

# 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



THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF A NEW SMALL TREATMENT CENTRE DONATED BY THE MARK MASTER MASONS TO ST.JOHN AMBULANCE ON SUNDAY 21 JANUARY 2018 IN GATESHEAD.

### Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Project – St John Ambulance.

A pledge of more than three million pounds to The Priory of England from The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, through the Mark Benevolent Fund, will help local communities around the country to continue to benefit from the life saving work of St John Ambulance.

The Order of St John and SJA have enjoyed a longstanding relationship with The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the Mark

Benevolent Fund. In 2000, the Fund provided a significant contribution to help replace our fleet of ambulances. Durham Province of Mark Master Masons', the then Provincial Grand Master, RW Brother James Peter Croft handed over the multi-purpose 'Crusader Ambulance' at a Ceremony of Dedication at Auckland Castle in September of 2000.

Seventeen years on, we're delighted that the Mark Benevolent Fund has partnered with us again. Their latest donation - an incredible

£3,023,700 - will see up to 52 replacement ambulances and support vehicles in our local communities over a two-year period. The new vehicles will help us to achieve our goal of making first aid available where it is needed most.

The donation marks our 140th anniversary this year and the 150th anniversary of the Mark Benevolent Fund in 2018.



Keys for the new Small Treatment Centre handed over by RW Prof. D.K.Wilson PGM of Durham to Mr.Marc Murray who is the Acting North District Manager.



Dr.Gillian Willmore, Chair of Durham County Priory Group,St.John and representing the Mark Benevolent Fund RWBro. Anthony Morris, PPGM, DepPresMBF, GMRAC.



Martin Rankin, Anthony Morris, Frank Rankin and Denovan Wilson admiring the new Treatment vehicle donated to St.Johns by the MBF which is now ready to provide such important emergency cover at many public events.



The Dedication and Handover Ceremony starts under the direction of Dr.Gillian Willmore, Chair of Durham County Group,St.John with the Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Pauline Dillon also present.

Prayers for Donors, Supporters and the Dedication were by the County Chaplain,St.John Ambulance, Reverend Professor Douglas J.Davies,FBA.

Prayers for the work of the St.John Ambulance were given by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, WBro. Keith Dinning,PGJD.



An explanation of the working tools now available with this brand-new vehicle was kindly given by Joanne Bell, District Coordinator, North Region. She said that this vehicle will be a game changer for the organisation in the way first aid and treatment can be delivered in the most up to date and efficient manner.



St.John has a new recruit starting intensive training and will soon be ready to give emergency cover from coast to coast!!!



After the handover of the keys by RW Prof Denovan K. Wilson PGM of Durham the Deputy President of the Mark Benevolent Fund RWBro. Anthony Morris, PPGM, DepPresMBF,GMRAC, addressed the assembly marking this very special occasion of what Freemasonry can do for the community and how it continues to do much good work by so many Masons.

## Shildon Charity receives £1000 from Mark Benevolent Fund

“ Shildon Alive “, a wonderful community project run from tiny premises in Shildon in collaboration with St John’s Church, has been presented with a £1000 donation by the Province of Durham Mark Benevolent Fund. With a small staff and an army of volunteers operating from a single unit in Church Street, this group organises a huge number of food parcels, a credit union, community learning, social events and advocacy covering a multitude of topics.

As the Mark party left the premises, a rack of coats was being placed on the pavement for anyone in need to help themselves.



Shown making the presentation to Project Manager Paula Nelson is Chairman of the Benevolent Fund, V W Bro Danny Guy, accompanied by Treasurer, V W Bro Roy Neville. Also present and representing the Charity is tireless volunteer Olga Bainbridge BEM and from the Church, Rev’d Canon David Tomlinson.



Olga Bainbridge BEM explaining to Roy Neville how the food bank helps the local community with some of the issues the charity has to deal with.





**Provincial Grand Lodge  
of  
Mark Master Masons  
of  
Durham**



**Mark Gala Dinner**

on  
**SATURDAY 12th MAY 2018**

at  
**SPENNYMOOR TOWN HALL**



**HIGH STREET  
SPENNYMOOR  
Co. DURHAM  
DL16 6DG**



Entertainment by  
**Mark McCann**

Reception: 6.45pm, for Dinner at: 7.15pm, Carriages: 11.30pm

**Tickets — £26.00**

Tickets can be obtained from:

A J Clark, 155 Hilda Park, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH2 2JS [aje5807@gmail.com](mailto:aje5807@gmail.com)

Please make Cheques payable to "Mark Coordinating Committee"

**Please include a Stamped Addressed Envelope**

**Dietary Needs Only**

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Alternative Main  
Salmon or Vegetarian

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If you or any Guest  
Has Dietary Needs  
Please Order the Alternative  
By 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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Contact Arthur Clark  
[aje5807@gmail.com](mailto:aje5807@gmail.com)  
Please make Cheques payable to  
**Mark Coordinating Committee**

**No Meal changes are possible**

**Mark Gala Dinner**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dress Formal

**Menu**

To Start With

**Melon with Forest Fruit's**

And Then

**Topside of Beef**

**Yorkshire Pudding**

**Creamed & Roast Potatoes**

**A Medley of Vegetables**

**PGL of Durham Mark Golf Day**

Brethren,

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Durham Mark Golf Day will be held at The George Washington Hotel & Golf Club, Stone Cellar Road, Washington, NE37 1PH, on:

**TUESDAY 3rd July 2018 from 9am onwards.**

The format of the day is as follows:

Tea/Coffee, and a Bacon Roll will be served from 9-15am.

1<sup>st</sup> Tee-off at 10-04am.

Complimentary ticket for 25 balls to 'warm-up' in the driving area.

18 holes of golf.

1 x 'Nearest the Pin' prize, and 1 x 'Longest Drive' prize provided by the Club.

2 course meal, and presentations after the golf.

Total cost = £37-50

Deposit: £10 to be sent to Allan Gurney, 18 Staithes Court, Seaham, SR7 7WF

NB: Please note that this is intended as a fun day out for Masons, so that you can meet and mix with other Masons, and players of all handicap abilities are invited to come along and join in. As far as possible, players will be grouped according to ability.

The closing date is Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June (the Annual Mark Meeting). Therefore, would those wishing to enter, please contact me as soon as possible, so that I know if there will be sufficient numbers to make the event viable.

ALLAN GURNEY – email: [agurney@uwclub.net](mailto:agurney@uwclub.net)

**FOUR LODGES RACE NIGHT 27 JANUARY 2018**

Four Mark Lodges banded together and organised a Race Night in order to raise the funds needed for being the Host Lodges for the Mark AGM Annual Meeting in 2017. This proved to be a very great success and so well did they work together that it was decided that this year they would hold another Race Night in order to raise some funds for their own Lodges.

Bede 605, Union 124, Ravensworth 718 and Ernest Dixon 1015 found that working together like this was not just fun but it also allows any non masons to be part of a very enjoyable evening which hopefully could result an interest in joining this excellent Fraternity.

**AT THE RACES IN QUEEN STREET EAST, SUNDERLAND.**



**A short story - Unfortunately it is true.**

Once upon a time a lodge Treasurer was called most unexpectedly to the Grand Lodge above, after the usual formalities associated with the bereavement process the senior officers realised that in order for the Lodge to continue financially they needed to review not only the election of a replacement Treasurer but also in the meantime who could sign any required cheques.

With only one signature being required on the cheque and he being no longer available added to the fact that the DC and other members could not remember who the authorised signatories were. The Secretary scoured the Lodge minutes way back till the time of the consecration, but was unable to locate any authorised names.

The bank was unable to assist as they could only converse with the authorised signatories to prevent any possible fraud or money laundering schemes.

As time passed the Secretary eventually through due diligence sought out one authorised signatory who was now living in another part of the country.

As the existing account could not be closed for the want of ALL signatories a new account was opened with a different set of signatories and each cheque now requiring 2 out of 3 signatures (all of which took many months to achieve). Finally a cheque was raised from the old account and the balance of funds transferred to the new account.

The Moral of the story is “ BE WISE BEFORE THE EVENT, NOT AFTER” ,

Ask yourselves when was the last time you reviewed your Lodge authorised signatories, are they still alive, have they moved away, would you know where and how to make contact with them.

If you can answer these questions then why not on a regular basis make reference to them in your Lodge Minutes for the benefit of those who may in the future have need of them. It will certainly make life much easier.

W.Bro. ANON.

**"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 verbal 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 assist Martin in producing his monthly publication. There are lots of stories to be told so please get involved and **“Tell your story!”**



**Martin Schoolkate,**  
 Contact details: [mschoolkate@gmail.com](mailto:mschoolkate@gmail.com)  
 Mobile: 07851 427664



**Michael James Wilkinson,**  
 Contact details : [michael.w@learning4ever.co.uk](mailto:michael.w@learning4ever.co.uk)  
 Mobile: 079632 13336

**OBITUARIES**

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



14/01/2018	Bro Silvester William Brunton	M1269 (Hon)
23/01/2018	Bro Kenneth Wright	M1269 RAM293
13/02/2018	W Bro Bruce Ditchburn	M1015 PPrGSwdB RAM 605

MARK / MARCH	2018	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Spennymoor no..981	1	Thursday	6.45	Provincial Visit
Hebburn no.596	2	Friday	7.00	
Walton no.1106	5	Monday	6.45	
Industry no.293	5	Monday	7.00	
Cestria no.1151	6	Tuesday	6.45	
Ferryhill no.1560	8	Thursday	6.30	Provincial Visit
Penshaw no.1055	8	Thursday	7.00	
Bede no.605	9	Friday	7.00	
St.Aidan no.1145	12	Monday	7.00	Installation
Bernard Gilpin no.860	13	Tuesday	7.00	
Darlington no.250	14	Wednesday	6.45	
St.Lawrence no.1093	15	Thursday	7.00	
Chief of the Builders no.1806	16	Friday	10.30	Installation 10.30 am
Stanhope no.1551	19	Monday	7.00	Installation
Jarrow no.701	19	Monday	7.00	
Ambrose Crowley no.1269	20	Tuesday	6.45	
Ernest Dixon no.1015	20	Tuesday	7.00	
Auckland no.596	21	Wednesday	6.45	Meets at Shildon
Wouldhave Tyne Dock no.362	21	Wednesday	7.00	Installation
Dunelm no.356	22	Thursday	6.45	
St.Andrews no.854	22	Thursday	6.45	
Union no.124	22	Thursday	7.00	
Indaba no.1936 no meeting because of good Friday				Dispensation to meet on 6 April 2018
St.Thomas no.1511	27	Tuesday	6.45	Provincial Visit
Eclectic no.39	27	Tuesday	7.00	Installation
Ravensworth no.718	28	Wednesday	7.00	
Castle Eden no.930	28	Wednesday	7.00	

RAM / MARCH	2018	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Stanhope RAM no.1551	2	Friday	7.00	
St.Andrews RAM no.854	8	Thursday	7.00	Installation
Rockcliffe RAM no.362	16	Friday	7.00	Installation
Bernard Gilpin RAM no.860	19	Monday	7.00	
Stockton RAM no.122	20	Tuesday	7.00	
RAM Provincial Assembly	23	Friday	6.30	Ferryhill /Provincial Visit
Moseley RAM no.925	26	Monday	7.00	
Bede RAM no.605	27	Tuesday	7.00	

**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?)



**Your Lodge of Instruction needs YOU!**

The Durham Mark LOI is recruiting. Any Mark Master Mason can apply to join. £25 one off payment for lifetime membership. Come along, demonstrate our degree, be it Mark or RAM, in any number of roles (eg you don't need to be a PM to be WM). You'll learn far more about the degrees, visit other Temples throughout the Province, and of course enjoy the friendship and camaraderie of some excellent Mark Master Masons.

*Interested?*  
 Contact Richard Hogg on [durhammarkloi@gmail.com](mailto:durhammarkloi@gmail.com), 07966 183317. Jeff Awdas, Doug Quickmire and Danny Guy will also be only too pleased to tell you more, or answer any query.

*Secretary's / DC's: If you'd like the Demonstration Team to visit your lodge, contact any of the brethren above to set a date....*

**SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM JIM**

Jim would be most grateful if any brethren have any Mark or RAM Regalia they would like to donate as he is running very low on stock.

**JIM STUBBINGS**  
 WARDEN OF REGALIA  
 Tel: 0191-4166764  
 Email: [j.stubbings@talktalk.net](mailto:j.stubbings@talktalk.net)



**Grand Meetings Calendar 2018 - by F.Beales**

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Meeting Starts	Meeting Finishes	Dining Start	Finish
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 13 March 2018	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3.30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Annual Investiture	Tuesday, 12 June 2018	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:30 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 11 September 2018	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3.30 PM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Tuesday, 11 December 2018	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	4:30 PM	5:45 PM	6:30 PM	8:00 PM

**Provincial Annual Meetings 2018**

MARK	Mark Annual General Meeting	Wednesday, 27 June 2018 - 3.00pm	Lancastrian Suite, Dunston, NE11 9JR
RAM	Annual Assembly	Friday, 23 March 2018 - 6.30pm	Masonic Hall, Ferryhill, DL17 8HX