MAY 2018



DURHAM



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

Royal Ark Mariners Assembly - 2018

Over one hundred brethren attended the Annual Royal Ark Mariners Assembly that took place at the Ferryhill Masonic Hall on Friday the 23rd of March 2018. They were there to witness the appointment of the Provincial Team members for 2018-2019, and also to congratulate the recipients of both Provincial Grand Rank, and Grand Rank.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Professor Denovan Keith Wilson, Appointed and Invested the the following as his Provincial Team for 2018;

Senior Warden:Alan WeirSpennymoor 981Junior Warden:Sidney James WatsonRyton 1714Sword Bearer:Ian Christopher Mason.....Union 124Standard Bearer:Graeme William TelfordCastle Eden 930Guardian:John Douglas CrabtreeDarlington 250Warder:Christopher James Morris .. Bede 605

There where fourteen brethren who received a Provincial Grand Rank Honour, namely; Brian William Telfer, Robert Main, William Chrystal, Nigel Scott, David King, Robert Leslie Bean, Neil Anderson, Robert Ross Tonner, Phillip Alan Carter, Allan Gurney, Roland Croysdale, Brian Graham, David Anderson and acknowledging the 'field appointment' made to David Nigel Hanson (on the 26th October 2017).

The Provincial Grand Master then delivered his address, which follows unedited. It includes, congratulations, acknowledgements of service, reflections, achievements, future events and a vision of the future of Royal Ark Mariners in the Provincial of Durham.



Trevor Lynn Danny Guy Alan Weir Denovan Wilson Sidney James Watson David Hanson Introducing the new Senior and Junior Wardens Alan and Sidney.



Provincial Grand Master's Address.

Brethren, around our Province and here this evening I see many worthy brethren who work hard, often behind the scenes, in keeping the wheels turning in their lodges and in the Province as a whole.



Our Annual Assembly provides an opportunity to acknowledge just a few of these worthy brethren and I ask those who have been appointed to Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Rank and also those appointed to the Active Team to stand for a moment.

Brethren, I thank you for all you do and hope you will continue to take an active part in the development, operation and leadership of the Order in Durham. I congratulate you and wish you well and ask the brethren to acclaim you.

The assembled brethren responded by delivering a rapturous applause.

Tonight, some of the members of the Active Team are standing down and I thank them for their company on visits to lodges and for being such fine ambassadors for the Order. It has been a joy to work with them, I wish them well and know they will continue their good work.

Brethren, you know of course that two very prominent and highly respected brethren will be standing down in the coming months. I refer of course to Worshipful Brothers Danny Guy and Tony Craven, each of whom have made outstanding contributions to their lodges, to our Province, to the Order, and indeed to Masonry as a whole. As they will have stood down before our next Annual Assembly I am sure you will wish to extend your warmest thanks and best wishes to them today, and to raise the roof with acclamation.

The Annual Assembly also provides an opportunity for reflection and I will comment on just a few things.

On Saturday 6th May our small Provincial Team went to London and took part in the Mark Benevolent Fund Walk. By then you knew of course that through the generosity of all our Royal Ark Mariner and Mark lodges and many individual contributions, the sponsorship from Durham was over £16000. The combined total from all Provinces was well in excess of £400,000.

This will be used to purchase vehicles for the Blood Bike Association and the Mark Benevolent Fund has so far committed to 22 vehicles with more in the pipeline. It is hoped that these will be presented at the National Association of Blood Bike's Annual Awareness Day on 17th August and be another milestone in the MBF's 150th anniversary year celebrations. I am delighted that Paul Paterson and John Stevenson have accepted my nomination for them to attend as representatives of Durham.

On Tuesday 12th December our usual large contingent of Durham brethren went to the Annual Grand Assembly to attend the investiture of brethren being appointed to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. Four of our brethren were appointed and I will ask each of them stand and remain standing whilst I name them.

They are:

WBro. Lionel Danby of Stockton on Tees Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 122

WBro. Frederick Allan Peat Beales of Rockcliffe Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 362

WBro. Langton Woodhouse of Bernard Gilpin Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 860

WBro. John Maurice Nye of Stanhope Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No.1551

Brethren, I congratulate all of you on your richly deserved appointments and am sure I can count on you for your continued support for our Province, our Lodges and our events. I know all present will join me in wishing you well and I now invite them to acclaim you. On Sunday 21st January this year, a large contingent of Durham brethren and partners, along with the Deputy President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, and the PGM of Northumberland were present at the St John Ambulance Training Centre at Lobley Hill when I had the pleasure of handing over the keys for a Mobile Treatment Centre.

This was funded by a Mark Benevolent Fund Grant of over £3,000,000 to renew the St John Ambulance Fleet of ambulances, response vehicles and Mobile Treatment Centres the Treatment Centre bears the Mark Logo and has a busy schedule ahead. We have already agreed to make an annual contribution to running costs. Arrangements are in hand for the Treatment Centre to be on display at the Mark Annual General Meeting in June.

I put on record my thanks to WBro Brian Hays of Eclectic Mark Lodge No 39 for all his work in organising and coordinating the event.

Looking forward, on Saturday 12th May 2018 we will be holding the Annual Gala Dinner at Spennymoor Town Hall. This is a flag ship social event for us and is an important source of income for our Durham Mark Benevolent Fund. That fund enables us to give rapid support to those in need and to worthy causes so please support the Dinner and do what masons do so well, that is raise funds to help others and have a great time in doing it.

Looking forward again I can't resist mentioning the upcoming Mark Annual General Meeting which will be on Wednesday 27th June. The entry of Worshipful Commanders in formal procession is now an established feature which undoubtedly raises the profile of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners and helps to make the Mark AGM perhaps the best single recruitment opportunity available to us. Please give the meeting your support in its own right and bring application forms with you if you are so inclined!

Now just a little word about membership. If you read the excellent report produced by the Provincial Scribe you will see that in the year ended 31st December 2017, memberships fell from 554 to 541, a drop of 13......

..... Now, that is a small drop and over the last three years as a whole we have still made a net gain in memberships which is something we can be very pleased about.

However, there is still a wonderful opportunity available to us. You see brethren, of the 1010 subscribing Mark Master Masons in Durham, only 415 are Royal Ark Mariners. So, there are almost 600 Mark Masons to target.

I repeat requests I have made before and say let's all be recruitment agents and see what can be achieved. Let's do our best to let every Mark Master Mason have all the information necessary for them to decide whether or not to join us and, if they decide not to, for them to at least have an informed and favorable view of the Order. I ask in particular that as and when we approach potential recruits, we do so without any detriments to, or criticism of other Masonic Orders.

Finally brethren, I thank all those who have contributed in any way to the planning, organisation and delivery of this meeting. I include in this my Senior Team and those who have worked with them to attend to all the administrative arrangements, to organise and take part in the ceremonial, and to look after the finances. I also thank the management and staff here at Ferryhill for looking after us so well again. They all Mark extraordinarily well, and so do you!

Brethren, I thank you again for all you do for the Order and for being here today. Let's enjoy the rest of the day and together start out tomorrow to make next year another enjoyable and memorable one,

and may the Supreme Commander of the Universe bless and guide us in all our efforts.

The assembly applauded his address and settled back to receive a presentation of an explanation of the Royal Ark Mariners 'Tracing Board' by WBro's Jeff Awdas, Robert Main, Leslie Baker and Phillip Carter.

The assembly concluded and the brethren retired to enjoy the delights of an enjoyable festive board, were the celebrations of the evening continued making the whole evening a memorable occasion for all.

(Michael Wilkinson- acknowledgement contributions- PGM and GProvSec)



The Union Lodge of Royal Ark

Mariners No.124 welcomed aboard a new Mariner at their meeting on the 11th April 2018 in Sunderland. Brother Shaun Reay was Elevated during the ceremony witnessed by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master WBro.David Hanson and WBro.Michael Davis.

At the festive board everyone enjoyed an excellent meal in the company of many friends all of which made an everlasting impression on Shaun who in his reply to his toast as the new member of the Lodge expressed his delight for the way he has been welcomed into the "Ark" and he is really looking forward to many happy years as an active Royal Ark Mariner. He made a great start not only as an excellent candidate but also by winning the bottle of whisky raffle prize!

Also at the festive board many congratulations were extended to WBro. Ian Mason of Union RAM No.124, who received the rank of Acting Provincial Grand Standart Bearer for 2018 - 2019 at the recent Annual RAM meeting in Ferryhill.

During his address to the brethren David Hanson mentioned the importance not only of recruitment but also of retention. With that in mind he explained that if any lodge had to suffer the resignation or exclusion of a brother, it would be important to inform the PGM, Assistant PGM or Prov. Secretaries so that every effort could be made to contact the brother and try to find out why or what happened and how anything could be done to assist this brother to remain as a valued member of our Fraternity. Any loss to a lodge is a loss to us all and to the individual involved. The visiting Grand Lodge Officers sceme recently launched would also be an invaluable link to possible solutions or answers.

David also mentioned the "4 Steps to the Mark" recruitment initiative where it is intended that every Mark Mason would bring a brother Freemason not yet in the Mark to this event where his guest would not only receive a very warm welcome and a free meal at the festive board, but also an insight into Mark Masonry which should encourage him to join the Mark Master Degree and so enrich his Masonic knowledge and experience.



A very important home visit for Joe White when he received his guests who had travelled to meet him and present his 50th certificate in recognition for 50 dedicated years of service, congratulations Joe from all the brethren!

Northumberland meets Durham when on 9th April 2018 a small band of determined Masonic visitors crossed the Tyne in order to join a meeting at the **Haven Mark Lodge No.750** in Albion Road Masonic Hall in North Shields. For several brethren this was their very first visit and they were not disappointed by the incredibly warm and friendly welcome they received.

The installed Worshipful Master of Haven Lodge, WBro.Hugh Padruig McIntosh MacLeod has been a very close friend of WBro. Gary Quinn for many years when both men served in the Fire Brigade but never knew that either of them was a Freemason. They only discovered this when Hugh attended a lodge in Sunderland and saw Gary in the SW Chair ! Apparently Freemasonry was never discussed at work and so it was that they never knew, the power of discretion indeed. On Wednesday the 3rd of April 2018, the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro. D.K. Wilson, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro. D.Guy, The Provincial Secretary WBro. R.T. Lynn and WBro. J.Rowland visited **WBro Joseph William White** at his home in Shildon to celebrate and present a certificate from the Grand Master to commemorate 50 years of dedicated service to **Hackworth Mark Lodge No 761**.

Joe, now a sprightly 98 year old, joined Hackworth Mark Lodge 2nd April 1968 and was Worshipful Master in 1983, following which he took the office of Registrar of Marks until 2011 when at 92 he decided to take a more sedate backseat roll as a Past Master.

Joe was awarded his first Provincial rank in 1987 as Assistant Prov.G DofC; he was promoted in 1994 to PastGJW, both these honours under the authority of RW Bro.W.Gillhespy the then PGM.

Joe no longer plays golf at Barnard Castle or attends his Lodge as mobility problems have left him enjoying a more relaxed time at home under the watchful eye of his daughter Pat. (D.Guy)



The Lodge saw WBro. MacLeod installed as Worshipfull Master in excellent manner by the Installing Master, WBro.Stephen John Innes Angus. After the meeting a superb festive board was enjoyed by the brethren and all present are looking forward to meet again soon to renew their friendships across the two Provinces.



Unity Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.827 at their meeting on 5th April 2018 in Seaham celebrated two important occasions in one evening. First, the Lodge after a successful ballot were delighted to welcome and receive a joining member when Bro. Henry Crosby returned to his former Mark Lodge, he told the brethren how delighted



he is to be back with his friends in Unity Mark Lodge. Then the Representative of the Rt.Worshipful PGM, WBro. Leonard Andrew Young, Prov.JGW was received into the lodge and he witnessed the Installation of WBro.Joe Higginbottom as Worshipful Master by the excellent Installing Master WBro.Allan Gurney. The whole ceremony was much enjoyed by a good number of visiting brethren and this continued at the festive board with 39 diners tucking in to an excellent meal, the whole meeting pointing the way to a bright future for the lodge.



Ken Moore has created this incredible artistic masterpiece in glass and oak which is on view at the Shildon Masonic Hall and where brethren and visitors to the Hall can make a donation by dropping in any small change through the opening at the top and see their charitable coin mountain grow and grow. Can anybody guess when the top of the frame will be reached?

A summary of the work of the Mark Benevolent Fund so far, in this, our 150th Anniversary year:

• 7 Provinces have now had their official **St John Ambulance** hand over and 5 more are due before the end of May. There will also be a significant event in Cardiff for the handover of the 4 Wales vehicles. I had the pleasure of meeting with representatives of the Priory of Wales. The occasion was to celebrate the Centenary of the St John Priory of Wales. The enthusiasm and dedication of the trustees and volunteers for their organisation rivals our own at the Mark Benevolent Fund. The M.B.F. has donated £3.2 million to St John Ambulance to fund a combination of 52 ambulances, treatment centres and support vehicles throughout England, Wales and the Islands. Our partnership with this organisation highlights the M.B.F.'s continuing commitment to supporting projects with a wider community impact.

• Following on from the M.B.F. Charity Walk in May 2017 which raised £437,934, grants totalling £350,000 have been made to **Blood Bike charities** throughout England and Wales. The official Blood Bike handover will take place in August at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham, full details will follow once arrangements have been finalised. So far, we have 22 cars and bikes secured to attend the event.

• The Lytham St Anne's lifeboat naming will take place later this month. £80,000 given from the M.B.F. in conjunction with the Province of West Lancashire. The ceremony will be attended by the President of the M.B.F., Dr John Wright, RD, P.G.S.W. along with many local Mark Master Masons.

• Lawson, the new 'Dogs for Good' golden retriever puppy, has started his 2-year training plan. He was named in memory of R.W.Bro. Michael Lawson, P.G.S.W., an M.B.F. Trustee, who passed away in October 2017. This is the second puppy to be sponsored by the M.B.F. Our first puppy, Suzie, is now one year old and doing fine.

• Finally, the **150th Anniversary Festival**, being held in Lincolnshire on Saturday, 7 July, is almost sold out. If you still wish to attend then you should hurry!

We also continue to help those Brethren, and their families, who are struggling and need a helping hand every now and again. I urge you all to look out for your fellow Brethren, whether in Lodge or during your daily activities. If you have any concerns at all don't hesitate to have a chat with your Lodge Almoner.

As you can see we are keeping busy and making sure that we are using your donations to the M.B.F. wisely and conscientiously. As always, I thank you all for your contributions to our fantastic charity. I am sure that our founder, Revd Canon George Portal, would be as proud of our achievements today, as he was in 1868. Brethren, Mark Well.

Sincerely and fraternally,

W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, P.A.G.D.C. --- Charities Manager.



No Meal changes are possible

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM

DURHAM LODGE OF INSTALLED MARK MASTERS No.1492

21ST MAY 2018 TONIGHT IS A PRESENTATION

TONIGHT IS A PRESENTATION OF "THE FOURTH STEP TO THE MARK".

All Mark Lodges throughout the Province are cordially invited to attend this meeting. This is the forerunner of the presentation now ready to tour around the Province. It will be an ideal opportunity for any lodge to preview the presentation prior to inviting the Durham Lodge of Mark Masters to arrange your own OPEN EVENING.

This is great opportunity to invite and bring along any Master Mason who may be interested in becoming a member of YOUR Lodge.

All we ask is to let us know by 12/5/18 if you intend to dine, no dining charge will apply for any non Mark Mason.

We look forward to meet with and WELCOME you to our lodge.



PGL of Durham Mark Golf Day

Brethren,

The 2nd 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.

1st 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 27th 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

Mobile: 07802-700423

If you wish to dine afterwards the cost will be \$7.00 but please let me know before hand on Tel. 07763063120 or Email: mj.cgraham9910@gmail

.com

Remember no charge for NON Mark Masons

INFORMATION

MAY 2018

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Meeting Starts	Meeting Finishes	Dining Start	Approx 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
RSM	Grand Council	Tuesday, 17 April 2018	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:30 PM	1:45 PM	2:30 PM	4:00 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	Thursday, 3 May 2018	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
кт	Great Priory	Wednesday, 16 May 2018	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
ROS	London & Met Counties Prov.	Thursday, 24 May 2018	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	4:30 PM	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	9:00 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
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 3 July 2018	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:30 PM	3:00 PM	3.30 PM	5:30 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
КВНС	Grand Priory	Thursday, 13 September 2018	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3.30 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 23 October 2018	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	1:15 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 8 November 2018	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
KT - Malta	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 20 November 2018	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
ROS	London & Met Counties Prov.	Friday, 23 November 2018	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	3:30 PM	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	9:00 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

MARK LODGES / MAY	2018	DAY	TIME	NOTES	
G.Washington No.1626	1	Tuesday	7.00pm	Installation is now JUNE each yea (Amended Lodge By-Laws)	
Spennymoor No.981	3	Thursday	6.45pm	Installation	
Hebburn No. 1339	4	Friday	7.00pm		
Bernard Gilpin No.860	8	Tuesday	7.00pm		
Darlington No.250	9	Wednesday	6.45pm		
Ferryhil No.1560	10	Thursday	6.45pm		
Penshaw No.1055	10	Thursday	7.00pm		
St.Aidan No.1145	14	Monday 7.00pm			
Auckland No.596	16	Wednesday	6.45pm	Installation	
Wouldhave Tyne Dock No.362	16	Wednesday	7.00pm		
Clavering No.896	17	Thursday	7.00pm		
Moseley No.925	18	Friday	7.00pm		
D.L.I.M.M.M. No.1492	21	Monday	6.30 pm		
Castle Eden No.930	23	Wednesday	7.00pm	Installation	
Dunelm No.356		Thursday 6.45pm		Provincial Visit	
RAM LODGES / MAY	201	8 DAY	TIME	NOTES	
Monument RAM No.1055	1	Tuesday	10.30ar	n Installation	
Chief of the Builders No.1806	11	Friday	10.30ar	m Installation	

11

15

17

18

Friday

Tuesday

Thursday

Friday

7.00

7.00

7.00

7.00

iy Guy suit a Your Lodge of Instruction needs YOU!

The Durham Mark Master Masons "Lodge of Instruction" For better Understanding & Enjoyment of the Mark & R

INDABA LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS NO.1936 has invited the L.O.I. Team to attend their meeting on the 29th June 2018 and all brethren are invited to see them at work.

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 <u>durhammarkloi@gmail.com</u>, 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....

OBITUARIES

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



Castle Eden RAM No.930

Durham Inst. Cmd. No.492

Rockcliffe RAM No.362

Industry Ram No.293

Bro. George Cruikshank Slater M1714 21/03/2018