

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



Joseph Alan Armstrong – 70 Years a Mark Mason,

The 15th October 2018 began as any other for the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy, his Assistant, the Provincial Secretary, V W Bro Frank Rankin, and V W Brother Tony Craven. But it was not to stay that way. Leaving at lunchtime, we arrived in Nottingham in good time for a 5-30pm start to what was to prove to be a most magnificent evening.



Born in July 1924, Joseph Alan Armstrong was destined to become a Freemason, as his father was a member of the Craft in the Annfield Plain area. After leaving school at an early age, and refusing to go to University, Alan joined Lloyds Bank, and worked his way up through the ranks until he became a Branch Manager – a role he fulfilled in several areas in and around Durham. In 1946 at the age of 22, after his War Service, his father asked him to join the Craft, which he duly did. Two years later, his father told him that a new Mark Lodge was to be formed in Annfield Plain, and asked him to be the first candidate. So began a 70 year career in Mark Masonry, when on the 14th October 1948 Joseph Alan Armstrong was Advanced in Elevation Lodge 1112.

In short, Alan was installed as Master of Elevation Lodge 1112 on the 14th October 1959; received Provincial Honours as PPGJO in 1963; was promoted to PPGJW in 1973; and was Honoured with promotion to PAGDC in Grand Lodge in 1974. Sadly for Durham, Lloyds Bank then relocated Alan to the Nottingham area. But



Durham's loss was Nottingham's gain. Before even moving his family to Nottingham, Alan attended a Masonic social gathering at which he was introduced to the Provincial Grand Master. A few days later he received a phone call from the PGM saying that it was intended to form a new Mark Lodge in Nottingham, and would he be interested, as a Grand Officer, in becoming a Founder Member. Thus it was that Alan became the first Master of the Nottingham

Excelsior Lodge 1464 in June 1976. Since then, Alan has been promoted to PGSD in 1987; and PGSO in 2001.

So we all gathered in Nottingham's superb Masonic Hall to celebrate Alan's 70 years in Mark Masonry. In attendance were the Pro Grand Master, the Assistant Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Nottingham (sadly the PGM was in hospital and unable to attend), and many other distinguished Brethren from the



Nottinghamshire area. We began with an excellent Installation ceremony of the Nottingham Excelsior Lodge, and then moved on to the main event of the evening. The Pro Grand Master 'interviewed' Alan about his long and distinguished career in Mark Masonry. In truth, there was little interviewing being done, as Alan was only too happy to reminisce about his 70 glorious years in this degree. To say his enthusiasm was infectious would be an understatement – it was palpable. Eventually, the Pro Grand Master was allowed back in to the conversation, and pointed out that V W Bro Alan was incorrectly dressed. He then asked the Deputy Grand Secretary to read the Patent, and then, to audible gasps around the room, V W Bro Alan was promoted to the rank of PGJW, in the process becoming R W Bro Joseph Alan Armstrong.

After adjourning for drinks, an excellent meal was served at the Festive Board, during which 4 presentations were made to R W Bro Alan – which included one from the PGM R W Bro Denovan Keith Wilson on behalf of the Province of Durham, and one from V W Bro Tony Craven on behalf of Elevation Lodge. Not to be outdone, R W Bro Alan stood and replied to each of them individually. Eventually, it was time for us to leave, and we departed delighted to have witnessed such a rare event, but enthused by the passion shown for our degree by a remarkable 94 year old man. *A.Gurney*



Trevor Lynn, A. PGM Ian Mavin, Worshipful Master Ken Moore, Asst.Prov.DofC
 Tom Bradbury, Representing the RW PGM,
 Doug Quickmire, A. Prov.Secretary Stuart Ingram, P.A. PGM

The William Todd Lodge of MMM No.929 installed their new Worshipful Master, WBro. Ian Mavin in a excellent ceremony at their new home for regular lodge meetings which now is **Willington, Sunny Brow, Crook, DL15 0EY.**

The brethren attending the meeting included the Representative of the RW Provincial Grand Master and his Prov.Dof C , the Assistant PGM, the Assistant Grand Secretary and the Past Assistant PGM, and everyone hopes and wishes all the very best for the future of the William Todd Lodge of MMM No.929 in the new home.



The Assistant PGM WBro. Trevor Lynn was delighted to witness a joining member WBro.Mark Julian Gilpin being welcomed into the lodge by the WCmdr. WBro.Arthur Clark on behalf of all the brethren in attendance.

Durham Lodge of Installed Commanders No.1492 has a new Worshipful Commander with a wealth of Masonic experience to guide the brethren through another successful year for the lodge.

The installation Ceremony for WBro. Arthur Joseph Clark, RAMGR, was carried out in a superb manner by the Installing W.Cmdr. WBro. Craig A.Brown, RAMDistGR(Spain). The evening was further enhanced with a short and interesting talk delivered by the WCmdr WBro.Clark, with Lord Byron and Seaham as the theme which naturally had to include a fair damsel as the heroine of story. The superb festive board completed a wonderful Royal Ark Mariner evening.



CASTLE EDEN LODGE OF ROYAL ARK MARINERS NO.930 on the 20th November 2018 held their meeting to install WBro. Alan Ruddell, RAMProvGR as the new Worshipful Commander in the presence of the PGM on his Provincial Visit to Castle Eden.

The stormy rain and cold did not deter brethren from attending this important meeting for the lodge with a very warm welcome making up for the conditions outside. Although it was acknowledged that membership numbers were small, quality was very high indeed as exemplified by the work of the installing Cmdr, WBro.Stephen D.McGlen.

WBro. Ruddell recognised this when he congratulated Stephen on the way he completed this not easy to do ritual. The installing Cmdr. thanked the brethren of the Castle Eden Mariner lodge for all their support during his year, he explained that during work as teacher he would recite the ritual while walking down the many corridors in the school. A wonderful evening was had by all before the elements had to faced again.



WCmdr.WBro.Alan Ruddell,
 RAMProvGR



SHILDON HALLOWEEEEEN FRIGHTS seen at celebration evening brilliantly organised by Ken Moore and his family together with many ghouls driven from the misty night gloom into perpetual slavery of entertaining their captive hoard of visiting innocent victims who were only released when the breaking rays of the morning sun driving their jailers into flight HOWEVER THEY WILL BE BACK !!!



Denovan K. Wilson P G M Robert W.Emerson W Cmdr Trevor Lynn AsstPGM Installing Cmdr



Bro. Alvin Kipling enjoyed the great honour of presenting his Father Bro. Alfred Kipling personally with his Grand Lodge Royal Ark Mariner Certificate which he did with a full recital of the presentation in excellent manner. Congratulations to both!

BARNARD CASTLE LODGE OF ROYAL ARK MARINERS NO. 778

CONSECRATED 10TH OCTOBER 2003



Worshipful Commander, thank you for inviting me to your installation and for asking me to propose this toast on this very important evening for you and for this lodge . Which has been further advanced by you receiving an official visit by the P.G.M. I am confident that he is not here to check up on his new assistant but wishes to support and encourage him as he performs this important duty in his own lodge. He will make many visits as APGM and see many ceremonies but there is always something special about being at home in your own lodge. I thought I would paint my picture of this event if I were sent for instance as a newsletter reporter sent to this installation ceremony here in rural Barnard Castle, tucked away in the SW corner of our province far from the bright city lights of Sunderland. This lodge has been very fortunate in recent years to produce a Provincial Junior Warden Robert Henderson, a Provincial Senior Warden John Bayles and now an Assistant Provincial Grand Master Trevor Lynn. Also five new members joined the lodge during WBro.Trevor's year in the chair.

Next month also a new Grand Officer in the person of Doug Quickmire. The period of office for a WCmdr. is of course the normal one year which seems a long time as you take the chair but considerably less when the time comes to leave. It is the highlight and major celebration of any lodge's year and I am sure all your brethren both look forward to seeing this ceremony performed and also taking part in it.

Remember that everyone can be said to be part of the installation in a varying degree by simply being here and singing and assisting the WCmdr. opening and closing the lodge. The evening begins with the WCmdr. opening his lodge for the last time and approving his last set of minutes. WBro.Trevor Lynn has had a very unique year as he took the

chair as a Provincial Secretary and leaves it as Assistant Provincial Grand Master, a definite roll a coaster year by any standarts.

The ceremony requires the chairs of SW, JW, and IG to be filled by Past Cmdr's. In this RAM degree both Wardens are unusually both placed in the West, something which I had never thought about until recently when at a talk given by WBro. John Nye on the Wardens and Overseers he explained that originally in Mark Lodges the Wardens originally both sat in the west. Again an example for me of " a daily advancement in masonic knowledge" and the value of talks or lectures at our meetings.

The main component of any installation must be the obligation, this is always enhanced when done with sincerity and decorum and this was ably demonstrated by WBro.Trevor this evening. It is always a good time to reflect on the importance we attach to well persecuted ritual consisting of the wording and actions all of which must be learnt and then delivered. This is of course requires the use of our time and commitment. We all have different rates of learning and ability and all we ask is that we all do our personal best.

Another component added to the ceremony is the presentation and explanation of the two collarettes. In masonry we have many colourful and well crafted breast jewels but I find the collarette to be very decorative and easy to focus on. They are worn by Provincial and Grand Officers and I think a very special distinguishing asset of this degree. The presentation is an annual reminder of their purpose and so is very important. The explanation was delivered in an impressive manner by Bro.Alvin Kipling.



Brethren,

As we approach the Christmas season let us remember that the one whose birth we honour and celebrate came not to be served but to serve. In his ministry of love and compassion Jesus is and always should be a pattern for our own behaviour.

The reputation that we as Freemasons have acquired as caring members of the communities in which we live and work, extending help and hope to all sections of society must continue to be our touchstone.

So this Christmas, as we celebrate together in our homes, our families, and indeed in our Lodges let us not lose sight of the sacrifice of love made for us all at that first Christmas and carry forward the central message of God, to love one another as He has loved us. Christmas Greetings to you all, with Best Wishes for 2019.

From the Chaplaincy Team, W/Bro. Revd. P.W. Adamson, W/Bro. P.A. Carter and V.W/Bro. K. Dinning



JIM STUBBINGS
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Lots of Regalia in stock, please ring or
call in to see what is available.

Brethren can support the Durham 2020
Centenary Festival by purchasing this special
badge which can be supplied by
WBro.Graham Wharton on
07855815958
and VWBro.Frank Rankin



TRAVELING GAVEL LOCATION UPDATE



Congratulations to Cestria Lodge No.1151

Thursday 22nd November 2018 saw St Andrews Lodge of Mark Master Masons relinquish control of the Travelling Gavel. A strong contingent of brethren from **Cestria Lodge 1151 led by their Master, W.B. Gary Walker** preempted any other lodge from claiming it. Nine brethren gave greetings from Cestria and were allowed one more member according to the mileage rules. At the festive board the master of St Andrews Lodge, W.B. Start Tinnion handed over the gavel to W. B. Gary Walker. However their ownership of it might be quite short as Cestria Lodge's next meeting is on Tuesday 4th

December. Any lodge attempting to claim it can

do so by visiting Cestria with at least three members and their desire to do so when giving greetings in the lodge room. The rules of claiming the gavel were in the November newsletter and on the next page.

Jeff Awdas



The Grand Prize to win....

was made by **WBro.Allan Ruddel, PPRGSO of Unity Mark Lodge 827**

dougquickmire@yahoo.co.uk
phone number is **07980 391298.**

Travelling Gavel Rules as from 28th June 2018

- 1- The Travelling Gavel competition is open to all Durham Mark Lodges with the exception of The Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters No 1492, The Durham Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards No 1820 and Chief of the Builders Lodge No 1806, and the Travelling Gavel must not in any circumstances leave the Province.
- 2- To claim the Gavel a minimum of three visitors representing the other Lodge must visit the Lodge in possession of the Travelling Gavel, but a Lodge cannot claim the Travelling Gavel if on a Fraternal Visit.
- 3- The visiting Lodge with the most visitors (after taking into account the Distance Travelled Factor) will be entitled to claim the Gavel.
- 4- A Distance Travelled Chart has been produced to show the distance in miles between each Masonic building where a Mark Lodge is held. A visiting Lodge can claim an additional number of visitors according to the distance travelled as follows:-
Between 1 and 10 miles Between 11 and 20 miles Between 21 and 30 miles Between 31 and 40 miles Between 41 and 50 miles
1 visitor 2 visitors 3 visitors 4 visitors 5 visitors.
- 5- In the unlikely event of a tie, the Lodge which has travelled the furthest distance will claim the Gavel.
- 6- The Travelling Gavel remains the property of the Mark Province of Durham and may be

recalled at any time, and if recalled the current holders must ensure its safe return.

7- To claim the Travelling Gavel the visiting Lodge Members making a claim must all stand up when giving greetings in the usual manner, but the Lodge Member giving the greeting will add the following: - " I have come to claim the Travelling Gavel on behalf ofLodge, number....." Each visiting Lodge will do the same and the Lodge Secretary will note all claimants, but no comment will be made by the WM.

8- At the Festive Board the Lodge Secretary will verify the number of visitors from the signing in book and during the Toast to the Visitors the Travelling Gavel will be presented to the successful claiming Lodge.

9- The Secretary of the Lodge giving up the Gavel should complete the Log sheet before passing it over to the new Lodge, and inform the Provincial Grand Secretary of the new Lodge by the following day.

10- The Travelling Gavel Coordinator will then inform all Lodge Secretaries of the name and number of the Lodge holding the Travelling Gavel, together with the date and time of their next Lodge Meeting, and details will appear in the Monthly Mark & RAM Newsletter. The Coordinator will also keep a duplicate Log (the original Log will remain with the Gavel.)

11- At each Annual Meeting of Mark Provincial Grand Lodge the Gavel will be presented to the Provincial Grand Master for the duration of the Meeting and handed back to the Lodge at the end of the Meeting.

W Bro R T Lynn PAGDC A PGM 28th June 2018

TRAVELLING DISTANCES

Distance in Miles	Barnard Castle	Billingham	Birtley	Blackhill	Burnhopefield	Castle Eden	Chester le Street	Crook	Darlington	Dunston	Durham	Ferryhill	Gateshead	Hartlepool	Hebburn	Hetton le Hole	Jarrow	Ryton	Seaham	Shildon	Shiney Row	South Shields	Spennymoor	Staindrop	Stanhope	Stanley	Stockton	Sunderland	Willington
Barnard Castle		36	36	29	34	33	35	19	17	42	25	20	42	37	42	32	43	47	40	15	38	45	19	6	18	31	29	38	20
Billingham	36		31	35	37	11	29	21	16	36	21	17	34	9	33	20	31	42	21	20	27	33	19	27	35	35	2	25	23
Birtley	36	31		14	8	21	3	17	29	6	11	16	6	27	7	9	8	11	14	26	5	10	18	30	26	7	30	10	16
Blackhill	29	35	14		6	24	13	14	30	13	14	19	14	31	22	20	23	10	27	23	17	25	19	25	12	7	37	23	15
Burnhopefield	34	37	8	6		28	9	17	35	6	16	22	6	35	15	14	18	7	22	32	12	17	23	30	19	4	36	17	18
Castle Eden	33	11	21	24	28		21	19	28	26	10	13	23	7	22	9	21	31	10	21	16	22	15	27	31	26	13	14	19
Chester le Street	35	29	3	13	9	21		14	28	10	6	15	10	26	10	6	11	15	11	24	5	12	16	28	24	7	28	10	13
Crook	19	21	17	14	17	19	14		18	24	10	11	25	28	25	16	25	23	23	8	19	27	8	14	12	13	23	21	2
Darlington	17	16	29	30	35	28	28	18		35	20	12	36	25	36	25	36	41	36	9	31	38	13	11	27	32	12	31	19
Dunston	42	36	6	13	6	26	10	24	35		17	22	2	32	12	15	11	6	19	32	10	14	24	36	38	8	36	14	22
Durham	25	21	11	14	16	10	6	10	20	17		7	17	17	17	6	18	22	14	13	13	20	6	19	24	9	21	12	8
Ferryhill	20	17	16	19	22	13	15	11	12	22	7		23	16	23	12	24	28	21	8	19	25	3	14	22	20	14	18	8
Gateshead	42	34	6	14	6	23	10	25	36	2	17	23		16	7	16	9	8	17	32	11	10	24	37	35	8	36	13	23
Hartlepool	37	9	27	27	31	35	7	26	28	25	17	16	16		29	16	27	38	16	23	23	29	17	30	39	32	10	21	26
Hebburn	42	33	7	22	15	22	10	25	36	12	17	23	7	29		14	2	18	15	33	9	5	24	36	34	15	35	12	23
Hetton le Hole	32	20	9	20	14	9	6	16	25	15	6	12	16	16	14		13	24	6	22	4	15	14	26	30	12	22	8	14
Jarrow	43	31	8	23	18	21	11	25	36	11	18	24	9	27	2	13		19	14	33	9	4	25	37	35	16	34	10	24
Ryton	47	42	11	10	7	31	15	23	41	6	22	28	8	38	18	24	19		24	37	16	20	29	41	25	11	41	20	24
Seaham	40	21	14	27	22	10	11	23	36	19	14	21	17	16	15	6	14	24		29	9	16	22	35	38	19	23	5	21
Shildon	15	20	26	23	32	21	24	8	9	32	13	8	32	23	33	22	33	37	29		28	35	7	9	21	24	19	28	8
Shiney Row	38	27	5	17	12	16	5	19	31	10	13	19	11	23	9	4	9	16	9	28		11	20	32	29	10	29	6	18
South Shields	45	33	10	25	17	22	12	27	38	14	20	25	10	29	5	15	4	20	16	35	11		27	39	37	18	36	9	25
Spennymoor	19	19	18	19	23	15	8	13	24	24	6	3	24	17	24	24	25	29	22	7	20	27		13	19	14	17	19	6
Staindrop	6	27	30	25	30	27	28	14	11	36	19	14	37	30	36	26	37	41	35	9	32	39	13		20	27	25	32	14
Stanhope	18	35	26	12	19	31	24	12	27	38	24	22	35	39	34	30	35	25	38	21	29	37	19	20		19	34	36	14
Stanley	31	35	7	7	4	26	7	13	32	8	9	20	8	32	15	12	16	11	19	24	10	18	14	27	19		33	15	14
Stockton	29	2	30	37	36	13	28	23	12	36	21	14	36	10	35	22	34	41	23	19	29	36	17	25	34	33		27	21
Sunderland	38	25	10	23	17	14	10	21	31	14	12	18	13	21	12	8	10	20	5	28	6	9	19	32	36	15	27		20
Willington	20	23	16	15	18	19	13	2	19	22	8	8	23	26	23	14	24	24	21	8	18	25	6	14	14	14	21	20	



**Provincial Grand Lodge
of
Mark Master Masons
of
Durham**



Mark Gala Dinner

on

SATURDAY 11th MAY 2019

at

**SPENNYMOOR TOWN HALL
HIGH STREET, SPENNYMOOR**

Black Tie



Black Tie



Entertainment by

Mark Hodgson

Reception: 6.45pm, for Dinner at: 7.15pm, Carriages: 11.30am

Ticket Price Still Only £26.00

Tickets can be obtained from:

A J Clark, 155 Hilda Park, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH2 2JS

Or by E-mail at ajc5807@gmail.com

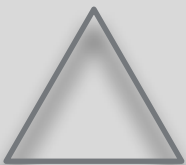
All Tickets Will be E-Tickets

DECEMBER / MARK	2018	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Walton no.1106	3	Monday	6.45	Installation
Industry no. 293	3	Monday	7.00	
Hackworth no.761	4	Tuesday	6.45	Provincial visit
Cestria no.1151	4	Tuesday	6.45	
Bernard Gilpin no.860	4	Tuesday	7.00	NB- DATE FOR MEETING
Steadfast no.846	5	Wednesday	6.30	Installation
Hebburn no. 1339	7	Friday	7.00	Installation
St.Aidan no.1145	10	Monday	7.00	
Harte no.740	10	Monday	7.00	
Elevation no.1112	13	Thursday	6.45	
Percy no.122	13	Thursday	7.00	
Bede no.605	14	Friday	7.00	
William Todd no.929	18	Tuesday	6.45	
Moseley no.925	21	Friday	7.00	
Clavering no. 896	20	Thursday	6.30	Installation

DECEMBER / RAM	2018	DAY	TIME	
Eclectic no.39	3	Monday	7.00	
Monument no.1055	4	Tuesday	10.30	
Darlington no.250	12	Wednesday	6.45	
Union no. 124	12	Wednesday	7.00	
Chief / Builders no.1806	14	Friday	10.30	
Hackworth no.761	17	Monday	6.45	Provincial visit

OBITUARIES

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



27 October 2018 – WBro. Thomas Gleghorn, PPGJW, RAMGR, M1112, R 1112.

23 November 2018 – WBro. John Michael Bell, PPGReg. M250, R250