



# Ancient & Accepted Rite North East Lancashire District



Newsletter Issue 4

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[www.rosecroixeastlancs.org](http://www.rosecroixeastlancs.org)

## Inspector General's Remarks



Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the District Newsletter. I hope that you and your families have enjoyed the summer recess.

Looking back over the past year, we had a similar number of Perfections in the District (7) as last year (8) and the same number of joining and re-joining members (5). The number of resignations was similar (14) but we suffered more deaths (6) amongst our members in the past year compared with only 2 deaths in the previous year.

Our programme of events continues to be developed, with both social and 'working' events now firmly established in the Calendar and further events under consideration.

It only remains for me to thank you for your support over the past year and to wish you a healthy and happy year of Rose Croix Masonry in the season ahead.

V. Ill. Bro. David J Biggs, 33°  
Inspector General, North East Lancashire District

## News from Around the District

### New Perfectees' Meeting

The third annual New Perfectees' meeting was hosted by William Horrocks Chapter at Blackburn on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018. A group of recently Perfected Princes and visitors from several Chapters in the District witnessed E&P Bro Tony Kenny enthrone E&P Bro Philip Beaumont as his successor as MWS, following which Ill. Bro. Jack Aston 32°, the District Recorder, delivered the 'Perfection in Perspective' Lecture.

### District Lunch

The second annual District Lunch was held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Bury Masonic Hall. Rose Croix Masons from Chapters across the District, accompanied by family members and friends, braved the awful weather to support the event.

We were particularly honoured on this occasion by the presence of the Inspector General for the District of South West Lancashire, V.Ill.Bro. Ian Clark 33° and his wife Lois, demonstrating the close relationship between our two districts.



An excellent hot buffet was provided by Fine Dine, the 'in-house' caterers for Bury Masonic Hall. There were two choices for the meat eaters and a hearty vegetarian option together with what seemed a never-ending supply of garlic bread, new potatoes and chips. A wonderful selection of desserts, cheese and biscuits and tea and coffee followed.

Once we were enjoying our tea and coffee, Ill. Bro. Jack Aston, the District Recorder, provided some light-hearted 'after-dinner' entertainment by running two quizzes, each with a prize of a donated bottle of wine, both of which were won by Ill. Bro. Steve Flanagan's table (did someone cry "fix"!).

### Annual District Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the North East Lancashire District was held at the Masonic Ballroom, Rochdale on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018, under the warrant of James D Murray Chapter No.197 in its Centenary Year.

Over 80 Rose Croix Masons attended the meeting, including the Inspectors General from 8 neighbouring Districts, most of whom were accompanied by their District Recorders and enthusiastic members of Chapters from their Districts.

The usual arrangement for our District Meetings is for the host Chapter to Perfect a Candidate. On this occasion, WBro Stephen Ryder, a Past Master of Abbey Lodge No.2529 in Whalley, was duly Perfected by the Most Wise Sovereign of James D Murray Chapter, Ill. Bro. John Hudson 31° assisted by Sovereigns and Past Sovereigns from Chapters across the District. (continued)



*E&P Bro Stephen Ryder (front right of picture) with members of James D Murray Chapter*

We then sat down to an excellent lunch of Tomato Soup, Roast Ham in Parsley Sauce with Seasonal Vegetables and Fresh Fruit Salad to finish, much to the enjoyment of all present, as the photo above shows.

### Five Centuries ~ A Unique Event

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July saw an event unique in the history of the Supreme Council 33° for England and Wales – the centenary celebration of 5 Chapters at one meeting.

The background to the event was unique and still leaves us with some unknowns. Warrants for five new Chapters were issued on the same day, 18<sup>th</sup> April 1918, all the Chapters to meet in the same District, the North Western District, which then comprised Cheshire, Lancashire and Cumberland and Westmorland. Those five Chapters are still extant and meeting in 3 of the 4 current Lancashire Districts:

- Manchester Chapter No. 193 (SE Lancashire)
- Mark Wilkinson Chapter No.194 (NE Lancashire)
- Walter M Hamilton Chapter No.195 (SE Lancashire)
- Col. JD Murray Chapter No.196 (SW Lancashire)
- James D Murray Chapter No.197 (NE Lancashire)

So far as anyone is aware, there have never been as many as 5 Chapters warranted on the same day, either before or since this particular case, and certainly not in one District. And what circumstances prevailed that 5 Chapters could be erected in one District at a time when the country was still at war, with the outcome uncertain? It is also somewhat unusual to have 2 Chapters named after the same (living) individual, especially when there was already a Murray Chapter No.177 in the Manchester area named after him.

Fast forward 98 years and the Inspectors General with responsibility for the 5 centenary Chapters got together to discuss options. 5 separate celebrations seemed a big imposition on Supreme Council and would lack the impact and scale that a single celebratory event would achieve. In the end, the Grand Secretary General of Supreme Council came up with the solution; the Supreme Council's 'private' Chapter, Morning Star Chapter No.33

would hold its Enthronement meeting, by dispensation, in Lancashire (we had already designated Brookfield Masonic Hall in Westhoughton as the ideal venue) and bring together the members of all 5 centenary Chapters plus as many Princes from the Lancashire and neighbouring Districts as could be accommodated at one 'stellar' event.

And so it proved. Five members of Supreme Council were present, supported by the Grand DC, a Deputy Grand DC and the Grand Tyler, other members of Morning Star Chapter including the Most Wise Sovereign, E&P Bro Sir David Wooton (better known in other circles as the Assistant Grand Master in the Craft), the Sovereign-elect, E&P Bro Professor George Boys-Stones, 9 Inspectors General, 3 Past Inspectors General and 9 District Recorders. The Sovereigns of all 5 centenary Chapters were present and were well supported by members of their own and other Chapters in each of the 3 Districts.



*Centenary Chapter Sovereigns with distinguished guests from Supreme Council and Morning Star Chapter*

Following a superb Enthronement ceremony, V:Ill:Bro David Hawkins 33°, Past Inspector General for the North East Lancashire District, gave a brief history on the subject of life and Freemasonry in 1918.

The Sovereign Grand Commander, M:P:Bro Alan Englefield 33° then took the floor and presented the Sovereigns of the centenary Chapter with their Chapter's Centenary Warrant, authorising the wearing of a Centenary jewel.



*Centenary Chapter Sovereigns with Inspectors General of Lancashire and neighbouring districts*

The festive board comprised an excellent 3-course dinner with all the customary toasts, plus an additional toast to the health of V:Ill:Bro Nick Bosanquet 33° the Grand Director of Ceremonies who was retiring after this evening's special event after 10 years in office.

## News of Members

### Newly Perfected Princes Rose Croix

E&P Bro Stuart Graves	Emmanuel Chapter No.447	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
E&P Bro Michael Turrisi	St. Peter's Chapter No.31	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
E&P Bro John Quinton	Colne St. Bartholomew Chapter No.1073	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
E&P Bro William David ('Bill') Spiby	St. Peter's Chapter No.31	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
E&P Bro Ian Carl Sumner	Rochdale St. Chad Chapter No.494	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
E&P Bro Dean Mark Edwards	Bury Chapter No.435	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
E&P Bro Stephen Ryder	James D Murray Chapter No.197	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2018

*Welcome to all our newly Perfected Brethren!*



*Picture shows our four newly promoted Grand Elected Knights Kadosh in the Hall of India and Pakistan, the largest function room at the Royal Overseas League with Ill.Bro Jack Aston 32°, District Recorder.*

### Brethren receiving Higher Degrees:

Four Brethren from the North East Lancashire District travelled to London on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to receive promotion to the 30°, Grand Elected Knight Kadosh, Knight of the Black and White Eagle at the Higher Degrees Meeting held at the Grand East, 10 Duke Street, St. James's.

- Ill.: Bro Frank Bailey 30° (Rochdale St. Chad Chapter No.494)
- Ill.: Bro Reg Foster 30° (Rochdale St. Chad Chapter No.494)
- Ill.: Bro Malcolm Harsey 30° (Emmanuel Chapter No.447)
- Ill.: Bro Eddie Heywood 30° (Rochdale St. Chad Chapter No.494)

The ceremony was followed by a drinks reception and an excellent festive board at the Royal Overseas League.

*Congratulations to all our newly Promoted Brethren!*



### We also remember those who have been called to Higher Service

Ill.: Bro Rev. Canon Kenneth J Philips, 30°	Colne St. Bartholomew Chapter No.1073	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2017
E&P Bro Keith Turner	Accrington Chapter No.364	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017
Ill.: Bro Geoffrey Shaw, 30°	Bethel Chapter No.290	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
Ill.: Bro Alan William Baxendale, 30°	Accrington Chapter No.364	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Ill.: Bro Harold Potts, 30°	Verney Clayton Chapter No.261	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Ill.: Bro Anthony Moulton, 30°	Rochdale St. Chad Chapter No.494	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2018

*May they Rest in Peace*

Look out for news items on the District website: [rosecroixeastlancs.org](http://rosecroixeastlancs.org) – we have candidates receiving promotions at the Higher Degrees meetings in September, October and December 2018