

# 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 Lancastrian Suite in Dunston, Gateshead, was the venue once again for another very well attended and busy Annual Provincial Meeting of the Durham Mark Master Masons.**

The organising team had worked tirelessly to ensure everything was ready for those many Brethren who had travelled from far and wide to enjoy and take part in this important occasion in our Mark Masonic calendar. After an impressive entrance parade, which included the Representatives of the Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, RWBro.Prof.Denovan Keith Wilson opened Provincial Grand Lodge in due form.

Salutations were given and duly acknowledged by the distinguished Guests and Officers. The provincial Grand Chaplain invited the assembly to remember those Brethren who had sadly passed to the Grand Lodge Above this last year.



RWBro. Prof.Denovan K.Wilson, PGM Durham congratulates the new Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. David N.Hanson, AGDC.

After the completion of the usual business the Provincial Grand Master was delighted to Install WBro.David Nigel Hanson,AGDC, as his new Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

This was followed by the appointment and investiture of the 38 Acting Provincial Officers for the ensuing year, as well the 31 Promoted Provincial Officers for 2017-2018.

In his address the PGM congratulated those who had been Appointed and those who had received Grand Rank in London. He appreciates that everyone is extremely active and richly deserve their appointments and promotions." You are highly valued members of our extended Leadership Team and I know I can rely on you to continue your good work."



WBro. Ronald Trevor Lynn, PPGSW,  
Provincial Grand Secretary.

Just before the meeting came to a close, the PGM was delighted and honoured to promote WBro.Ronald Trevor Lynn, Provincial Grand Secretary, to Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden with immediate effect. This in recognition for the excellence and dedication shown by Trevor for all his work he is doing in the Province as Provincial Grand Secretary.

Another special ceremony followed when Michael James Wilkinson received a Grand Patron Gold Collarette. Frank Alexander Rankin and Stuart Andrew Raymond Ingram both receiving the Grand Patron Collarette. Anthony Craven, Martin Rankin and John David Watts receiving the Patron Collarette and then Allan Gurney, Simon Craig Steele and Roy Norman Neville receiving the Vice Patron Collarette. After having presented these brethren with their Collarettes, RWBro.Prof. Denovan K.Wilson thanked them all for their special efforts in promoting the Mark Benevolent Fund.

After the meeting closed the room was made ready for an excellent festive board which the nearly 300 diners enjoyed in good cheer and which closed another Mark Masonic Year in it's customary friendly manner for which the Mark and Mariner Degree are so well appreciated.



WBro. David Hanson, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

WBro Kenneth Ian Anderson	Past Grand Junior Deacon
WBro Graham John Mitchinson	Past Grand Junior Deacon
WBro John Maurice Nye	Past Grand Junior Deacon
WBro George Samuel Savage	Past Grand Junior Deacon

RWBro.Prof. Denovan K.Wilson, Provincial Grand

## PGM Address to Provincial Grand Lodge Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### Brethren,

The Annual General Meeting is a very important event for us and I am so grateful to those who have contributed to its planning, organisation and delivery.

I extend my thanks to:

All our Lodges, including the four Host Lodges for their organisational and financial support.

To the Provincial Grand Secretary and his Team and to VWBro Danny Guy for the support he has given to them.

To the Director of Ceremonies and his Team for looking after the ceremonial.

To the members of the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge for logistical and ceremonial support.

To the Provincial Grand Treasurer for looking after the finances.

To the management and staff of the Lancastrian Suite for looking after us so well and to VWBro Frank Rankin for liaising with them.

And finally, to the representatives of St John's Ambulance whose presence is such a comfort to us.

Brethren they have all played their part so that all you and I have to do come along and have a great day. When we leave they will be busy returning things to their proper places.

Let's show them how much we appreciate their efforts.

Brethren, the Annual General Meeting provides an opportunity to reflect on the year just finished, and to anticipate what might lie ahead.

Last year was yet another very busy one, but it was also one in which there was much to enjoy and celebrate.

During the course of the year several brethren passed significant milestones in their membership.

A Certificate in recognition of 60 years membership was presented to

**Charles Vickers Scott of Ambrose Crowley Mark Lodge No 1269.**

Certificates in recognition of 50 years membership were presented to:

**Eric Nelson of Auckland Mark Lodge No. 596.**

**Norman Watson of Dunelm Mark Lodge No. 356.**

**Dennis Jones of Clavering Mark Lodge No. 896.**

**Peter William Smailes of Steadfast Mark Lodge No. 846.**

Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to all these worthy brethren.

The 29<sup>th</sup> November was a truly historic day when the Pro Grand Master, accompanied by the Grand Secretary and the Deputy President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, came to confer Mark Benevolent Fund Gold Award Status on all our Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges and on the Province. In his address, the Pro Grand Master said that Durham had become only the second Province to gain Gold Award Status.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April the Sesquicentenary Anniversary meeting of Eclectic Lodge No 39 was held in Hartlepool. A full Deputation of Provincial Officers were present and we were delighted to receive the Past Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Benjamin Addy.

During the course of the meeting we were treated to a wonderful demonstration and explanation of the Old Working by Brother David Fairhurst Harrison, PPrGSdB, and then to a delightful Oration by the Provincial Chaplain, WBro Keith Dinning.

I extend congratulations to the brethren of Eclectic Lodge on their Anniversary and my thanks for such a fine Celebration of it.

On 6<sup>th</sup> May Our Provincial Team took part in the Mark Benevolent Fund Charity Walk. It was a hugely successful event which was sponsored by every Province. The total raised now shows on the Website as a stunning £437,934. The Durham contribution was £16,066, being comprised of donations from every Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, plus individual donations from 150 brethren and friends.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May We held our third Annual Gala Dinner. Once again it was a sell-out, and we enjoyed wonderful food, entertainment and fellowship. The combined proceeds of the Annual Draw and the Raffle amounted to £3500, which was donated to the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund. My thanks go to VWBro Stuart Ingram and the members of the Coordinating Committee for organizing and promoting such a successful event.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June a large party of us had a wonderful time at the Annual Investiture Meeting of Grand Lodge. Nine of our brethren were honoured by the Grand Master and I will name them now, asking them to stand and remain standing and asking you to hold your applause until I have named them all.

### **WBro David Nigel Hanson was appointed as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies**

The following brethren were promoted to **Past Grand Junior Deacon**

**WBro Kenneth Ian Anderson**

**WBro Graham John Mitchinson**

**WBro John Maurice Nye**

**WBro George Samuel Savage**

The following brethren were appointed to the rank of **Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies**

**WBro Bryan Kennedy**

**WBro Kenneth E C Howe**

**WBro Malcolm Ross**

In addition, **W Bro Alan Crusher** as a member of the Province of West Yorkshire, was appointed as **Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer**. However as he is a member of Cestria Lodge 1151 in Durham I invite him to stand too.

Brethren, you are extremely active and richly deserve your appointments and promotions. You are highly valued members of our extended Leadership Team and I know I can rely on you to continue your good work.

## PGM Address to Provincial Grand Lodge Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

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Let's acclaim these worthy brethren.

Brethren, I hope you will agree that WBro Martin Schoolkate is doing a terrific job with our Newsletter, which goes out by email each month, with the exception of August. In order to improve the flow of news items from brethren, WBro Michael Wilkinson is helping Martin by offering what he calls a "Tell Me a Story Service". If you have news item, all you have to do is telephone Michael, give him a few bullet points and if possible send a picture, and he will draft a suitable article for you. Please take advantage of this and help to make our Newsletter even more interesting and informative.

So, what about the year ahead? Well, a number of things are already in place.

From **7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> July** a large party from Durham will enjoy a weekend in Reading during which we will attend the Province of Berkshire's Mark Benevolent Fund Festival Celebration.

On **5<sup>th</sup> August** we will hold the Active Officers Dinner. All the outgoing and incoming Officers will be invited so please put it in your diary and make your booking with Fred Beales.

On **30<sup>th</sup> September** the Provincial Lodge of Instruction will hold its Annual Festival with VWBro Frank Rankin as President. I am most grateful to VWBro Stuart Ingram for the arrangements set in place and to VWBro Danny Guy for taking them forward as the new Preceptor.

On **16<sup>th</sup> November** St Lawrence Lodge will have its first meeting in its new home in Billingham. This is a bold and imaginative relocation which the members are convinced will allow their Lodge not only to survive, but to prosper. The members have my full admiration and support and I wish them well. I put on record my thanks to WBro George Clark who has done much to facilitate the move.

Also in **November**, the Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters will launch a programme called 4 Steps to the Mark, which is intended to support the recruitment efforts of our Lodges.

On **January 29<sup>th</sup>** we will be heading off with our partners for our Winter Break in Benidorm, during the course of which the Brethren will attend the Annual General Meeting of Spain.

**Brethren, during my Installation Address I drew attention to the need to think carefully and proactively about what we would like Mark Masonry in Durham to look like in the future – I stress, not what we think it might look like but what we would like it to look like.**

**I then briefly outlined five features or characteristics that I would most like to see, one of these being that I would like to see**

**A Mark Province which is known to and admired by every Mason in the Region.**

**As it stands Brethren this is nothing more than a vision of a preferred future. However I believe that it is vital that we make this vision a reality and I am absolutely confident that if we work together we will.**

**Brethren, the MBF Charity Walk demonstrated that when we have a valued common goal and are properly mobilized, extraordinary results can be achieved very quickly.**

**The value of promoting the Mark Province so that it is known to and admired by every Mason in the Region is I think obvious. So how do we mobilize to do it?**

**Well, I ask that as of today, every Mark Master Mason in Durham accepts my invitation to be a Proactive Ambassador. When we speak to a none mason we must take the opportunity to promote the Craft, as all good Craft masons should. When we speak to a Mason, we must promote the Mark, as all good Mark masons should. In either case we should leave them feeling well informed, good about what they have heard, good about what we stand for, and good about what we do!**

**In asking that everyone becomes a Proactive Ambassador I am reminded of something I read in one of my books. It was about the Magic Kingdom in America, which is generally acknowledged as world class in knowing how to give guests a memorable time.**

**The author talks of a group of Managers who had gone there on a Business to Business exchange to see how things were done. As they walked round the Park they were impressed by many things, one being the cleanliness and housekeeping. Eventually they saw a lady walking in their direction. She seemed to notice something, turned, walked several yards, picked up some litter and put it in a collection box.**

**When she reached the group of managers, one of them said how impressed they were at the housekeeping and asked if she was one of those who attended to it. She said yes, she was. When the manager said there must be a lot of you to keep the park so tidy, she said yes, there are 5,500 of us.**

**The next morning the managers were waiting to be addressed by the CEO when the lady they had spoken to the previous day came in. She was the CEO and happily explained that 5,500 people were employed in the Park and they were all responsible for Housekeeping. In the Magic Kingdom, she said, everyone agrees that good housekeeping is vital, everyone takes responsibility for it, everyone walks the talk.**

**Brethren let's all agree that raising and maintaining the profile of the Mark is vital, let's all be Proactive Ambassadors and take responsibility for it, let's all walk the talk!**

**Let us together make the vision a reality and feel the benefit.**

**Brethren, thank you for all you do for Mark Masonry, and for your attendance at our meeting.**

A THANK YOU LETTER FROM THE CRAFT FOR THE ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE DURHAM MARK MASON REFLECTING THE STRONG BOND IN THE MASONIC BROTHERHOOD

**Festival Director:**

**WBro John Paul Thompson, PAGStB, PPSGW**  
john.thompson@durham2021.org

**Festival Secretary:**

**WBro Paul Quinn, PPGReg**  
paul.quinn@durham2021.org



**Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham, 2021 Festival**

Mark Master Masons Durham

5th August 2017

Dear WBro Provincial Secretary,

May I take this opportunity to thank the Mark Master Masons of Durham for the recent outstanding donation of £2,500 to the 2021 Festival for The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. This gesture together with your previous donations will go a long way to ensure we reach our target.

I'm happy to announce that donations received up to and including 31st July 2017 stand at £1,598,000 and have resulted in our festival campaign passing the half way mark on our journey to £2,712,768. This is truly remarkable considering we started only 18 months ago. But is probably no surprise considering the amazing support the brethren of Durham continue to give regardless of the event or occasion.

You will be aware the Masonic Charitable Foundation has committed to support 300 charities to commemorate our 300th anniversary, with the charities sharing £3,000,000. £79,000 will be shared amongst 8 charities here in Durham, over 150,000 votes were cast to determine the result, which will be announced in the coming months.

Please pass on my personal thanks and appreciation to your Provincial Grand Master Professor Denovan Keith Wilson, and of course to all the brethren of the Provincial Mark in Durham for their continuing efforts in providing much needed funds for a very worthwhile charity, supporting Children and their families not only in Durham but across England and Wales.

Yours Sincerely and Fraternally

WBro John Thompson, PAGStB PPSGW

2021 Festival Director



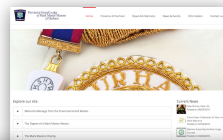
A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child.

8 The Esplanade, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR2 7BH  
website: [www.durham2021.org](http://www.durham2021.org) • email: [festival@durham2021.org](mailto:festival@durham2021.org)

**DINERS AT THE MARK AGM -DUNSTON**



More photos can be viewed  
on the mark website *Gallery*



You can visit  
the website on  
[durhammark.org](http://durhammark.org)

VWBro.Stuart A.R.Ingram,PGJO  
congratulates the newly installed  
Assistant Provincial Grand  
Master, WBro.David  
N.Hanson,AGDC.





### William Todd Lodge of MMM no.929

VWBro. Stuart Andrew Raymond Ingram, PGJO, was in attendance at the William Todd Lodge meeting on the 20th June 2017 at the Manor House Hotel, West Auckland, for the final time in his capacity as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and he received the very warm and sincere thank you for his long and dedicated service from the many brethren present in this lodge of which he was the Worshipful Master in 1995.

The winner of the golf whiskey competition has been revealed to be **David Battensby from Eardulph Lodge No.6645**. Allan Gurney delighted to present David with his prize at the Mark AGM in Dunston.



New Bloodbike presentation at the Mark AGM in Dunston



## MEET THE ORGANISTS



**W.Bro.Barry Tallentire, ProvGOrg.**

**Provincial Grand Organist in the Mark and RAM of Durham.**

Barry recalls that he started playing the organ as soon as he came out of the chair of the Londonderry Craft Lodge no.2039 in 1992. He has since played in various Masonic degrees but cannot remember how many times he has played the piano at so many installations but has really enjoyed his masonic career and his music.

Barry is a member of 6 Craft Lodges of which he is the organist and 5 Royal Arch Chapters where he is organist for 4 of them.

He was also Provincial Grand Organist in the Royal Arch for around 12 years and in that period was part of the Provincial Team who consecrated 3 new Royal Arch Chapters.

He is a member of 2 Mark Lodges and 2 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges and is organist for two of them.



**John Strachan Denham**

**In 1978, John was initiated into Aclet Lodge No. 5880, becoming WM in 1995 and 2004. In 2001, he was promoted to PPGSD and promoted to PPGReg in 2008. He was appointed Lodge Secretary in 2016.**

**A founder member of Lodge of Scribes No. 9671, he became WM in 2007.**

**Appointed First Principal of the Babington Boulton RAC in 2006, promoted to PPGReg in 2011. A member of Auckland Lodge of MMM No. 596, was appointed Lodge Secretary in 1981 for three years and WM in 2002 and 2008. Appointed GSD in 2006 and promoted to PPGReg in 2011.**

**Newtonian John S. Denham has been appointed President of the Durham County Rugby Football Union for Season 2017-18.**

Born in November 1946, in Bannockburn near Stirling, Scotland, he lived briefly in Darlington after his father was de-mobbed from the Fleet Air Arm. John moved onto the new town in September 1951, he attended the first school, which was held in the Bede Crescent flats and can remember sitting in class listening to the funeral of King George VI and watching the 'Blue Bridge' being constructed. He was then transferred to the new Sugar Hill Infants School, then the Junior school when they were completed. In September 1958 he started at the Durham Johnston Grammar Technical School, where he

also began his great interest and career in Rugby Union. He played in each year and in 1964, was selected for the Durham County Schools Under 19s.

Aged 11, he joined the St. John's Ambulance Brigade Cadets, during this time he attained his Grand Prior's badge, the highest award possible in the cadets and was promoted to sergeant. He also joined the Boys' Club, and completed the Bronze, Silver and Gold sections of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. A visit to Holyrood Palace, to meet the Duke and receive his award followed. In 1965, he was selected to play for the England Boys' Clubs against the Wales Boys' Club, playing twice at the Gnoll, Neath and the Franklin's Gardens, Northampton.

When aged 15, John took on a paper round, working for Forbuys Newsagents of Simpashire Gate. As a child, he attended Sunday School run by the Methodist Church. He now attends Xcel Church, which meets on the Aycliffe Business Park.

Teacher Training began in 1966 at the Neville's Cross College and whilst at college, John met Pauline McLauchlan from Seaham. On leaving college, they were married at the Elvet Methodist Church in Durham City in August 1969. They first lived in Washington Crescent, but in 2008, moved to a bungalow in the Woodham area.

On qualifying, John began his teaching career in 1969 at the Shildon Boys' Secondary School. In 1971, he moved upstairs to the Junior School. When the Juniors and nearby Infant School were combined to form a primary school in 1982, John was appointed Deputy Head teacher. In 1988, he was appointed Headteacher of Ferryhill Dean Bank Primary School and retired in August 2003. Pauline began teaching at Woodham Burn Junior School. After leaving to have the children, taught part time before taking a full-time post at St. Francis' C of E Junior School, from where she retired as Deputy Headteacher in 2002.

From 1974 to 1977, John was secretary of both the Aycliffe Association of the NASUWT and the Newton Aycliffe's Trades Council. John was a Governor of Vane Road Primary School from 1985 till 1989, but since 1985, he has been a Governor of Woodham Academy.

They have three sons, John, born in 1972, Christopher, born in 1976 and Andrew, born in 1979. Each of the boys attended Vane Road Primary School and Woodham Comprehensive, before going on to university.

Other interests included DIY and caravanning.

On leaving school, John joined Durham City RFC, playing there until he suffered a knee injury in 1976. Unable to play, he joined the DCRFU Referees' Society and refereed his first match in January 1977. In 1986, he was appointed to the RFU National Panel of Referees for four seasons. For season 1990-91 he joined the Border Referees' Society refereeing out of the Jedthistle Club in Jedburgh. He was then appointed to SRU National Panel of referees for four seasons. On returning to officiate in England, he was appointed to the RFU National Panel of Assistant Referees for two seasons. He then qualified as Referee Coach and in 2004 was appointed to the RFU National Panel of Referee Coaches for four seasons. Before and after this appointment, he was coaching for the North Group.

Since July 1999 he has been the Secretary of the Referees Society and a representative to the DCRFU General Committee. In September 2011, he was awarded Life Membership of the Society in recognition of his many years of service. In July 2011 he was also appointed as secretary of the DCRFU General Committee. On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017, John was installed as President of the Durham County Rugby Football Union for Season 2017-18.

*J.S.D.*



### BT Volunteers

**A group of expert volunteers at Beamish, with over 400 years of British Telecom experience between them, took on a communications mission at the museum.**

Sporting beige boiler suits and flat caps, the team have installed nearly 90 rotary dial phones over three years, initially there were only 20.

The Beamish Automatic Telecom is a project that initially started in the 1990s when British Telecom (BT) donated and installed a redundant telephone exchange in the museum's tram shed.

Made up of ex-BT managers and engineers and a member of our Transport Team, the group has connected all areas on site using the telecom system and has been sharing the important history of the telephone. Brian Davis, a member of the group, said: "We have managed to utilise the telephone exchange to provide telecoms around the entire site – The Town, the Fairground, the council depot, The Pit Village, Pockerley and all catering outlets. Everywhere is connected, providing full communication across the museum."



**Allan Monkhouse**, another member of the group, said: "The main purpose is telecommunications, telephony, on old dial-type telephones, nothing modern."

Authenticity is obviously very important to the group, known on site as the BT volunteers.

Allan said: "When we install a phone where the public will see, we use an authentic telephone which suits that era. For example, in the lamp cabin there is a telephone which fits the early 1900s time period.

"We're very much aware we need to make it historically accurate. The likes of the white porcelain connections, those are typically 1900s fittings. We use these to demonstrate traditional methods.

"Where we can, everything is authentic as it's not just about communicating, it's about the history of this technology. We also dress the part!"

Allan added: "It's not just a simple case of putting a phone there and saying 'right that's working'. We had to look at what was on site, to look to develop access to telephones in

different areas.

"We've installed distribution cables then the local cables to put telephones in the various buildings."

When asked how long it takes to install one phone, Brian said: "How long is a piece of string? The phone installation is actually the end result, we've spent many months putting cables in place to allow us to provide a telephone service.

"There's times we have come on a night time when the museum is closed because we have to use the hoist, which we can't use during normal opening hours, to install the cables.

"We also refurbish the phones, get them all working, and then we can put them in place.

"Once the cable is in, it can take just an afternoon to get a phone working. But it can take a long time to get to that stage. We've grown the network to cover the whole site, installing nearly three kilometres of cabling at the museum."

The group has worked with other teams at Beamish to install the phones. Allan said: "Members of the Friends of Beamish have made brackets for us, the welders have helped us. It's all been done in-house and it has been a real team effort."

It's their passion for the work that obviously drives the group, which came together following an appeal by the museum in 2013 for volunteers to look after the telephone exchange.

Brian said: "The telephone exchange, it's a living, breathing machine, it makes unique sounds, there's a buzz of static electricity, there are distinctive smells. It's a special experience that should be available to all. The project makes full use of skills and experience developed over many years with BT and it's great that we can be of some benefit to the museum.

"We had all come across each other because we're all the same age roughly and we were all in the same business, but we hadn't seen each other for years."

Allan added: "We've got vast experience amongst us all, and I suppose it's a bit like a social thing for us, we all knew each other for years and went off on different paths but have now come together again."

The Strowger exchange in Beamish's tram shed is named after Almon Strowger, an American undertaker in Kansas. Strowger began operating the electromechanical equipment in 1892, after he became convinced his business was suffering because the local telephone operator was the wife

of his competitor.



*Article kindly supplied by*

*Allan Monkhouse*





# 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ajc5807@gmail.com) or give him a phone call on 0191-3887510**

**September 29 - Provincial Lodge of Instruction annual Festival - Masonic Hall, Hartlepool, TS24 8AH**

Royal Ark Mariner Ceremony of Elevation - 5pm / Mark Master Mason Ceremony of Advancement - 6 pm  
( Appropriate Regalia must be worn at each Ceremony )

**November - Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters will launch a programme called 4 Steps to the Mark,**

Graphic Design, Digital Print, Self Publication,  
Book Binding & Wide Format Printing  
Home of Connoisseur Crafts Ltd

Unit 8 Hartlepool Enterprise Centre  
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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](mailto:mschoolkate@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07851 427664



**Michael James Wilkinson,**

Contact details : email.

[michael.w@learning4ever.co.uk](mailto:michael.w@learning4ever.co.uk) Mobile:

079632 13336



SEPTEMBER - MARK	2017	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Staindrop no. 1274	4	Friday	6.45	
G.Washington no. 1626	5	Tuesday	7.00	Provincial Visit
Spennymoor no.981	7	Thursday	6.45	
Ryton no. 1714	8	Friday	7.00	Installation
Darlington no. 250	13	Wednesday	6.45	Provincial Visit
Ferryhill no. 1560	14	Thursday	6.45	Installation
Penshaw no.1055	14	Thursday	7.00	
Ernest Dixon no. 1015	19	Tuesday	7.00	Installation
W.Tyne Dock no. 362	20	Wednesday	7.00	
Auckland no. 596	20	Wednesday	6.45	
Stanhope no. 1551	25	Monday	7.00	Provincial Visit
Eclectic no. 39	26	Tuesday	7.00	
Ravensworth no. 718	27	Wednesday	7.00	Installation
Castle Eden No.930	27	Wednesday	7.00	
Dunelm no. 356	28	Thursday	6.45	
St.Andrew's no. 854	28	Thursday	6.45	Installation

SEPTEMBER - RAM	2017	DAY	TIME	
Stanhope no.1551	1	Friday	7.00	Installation
Monument no. 1055	5	Tuesday	10.30	AM Start
Ryton no.1714	6	Wednesday	7.00	
Union no. 124	13	Wednesday	7.00	Installation
Rockcliffe no. 362	15	Friday	7.00	
Bernard Gilpin no. 860	18	Monday	7.00	Installation
Stockton-on-Tees no.122	19	Tuesday	7.00	Provincial Visit
Industry no. 293	19	Tuesday	7.00	Installation
Moseley no. 925	25	Monday	7.00	Installation
Spennymoor no. 981	25	Monday	6.45	
Bede no. 605	26	Tuesday	6.45	Installation

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Brian Hays

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## First two Mark Master Masons vehicles handed to SJA in special ceremony



The Prior at the Mark Master Masons handover event  
19 July 2017

**Monday 17 July saw the official dedication and handover of the first two vehicles given by the Mark Master Masons to St John Ambulance.**

In total, over 50 vehicles are due to be handed over in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands between now and the end of 2018.

This follows the successful conclusion to a major fundraising exercise undertaken by the Mark Master Masons for the Order of St John with the specific aim of providing new ambulances, treatment centres and support vehicles to SJA.

More than 80 guests from The Priory, St John Ambulance and the Masons attended the ceremony at the Honourable Artillery Company in the City of London. Two members of the Royal Family were also present for the handover event – HRH The Duke of Gloucester, our Grand Prior, and HRH Prince Michael of Kent, Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons.

The keys to an ambulance and a treatment centre were presented by Prince Michael of Kent to four volunteers from the North Region who travelled to London specially to collect the vehicle. These vehicles will now be based in Cheshire and East Lancashire and will be used by volunteers in those counties at events and to transfer patients to hospital.

The Grand Prior and HRH Prince Michael of Kent



One of the new vehicles

Inside the new ambulance

The Dean dedicates the new vehicles



The Prior, Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis CBE, who also spoke at the ceremony, said: 'The Priory of England and the Islands is honoured and grateful to be the recipient of a generous donation in excess of £3M from the Mark Master Masons through the Mark Benevolent Fund, to enable the purchase of 52 new ambulances and treatment vehicles for its principal charity St John Ambulance, and which will significantly enhance patient care across the country and contribute to more lives saved.'

Mark Farmer, Director of First Aid Services, said: 'Having a fit-for-purpose fleet of ambulances and treatment centres is an essential part of the first aid cover we provide to communities at events across England. We are very grateful to the Mark Benevolent Fund for their generous gift to enable us to have a modernisation programme for vehicles to be used by our volunteers when delivering first aid services for the next 10 to 15 years.'

An 18-month long programme of events is now being planned around the country at which the individual county-based vehicles will be handed over to local SJA teams.

### More information

Credit for all photos: Bob Tuthill Photography

## OBITUARIES

17<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - Joseph Henry Patterson RAMPrGR, RAM 39

13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Sidney Cowie, PPrGJW, M 1055

30<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Michael William Biott, PPrGSwdB, M1560

