

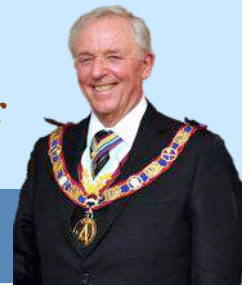
# PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

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



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS AND ROYAL ARK MARINERS

Mark Masons' Hall 86 St. James's Street London, SW1A 1PL - 17 March 2020

### THE GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas

To Members of All Orders Administered from Mark Masons' Hall,

Dear Sir and Brother,

Notice of a General Suspension of All Masonic Activity throughout this period of national and international emergency, the well-being and safety of our members has been paramount. This is why the guidance we have issued so far has gone beyond that published by the UK Government and Public Health England.

For our members overseas, our guidance has supplemented that provided by the local Public Health Authorities wherever they live.

As a result of the latest advice given by the UK Prime Minister yesterday, backed by the Chief Medical and Scientific Officers, our existing guidance has been reviewed and updated.

The Grand Masters of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall have jointly agreed an immediate General Suspension of all Masonic Activity for a period of four months. This means that no masonic meetings or related social activities should take place until further notice. A similar Notice of a General Suspension is being issued today by the United Grand Lodge of England, the Supreme Council of the Ancient & Accepted Rite and the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Whilst regular masonic activity will now cease for the time being, the administration of our Orders will continue as usual with regular updates issued to let you know what is happening.

These are unprecedented times requiring unprecedented action and I feel sure you will agree that the suspension of all masonic activity now is the right thing to do. Our Orders are facing a considerable challenge as a result of the spread of the coronavirus and will do so for some months to come. So, it's important that we do as much as we can to safeguard one another, maintain contact with one another by phone and email, and ensure that when the current emergency is over, we can fully resume the practice and enjoyment of our freemasonry.

With fraternal regards and best wishes.

R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W. Grand Secretary



Dear Brethren,

**In view of the recent advice and instructions received from UGLE and Mark Masons' Hall, the Provincial Executive have taken the decision to cancel the RAM Annual Assembly on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March; the Grand Officers Dinner on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April; the Centenary Dinner on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June at Hardwicke Hall; and the Mark Annual Meeting on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June.**

**This being our Centenary year, it is hoped that the Centenary Dinner, and the Mark Annual Meeting can be re-scheduled for a later date. However, we have no idea when that might be – if at all. It will depend entirely on how quickly the virus disappears, and UGLE and MMH give us the go ahead to resume normal activities.**

**I would, therefore, ask all Secretaries and members not to phone me, or email me, about these events. As and when I have more information, I will let you all know.**

Yours, sincerely and fraternally,  
**Allan Gurney,**  
Provincial Grand Secretary.





The Provincial Grand Lodge  
of Mark Master Masons  
of Durham

W Bro Allan Gurney PGStwd  
Provincial Grand Secretary



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23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

### **CENTENARY DINNER at HARDWICKE HALL, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Brethren,

As you may have read in an earlier announcement, the above Centenary Dinner has had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak. It is hoped that we will be able to re-schedule it at a later date.

Several people have asked what arrangements are in place for the refund of money etc. At the request of V W Bro Frank Rankin, I am pleased to announce the following:

1. Brethren who have reserved a room for the night must themselves contact the Hotel to cancel the booking. All bookings were made on an individual basis, and therefore it is your responsibility to cancel the booking.
2. Everyone who has bought tickets will be transferred to any new date arranged, and the original ticket will still be valid. However, should the new date be unacceptable to you, or you are unable to attend on the new date, then a refund will be arranged at that time.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

**Allan Gurney**

Provincial Grand Secretary



The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons  
of  
Durham

VW Bro Keith Liddell, PGJO  
Provincial Grand Almoner



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18th March 2020

### PROVINCIAL MARK CARING

Brethren all,

During the forthcoming months many of our Brethren will face a period of isolation as the effects of the Corona Virus recommendations take hold. Not only will our Masonic activities be curtailed but Brethren may be unable to mix freely with friends and family during this difficult period.

Whilst Lodges will be closed, it does not mean that we do not make contact with each other by email and telephone. It is particularly important that we keep in touch with Brethren who live alone, so that we can regularly check on their wellbeing.

We can all play a part by keeping in touch with our fellow Lodge Members, but in these unprecedented circumstances the role of the Lodge Almoner becomes increasingly important. If you hear of anyone who is ill or in need of assistance please inform your Lodge Almoner without delay.

The Lodge Secretaries and Scribes can assist Lodge Members to keep in touch by providing contact details of Fellow Members when appropriate.

Meanwhile Brethren, please take heed of Government advice and regulations and keep safe until we are all able to reconvene later in the Year.

Kind regards,

*Keith Liddell*

Keith Liddell,  
Provincial Grand Almoner





Dunelm Mark Lodge and the representative of the PGM, W.Bro. Allan Gurney, ProvGSec, PGStwd.



R.W. Bro. David Richard Powell, PGM of Monmouthshire congratulates his close friend W. Bro. George Young as the new Worshipful Master of the lodge.

**The Dunelm Lodge of MMM No.356** at their meeting on the 27th February 2020 in Durham, welcomed the visiting Provincial Grand Master of Monmouthshire, RWBro. David Richard Powell, who was accompanied by 9 brethren from his Province to witness the installation of W. Bro. George K.M. Young as the new Worshipful Master of Dunelm Mark Lodge No.356. The PGM of Monmouthshire was honoured to find a large contingent of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers of Durham, accompanying the Representative of the Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Allan Gurney, ProvGSec, PGStwd, fill the ‘Old Elvet’ lodge room almost to capacity.

W. Bro. Leon David Puchala performed the excellent ceremony ably assisted by the Past Masters of the lodge.

R.W. Bro. Powell on this his first visit to Durham did some research on the web about “Durham Town” so he could sell this trip to his brethren with some good points of interest. The results that came back to him kept referring to the song of ‘Durham Town’ and how the singer was going to leave Durham Town repeatedly. This David felt did not bode well for making such a long journey from Monmouthshire with his brethren. However, when in Durham they found a very warm and friendly welcome and a beautiful Town and its impressive Temple at the Old Elvet. The meeting also had the happy occasion of W. Bro. Danny Guy meeting up again with R.W. Bro. David Powell, they have been close friends for many years and both brethren were glad to exchange some banter at the dining table after the meeting was concluded.

They found an excellent festive board with some musical harmony which followed this great and well attended meeting. The brethren from Monmouthshire thoroughly enjoyed a memorable visit to the Province of Durham which will surely encourage a repeat visit at the earliest opportunity.







## All shipshape at Shipley Mark

Friday 6th March 2020 was the first working meeting of the reactivated Shipley Mark Lodge No.1274. The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. David Hanson had a busy night getting through the business and advancing two new members. It was very pleasing to see the Lodge Room very busy with around 60 people present. It bodes well for the future of the Lodge. The business started with three new joining members being accepted into the Lodge. The Lodge then agreed to a motion to change their name to Sportsman's Mark Lodge although this has to be confirmed by the Grand Master before it becomes official.

The Lodge then performed an excellent ceremony, advancing Gavin Rowell and George Thompson into this wonderful Degree. The ceremony demonstrated the dedication of the experienced officers as well as their newer officers. Both Gavin

and George commenting on the very enjoyable and different event. Joining the (hopefully) soon to be Sportsman's Mark Lodge completes George's triple crown, he is also a member in the namesake in the Craft and Royal Arch Chapter.

It turned out that George, who has been a Mason for 30 years, had never been asked to join the Mark Degree! The Worshipful Master, David Hanson, who also happens to be the Deputy Provincial Grand Master (as if you didn't know!) couldn't let this go without comment. He urged all members make sure that they ask all their Craft colleagues if they are interested in joining this friendly Degree.

Around 60 people dined at the festive board and were treated to a delightful meal, culminating in the traditional Sportsman's trifle.



Gavin Rowell and George Thompson being congratulated as new Mark Master Masons

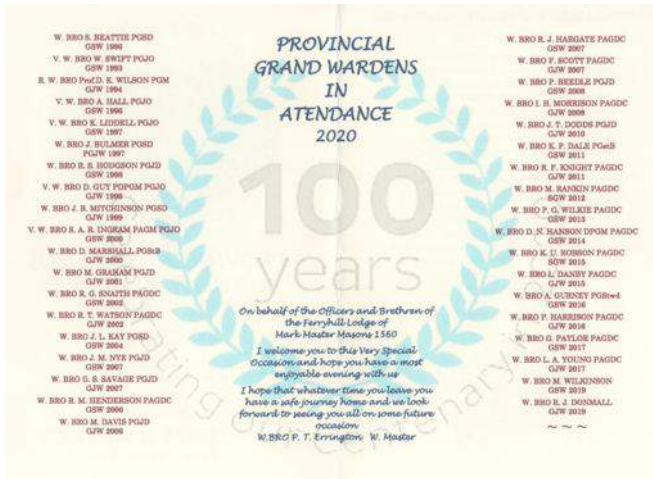
*By David Battensby.*

**PROVINCIAL GRAND WARDENS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE WARDENS DINNER 2020 IN FERRYHILL.**

This year at the meeting of the Ferryhill Lodge of MMM No. 1560 the annual dinner of the Grand Provincial Wardens Past and Present celebrated the contributions these many Grand Wardens have made over the 100 years the Province of Durham has existed. Each year sees that number reduced as can be seen by the empty spaces in the list on the right, but what is never reduced is the excellence and dedication all the Wardens have always brought to their year in office and thus the progress and success of the Province has been advanced.

This year the parade of the Wardens into the lodge room numbered 37 brethren making a very impressive and colourful spectacle. It also made for a very full chamber when the RW Provincial Grand Master addressed the assembly to congratulate and thank the Grand Wardens for their service to the Province and brethren.

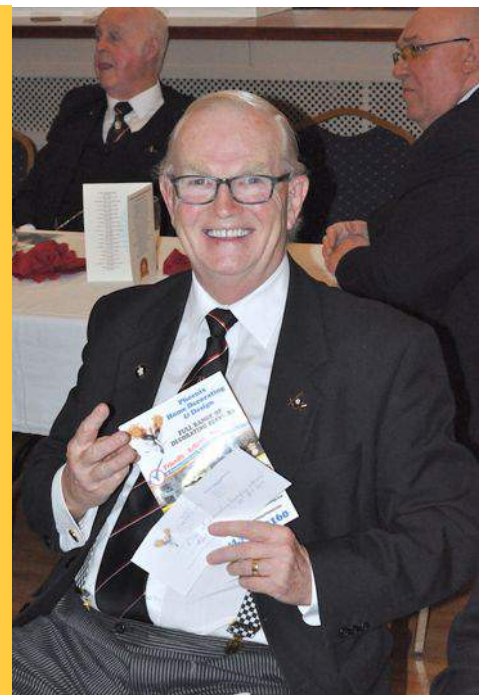
JUNIOR WARDEN		SENIOR WARDEN	
2019	Robert Donmall		Michael Wilkinson
2017	Leonard Andrew Young		George Paylor
2016	Peter Harrison		Allan Gurney
2015	Lionel Danby		Kenneth Urquhart Robson
2014			David Nigel Hanson
2013			Peter Garland Wilkie
2012			Martin Rankin
2011	Robin Francis Knight		Peter Dale
2010	John Thomas Dodds		
2008	Ian Hunter Morrison		Peter Beedle
2007	Fred Scott		Robert John Hargate
2006	Mike Davis		Robert Muir Henderson
2004	George Samuel Savage		John Maurice Nye
2003			John Lewis Kay
2002	Robert Taylor Watson		Raymond Gregory Snaith
2001	Michael Graham		
2000	Donald Marshall		Stuart A.R. Ingram
1999	John Brian Mitchinson		
1998	Danny Guy		Raymond Stanley Hodgson
1997	Joseph Bulmer		Keith Liddell
1996			Allan Hall
1994	Denovan Keith Wilson		
1993			William Swift
1988			
1986			



**MARK GRAND RAFFLE DRAW**

Ferryhill - 12 / 03 / 2020

Number	Winner
1st.Prize - 2349	Ben Morrison
2nd Prize - 1108	Paul Swansbury
3rd Prize - 785	Arthur Hopgood
4th Prize - 264	E. Emms
5th Prize - 605	J. Elliott
6th Prize - 199	Mrs. M.Rankin
7th Prize - 1999	J. Garrett
8th Prize - 2537	W.E. Hobson
9th Prize - 793	I. Ormiston
10th Prize - 349	D. McDermott

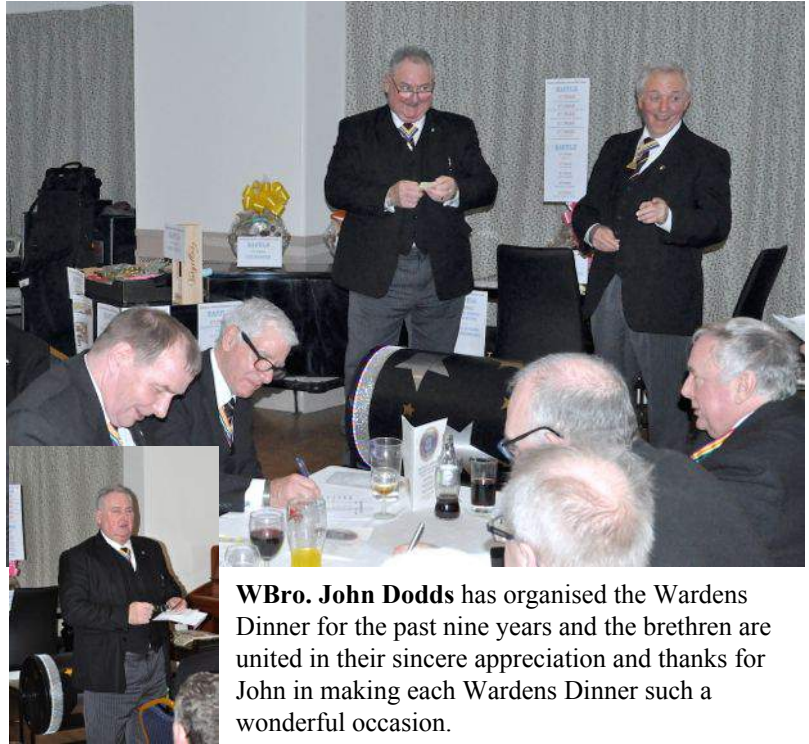


Arthur Hopgood wins the 3rd prize, a £350 Home Decorating Voucher!



## 2020 WARDENS DINNER AT THE FERRYHILL LODGE OF MMM No. 1560

**VW.Bro. Frank Rankin** has received the Rank of Past Junior Grand Deacon in the Craft and the PGM, VW Bro. Denovan K. Wilson was delighted to congratulate Frank on this very well deserved honour during his address to the meeting in Ferryhill, the brethren were equally delighted and acknowledged this with warm applause.



**WBro. John Dodds** has organised the Wardens Dinner for the past nine years and the brethren are united in their sincere appreciation and thanks for John in making each Wardens Dinner such a wonderful occasion.



**W.Bro. Graham Wharton** has thus far managed to raise £120 from the sale of homemade jams and honey produced by him and his wife. Graham presented his cheque for the MBF to the RW PGM at the meeting, informing the brethren that he hopes to also present the same amount to the Craft Benevolent Fund soon.

He thanked all the brethren for their support in buying his produce which every one agrees is most excellent, especially on some warm toast!





**ROY NEVILLE REFLECTS ON A WONDERFUL PROJECT ....**

**Due to limited space here is a small selection of photo's to illustrate the excellence of the causes nominated.**

The RW PGM and his executive had made the inspired decision that to celebrate our 100 years of existence as a separate Mark Province, there would be a Centenary Project entailing every Mark and RAM lodge in the Province making a donation to a charity, group or organisation of their choice which would be financed by the joint effort of the Mark Benevolent Fund and Frank's Centenary Fund.

There would be one important proviso the donation must benefit young people ( under 30 ).

At that meeting therefore, with the centenary fund approaching £20k and the likelihood that it could reach £30k, two major resolutions were passed, one that the Provincial Benevolent Fund would match fund that raised by the Centenary Fund up to a limit of £ 30k ( The need for a maximum was a matter of good governance ), and the other that, assisted by the possible £30k ( now received ) from the Centenary Fund, the Provincial Mark Benevolent would finance a Grant of £1000 to be presented by every Mark and RAM Lodge in the Province, 64 in total.



In my role as a Provincial Grand Charity Steward, we invited every lodge to submit a nomination of a cause which they had agreed deserved a Grant and which fit the criteria. These have all been scrutinised and vetted and cheques have been sent out to the lodges and presentations are being made on a daily basis.

Brethren, I earlier used the word “Inspired” to describe the executive decision to make 64 £1000 grants to young people oriented causes.

Sometimes a decision cannot be termed inspired until you see the results

but in this case the decision has warranted such a wonderful diversity of good causes that frankly it has exceeded our hopes and expectations.

These examples shown in the photos, say something to me. Yes, we have Festivals, and preparations for our 2029 Mark Festival are not far off, but the great project shows us in a warm and caring light with benefits to our local communities and perhaps an infinity with each of our nominated causes which could possibly benefit them and bring joy to us for many years to come. As the nominations came in we realised that we really could not let the fantastic project be a casual mention in our history books. We therefore decided to have printed a booklet to be presented to the lodges in the Province, showing the lodge, photo of the presentation and a description of their nominated charity.

Brethren we can all feel good about our centenary celebrations and if I can echo the words of V.W.Bro. Frank Rankin -

**“ You have Marked well ”.**







**Provincial Assembly of The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Scribe's Report**

**The Fourteenth Annual Assembly**

Brethren,

I present my second Report for The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner within the Province of Durham. Our Provincial Grand Master now presides over his sixth Royal Ark Mariner Annual Investiture Meeting.

**Lodge Visits**

During the past year, the Provincial Grand Master led Deputations to the following Royal Ark Mariner Lodges: Stockton-on-Tees 122 (Centenary); Dunelm 356; Wouldhave Tyne Dock 362; Hackworth 761; Durham Lodge of Installed Commanders 1492.

**Installations**

The Provincial Grand Master was represented at all the Royal Ark Mariner Installation meetings and the reports of the Representatives attending indicated that the ceremonies continued to be of a high standard. Thanks are extended to all those Brethren who represented the Provincial Grand Master so ably, and for compiling the reports to a very high standard. Grateful thanks also go to the Lodges for the courteous and friendly manner in which the Representatives and the Provincial Assistant Directors of Ceremony were received.

**Grand Honours**

In December 2019 the following Brethren received Grand Honours in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner from The Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Raymond John Smith:

W Bro Jeffrey Awdas

Industry Lodge No. 293

W Bro Michael Davis

Bede Lodge No. 605

W Bro Robert William Emerson

Spennymoor Lodge No. 981

These Brethren are very well known throughout the Province, and congratulations are extended to them all in the hope that they enjoy good health to continue in their efforts towards the good of the Order.

## Membership

### Summary of Annual Returns of Lodges Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

No.	LODGE	Total Members Installation 2018	Ele	J	Res	D	Exc	HM	Total Members Installation 2019
39	<b>Eclectic</b>	17	3	0	1	1	0	1	17
122	<b>Stockton-on-Tees</b>	19	2	0	0	1	0	0	20
124	<b>Union</b>	22	1	1	0	0	0	0	24
250	<b>Darlington</b>	24	3	0	2	3	0	1	21
293	<b>Industry</b>	29	1	1	0	0	0	0	31
356	<b>Dunelm</b>	24	3	0	2	0	0	0	25
362	<b>Rockcliffe</b>	37	1	0	2	1	0	0	35
605	<b>Bede</b>	30	2	0	4	0	0	0	28
761	<b>Hackworth</b>	23	1	0	3	0	0	0	21
778	<b>Barnard Castle</b>	22	1	1	1	0	0	0	23
854	<b>St. Andrews</b>	18	2	1	1	0	2	0	18
860	<b>Bernard Gilpin</b>	17	1	0	0	1	0	0	17
896	<b>Clavering</b>	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	15
925	<b>Moseley</b>	20	0	1	1	0	0	1	19
930	<b>Castle Eden</b>	15	0	0	1	2	0	1	11
981	<b>Spennymoor</b>	28	1	1	3	1	0	1	25
1055	<b>Monument</b>	20	1	0	1	1	0	0	19
1112	<b>Elevation</b>	25	0	0	0	2	0	0	23
1492	<b>Durham Lodge of ICs</b>	30	0	2	2	0	0	0	30
1551	<b>Stanhope</b>	21	0	0	1	0	0	0	20
1714	<b>Ryton</b>	17	0	0	1	0	0	0	16
1806	<b>Chief of the Builders</b>	46	1	4	0	0	0	0	51
		520	24	12	27	13	2	5	509

The Annual Lodge Returns show an overall decrease in membership of 11 during 2019. This represents an overall decrease from 2018 of 2.18%. However, the overall trend over the last 5 years since 2014 shows a decrease in membership of 24 over this 5 year period (4.5%). Therefore, perhaps this last year shows a slowing down in this overall rate of decrease. This, added to the fact that 24 is the highest number of Elevated new members for 3 years, gives us some grounds for optimism.

Recruitment of new members is so important if we are to continue to grow our membership base, as well as doing everything possible to try to reduce the number of resignations.

Hopefully, this year's slowdown in the downward trend can be reduced even further next year, by encouraging more of our Mark Lodge members to join the Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. We must ensure that every one of our Mark Lodge members is aware of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree as the next step in their Masonic development. Each Mark Lodge now has a nominated Lodge Representative to encourage members to join the Royal Ark Mariner Degree. However, we should all remember that we are all recruiters of new members.



## Obituary

Since the last Annual Assembly, the Province has suffered the sad loss of the following members of our Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. We acknowledge the service and dedication that they gave to the order, and our thoughts go to their families.

<b>Alan George Nichols</b> , Lodge 362.	Born 30 <sup>th</sup> April 1953 - Died 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2019.
<b>Charles Wilding</b> , Lodge 930.	Born 11 <sup>th</sup> December 1952 - Died 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019.
<b>Derrick Redden</b> , Lodge 930.	Born 30 <sup>th</sup> June 1932 - Died 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2019.
<b>John Nicholson</b> , Lodge 1055.	Born 13 <sup>th</sup> January 1947 - Died 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2020.
<b>Alan Simpson</b> , Lodge 925.	Born 28 <sup>th</sup> May 1930 - Died 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2020.
<b>William John Coward</b> , Lodge 1055.	Born 21 <sup>st</sup> August 1940 - Died 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2020.
<b>Neil Anderson</b> , Lodge 761.	Born 4 <sup>th</sup> June 1943 - Died 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2020.
<b>Ian McDonald</b> , Lodge 605	Born 9 <sup>th</sup> July 1950 - Died 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2020.

## Conclusion

Brethren, I present my second Report for your information and consideration. My grateful thanks go to all the hard working Lodge Scribes for the dedication they have shown in ensuring that returns are completed accurately and within the stipulated timeframe.

My Deputy Provincial Grand Scribe, W Bro Graham Wharton, my Assistant Provincial Grand Scribe, W Bro Doug Quickmire, and the Provincial Grand Registrar, W Bro Malcolm Ormiston have all worked diligently, and executed their roles most efficiently. Their assistance, and readiness to take on even more tasks whenever requested, is greatly appreciated. W Bro David Battensby has now been added to the Secretariat Team. His role is to oversee the Provincial Website in general, with particular emphasis on uploading items of interest, and documents as required. Brethren, the website (as well as emails) will play an ever increasing part in communicating information over the coming years, as more and more documents are publicised through this medium, rather than having to be printed out in booklet/leaflet format – thus saving us time and money. Congratulations are due to those Brethren being honoured this year. No doubt they will continue to support the Provincial Grand Master, and will strive to work for the good of the Fraternity in general, and this very happy and vibrant Province in particular.

**Allan Gurney**,

Provincial Grand Scribe.

Please visit our new website at the address shown below for a wide range of information and news from the Province of Durham – David Battensby



# 152nd Mark Benevolent Fund Festival

Mark Masons' Hall  
 86 St. James's Street London, SW1A 1PL  
 19 March 2020

Following the General Suspension of All Masonic Activity announced on Tuesday, several events have been postponed or cancelled including the Mark Benevolent Fund Festival which was to have been hosted by the Province of Kent on Saturday, 13 June 2020. I am delighted to announce that R.W.Bro. Archie Torrance, Provincial Grand Master for Kent, and his Team have secured **Saturday, 10 October 2020** as the new date on which the Festival will be held.

Further communications will be issued shortly by the Kent Festival Committee regarding the transfer of existing bookings to the new date. I would like to thank R.W.Bro. Archie and the Kent Festival Committee for dealing with this challenge so quickly and effectively. With fraternal regards and best wishes.

R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W. Grand Secretary

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.



W.B.ro. JIM STUBBINS –  
 WARDEN OF REGALIA.

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 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.**



The TRAVELING GAVEL is now residing in its new home at the Ferryhil Lodge of MMM No. 1560 and of course due to the current restrictions it is destined to stay there for who knows how long, but nevertheless once we are back to visiting again it can be claimed by others at the first opportunity!

## OBITUARIES



- 25 / 02 / 2020 – W.Bro. Ian McDonald, PPGReg. DOB – 09 / 07 / 1950 , M – 1820, R – 605.
- 10 / 03 / 2020 – W.Bro. John Anthony Atkinson, PPGJW. DOB – 10 / 01 / 1926, M – 846.
- 21 / 03 / 2020 – W.Bro. Gordon Fletcher, PPGJW, PAGDC. DOB – 10 / 10 / 1931, M – 1560.

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