royal Arch Chapter No. 608 to Somerset West as Dunluce Lodge No. 750 was starting up in

Somerset West. This would ensure and even spread of Royal Arch Chapters in the Southern Cape and cut out hours of travelling. We are confident that such permission will be granted. The projected membership with the move of Sharman Crawford Royal Arch Chapter No. 608 will be 45 and the potential for growth has vastly improved with all the moves being affected.

Visiting

Regular visits and contact, assistance and guidance has maintained the interest of the current members and there has been a growing interest in the Royal Arch. All the Chapters are visited regularly, and assistance is given whenever we

visit. I want to thank all the Companions who accompany me on these visits as their assistance is invaluable. An honest and open rapport has also developed between the District Grand Officers and the members of the various Chapters.

General

We are in the process of developing an information brochure and standard Q&A pamphlet that will be a guide to all Companions who are approached by those showing an interest in the Royal Arch. An Irish Masonic web site is up and running and we will be opening discussions with the Provincial

Grand Lodge shortly to see if we can also link the Royal Arch to the web site. We were invited to attend all the Installations of our Royal Arch Sister Constitutions, which we did and can say that a cordial relationship exists between all.

Closing

I must firstly express a great thank you to every single Companion in the District for their support and commitment to Royal Arch Freemasonry. An absolute word of thanks, once again must go to R.E.Comp. Harry Archer, whose dedication and commitment knows no bounds. I also want to thank the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter for their support of, and confidence in, the District. They have made my task so much easier.

We look back at 2018 and realise that we have come a long way with a revitalised District and our expectations for 2019 is one of consolidating the basics and growing our membership.

Lastly, I want to thank the S.K.O.H.A.E. for giving me health and guidance throughout the year and pray that it may continue.



India

M.E.Comp. Rajiv D. Dave, District Grand King

2018 has been another of steady, albeit slow progress. Membership of the Chapters in the District has remained static. Chapters in the Southern part of the Country are prospering satisfactorily. After the demise of R.W.Bro. L.C. Chogle, Past Provincial Grand Master and the driving force of Bombay Royal Arch Chapter No. 648, it had a temporary hiatus. However, during 2018, we have re-enthused the members and the Chapters is showing signs of progress. Better numbers are expected in the next year.

We had our Annual Installation Convocation in the scenic surroundings of Lonavala where the premises, including the spacious dormitory, were made available to us by Barton Lodge (S.C.).

An impressively large contingent from Calicut travelled over 1200 miles to attend the meeting. A grand time was had by all.

We continue to have cordial relations with our sister Constitutions. There is always inter-visiting among all the four District Chapters.

Mt Deputy, R.E.Comp. Ardeshir (Adi) S. Aga and my Assistant, R.E.Comp. Dr. K. Karthileya Varma have been very supportive. My District Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Percy Wadia has, with his usual flair, managed the Administrative side of the District in good order.

In conclusion, I must express my thanks to the Grand Registrar and his ever-helpful office.

The Far East

M.E.Comp. Chamson Chau, District Grand King

It is my pleasure to present my Annual Report on the recently constituted District Grand Royal Arch Chapter the Far East for the year 2018.

I am pleased to report that our three Chapters in the District have continued to expand. Within this year, Emerald Royal Arch Chapter has admitted and advanced 4 new candidates, Bauhinia Royal Arch Chapter has admitted 1 new candidate and balloted another while Baden Powel Royal Arch Chapter has 2 new members admitted. Our subordinate Chapters are encouraged to continue to seek out new potential candidates so that our District can maintain a healthy growth.

At the Annual Convocation of the District held on Saturday 25th August 2018, a new team of District Officers had been invested and installed, for the first time since the District was constituted 2 years ago. My thanks are due to those who have held Office over the past two years and my hearty congratulations go to those newly installed. My special thanks goes to my District Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Kenneth Wong for his effort and unfailing support in putting the District together since its inception.

On Thursday 29th November 2018, Baden Powell Royal Arch Chapter celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a fellowship dinner at the Lingnan Club.

Although the date coincided with other Masonic activities in Hong Kong, 24 Companions, including members of Baden Powell Royal Arch Chapter as well as Officers from the District attended this joyful and meaningful event.

The Chapter Installation season has gone well. Bauhinia Royal Arch Chapter held their installation on 19th November, Baden Powell Royal Arch Chapter on 20th December and Emerald Royal Arch Chapter in January 2019. I would thank my Deputy and Assistant for all their help and support during this busy period.

I would also like to extend my good wishes and thanks to the Grand Registrar and his team in Molesworth Street for all their assistance.

Last but not least, to our new Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leatham B.E.M, I wish him a long and happy Reign ahead.



New Zealand

M.E.Comp. Roland J. Whyte, Provincial Grand Superintendent

The first business on hand after the summer recess was my installation as the Provincial Grand Superintendent for New Zealand. With the approval of the Grand King, M.E.Comp. Michael J. Ward and the concurrence and authority of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter, M.E.Comp. John M. Davies carried out the ceremony of investiture and installation before a large gathering of Royal Arch Masons and Representatives of the Irish, English, Scottish and New Zealand constitutions and the District Grand Master of Mark Master Masons of England. The excellent manner in which the Provincial Grand Superintendent carried out the ceremony was all the more remarkable considering the fact that he had only just recovered from serious life-threatening health problems suffered a few months earlier.

With my promotion to this office from Deputy it was necessary to appoint and install a new Deputy and I was pleased to install R.E.Comp. George Thomson to that office. His experience in many orders of Freemasonry equips him well for his role as Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent for this Province and we are both looking forward to promoting and supporting Irish Royal Arch Masonry here and elsewhere.

Four weeks after my installation we were shocked to receive the news that our respected and loved Supreme Grand King, Michael Ward, had passed away. We had all been touched by his influence. He had travelled to New Zealand on two occasions for important Masonic events and we had had many formal and social contacts with him when in Ireland. He made a lasting impression on all of the Brethren and Companions he came in contact with here. We can only imagine what an upheaval his death must have caused at Freemasons' Hall and throughout the international fraternity. I think we all believed that we had many more years of his wise counsel to come.

The Province received a formal invitation to attend the consecration of Kuantan Royal Arch Chapter No. 946 in Malaysia to be held on Saturday 16th June, 2018. In my unavoidable absence the Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent, R.E. Comp. George Thomson travelled with his wife to attend this important event in the Province of South East Asia. V.E.Comp. Andrew G. McGregor also attended to

support the Province. The reports I received from them on their return were fulsome in their praise of the hospitality extended to them and I thank the Provincial Grand Superintendent, M.E.Comp. Lau Kee Siong for his very kind invitation and for the excellent arrangements he made for the New Zealand party.

On July 9th I attended the installation ceremony of Ara Royal Arch Chapter No. 348 in Auckland and on October 6th I attended the installation ceremony of Hauraki Royal Arch Chapter No. 454 in Thames. I was well supported by senior Chapter Companions and at each installation the work was carried out in an efficient and dignified manner. I was pleased with the standard of work displayed and by the obvious enjoyment of those who attended. Both Chapters are in a good state at the moment.

We receive regular invitations to attend ceremonies of the English, Scottish and New Zealand Constitutions which keeps us busy and gives us the opportunity to present Irish Royal Arch Masonry in a positive fashion. Relationships between the constitutions remain cordial.

It was a matter of great personal regret that I was not able to attend the installation in Dublin of the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM but I was very ably represented by R.E.Comp. George Thomson the Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent who travelled up with his wife Barbara for the very special occasion. The Excellent King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 348, E. Comp. Wayne K. Oswald was also able to attend with his wife Catherine and the New Zealand party enjoyed very much the ceremony and the new friendships made and existing friendships strengthened. They were all grateful to receive such kind treatment and warm hospitality and I thank all those who made their visit such a success.

I am ably supported here by the Deputy, R.E.Comp. G. Thomson and by M.E.Comp. J.M. Davies, Past Provincial Grand Superintendent and R.E.Comp. B.R. Young Past Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent, all of whom travel long distances on official visits. I am grateful to them all for their willing and enthusiastic assistance. I also thank the team at Freemasons' Hall for their continued cheerful support. It is very much appreciated.



South East Asia

M.E.Comp. Lau Kee Siong, Provincial Grand Superintendent

The saddest news that could befall us in 2018 was that of the passing of the Most Excellent. and Supreme Companion Michael Ward. He had truly been a great friend and mentor to most of us in South East Asia.

2018 marks the growth of the Province for Royal Arch Masonry by another chapter. We constituted our 5th Royal Arch Chapter on Tue 19 Jun 2018. Kuantan Royal Arch Chapter, No. 946 was constituted at the seaport of Kuantan, off the east coast of West Malaysia. This seaport has come to prominence in later years as it serviced the oil and gas terminals notable for bringing much economic prosperity to the country of Malaysia.

The solemn ceremony was conducted with great dignity by M.E.Comp. Rev Harry Trimble. Among

the many distinguished guests were the Most Worshipful Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Douglas Grey and his Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro Philip Daley. In attendance were also representatives of sister Irish Royal Arch Masonry Districts from the Far East as well as New Zealand.

Towards the last months of 2018, the companions of this Province, decided after some deliberations to request the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland for permission to form the District Grand Chapter of South East Asia. On 13 Feb 2019, we received word from the Grand Registrar that our petition was successful and that the Constitution ceremony will be carried out later in the year of 2019. More details of this would be in our next Annual Report 2019.

Zambia

M.E.Comp. David J. McCabe, Provincial Grand Superintendent

It is with pleasure that I submit hereunder, my fifth Annual Report as Grand Superintendent for Zambia.

Starting with the Copperbelt and Royal Arch Chapter Shiwa Ngandu. As explained in my previous reports for the last two years, following the return of the warrant of our sister chapter in Ndola some years ago due to a complete lack of activity, Ndola Brethren were encouraged to join with the Companions of Royal Arch Chapter No. 805 Shiwa Ngandu from Chingola, who were also suffering from a lack of numbers and that together, they hoped to resuscitate the Chapter – alternating meetings between Kitwe and Ndola.

Given a considerable effort by the Companions in Ndola and Kitwe, in particular, it has been possible to revive Shiwa Ngandu into, what we all hope, will be a successful chapter.

In December last year, following a request from Companions of Shiwa Ngandu, a dozen

Companions from Shamrock Royal Arch Chapter in Lusaka travelled to Ndola with a threefold purpose.

- 1) To assist Shiwa Ngandu by carrying out demonstration workings of the Mark and Royal Arch Degrees.
- 2) To Advance and Exalt Kitwe and Ndola Brethren to the Mark and RA Degrees.
- 3) To perform the installation of the Principal Officers of Shiwa Ngandu in both the Mark and Royal Arch.

The meetings, held on Friday evening and Saturday morning were a great success and, hopefully, will result in the encouragement of Shiwa Ngandu Royal Arch Chapter to go forward with confidence. They are aiming to hold 4 meetings per year and, to aid in this effort, Shannondale Lodge in Ndola have agreed to allocate two of their regular meeting dates to Shiwa Royal Arch Chapter.

Principal Officers installed at our December meeting are as follows.

Excellent King	Very Worshipful Master	E.Comp. Christopher Kilpatrick (Chingola)
High Priest	Senior Warden	Comp. Manhar Patel (Ndola)
Chief Scribe	Junior Warden	Comp. Dilip T. Desai (Ndola)
Registrar	Secretary	E.Comp. Hiralal J. Bodalia (Ndola)



The Chapter now boasts a total of twelve members and is hopeful that another four will be brought in before the end of the year.

I am very hopeful that these initiatives will prove to be successful and that Shiwa Ngandu Royal Arch Chapter goes from strength to strength.

Statement from Supreme Grand Chapter indicates an amount of €115.00 outstanding which. I have been assured will be settled shortly.

Shamrock Royal Arch Chapter No. 785 in Lusaka continues to operate successfully, based on two meetings per year, held in January and July, with Chapter officers serving two-year terms and an Installation meeting every second year.

Shamrock membership is quite strong, with a current membership of 22 despite recent resignations for non-payment of dues and non-attendance. Over the last twelve months, Companion Rene Lourens has been Advanced and Exalted and companion Sean Rowe has been Advanced and will probably be Exalted at our next meeting.

I extend my personal thanks to E.Comp. Simon Burgess who, following the unfortunate demise of our former Excellent King, E.Comp. Laurens Griffioen, agreed to assume the duties of excellent

King, at least until our next installation in July this year, thus having completed four years in the Office. The incoming Principles will be:

Excellent King	E.Comp. P.D Wells
High Priest	E.Comp. A.J Desai
Chief Scribe	Comp. Gerry Lintini
Registrar	Comp. Kevin Birch

Returns to Supreme Grand Chapter are up to date and Shamrock has a small debit balance with Supreme Grand Chapter which will be brought into credit in the near future. However, attendance continues to be somewhat disappointing and we currently average only 10-12 companions at our meetings. Nevertheless, I am still confident that, given time and the combined effort of our Senior Companions, both attendance and the standard of our Ritual can be improved.

In summary, therefore, Royal Arch Masonry is still nowhere near as strong or as vibrant as I would like but it is showing encouraging signs of revival, especially from our Copperbelt Companions. Similarly, Downpatrick Lodge in Lusaka is attracting more potential members which will lead to more prospective companions in Shamrock Royal Arch Chapter and will continue to maintain our hope for the Chapter going forward.

Gibraltar

M.E.Comp. John Bugeja, Provincial Grand Superintendent

This year Calpe Royal Arch Chapter has been practically very quiet.

We are still experiencing great difficulties in recruiting candidates. Unfortunately, this makes my annual report somewhat dreary.

The Installation Convocation was held in April. After thirty-four years of continuously installing the Excellent King and Council, V.E.Comp. Eddie Gaduzo, was greatly missed, owing to his absence, due to family circumstances at the time which required his full attention. The outgoing Excellent King, E.Comp. Frederick W. Pitto installed E.Comp. Steven Correa as Very Worshipful Master and as Excellent King with remarkable workings.

E.Comp. Steven Correa is a keen and knowledgeable Chapter and Mark Master member and a Past First Principle of Calpean Royal Arch Chapter No. 278 (EC).

The District Grand Superintendent (EC) together with the Grand Supervisor of the (SC) and members from both Districts were in attendance. It is ever so great to maintain our cordial relationship with our sister constitutions and have the support at our Convocations and particularly in our Installations. The ceremony was followed with a brilliant Festive Board, in the Gibraltar Masonic Hall.

Although our membership is rather small compared to our Craft Lodges, there is no doubt that Calpe Royal Arch Chapter holds a very warm and a very special place in our affections. I must admit that attendance to our Convocations, during this year has been considered adequate despite our constricted membership. E.Comp. Steven Correa achieved to advance a candidate from Calpe Lodge to the MMM degree, and hopefully will advance another candidate in January 2019



The highlight of this year was the pleasure of attending the Installation and investiture ceremony of the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King M.E.Comp. Gordon Leathem BEM in Dublin. I as the Grand Superintendent accompanied by a delegation of three Companions, comprising of the Deputy Grand Superintendent V.E.Comp. Joseph Luis Cruz, V.E.Comp. Gerard Laguea, and V.E.Comp. Eddie Gaduzo. We really enjoyed our stay and took advantage of a small holiday break. On this occasion we booked an hotel based on the official photos and reviews. We were attending Freemasons' Hall and obviously the distance from the hotel to the venue appealed to us. The room we were allocated had three flights of stairs to reach our shabby room, which was rather inadequate to share. An outside bath room facility to be shared by members of the other level room members. However, I am grateful to these brethren that travel with me to witness such a remarkable event. Gratified to continue enjoying the strong links and bonds of Companionship that exists between our

sister Chapters, Mark Lodges and Districts locally. In all the Installation Convocations of the Chapters and Mark Lodges from our Sister Constitutions in addition to the Chapter and Mark Festivals of the English Constitution, our Provincial is always in attendance and well represented. Here I must continue to thank, both the Deputy Grand Superintendent R.E.Comp. Joseph Cruz and V.E.Comp. Gerard Laguea for accompanying me to these visits, and for their untiring work.

I wish to thank all the Offices and Companions for their continued support and look forward to the challenges and joyfulness that 2019 will bring.

In conclusion I once again express my grateful thanks, congratulations and good wishes to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. Gordon Leathem BEM, the Grand Registrar R.E.Comp. Philip Daley not forgetting the staff in Molesworth Street, for their vital assistance and support during the year.

Nigeria

M.E.Comp. Hon. Ernest N. Ezike, JP, Provincial Grand Superintendent

It is a pleasure to present my first report since being given Warrant as Provincial Grand Superintendent of Nigeria by the Grand King at the last convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter on November 7th, 2018 in Freemasons Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

Before proceeding to the report proper, let me express my deepest gratitude to the Most High the Supreme King of Heaven and Earth for having preserved my life and being so honoured to serve our noble Order. Also, my immense thanks to the Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM and the Board for so preferring me, from among other better qualified Companions.

Macdonald Chapter No. 197

The Chapter is doing very well. Three candidates were advanced and exalted. The Chapter made their due annual returns and held annual installation of Officers. However, we had discovered early in 2018 that the Chapter has a backlog of about 45 Companions who have been Marked and Exalted over a period of about ten

Sadly, on 28th May 2018, the then Grand Superintendent M.E.Comp. Fidel Ibekwe Chiwetalu passed to the Grand Chapter above. He was an eminent Mason and was like a father to many of the Companions, including my humble self who he had chosen to be his Deputy. Like his predecessor M.E.Comp. Chief Meppi Ivon-Jarrett, M.E.Comp. Fidel had a distinguished Masonic career in both the Craft and Royal Arch Masonry. His shoes would be difficult to fill. I promise to do my very best. We gave him a befitting burial ceremony in which many Freemasons actively took part. His family were appreciative, and his wife has asked me to propose his first son for admission into Freemasonry.

years without having received any Certificates at all. I have submitted all the names of Companions affected to the Grand Registrar for the situation to be rectified. This has impacted on the morale of the Companions.



Excelsior Chapter No. 643

This Chapter is being re-positioned. Four candidates have been advanced. Chapter has made due return of members and held the annual installation of Officers. I also discovered that several Companions who were Marked and

Exalted are yet to get their Certificates. I am working with the principal Officers to compile a comprehensive list of Companions affected for about seven years. Once this is sorted out, it will be sent to the Grand Registrar.

Sanctity Chapter No. 828

The Chapter is doing very well. The annual installation of Officers was held, and due returns

made to the Grand Chapter. Two candidates were advanced and exalted.

Onitsha Chapter No. 885

The Chapter has experienced some inexplicable loss of members, owing to several factors; of aging, translation and relocation out of the country. The challenge is being met squarely as we have determined to fill up the gap. Fortunately, many young Masons within the area have been

proposed. Five candidates have been Marked. Due to the translation of the Registrar of the Chapter, annual returns haven't been made for three years, but with new Registrar the arrears are being updated.

Abonnema Chapter No. 869

The Chapter is doing very well. Annual installation of Officers has been held with Returns made. The Chapter is stable and has a good ritual team.

We look with expectancy that 2019 will bring into reality two desires that Companions of the Province have been nursing namely; warrant of a new Chapter in Abuja federal capital territory and becoming a district at the appropriate time. This was the wish of our translated Grand Superintendent before his translation to the Grand Chapter above.

In conclusion, let me once again express my sincere thanks and good wishes to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M. E. Comp. S. Gordon

Leathem BEM for deeming me fit to be appointed Grand Superintendent. My appointment came as a pleasant surprise, as I was unaware of it prior to my arrival in Dublin to attend the November 2018 convocation. Also, to the indefatigable new Grand Registrar. Also, the Staff in Molesworth Street, especially Heather Gyles, for their vital assistance and support always we needed information and guidance during the year.

Wishing the Most Excellent Grand King, the Grand Registrar and all Grand Officers and Companions, a prosperous and happy new year!

Zimbabwe

M.E.Comp. Marc R. de Villiers, Deputy District Grand Superintendent

St. Patrick Royal Arch Chapter, No. 517 I.C. regretfully were unable to hold any meetings during the course of the year due to the untimely passing to the Grand Lodge above of M.E.Comp. Dave Higginson, 27th April 2018 our District Grand Superintendent followed less than a year later, by the passing of M.E.Comp. Peter Birkett, (20th March 2019).

Records and notifications for quarterly meetings, were eventually sorted by E.Comp. Peter Addison, in Harare and

they were to initiate two brethren into the Mark Master Masons degree in January 2019. They have a membership of 11 Companions with a further two initiates on the cards; I trust this growth, will be able to keep the Chapter functional for many years ahead.

As you are aware, Matabeleland Royal Arch Chapter No. 720 based in Bulawayo, has been in "Abeyance" for approximately 10 years now, and regrettably is unlikely to be reopened, any time in the near future.



Jamaica

M.E.Comp. Hardley Lewin, Provincial Grand Superintendent

The Royal Arch Chapters within the Superintendency have had another good and active year. Amity Royal Arch Chapter No. 390 held its 4 prescribed Convocations and 2 Emergency Convocations.

Eight brethren were advanced to the MMM degree, inclusive of 1 on behalf of the sister Chapter. Six MMM's were exalted.

Malone Royal Arch Chapter No. 889 held its 4 prescribed Convocations. Three candidates were advanced and 6 exalted, one on behalf of the sister Chapter.

Membership of Amity and Malone Chapters stand at 57 and 53 respectively.

The Chapters have had a steady supply of candidates

from the Irish Craft Lodges and visitations from our English and Scottish Companions have increased thereby strengthening the bonds across the constitutions. Visitation has been encouraged by the Provincial Grand Superintendent and the respective District Grand Superintendents of our sister Constitutions and this is obviously bearing fruit.

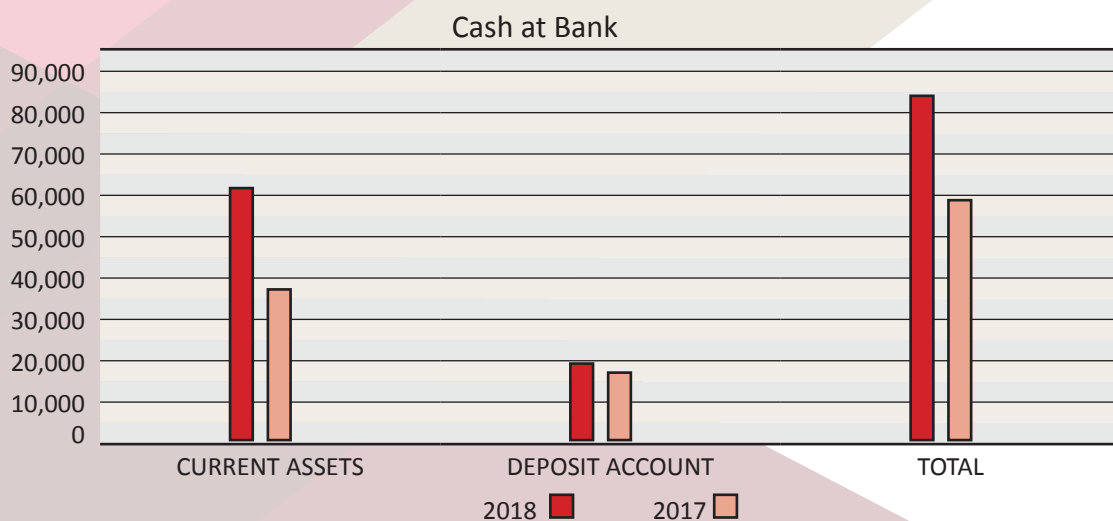
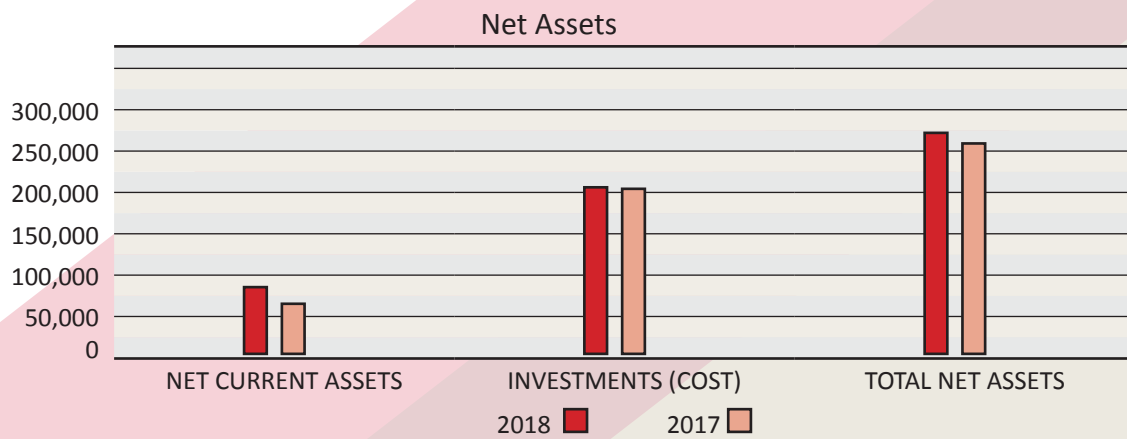
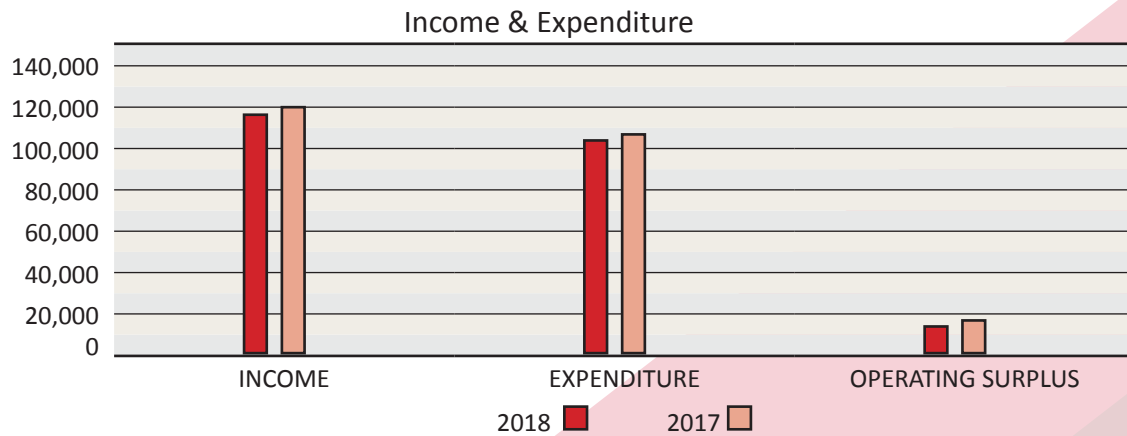
The Superintendency is represented by the Grand Superintendent, Deputy Grand Superintendent and available Grand Chapter officers at the half yearly Convocations of the English and Scottish Districts and at the installations of their respective Chapters.

Overall, Irish Royal Arch Masonry in Jamaica can be said to be "ship-shape".



FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Highlights



Financial Tables

Income and Expenditure

	2018	2017
	€	€
INCOME	118,359	121,039
EXPENDITURE	<u>103,734</u>	<u>105,887</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS	<u><u>14,625</u></u>	<u><u>15,152</u></u>

Net Assets

	2018	2017
	€	€
NET CURRENT ASSETS	80,171	65,386
INVESTMENTS (COST)	<u>206,936</u>	<u>204,652</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u><u>287,107</u></u>	<u><u>270,038</u></u>

Income

	2018	2017
	€	€
MEMBERS DUES	98,580	100,130
INVESTMENT INCOME	9,094	8,348
SALES	6,710	8,891
CHARITY COLLECTIONS	3,713	3,283
OTHER INCOME	<u>262</u>	<u>387</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u><u>118,359</u></u>	<u><u>121,039</u></u>



Financial Tables (continued)

Expenditure

	2018	2017
	€	€
GRAND LODGE COSTS	62,684	63,700
TRAVEL EXPENSES	10,428	13,294
FOREIGN DELEGATION EXPENSES	5,149	-
PAYMENTS TO CHARITIES	6,713	6,283
GRAND KINGS INSTALLATION	4,182	-
PUBLICATIONS	5,019	7,458
GRAND CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION	2,339	1,986
OTHER EXPENDITURE	<u>7,220</u>	<u>13,166</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>103,734</u>	<u>105,887</u>

Financial Statements - Highlights & Tables

The Financial Statements for the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland, which were prepared for the year to 30th November 2018, were audited by C D Mullock & Co, Chartered Accountants and an audit report containing the following extract, was issued for the set of Financial Statements and dated 15th March 2019.

“In my opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 30 November, 2018 and of the income and expenditure for the year ended on that date. I have obtained all the information and explanations considered necessary for the purpose of my audit and, in my opinion, proper books of account have been kept”

The financial highlights and financial tables presented on the previous pages have been compiled from the audited Financial Statements, which have been approved by the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.

