

# PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

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

## DURHAM

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER OF DURHAM  
RW Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson



### A message from the Provincial Grand Charity Steward,

**V.W. Bro. Roy N. Neville, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Trustee and Treasurer of the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund.**



As the Centenary Year for the Province of Durham Mark Degree comes to a close, it is a timely moment to look back and enjoy the success of our Centenary Project. Unfortunately, fate dealt the world a cruel blow in 2020 and in most respects it would be a year to forget. However, I am pleased to report that our project to allow every Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in the Province to nominate a cause or charity which would benefit children and young people to receive a grant of £1000 was completed in the early part of the year. The idea was to support generally small local groups to which this sum of money would make a real difference, and how gratifying it was to see the brethren rise to the occasion by making suggestions covering a wide range of activities. The project was partly financed by the magnificent support given to Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W. Bro. Frank Rankin with his Centenary Fund Appeal, and partly by the Province of Durham Mark Benevolent Fund which also administered the Centenary Project. The only downside was that, because of the pandemic, not every Lodge was able to produce a presentation photo so that our booklet showing the presentation of all 64 cheques has had to be temporarily suspended. A fuller description of each of the beneficiaries will be shown in the Project booklet when publication is possible.

Members will be pleased to know that the work of the Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund has proceeded as in any normal year with brethren receiving relief from distress and charities receiving grants to assist them in their work, all of which will be shown in the Chairman’s Report or the Transactions later in the year. I would especially mention that assistance is not necessarily all financial and as an example brethren will remember seeing photos of the Chairman of our Fund, W. Bro. David Hanson, delivering much needed PPE equipment to various local hospices in the early stages of the pandemic.

Finally, the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson, is very pleased that the brethren of the Province have ensured that in this momentous year, the Mark degree has gained in prestige in freemasonry in general and in esteem in the communities in which we serve.

The following is a list of Lodges and their nominated cause or charity.

### Mark

39 Eclectic	Springwell School, Hartlepool	981 Spennymoor	The Oaks Secondary School
122 Percy	Friends of Egglecliffe Music	1015 Ernest Dixon	111 Squadron Sunderland Air Cadets
124 Union	Karen Shiel School of Dance	1055 Peshaw	3rd Washington Scout Group
250 Darlington	In 2	1093 St Lawrence	Butterwick Children’s Hospice
293 Industry	Gateshead Fell Cricket Club, Junior Section	1106 Walton	Natural High Theatre Group
356 Dunelm	Cheesy Waffles Project	1112 Elevation	1st Dipton Scout and Guide Group
362 Wouldhave Tyne Dock	The Jack Heath Club for the Mentally Handicapped	1145 St Aidan	Delves Lane Boys Brigade
596 Auckland	Wear Valley Riding for the Disabled	1151 Cestria	Oxclose Basketball Club, Washington
605 Bede	Danielle Campbell Dance Enterprise	1269 Ambrose Crowley	Dunston Silver Band Youth Section
701 Jarrow	Waves Additional Needs Support Group	1271 Shipley	Salvation Army Gateshead Youth Section
718 Ravensworth	Plains Farm Amateur Boxing Club	1274 Staindrop	1st Staindrop Scouts
740 Harte	Karen Liddle School of Dance	1492 Durham Installed Masters	1507 Squadron RAF Air Cadets, Chester-le-Street
761 Hackworth	2505 Squadron RAF Air Cadets, Bishop Auckland	1511 St Thomas	Friends of Horizons Specialist Academy Trust
778 Barnard Castle	Teesdale Community Resources Hub	1551 Stanhope	Weardale Young Farmers Club
827 Unity	In Your Face Theatre Group	1560 Ferryhill	Little Treasures Autism Charity
846 Steadfast	Dene Valley Community Partnership	1626 George Washington	Valley Road Academy
854 St Andrew’s	1409 Consett Squadron Royal Air Force Cadets	1714 Ryton	The Hub at Barmoor
860 Bernard Gilpin	Houghton Area Youth Brass Band	1806 Chief of the Builders	Whickham Fellside Youth Football Club
896 Clavering	Blaydon Rugby Football Club Under 14’s	1820 Durham Provincial Grand Stewards	Youth Connection
925 Moseley	St. John Ambulance Cadets	1936 Indaba	27th Darlington Scout Group
929 William Todd	The Angel Trust		
930 Castle Eden	Peterlee Pathways		

*Royal Ark Mariner Lodges*

39 Eclectic	Hartlepool Sea Cadets	860 Bernard Gilpin	Casa Performing Arts
122 Stockton-on-Tees	Stillington Song Group, Stockton	896 Clavering	Dunston Activity Centre
124 Union	Kianan Karate Kai Club	925 Moseley	Skills4Work
250 Darlington	1 <sup>st</sup> Darlington Girls Brigade, Cockerton	930 Castle Eden	Hornden Amateur Boxing Club
293 Industry	1313 Whickham Squadron Air Training Corp	981 Spennymoor	Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust
356 Dunelm	Durham Razzamatazz	1055 Monument	St. John Ambulance Gateshead Cadets and Badgers
362 Rockcliffe	Nu Dance	1112 Elevation	Catchgate Community Football Club
605 Bede	The Buzz for Girls	1492 Durham Installed Commanders	Aukestra
761 Hackworth	New Shildon All Saints Scout Group	1551 Stanhope	1 <sup>st</sup> Stanhope Cubs and Scouts
778 Barnard Castle	Teesdale District Scouts	1714 Ryton	The Gaffers, Crawcrook
854 St Andrew's	Stanley Starz	1806 Chief of the Builders	Sunday 3 Youth Group



**“ A story to warm the heart “**



*Pictured at his front door is Rev. David presenting Stephanie with her cheque in good time before Christmas to bring happiness to many disadvantaged children with the best wishes of the Mark Master Masons of Durham.*

Many brethren will know W.Bro. Reverend, David Youngson who suffers from sight loss but nevertheless attends Lodge and Provincial meetings and is a great supporter of the Mark Benevolent Fund. Rev. David has contacted the Executive to relate an experience which began at the start of the lockdown in March last year. As he and his wife came out of their local minimarket, they were approached by a lady called Stephanie Roundsmith who offered to carry their shopping home. On their journey Stephanie said that she knew all about Rev. David as her grandma lived at the top of his street and she had observed him and his guide dog over the years. Subsequently Stephanie has supported the couple with several “ click and collects “ and has helped with shopping as required.

It then transpired that Stephanie, who came to Rev. David’s assistance out of the goodness of her heart, was actively involved in a local community group providing food for families with disabled children and, since Christmas was approaching, they were also extending this charitable activity by providing gift parcels. Stephanie is one of the many unsung heroes who have emerged during the lockdown and Rev. David has asked if the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund could make a contribution to assist Stephanie in her work. The Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson and the Chairman of the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund, W. Bro. David Hanson, were keen to recognise this special lady and have agreed to make a grant of £500.

***‘It’s Good to Talk’.***

*Remember that you don’t have to suffer alone.*

***Our Provincial Almoner, Keith Liddell, is a registered member of the MBACP, and he invites you to contact him in confidence on his mobile no; 07986 567005 to offer our support.***

***" Pandemic Blues – A word might help to beat it."***



The R. W. Provincial Grand Master, Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson, has great pleasure in announcing that the following Brethren have been offered, and have accepted, Provincial Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner.

Pandemic restrictions permitting, they are due to be invested with their new Rank at The Annual Provincial Assembly on Friday 26th March 2021, to be held at Ferryhill Masonic Chambers, and their new Rank will be effective as of that date if the Annual Assembly cannot be held.

W.Bro. John Connelly	Industry Lodge 293
W.Bro. Peter Maughan	Rockcliffe Lodge 362
W.Bro. Melvin Swailes	Hackworth Lodge 761
W.Bro. Alvin Leigh Kipling	Barnard Castle Lodge 778
W.Bro. Allan Monkhouse	Bernard Gilpin Lodge 860
W.Bro. Mark Julian Gilpin	Moseley Lodge 925
W.Bro. Douglas Lister	Castle Eden Lodge 930
W.Bro. John Iddon Smiles	Castle Eden Lodge 930
W.Bro. John Barnett	Elevation Lodge 1112
W.Bro. Joseph William Gray	Ryton Lodge 1714



Congratulations to these Brethren on their preferment, and we wish them many years to enjoy their new Rank.



### “ Centenary Year *Grant* Finale “

The Province of Durham Mark Benevolent Fund closed the Centenary Year by responding with a grant of £730 to a request from St. Benedict’s Hospice for funding to convert an ordinary meeting room into a child friendly bereavement room. With the year long programme of grant giving being particularly focused on children and young people this donation was considered to be especially appropriate by the Fund Executive.

Counselling and support is currently provided at the hospice to children in the 5-18 age range with appointments for up to 4 children a day, 3 days a week

who have a family member suffering a terminal illness, and is in the hospice, or one who has died at the hospice within the last 2 years. A long list of aids has been suggested, mostly by the children themselves, ranging from board games and children’s books to information and books dealing with, for example, "When someone very special dies “ or “ The Memory Box “ and the list has been satisfied in full by this grant. In circumstances in which a surviving parent can be so overwhelmed by their own grief that they are not in a position to recognise the needs of their children, it is hoped that this fitting gesture can help to relieve their distress.

Pictured making the suitably distanced presentation to staff member Linda Thorpe, with the very best wishes of the Mark Master Masons of the Province of Durham, is Chairman, W. Bro. David Hanson.

**A Cranky Old Man** (taken from the internet)

What do you see nurses? What do you see?  
 What are you thinking, when you're looking at me?  
 A cranky old man, not very wise,  
 Uncertain of habit, with faraway eyes?  
 Who dribbles his food, and makes no reply.  
 When you say in a loud voice, 'I do wish you'd try!'  
 Who seems not to notice the things that you do.  
 And forever is losing a sock or shoe?  
 Who, resisting or not, lets you do as you will,  
 With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill?  
 Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?  
 Then open your eyes, nurse. You're not looking at me.  
 I'll tell you who I am, as I sit here so still,  
 As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.  
 I'm a small child of ten, with a father and mother,  
 Brothers and sisters, who love one another.  
 A young boy of sixteen, with wings on his feet,  
 Dreaming that soon now a lover he'll meet.  
 A groom soon at twenty, my heart gives a leap.  
 Remembering the vows, that I promised to keep.  
 At twenty-five, now I have young of my own,  
 Who need me to guide, and a secure happy home.  
 A man of thirty, my young now grown fast,  
 Bound to each other, with ties that should last.

At forty, my young sons, have grown and are gone,  
 But my woman is beside me, to see I don't mourn.  
 At fifty, once more, babies play 'round my knee.  
 Again, we know children, my loved one and me.  
 Dark days are upon me, my wife is now dead.  
 I look at the future, I shudder with dread.  
 For my young are all rearing, young of their own.  
 And I think of the years, and the love that I've known.  
 I'm now an old man, and nature is cruel.  
 It's jest to make old age look like a fool.  
 The body, it crumbles, grace and vigour, depart.  
 There is now a stone, where I once had a heart.  
 But inside this old carcass, a young man still dwells.  
 And now and again, my battered heart swells.  
 I remember the joys, I remember the pain,  
 And I'm loving and living, life over again.  
 I think of the years, all too few, gone too fast.  
 And accept the stark fact, that nothing can last.  
 So open your eyes, people. Open and see.  
 Not a cranky old man,  
 Look closer,... see ME!!

**A Nurse's Reply.** (taken from the internet)

What do we see, you ask, what do we see?  
 Yes, we are thinking when looking at thee!  
 We may seem to be hard when we hurry and fuss,  
 But there's many of you, and too few of us.  
 We would like far more time to sit by you and talk,  
 To bath you, and feed you, and help you to walk.  
 To hear of your lives, and the things you have done;  
 Your childhood, your husband, your daughter, your son.  
 But time is against us, there's too much to do,  
 Patients too many, and nurses too few.  
 We grieve when we see you so sad and alone,  
 With nobody near you, no friends of your own.  
 We feel all your pain, and know of your fear,  
 That nobody cares now your end is so near.

But nurses are people with feelings as well,  
 And when we're together you'll often hear tell  
 Of the dearest old Gran in the very end bed,  
 And the lovely old Dad, and the things that he said,  
 We speak with compassion and love, and feel sad  
 When we think of your lives and the joy that you've had,  
 When the time has arrived for you to depart,  
 You leave us behind with an ache in our heart.  
 When you sleep the long sleep, no more worry or care,  
 There are other old people, and we must be there.  
 So please understand if we hurry and fuss -  
 There are many of you,... And so few of us.

**OBITUARIES**



20/09/2020 - Bro. Thomas Brownlee, DOB: 07/12/1938, M- 701.

22/12/2020 - W.Bro. Robert Henry Greenman,PPGSD, DOB: 10/12/1931, M-1015, R- 124.

09/01/2021 - W.Bro. Peter Wiegold, PPGJW, DOB: 13/01/1940, M-596, R- 250.

