

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

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

DURHAM

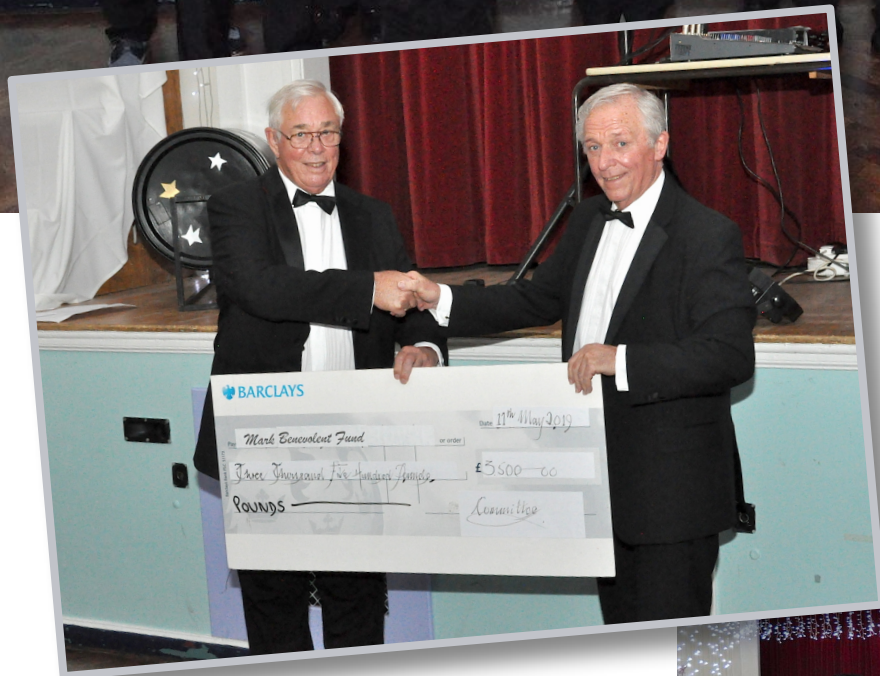


PGM of DURHAM - RW.Bro. Prof. DENOVAN KEITH WILSON



MARK GALA DINNER 2019

ORGANISING TEAM



A magnificent effort from everyone in the Mark Province of Durham has enabled a presentation of a cheque for £3500 for the Mark Benevolent Fund to the RW Provincial Grand Master. This again marked a very successful year for the brethren of Durham in raising so much for so many great and good causes in the community, thus helping many brave and courageous individuals who deserve our support.



Entertainment by MARK HODGSON made this special evening go with a song and dance in style.



SPENNYMOOR TOWN HALL IS THE VENUE FOR THE ANNUAL MARK GALA BALL FESTIVITIES WHICH WERE HELD ON 11TH MAY 2019 - A wonderful evening enjoyed by more than 106 guests who had travelled to Spennymoor in order to celebrate another excellent year for the Mark Benevolent Fund which the Mark Brethren, together with the support of their wonderful wives / partners, had made possible. This was duly acknowledged in the speeches made by the PGM and his Deputy PGM.



ANOTHER WINNER !!!



PRIZES GALORE..





GALA GUESTS



ROCKCLIFFE LODGE OF ROYAL ARK MARINERS NO. 362



Harry Frederick Smith welcomed by RW Bro. Prof. Denovan K. Wilson to the Royal Ark Mariner Degree.

The lodge brethren were delighted to welcome the Provincial Grand Master and his Provincial Team to their meeting on the 17th May 2019 in South Shields. This lodge has the 2nd highest membership in the Province of Durham with 37 which is now 38 with the Elevation of WBro. Harry Frederick Smith this evening. Harry had told his proposer Paul O'Doherty that he has always wanted to join this fine RAM lodge but waited until the lodge had a Provincial Visit before taking this important step. No, not really, just kidding! Congratulations Harry from everyone who was at the meeting.

THE NEW MARK PROVINCIAL TIE

The Provincial Grand Master is pleased to announce that the new Mark Provincial Tie has arrived, and is now on sale.

The new tie is specifically designed to celebrate the fact that the Province of Durham will soon be 100 years old (since the separation from Northumberland). It is on sale from W Bro Graham Wharton - the Deputy Grand Secretary, and a few others only. The price has been set at a realistic £12 per tie.

Please contact Graham in the first instance, as he has the bulk of the ties – David Hanson, Trevor Lynn, Frank Rankin and myself have a small supply only. Email: grahamwharton182@gmail.com

As from today, the new tie will be the only tie sold to the Mark Masons of Durham. That is not to say that everyone has to buy a new tie. The Provincial Grand Master and his senior team members fully realise that that would be a financial imposition for some people. Members are at liberty to continue wearing the old tie. However, it is hoped that the new tie will be a desirable item of clothing for many members of our Province, and that people will want to be associated with the Centenary. The new tie will be 'on sale' at the AGM in June.

The Province has made a substantial outlay to purchase these ties, and it is hoped to recover the costs as soon as possible. Once this has been achieved, any excess monies will go to the Centenary Fund until it is closed down next year. Thereafter, any profits will be used to begin fund raising for the Mark Benevolent Fund Festival – with which the Province of Durham has been tasked for 2029.

Allan Gurney, Provincial Grand Secretary.



END OF AN ERA FOR HEBBURN LODGE OF MMM NO. 1339

Despite their best efforts to continue, the moment came to call time on Hebburn Mark Lodge after 50 years of distinguished service. The Hebburn Lodge of Mark Master Masons no. 1339 handed back their Warrant to the Provincial Grand Master during their Lodge Meeting on Friday 3rd of May 2019, in a very dignified and moving ceremony.

All of the Hebburn Lodge members present will continue their Mark Masonry by joining other Mark Lodges in the area. This will hopefully be of great benefit to those Lodges where the Hebburn members find a new home.

This fine Lodge was consecrated on 26th October 1968, and one of its most distinguished members, William Gillhespy became the Provincial Grand Master in 1984. The Lodge Secretary, Terry Crumpton, is one of the longest serving Lodge members, and he gave a dignified toast to the Lodge. After the meeting, the Lodge members and its visitors celebrated the Lodge in style with a visit to a local restaurant. Thus ended a very memorable evening for both members and visitors.

amended text from original by North contributor.



The Masonic Hall in Willington was the venue for a busy and important evening for the **WILLIAM TODD LODGE OF MMM NO. 929**. The Worshipful Master, WBro. Ian Kevin Mavin welcomed the Provincial Grand Master and his deputation of Grand and Provincial Officers into the lodge. The work of the lodge included a ceremony of Advancement for Bro. David Gordon Halliday, who was proposed by the WM and seconded by WBro. Terry Ward.

A very full lodge room witnessed an excellent ceremony much enjoyed by all present. Following the meeting the visitors and guests together with the lodge members were given a presentation and explanation of the Mark Degree entitled "**The 4th Step to the Mark**". Six Craft Masons had been invited and agreed to come along to this meeting to learn more about the Mark Degree and take on board what the Mark Degree is all about. In the dining room a display area had been arranged by the presentation team and here the six guests could talk and ask questions about the Mark Degree with the team members till it was time to see the presentation inside the lodge room.

There followed an excellent festive board and the whole event had certainly made a very favourable impression on the six invited guests, they agreed that it had been an informative and a wonderfully warm meeting which they are glad to have been part of. Judging from the enthusiasm shown by the six guests, the presentation team are confident that this meeting will be as successful as the previous one had been in encouraging brethren to become a Mark Master Mason.



On Saturday, 27th April 2019, V W Bro Roy Neville, accompanied by our Newsletter Editor/Photographer W Bro Martin Schoolkate, attended an activity session at Washington Leisure Centre for visually impaired children. A cheque for £1,000 was presented on behalf of the **Durham Mark Benevolent Fund** to a wonderful Charity called "**Useful Vision**" which organises days out and activity sessions for visually impaired children and their families.

With a very limited budget this impressive Charity arranges a range of activities including amongst others ice skating, swimming, sailing, zipwire, trampolining, archery and wall climbing.

In his address V W Bro Roy noted that in one year 114 different activities had been arranged benefiting 827 visually impaired children. Parent Louise Carlyle-Mitchell received the cheque on behalf of the Charity and pointed out that 12 year old Jack, who was present on the day, had recently completed a half-marathon and was proving to be a very talented athlete.

Following news of our intention to make a donation, Trustee Donna Barkess, daughter of Doug, expressed her delight and observed that this sum would finance at least 2 days out for visually impaired children and their families.

The Provincial Grand Master and his team visited the **CLAVERING LODGE OF MMM NO.896** on Monday the 29th April . This special occasion was further enhanced with the presence of the PGM from Northumberland, RW Bro. Gordon Craigs, GMRAC, and he was accompanied by his Deputy PGM, WBro. Richard Northey, PGJD, and his Assistant PGM, WBro. Raymond A. Walton, PAGDC.

At the meeting WBro. Graham Wharton, Dep.G.Sec. was

able to present the brand new provincial Mark Tie which was commissioned to celebrate the Centenary of the Durham Mark Province after the split from Northumberland Province. (details on page 5)

The last PGM of the joint Provinces was RW Bro. Napier Clavering whose name is carried by this proud lodge which continues to work hard for the happiness and good fortune of the Clavering Lodge.



The Team delivered a wonderful demonstration of an historic 'Mark Man Degree' which was worked in the period of 1780 till 1850, as revealed from research by Neville Barker Cryer. Clavering lodge thought it would be really interesting to see this particular working of the Mark Degree again after such a long time.

The Presenters were Paul Johnston, Peter Ronan, Alan Hume, Chris Ansell, Tony Easton, Les Baker, Philip Borlace, Simon Robinson, Bryan Kennedy. They were ably assisted by the PGM who agreed to be the narrator of the presentation. The brethren witnessed a fascinating ceremony which had a lot of very interesting details with respect to the Craftsman in particular. Brethren will have an opportunity to see the second part of this ceremony on the 19th December 2019, when Clavering will meet again. A chance not to be missed!



SHIPLEY LODGE OF MMM NO.1271 -- " GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN "

1962 as the Shipley Lodge of Mark Master Masons no. 1271, with the Warrant having been issued on the 8th August 1962. The evening in Gateshead was conducted in style and will be remembered by those present - as the saying goes - 'gone but not forgotten'

Shipley had to call time and surrender their warrant. It is always a sad time when a Lodge has to call time and hand back their warrant to the Provincial Grand Master. However sad the occasion may be, it was one which was done with dignity and decorum, so fitting of a fine Lodge.

In receiving the Warrant the Provincial Grand Master paid tribute to the members past and present and thanked them for all they had done for the Order. He was particularly pleased that virtually all of them will be continuing their Mark Masonry in other Lodges and extended warmest best wishes to them.

The Lodge was consecrated on 1st December 1962
from North

Mark & RAM Provincial Lodge of Instruction

The Provincial Lodge of Instruction was founded in 2006 with the aim of portraying a Ceremony of Advancement or Elevation in accordance with the most recent edition of the Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Rituals.

As members of both the Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Degrees we owe it to every Candidate for Membership to receive them into our orders with a dignified and eloquent ceremony.

In addition to portraying a Ceremony of Advancement or Elevation, the Lodge of Instruction, when requested, can also provide competent members to those Lodges which may be short of Officers. The Lodge of Instruction gives each and every member the opportunity of partaking in our ceremonies.

Each year in the Autumn a Lodge of Instruction Festival is held, when all members of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in the Province are invited to attend. The format for the 2019 Festival, which will be held at Shiney Row Masonic Hall on Tuesday 29th October, is to demonstrate a Ceremony of Advancement, which will be followed by a three course dinner.

The continued success of the Lodge of Instruction Festival depends on your support.

Trevor Lynn, Lodge of Instruction Preceptor.



Durham Mark Lodge Of Instruction Festival 2019



To be held at The Masonic Hall, Station Road
Shiney Row DH4 7LQ

On Tuesday 29th October 2019

Start time 6.30pm.

“The Lodge of Instruction Team will Demonstrate a Ceremony of Advancement”

“Festival Banquet at 8pm Approx.”

Menu

BROTH

STEAK PIE WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES

LARGE BOWL TRIFLE

Tickets £14.00 each

Available from

W.Bro. R.S. Hodgson, at raymond.hodgson@talktalk.net

W.Bro. R.T. Lynn, at r.trevorlynn@gmail.com

W.Bro. D. Quickmire at doug@quickmire.co.uk

W.Bro. J. Awdas, at jawdas@aol.com

W.Bro. R. Smart, at markroyston761@gmail.com

W.Bro. J.R. Hogg, at durhammarkloi@gmail.com

Closing date for ticket application **Friday 18th October 2019**

Please find below the list of winners (with winning ticket numbers) from the Mark Benevolent Fund Prize Draw, which was drawn on Saturday the 11th May 2019 at the Gala Dinner.

If there is anyone on the list who is in your Lodge, would you please ask them to get in touch with W. Bro. Andrew Dixon.

Email: ja.dixon@ntlworld.com

1. Graham Bainbridge
2. F Foster 589
3. A Simpson 1478
4. K Thompson 2194
5. S Coffey 701
6. L Tinkler 4093
7. F Piggford 3916
8. F Foster 582
9. St Thomas Lodge 906
10. R Donmall 1945

MARK / JUNE	2019	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Staindrop no.1274	3	Monday	6.45	
Hackworth no.761	4	Tuesday	6.45	Installation
Unity no.827	6	Thursday	7.00	
Penshaw no. 1055	13	Thursday	7.00	
Ryton no.1714	14	Friday	7.00	
William Todd no.929	18	Tuesday	6.45	
St.Lawrence no.1093	20	Monday	7.00	
Barnard Castle no.778	21	Wednesday	6.45	
Stanhope no.1551	24	Monday	7.00	
G.Washington no. 1626	25	Tuesday	7.00	Installation
MARK Annual Meeting	26	Wednesday	3.15	Lancastrian Suite / Dunston

RAM / JUNE	2019	DAY	TIME	
Eclectic no.39	3	Monday	7.00	
Dunelm no. 356	12	Wednesday	6.30	
Hackworth no.761	17	Monday	6.45	
Elevation no.1112	19	Wednesday	7.00	
Clavering no. 896	27	Thursday	7.00	

OBITUARIES

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

19 / 04 / 2019 W.Bro. Derek Barker, M 846

