

# PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS AND ROYAL ARK MARINERS OF DURHAM

## DURHAM Centenary Year 1920 – 2020



PGM of DURHAM - RW.Bro. Prof. DENOVAN KEITH WILSON



### ShIPLEY Mark Lodge Reactivated

Something very special occurred on Friday 3rd January . It was something very rarely witnessed. It was the evening that the Shipley Mark Lodge was reactivated. What an evening it was and it will be remembered by all who were there.

The officers of Shipley Lodge made sterling and dedicated efforts to keep the Lodge going. However, in April 2019 they reluctantly relinquished their Warrant to the Provincial Grand Master.

Things are a little different in the Mark Degree. Whilst the Warrant is surrendered it doesn't necessarily mean the end. The Warrant is held in abeyance by the Provincial Grand Master after it is surrendered.

The Provincial Grand Master had a few ideas and discussed them with his executive team. David Hanson, Deputy Provincial Grand Master took on the task to investigate those ideas. He tested the water to see if there was a desire for a Sportsmans Mark Lodge. There is a Sportsmans Craft Lodge and also a Chapter, so why not a Mark Lodge? He assembled a small team to move the idea forward. The reactivation of Shipley Mark Lodge is part of the vision.

Over 100 brethren squeezed into a packed Shiny Row temple to enjoy what was to be a superb event. It might have been cold outside but it was certainly warm in the hall!

The Sportsmans Mark Lodge will be formed from the

reactivated Shipley Mark Lodge. But first the Shipley Mark Lodge requires Lodge officers to progress the Lodge business. This required the PGM to open the Lodge and then install the new Master. What a delight it was to witness this done with such decorum and dignity. It will be a rare occasion to see a PGM install a new Master and that Master to be the Deputy PGM too.

The new Master, David Hanson invested his officers and conducted the necessary business to pave the way for the creation of Sportsmans Mark Lodge. Whilst there was serious business being done, there was also the opportunity for some tasteful humour. Such is the nature of the Mark Degree where enjoyment is a key ingredient.

The night continued at the festive board. The PGM remarking that this was a memorable evening in the history of the Province. In 2012, Shipley Mark Lodge celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. But any doubt about its future is now history and the future is being rewritten.

The evening was much more than the reactivation of the Lodge. It was a re-energising and re-direction. It was about looking forward and dedication and also to reflect the efforts of those that have gone before.

To help round off the wonderful evening, some entertaining and light hearted harmony was provided by Merrick Hamilton.

With 31 joining members accepted on the evening, the future looks good. Congratulations and compliments must go to those who have reinvigorated the Lodge. Their next meeting is the first Friday in March.



**A Daily Advancement** ON THE SIDE

This interesting extract is from the FMT  
Freemasonry Today issue 48 -Winter 2019.

# Meeting the Mark

This year marks the 250th  
anniversary of the first recorded  
working of the Mark Degrees.

**Dan Heath, Assistant Grand  
Secretary of Mark Masons' Hall,  
explores this compelling Order**

**O**n the first day of September 1769, a meeting of the Royal Arch Chapter of Friendship, No. 3 (now No. 257), was held at the George Tavern, Portsmouth. Here the

ubiquitous Thomas Dunckerley conferred the degrees of Mark Man and Mark Master on several brethren and companions. The link between the Craft, the Royal Arch and the Mark Degree was established. Fast forward to 1856: the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales, the Colonies and Possessions of the British Crown, as it was then known, was formally constituted. Since then, the Order has flourished, comprising 42 Provinces, 26 Districts, two Inspectorates and a host of unattached lodges.

The original two degrees, Mark Man and Mark Master, have been melded together so that the former now serves more as an introduction to the latter, together forming the ceremony of advancement, the degree of Mark Master Mason.

## Set in stone

Chronologically, the degree falls between the Second and Third Degrees of the Craft, taking place during the building of King Solomon's Temple. It has its origin in the fact that an operative stonemason would be required to put a distinguishing mark on each stone he produced, so the craftsmanship could be easily identified.

To this day, every candidate who is advanced in the Mark Degree is required to select his mark, which is then recorded by the lodge's Registrar of Marks and subsequently entered on a brother's

record at Mark Masons' Hall. This mark can then be used when signing the attendance register at a Mark meeting and in correspondence with other Mark Masons. In the ritual of advancement, the presentation of a candidate's mark to another officer of the lodge in order to receive his wages forms an important part of the ceremony.

## Ritual with flair

The officers of a Mark Master Masons lodge mirror those of a Craft lodge, with the addition of the aforementioned Registrar of Marks and three other important additions: a Master Overseer, a Senior Overseer and a Junior Overseer. These offices create an opportunity for theatrical flair when delivering the ritual: the candidate proffers the stone he has cut in the quarries for inspection, attesting for its fitness and suitability for the building of King Solomon's Temple. The stone (the keystone) is rejected and heaved over among the rubbish; the Overseers and Worshipful Master fail to realise its significance. The ceremony culminates in the retrieval of the keystone as an essential requirement for the completion of the sacred arch of the Temple. The keystone is, therefore, the emblem of the Order.

Mark Masonry is held in great affection by members, and a well-performed ceremony is enthralling, entertaining and, though meaningful, gives room for some levity during proceedings. Brethren enjoy visiting other lodges within their locality and further afield.

The Mark Token, with which a candidate is presented during the ceremony, is also a means of identification among brethren of the Order, and many special-edition tokens have been produced as collectable souvenirs.

*'Every candidate who is advanced in  
the Mark Degree is required to select  
his mark, which is then recorded by  
the lodge's Registrar of Marks'*

**A Daily Advancement ON THE SIDE**



Mark Masonry: Clockwise, from far left, The Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO; the apron of Past Grand Master HRH The Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII; Pro Grand Master Raymond John Smith; the Mark Master Masons coat of arms; The Mark Benevolent Fund coat of arms; the Mark Master Masons grant of arms



**Factfile**

**The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas**

With its own terminology, structures and practices, each Order is different from the next. Here, we break down the origins, requirements and organisation of Mark Masonry

**Our Grand Masters**

The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas is governed by The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO. He has held this office since 1982 and is the fourth royal Grand Master of the Order, a list that includes HRH The Prince of Wales, who was Grand Master from 1886 until being crowned King Edward VII in 1901. As is customary when a royal is at the helm of a masonic Order, Prince Michael has a Pro Grand Master to oversee the day-to-day administration of the Order and to represent him at many ceremonial engagements. This responsibility lies with Most Worshipful Brother Raymond John Smith.

**The fourth regular step**

The Book of Constitutions still contains the 1813 declaration that '... pure Antient masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz. those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch'. But it is actually during the Mark Degree that a candidate takes his fourth regular step in Freemasonry. This solemn part of the ceremony reminds candidates that by being advanced into the Mark they are taking an important step into the Progressive Orders of Freemasonry.

**Who can join?**

Any Craft Master Mason from a Craft Constitution recognised by UGLE can apply to become a member of a Mark lodge in the English Constitution.

**A core of benevolence**

The Mark Benevolent Fund was created in 1868 on

the suggestion of the Reverend George Raymond Portal, then Grand Master. He felt that, for charity to be effective, it had to be disbursed swiftly and without the bureaucracy of other masonic charities. His motto, 'Bis dat qui cito dat' – 'he gives twice who gives promptly' – became, and still is, the guiding principal of The Mark Benevolent Fund.

**The coat of arms**

The coat of arms features a shield bearing a section of an arch, with a keystone engraved with an equilateral triangle. It is supported by a craftsman holding a keystone and a warden holding an axe. The Order's motto, 'Lapis reprobatus caput anguli', translates as 'the stone which was rejected has become the headstone of the corner'.

**A long history**

Before conferring the Mark Degrees 250 years ago, Thomas Dunckerley must have received the degrees. It is said that a form of Mark Degree was in existence in Scotland as early as 1599. Little has been written about the history of the Mark, though the inception of the Grand Lodge is regarded as being a result of the political and social unrest brought about by the Crimean War and, had it not been for an 11th-hour change of heart by the Rulers of the Craft, the Mark Degree may well have been included in that 1813 declaration regarding Pure Antient Masonry.

*Marking Well*, a collection of essays on the Mark Degree, edited by Andrew Prescott, was published to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Visit [www.markmasonshall.org](http://www.markmasonshall.org) for more information about the Order.

This interesting extract is from the FMT Freemasonry Today issue 48 - Winter 2019.

[www.durhammarkmasons.org](http://www.durhammarkmasons.org)

We hope you have had the opportunity to view the **new website** and it is to your liking. We are constantly updating the information and adding new pages and posts about recent events. We hope to make it as useful as possible for you.

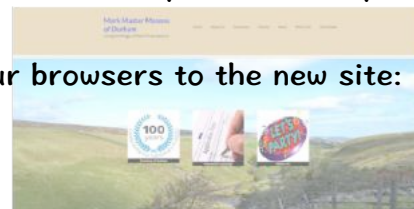
Please don't forget that we have created a page to help Lodges advertise any events they are organising - its the **"Upcoming Events"** page in the **"Whats On"** section. All we ask is for the organiser to provide some information and hopefully a poster that we can add to the page for all to see.

If there is a special event taking place in your Lodge and you can write a little report and provide some photographs, we will be pleased to receive them and add them to the posts. We hope to make the news section as much about you as we can.

Please remember, the old site is not being updated, so reset your browsers to the new site:



[www.durhammarkmasons.org](http://www.durhammarkmasons.org)



If you need documents, they are available on the new website.



Sonia Forster, Allan Gurney, Marion McKenna, Roy Neville.

### “ Our Mark arrives in the Nick of time “

‘Santa’ made an appearance at the Dawdon Community Centre in Seaham on 23 December 2019, with the Mark Benevolent Fund responding to a late appeal for funds to stock up their food bank and to provide toys for those in the community who have very little.

Pictured at the presentation, the Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Allan Gurney, handing over a cheque for £750 to Marion McKenna, who is the Manager of the Dawdon Centre.

Also in attendance were V.W. Bro. Roy Neville, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, as well as Mrs. Sonia Forster, a Seaham Town Councillor and a Past Mayor of Seaham.

Both Sonia and Marion expressed their gratitude

to the Mark Degree and they both gave a brief account of how they work closely with other agencies to identify families in most need. It was a delight for the presentation team to make this grant which was both rewarding and could be seen to make a real difference for many individuals in the community.



Prepared parcels ready for distribution





Denovan K.Wilson ,PGM Anthony R.Davis, WM



Quizmeister  
Steven Newell

**Darlington Mark does Mark Mastermind**

The Provincial Grand Master and his Deputation visited Darlington Mark Lodge on 8th January 2020. The Lodge saw this as a perfect occasion to do something a little bit different. Darlington Mark did a Mark Mastermind.

The Lodge has its Warrant dated 28 November 1878 which makes this one of the founding lodges of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham. They were delighted to welcome the Provincial Grand Master of Durham and a Deputation of his Officers. They also invited three prominent Grand Officers from the deputation to form a team of ‘quiz masters’ willing and able to answer every question without difficulty! This especially so when the subject matter of the quiz was to have a strong masonic historical connection!

There were three teams of three brethren. They were invited to take their seats in front of the SW Wicket under the direction of the quiz master Steven A.Newell.

The first team from the Darlington lodge was Michael Lambird, Morris Bartle, and Tony Davis. The second team from Steadfast Mark Lodge was Ian Ogden, Tony Bird, Phil Etherington. The third team was made up by David Hanson, Trevor Lynn and Denovan Wilson. All were ‘volunteered’ and eager to take part if a little nervous of the forthcoming interrogation. To add to the atmosphere, the large assembly of brethren in the temple were rooting for their teams to be victorious.

After having explained the rules of the quiz to the teams, the quiz master was ready to start with his first question. It did not take long for the contestants to understand that this was not going to be easy! They soon wished that their knowledge of latin was stronger, that history can be vague and dates and places were very important. Nevertheless, they gave as good as they got and points were soon awarded. The questions ranged over a wide area of masonic subject matter. It was proving to be very informative to the audience as well as the contestants.

There was not much in it, but the Grand Officers decided that it would be polite not to be show offs. They didn’t want to leave the others behind too much, they were happy with the 11 points awarded. Of course we believed them! The team from Steadfast just piped them to silver medal position. Therefore the winning team was the Darlington lodge who gained a few more points. An excellent result acclaimed with loud applause from the brethren, all pleased that they weren’t being asked the questions.

Every one really enjoyed the meeting, which had a lot of laughter and good humour. It was a terrific way to have a great time amongst friends and perhaps learn a bit more Masonic knowledge. After the meeting 55 diners enjoyed a fantastic meal and several brethren went home with a raffle prize to boot. The PGM congratulated the Lodge for having the courage to try something a bit different for the enjoyment of the brethren. *DB*





We are a group of Freemasons, their families and friends who have a shared interest in Camping and Caravanning. Throughout the year we organise a number of caravan and camping rallies, mostly in the North East but we have also held rallies in Scotland, the Lake District and Yorkshire. The aim is to enjoy the great outdoors and the emphasis is on relaxed family enjoyment. If you are interested to join us and find out more information please contact the club secretary at: [secretary@dmccc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@dmccc.org.uk) **Durham Masonic Camping and Caravan Club** follow the link [WWW.DMCCC.org.uk](http://WWW.DMCCC.org.uk) for Rallies and forthcoming events.

Darlington Lodge of Mark Masters No 250

Hello Brethren,

We at Darlington Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 250 are holding a Race night to help us raise some much needed funds. The evening is to be held at the DSRM Social club, Longfield Road, Darlington DL3 0HX . All the family are welcome. The first race is at 7.30pm and the cost of the evening is £6 per person (under 10's free, under16's £3). Supper is PIE and PEAS and is included in the price.

Please contact me on the number, or email listed below.

Please come and support us.

Yours Fraternally,

Steve Newell, Mobile: 0781 7720373

Email: [stevnewell06@sky.com](mailto:stevnewell06@sky.com)

<b>RACE NIGHT</b>	
We're holding a race night at	DSRM Social Club
Raising funds for	Darlington Mark 250
First race at	7.30pm
Date	29th February 2020
Contact Steve Newell 07817720373 <a href="mailto:stevnewell106@sky.com">stevnewell106@sky.com</a>	

**RACE NIGHT AT QUEENSTREET EAST  
SUNDERLAND, SR1 2HT**

Saturday 1 February 2020

Doors open at 6.30pm  
First race at 7.30pm

Ticket £10.00 incl. Pie & pea supper

Please contact Mark Smith for further information,

Tel: 07584687660

Email: [mgsparkyuk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mgsparkyuk@hotmail.co.uk)

**Provincial Grand Lodge of  
Mark Master Masons  
West Yorkshire**



**Festival President**

R.W.Bro. James Steggles, G.M.R.A.C.  
Provincial Grand Master

**Festival Chairman**

V.W. Bro. Richard B. Puttrell P.G.J.O.  
Past Dep. Prov. G.M.

W.Bro. Allan Gurney P.Prov. G.S.W.  
Provincial Grand Secretary  
Provincial Grand Lodge of MMMs of Durham  
26<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear W.Bro. Allan

Please thank the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro Prof. Denovan K Wilson, and all the Brethren of Durham Province of MMMs for the generous cheque of £500 towards the West Yorkshire Masonic Cycle Challenge (MC<sup>2</sup>).

It is very much appreciated by all the cyclists who will attempt (and hopefully complete) this challenge of over 400 miles and 20,00 feet of ascent. So much energy, hence the use of Einstein's equation! The route will take in all of our neighbouring Provinces and they will hope to see you all there as they pass through. This challenge is to be the major fund raising event for 2020 towards our 2023 Festival (along with lots of smaller events).

Once again, on behalf of the MC<sup>2</sup> and the WYMBF Festival, thank you.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Richard B Puttrell

**The Challenge**

On June 20th 2020, a group of cyclists will begin to ride the perimeter of the Mark Province of West Yorkshire. Some will attempt it all and some just a section, or even part of a section. All will be contributing to a huge event which will be the major Provincial fundraiser for 2020. Please give generously and support the efforts of the riders. The ride will start in Mirfield, West Yorkshire on the morning of June 20th 2020 and will take five days to complete. Consisting of nearly 400 miles and 22,000 ft of climbing it will be a real challenge and your support will be much appreciated. Calling at Lodges along the way, the route roughly follows parts of the perimeter of the Mark Province of West Yorkshire and extends into our sister Northern Provinces of:

- West Yorkshire • North & East Yorkshire • **Durham**. Northumberland • Cumberland and Westmorland • East Lancashire . West Lancashire • Cheshire • Derbyshire • Nottinghamshire • Lincolnshire

NOTICE

**SHIPLEY MARK  
NUMBER 1271**

You are invited to attend our regular meeting which will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 6.30 pm at Shiney Row Masonic Centre

**The Ceremony will be a Double Advancement**

Come along and join us on our renaissance journey and enjoy some excellent ritual, great food, exceptional harmony and of course great friendship

**All Mark Master Masons are welcome to attend**

Banquet Tickets - £8.00 each  
To assist with catering, dining fees need to be paid by 29<sup>th</sup> February

Menu  
Home Made Thai Fishcake with dill mayonnaise

Bacon wrapped Chicken Breast with seasonal vegetables  
Big Bowl Sportsman's Trifle

For bookings please contact:  
Wayne Rumley 07867 484 071  
[sportsmansmark@gmail.com](mailto:sportsmansmark@gmail.com)

For online payments  
Sportsman's Mark 1271  
30-91-92 70074160

For cheques please send to  
Ian Heaviside 48 Elmway  
Chester le Street DH2 2LX

**OBITUARIES**

15/11/2019 - WBro. Dennis Jones - DOB- 05/09/1923 - M 896.

30/11/2019 - Bro. Peter Dixon - DOB- 03/12/1943 - M761

21/12/2019 - WBro. Peter Smith Usher, PAGDC - DOB - 24/07/1931 - M 1151

23/12/2019 - WBro. James William Barkess, PPGJD - DOB - 24/06/1936 - M1551

17/01/2020 - WBro. John Nicholson, PPGSW - DOB - 13/01/1947 - M1015, R 1055



MARK	2020	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Walton no.1106	3	Monday	6.45	
Industry no.293	3	Monday	7.00	Installation
Hackworth no.761	4	Tuesday	6.45	
Cestria no.1151	4	Tuesday	6.45	
Steadfast no.846	5	Wednesday	6.45	
George Washington no.1626	6	Thursday	7.00	
Harte no.740	10	Monday	7.00	Installation
Bernard Gilpin no.860	11	Tuesday	7.00	
Elevation no.1112	13	Thursday	6.45	
Percy no.122	13	Thursday	7.00	
Bede no.605	14	Friday	7.00	
Jarrow no.701	17	Monday	7.00	
Ambrose Crowley no.1269	18	Tuesday	6.45	
William Todd no.929	18	Tuesday	6.45	
Barnard Castle no.778	21	Friday	6.45	
Moseley no.925	21	Friday	6.30	Provincial Visit
Durham of Inst.Masters no.1492	24	Monday	6.30	
Dunelm no.356	27	Thursday	6.45	Installation
Union no.124	27	Thursday	7.00	

RAM	2020	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Dunelm RAM no.356	12	Wednesday	6.30	Provincial Visit
Darlington RAM no. 250	12	Wednesday	6.45	
Union RAM no. 124	12	Wednesday	7.00	
Bede RAM no. 605	25	Tuesday	7.00	
Elevation RAM no.1112	26	Wednesday	7.00	Installation
Clavering RAM no. 896	27	Thursday	7.00	