

The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity
of Royal Ark Mariner



MINUTES
of the
THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
held on Tuesday, 7 December 2021

at 4.45 p.m. in the Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall,
60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

PRESENT

M.W.Bro. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE MICHAEL OF KENT, GCVO
Grand Master

M.W.Bro. RAYMOND JOHN SMITH
Pro Grand Master

R.W.Bro. JOHN HERBERT PRIZEMAN
Deputy Grand Master

R.W.Bro. STEPHEN DAVISON
Assistant Grand Master

PAST DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
R.W.Bro. H. K. Emmerson

GRAND MASTER'S ROYAL ARK COUNCIL

R.W.Bro. P. Hawken, *MBE*, P.Prov.G.M. (Devonshire), Chairman
R.W.Bro. J. Steggles, Prov.G.M. for West Yorkshire
R.W.Bro. I. N. Clark, Prov.G.M. for Surrey
R.W.Bro. F. C. Spencer, P.Prov.G.M. (Worcestershire)
R.W.Bro. G. Craigs, P.Prov.G.M. for Northumberland
R.W.Bro. R. J. Olliver, P.Prov.G.M. for Berkshire
R.W.Bro. R. A. Williams
R.W.Bro. W. A. Divall, Dep.Pres.Gen.Bd

GRAND MASTER'S ROYAL ARK COUNCIL (HONORIS CAUSA)

R.W.Bro. Dr J. L. W. Wright, *RD*
R.W.Bro. D. K. Williamson
R.W.Bro. A. Morris, P.Prov.G.M. (Leicestershire and Rutland)
R.W.Bro. T. F. Jackson
R.W.Bro. A. C. Sweeney
R.W.Bro. P. R. Clement, P.Prov.G.M. (South Wales)
R.W.Bro. G. L. Flight
R.W.Bro. C. D. Radmore, P.Prov.G.M. (Hertfordshire)
R.W.Bro. K. J. Jones
R.W.Bro. G. E. Bonham, P.Prov.G.M. (Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire)
R.W.Bro. M. A. Cooper, Dist.G.M. for Germany

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

R.W.Bro. S. B. Cobham, Dist.G.M. for South and East Caribbean
R.W.Bro. K. Hodgson, Prov.G.M. for Cumberland and Westmorland
R.W.Bro. Justice (Ret.) M. P. H. Rubin, Dist.G.M. for Singapore
R.W.Bro. K. J. Hicks, Prov.G.M. for Cornwall
R.W.Bro. Prof. D. K. Wilson, Prov.G.M. for Durham
R.W.Bro. D. R. Sellers, Prov.G.M. for Cheshire
R.W.Bro. D. R. Clancey, Prov.G.M. for North and East Yorkshire
R.W.Bro. K. A. Beardmore, Prov.G.M. for West Lancashire
R.W.Bro. F. J. Gillo, Prov.G.M. for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire
R.W.Bro. T. D. Sheern, Prov.G.M. for Essex
R.W.Bro. D. E. Tremaine, Prov.G.M. for Buckinghamshire
R.W.Bro. E. J. Rymer, Prov.G.M. for Worcestershire
R.W.Bro. M. J. L. Whelan, *JP*, Prov.G.M. for Dorset
R.W.Bro. D. A. Upton, Prov.G.M. for Channel Islands
R.W.Bro. G. J. Deacon, Prov.G.M. for Hampshire and Isle of Wight
R.W.Bro. T. R. E. Jones, Prov.G.M. for South Wales
R.W.Bro. A. P. Beaumont, Prov.G.M. for Wiltshire
R.W.Bro. P. J. Balsom, Prov.G.M. for Devonshire
R.W.Bro. M. R. Heenan, Prov.G.M. for Staffordshire and Shropshire
R.W.Bro. P. J. Mann, Prov.G.M. for Leicestershire and Rutland
R.W.Bro. K. M. Blackburn, *OSTJ*, Prov.G.M. for Isle of Man
R.W.Bro. R. A. Stokes, Prov.G.M. for Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford
R.W.Bro. G. R. Hicks, Prov.G.M. for Dyfed
R.W.Bro. E. R. Garty, Prov.G.M. for Middlesex
R.W.Bro. P. Wills, Prov.G.M. for Warwickshire
R.W.Bro. R. M. Walker, Prov.G.M. for Hertfordshire
R.W.Bro. S. Rawlings, Prov.G.M. for Bristol
R.W.Bro. S. C. Hallberg, Prov.G.M. for Lincolnshire
R.W.Bro. P. C. Voisey, Prov.G.M. for Somerset
R.W.Bro. T. Quinn, Prov.G.M. for London
R.W.Bro. R. F. Richardson, Prov.G.M. for Sussex
R.W.Bro. J. S. Evans, Prov.G.M. for North Wales
R.W.Bro. R. A. Walton, Prov.G.M. for Northumberland
R.W.Bro. D. J. Boswell, Prov.G.M. for East Anglia
R.W.Bro. C. C. Adkin, Prov.G.M. for Nottinghamshire
R.W.Bro. G. D. Seeman, Prov.G.M. for Berkshire
R.W.Bro. P. D. Williams, Prov.G.M. for Kent

GRAND INSPECTOR

V.W.Bro. C. Mihutoiu, Grand Inspector for Romania

PAST PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

R.W.Bro. M. Meade, P.Prov.G.M. (Wiltshire)
R.W.Bro. R. J. Wade, P.Prov.G.M. (Kent)
R.W.Bro. M. G. Spencer, P.Prov.G.M. (Essex)
R.W.Bro. P. J. Sands, P.Prov.G.M. (Berkshire)
R.W.Bro. J. B. Truswell, P.Prov.G.M. (West Yorkshire)
R.W.Bro. F. J. Shaw, P.Prov.G.M. (Dorset)
R.W.Bro. J. D. A. Platts, P.Prov.G.M. (Bristol)
R.W.Bro. D. F. Ashbolt, P.Prov.G.M. (London)
R.W.Bro. D. Thomas, P.Prov.G.M. (Monmouthshire)
R.W.Bro. A. S. McLaren, P.Prov.G.M. (East Lancashire)

HEADS OF ORDERS

R.W.Bro. P. R. Clement, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) Grand Master – Knights Templar
W.Bro. G. D. A. Elgood, R.A.M.G.R. Sovereign Grand Cmr – Ancient and Accepted Rite
R.W.Bro. G. L. Flight, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) Grand Sovereign – Red Cross of Constantine
R.W.Bro. K. J. Jones, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) Grand Master – Royal and Select Masters
R.W.Bro. T. F. Jackson, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) Grand Master – Allied Masonic Degrees
R.W.Bro. A. C. Sweeney, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) Grand Supreme Ruler – Order of the Secret Monitor
W.Bro. P. Mycock First Grand Master Mason – The Operatives
W.Bro. C. G. Maiden, R.A.M.G.R. Grand High Priest – Knight Templar Priests
W.Bro. A. W. Llewellyn Supreme Magus – Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia

together with holders of Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner, Commanders, Past Commanders and other Brethren.

Report of Proceedings

1. OPENING

The Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariner was opened in ample form and the Most Worshipful Grand Master was saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

2. IN MEMORIAM

The Most Worshipful Grand Master announced that during the last year the Supreme Commander of the Universe had called a number of Brethren to higher service, including 132 Grand Officers who were all detailed in the Report of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council. Particular reference was made to: R.W.Bro. John Brackley, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.), Past Grand Secretary; R.W.Bro. Adediji Adedoyin, P.Dist.G.M. (Nigeria); R.W.Bro. Frederick Mark Holiday, P.Prov.G.M. (Channel Islands); R.W.Bro. Robert Giles Russell, P.Prov.G.M. (Warwickshire); R.W.Bro. Richard James Slade, P.Prov.G.M. (Oxfordshire); R.W.Bro. Christopher Martin Smith, P.Prov.G.M. (Bedfordshire); R.W.Bro. Frank Tonkin, P.Prov.G.M. (Cornwall); R.W.Bro. Francois Hewitt Vosloo, P.Dist.G.M. (South Africa, Eastern Division); and R.W.Bro. Brian Clifford Wareham, P.Prov.G.M. (Sussex).

The Grand Chaplain offered prayer to departed merit.

3. MINUTES

Due to the abandonment of the Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariner scheduled for Tuesday, 8 December 2020, there were no minutes to approve and adopt.

4. REPORT OF THE GRAND MASTER'S ROYAL ARK COUNCIL

The Report of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council for the twelve months ended 30 September 2021, which had been printed as **Appendix A** to the Summons, was taken as read, approved and adopted.

5. AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS

On the proposition of the Grand Registrar, and seconded by the Grand Secretary, the insertion of new Regulation 26, as set out in **Appendix B** of the Summons, was approved and carried by the Brethren present.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO ROYAL ARK MARINER GRAND RANK

The Grand Secretary read the names of the Brethren who had been appointed to Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner. Those recipients who were present at the Annual Assembly were then invested by the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Colin Arthur Adams	Glen James Galloway
Alexander Kwaku Adu	Richard Alec Garn
Michael Leslie Allen	William Andrew Gillespie
Stephen Norman Allen	Thomas Kendall Gordon
Kenneth Ian Anderson	Bernard John Greenwood
Robert Michael Anderson	Ellison Terry Hall
Kenneth Clark Archer	Bryan Harfield
William Atcheson	John Cicero Harris III
Antony Richard Baker	Richard John Harvey
Christopher John Baker	William Stephen Hawkes
Roger Bennett	Kenneth Raymond Headworth
William Bishop	Bryan Hemstock
Steven Boyle	Shaun Higson
Colin Stewart Brookman	Philip Robert Hind
Andrew James Brown	Alan David Hines
Desmond Mark Buckingham	Sqn Ldr William Edward Desmond Hinshelwood
Derek Bidkar Frank Burt	Brian John William Hornigold
Paul Simon Cage	John Stuart Hughes
Paul Alan Cawte	Stephen Michael Hyland
Jeffrey James Chambers	Mervyn James Johns
Suresh Chouthi	Allun David Jones
Maj (Retd) Matthew Roger Christmas	Andrew Stephen Jones
Kam Kwong Chung	Graham Paul Jose
Ian Stuart Clarke	Peter David Kent
Neil Samuel Coleman	Simon Charles Knutton
Valentine Cooke	Dennis Jesse Lalla
Richard Tanner Cooper	Richard John Lambert
Harry Cox	John Edward Lester
Robert Frank Crundwell	David John Lewis
Christopher Martin Lee Davies	Arthur Littler
David Emyr Davies	Ian Peter MacGrain
Jayne Barboza De Freitas Filho	Malcolm Jack Marcovitch
Eelke Sipke De Jong	Robert William George Martin
John Gordon Ellenger	Phillip David Masters
John George Elliott	Lance Milburn
Mark Christopher Elphick	Roy Alan Mitchell
Maurice Myers Evans	Trayton Alexander Francis Mitchell
Leonard Paul Feetum	Aleksandar Muncan
Geoffrey Malcolm Field	John Joseph Nereyeth
David Keith Fisk	Geoffrey Nicholson
Patrick Flanagan	Christopher Albert Ernest Nixon
Austin Norton Fletcher	Chibuzor Nnubia
Beppi Forster-Lau	Michael Allison O'Brien
Walter Leonard Freeman	Robert Julian Owens

Uddayan Patel	Howard Leslie Smith
Richard Horby Phillips	Leslie Smith
Glenn Remblance	Martin Howard Smith
Michael Robinson	Roger Smith
Revd Robert Friedrich Roeschlaub	Stanley William Scott Southgate
William Harold Rogers	Dr David Richard Staples
Andres Alberto Romero Fortea	Trevor Howard Sturt
Kenneth Montgomery Ross	Richard Scott Styles
Stephen Mark Rozier	Hamza Thayyil
David Leslie Ryan	Derek Rowland Tilbury
Hayo Vincent Schultink	George Tuck
Ian Graham Scott	William Derwent Tyson
Walter Horatio Scott	Ian Peter Vincent
Paul Sefton	Howard John Waddell
Antony Melvin Selkus	Sidney James Watson
Dr John Peter Shervington	Gary Jesse Weeks
Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson	Charles White
John Arthur Simpson	Laurence Reginald Williams
Christopher John Slater	John Stephen Charles Woodville
Ian James Small	Gerald Noel Howard Young

7. ADDRESS BY THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

The Most Worshipful Grand Master addressed the Assembly as follows:

Brethren, I am delighted to welcome you here this afternoon and may I say how good it is to see you all after such an enforced absence. The last two years have seen every aspect of our daily lives blighted by the Coronavirus and our Masonic activities have not been immune from that. I have been greatly encouraged by the way in which you have all adapted to the challenging circumstances we have faced, and by your willingness to commit to helping those in need within our Order as well as the vulnerable within the communities in which we live.

Charity has always been at the heart of what we do, and I was particularly touched that following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh earlier this year, the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund desired to acknowledge his contribution to the Crown and the nation by approving a major capital grant of £1.3 million to the hospice movement in England and Wales. A total of 273 hospices benefitted from this initiative at a time when their ability to raise funds to support the valuable work they undertake for those in the poorest health has been severely limited.

During the last two years, Freemasonry has faced perhaps its greatest challenge and I am most grateful to the Grand Secretary and the staff at Mark Masons' Hall for all that they have done to keep in touch with the membership. The constant flow of updates from Grand Lodge has played a vital role in maintaining interest and I hope minimising the reduction in our numbers. The launch of the Virtual Business Meetings scheme in the Spring of last year, enabled over 8,000 units to carry out important administrative tasks at a time when face to face meetings were not permitted. Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, as well as Units in the other Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, have been able to resume face to face meetings and focus on the important task of admitting new members. Brethren, this is just one example of how our Order has adapted to the constantly changing circumstances we have had to endure. Out of a desperate situation we have learned some valuable lessons which will undoubtedly shape the future development of the Order.

This year marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Degree of Royal Ark Mariner being taken under the protection of Grand Mark Lodge. This decision, announced at the June Communication of the Mark in 1871 by the Grand Master, Reverend George

Portal, stands as a beacon in the history of the Degree and established an inextricable relationship between Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Masonry that grows stronger as the years pass. The simplicity of our ritual and the beautiful and important lessons it teaches us, make it one of the jewels in the crown of Freemasonry.

Today, I have appointed over one hundred and twenty Brethren to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank – a distinction which recognises faithful and distinguished service and is a relatively recent introduction in the Order, having first been bestowed on deserving Brethren in 1967. To each of you, I send my warmest congratulations and trust that you will have many opportunities to enjoy your new status. The award of a Grand Honour is not something that is given without consideration. It is a positive reflection of, and reward for, the work that each of today's recipients has carried out and I have no doubt that their preferment will stimulate them to promote the Order still further.

Brethren, although attendance at today's meeting is understandably lower than usual, I am delighted to welcome Brethren of our own Constitution from overseas. I would ask that you refrain from spontaneous applause until I have come to the end of the list: From the District of Singapore, R.W.Bro. Justice Mohideen Rubin, the District Grand Master;

From the District of Germany, R.W.Bro. Michael Cooper, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.), District Grand Master, accompanied by W.Bro. Ruediger Schoene;

From the District of Spain, W.Bro. Rodney Hales, accompanied by W.Bro. Roy Mitchell, a recipient of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank today;

From the District of South and East Caribbean, R.W.Bro. Stephen Cobham, District Grand Master, accompanied by W.Bro. Stephen Gill, District Grand Secretary;

And from the Grand Inspectorate of Romania, V.W.Bro. Cristian Mihutoiu, Grand Inspector.

Let us now welcome our distinguished visitors in our usual manner.

In my Christmas message to you last year, I reflected on the many changes I have seen since my advancement into the Mark just over 40 years ago. I feel sure that a spirit of optimism still prevails among us; that our collective reaction to the adversity we have faced in recent times will positively influence the way in which our Order develops; and that our heritage will be the foundation upon which we will build our future.

Brethren, today has once again been a special day. I am sure that you are all looking forward to the refreshment that follows, so I will close my remarks by placing on record my thanks to the Grand Secretary and his staff for their work and the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team for the excellence of the ceremonial we have witnessed.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a New Year in which we will all have an opportunity to further the traditions of our beautiful Order.

8. CLOSING

The Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariner was closed in due and ample form.

