

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS AND ROYAL ARK MARINERS OF DURHAM

DURHAM



PGM of DURHAM - RW.Bro. Prof. DENOVAN KEITH WILSON



ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER V.W.BRO.STUART A.R. INGRAM,PGJO RETIRES.

10th March 2017

At the beginning of March VW Bro Stuart Ingram wrote to advise me that he wished to retire from his position as Assistant Provincial Grand Master, an Office in which he is now in his eighth year.

It is however his particular desire that he sees to a conclusion certain of his responsibilities and commitments, including the Gala Dinner and the MBF Charity Walk.

We have therefore agreed that he will continue as Assistant Provincial Grand Master until the AGM in June this year.

I take this opportunity to thank Stuart for the very significant contribution he has made in our Province over many years and in many roles. Among his many contributions, his design and establishment of our Provincial Membership Database is a particularly important and enduring one. His contribution since my Installation is something for which I am particularly grateful.

Working with Stuart has been a pleasure for all of us and I am sure you will join me in extending to him and June our very best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Den Wilson.



WBro. Tommy Scott, PAGStdB, PPrGJW, and Bro. Bill Hall, together again after 20 years.

The small village of Winslow in Buckinghamshire was the place where two brethren from the Ravensworth Lodge of MMM No.718 had arranged to meet, after having not seen each other for more than 20 years. Bro.Bill Hall had joined the Ravensworth Lodge of MMM No.718, where he was Advanced as a Mark Master Mason in 1988.

WBro.Tommy Scott, PAGStdB, PPrGJW, was Bill's proposer at the time and the two have been very good friends for many, many years. Due to pressures of work Bro.Hall had to move down South and he now lives in Winslow, Buckinghamshire. Bill still remains a member of the Lodge and has always kept in touch with the lodge brethren.

We thought it would be brilliant if these two wonderful Mark Masons could see each other again, and so we were soon on our way on the long journey to Winslow.

Bro.Hall is a member of the Nightingale Lodge of MMM No.1768 and we arranged to attend their meeting on the 16th February 2017.

Tommy and Bill met at the hotel where we stayed and it was a very emotional scene for both brethren, truly heart warming to see. The rest of the evening was just as brilliant with an excellent lodge meeting and festive board, which was provided by the Bell Hotel in Winslow.



Standing Ovation for Stuart at Bede.

This may sound like a Pearl & Dean advertisement but if you want something different, that has you involved, in a really fun masonic evening, then get your diary out and pencil in Bede Lodge of MMM. They meet at the impressive Masonic Hall, Burdon Road, Sunderland.

The March meeting welcomed a Provincial Deputation led by the Provincial Grand Master Prof Denovan Keith Wilson accompanied by his Deputy Danny Guy, his Assistant Stuart Ingram. Also present was the Past PGM Peter Croft, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Masters Frank Rankin and Jim Harker.

The Worshipful Master, David Lawson welcomed the Provincial Deputation into the Lodge and the PGM took his chair. What unfolded next took everyone completely by surprise as he stood and addressed the brethren stating that he received a letter of resignation from his Assistant Provincial Grand Master Stuart Ingram.

It was evident that there was an element of sadness associated with having to make this announcement and this meeting was indeed the most appropriate venue to make it. With Stuart present the PGM extended not only his personal gratitude but that of whole Province to him for the seventeen years of service to the Province. Additionally, for the several projects that he had taken forward to be embedded into Mark Masonry in Durham including the setting up the

Provincial Mark Database and the now annual visit to Benidorm in Spain. At the conclusion of the announcement the brethren showed their admiration by awarding Stuart with a standing ovation.

An emotional Stuart for his part spoke fondly about his office and role, recounting his attachment, not only to Denny but also Peter Croft and Frank Rankin and thanking all the brethren for their support. He concluded by encouraging the brethren to really enjoy their Mark Masonry.

That last remark must have resonated with the brethren as the events of the evening continued.

The brethren were treated to observing an advancement and welcomed Peter Mulley into Bede Mark Lodge.

However, it was at the festive board that the Bede brethren excel in ensuring an interactive social event is enjoyed by participants or observers. After serving up an enjoyable meal and the normal etiquette addressed then the brethren were invited to join in harmony.

Firstly, there was the rendition of the Bede Anthem. Now, I will not spoil it for you by disclosing the content, suffice to say that everyone joins in delivering a boisterous chorus. Vocal chords suitably energised, the brethren mounted their seats to sing the "Kings Counting House" and performing the actions (*not all at the same time*) which added to the fun. Jackets off and the words 'McNamara's Band' rang out while Peter Croft and Denny bashed

out the rhythm by the clashing of tin trays.

Yes! there was a din. Yes!, it was loud. Yes!, it was unusual. Bit did it make for a fantastic and memorable evening for all involved, absolutely, Yes!

Was there another standing ovation? You guessed it, Yes! The brethren congratulated themselves, which was well deserved. A memorable evening for so many reasons, which I am sure Stuart will reflect upon and remember for a long time. *M. Wilkinson*



photos by R.Amar



Bro. George K M Young
 Beamish Temple Lodge N°9815 -IG
 Internet Lodge N°9659 - MM
 Dunelm Lodge of MMM N°356 - JO
 The Mark Internet Lodge of MMM N°1975 - R of M
 Dunelm Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners N°356
 Norman Chapter N°1334
 Aycliffe Conclave N°190 – MPS

Moseley Lodge of MMM No.925 held their regular meeting in Birtley on the 17th February 2017. Well, actually it was a special meeting, because the Worshipful Master, WBro. John Huntley had the great pleasure to receive the Provincial Grand Master and a deputation of Provincial Officers into the lodge. The evening also had another special guest, Bro. George K. M. Young from the Dunelm Lodge of MMM No.356. Bro. Young had been invited by the lodge to give one of his digital presentations of the Mark Tracing Board using digital techniques which allow him to "extract" parts of the Tracing Board and bring them forward for a clear presentation to accompany the spoken words of

explanation. This versatility also allows a bit of fun to be included in the presentation and this was evident at the end of the talk, when we all saw a wonderful example when a vaguely familiar character came into view.



Senior Warden	Junior Warden
2016 . A.Gurney	P.Harrison
2015 . D. Hanson	L.Danby
2014 . P.G.Wilkie	N.Anderson
2013 . K.P.Dale	R.F.Knight
2012 . R.J. Hargate	J.T. Dodds
2011 . R.M.Henderson	I.H. Morrison
2010 . J.M. Nye	M. Davis
2009 . J. Kay	G.S. Savage
2008 . S.A.R. Ingram	R.T. Watson
2007 . K. Liddell	J.B. Mitchinson
2006 . W. Swift	D.Guy
2005 . S.S. Beattie	J. Bulmer



PROVINCIAL WARDENS DINNER 2017

On Thursday 9th March 2017, at their regular meeting, the **Ferryhill Lodge of M.M.M. 1560** welcomed the Present and Past Wardens of the Province. After the opening of the Lodge, VW.Bro.A. Craven, PGJO, Provincial DC announced each Warden in turn according to the year in which they held office.

The assembled Brethren then acclaimed the Wardens who then occupied their seats. All were then entertained and increased their Masonic knowledge by receiving a talk by **W.Bro. J. Bulmer, PGSD, PProvGJW** entitled "A Not Too Comprehensive History of the Mark Degree", following which the Worshipful Master thanked W.Bro.Bulmer and the assembled Brethren showed their appreciation. On the completion of the proceedings the assembled Brethren appreciated a very enjoyable meal and each and everyone's company. *JMNye.*

On 21st February 2017 the **William Todd Lodge of MMM No.929** held their meeting in Spennymoor and not at their usual meeting place in Bishop Auckland, which has been put up for sale after having been their home since 1934.

The Lodge gave a warm welcome to RWBro.Prof.Denovan K.Wilson, PGM and his Provincial Officers on their Provincial Visit to the William Todd Lodge.

Everyone was looking forward to hearing a talk by a highly regarded speaker, Bro.Malcolm Sweet.

The theme for the talk was "**Rudyard Kipling**" which he presented entirely from memory, including the recital of several poems by Kipling. From his position in the corner of the room Bro. Sweet had his audience spellbound with his brilliant rendition of some very well known pieces of literature from the pen of Rudyard Kipling.

Several brethren who were familiar with the work even joined in with the recital. The talk gave an insight on Kipling's masonic career which started in

about 1885 after his initiation into Hope and Perseverance Lodge No. 782 in Lahore.

Kipling also became a Mark Master Mason and a Royal Ark Mariner. He memorialised his masonic experience and its ideals in his famous poem, "*The Mother Lodge*" and the fraternity and its symbols served as vital plot devices in his novella, *The Man Who Would Be King*.

At the end of the talk there was a spontaneous and deafening applause for this brilliantly delivered piece of work which showed how much it had been enjoyed by the brethren.

At the festive board, RWBro.Prof.Denovan K.Wilson, PGM, again thanked Bro.Sweet for the talk. He then gave a short history of this distinguished lodge which since its consecration in 1934 had seen many eminent Mark Master Masons including RWBro.William Todd, who became the Provincial Grandmaster in 1932 - 1938. He congratulated the lodge for continuing to be present as a Mark

Lodge in Bishop Auckland with the move for their next meeting to their new home at the Manor House Hotel.

This excellent meeting finally closed with many friendships renewed and an invitation to meet again at the Manor House Hotel in April.



The Green, West Auckland,
Bishop Auckland DL14 9HW



Bro.Malcolm Sweet and WBro.G.Foster, WM of the William Todd Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.929.



Where it all began

In 2001 a team of doctors and nurses, including Dr. Tetursamy, Dr. Michael Tremlett, Miss. Audrey Platt, Michael Ward and Carol Ward, visited Mysore Mission Hospital in India to provide assistance to their anaesthetic department. Whilst visiting a village in the area, the team noticed that a significant number of children had unrepaired cleft defects. With their parents too poor to access medical help, they were condemned to a life lived in the shadow of their facial deformities. Northern Cleft Foundation was founded later that year by Dr. George Teturswamy, a consultant anaesthetist, to provide children and some adults with much needed free operations. At their first outreach in Mysore, their core team of dedicated experts operated on 32 children. **Where we are today** From small beginnings the foundation has grown considerably. We now we have a team of eight consultant cleft surgeons (out of twenty six in the country), and ten consultant anaesthetists working with us, drawn from hospitals across the north of England. Numerous outreaches have now been run in Mysore, Hyderabad, Kerala and Nagpur and over 1000 children and adults have been helped to date.

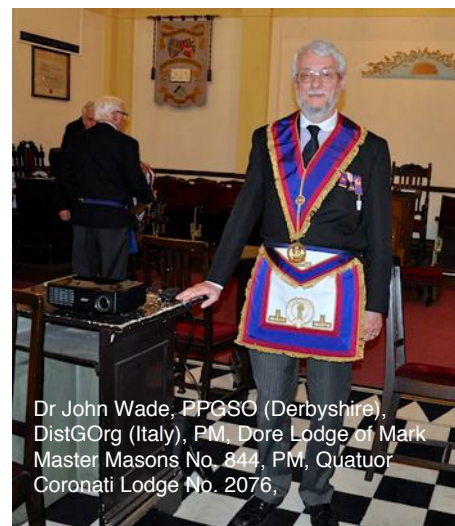
Bro.M.Sweet is raising funds for the Cleft Foundation and further details about the incredible work done by his son and the Cleft Foundation can be found on their website : <http://www.northerncleftfoundation.co.uk/>

"1856 And All That" was the story of the formation of Grand Mark Lodge and the theme for a lecture by **Dr John Wade, PPGSO (Derbyshire), DistGOrg (Italy), PM, Dore Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 844, PM, Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076.**

The **Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters No.1492** had invited Dr.Wade to give this lecture at their meeting on the 27th February 2017 in Birtley and he was kind enough to accept and attend the meeting.

The Lodge was also the hosts for a visit by the Provincial Grand Master and a deputation of Provincial Officers. The lodge room was nearly full and eager to hear Dr.Wade start his lecture. This he did in a confident manner, explaining the many trials and tribulations that were encountered by Freemasonry at the time which were eventually resolved allowing the formation of Grand Mark Lodge in 1856.

The excellent meeting was followed by an superb festive board and good conversation ending a wonderful evening.



Dr John Wade, PPGSO (Derbyshire), DistGOrg (Italy), PM, Dore Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 844, PM, Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076.

MARK / APRIL	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Staindrop no.1274	3	Monday	6.45	
Industry no.293	3	Monday	7.00	
Hackworth no.761	4	Tuesday	6.45	
Cestria no.1151	4	Tuesday	7.00	Provincial visit
Steadfast no.846	5	Wednesday	6.45	
Unity no.827	6	Thursday	7.00	Installation
Ryton no.1714	7	Friday	7.00	Dispensation / date change / Provincial visit
Harte no.740	10	Monday	7.00	
Elevation no.1112	13	Thursday	6.45	
Percy no.122	13	Thursday	7.00	
Jarrow no.701	18	Tuesday	7.00	Dispensation / date change
Ambrose Crowley no.1269	18	Tuesday	6.45	
William Todd no.929	18	Tuesday	6.45	Meets at The Manor House, West Auckland
Ernest Dixon no.1015	18	Tuesday	7.00	
Clavering no. 896	20	Thursday	7.00	
Barnard Castle no.778	21	Friday	6.45	
Moseley no.925	21	Friday	7.00	
Shipleigh no.1271	25	Tuesday	7.00	Installation
Eclectic no.39	25	Tuesday	7.00	Provincial visit / Sesqui-Centenary Celebration
Durham PGSt no.1820	26	Wednesday	7.00	
St.Andrew's no.854	27	Thursday	6.45	
Union no.124	27	Thursday	7.00	Installation

**CAPTION
COMPETITION**
**What could you
possibly
say
to THAT!**

**Have a go and win a
bottle of whisky with the
best one!**

Please send your caption together with your name to : mschoolkate@gmail.com



RAM / APRIL	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Eclectic no.39	3	Monday	7.00	
Ryton no.1714	5	Wednesday	7.00	
Stanhope no.1551	7	Friday	7.00	
Bernard Gilpin no. 860	11	Tuesday	7.00	Dispensation / date change
Dunelm no.356	12	Wednesday	6.30	
Union no. 124	12	Wednesday	7.00	
Darlington no.250	12	Wednesday	6.45	Installation
Hackworth no.761	12	Wednesday	6.45	Dispensation / date change
Spennymoor no.981	24	Monday	6.45	
Elevation no.1112	26	Wednesday	7.00	
Clavering no. 896	Date change	Thursday	7.00	Installation now on 4 May 2017

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With Thanks.

OBITUARIES



10 March 2017 Bro Barrie Hall PPrGStwd M1145
 11th March 2017 W Bro R Smalley PPrGReg M356, RAMPPrGR RAM 356.