

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



Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham Christmas and New Year Message, from the author Phil Carter, Peter Adamson and Keith Dinning (the Chaplaincy Team)

In these darkest of days running up to Christmas I am often drawn to the words of the American poet Minnie Louise Haskins who wrote;

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."

Perhaps it evokes for me memories of the first question we were asked in our Masonic career, "In whom do you put your trust" and we were prompted to reply "In God", and then we were told "that where the name of God is invoked we trust no danger can ensue".

And so as we approach Christmas perhaps we look for the hand of God, for the light that will help us go forward into the unknown of the future.

And for many of us we will find that light in the promise of the Christ Child, Emmanuel, God with us, whose birth we will celebrate again, as we do every year, on Christmas Day, Christmas is a season of promise and of joy.

Promise of God born as man to walk beside us in this world and on into the next and joy in the promise of redemption and salvation,

So as we attend our Carol Services, our Christingles and nativity plays and our midnight services this Christmas, as we celebrate Christmas with our families and friends look for the hand of the God, God born again as the Christ Child, and seek to put your hand into his and look to him as your light along the sure way into the New Year which stretches before us.



David Battensby, your 'Webmeister', invites you to visit the new website at the earliest opportunity!



HACKWORTH MARK Hackworth Lodge goes festive,

Hackworth Lodge of Mark Master Masons hosted their Christmas Party on their regular meeting at the beginning of December. The meeting was to see the Provincial Grand Master and a Deputation of Provincial Officers also attend. This would make the evening even more special to the Lodge and its visitors.



The Main Characters

The Provincial Team delivered a short talk about King Solomon's Temple. The main characters involved in the building of the Temple were introduced and explained. The story was delivered by Michael Wilkinson and Mike Davies and proved to be informative with some tasteful humour. The main characters associated with the building of the Temple were explained by Denovan Wilson (PGM), David Hanson (DPGM) and Trevor Lynn (APGM). The delivery of the talk was excellent and made for an enjoyable advancement in knowledge.

After the talk, the Provincial Grand Master presented Danny Guy with a Mark Benevolent Fund award. Danny was awarded the Grand Patron collar for his years of generous giving to the Fund. The PGM also thanked him for his wonderful efforts towards the funds of the

Durham Mark Benevolent fund.



Danny Guy

The dining hall was splendidly decorated for Christmas and created the right atmosphere for the continuation of the evening. A lovely Christmas Fare was awaiting everyone and they thoroughly enjoyed it.



The evening was rounded off with a sing-along of Christmas carols to get everyone in the festive spirit.



Hackworth Mariners Lodge will continue the festivities on 16th December. Hopefully Ken Moore recovers from his trip to hospital, and if he is up to it, he may delight everyone with his latest pantomime mixup. So, its worth a trip to Shildon to enjoy the fun.

D.B.



Dear Roy,

I am writing to thank you for your very generous and unexpected donation towards our Christmas Journey project.

The Christmas Journey is an interactive experience which tells the Christmas story through music, puppets, dressing up, and story tellers. The Christmas Journey is offered free of charge to primary schools within the Borough. Although our 44 volunteers are all unpaid, there are considerable costs laying on coaches, printing and other expenses providing the children with activity booklets for future project work.

In the past this event was run by another church in Darlington for 4 days and when they were unable to continue we took over this year. As a poor church in a deprived parish, we were rather anxious about the financial commitment, but felt we had to try, having heard from the schools involved how much staff and students valued the experience. Indeed our goal has been to expand The Christmas Journey so that more children can benefit.

Your generous donation means that rather than making a loss we have been able to pay for the transport for an extra 3 days. This means that an extra 330 children with 60 teachers and teaching

assistants were able to share in the experience. In total over our 7 days we invited 770 Y2 children and 140 teachers. You only had to look at the children's (and teachers') faces to see what an impact it had on them. and we are enormously grateful. We are already recruiting more volunteers for 2020 and would love to be able to offer The Christmas Journey to every Y2 pupil in the borough - well over 1000 children.



I am attaching a couple of photos for you to choose from of George Dixon presenting the cheque to the cast. (I am afraid I cannot send one with the children as this is not permissible

under school safeguarding policies.) Would it help if I also forwarded a copy of this email to your newsletter editor so they have some extra information for the article.

Once again - thank you so much.

Lissa Scott (Vicar of St Matthew and St Luke's, Darlington)



Eclectic Mark Lodge shows its maturity.

Eclectic Lodge of Mark Master Masons is the oldest Lodge in the Province of Durham and put on a special night for the Provincial Team.

The Lodge pre-dates the formation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham. It was consecrated in 1858 and, with a Lodge number of 39, it is safe to say, one of the oldest in the Country.

The Last Tuesday in November saw the oldest Mark Lodge welcome the newest Provincial Team to its regular meeting in Hartlepool. The Provincial Grand Master Denovan Wilson led his Provincial Officers into the Lodge meeting and was met with wonderful acclaim.

Those present were to witness the 'old' workings of the Degree as the Lodge advanced its newest member, Geoffrey Crannage. It was an excellent ceremony and Geoffrey was in safe hands, his good friend David Coates was Senior Deacon. The old workings gave David a lot of extra work which he did in style. It made it a very interesting meeting for those present, to witness something a bit different.

Before the meeting was closed, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, David Hanson in his capacity as Chairman of the Benevolent Committee made a presentation. He presented a cheque to the Lodge to pass onto Patryk Powlowski, a 16yr old St. John's Ambulance cadet. Patryk is to attend an International training camp in South Africa in January 2020. Whilst he managed to get through a very tough selection, he still has to raise £1850 to help fund his assignment. The Benevolent Committee Grant of £300 will go towards it's target so that he can undertake his very worthy work in South Africa.



Geoffrey Crannage David Coates

A great night was had at the oldest Mark Lodge in the Province.

D.Battensby



ERNEST DIXON LODGE OF MMM NO. 1015

75
ANNIVERSARY



Bro. Richard Davison.

Constituted in 1944, the Ernest Dixon Lodge brethren and their guests on the 19th November 2019 in Sunderland, celebrated the achievement of 75 years as a Mark Master Masons Lodge. The WM, W.Bro. Gill Crossley Jr. was delighted to welcome the PGM and a Deputation of his Provincial Officers to their meeting and take part in celebrating this wonderful achievement.

The assembled brethren were treated to a fantastic presentation of a lecture on the Tracing Board of the Degree of Mark Master Mason by Bro. Richard Davison. Bro. Davison made use of digital projection to illustrate the Tracing Board and it's different parts during his lecture, he revealed that this was the first time he had learned and presented this lecture and he astounded the brethren by reciting the entire lecture without the use of any notes and from memory alone.

A wonderful performance greatly appreciated and applauded by the entire assembly. Bro. Richard, like your lodge, you have indeed "marked well".



Keith Liddell Tony Bird David Hanson

Friday 22nd November saw the Installation of W.Bro. Tony Bird into the chair of **Indaba Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1936.**

V.W. Bro. Keith Liddell who was representing the PGM, witnessed an excellent ceremony carried out by the Installing Master, W.Bro. John Dodds. The Worshipful Master then appointed and invested his officers and wished them well for the year ahead.

The four addresses were delivered to a high standard, particularly the address to the Master which was given by W.Bro. Ray Snaith. At the end of the first rising the DPGM, W.Bro. David Hanson presented a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Eddie Jenkinson. Once the Secretary W.Bro. Brian Dove had finished the correspondence, he announced that he had to get a special 'dispensation' from his wife to attend the lodge as it was their 67th Wedding Anniversary. Now that's what you call commitment!

The festive board had good food, good company and good harmony. Another wonderful evening enjoyed by all.

DURHAM MARK RESPONDS TO WEST YORKSHIRE APPEAL

An appeal for support by R.W.Bro. Jim Steggles, PGM of the Province of West Yorkshire, for a Cycle Challenge in aid of their 2023 Festival, came to the attention of the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund.

Although the event could have raised funds for our Province as well as theirs, the timing of the event in the summer of 2020 in the midst of our Centenary celebrations was not convenient.

However, in the spirit of support and co-operation which exists between Durham and our neighbours, it was decided to make a gesture of support and the Royal Ark Mariner Investiture Meeting on December 10th at Great Queen Street, London, provided the ideal opportunity to make a donation of £500 towards the West Yorkshire Cycle Challenge.

In the picture left, the presentation of the cheque is made to R.W.Bro. Steggles by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Durham, W.Bro. David Hanson, in the presence of the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro. Roy Neville.





The Province of Durham was once again well represented in London when 37 **Royal Ark Mariner Brethren** travelled to the Great Queen Street Temple together with the Provincial Grand Master to support those brethren receiving Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner from the Pro Grand Master.



Trevor Lynn,
Jeffrey Adwas (Industry No.293),
Michael Davis (Bede No.605),
 Denovan K. Wilson,
Robert W.Emerson (Spennymoor No.981),
 David Hanson.

OBITUARIES



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

A YOUNG MAN OF 101 YEARS.

I am Philip Quinn and I am the Almoner of the Eclectic Mark Lodge No. 39, a job that I enjoy.

What makes my job enjoyable is some of the people that I visit, and one of those people is a Brother named Terry Lewis.

Terry has been a Freemason for 59 years and a Mark Mason for 55 years! He was born on 24th October 1918, which makes him the Grand age of 101. He attended a small school in Hartlepool called Scotts School which later became known as Rose bank.

On leaving school he started work for Central Marine and then moved on to Ropner Shipping as a junior clerk. He left there to find his vocation in education.

War broke out, and on the 15th of September 1939, Terry joined the Army with the 53rd Bolton Field Regiment. He fought all through the war on several fronts, which included Dunkirk, in North Africa under General Montgomery at Alamein, in Lebanon, and in the Italian Campaign at Casino

Terry was mentioned in dispatches for his distinguished service and after the War he went back into Education where he worked until he retired.

At the age of 42, Terry joined Freemasonry, he was Initiated February



Philip Quinn and Terry Lewis

1960 into the Haven Of Rest Lodge No.4350. His proposer was W.Bro. John Warren and his seconder was W.Bro. Norman Fuller. He became Worshipful Master in 1973. In 1964 he was Advanced into Mark Masonry when he joined the Eclectic Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 39. His proposer then was W.Bro. Bob Pearson and he was seconded by W.Bro. W.G. Bee. He was a Worshipful Master of his Lodge in 1977.

At 101 years of age, Terry is very active and bright as a button, he can still clearly remember many of his experiences in both life and his Freemasonry. Although he doesn't get to any Lodge meetings, he still shows a great interest in Freemasonry.

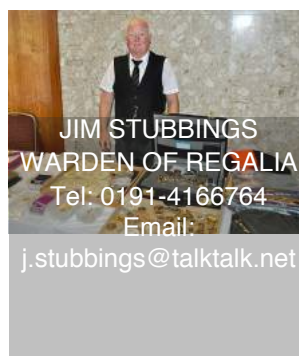
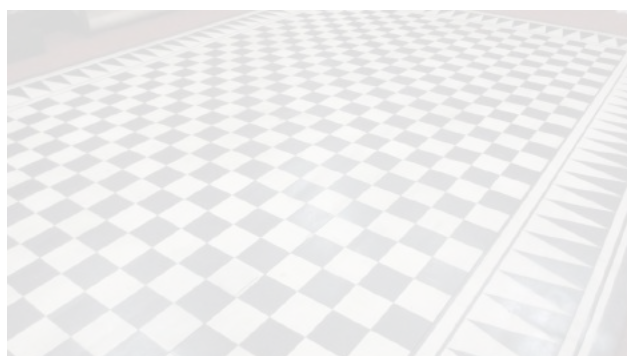
What more can I say, only that he is a great man!



A very special milestone was celebrated in South Shields on the 17th December 2019 when **W.Bro. Lawrie Bell** received his 50 Year Certificate in the Craft. The event was attended by over 50 brethren which included a large delegation of **Mark Master Masons** who wanted to show their support and congratulations to Lawrie who has been an extremely dedicated Mark Master Mason throughout those 50 years in Freemasonry. It was a wonderful meeting both in the Temple and at the festive board, with many emotional moments when Lawrie was addressed by his son Stephen Bell who in appreciation for all Lawrie had done both as a Freemason and Farther, presented a special gift to his Dad .

MARK	JANUARY	2020	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Spennymoor no.981		2	Thursday	6.45	
ShIPLEY no.1271		3	Friday	6.30	Provincial visit - Relaunch of Lodge
Darlington no.250		8	Wednesday	6.30	Provincial visit
Penshaw no.1055		9	Thursday	7.00	
Ferryhill no.1560		9	Thursday	6.45	
Auckland no.596		15	Wednesday	6.45	
Jarrow no.701		20	Monday	7.00	Installation
Ernest Dixon no.1015		21	Tuesday	7.00	
Ravensworth no.718		22	Wednesday	7.00	
Union no.124		23	Thursday	6.30	Provincial visit
St.Thomas no.1511		28	Tuesday	6.45	
Eclectic no.39		28	Tuesday	7.00	
Indaba no.1936		31	Friday	6.45	

RAM	JANUARY	2020	DAY	TIME	
Stockton RAM no.122		21	Tuesday	7.00	Installation
Industry RAM no.293		21	Tuesday	7.00	
Spennymoor RAM no.981		27	Monday	6.45	
Moseley RAM no.925		27	Monday	7.00	



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