



PGL of MMM of London PGM's Address 2018

Brethren it has already been a long day so my address to you today will be short, Well fairly short.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you for turning up today in such large numbers; your support makes today the success it always is, and long may it continue. Always difficult to get it right but based on the number dining of 575 which is a record, there are probably well in excess of 900 in the Grand Temple this afternoon.

I would like to congratulate those members who have received an honour today, Brethren we do not just give out these honours. Like Grand Rank they have to be earned and I know that all of you have worked hard for your Lodges and the Province, and long may that continue. Now you are Provincial Officers you can of course join the Provincial Officers Mess, it meets twice a year, one a lunch time meeting and one an evening dinner, there is always a lot of fun at these meetings and we do have some entertaining speakers, at the last meeting we had a very descriptive talk and slide show about knee and hip replacements from that very eminent surgeon David Nunn, in fact it was so good that 2 members had to receive medical attention. A good job the surgeon was on hand, mind you we did not let him get his bag of saws and drills.

I would like to thank all of last year's active officers and Past Wardens for the support they gave to the many full team visits that I made, some of you made every visit which shows how dedicated you are to the Province.

Also, I thank our Past Provincial Officers, most of you have supported our Delegation visits and for this I thank you.

Once again over 90 of our Lodges have received such visits and if you look at the photographs on the web site you will see how much everybody enjoys them.

The good news for this year's active officers is that we have a full calendar of visits scheduled for the coming year starting with a Full Team Visit to LWA Lodge on the 14th September, followed by a visit to Meridian on the 19th and then 3 Consecrations in quick order so please check the Provincial web site for the full list.

How nice it was to see our special Processions coming in to the Temple, our Masters, Commanders, Advancees and Nonagenarians have always supported this meeting and for that I thank each and every one of you.

This year we had the travelling Keystone coming into Provincial Grand Lodge, it is hoped that the Keystone will in the next year visit many of our Lodges, so if you want to receive it please ask.

Our Province is in good heart and we are still growing, this year alone we have advanced 166 new Mark Men and elevated 107 into the Ram and this with 142 joining members into the Mark and 74 into the Ram means that we now have over 5100 members across the 2 orders, in addition we have consecrated 2 more Mark Lodges and 1 Ram Lodge,

We are of course not standing still as we have at least 2 more Mark Lodges and 3 more Ram Lodges to consecrate in the coming year. This will take us to 101 Mark Lodges and 83 Ram Lodges, I believe this is a record for a Mark Province and I have all of you to thank for making these numbers possible.

If you have never attended a Consecration we will be consecrating our Golfers Lodge the Albatross with 47 Founders on the 24th September and our Scouting Lodge the Ralph Reader Lodge on the 13th October both at Mark Masons Hall. All of you are welcome to attend. but please don't all turn up. Talking of the Scouting Lodge how many of you have been a Scout, Cub, Sea Cadet or like Wes Hollands a Girl Guide, or at least I am told he tried to join on at least 2 occasions. Brethren Scouting and Masonry share the same values in life and I would ask you to consider being a Founder of the Ralph Reader Lodge, being a founder is in my opinion one of the biggest honours in Masonry as your name will be on the warrant in perpetuity. Sadly W. Bro. Tony Harvey who is Mr Scouting and the Primus Master of the Lodge cannot be with us today as he is attending his daughter's graduation. There are however several of the founders present and these you can identify by the red neckerchief they are wearing, going forward it is intended that these red neckerchiefs will be worn at all of their meetings, any Brother who wants to be a founder needs to let one of these brethren know and they will present you with your neckerchief today, and if you ask then nicely they will show you how to tie the special knot. Details of the Lodge are available on the tables outside and on the dining tables tonight in the form of a tri fold leaflet and surprise, surprise that tri fold leaflet incorporates a Petitioners form.

Brethren I am proud of the fact that you are still leading from the front when it comes to supporting the Mark Benevolent Fund, many of you proudly wear your MBF collarets and Jewels and of course your Festival Badges at the Festive Boards, Brethren I do not consider these as part of your Masonic regalia because they are Charity adornments, it is not compulsory for you to wear them, but it does raise the profile of the MBF even further. I have said before if we could just encourage 50% of all Mark Brethren to take one of the Festival Badges we would raise enough money to buy a mobile chemotherapy unit or 6 St. Johns Ambulances out right, The MBF is a Fund that we can all be proud of and London is doing its bit we have over the last 3 years taken over 4000 badges, Speaking of badges the Sussex badges are now available at the unbelievably low price of £10-00. Honest Paul Cutts will be circulating at the Festive Board with them, no pressure but as you can wear them for a full year it only works out at 19p per week. Once again, we have taken 1000 badges as a starter so myself and the chains will always have one to sell you on our visits.

Whilst talking of charity, congratulation to Chris James who is now half the man he was following his sponsored weight loss campaign and many thanks to those who sponsored the dawn to dusk golf event at Coombe Wood, special thanks to Terry Hall the other golfer and Nick Robinson his minder for the day. Bob Hancock for arranging such a wonderful and cheap day, we had the run of the course with buggies all day for the special price of £70, the members were amazing allowing us through whenever we wanted which of course helped our sponsored total grow to over £3000-00. Mind you having been driven around all day by Wes (Lewis Hamilton) Hollands (oh I did not see that ditch) he now has to pay for the buggy repairs, my counselling and medical bills. Still he can afford it.

Before I finish I would like to thank all of the Officers who work so hard to make this Province the success it is. Alan White and his secretariat team, Stephen Fenton our Treasurer who in spite of his role in a smaller order looks after our money so well, Wes Hollands and his team of DC's who accompany myself and the chains on their many visits, Chris James and his Photography team who attend most of the Delegation visits to take the pictures and get them on the web site so quickly, and of course Richard Criddle, Andy Bull and the rest of the team who look after our web site and year book and keep them up to date.

A special thank you to our Pro Grand Master for attending today, he does of course wear two hats at this meeting! one as the Pro GM and one as the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, we do thank you sir for your continued support not only for the order in general but also your Province. Also, I would like to thank the DGDC one of our own, Matthew Hampson and the Grand Secretary for being here today. I am sure he has made lots of notes and I can expect a phone call in the morning.

I see we have a large contingent of the Mowers here again and I thank them for the very generous donation they recently made to the MBF for the Province of Sussex Festival next year. Their mowing and generosity knows no borders.

I can assure them that there will be pineapples on the table tonight, but the chef again said no to the baked hedgehog!

I would like to thank the band who always make this meeting so special, their leader Eddie Thompson is always ready to try something new and no request is too much trouble.

Lastly, I thank all of you, the members of this wonderful Province for supporting this meeting today, each and every one of you like the band is instrumental in making London Mark so very successful and special and long may that continue.

God bless you all.