

Banner Dedication at Acklam Lodge

On 14 January 2011, a Banner Dedication Team, led by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master David Marsh, carried out an excellent ceremony, not often seen, to the assembled brethren of the Acklam Lodge and their many visitors.

The banner was carried by the two newest members of the Lodge, Dean Moore and Allan O'Neill and Geoffrey Heslehurst had the honour of being the official Banner Bearer.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain Michael Mewis delivered a superb address in dedicating the banner before it was transferred safely into the hands of the Worshipful Master Gary Hicks.

The original Banner for Acklam Lodge was produced by Toye Masonic Supplies in the late 1940's sometime just after the consecration of the Lodge in 1946, and was painted onto a material backing and is based on the Hustler family crest. Over time the material had degraded and whenever the banner was moved, the paint cracked and introduced weak points into the fabric which in time developed into a series of vertical tears. The condition of the banner was extremely fragile so a replacement was deemed to be necessary.

After many years of discussion and little progress, in December 2009 Geoff Heslehurst took it upon himself to move the issue forward. A company was found, through research on the internet that specialised in military and ceremonial flags and banners.

The company, Newton Newton, of Burgh le Marsh near Skegness, were contacted and after an initial discussion were visited and found to be a highly skilled and professional company and just what the lodge were looking for. Following a report back to the Lodge, it was agreed that a replacement should be commissioned and the wheels were put in motion in April 2010. Artwork was approved in June 2010 and the new banner was completed in early September 2010.

After a great deal of effort and having travelled over 1000 miles to ensure that the money was well spent, a great and memorable occasion was enjoyed by all who were fortunate enough to be there, and the Lodge has once again a banner that it can be proud of.



The brethren on the photo are L to R W Bro. David Marsh Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Bro Dean Moore, Bro. Allan O'Neill, W Bro Geoffrey Heslehurst PPSGW & W Bro Gary Hicks WM of Acklam Lodge.