

At the Cumbria Division annual meeting, held at the Masonic Hall, Carlisle on the 6th of July 2024, 80 Worthy and Distinguished Knights including eight Intendant Generals attended from all corners of England and Wales.

The meeting ran smoothly with thanks to all who helped organise the event, particularly Ill.Kt Norman Milburn, the retiring Divisional Recorder. The atmosphere at the Festive Board was friendly with many Worthy Knights taking the time to catch up with old friends.

Below is the summarised address of R.Ill.Kt Joeseph Ebenezer Sudhakar, Intendant General - Worthy Knights and distinguish guests.

Let me welcome you once more to this meeting. Quite a few of you have travelled a long way to support this meeting and this Division, and I thank you for that.

The last 12 months have been a busy period and exciting for some of us. The last time we met here in July last year, it was an exciting day when the Grand Sovereign and his team were here in Carlisle. Since then, I have had the opportunity to visit you in your Conclaves and to meet most of you not only in this Order but also other meetings. Except for one Conclave, the others have had new members joining the Order and some are waiting to join.

My Deputy, Ill Kt David Stewart, Div Marshal Ill Kt Shane Huddart and I have visited several other Divisions. Some of the other members of the Division including Ill Kt Norman Milburn, Ill Kt Alan Sewell, P Kt Andrew Moore and Ill Kt Andrew Lister have joined us in representing Cumbria at other Divisional meetings. We understand the effort made by our distinguished guests to support our Meeting.

Thank you and welcome was given to the officers in attendance from the following Divisions

Cheshire,
Derbyshire,
Durham,
Kent,
N & E Lancashire,
N & E Yorkshire,
North Wales,
Northumberland,
Nottinghamshire,
Somerset & Bristol,
W. Lancashire,
W. Yorkshire,

Also, to the Knights Commanders of Constantine -

R. Ill. Kt.Dr. Nigel Bramley Haworth

R. Ill. Kt. Keith Robert Beaumont

R. Ill. Kt. Michael Daws

R. Ill. Kt. David Roach, IG KCC

And to the Heads of Order of Cumberland & Westmorland

Allied Masonic Degrees: R. W. Bro. Lawrence James Hinde District Grand Prefect
Royal and Select Masters: R. Ill. Comp. Douglas Graham Sanderson, District Grand Master
Ancient & Accepted Rite V. Ill. Bro. David Bowden, Inspector General
Knight Templar Priests: R. Em. Kt. Priest & High Prelate Norman Dunkeld Milburn,
District No.2, Lancashire & Cumbria

We welcome you all. Worthy Knights of the Division of Cumbria, please show your appreciation with applause.

A meeting of this size takes a lot of hours in planning and setting up. We thank everyone that have communicated with each other, for the use of this building, for setting up the Conclave, the dining arrangements and printing of the summons and menu and seating plan. My sincere gratitude for that work.

To the officers of the Division who held office last year and have not been reappointed, I thank you for support you have provided. I hope you have enjoyed your term in office. To the officers that I have appointed or promoted today, I hope you use the next 12 months to attend meetings and I do expect your support in attending the team visits for which you will get plenty of notice. I will also expect you to put the date of the next Divisional meeting which will be on 5th July 2025 in your diary.

Ill Kt Norman Milburn has been our Divisional Recorder for the last few years. He has recently been promoted to a very High Office in another Companion Order and is likely to be busier. He has kindly handed over the reins of Recorder to P Kt Andrew Moore but is kindly willing to support the Division as the Assistant Recorder. We thank you Norman for the work you have done and your continuing support.

Since R Ill Kt Norman Thompson opened this Division in 2007, and during the years of R Ill Kt Keith Beaumont as Intendants-General, this Division has grown from strength to strength. We currently have 111 subscribing members which is a good percentage of the number of members in the Royal Arch. We thank you both for your continuing support.

The meeting of the Grand Conclave was held in London last Tuesday. It was a very enjoyable meeting with the opportunity to meet friends and make new ones. There were 13 of us who attended from Cumbria Division. At that meeting, the Division of Cumbria received the following honours

V Ill KT Shane Huddart was promoted to P G High Alm

Ill Kt Keith Young was promoted to P G Chamb

Ill Kt David Bowden was appointed to P G Prefect

Ill Kt Andrew Lister was appointed as an acting Assistant G Marshal

P Kt Robert Nicholson was appointed as a Grand Sepulchre Guard

We congratulate them on their promotions and appointments and I am sure Andrew and Bob will be busy next year but will relish it.

Very soon, our Province will have a new Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent. We congratulate P Kt Nick Wilson on his appointment and the excellent choice of his Deputy, R Ill Kt Keith Beaumont. Two of the Assistants, P Kt Nigel Thomason and Ill Kt David Bowden are members of this Order. It now remains for us to ask John Fielding, Asst PGM designate to rejoin the Order. P Kt Nick Wilson, you will receive the support not only from the members of this Order but from every Freemason.

Over the next year, we plan to have close ties with all the Companion Orders. We will have a meeting of the Heads of Order soon. The aim is to bring us together and support each other. Once we meet, there will be more constructive ideas for the good of the members especially recruitment of suitable candidates and their retention.

We have worked closely with our neighbouring Divisions. The 4th Tri-Divisional meeting of Cumbria, N & E Lancashire and W Lancashire will take place here on Saturday 20th July 2024. Each Division will have one candidate each for each point in the KHS ceremony. Arrangements have been going extremely well. Those Knights that have not witnessed one of these meetings, please make an effort to attend. It is absolutely worth the attendance. It happens only once in two years.

Ill Kt Michael Walkden Div Marshal of N & E Lancs will be holding a Marshals workshop on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 at the Masonic Hall in Preston. This is not only for Marshals but any Knight that is wanting to learn more. Any Knight can attend and for more information please contact our Marshal or Recorder.

Our new Recorder is keen to communicate with each Conclave so that information can reach you in a timely manner. Any one of you can attend meetings of other Conclaves or if interested can join us in attending other Divisional meetings. Most of the Conclave Recorders are new in their post and may need guidance. Please ask for help when required.

For those Knights that are reluctant to go through the offices to become a Sovereign of their Conclave, let me remind you that if you are going to struggle with ritual, please ask for help well in advance. There will always be someone to help you. If you are shy, give me a call.

The world around us is changing, whether it be climate change, financial security, politics or safety of citizens. Most of us are confused whether that change is necessary or inevitable. Some feel entitled to voice opinions even when not required. I am sure you will agree with me that as Freemasons, we need to focus and live our lives as examples to others. Let us be tolerant of others and show empathy. In our Order, if we remember our precepts and ask others to follow them, the world would be a safer and better place. We are here because we respect each other and because of that bond of Brotherhood that neither foe can shatter nor adversity destroy.

I look forward to your company at the Festive Board later. For those Knights that are not joining us later, I specially thank you for attending this meeting and have a safe journey home. We will no doubt catch up in the circuit.