

**Supreme Grand Royal Arch
Chapter of Ireland
Annual Report 2019**

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Contents

Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter Report 2019	3
Grand Officers 2019	6
Stated Quarterly Convocations of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter	6
District Grand Kings 2019	7
Provincial Grand Superintendents 2019	7
New District	8
Retiring District Grand Kings	8
New District Grand Kings	8
Honorary Past Grand Rank	9
Warrants	10
New Grand Representatives	10
Grand Representatives	11
Obituaries	13
Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction	14
Antrim	24
Armagh	27
Down	30
Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone & Fermanagh	32
Meath & North Connaught	33
Munster	34
North Munster	36
South Eastern	37
The Midlands	37
Wicklow & Wexford	39



Ghana	41
India	42
Natal	43
South Africa, Northern	44
South East Asia	46
Southern Cape	48
The Far East	49
Gibraltar	50
Jamaica	51
New Zealand	52
Nigeria	53
Zambia	55
Zimbabwe	56
Financial Reports 2019	57



Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland

Report 2019

2019 was another sad year for the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland and Freemasonry in general with the passing of the Past Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Michael W. Walker. Having loyally and graciously served Freemasonry for over fifty years Michael, as he was affectionately known, passed away peacefully on 28th May 2019.

Michael entered Freemasonry in 1966 in Lodge No. 595 in Cork, but it was in Dublin that he spent most of his career until retiring as Grand Secretary and Grand Registrar in 2005. In between he was a member of Grand Master's Lodge, Royal Arch Chapter No. 728, Babylon Council of Knight Masons No. 6, University Preceptory, Original Chapter of Prince Masons and 28th, 30th, 31st, 32nd & 33rd Degrees of the Antient and Accepted Rite for Ireland.

Michael was also the architect of Lux Diei Lodge in 1988 when he had the foresight to establish the Lodge to cater for Brethren who find it difficult to attend evening meetings.

The foregoing is just the tip of the iceberg for it was as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and Grand Registrar of the Supreme Grand

Royal Arch of Ireland from 1981 to 2005 that most of us remember Michael.

However, it was in his role as Grand Secretary and Grand Registrar that he is most renowned. In his time, he served five Grand Masters and if truth be known he was the "de facto" Grand Master or at least had his hands on the reins of power.

Michael was a quiet, yet extremely efficient man and never sought the limelight, indeed he positively shunned it unless it was necessary not to. When one travels outside Ireland and his name is mentioned it is always with enormous respect and awe at the depth of his knowledge of Freemasonry and the quality of his advice as to how any matter, trivial or otherwise might be dealt with. Undoubtedly, his advice and opinions were keenly sought after and respected throughout the entire world of Freemasonry.

When it was suggested that he might be appointed an Honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland he summarily dismissed the thought and it was only when he was advised it was going to happen whether he liked it or not he reluctantly acceded to the suggestion. Any lesser





honour would have been inappropriate for such a Giant in Freemasonry.

R.E.Comp. Michael bore his final illness with great fortitude and patience and was attending meetings until a very short time before his passing.

We will be missing a Giant of Freemasonry for we may never see his likes again, but he will never be far from our thoughts and be an example of how a Freemason might properly conduct himself.

At the February Convocation, by popular demand, the Companions of Youghal Royal Arch Chapter No. 68 celebrated the 275th Anniversary with the re-enactment of the Royal Arch procession in the port town of Youghal (27th December 1743). The Companions of Youghal Royal Arch Chapter No. 68 entered Grand Chapter carrying a "Royal Arch" to mark the event. Following the procession, the Excellent King of Youghal Royal Arch Chapter No. 68, E.Comp. David Butler explained the significance and quoted from the contemporary newspaper reports of 1743 and 1744. The Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King thanked the Companions of Royal Arch Chapter No. 68 for the excellent re-enactment.

The May Convocation took place in Londonderry and M.E.Comp. Ray Hetherington, District Grand King, welcomed the Supreme Grand King and Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter to the District of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone & Fermanagh.

The meeting was enthralled with a

presentation by V.E.Comp. Brian Houston, Registrar of Curran Royal Arch Chapter No. 532, explained the Symbols on the Curran Banner accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation.

At the September Convocation we had the unique opportunity to witness the Installation of three District Grand Kings. The Grand Director of Ceremonies presented V.E.Comp. John Patching to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King for Obligation, Investiture and Installation as District Grand King of North Munster. M.E.Comp. Patching's sponsors were R.E.Comp. John Hassett of Eden Royal Arch Chapter No. 73 and R.E.Comp. Hugh Milne of Eden Royal Arch Chapter No. 73 and V.E.Comp. Basil Fenton of Royal Arch Chapter No. 14 was the Chain Bearer. M.E.Comp. Patching was saluted and acclaimed, and he replied suitably.

The Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies presented R.E.Comp. Robin Newenham to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King for Obligation, Investiture and Installation as District Grand King of Munster. M.E.Comp. Newenham's sponsors were M.E.Comp. Charles Olden, Assistant Grand King and V.E.Comp. John Mustard of Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 and V.E.Comp. Andrew Bird of Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 was the Chain Bearer. M.E.Comp. Newenham was saluted and acclaimed, and he replied suitably.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies presented R.E.Comp. Raymond Stanley to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King for Obligation, Investiture and Installation as District Grand King of The Midlands. M.E.Comp. Stanley's sponsors were V.E.Comp. Gilbert Stanley, Chichester Royal Arch Chapter No. 307 and M.E.Comp. Henry Harding of St. Brendan's Royal Arch Chapter No. 163 and V.E.Comp. Thomas Harris of Mountmellick Royal Arch Chapter No. 660 was the Chain Bearer. M.E.Comp. Stanley was saluted and acclaimed, and he replied suitably.

The Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King paid tribute to the retiring District Grand Kings of North Munster, M.E.Comp. Cyril Foster, Munster, M.E.Comp. Edwin Hunter and The Midlands, M.E.Comp. Erwin Cobbe and thanked them for their outstanding services to Supreme Grand Chapter over many years.

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 Scotland, M.E.Comp. Stewart Wood, Depute Grand Principal and R.E.Comp. Douglas Duncan, Grand Scribe Ezra.
- Supreme Grand Chapter of the Holy Royal Arch in the Netherlands, M.E.Comp. Ad van Dooren, First Grand Principal, M.E.Comp. Peter Blom, T. Grand Principle and M.E.Comp. Hein van der Wal, Grand Scribe Ezra.
- Grand Chapter of Belgium, R.E.Comp. Gilbert Denys, Grand Scribe Ezra.
- Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Finland, M.W.Bro. Antti Talvitie, Grand Master and R.W.Bro. Timo Majanen, Assistant Grand Master.
- Supreme Grand Chapter of British Royal Arch Masonry in Germany, M.E.Comp. John MacKinnon, First Grand Principal and M.E.Comp. Michael Cooper, Past First Grand Principal and Chairman of Foreign Relations.
- Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Greece, M.E.Comp. Dimitris Mamas, Past First Grand Principal.
- Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Switzerland, M.W.Bro. Peter E. Ribbi, Past Grand Master and M.W.Bro. Jean-Pierre Moindat, Past Deputy Grand Master
- Symbolic Grand Chapter of Hungary, M.E.Comp. Mark Walton, Past First Grand Principal.
- Sovereign Grand Chapter of Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in France, M.E.Comp. Jacques Fournal, First Grand Principal and R.E.Comp. Andre A.G. Bassou, Grand Chancellor.

During October the Assistant Grand King, M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden constituted the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South East Asia assisted by the Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Philip A.J. Daley and the Grand Master M.E.Comp. Douglas T. Grey at the Read Masonic Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The first District Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter South East Asia, M.E.Comp. Lau Kee Siong was most efficiently installed by M.E.Comp. Olden. M.E.Comp. Lau Kee Siong then Installed his Deputy, R.E.Comp. Dicjie Degani, his Assistant, R.E.Comp. Rodney Teoh



Peng and the Officers of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter South East Asia.

The team travelled on to Hong Kong for the Installation of M.E.Comp. Calvin Chau, District Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Far East at the Masonic Hall, Scout Centennial Building, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

The ceremonies were conducted with great dignity by M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden. In attendance were also representatives of sister Irish Royal Arch Masonry Districts from the Far East, South East Asia as well as New Zealand.

As we leave another 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 best wishes to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leatham 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 continue their leadership roles in the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.

*Philip A.J. Daley
Grand Registrar
April 2020*



Grand Officers 2019

S. Gordon Leathem	M.E. & Supreme Grand King
Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble	M.E. Deputy Grand King
Charles W. Olden	M.E. Assistant Grand King
J. Walter Wilson	M.E. Grand High Priest
William T. Brown	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
Guy L. St. Leger	V.E. Grand Captain of the Host
Keith J. Bates	V.E. Grand Superintendent of the Tabernacle
M. Desmond McCormick	V.E. Grand Royal Arch Captain
Selwyn S. Davies	V.E. Grand Captain of the Scarlet Veil
Alan D. McLorie	V.E. Grand Captain of the Purple Veil
Cecil J.E.M. Wilson	V.E. Grand Captain of the Blue Veil
Hugh W. St. Leger	V.E. Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Roy F. Humphries	V.E. Grand Steward
Brian N. Morrison	V.E. Grand Steward
William R. Wallace	V.E. Grand Sword Bearer
John N. Rowden	V.E. Grand Organist
J. Stephen Thompson	V.E. Deputy Grand Organist
J. Michael Alexander	V.E. Grand Chapter Standard Bearer
Ronald G. Abbott	V.E. Grand King's Standard Bearer
Robert S. Moore	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

Grand Registrar's Office, Freemasons' Hall, 17 Molesworth Street, Dublin D02 HK50.

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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, 6th February 2019, Wednesday, 18th September 2019, Wednesday, 6th November 2019 and on Saturday, 4th May 2019 at the White Horse Hotel, 68 Clooney Rd, Londonderry.



District Grand Kings 2019

District	District King
Antrim	Jon McA. Pollock
Armagh	Thomas S.G. Millsopp
Down	Neil A. Coey
Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone & Fermanagh	Ray Hetherington
Meath & North Connaught	Richard A. Howard
Munster	Robin E.W. Newenham
North Munster	John Patching
South Eastern	Ian J. Devonport
The Midlands	G. Raymond Stanley
Wicklow & Wexford	David J. Rhodes
Ghana	Seth O. Aniniagyei
India	Percy M. Wadia
Natal	Anthony J. Espag
South Africa, Northern	Andre F.F.G. de Roubaix
South East Asia	Lau Kee Siong
Southern Cape	Dan Buckle
The Far East	Calvin Chau

Provincial Grand Superintendents 2019

Gibraltar	John Bugeja
Jamaica	Hardly Lewin
New Zealand	Roland J. Whyte
Nigeria	Ernest N. Ezike
Zambia	David J. McCabe
Zimbabwe	Mark R. De Villiers, Deputy



New District

District Grand Chapter of South East Asia

Retiring District Grand Kings

Armagh	M.E.Comp. John A. McGowan
Munster	M.E.Comp. Edwin W. Hunter
North Munster	M.E.Comp. Cyril R. Foster
The Midlands	M.E.Comp. Erwin J. Cobbe
India	M.E.Comp. Rajiv Dave
The Far East	M.E.Comp. Chamson Chau

New District Grand Kings

District	District King
Armagh	M.E.Comp. Thomas S.G. Millsopp, Past King of R.A.C. No. 409, Armagh
Munster	M.E.Comp. Robin E.W. Newenham, Past King of R.A.C. No. 1, Cork
North Munster	M.E.Comp. John W. Patching, Past King of R.A.C. No. 14, Galway
The Midlands	M.E.Comp. G. Raymond Stanley, Past King of R.A.C. No. 307, Roscrea
India	M.E.Comp. Percy M. Wadia, Past King of R.A.C. No. 27, Mumbai
The Far East	M.E.Comp. Calvin Chau, Past King of R.A.C. No. R.A.C. No. 712, Hong Kong
South East Asia	M.E.Comp. Lau Kee Siong, Past King of R.A.C. No. 107, Colombo



Honorary Past Grand Ranks

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

Past Grand High Priest

E.Comp. Rodney L. McCurley	Past King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 114, Ballymacarrett and Deputy Grand Master at the Grand Lodge of Ireland
E.Comp. Leslie J. Nixon	Past King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 58, Trillick and Assistant Grand Master at the Grand Lodge of Ireland
E.Comp. Robert G. Quigley	Past King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 256, Donemana and Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master at the Great Priory of Ireland

Past Grand Captain of the Host

V.E.Comp. Kofi E. Kartey	on promotion from Honorary Past Grand Royal Arch Captain
V.E.Comp. E.D. Andrew-Jaja	on promotion from Honorary Past Grand Royal Arch Captain
R.E.Comp. Joseph Luis Cruz	on promotion from Honorary Past Grand Superintendent of the Tabernacle
V.E.Comp. Eddie Gaduzo	on promotion from Honorary Past Grand Superintendent of the Tabernacle

Past Grand Superintendent of the Tabernacle

V.E.Comp. George Thomson	on promotion from Honorary Past Grand Captain of the Scarlet Veil
V.E.Comp. Bandele A. Adesina	on promotion from Honorary Past Grand Captain of the Purple Veil

Past Grand Royal Arch Captain

E.Comp. Jeyaraj Ratnaswamy	District Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Chapter of Easter Archipelago, E.C.
M.E.Comp. Ernest Yong	District Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Chapter of the Middle East, S.C.

Past Grand Captain of the Scarlet Veil

V.E.Comp. Beneth N. Nwakalo	on promotion from Honorary Past Grand Captain of the Blue Veil
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Past Grand Captain of the Purple Veil

R.E.Comp. Kenneth Wong	Past King of Baden Powell Royal Arch Chapter No. 929, Hong Kong
R.E.Comp. Percy K.W. Fung	Past King of Emerald Royal Arch Chapter No. 712 Hong Kong
E.Comp. Uzodinma Frank-Igwe	Past King of Sanctity Royal Arch Chapter No. 828, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Past Grand Captain of the Blue Veil

E.Comp. Rukshan Widyalkara	Past King of Lanka Royal Arch Chapter No. 107, Colombo, Sri Lanka
E.Comp. C. Mohan Wanigatunga	Past King of Lanka Royal Arch Chapter No. 107, Colombo, Sri Lanka
E.Comp. Raji Ramason	Past King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 765, Singapore
E.Comp. Yushea H. Degani	on promotion from Overseas District Grand Rank



- E.Comp. Abuthahir Abdul Gafoor Past King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 765, Singapore.
- E.Comp. Nadarajan Sundaram Past King of Emerald in the East Royal Arch Chapter No. 830, Kuala Lumpur
- E.Comp. Derek L. Freedman Past King of Thames Royal Arch Chapter No. 454, New Zealand
- V.E.Comp. Christopher G. Carroll Past King of Bauhinia Royal Arch Chapter No. 322, Hong Kong
- V.E.Comp. Benny C.H. Lo Past King of Bauhinia Royal Arch Chapter No. 322, Hong Kong

Warrants Returned 2019

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

- Royal Arch Chapter No. 104, Portaferry
- Shaftesbury Royal Arch Chapter No. 327, Belfast
- Sherbourne Royal Arch Chapter No. 732, Ballymacarrett

New Warrants issued by Grand Chapter 2019

- St. James Royal Arch Chapter No. 898, Montego Bay, Jamaica
- Asokoro Royal Arch Chapter No. 886, Abuja, Nigeria

Foreign Grand Chapters Recognised in 2019

Symbolic Grand Chapter of Hungary

New Foreign Grand Representatives

From the following Grand Chapters:

Kansas R.E.Comp, Edward J. Rea, Past King of R.A.C No. 84, Skibbereen

At the following Grand Chapters

Greece M.E.Comp. Dimitris Mamas

Hungary M.E.Comp. Mark Walton

Mississippi E.Comp. Lonnie Lewis Rayborn



Grand Chapter Representatives

England		Earl of Elgin & Kincardine
Scotland		
Canada		
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
Australia and New Zealand		
New Zealand	Gary R. Brandon	Ian J. Nathan
Queensland		William F. Sugars
South Australia		M. Dundas
Tasmania	John S. Haynes	Paul Shane
United New South Wales	G. Selby Nesbitt	John Burton Anderson
Victoria	Peter Rowntree	Wayne Lee Smith
Western Australia	Terence Luney	Stewart Stenhouse
Europe		
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	Dimitris Mamas
Hungary		Mark Walton
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
United States		
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	Edward J. Rea	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		Brent A. Helm
Minnesota	J. Barry Jenkins	Michael Denke
Mississippi	J. Stephen Thompson	Lonnie Lewis Rayborn
Missouri	Edward F. McClenahan	James M. Williams
Montana	Alexander McA. Ireland	Robert A. Dill
Nebraska	M. Desmond 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	James D. Hanna	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

Central America

Mexico	J. Walter Wilson	Charles D. Freer
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South America

Argentina	Leslie G. Evans	Charles Halperin
Venezuela	Samuel Brennan	Stephen Goss

Africa

South Africa	Ian W.G. Rudd	
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Asia

India	George W. Kidd	VACANT
Philippines	Dennis W. Wheavil	Antonio D. Meru

Middle East

State of Israel	Selwyn S. Davies	Mordechai Blazer
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Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons

England & Wales	S. Gordon Leathem	John Hale
Estonia		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 W. Walker	Past Grand Registrar, Honorary Past Grand High Priest and Past Foreign Representative
M.E.Comp. William McLain	Past Grand High Priest, Past District Grand King, District Grand Chapter of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone & Fermanagh, Past Foreign Grand Representative and Member of the Grand Chapter of Instruction
M.E.Comp. James E. Thompson	Past District Grand King, South Africa Northern and Honorary Past Grand High Priest
M.E.Comp. Thomas S. Redpath	Past Grand Chief Scribe
V.E.Comp. Palle J. Rune	Honorary Past Grand Captain of the Host, Kenya
V.E.Comp. Malcolm Wright	Honorary Past Grand Captain of the Host, Natal
V.E.Comp. Isak Delport	Honorary Past Grand Royal Arch Captain, South Africa Northern
V.E.Comp. Peter A. Birkett	Honorary Past Grand Royal Arch Captain, Zimbabwe
V.E.Comp. Frans P. Massyn	Honorary Past Grand Royal Arch Captain, South Africa Northern
V.E.Comp. Nandkumar N. Naik	Honorary Past Grand Captain of the Scarlet Veil, India
V.E.Comp. Frederick C. Bean	Honorary Past Grand Captain of the Scarlet Veil, Bermuda
M.E.Comp. J. Alan Hanna	Past Grand King's Standard Bearer and Foreign Representative of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Australia
V.E.Comp. Thomas Lawson	Past Grand King's Standard Bearer
V.E.Comp. Joseph E. McKernan	Past Grand King's Standard Bearer
V.E.Comp. John W. Emerson	Member of the Grand Chapter of Instruction



Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction

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

The Very Excellent the Grand Royal Chapter of Instruction of the Most Excellent the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland met in Open Convocation on Saturday 19th January at 2.30 p.m. in the Mount Masonic Centre, Park Avenue, Belfast. The Chapter opened in due form, the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM on the Throne, the remaining offices being suitably filled.

Apologies were received from the Grand Registrar for Instruction, M.E.Comp. Norman E.R. Kelly, M.E.Comp. James McFarland, M.E.Comp. S. Bailie and V.E.Comp. R. Boothe.

The Director of Ceremonies, V.E.Comp. C. Burns then welcomed the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM on behalf of the members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction, this being the first meeting he had attended in his role as the Most Excellent

& Supreme Grand King and had him saluted.

The Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King gave a warm welcome to Present and Past Supreme Grand Chapter Officers, Foreign Representatives and Present and Past District Grand Chapter Officers and had them saluted.

The minutes of the open Convocation held in the Ballymena Masonic Centre, Ballymena on the 20th October 2018 at 2.30pm were read, confirmed and signed by the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, countersigned by the Registrar and the Chapter Seal affixed thereto.

The Registrar then announced that 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 a composite team chosen on the day. The exemplifying team occupied their appointed places as follows:

		Chapter No.
Very Worshipful Master	Bro. D. Walker	681
Senior Warden	Bro. S. Arnold	447
Junior Warden	Bro. C. Wilson	54
Director of Ceremonies	Bro. C. McCullough	193
Master Overseer	Bro. S. Turner	443
Senior Overseer	Bro. I. Butler	430
Junior Overseer	Bro. S. Lusty	645
Senior Deacon	Bro. M. Saul	64
Junior Deacon	Bro. N. Leinster	186
Chaplain	Bro. M. Lawther	651
Inner Guard	Bro. D. Henderson	775
Tyler	Bro. R. Abbott	202
Secretary	Bro. J. Kettle	647
Candidate	Bro. A. Price	26



The opening ceremony of a Lodge of Mark Master Masons was performed in a dignified manner under the guidance of Bro. Walker 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. M. Saul giving clear and precise instructions to the Candidate. All the Offices were discharged in a very meaningful manner, especially the Master Overseer who performed his role in a most theatrical manner, all of 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. S. Lusty, Obligated by the Very Worshipful Master, Bro. D. Walker and his instruction completed by Bro. Lusty in a truly exemplary manner.

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, V.E.Comp. Alec Ireland stated that it had been a pleasure to witness a composite team coming together on the day to exemplify the degree of Mark Master Mason to such a high standard and looked forward to seeing them in action again in the not too distant future.

The Chief Scribe, V.E.Comp. Roy Lamont 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 on the sincere and meaningful manner in which the work had been presented.

Supporting the vote of thanks, the Registrar thanked the team 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 Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM 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 Most Excellent and Supreme 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.

In response E.Comp. M. Saul of the exemplifying team, thanked the members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction for their kind remarks and informed them that the composite team had been comprised of members from the North Down Royal Arch Class of Instruction, the Mount Class of Instruction and the Whiteabbey Class of Instruction, with V.E.Comp. J. McGookin adding that the Seven Towers and Massereene Class of Instruction were also represented.

The Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King then thanked V.E.Comp Jack Kettle and V.E.Comp. Keith Bates for their efforts in assembling the exemplifying team due to the hospitalisation of the Grand Registrar, V.E.Comp. Norman Kelly. He concluded by thanking V.E.Comp. Craig Wilson for providing the anticipated tea and sandwiches after the close of the meeting.

March Convocation 2019

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland met in Open Convocation on Saturday 23rd March 2019 at 2.30 p.m. in the Belsize Masonic Centre, Belsize Road, Lisburn. The Chapter opened in Ample form with the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM on the Throne, the remaining offices being suitably filled.

Apologies were received from M.E.Comp. K. Abernethy and V.E.Comp. R. Boothe, Elected members and from M.E.Comp. George Graham, Supreme Grand Chapter Director of Ceremonies.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction being open, the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King informed the Companions of the recent death of the wife of



M.E.Comp. Norman Fairley and extended the deepest sympathy of the Chapter to Norman. The Companions stood for a minute in silent respect.

On a happier note the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King gave a warm welcome to the District Deputy Grand King of Antrim, R.E.Comp. Tom McCurley, and had him saluted. In reply R.E.Comp. McCurley welcomed the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction to the District of Antrim saying he was looking forward to a pleasant and instructive afternoon and wished the class well with their exemplification.

Present and Past Grand Chapter Officers, Foreign Representatives and Present and Past District Grand Chapter Officers were also welcomed and saluted.

The minutes of the open Convocation held in the

Mount Masonic Hall, 45 Park Avenue on the 19th January 2019 at 2.30 p.m. were read, confirmed and signed by the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, countersigned by the Registrar and the Chapter Seal affixed thereto.

Before proceeding, the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King thanked all for attending saying he was delighted to see such a good turn out in support of the Exemplifying Team and the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction and hoped that this would soon become the "Norm".

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 Degree of the Royal Arch, by the Lisburn Class of Instruction and the exemplifying team occupied their appointed places as follows:

		Chapter No.
Excellent King	E.Comp. Mark Hunter	565
High Priest	R.E.Comp. Jim Boyd	565
Chief Scribe	E.Comp. Harry Blakely	336
Treasurer	E.Comp. Alex Miskelly	811
Registrar	Comp. Mark Smiley	335
Director of Ceremonies	E.Comp. Mark Henderson	335
Chaplain	E.Comp. Steven Thompson	70
Captain of Host	E.Comp. Derek McKnight	335
Superintendent of the Tabernacle	E.Comp. Martin Lawther	651
Royal Arch Captain	E.Comp. David McClelland	70
Captain of the Scarlet Veil	E.Comp. Mark McGlade	365
Captain of the Purple Veil	E.Comp. Arthur Kennedy	356
Captain of the Blue Veil	E.Comp. Rod Oliver	10
Almoner	Comp. Charlie Stevenson	335
Janitor	Comp. Mathew Gray	335
Candidate	Comp. Andy Weir	335
Class Leader	M.E.Comp. Norman Fairley	



The team got off to a good start under the guidance of E.Comp. Mark Hunter as a very competent Excellent King. No questions were asked about the opening and the few comments made by the Registrar very minor in nature.

The Ceremony of the Royal Arch Degree was then demonstrated with E.Comp. Martin Lawther acting as Conductor. The Registrar pointed out to Martin that there was no need to prepare the candidate as a Mark Master Mason for an exemplification, as this was explained verbally. It was also pointed out that the Arch should be formed in the North West corner, from East to West.

E.Comp. Martin Lawther then conferred an almost perfect obligation with only a single stumble which he quickly corrected. He also led the candidate in the ceremony of the Passing of the Veils. The Captains of the Veils, E.Comp's. Rod Oliver, Arthur Kennedy and Mark McGlade, recited the explanation of the own veils with distinction. The Chaplain, E Comp. Steven Thompson, read the scriptural extracts with great dignity.

The instruction for the Descent and Ascent was again given by E.Comp. Lawther and no questions were asked.

The completion of the degree was also demonstrated by E.Comp. Lawther with authority and distinction. The Final Charge was recited perfectly by the Excellent King, E.Comp. Mark Hunter and the candidate taken to his seat and saluted.

Proposing the vote of thanks the High Priest, M.E.Comp. James McFarland said it gave him great pleasure to do so.

The team had been well lead by the Excellent King, E.Comp. Mark Hunter, who recited all the charges. The lion's share of the degree was conferred by E.Comp. Martin Lawther and the individual performances by the Captains of the Veils was wonderful to witness and the whole exemplification could not be bettered. The Team Leaders M.E.Comp. Norman Fairley and V.E.Comp. Eddy McComb deserved great credit in preparing the team and he felt sure their District Deputy Grand King was well pleased with the exemplification. He also said that he was delighted to see such a good turnout, to support and learn from the team.

The Chief Scribe, V.E.Comp. Jack Kettle in

seconding the proposal, said he could only concur with all the High Priest had said and that the degree had been enhanced by all the members taking part and nothing left out. He said that the Companions who were not here to witness such an exemplification where the ones who had missed out and he hoped it would not be too long before they returned to exemplify again.

Supporting the vote of thanks the Registrar said that anything he could add would only be "gilding the Lily" and thanked the team, and also their instructors, for all the obvious hard work in preparing for the exemplification.

In conveying the vote of thanks to the team the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King M.E.Comp. Gordon Leathem 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 the Very Excellent King of the team E.Comp. Mark Hunter thanked the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction for the opportunity to exemplify their work and also the team leaders for all their efforts in preparing them. He was sure that all the team enjoyed and learned from the experience and then invited everyone present to tea and sandwiches after the close.

The Most Excellent & Supreme. Grand King then invited R.E.Comp. Tom McCurley, the District Deputy Grand King to comment. He thanked M.E.Comp. Gordon Leathem for the opportunity to speak and said that he was pleased and proud of the team who had exemplified in a clear, precise and exact manner.

Before closing the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King reminded the Companions that the river which flows between Antrim and Down only serves to join us.

Stated Convocation May

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 16th May 2019 at the hour of 1.30 o'clock p.m. The Most



Excellent Assistant Grand King, being present, was offered the Sceptre which he declined on this occasion saying he was simply observing and wished all a successful meeting. The Chapter was opened in form with M.E.Comp. James McFarland on the Throne. The other offices being suitably filled.

Apologies were received from the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem. the Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble, and R.E.Comp. George Graham Grand Director of Ceremonies. Elected Members: M.E.Comp. Michael Costello Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction, R.E.Comp. I. Meldrum, V.E.Comp. R.B. Crawford, V.E.Comp. W.R. Smith, V.E.Comp. J. McKay, R.E.Comp. D. Blair. and V.E.Comp. R. Boothe. District Representatives: E.Comp. Andrew Murphy for Armagh.

The Grand Chapter of Instruction being opened the Very Excellent King welcomed all the members, thanking them for their attendance.

There were no obituaries or illnesses to report. However the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King had been disappointed in having an expected hospital procedure deferred to a later date. The Very Excellent King said that our thoughts and prayers were with M.E.Comp. Gordon Leathem at this time.

The Assistant Grand King, M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden was welcomed and saluted to which he suitably replied saying it was a pleasure to be present for the first time in his Office as Assistant Grand King. The Grand Registrar R.E.Comp. Philip A.J. Daley was also given a warm welcome as an ex Officio member to which he suitably replied. Our new representatives V.E.Comp's. Malcolm Saul and Martin Lawther for Antrim and V.E.Comp. Craig Wilson for Down were also given a warm welcome to which they individually expressed thanks.

The Minute of the Stated Convocation held at Freemasons' Hall, Dublin on Thursday 18th October 2018 were read. These were confirmed and signed by the Very Excellent King, countersigned by the Assistant Grand King and the Grand Registrar for Instruction and the Chapter Seal was affixed thereto.

Letters of apology from M.E.Comp. Harry Trimble, Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp.

Michael Costello, Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction, R.E.Comp. Ivan Meldrum, V.E.Comp. Bob Smith, R.E.Comp David Blair and V.E.Comp. Andrew Murphy were read.

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 and proposed that they be re-elected. This was seconded by M.E.Comp. Cecil Burns. There being no other proposal it was put to the meeting and passed, subject to approval of Supreme Grand Chapter.

The Registrar said that M.E.Comp. Costello had decided to accept the position for this session and had asked that consideration be given to another Companion as Assistant Grand Registrar for the future, due to his Masonic workload having increased considerably.

The Very Excellent King instructed the Director of Ceremonies to prepare the ballot for the following candidates:

John A. Stewart, Past King of 30 Years standing and at present a subscribing member of Ahoghill Royal Arch Chapter No. 704. Proposed by M.E.Comp. James McFarland, M.E.Comp. Cecil Burns and V.E.Comp. Norman Kelly.

Roy W. Lamont, Past King of 14 years standing and at present a subscribing member of Antrim Royal Arch Chapter No. 28. Proposed by V.E.Comp. James McGookin. V.E.Comp. Jack Kettyle and V.E.Comp. Norman Kelly.

Neville Leinster, Past King of 20 years standing and at present a Subscribing member of St. James Royal Arch Chapter No. 186. Proposed by V.E.Comp. Jack Kettyle, V.E.Comp. James McGookin and V.E.Comp. Robert Johnston.

Simon Lusty, Past King of 17 years standing and at present a subscribing member of Carnmoney Royal Arch Chapter No. 645. Proposed by V.E.Comp. Jack Kettyle, V.E.Comp. William Haliday and V.E.Comp. Norman Kelly.

Sean L. Turner, Past king of 10 years standing and at present a subscribing member of Farmers Royal Arch Chapter No. 1000. Proposed by M.E.Comp. Keith Bates, M.E.Comp. Shad. Bailie and V.E.Comp. Norman Kelly.

The ballot was clear for all candidates and they



were declared as Elected Members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction subject to approval of Supreme Grand Chapter.

R.E.Comp. Ivan Meldrum submitted two questions:

1. At the Installation of Officers if the Director of Ceremonies, Almoner and Chaplain are retaining their offices are they presented in the usual way by the Captain of Host or proclaimed by the Excellent King?

The Very Excellent King said that they should be presented in the usual manner.

2. At the Installation of Officers if one of the officers elect is absent and a Companion is presented by proxy, to preserve the number three; at the next stated Convocation of the Chapter can the absent companion assume his station without being personally invested?

The Very Excellent King said that by using a proxy the absent companion was effectively installed in the Office and thereafter could assume his position without further ado.

V.E.Comp. Mal Saul submitted a written question:

When a Royal Arch Mason progressing through office, reaches the office of Royal Arch Captain does he progress to the Office of Superintendent of the Tabernacle or to the Captain of the Host.

Although this question had been asked at the previous closed meeting, and answered, the Very Excellent King reiterated that the next progression should be Captain of the Host and then Chief Scribe etc. as the Superintendent of the Tabernacle had to be a Past King. V.E.Comp. Alec Ireland stated that his Chapter used the Superintendent of the Tabernacle as part of the progress and that this practice was widespread. M.E.Comp. Heavener said that in his chapter the Superintendent of the Tabernacle was treated as a permanent office and it had been this way for the past 50 years.

It was also noted that the ritual books showed the position of the Captain of the Host within the Council Chamber and that this should be corrected.

The Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Daley said that all chapters should be circularised with the proper procedure.

The Very Excellent King said that this decision and indeed all past decisions made by this body be brought to the Board of General Purposes with a view to making them rulings.

M.E.Comp. Heavener again asked if it was permissible to lower the banners at prayers other than at the opening and closing.

The Very Excellent King said he could think of no reason why they could not be, however the Registrar felt that a decision had been made that it was not recommended. The Registrar was instructed to research this.

The Registrar said that he had been advised by the Grand Registrar that there was to be a rationalization of the expenses claimed for attending not only this body but also the Grand Lodge of Instruction and that changes would come into effect from September. R.E.Comp. Philip Daley explained why the changes were necessary and outlined the main points.

Before closing the Very Excellent King thanked everyone for attending and contributing to a successful meeting. There being no further business, the Very Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction was closed in Peace love and Harmony and with Prayer.

Stated Convocation October

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 October 2019 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.

Also present were Elected Members: M.E.Comp. Shad Bailie, M.E.Comp. Norman Fairley, V.E.Comp. D. Blair, V.E.Comp. John Stewart, V.E.Comp. R. Lamont. District Representatives: V.E.Comp. B. Jackson for Down. Dereck R. Poyntz For Meath and North Connaught, M.E.Comp. D. Rhodes and Richard Codd for Wicklow and Wexford.

Apologies were received from the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM, M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble, Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Charles Olden, Assistant Grand King, R.E.Comp. Philip Daley, Grand Registrar.



and R.E.Comp. George. Graham, Grand Director of Ceremonies. Elected Members: M.E.Comp. Rev. E. Hunter, M.E.Comp. I. Meldrum, M.E.Comp. Harvey Heavener, M.E.Comp. Leslie Evans (whose Brother in Law and died), V.E.Comp. R.B. Crawford, V.E.Comp. W.R. Smith, V.E.Comp. R. Boothe and R.E.Comp. Eddie McComb. District Representatives: E.Comp. Mal Saul for Antrim, V.E.Comp. John Richardson for Armagh, E.Comp. C. Wilson for Down and E.Comp. Maurice Lynch for Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh.

The Grand Chapter of Instruction being opened the Very Excellent King welcomed all the members, thanking them for their attendance. The District Grand King of Wicklow and Wexford was invited to the Dias and saluted.

The Very Excellent King deeply regretted the passing of M.E.Comp. William (Billy) McLain, Past King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh. who had been a stalwart member and also the oldest member of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction who would be greatly missed. His memory was then saluted with a muffled fire of 3 fives. He also had a special word for V.E.Comp. Brian Jackson whose brother had died the previous evening and also M.E.Comp. Leslie Evans whose brother in law had also died. The members stood in silent respect to their memory.

The Minute of the Stated Convocation held at Freemason's Hall, Dublin on Thursday 16th May 2019 were read. These were confirmed and signed by the Very Excellent King and countersigned by the Grand Registrar for Instruction.

Letters of apology from, the members who had sent in written apologies were read.

Letter from the Grand Registrar stating that the election of the Grand Registrar and the Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction had been approved by the Board of General purposes. Also, the newly elected members. A Submission referring to Mark Master Masonry was considered not appropriate for the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction to consider.

The Very Excellent King instructed the Director of Ceremonies to present the newly elected members to him to receive their Jewels.

John A. Stewart, Past King of 30 Years standing and at present a subscribing

member of Ahoghill Royal Arch Chapter No. 704. Proposed by M.E.Comp. James McFarland, M.E.Comp. Cecil Burns and V.E.Comp. Norman Kelly.

Roy W. Lamont, Past King of 14 years standing and at present a subscribing member of Antrim Royal Arch Chapter No. 28. Proposed by V.E.Comp. James McGookin. V.E.Comp. Jack Kettyle and V.E.Comp. Norman Kelly.

Neville Leinster, Past King of 20 years standing and at present a Subscribing member of St. James Royal Arch Chapter No. 186. Proposed by V.E.Comp. Jack Kettyle, V.E.Comp. James McGookin and V.E.Comp. Robert Johnston.

Simon Lusty, Past King of 17 years standing and at present a subscribing member of Carnmoney Royal Arch Chapter No. 645. Proposed by V.E.Comp. Jack Kettyle, V.E.Comp. William Haliday and V.E.Comp. Norman Kelly.

Sean L. Turner, Past king of 10 years standing and at present a subscribing member of Farmers Royal Arch Chapter No. 1000. Proposed by M.E.Comp. Keith Bates, M.E.Comp. Shad Bailie and M.E.Comp. Norman Kelly.

The Very Excellent King presented the Jewels in a very warm and personal manner with a special word for each one. Before having them saluted.

The Assistant Grand Registrar, V.E.Comp. Michael Costello asked a question in regard to the installation of the Very Worshipful Master of a Mark Master Masons Lodge when sometimes the office bearers perambulated the Lodge Room. The Very Excellent King stated that this should not be done and the Registrar was able to support this from a previously asked question by M.E.Comp. Cecil Burns which was already recorded in the minutes and passed. V.E.Comp. Martin Lawther enquired about the correct procedure for registering a mark. The Grand Registrar for Instruction duly obliged.

The Grand Registrar for instruction said that he had begun to collate decisions made by this body as instructed but it would certainly take some time to complete.

Before closing the Very Excellent King thanked everyone for attending and contributing to a successful meeting.

There being no further business, the Very Excellent



Grand Royal Arch Chapter of instruction was closed in Peace love and Harmony and with Prayer.

Open October Convocation

The Very Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction of the Most Excellent the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland met in open communication on Saturday 19th October 2019 at 2.30 p.m. in the Masonic Hall, Enniskillen. The Chapter opened in form with M.E.Comp. James McFarland presiding, the remaining offices being suitably filled.

Apologies were received from the Deputy Grand King M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon Harry Trimble and R.E.Comp. William G. Shaw.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of instruction being open the Very Excellent King informed the Companions Of the recent death of M.E.Comp. William McLain, a Past District Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone & Fermanagh and asked R.E.Comp. Roy Wilkins, a close friend of many years, to say a few words. He said that Billy had been a tall man in stature who stood tall in his service to Freemasonry, especially Royal Arch Masonry. He was an expert degree giver and had started the Class of Instruction in Londonderry

and had devoted a lifetime to this organisation. He added that his two daughters had been delighted with the turnout at his funeral. The Very Excellent King then called the Final Salute, after which, all stood for a minute in silent tribute.

On a happier note the Very Excellent King gave a warm welcome to the District Grand King, M.E.Comp. Ray Hetherington, his Deputy R.E.Comp. Bob Moore and his assistant R.E.Comp. Roy Wilkins. M.E.Comp. Hetherington suitably replied and wished the team well with the exemplification.

Present and past Grand Chapter Officers, Foreign Representatives, and Present and past District Grand Chapter Officers were also welcomed and saluted.

The minutes of the open convocation held in the Belsize Masonic Centre, Lisburn on Saturday 23rd March 2019 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.

The Registrar then announced the main business as to witness an exemplification of the opening of a Royal Arch Chapter and the installation of the

		Chapter No.
Excellent King	E.Comp. J. Woods	205
High Priest	R.E.Comp. J. Moore	332
Chief Scribe	R.E.Comp. R. Miller	819
Treasurer	E.Comp. L. Gamble	205
Registrar	R.E.Comp. D. Nixon	205
Director of Ceremonies	E.Comp. S. Richmond	205
Chaplain	R.E.Comp. I Bleakely	586
Captain of Host	R.E.Comp. G. Brandon	350
Superintendent of the Tabernacle	V.E.Comp. S. Mullen	819
Royal Arch Captain	E.Comp. F. Breen	350
Captain of the Scarlet Veil	V.E.Comp. J. Orr	819
Captain of the Purple Veil	E.Comp D. Boles	350
Captain of the Blue Veil	E.Comp. R. Collum	205
Almoner	E.Comp. N. Brown	586
Janitor	E.Comp. D. Young	586
Tyler	V.E.Comp. A. Allen	350
Class Leader	M.E.Comp. I. Meldrum	



Excellent King and Council and Officers, by the Erne Royal Arch class of Instruction and the team took their places as follows:

The team opened in an excellent manner under the guidance of E.Comp. Woods and no questions were asked. The registrar had no comments to make other than to congratulate the team on an excellent opening.

Nerves began to show at the start of the Installation ceremony, but the team soon settled down again and no questions were asked. The few comments the registrar made were intended to make good work better. The only comment of note was that it was a quadrilateral name and not a quadrilateral name.

In proposing the vote of thanks, the High Priest, V.E.Comp. Jack Kettle said it was a wonderful exemplification with no question asked. He said that M.E.Comp. Ivan Meldrum deserved great credit in preparing the team to such a high standard and hoped it would not be too long before they returned to exemplify more of their work. The Chief Scribe, V.E.Comp. Bob Smith in seconding the vote of thanks said he fully endorsed the comments made by the High Priest. The work of the team had been rehearsed to an excellent standard and he also congratulated Ivan. In supporting the vote of thanks, the Registrar said he fully concurred with the remarks of the High Priest and the Chief Scribe adding it was an exemplification he would long remember for its excellence.

In conveying the vote of thanks to the team the Very Excellent King thanked them for a wonderful feast of Royal Arch Masonry, and he would like to see this team coming to Belfast to show off their skills for all to enjoy. In reply the Excellent King of the team E.Comp. Woods thanked the Grand Chapter of Instruction for the opportunity to exemplify their work and personally thanked M.E.Comp. Ivan Meldrum for his work in preparing them. E.Comp. Derek Nixon invited everyone to tea. The Very Excellent King then invited the District Grand King to comment.

M.E.Comp. Hetherington said he was absolutely delighted with the afternoon's exemplification. It was a marvellous experience and he thanked the team for all their obvious hard work in reaching such a high standard.

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, my diary is now empty!

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 wellbeing 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

The year 2019 proved to be a difficult year regarding availability of exemplifying teams at the Very Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction. The overall attendance was low again this year. In fact, the first scheduled Open Convocation due to have been held on Thursday 21st February 2019 could not proceed because of lack of sufficient companions to open the chapter.

An Open Convocation did take place

on Thursday 18th April 2019 in Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street. It was opened in due form with V.E.Comp. Harvey H. Heavener on the Throne. He was assisted by R.E.Comp. Leslie G. Evans as High Priest, and M.E.Comp. Neil H.H. Fenton as Chief Scribe. The other offices were filled as follows: Captain of the Host, E.Comp. Gordon Allen, Superintendent of the Tabernacle, Comp. Eoin Pluncéid, Royal Arch Captain, E.Comp. James McCafferty, Captain of the Veils, R.E.Comp. Philip



A.J. Daley, Janitor, Comp. Paul Lavin, Chaplain, E.Comp. Neale Woods, Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction, V.E.Comp. Michael M. Costello.

After the Opening the Very Excellent King welcomed those attending with a special welcome for the Grand Registrar R.E.Comp. Philip A.J. Daley who was then saluted. In his reply the Grand Registrar said he was delighted to attend our meetings. He informed the Companions that work was continuing on the new database and in due course that will assist with better and more extensive notifications of our convocations.

Apologies were received from M.E.Comp. David Rhodes, District Grand King of Wicklow and Wexford, R.E.Comp. John S. Haynes, Grand Treasurer and V.E.Comp. Michael Curran, Elected Member.

There having been no Open Convocation in February 2018 the Minutes of the previous Convocation held on Thursday 15th November 2018 were read and adopted.

The business of the meeting was one of instruction with special emphasis on Part One of the Royal Arch Degree. The Notice was particularly aimed at newly exalted Companions who were encouraged to ask questions on either Royal Arch or Mark Master Masonry and to witness and practice ritual, Words and Signs.

The attendance was small but included two Companions recently exalted Comp. Paul Lavin and Comp. Eoin Pluncéid. They unexpectedly offered to demonstrate the Ceremony of the Passing of the Veils insofar as that could be done in the absence of a full exemplifying team. Assisted by E.Comp. Gordon Allen and the Assistant Registrar for Instruction, who acted as Conductor and Chaplain respectively, Companions Lavin and Pluncéid gave a very good demonstration at each of the Veils. It was apparent that they had absorbed Royal Arch Ritual with enthusiasm. This was quite remarkable considering that this was their first visit to the Grand Chapter of Instruction and a very short time since they received their degrees.

Only minor corrections were needed when explaining the Signs.

After the demonstration some finer instruction was given. For example, the Conductor need not sit on the stone to give the Word for the

candidate before he passes the Scarlet Veil. It is also recommended that the candidate be placed on the stone at the time the relevant part in the Scripture is read by the Chaplain.

Many other aspects of the Royal Arch degree and ritual were covered in discussion that followed including the Reception of the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King.

Before closing the Very Excellent King said that he was delighted with the work of the new Companions. He thanked them for their contribution. The meeting was pleasant, informative and relaxed.

The next Open Convocation was held on Thursday 21st November 2019 also in Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street, with R.E.Comp. Leslie G. Evans on the Throne, assisted by E.Comp. John Denham as High Priest and R.E.Comp. John S. Haynes as Chief Scribe. The other offices were filled as follows: Captain of the Host, E.Comp. Gordon Allen, Superintendent of the Tabernacle, E.Comp. Ivan Ginnelly, Royal Arch Captain, R.E.Comp. Philip A.J. Daley, Captain of the Veils, E.Comp. Franco Mallocco, Janitor, E.Comp. Raymond Little, Chaplain, V.E.Comp. Michael M. Costello Assistant Grand Registrar for Instruction, V.E.Comp. Michael M. Costello.

After the Opening the Very Excellent King welcomed those attending on a very wet and cold wintry evening, with a special appreciation to two Companions who travelled, one from Portlaoise and the other from Athlone. The Very Excellent King welcomed Ex. Officio Members, the Grand Treasurer, R.E.Comp. John S. Haynes and the Grand Registrar R.E.Comp. Philip A.J. Daley who were saluted.

Apologies were received from V.E.Comp. Harvey H. Heavener, Elected Member and from M.E.Comp. David J. Rhodes, District Grand King Wicklow and Wexford and District Representative.

The Minutes of the Open Convocation of April 18th were read and confirmed.

This convocation was devoted to Mark Master Masonry. There was no exemplifying team available. That gave ample time to concentrate on accuracy illustrating the Signs and ritual of Mark Masonry.

The Assistant Registrar had prepared a



presentation “Key to the Mark Master Mason Degree” in which were listed all the Signs, Tokens, Grips, Visiting, Challenge, Presentation of Mark and Receiving Wages, all of which were practiced in detail by companions present during which any errors noted were corrected.

The Sign of Sorrow and the Sign of Thanksgiving were demonstrated together with the explanation as to how they are particularly relevant to the Legend of our neighbouring constitution.

The origins of Mark Master Mason Signs were referred to which hopefully assists in memorising them. Several questions then followed on both the Royal Arch and Mark Degrees. As always one

query led on to another showing once again that even in the absence of a demonstrating team a great deal of ritual can be learned. It is a pity that so few of our companions were present.

To conclude I wish to thank the Companions who are our regular attenders. Their knowledge and experience is invaluable and always available to companions willing to learn .

I am particularly grateful to the Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Philip A.J. Daley who shares our view that this may be a time to see if any changes need to be considered that might encourage further interest in maintaining our beautiful Royal Arch and Mark ritual at the highest possible standard.



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 again we had Royal Arch Chapters who returned their warrant due to decrease in numbers. Most of the Companions affiliated to other Royal Arch Chapters but I understand some other Royal Arch Chapters are considering closure.

The Stated Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim was held on Saturday 26th January at 2.15 p.m. in the Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim.

The Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM, was welcomed, accepted the sceptre, and after being seated was accorded a salute of honour. He thanked the Companions for the warmth of their welcome, having signed the minutes, returned the sceptre to the District Grand King.

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 Moore, District Deputy Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh. I also welcomed R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsop, District Deputy Grand King of Armagh accompanied by R.E.Comp. Andrew Lambe, District Assistant Grand King of Armagh.

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 2019, were presented and I was pleased to invest them with a personal word for each Officer.





In my closing remarks I referred to a review of distribution of Royal Arch Chapters allocated to Inspectors after the interview and appointment of replacement inspectors.

The recently formed Class of Instruction at Crumlin Road had attracted a good response.

I was pleased to report approximately £20,000.00 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 15th April at 7:30 p.m. in Dunadry Hotel, Templepatrick.

The Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon Henry Trimble, was welcomed, accepted the sceptre, and after being seated was accorded a salute of honour. He thanked the Companions for the warmth of their welcome, he outlined his visits to Malaysia and Sri Lanka and having signed the minutes, returned the sceptre to the District Grand King.

I was pleased to welcome many Companions but particularly, 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 also welcomed M.E.Comp. Jack Magowan, District Grand King of Armagh accompanied by R.E.Comp. John James, District Grand High Priest of Armagh. I was pleased to welcome R.E.Comp. Will Shaw, District Grand

Registrar of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh.

V.E.Comp. Donald Minshull was invested as District Grand Treasurer.

I, and my Senior Officers, having examined the annual return statistics in some detail, along with other statistics which have been produced, I announced the commencement of regional information seminars.

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

The Stated Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim was held on Monday 3rd June at 7.30 p.m. in The Loughshore Hotel, Carrickfergus.

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. The District Deputy Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh, R.E.Comp. Robert Moore was also welcomed. I thanked them for their attendance and had them saluted. M.E.Comp. Neil Coey replied.

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

I referred to, with regret, the retirement of V.E.Comp. William T. Brown from the office of District Grand Director of Ceremonies.





The first of our Information Seminars was held on 29th May, in Crumlin Road, and on the following evening in Arthur Square. After various presentations the Companions met in small groups for discussion. The salient points were reported on and, when collated and analysed by Senior Officers, will be made available to the Chapters.

I congratulated V.E.Comp. John Stewart and Roy Lamont on being elected members of Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Instruction.

R.E.Comp. George Graham and E.Comp. Paul Harvey were congratulated on being appointed Provincial Assistant Grand Masters of Antrim.

The Stated Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim was held on Monday 28th October at 7:30 p.m. in Lisburn Masonic Centre.

The Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon Henry Trimble, was welcomed, accepted the sceptre, and after being seated was accorded a salute of honour. He thanked the Companions for the warmth of their welcome, he outlined his visits to Singapore for the Constitution of a new District Grand Chapter, and having signed the minutes, returned the sceptre to the District Grand King.

I was pleased to welcome many Companions but particularly the District Grand King of Down, M.E.Comp. Neil Coey accompanied by R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris, District Deputy Grand King. I was also pleased to welcome, after his installation, the District Grand King of Armagh, M.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp, accompanied by R.E.Comp. Bob Smith, District Deputy Grand King of Armagh and R.E.Comp. Andy Lambe, District Assistant Grand King, R.E.Comp. Fred Cooper, District Grand Registrar. The District Deputy Grand King of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh, R.E.Comp. Robert Moore was also welcomed. I thanked them for their

attendance and had them saluted. M.E.Comp. Neil Coey replied.

I invested E.Comp. William Johnston, Oak Royal Arch Chapter No. 326, as a District Grand Steward and E.Comp. Sam Eccles, Royal Arch Chapter No. 537, Cullybackey, as a District Grand Chaplain.

The detail from our Information Seminars, held in Crumlin Road and in Arthur Square, have been sent to the Royal Arch Chapters in both venues and some positive steps have already been implemented. The next seminar will be held in Whiteabbey Masonic Centre on 5th November.

Interviews have been arranged for the appointment of new Inspectors and these will be announced at the next convocation. I announced the appointment of a District Assistant Grand Treasurer, District Grand Director of Ceremonies, District Grand Organists and personal appointments. These Companions will be invested at our January 2020 convocation.

The next convocation would be held on 25th January, 2020 in First Larne Presbyterian Church 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 District Grand 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, Past District Grand King

I approached the year 2019 in the knowledge that I would inform the Supreme Grand King of my intention to retire from Office during the year. After discussing the matter with M.E.Comp. Leathem, I informed the Companions of the District at the Convocation in March that I was stepping down and would leave Office in September having served five years as District Grand King.

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. Andrew Lambe for their support and assistance in visiting the Chapters over the installation period owing to my continuing ill health.

I was delighted to be able to attend a special convocation of Royal Arch Chapter No. 351 Monaghan on Tuesday 21st May presenting 50 year & 25 year Certificates and Jewels to Companions of Royal Arch Chapter No. 351 Monaghan and Royal Arch Chapter No. 192 Ballybay. I presented a 50 year Certificate & Jewel to V.E.Comp. T.W. Garland and 25 year Certificates to R.E.Comp. A.R. Lambe, District Assistant Grand King, R.E.Comp. M.O. Steenson, R.E.Comp. H.A. Smith, E.Comp. A Wedlock, E.Comp. R Shirley of Royal Arch Chapter No. 351 along with V.E.Comp. G. Steenson and E.Comp. A. Hall Royal Arch Chapter No. 192. I was also able to present E.Comp. W. Wedlock of Royal Arch Chapter No. 351 with his



Past Kings Certificate. We then retired to supper provided by the Companions of Monaghan.



At the District Chapter Convocation in June held in Markethill I was pleased to announce to the District that the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King had appointed R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp to be the next District Grand King this was warmly received by the Companions. I also had the honour of presenting M.E.Comp. R.A. "Alec" Best of Jubilee Temperance Royal Arch Chapter No. 652 a Past District Grand King with his 50 year Certificate and Jewel, he had served Royal Arch Chapter No. 652 for 45 years as Treasurer, and had started me on by journey through District Chapter.



I visited E.Comp. David Farlow of Royal Arch Chapter No. 192 Ballybay on 9th August in his home he had been Registrar of Chapter No. 192 for many years. I was accompanied by the District Grand King Elect R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp, the District Assistant Grand King R.E.Comp. Andy Lambe and Companions of Ballybay to present him with his 50 year Certificate & Jewel, we were well received and treated to a delicious supper by his family.

Sadly, District had a Special Convocation on the 29th August to mark the untimely passing after a very short illness of the District Treasurer R.E.Comp. R.J. "Bobby" Robinson of The McMahon Royal Arch Chapter No. 328, Richhill.



And, finally, may I express my thanks to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, his Deputy and Assistant under whom I have served for their support and guidance over my years as District Grand King.

To you all I extend my best wishes for a successful future and long and healthy lives to enjoy masonry and I look forward to meeting with you in the future and I especially wish M.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp every possible good wish for his term in Office.



M.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp, District Grand King

After the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King's announcement of my appointment as District Grand King I was overwhelmed by the messages of congratulation I received and to all those who contacted me I extend my sincere thanks. I feel very honoured and humbled in being selected for this appointment and I will endeavour to continue the high standards of my predecessors.

The September Convocation will always remain in my memory as the support that we received from both Guests and Visitors from the North and South of Ireland together with Companions of this District was overwhelming. I take this opportunity to record my thanks to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King for his attendance and for the manner in which he installed me in the Chair.



Following my installation, I had the greatest pleasure in installing R.E.Comp. W.R. Smith (Bob) as District Deputy Grand King. I extend my very best wishes to him for a long and enjoyable time in this Office and thank him for accepting the position.

I announced my appointment of V.E.Comp Richard T. Shirley, Past King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 351, Monaghan as my Standard Bearer for 2020 and my appointment of V.E. Comp. Maurice Newell, Past King of St. John's Royal Arch Chapter No. 134 Lurgan as District Sword Bearer for 2020.

As the Office of District Grand Treasurer had fallen vacant through the passing of R.E.Comp. Robinson, I announced my appointment of R.E.Comp. David Patton, Past King of The McMahon Royal Arch Chapter No. 328, Richhill as District Grand Treasurer.





The final act of the Convocation was the passing by acclamation of a very fitting Resolution to the service and dedication of the immediate Past District Grand King and I had the pleasure of presenting a framed copy of it to M.E.Comp. M c G o w a n .

Following the Convocation our Guests, Officers of District Chapter and Representatives from all the Chapters in the District sat down together to afternoon tea which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Quarterly Convocation of District Chapter of Armagh was held on 12th December in Portadown when I had great pleasure in installing the District Officers for 2020. We were royally entertained by the Companions from the Portadown Chapters in the Function Room after the Convocation.

It has been a busy period since my installation but I have enjoyed visiting the Chapters to see the new

Excellent Kings installed and as there are no further Installations in this year I shall look forward to the year 2020 when I hope to have the opportunity to visit more of the remaining Chapters in the District as I can especially during the Installation season and I would encourage all Companions to make every effort to attend the future Convocations of District Chapter.

I also wish my predecessor, M.E.Comp. Jack McGowan my best wishes for a long and happy retirement but hope that he will regularly attend District Chapter Convocations and enrich us with his welcoming smile and personality for many years to come.

Finally, I thank the Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Phillip A.J. Daley and the staff in Molesworth Street for their kind help and co-operation to my predecessor and I 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 2nd March 2019 was held in Freemasons' Hall, Newtownards Road, Belfast at 2:30 p.m. I was delighted to welcome the Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble to our District on his first visit as Deputy. M.E.Comp. Trimble accepted my invitation to occupy the Throne, was then saluted and suitably replied. The main announcement on the day was the appointment of V.E.Comp. James McDowell Past King of Portaferry Royal Arch Chapter No. 104 as District Grand Chaplain. The Charity Collection amounted to £823.60.

The Stated Convocation on Tuesday 4th June 2019 was held in Freemasons Hall, Newtownards Road, Belfast at 7:30 p.m. We were hosted, on this occasion, by William Martin Royal Arch Chapter No. 184 as part of their Centenary celebrations. Our grateful thanks and congratulations went to Royal Arch Chapter No. 184. A vacancy having arisen, I announced the appointment of V.E.Comp. Jimmy McKeown, Past King, St. James Royal Arch Chapter No. 186 as District Grand Inspector. V.E.Comp. Neville Leinster was congratulated on his recent election to membership of the Grand Chapter of Instruction and V.E.Comp. Craig Wilson was congratulated on his appointment as a representative to that Grand body. The Charity Collection amounted to £974.00.

The Stated Convocation on Wednesday 4th September 2019 was held in Magheradroll Parish Church Halls, Church Road, Ballynahinch at 7:30pm. I was again delighted to welcome M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble to our District. The Deputy Grand King accepted my invitation to occupy the Throne, was then saluted and suitably replied congratulating our hosts, Ballynahinch Royal Arch Chapter No. 301, on reaching their Centenary. Following the Election of Officers for 2020/2021 I announced my personal appointments as follows:



District Grand King's Standard Bearer, E.Comp. Ian Lawther, Past King, Unity Royal Arch Chapter No. 443. District Grand Sword Bearer, E.Comp. Alan Hailes, Past King, Royal Down Royal Arch Chapter No. 207. District Grand Stewards, E.Comp. David Perry, Past King, Ballynahinch Royal Arch Chapter No. 301. Steward, E.Comp. Leonard McCavery, Past King, Seaforde Royal Arch Chapter No. 1009.

The Charity Collection amounted to £848.00.

The programme of three Seminars for Directors of Ceremonies was completed at the end of October. They were very well received, well supported and everyone who went along learned something. The best thanks of District Chapter goes to the organising Team lead by our District Assistant Grand King, our District Grand Director of Ceremonies, the Elected Members of the Grand Chapter of Instruction and, of course, all the Companions who attended.

My thanks go to everyone who supported our District Chapter Dinner Dance held in November 2019 in the Millbrook Lodge, Ballynahinch and to our District Deputy Grand King for organising





The Stated Convocation on Saturday 7th December 2019 was held in the La Mon Hotel and Country Club, Castlereagh at 2:30 p.m. As this was our biennial Installation of Officers a luncheon was held prior to the Convocation and was very much enjoyed by all those who attended.

I was delighted to welcome the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM to our District once again. M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM politely declined to occupy the Throne, was then saluted and suitably replied. Following the reappointment of the permanent officers I proceeded to Invest, Install and Proclaim the Officers for 2020/2021. A vacancy having arisen I announced the appointment of E.Comp. Sam Graham Past King, Union Star Royal Arch Chapter No. 198, as District Grand Inspector.

The Charity Collection amounted to £1221.85.

it. It proved to be a great success with over one hundred in attendance and a most enjoyable time was had by all present.

At Supreme Grand Chapter in November two of our Companions were promoted to Grand Office. Our congratulations go to M.E.Comp. Alan Ferris, Grand King's Standard Bearer and V.E.Comp. Sean Turner, Grand Sword Bearer.

My sincere thanks go to my Deputy, R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris and to my Assistant R.E.Comp. Roy Humphries for all their hard work, help and support throughout the year. The best thanks of District go to 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. Ray Hetherington, District Grand King



Summary

The District Grand Royal Arch Chapter has had its highs and lows. In 2019 the high for our District Grand Chapter was the hosting of the May Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter and the low was the passing of a much loved and respected Past District Grand King, M.E.Comp. William McLain who had given over 30 years service to the District Grand Chapter.

M.E.Comp. McLain held many Offices in all Disciplines of Irish Freemasonry, but I will confine my tribute to his service to Royal Arch Masonry:

He was advanced to the Mark Master Mason Degree on the 26th March 1954 in Ardath Royal Arch Chapter No. 573 Arthur Square Belfast, in the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Antrim and Exalted to the Royal Arch Degree on the 12th April 1954 serving as Excellent King in 1967.

On the 9th of November 1961 he affiliated to Coalisland Royal Arch Chapter No. 300 and was Chapter Registrar from the 8th of December 1966 to the 14th December 1989. On his retirement as District Grand King he was elected Excellent King in 2018.

In 1978 he became Foundation Member of the Royal Grand Chapter of Research No. 222.

In May 1971 he was elected as a member of the Grand Chapter of Instruction and at the time of his death he was the most senior member.

In 1984 he was installed as Grand High Priest of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.

His distinguished service to the District Grand Chapter of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh was as a District Grand Steward in 1971, the District Assistant Grand King from 1985 to 1988, District Deputy Grand King from 1989 to 1999 and finally the District Grand King 1999 to 2016.



Congratulations

During the year I congratulated the following Companions for their advancement within Royal Arch Masonry:

M.E.Comp. Robert G. Quigley of Donemana Royal Arch Chapter No. 256 and M.E.Comp. Leslie J. Nixon of Castlemervyn Royal Arch Chapter No. 58 on being created Honorary Past Grand High Priests of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.

R.E.Comp. Andy Cole of Donemana Royal Arch Chapter No. 256 on being appointed as the Foreign Representative of the Grand Lodge of Georgia at the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

V.E.Comp. Fred Dixon of Kilrea Royal Arch Chapter No. 16 on being appointed as the Foreign Representative of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

V.E.Comp. Gareth S.T. McComb, Ramelton Royal Arch Chapter No. 407 on being Installed as the Deputy Grand Organist at the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.

Convocations

The March Convocation was hosted by Victory Royal Arch Chapter No. 52, Londonderry to commemorate their Centenary with 131 Companions in attendance.

The Retiring Treasurer, R.E.Comp. Richard M. Lyons presented his final statement of accounts and was warmly for his outstanding stewardship of our finances during fourteen years as District Grand Treasurer.

At this Convocation R.E.Comp. Alexander Allen Wallace of Pioneer Royal Arch Chapter No. 271, Letterkenny and V.E.Comp. Dr. Edward J. Burke of Castlemervyn Royal Arch Chapter No. 58, Trillick were invested respectively as the District Grand Treasurer and District Grand Janitor. The charity collection amounted to £813.50.



The June Convocation was hosted by Ecclesville Royal Arch Chapter No. 202, Fintona to commemorate their 75th Anniversary with 123 Companions in attendance. We were honoured by the presence of M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon T. Henry Trimble, the Deputy Grand King who paid an eloquent tribute to the recently deceased M.E.Comp. Michael W. Walker the Past Grand Registrar. The Charity collection was £709.

The October Convocation was hosted by of Bellaghy Royal Arch Chapter No. 291 to commemorate their Centenary with 119 Companions in attendance.

During the Convocation I presented R.E.Comp. J. Bryan Dunlop BEM of Unity Royal Arch Chapter No. 531, Moneymore with his 50 Year Jewel and Certificate. The charity collection amounted to £805.

On Thursday the 12th 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 over 130 at the lunch and 188 at the Convocation.

I welcomed and saluted The Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, the Most Excellent Deputy Grand King and a number of distinguished guests from other District Grand Chapters. I was delighted to invest R.E.Comp. Maurice Lee of Ederney Royal Arch Chapter No. 819 as an Hon. Past District Chief Scribe and E.Comp. Crawford McCann, Royal Arch Chapter No. 251, Strabane as my Standard Bearer. The other new District Officers being E.Comp. Samuel Finlay, Royal Arch Chapter No. 451, Clogher, E.Comp. Fred Breen, Cappagh Royal Arch Chapter No. 350, E.Comp. Victor Emerson, Aughnacloy Royal Arch Chapter No. 230 and E.Comp. David McConnell, Royal Arch Chapter No. 332 Omagh. The charity collection in aid of Prostate Cancer amounted to £1,304.

The Installation season has been extremely successful with wonderful fellowship and hospitality everywhere we visited. I would like to thank my Deputy and Assistants for their assistance and support during this busy period.

Finally, my thanks to the Grand Registrar and Heather in Molesworth Street for their help and co-operation during the past year.



Meath & North Connaught

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

It is once again a 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 is sad to report that some of our Companions have passed to the Grand Chapter above, to their families and friends we extend our 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

Longford and I had the pleasure of Installing the Officers of Meath and North Connaught.

In April the District Grand Chapter Convocation was held in Mullingar.



The July the District Grand Chapter Convocation was held in Ballina and we had the pleasure of welcoming The Assistant Grand King of The Grand Chapter of Ireland, M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden along with R.E.Comp. Philip A.J. Daley, Grand Registrar of The Grand Chapter of Ireland when a fine salmon supper was enjoyed by all. M.E.Comp. Olden did occupy the Throne for the

reading of the minutes and said how delighted he was to visit Meath and North Connaught as Assistant Grand King, and his first visit to Ballina Chapter.



In October the District Grand Chapter Convocation was held in Boyle where the District Grand Officers as nominated in July were elected. I was delighted to see a good turn out at this convocation.

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.

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.



Munster

M.E.Comp. Robin E.W. Newenham, District Grand King

It gives me great pleasure to present this my first report as District Grand King of Munster.

The first half of the year was under the stewardship of our most esteemed Companion and currently Grand Chaplain M.E.Comp. Edwin W. Hunter who writes as follows:

"I had thought that my last report for 2018 was my final offering but due to circumstances beyond our control my retirement was delayed and my successor M.E.Comp. Robin Newenham was not installed as District Grand King of Munster till much later in the second half of the year. I wish him well as he takes up his new duties and thank him for all his support as my deputy over the last ten years, past District Grand Kings are

only too aware of their debt to their deputies. My delayed retirement resulted in the District Grand King asking me to pen a start to this year's report as he put it "you were in charge then".



We had a good year in the District of Munster and our year started with the installation of M.E.Comp. Charles Olden, former District Grand King of Munster, as Assistant Grand King in a perfectly preformed ceremony by the Grand King, himself not long out of Hospital. We applaud his energy and dedication to duty. Our congratulations to M.E.Comp. Olden as he takes on this important role at the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland. This is indeed an honour for the District of Munster and his own Chapter.



Membership in the district has shown a slight increase over the year and the practice which I started early in my time of giving each Chapter a target of minimum of two new members per year has been beneficial, covering losses from resignations and deaths. Where the target has been exceeded is good news as the exercise means that degrees have to be given with an interest for all rather than facing a series of meetings of opening, minutes, correspondence, and then close.

District meetings have continued to be well attended and a tour away convocation in country chapters where we are always so well looked after.

That I feel is sufficient from me and my successor can continue this report, meanwhile my thanks to all for their support, and especially to all in the office in HQ for their help so willingly given at all times."

The Companions of Munster did us proud and attended in numbers exceeding 20 for my Installation in September many of which were regaled in the robes which set Munster apart! I was honoured to have as my sponsors M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden, Assistant Grand King, and V.E.Comp's. John Mustard and Andrew Bird, both of Royal Arch Chapter No. 1. The Installation Ceremony was perfectly and impressively performed by the Grand King who 'did' three of us at that convocation. Also, at that meeting one of the stalwarts of Munster Masonry, M.E.Comp. Edward Rea was appointed as the Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Kansas to the Grand Chapter of Ireland.

November saw our District Grand Registrar, Guy L. St. Leger Invested and Installed as M.E. Grand High Priest at the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland, an honour richly deserved for him personally as well as his Chapter and the District.

The District Installation of Officers took place at our December convocation at which R.E.Comp. Uwe Schiller was installed as Deputy District Grand King. We were honoured to have the Assistant Grand King, M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden present, as well as the District Grand King's of North Munster, Midland Counties, Wicklow and Wexford and South Eastern Counties together with officers of those Districts.

The mutual support of the Districts in of the South of the country was initiated by M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton of Wicklow and Wexford and continues to work well and improve the relationships between our Districts.

The Chapters within Munster are active and are being encouraged to get new candidates, so that the District can continue to grow and flourish, and I extend my personal thanks to the registrars and members of the Chapters within the District for all that they do to keep their chapters alive and active.

My sincere wish that our Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King may enjoy improving good health in the year to come and fulsome thanks to our Grand Registrar and all the staff in Molesworth Street for their continued support combined with good humour in dealing with sometimes difficult situations and personalities!



North Munster

M.E.Comp. John W. Patching, District Grand King



As I write this report, I am conscious of the fact that, for much of the period it covers, the office of District Grand King of North Munster was held by my predecessor, M.E.Comp. Cyril Foster. Cyril has devoted many years of his Masonic career to the good of Royal Arch Masonry and to the District of North Munster in particular. The District wishes him well in his retirement and looks forward to seeing him in Chapter for many years to come.

Following my installation at Supreme Grand Chapter in September, my first duty was to install my officers at the District Grand Chapter's November Convocation. It was pleasing, though daunting, to welcome many visitors to this Convocation and festive board, including the Assistant Grand King, M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden and the District Grand Kings of Munster, Wicklow and Wexford, South Eastern and The Midlands. This installation marked some significant changes in the "non-progressive" officers of the Chapter. R.E.Comp. Brian Ruttle was replaced as District Grand Registrar by R.E.Comp. Tom Peirce. Brian had served faithfully and efficiently for many years as Registrar, and I was therefore most pleased to install him as District Deputy Grand King, since he knows much more than I do of the day-to-day running of the District! Tributes were paid to the outgoing Deputy District Grand King R.E.Comp. Bob Hackett who had faithfully served for many years with M.E.Comp. Foster. Shortly after this, I and my Deputy attended a most enjoyable Convocation of the District Grand Chapter of Munster, where I was able to sit back and watch another new District Grand King, M.E.Comp. Robin Newenham, install his Officers.

In November, Eden Royal Arch Chapter No. 73 marked the occasion of its founding in 1844, 175 years ago, with a celebratory Convocation and Festive board which was attended by the Assistant Grand King, M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden and many friends and members, past and present. Past events in the history of the Chapter were recalled, including the year of 1990 when the principle offices were held by Comp's, Robert (Excellent King), Brian (Hight Priest) and Basil (Chief Scribe) Ruttle (both Brothers and brothers!).

I am pleased to report that membership of the constituent Chapters increased in 2019, with 5 Exaltations and an Affiliation.

Royal Arch Chapter No. 333 had 4 Exaltations: Comp's Robin Miller, Mike Nevin, Marc O'Neill and Jonathan Gibson. Royal Arch Chapter No. 14 Exalted Comp. William Donaldson and also welcomed E.Comp. Glen Powell as an affiliate. Glen is a member of a Royal Arch Chapter under the English Constitution and it is interesting to hear of the differences between English and Irish Chapters. We congratulate these new members of the District and wish them happiness during their time as Royal Arch Masons. Sadly, I must also report the departure to the Grand Chapter above of E.Comp. Gerard Cooper a much-missed member of Royal Arch Chapter No. 333.

Finally, on behalf of myself and my predecessor, I would like to thank the Officers and Companions of the District Grand Chapter of North Munster for their loyalty and support, and the Grand Registrar and his staff for all their help and guidance.



The District Grand King of North Munster (M.E.Comp. John W. Patching) and the Immediate Past District Grand King (M.E.Comp. Cyril E. Foster)



The brothers Ruttle, who were the Principle Officers of Eden Royal Arch Chapter No. 73 in 1980.



South Eastern

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

The highlight for our District in 2019 was the celebration of 25 years since the re-constitution of Ormond Chapter, Kilkenny. The evening in November was marked by a reading of the minutes from 29th November 1994 and 4 of the founder members are still attending meetings. Two of them were present on the night and it was a pleasure to be able to present 25 year jewels to them. The evening continued with a Mark Lodge and the installation of the Officers and concluded with a festive board were memories of the founding members and the events over the past 25 years were shared. Kilkenny Chapter also approved an updated and simplified version of their by-laws which were sent late in the year for consideration by the District Grand Chapter.

Donoughmore Chapter in Clonmel also updated their by-laws – finally replacing the version printed by the Chronicle Steam Printing Works, Clonmel in 1883. In 1883 the annual subscription was 5s (approx. 19c) and the annual dinner cheque was 10/6d (about 40c) giving an idea how times have



changed as well as the means of printing. These by-laws are also with the District Grand Chapter for consideration and submission to Grand Chapter during 2020.

Waterford Chapter are also revising their own by-laws which will see the 1969 edition updated and simplified. These are expected to be submitted to the District during 2020 – a busy year for by-law revision, but much overdue in some cases.

Our District Grand Chapter Officers were installed in March at Waterford and we welcomed visitors from our adjacent Districts. I was delighted to attend installations of Officers

by the new District Grand Kings in both Munster and Midland Counties. The Deputy District Grand King, R.E.Comp. Ian McCullagh deputised for me at the Wicklow and Wexford installation when I was ill. The continuing friendship between the adjoining Districts brings much joy and insight to all those who attend.

I thank those in the offices at Molesworth Street for their work and assistance throughout the year.

The Midlands

M.E.Comp. G. Raymond Stanley, District Grand King

It is with great apprehension that I make my first annual report of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Midlands.

On the 13th of March the installation convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter was held in Mountmellick Masonic Lodge. M.E.Comp. Erwin Cobbe extended a warm welcome to our invited guests, namely M.E.Comp. David Rhodes, District Grand King of Wicklow and Wexford, M.E.Comp. Ian Devonport, District Grand King of South Eastern, M.E.Comp. Richard Howard, District Grand King of Meath and North Connacht, R.E.Comp. Ian McCullagh, District Deputy Grand King, South Eastern, R.E.Comp. Stewart McBain, District Grand Register of Wicklow and Wexford and M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton, Past District Grand

King of Wicklow and Wexford. All visitors were then saluted according to ancient custom.

M.E.Comp. Cobbe informed the Companions present that he had submitted his letter of retirement as District Grand King to the Supreme Grand Chapter. He thanked all the Companions of the District for their loyal support over the last 9 years. He then announced that R.E.Comp. G. Raymond Stanley had been offered the position of District Grand King and has been accepted by Supreme Grand Chapter. At this point a procession was formed and R.E.Comp. G. Raymond Stanley, District Deputy Grand King was presented to the District Grand King. In presenting him with his new chain of office as District Deputy Grand





King remarked that R.E.Comp. Stanley had got the short straw as he would not get to wear it for very long. I wish to thank R.E.Comp. Alan Ferris District Deputy Grand King of Down for all his help and assistance in acquiring the new chain of District Deputy Grand King.

Following on we then proceeded to Install the Officers of the District for 2019. This was carried out in a most dignified manner in no small part due to the guidance of the District Grand Director of Ceremonies V.E.Comp. Neville Magee. Our April convocation was held on the 24th in Newbridge Masonic Lodge. We were delighted to have with us on that occasion the M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden, Assistant Grand King. In his address M.E.Comp. Olden thanked M.E.Comp. Cobbe for the service he had given as District Grand King over the past 9 years and before that as Deputy. He also extended his good wishes and hopes for the future to the new District Grand King, R.E.Comp. G. Raymond Stanley who will be a worthy successor. M.E.Comp. Olden said that nothing stands still, and this was another example of it, noting that M.E.Comp. Stanley will bring a different style to the office.

It is usual at our April convocation to have a Companion address the meeting. The District Grand King invited Comp. Barry Maher Royal Arch Chapter No. 167 Athy to come forward and address the assemble Companions on his chosen subject, noting that he had been very recently discharged from hospital. In an interesting and informative talk Comp. Maher gave a detailed insight into the carriage of dangerous goods by road "A.D.R."

At the convocation of Grand Chapter on the 18th of September in Molesworth

Street, I received the great honour of being installed as District Grand King of The Midlands by the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM. This was a unique occasion, on that day 3 District Grand Kings were installed, M.E.Comp. John Patching of the District Grand Chapter of North Munster, M.E.Comp. Robin Newenham District Grand Chapter of Munster and myself in the presence of a full Chapter meeting. I must pay tribute to the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, to give one degree is considered to be acceptable but to give three, one after the other is definitely an ordeal and I congratulate him.

On the 9th of September Roscrea Royal Arch Chapter No. 307 played host to our District Grand Chapter and it was very well attended with 44 companions present. This was the first meeting of the District in which I occupied the office of District Grand King and I thank the Companions for their support. On this occasion I wished to have placed in the minutes of the District my grateful thanks to all the Companions who travelled to Supreme Grand Chapter on the 18th of September for my installation, saying I felt very proud and humbled by the attendance from the District.

It was my great pleasure on this occasion to announce the name of my Deputy V.E.Comp. Neville Magee, District Grand Director of Ceremonies and Royal Arch Chapter No. 215, Newbridge. It would be my hope to install him as such at our installation meeting in March 2020. After the nomination of Officers for 2020 I was pleased to announce E.Comp. Lionel Gyves as my Standard Bearer for the year. The Director of Ceremonies formed a procession and presented the immediate past District Grand King M.E.Comp. Erwin Cobbe, and I had great pleasure in presenting him with a set of Regalia on behalf of the District as a small token of appreciation for all that he had done for the District, both as District Grand King for the past 9 years and the previous 7 years as Deputy.

Visits During 2019

Visiting the Chapters within the District, it was heartening to see many of them advancing candidates to the Mark Master Mason Degree and exalting others to the Royal Arch Degree. We wish all these new Companions every happiness in Royal Arch Masonry. M.E.Comp. Cobbe and I travelled to both Waterford on the 28th March and to Enniscorthy on 4th of April for the Installation



Convocation of the Districts of South Eastern and Wicklow and Wexford respectively. Both occasions were very enjoyable, and we thank them for their kind invitations.

On 14th of September M.E.Comp. Cobbe and I travelled to Armagh for the Installation of the new District Grand King M.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp. This was a splendid occasion and I would like to take this opportunity to wish M.E.Comp. Millsopp every good wish as he takes up his new office.

On the 24th of November I, together with R.E.Comp. Gilbert Stanley, attended the Installation Convocation of the District Grand Chapter of North Munster held in Limerick. It was nice to be present to see my good friend R.E.Comp. Brian Ruttie installed as District Deputy Grand King and I wish him well in that office.

On the 11th of December I attended the District Grand Chapter of Munster which was held in Cork together with R.E.Comp. Gilbert Stanley and V.E.Comp. Neville Magee. This was my first time to attend a Chapter Installation Convocation in Tuckey Street and I was most impressed with the Chapter Room. On this occasion V.E.Comp. Uwe Schiller was installed as District Deputy Grand King and I wish him many years in that office.

Obituaries

Unfortunately, the Year 2019 has not been kind to our District, and it is my sad duty to refer to the passing of a number of companions. M.E.Comp. J Kenneth Dunne - Past District Grand King, V.E.Comp. John Emerson, V.E.Comp. Companion Samuel Holt, E.Comp. James (Jim) Sutton, E.Comp. Robert Thompson all these Companions were members of Royal Arch Chapter No. 215 Newbridge. Our current Captain of the Scarlet Vale, V.E.Comp. John Symes of Royal Arch Chapter No. 101, Athlone passed away last August. On behalf of the District I wish to extend sincere sympathy to the families of these Companions and to all who have suffered a bereavement during the year.

At the end of October, the Register of Royal Arch Chapter No. 398, Maryborough, E.Comp. Harry Nicholls's son Richard was involved in a very serious hang-gliding accident in Australia. On behalf of the district I would like to wish Richard a speedy recovery to full health. I wish to thank my predecessor M.E.Comp. Cobbe for his dedication to his District duties, the Chapters who hosted District Convocations and all the District Offices for the regular attendance.

Finally, I wish to thank the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King for the trust he has placed in me and wish all the staff in Molesworth Street the very best for the year 2020.

Wicklow & Wexford

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

Our cable tow through 2019 as taken use from Londonderry to Cork with a few stops in-between.

The 13th of March was the final meeting we would attend in The Midlands with the District Grand King and his Deputy in their current offices. We enjoyed the meeting and as usual had very good company at the festive board. On this occasion M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton responded for guests at the festive board as M.E.Comp. Neil & M.E Comp. Erwin Cobbe go back a very long way with a few stories to tell. We wish M.E.Comp. Erwin all the best and look forward to meeting him as Past District Grand King. We are looking forward to seeing R.E.Comp. Neville Magee in his new office.

Travelled down on the 28th March to District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Eastern for their District meeting for the Installation of Officers. We would like to thank the District Grand King for the hospitality and again commend them on the

Installation of their Officers and splendid festive board.

On 4th May we visited Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone, & Fermanagh for the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland Convocation held at the White Horse Hotel with my Deputy R.E.Comp. Shane O'Brien. We would like to thank M.E.Comp. Dr. David Hetherington and Companions of Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone and Fermanagh for their company at the celebratory lunch preceding the meeting.

On Saturday 14th September I visited the District Grand Chapter of Armagh with the company of M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton to see the installation of R.E.Comp. Tommy Millsopp as the District Grand King. He was installed by the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King who gave the obligation at the altar, once installed the new District Grand King installed his



Deputy, R.E.Comp. Robert Smith. Both Ceremonies of Installation were carried out in a most excellent manner. The first was conducted by the Director of Ceremonies with the second being conducted by the Assistant Director of Ceremonies.

On Wednesday 18th of September we visited the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland held at Molesworth Street in Dublin, with the District Deputy Grand King R.E.Comp. Shane O'Brien. At the meeting the three new District Grand Kings were installed, these were individually presented and obligated by the Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM. Again, the obligation being given at the altar to give it a most personal touch. The three District Grand Kings that were installed are for North Munster M.E.Comp. John Patching, M.E.Comp. Robin Newenham for Munster and M.E.Comp. G. Raymond Stanley for The Midlands. I am looking forward to the company of all new District Grand Kings and Deputy's in the coming months.

On the Wednesday 11th of December I was in Cork for the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Munster for their installation meeting accompanied by Comp Tim Carr. I would like to congratulate the District Grand King, M.E.Comp. Robin Newenham on the excellent way he installed his Deputy R.E.Comp. Uwe Schiller and other Officers. I would like to congratulate R.E.Comp. Schiller on his new office as Deputy. We thank them for splendid festive board prior to the meeting with such good company.

All the Chapters in the District are doing well with new and adjoining members. Royal Arch Chapter No. 270, Enniscorthy having the most exalted Royal Arch members with three.

I have noticed that over the last number of years how multinational the District have become with newer members i.e. Danish, Dutch, Italian, German, Greek and Americans to name the ones that come to mind.

On March 29th I travelled with other members and some wives of Arklow Lodge No. 877 to UK, most flying to Luton Airport, but three of us went over by ferry in two cars taking over with us the Masonic cases. We all meet up in Travel Lodge at Luton Airport where we stayed for a few days. We travelled over at the invitation of Arklow Regus Lodge No. 4481 who meet in Southgate North London. On the Saturday

evening we meet with some of the members at a local pub, enjoying a good meal and a few drinks. On the Monday they laid a bus on to take use down to Southgate Masonic Centre for the meetings. In the afternoon they exalted an incoming member as a Royal Arch Mason. This was followed in the evening to a demonstration of a 3rd degree with W.Bro. Trever Kerion of Lodge No. 877 acted as candidate. The whole trip was arranged by Comp. Ronan Mills of Royal Arch Chapter No. 877.

At our District Grand Chapter meeting in February held at Greystones V.E.Comp. Richard Codd gave a very interesting presentation of visiting committee of Shelton Abbey Prison.

On the 4th April we had our District Grand Chapter meeting with the Deputy Grand King M.E.Comp. Rev. Canon Harry Trimble who was accompanied by the Assistant Grand King M.E.Comp. Charles Olden, together with District Grand Kings, Deputies and Registrars from South Eastern, The Midlands and Munster. All of which we were pleased to receive and hope they enjoyed the meeting. The reply for the guests at the festive board was from R.E.Comp. Guy St Leger of Munster.

On 15th April Royal Arch Chapter No. 700 at Greystones, Janas Treffers was exalted to the Royal Arch Degree with his father and brother travelling over from Holland to see the ceremony. He told me that he is the third generation of Masons.

At our District Grand Chapter meeting in October held in Arklow E.Comp. Joe Heavener gave a presentation on his time in the Financial Services Sector that I can ensure you it was not boring.

At our District Grand Chapter meeting in November held in Carlow a demonstration of a Royal Arch Chapter opening was given by Carlow Chapter 116.

I was recently at a meeting of Royal Arch Chapter No. 116 in Carlow, when looking at the board of Excellent Kings that was unveiled earlier this year for their 175th Anniversary by R.E.Comp. Ken Tucker and M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton, when I noted the Excellent King R.E.Comp. Ken Tucker the past District Deputy Grand King was on the board six times from 1986 to 2014. I then find in his current position he has been an Excellent King for Royal Arch Chapter No. 116 nine times. I do not know if any other Royal Arch Chapter in Ireland can equal this. We know how dedicated he is to Masonry but to support a Royal Arch Chapter in this manor



is outstanding. His hospitality at the festive board is well known. I we can only thank R.E.Comp. Ken Tucker for what he has done for Royal Arch Chapter No. 116 in Carlow, but also the other members of the Chapter who have supported the Chapter other the past 33 years in all the other offices, together with the other Past Kings. For the those how do not know it was R.E.Comp. Ken Tucker had the chain of office for Deputy Grand King made and he presented to the District.

I was in the chair in my position as Excellent King of Arklow Royal Arch Chapter No. 877 in September for their Annual Dinner with V.E.Comp. Michael Costello who was the representative from Most

Excellent & Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter. The District Deputy Grand King took the sceptre for the opening, so I had very little to do, but the high light of the meeting was to present a 50-year jewel to E.Comp. Brian Kearon. A great deal was said about Brian's career in Masonry from E.Comp. Harvey Heavener, M.E.Comp. Neil Fenton and E.Comp. Shane Rafferty who proposed the toast at the festive board. The Installation of Officers was carried out 28th January.

The District Deputy Grand King R.E.Comp. Shane O'Brien and I are looking forward to supporting all our Chapters and travelling further afield to other districts in 2020.

Ghana

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

The 2019/2020 Annual Convocation – was held at Achimota Temple, Accra on Saturday 23rd November, 2019. The event was well attended. There were visiting Delegations from District Grand Chapters of Ghana (Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of England & Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland). The officers for the year 2019 – 2020 Administration were invested.

The District Grand King M.E.Comp. Seth Okyere Aniniagyei saw fit to reappoint under SGRAC 73 & 74,



District Deputy Grand King: R.E.Comp. George Koffi De Souza and District Assistant Grand King: R.E.Comp. Ekow Bentsi Enchill, District Grand Representative on the Supreme Grand Chapter Board of General Purposes: R.E.Comp. DR. Kwesi Osani Pinanko Ackah, Auditors of District Grand Royal Arch Chapter: R.E.Comp. Justin D'Almeida and R.E.Comp. Godson Adadevoh.

The half yearly Convocation for the preceding year (2018/2019) was held at the John Kwami Badohu Temple, Denu, Ghana, on Saturday, 18th May, 2019 and was well attended by the Ghana and Lome based Chapters. There was a visiting Delegation from District Grand Chapter of Ghana (Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland) led by the Grand Superintendent (SC) MEC Lankwei Ashong-Lampety.

The 2019/2020 half-yearly Convocation is scheduled to be held at the John Kwami Badohu Temple, Denu, Ghana, in May, 2020.



Companions From Ghana And Lome Chapters Attending The Annual Convocation For The District Grand Royal Arch Chapter Of Ghana



Annual Convocations for the Chapters were held and attended by the District Grand King, District Deputy Grand King and the District Assistant Grand King who led delegations to the Installation ceremonies of Officers for the year 2019 – 2020 for: St Patrick Royal Arch Chapter No. 793, Akwapim Royal Arch Chapter No. 860, Universal Fraternity Royal Arch Chapter No. 866, Krobo Chapter Royal Arch Chapter No. 876, Donoughmore Memorial Royal Arch Chapter No. 887 and Omega Royal Arch Chapter No. 927



*District Assistant Grand King
R.E.Comp.
Ekow Bensti-Encill*



*District Deputy Grand King
R.E.Comp.
George Koffi de Souza*

India

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

Herewith, I submit my report for year 2019, my last report as the District Grand King, as I am stepping down and installing my successor, R.E.Comp. Percy Wadia.

The year was one of consolidation, the membership remaining constant, but the Companions are demonstrably more active and prone to attempt conducting rituals. There have been few Exaltations, but there have also been losses due to death or debility, resulting a constant number in membership.

During the year, I visited the Chapters in the District to oversee the Installations, which were done quite efficiently. Our relations with sister-Constitutions remain cordial, there were the usual courtesies of inter-visitations on the Installation nights.

As I complete ten years as the head of the Irish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India, I requested the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM to relieve me of the responsibility, which he graciously acceded to.

I am happy that my successor is R.E.Comp. Percy Wadia who is taking over from me. R.E.Comp. Percy is a Mason of wide administrative experience. He is a Past Provincial Assistant

Grand Master, Past Provincial Grand Secretary, and for the last 7 years, he has been the District Grand Registrar. R.E.Comp. Percy is a quiet worker, attending to what needs to be done without any fuss. I wish him every success and assure him of all my support.

My Deputy, R.E.Comp. Ardeshir (Adi) Aga and Assistant, R.E.Comp. (Dr) Karthikeya Varma have been extremely supportive. I am grateful to them for their contribution in the administration of the District. My thanks are also due to our Treasurer, R.E.Comp. Mangesh Patel and specially to V.E.Comp. Suresh Sitlani who is our Auditor and advisor on financial side.

My thanks are also due to the staff in Molesworth Street who have always been prompt and courteous in response and advice.



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 2019.

This has been a very difficult year for the Royal Arch in Natal with several resignations due to internal differences in the Craft which have had an adverse effect to our Order. We are hopeful that these troubles will be ironed out this year and we can return to normality.

During the year two of our District members namely R.E.Comp. Malcom Wright and E.Comp. Dennis Westbrook together with a member of St. Patrick's Royal Arch Chapter Comp. Mike Hooper passed to higher service. Our condolences went out to the families of these stalwarts of the Royal Arch they will be greatly missed in our District.

As if these setbacks were not traumatic enough, R.E.Comp. Gideon Swanepoel decided that it was time to retire from Masonry. He will be greatly missed by not only the Craft but especially the Royal Arch where he has done exceptional work over many years.

Our Treasurer V.E.Comp. Lance Stanley, who was the Master of Yellowwood Park Lodge No. 846 and recently installed as the Treasurer of St. Finbar's Lodge No. 129 and the Excellent King of Royal Arch Chapter No. 622 and also the District Grand Royal Arch Treasurer resigned as he states, on personal grounds we can ill afford to lose a person of this calibre but has informed us that he will return should circumstances change within the Province.

As I said in last year's report, I believe the Royal Arch in Natal is at a crossroads with falling numbers and Chapters having difficulties in getting a quorum to open and linked to the problems described previously the future is indeed not very bright.

We have several candidates waiting to do their Mark Degrees which will be conducted in the next few months and one candidate to do his Royal Arch Degree

We have visited several our Sister Chapters in the other Constitutions and have always been well received.

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.

I mentioned in last year's report that our Chapter in Mandini Zululand, St. Stephens has closed due to lack of membership and their Warrant handed over to me this will be sent to Supreme Chapter as soon as possible.

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 my Registrar R.E.Comp. R. Walker for all the work he has done regarding the smooth running of the District and keeping me informed of all relative matters.

To my Treasurer V.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. As stated, before you will be sorely missed should you resign from the Royal Arch Masonry.

I wish to single out three of the stalwarts of the District, namely R.E.Comp. Gideon Swanepoel, R.E.Comp. M.P. Gwynn. My Deputy R.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.



South Africa Northern

M.E.Comp. André 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 2018 until November 2019.



As many other Districts we have sadly been affected by the departing to the Grand Chapter Above of some Companions. Namely R.E.Comp. Brian James Trotter; V.E.Comp's. Ivan Smith, Pieter Massyn and Isaac Delport, all of them after long illnesses and sufferings. They were very active and important members in the District and never hesitated to participate in our activities. All of us will remember them for their friendliness and so important contribution and support for so many years.

This year has been again a very busy, non-stop, active exercise. Many matters have been worked on in the period of the last twelve months. Most important points were related to the management of the District and, most important, to increase our membership. Lately we have enjoyed several new candidates.

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

We count at present only 57 Companions in the Northern District. Not a big difference in comparison with last year. The new exalted Companions are very dedicated, but this is not sufficient to compensate and fill up the ranks. There are changes of

tide in our Craft Province. We enjoy a close cooperation and hope that this will result in an increase of interested young Brethren, becoming at a later date Companions. Several have already shown interest.

Two Chapters, Antrim No. 782 and Achill No. 853 have moved their locations. The intention is to move one of them in the course of next year to Pretoria and the other one to the West part of the big Johannesburg. The aim is mainly to give an opportunity and more facilities to the Companions residing in these parts of the extended "golden" city and Pretoria. They will be given the opportunity to visit other Chapters and participate to Convocations and workings without long travelling. All efforts are placed in the balance and we are confident that we will, slowly but surely, turn the actual trend into a positive growth. Increasing our numbers is and remains 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 very dedicated 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, my sincere thanks 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 based on "TEAM WORK", from the youngest to the oldest member of this District.

We are not only financially sound but, have 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 local "Irish Masonic web site" covers many items related to our Province, Royal Arch District, Knights Masons and Knights Templars. New ways of approaching interested members of the public permits now to select valuable and very committed candidates to join the ranks of the Craft and let us hope, at a later stage, the Royal Arch. At every occasion photos are taken and loaded in the system. They cover our activities and charitable actions. It allows all to be informed of the work done. The general public is as such given, to a certain extent, the possibility to visit the site and these results in a positive publicity for the Craft and indirectly to our Order.



A big thank you to every single Companion of our District who donates to Charity. It remains a very important item in our duties. Every single donation helps to ease the plight of the unfortunate. Let us work together in improving this condition.

The District celebrated its 60th anniversary. For that occasion, a special Convocation took place. Past members and their work were reminded. It was followed by a most enjoyable lunch attended by many and their partners. We are still young but look forward to a successful and positive continuity.

My gratitude is also addressed to the Most Excellent & Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM, for his support to our activities through the channel of the Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Philip Daley. The team in Dublin ensures that the contacts and assistance are kept easy, very positive and produce quick and precise answers and solutions to regular various matters.

We look at the end of 2019 and the coming 2020. It must, and will be, for our District, a period of growth. Our Order and Chapters are known for the joy, friendship and pleasure offered to the Companions. This is what Freemasonry is all about; we must enjoy it and make the best of its giving and possibilities.

I thank the SKOHAE for giving me health and guidance throughout this last period.



South East Asia

M.E.Comp. Lau Kee Siong, District Grand King

Our District Grand Royal Arch Chapter was constituted by the M.E. Deputy Grand King, M.E.Comp. Charles Olden on 17 Oct 2019. This date was not specially chosen for any purpose except for the fact that it was convenient for the travel schedule of the entourage from Dublin comprising the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the Grand Secretary (Grand Registrar) and the Deputy Grand King of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.

It also coincided with the birthday of the "wife". We learn in our teachings that before exaltation comes humility and it was indeed a humbling experience to learn that instead of celebrating her birthday together with my exaltation, she rather spend it with her daughter.

The Installation Convocation of the Royal Arch Chapter 107 in Sri Lanka indeed gratifying in view of the fact all these years, I have been officiating at their installation as the Provincial Grand Superintendent. The Companions were also of like mind as they turned up in large numbers for the occasion.

In line with my philosophy that the world can only progress if all are given the opportunity of furthering themselves through education, many Companions have been active in sponsoring and supporting this effort. We made a donation of RM 1,000 - towards providing English books to very poor children in the plantation estates.

As the year draws to a close towards the January month of 2020, the world experienced a catastrophe of the likes we have never seen before. The effects on our companions will be

far reaching. All Masonic and more importantly all economic activities have ceased. This event will be a mark in our history. We can only pray that Royal Arch Masonry in this District will be able stand the test and make its contribution to the society that we are part of.

Activities of the District Grand King M.E.Comp. Lau Kee Siong

17th Oct 2019 - Constitution of the New District Grand Royal Arch Chapter South East Asia

18th Oct 2019 - Annual Convocation, District Grand Chapter of the Middle East

22nd Oct 2019 - Installation, Malaysia Mark Master Mason Lodge

23rd Oct 2019 - Chapter 830 RAC Convocation

2nd Nov 2019 - Victoria Jubilee MMM Installation

16th Nov 2019 - Chapter 805 RAC Installation

23rd Nov 2019 - Lanka Chapter 107 RAC Installation

30th Nov 2019 - Baldwyn RAC Installation

14th Dec 2019 - Visit and Donation of RM 1,000 to SJK Tamil Ladang Sabak Bernam

11th Jan 2020 - Eastern Gate RAC Installation

13th Jan 2020 - St Andrew RAC Installation

19th Jan 2020 - Batu Unggul MMM Installation

Constitution Of The District Grand Royal Arch Chapter Of South East Asia

Read Masonic Centre Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - 17th October 2019



Erric Chew, Prasanna Obeyesakara, Calvin Chau



Erric Chew, Steve Baker, Lau Kee Siong, Gurmit Singh





Installation of the New District Grand King the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter Far East

Scouts Centre, Hong Kong - 19th October 2019

Installation of the New Excellent King

55th Installation Convocation of the Lanka Royal Arch Chapter No. 107 IC to be held at the Victoria Masonic Temple, Galle Face, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka on Saturday 23rd November 2019

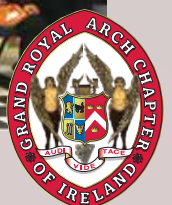


Visit and Donation to the Oldest Primary School in Malaysia

Donation of RM 1,000 to help the oldest plantation vernacular primary school in Malaysia to buy English school books for the children of the plantation workers who cannot afford them.



Ex King Prasanna Obeyesakara



Southern Cape

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

It is a great privilege to present my report on the District of the Southern Cape for the year ending August 2019.

The year was marked by a steady growth and a continued enthusiasm for Royal Arch Freemasonry in general, and of the Royal Arch in the Southern Cape in particular.

Administration

The administration of the District continues to meet high standards and returns and reports are handled professionally and in accordance with Grand Chapter Rules and Regulations and submitted timely. The District Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Harry Archer has been an absolute cornerstone and not enough praise can be heaped on him.

The District By-Laws, together with the Chapter By-Laws, have been revised, approved and submitted to Grand Chapter for approval.

Finances

The finances of the District have been overhauled, and compliance is now strictly enforced. This result has borne the expected fruit and the District is on a sound financial footing.

Chapters and Membership

The Chapters and their membership was discussed and reviewed.

Sharman Crawford Royal Arch Chapter No 608 was relocated to Somerset West and this has proved to be a success.

The four Chapters in the District have settled down nicely and interest in the Chapters and Royal Arch Freemasonry has increased. The current membership stands at 49 and this is an exceptionally large increase over the previous year. We expect good growth over the next 12 months.

Chapter Visiting

Regular visits and contact, assistance and guidance have 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.

It must be borne in mind that some of these round trips are in excess of 200 kilometres at a time, and this all done in one day.

The honest and open rapport, that has developed between the District Grand Officers and the members of the various Chapters, continuous to evolve.

District Officers

The District Deputy Grand King, R.E.Comp. J. Holtzhausen, due to business commitments and the start up of a new business, requested to stand aside as he couldn't commit his full time and attention to his office. I was fortunate enough to have a highly skilled and committed Royal Arch Freemason amidst our ranks, and this is R.E.Comp. Neville Bramley. He was invested at our Annual District Grand Convocation, and I am pleased to report that he has shown commitment and dedication and that he will assist in carrying this District forward.

General

We were invited to attend all the Installations of our Royal Arch Sister Constitutions, which we did, and they in return have attended all our Installation Convocations. I can say that a cordial relationship exists between all.

Sharman Crawford Royal Arch Chapter will be enrolling a bowls team into the local business league in 2020. In the minds of the other Companions this will surely be the hilarious highlight of the year. But it will be good fun.

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 on 2019 and realise that we have come a long way and our expectations for 2020 is one of growing our membership and perfecting our workings.

Lastly, a very special thanks from this District goes out to Heather Gyles and Janet Taylor, whose assistance and support has been invaluable. Thank you very much.



The Far East

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

It is a pleasure to present my first report since being installed as District Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Far East at the Occasional Convocation on Monday 21st October 2019 at the Masonic Hall, Scout Centennial Building, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

We were graced on that occasion by the presence of the Assistant Grand King M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden, the Grand Registrar, R.E.Comp. Philip A.J. Daley and the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Douglas T. Grey.

On entering the Chapter Room, the Assistant Grand King, received the King's sceptre from our Founding District Grand King, M.E.Comp. Chamson Chau. M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden praised the retiring District Grand King for his dedicated service and immense contribution to the District. The Assistant Grand King then proceeded with my Installation.

I thank M.E.Comp. Charles Olden for the dignified manner in which he installed me as District Grand King. I would like to thank the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand King, M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM for the great honour he has bestowed on me. I shall discharge my duties to the best of my ability and I pledge my full support to Supreme Grand Chapter, as well as the District of the Far East during my term of office. My heartfelt

thanks go to my sponsors, R.E.Comp. Brendan S.C. Bong and V.E.Comp. Samuel M.H. Wong and all the District Officers for their hard work and unfailing support.



After I was installed into the Chair, I then proceeded to invest my Deputy, R.E.Comp. Paul P.L. Lui. I further announced the conferment of Hon. Grand Ranks by Supreme Grand Chapter on the following Companions:

R.E.Comp. Kenneth Wong as Past Grand Captain of Purple Veil

R.E.Comp. Percy Fung as Past Grand Captain of Purple Veil

V.E.Comp. Benny Lo as Past Grand Captain of Blue Veil

V.E.Comp. Christopher Carroll as Past Grand Captain of Blue Veil

Following the Occasional Convocation, an Installation Banquet was held at the Craigenpower Cricket Club during which ladies and spouses were invited to attend. Everyone enjoyed the celebration dinner.

Once again I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to our Distinguished Visitors from Ireland, M.W.Bro. Douglas Grey, M.E.Comp. Charles Olden, R.E.Comp. Philip Daley and his partner Ms. Imelda Morris for joining me on this special day. During their stay in Hong Kong, they had attended a string of Masonic functions and fellowship activities as well as the Stated Communication of Sino Lusitano Lodge No. 897 in Macau. Social unrest in Hong Kong during that period had caused some concerns at the beginning. Thankfully all went well at the end and nothing had dampened the enjoyment of our visitors in the territory. I trust that our honoured guests had a wonderful time and I look forward to seeing them again in the near future, either in Dublin or back in Hong Kong!





On 13th July 2019, an Occasional Communication of the Irish Province was held for the purpose of Dedicating a Masonic Hall at the Hong Kong Scout Centennial Building in Wanchai, Hong Kong. Thanks to the foresight of M.E.Comp. Chamson Chau and R.E.Comp. Brendan Bong and their initial idea of having a second Masonic Room on the Hong Kong Island, now both the Provincial Grand Lodge as well as our District Grand Royal Arch Chapter can benefit and enjoy this wonderful facility in the years ahead. In fact, as mentioned earlier I was installed as District Grand King in this very same room in October 2019.

On 17th October 2019, I attended the Constitution of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South

East Asia and the Installation of R.E.Comp Lau Kee Siong as District Grand King at the Read Masonic Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. On this occasion the Most Excellent Assistant Grand King, M.E.Comp. Charles W. Olden was the Presiding Officer whom I had the pleasure of travelling with on the same flight back to Hong Kong on the following day after the ceremony.

In closing, 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 Kings, his Deputy and Assistant my best wishes for the year 2020.

Gibraltar

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

As 2019 draws to a close, we can look back on what has been another fruitful and happy year for Calpe Royal Arch Chapter.

We can reflect on our convocations this year and I am glad to report that our attendance has been quite reasonable, and our meetings have been really enjoyable. In all, a very rewarding year made possible only by the collective support, and commitment of our Companions.

I would now like to extend a warm welcome to Comp's. Paul Hazel and Joe Gomez, for joining Calpe Royal Arch Chapter and wishing both of them an enjoyable and successful career in the Royal Arch.

I commend the Excellent King, E.Comp. Arthur Perera, the Council and the Officers of the Chapter for their workings of the two Mark Master Mason and Royal Arch Degrees and obviously congratulate V.E.Comp. Eddie Gaduzo for his continued splendid rendering of the Chapter and Mark rituals.

In keeping with our ever objectives to maintain our Irish strong bondage and links with our sister Constitutions locally, I have tried to make sure that visits to the different Royal Arch Chapters and Mark Lodges, as well as the District Grand Chapters and Lodges, Installations and Masonic Festivals of the English and Scottish Districts have



been well and equally represented. We have always been and will always continue to work harmoniously together. We believe that this is most important for the good of Freemasonry and for our Institution in Gibraltar.

I am really grateful to the Deputy Grand Superintendent R.E.Comp. Joseph Cruz, and, V.E.Comp. Gerard Laguea, not only for their companionship, but for their continual efforts to accompany me to attend all important ceremonies, events and any other Masonic functions. I sincerely thank both for their commitment and support.

I have already proposed changes to our Province after discussion with Supreme Grand Chapter. On completing five years as the Deputy Grand Superintendent R.E.Comp. Joseph Louis Cruz has decided to step down from his office and with the concurrence of Grand Chapter I have appointed V.E.Comp. Eddie Gaduzo as his successor and as our new Deputy Grand Superintendent. This will mark a new beginning for our two Companions, as R.E.Comp. Joseph Louis Cruz has accepted a new important Provincial role responsible for member welfare, and fund-raising events. I wish them both well in their new roles.

I would now like to pay tribute to our retiring Deputy, R.E.Comp. Joseph Louis Cruz, for his

commitment and contribution to our Province during his five years of office. On behalf of us all, I thank R.E.Comp. Joseph Louis Cruz for all he has done.

I wish now to congratulate his successor V.E.Comp. Eddie Gaduzo, it is wonderful to have appointed Eddie as our new Deputy and I thank Eddie for accepting my invitation to take this most important Office. The Ceremony of Installation and Investiture will take place during our next Royal Arch Convocation on the 22nd January 2020.

I can once again emphasise that our Province is run by a very capable and professional team who are all close friends and Companions and an absolute joy to work with. My sincere thanks to all in Calpe Royal Arch Chapter, and look forward to their ongoing support and commitment in 2020

My grateful thanks go to R.E.Comp. Philip Daley, Grand Registrar, for all his support and assistance and to Ms. Heather Gyles who is always so ready to lend a hand.

Finally, on behalf of the Companions in Gibraltar, I extend our sincere fraternal greetings and good wishes to the Supreme Grand King M.E.Comp. S. Gordon Leathem BEM and the Officers of the Most Excellent and Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter not forgetting the staff at Molesworth Street.



Jamaica

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

The two Chapters within the Superintendency, Amity Royal Arch Chapter No. 390 and Malone Royal Arch Chapter No. 889 continued to grow in

size and quality throughout 2019.

A summary of their activities is shown below:

Meetings Held

Amity No. 390

Royal Arch Convocations

3 Convocations including Installation:

- Exalted 1 Companion (Member)
- Exalted 1 Companion on behalf of Malone Chapter

Master Mark Mason Meetings

2 Meetings including Installation:

- Advanced 3 Brethren (Members)

Malone No. 889

Royal Arch Convocations

3 Convocations including Installation:

Master Mark Mason Meetings

3 Meetings including Installation:

- Advanced 6 Brethren (Members)
- 2 Brethren also Advanced on behalf of Amity Chapter



The Installations of the new Very Worshipful Masters and subsequently as Excellent Kings in the Royal Arch Chapters were seamlessly conducted, with the Royal Arch Installations being well attended by the Companions as well as being complemented with visits from 3rd District Grand Principal of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Jamaica and the Caymans (English Constitution) along with his delegation and the Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Jamaica (Scottish Constitution) and his deputation.

The meetings of the Chapters were well attended by the members, and mention must be made of the continuing support given by the Companions to their Sister Chapters.

The current membership of the Chapters is shown below:

Amity	Membership	Malone
60	Royal Arch Companions	53
5	Mark Master Masons	6
65	Total	59

Approval having been received from Supreme Grand Chapter for the Constitution of the St. James Chapter No. 899, Irish Royal Arch Masonry in Jamaica seems set for a very active 2020 and beyond.



New Zealand

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

The first business on hand after the summer recess was the installation of M.E.Comp. Graham Redman as the First Grand Principal of the SGRAC of New Zealand. I was pleased to receive an invitation to attend and represent the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland and I travelled to Hamilton on 9th March 2019 supported by five senior Chapter Officers for this special Convocation.

On July 8th I attended the installation ceremony of Ara Royal Arch Chapter 348 in Auckland and on October 5th I attended the installation ceremony of Hauraki Royal Arch Chapter 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.

The Province received a formal invitation to attend the consecration of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South East Asia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to be held on Thursday 17th October, 2019. In conjunction with this important event the Annual Communications of the Provincial Grand Lodge of South East Asia was held and a new Provincial Grand Master installed. It was very enjoyable

meeting friends from the Provinces of South East Asia, the Far East and from Sri Lanka. Being in the company of the Grand Master, the Assistant Grand King and the Grand Secretary/Registrar was another highlight of the trip. It was a pleasure to attend all of the events that week and I am grateful for the hospitality extended to me. I thank the District Grand King, M.E.Comp. Lau Kee Siong for his very kind invitation and for the excellent arrangements he made for my visit and also to the outgoing and incoming Provincial Grand Masters for the warmth of their welcome.

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

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.



Nigeria

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



It gives me pleasure to present annual report as Provincial Grand Superintendent of Nigeria to the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

I thank the SKoH&E for life and health of body. Also, my immense gratitude to the Grand King and the Board for the opportunity of serving our Order and the Companions.

Emerald Chapter No. 197

The Chapter is doing well. One candidate was advanced and two exalted. The Chapter made their due annual returns and held annual Installation of Officers.

I am happy to report that the issue of backlog of Certificates for about 45 Companions of this Chapter who were Marked and Exalted over a period of about ten years, but without any Certificates, have been rectified by the Grand Registrar and his staff. I have received all and handed over to the Chapter. The joy and morale of the Companions have been boosted. I visited the Chapter during their annual installation.

Excelsior Chapter No. 643

The Chapter has come back. Five candidates were advanced and two exalted. The Chapter has made due return of members and held the annual Installation of Officers. The Chapter has made outstanding Annual Returns of about three years and are now up-to-date with their return of members to the Supreme Grand Chapter.

The new Excellent King has compiled all cases of outstanding Mark Master Mason and Royal Arch Certificates for Members caused by neglect to make their returns in previous years. I visited the Chapter during their installation convocation in October.

Sanctity Chapter No. 828

The Chapter is the flagship of the Province and doing well. They have made due returns of Officers and Members to the Grand Chapter. I attended their annual Installation convocation in September and pleased to report that the occasion witnessed a large turn-out of Companions. Two candidates were advanced and exalted during the year.

Onitsha Chapter No. 885

The Chapter has been repositioned. The Chapter had lost about sixty percent of its membership due to unavoidable circumstances of transfers, relocation, distance among others. Annual dues to the Grand Chapter is up-to-date. I am indeed thankful to the Grand King and the Board for granting the Chapter's application to relocate to Awka city. Fortunately many young Masons within the area have been proposed and some advanced. Three candidates have been marked and three exalted, with two affiliates from the English Constitution. I attended the annual Installation of Officers. The Chapter is working to update the arrears of return of members.



Abonnema Chapter No. 869

The Chapter is managing. Annual installation of Officers has been held with Returns made. The Chapter did not advance or exalt any candidate this year. We'll ensure the Chapter returns to its usual standards.

Asokoro Chapter No. 886

This is the newest Chapter in the Province, constituted in November 2019. It is the first Irish Chapter in Abuja Federal Capital City.

The Chapter has hit the ground running and have held two meetings to advance nine candidates. More candidates would be advanced and exaltation ceremony would hold in due course. The enthusiasm of the Companions and new Brethren are high.

I was installed as first Excellent King with other distinguished Companions as Officers. We are indeed grateful to the Grand King and the Board for granting us the Warrant. We assure that we will continue to maintain the usual high standards.

Provincial Grand Chapter Convocation

It was a successful year crowned with the Constitution ceremony of Chapter No. 886 and holding of our first Provincial Grand Convocation in Abuja Nigeria. Several Companions attended from all the Chapters in Nigeria, with visiting Companions from the English and Scottish districts. The day earlier, the Provincial Board of General Purposes met and took decisions, among other things, for the Grand Superintendent to apply to



the Supreme Grand Chapter of Ireland to consider granting Nigeria a District status. Subcommittees for procuring regalia, ceremonials, hosting, venue etc. were set up to start arrangements in anticipation.

Also in October, I was invited to the annual convocation of the District Grand Chapter of Nigeria, English Constitution, and I attended with two Companions. It was a good outing, which saw attendance of Grand Superintendents from Ghana, Gambia and Sierra Leone.

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 and the Board for their confidence. Also to R.E. Grand Registrar. Also the Staff in Molesworth Street, especially Heather Gyles, for their usual assistance.

Wishing a happy and prosperous year 2020 to Companions all!



Zambia

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

It is with pleasure that I submit hereunder, my sixth 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 Royal Arch 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 Royal Arch Chapter relocating the Royal Arch Chapter warrant to 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 Royal Arch Chapter. Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter approved the relocation of the warrant to Ndola in March 2019.

Four meetings were held during 2019. At the February Meeting Comp's. Gerard Fagan, Atul Mistry and Inderjit Singh Goraya were exalted. The March meeting saw the advancement of Bro. Devji Gorecia. The August Meeting was a business meeting. Principal Officers installed at the November meeting were as follows.

Excellent King	Very Worshipful Master E.Comp. Dilip T. Desai (Ndola)	
High Priest	Senior Warden	Comp. Manu Patel (Ndola)
Chief Scribe	Junior Warden	Comp. Gerard Fagan (Kitwe)
Registrar	Secretary	E.Comp. Hiralal J. Bodalia (Ndola)

The Chapter now boasts a total of fourteen members and is hopeful that more Brethren will be brought in the coming year. I am very hopeful that these initiatives will prove to be successful and that Shiwa Ngandu RAC goes from strength to strength.

Statement from the Treasurer indicates that all Supreme Grand Royal Arch dues are up to date.

Shamrock Royal Arch Chapter No. 785 in Lusaka continues to operate with reasonable success, on the basis of two meetings per year, held in January and July, with Royal Arch Chapter Officers serving two-year terms and an Installation meeting every second year. It must be observed however that there was scant activity during 2019 due, mainly, to the unavailability of proposed candidates.

Shamrock membership is quite strong, with a current membership of 22.

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 Principle Officers installed at our July meeting are as follows.

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 Royal Arch Chapter are up to date and Shamrock has a small debit balance with Supreme Grand Royal Arch 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 RAC and will continue to maintain our hope for the Chapter going forward.





Zimbabwe

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

2019 has been a difficult year for the Chapter but we have managed to conduct our meetings. We are very low on experienced Companions and as we seem to get a Companion close to the chair he leaves the country. At this stage we only have 2 Companions who are past Excellent Kings.

We do however have a number of new Master

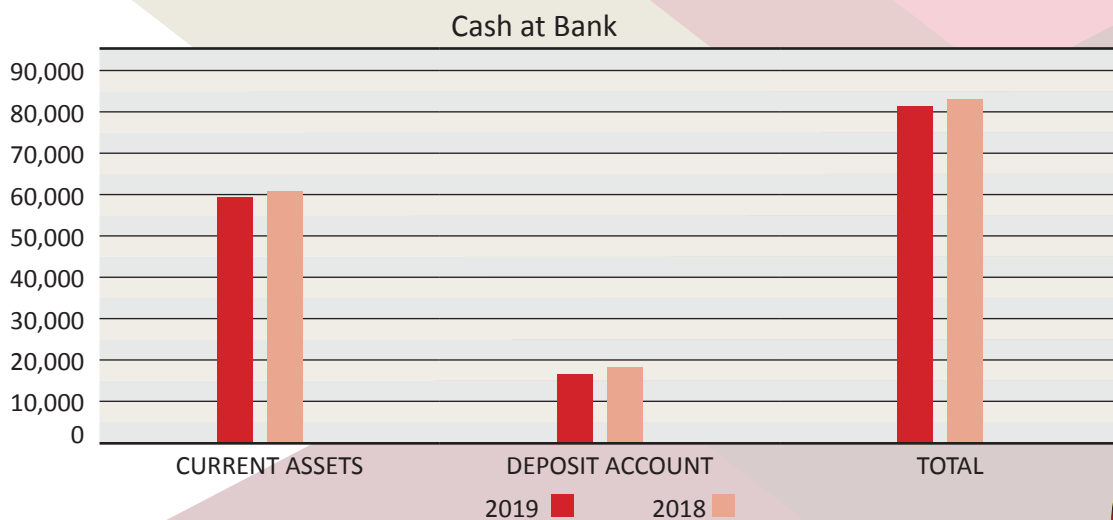
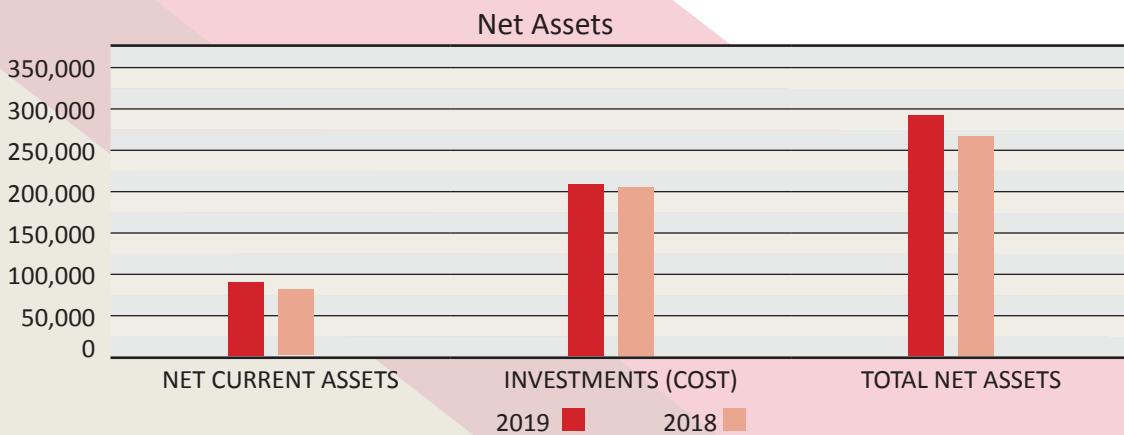
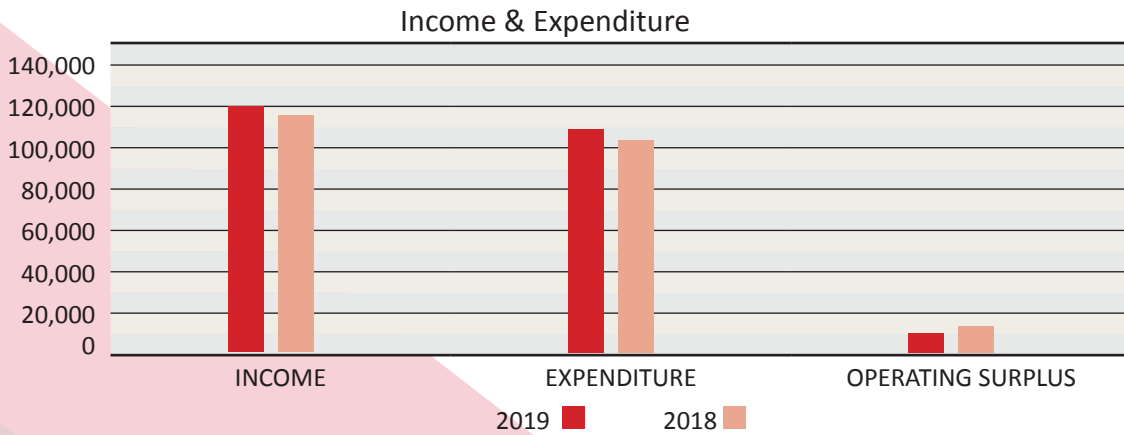
Masons for our Craft Lodge who we have put through to Royal Arch this last year, the last of which we did in February hence our request to delay our installation to May which now could be delayed even further.

We hope 2020 will improve and that we are able to keep the Royal Arch Chapter going.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Highlights



Financial Tables

Income and Expenditure

	2019	2018
	€	€
INCOME	119,710	118,359
EXPENDITURE	<u>109,883</u>	<u>103,734</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS	<u>9,827</u>	<u>14,625</u>

Net Assets

	2019	2018
	€	€
NET CURRENT ASSETS	89,940	80,171
INVESTMENTS (COST)	<u>208,317</u>	<u>206,936</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>298,257</u>	<u>287,107</u>

Income

	2019	2018
	€	€
MEMBERS DUES	96,371	98,580
INVESTMENT INCOME	11,039	9,094
SALES	6,975	6,710
CHARITY COLLECTIONS	4,191	3,713
OTHER INCOME	<u>1,134</u>	<u>262</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>119,710</u>	<u>118,359</u>



Financial Tables (continued)

Expenditure

	2019	2018
	€	€
GRAND LODGE COSTS	62,673	62,684
TRAVEL EXPENSES	8,497	10,428
FOREIGN DELEGATION EXPENSES	5,374	5,149
PAYMENTS TO CHARITIES	7,191	6,713
GRAND KINGS INSTALLATION	1,870	4,182
PUBLICATIONS	7,796	5,019
GRAND CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION	3,788	2,339
OTHER EXPENDITURE	<u>12,694</u>	<u>7,220</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>109,883</u>	<u>103,734</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 2019, 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 26th February 2020.

“In my opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 30th November 2019 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.





