

# 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



### NEW TEAM FOR DURHAM

The magnificent setting of the Masonic Hall in the Old Elvet in Durham was the venue where the Dunelm Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.356 hosted a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge arranged to open at 5.30 pm, before the Lodge's own meeting.

Assistant PGM, WBro. Ronald Trevor Lynn, PPGSW and Deputy PGM, Wbro. David Nigel Hanson, AGDC together with the PGM of Durham, RWBro Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson and the WM of Dunelm Lodge WBro. Joe Dodson.

At this very historic event a new chapter in the history of the Durham Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariners was started with the Investiture by the Provincial Grand Master of Durham, RWBro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson of the new Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro. David Nigel Hanson, AGDC, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro. Ronald Trevor Lynn, PPGSW.

An escort of six brethren first introduced the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate into the Lodge room. The Patent of Appointment was read out by the Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro. F.A.P. Beales, PAGDC. After undertaking his obligation WBro. David Nigel Hanson, AGDC, was invested with the chain of his office by the Provincial Grand Master. He was then presented with the Patent of Appointment, the Book of Constitutions, and a copy of the By-Laws. The PGM then presented VWBro. Danny Guy, PGJO, with the Collar and Jewel of a Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and thanked him for his services to the Province of Durham. VWBro. Guy thanked the PGM and presented him with a cheque for £200 for the Durham MBF. This was money raised from the sale of a book written by WBro. Rev. David Youngson, PAGChap.

Then the escort introduced the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Designate, and the Patent of Appointment was read out by the Provincial Grand Registrar, WBro. A. Gurney, PPGSW, and after undertaking his obligation WBro. Ronald Trevor Lynn, PPGSW, was invested with the chain of his office by the Provincial Grand Master, he was then presented with the Patent of Appointment, the Book of Constitutions, and a copy of the By-Laws.

The escort was made of WBro. R.W. Emmerson, PPrGJW, Walton Lodge No.1106, WBro. D. Quickmire, PGJD, Walton Lodge No.1106, WBro. P. Beedle, PGJD, William Todd Lodge No. 929, WBro. I. Heaviside, PM, Bernard Gilpin Lodge No.860, WBro. M. Rankin, PAGDC, Ambrose Crowley Lodge No.1269, WBro. G. Quinn, PGStwd, Ravensworth Lodge No. 718

This occasion also saw the appointment and Investiture by the Provincial Grand Master of the new Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro. Allan Gurney, PPGSW, and the Provincial Grand Registrar, WBro. Malcolm Donald Ormiston, Prov.G. Stwd.



Allan Gurney  
Provincial Grand Secretary



C. Copley, Dep.PGM N&E Yorkshire, R.T. Lynn, Asst PGM, D. Hanson, Dep PGM, D.K. Wilson, PGM Durham, J.W.P. Dodson, WM Dunelm Lodge, T. Craven, Prov GDC



Malcolm D. Ormiston  
Provincial Grand Registrar

## Brethren enjoying the superb evening in the Masonic Hall, Old Elvet, Durham, on Thursday 24th May 2018



The musical interlude at the festive board performed by the excellent "Marks' Brothers" choir and accompanied on the organ by **WBro.Philip A.Watson,PPGJW** provided some brilliant harmony worthy of such an important occasion in the Province.



Presentation by the WM, WBro. Joe Dodson, to the two long-standing stewards of the Dunelm Lodge of MMM No.356, **WBro.John B.Gibson** and **WBro. Raymond S.Hodgson**, of a bottle of malt whisky, to show our appreciation of their past services to Dunelm Lodge.



**The visit of the Provincial Team accompanying the PGM to the Penshaw Lodge No. 1055 on the 14th June 2018 was the occasion when WBro.Tony Craven, Grand Director of Ceremonies** finally signed off from his role as Director of Ceremonies after some 23 years of exceptional work in the service of the Province of Durham. Tony acknowledged the huge contributions made to his masonic career by the Past Provincial Grand Master James Peter Croft and by Fred Richardson, Prof.Denovan K.Wilson, and Paul Patterson for their generous and continuous support after he joined the Provincial Team in 2005. Their guidance and knowledge helped Tony gain the confidence to take on the job of Director of Ceremonies. Tony is extremely grateful for the huge number of letters and phone calls he has received from so many people thanking him for the wonderful work and kindness he has always shown to everyone.

The WM of Penshaw Lodge No.1055, WBro.Shaun Reay, presented WBro.Tony Craven with a bottle of whisky in thanks and appreciation.



**James Peter Croft**

**28 March 1943 - 3 June 2018**

Freemasonry, is an association that is defined by its guiding principles of conduct towards the fellowman. Therefore, it is only right that we report, remember and reflect upon the sad loss of any member.

So it was when the Provincial Grand Secretary reported the death of James Peter Croft to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham Mark Masons, to Lodges throughout the Province, Grand Mark Lodge and all its Districts.

Since that announcement many lodge members have demonstrated their sympathy in the usual Masonic manner. The sign of reverence being an outward display but we also use those moments to remember that person and reflect upon their contribution and personal attachments.

On Wednesday the 27th of June 2018, at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham Mark Masons AGM, similar sentiments will be honoured following the tributes and observations of the Provincial Grand Master to departed merit

Many members within the Mark Degree may not have had the privilege of knowing Peter, and what follows are the personal reflections of several brethren who were privileged to know him both as a colleague and friend:



**Fred Richardson**

*Peter was tireless in his attachment to the cause of Mark Masonry. He would respond at any time to requests from Mark Lodges to visit them, giving willingly and unconditionally of his time and energy. He was an inveterate visitor to other Mark Provinces, too, and always "flying the flag" of Mark Masonry in the Province of Durham. One of his particular objectives was to have the Mark seen as an Order which*

*innovated procedures which he would be delighted for others to copy. He was very keen on the wives/partners of members being part of the total picture and encouraged their inclusion wherever possible.*



**William (Bill) Swift**

*I was fortunate to be appointed as Provincial Grand Secretary in 1994, which followed Peter's year as Secretary before his appointment as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master. A year later being installed as the Provincial Grand Master. I remember with fondness, accompanying him on countless Provincial Deputation Visits to Mark Lodges throughout the Province. The thousands of miles we covered representing the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Durham to all parts of the country, visiting just about every Province and Grand Mark Lodge. Many of which were in the company of my wife Lynne. We have many great memories of those trips. He was tireless in promoting the Mark Degree in general but the Province of Durham in particular. He was generous, a fellow mason and importantly a friend who we will miss but fondly remember.*



**Danny Guy**

*Peter Croft was an inspiration to many within the Masonic Provincial of Durham, and many more in the wider field. He held very senior positions in most of the Orders of Free Masonry and his Masonic knowledge was phenomenal.*

*He will be deeply missed by the Province in general and passionately missed by those who knew him. Rest in Peace Peter.*



**Stuart Ingram**

*I was Appointed Provincial Grand Senior Warden. That was the start of seventeen years of extremely happy continuous active service in the Mark Degree and I saw service as Provincial Registrar, Provincial Secretary, and finally Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Peter was known for "Playing his hand close to his chest". He would ask for advice, listen to what was said and would then - make his own mind up. Often not following the advice offered. He spoke as he found but not with malice. A small man in stature but one with an enormously generous heart. He proved an excellent Leader for the Mark Province of Durham and one who's passing will be very much regretted.*



**Tony Craven**

*I was an acting Provincial Officer for almost 20 years while Rt.W.Bro. James Peter Croft was our Provincial Grand Master. During that period, he worked tirelessly with enthusiasm and dedication to promote the Province of Durham. Under his leadership the quality of the ceremonial aspect of the order has improved considerably.*

*He was held in very high regard by Mark Grand Lodge and his appointment to the General Board and the Grand Masters Royal Ark Council speaks volumes.*

*He had a huge impact on my own masonic career and I always found his knowledge and guidance invaluable.*

*All these sentiments are tributes associated to an outstanding individual, accomplished leader.*

There could have been numerous brethren who would have willingly added their contributions. However, these recollections and summary of their personal encounters serve as insight to the man James Peter Croft . They illustrate his devotion to the Mark Degree, Community serving, Leadership, Generosity but importantly valued friendship.

James Peter Croft being a shining example of a man who lived respected and died regretted. We can all commit to ensuring that the continuation of the work he did to further the advancement of the Mark Degree will continue now and in the future.

*With grateful thanks to all the contributors. . Michael Wilkinson.*



Frank Rankin George Paylor Bob Hamilton Jim Jordan



Frank Rankin Jim Jordan Bob Hamilton Brian Graham

**At the meeting of the Ryton Lodge of MMM No.1714 on Friday 8th June 2018,**

W Bro. Jim Jordan WM, Advanced Bro. Bob Hamilton, Junior Warden of the Ryton St Mary's Lodge No. 6550 ( Craft Lodge)

His proposer was W Bro. George Paylor the Provincial Senior Warden and seconded by W Bro. Sid Watson, Provincial Assistant DC.

The WM was assisted in the ceremony by none other than V W Bro. Tony Craven, the Provincial DC and V W Bro. Frank Alexander Rankin, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

Also W Bro. Brian Graham, Past Prov Junior Grand Warden who is currently the Lodge Junior Warden, was elected as Worshipful Master Elect on the night in question. A very impressive line up of Mark Men!

The WM also welcomed W Bro. Malcolm Ross our Visiting Grand Lodge Officer on this his first official visit since taking the post.

All in all, a very busy evening and very enjoyable meeting with excellent ritual and Bro. Bob Hamilton expressed his surprise at the excellence of the festive board for the ceremony earlier, citing he should have joined years ago!

*Malcolm Ormiston*



Malcolm Ormiston Bob Hamilton Jim Jordan



Bro. Bob Hamilton was one of the interested brethren who attended the "4 Steps to the Mark " presentation on the 21st May 2018 at the meeting of the D.L.I.M.M No.1492 in Birtley, and he has now been Advanced as a Mark Master Mason in the Ryton Lodge No.1714, this will surely encourage others to follow him in taking this excellent step in their Masonic knowledge.



The "4 Steps to the Mark " took it's first important step forward at the meeting of the D.L.I.M.M. No,1492 on the 21st May 2018 in Birtley. The Lodge opened and closed after which the officers removed their regalia and the non Mark brethren invited to this event entered the lodge room. The lodge room was still set up as a Mark Lodge as the setting for the first presenter to introduce the visitors to where Mark Master Masons work. The team of presenters then delivered in turn an explanation of what Mark Masonry is and how it can enhance a brothers masonic experience as it has a connection with 2nd Degree in the Craft. The presentation aims to create a curiosity and interest to find out more about the story of building the Holy Temple and the role the Mark Master Mason played in this endeavour.

As the presenters explained , " To find out more you'll have to join !".....

A question and answer session followed with the invited brethren showing their interest and engagement in this event by putting forward questions and thoughts. The meeting was then closed and the visiting brethren enjoyed a free meal at a marvellous festive board. From the feedback received this first event was well received and enjoyed by the invited brethren and will hopefully encourage others.

**"4 STEPS  
to the MARK"**



Unity Lodge of MMM No.827 delighted to present Andy McGill from the R.N.L.I. with a cheque for £200

**Andy McGill is a volunteer Lifeboat Crew member and Deputy Lifeboat Press Officer based in the North East at the Sunderland Life Boat station.** Andy has always been active in sailing activities of the Sunderland Yacht Club and one day was asked if he would be interested in joining the Lifeboat Centre as a crew member. He decided to take up this challenge and found it very rewarding but time consuming and has to balance the time between his day job and the R.N.L.I. He loves his new found role as a Lifeboat crew member and the intensive training they each have to complete for this very skill full job and the high standards to achieve and maintain. Andy was invited by the WM of the Unity Lodge of MMM no. 827 to give a talk

explaining the tremendous work the R.N.L.I. carries out all the year round. Although this was the very first presentation of this talk by Andy without a supervisor he took to it as the proverbial duck to water. He explained that the Lifeboat service is not classified as an emergency service and cannot therefore use the blue emergency lights. It is a charity and depends entirely on donations to be able to save lives at sea and increasingly also in the education of safety on water. Prevention becoming as important as rescue. In an emergency the crews are called up by the coast guard with a pager which provides them with the information about the location and conditions of the area where the problem has been reported. The modern suits are a far cry from the ones the service had to use in the past. They now have dry suits with buoyancy aids and inflatable life jackets which allow for up to five people to cling on to without drowning. Even the boots are specially designed with smear proof soles to prevent making any marks on the decks of expensive yachts!



Joe Higginbottom WM congratulates Andy McGill on a brilliant talk delivered professionally.

When Andy was asked how many persons could be rescued he replied that the crews will take "All of them" - never leave anyone behind.

If needed backup would be called until every one was rescued. The brethren really enjoyed the clear and precise way Andy explained the many details and history of the Life boat service in the North East and showed their appreciation with warm applause and generously donated the collection of £ 200 to the R.N.L.I. with a sincere thanks to Andy for the way he represented the service he is so proud of.



## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A BROTHER MAKES



The photo shows Nipuni, her mother, younger sister and brother together with W/Bro Harrison and his wife Lynette.

**W/Bro Peter Harrison a member of Auckland Lodge of MMM 596, together with his wife Lynette, recently travelled to Sri Lanka to visit their sponsored child, Nipuni.**

W/Bro Harrison has sponsored a number of children in poorer parts of the world for a number of years through an organisation called PLAN UK. Many of the Brethren may have heard of this organisation as both the Craft and MBF have donated considerable amounts of money to help with projects in various parts of the world.

Nipuni is thirteen years old and she lives in a very rural part of Sri Lanka. Her home is in the jungle area and some distance from any real civilisation. However with the help of PLAN UK she is able to attend school regularly and hopes to eventually go into higher education. Every sponsor and child, write letters to each other and send photographs and drawings. This helps to form a bond between the child, their parents and the sponsor.

W/Bro Harrison has previously travelled to Cairo to visit another of his sponsored children, Mohamed and hopes to travel at some time in the future, to Varanasi in North East India to visit his third sponsored child Heena.

Brethren perhaps you may be interested in sponsoring a child or perhaps you already do. If you are considering sponsorship you can look at the PLAN UK website and if you wish contact W/Bro Harrison who will be pleased to provide further information.

*With thanks to P.H.*

# PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM

## Organ Recital

*to be held in*



**St. Peter's Church  
Monkwearmouth  
Sunderland  
SR6 0DY**

**In Support of the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund**

*on*

**Saturday 15th September 2018**

*at*

**7.30pm**

The programme by

***Andrew Christer***

Will cover some great organ music including music from the shows  
Something for everyone

**Entry will be by programme costing £7.50 per person**

**Tickets:-** from Derrick Allison at 67, Rose Lea, Witton Gilbert, Durham, DH7 6RE. Tel:- 0191 371 2205

Please make cheques out to "PGLMMM of Durham" and include a SAE for the return of your tickets.

***EVERYONE WELCOME***

Due to an oversight by the editor the name of the brother who took the photographs at the Mark Gala Dinner in Spennymoor on the 12th May 2018 had been omitted and I have offered my sincere apologies to WBro.Stuart Ingram for this error.

## Durham Mark Master Masons Lodge of Instruction Festival 2018.

**The Lodge of Instruction Festival will be held this year at the Masonic Hall, Shiney Row, DH4 7LQ on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**

There will be a demonstration **Royal Ark Mariner Ceremony of Elevation at 5.00pm**, followed by a demonstration **Mark Master Mason Ceremony of Advancement at 6.00pm**.

Appropriate regalia must be worn at each Ceremony.

There will be a Banquet afterwards costing £12.00. Tickets are available from:-

W Bro Jeff Awdas, email [jawdas@aol.com](mailto:jawdas@aol.com) tel: 07984 664656

W Bro Richard Hogg, email [jrhogg7@gmail.com](mailto:jrhogg7@gmail.com) tel: 07966 183317

W Bro Trevor Lynn, email [r.trevorlynn@gmail.com](mailto:r.trevorlynn@gmail.com) tel: 01388 766288

W Bro Doug Quickmire, email [dougquickmire@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dougquickmire@yahoo.co.uk) tel: 07980 391298



MARK	JULY	2018	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Walton Lodge no.1106		2	Monday	6.45	
Durham P.G.Stewards no.1820		4	Wednesday	7.00	
Spennymoor no. 981		5	Thursday	6.45	
Castle Eden no.930		25	Wednesday	7.00	

RAM	JULY	2018	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Castle Eden RAM no.930		17	Tuesday	7.00	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 VWBro.Frank Rankin



**The Durham Mark Master Masons**  
"Lodge of Instruction"  
For better Understanding & Enjoyment of the Mark & RAM degrees



YET ANOTHER FAMOUS MASON  
(Doesn't our Preceptor VW Bro Danny Guy suit a hat & moustache?)



**Walton Lodge of MMM No.1106 have invited the LOI Team to their meeting on 2nd July 2018 - 6.45pm Crook Masonic Hall DL15 9BG**

Your Lodge of  
The Durham Mark LOI join. £25 one off payment our degree, be it Mark a PM to be WM), X throughout the Provin son

Contact Richard Hogg on Awdas, Doug Quickmire and you more.

Secretary's / DC's: If you'd like the Dem any of the brethren above to set a date ...

## OBITUARIES

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



### **RW Bro James Peter Croft, Past PGM, GMRAC (HC)**

James Peter Croft was a subscribing member of the following Lodges:- M362, M1806 and RAM 362.

He was also an Honorary member of M718, M929, M1015, M1106, M1492, M1714, M1820, M1936, RAM761, RAM854, RAM930, RAM1492, RAM1551 and RAM1806.