



SQUARE



ALK



NOV/DEC 2025



Another 'action'-packed Masonic year in KZN is rapidly coming to an end with the Festive Season upon us. From 1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree ceremonies, Installations, 50 year service awards, Comrades marshalling, social events, quizzes, visiting, Festive Boards, Freemasonry KZN 2025 has had something for everyone, some of these events being featured in this edition. The first article is about the Pro Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, MW Bro Jonathan Spence who has been in said office since September 2022. Skelmersdale Lodge recently honoured one of its own for reaching a significant milestone of 50 years in Masonry, WBro Rodger Asher (pictured above).

The "Know-your-Brother" feature is back and we "kick off" the new series introducing Bro Wayne Gareth Hammond of Port Shepstone Lodge. Another new regular feature is History of our Lodges which we trust will be informative reading for both new and our older Brethren. Finally, on behalf of our District Grand Master, RW Bro RF Moxham and the District Grand Lodge of KZN, we would like to take the opportunity to wish all our brethren, their loved ones and friends a blessed and joyous Christmas season. May you all have the spirit of Christmas which is **Peace**, the gladness of Christmas which is **Hope** and the heart of Christmas which is **Love!**

The Editorial Team



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UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR PRO GRAND MASTER?

At every Lodge Festive Board, we propose various toasts during the course of the evening. One of the toasts is to the **Most Worshipful The Pro Grand Master, Jonathan Spence.**

The Pro Grand Master of the UGLE serves as the principal advisor to the Grand Master and officiates in the Grand Master's absence as he (the Grand Master) is a member of the Royal family and has other royal duties to attend to. He is in effect the "Acting Grand Master" when royal duties or other matters prevent the Grand Master from being present. This role is distinct from the Deputy Grand Master, who is the Grand Master's deputy rather than acting as the Grand Master.

The Pro Grand Master is also responsible for upholding the spirit of Freemasonry by influencing other senior leaders, promoting its core principles and ensuring a coherent organization. Quite a significant duty and responsibility!

But, how much do we know about our Pro Grand Master?

MW Bro Jonathan Spence was installed as Pro Grand Master of the UGLE in 2022. When he wasn't preparing for his new role as Pro Grand

and unobtrusive as possible – get the big calls right, but otherwise stay out of the way so the game can flow. It's a style he had to adapt rather than adopt outright when he replaced Peter Lowndes as Pro

Grand Master because as well as maintaining official duties as the Grand Master's official representative, Jonathan arrived in time to oversee the introduction of a new seven-year strategic roadmap for the Craft and Royal Arch, something he believes requires him to lead by very visible example.

'The roadmap is being implemented in thousands of Lodges and Chapters,' says Jonathan from the Pro Grand Master's panelled office at Freemasons' Hall. 'I

will be involved in helping send the message to the membership that it is very important we get this right. The Grand Master has always set the best example and now it's on all of us – Provincial and District Grand Masters and Grand Superintendents,



The MW Pro Grand Master, Jonathan Spence

Master, attending one of no fewer than 14 Lodges, or managing the investment portfolio of a Cambridge college, Jonathan Spence likes to spend his weekends refereeing rugby matches. His approach, he reveals, is to be as low-key

Deputies, all their Executives, all Grand Officers and every single member down to the newest entered apprentice, we all have a role to play.

Our mission is to make sure we are a thriving organisation, one that people are willing to be part of and one in which those who join are willing to participate.'

Our Pro Grand Master has certainly thrived as a Freemason. He joined at the first possible opportunity, when an invitation to apply to his old school Lodge in Rochester arrived in the post along with cards for his 21st birthday. He was initiated just short of his 22nd birthday and is now a member of more than a dozen Lodges, including in Cambridge, where he works as Bursar of Queens' College, and Oxford, where he studied theology.

The bulk of Jonathan Spence's career was spent in the City where he rose to become Chief Executive of Singer & Friedlander Limited. He resigned that role in 2006 when the bank was bought by Icelandic bank Kaupthing, an acquisition that ended in disaster when the firm went into administration in 2008 and several Icelandic directors were jailed. 'It was very clear to me that it was not going to end well,' he recalls. 'I did my duty and told the regulators it

was not going to go well and then resigned. People sometimes ask what Freemasonry has done for me and I say it has helped me to understand that you must try to do what is right even in challenging circumstances. This was a practical application.' In return, Jonathan Spence has brought some of the skills he developed in the City to Freemasonry. One of his first tasks upon appointment in 2009 as Deputy Grand Master – after six years as Grand Director of Ceremonies – was to oversee the amalgamation of the four Masonic charities into a single charity, something he describes as 'the toughest corporate finance deal I have ever done'. It took seven years and a lot of hard work, but the restructuring had tangible benefits for Freemasonry and the wider community. 'It had to be done,' he says. 'There was a lot of duplication. I looked at it completely cold and could see it wasn't sustainable and was leaving gaps in provision and support.'

Alongside these core skills come City-tuned concepts about leadership that Jonathan feels can be applied to Freemasonry. He talks about the importance of adopting 'good practice' rather than 'best practice' because 'best' implies there is no

room for improvement while 'good' leaves the possibility of continuous development. He also talks about a 'yes, if' rather than a 'no, because' approach – an essential asset if Freemasonry is to thrive. He cites an example – that of exploring the feasibility of conducting occasional Quarterly Communication or Grand Chapter meetings outside London to make life easier for people coming from more distant Provinces. This was considered almost 30 years ago, but he wants to see if it will work now. That's the 'yes, if' rather than 'no, because' approach in a nutshell, he explains.

Jonathan Spence chaired the strategy group that created the seven-year roadmap, which focuses on the importance of building a thriving membership. That means attracting new Freemasons and ensuring existing members are happy and fulfilled, creating an organisation that everybody wants to be a part of. 'In Freemasonry, people hesitate to use the word fun, but people join for one of 20 or more different reasons,' he says. 'All of them are valid and there is no sole reason they join – but they do have to enjoy it.'

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AS A MASON

On **25 September 2025**, 50 years to the date since being Initiated into Freemasonry, **WBro Rodger Asher**, a long-serving member of Skelmersdale Lodge No. 1729 celebrated

as a token of the wealth of service and loyalty you have given to Freemasonry and that Freemasonry has received from you. Whenever you wear this badge, may you recall when you first stood

here in the north east corner, poor and penniless. Neither naked nor clothed, barefoot nor shod, but cheerfully embracing Masonic virtue forever after”.



Above: WBro Rodger Asher (seated, centre) flanked by members of Skelmerdale Lodge, District Grand Lodge Officers and visiting Brethren to celebrate with him his 50 years of Service to Masonry

his 50th anniversary as a Mason. In recognition of this milestone, ADGM, WBro Edric Pascoe presented WBro Asher with a 50 year service pin and certificate. WBro Pascoe addressed WBro Asher as follows:

“My brother, at your Initiation you were deprived of all metals. We now give you GOLD



THE FREEMASONRY MEANING OF "INTENTIONS SHAPE DEEDS"

Submitted by Bro Gerrit Ockerse, DG Mentor

Intentions shape deeds is a phrase that encapsulates a fundamental principle in Freemasonry, reflecting the importance of one's motives and intentions in guiding their actions and behaviour. In Freemasonry, the concept of intentionality is closely tied to moral and ethical conduct, emphasizing the significance of acting with integrity, sincerity, and noble purpose. Here's an exploration of this phrase within the context of Freemasonry:

Moral Rectitude

Freemasonry places a strong emphasis on moral rectitude and virtuous conduct. According to this principle, it's not only the outward actions that matter but also the intentions behind those actions. A Freemason is encouraged to examine their motives carefully and ensure that they align with moral and ethical principles.

Self-Improvement

Freemasonry is a system of self-improvement and personal development. By cultivating awareness of one's

intentions and motivations, a Freemason can strive for continuous growth and refinement of character. Through introspection and reflection, individuals can identify areas for improvement and work towards aligning their intentions with their values.

Karma and Consequence

The idea that intentions shape deeds is also reflected in the concept of karma or the "law of cause and effect". Freemasonry teaches that individuals are responsible for the consequences of their actions, both positive and negative. By acting with pure and noble intentions, Freemasons seek to create positive outcomes and contribute to the greater good.

Brotherly Love and Unity

Within Freemasonry, the principle of brotherly love emphasizes the importance of treating others with kindness, compassion and respect. By acting with benevolent intentions towards others, Freemasons foster harmony, unity and goodwill within their lodges and communities.

Symbolism and Allegory

Freemasonry often conveys its teachings through symbolism and allegory. The phrase "intentions shape deeds" may be represented symbolically in Masonic rituals and ceremonies, serving as a reminder of the transformative power of intentionality in shaping one's character and actions.

Service and Charity

Freemasonry encourages its members to engage in acts of service and charity for the betterment of humanity. By acting with altruistic intentions, Freemasons seek to alleviate suffering, promote social justice, and make a positive impact in the world.

In essence, "intentions shape deeds" serves as a guiding principle in Freemasonry, reminding members to act with mindfulness, integrity, and purpose in all aspects of their lives. By aligning their intentions with moral and ethical principles,

Freemasons strive to lead virtuous and meaningful lives, leaving a positive legacy for future generations.

KNOW YOUR BROTHER



Bro Wayne Gareth Hammond

Port Shepstone Lodge

Square Talk is pleased to introduce Bro Wayne Gareth Hammond of Port Shepstone Lodge No 3470 EC to its readers. By sharing stories and achievements of newer brethren in our District, this segment aims to bolster brotherly engagement, highlight their culture and motivate others by showcasing authentic experiences and values.

ST: Where were you born and which schools did you attend?

I was born in the south of Johannesburg and attended Meredale Primary and Mondeor High schools.

ST: What is a pivotal moment from your childhood that shaped who you are today?

I struggled as an overweight child which effected my confidence and shyness. I went to dietitians and was forced to go on so many

diets that I actually hated. One day I decided to actually give it a shot, I lost the weight and that changed me forever, learning at a young age that you can achieve anything you put your mind and effort into.

ST: What are you passionate about?

My main passion is teaching



Bro Wayne Hammond being congratulated on being Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason by the DGM of KwaZulu-Natal, RW Bro RF Moxham

and helping people understand my three core passions: Wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

They are every where; they just need to be translated in to a level where people can grasp them.

ST: What are you most proud of accomplishing?

I had a heart condition when I was younger and gained a lot of weight. I was told that I would be on meds for the rest of my life . I decided that this would not be my reality. I studied sports science and lost over 50kg as well as stopping all forms of medication. In the past 14 years I haven't even taken a Panado, so I am completely natural!

ST: What are your favourite ways to relax and unwind?

I am not really a relaxing-type guy (when you get to my age you will see what I mean !). But golf days with my son or just taking a random drive with my daughter really re-energizes me.

ST: Do you enjoy traveling?

I do but I have never crossed the South African border. I also have never flown in an aeroplane (I have no intention of ever flying!).

I have seen a lot of South Africa; my favourite by far being the KZN Midlands; there is something mystical there! I would love to explore the Western Cape

ST: What are your biggest dreams and goals?

To be a motivational speaker and life coach. And leaving enough money behind for every generation in my blood line to come. If you don't come from a wealthy family, a wealthy family must come from you!

ST: What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind?

For my family I'd like to leave a great amount of generational wealth.

For my fellow man I would like to leave the pure quest and fascination of seeking and questing after wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

What are your core values?

God, needs to be first in your life;

Family, is second and should never move from this place;

Hard work should never come before family, but you need to provide for them; Friends and fellowship, this is where Masonry comes in: as iron sharpens iron, so one Brother sharpens another;



Health, you need to exercise and look after yourself to see many generations after you. The longer you live, the more you can impact the world

What do you think makes a

good friend?

Honesty, I'd rather hear the harsh truth from you than a sweet lie. Tell me straight where I'm going wrong rather than protecting my feelings.

What do you think is most important in life?

Finding your core that God has made you for. So many people are miserable because they are stuck in a job they hate their whole lives with out ever finding what God has actually made for them.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

When people don't stick to their word.

What makes you feel most confident?

I speak 5 languages and can generally get along with anyone of any age. I have gained many experiences in life and can identify with something in every person I come in to contact with.

What is your favourite way to express yourself?

Music, art and public speaking. I play a few instruments (drums are my favourite) and have won a few awards in the past for my art (sculpture being my favourite). And, I do love imparting knowledge!

How did you first learn about Freemasonry?

I met the Master of Port Shepstone Lodge, WBro Alan Bergin while installing an air-con for him. It was at a time that I was looking for and fighting for personal growth, so this meeting with Alan came at the right time. However, we lost contact for about a year and a half but the Great Architect made our paths cross again; the rest his history!

What motivated you to join?

My quest for personal growth at the time naturally made me curious and my constant quest for wisdom, knowledge and understanding. After long talks with WBro Bergin I realised that, what I felt was missing in my life, freemasonry will add so much value not only to my life, but my mind as well!

What was your experience like going through the degrees?

The best way to describe it is: 'you don't know what you don't know'!

There is so much to learn in each Degree that you find yourself asking, 'well , what next?'. And each Degree opens your mind double what the previous one did.



Bro Wayne Hammond being congratulated at his Passing to a Fellow Craft by WBro Alan Bergin, then Master of Port Shepstone Lodge

Have you held any specific roles or offices in the lodge?

I am currently the Junior Deacon in my Craft lodge and Inner Guard in the Mark.

What has been your most memorable experience in the lodge?

Being Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

It really opened my eyes to a different reality and also the amount of work that goes into our rituals.

What Masonic principles resonate most with you?

Charity. In Hebrew we say "tzedakah". Beyond giving money, "tzedakah" includes acts of kindness, respect and good deeds, such as visiting the sick or volunteering. The principal of charity really resonates with me. I give not because I have an abundance to give , I give because I know what its like to go without.

How has Freemasonry impacted your life outside the lodge?

I have gained new friends that I can actually trust. You meet so many people in the world that seem great only for time to reveal other sides to them , Outside the lodge my brothers all have the same values. They are true friends and brothers that I know I can trust and open up to.



Do you know why some Masons wear a “Forget-me-not” pin?

Submitted by WBro Sergio Marucchi-Benedit, DSGW

Many Freemasons wear a lapel pin featuring a blue forget-me-not flower—a symbol with a poignant history rooted in pre-war Germany. When the Nazis rose to power, Freemasonry was declared an enemy of the state. In 1934, Wilhelm Frick, Reich Minister of the Interior, threatened to eliminate Masonic Lodges entirely.

That same year, the German Grand Lodge of the Sun replaced its traditional Square and Compasses pin with one bearing a blue forget-me-not. Originally adopted in 1926 for its resemblance to Masonic regalia, the flower later served a deeper purpose. In 1938, the same pin design was used by the Nazi Party’s welfare branch for a charity campaign, reportedly because it was Hitler’s favour-

ite flower. This coincidence allowed Freemasons to wear the symbol discreetly, avoiding persecution.

As Nazi control intensified, Masonic Lodges across Germany and occupied territo-

Russia.

The threat Freemasonry posed to totalitarian regimes was best described by Reinhard Heydrich, head of the Nazi secret police, who wrote in 1938 that Free-

masons represented a “supra-national spiritual movement” promoting unity across race, religion, and politics—values antithetical to fascist and communist ideologies.

Despite these efforts to destroy it, Freemasonry endured. In 1947, the Grand Lodge of the Sun reopened in Bayreuth, and the following



year, the United Grand Lodges of Germany adopted the forget-me-not as their official emblem. Today, it stands as a symbol of resilience and remembrance for those who died defending their beliefs.

NEW FEATURE

History of our Lodges

In 1826, the Zulu King Shaka built a new capital south of the Tugela River on the North Coast of Natal on the site of the present Town of Stanger. This city of huts he named **DUGUZA** which means "the place of he who was lost". Sixty seven years later, a Masonic Lodge was formed and consecrated there, and this is part of its story.

Foundation Master

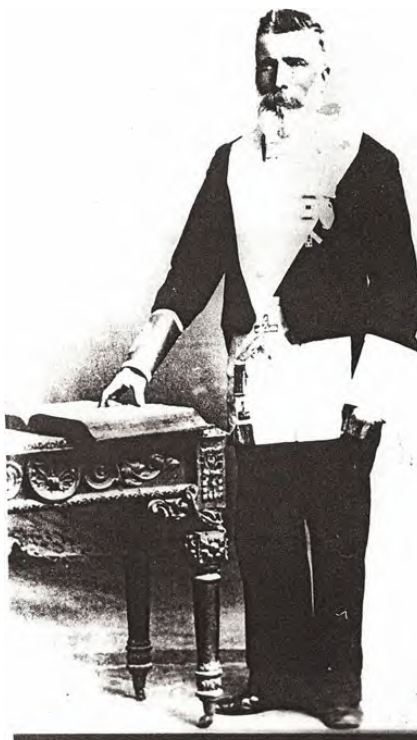
Samuel Knox (pictured right) was born in England in 1838, being the fourth of six children of Henry and Margaret Knox. The family emigrated in 1850 when he was twelve years old, landing at Port Natal (Durban) and settling at Isipingo. Later, Samuel Knox moved to a farm *Mount Moreland*, in the Verulam area, where he became a member of Inanda Lodge No. 1192, serving as Master from 1886 to 1888. He later acquired a farm at Umhlali on which he built a small hotel calling it the *Umhlali Inn*. The seat of the Magistracy of the Victoria County was also on this prop-



PART I

Submitted by WBro Wayne Johnston
erty.

With the establishment of the Sugar Industry and the development of industry northwards towards Zululand,



Stanger (named after the first Surveyor General of Natal, Dr William Stanger), was established as a Village in the year 1873. The site on which Stanger is laid out was, in former times, King Shaka's Royal Kraal known as **DUGUZA**, from which the name of the Lodge is derived. The logo or symbol of the Lodge depicts a Zulu Kraal.

Samuel Knox moved to Stanger where he acquired a home called *Edgerton* and contributed a great deal to the advancement of the Village. He built the Stanger Hotel in 1873 and the Victoria Hotel in 1874, which is still functioning as such today. These hotels were the hub of social activities and remained in the ownership of the Knox family for many years. The Knox Family Crest, which depicts Ram's Horns, is still portrayed on the corner tower of the Victoria Hotel. Samuel Knox was the prime instigator in the formation of the Lodge and the erection of the Lodge building on land which he donated.

He was installed as the Foundation Master of Duguza Lodge in 1893 and served in that capacity again in 1894, when he attained the District Rank of P.D.G.S.W. He died in 1901 at the age of 63 years and is buried in the Umhlali Cemetery. He had four sons and two daughters. His eldest son, **Albert Godden Knox** was Master of the Lodge in 1900, and his third son, **Sydney Everard Knox**, was Master in 1901. On 11th July 1990, his great-grandson **Bro David Knox** presented to the Lodge, a photograph of his great-grandfather in his Masonic Regalia.

Duguza Lodge owes much to the foresight, initiative

and enthusiasm of **Samuel Knox** in the formation of the Lodge, which was sponsored by Inanda Lodge No. 1192. An extract from the Minutes of November 1892 of Inanda Lodge reads: *"that the Lodge agreed to forward to Grand Lodge a petition for the formation of a new Lodge on behalf of the brethren in Stanger"*.

Also in the records of that Lodge is a copy of a letter to **Samuel Knox** Esq., advising

him that Inanda Lodge had recommended a petition from Stanger for a Lodge and that the petition had been signed by *W Master A Beckett*.

The Lodge Property

The Temple was erected on a property adjacent to the Victoria Hotel, title to the land being registered under Deed of Transfer No. 1067/1893 dated 15th December 1893, such having been donated by



Samuel Knox. The declared value was £75. A Mortgage Bond for £600 in favour of John Eustace Fannin of Greytown was registered on 22 June 1894 with interest at the rate of 6% per annum. This bond was repaid and cancelled on 22nd October 1920. At a meeting on 18th June 1924 it was resolved that in future the Masonic Temple be let for entertainment and in the following years there is frequent reference to this res-

olution being carried out. The Temple was let for various purposes such as Sons of England meetings, bioscopes, dancing, singing and music lessons, church Services and cooking demonstrations. The rental payable ranged from 26 pence to Five Guineas depending upon the time the Temple was used.

Electricity was supplied during 1926. Additions of a small nature and alterations were made from time to time and

as the years passed frequent maintenance was required, resulting in increasing costs.

An amusing extract from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 May 1947 reads:

"Bro Palairret re-alterations to the Lodge: he felt there was no necessity for a lavatory as it is so rarely required. Also, he was diffident about the odour. He further stated that if the lavatory was eliminated, a saving of £30 could be effected."

Bro Hindson was of the opinion that the present one outside should be put into commission and made more accessible".

Next time:

The three Lodge buildings
Diamond Jubilee (1953)
Members, Charity & social activities

News from our Lodges



Initiation of Bro Schalk Engelbrecht

On Saturday, 12 July 2025 Newcastle Lodge held their first initiation in 5 years. The Temple was filled by 24 masons from local lodges including Coronation, Biggarsberg and Klipriver County who turned up in force with 8 brethren. District was represented by WBro Edric Pascoe, ADGM and WBro Schalk Jacobs who acted as Director of Ceremonies for the day. It was a great day followed by a fantastic Festive Board enjoyed by everyone. What a pleasure to see our temple full of brethren. We wish our new brother all the best as he begins his Masonic journey. The DC for the day had taken Schalk under his wing and they are now known as “Big Schalk” and “Little Schalk”.



Bro Schalk Engelbrecht (1st row, 2nd from right) is all smiles after his Initiation Ceremony witnessed by Brethren of his Lodge, ADGM WBro Edric Pascoe and visitors

Annual Installation Meetings

The Installation meetings of both the Royal Arch Chapter and Craft Lodge took place on **Saturday, 13 September 2025**. “One of the highlights of the year was the Initiation Ceremony in July 2025, the first in 5 years”, the Acting WM, WBro Dave Couper reported. WBro David Henry Kaye was installed as WM. Hailing from Zim-

babwe, WBro Kaye served 2 terms in the Chair in his mother lodge there. Upon moving to South Africa about 15 years ago, WBro Kaye joined Newcastle Lodge and has been an asset ever since. The ceremony went smoothly with the highlight being Bro Mahalela’s 1st Degree Working Tools.





Inanda Lodge 1192 recently rallied members and friends for a social fundraising drive in support of **St Martin’s Diocesan Home for Children**—one of Durban’s oldest places of care. St Martin’s, founded 128 years ago and based in Glenwood, provides a safe, nurturing environment for 75 abused, neglected and orphaned children, relying largely on donations and community goodwill.

Following an August 2025 meeting with St Martin’s leadership, the Lodge’s charity committee learned that frequent “water shedding” and local main breakages were disrupting the home’s supply. Principal Ishara Poodhun highlighted a need for a water-bank system to store municipal water for use during outages.

In response, Inanda Lodge scoped the requirements, sourced piping, a pump, tanks, a competent contractor and confirmed that funds raised would cover a 10,000L backup installation. The system was procured, installed and commissioned in August.

On 30 September 2025, the Lodge formally handed over the new water-bank to Principal Poodhun and St Martin’s representative Mandy Muller, who expressed their gratitude for the Freemasons’ initiative and generosity.

The project ensures that essential services, meals, hygiene, and daily care, can continue uninterrupted, even when taps run dry.



Initiation Ceremony



On 10 September, 2025 **Bro Andy Pelser** was initiated into Freemasonry during a superb working by members of the Lodge, assisted by brethren of Umkomaas Lodge. Bro Pelser admitted afterwards

that it was an amazing ceremony, exceeding all expectations. The Ceremony was extremely well attended with 9 brethren from Duguza Lodge also in attendance (and taking home most of the “raffle” prizes!). A most memorable evening for both the candidate and visitors alike.



Installation of new WM

On 8 October, 2025, **Bro Tony Hill** was installed as a first-time Master of a Lodge. Tony was initiated into Freemasonry at Toti Lodge on the 14th of March 2018. His father, **WBro JM Hill** served as Master of the

Lodge in 1952 and 1953. To toast the new WM, **WBro van der Hammen** stated that the Lodge has witnessed his journey through the progressive offices of the Lodge with great interest and pride. “Your dedication to the Lodge and your

commitment, not only for the well-being of every brother, but vulnerable members of our community is admirable”. We have full confidence that under your gavel, the Lodge will continue to flourish and grow in brotherly love, relief and truth”.

A memorable 3rd Degree Ceremony, Umkomaas Lodge-style

WBro Pieré Visagie



Thursday, 6 November 2025 was my first working as recently newly-installed Master of the Umkomaas Lodge 2990EC, also being my 25th year in Freemasonry, and the working was to raise **Bro Darryl Fraser** to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. Just like every other time in my mother lodge, Lodge David Ogilvie 1391 the District Grand Master, is a member of the Lodge and sitting next to me in the East. If that is not stressful enough: being the Master of an English Lodge with slightly different wording and customs to those I'm used to in the Scottish Constitution

At the opening of the Lodge, when I had to ask the JW "how many principal officers are there", the Scottish custom of saluting the Wardens when speaking to them kicked in to which I received a stern look of "No, you don't do that here" to which I immediately responded and dropped my hand.

As we had visitors from various Lodges and most of them being very senior, it added to an already stressful evening. Four Worshipful brethren

from Inanda Lodge, two Worshipful brethren from Port Shepstone Lodge together



Standing tall: Bro Darryl Fraser standing proudly as a Master Mason, flanked by his WM, WBro Pieré Visgaie and DGM, RW RF Moxham

with Bro Kumar and two Worshipful brethren from Amanzimtoti Lodge.

Once the door closed and the working started, the nerves settled and with the help of visiting brethren who assisted in the working, we conducted the raising of Bro Fraser to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason with the high standard expected of the Umkomaas Lodge.

We also had a wonderful festive board arranged by our JW; had a true swindle where the same people's numbers were drawn. Eventually our DGM gave his tickets to

visiting brethren every time he won.

The highlights for me were the 'Walking Charge' superbly done by WBro Robertson which, as Master, was really interesting to see and the second was the Tyler's toast set to music and sung. The recording was played by Bro's Robertson and Bergin which sent chills down my spine.

I'm extremely grateful for all the brethren who took part in the ceremony and hope to be able to support them in a similar manner in future.



Masonic Balderdash

A Night of Wit & Wisdom at Durban Installed Masters!

On 30 September 2025, Durban Installed Masters (DIMS) Lodge held a “Masonic Balderdash” event, a first for KwaZulu-Natal Freemasonry and possibly worldwide. Not your typical quiz night, this was a brain-tickling extravaganza that didn’t require you to be a Masonic scholar to join in the fun. Players were handed quirky questions tied to Freemasonry in some clever, unexpected way. No standard trivia here!

Everyone scribed their answers, which were then read aloud anonymously, mixed in with the correct answer. The challenge? Guess which answer was legitimate!

Points were dished out for picking the correct answer and points were also awarded if you managed to get others to vote for your

wild guesses and sneaky bluffs.

The WM, doubling as the evening’s game host, thought he had the upper hand with his meticulously crafted questions, top-secret gems not found in any ritual book. But Wor-

when nobody nailed the correct answer.

If you’re craving a night of clever fun, witty banter and Masonic camaraderie, mark your calendar for the next Masonic Balderdash at DIMS (at a future date in 2026).



shipful Brothers (in teams) Ian Pace/Mark Louch, Peter Barnard/Graham Jordan and Andy Stallard/Walter Bachinger outwitted him with their sharp guesswork (the WM believes crowd following was at play in the responses), leaving the WM to score points only

Example of a Masonic Balderdash scenario:

- **Prompt:** Apron
- **Real Answer:** A lambskin worn as a badge of a Mason.
- **Bluff examples:** "A special cloth used to polish the lodge's working tools," or "A ceremonial garment worn by the Grand Master during the installation of officers."



A unique Festive Board event at Port Natal Lodge

On 13 November 2025 Port Natal Lodge 738 had the profound pleasure of hosting two Catholic priests at their Festive Board. The meeting was well attended and these "men of the cloth" shared their views on our most sacred tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth



The evening turned out to be most enjoyable with one priest sharing a personal recollection of his grandfather being a Mason and he recalled that as a lad, during a period of distress, Masons assisted the family weekly

until they were back on their feet.

Our Worshipful Master, WBro West acknowledged their openness to engagement and WBro Kalil concluded their visit by handing them some home-baked biscuits.

Port Natal Lodge hosts inter-Constitutional Christmas Party

On 15 November 2025 an inter constitutional Christmas Party took place and all four constitutions were represented. Although hosted by Port Natal Lodge, all attending lodges played their part. Lots of song and dance took place and Brethren, together with their families, enjoyed the festivities. In between the activities a substantial amount was raised by our Charity Steward.

The event showcased the camaraderie between Brethren and the endless possibilities that exist within the context of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Its our hope that next year will bring even more Brethren together at the event and contribute to our fraternity's growth.



The close on 70 attendees ensured a fun and relaxed atmosphere which concluded at 11pm.



Athenæum Lodge of Research Revived

The Athenæum Lodge of Research has been brought out of the wilderness thanks to tireless work behind the scenes by our Deputy District Grand Master, WBro Tony Caloba with WBros David Zavad and Schalk Jacobs doing their bit in the background. After months of planning and replanning, shuffling and re-shuffling, the stage was finally set to breathe new life into the Lodge which had been lying dormant for the last three years. On **30 October 2025**, the Installation meeting took place at the Victoria County Hall, Umhlali during which WBro Marco van der Hammen was installed as the Lodge's new Master. "The honour of being installed as Master of this Lodge most definitely represents a pinnacle moment in my Masonic career as I have always had an infinity for research which has been an integral feature in all my years as a student of social and forensic sciences", WBro Van der Hammen expressed after the Installation Ceremony. "In my work as a forensic document and handwriting examiner, I conducted various research projects over the years which lead to the establishment of methods, processes and techniques which

are still being used nationally today".

The installation of the new Master was superbly conducted by WBro Chris Robert. The following brethren were appointed/elected to assist in bringing the

sent the customary installation lecture simply titled "What is Masonic Research?" with as its main objective, to share with the Brethren and aspiring research Masons a few guidelines as to how to conduct Masonic



The newly-installed Master with DGM, RW Bro RF Moxham

Lodge back to its former glory:
Senior Warden: WBro Ronnie Potter

Junior Warden: WBro Jack Kalil
Chaplain: WBro Marais Viljoen
Treasurer: WBro Tony Caloba
Secretary: WBro David Zavad
Almoner: WBro Schalk Jacobs
Charity Steward: WBro Karl Michel

Inner Guard: WBro Eugene de Lange.

Customary Installation Lecture

The newly-installed Master pre-

research. Here are some extracts from the paper:

Introduction

Masonic research involves the academic and scholarly study of Freemasonry's history, rituals, philosophy and impact on society, utilizing historical documents, lodge records and other artifacts.

What does Masonic research entail?

Historical study

Researching the origins and development of Freemasonry, often examining primary sources like lodge minute

books, old photographs and artifacts.

Philosophical and ritual analysis

Investigating the philosophical underpinnings, allegories and symbolic elements within Masonic rituals and teachings.

Societal impact

Analysing the relationship between Freemasonry and broader human society and how it has adapted to various historical periods.

Preservation

Safeguarding and documenting Masonic heritage including archival materials, books and other items that illustrate the development of the fraternity.

Academic and scholarly engagement

Masonic research increasingly seeks legitimacy from universities and scholarly authorities, with many Grand Lodges supporting research initiatives and centres.

How to conduct Masonic research

Whether a beginner or experienced researcher, pursuing Masonic knowledge requires a solid, evidence-based approach.

Start small and local

Instead of a broad topic, like the entire history of the UGLE rituals, focus on something specific and local. Interview older members and check local newspa-

pers from relevant historical periods.

Utilize resources

Consult a lodge's charter, minutes books and other original records. Digital archives, general reference books



like Mackey's *Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry* as well as specialized dictionaries and encyclopaedias can be a starting point.

Research organizations

Join a research body's correspondence circle, such as the Athenæum Lodge of Research No. 7655 or the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 to access their vetted research and publications.

Application of sound research techniques

Be a critical thinker

Evaluate information without bias. Critically assess the arguments of authors and do not be swayed by preconceived beliefs (confirmation bias).

Vet your sources

Consider an author's credentials, what they have written

before and where their work was published. Review their sources and citations.

Corroborate facts

Cross-reference names, dates and facts from multiple sources.

Acknowledge previous work

Recognize that most research builds on prior efforts. Before presenting your own findings, summarize what others have already discovered on the same topic.

Interested in becoming a joining member?

Any brother wishing to become a joining member will be required to submit a research paper of Masonic interest to the Lodge Secretary who will forward it to a panel of members for review. On successful submission, you will be invited to present your paper at an ALOR meeting.

Correspondence circle

Any Master Mason or Lodge/Chapter under a recognized constitution may become a Correspondence Circle Member at a nominal fee per annum which entitles them to attend every meeting of the Lodge and to receive a copy of all papers and lectures delivered in the Lodge. For more information, contact the Lodge Secretary, WBro David Zavad at 082 901 0791.

athenaeum@kznfreemasonry.co.za



A Club for new Masons

The Connaught Club

Bro Gerrit Ockerse, DG Membership Officer



In the July/August 2025 edition of Square Talk, readers were reintroduced to the working of the Connaught Club, a Masonic group for new masons to meet and interact with other new Masons, their families and friends.

In this follow-up article, the benefits of joining and being active in the Connaught Club are considered.

Personal and Masonic Growth

Mentorship and Guidance

New Freemasons often find the early stages of their journey daunting. The Club provides access to experienced brethren who offer support, advice and encouragement.

Educational opportunities

Regular talks, Q&A sessions and workshops help members deepen their understanding of Masonic symbolism, history and

etiquette.

Social Connection

Brotherhood beyond the Lodge

The Club connects young Freemasons from different lodges, creating a vibrant network of peers who share values and interests.

Events and activities

From pub nights and formal dinners to charity fundraisers and guest lectures, the Club offers a rich calendar of social and cultural events.

Navigating the Craft

Clarity and confidence

Members gain practical insights into Masonic customs and expectations, helping them feel more confident and engaged in their lodges.

Pathways to Involvement

The Club often serves as a springboard to deeper involvement in Freemasonry, including opportunities to join additional orders or take on leadership roles.

Legacy and Identity

A sense of belonging

Named after Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught the Club embodies youthful leadership and Masonic pride, giving members a meaningful identity within the Craft.

Representation

The Connaught Club acts as a voice for young Freemasons in helping shape the future of Freemasonry with fresh perspectives and energy.

In short, the Connaught Club is more than a social group—it's a launchpad for young Masons to thrive, connect and contribute meaningfully to the Craft. If you are a Freemason and have not been Worshipful Master of a Lodge, it is one of the most rewarding steps you can take.

For more information, contact Bro Gerrit Ockerse @ 082 860 0952.

News from our other Orders

The Knights are alive & well on the North Coast!

On Saturday, 30 September 2025, the Acre Priory held a Malta working for five candidates. In attendance, we were very honoured to have Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master Paul Raymond Clement, accompanied by The Great Vice-Chancellor R.E. Kt. Daniel Mark Heath and the Great Marshal R.E. Kt. Timothy Wheeler. The District Grand Master performed the Accolade.

After the Malta working, the new Natal Provincial Prior E. Kt. Kenneth Stephen Darby was installed by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master Paul Raymond Clement, assisted by the Great Vice-Chancellor R.E. Kt. Daniel Mark Heath and the Great Marshal R.E. Kt. Timothy Wheeler.

The new Provincial Prior then installed his Sub Prior, E. Kt. Wayne Norman Johnston.

Nine visiting Knights from the Transvaal including their Pro-



vincial Prior were also in attendance.

Two field promotions were awarded, one to E. Kt. Wayne Norman Johnston to Past Great Aides-de-Camp and a promotion to E. Kt. (Dr) Frans Cornelius Alvin Roodt from Past Great Aides-de-Camp to Past Great Hearld.

The installation was followed by a three course meal and some interesting conversations.





245th Annual Communication of District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Natal

My first year as your District Grand Master has gone by so quickly; it seems just like yesterday that we were all here together at my Installation as DGM” the opening remark of RW Tony Caloba as he addressed a ‘full house’ at the 245th Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Natal, held at the impressive Victoria County Masonic Centre, Umhlali on the **20th of September 2025.**

This year we once again were privileged to receive distinguished brethren from the Transvaal, Eastern and Western Cape Mark Districts and dignitaries of other Orders and Constitutions.

The Communication was preceded by the customary double Royal Ark Mariner Elevation Ceremony, this time for two new members of the Natalia Harmony Royal Ark Mari-



RW Bro A.D.C. Caloba, DGM

ner Lodge, Bro (Dr) John Buyers and Bro Keith Marshall. A unique feature of this working is that it was conducted by present and past Mark & RAM Chain officers.

During the Communication, the DGM reappointed WBro Philip Richard Waudby as Deputy DGFM and WBro Graham Joseph Jordan as Assistant DGM. Other business included calling the roll of

District Grand Officers and Mark and RAM Lodges in the District.

After the investiture of the District Grand Officers, the DGM addressed the brethren present.

“It has been a very interesting and productive year with many positives and few negatives. Before I go into a few specifics I will ask of you all to continue forward today with a renewed sense of

hope and enthusiasm and to continue to support and encourage one another along this Mark and Mariner journey that we share. My objective for my term of office was and has been to lead by example and encourage others to do likewise” and that he has most certainly done, leading Lodges under his stewardship on a new and progressive path.

“There seems to be a steady growth within both orders; we now have 80 subscribing Mark and 55 subscribing RAM members which, from last year this time, reflects a growth of 3 Mark and 6 RAM Members within the District”.

During the year, an official Natal Mark/RAM District Tie was designed under the innovative supervision of DDGM, WBro Philip Waudby. “We all now wear our District tie with pride”, the DGM remarked.

The next project for the year ahead is the design of Mark/RAM Lodge banners. Watch this space!

The DGM concluded his address by stating “without you and your dedicated participation, there would be no purpose to all our endeavours. I therefore look forward to working with you all and together to grow our happy Order”.

The Communication was followed by a fabulous luncheon comprising a starter platter, a main course featuring a mild Mozambican chicken curry, pan-fried prawns and grilled calamari, ending off with a cool dessert and a decadent “smoothie”-like drink. As we greeted and wished each other safe travels, the curtain dropped on another successful Natal Mark Communication!



Visiting our Sisters

An exciting 1st Degree Ceremony at Neerlandia Lodge (GLSA)



If you have never witnessed a GLSA First Degree working before, do yourself a favour: go attend one; you will not be disappointed. May a little petrified!

A few English Constitution Masons attended such a working at **Neerlandia Lodge**, Rosburgh Masonic Centre on **4 October 2025** and some of the younger brethren were not fully prepared to what was about to transpire! The opening of the Lodge and singing of a hymn or two was all mild, but things

“heated up” when it was time for the candidate to undergo the Initiation Ceremony. Without divulging too much, especially for those who have not seen a GLSA 1st Degree working yet, some parts of the Ceremony were literally hair-raising, judging by the wide-eyed reaction from some of the newer brethren. But, the ceremony was superbly conducted by the Master of the Lodge, WBro Rudi Swart and members of the Lodge under the very capable direction of the Master of Ceremonies, RW

Bro Johan van der Merwe (also the Provincial Grand Master, Eastern Division) and featuring the golden singing voice of WBro Ike Ezeuduji, who very efficiently conducted the candidate through a ‘minefield’ of obstacles!

The ceremony was concluded with a scrumptious luncheon and a customary raffle featuring some very attractive prizes.

This is another one for the books: an exciting GLSA 1st Degree (Initiation) Ceremony. And everyone lived to tell the tale!

THOUGHTS OF A MASON'S WIFE



How many wives of Masons have ever given much thought
To the wonderful biblical lessons that Masonry has taught?
Have you asked yourself this question, when you sit alone at night,
While hubby is at Lodge: is my reasoning straight and right?
I know the nights are lonely and long, but this question comes to me,
"If my husband weren't a Mason, what kind of man would he be?"

I know nothing of their secret work, but this much I understand
That the lessons taught in Masonry have made a better man.
So, ask yourself this question, which has always come to me,
"If my husband weren't a Mason, what kind of man would he be?"

They call us Masonic Widows; I've been one for many a year.
I've spoken my piece on lonely nights, and berated hubby dear.
But, then again, I regret my words, and with wisdom try to see,
"If my husband weren't a Mason, what kind of man would he be?"

So I try to be a patient wife, as alone I meditate,
And see his point, as he leaves for Lodge, with these words,
"I won't be late!"

Some say that men make Masonry, and this I understand,
But, deep in my heart I still maintain, "That Masonry makes the man."
And as we journey the highway together, to the inner things of life,
May their teachings go on forever,

*Sincerely,
A MASONS WIFE
(Author Unknown)*



CHRISTMAS



TRIVIA

Christmas may be just a month away, but we are already fully embracing the festive spirit; and what better way to get the Christmas vibes going than with our short Christmas trivia?

1. In which country did eggnog originate?

Answer: _____

2. What fruit is traditionally put inside a Christmas stocking?

Answer: _____

3. Who is widely considered the King of Christmas music?

Answer: _____

4. What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?

Answer: _____

5. What are the two most popular names for Santa Claus?

Answer: _____

6. In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born?

Answer: _____

7. The first artificial Christmas tree was made from what?

Answer: _____

8. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?

Answer: _____

9. How many gifts in total were given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song?

Answer: _____

10. Visions of which food danced in children's heads as they slept in the poem "Twas The Night Before Christmas?"

Answer: _____

Send your answers to the email address below by 16 December 2025. A mystery prize awaits the 1st correct answers drawn.



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