



## **(And the 1<sup>st</sup> of August – Yorkshire Day!)**

My Beloved Brethren of our wonderful Province (and Friends Elsewhere and Overseas!)

A breath-taking July where we have been in full swing continuing to celebrate with the Tercentenary activities. There is so much news that I have had to go onto two pages! (I do remember when July used to be quiet Masonic month or am I dreaming? ☺)

### **Tercentenary Celebrations Continue At A Pace!**

I do wish to place on record my thanks to all of the Organisers of each and every Event. The hard work associated with planning and executing successful Events is a credit to all who have chosen to shoulder that arduous but pleasurable burden.

## **What's Else Been Happening?**

### **1<sup>st</sup> August is “Yorkshire Day”**

I held back my Monthly Mailing until today having participated in the “Yorkshire Day” celebrations accompanied by other Rulers of our own Province and also from our Sister Province of Yorkshire, North & East Ridings. The celebrations in Sheffield were tremendous! We paraded in the sunshine with the abundance of exuberant Civic Heads of many Yorkshire Cities and Towns. We were there Brethren! (And the important thing is that we were seen to be there!). In 2018, the venue will be Ripon and we will be there again!

### **Heads of Other Orders Meeting**

You have often heard me use the phrase: “Our Family of Freemasonry”. I hosted the Annual Heads of Other Orders Meeting at Morley where we discussed matters where we can assist each other and especially in growing our memberships. This is a most convivial and worthwhile gathering. I was delighted to learn that the Order of Mark Master Masons will be promoting the “2018 Northern Masonic Variety Show” at Bradford Grammar School.

I'll be there to enjoy the event and would encourage all my Brethren to support a fabulous evening of professional entertainment. The profits will be applied to the West Yorkshire Mark Benevolent Fund Festival and we all wish our Brother Mark Master Masons well.

### **Great Yorkshire Show**

There we were – Again! It is so important to be seen as part of the wider Community! It may have rained on the first day when I visited the Stand but there was sunshine in everyone's smile. This is a vitally important opportunity to engage with the Public. Well done Team 2017! Bring it on Team 2018!

### **Yorkshire Air Ambulance**

The Annual visit to the base at Nostell Priory is always a pleasure. Donations from the Masonic Charitable Foundation and also our own West Riding Masonic Charities Limited assist in keeping the lifesaving helicopters in the sky. What a great job they do!

### **2017 RMBI Festival – A Last Hurrah!**

An enjoyable Sunday Lunch at the Wentbridge Hotel with all those who were instrumental in managing the Festival from inception to delivery together with wives was such a wonderful way to close the books. I was delighted to have received the approval from the Most Worshipful Grand Master that the Festival Jewel has been granted permanent status and may be worn in perpetuity. Please do so if you wish Brethren.



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**50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee – VWBro. John Michael Beard, *PGSwdB, PDepProvGM (Derbyshire)***

A Brother honed in Sheffield and exported to do good work in Derbyshire and also at Grand Lodge in the Charities! This very worthy and distinguished Brother received his Jubilee Certificate and entertained the assembly with delightful stories of his experiences in Freemasonry during 50 years of membership. It was such a lovely evening at Tapton Masonic Hall. The Lodge Room was packed with friends from all parts of UGLE.

**Victoria Lodge No: 2669, Bradford - Full Team Visit of the 2017/18 Acting Officers**

The first Team “Outing” of the Year and a full complement witnessed a most splendid 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Ceremony. The opulence of the meeting held in the French Suite was then followed by a magnificent Festive Board in the Prince’s Room at the Midland Hotel, Bradford.

**Leeds Lodge No: 9867 - Plaque – Making a Statement! “This is where we meet!”**

Another first! The Leeds Lodge unveiled a plaque at the entrance of the Cosmopolitan Hotel in central Leeds where the Lodge meets. The hotel management are delighted that the Lodge has its home in their premises with Reception Staff fully prepared to refer anyone enquiring about the Lodge or Freemasonry in general. The evening was enhanced by the presence of the Lodge Ladies who looked splendid in supporting this splendid occasion.

**“All Aboard!” – Fish & Chips on a Steam Train?**

Well this was a first! Off we went to Bolton Abbey to ride on a preserved steam train. The staff at the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway made us all so very welcome. A glorious adventure with not only a fish & chips supper (and they were good!) but also a magician providing excellent entertainment. More please!

**New Provincial Grand Secretary? Watch this Space!**

As you will have heard and seen, I am passionate about transparency and providing opportunities to ensure that the abundance of talent within our Province is identified and harnessed. 12 candidates applied in open competition for the soon to be vacant Office of Provincial Grand Secretary and the interviewing process has been completed. Please “Watch this Space” for an important announcement. Once again, I have been working closely with WBro. Stewart Carley, *PSGD, PAsstProvGM*, in his capacity as Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch to ensure that we get the “right” Brother/Companion for this very important Office. This is a further working example of the “indissoluble link” in action that binds us all together in Pure and Ancient Freemasonry.

So that’s all for this month except to close with my usual exhortation for all of us to look after our families, friends and loved ones. Please do involve them in social activities as much as possible. Let us all be proud to tell the World about the good things that we do as Freemasons. Be proud to explain how our charitable donations make life better for those in need or distress. Emphasise what we do to support our local Communities.

**We can all walk tall as Free and Accepted Masons!**

Fraternal Regards and My Very Best Wishes to All,

David

**Right Worshipful Brother David S. Pratt - Provincial Grand Master**