

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 event of a Provincial Deputation to **Unity Mark Lodge No.827 in Seaham** was chosen as the launch of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree representatives scheme. It was also appropriate that the talk that evening was to be about the RAMs or 'The Charming Little Degree'

The special guests for the evening were Huib Lazet, from the Netherlands who researched and prepared the talk for use at home but then converted it to English and the presenter of the talk, Alan Young from West Yorkshire. This would be only the second time the talk had been given in the UK

Huib is a member of the Internet Lodge No.9659 in Manchester. He assisted in the launch of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree Representatives for each lodge in order to promote the RAM and encourage brethren to join and share the enjoyment of this '**Charming Little Degree**'.



This was an opportune moment as the Province of Durham are launching the RAMs Representatives. It is hoped to have a RAM Rep in each of the Mark Lodges throughout the Province to generate more interest in this Degree which adds another dimension to the Mark and is a very colourful Degree. There are just less than 50% of Mark Masters who are already in the RAMs and it is hoped that this figure will increase with the help of the Reps



The Talk by Alan Young entitled '**The Charming Little Degree**' was superbly delivered with the very interesting historical information of the origins of the RAM clearly illustrated on the screen, adding an extra dimension to the talk.

Alan did have a scare just before the meeting started when his projector failed, but he was lucky another machine was made available to him just in time for his talk to be delivered.

After the talk, Huib presented the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, David Hanson with a copy of the talk and presentation on DVD for the exclusive use by the Province of Durham in the hope of encouraging more Mark Masters to join the 'Charming Little Degree' of Royal Ark Mariners.



At the festive board Huib and Alan were presented with two of the new Mark ties. Huib being a bit of a historian, also received a book and histories of Queen Street Temple in Sunderland and Seaham. Alan was presented with a special bottle from Ireland for medicinal purposes only, off course!



Alan Young and Huib Lazet



An invitation from **St. Aidan Lodge of MMM No.1145** saw the Provincial Team make their way to Blackhill on a mid-October evening. The Brethren of St. Aidan Lodge gave the Provincial Grand Master and the Team a warm welcome on a cold and damp evening with the promise of something special. The special something was a very interesting and enlightening talk by Ray Oxley of St. Andrews Lodge on the **'Overseers'**.



In his response to the toast to the PGM, the PGM referred to the talk and enthused how beautiful the Mark ritual is and that it contains great truths. It also includes a great lesson of being wrongly rejected but that eventually this is righted. One of the main messages is that among Mark Masons you will ever find friends.



The PGM then thanked the Worshipful Master, Derek Martin for the generous cheque of £200 to the Centenary fund. He added that the 'hot-off-the-press' news was that each Lodge will make the presentation from the Benevolent Fund to the cause of its choice, within the rules, to benefit young people. So it is all the more important that each Lodge makes its nomination for its chosen causes. This will be a perfect opportunity to bring people into our Lodges and show them who we are and who knows, we may be talking to future members.



MOSELEY MARK LODGE NO. 925

W.Bro. P.Layton, PPGMO, was installed as the Worshipful Master of the Moseley Lodge of MMM No. 925 by the Installing Master, W.Bro. Neil Garrett on the 18th October 2019 in Birtley. This is the second time for W.Bro. Layton to occupy the First Chair of the Lodge and he thanked W.Bro. Garrett for his service to the lodge during his year in office. The ceremony was conducted with the Representative of the P.G.M., W.Bro. Kenneth Ian Anderson, PGJD, PPGReg., in attendance and his D of C was none other than his son W.Bro. DavidJ. Anderson, Prov. AGDC.



W.Bro. Ken Anderson explained how delighted he was to be able to be at the meeting this evening as he regards Birtley almost as his second home and knows he always gets a warm welcome when visiting the brethren, many of whom he has known for many years already.

W.Bro. Anderson congratulated the brethren on a very good ceremony. After W.Bro. Ken had mentioned the Centenary Celebration Dinner will be held at Hardwick Hall the newly installed Worshipful Master W.Bro. Layton revealed that he was actually born in that building which at that time was used as a hospital. He looks forward to be back in this building again for the centenary celebration of the Province of Durham.



The Moseley Mark Lodge are currently the custodians of the Traveling Gavel and they encourage visiting brethren to visit them and wrest this gavel from them. This opportunity will present itself at their next meeting on the 20th December 2019 starting at 7.00pm. Brethren are therefore invited in large numbers to win this excellent prize and have a wonderful masonic evening at the same time.

Birtley awaits you!!



**BEDE LODGE OF
MMM NO. 605**

Friday 11 October 2019

A busy night for the Bede Lodge of MMM No. 605 in Burdon Road Masonic Hall when WBro. Les Adams was duly installed as the Worshipful Master in an excellent ceremony in the company of the Representative of the PGM, W.Bro. Allan Monkhouse and his D of C W.Bro. Kenneth U. Robson.

As if this was not special enough, the Bede lodge brethren also welcomed two joining members in the persons of W.Bro. Lawrie Bell and W.Bro. Stephen Bell and they were both invested during the installation ceremony as the Tyler and Senior Overseer. W.Bro. Les Adams is really looking forward to a wonderful year in the First Chair with such a strong team supporting him and the lodge.



W.Bro. Les Adams, WM



Durham Mark History

As Mark Master Masons the vast majority of our membership will have some understanding of the politics surrounding the acceptance and development of this particular order. With regard to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham of Mark Mason Masons, we are currently acknowledging one hundred years, as a Province in our own right, having originally been part of the Province of Northumberland.

The importance of our history was not lost by the leadership team of our Province. Our Provincial Grand Master, invited Adam Lamb, the Provincial Archivist of the PGL of Durham, to research and record for the first time the of history of Mark Masonry in the Province of Durham 1920 -2020.

The Office of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham, at the Esplanade, Sunderland houses a resplendent Museum with amazing Masonic items of interest and a huge amount of interesting and informative documentation. The task undertaken was itself enormous. However, Adam assisted by Ron Woods, Phil Errington and Mark Smith relished the challenge. In just over a year they successfully completed the majority of their research.

Members of the Leadership team were privileged to review a presentation of their work. Those present were hugely impressed at the volume and depth of their pains taking research. The outcomes of those efforts will form the basis of many new and interesting Masonic presentations in the future. Our PGM stated, "There are not enough words that adequately express the appreciation for their tireless research and efforts in producing a comprehensive historic account of Mark Masonry in our Province."

Now is the time to make our contribution!

For completeness we now have the opportunity for all Mark and associated Royal Ark Mariner Lodges of our Province to submit a brief history of itself. That information will form an integral part of collating our history, which will also be included in future publications.

It is envisaged that once completed it would become a Mark publication and formats include Book, DVD, and /or extracts for use on the Mark Provincial website.



MARK ADDS COLOUR TO A SITE FOR SORE EYES

Following an approach to W Bros Rob Dickinson and Peter Harrison of Auckland Lodge No 596, a £500 grant has been awarded to Bishop Auckland Hospital Paediatric Ophthalmic Dept for a beautiful mural to be produced to entertain and distract children undergoing tests for eye defects. Instead of a sterile wall, children can now follow the play antics of cartoon-like characters in a vividly colourful setting.

Pictured at the formal presentation are W Bro Trevor Lynn and V W Bro Roy Neville representing the Province of Durham Mark Benevolent Fund, W Bro Rob Dickinson of Auckland Lodge, Health Care Assistants Hannah Brown and John Bainbridge, Nurse Specialist Dawn Nosair and receiving the cheque, Specialist Optometrist Mark Dearing. Also in attendance were Pat Chambers from the Trust and W Bro Peter Harrison, who on this occasion was responsible for some excellent camera work.

In his address V W Bro Roy commented that this occasion was particularly appropriate as we approach our Centenary Year with our stated mission of supporting children and young people and added that we were taken aback by the quality and impact of the mural. He also wished to place on record his thanks to our various IT experts who had assisted in building into the mural the logo of the Province of Durham Mark Degree which was unobtrusive but nevertheless eye-catching.

OBITUARIES

04 / 10 / 2019 - Bro. John Geoffrey Hutchinson

DOB: 26 / 04 / 1944 M: 356

10 / 10 / 2019 - W.Bro. Charles Wilding, PPGMO,

DOB: 11 / 12 / 1952 M: 930 R: 930, 39





On Monday 21st October 2019 the DPGM David Hanson made an official visit to **BERNARD GILPIN LODGE OF RAM NO.860** which meets at Hetton. The purpose of the evening was to carry out a demonstration of a Royal Ark Mariner Ceremony of Elevation.

At the festive board David congratulated the Worshipful Commander W.Bro. John McCormack and his Officers for an excellent ceremony which was carried out with decorum and sincerity. He also informed the brethren of the new Province of Durham Mark & RAM website which is being created and also the importance for the lodge to submit their nomination for our Centenary celebrations. He also mentioned the idea of a RAM and Mark lodge meeting on the same evening which created a lot of interest.

An excellent festive board was enjoyed by all. Another excellent night with wonderful fellowship and friendship within the RAM degree.

UNION LODGE OF MMM NO. 124

Moving house has always been regarded as one of the most stressful events you can experience in a lifetime, but there are of course exceptions to this on occasions and the brethren of the Union Mark Lodge found that to be so with the planned move from the Burdon Road Masonic Hall to their new home in the Queen Street East Masonic Hall, Sunderland.

The DPGM W.Bro. David Hanson congratulated the brethren of the lodge for the successful meeting and wished them a very happy future in their intended new meeting place.

David also mentioned an idea which he would like the brethren to think about which is the holding of RAM and Mark meetings on the same evening. This is done in some other Provinces and they found it to be beneficial to recruitment and running costs for the lodges. It brought increased interest about the various degrees through closer contact.

Worth a second look, certainly.



NOVEMBER	2019	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Staindrop No.1274	4	Monday	6.45 pm	Installation
Industry No.293	4	Monday	7.00 pm	
Cestria No.1151	6	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Provincial Visit / 60 Yr. Certificate
G.Washington No.1626	7	Thursday	7.00 pm	
Spennymoor No.981	7	Thursday	6.45 pm	
Ryton No.1714	8	Friday	7.00 pm	
Bede No.605	8	Friday	7.00 pm	
Bernard Gilpin No.860	12	Tuesday	7.00 pm	
Darlington No.250	13	Wednesday	6.45 pm	Installation
Ferryhill No.1560	14	Thursday	6.45 pm	
Penshaw No.1055	14	Thursday	7.00 pm	Installation
Jarrow No.701	18	Monday	6.30 pm	Provincial Visit / Centenary
Ambrose Crowley No.1269	19	Tuesday	6.45 pm	
Ernest Dixon No.1015	19	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Provincial Visit / 75th. Anniversary
Auckland No.596	20	Wednesday	6.45 pm	
Wouldhave Tyne Dock No.362	20	Wednesday	7.00 pm	
St.Lawrence No.1093	21	Thursday	7.00 pm	
Indaba No.1936	22	Friday	6.30 pm	Installation
Stanhope No.1551	25	Monday	7.00 pm	
Eclectic No.39	26	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Provincial Visit
Ravensworth No.718	27	Wednesday	7.00 pm	
Castle Eden No.930	27	Wednesday	7.00 pm	
Dunelm No.356	28	Thursday	6.45 pm	
St.Andrews No.854	28	Thursday	6.45 pm	
Union No.124	28	Thursday	7.00 pm	



NOTES

NOVEMBER - RAM	2019	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Ryton RAM No.1714	6	Wednesday	7.00 pm	Installation
Barnard Castle RAM No.778	11	Monday	7.00 pm	Installation / Date change dispensation
St.Andrew's RAM No.854	14	Thursday	7.00 pm	
Rockcliffe RAM No.362	15	Friday	7.00 pm	
Stockton on Tees RAM No.122	19	Tuesday	7.00pm	
Castle Eden RAM No. 930	19	Tuesday	7.00pm	Installation
Durham Inst. Comm. No.1492	21	Thursday	7.00 pm	Provincial Visit/ Installation
Spennymoor RAM No.981	25	Monday	6.45 pm	Installation
Moseley RAM No.925	25	Monday	7.00 pm	
Bede RAM No.605	26	Tuesday	7.00pm	



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