

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



Forever “Keeping in Touch” with friends.

These are very difficult and challenging times we are all currently enduring that are affecting nearly all aspects of our normal daily activities. The restrictions, rightly imposed to defeat the coronavirus, to save lives and our NHS, have only interrupted the enjoyment of our activities in Freemasonry including those of the Mark Degree by being physically isolated from friends and families.

The word isolated defined in the Oxford Concise Dictionary (English) is lonely; cut off from society or contact. Hearing the word ever sounds cold, and the feelings of loneliness associated with isolation quite chilling. Communication can reduce that sense of being isolated, cut off or the feeling of being lonely.

In this enlightened age of information technology we have the advantage of many means of almost instant communication. Mobile telephones. iPhones, iPads, computers and laptops, together with numerous methods of delivery; text, email, Facebook, blog, snapchat and zoom just to name a few. Oh! And by the way, if all that technology was to fail, we can revert to good old pen and paper.

As Mark Masons we have access to our monthly newsletter and newly updated website as means for communicating information.

The important word is ‘Communication’ and communication is a two way process to send and receive. That was easy to do during our regular lodge meetings and by using any of the communication methods outlined we can continue to do so.

In the recent Queen's address to the nation she said ; “We will meet our friends again, We will meet our families again, We will meet again.” We pray that these words will become a reality sooner rather than later.

When we meet again, we are likely to ask a variety of questions, “How are you keeping?” how’s your family keeping? Are you being kept busy? Etc, etc.

The invitation to you now, is to answer those or similar questions. Simply send some brief details about your current situation, how you are coping at home, what you are doing , any tips you want to share with others, messages, well wishes, celebrations, whatever you are willing to share. Your contribution would be enhanced if they were accompanied by any photographic images. Use whatever communication methods are available to you or you can call me Michael Wilkinson, direct on 079632 13336.

The following items are just some examples, which we hope you will find of interest and encourage you to add to just *‘keeping in touch’* with friends



‘ZOOM’ ON-LINE CATCH - UPS’

The membership of Mark Masonry across the breadth of the Province of Durham has been swift to embrace our Provincial Grand Masters request that brethren ensure continued communication with one another, not only as Mark Masons but also as friends.

Several initiatives are now in operation including; telephone contact lists in lodges. Email drops and associated use of social media.

Members of the reactivated Shipley Mark Lodge, were encouraged by their assistant Secretary Wayne Rumley to take part in an ‘on-line catch up meeting’ using a social media platform known as ‘ZOOM’

An email was sent out to members, with details for those who wished to join the proposed meeting. It included a link to download the free Zoom software and install it.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/132113499?pwd=M0JJYUxOS1Y5RDVMSEVZb1VVaW0rdz09>

This was accompanied by a Meeting ID: number and Password details. In addition, Wayne offered his assistance via email or phone to those who request further guidance.

At 7.00pm on Wednesday 15th April, almost a dozen members joined the meeting chaired by David Hanson, the current Worshipful Master of the Shipley Lodge of MMM. All participants were impressed with the simplicity of the technology and the instant visual and audible system of interactive communication.



The meeting, which lasted almost an hour, allowed members to express freely and share a variety of views. The overarching aim having been achieved, which was both enjoyable and positive. At the conclusion of the meeting it was unanimously agreed to hold further meetings utilising ‘Zoom’.

David Hanson commented “ It’s great to be part of using and hearing of the imaginative means of keeping in touch with one another. It is spiritually uplifting to be part of conversation, receiving messages and more so when you can see the recipient. Like they say, “ A picture is worth a thousand words, the same can be said by seeing someone on screen.”

A number of Lodges within Freemasonry have and are using this means of visual communication for on-line catch ups that allows multiple members to take part. Hopefully, the use of ‘Zoom’ may be of assistance to you as a further option to maintain continued communications with family & friends.

Wayne Rumley, has kindly offered his assistance for anyone considering setting up and using ‘Zoom’

You may contact him with ; Email; sportsmansmark@gmail.com or mobile: 07867 484071



Brethren, I thought you would enjoy reading this.
 Until we meet again,
 Kind Regards,
 Alan Crusher.

The old black shoes are looking glum
 As I pass the lobby door,
 "What's wrong with you?" they seem to say,
 "We're going out no more.
 We've taken not a single step,
 Not third or even first,
 And ne'er a sign we've seen you give,
 Has Masonry been cursed?"

"It has", I said, "by virus vile,
 We have to stay at home
 Until such time the plague has passed,
 Then once more we can roam.
 The Masons' Halls are empty,
 Regalia put away,
 Gavel now stay silent,
 The D Cs hold no sway.
 Volumes of the Sacred Law

On pedestals redundant,
 Now Brother Jim contacts his friends
 By social posts abundant.

No handshake, word or secret sign,
 No friendly Festive Board

No Tyler's song to say Goodnight,
 No organ's well-loved chord.

"Black shoes," I said, "do not despair,
 Our Chain is firm and strong
 Our flag of love remains unfurled
 We'll sing again our song.

And though our Brethren may have passed
 To Grander Lodge Above,
 We'll look upon their memories

With everlasting Love;
 And in their name, we'll offer help
 And soothe the burdened heart;
 We'll comfort those who are distressed,

Thus Masons play their part.
 And when this crisis is resolved

We'll sing the old refrain,
 "Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part,
 Happy to meet again."



I am convinced was invented by a woman to torture a man's anatomy) We are blessed by living near the border with North Yorkshire countryside and recently benefited from some sunny weather. In short we are both well in body and soul. However, Anita misses her Brownies meeting and this year's summer camp with the girls. Like you I miss my Freemasonry, the Mark and your company.

At home we have no problem in relaxing with a glass of gin & tonic (or two) Cheers! And here's hoping that its not too long before we can all meet up again. Please keep well, safe and in touch.

Michael Wilkinson

Away from Freemasonry I am Chairman of the Darlington Rugby Football at Blackwell Meadows, Darlington. Like many businesses the current restrictions have had an immediate and serious impact for its future in this its 157th year. Home of DRFC also hosts Darlington FC, American Football, Archery and Junior Football. There is a large clubhouse, eight full size, two intermediate and three junior size pitches.

The Lockdown has meant that Anita and I are self-isolating at home and at the club. We are being kept busy in closing down all sporting and social activities plus instigating applications for various Grants, Insurance claims and furloughing of staff. Thankfully, I get some relief from administrative duties when mowing playing pitches. It's quite therapeutic and a stress free activity. Another activity, which is more physical involves riding a pedal cycle. *(A machine*





Unfortunately, Graham Wharton, our Deputy Grand Secretary, like many Lodge secretaries continues those important duties that administer Freemasonry on our behalf. Once those are completed, he with his wife Elaine then turn their attention to more challenging activities, which are out doors.

The couple reside in the beautiful countryside of North Yorkshire and their property includes a large garden, plus an allotment. We have been working hard since the lock down, we are blessed with having a decent garden and allotment which up until yesterday was very neglected. We started on the allotment last night and planted the first batch of potatoes and started preparing the ground for the beans and peas. We have been growing seedlings and potting on for weeks now and already have over 40 tomato plants ready for going into the ground, plus butternut squash etc, all the usual stuff.

They are also passionate Bee Keepers and have a number of Bee Hives. Yesterday we decided to check the bee hives, we have managed to get 2 through the winter, one is very good and we are happy with it but the second one is very weak and the queen is not laying so we have ordered a new queen to be delivered which hopefully will be today so we can get that hive working. I will keep you updated as to how the new Queen settles in when she arrives.

We hope that many Mark Masons and their families will reap the benefit from the labourers of Elaine and Graham later in the year, when they turn their attention to making various jams, preserves, chutneys and of course delicious honey.

Their message is "Regards to you all and Bee Safe & Bee Happy!"

Melvin & Pam Swailes.

Fortunately, Melvin Swailes is employed as a machinist at a local factory near his home in Newton Aycliffe and to date is still actively employed. I say fortunately because that means for several hours each working day he is not at home with his wife Pam.

Pam due to health reason has to endure a lengthy period of self-isolation. During such a period a woman's needs may be many fold and one of the most important being their hair style and care without a hairdresser open. Melvin, being a caring soul, convinced Pam of his talents in mastering items mechanical and so he set about expressing his hair dressing skills. In Melvin's head he thought he had done a good job, but the head gear Pam now sports shows a different opinion of the outcome.



In short, both are well in health and temper sending their best wishes to all.

3 STEPS TO FITNESS IN MIND AND BODY DURING THIS RECESS .



You may have thought that Gary Quinn may have benefited from a break in Ceremonial Directing duties during this period of Lockdown, but no!

Gary teaches the Martial Art of Karate, has some fifty students training in this ancient discipline. Many of those students are working hard to demonstrate their respective talents, thereby attaining recognition of higher standards which is identified in coloured ranking belts. Gary currently is a seventh Dan and a black belt.

Many Mark Masons benefit from the patience, support and guidance given by Gary as a DC. Likewise, to those students as he gives them one to one on-line teaching sessions to enable them to achieve their ultimate goal ; the black belt.

As if that wasn't enough, Gary has directed himself to another physical and psychological challenge on his rowing machine each day. He states that he is recording his exertions accurately, which, to date amount to crossing the English Channel, (without sinking) and is now on his return journey.

When it comes to a bit of well-earned relaxation his wife Sandra directs him to the drinks cabinet and together enjoy the delights of a reasonably sized gin & tonic. (You will note they promote sensibly drinking? -- not too much ice....)

His message to all is please keep Well & Safe!

The Provincial Grand Master is pleased to announce that the following Brethren have been appointed to, or promoted in, Grand Mark Lodge, and that they have all accepted their appointment.

First Appointments:

Michael James Wilkinson	Hackworth 761	Grand Steward
Michael Graham Jnr.	Jarrow 701	PAGDC
Graham Wharton	Steadfast 846	PAGDC
Phillip Alan Carter	St. Andrew's 854	PAGSwdB
John Bernard Martin Schoolkate	Ravensworth 718	PAGSwdB

Promotions:

Gilbert Crossley Snr.	Ernest Dixon 1015	PGJO
Kenneth Peter Dale	Percy 122	PGJD
William Malcolm	Wouldhave Tyne Dock 362	PGJD

Kindly sent in by Bob Hoy,

I hated to hear the lawyer say
 The things my grandpa gave away.
 Like his old truck to Dad and Mom
 And world war medals to Uncle John
 My name was called
 And something was said
 About an old wooden box
 Underneath his bed.
 Just a worn out chest
 With a rusty hinge
 But I knew Grandpa kept
 Something special within.
 When I opened the lid
 All I could see
 Were some unused tools
 And a letter to me.
 A large fancy cloth
 With two long strings
 A small wooden hammer
 Among other things
 He wrote a man's job
 Is to be a good husband father and a friend.

I built my life as best I could
 By the tools laid here within.
 He said the compasses remind me that life has
 boundaries

So live your life within
 The square proves true and so should you
 When dealing with all your friends.
 Be an honourable man and walk uprightly
 According to the plumb.
 The level teaches us treat all men equal
 Instead of only some.
 And now it's your turn
 To start your journey for knowledge, love and faith
 So live your life by the Square and Compasses
 And tools of your trade
 Many years have passed by since I first opened
 Grandpa's wooden chest
 The tools he gave me, the words he wrote
 The challenge to be my best.
 Today I'll visit Grandpa
 At the place where he was laid
 To let him know he can be proud
 I'm a Master of my trade. *By Jack Sutton.*



INVITED TO TAKE OFFICE IN THE PROVINCIAL RAM - TEAM - 2020 - 2021

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LODGE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>
Robert Ross Tonner	Barnard Castle	778	Senior Warden
Robert Main	Industry	293	Junior Warden
John Maurice Nye	Spennymoor	981	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies (RAM)
William Chrystal	Dunelm	356	Sword Bearer
Francis Allan Shaftoe	Monument	1055	Standard Bearer
Brian Graham	Elevation	1112	Guardian
John Bernard Martin Schoolkate	Union	124	Warder

PROVINCIAL ROYAL ARK MARINER TEAM OF OFFICERS - 2020 / 2021.

OFFICE	NAME	LODGE
Provincial Grand Master	Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson	-
Deputy Provincial Grand Master	David Nigel Hanson -	
Assistant Provincial Grand Master	Ronald Trevor Lynn -	
Senior Warden	Robert Ross Tonner	Barnard Castle
Junior Warden	Robert Main	Industry
Grand Chaplain	Keith Dinning	Spennymoor
Grand Treasurer	Graham Mitchinson	Stockton-on-Tees
Grand Registrar	Malcolm Donald Ormiston	Ryton
Grand Secretary	Allan Gurney	Bernard Gilpin
Grand Director of Ceremonies	Mike Davis	Bede
Grand Almoner	Keith Liddell	Industry
Charity Steward	Roy Norman Neville	Bede
Sword Bearer	William Chrystal	Dunelm
Deputy Grand Chaplain	Phillip Alan Carter	St. Andrew's
Deputy Grand Secretary	Graham Wharton	Darlington
Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	John Maurice Nye	Spennymoor
Benevolent Fund Treasurer - -		
Assistant Grand Chaplain - -		
Assistant Grand Secretary	Douglas Quickmire	Barnard Castle
Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies RAMs	John Maurice Nye	Stanhope
Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Sidney James Watson	Ryton
	Kenneth Moore	Hackworth
	Kenneth Urquhart Robson	Rockcliffe
Grand Organist	Barry Tallentire	Rockcliffe
Standard Bearer	Francis Allan Shaftoe	Monument
Guardian	Brian Graham	Elevation
Grand Warder	J. B. Martin Schoolkate	Union

SAD NEWS.

It is with great sadness that I have to mention the loss of a few local businesses around our Town.

The bra manufacturer has gone bust, the specialist in submersibles has gone under,

The manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation.

A dog kennel has had to call in the retrievers.

The suppliers of paper for origami enthusiasts has folded.

The Heinz factory has been canned as they couldn't ketchup with orders.

The tarmac laying company has reached the end of the road.

The bread company has run out of dough.

The clock manufacturer has had to wind down and gone cuckoo.

The Chinese has been taken away.

The shoe shop has had to put his foot down and given his staff the boot and finally the laundrette has been taken to the cleaners!

The ancient mariners

Dan Heath, Assistant Grand Secretary of Mark Masons' Hall, explores the instructive, enigmatic and colourful degree of Royal Ark Mariner

On 10 June 1884, Morton Andrew Edwards signed a receipt for £25, surrendering his authority over the government of the degree of Royal Ark Mariner to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. No one knows whether he thought that this extraordinary event would secure the continuity of the degree for centuries to come.

The degree of Royal Ark Mariner is, as its name suggests, based on the story of Noah and the ark. In the canon of degrees conferred in mainstream Freemasonry, it has the earliest chronological foundation for a masonic ceremony.

The biblical references are apparent from the outset. The Worshipful Master is referred to as Worshipful Commander and represents Noah. The Senior and Junior Wardens represent two of Noah's sons: Japheth and Shem, respectively. The other officers mirror those of a Craft lodge, with the exception of the Secretary, who is called Scribe; the Inner Guard, called Guardian; and the Tyler, called Warder.

A Royal Ark Mariner lodge is laid out in a triangular form, with the Commander in the east and both Wardens in the west, much like ancient Craft lodges, and the triangle plays an important part throughout the ceremony. Unusually, the candidate does not take his obligation on the Volume of Sacred Law as he would in most other degrees of Freemasonry.

The degree includes lessons on wisdom, strength, beauty, watchfulness, discretion, brotherly love, truth and charity. These are highlighted throughout the ceremony as the story of the great flood and Noah's efforts are

presented in dramatic allegorical form. The Ceremony of Elevation (the initiation ceremony) is a vibrant one; the colours of the degree are those of the rainbow and adorn the aprons, collars and jewel ribbons worn by members.

The inner workings of a Worshipful Commander's Installation Ceremony afford an opportunity for all Installed Commanders present to take part, and this ritual is held in great affection by many of those who have experienced it.

A core of humility

Little distinguishes the newest members of the degree from Worshipful Brethren, Provincial Officers and Grand Officers. Their aprons remain much the same; only the rainbow-coloured rosettes change to triangles of silver, then gold, as a member progresses. A Past Commander wears a collar jewel of silver metal with an N inside an equilateral triangle, while Grand Officers wear one of gold metal.

The hierarchical structure of the degree is simple, with Mark Provincial/District Grand Masters, their Deputies and their Assistants having the same powers over Royal Ark Mariner lodges within their jurisdiction as they have over Mark lodges. Provincial Officers hold the rank designated Provincial Grand Rank of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner (Prov.R.A.M.G.R.). When necessary, the ceremonial and administrative officers of the Mark Province will carry out the same functions at a Provincial meeting (Assembly) in the degree of Royal Ark Mariner.

This is replicated in Grand Rank, with the structure being the Grand Master, Pro

Grand Master, Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters (Present and Past), members of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council – the executive body of the degree (G.M.R.A.C.), Provincial/District Grand Masters (Present and Past) and holders of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank (R.A.M.G.R.).

The Ark and the Mark

What is the connection between Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Freemasonry, and how did they come to be so inextricably linked? This same question was raised in the long negotiations between Morton Edwards, Royal Ark Mariner members and the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters (as it was then called) in the years leading up to the surrender of control.

Many theories have been put forward, but no one really knows the answer. It was more than likely part of the effort of the Grand Mark Master Mason, the Rev Canon George Raymond Portal, to unify, under one Grand Lodge, some of the masonic degrees being practised outside of the Craft and Royal Arch.

For the masonic researcher, the degree's history is a wonderful labyrinth with several dead ends and false starts. There is no doubt that its origins are much older than the Victorian revival of interest and probably go back to the 18th century. One school of thought suggests it may be older than that, being a degree once practised by operative craftsmen, more likely to have been carpenters than masons, hence the great significance of the ark.

There is intrigue, and even a hint of deception, as there appear to have been two separate warrants in existence when the degree was being worked in the mid-1800s, thus bringing into question under what authority exactly Morton Edwards thought he had the right to hand over control of the degree.

Any attempt to unravel the various accounts of the degree's early years brings into play several names familiar to those who dabble in the history of Freemasonry: the ubiquitous Thomas Dunckerley, the aforementioned Morton Edwards and Canon Portal, Frederick Binckes (Mark Grand Secretary and prolific letter writer of the day), George Kenning (the regalia manufacturer) and Robert Wentworth Little (progenitor of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia), to name a few.

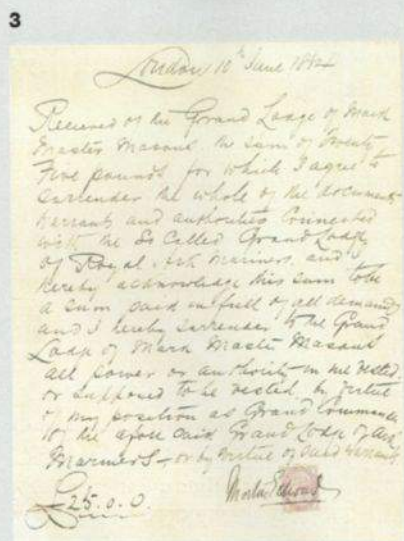
Article is from the FMT- spring 2020.

A Daily Advancement ON THE SIDE

Factfile

The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner

With their own terminology, structures and practices, each masonic Order is different from the next. Here, we break down the origins, requirements and organisation of the Royal Ark Mariners.



Becoming a Royal Ark Mariner
All Royal Ark Mariner lodges are 'moored', or attached, to a Mark lodge and share a number (and, in many cases, the same name). To be elevated into the degree of Royal Ark Mariner you must first have been advanced into the Mark degree.

The insignia (1)
The insignia bears a depiction of the ark, the symbolic haven of rest, from which the Order derives its name. The ark points out the constant support we hope to receive from the Supreme Commander of the Universe in all our difficulties. Beneath the ark is the Latin motto *Ponamque Foedus Meum Tecum*, which is derived from Genesis 6:18: 'But with Thee will I establish my covenant.'

The apron and jewel (2)
The apron of a Royal Ark Mariner is uncluttered, adorned with the colours of the rainbow. The jewel is a dove bearing an olive branch, suspended beneath a representation of a rainbow, hanging from a rainbow-coloured ribbon.

Surrendering control (3)
The text of the receipt signed by Morton Edwards reads, in full: *Received of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons the sum of twenty-five pounds for which I agree to surrender the whole of the documents, Warrants and authorities connected with the so called Grand*

Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners and I hereby surrender to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons all power or authority in me vested, or supposed to be vested by virtue of my position as Grand Commander of the afore said Grand Lodge of Ark Mariners - or by virtue of said Warrants.

A tale of two tracing boards (4)
The Royal Ark Mariner tracing board contains extensive symbolism, and the explanation, which is in excess of 2,500 words, can be split into five parts. The template image of the tracing board has been reproduced so many times that in 2019 the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council decided to commission a new 'master' design. Freemason Paul Swinge painstakingly researched and hand-painted the new image, clearly depicting all the intricate detail that the explanation goes on to highlight. This reworking of the design was unveiled at the December 2019 Annual Assembly and, at the time of writing, is about to be digitally photographed so it can be reproduced for use in all Royal Ark Mariner lodges.

Further reading
The most detailed account of the transition of the administration of the degree from Morton Edwards is contained in *Morton Edwards, Sculptor, and The Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners* by John Mandelberg.

Provincial Appointments 2020
Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham

ACTIVE RANKS

Deputy Provincial Grand Master: W Bro David Nigel Hanson, PAGDC

Assistant Provincial Grand Master: W Bro Ronald Trevor Lynn, PAGDC

Director of Centenary Festival: V W Bro Frank Alexander Rankin, PGMO, PDPGM

Seat	OFFICE	NAME	LODGE	No.	Comment
	Grand Senior Warden	Mark Julian Gilpin PPrGMO	Cestria	1151	
	Grand Junior Warden	John Strachan Denham PPrGMO	Auckland	596	
	Grand Master Overseer	James Jordan	Ryton	1714	
	Grand Senior Overseer	Steven Paul Swansbury	Ernest Dixon	1015	
	Grand Junior Overseer	Gordon William Foster	William Todd	929	
	Grand Chaplain	Keith Dinning PGJO	Ferryhill	1560	
	Grand Treasurer	Graham John Mitchinson PGJD	Percy	122	
	Grand Registrar	Malcolm Donald Ormiston PPrGJO	Ryton	1714	
	Grand Secretary	Allan Gurney PGStwd	Unity	827	
	Grand Director of Ceremonies	Michael Davis PGJD	Bede	605	
	Grand Almoner	Keith Liddell PGJO	Ambrose Crowley	1269	
	Grand Charity Steward	Roy Norman Neville PGJO	Ernest Dixon	1015	
	Grand Inspector of Works	David Battensby PPrAGStdB	Cestria	1151	
	Grand Sword Bearer	James Rodney Kerr	Stanhope	1551	
	Deputy Grand Chaplain	Philip Alan Carter PPrGJW	St. Andrew's	854	
	Deputy Grand Secretary	Graham Wharton PPrGJO	Steadfast	846	
	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies	Gary Quinn PGJD	Ravensworth	718	
	Grand Senior Deacon	Brian Smith PPrGJD	Bernard Gilpin	860	
		Raymond William Plumb PPrGJD	St. Aidan	1145	
		Kenneth Meldrum Thompson PPrGJD	Ambrose Crowley	1269	
	Grand Junior Deacon	Ronnie Michael March	Industry	293	
		Lewis Curry	Jarrow	701	
		Thomas Reed	Shipley	1271	
	Assistant Grand Chaplain	Rev. Peter William Adamson PPrGJO	Ferryhill	1560	
	Assistant Grand Secretary	Douglas Quickmire PGJD	Walton	1106	

	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Sydney James Watson PPrGSO	Ryton	1714	
		Kenneth Urquhart Robson PAGDC	Wouldhave Tyne Dock	362	
		David John Anderson ProvAGDC	Cestria	1151	
		Andrew David Watson	Steadfast	846	
	Grand Organist	Barry Tallentire PPrGJW	Wouldhave Tyne Dock	362	
	Grand Standard Bearer	Mark William Grieves Smith	Union	124	
	Assistant Grand Standard Bearer	Daniel McDermott PPrGIG	Industry	293	
	Grand Inner Guard	Robert Michael Summerson	Ravensworth	718	
	Grand Steward	Russell Wayne Rumley	Bede	605	
		Stan Hunter	Hackworth	761	
		Stephen James Blain	Spennymoor	981	
		Gary Walker	Cestria	1151	
	Grand Tyler	John Bernard Martin Schoolkate PPrGJW	Ravensworth	718	

Provincial Appointments 2020
Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham

PROMOTIONS

Seat	OFFICE	NAME	LODGE	No.	Comment
	Grand Senior Warden	Robert John Donmall PPrGJW	Penshaw	1055	
	Grand Junior Warden	Michael Robson PPrGJO	Dunelm	356	
		David John McLean Lawson PPrGReg	Bede	605	
		Lewis John Ayers PPrGJO	Harte	740	
		Graham Wharton PPrGJO	Steadfast	846	
		Bruce Walter Dickson PPrGJD	Clavering	896	
		Charles Stewart MacLeod PPrGJO	Moseley	925	
		John Howarth PPrGJO	St Aidan	1145	
		Alan Crusher PAGSwdB, PPrGJW (West Yorkshire)	Cestria	1151	
		Kenneth Dobbin PPrGSO	Ambrose Crowley	1269	
		Philip Dunn PPrGJO	Hebburn	1339	
	Grand Master Overseer	Anthony Hopkinson Bird PPrGSO	Steadfast	846	
		Martin George Murray PPrGJO	Union	124	
	Grand Senior Overseer	David Dorward PPrGSwdB	Ernest Dixon	1015	
		Norman Dunn PPrGSwdB	St Lawrence	1093	

		Graham Bainbridge PPrGSwdB	Shipley	1271	
Grand Junior Overseer		David Whitfield PPrGReg	Percy	122	
		David Campbell PPrGStwd	Auckland	596	
		Thomas Stubbs PPrGStwd	Barnard Castle	778	
		Phillip James Etherington PPrGreg	Steadfast	846	
		Stephen Jackson PPrGIWks	St Andrew's	854	
		Ian Heaviside PPrGStwd	Bernard Gilpin	860	
		Charles William Suttie PPrGReg	Bernard Gilpin	860	
		David Battensby PPrAGStdB	Cestria	1151	
		Ian Edward Ogden PPrGReg	St Thomas	1511	
		John Andrew Dobrianski PPrGReg	Stanhope	1551	
Grand Registrar		Darren Bethell PPrGJD	Eclectic	39	
		Ronald William Davison PPrGJD	Auckland	596	
		James Irvine Carney PPrAGDC	Jarrow	701	
		John Brass PPrGSD	Barnard Castle	778	
		Dennis Armstrong PPrGJD	Unity	827	
		Robert Malcolm Dash PPrGJD	Ernest Dixon	1015	
		Robert William Grimley PPrGSD	Walton	1106	
		Thomas Wilson PPrGSD	Ryton	1714	
Grand Sword Bearer		Ronald Stobbart PPrGStdB	Jarrow	701	
		Terence John Sheehan PPrGIG	Ferryhill	1560	
Grand Senior Deacon		Ross Patrick Rielly PPrGJD	William Todd	929	

Provincial Appointments 2020
Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham

PAST RANKS

Seat	OFFICE	NAME	LODGE	No.	Comment
	Grand Junior Warden	Richard George Scott	Ernest Dixon	1015	
	Grand Senior Deacon	Michael John Crabtree	Dunelm	356	
		Ian Malcolm Hewetson	Harte	740	
	Grand Junior Deacon	Alan Mace	Elevation	1112	
		David Charles Thompson	Ferryhill	1560	

Diary of a frustrated Mason. Day 1

No meetings for 4 months! How will I cope? Found a strange women in the house. Apparently she's my wife. Seems pleasant enough though. We ate dinner last night, but she didn't do any toasts or fire.

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 2

The good lady of the house tells me I don't need to say, 'Inquire who wants admission', every time someone knocks on the front door. I have now won the raffle two nights in a row - with only two of us in the place, what are the chances?

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 3

The dog barked today. I looked up and stated, 'I acknowledge the correctness of your bark, see who seeks admission' Would you believe it, yet another raffle win - this is getting embarrassing

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 4

I have received a warning letter from Royal Mail. Apparently, blindfolding the postman and putting a noose round his neck is not the done thing. Another raffle prize - despite putting it back, I still won it.

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 5

Next door came round for dinner. I proposed the visitors toast. Visiting is the life blood of Freemasonry - but in the current climate, 'Not visiting' may actually be the life blood! Is anybody else buying raffle tickets, or is it just me?

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 6

Tip of the day - normal wine glasses should not be used as firing glasses. As an aside - can anybody give me a lift back from A & E? I won the top prize in the raffle last night - a toilet roll.

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 7

Things are getting bad. I've talked the dog into completing a Form P. Told him he could eventually become the Worshipful Barkster. The cat was one number out in last night's raffle.

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 8

The wife is not happy with the new black and white chequered carpet, but that's probably more so because I painted it on the existing carpet ... The cat thinks I'm fiddling the raffle

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 9

I have been reminded by my good lady that Feng shui does not mean I can rearrange the living room to look like a Masonic temple. I didn't buy a raffle ticket last night and still won!

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 10

Some more good advice - a claw hammer does not make a good substitute gavel. Also - is anybody selling a dinner table? I gave the raffle prize away to the wife, but she donated it back for tomorrow's raffle.

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 11

I have invested my two dogs as Senior and Junior Wardens. The four cats are the deacons, Inner Guard and Tyler. Whilst the cats are unimpressed, the dogs think they've now got a chance at the raffle ... which I won again last night.

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 12

Got up to turn the TV off. I squared the room to do it. My granddaughter's geometry set of Square, compasses and a kitchen knife are now on the wall by the front door. The cats took the dogs raffle tickets out last night, and I won again.

Diary of a frustrated Mason - Day 13

The wife gave notice of motion that tomorrow she would be proposing a shopping trip. Despite a trawl through the BoC there is nothing to prevent this. Still it's an opportunity to buy more raffle prizes - which incidentally I won last night!

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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



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

Durham Masonic Camping and Caravan Club follow the link WWW.DMCCC.org.uk for Rallies and forthcoming events.



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The TRAVELING GAVEL is now residing in it's new home at the Ferryhill 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



06 / 01 / 2020 — Bro. John Ashley Lee, DOB – 23 / 03 / 1950, M 929 .

10 / 04 / 2020 — RW.Bro. Joseph Alan Armstrong, PGJW, PPGJW, RAM GR, DOB — 14 / 07 / 1924, M – 1112.

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