

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



Ryton Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 1714, 5th September 2018



This was a special occasion as we had a Provincial Visit by the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson along with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. David Nigel Hanson, The Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Ronald Trevor Lynn accompanied by the full Royal Ark Mariners Provincial team.



The Commander of the Lodge W.Bro. Robert Proctor welcomed them all warmly and as the Provincial Junior Warden this year is W.Bro. Sid Watson of our Lodge, we were especially proud to receive such a visit.

The meeting was to Elevate Bro. Philip Davis (currently WM of Ryton Holy Cross Lodge and Registrar of Marks in the Ryton Lodge of Mark Master Masons) to the order and this was duly done. The Provincial Grand Master later commented on the excellence of the ceremony.



Later at the Festive board, The Lodge treasurer W.Bro. Roger Layton presented a cheque to W. Bro. George Clark secretary of the Ryton Lodges Building management committee towards the community fund set up to help small groups locally with grants.

This was gratefully received.

Bro Phil Davis in his reply to the welcome toast given by W.Bro. Sid Watson, commented that he really enjoyed the



Elevation Ceremony and was in awe of the ritual work carried out in the Lodge room. Leaving him to think that he should have joined much earlier in his masonic career!



The whole evening was enjoyed by all and as this is now our 24th Year as a Lodge we look forward to next year in celebration.



M. Ormiston



QUEEN STREET EAST MASONIC HALL

As part of the **Heritage Open Day** events on the 15th September 2018, the doors of the Queen Street East Masonic Hall in Sunderland were open to admit visitors. A team of brethren were present to show the guests round the newly decorated lodge room and answer any questions and provide information about this historic building, which is believed to be the oldest Temple still in use in the world. In the dining room tea and biscuits were served which were definitely not the oldest in the world! The interest shown by the visitors made this event extremely worth while, and congratulations to the brilliant volunteers for their work.



“ The October 2017 edition of the Newsletter was headed by an article and photograph of W Bro Paul Johnston of Clavering Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.896 presenting a cheque for £1000 to Blaydon Youth Community F C with a strong hint from Paul that our Durham Mark Benevolent Fund could perhaps help to provide water and electricity to their very basic changing facilities, shown in photo here.



On September 10th the M.B.Fund presented a cheque for £1000, in response to Paul’s plea, to Phil and Lynn Little. This amazing couple are the driving force behind the Club’s 18 year existence, they started the club and worked tirelessly to keep it going often having to overcome many challenges and setbacks, such as a callous break in recently, which damaged their changing facilities and incurred a loss of items belonging to the club. This donation from the Mark Master Masons of Durham made through the Mark Benevolent Fund will go a long way to strengthen the hope that facilities could be improved. The presentation was made by the Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro. Prof D.K.Wilson, accompanied by his Deputy, W Bro. David Hanson, the Treasurer, V W Bro. Roy Neville and from the Clavering Mark Lodge No.896, W Bro. Paul Johnston and W Bro. Bryan Kennedy.

Lynn Little giving some insight to the PGM about the children who will benefit from this inspiring project, she explained that the youngsters range in age from 4/5 to 14 years and that many have progressed to roles in coaching, refereeing and mentoring. They also learn about life skills, team work and keeping fit and maybe even a career as a professional player!



A glance at the photograph will show the happy faces of just some of the many children who happened to be playing on this particular evening. It just shows how many youngsters are assisted by the brilliant efforts of the Mark Benevolent Fund contributors.



Special mention goes to our editor/photographer, W Bro Martin Schoolkate, who patiently and skilfully managed an ever-expanding group of children and then promised the Club his assistance in raising further funds by offering every parent a copy of his photograph.” *Article by Roy Neville.*

MONUMENT LODGE NO.1055 OF ROYAL ARK MARINERS AND THE PROVINCIAL TEAM OF OFFICERS



What to do when it's still daytime? Well, in Gateshead the **Monument Lodge No.1055 of Royal Ark Mariners** had their daytime meeting at 10.30am and on this particular morning the lodge was delighted to welcome the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro.David Hanson, RAMProvGR, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master WBro.Ronald Trevor Lynn, together with the rest of the Provincial Team of RAM Officers. The work for this morning was a demonstration of an Elevation Ceremony with Bro. John Haliday going through the ceremony again as candidate but this time as a volunteer, the first time was his actual Elevation. The brethren saw an excellent and impressive ceremony conducted by the Senior Deacon, WBro.Gilbert Crossley, RAMGR, which included the Signs and Secrets explanation given by the SD.

An explanation of the Working Tools was given by VWBro. Frank Rankin, RAMGR, PDPGM and the Worshipful Commander WBro. Alan Simpson RAMProvGR gave an explanation of the Nine Steps. During the meeting WBro.David Hanson addressed the brethren and posed a question for them to consider. He asked when it was the last time when attending a Craft meeting did you talk about the Mark Master Masons Degree, and asked someone to think about joining the Mark and Mariner Degrees? He informed the brethren that there are some 1000 Mark Masons and 400 Royal Ark Mariners in the Province and so often brethren don't think of joining because no one mentions this possibility to them. When made aware of the Mark and Mariner Degree oftentimes interest is awakened and this was the case when WBro. John Coward of Monument Lodge invited Bro.John Haliday to join which he is now delighted to have done.

At the meeting VWbro.Frank Rankin rose to ask for a remembrance of two long serving brethren of the Monument Lodge of RAM No.1055 who had recently passed away. He first mentioned RWBro. James Peter Croft, PastPGM, GMRAC(HC) who was the Consecrating Officer when the Monument Lodge was consecrated on the 7th May 2002. Peter was also an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

VWBro. Rankin then mentioned WBro. Gordon Nicholson Graves, RAMProvGR who was one of the Founding Members of the Lodge and for many years the Treasurer of the Lodge. After stepping down as Treasurer, WBro.Gordon continued to be very active in the lodge when finally as the SW Master elect, his health sadly became worse and he passed away on the 9th August 2018. A very sad loss of a great Mason and personal friend.



Union Lodge of RAM No.124

On 12th September 2018 WBro. M.Schookate was installed as the W.Commander of the Lodge



Bro.Mark Smith congratulated by WBro. David Hanson on receipt of his RAM Grand Lodge Certificate.



Joe Hind John McCormack Alan Ruddell



The Bernard Gilpin R.A.M. Lodge No.860 at their meeting on Monday 17th September, had the great pleasure of welcoming the Representative of the Provincial Grand Master, WBro. Joseph Alan Hind, RAM GR. He was accompanied by his DofC, WBro. Alan Ruddell, RAM ProvGR and Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham. The special occasion was the installation of Bro. John McCormack as the Worshipful Commander, the brethren witnessed a truly excellent ceremony conducted by the Installing Commander WBro. Allan Gurney. He was assisted by the DofC WBro. Fred Piggford, RAMGR and WBro. Geoff Whiteman, RAMGR who presented an explanation of the Keystone Jewel and MBF Collar.

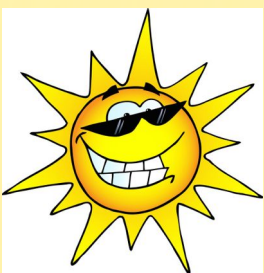
After many years of loyal service to the Lodge which included being a W.Commander twice, but due to declining health and unable to attend the meetings now it was proposed that WBro. Norman Bell be made an Honorary Member of the lodge in recognition of his outstanding service.

The meeting closed the brethren enjoyed a wonderful festive board and continued the evening with good cheer.

WBro. J.Hind during his speech pointed out that it was noticed that in other Provinces, Worshipful Commanders are the eyes and ears in their Province, watching to see who are new members, to encourage increased membership and partaking in the ceremony on the floor. It was hoped that in Durham this would also be encouraged and thus strengthen the RAM Degree in the Province of Durham.

The importance of the careful care of the Lodge Warrant was pointed out, the WCmdr. or WM is personally responsible for its safe keeping. Grand Lodge of MMM in London is becoming concerned about the number of requests for replacement Warrants due to loss, theft or damage. As each Warrant is issued on behalf of the Grand Master and a new copy can cost as much as £600.00, also no meeting can be held without the Warrant present and on view, it's very important that all the lodges make sure they are kept unsullied and pure for handover to a new WCmdr. or WM.

WBro. J.Hind thanked the brethren for an excellent evening and the work performed in the Temple.



Here we go Again, YOUR chance to join the party.
The Mark & RAM Degree Winter Break in Benidorm.

We are again looking to fly off to Spain for a "Mark Winter Break". The trip in 2018 was a bigger success than previous years. I am again looking at Jet2 and Easy Jet flights for Monday the 28th January 2019 and returning to Newcastle on Monday the 4th February, I am also looking at Easy Jet flights for Sunday or Monday with return flights on Sunday or Monday.

Once again, we will stay at the Nereo Hotel where half board for a couple is payable on arrival.

For those who are looking for a Long Weekend trip I will have to try to arrange his as the Hotel is closing the 4 nights stay on January 31st.

Last year I arranged a trip to Valencia, which was a great success. I will be looking to arrange another trip this year (still trying to get a look around the Russian Gold Church).

We are once again going to the Grand District of Spain Annual Meeting at the Gran Bali Hotel on Saturday 2nd February. This will include Lunch while the Ladies will have the opportunity (we hope) to attend the arranged trip with the Ladies from Spain. These trips have proven to be a good day out for the Ladies every year.

I know that some of our travellers are looking forward to attending this trip again in 2019. So if you are interested in this Mark trip please contact me, Arthur Clark, by email ; ajc5807@gmail.com ASAP as I will be Booking soon.

BREAKING NEWS

**PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF
DURHAM**



**DURHAM LODGE
OF
INSTALLED MARK MASTERS**

22ND OCT. 2018

Tonight we have the pleasure of introducing :

W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, PAGDC

Darren is the Charity Manager at Mark Masons Hall, London.

He will give an insight into the workings of the Mark Benevolent fund, explaining where and how the funds are allocated.

Another evening not to be missed

This event is open for ALL Mark Masons and YOU are invited

If you are an Installed or Past Mark Master why not come along see what we have to offer and become a member

If you wish to dine afterwards the cost will be £7.00 but please let me know before hand on

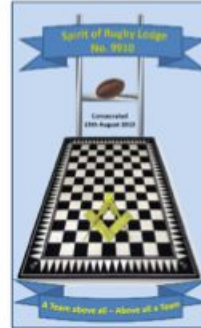
mj.cgraham9910@gmail.com

**DURHAM LODGE
OF INSTALLED
MARK MASTERS
NO.1492**

Birtley Masonic Hall

22/10/2018 7.00pm

The Camaraderie on the pitch & in the Bar, the Banter in the Dressing Room. Anyone who has been involved in Sport knows that Spirit. A Spirit that combines perfectly with Masonry, a train hard, play hard philosophy in both.



&



Spirit of Rugby & Sportsman's Craft Lodges are now looking to extend this connection to the Mark Degree. Our AIM, first class well worked ritual in the Temple, & the best of Festive Boards. All members pulling together in the epitome of Teamwork.

The new Mark Lodge will meet at Chester-le-Street Masonic Centre, 4 times a year, on the 4th Friday in June, July, September & 4th Thursday in March.

A Team Above All – Above All a Team

Would you like to be involved in the "Craic", & become a Founder? Phone/Email Richard Hogg on 07966 183317 jrhogg7@gmail.com or Arthur Clark : 07429 686175 ajc5807@gmail.com

Next Founders Meeting will be on Thursday 11th October 2018, 7pm at Chester-le-Street Masonic Centre.

Association of Friends of Scarborough Court

Brethren, our committee urgently needs new members to join us to assist in our purpose of raising funds for the development of welfare and additional amenities for the residents and assist in social and recreational facilities of all kinds.

Each year we need to raise at least £8000 to

support our existing commitments, which include continuing to fund the recently leased new minibus, supply Christmas and Birthday gifts to each of the residents and to provide funds to allow entertainers and additional activities to be provided for all the residents.

Please come and join us, your wives, partners, and girlfriends are more than welcome to attend our meetings and help us to continue in our supporting role.

Our next meeting is at 10am on Saturday 20th October 2018 at Scarborough Court, Cramlington, this meeting will be followed by a Coffee Morning in the main dining room of the home.

We will be pleased to welcome you all and if anybody would like further details please contact me Peter Kirkbride on pkirkbride53@hotmail.co.uk.

TRAVELLING GAVEL

At the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Annual Meeting on 27th June, the Provincial Grand Master announced that he is introducing a 'Travelling' Gavel' in the Mark Degree to encourage visiting between Lodges.

The Travelling Gavel was presented to the Worshipful Master of St. Andrew's Mark Lodge No 854 which meets at Stanley Masonic Hall, and the first chance for Lodges to capture the Gavel will be at their Lodge Installation Meeting on Thursday 28th September 2018.

Please find attached a set of Rules, and a chart recording the distance in miles between each Masonic Hall.

The Travelling Gavel Coordinator is W Bro Doug Quickmire, whom you should contact for any clarification of the Rules. His contact details are:

**dougquickmire@yahoo.co.uk
phone number is 07980 391298.**

**Travelling Gavel Rules
as from 28th June 2018**

1- The Travelling Gavel competition is open to all Durham Mark Lodges with the exception of The Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters No 1492, The Durham Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards No 1820 and Chief of the Builders Lodge No 1806, and the Travelling Gavel must not in any circumstances leave the Province.

2- To claim the Gavel a minimum of three visitors representing the other Lodge must visit the Lodge in possession of the Travelling Gavel, but a Lodge cannot claim the Travelling Gavel if on a Fraternal Visit.

3- The visiting Lodge with the most visitors (after taking into account the Distance Travelled Factor) will be entitled to claim the Gavel.

4- A Distance Travelled Chart has been produced to show the distance in miles between each Masonic building where a Mark Lodge is held. A visiting Lodge can claim an additional number of visitors according to the distance travelled as follows:-

Between 1 and 10 miles Between 11 and 20 miles Between 21 and 30 miles Between 31 and 40 miles Between 41 and 50 miles
1 visitor 2 visitors 3 visitors 4 visitors 5 visitors.

5- In the unlikely event of a tie, the Lodge which has travelled the furthest distance will claim the Gavel.

6- The Travelling Gavel remains the property of the Mark Province of Durham and may be recalled at any time, and if recalled the current holders must ensure its safe return.

7- To claim the Travelling Gavel the visiting Lodge Members making a claim must all stand up when giving greetings in the usual manner, but the Lodge Member giving the greeting will add the following: - " I have come to claim the

Travelling Gavel on behalf ofLodge, number.....”
Each visiting Lodge will do the same and the Lodge Secretary will note all claimants, but no comment will be made by the WM.

8- At the Festive Board the Lodge Secretary will verify the number of visitors from the signing in book and during the Toast to the Visitors the Travelling Gavel will be presented to the successful claiming Lodge.

9- The Secretary of the Lodge giving up the Gavel should complete the Log sheet before passing it over to the new Lodge, and inform the Provincial Grand Secretary of the new Lodge by the following day.

10- The Travelling Gavel Coordinator will then inform all Lodge Secretaries of the name and number of the Lodge holding the Travelling Gavel, together with the date and time of their next Lodge Meeting, and details will appear in the Monthly Mark & RAM Newsletter. The Coordinator will also keep a duplicate Log (the original Log will remain with the Gavel.)

11- At each Annual Meeting of Mark Provincial Grand Lodge the Gavel will be presented to the Provincial Grand Master for the duration of the Meeting and handed back to the Lodge at the end of the Meeting.

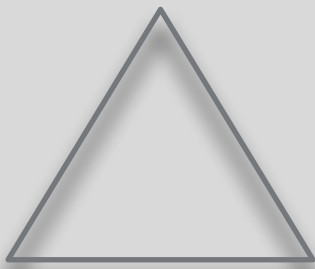
W Bro R T Lynn PAGDC Assistant

TRAVELLING DISTANCES

Distance in Miles	Barnard Castle	Billingham	Birtley	Blackhill	Burnhopefield	Castle Eden	Chester le Street	Crook	Darlington	Dunston	Durham	Ferryhill	Gateshead	Hartlepool	Hebburn	Hetton le Hole	Jarrow	Ryton	Seaham	Shildon	Shiney Row	South Shields	Spennymoor	Staindrop	Stanhope	Stanley	Stockton	Sunderland	West Auckland
Barnard Castle		36	36	29	34	33	35	19	17	42	25	20	42	37	42	32	43	47	40	15	38	45	19	6	18	31	29	38	11
Billingham	36		31	35	37	11	29	21	16	36	21	17	34	9	33	20	31	42	21	20	27	33	19	27	35	35	2	25	22
Birtley	36	31		14	8	21	3	17	29	6	11	16	6	27	7	9	8	11	14	26	5	10	18	30	26	7	30	10	25
Blackhill	29	35	14		6	24	13	14	30	13	14	19	14	31	22	20	23	10	27	23	17	25	19	25	12	7	37	23	20
Burnhopefield	34	37	8	6		28	9	17	35	6	16	22	6	35	15	14	18	7	22	32	12	17	23	30	19	4	36	17	24
Castle Eden	33	11	21	24	28		21	19	28	26	10	13	23	7	22	9	21	31	10	21	16	22	15	27	31	26	13	14	22
Chester le Street	35	29	3	13	9	21		14	28	10	6	15	10	26	10	6	11	15	11	24	5	12	16	28	24	7	28	10	23
Crook	19	21	17	14	17	19	14		18	24	10	11	25	28	25	16	25	23	23	8	19	27	8	14	12	13	23	21	7
Darlington	17	16	29	30	35	28	28	18		35	20	12	36	25	36	25	36	41	36	9	31	38	13	11	27	32	12	31	10
Dunston	42	36	6	13	6	26	10	24	35		17	22	2	32	12	15	11	6	19	32	10	14	24	36	38	8	36	14	31
Durham	25	21	11	14	16	10	6	10	20	17		7	17	17	17	6	18	22	14	13	13	20	6	19	24	9	21	12	14
Ferryhill	20	17	16	19	22	13	15	11	12	22	7		23	16	23	12	24	28	21	8	19	25	3	14	22	20	14	18	9
Gateshead	42	34	6	14	6	23	10	25	36	2	17	23		16	7	16	9	8	17	32	11	10	24	37	35	8	36	13	31
Hartlepool	37	9	2	27	31	35	7	26	28	25	17	16	16		29	16	27	38	16	23	23	29	17	30	39	32	10	21	25
Hebburn	42	33	7	22	15	22	10	25	36	12	17	23	7	29		14	2	18	15	33	9	5	24	36	34	15	35	12	31
Hetton le Hole	32	20	9	20	14	9	6	16	25	15	6	12	16	16	14		13	24	6	22	4	15	14	26	30	12	22	8	21
Jarrow	43	31	8	23	18	21	11	25	36	11	18	24	9	27	2	13		19	14	33	9	4	25	37	35	16	34	10	32
Ryton	47	42	11	10	7	31	15	23	41	6	22	28	8	38	18	24	19		24	37	16	20	29	41	25	11	41	20	36
Seaham	40	21	14	27	22	10	11	23	36	19	14	21	17	16	15	6	14	24		29	9	16	22	35	38	19	23	5	29
Shildon	15	20	26	23	32	21	24	8	9	32	13	8	32	23	33	22	33	37	29		28	35	7	9	21	24	19	28	5
Shiney Row	38	27	5	17	12	16	5	19	31	10	13	19	11	23	9	4	9	16	9	28		11	20	32	29	10	29	6	27
South Shields	45	33	10	25	17	22	12	27	38	14	20	25	10	29	5	15	4	20	16	35	11		27	39	37	18	36	9	34
Spennymoor	19	19	18	19	23	15	8	13	24	24	6	3	24	17	24	24	25	29	22	7	20	27		13	19	14	17	19	8
Staindrop	6	27	30	25	30	27	28	14	11	36	19	14	37	30	36	26	37	41	35	9	32	39	13		20	27	25	32	5
Stanhope	18	35	26	12	19	31	24	12	27	38	24	22	35	39	34	30	35	25	38	21	29	37	19	20		19	34	36	17
Stanley	31	35	7	7	4	26	7	13	32	8	9	20	8	32	15	12	16	11	19	24	10	18	14	27	19		33	15	22
Stockton	29	2	30	37	36	13	28	23	12	36	21	14	36	10	35	22	34	41	23	19	29	36	17	25	34	33		27	20
Sunderland	38	25	10	23	17	14	10	21	31	14	12	18	13	21	12	8	10	20	5	28	6	9	19	32	36	15	27		26
West Auckland	11	22	25	20	24	22	23	7	10	31	14	9	31	25	31	21	32	36	29	5	27	34	8	5	17	22	20	26	

OBITUARIES

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



02 / 08 / 2018 - WBro. Arthur Avery, PAGStB, RAMGR.
M1015, RAM124

09 / 08 / 2018 - WBro.Gordon Nicholson Graves, PGJD,
RAMProvGR. RAM356, M1151

MARK / OCTOBER	2018	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Walton no.1106	1	Monday	6.45 pm	
Industry no. 293	1	Monday	7.00pm	Provincial Visit
Hackworth no.761	2	Tuesday	6.45 pm	
Cestria no.1151	2	Tuesday	6.45 pm	Installation
Steadfast no. 846	3	Wednesday	6.45 pm	
Unity no. 827	4	Thursday	7.00pm	
Hebburn no. 1339	5	Friday	7.00pm	
St.Aidan no.1145	8	Monday	7.00pm	
Harte no.740	8	Monday	7.00pm	
Bernard Gilpin no.860	9	Tuesday	7.00pm	Installation
Elevation no.1112	11	Thursday	6.45 pm	Installation
Percy no.122	11	Thursday	7.00pm	Installation
Bede no.605	12	Friday	7.00pm	Installation
Jarrow no.701	15	Monday	7.00pm	
Ambrose Crowley no.1269	16	Tuesday	6.45 pm	Installation
William Todd no.929	16	Tuesday	6.45 pm	Installation
Chief of the Builders no.1806	19	Friday	10.30am	
Barnard Castle no.778	19	Friday	6.45 pm	Installation
Mosely no.925	19	Friday	7.00pm	Installation
Durham Inst. M.Masters no.1294	22	Monday	6.30pm	Installation / Provincial Visit
St.Thomas no.1511	23	Tuesday	6.45 pm	Installation
Shipleigh no.1271	23	Tuesday	7.00pm	
Dunelm no.356	25	Thursday	6.45 pm	
St.Andrews no.854	25	Thursday	6.45 pm	
Union no.124	25	Thursday	7.00pm	Provincial Visit
Durham Prov.G.Stwds no.1820	31	Wednesday	7.00pm	Installation

RAM / OCTOBER	2018	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Eclectic no.39	1	Monday	7.00pm	Installation
Darlington no.250	10	Wednesday	6.45pm	
Dunelm no.356	10	Wednesday	6.30pm	Installation
Hackworth no.761	15	Monday	6.45pm	
Bernard Gilpin no.860	15	Monday	7.00pm	
Elevation no.1112	24	Wednesday	7.00pm	

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, 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....

Brethren can support the Durham 2020 Centenary Festival by purchasing this special badge which can be supplied by WBro.Graham Wharton on 07855815958 and VWBro.Frank Rankin



JIM STUBBINGS
WARDEN OF REGALIA
Tel: 0191-4166764
Email: j.stubbings@talktalk.net

11 Marwell Drive, The Glade,
Usworth Hall, Washington,
Tyne and Wear, NE37 3LH.
Tel: 0191-4166764
Email: j.stubbings@talktalk.net
Lots of Regalia in stock, please ring or call in to see what is available.