

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



£ 1000.00 from Clavering Mark Masons



A cheque for £1000 donated to Blaydon Youth Community Football Clubs secretary Lynn Little by W Bro Paul Johnston, the P.M. of Clavering Mark

Earlier this month The Worshipful Master of the Clavering Mark Lodge No 896, W. Bro. Tony Easton accompanied by W. Bro. Philip Borlace and W. Bro. Paul Johnston visited the training ground of Blaydon Youth Community FC to make a donation towards replacing needed equipment.

Blaydon Youth Community Football Club is totally self funded, the donation will be used to replace goal posts that have had to be removed due to vandalism leaving them in an unsafe condition. It is also hoped the electricity and running water can be supplied to the toilets and changing rooms shown in the background of the attached photo. As a side note the club receives no help

from the local council, in fact it appears rather than support the club they have a long list of regulations and red tape the club must comply with to enable it to operate. Is there any way the Province of Durham can assist in getting electricity and water to the toilets and changing rooms, these being the green cabins in the background of the photo? PJ

Where it all began.



Lynn and Phil

We came into grassroots football almost 14 years ago when our son Sam (then 10) showed an

interest in playing for a team... Phil set up the team with what was then Blaydon Youth Club. Out of our own pockets we bought 10 balls, bibs, and a set of cones and we had a bunch of delighted kids and parents who became the first of what we call our "footy family." Over the years we have seen those kids grow and become fine young roll models for the club, with some also becoming involved in coaching and refereeing themselves, including our Son. The club has around 200 members with 13 teams from under 7s to under 16s and also a tots group for ages from 4yrs old. We have a dedicated committee along with dedicated coaches and managers who give up a great deal of their time on a voluntary basis, keeping the club going and giving the kids so much to enjoy.

Information from: Blaydon Youth community FC webpage.



Right Ill Comp Michael Graham Snr.
District Grand Master of Durham



District of Durham Royal And Select Masters

Following the retirement of District Grand Master R Ill Comp Prof DK Wilson in July 2017, Right Illustrious Companion Michael Graham Snr. has been Installed as the new District Grand Master of Durham on the 9th September 2017.

Michael started his Masonic career in 1990 when he was initiated into Northern Counties Lodge number 406 in Northumberland becoming Worshipful Master in 1994 and staying in the Chair for two consecutive years and then Secretary. He joined Palmer Lodge number 9255 in 1996 going into the Chair in 1997 attaining Provincial honours in both Provinces. He now holds the Grand Rank of PAGDC in the Craft and is a member of seven orders in total going through all of the Chairs but one and receiving Grand Rank in the Mark Degree and Royal Ark Mariners and Provincial Rank in the others. He was chosen as a Select Master into Monkton Council number No 259 in 2005 and Installed as TIM in 2012, in the same year being appointed as Assistant District Recorder. He was promoted to District Recorder in October 2013. In Grand Council he was appointed as PAGDC in 2014. Installed as District Grand Master at Gateshead Masonic Hall on 9th September 2017

Michael's hobbies include golf and skydiving whenever time and weather permits.

Information from durhamrsm.org



The Union RAM No124 welcomed WBro.Jeffrey Awdas,ProvGJW, the representative of the Provincial Grand Master who was accompanied by WBro.Frederick Pigford,RAMGR, to their Installation Meeting on the 13th September 2017. WBro.Craig Alder Brown was installed as the Worshipful Commander in excellent and due form by the Installing Master WBro.Ian C.Mason,RAMPGR, followed by an enjoyable festive board and good cheer supplied by the bar.

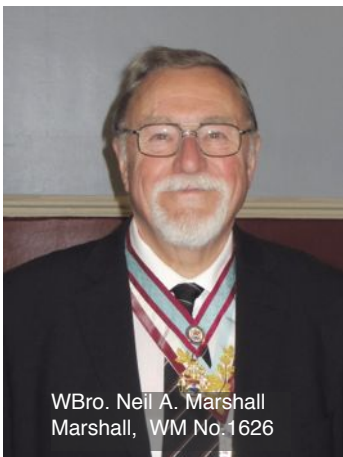
As the new Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro.David Nigel Hanson, AGDC, felt it was an honour and a privilege to be at the **Penshaw Lodge of MMM No.1055** on his first official engagement to a Mark Master Masons Lodge.

WBro.David was equally delighted that at this same meeting he was able to witness not only the presentation of two Grand Lodge Certificates to Brother David Homer and Brother Josh Dixon, but also the welcoming by the Penshaw Lodge of a joining member, WBro.Frank Wood who is a subscribing member of the Dunelm Lodge of MMM No.356.



WBro Hanson made reference to the general need for all brethren to always be good ambassadors for both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner and to ask themselves when it was the last time they asked someone to join their lodge or talk to them about joining the RAM ? Seeing Penshaw Mark Lodge welcome three new members shows how effective this can be.

This meeting was the last one for WBro. Joe Higginbottom as Worshipful Master and he thanked the brethren for their support during his year and he looks forward to installing Bro.Shaun Reay in November. An excellent festive board followed the meeting which rounded off a most enjoyable evening with the Penshaw Lodge in good heart for the future.



WBro. Neil A. Marshall
Marshall, WM No.1626

The Worshipful Master of the **Washington Lodge of MMM No.1626**, WBro.Neil Andrew Marshall, extended a warm welcome to the Provincial Team on the 5th September 2017. The business of the evening included a talk by WBro.Neil A.Marshall which was entitled **"What can we tell the General Public."**

In the talk Neil explained how to answer the enquiries from the general public visiting the Beamish Temple in a way that keeps it short and concise but still give them a clear idea about the different meanings and relevances of the items on show in the Temple.

Neil was a Lecturer for 35 years but after retirement he has been very involved in working with Beamish Museum Masonic Temple. Initially it was Province who trained the volunteer staff, who are not Masons, at the Masonic Temple. Neil then works with them further, ensuring they gain experience in the best way to answer the many questions the visitors can and do throw at them. The reconstruction of the Temple at Beamish was one way in which to respond to the wish of the MW Grand Master his

Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent to make the Fraternity more open again as it used to be before the 1920's and make Masonry better understood by the general public who are not in Masonry. Beamish Museum can and does this perfectly with the work performed by the Temple volunteers under the expert guide of WBro.Neil A. Marshall

The Durham Mark Master Masons “Lodge of Instruction”



Friday 29th September 2017 at 5 pm
For Tickets email Richard Hogg on durhammarkloi@gmail.com, or
phone 07966 183317

Hartlepool Masonic Hall
Raby Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AH

Mark TEAM

W.M.	Alan Gurney
S.W.	Mike Lambird
J.W.	Les Baker
M.O.	Fred Piggford
S.O.	Martin Schoolkate
J.O.	Tony Bird
Chaplain	Ray Hodgson
D.C.	Jeff Awdas
A.D.C.	Royston Smart
S.D.	Rob Watson
J.D.	Alan Coxon
Reg. of Marks	Roly Croysdale
Inner Guard	John Nye
Tyler	Alan Monkhouse
Candidate	Melvin Swailes
1 st Part	Alan Gurney
Signs and Secrets	Tony Craven
2 nd Part and Working Tools	Tony Craven
In Conclusion	Alan Ruddell

RAM TEAM

W.C.	Ken Robson
S.W.	Bill Malcolm
J.W.	John Nye
Chaplain	Ray Hodgson
D.C.	Jeff Awdas
A.D.C.	Royston Smart
S.D.	Fred Piggford
J.D.	Ian Mason
Guardian	Alan Coxon
Warder	Alan Monkhouse
Candidate	Melvin Swailes
Signs and Secrets	Les Baker
Working Tools	Keith Liddell

FESTIVAL PARKING

Hartlepool Masonic Hall, Raby Road is the venue for the 2017 Mark & RAM Lodge of Instruction Festival. The easiest place to park is next to the Mill House Leisure Centre/Mill House Pub, highlighted in **BLUE** below. The parking bays marked white are free after 6pm (80p for 90 minutes prior to this). Post code for sat nav is TS24 8AP. Please note that some of the parking bays in the same area are painted with yellow & red lines. These are not free until after 8pm or are for permit holders only. There are over 100 bays painted with white lines.





Please visit www.glmnm.com to download a full update on her progress so far.



Mark Benevolent Fund Sponsored puppy is doing very well.

Suzie is growing fast. For the first six months Pauline, her socialiser, will focus on getting Suzie into a consistent routine to help her develop in areas such as house training, learning to be left alone, and basic obedience. Pauline will spend time socialising Suzie around lots of people and animals, and together, they will visit as many different places as possible.

“Suzie is a lively and spirited puppy who wants to be everyone’s friend and is always keen to please. She’s a quick learner, only needing to practice a command two or three times before she realises what she needs to do. She can sit, down, wait and stay (sometimes) on command and now waits nicely, albeit not for very long, until given the go ahead to eat her food. She’s a cuddly puppy, who adores everybody, although she does get a little excited and bouncy; we’ll keep practicing. Everywhere we go people stop, keen to stroke her and find out why she is

wearing her green jacket. Managing the public is a challenge, as it’s important that people don’t distract her when she’s concentrating. We’ve been to pet stores, garden centres, the chemist, church, bakery and the market, where there were lots of different smells.

We have been to a coffee morning and also a fete. Suzie has been on a bus and visited the station using the lift and stairs. Abbey, our puppy coordinator, organised a group farm visit last week. Suzie and her classmates met horses, sheep and cows. At first Suzie was a little bit nervous meeting the animals, but with reassurance from me and some cheesy treats she soon relaxed and enjoyed herself.”

Pauline, Socialiser



St John Ambulance



£3,023,700 pledge to St John Ambulance

The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the Mark Benevolent Fund are proud to have a longstanding relationship with the Order of St John and St John Ambulance. At the turn of the Millennium, the fund provided a significant contribution to help replace the organisation’s fleet of ambulance vehicles.



These vehicles have served beyond the call of duty over the last 17 years however, technology and innovation in the world of medical health care has progressed at a phenomenal pace during this time. Once again the Mark Benevolent Fund has joined in partnership with the charity and pledged £3,023,700 enabling a two year programme providing up to 52 replacement state of the art ambulances and support vehicles.

Local communities around the country will continue to benefit from the services of St John Ambulance who can be the difference between a life lost and a life saved.



This latest donation from the Mark Benevolent Fund marks the 140th anniversary of St John Ambulance in 2017 and the 150th anniversary of the Mark Benevolent Fund in 2018.

Article by W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, P.A.G.D.C., Charities and Communications Coordinator, Mark Masons’ Hall with the help of St John Ambulance. 10 March 2017.
www.glmnm.com | www.facebook.com/GLMNM

In 2016, the kitchen at St Oswald’s Hospice was old and tired. After 30 years of near constant use, preparing meals for hospice patients, visitors, volunteers and staff, the equipment was constantly breaking down. The tiled walls and floors were cracked in places and very difficult to keep clean.



New kitchen St.Oswalds Hospice

The Mark Benevolent Fund’s grant of £107,628 covered the full cost of the original kitchen refurbishment plan. Your gift has enabled us to create a more streamlined kitchen. The whole area

works more efficiently, with more space for food preparation and more room for staff and volunteers to work around one another. Probably the most important difference is that all the equipment works. The chefs no longer have to worry that one of the knobs will fall off the front of the oven or that the dishwasher will spring another leak! Everything works efficiently, enabling the team to plan each meal in advance, confident that everything will be ready at the expected time.

Everyone at St Oswald’s Hospice is so grateful for your kindness. We simply can’t thank you enough!



Address of the Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith



Tuesday, 12 September 2017 (shortened version)

Brethren, a very warm welcome to this September Communication of Mark Grand Lodge, the first of the new Masonic Season. I hope everyone has enjoyed the on/off English summer and for some, but maybe not all, a short break from masonic meetings when perhaps the garden or DIY took priority.

My most important duty today is to bring the apology of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, for his absence today. He has an incredibly busy schedule with numerous commitments and official engagements and today is no exception. He has asked that his best wishes be communicated to you, he greatly enjoyed the June investiture meeting and hopes the busy year ahead proves to be another successful and enjoyable one.

Following that investiture meeting our Grand Master wrote to the Grand Secretary expressing his pleasure at the success of the meeting, the impressive numbers attending with an amazing number of visitors many from overseas. It was indeed a very special day for all of us but more particularly for those receiving appointments or promotions.



Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith.

The June meeting of Grand Lodge had hardly passed and the Mark Benevolent Fund Anniversary Festival was upon us on Saturday 8 July at Trunkwell House in Reading, under the Presidency of R.W.Bro. Richard Olliver, Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire. A Province of 19 Mark Lodges and 9 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges who, with the support of other Provinces and Districts, raised a magnificent festival total of £666,666. A truly remarkable achievement.

I am certain we all thank the members of the Province of Berkshire for their generosity and their Provincial Grand Master and his festival committee for their ingenuity and fine leadership.

The festival next year will celebrate 150 years since the formation of the Mark Benevolent Fund by Canon Portal in 1868. It will take place on Saturday, 7 July 2018 at the County Show ground in Lincoln under the Presidency of R.W.Bro. Revd Trevor Walker, the Provincial Grand Master for Lincolnshire. It will, I am certain, be a most memorable occasion.

150 years of charitable support for members in distress and grants to worthy causes is indeed something to be proud of and to celebrate. In addition to the festival several other events are already being planned to mark this significant achievement. Whilst details are being finalised I am able to tell you that on 30 January 2018 we will inaugurate the Canon Portal Memorial Lecture – a bi-annual event where a lecture will be delivered on a topic with a charitable theme.

To round off our 150th celebrations on 15 September 2018 next year our Most Worshipful Grand Master will be present at a thanksgiving service to be held in Lincoln's Inn chapel.

The outstanding success of the Mark Benevolent Fund Charity Walk has been well reported and Provincial Grand Masters and other members of Provincial Executives who bravely, if a little naively, took part in the walk, will be pleased to know that it is not intended to repeat it next year.

However the M.B.F. Trustees have decided that the proceeds of the walk, some £437,934, will be utilised to support the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes. Work is still going on to identify what vehicles are required and their most suitable locations and we expect to make an announcement before the end of this year about the full extent of the support we will be providing to this charity.

The activities of the Mark Benevolent Fund have increased awareness of the assistance it gives to individual Brethren and to worthy causes. It has become clear that to educate our Brethren about the fund and, in particular, the ways in which support can be obtained, additional resource is necessary. As part of the restructuring of the administration at Mark Masons' Hall the Grand Secretary has appointed W.Bro. Darren Coleman, P.G.A.D.C., to a newly created post of Charities Manager with a specific brief to implement a proactive educational programme. I hope you will agree, Brethren, that this sharpened focus on sharing news of the M.B.F. is a welcome development.

The most recent M.B.F. newsletter distributed electronically via Lodge Secretaries, detailed the huge difference the M.B.F. grant to the St Oswald's hospice in Newcastle-upon-Tyne for a new kitchen has made to the lives of both the residents and staff.

We have heard first hand from Mr Paul Barrett in his address to us of another benefit to the community that a grant from the Mark Benevolent Fund has had. Brethren, we should all be very proud of your generosity which enables this work to continue and for that I thank you very much indeed.

Continuing on the charity theme Brethren, on 1st July, I was privileged to be present at Armoury House, home of the Honourable Artillery Company, to witness the inauguration of our renewed partnership with St John Ambulance. You will recall that earlier this year the M.B.F. announced a major grant of over £3 million pounds to St John to fund the cost of 52 new vehicles to replace those purchased by the fund some 17 years ago. The handover event was a great showcase for the work of the M.B.F. and was graced by the presence of H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of St John who received the keys to the first two vehicles from our Grand Master H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent. I am delighted to say that those first two vehicles are now in service in the Provinces of Cheshire and East Lancashire.

Further news on the handover of the remaining 50 vehicles will be communicated to you soon.

The GLMMM website has a critical role to play in sharing information about all the orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall as well as supporting the administration of Districts, Provinces and Lodges. I am delighted to announce that work is now underway to design and build a cutting edge new website serving all orders with an expected launch date of December. This website is part of a new communication strategy also encompassing social media contact and delivery of more efficient administration processes.

On the domestic front the summer recess has seen significant refurbishment work taking place at 86 St James's Street to further enhance our headquarters. The work brings to an end the current 5 year building maintenance programme which has delivered notable improvements to the facilities available to all who visit and use the premises.



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

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



"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



MARK / OCTOBER	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Walton no.1106	2	Monday	6.45 pm	
Industry no. 293	2	Monday	7.00pm	
Hackworth no.761	3	Tuesday	6.45 pm	
Cestria no.1151	3	Tuesday	7.00pm	Installation
Steadfast no. 846	4	Wednesday	6.45 pm	
Unity no. 827	5	Thursday	7.00pm	
Hebburn no. 1339	6	Friday	7.00pm	
St.Aidan no.1145	9	Monday	7.00pm	
Harte no.740	9	Monday	7.00pm	Provincial Visit
Bernard Gilpin no.860	10	Tuesday	7.00pm	Installation
Elevation no.1112	12	Thursday	6.45 pm	Installation
Percy no.122	12	Thursday	7.00pm	Installation
Bede no.605	13	Friday	7.00pm	Installation
Jarrow no.701	16	Monday	7.00pm	
Ambrose Crowley no.1269	17	Tuesday	6.45 pm	Installation
William Todd no.929	17	Tuesday	6.45 pm	Installation
Chief of the Builders no.1806	20	Friday	10.30am	
Barnard Castle no.778	20	Friday	6.45 pm	Installation
Mosely no.925	20	Friday	7.00pm	Installation
Durham Inst. M.Masters no.1294	23	Monday	6.30pm	Installation / Provincial Visit
St.Thomas no.1511	24	Tuesday	6.45 pm	Installation
Shiplely no.1271	24	Tuesday	7.00pm	
Durham Prov.G.Stwds no.1820	25	Wednesday	7.00pm	Installation
Dunelm no.356	26	Thursday	6.45 pm	
St.Andrews no.854	26	Thursday	6.45 pm	
Union no.124	26	Thursday	7.00pm	

RAM / OCTOBER	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Eclectic no.39	2	Monday	7.00pm	Installation
Darlington no.250	11	Wednesday	6.45pm	
Dunelm no.356	11	Wednesday	6.30pm	Installation
Hackworth no.761	16	Monday	6.45pm	
Bernard Gilpin no.860	16	Monday	7.00pm	
Elevation no.1112	25	Wednesday	7.00pm	

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”



- 10/08/2017 W Bro Edward Hold, PPrGJW, M718
- 29/08/2017 W Bro Joseph Llewellyn Thompson, PPrGReg, M605, RAM 605 ProvGRank
- 30/08/2017 W Bro Lewis Douglas, PGSD, PPrGJW, M761, M1492, M1806, RAM 761 RAMGR
- 13/09/2017 - VW Bro Dr Geoffrey Birch, PGSO, PDPGM, M1112, M1626, M1806, RAM 1112 RAMGR