



# PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



## DURHAM

JANUARY 2017



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



PGM of DURHAM

RW.Bro. Prof.  
DENOVAN  
KEITH  
WILSON

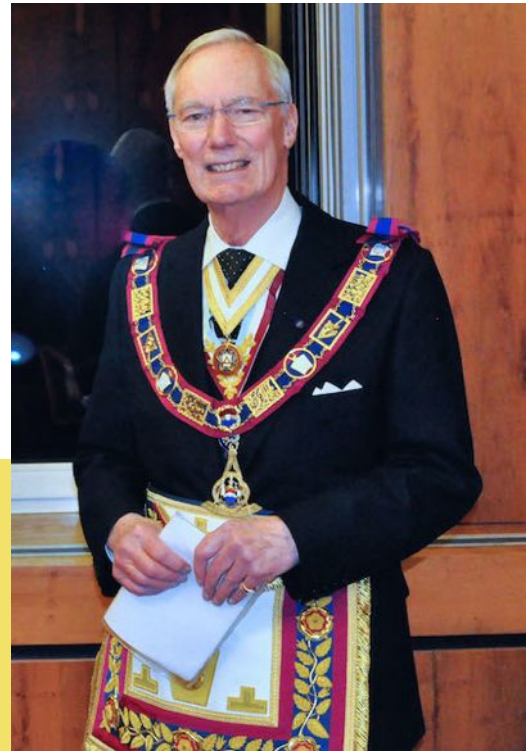
GRAND  
PATRON GOLD  
COLLARETTE



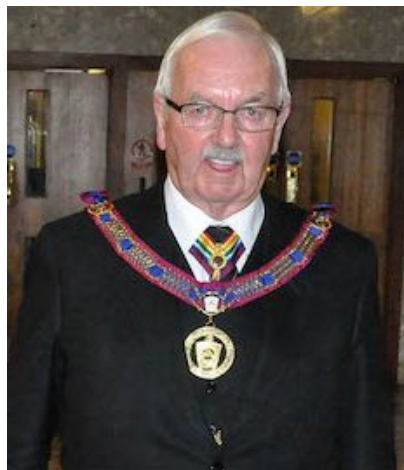
### The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master MWBro Richard Victor Wallis,JP

was pleased to accept the invitation of the Provincial Grand Master RWBro.Prof.Denovan Keith Wilson to attend the Especial Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham, on the 29 November 2016 at the Lancastrian Suite, Dunston, Gateshead.

The theme on this memorable occasion has been the celebration of the Province of Durham attaining Grand Patron Gold status in the Mark Benevolent Fund. The cheque for £169,971.00 to the Mark Benevolent Fund was presented to the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master in a short ceremony before the commencement of the Especial Meeting.



The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master  
MWBro Richard Victor Wallis,JP



At the Meeting the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master surprised the whole assembly when he announced that he was especially delighted to make a Field Appointment and promote **VWBro Frank Alexander Rankin, Dep.PGM**, to the rank of **Past Grand Master Overseer** in recognition of the wonderful work and many years of dedication to the MBF and its many good causes.



During the meeting MWBro.Richard Victor Wallis,JP was delighted to be able to make the Presentation of the Grand Patron Gold Award Collarettes personally to each Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham. There was also a presentation to an individual recipient, W,Bro.A.R.Davis,PPGJW of the Darlington Lodge of MMM no. 250. The final presentation saw the RW,PGM receiving his Grand Gold Patron Collarette from the MW Pro Grand Master which completed this most especial event. Never before had 67 Grand Patron Gold Collarettes been presented in one year which is outstanding in the 148 year history of the Mark Benevolent Fund. Durham is only the second Province to receive Grand Patron Gold Status.

**FOUR NEW PROVINCIAL OFFICERS INVESTED AND UP AND RUNNING IN SHILDON ON 6 DECEMBER 2016 IN A GRAND CEREMONY.**



VWBro Danny Guy, PGJO, Deputy PGM, RWBro. Prof. D.K. Wilson, PGM, and VWBro. Stuart Ingram PGJO, Assistant PGM



WBro. Ronald Trevor Lynn, PPGMO, the new Provincial Grand Secretary and RWBro. D.K. Wilson, PGM,



WBro David Hanson, PPGSW, the new Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary.

**The Shildon Masonic Hall** was the venue on the 6th December 2016 when Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form. Salutations from Grand Lodge were given by VWBro. Frank Rankin, PGMO, " for the last time as the Deputy PGM " he informed the assembled brethren.

The Especial Ceremony prior to the regular Lodge meeting continued with the PGM, RWBro. Prof D.K. Wilson in the WM Chair looking forward to the investiture of four brethren to important positions in the Province.

First to be paraded into the Lodge with an escort was VWBro. Danny Guy, PGJO, who was invested with the Chain of Deputy Provincial Grand Master by the PGM and then took his place which was previously occupied by VWBro Frank Rankin, PGJO. Next to be presented and invested with his Provincial Grand Secretary Collar was WBro. Ronald Trevor Lynn, PPGMO, then WBro. David Hanson, PPGSW, was invested as the Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary.

Although retiring as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro. Frank Alexander Rankin, PGMO, was delighted to be appointed by the PGM to the newly established role of Director of the Centenary Festival and will continue to be part of the Provincial Grand Master's Senior Team.

RWBro. Prof D.K. Wilson, PGM congratulated and welcomed his newly appointed Executive Team members and thanked them for taking office in such a well prepared and efficient manner which gives him every confidence for a successful future of the Province.

The evening continued with the Hackworth Lodge of MMM no. 761 having their meeting at which they received a talk by WBro. AR. Davis, PPrJGW of Darlington Lodge No. 250. The Lodge then provided a Past Master's jewel to the WM to Commemorate the appointment of the new Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Danny Guy. A very busy meeting was closed in due form and the brethren were soon enjoying a fantastic festive board which was followed by speeches and presentations concluding the evening with a brilliant pantomime show which the Hackforth Lodge is famous for putting on to the delight of all those present.

*Photographs of the evening can be viewed on the [durhammark.org](http://durhammark.org) website gallery.*



The newly invested Deputy Provincial Grand Master VWBro. D. Guy, PGJO congratulates and gives a sincere thanks to his predecessor VWBro F. Rankin, PGMO, for all the tremendous work he has done during his time as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and also on his appointment as Director of the Centenary Festival.



SW - Bro. MD. Hird WM - WBro. C. Raine JW - Bro. MJ. Buck

HACKWORTH LODGE OF MMM NO. 761

**ROYAL ARK MARINER ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

Over 30 Brethren from the Province of Durham made the trip to London on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December to support those who were receiving Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank Honours. The four Durham Brethren appointed were ; -

**AJ.Clark of Moseley Lodge No 925, L.Howarth of Elevation Lodge No 1112, R.Layton of Moseley Lodge No 925 and K.Pitchford of Stockton-on-Tees Lodge No 122.** We offer our congratulations to these four worthy Brethren. Those who were present had the additional pleasure of hearing the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Richard Victor Wallis refer to his visit to Dunston on 29<sup>th</sup> November, to those who accompanied him, the donation of £169,971, and the number of collarettes presented. He also mentioned that we were only the second Province to achieve the Grand Patron Gold Award. The gasps were audible throughout the Grand Temple and the applause very warm. A magical moment that we will remember for a very long time.



ST.ANDREWS LODGE OF MMM NO 854 on 24 November 2016 in Stanley advanced **Bro.Callum Aaron Cowan** in a truly excellent ceremony performed by a very experienced and skilled team of officers, which will have made a lasting impression on the mind of Bro. Cowan.

At the festive board he expressed his delight at being advanced into this lodge, he enjoyed and found the ceremony interesting. He told the brethren that he is eager to do his level best to further his career in the Mark and that he will attend as many meetings as is possible.



**Bede Lodge of MMM no.605** at their meeting on the 9th December 2016 had the happy task of advancing **Bro.Wayne Anthony Hardy** as a Mark Master Mason in an excellent ceremony.

The evening continued in a festive mood at the dining table where this newly advanced brother joined in with the brethren singing several Xmas Carols in a harty manner accompanied by W.Bro.Mike Davis ,PGJD,PPGJW,ProvDGDC, on the keyboard.

Bro.Hardy thanked his proposer WBro.David Lawson,PPGReg. and his seconder Bro.Gavin Leng for giving him the opportunity to further his Masonic career and he looks forward to learn more about the Mark with the help of the Bede Mark brethren. He thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony and the whole evening.

**The Union Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.124** in Sunderland had the wonderful occasion to Elevate Bro.Ken Dodds as a Royal Ark Mariner on the 14th December 2016. The ceremony was enjoyed by Bro.Ken Dodds and he took part with great dignity, which greatly added to the enjoyment of this special occasion. The brethren were really impressed with the way WBro.Jim Swinburne,GRank, gave the explanations of the Working Tools and The Nine Steps from memory. It was wonderful to see him manage this so well as he is still recovering from his stroke but this showed everyone how much he has progressed in his recovery. The W.Cmd also expressed his appreciation for the work done by WBro.John Rowland,PGRank and the visiting brethren who assisted in the ceremony.



L/R: WBro.Jim Swinburne,GRank, Bro.John Scott, Bro.Ken Dodds, WBro.Ian Mason, WCmdr.

**Rockcliffe RAM No. 362** has welcomed onboard Bro.Bob Hoy when he was Elevated on 18th November 2016 in South Shields. Bro.Ken Urquart Robson (SW) and W.Bro.Peter Maughan, (IPCdr), congratulate Bob and wish him many happy years as a Royal Ark Mariner.



**St.Aidan Lodge of MMM No.1145** in Blackhill had the pleasure of a Provincial Team Visit at their meeting on the 12th December 2016, the meeting included a talk on the work of the Mark Benevolent Fund given by VWBro.Roy Neville,PGJD, MBF Treasurer.

At the festive board the PGM referred to the many splendid meetings held recently in the Province, in particular those on the 29th November and 6th December. RWBro.Prof.D.K.Wilson recalled how impressed MWBro.Richard V.Wallis,JP the ProGrand Master had been with the enthusiasm shown by the brethren in the Durham Province in all the magnificent work they do in Masonry. A marvellous and friendly meeting was had by all who had travelled the dark night to be there.



**Shipleigh Lodge of MMM No.1271** were the hosts for a visit by the Provincial Grand Master and his Team on the 22 November 2016.

The evening was enjoyed by all who saw an excellent talk given by WBro.Jim Whitaker,PPGJD from Industry Lodge no.293. VWBro.Frank Rankin,PGJO, thanked his friend Jim for the wonderful work he did standing in at short notice to give this talk. During the meeting the PGM, RWBro.Prof.Denovan K. Wilson commented on the great work done by the Shipleigh Lodge brethren as shown in the way the Almoner Report was delivered by WBro.Roly Croysdale,PPRGRG, who mentioning absent brethren in a kind and considerate way truly reflecting the hard work the Almoner does in the Lodge. The PGM thanked the Lodge for an excellent evening and felt it reflected so well on the Shipleigh Lodge and the Mark Degree.

The WM presented the PGM with a cheque for the MBF, who was glad to pass it on to VWBro.Frank Rankin,PGJO, who received it as part of the last few remaining duties left to him before he retired from his present position as DepPGM.





Like many of us, W. Bro. Allan Gurney will be out and about at many Lodges, Chapters, and other Masonic events over the next few months.

However, you may see him struggling under the weight of a 1 litre bottle of malt whisky (Bowmore Islay). You can relieve him of his burden by buying a number for £1 (yes, it's a steal - only 1 pound Sterling for a litre of malt whisky!). This will enter you into the draw for the said bottle, which will be held in June.

All proceeds from the draw are to be donated to the 2021 Festival. So, get those £1 coins out, Brethren!

MARK	JANUARY	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Geo. Washington no.1626	3	Tuesday	7.00		
Spennymoor no.981	5	Thursday	6.45		
Darlington no.250	11	Wednesday	6.45		Provincial visit
Penshaw no.1055	12	Thursday	7.00		
Ferryhill no.1560	12	Thursday	6.45		
Jarrow no.701	16	Monday	7.00		Installation
Ernest Dixon no.1015	17	Tuesday	7.00		
Auckland no.596	18	Wednesday	6.45		
St.Thomas no.1511	24	Tuesday	6.45		
Eclectic no.39	24	Tuesday	7.00		
Ravensworth no.718	25	Wednesday	7.00		
Union no.124	26	Thursday	7.00		

RAM	JANUARY	2017	DAY	TIME	
Stockton no.122	17	Tuesday	7.00		Installation
Industry no.293	17	Tuesday	7.00		
Spennymoor no.981	23	Monday	6.45		
Moseley RAM no.925	23	Monday	7.00		
Barnard Castle no.778	30	Monday	7.00		

**Please send material for newsletter direct to :**

9 Raby Gardens, Jarrow, NE32 5DD.  
 E-mail: mschoolkate@gmail.com  
 Telephone: 07851427664.

**Change of venue for Auckland Mark Lodge 596.**

The Masonic Hall in Bishop Auckland is up for sale, and will be closed down for Masonic meetings at the end of December 2016.

Auckland Lodge of Mark Master Masons are pleased to announce, that they will now be meeting at the **Masonic Hall, Shildon, on the 3rd Wednesday of September / November / January and March, with the Installation meeting in May on the 2nd Wednesday.**

We would like to thank all the Members of the Mark degree, who have supported us in the past, and look forward to welcoming you all to Shildon.

**PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE  
 OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF  
 DURHAM**

**DURHAM LODGE  
 OF  
 INSTALLED MARK MASTERS  
 No.1492**

**[mj.cgraham9910@gmail.com](mailto:mj.cgraham9910@gmail.com)**

**27TH FEB. 2017**

Tonight we have the pleasure of introducing :

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

**2009 PRESTONIAN LECTURER**

W. Bro. Dr. J.Wade will with the aid of slides present a talk '1856 And All That'. It tells the story of the formation of Grand Mark Lodge and the interesting circumstances leading up to that formation.

*Another evening not to be missed*



**OBITUARIES**

28 November 2016 - Alan Brown M701

