

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



SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PAMELA

"I would very much like to thank everyone for their kind words and support shown to myself and the family at the sad time of Lewis's death, and it is comforting to know that others care.

During his illness Lewis received a large number of cards and best wishes which I know he very much appreciated. We as Lewis's family would like to send an extra thank you to all who helped us raise the magnificent sum of £654.70 for Cancer Research in his memory.

Hope you and Dorothy are both well. Pamela x. "



Lewis & Pamela Douglas

There are times in life when we come across a person who we have difficulty in being able to describe adequately, especially when they are snatched away from us suddenly by death.

Lewis Douglas was such a person. He was not complex or complicated. He was hardworking, committed, motivated, enthusiastic, fun loving and compassionate. He knew success, suffered loss and found new love.

All these sentiments were expressed and shared at the funeral and within Masonic meetings acknowledging the loss of a brother. The reflections of the memories and thoughts have been used within this article with kind permission of two life long friends of Lewis, namely, Danny Guy and George Dixon.

Lewis was initiated into Tristram Lodge in March 1975. Then he was a young married man with his wife Hillary and young family. He worked tirelessly in the lodge becoming Master in 1986 and served in many senior positions over the years. He was a member of Nevill Lodge of Installed Masters and a founder member of the Lodge of

Scribes and a member of Tristram Royal Arch Chapter.

However, Lewis's Masonic career was centred around the Mark Degree. Following his father Sid he joined the Hackworth Lodge of MMM in October 1976. Sid was Lodge Secretary for some 27 years and Lewis succeeded in that office serving for some 26 years. He also became a member of several Royal Ark Mariners Lodges. His commitment was recognised in each when he received Provincial and Grand Lodge Honours.

This catalogue of service reminds us all of the energy and dedication given to the lodges that he and we are all part of. He also knew dark times in his life, when his first wife Hillary died of cancer.

However, Lewis would admit that he considered himself lucky to find new love and happiness again in life when he married Pamela. The saying that "behind every good man there is a good woman" is well exemplified by Pam,

Lewis would be the first to acknowledge that his Masonic work and commitment would not have been possible without the prompting, reminding and organising that Pam had given. Lewis openly admitted that IT was not his particular forte, indeed Pam was the secretariat support behind Lewis. For all that assistance we convey our sincere appreciation to Pam.

Pam like Lewis went beyond commitment to his lodges by getting involved and practically supporting social activities within Shildon Masonic Hall. Often she would have to listen as Lewis held court at the bar as the evening's proceedings would come to an end.

Lewis could not be described as a big man in stature. You could easily miss seeing him in a crowd, but it wouldn't take long to know that he was there when you heard his distinctive chuckle laugh. Neither could Lewis be described as one of life's gentleman but he was certainly be described as one of life's characters.

Pamela was kind enough to send a letter to thank the brethren for the support she and her family had received. However, words cannot express adequately our gratitude for what she gave to Lewis that touched so many of our lives.

Many Masons will be able to identify with the qualities and support given to them by their life's partner as Pamela gave to Lewis. Often we forget just what our experience and involvement in Masonry would be without them.

It is appropriate to take this opportunity to address any such short coming. On behalf of all Mark Masons we convey our sincere appreciation to Pamela in particular and to our respective partners for their gifts of unselfish and unconditional support that allows other lives to be enriched.

MW



A new “RAINBOW ROOM “ was opened on September 14th 2017 at Springwell Village Primary School thanks to a grant of £2000 from the Province of Durham Mark Benevolent Fund.

The room, equipped with a range of sensory aids, has been set aside as a space for disadvantaged children and has been welcomed and appreciated by staff and children alike. The opening was attended by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro. Prof. D K Wilson, the Chairman of the Governors and member of Ernest Dixon Lodge of MMM, WBro Robert Dash, the Treasurer of the Fund, VW Bro. Roy Neville and the Head Teacher Mrs Louise Wiegand.

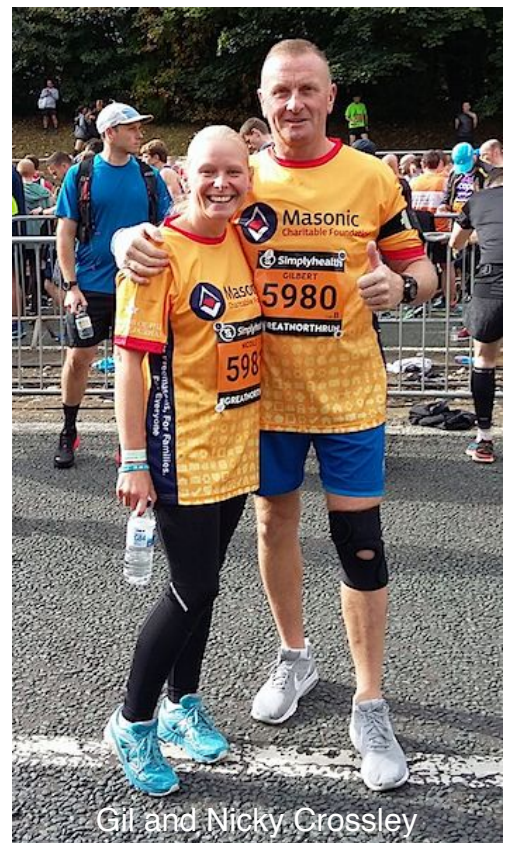
The first lesson learnt on the day was by VW Bro. Neville who discovered that attempting a grand opening speech in the company of a group of very excited 6/7 year olds was not a good idea.

The Chairman of our Benevolent Fund, VW Bro. Danny Guy, is delighted that this worthwhile community project has produced so much relief and happiness.”

Gil and Nicky Crossley together with fellow team members complete their Super Marathon and raised £40.000 for charity causes ... What a brilliant finish!

Myself and my wife Nicky were so proud to wear this t-shirt during the run because of what it represented to us. My wife commented on the number of people who patted her on the back while she was running and said what a great cause. She even had a gentleman tell her he'd just come out of the chair! It was challenging for both us. For me, I had the cartilage in my knee removed three years ago so I'm running bone on bone. It didn't stop me coming across the finish line at 1 hour 59 mins. My wife Nicky was diagnosed with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome in 2012, an illness that almost made her wheelchair bound. Although she has it for the rest of her life she promised her specialists it wouldn't stop her and running the Great North Run proved it. She came in at 2 hours 30 mins. We are both brimming with pride that so many charities are able to benefit from the money raised and the challenge we both faced was absolutely worth it.

Gil Crossley



Gil and Nicky Crossley



Ho! Ho !Ho! To Sunderland Empire we go for a pre-festive treat

I am sure that this article will resonate fond memories for some and slight dread for others, as we move ever nearer towards Christmas. Especially if we add in the words school panto. Yes, in homes across the land their will be children who desperately want to show off their singing and dancing skills at every opportunity. For weeks the patience of their patient parents and adoring grandparents will be stretched to the limit. Can we ever forget 'Frozen' and the singing of 'let it go, let it go!' and the dramatic dance routine that reinforced that song.

However, for many children this would be their first step towards an aspiration to perform before and receive the applause of an audience. Enter stage left, Kathleen Davis who formed her stage school in July 1976 and in later years Danielle Campbell Dance Enterprise was formed. Together they run a large stage school based in the heart of Sunderland. Both Kathleen and Danielle share a wealth of experience and are nationally recognised qualifications in theatre dance and artistic /classical ballet. Being fully qualified teachers they provide education in dance and performing arts to children from the age three years to adults. Modern Jazz, Tap Dance, Ballet, Drama and Musical Theatre are just a sample of the subjects offered.

Performances are offered to various care homes and other community venues including the Sunderland Empire. Over the years many pupils

have taken up careers in performing arts, several have gone to perform in West End Shows in London and other major theatres.

Every year Butlin's Skegness with the British Theatre Dance Association offer pupils and parents to come together for four days. They attend various workshops with professional choreographers and then show case their talents. This year the Mark Benevolent Fund donated £250.00 towards the transportation costs of the group to attend the Butlin's event.

By way of a huge 'Thank You!' Kathleen Davis presents at the Sunderland Empire a pre-festive treat entitled **Christmas Crunch**. The performance includes many young dancers with pupils from The Brandon Primary School Glee Club. Commencing at 7.00pm .on Saturday the 25th of November 2017

The normal price for tickets for this performance would be £14.00p. For Freemasons and their families wishing to attend will be discounted to £7.00p per person.

Christmas without children just would not be much fun and remember, there is a little bit of child in us all. So take this opportunity to get into the spirit of Christmas by going to the Sunderland Empire and enjoy the experience of watching local children showing off their talents. We can make their Christmas by applauding their talents and thank you for charity shown by Freemasons.



For tickets please contact Mike Davis at Provincial Office 0191 567 5365 or 0191 528 2614

Further information on the dance school you can visit the website: kathleendavisstageschool.co.uk

GRAND MEETINGS CALENDAR 2017 - 2018

- RAM Annual Assembly** - Tuesday, 12 December 2017, FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ
- MARK Grand Lodge** - Tuesday, 13 March 2018, FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ
- MARK Grand Lodge - Annual Investiture** Tuesday, 12 June 2018, FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ



ERNEST DIXON LODGE OF MMM NO.1015

Gil Crossley installed Gil Crossley into the Chair of the Ernest Dixon Mark Lodge on the 19th September 2017. No, it's not a double take but a wonderful occasion, when the Father installed his Son as the worshipful Master of the Lodge. WBro.G. Crossley Snr. conducted a very impressive ceremony as the Installing Master in the presence of the Representative of the PGM, WBro. Kenneth E.C.Howe,PAGDC,PPGJW.

WBro. Kenneth E.C.Howe, conveyed the harty congratulations from the PGM to WBro. Gil Crossley Jrn. and his own appreciation of a wonderful and special Mark Masonic evening .

RAVENSWORTH LODGE OF MMM NO.718.

WBro. David Lawson,PPGReg, has been installed as the Worshipful Master of the Ravensworth Lodge of MMM No.718 on the 27th September 2017. David looks forward to his year as Worshipful Master and continues his very busy masonic career with seeming boundless energy which reflects his deep commitment and love for the Mark Degree.



The photo shows a cheque for a £1000 donation being presented to team members and coaches of the **Blaydon Rugby Club Youth Section** by the Worshipful Master of the **Clavering Lodge No. 896.**

W Bro.Tony Easton presented the cheque on Thursday 3/8/2017, just before training commenced, and the inevitable mud on the payers after they come back from the playing field. Blaydon Rugby Club players cover 11 junior teams and 4 senior teams with the age ranges from under 6 up to under 18.

It is the intension of the club to use the donation to replace strips and equipment and also to help support a planned trip away, to further the experience of the younger members of the club.

Regards Philip Borlace



Yes, we are going back...

Brethren, while you sit on these warm long summer nights with a glass of wine or maybe a G & T Just think on those long cold dark days ahead, November, December, then January 29th comes along.....

Yippee !!!!

We are off to Spain again for some winter sun, So, why not join us, 7 nights in the **4 star Nereo Hotel in Benidorm**, a free night at the Benidorm Palace, take a local bus up the coast to Albir or go 2 or 3 miles further to Altea.

Ladies take the bus to the shopping Centre, C & A, Zara, Prada Roman are just a few of the shops, then Ladies, on Saturday join with the Ladies from Spanish Mark Lodges for a day trip, Lunch and Entertainment, while your other half sits in the Mark A G M Meeting of the District of Spain.

Do not let the word (BENIDORM) put you off, there is a lot more to see in this part of Spain, so why not join us.

Arthur is looking at other trips out, maybe take the Tram to Alicante City it is a nice ride along the Coast through some small fishing villages, Also we are looking at Day trip to Valencia, see the sights and maybe the Chalice thought to have been used at the Last Supper.

Contact Arthur Clark for all the details on ajc5807@gmail.com or give him a phone call on 0191-3887510



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"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,

Contact details: mschoolkate@gmail.com

Mobile: 07851 427664



Michael James Wilkinson,

Contact details : email.

michael.w@learning4ever.co.uk Mobile:

079632 13336

NOVEMBER	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Spennymoor No.981	2	Thursday	6.45 pm	
Staindrop No.1274	6	Monday	6.45 pm	Installation
Industry No.293	6	Monday	7.00 pm	Provincial visit
Cestria No.1151	7	Tuesday	6.45pm	
Darlington No.250	8	Wednesday	6.45 pm	Installation
Ferryhill No.1560	9	Thursday	6.45 pm	
Penshaw No.1055	9	Thursday	7.00 pm	Installation
Ryton No.1714	10	Friday	7.00 pm	
Bede No.605	10	Friday	7.00 pm	
Bernard Gilpin No.860	14	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Provincial visit
Auckland No.596	15	Wednesday	6.45 pm	
Wouldhave Tyne Dock No.362	15	Wednesday	7.00 pm	
St.Lawrence No.1093	16	Thursday	6.30pm	Provincial visit / now at Billingham
Jarrow No.701	20	Monday	7.00 pm	
Ambrose Crowley No.1269	21	Tuesday	6.45 pm	
Ernest Dixon No.1015	21	Tuesday	7.00 pm	
Ravensworth No.718	22	Wednesday	7.00 pm	
Castle Eden No.930	22	Wednesday	7.00 pm	
Dunelm No.356	23	Thursday	6.45 pm	
St.Andrews No.854	23	Thursday	6.45 pm	
Union No.124	23	Thursday	7.00 pm	
Indaba No.1936	24	Friday	7.00 pm	Installation
Stanhope No.1551	27	Monday	7.00 pm	
Shipleigh No.1271	28	Tuesday	7.00 pm	
Eclectic No.39	28	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Provincial visit

NOVEMBER - RAM	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Ryton No.1714	1	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Installation
St.Andrew,s No.854	9	Thursday	7.00 pm	
Castle Eden No. 930	10	Friday	7.00pm	Installation
Durham Inst. Comm. No. 1492	16	Thursday	7.00pm	Provincial Visit/ Installation
Rockcliffe No.362	17	Friday	7.00 pm	
Barnard Castle No.778	20	Monday	7.00 pm	Provincial Visit/ Installation
Stockton on Tees No.122	21	Tuesday	7.00 pm	
Spennymoor No.981	27	Monday	6.45 pm	Installation
Moseley No.925	27	Monday	7.00 pm	
Bede No.605	28	Tuesday	7.00 pm	

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF SCARBROUGH COURT

Alexandra Way, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE32 6ED.

Registered Charity No. 1058919

FORTHCOMING EVENTS!

25TH NOVEMBER 2017 AT 10.30AM GRAND DRAW AND CHRISTMAS FAIR



Brethren Remember Scarbrough Court is a RMBI 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) Email: pkirkbride53@hotmail.com

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



OBITUARIES

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



Bro Thomas Harold Roe	M778 (Hon. Member)	08/08/2017
W Bro Norman Watson	PPrGSW M356 (Hon. Member), RAM 356 ProvGRank (Hon. Member)	27/09/2017
W Bro Joseph Raine Harrison	PGJD, PPrGJW M701, M1492, RAM 362, RAM 1492, RAM 1714, RAMGR	09/10/2017
W Bro James Whitaker	PPrGJD, M293, RAM 896 ProvGRank	13/10/2017