

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



Dear Brethren,

The Festive Season is upon us and Dorothy and I extend warm greetings to all of you! It is a Season that means so much to so many people in so many different ways. It can be a time for great enjoyment, rejoicing and reflection. Unfortunately, for some it can be a time when sadness, difficulties and distress seem even more painful. My simple wish is that you will all be blessed with peace, goodwill, happiness and hope, and that those of us who can will do our best to make it so. May the year that follows be the very best it can be for you and those you love.

Denny Wilson, Provincial Grand Master.

LONDON ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2018 - ROYAL ARK MARINER PROMOTIONS



Twenty six brethren from the province of Durham traveled once again to the Capital for this years Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners in London to participate in the wonderfully impressive proceedings when five Royal Ark Mariners from Durham were appointed to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank by the ProGrand Master. All members of the party extend their sincere congratulations to all the brethren appointed to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. The day saw everyone continue the celebrations with "refreshments" on the train journey back to Durham Province.

Frank Rankin, David Hanson, Les Baker, Joe Bulmer, Denovan Wilson, Alan Ruddell, Doug Quickmire.

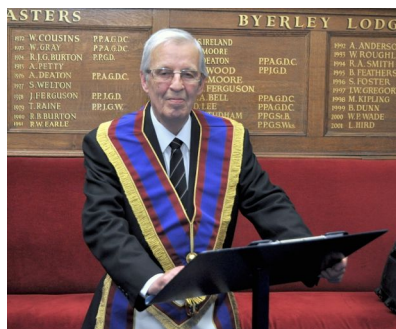
HACKWORTH LODGE OF MMM NO.761

Tuesday 4 December 2018

The Provincial Grand Master and a Deputation of his Officers traveled to Shildon Masonic Hall for a special evening of mirth and celebration which included "volunteers" to don a costume and take to the stage in an epic performance of other worldly magnificence which was highly appreciated by the audience, who gladly joined in with the singing and warm applause.



Before the events at the Festive board the business of the lodge saw the Worshipful Master WBro. Michael J. Buck extend a warm welcome to the PGM and his Officers. After the normal business was concluded the brethren were presented with a most interesting talk given by WBro. Malcolm Robson of Spennymoor Lodge MMM No.981. His subject was "Masonry in the Wild West" and in it he related the masonic



virtues that can be found in the story of the "Lone Ranger and Tonto" as well as the Ranger Marshalls of the old wild west many of whom were

freemasons as well as law enforcers. They tried whenever possible to guide their actions with their masonic principles in mind, to bring benevolence and assistance as well as the rule of law throughout the territories where they had to work. The brethren showed their appreciation with warm applause for this most interesting piece of masonic knowledge brought by WBro. Robson.



A photo of VWBro. John Warren, VWBro. Roy Neville, WBro Ken Anderson & WBro Peter Beedle who were in London celebrating the investiture of WBro Allan Gurney, Prov. Grand Secretary into the Grand Stewards Lodge.

A wonderful day was had by everyone who had accompanied Allan on this important event. The location in a pub for the photo is pure coincidence!

At their regular lodge meeting on the 28th November 2018, the Ravensworth Lodge of MMM No.718 celebrated a special occasion when **WBro. Lawrie Bell, PGJD,PGIWks**, was presented with a Grand Patron Collarette by RW Bro.Prof. Denovan K.Wilson. The PGM congratulated WBro.Lawrie on receiving this honour in recognition for all he has done for masonry over many years of dedication and support in the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees.



The presentation was originally to be made by WBro. Roy Neville, Provincial Grand Charity Steward but unfortunately Roy was not well enough at this time and RW Bro. Wilson was only too delighted to make the presentation for him. The brethren acknowledged WBro. Bell with warm applause and congratulations.



The Union Lodge of RAM No.124 on the 12th December 2018 in Sunderland had the wonderful occasion of Elevating **Bro. David William Homer** as a new Royal Ark Mariner. Bro. David informed the brethren how much he had enjoyed the ceremony and how interesting it is, he really looks forward to many happy years as a Royal Ark Mariner.

HACKWORTH LODGE OF ROYAL ARK MARINERS NO. 761
 FESTIVE SEASON CAROL SINGING directed by Colin Raine and John Denham



WBro. Kevin Wayman PM 929,1560, a visitor welcomed by the WM and who lives in France but will be returning to Spennymoor next year and he looks forward to renewing his masonic ties in Durham Province.

Worshipful Commander WBro.Nigel Scott,RAMProvGR, delighted to receive a visit by the PGM and a Deputation of Officers to the meeting of the Hackworth Lodge of RAM No.761 on the 17th December 2018. On a cold night but in a warm temple the brethren enjoyed their meeting which included a wonderful and fascinating talk presented by WBro.J.S.Denham with the title "Noah's Ark: The facts behind the Flood". The talk revealed the discoveries made by scholars of ancient history written on clay tablets, which after deciphering showed the ancient origins of the story of the Great Flood and the building of the Ark predating the biblical records.

BARNARD CASTLE RAM NO. 778 after the lodge was closed, admitted two representatives of the Girl Guides. They wanted to bring the grateful thanks to the brethren for their support through the MBF in enabling a group of them to travel to Thailand on a humanitarian mission. You can read an account of their trip below. In the photo WBro.David Hanson,Dep.PGM congratulates WBro. Raymond Davis for his unstinting support of the St.Helen's Guides.



Our names are Bronwyn Davis and Gracie Smyth. We are Girl Guides at the 1st St Helen's Guides and Senior Section.

We would like to thank you so much for your donation towards our trip to Thailand. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and we were so lucky to have been chosen to go and we are so grateful to the Freemasons for helping with the funding. It means so much for us.

Before the trip, the two of us designed the Thailand expedition badge for the whole group, which was put on to the tops and hoodies we all wore.

We left England for Thailand from Manchester airport on the 16th of August. We went on two long plane journeys - one from Manchester to Dubai and then one from Dubai to Bangkok.

After arriving in Bangkok we met with the Thai guide leaders who would look after us on our trip and travelled to the Bangkok international guiding accommodation where we stayed at the beginning and the end of our trip.

In Bangkok, we visited many famous landmarks including the Grand Palace, the reclining Buddha and some

museums. We also visited the floating markets and tried some authentic Thai food and visited a coconut sugar plantation.

Next we flew to Chiang Mai where we were welcomed with coconut water and more delicious Thai food. When we arrived we visited more cultural museums with various examples of traditional clothing. We visited giant waterfalls and the highest spot in Thailand, and the King's botanical gardens, which are national gems, truly beautiful.

In Chiang Mai we visited the Regina Coeli School for cultural exchange. This was an all girls private school that was apparent as the students aged 4 to 16 all spoke excellent English and were extremely grateful for their education. We played games and sang cultural songs to one another and exchanged gifts. It was a really nice experience and one of our favourite of our trip.

In Chiang Mai we also took our first Tuk-Tuk tour, which was exciting and truly unique.

Next we travelled to the small village of Wiang Pa Poe. This was a bit of a shock to the system as we had stayed in relative luxury up until now with air conditioning and comfortable rooms. Here there were only old fans to keep us cool and no glass in the windows and because we were now staying in a very rural area, we had to sleep under mosquito nets and were constantly smothered in anti-mosquito spray and bands.

In Wiang Pa Poe we visited the famous hot springs. Then we travelled down a dirt track to a small primary school. There was a vast contrast in the students we met here in comparison to the private school we had visited before. The pupils spoke nearly no English and there were only two classrooms in all. We taught these children simple vital first aid such as CPR and how to stop choking. It was challenging as we struggled to communicate, but luckily the Thai leaders we were accompanied by were able to translate. We also gave every child a balloon that we modelled

and they were very excited and thankful for our gifts. It was sad to go but also necessary as we had more work to do.

When we got back to where we were staying, we renovated a house that would be used by orphans and those in need in the future and also painted a Muriel on a wall brightening up an important camp and leaving our mark in Thailand.

Then we journeyed back to Chiang Mai and visited an elephant sanctuary where we got to feed, stroke and walk among rescued elephants. It was a truly incredible experience. Before leaving for the airport we stopped at a canopy walk and then set off for Krabi.

In Krabi we visited more cultural places such as the emerald pool beaches and some of us even got to climb to the top of the tiger cave temple, which had 1237 steep and exhausting steps.

Here we visited our final school - a public secondary school here we helped harvest corn shaved coconuts, exchanged culture and again taught vital first aid training. Students in Tuk-Tuks also drove us around. It was very funny.

Finally we flew back to Bangkok where we prepared to leave for England.

After two more long plane journeys we finally arrived home tired but very happy with the work we had done.

Thank you once again for your kind donation.



W Bro. Allan Gurney (Representing the PGM); W Bro. Ian Ogden (DC); W Bro. Allan Bell (WM); W Bro. Andrew Watson (IPM); W Bro. Don Marshall (who found the Jewels).



Discovering Lost Treasure.

When W.Bro Peter Smailes, PGDC, **Steadfast Mark Lodge No 846**, told W.Bro. Don Marshall that it was his intention to retire from Freemasonry, he asked W.Bro. Don to help in sorting out his Regalia of all the Orders of which he was a member.

While looking through old boxes in Peter's garage they came across an old leather case, which contained old Festival

Jewels, summonses and other papers, including an old white envelope.

Little did they know that this envelope contained untold historical treasure belonging to Steadfast Mark Lodge. When they opened the envelope they discovered three Silver Founders' Jewels which had been presented to the Lodge by Mrs Young, the wife of one of the founder members, in 1927, the date of the first meeting of Steadfast Mark Lodge. The Jewels were intended to be worn by the WM, the IPM and the DC. "It felt like a moment from the Antique Road Show" said W.Bro. Don.

On Wednesday, the 4th. Dec. 2018, the installation meeting of Steadfast Mark Lodge, W.Bro. Don presented the Jewels back to the Lodge, and invested the W.M., W.Bro. Allan Bell, the I.P.M., W. Bro. Andrew Watson, and the D.C., W.Bro. Ian Ogden with their respective Jewel.

W.Bro. Allan Bell thanked W.Bro. Marshall for the discovery, and for returning these valuable Jewels, a very important part of the History of Steadfast Mark Lodge, to their rightful place in the Lodge. *W. Bro. Don Marshall*



November newsletter and on the next page.

Jeff Awdas

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



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

At the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Annual Meeting on 27th June, the Provincial Grand Master announced that he is introducing a 'Travelling' Gavel in the Mark Degree to encourage visiting between Lodges.

The Travelling Gavel was presented to the Worshipful Master of St. Andrew's Mark Lodge No 854 which meets at Stanley Masonic Hall, and the first chance for Lodges to capture the Gavel will be at their Lodge Installation Meeting on Thursday 28th September 2018.

Please find attached a set of Rules, and a chart recording the distance in miles between each Masonic Hall.

The Travelling Gavel Coordinator is W Bro Doug Quickmire, whom you should contact for any clarification of the Rules. His contact details are:

- 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

MARK	JANUARY	2019	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Spennymoor no.981		3	Thursday	6.45	
Darlington no.250		9	Wednesday	6.45	
Penshaw no.1055		10	Thursday	7.00	
Ferryhill no.1560		10	Thursday	6.45	
Ernest Dixon no.1015		15	Tuesday	7.00	
Auckland no.596		16	Wednesday	6.45	
Jarrow no.701		21	Monday	7.00	Installation
St.Thomas no.1511		22	Tuesday	6.45	
Eclectic no.39		22	Tuesday	7.00	
Ravensworth no.718		23	Wednesday	7.00	
Union no.124		24	Thursday	7.00	

RAM	JANUARY	2019	DAY	TIME	
Stockton no.122		15	Tuesday	7.00	Installation
Industry no.293		15	Tuesday	7.00	Provincial visit
Spennymoor no.981		28	Monday	6.45	
Moseley RAM no.925		28	Monday	7.00	Provincial visit



11 Marwell Drive, The Glade,
 Usworth Hall, Washington,
 Tyne and Wear, NE37 3LH.
 Tel: 0191-4166764
 Email: j.stubbings@talktalk.net
 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



OBITUARIES

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



- 22 August 2018 - WBro. JAMES WILLIAM STENSON, PPGJD,ProvGR. R250.
- 24 November 2018 - WBro. MATTHEW BAINBRIDGE, PPGReg. M1626.
- 3 December 2018 - WBro. DERRICK ALLISON,PPGJW,Prov.GR. M1112, R1112.
- 24 December 2018 - WBro. RICHARD ARMSTRONG, PPGJW,PAGSwB,ProvGR,
 M-929,1560,1936, R-981.