

A great loss to Freemasonry: A tribute to Late RW Bro Antony Strong

On the 21st of March 2023, the Freemason community in KZN and beyond was saddened by the calling to Higher Service of our beloved District Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Antony Strong.



year before relocating to Durban. In 1976, Tony joined Krantzklouf Lodge № 6546 and was installed as WM of the Lodge in 1981, serving again as Master in 2001 and 2012.

Tony joined the Athenaeum Lodge of Research № 7455



Anthony Strong was born in Vereeniging, Transvaal on 16 February 1942. Both his parents hailed from England, his father working as a naval architect.

Tony was educated at Glenwood High School and went on to pursue a career in mechanical engineering, leading to various higher qualifications and a management appointment as Mechanical Superintendent. Over the years, he worked in both the public and private sectors and retired from full-time work in 1999.

Besides Masonry, among Tony's interests was gardening and a fascinating hobby, what many did not know about him, that of overhauling engines.

RW Bro Strong's Masonic career started on the 1st of August 1968 when he was initiated into the Craft at Newcastle Lodge № 2097; Passed to the Second Degree on the 11th of November 1968 and Raised to the Third Degree on the 6th of March 1969. He was Installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in September 1974 serving one

in 2009 and became WM of said Lodge in 2015.

Tony was Exalted into the Holy Royal Arch in 1971 and moved through the ranks over the years, serving as the Grand Superintendent of the District of KZN from 2007 to 2015.

In 1978, Tony was Perfected in Victoria County Rose Croix Chapter № 477. In 2017, he was bestowed the 33rd Degree and invested as the Inspector General of the SA Western Natal District.

In 2016, Tony was appointed as District Grand Master of the District of KwaZulu-Natal and installed in February 2017.

RW Bro Strong enjoyed a respectful and illustrious Masonic career. He always set high standards and always bestowed praise on good work done by brethren and Lodges.

He will be sorely missed and always remembered! His calling to Higher Service has left a void in our District and is a great loss to Masonry as a whole! Rest in Peace, RW Bro Anthony Strong!



The Memorial Service for the late RW Bro Anthony Strong, District Grand Master of KwaZulu-Natal was held at the Kloof Civic Hall on the 29th of March 2023 which drew a large attendance of family, friends and Masons. The Memorial Service was under the direction of WBro Patrick Macquet with heartfelt addresses by RW Bro Strong's grandchildren.

Moving tributes to our late District Grand Master were given by WBro Rob Moxham, DDGM; RW Bro Ken Tucker, DGM of the Scottish Constitution of KZN and WBro

David Zavad, Past ADGM of the District of KZN.

In a moving eulogy, WBro Zavad, who has known RW Bro Strong for over 35 years, referred to his late friend as his fellow brother, mentor and Masonic twin. "He was my sounding board and I his, especially after he was made our District of Natal leader in 2017. He was a great thinker, forever considering the

his horticultural activities. He loved being outdoors, helping anyone and everyone he came in contact with;

3rd Freemasonry, of which he was a passionate and enthusiastic member for almost 50 years, doing unto others as he would want them to do unto him".

WBro Zavad ended his eulogy to RW Bro Strong with a fitting prayer, "Broken Chain"



future, even if he kept his thoughts to himself".

"There is no doubt that Tony had three important pillars supporting his life:

1st his family: Tony was a consummate family man whose whole being revolved around them and I was privileged to know some of them. He was so proud of his flock and never stopped talking about them;

2nd was his work: he was passionate and proud about

which, he said, reflects how he and everyone present feel about our DGM's passing:

"May you be received into God's Great Mansion, free of pain and suffering for you truly deserve the comfort of living in that spiritual edifice, that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens".

"Rest in Peace, Tony knowing that you will be sorely missed by everyone who knew you; equally knowing that you will never be forgotten".

248th Annual Communication

The 248th Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge of KwaZulu-Natal was held at the Hayfields Masonic Centre in Pietermaritzburg on **Saturday, 10th of June 2023**. The event was again very well attended with most of the Masters of Lodges in the District present, accompanied by their Wardens and members.

This was the first Annual Communication after the calling to the Grand Lodge above of our late District Grand Master, RW Bro Anthony Strong. The meeting was efficiently led by the Deputy District Grand Master in Charge, WBro RF Moxham.

During the past year, the following brethren were called to Higher Service:

WBro LR Lavery (Unattached) 11/08/2022,

WBro MP Gwynn (Umvoti Lodge № 1867) 22/08/2022 [PPGM (Irish)],

WBro G Middleton (Ikwezi Lodge № 7634) 17/09/2022 [PDGStB]

WBro DH Carr (Unattached) 11/11/2022,

WBro JR Marchant (DIMS № 9642) 24/12/2022 [PGStB],

WBro DG Seegers (Klip River County № 2401) 01/01/2023,

WBro M Swart (Southern Cross № 1778) 03/01/2023 [PDSGD],

WBro BL Prior (Unattached) 21/01/2023 [PDJGD],

WBro CW Stembridge (Port Natal № 738) 04/02/2023 [PDDGM],

WBro A Pieterse (Port Natal № 738) 27/02/2023 [PDGStB],

RW Bro A Strong (Krantzkloof № 6546) 21/03/2023 [DGM],

WBro BG Fordyce (Newcastle № 2097) 18/05/2023 [PADGM].

The usual business of the District was conducted, including the tabling of the financials and the Benevolence, Property and Charity Committee reports.

In his Report, the DDGM in Charge focussed on three main matters, namely Communication, Finances and Charity,

In respect to the Royal Arch, WBro Moxham stated: "the Craft looks forward to a special relationship with the Royal Arch, and I can assure ME Comp Johnston of any support that he may require and I encourage those that are not members of the Holy Royal Arch to consider joining".

"Likewise, to our Sister Constitutions, we will certainly look at furthering the special relationship that already exists, and again, I can assure you of our support at all times".

RW Bro Strong gave a plan for growing membership over the next five years. "If you recall, it was as simple as each Lodge getting one member each

year, which would reverse the 20% decline over the five years that is the situation that we have been in", WBro Moxham stated. "I urge you all to consider quality before quantity. Properly vet the candidate. Involve him in outside events. Check his credentials and his aptitude. By doing so, we get the right caliber of person and that sets the tone for the future of your Lodge and the District".

A highlight of the meeting was the appointment, obligation and investiture of WBro Mark Lee Potter as Assistant District Grand Master by the DDGM in Charge.

When it came to the investiture of District officers, 13 brethren were reappointed; 16 brethren were appointed and invested in Active ranks and 9 brethren were appointed and invested in Past ranks. In closing, the DDGM in Charge challenged Masters of each Lodge to make an effort to make each meeting interesting for the Brethren. "Make the meeting worthwhile and let him go home thinking to himself, 'Man, I had a great time tonight. I really enjoyed myself. I met some really nice guys'. Do something different. Our District will be better off if we can do that".



News from the UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

At every Festive Board after a Lodge meeting, a series of toasts are conducted, But who are the distinguished leaders of the UGLE that we are honouring with those toasts?



The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) is led by the **Grand Master**, the Most Worshipful HRH The Duke of Kent, who was elected more than 50 years ago and is now UGLE's longest-serving Grand Master.



The **Pro Grand Master**, who acts for him when his Royal duties supervene, is RW Bro Jonathan Spence.



The **Deputy Grand Master** is RW Bro Sir David Wootton (left) and the **Assistant Grand Masters** are RW Bro David Medlock (right) and RW Bro Steven Varley (far right).



RW Bro Michael Ward is the **President of the Board of General Purposes** and RW Bro Adrian Marsh is the **Grand Secretary** of UGLE.

History of the UGLE

Barely a decade after the foundation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, Freemasonry had become the largest and arguably the most influential of Britain's many clubs and societies. This continued into the 20th century. A key factor was the widespread promulgation of the **1723 Constitutions of the Freemasons**, which pioneered the cutting-edge principles of the Enlightenment:

- Religious tolerance, something wholly radical in a world characterised by religious conflict;
- Meritocracy, at a time when birth and wealth determined success;
- High standards of interpersonal civility;
- Scientific and artistic education;
- Societal and personal self-improvement.



*The Goose and Gridiron Tavern, at London, in 1717
The Grand Lodge of England, was Organized in this Building*

Feature Article

The Importance of Visiting

Bro Gerrit Ockerse, DG Mentor

You may have seen this young Brother at various Lodge meetings throughout the District. Bro Gerrit Ockerse most certainly has a passion for Masonry and is becoming well-known in the District. Square Talk is pleased to feature a paper Bro Ockerse presented at the Athenæum Lodge of Research № 7455 earlier this year

Let me start off by saying that Masonry has been around me, in some form or another, my whole life. Apparently, my grandfather and father belonged to some type of secret society, but it was never confirmed and due to their early passing I never got the chance to discuss this with them.

My official Masonic journey started on 11 April 2019 and almost the first words that were spoken to me after were "try to see an EA ritual with your own eyes and see what you missed."

And that is exactly what I did. My first meeting was a month later and it was amazing, not only to see the ritual without immense nerves and a blindfold, but to meet the different people. The Brethren (no matter where I visited) were always accommodating and actually genuinely nice people. Not the blood-soaked goat killing assassins that the public so openly criticises and condemns.

During my tenure I have visited almost every lodge in KZN, including the De Goede Hoop lodge of the GLSA in Cape Town. This was mainly a day visit to spoil myself, but I thought I

would throw it in here for good measure. Each meeting I cherish, especially the visits and I have never walked into a lodge; being shiny or dusty and not felt welcome from the first minute.

Why should we visit?

My belief is that it is the cornerstone of our craft and society.



The Lodge of Antiquity (England) possesses an old Masonic document written during the reign of James II between 1685 and 1688; in it appears the following: "that every Mason receive and cherish strange fellows, when they come over the country, and set the men to work, if they will work, as the manner is; that is to say, if the mason have any mould stone in his place, he shall give him a mould stone, and set him on work; and if he have none, the Mason shall refresh him with money unto the next lodge."

This is also stated in the Albert Mackey's 14th landmark, THE

RIGHT OF EVERY MASON TO VISIT and sit in every regular Lodge is an unquestionable Landmark of the Order." This is called "the right of visitation." This right of visitation has always been recognized as an inherent right, which inures to every Mason as he travels through the world. And this is because Lodges are justly considered as only divisions for convenience of the universal Masonic family. This right may, of course be impaired or forfeited on special occasions by various circumstances; but when admission is refused to a Mason in good standing, who knocks at the door of a Lodge as a visitor, it is to be expected that some good and sufficient reason shall be furnished for this violation, of what is in general a Masonic right, founded on the Landmarks of the Order. So essentially only by the dictation of logic it is stated, that if you can visit; you should.

Where can you visit?

Once you are raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, you can visit anywhere and anyone. Just like in the English Constitution, each Lodge has slight variations in working and rituals.

For example, the Charge after Initiation is done differently in some Scottish lodges, while a GLSA initiation is definitely something to be contemplated. You will not be disappointed!

Something that has always baffled my brain is that we all call each other Brother, but the adjacent constitutions are called "Sister" Constitutions. Should they not be Brother Constitutions? If I can give you any guidance, if possible, visit our Sister constitutions, in my experience all four have a binding role to play in educating, inspiring and guiding Freemasonry in South Africa. In short, we are all equal cubes of the same ashlar.

How do we visit?

Well, I can only comment on my experience, which is a whirlwind and of course our book of Constitutions where all the rules are pointed out. For the younger Brethren EA and FC's, are unfortunately not allowed to visit without a MM. The reasoning behind this is that there is someone who can vouch for you and answer any questions you might have; before, during or after the meeting.

As an EA, my hunger for meetings was unquenchable; as a matter of fact, I still ask a million questions and have not been assuaged by my tenure. Therefore, as an EA and FC I visited with or without a MM, even going so far as to invite myself on visits with our current WM, WBro Gary Baney, who, incidentally, wasn't a member of my Mother Lodge. Very soon my face was known around the District and

this made it much easier for me to visit as the Brethren were getting accustomed to me visiting. Please also note that I was asked to leave many a lodge and a meeting due to this rebellious streak. In my opinion, everyone got so tired of asking me to be excused that I got entry by default. Kind of a "If-you-can't-beat-them" effect. It is difficult to say, but I did appreciate the sense of how this was handled.

So, I implore all shiny and bright masons, ask to visit, just pitch or give me a call and if my schedule is open I'll definitely join; I'll most probably be seeing you at the meeting anyway.

I recently visited a lodge where a brother was telling me a story about how he got tested. Yes, if you visit a new lodge, you will be tested! This ranges from questions of your degree to something as simple that only a Mason will know.

These also might include questions you should have learnt as an EA, FC or MM, for example and as unassuming as; "where were you first made a Mason?" In my Heart. Or as unassuming as "Can you tie a Bow?" As easily as you.

These types of brain teasers always confound and amaze me as they are exactly like Freemasonry; everything is hidden in plain sight. And as you progress through the degrees and gain enlightenment, you will realise how many multiple secrets and meanings are attached to the regular objects we view and use daily in our lodges.

Equally, there are members of 'Masonic' Orders not recognised

by our Grand Lodge who attempt to fraternise with our Lodges. Finally, there are excluded, expelled, or disgraced Masons who attempt to re-enter the Craft surreptitiously or irregularly.

As a result, vigilance is essential if a stranger presents himself, asking to attend your meetings.

We need also be vigilant of non-subscribing members; these include Brethren that have resigned from all lodges as they are not allowed to visit a lodge more than once, until he becomes a subscribing member. This does not include lodges of which he is an honorary member.

Overall, visits from strangers should be arranged in advance so that any necessary inquiries can be made before the meeting. A stranger should have with him his Grand Lodge Certificate and a Letter of Clearance and Recommendation from his Lodge(s). Obviously, if he is from another Grand Lodge, his Grand Lodge Certificate must be scrutinised in advance by the Province or the Country he is visiting.

A Lodge Secretary would not have the necessary experience to do this. The visitor's signature should help to demonstrate that he is the *bona fide* holder of that certificate.

Notwithstanding paperwork, it is the job of the Junior Warden to 'prove' the visitor. If he finds this difficult, he should ask a more experienced Brother to undertake it, and would have to do so if it was necessary to test whether the visitor was an Installed Master if the Junior Warden was not.

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experienced Brother to undertake it, and would have to do so if it was necessary to test whether the visitor was an Installed Master if the Junior Warden was not.

The proving Brother should take the visitor to a private location and require of him the Ss, Ts and Ws of all the Degrees of which the visitor claims to be in possession, including those of Installed Master if appropriate. In doing this, the proving Brother should make some allowances for variations of practice, particularly in the Ss but should form a view as to whether the visitor appears to him to have the competence and knowledge he would expect from the visiting Mason. If the proving Brother is able to vouch for the visitor, and the paperwork is in order, the visit may continue.

“Rules” to visiting

Now there are a few rules that you have to follow before, while and after you visit. Informing the lodge secretary that you are planning on visiting is a sign of respect that should be shown to all lodges, Wardens and the WM, as he is the absolute ruler in his lodge and he has the unquestioned power to exclude or admit at his pleasure. Visitors come into his lodge when and only when he orders them admitted; he has the power to exclude a member, or even an officer of his lodge, especially those known of bad character and who may disturb the harmony of the lodge.

As we are all treated equal, there are officers that get preference while visiting i.e. Grand Officers; especially if they are sent by the Grand Master. They get to sit to

the immediate right of the presiding Master; similarly if the District Grand Master were to send one of his District Grand Officers.

Next is the importance of attending the meeting. We do understand that life happens, but I have seen so many times where catering and a venue is provided, and the brother just doesn't pitch.

When you get to the lodge the important teaching to remember from the Initiation and gets explained to you when your apron is fitted the first time is: “, that you are never to put on that badge should you be about to visit a Lodge in which there is a Brother with whom you are at variance, or against whom you entertain animosity. In such cases it is expected that you will invite him to withdraw in order amicably to settle your differences, which being happily effected, you may then clothe yourselves, enter the Lodge and work with that love and harmony which should at all times characterise Freemasons. But if, unfortunately, your differences be of such a nature as not to be so easily adjusted, it were better that one or both of you retire than that the harmony of the Lodge should be disturbed by your presence.”

This simple, but direct teaching is often erased from our minds and hardly recalled the higher we climb up the ladder and yet it is one of the simplest to obey. Let us remind ourselves regularly of all our Masonic teachings and not only when we are retold. Did we not hear a Charge that dictates to make daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge?

While in the lodge the usual manners apply and especially the practice of every moral and social virtue, if these words sound familiar they should; it is from the Charge After Initiation, that so many of us forget or never learned in the first place. Remember, you are visiting another mans house.

After the meeting at the festive board is one of my favourite times of the visit, simply this is where you meet the “real” Brethren; generally the jokes and fellowship are flowing almost as much as the sherry; while blasting a few 21 gun salutes; including a few random “Za, Za, Za’s” – we all know that one guy.

The last “rule” of visiting is keep in touch. Don't forget the Brethren after the jovial celebration that you all enjoyed. It is encouraging and is really heart-warming when I get a message or a call from someone I met at a meeting, just to wish me a good day. I am absolutely useless when it comes to reciprocating the same, but every Brother can be guaranteed of a warm welcome when I am contacted.

These rules aren't set in stone and you might think of a few more; all I ask is when you get a new Apprentice in the lodge, guide them, instruct them and join them in visiting.

Conclusion,

Masonry will gladly give in equal measure; what you give to the Craft. For me; it has taught Mercy, Confidence and has given a family which spans the world and super-sede cultures.

News from our Lodges

WBro Schalk Jacobs, DJGW



DIMS INSTALLATION

The Masonic Installation is always kicked off in superb fashion by Durban Installed Masters. This was once again exemplified with the installation meeting on the evening of **24 January 2023**. To exemplify the standard of working this Lodge is renowned for a full installation was held, instead of just a proclamation ceremony. WBro Pace, who remains in the chair for another year, emphasised that he wishes to bring the Lodge back to assisting the District with workings. After a super meeting a most enjoyable festive board was held at the Durban Country Club where good fellowship and song was had by all.

So to all Worshipful Masters, if you wish to have assistance, please do not hesitate to call DIMS for assistance.

IKWEZI INSTALLATION

Wednesday the **22nd March 2023** saw the installation of WBro Graham Walker as Master of the Ikwezi Lodge at the NMR Temple. The outgoing Master, WBro Koobair, thanked all for assisting in getting the social side of Freemasonry up and running. This is one of the main attractions of this Lodge in that there are regular social events such as lunches held with all members. WBro Walker expressed his desire to continue in the growth of the Lodge. As always, a fun time was had by all both in the Lodge and outside.



SOUTHERN CROSS PROCLAMATION

One of the oldest and history rich Lodges is Southern Cross Lodge in Harrismith. On the **25th March 2023** a number of Brethren from

the District left Durban early in the morning and travelled some 300 odd kilometres to attend the meeting. Due to the small number within the Lodge, a number of the Brethren assisted by taking offices for the ceremony. WBro Smith (pictured below) was duly proclaimed as Worshipful Master for another year. In his interim address he stated that although they lost one of their pillars in WBro Marius Swart, it is only right to continue with improving the Lodge.



After the ceremony a wonderful festive board was held at the lovely Skylight Guest House in Harrismith. **A note of interest:** this Lodge is still meeting in the same building since 1891 and is also one of the few temples where meetings took place between Boers and English masons during the Second Boer War.



A FEAT THAT IS UNIQUE TO DUGUZA

There are not many that can say they have managed a unique record in the District, if not in the whole of the English Constitution. WBro Charles Hedges hold this record and after his installation back into the Chair of King Solomon on the **12th April 2023** for Duguza Lodge he has extended it even further. WBro Hedges holds the distinction of having been the Master of Duguza Lodge every decade for the last 40 years. Sounds amazing, but wait there is more. He served as Master in 1993, 2003, 2013 and now, 2023. This will be the fifth year that he will be Master having also served as Master in 2004. He now holds

the distinction of having served the most terms as the Worshipful Master in the history of Duguza Lodge.



PORT NATAL SETS A NEW PRECEDENCE

WBro Peter Barnard was proclaimed for a 4th term as Worshipful Master of Port Natal by dispensation. This is a very unique situation as it not normally customary for a Master to serve more than 3 terms, even after dispensation. However, with the plan that WBro Barnard has in place this does seem to be a one off situation. In his interim report he quite eloquently explained how he has put plans in place to not only avoid a similar situation to happen but to ensure efficient management of the Lodge in all aspects.



CAMPERDOWN PEACE LODGE STILL KNOWN FOR ITS CAMARADERIE

On **Saturday 24 June 2023**, saw our newly invested ADGM, WBro Mark Potter, represent at the installation of Camperdown Peace Lodge. This Lodge will now

fall under his supervision and although it was a proclamation for WBro Peters, it was also a special occasion for WBro Potter. The ceremony was of the usual superb standard under the watchful eye of WBro Robbie Philogene. WBro Peters was duly proclaimed in due form and proceeded to invest his officers with great pleasure. In his interim report WBro Peters thanked the Brethren as without them the Lodge would not have been able to achieve the successes it had.

As stated, there is an immense camaraderie in this Lodge as was evident in that each Brother has a "BP" collar. Thus naturally at the festive board, WBro Potter was duly invested with his own "BP" jewel. This is not the first time this Lodge has come up with unique ideas to make meetings fun. For many years, the Lodge had an office of Nut-tightener. This office was retired after the passing of WBro Houston by mutual agreement of the Brethren. Well done Camperdown Peace on showing others how you can have fun when at labour.

A new Brother initiated into Port Shepstone Lodge

Bro Wayne Hammond was initiated into Port Shepstone Lodge № on 13 April 2023. He has been wanting to join Freemasonry since meeting the current Worshipful Master of Port Shepstone Lodge, WBro Alan Bergin some time ago. Unfortunately, he lost contact with Bro Bergin and his hopes of becoming a Freemason were delayed.

He eventually met up again with brethren from the Lodge and his yearning of becoming a Mason was once again on track.

“I have found great men who have walked

this journey with me into freemasonry: WBro’s Philip Waudby, Bluett Roberson, Derek Egerton and Alan Bergin! I am proud and honoured to stand today a Mason and further my on-going quest for wisdom knowledge and understanding”, our new Entered Apprentice, Bro Hammond remarked afterwards. The Deputy District Grand Master in Charge, WBro RF Moxham, welcomed Bro Hammond to the Order and wished him a long and happy Masonic career.



New WM for Umlazi Lodge

A new Master was installed into the Chair of King Solomon at Umlazi Lodge on **5 July 2023**. WBro Justin Geysler now follows in the footsteps of numerous great Past Masters, including that of his father, WBro Les Geysler who has been residing in Spain for the past few years.

In his Valedictory Report, outgoing Master, WBro Schalk

excluded, selling the building we called home for over a century, to name a few. Yet, there is still a spirit amongst the remaining Brethren not to give up. It is this tenacity that makes this Lodge so strong”, WBro Jacobs remarked. “Brethren, we are re-building, again! However, there is a difference: this time we know where we have gone wrong. We have learned from our mistakes. We have two Breth-

“As the IPM has laid the foundation, it is now up to me to ensure we get going with the re-building of this Lodge”, he stated. Among the goals, the new Master endeavours to grow the Lodge’s numbers; start working in the communities; embark on a number of official Lodge visits; continue with the education program, and arrange more socials with families included. “This will only be possible with the sup-



Jacobs acknowledged the admirable work done by the current brethren in their efforts in rebuilding the Lodge.

“We have been through some traumatic periods in this Lodge over the past six years. Besides outside disasters, we have had a few major incidents inside as well. We have had brethren leaving, being

ren returning after leaving; they are only the first. We may also have another two candidates soon”.

WBro Geysler was superbly installed as Master of the Lodge by his predecessor, WBro Jacobs. In his address to the brethren after investing his officers, WBro Geysler outlined his plans for the ensuing year.

port of the Brethren of this wonderful Lodge”, he ended.

The festivities continued with a fabulous dinner prepared by Nichola Jacobs. The Toast to the new Master was a moving one, in the form of a letter from WBro Les Geysler to his son with an equally moving reply by the Master. Another wonderful evening enjoyed by all.

Another successful Masonic year for Inanda Lodge

Inanda lodge № 1192 EC had a fantastic year! With these opening words by the Lodge's dynamic young Master, the scene was set for something bigger and better! WBro Ockert Fourie has just completed another successful year as WM and has been entrusted by the Brethren of his Lodge to serve for another year. All this, on the **11th July 2023**.

In his Interim Report, WBro Fourie outlined the Lodge's activities of the past year which included

The Lodge was once again actively involved with marshalling at the annual Comrades Marathon event. "This year, the Comrades Association allowed us to sell things". Despite small beginnings, the Lodge managed to raise just over R600. "It creates the opportunity to plan big for next year and could become a lucrative fund raising event for masonry in general", remarked WBro Fourie. [Editor's note: In the words of T.E. Lawrence: "*Big things have humble beginnings*".]



10 regular meetings, a planning meeting and visits to various Lodges, including to those of the Sister Constitutions. "The Lodge First United visits afforded us to take the Traveling Gavel back and the visit to Duguza Lodge proved again to be a great night out".

Workings done by the Lodge included an Initiation and two Passings.

On the Charity side, the Lodge listed St Martins Diocesan home for children as their main project.

After being proclaimed as Master, WBro Fourie proceeded to appoint his Lodge officers. The highlight (for some!) of the evening was the ceremonial "relinquishing" of the Travelling Gavel to the Master of Duguza Lodge who had eleven members in attendance. Even Umkomaas Lodge mustering up "instant Honorary members" could not match Duguza Lodge's numbers!

The meeting was followed by a superb Festive Board and fellowship which was enjoyed by all. Another promising year in store for Inanda Lodge.

Empangeni Lodge Installation

The new Master of Empangeni Lodge, WBro Dhavandran Palavar was installed into the Chair of King Solomon during a well attended meeting on Saturday, **8 July 2023**. The District of KZN was represented by the Assistant District Grand master, WBro Ian Pace accompanied by the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro David Zavad, the Districition Senior Grand Warden, WBro Sergio Marucchi-Benedit and other District Grand Officers.

this lodge demonstrated their quality as Masons, and I relied on their support to make the year a success”.

On their Charity initiatives, WBro Viljoen reported that the Charity Steward and other members of the lodge raised money for the SPCA and for the distribution of blankets via the local DICE charity organisation.

There were no Initiations, Passings or Raisings during the past year, but two Master

absence had a negative impact on the quality of workings” said WBro Marais.

The current membership of the Lodge at the beginning of the year stood at fourteen of which ten are active members. Ten members hold District Grand Rank.

The new WM stated that he has big shoes to fill but will endeavour to continue with the work done by his predecessor to get the Lodge back to its former glory.



In his Valedictory Report outgoing Master, WBro Marais Viljoen outlined the challenges and successes experienced by the Lodge during the past year and post pandemic.

“The year was another year of Lodge recovery. The Covid pandemic resulted in a reduction of membership numbers, but we are already seeing a growth in new members”, reported WBro Viljoen.

“As always, the brethren of

Masons who were previous members of Empangeni Lodge, made their return and are already playing an active role in the Lodge. There is also a Fellow Craft and an Entered Apprentice from other Lodges whose applications to join is being processed.

“The standard of the workings at Regular Meetings and Degree Workings has always been a matter of pride for Lodge members, but the long

The festive board was held at the lavish Bon Hotel restaurant in Empangeni with WBro Palavar’s wife, Mrs Shilla Palavar proudly sitting with her husband, the new Master of Empangeni Lodge at the main table.

Congratulations to the Master and brethren of Empangeni Lodge on a most successful and enjoyable day!



Devoted to Masonic Research and expanding Masonic knowledge

A “Lodge of Research” is a Masonic lodge which is devoted to Masonic research. It is a lodge, and as such has a charter from some Grand, Provincial or District Grand Lodge. However, it does not confer degrees, and restricts membership to Master Masons of some jurisdiction in amity with the jurisdiction that the research lodge is in. There are research lodges in most countries where Freemasonry exists.

The oldest research lodge is **Quatuor Coronati No. 2076**, founded in 1886 under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of England. It accepts members from all over the world through its Correspondence Circle. A book of transactions called *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* (which includes the papers given in the lodge) has been published every year since 1886.

Most research lodges have some type of transactions, proceedings or even just a newsletter that is published regularly. We are very fortunate

to have within the District the **Athenæum Lodge of Research No. 7455**. It was founded in 1955 with WBro J.R. Pricets being its first Master.

Past and current membership of the Lodge is as varied as its research papers: from Past District Grand Master, Grand Superintendents, Illustrious Inspector Generals, of all four Constitutions being active members, to Entered apprentices.

Any Mason, no matter how long they have been a Mason, is eligible to attend any and all of our meetings.

The Lodge has two categories of membership:

Full member

Full membership can only be achieved by presenting a full paper at one of the meetings.

Correspondence Circle Membership

As its name suggests, this category allows subscribing members to receive all correspondence (including Summonses, copies of past and current papers, including those of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research) and are entitled to attend all meet-

ings. The cost of becoming a correspondence member is a once off payment of R100. There is no annual fee.

The Lodge’s whole being is to foster and encourage research into Masonic matters, and its papers are as varied as an explanation of the Masonic Apron; The Working Tools; Masonic Visiting; Masonic Fire; the esoteric aspects of our craft; the various degrees in Freemasonry to Masonic practices in America and other parts of the World.

The Lodge is a Dining Lodge and meets 5 times a year on the 4th Tuesday of February, April, June, August, and October (Installation) at the NMR Masonic Complex. The current Master, WBro Gary Baney intends to take the Lodge on the road by having some of its regular meetings at other Masonic venues. The first stop will be at Amanzimtoti Lodge on 22 August 2023.

For more info, contact the Lodge Secretary, WBro D Zavad at david@premiersa.co.za

50 years a Freemason

WBro Peter Tanner honoured on a milestone achievement

WBro Peter Tanner celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry with brethren and guests at his Mother Lodge, Umkomaas Lodge № 2990 on the 6th of April 2023.

To mark this milestone achievement, the Charge after Initiation was superbly presented to him by WBro Phil Waudby after which the Deputy District Grand Master in Charge, WBro Rob Moxham presented him with a 50 year Masonic pin.

Peter Tanner was proposed as a candidate by WBro Frank Parker-Dennison and seconded by WBro Roy Humphries, being initiated on the 5th of April 1973, 50 years to the date! Peter was Passed on 2nd August 1973 and Raised on 1st November 1973.

WBro Tanner served as Master of Umkomaas Lodge in 1980 and again in 1984 (when the visitors at an installation meeting were from at least 8 different lodges!). The ladies, wives of members used to cater for over 100 brethren. "During my 1st two times in the Chair, my wife and I were blessed with children, first a daughter and then my son" Peter recalls. During the 70s and 80s, the



Lodge had a special chicken braai in July and December. At the December braai, the children were treated by Father Christmas who handed out presents. There was always entertainment and sometimes a sheep or two on the spit.

"One highlight was our Lodge visit to Pholea Lodge in Underberg. We were fortunate to be able to bring our wives and stay at the Bellingan Cottage on the Pholea river. The wives entertained themselves while we went off to the Lodge where there was a fire at the entrance and a glass of sherry waiting to warm you up. After the meeting we went to the hotel in Himeville to be treated with a trout each as part of the evening festive board", Peter fondly recalls.

"The temperature in winter is ice cold, but WBro Marshall

enjoyed a morning swim by breaking the ice on the river before plunging in. He told us we all need a cold shower to keep fit", Peter adds with a wry smile.

WBro Tanner was once again elected and installed as Master of the Lodge for the period 2017 to 2021, which included the dreaded Covid period during which he maintained contact with the brethren via social media,

WBro Tanner currently holds the rank of Past District Senior Grand Warden having served the District with distinction in various past ranks over the years. He was an active District Grand Chaplain for 5 years.

Congratulations on this milestone achievement, WBro Tanner! You are a gentleman and a scholar, the epitome of a Mason!

Legend of the Travelling Gavel

By WBro David Zavad

It sits there, like an elusive artefact, but one which is highly

prized when conquered by a visiting Lodge, outnumbering others by their mere strength in numbers. This is the legend of the Travelling Gavel which now resides, albeit temporarily, with the Master and brethren of Duguza Lodge.

“My first recollection goes back to the late 1980’s when James Dow, Peter Schedlock and Joe Nadlar had a Travelling Gavel to encourage Masonic visiting” notes WBro David Zavad. “This

initiative was very successful for a number of years; unfortunately I do not know if anyone kept records of its movements”.

The late RW Bro Doug Kirton was trying to revive it but unfortunately did not complete his aim as he was taken ill.

“I personally became involved in the latter part of 2017 when I found a Gavel (the current one in use today). Doug Kirton was going to donate it to the District for use



at Annual Communications, District Visits and District workings”, David recalls. “I revived the idea of the Travelling Gavel and it was first used when Port Natal Lodge

visited the DIMS meeting on the 8th February 2018 with sufficient members to take it back to their Lodge”.

The rules for acquiring the Travelling Gavel have not changed much from those early days, in that a Lodge wishing to claim it must visit the Lodge holding the Travelling Gavel with at least 5 members in tow, ideally the Worshipful Master and two Wardens, plus two other members. It can be at a regu-

lar or Installation meeting. However, this rule has been relaxed over the past 5 years, but still a minimum of 5 Lodge members are required to challenge the Gavel. If a number of Lodges are trying to acquire it on the same night, it goes to the Visiting Lodge with the most number of Brethren.

“Since I started recording its movements the Travelling Gavel has been acquired by DIMS; Port Natal; three times by Inanda Lodge; Lodge First United (GLSA); twice by Lodge Trafalgar (SC); Fort Jameson (SC); Weenen County; Umkomaas; Krantzloof; Amanzimtoti; Umvotu; Hilton; Skelmesdale; Camperdown Peace; and Duguza (twice)”, David reports.

On the 11th July 2023, the travelling Gavel was taken away from Inanda Lodge by an “army of brethren” from Duguza Lodge.

So, does your Lodge wish to claim the Travelling Gavel? Then muster up the “troops” and officially attend a Duguza Lodge meeting en masse!

A Grand Affair:

Grand Superintendent for KZN Royal Arch Masonry Installed

The District Grand Chapter of KwaZulu-Natal has a new Grand Superintendent!

EComp Wayne Norman Johnston was installed as Grand Superintendent in and over the District of KwaZulu-Natal at a grand ceremony held at Hayfields Masonic Centre, Pietermaritzburg on **Saturday, 10th of June 2023.**

Most Excellent Companion Christopher van Gaalen assisted by Officers of the Supreme Grand Chapter, EComp D van Vuuren as 2nd Principal and EComp CJ Botha as 3rd Principal, opened the District Grand Chapter at 9.00am.

The Grand Superintendent designate EComp Wayne Norman Johnston took his Obligation, after which he was invested and placed in the Chair.

The Grand Superintendent then proceeded to appoint, obligate and invest EComp Karl Michel as Second District Grand Principal and EComp Derek Edgerton as Third District Grand Principal. EComp Frans Cornelius Alwyn Roodt was proclaimed as the Deputy Grand Superintendent and EComp David Zavad as the Director Ceremonies of the District. The appointment of the other District Grand Officers of the District were confirmed.

The By-Laws of the District was presented to the Grand Superintendent,

after which he addressed the attendees and thanked ME Comp van Gaalen and the officers who assisted him in a superbly run and memorable Installation meeting.



The newly-installed Grand Superintendent, ME Comp WN Johnston flanked by his 2nd and 3rd District Grand Principals and distinguished Most Excellent and Excellent Companions



The new leadership of Royal Arch Masonry in and over the District of KwaZulu-Natal:

EComp K Michel (2nd District Grand Principal), EComp FCA Roodt (Deputy Grand Superintendent), ME Comp WN Johnston (Grand Superintendent) and EComp D Egeton (3rd District Grand Principle)

131st Annual Royal Arch Convocation

The 131st Annual Royal Arch Convocation was held at the Victoria County Masonic Centre, Umhlali on **Saturday, 22 July 2023.**

This meeting was the completion of the Annual Convocation at the combined meeting of the Craft where ME Comp WN Johnston was installed as Grand Superintendent and the Deputy Grand Superintendent, 2nd and 3rd Principles and Director of Ceremonies were invested.

Over and above the normal duties of the Convocation, two Companions were Exalted on behalf of Empangeni Chapter.

In his address to the Companions, ME Comp Johnston expressed his sincere thanks to EComp (Dr) FCA Roodt who had been in charge of the District for nearly two years after the former Grand Superintendent, ME Comp Anthony Paul Leeson was called to the Grand Chapter above.

Currently, there are 103 Companions on the District's books, which represents about 40% of the Craft. "Ideally we would like to be above 50% RA representation of the Craft", stated ME Comp Johnston.

"Royal Arch is perhaps for some not an easy understandable Order. I have embarked on trying to educate and lecture Companions that they may get to grips with the ceremony of the Royal Arch, it is only by understanding the Degree that one can enjoy the ceremony. I have given an explanation before the ceremony, which I hope will give some understanding as the way we do it and

why we do it in that way", referring to the Exaltation Ceremony held earlier in the day. "I will be appointing a Royal Arch Representative for each Lodge and you will be notified with the duties thereof. The Representative will be the liaison between Craft and RA and reporting back to the District", ME Comp Johnston stated.

The Grand Superintendent then proceeded to invest the District Grand Officers for 2023/2024. A promising Holy Royal Arch year lies await for us!

District Grand Chapter of KwaZulu-Natal 2023/2024

Grand Superintendent	ME Comp WN Johnston
Deputy Grand Superintendent	EComp FCA Roodt
District 2 nd Principal	EComp K Michel
District 3 rd Principal	EComp D Egerton
President of the Board	EComp RT Potter
District Scribe Ezra	EComp JPHM Macquet
District Scribe N	EComp RF Moxham
District Treasurer	EComp J Howard
District Registrar	EComp P Barnard
District Director of Ceremonies	EComp D Zavad
District Sword Bearer	EComp KS Darby
Deputy District DC	EComp ADC Caloba
District Almoner	EComp JPHM Macquet
District Grand Charity Steward	EComp JA Kalil
District Grand Principal Sojourner	EComp H Sussman
District 1st Assistant Sojourner	EComp D Robertson
District 2nd Assistant Sojourner	EComp (Dr) KB Bilenge
District Standard Bearer	EComp JM Viljoen
District Standard Bearer	EComp G Scheepers
Assistant District DC	EComp S Jacobs
District Organist	EComp A Bergin
District Grand Steward	EComp M Carson
District Grand Steward	EComp S Marucchi-Benedit
District Janitor	EComp R Carr



Why the Mark?

A closer look at the fascinating Order of Mark Masonry

Opinions about the Mark differ widely. Some senior brethren are most enthusiastic about it. Others dismiss it as a waste of time.

For many of us the Mark is the essence of Freemasonry because of the particularly close brotherhood it engenders, but one must acknowledge that there are horses for courses.

"When I joined the Mark Degree," recalls one brother. "I had been in the Craft for some 15 years. In my Craft lodge there was a particular brother who had joined some ten years before me and I had never seen him in lodge. Yet he was an office bearer in the Mark and never missed a meeting and, as far as I could gather, His whole Masonic life was in the Mark Degree."

We do not all like the same things and it is logical that we may prefer different ways to practise our masonry. We must therefore expect brethren to find certain degrees more congenial and satisfying than others.

It follows that all the 'additional' degrees are important. They considerably

expand the range of interest for devoted masons because of their different characteristics. They provide a rich tapestry of varying intellectual and moral interests. Yet they all reinforce the basic Masonic theme of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

It must be acknowledged that many worthy masons would be bored to death if Freemasonry were restricted to the three Craft Degrees and the Royal Arch. Brethren who lose interest and fall by the wayside would perhaps remain in our ranks if they were encouraged to join the other degrees.

Criteria for Judgement

In deciding whether the Mark has anything to offer, we should examine several questions:

- DOES IT have a defined place in the broad structure of Masonic legend and teaching?
- IF SO, is that message worthy of serious consideration?
- ARE ITS ritual and ceremony sufficiently dignified and stately?
- DOES IT have any special features that merit attention?

Underlying these specific questions is the general question of why the Mark should occasionally be disparaged or even dismissed as trifling by brethren who should know better.

Place in the Structure

The Mark, along with the Craft and the Royal Arch, can definitely be seen as one of the central family of Masonic orders. Why? Because the three orders share certain family characteristics. viz:

- ▶ They are all based on the legend of the building of King Solomon's Temple;
- ▶ They are not confined to members of any religious denomination;
- ▶ The respective Grand Masters of the Orders, The Duke of Kent and Prince Michael of Kent, are brothers;

In the past the same man has sometimes led all three orders (e.g. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales later King Edward VII - and his younger brother Arthur, HRH the Duke of Connaught, and their nephew George, HRH the Duke of Kent, father of the present Grand Masters of the Craft and Mark);

The Pro, Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters of the Mark are invariably senior Provincial Grand Masters in the Craft. Prince Michael is the Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex.

Why the Mark ?

► There is close liaison and contact between the administrations of the orders;

For example, the Quarterly Communications of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons are generally held the day before those of the Craft;

► There are close parallels in the structure of the ceremonies and rituals with interesting echoes in each (e.g. the Chair working in the Craft has some fascinating connections with the Mark);

Meaning and symbolism in the orders are intimately interwoven;

One senior mason expressed what is perhaps a common reason for the popularity of the Mark: "I love the Mark," he said, "because it is far more like the Craft than any other additional degree";

► In all other constitutions, the Mark Degree is actually an Integral part of the Royal Arch and in the Scottish Constitution;

Pure and ancient Freemasonry is defined as consisting of "the Entered Apprentice Degree, the Fellowcraft Degree, including the Mark Masons' Degree, and the Master Masons' Degree, including the Holy Royal Arch".

The Mark Degree in the English Constitution is unique in that it is a fully fledged order with its own Grand Lodge, the *Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas*. This has allowed it to develop its own special characteristics and strengths.

It has its own magnificent headquarters at Mark Masons' Hall, St James Street and its own substantial Benevolent Fund. Its staff has for many years administered almost all the additional Masonic degrees in the EC

other than the Rose Croix.

It therefore has more to offer than the Mark in our four sister constitutions in South Africa and it is not surprising that many brethren from these constitutions choose to join our Mark.

As is all too frequently said, the concordance as defined at Union in 1813 determined that "pure Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more. viz. the Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of Holy Royal Arch".



RW Bro WN Johnston, District Grand Master of the Mark Masonry in KwaZulu-Natal

This prevented the brethren of Grand Lodge in 1856 from incorporating or recognising the Mark Degree as part of Craft Freemasonry and even now stands in the way of a more intimate alliance.

► Although in constitutional terms an additional degree, the place of the Mark in the hierarchy of degrees can be determined by remembering that the Entered Apprentice Degree in Craft masonry is an

Initiation Ceremony, while the second and third degrees together with the Royal Arch follow the Solomonic Legend;

The Mark Degree fits most appropriately into the Solomonic Legend and, in this sense, can be seen as a valuable and relevant extension of Craft masonry.

► The relationship between Craft and Mark was expressed most aptly by MW Bro Lord Amptill, sometime Pro Grand Master of the Craft and a Grand Lodge Officer of the Mark, at a meeting of the Mark Grand Lodge some years ago:

"I cannot help remembering that every single brother present is a member of the United Grand Lodge of England. After all, the Craft and Mark are partners in the great enterprise and association of English Masonry.

"They have no rivalries, only generous emulation; they help and support one another; they have no conflicting interests; in short, they both work together for the same great cause".

Next time:

Nourishment for the Speculatives
Ritual and Ceremony
Special Characteristics

For more information about Mark Masonry, speak to the WM or Secretary of the Mark Master's Lodge near you or contact the District Grand Secretary, WBro Ken Darby

Mobile: 082 577 0673

dgsec.mark.ram@kznfreemasonry.co.za

Fill in the caption and win!

Calling all DC's (present and past) and wannabe DC's!
Fill in the caption below and return to mchammen@yahoo.co.uk or Whatsapp (081 381 3887) by **31 Aug 2023**. The best caption wins a mystery prize, veiled in allegory!



Cartoon credit: Gerald Sclater
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KZN FREEMASONRY

Welcome to English Freemasonry in KZN

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