



Newsletter Issue 6

Ancient & Accepted Rite North East Lancashire District



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www.rosecroixeastlancs.org

Inspector General's Remarks



Welcome to the 6th issue of the North East Lancashire District Newsletter.

As I type these comments, we have celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the Prime Minister has announced some relaxation of the lockdown restrictions. It seems incredible that we have endured 10 weeks of the lockdown and, with only a few exceptions, the changes in people's everyday lives seem to have been taken with good spirit.

When we talk about our Masonic summer recess (and the cry goes up from certain quarters, particularly with regard to the additional Orders "what recess?"), this is really what has happened this year – an enforced suspension of all Masonic activity, other than that which can be conducted by virtual means, and I have noticed many sections of our Masonic community using social media and online meeting facilities to stay in touch with one-another.

As a consequence of the suspension, a third of our regular Chapter meetings and the Annual District Meeting did not take place, with the resultant delay in two Enthronement meetings and a number of planned Perfections.

The relaunch of James D Murray Chapter as a Past Sovereigns' Chapter, which was due to take place at their Enthronement meeting in March should now take place in October, so now is the time to submit applications for Joining Membership to the Recorder, E&P Bro John Wilkinson (Joining Membership forms can be downloaded from the District website rosecroixeastlancs.org or obtained from Jack Aston or myself via email).

On a more positive note, I am not aware of any of our Brethren or their family members suffering from the coronavirus and we must remain hopeful that the pandemic can be resolved and we can all get back to our 'normal' lives and our Rose Croix Masonry in particular, as soon as it is safe to do so. Meantime, please continue to look after yourselves and your loved ones – September may seem a long way off but it's better to be safe than sorry!

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

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

Brethren receiving Higher Degrees

A group of candidates from Chapters in the North East Lancashire District, supported by District Recorder Ill. Bro. Jack Aston 32° and personal guests, travelled to London for the Higher Degrees Meeting at Duke Street, St. James's on Tuesday 11th February 2020.

The first part of the Higher Degrees meeting each February comprises a Sovereign Tribunal of Grand Inspectors Inquisitors Commanders 31°. On this occasion, Ill. Bro. Brian Simm, long-serving Recorder of Mark Wilkinson Chapter was one of nineteen candidates receiving richly deserved promotions to the 31°.

Brian was joined in this ceremony by two colleagues from Chapters in the South East Lancashire District who are well known to many of us through their connections not only in Rose Croix but other Orders, namely Ill. Bro.

Ken Hampson 31°, Recorder of East Lancashire Chapter No.440 and Ill.:Bro. Mervyn Wilson 31°, District Grand Prefect, Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees, District of East Lancashire.

The Sovereign Tribunal was closed and a Grand Chapter of Grand Elected Knights Kadosh 30° was opened.

Some 35 Brethren from Chapters across England and Wales were honoured with promotions to the 30° Grand Elected Knight Kadosh, Knight of the Black and White Eagle.

Brethren from the North East Lancashire District receiving promotion to the 30° were:



Ill.:Bro. Philip Beaumont 30° – William Horrocks Chapter
 Ill.:Bro. Fred Blackburn 30° – Bury Chapter
 Ill.:Bro. Robert Findlay 30° – St. Peter’s Chapter
 Ill.:Bro. Robert Jopson 30° – Accrington Chapter

Instead of the usual venue of the Royal Overseas League, the ceremony was followed by a drinks reception and festive board at Mark Masons’ Hall.

Brethren from the North East Lancashire District at Mark Masons’ Hall. From Left to Right: Ill.:Bro. Ken Alker 31° (guest), Ill.:Bro. Robert Findlay 30°, Ill.:Bro. Brian Simm 31°, Ill.:Bro. Philip Beaumont 30°, Ill.:Bro. Robert Jopson 30°, Ill.:Bro. Peter Aspinall 31° (guest).

District Lunch

The Fourth Annual North East Lancashire District Lunch was held at Bury Masonic Hall on Sunday 15th March 2020 and was quite possibly the last social function in the Province prior to the suspension of all Masonic activity.



Rose Croix Masons from across the District with their Ladies and guests enjoyed a delicious 4-course lunch comprising a starter of Broccoli & Stilton Soup, a main course of Roast Breast of Chicken with a Sage & Onion Stuffing, a Strawberry & Kiwi Meringue Nest dessert and finally Cheese and Biscuits, Tea and Coffee.

The meal was followed by a couple of fun quizzes and a raffle organised by District Recorder Ill.:Bro Jack Aston 32°.

Welcome to our newest Members

E&P Bro Howard John Lithgow	Mark Wilkinson Chapter No.194	3 rd December 2019
E&P Bro Nicholas John Bebb	Bury Chapter No.435	28 th January 2020
E&P Bro David Joseph Peacock	Accrington Chapter No.364	7 th March 2020

We hope your association with us will be long and happy!

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

Ill.:Bro Derek Leather 31° (Hon)	Emmanuel Chapter No.447	4 th January 2020
E&P Bro Dennis Scowcroft	Emmanuel Chapter No.447	11 th March 2020

May they rest in peace

Diary Dates for 2020

New Perfectees' Meeting	Venue TBC	Date TBC
North East Lancashire Annual District Meeting	Rochdale Masonic Hall	Cancelled
Higher Degrees Dinner	Ashday Lea, Rawtenstall Masonic Hall	1 st September 2020 (TBC)
North West Districts Joint Church Service to commemorate the 175 th Anniversary of the Supreme Council for England and Wales	St. George's Church, Stockport	25 th October 2020 (TBC)
Relaunch of James D Murray Chapter No.197 as a Past Sovereigns' Chapter	Padiham Masonic Hall	28 th October 2020 (TBC)
King Edward VII Chapter of Improvement Demonstration of the 14 th Degree	Brookfield Masonic Hall, Westhoughton	8 th May 2021 (originally planned for 9 th May 2020)
<i>Check the District Website: rosecroixeastlancs.org for latest news and events</i>		