

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



Danny Guy - Stuart Ingram - Trevor Lynn - Tony Craven - Frank Rankin - Denny Wilson

£13130.00

More than just, "A walk in the Park".

In times of austerity the raising of monies for any worthy cause has become so much harder and that task is compounded by the number of charities that are crying out to the public for their support. Freemasonry recognises those challenges and over the years has crystallised its fund raising, now under one banner, the newly formed and recognised Masonic Charity Fund.

Benevolence is also at the heart of the work of Mark Master Masons supporting and caring for the wider community. Evidence of that came when it was announced by the Pro Grand Master Most Worshipful Brother Richard Victor Wallis, back in October 2016 announced a fund raising initiative that would involve every Mark Master Mason in each Province. The challenge to raise £100,000 through a sponsored walk of four parks in Central London. The participants being the Executive Members of each Province. A novel idea, you may think but one that has captured the imagination and support of its membership.

Leading from the top and stepping up to the challenge was the Provincial Grand Master himself. Professor Denovan Keith Wilson, ably and willingly supported on this venture by Danny Guy, Deputy PGM, Stuart Ingram Assistant PGM, Tony Craven ProvGDC Frank Rankin Past Deputy PGM and Trevor Lynn ProvGSec.

The fund raising commenced as brethren and lodges throughout the Province of Durham rallied to the cause, being further motivated by an enthused Denny with regular updates on the growth of the donations being made by both individuals and Mark Lodges.

The big day arrived on Saturday the 6th of May. Our intrepid leaders, in peak physical condition after weeks of dedicated training in preparation for the physical exertions that lay ahead. Okay, I know that is hard to comprehend but it's what we were

led to believe.

That apart, The Provincial Grand Master mustered his team on the train to London with Frank and Tony boarding at Newcastle at 6.00am. The two were woken up again as Denny and Stuart joined them at Durham and again when collecting Danny and Trevor at Darlington.

They arrived in London in plenty of time to join over 220 fellow walkers from other Provinces. They received a briefing and words of encouragement from the Pro Grand Master before he and the Grand Lodge Team were the first team to leave. Each of the Provincial teams followed in alphabetical order. The walk itself started a little ahead of schedule and the Durham team left at 10.30am.

There was a spring in their initial steps, knowing that they had the complete backing of the Mark Mason movement in Durham behind them, both in spirit and to the tune of almost £13,000.00. That spring lessened as they completed each mile and park footpaths covering a distance of 8 miles over a period of some 150 minutes arriving back at Mark Masons' Hall at 1.00pm.

With satisfaction they refreshed themselves returning to their normal comforts and joining fellow participants for refreshments. There were no reporting injuries amongst our team, although there is a rumour going around about the liberal use of Vaseline and Johnson's Baby powder. Each registered walker then received personalised certificates.

Armed with documented recognition of their achievement, they caught the 4.30pm north bound train home. Our weary athletes arrived mid to late evening, tired but happy they had been worthy of the wonderful support of the Mark Masons of Durham.

The confidence in such feeling was not misplaced as the overall total raised being £327,000.00 and the Province of Durham Mark Masons contributing to date £13,130.00

This initiative, this challenge, whatever you want to call it, is a fine example of team work, led from the top and involving all the brethren, across the whole country, that even exceeded the highest expectation. Such a total can and will now turn tears into smiles, hope where there was none and change lives for the better.

M. Wilkinson

*Hello Everyone,
Well, the Talk has been Walked!*

It was a long and tiring day but the members of our Team and I enjoyed it and were delighted to take part in such a high profile event.

We were particularly proud to have completed the Walk on your behalf, inspired as we were by the £13,130 you have donated thus far. The total raised by the Provinces overall was a remarkable £331,196, a total, which like ours, could rise further as donations will continue to be received until 31st May.

The bottom line is that through your generosity, you have made it possible for the MBF to improve and even save lives. What a wonderful thought that is. So, on behalf of all those who during the coming weeks and months will benefit from your generosity, I extend heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely, Denny.



The special meeting of the **Eclectic Lodge of Mark Masters No.39**, on the 25th April 2017 in Hartlepool, saw one of the five oldest Mark lodges in the Province of Durham still active after 150 years of near continuous working celebrate this mile stone in its history with the presentation of the Sesquicentennial Warrant by the Past Pro Grand Master, MW Bro.Benjamin Addy.

Following the opening of the lodge by the WM, W.Bro.Michael Albert Playle Swinbourne he was delighted to welcome into the lodge a Provincial Deputation along with the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro.Prof.Denovan K.Wilson. The assembled Brethren then welcomed the Past Pro Grand Master, MW Bro.Benjamin Addy, who was accompanied by the Assistant Grand Secretary, VW.Bro.Jonathan C.Roberts and the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.W. Bro.John E.Vause.

The Chair was then occupied by the PGM who explained the reason for the event and the programme that was to follow. He in turn relinquished the Chair to the Past Pro Grand Master MW Bro.Benjamin Addy, who took a few minutes to update the Brethren on Mark Masonry in general and his vision for the future of the Degree.

The Past Pro Grand Master then requested that the original Lodge Warrant of 31stDecember 1858 to be read by the Assistant Grand Secretary. After an explanation regarding the name and founding of the Lodge, whose brethren over so many years have worked together to continue to make this lodge still strong, vibrant and survive the many trials and tribulations of the last 150 years.

Without this ready assistance we would not have been able today to celebrate this fantastic milestone in the history of the Eclectic Lodge of Mark Masters No.39.

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge, W.Bro.Michael Albert Playle Swinbourne assumed the chair again and the Assistant Grand Secretary read the Sesquicentenary Warrant which he then formally presented to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge by MW Bro.Benjamin Addy.

W.Bro.Michael Albert Playle Swinbourne, who has only been a Mason for nine years and is now presiding over his first big meeting as the WM on this very auspicious occasion. He thought it was absolutely fantastic and a great pleasure to be in the chair tonight, following so many Masters from 150 years and on such a special evening. He thanked everybody for joining him and the lodge in this celebration of 150 years efforts for ourselves.

The presentation of the Warrant was followed by a very interesting talk by bro.David Fairhurst Harrison,PPRGStB called " An Explanation Old Working of the Eclectic Lodge of Mark Masters No.39 ".

After the meeting the brethren enjoyed an excellent festive board at which each diner found a present of a lapel badge commemorating the 150 years of the Eclectic Lodge of Mark Masters No.39. A very special way to conclude such a wonderful Mark Masonic evening.



Presentation of the Sesquicentennial Warrant to WM,Wbro Michael Albert Playle Swinbourne, by the Past Pro Grand Master, MW Bro.Benjamin Addy.



John E.Vause, Michael A.P. Swinbourne, Benjamin Addy, Jonathan C.Roberts



Just before important duties commence, an informal chat.

WBro. Bryan Bell has been installed as the Worshipful Master of the **Union Lodge of MMM No.124** on the 27th April 2017. The representative of the PGM, **WBro. Alan Gurney, PProvGSW**, conveyed the personal best wishes and congratulations from the PGM, **RW Prof.D.K.Wilson**.

WBro. Bell thanked the lodge for the way he was installed and he is determined to do his best to make his year as Worshipful Master a successful and enjoyable one for everyone.



Alan Gurney offers his personal congratulations to Bryan Bell.



John M. Nye.

The Ferryhill Lodge of MMM No.1560 had the honour to receive the Provincial Grand Master and his Team at their meeting on the 11th May 2017. After a warm welcome and salutations the WM, **WBro. David Charles Thompson** continued the business of the lodge by inviting **W.Bro. John M. Nye, PAGDC, PProvGSW**, to present a talk. The Tyler was admitted into the lodge so he could also enjoy the presentation. The subject of the talk was the forming of the foundation of the "Special Air Service" (SAS) with respect to **Lt.Col. Robert Blair "Paddy" Mayne**, who was awarded the 'DSO' on four occasions and was a significant figure in the manner in which it was organised and run. **WBro. Nye** presented a fascinating story of this incredible man whose exploits are the stuff of legend.

The brethren showed their appreciation with enthusiastic applause.



Lt.Col. Robert Blair "Paddy" Mayne and the medals he received for his outstanding service for his country.

Shoulder to shoulder during the walk and now in a toast to all brethren in grateful thanks for all you have contributed to this worthy cause.
"THANK YOU"



After the meeting an excellent festive board was provided and enjoyed by all diners. After the official toasts there followed a couple of replies which included a toast to the Durham Walkers Team by the brethren in the room in appreciation of the successful completion of the walk in London.

Denovan Wilson replied on the teams behalf and explained that despite the pork pies supplied by Stuart Ingram on the train, instead of health drinks, and the slight concern of his wife Dorothy that they should stay close together and not get lost in the big city, they all managed to get to the starting line as one. Donning the yellow tabards required by the organisers, which unfortunately concealed their own special burgundy tops, the walk started and eight miles later the whole team had crossed the finish line in fine fettle and spirits. The team agreed a great day was had by all and the rest on the train back home most welcome. Danny Guy did feel however that they should not garner these efforts for ourselves and suggested that others might take over if it had to be repeated, he was only kidding off course!

Denovan Wilson told the brethren they had a fantastic day and it had been a pleasure to represent you, the whole team were inspired by the efforts of the Province brethren, they walked shoulder to shoulder and now do the same in toasting all the brethren of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner in the Province of Durham.



MEET THE ORGANISTS

Rev. Peter William Adamson, ProvAGChaplain.

In the Mark, Peter provides the musical accompaniment during the ceremonies for the Ferryhill Lodge of MMM No.1560 and Indaba Lodge of MMM No.1936.

He also plays at Craft meetings for the Roger De Fery No.5879, Lennox Lodge No.123, both Craft and Chapter (Newbiggin, Richmond).

Peter has been a musician for more than 40 years now and in his younger days used to play in a band. He still enjoys bringing the sound of music to the meetings which so greatly enhance our ceremonies.

Rev. Peter William Adamson, ProvAGChaplain.



"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 - member of Lord Barnard Lodge No. 2935 Office: PM -Senior Deacon

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

Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters Office: JW

RAM: Union Lodge No.124 - JW

Contact details: mschoolkate@gmail.com Mobile: 07851 427664



Michael James Wilkinson, Occupation: Director. Chairman of DRFC

Craft - member of 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 Mobile: 079632 13336



MARK / JUNE	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Unity No. 827	1	Thursday	7.00pm	Provincial Visit
Staindrop No.1274	5	Monday	6.45pm	
Hackworth no.761	6	Tuesday	6.45pm	Installation
G. Washington no.1626	6	Tuesday	7.00pm	Installation
Penshaw no.1055	8	Thursday	7.00pm	
Ryton no. 1714	9	Friday	7.00pm	
Barnard Castle no.778	16	Friday	6.45pm	
St.Lawrence no.1093	15	Thursday	7.00pm	Installation
William Todd no.929	20	Tuesday	6.45pm	
Stanhope no.1551	26	Monday	7.00pm	
Mark Annual General Meeting	28	Wednesday		Dunston Lancastrian Suite
Indaba No.1936	30	Friday	6.45pm	

RAM / JUNE	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Eclectic no.39	5	Monday	7.00pm	Provincial Visit
St.Andrews no.854	8	Thursday	7.00pm	Provincial Visit
Dunelm no.356	14	Wednesday	6.30pm	
Hackworth no.761	19	Monday	6.45pm	
Elevation no.1112	21	Wednesday	7.00pm	(Dispensation 28th clashes with AGM) Provincial Visit
Clavering no.896	22	Thursday	7.00pm	

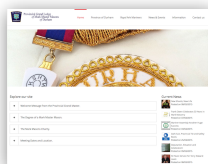
Durham MMM Golf Day.

Brethren, with the blessing of the Provincial Grand Master, I am looking to organise **A 'Golf Day' for Durham Mark Masons.** The idea is that this will be a 'social' event where people can meet, and mix together in a friendly atmosphere, away from the Lodge Room. Please note that the primary aim is to have fun not to raise money, although I am sure we will have some kind of prizes/raffle on the day.

I am looking initially for names, with contact details, of those Brethren who are interested in such a day out. I hope to be able to arrange it for some time in July or August, at a venue yet to be chosen. So, if this appeals to you, please contact me to express your interest BEFORE the end of May – giving your name; phone number; and email address if applicable, by either of the methods below:

Allan Gurney (mobile number): 07802 -700423

Or by email: agurney@uwclub.net



You can visit the website on durhammark.org



THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF
MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM

DO YOU WANT TO INCREASE YOUR LODGE MEMBERSHIP

Yes of Course

**The Durham Lodge
of
Installed Mark Masters No. 1492**



**Is Here to Help
We Invite**

Mark Master Mason Lodges to request a presentation
of
"THE FOURTH STEP TO THE MARK".

An open recruitment evening presented by
Workmen from the DLIMM Quarries.

All enquiries to be directed to the Provincial Grand Secretary:
W.Bro. Trevor Lynn, Tel: 01388 766 288
Email: r.trevorlynn@gmail.com

**ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS
OF
SCARBROUGH COURT**
*Alexandra Way, Cramlington
Northumberland, NE23 6ED*
Registered Charity No.1058919.

Forthcoming Events

10.30am 8th April Easter Fair

10.30am 15th July Summer Fair

10.30am 25th November
Grand Draw and Christmas Fair



*Brethren Remember Scarbrough Court
Is a RMB Home for All
Freemasons and Their Dependents
And it is Supported by the
Mark Degree of this Province*

Further information please contact P.Kirkbride(Secretary)
E mail pkirkbride53@hotmail.co.uk

OBITUARIES



22 April 2017 - W Bro G D Shotton, PPrGJW M1151

9 May 2017 - WBro. H.M.Watson, PAGSwdB, PPrGJW M362 RAM362 ProvGRank.

10 May 2017 - WBro. Alan Aubrey Moyle, PPGSW M718 M124 RAM 124 RAM1492