

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



St.Lawrence Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1093

increased their membership with six new Mark Master Masons when the lodge made the move to their new home at the Billingham Masonic Hall on 16 November 2017. This move is significant and important for Billingham with the establishment of a Mark Degree Lodge where it has had none before.

After some 70 years of Mark Master Masonry the St.Lawrence Lodge of MMM no.1093 were at a crossroad and needed to make a decision about their future. WBro.George Clark was not sure where to start when he became involved with this matter. Finding the right solution was a bit like chalk and cheese, or old and new, they didn't normally mix together easily. It would have been easier to quietly close the lodge but to their enormous credit St.Lawrence agreed to talk about any possible alternatives.



No one had thought about Billingham, indeed some asked "was it in our Province", or " did they have a Hall"?

WBro. Clark facilitated a joint meeting between St.Lawrence and Billingham Masonic Hall at which he had rarely seen a more positive and enthusiastic group of brethren work together to indeed mix "chalk and cheese", and create a rejuvenated St.Lawrence Lodge and bring a Mark Master Masons Lodge to Billingham Masonic Hall in one move.

WBro.Clark expressed his sincere appreciation for the way this move to Billingham has been made possible by the support from Mark Province, the Billingham Masonic Hall Management Committee and the St.Lawrence Brethren. He is delighted that the five newly advanced Mark Masons have found a

good home after this worthwhile move to Billingham and he wishes them all well for the future.

The meeting was very special in another way as well, it conducted an advancement ceremony of five candidates on the same night. This ceremony was performed under the direction of the PGM, RWBro.Prof.D.K.Wilson from the Worshipful Masters Chair. The candidates were admitted into the lodge in two groups and at a later part of the ceremony one of the candidates was observed by the other four when it would have been too difficult to have all five participate together. A very dignified occasion which every one present enjoyed and the candidates afterwards acknowledged had made a lasting impression on them.

After the meeting the evening continued with an excellent festive board and where the WM ,WBro.S.J.Neil thanked the Billingham Hall Management for welcoming St.Lawrence to their new home and to all who attended for making this such a special and pleasant night. A landmark occasion indeed!



Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Project - St John Ambulance



A pledge of more than three million pounds to The Priory of England from The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, through the Mark Benevolent Fund, will help local communities around the country to continue to benefit from the life saving work of St John Ambulance.

The Order of St John and SJA have enjoyed a longstanding relationship with The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the Mark Benevolent Fund. In 2000, the Fund provided a significant contribution to help replace our fleet of ambulances. Durham Province of Mark Master Mason's, Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother James Peter Croft handed over the multi-purpose 'Crusader Ambulance' at a Ceremony of Dedication at Auckland Castle in September of 2000.

Seventeen years on, we're delighted that the Mark Benevolent Fund has partnered with us again. Their latest donation - an incredible £3,023,700 - will see up to 52 replacement ambulances and support vehicles in our local communities over a two-year period. The new vehicles will help us to achieve our goal of making first aid available where it is needed most.

The donation marks our 140th anniversary this year and the 150th anniversary of the Mark Benevolent Fund in 2018.

On Sunday 21st of January 2018 a Ceremony of Handover and Dedication of a Small Treatment Centre by the Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Denovan Keith Wilson to St. John Ambulance.

This will take place at 2.30pm at St John Ambulance, Gateshead Hub, 141 Lobley Hill Road, Gateshead, NE8 4ZR.

"It is hoped that all Lodges will be represented at this ceremony and to meet with members of St. John Ambulance."

B.Hayes



WBro.Ronald Trevor Lynn became the new Worshipful Commander of the **Barnard Castle Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.778**, on 20th November 2017.

A very well attended meeting in Barnard Castle Masonic Hall which included the PGM and Provincial Team witnessed an excellent ceremony enjoyed by the assembled brethren.

The meeting also included a very special presentation of a cheque to WBro.Raymond Davis by Wbro.Roy Neville from the Mark Benevolent Fund adding £500 to the £2000 already raised by the Girls of the St.Auckland Guide Group and which will enable two Girl Guide Groups to do a tour of Thailand and teach first aid skills and personal hygiene information to girls in Northern Thailand.



WCmdr. WBro.Ronald Trevor Lynn.



Freaky Ken & Fun Frank Rankenstein

In the Mark Masons calendar of October events one of the highlights is the occasion of Halloween Social held at Shildon Masonic Year. This year the tickets sold out in record time which meant there were nearly one hundred in attendance. Many took the opportunity to dress up in ghoulish and scary outfits. Some were enhanced for further effect by bloody make up and drool.

Frank Rankin, who boasts a height of 5'7" took to the stage as a towering 6'6" Frank Rankenstein and welcomed everyone to the Halloween treat.

The main organiser being Ken Moore together with his minions had decorated the hall with cobwebs, spiders, witches and other ghostly images. In an atmosphere of darkened suspense Ken deliver a monologue called "The entered apprentice apron" aided by visual effects and humour. You had to be there to get the full tale ,no, I mean you REALLY, REALLY had to be there to see the sight of a ghostly white apron flouting across the hall ceiling, together with an assortment of visual and audible effects that enhanced the plot as his ghostly story unfolded.

A two course supper was served and the audience sang along and danced to music with singing provided by Martin McCann. The traditional raffle was drawn with the distribution of numerous prizes and games of Irish Bingo were played during the intermission.

The fun continued, almost to the stroke of midnight, before everyone headed to the safety of their own beds. Cursed blessing was that they all gained an extra hour to have nightmares of what they had seen and heard earlier.

The really scary revelation was the amount of monies raised through a wonderful yet freakily enjoyable social. Although the night actually failed to raise the dead, it did raise £820 toward the 2020 centenary festival.

Frank Rankenstein expressed his appreciation to all of those who planned, organised, supported and contributed to the continued success of such a devilish social.

Ken Moore for his part has returned to his crypt but like a restless ghost you can be confident that he will set his diabolical mind to next year's evening of Halloween horrors. Ghostly ghouls and haunting figurers are scheduled for a return to Shildon on Saturday the 27th October 2017.

Please put that date into your diary and think about getting into the spirit of fear & fright on next year's **Halloweeeen** night.



Penshaw Lodge of MMM No.1055

Bro.Shaun Reay has been installed as the Worshipful Master of the Penshaw Mark Lodge on the 9th November 2017, at the meeting the brethren were delighted to welcome back WBro.Fred Scott,PAGDC from the Shipley Lodge of MMM No.1271, Fred has been unable to get out and about for about three years due to daily chronic migraine which will now be treated with an electronic implant costing £25.000.00 and is to be fitted at the James Cook Hospital in Teesside and is at the foreground for treating this condition. Fred will get his pre-op assessment on the 1st December and we wish him and his family all the best for a successful outcome.



The Union Mark lodge of MMM no.124 at their meeting on 26 October 2017 not only enjoyed a very interesting talk given by WBro.Martin Murray entitled " The Overseers and the Senior Warden's Wicket ", but also a special event when RW Bro.Prof. Denovan K.Wilson was delighted to be able to invest WBro.David Hanson to Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Rank. David Hanson thanked the PGM, and the brethren acknowledged this appointment to Grand Rank with warm applause. WM WBro.Brian Bell said that this first meeting since his installation as the WM was very special and enjoyed the occasion.



DAVID HANSON IS IN THE PROVINCE

Would Have Tyne Dock Lodge of MMM No.362 welcomed WBro.Gary Douglas Taylor as a joining member at their meeting on the 15th November 2017 in South Shields.

Also attending this meeting was the Assistant PGM, WBro.David Nigel Hanson accompanied by WBro.Mike Davis. Together the brethren enjoyed a lecture on the Degree of Mark Master Mason, expertly given by WBro.Kenneth Urquhart Robson.



Rockcliffe Lodge No.362 on the 17th November 2017, elevated Bro. Mohammad Abdul-Reda Ali Hussain Alattar as a Royal Ark Mariner. Bro.Alattar is known as a very keen and dedicated mason who visits many lodges. He enjoyed the ceremony and looks forward to many happy years as a Royal Ark Mariner.



“ WBro. Rev David Youngson was on hand at a meeting of the 22nd Hartlepool Brownies on October 31st to present a cheque for £500 from the Province of Durham Mark Benevolent Fund towards a Girl Guide inspired community project in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Parish of St James in the Owton Manor area of Hartlepool.

Rev Youngson has a long association with the Parish and has seen the Girl Guide movement in all three age groups flourish and actively support the Church throughout their history. This £1000 project is designed to enhance a strip of 24 square metres near the Church with a variety of spring bulbs which will prove attractive and benefit the whole community.

The Guides are busy selling 48 half plot squares at £10 each to raise the balance and are extremely grateful to the Mark Master Masons of the Province for their generous response. “ *RN*



"TELL ME A STORY"



There is a saying, "That it's good to talk" and that is at the heart of the

news initiative launch by the Mark Executive to support the popular Provincial Newsletter composed and circulated by Martin Schoolkate for several years.

To assist in the circulation of the content of Mark / RAM meetings that maybe of interest to brethren that simple phrase has been taken one step further by giving brethren the opportunity to give their account of a meeting or event. It is acknowledged that not everyone has the time or ability to write an article but they could give a verbally explanation.

"Tell me a Story" allows anyone who feels that the event/s within a meeting or an individual they know is worth reporting. So, if you feel you have something that you would like to share through the Provincial Newsletter or website all you have to do is;

Provide photographs - ideally at least 3 - more would be better.

Call the mobile of Michael Wilkinson - 079632 13336

You will be able to give a verbal explanation of your story or details of something or someone you consider would be of interest.

That's it! - you will receive feedback and if appropriate the article will be written and circulated on your behalf.

It is hoped that by offering this option it will add to content and interest of our newsletter. In addition it will further assists Martin in producing his monthly publication.

There are lots of stories to be told so please get involved and "Tell your story!"

Martin Schoolkate,

Contact details:

mschoolkate@gmail.com

Mobile: 07851 427664



Michael James Wilkinson,

Contact details : email.

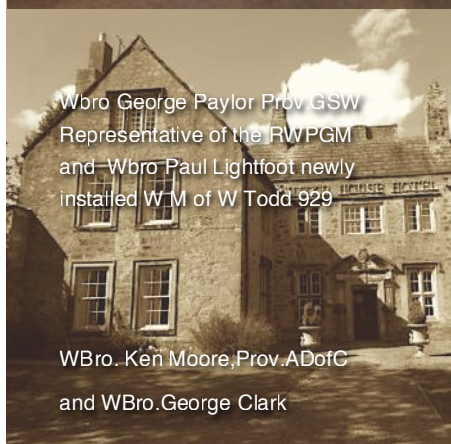
michael.w@learning4ever.co.uk

uk Mobile: 079632 13336



The first installation meeting of the William Todd lodge of MMM 929 at the Manor House hotel in west Auckland where an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Brethren dining in the Grand Knights Hall.



Wbro George Paylor Prov GSW Representative of the RWPGM and Wbro Paul Lightfoot newly installed W.M of W Todd 929

WBro. Ken Moore, Prov. A.DofC and WBro. George Clark



Mark Gala Dinner 2018

The Mark Gala Dinner is to be held on 12th May 2018

At Spennymoor Town Hall

Dinner & Entertainment

also the Mark Money Draw

Contact Arthur Clark for tickets on:

ajc5807@gmail.com

DECEMBER / MARK	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Hebburn no. 1339	1	Friday	7.00	Installation
Walton no.1106	4	Monday	6.45	Installation
Industry no. 293	4	Monday	7.00	
Hackworth no.761	5	Tuesday	6.45	Provincial visit
Cestria no.1151	5	Tuesday	6.45	
Bernard Gilpin no.860	5	Tuesday	7.00	
Steadfast no.846	6	Wednesday	6.45	Installation
Bede no.605	8	Friday	7.00	
St.Aidan no.1145	11	Monday	7.00	Provincial visit
Harte no.740	11	Monday	7.00	
Elevation no.1112	14	Thursday	6.45	Provincial visit / 50th.
Percy no.122	14	Thursday	7.00	
Moseley no.925	15	Friday	7.00	
William Todd no.929	19	Tuesday	6.45	
Clavering no. 896	21	Thursday	7.00	Installation

DECEMBER / RAM	2017	DAY	TIME	
Eclectic no.39	4	Monday	7.00	
Monument no.1055	5	Tuesday	10.30	
Chief / Builders no.1806	8	Friday	10.30	
Darlington no.250	13	Wednesday	6.45	
Union no. 124	13	Wednesday	7.00	
Hackworth no.761	18	Monday	6.45	Provincial visit

Brethren can support the Durham 2020 Festival by purchasing this special badge which can be supplied by

WBro.Graham Wharton on
07855815958
and WBro.Frank Rankin



SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM JIM

Jim would be most grateful if any brethren have any Mark or RAM Regalia they would like to donate as he is running very low on stock.

JIM STUBBINGS
WARDEN OF REGALIA
Tel: 0191-4166764
Email: j.stubbings@talktalk.net



GRAND MEETINGS CALENDAR 2017 - 2018

RAM Annual Assembly - Tuesday, 12 December 2017, FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ
MARK Grand Lodge - Tuesday, 13 March 2018, FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ
MARK Grand Lodge - Annual Investiture Tuesday, 12 June 2018, FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

OBITUARIES

“THEY REST FROM THEIR LABOURS AND THEIR GOOD WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM, THANKS BE TO GOD THEY HAVE MARKED WELL”



- 25/10/2017 W Bro David William Gibbins M1015, PGStdB, PPrGMO
- 28/10/2017 Bro Charles Vickers Scott M1269, PPrGSwdB
- 09/11/2017 W Bro John Huntley M925
- 20/11/2017 W Bro Walter Alan Hutton M930 PAGIG PPrGJW