

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

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

DURHAM



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



THE STEADFAST MARK LODGE NO. 846 in Darlington, enjoyed a busy night on the first of February 2017. The WM, WBro. Andrew D. Watson extended a very warm welcome to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Danny Guy, PGJO and the Provincial Team. After the usual courtesies and salutations had been exchanged the WM invited WBro. Donald Marshall, PGStdB, PPrGJW, to give a talk entitled "*The influence of the Mark Mariner's Degree on English Freemasonry*". This very interesting lecture was superbly delivered by WBro. D. Marshall and the brethren showed their appreciation for his excellent work and diligent preparation which gave everyone a deeper knowledge of Mark and Mariner Masonry.

After the talk, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Danny Guy, PGJO presented the 50 Year Certificate to WBro. Peter W. Smailes, PAGDC, PPrGJW, after a reading of it by the Provincial Grand Secretary WBro. Trevor Lynn, PPrGMO.



WBro. Peter W. Smailes, PAGDC, PPrGJW, presented the Dep. PGM with a cheque for £500 for the MBFund which was greatly appreciated by the Dep. PGM, VWBro Danny Guy, PGJO.

WBro. Peter

W. Smailes, PAGDC, PPrGJW, was conscripted into the Royal Navy to do his National Service around the mid 1950's and on his demob he tried several vocations including Encyclopedia salesman, Dental technician with his father and eventually into teaching at the Avenue School at Newton Aycliffe. A profession he held until he retired.

Peter was initiated as a Lewis into the Marquess of Ripon Craft Lodge on 14th March 1957, and will be celebrating 60 years in the Craft next month, another wonderful achievement. He was Master in 1971, awarded Provincial Rank of PPrGReg in 1981 and promoted to PPrGJW in 2011.

He was exalted into Darlington Royal Arch Chapter 1978, was Z in 1993 and The Chapter Scribe E from 1999 - 2003. He was awarded PPrGReg in 1998, and promoted to PPrGSN in 2004.

Peter was advanced into Steadfast Mark Lodge No. 846 on 1st February 1967 and has therefore completed 50 years service to the day. He was Master in 1982, was awarded Provincial Rank of PrGReg 1987, Promoted to PPrGJW in 1990 and PAGDC in 1997. An excellent and fine Masonic Career of which WBro. Peter W. Smailes, PAGDC, PPrGJW, can be justly proud, and is now properly commemorated with the presentation of his 50 years Certificate.



"Ravensworth Lodge of MMM No. 718 held their meeting on Wednesday 25th January 2017 when a goodly number of brethren attended with a combination of three fraternal visits from Bede MMM 605, Castle Eden MMM 930 and Penshaw MMM 1055. Prior to a Ceremony of Advancement being worked W/Bro. Keith Dinning PGJD, Provincial Grand Chaplain dedicated two new Deacons' Wands generously donated by a member of the Lodge. The evening ended with a splendid Festive Board with the acting Worshipful Master W/ Bro. S. Bell, PPGJO thanking all who had attended and contributed in any way to the evening's proceedings." KD



The Union Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.124 on the 8th February 2017 had the great honour of welcoming the Provincial Grand Master and his Provincial Officers to their regular meeting. On the same night the lodge also had the wonderful occasion of Elevating Bro. Joe Higginbottom in the Royal Ark Mariners, with an excellent ceremony and in the presence of so many brethren.

The WCcmdr. WBro. Ian Mason, RAMPrGR presented RW Prof Denovan Keith Wilson with a cheque for the Charity Walk Fund which was gratefully accepted by the PGM. He told the brethren that the total raised already had reached £5400 and is still rising. This he thought was a magnificent response from all the Mark and Mariner Brethren in the Durham Province, and this cheque represented another step towards the finish line.

Dear Trevor,

As one of the "single" brethren on the trip to the District Grand Lodge of Spain may I place on record via the News Letter my grateful thanks to Arthur Clark for his Organisation of the accommodation, travel and booking us in for the meeting and festive board.

I would also record my thanks, far too many to mention personally, for the kind consideration, assistance and welcome into the many groups that I met up with on my various "wanderings". I do especially thank Marion Clark for her many kindnesses really only bettered by my late Mother, also Susan & Robert Thompson who acted as a

Daughter and Son in looking after my welfare and assuring that at no time was I ever without company and a "pusher" when required. Robert has not been a member of the Mark for very long but a glowing example of what "Mark" fraternity is all about.

For any that were not able to attend you missed a great Masonic Outing, God willing I will be in attendance next year so Arthur if you have started your list book me in provisionally

Larry Tinkler



On the grey but bright morning of Monday the 30th January 2017, 24 brethren of the Durham Mark Province assembled at Newcastle Airport together with 18 Wives/Partners to set off on the second annual trip to Benidorm.

Everything was proceeding to plan until W/Brother Ian Mason realised he had left his passport at home. In a race against time he returned home only to find on arriving back at the airport that the flight was ready for departure and he was left behind waving to his wife as the plane took off.

Happily he was able to arrange a place on a flight the following day and join the rest of the Party. He was reminded of his forgetfulness several times during the trip by various members of the Group who ensured he had his passport in his possession for the return trip.

Thanks to the excellent arrangements made by W/Brother Arthur Clarke the Group arrived on time in Alicante and were swiftly transferred to the Dynastic Hotel in Benidorm and had settled into their rooms by mid-afternoon.

The first task of some Brethren was to secure the use of several 'Madge Mobiles' in order to ease their journeys around the resort. In fact by the end of the week many of them had become 'Past Masters' in the Arts of 'pedestrian dodging', 'traffic weaving' and 'bus avoidance'.

So skilled had these Brethren become that I understand they are to be appointed and invested at the Provincial Meeting in June as the 'Provincial Motability Demonstration Team'.

During the next few days the Brethren and their Partners sampled the delights of Benidorm visiting shops, bars and various night spots and of course parading along the Benidorm sea front.

On Friday 3rd February others members of the Party arrived and joined the Main Group at the Hotel. This brought to total to 28 Brethren and 21 Wives/ Partners.

It was then that W/Brother Gary Quinn and his wife Sandra learned they had become grandparents for the seventh time, their grandson Jasper having been born earlier that day. So it was congratulations all round.

The following day, Saturday 4th February, the Brethren were attending the Annual Meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Spain, held in the Grand Bali Hotel.

As we are all well aware the Provincial Grand Master usually tends to forget some item of clothing or regalia on trips, and of course we know this a deliberate ploy to show that he is human.

There was the time he took the wrong suit, then there was the trip when he took undress instead of dress regalia. This time it was the wrong shoes!! However after Dorothy's timely intervention he was duly dressed and brushed up quite well.

The District Grand Mark Lodge of Spain was opened at 11am by the District Grand Master RW Brother Barrie Roy Mansell. Each senior Representative was saluted together with members of that Province or District. Several Provincial Grand Masters or Deputies were present.

However it was a particularly proud moment for each and every member of

the Mark Province of Durham when 34 Brethren of our Province stood to order when they were called upon.

Durham far outnumbered all the other Provinces and Districts represented and was the only one to have our PGM, DPGM, APGM, and PDPGM present.

The District Grand Master conducted the business of his meeting and addressed the Brethren. He also appointed and invested his Officers of the year.

Brethren then adjourned to the bar prior to festive board which was a particularly sumptuous affair. The meal consisted of 6 courses with accompanying wines. The drink and conversation flowed freely and many lasting friendships were renewed or made for the first time.

During the day the Ladies were not forgotten and a trip had been arranged to a chocolate factory and then on to a local winery. I understand most of the ladies partook in sampling the wine, and of course the chocolate. They then went to a restaurant for an excellent meal again with accompanying wine.

Sunday was a day of rest and recovery prior to travelling home on Monday. This time everyone had their passports and they were able to board their flights.

The second trip to Benidorm was a huge success and in no small part due to the excellent work and organisation by W/ Brother Arthur Clarke.

A Provisional booking has been made to return next year and I'm sure that many Brethren will wish to attend as news spreads of the success of the trip this year.

W/Bro Peter Harrison, Provincial GJW



A LARGE GROUP OF DURHAM BRETHREN AGAIN MANAGED TO COMBINE THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN SPAIN WITH SOME SUNSHINE AND RELAXATION.



**CAPTION
COMPETITION**
**What could you possibly
say**
to THAT!

**Have a go and be a winner
with the best one!**

Please send your caption together with your
name to : mschoolkate@gmail.com

MARK / MARCH	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Spennymoor no..981	2	Thursday	6.45	
Hebburn no.596	3	Friday	7.00	
Walton no.1106	6	Monday	6.45	
Industry no.293	6	Monday	7.00	
Cestria no.1151	7	Tuesday	7.00	
Darlington no.250	8	Wednesday	6.45	
Ferryhill no.1560	9	Thursday	6.45	
Penshaw no.1055	9	Thursday	7.00	
Bede no.605	10	Friday	7.00	Provincial Visit
St.Aidan no.1145	13	Monday	7.00	Installation
Bernard Gilpin no.860	14	Tuesday	7.00	
Auckland no.596	15	Wednesday	6.45	Meets at Shildon
Wouldhave Tyne Dock no.362	15	Wednesday	7.00	Installation
St.Lawrence no.1093	16	Thursday	7.00	
Chief of the Builders no.1806	17	Friday	10.30	Installation 10.30 am
Stanhope no.1551	20	Monday	7.00	Installation
Jarrow no.701	20	Monday	7.00	
Ambrose Crowley no.1269	21	Tuesday	6.45	Provincial Visit / 60th
Ernest Dixon no.1015	21	Tuesday	7.00	
Ravensworth no.718	22	Wednesday	7.00	
Castle Eden no.930	22	Wednesday	7.00	
Dunelm no.356	23	Thursday	6.45	
St.Andrews no.854	23	Thursday	6.45	Provincial Visit
Union no.124	23	Thursday	7.00	
Indaba no.1936	23	Thursday	6.45	Was 31 / 03 / 2017
St.Thomas no.1511	28	Tuesday	6.45	
Eclectic no.39	28	Tuesday	7.00	Installation

RAM / MARCH	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Stanhope RAM no.1551	3	Friday	7.00	
St.Andrews RAM no.854	9	Thursday	7.00	Installation
Rockcliffe RAM no.362	17	Friday	7.00	Installation
Bernard Gilpin RAM no.860	20	Monday	7.00	
Stockton RAM no.122	21	Tuesday	7.00	
Moseley RAM no.925	27	Monday	7.00	
Bede RAM no.605	28	Tuesday	6.45	
RAM Provincial Assembly	31	Friday	6.30	Ferryhill



Like many of us, W.Bro. Allan Gurney will be out and about at many Lodges, Chapters, and other Masonic events over the next few months.

However, you may see him struggling under the weight of a 1 litre bottle of malt whisky (Bowmore Islay). You can relieve him of his burden by buying a number for £1 (yes, it's a steal - only 1 pound Sterling for a litre of malt whisky!). This will enter you into the draw for the said bottle, which will be held in June.

All proceeds from the draw are to be donated to the 2021 Festival. So, get those £1 coins out, Brethren!



11 Marwell Drive, The Glade, Usworth Hall, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE37 3LH.

Tel: 0191-4166764

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 Telephone: 07851427664.

With Thanks.

OBITUARIES

17 January 2017 - R Armstrong PPrGStB M1269

1 February 2017 - John George Robson PGJD, PPrGJW M701, M1339, M1492. RAMPPrGR, RAM362, RAM1055.

