

# 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



# 1920

## ON YOUR MARK - GET SET - GO!

# 2020

**No, no! This is not the start of a race, but it is the start of a count down to celebrate an important anniversary in our Province.**

### ON YOUR MARK!

The history of Mark Masonry in the Province of Durham is ever evolving with the passing of each day, lodge meeting or event. We are now heading towards a major landmark in our order, namely, one hundred years since it was established as a separate entity.

The records reveal that, it was on the 12th of June 1920 that Durham became a Province in its own right. Up until that day our membership formed a part of the Province of Northumberland. It naturally follows that on the 12th June 2020 the Durham Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons can celebrate 100 years as a Province of Mark Masons.

The figure 2020 indicates very good eye sight and vision. The insight and awareness of such an important date was firmly in the vision of the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Professor Denovan Keith Wilson and his executive.



VW Bro Frank Rankin  
Director of the Centenary Festival

### GET SET!

At the Annual General Meeting of Provincial Lodge of MMM in June 2016 the PGM, Professor Denovan Keith Wilson, appointed the retiring Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Frank Rankin as the Director of the Centenary Festival. One of the main objectives for Frank was a target of raising £10,000.00. However, he has been ever mindful of the many calls on the brethren to support the Craft and the RMBI 2021 Festival, the current Tercentenary events, the Mark and the recent 'Walk in the Park'

Frank wished to announce that as usual the brethren of Mark Masonry are being exceptional in their support as the monies raised to date exceed eight thousand pounds, a wonderful achievement so far.

### GO!

He stated, we feel that it is now the time to push on, as we move ever closer to 2018 and the count down to 2020. There are several initiatives and events being launched to assist the continuation of fund raising to achieve our goal.

By way of marking the occasion of the centenary year an appropriate 'Lapel Badge' has been designed and will be available for purchase at the Annual General Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge of MMM, on Wednesday the 28th of June 2017.

There will also be a Grand Draw, with three major prizes:

*A weekend stay in London for two persons including rail fare.*

*A £350 voucher towards decorating*

*A break at Eslington Villa including Bed & Breakfast with evening meal*

*( tickets will be on sale shortly)*

A 'Halloween Social' at the Shildon Masonic Hall will take place On Saturday 26th October 2017. The details to be announced shortly.

These are the most immediate events, however, planning is currently underway to host a memorable 'Centenary Celebration Gala' Dinner'. The date and venue yet to be decided.

The PGM added, "As you can gather there is a lot that you can contribute to and participate in. Whatever that is, you can be assured the monies raised as part of the Centenary Celebration will be awarded to worthy charities.

How will those charities be selected? Already, it is envisaged that brethren will be involved in the selection process. It is hoped that the monies raised by lodges and brethren will allow for several worthy causes being given the support of Mark Masons. From what has been disclosed we can conclude that we are heading towards a fantastic anniversary by way of celebration, with lots of work to be done and fun to be had along the way.

*M. Wilkinson*



**UNITY LODGE OF MMM  
NO.827**

The brethren of the Unity Mark Lodge in Seaham on the 1st June 2017 had the pleasure of a visit by the Provincial Grand Master and the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge. This special event also included a very interesting talk delivered by WBro.Norman Dunn, PPrGSwdB, of the St.Lawrence Lodge of MMM No.1093.

Jack Johnson 1878 - 1946



The talk entitled "Scottish Freemasonry and the Black Boxer "

described the incredible story of Jack Johnson ( 1878 - 1946 ) who had to fight in and outside the ring all his life just to survive and who never received the recognition his boxing career deserves. His initiation in a Scottish lodge on the 13th October 1911 in Dundee, was not without controversy which resulted in him leaving in 1912. This interesting story was brilliantly delivered by Norman and hugely appreciated by the assembled brethren with spontaneous applause.



Keith Haddon, Neil Derek Cook, Norman Dunn, Joe Higginbottom

## MEET THE ORGANISTS



**WBro.Christopher J.W.Alderson, PPGJW - Organist 930**

Caradoc No.749  
Castle Eden No.930  
Rose Croix No.262 in Hartlepool  
Castle Eden RAM No.930  
Organist since 1981  
Deputy Church organist at St.Mary Magdalene, Trimdon village, when he was only 14 years old.  
He has had piano tuition since the age of 8 years and still enjoys playing music for the brethren of his lodges.



**WBro.Philip A.Watson,PPGJW.**

Dunelm No.356  
Unity No.827  
Bede RAM No.605 Retired Lay Clerk and Teacher in Durham County.



**WBro. Les Howarth, Grand Rank RAM, PGStdB ( Mark ), District Organist Rose Croix,**

St.Andrews Mark 854, Ryton Mark 1714, Stanhope RAM 1551, Elevation RAM 1112, Accession Craft 5661, KT- De Umfraville 339, KTP-All Saints 101,

Les says he is a self taught musician who became the organist in the Accession Craft Lodge after their organist WBro.Wilf Lawson died. His progress through the Chairs in his respective lodges interrupted his organist duties but he played when possible. Les enjoys playing to lodge ceremonies and endeavours to play appropriate music and to make it fit in with the correct ceremony procedures and timing.



Ian Turnbull Rakesh Bhalla Kenneth R. Webster David

**WOULD HAVE TYNE DOCK LODGE OF MMM NO. 362**  
 Bro. Kenneth Roland Webster became a Mark Master Mason when he was advanced on the 17th May 2017 in South Shields, he thanked the lodge for their best wishes and belief in him. He regards it as a great honour and appreciates the support he received from his proposer and seconder.



Peter Dale Geoffrey Whiteman Alan Mason Richard Armstrong James Tempest

**The Castle Eden Lodge of MMM No.930** on the 24th May 2017, had the happy occasion of installing as their new Worshipful Master a very experienced and committed Mason, WBro. Alan E. Mason. He was installed in due and excellent manner by the Installing Master, WBro. Richard M. Armstrong.  
 The Representative of the RW Provincial Grand Master, WBro. Geoffrey Whiteman, PGJD, PPrGJW, conveyed his delight at the way the ceremony had been conducted, making special mention of the installing Master and the Director of ceremonies, WBro. James T. Tempest. PPrGJW, who together deserved credit for their work which had added so much to the enjoyment of the evening. WBro. Geoffrey sees the Castle Eden lodge almost as his second home and he wishes them a very happy and successful future.



Phillip A. Carter Jeffrey Awdas Robert Main Malcolm Graham

At their meeting on the 8th June 2017, **ST. ANDREWS LODGE OF RAM NO.854** in Stanley, enjoyed a superb masonic evening in the presence of the PGM and his Provincial Officers, when four Royal Ark Mariners gave an explanation of the Royal Ark Mariner Tracing Board. This was wholly delivered from memory and was so impressive that it afterwards received the compliment of the PGM, when he told the brethren that the explanation of the RAM Tracing Board is the centre point of the Order and he does not know when he would see it presented any better anywhere else. RWBro. Prof. D.K. Wilson, RAMGR, especially complemented the presentation team on their excellent work.



**"DAFT AS A BRUSH" still going strong helping people get there...**

The members of the **Clavering Lodge of MMM No.896** raised the magnificent sum of a £1000 for the charity "Daft as a Brush".

The Charity was set up in the late 1980's principally by Mr Brian Burnie to provide transportation for cancer patients. They now have 20 ambulances providing transport for patients in Durham, Tyne and Wear, and Northumberland. The latest addition to their service is to provide transport for child cancer sufferers in Cumbria.

Together W. Bro. Alan Willis and W. Bro. Ron Black presented a cheque for £1000 to "Daft as a Brush" on behalf of the Members of Clavering Lodge of MMM. No896 The two Trustees of the charity in the photograph are Mr Leslie Caisley and Mr Derek Warren.



**DUNELM LODGE OF MMM NO.356**

**' OLD ELVET ' DURHAM**



WBro. Joseph W.P. Dodson, Worshipful Master.

**Dunelm Lodge of MMM No.356**, one of the 6th oldest lodges in province of Durham had a busy agenda for their meeting on the 25th May 2017, when after a warm welcome extended to the PGM and his Provincial Officers the business of the evening was a presentation of the Lecture on the Tracing Board of Mark Master Masons.

This lecture was presented using modern digital computer technology which brought a whole new way of acquiring masonic knowledge with the various sections of the lecture beautifully illustrated on a large screen while the presenters of the lecture relayed the various sections by word of mouth.

Afterwards a presentation of a Grand Lodge Certificate to a recipient was demonstrated by members of the lodge, this is not often seen these days and thus very interesting to see.

After the meeting the RWBro.Prof D.K.Wilson,PGM, expressed his delight and congratulations for this presentation combining modern technology with tradition. With a gentle reference to the recent tragic events in some of our cities, he thought it wonderful to be in the company of people who have a different outlook to life and who do so much to bring relief and support to the community.

A defibrillator for St.Johns Ambulance, support for the Bloodbike Charity, magnificent response by the brethren in the province to the charity walk in London, and so much more. RWBro. Wilson then asked the brethren to acknowledge this brighter side of humanity with a toast to the Mark Masters Degree for the wonderful work it does in the community.



The excellent festive board was further enhanced with a musical interlude sung by WBro.P.Wilkie,PAGDC, WBro.M.J.Crabtree,IPM and Bro.I.Puchala,JW, and they were accompanied by WBro.P.A.Watson,PPGJW.

A very enjoyable evening indeed in Durham as the WM, WBro.Joseph W.P.Dodson acknowledged in his closing remarks.

Dear Brethren,

The 31st May having now passed, I am delighted to advise you that contributions were received from every Mark and RAM Lodge in our Province. In addition, 150 individual contributions were received.

The overall total raised in our Province was a magnificent £16066, an amount for which we can be justifiably proud and for which the members of my Team and are most grateful.

The combined total from all Provinces now stand at a stunning £420,877!

Please pass on our sincere thanks to the members of your Lodges.

Sincerely, Denny Wilson, PGM

**CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT**

First Prize goes to Daren Bethell of Eclectic Mark Lodge No.39,

*" OK Punk, make my day! "*

Second Prize goes to Kenn Moore of Hackworth Mark Lodge No.761,

*" PGM or not, you're not wearing THAT for Provincial Grand Lodge! "*

Lionel Danby thanks every one for taking part and for the many excellent captions....

# "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**, : Retired.

Craft - Lord Barnard Lodge No. 2935 , PM - Senior Deacon

Mark: Ravensworth Mark No. 718 Office: Secretary, Rank: ProvGMO

D.L.I.M.M. no.1492, Office: JW

RAM: Union Lodge No.124 - JW

Contact details: [mschoolkate@gmail.com](mailto:mschoolkate@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07851 427664



**Michael James Wilkinson**, Occupation: Director. Chairman of DRFC

Craft - Surtees Lodge No. 4593 Office: Lodge Secretary Rank: PPJGW

Neville Lodge of Installed Masters No.9441

Provincial Comms Team - Media /Public Display. RAC - Tristram Lodge No. 2415. Rank IPZ

Mark - Hackworth Lodge No.761 Rank: ProvGStwd

RAM -Hackworth No.761 (June 2017)

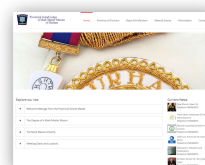
Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters No. 1492

Contact details : email. [michael.w@learning4ever.co.uk](mailto:michael.w@learning4ever.co.uk)

Mobile: 079632 13336

MARK	JULY	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Walton Lodge no.1106		3	Monday	6.45	
Durham P.G.Stewards no.1820		5	Wednesday	7.00	Provincial Visit
Spennymoor no. 981		6	Thursday	6.45	
Castle Eden no.930		26	Wednesday	7.00	

RAM	JULY	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Castle Eden RAM no.930		14	Friday	7.00	



You can visit the website on [durhammark.org](http://durhammark.org)

**AS THERE IS NO ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST THE LODGE MEETINGS FOR AUGUST ARE INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE**

MARK	AUGUST	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Staindrop No.1274		7	Monday	6.45pm	Provincial visit

RAM	AUGUST	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Clavering RAM no.896		24	Thursday	7.00pm	