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Foreword, the author.

W Bro Bill Florentine P.P.G.I.G was initiated into the Harte Mark Lodge 13th December 1993 and was Master in 2004, he gained his Provincial honours P.P.G.I.G in 2009.

W Bro Bill has served the Lodge in various offices since he was Master, occupying the Senior Overseer’s chair on ten occasions.

W Bro Bill is a Past Master of Clarence Lodge No 2462 and was their Charity Steward and Benevolent Representative for the 2010 RMBI Festival. For the last eleven years he has served as secretary for the Hartlepool Masonic Benevolent Association.

Ex Comp Bill Florentine P.P.G.S.N was exalted into the Clarence Chapter No 2462 20th October 1992 and was M.E.Z in 2002, he gained his Provincial honours of P.G.S.N in 2006, Ex Comp Bill served the Chapter as Scribe Ezra from 2003 to 2009 and has been the ADC for past six years.

W Bro Bill was also a founder and a Past Master of the daylight Lodge ‘Dales Lodge No 9554’ in Richmond in the Province of Yorkshire North and East Ridings.



Past Masters

1921	W. Wallace P.G.Std.B.	1972	R. Morgan P.P.G.Org.
1922	T.J. Carter P.P.G.S.W.	1973	N. Frost P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.J.W.
1923	C.V. Howard P.P.G.Reg.	1974	W.N. Savage P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.J.W.
1924	E. Bloom P.P.G.Stwd.	1975	A.V. Jordan P.P.A.G.D.C.
1925	E.M. Tweddle	1976	A.F. Hodgson P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.J.W.
1926	Rev. J. Short P.P.G.Chaplain	1977	W. Dunning P.P.G.Std.B.
1927	H.B. Olsen P.P.G.M.O.	1978	M.E. Frear P.P.G.I.G.
1928	S. Hogg P.G.D.	1979	F. Lumsden.
1929	C. Carter P.S.G.D., P.P.G.S.W.	1980	J.H. Lumsden P.P.G.J.W.
1930	A. Hyde P.P.G.S.W.	1981	F.L. Lumsden P.P.G.Std.B.
1931	R.W. Henderson P.P.A.G.D.C.	1982	W.L. Plews P.P.G.J.W.
1932	J. Cockburn P.G.D.	1983	C.B. Todd P.G.S.D., P.P.G.S.D.
1933	T.T. Nesbit P.G.D.	1984	C.B. Todd P.G.S.D., P.P.G.S.D.
1934	T. Russell P.P.G.Reg.	1985	J.W. Hall P.P.G.Treas.
1935	T.V. Oldfield M.B.E., P.G.D., P.P.G.W.	1986	G. Sewell.
1936	T. Oldfield P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.W.	1987	J.T. WINTER P.P.G.Swd.B.
1937	W.H. Hudson P.P.J.G.W.	1988	K. Wale P.P.G.J.W.
1938	W. Turnbull P.P.G.A.Sec.	1989	B.M. TWEDDLE P.P.G.J.W.
1939	E.A. Barlow P.G.D., P.P.G.Reg.	1990	G.W. Marks P.P.G.J.W.
1940	S. Tillotson P.P.G.S.O.	1991	B. Bell P.P.G.Swd.Br.
1941	S. Tillotson P.P.G.S.O	1992	M. Slimmings P.P.G.M.O.
1942	E. Phillips P.P.G.S.D.	1993	D. Loughrey P.P.G.J.O.
1943	A. Bowes P.P.G.Org.	1994	M. Willis, P.P.G.S.D.
1944	A.E. Baker P.P.G.S.O.	1995	W.L. Elliott, P.P.J.G.W.
1945	P.B. Willings	1996	J.H. Holmes, P.P.G.J.D.
1946	H. Armstrong P.P.G.S.O.	1997	H. Garraghty, P.P.G.S.D.
1947	J.F. Chapman P.G.A.D.C.	1998	G.K. Douglas, P.P.G.J.W.
1948	S. Pearson P.P.G.Reg.	1999	D.W. CORNFORTH, P.P.G.J.W.
1949	A.M. Daurge P.P.G.T.	2000	P.M. Smith, P.P.G.Std.B.
1950	R.W. Whales P.P.G.J.W.	2001	L.J. AYERS, P.P.G.J.W.
1951	W.S. Tate	2002	F.W. LYNAS, P.P.G.J.D.
1952	A.E.P. Tulip P.P.G.S.O.	2003	J.C. Bailey, P.P. G.S.D.
1953	T.M. Stonehouse P.P.G.Reg.	2004	W.V. FLORENTINE, P.P.G.I.G.
1954	S.B. Roberts T.D., P.G.D., P.P.G.S.O	2005	D.J.G. Pearce P.P.G.J.D.
1955	R.G. Russell P.G.J.D., P.P.G.J.W.	2006	N.R. SYRES, P.P.G.J.D.
1956	J. Appleyard P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.J.W.	2007	A.W. Walton, P.P.A.D.C.
1957	G.H. Ripley	2008	W.J. Coward, P.P.G.J.O.
1958	P.N. Lees P.P.G.J.W.	2009	R. Davison.
1959	H.A. Lund J.P., P.P.G.S.O.	2010	J.C. Bailey, P.P. G.S.D.
1960	R.B. McLean M.B.E.	2011	F.W. LYNAS, P.P.G.S.O.
1961	R.E.V. Warrand P.P.G.Org.	2012	J. Horsley.
1962	W.A. Thompson P.P.G.J.D.	2013	D.J.H. Daniel.
1963	J.W.A. Rogers P.P.G.S.W.	2014	K J DIXON, P.P.A.G.D.C.
1964	C.H. Huggett P.P.G.Reg.	2015	K Ryan.
1965	V.D. Oldfield	2016	I M HEWETSON. P.P.G.S.D.
1966	G.A. Strain P.P.G.S.W.	2017	J Halliday.
1967	J.S. Watson P.P.G.D.	2018	M.I. HAMILTON.
1968	L. Nicholson P.P.G.J.W.	2019	C. WARHAM, P.P.G.S.W.
1969	H.L. Ingham P.P.A.G.D.C.	2020	N.R. SYRES, P.P.G.J.D.
1970	W. Clennett	2021	N.R. SYRES, P.P.G.J.D
1971	A F Taylor P;P.G.D		

Introduction

Brethren it has been a privilege to have been entrusted with compiling the history of the Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.740 on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary. It seems prudent to commence the history with the minutes of the Consecration, and a brief resume of the events leading up to the Consecration.

Harte Lodge No 4217 was founded in 1920, with the Lodge warrant being awarded 13th December 1920 and consecrated on 8th February 1921.

Following on swiftly after the consecration, petitions were lodged and what was known as the Harte series begin with the,

Harte Lodge, No 4217.

Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No 740.

Harte Chapter, No 4217.

Harte Rose Croix, No 282.

Order of the Secret Monitor, No 47.

Harte Conclave Royal and Select Masters. No 34.

Consecration

The Consecration of the Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 740, took place on Thursday, the 15th September 1921 in The Masonic Temple, Hart Road, West Hartlepool, in the County of Durham.

Present

Rt Wor Bro. Rt. Hon. Lord Ravensworth, Prov. Grand Mark Master. P.G.W. (Eng.)

Rt Wor Bro. T. H. Gardiner, President of the General Board. P.G.W. (Eng.)

Rt Wor Bro. A. J. Thomas, P.G.W. G.D.of.C.

V.W. Bro. P. Colville Smith, Deputy Prov. G.M.M. for Cornwall, P.G.O. (Eng.)

V.W. Bro. B. Marr Johnson, P.G.O (Eng.)

V.W. Bro. A. D. Hansell, G. Secretary. (Eng.)

V.W. Bro. John Barker, P.G.O, (Eng.)

V.W. Bro. Rev. T. T. Blockley, P.G.Chap. (Eng.)

V.W. Bro. Rev. G. H. Chilman, P.G.Chap. (Eng.)

V.W. Bro. A. R. Collett, G. Treasurer. (Eng.)

V.W. Bro. John. F. Cleaver, P.G. Treasurer. (Eng.)

W. Bro. Percy G Mallory, J.G.D. (Eng.)

W. Bro. Thomas Norfolk, P.G.D. (Eng.)

W. Bro. A. L. F, Cook, P.D.G.D. of C. (Eng.)

W. Bro. W. N. Cheesman, P.A.G.D. of C. (Eng.)

W. Bro. William. Todd, P.G.Std.B. (Eng.) Prov G. Sec. (Durham).

W. Bro. James P. Gill, P.G. Std.B. (Eng.) Prov. G. Sec. (N. & E. Yorks).

W. Bro. H. Park, P.P.G.M.O.

W. Bro. Henry. Wintersladen, P.S.W. (N. & E. Yorks).

W. Bro. C. W. Anderson Jr, P.G. Treasurer.

W. Bro. W. F. Oldfield, P.G.R.M.

W. Bro. H. S. Sutherland, P. Prov. G.S.W. (Durham).

W. Bro. W. W. E. Dixon, P.G.W.

W. Bro. J. Archer. Vann, P.G.Std.B.

W. Bro. S. J. Wallis, Assist.G.Std.B.

W. Bro. R. G. Rowland, P.P.G.O.

W. Bro. John. G. Finlayson, G.P.D.C.
 W. Bro. N. W. Task, P.P.G.D. (N. & E. Yorks).
 W. Bro. G. L. Wye, S.O.P.G.D. (N. & E. Yorks).
 W. Bro. R. M. Wilkes, P.M. P.P.S.G.W. (Durham).
 W. Bro. W. Selby, P.M. P.P.I.G
 W. Bro. A. Jobling, P.P.G.D
 W. Bro. John. Potter, P.M. P.G.M.O.
 W. Bro. John. C. Coulson, P.M. P.J.O.
 W. Bro. C. W. Tait, P.M. G in B.
 W. Bro. P. Witherspoon, Prov. G.I.G.
 W. Bro. Herbert Barratt, P.P.G.R of M.
 W. Bro. G. Dobson Wright, P.Ass.G.D.C.
 W. Bro. J. W. Gregory, P.P.G. Treasurer.
 W. Bro. H. J. Cark, P.P.G.O.
 W. Bro. Herbert T. Purvis, P.P.S.W.
 W. Bro. Rev F. W. J. Hill, Prov. G. Chap.
 W. Bro. J. M, Theek, D.P.G. (N. & E. Yorks).
 W. Bro. John Lawson, Prov. G. Tyler.
 W. Bro. John. Lee, P.D.G.
 W. Bro. Ernest Bloom, P.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 W. Bro. William Barlow, P.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. N. Thornton, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. M. Lamb, J.D. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. T. J. Jeffries, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. J. Pinkney, S.W. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 W. Bro. E. Cuthbertson, W.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. R.W. Young, M.O. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. John R. Nicholson, J.W. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 W. Bro. R. H. Davison, P.P.G.St.B. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. T.M. Gilbertson, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. George Sarginson, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 W. Bro. J. W. Simpson, P.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. George B. Atkinson, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. E. M. Tweddle, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. J. Willson, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. A. E. S. Barker, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. W. R. Watson, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. R. Parkins, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. R. Elgie, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. W. Oliver, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. Bert Proud, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. M. Warren, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. R. W. Henderson, Organist. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. F. S. Hogg, Tyler. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. A. H. Fenner, M.M.M. Eclectic Lodge No 39.
 Bro. Robert Feather, M.M.M. Keighley.
 Bro. A. E. Johnson, M.O. Ravensworth Lodge No 718. Sunderland.
 Bro. J. S Rowntree, J.W. Ravensworth Lodge No 718. Sunderland.
 Bro. J. Lightgo, M.M.M. Percy Lodge No 122.
 Bro. G. Bellails, S.W. Percy Lodge No 122.
 Bro. A. Marston, M.O. Percy Lodge No 122.
 Bro. J. Edwards, J.O. Percy Lodge No 122.
 Bro. B. J. Mullin, M.M.M. Percy Lodge No 122.
 Bro. W. Anderson, P.S.G.R. Bede Lodge No 605.
 Bro. R. Nicol, J.O. Darlington Lodge No 250.
 W. Bro. J.E. Blenkiron, W.M. Darlington Lodge No 250.

Bro. George. Leadbitter, M.M.M. Darlington Lodge No 250.
Bro. F. Martin, P.M. Sussex Lodge No 167.

Apologies for absence were received from.
W. Bro. Whitfield, W.M. Percy Lodge.
Bro. J. Smith, Middlesbrough.
Bro. W. Stonehouse, Castle Eden.
Bro J. Copping, Darlington.
Bro. H. Guthrie.

The Brethren being assembled in the Temple, the Rt. Wor. Grand Master entered in procession with Grand Lodge Officers and present Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Lord Ravensworth as Consecrating Officer took the chair and appointed the following to assist him,

W. Bro. H. S. Sutherland, P. Prov. G.W. as S.W.
W. Bro. R. Peacock, Prov. G.W. as J.W.
Bro. Rev. F. J. W. Hill, Prov. G. Chap, as Chaplain.
W. Bro. William Todd, P.G. Std. (Eng.), Prov. G. Sec. as Secretary.
W. Bro. W. H. Cook, Prov. G.D. of C. as D. of C.
Bro. R. W. Henderson, as Organist, (Founder).
W. Bro. P. Witherspoon, Prov. G.I.G. as I.G.
Bro. John Lawson, Prov. G. Tyler as Tyler.

The Lodge was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master.

The Rt. Wor. Bro. Lord Ravensworth and other Grand Lodge officers were saluted according to their rank. The Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge were saluted. The Consecrating Officer addressed the Brethren on the object of the assembly, and afterwards in a most impressive manner proceeded to solemnly.

Consecrate.
Dedicate.
Constitute.

*Harte Lodge No 740 in the roll of Mark Master Masons of England,
Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown.*

The founders of the Lodge who had signed the petition were fifteen in number and all members of Eclectic Lodge except one.

Founders

W. Bro. William Wallace, P.M. P.G.S.W.
W. Bro. T Johnson Carter, P.M. P.P.S.G.D.
W. Bro. Frederick Bennett, P.M. P.P.G.O.
W. Bro. Christopher Dandy, P.M. P.P.G.Treas. P.P.G.O. (N. & E. Yorks).
W. Bro. John W Simpson, P.M. P.P.G.Std.B.
W. Bro. Robert H. Davison, P.M. P.P.G.St.B.
W. Bro. William Barlow, P.M. P.P.G.D of C.
W. Bro. E. Bloom, P.M.
Bro. William Gales, J.W. Percy Lodge No 122.
Bro. Robert W. Henderson.
Bro. C. Vyvyan Howard, I.G.
Bro. Ernest M. Tweddle.
Bro. James Willson.
Bro. R. Francis Willson.
Bro. Sydney Hogg.

Date of Warrant 18th August 1921.

Installation

The W.M. designate, W. Bro. William Wallace, P.G.S.W was presented to the installing Master V.W. Bro. A. D. Hansell, Grand Secretary, by W. Bro. A. L. F, Cook, P.D.G.D. of C.

After the usual questions all below the rank of an installed Master in the Mark Degree retired and a board of installed Masters was constituted.

W. Bro. William Wallace was installed Worshipful Master by the Grand Secretary according to ancient custom. W. Bro. Frederick H. Bennett was installed as I.P.M.

The Worshipful Master was saluted as an Installed Master and the board of Installed Masters was closed. The Brethren were re admitted.

After the customary procession and salutations the Worshipful Master was duly proclaimed by the Grand Secretary and greeted by the Brethren.

V.W. Bro. A. D. Hansell Grand Secretary presented the Working Tools, Warrant and Book of Constitutions. W. Bro. Robert H Davison was elected treasurer.

W. Bro. W. Wallace appointed and invested the following Officers:

W. Bro T Johnson Carter. P.P.S.G.D.	S.W.
Bro. C. Vyvyan. Howard.	J.W.
Bro. W. S. Gales.	M.O.
W. Bro William Barlow. P.P.G.D of C.	S.O.
Bro. E. M. Tweddle.	J.O.
W. Bro. E. Bloom.	Reg of Marks.
Bro. Sydney Hogg.	Secretary.
W. Bro. C. Dandy. P.P.G.Treas. P.P.G.O. (N. & E. Yorks).	D.C.
Bro. R. F. Willson.	S.D.
Bro. James Willson.	J.D.
Bro. R. W. Henderson.	Organist.
W. Bro. John W Simpson. P.P.G.Std.B.	I.G.

V.W. Bro. P. Colville Smith, Deputy P.G.M.M. for Cornwall, P.G.O. (Eng.), gave the address to the Worshipful Master. The address to the Wardens was given by V.W. Bro. John F. Cleeves, P.G. Treasurer (Eng.)

V.W. Bro. A. D. Hansell, Grand Secretary gave the address to the Brethren.

General Business

The Worshipful Master on behalf of the founders thanked the Rt. Wor. Provincial Grand Master for Consecrating the Lodge. The Worshipful Master thanked the Installing Masters and the other Grand Officers for their kindly assistance.

The Worshipful Master proposed that the Master, Wardens and Director of Ceremonies be the Committee to form the Bylaws. This was seconded by W. Bro. W Barlow and carried unanimously.

W. Bro T. J. Carter S.W proposed and W. Bro. W. Wallace W.M seconded that Bro Robert Brown Carter, Timber Merchant, 82 Clifton Avenue, West Hartlepool, Steward of Harte Lodge No 4217, Prov Grand Steward as a candidate for advancement for membership of this Lodge.

The Worshipful Master proposed, and Bro W. Gales seconded that Bro Hans Benedict Olsen a Master Mason of Harte Lodge No 4217, Merchant, 87 Clifton Avenue, West Hartlepool as a candidate for advancement for membership of this Lodge.

W. Bro T. J. Carter S.W proposed and W. Bro. W. Wallace W.M seconded that Bro Charley Carter P.M of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge No764, Brick Merchant, Parkside, West Hartlepool as a candidate for advancement for membership of this Lodge.

Hearty greetings were tendered by the Officers of Grand Lodge.

Hearty greetings were tendered by the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Hearty greetings were tendered by Officers of the other Lodges present.

The Lodge was then closed at 7.0pm.

The Brethren dined together after the ceremony. W. Bro. William Wallace presided, and he was supported by the Lord Ravensworth, the Officers of Grand Lodge, also a large number of Provincial Officers.

Consecration footnotes

It should be noted that W. Bro. William Wallace, was not only a founder and first Master of the Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons, but he was also a founder and first Master of the Harte Lodge No 4217 and a founder of the Harte Chapter No 4217 and was installed as first Principal of Harte Chapter in 1923.

At the consecration of the Harte Lodge in February 1921, the Lodge presented a set of new Provincial 'Consecration Vessels' to Lord Ravensworth, P.G.M. These were also used at the consecration of the Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons.



This handsome set of silver Consecration Vessels comprises: - A Cornucopia, a vessel for wine, a vessel for Oil, a vessel for Salt, and a Thurible for Incense.

The Cornucopia which is sterling silver throughout is in a design and style of the Italian Renaissance period. The Wine Jug (also the Oil Jug) is of the helmet type, with mouldings to match the Cornucopia. The Salt is oval in shape and of simple form, with mouldings and base appropriately introduced in line with the Cornucopia, Salt and Oil Vessels

The spoon is of simple Masonic character, with the usual emblems entwined in Oak and Laurel indicating Strength and Victory.

The Thurible for Incense is graceful in form and bears suitable fluted decoration, and the bowl portion is filled with a gilt container.

The pieces are all finely engraved with the Ravensworth Coat of Arms, the Harte Crest and the Lodge Crest, and all fitted into a fumed Oak case with a brass plate on the cover bearing a suitable inscription "HARTE" No 4217.

The founders were exceedingly delighted with the chaste and exquisite workmanship, and the vessels were also very much admired by those present at the proceedings.
We understand it is Lord Ravensworth intention to hand over the Vessels to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham.

The beautiful Thurible is believed to be early Italian workmanship and was found by the donor in an antique shop in Harrogate.

The first fifty years

The By-laws were approved and adopted at the first regular meeting held 12th December 1921, the fee for advancement was set at £3.0.0, the Annual subscriptions were set at 10 shillings (50p) and the joining fee for brethren under the English Constitution at 30 shillings (£1.50). Meetings were to be held in February, April, October and December with the installation being held in February.

Due to the popularity of the Harte Mark Lodge an emergency meeting was held in July 1922 this was to advance three Masons into the Lodge, a second emergency meeting was held in October 1922 again to advance three more Masons into Harte Mark, these emergency meetings became a regular occurrence for the next six years.

Over the first four years the Lodge flourished from having 15 brothers forming the original Lodge in 1921, rising to 41 members in 1925, with the majority of the founders taking their natural progression to Master. In 1965 it was recorded that the Lodge had 76 members, and membership remained in the 70's through to the end of the 1970's.

In the first four years the new advancee's 'MARK' was recorded in the minutes, this formality sadly ceased in 1926, it is also recorded in a letter from Grand Lodge (1924) that a Companion who is in possession of Scotch Royal Arch Certificate is ipso facto a Mark Mason and can attend a Mark Lodge under the English Constitution. Similarly, if he is an installed 'Z' he can be present at a Board of installed Masters in the Mark Degree.

It is noted that at the October meeting 1940 that the W.M requested the brethren to express their views as to whether the Lodge should be closed down owing to the circumstance's arising out of the War, the matter was discussed but the outcome was not recorded in the minutes, however at the December meeting 1940 it was proposed that the W.M continue as Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year, this was unanimously carried, as was the motion to re-elect the Treasurer, Tyler and auditors.

The installation meeting which should have been held in February 1941 did not take place and the officers all remained in their respective office for another year, and instead of the installation taking place a brother from Whitwell Lodge was advanced, and the regular April meeting of the same year did not take place.

It wasn't until 1972 that an A.D.C was elected on yearly basis, up until this date an A.D.C had only been appointed on two occasions in 1949 and 1950.

Although the Lodge had enjoyed good growth there was that usual handful of stalwarts that every organization needs, the treasurer for the first twenty-four years was W Bro R H Davison P.P.G.M.O, a record that will probably never be surpassed, it should be noted that the Harte Mark has in its 100 years existence only had nine treasurers.

Bro E Hodgson P.P.G.Std.B who was never a W.M served the Lodge as Secretary for twenty-three years and Registrar of Marks for seven years, again a record that will probably never be surpassed.

Also worthy of a mention are W Bro T V Oldfield M.B.E, P.G.D, P.P.G.W and W Bro T Oldfield P.A.G.D.C, P.P.G.W. Between 1929 and 1965 they were appointed to various offices including DC, Chaplain and Registrar of Marks on no fewer than fifty-five occasions.

In 1967 the Masonic Hall had a change in address, this was due to the amalgamation of the Borough of West Hartlepool and Borough of Hartlepool which caused a duplication of street names, from that date Hart Road became known as Raby Road located in the County Borough of Hartlepool.

50th Anniversary

MINUTES of MEETING HELD on 11th OCTOBER 1971

The 197th Regular Meeting of the Harte Lodge of Mark Master Mason No 740, which was held in the Masonic Temple, Raby Road, Hartlepool, at 7.00pm on Monday 11th October 1971.

Present were: -

W. Bro. A.F. Taylor.	W.M.
Bro. R. Morgan.	S.W.
Bro. W.N. Savage.	J.W.
Bro. N. Frost.	M.O.
Bro. J.R. Whitaker.	S.O.
Bro. A. Jordon.	J.O.
W. Bro. R.G. Russell.	Chaplain.
W. Bro. C.H. Huggett.	Treasurer.
Bro. A. Prosser.	Registrar.
W. Bro. S.R. Roberts.	Secretary.
W. Bro. J. Appleyard.	D.C.
Bro. A.F. Hodgson.	S.D.
Bro. W. Dunning.	J.D.
Bro. R.R. Robinson.	Organist.
Bro. A. Kitchen.	I.G.
Bro. H. Jeffery.	Steward.
Bro. M.E. Frear.	Steward.
Bro. F.J.M. Clarke.	Steward.
Bro. T.H. Tilly.	Steward.
Bro. O. Ridley.	Steward.
Bro. A.J. Ferguson.	Steward.
Bro. J. Coward.	Steward.
Bro. J.L. Anderson.	Tyler.
W. Bro. W. Clennett.	I.P.M.

Past Masters:

W. Bros. E.A. Barlow, H. Armstrong, W.A. Thompson, J.W.A. Rodgers, G.A. Strain, L. Nicholson, H.L. Ingram and J.R. Lawson.

Members:

Bros.F. Lumsden, J.H. Lumsden, J.E. Jenkins, G.I. Spouse and G.E. Bennett.

Visitors:

From the Mother Lodge Eclectic No 39 W. Bros, C.V. Howard, R.A. Pearson, A. Frankland, W.H. Wentworth, T.L. Walker and Bro M. Woolfe.

From Percy Lodge No 122, W.M, W. Bro J.J. Redshaw.

From Dunelm Lodge No 356, W. Bros, W.S. Searle, J.B. Lawson, W. Thompson and Bro Thompson.

From Auckland Lodge No 596, W. Bro G. Black.

From Jarrow Lodge No 701 Bro R. Martin.

From Unity Lodge No 827 W. Bros J.G. Bainbridge and W.C. James

From Castle Eden Lodge No 930, W. Bros, J. Jordon, R. Harland, J.S. Ebblewhite and Bros T.E. Clarke and G.E. Teasdale.

From Walton Lodge No 1106, W. Bros L. Cousin and N. Tenwick.

The Lodge was opened in due form. The minutes of the meeting held 26th April 1971 were read by the secretary, confirmed by the brethren and signed by the Worshipful Master. In connection with a notice of motion the Worshipful Master proposed that £60.00 be taken from Lodge funds and a cheque for that amount be presented to the Provincial Grand Master towards the 1979 Festival for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

The Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge officers then retired to join the procession of the official Deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge, the Deputation consisting of,

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro J, MacMurray

Accompanied by

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, T.N. Thompson,

The Provincial Grand Senior Warden, P. Stacey.

The Provincial Grand Junior Warden, Dr G, Birch.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain, F.H. Britton.

The Provincial Grand Secretary, D.I. Griss.

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, C.V. Armitage.

The Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, A.R. Riley.

The Provincial Grand Standard Bearer, J.R. Chambers.

The Provincial Grand Standard Bearer, A.L. Parkin.

and the Provincial Grand Tyler, C.D. Mellows.

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master accepted the gavel from the Worshipful Master and occupied the Chair and the Provincial Grand Senior and Junior Wardens occupied the Wardens chairs. Under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies the R.W. Provincial Grand Master was saluted with seven. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was saluted with five. The Very Worshipful brethren were saluted with five.

The officers of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and the Dominions and Dependencies of the British Crown were saluted with three, and lastly the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham were saluted with three.

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master thanked the Worshipful Master for surrendering his gavel and returning it to him asked him to continue the work of his Lodge. The Wardens likewise resumed their respective chairs.

The Worshipful Master called upon the secretary to read the minutes of the consecration meeting of Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons held on 15th September 1921, and the secretary responded pointing out that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham was only formed in June 1920 and the Harte Lodge No 740 was only the second Lodge to be consecrated in the new Province, the first one being Ravensworth No 718.

In all about 90 were present at the Consecration but those pertinent were of course the Prov Grand Mark Master Rt. Hon. Lord Ravensworth, and a large number of Present and Past Provincial officers of that time including W. Bro William Todd, P.G. Std. (Eng.), Prov. G. Sec. as Secretary, and W. Bro A.W.E. Dixon. Both of whom were later Past Grand Masters of Durham.

There was also a deputation from Grand Lodge including the R.W. Bros. T. H. Gardiner, P.G.W., (Eng.) President Gen. Board, V.W. Bro A.D. Hansell, Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro A. R. Collett, G. Treasurer, R.W. Bro A. J. Thomas, G.D.of.C, W. Bro. Percy G Mallory, J.G.D., and V.W. Bro A.G. Colville Smith, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall. (It is worth noting that on 14th September 1921 the annual general meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Town Hall West Hartlepool which may be an added reason for the presence of these brethren). There were five from the Province of North and East Riding Yorkshire, and one from Northumberland. Our Mother Lodge the most senior in the Province Eclectic No 39 was represented by

26 members including the Worshipful Master. Senior Warden and Junior Warden. Percy Lodge No 122 had five present including the Senior Warden. Darlington No 250 sent three including the Worshipful Master. One from Bede No 605, and two from Ravensworth No 718.

The Secretary then read that portion of the first minutes relating to the actual Consecration and Installation and concluded by mentioning that the first regular meeting was not held in October but in December when the Consecration minutes were confirmed, a ballot was taken for three candidates two of whom were advanced. The bylaws were approved, a ballot was taken for Worshipful Master for 1922 and Bro T. Johnson Carter was elected and Rt. Hon. Lord Ravensworth P.G.M, W. Bro A.D. Hansell Grand Secretary, and V.W. Bro A.G. Colville Smith, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall were elected now members of Harte Lodge. The secretary said we have no one alive today who was present at that time, but we have three senior members W. Bro. T. Oldfield, Bro P.K. Jorgenson and W. Bro. E.A. Barlow who were advanced in the Lodge 45 years ago and we are glad to have W. Bro. E.A. Barlow with us tonight.

The Worshipful Master then called upon W. Bro J.R. Lawson T.D. Provincial Grand Standard Bearer, P.P.G.W to give the lecture on the Tracing Board of the Degree of Mark Master Mason and W Brother Lawson obliged in his own inimitable and competent manner including his own personnel embellishments concerning the qualities from which stone for the Temple was obtained and it was received with approbation by all present.

Grand Lodge Certificate was presented to Bro G.L. Spouse.

The Worshipful Master then presented the R.W. Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £50.00 taken from the Lodge funds for R.M.B.I festival and a cheque for £50.00 subscribed by the brethren to the Benevolent Representative for any purpose the R.W. Provincial Grand Master might elect. The R.W. Provincial Grand Master expressed his appreciation for the generous gifts and said all would be credited to the Lodge in the 1979 festival for the R.M.B.I.

He congratulated the Lodge on its 50 years of success and wished the Lodge well for the future. After greetings had been extended to Worshipful Master by Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge and visitors, the dues all rendered, and the wages paid and working plans deposited in a place of safety. The Lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer.

75th Anniversary

MINUTES of MEETING HELD on 14th OCTOBER 1996

The 297th Regular Meeting of the Harte Mark Lodge, which was the 75th Anniversary meeting, was held in the Masonic Hall, Raby Road, Hartlepool, when the following Officers and Brethren were present:-

W. Bro. J.H. Holmes.
Bro. H. Garraghty.
Bro. G. K. Douglas.
Bro. D.W. Cornforth.
W. Bro. B. M. Tweddle.
Bro. E. Hackett.
W. Bro. W.L. Plews.
W. Bro. M. Willis.
Bro. L. J. Ayers.
W. Bro. C. B. Todd.
Bro. F. W. Lynas.

W.M.
S.W.
J.W.
M.O.
Treasurer and Acting S.O.
Acting J.O.
Chaplain.
Acting Registrar.
Secretary.
D.C.
S.D.

Bro. W. V. Florentine.
Bro. G. W. Marks.
Bro. T.E. Jenkins.
Bro. J.C. Bailey.
Bro. J.A. Wilson.
W. Bro. K. Wale.
W. Bro. W.L. Elliott.

J.D.
A.D.C.
Organist.
Inner Guard.
Steward.
Tyler.
I.P.M.

Past Masters:

W. Bros. G.A. Strain, W.N. Savage, N. Frost, R.J. Hall (846), A.F. Hodgson, J. W. Hall, M. Slimmings and D. Loughrey.

Members:

Bros. R. W. Stephenson, R. A. Greig, C. Wormald and G. Stoddart.

Visitors:

W. Bros. A. Briggs, A. Frankland, T.H. Lewis, J. Tombling, R. Ellwood, W.F. Taylor, J.H. Walker, T.L. Walker, G. R. Walker, E. Adamson, John. S. Robson and L. Dobson, of Eclectic Mark Lodge, No 39.

W. Bro. G.W. Dixon of Staindrop Mark Lodge, No.124.

W. Bro. P. Wissons of Bishop Auckland Mark Lodge, No. 596.

W. Bro. R. W. Challoner of Unity Mark Lodge, No. 827.

W. Bros. R.A. Anderson, D. Marshall and Bro. D. Pearce of Steadfast Mark Lodge, No.846.

W. Bro. J.T. Shuttleworth of William Todd Mark Lodge, No. 929.

W. Bros. F. W. Owen and T. Drysdale of Castle Eden Mark Lodge, No. 930.

W. Bro. T. W. Layfield of Spennymoor Mark Lodge, No. 981.

W. Bros. M.J. Donnelly and E. Richardson of Ambrose Crowley Mark Lodge, No.1269.

W. Bro. A. Swainson of Ferryhill Mark Lodge, No.1560.

Plus;

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master, James Peter Croft, accompanied by

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, James Edward Harker.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Geoffrey Norman Thompson.

The Provincial Grand Senior Warden, A. Hall.

The Provincial Grand Junior Warden, P. Parlour.

The Provincial Grand Master Overseer, F. Barnes.

The Provincial Grand Senior Overseer, A. Holden.

The Provincial Grand Junior Overseer, G.M. Armstrong.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain, Rev D.A. Wright.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer, A.H. Bland.

The Provincial Grand Registrar, R.S.B. Wilson.

The Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Swift.

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Potts

The Provincial Grand Inspector of Works, A. Anderson.

The Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, P.C. Bowen.

The Provincial Deputy Grand Chaplain, Rev. M.S. Snowball.

The Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary, R. Burnip.

The Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, Prof. D. K. Wilson.

The Provincial Grand Senior Deacons, J.R. Cook, and R.R. Shaw.

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward, A. Purves.

The Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary, N.A. Meek.

The Provincial Grand Standard Bearer, K. Dinning.

The Provincial Assistant Grand Standard Bearer, G.H. Erickson.

The Provincial Grand Stewards, R. Hogg, N.F. Turner, and A.L.D.P. Woodward,
and the Provincial Grand Tyler, J.H. Lowery.

Opening:

The Lodge was opened in due form by the W.M, W. Bro. John Henry Holmes, and the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, 24th April 1996 were read by the Secretary, confirmed by the Brethren and signed by the W.M. as a correct record.

Ballot:

A ballot was held for the following Brethren:

Bro. David Lawrence Nicholson, a financial advisor, residing at 80, Audley Road, South Gosforth, Master Mason of Stranton Lodge, No. 1862. Bro. Nicholson was proposed by W. Bro. L. Nicholson P.M, and seconded by W. Bro. M. Slimmings, P.M.

Bro. Trevor William Stoddart, a project engineer, residing at 2 Endeavour Close, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Master Mason of Fortitude Lodge, No. 7188. Bro. T Stoddart was proposed by Bro. G. Stoddart, and seconded by Bro. J. A. Wilson, Steward. Bros, Nicholson and Stoddart were duly elected.

Proposition:

In accordance with the Notice of Motion given in the Summons for the Meeting, the Secretary, Bro. L.J. Ayers proposed that the Minutes of Lodge meetings be circulated to all subscribing Members together with the Summons for the succeeding meeting. Bro. Ayers explained that the advantages of this proposed procedure were that meetings in the Temple would not be prolonged by the reading of the minutes, and also that any Brethren who were unable to attend any meeting would be kept fully informed of the proceedings.

The proposition was seconded by W.Bro. W.N. Savage.

The proposition was put to the Brethren and approved.

Provincial Deputation:

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. James Peter Croft, accompanied by a large deputation of Present Provincial Officers, Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Officers then entered the Lodge in due ceremony conducted by the Provincial Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. W. Potts.

R. W. Bro. Croft assumed the chair of Adoniram. The Provincial Wardens and a Provincial Grand Inner Guard assumed their chairs according to office.

Salutations.

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master was then greeted in due form with seven. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master were also greeted with five.

The Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Officers received the appropriate salutes.

Provincial Grand Lodge:

The R. W. Provincial Grand Master then proceeded to open Provincial Grand Lodge, assisted by the Provincial Wardens and Officers.

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master then addressed the Brethren on the subject of W. Bro. William Lloyd Plews, Past Provincial Grand Inner Guard, and Chaplain of Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The R.W. Provincial Grand Master advised the Brethren that W. Bro. Plews is a distinguished Mason who has served Masonry with great dedication and ability. A retired schoolmaster, an active golfer and a keen participant in amateur stage dramatics, W. Bro. Plews is an excellent attender at all his Masonic commitments.

W. Bro. Plews was Advanced in Mark Masonry in 1969, was Worshipful Master of Harte Mark Lodge No. 740 in 1982, was appointed Provincial Inner Guard in 1986, and has been Chaplain of Harte Mark Lodge since 1987.

The R. W. Provincial Grand Master then invested W. Bro. Plews as Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden.

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master then closed Provincial Grand Lodge, assisted by the Provincial Wardens and Officers.

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master then requested the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. J.H. Holmes, to resume his chair and to continue the business of the Lodge. The Senior and Junior Wardens also resumed their respective chairs.

Advancement:

Bros. Barry Walker and Robert Stephen Laidler, being in attendance and having signed the necessary declaration, were admitted in due form and Advanced to the Honourable Degree of a Mark Master Mason.

The ceremony was performed by the W.M. W. Bro. John Henry Holmes, assisted by W. Bro. W.L. Plews and W. Bro. W.N. Savage.

Oration:

The Provincial Grand Chaplain, W. Bro. the Reverend D.A. Wright then delivered a very interesting oration to Harte Mark Lodge on this, the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain gave congratulations and commented favorably on the fact that two Candidates were Advanced at this meeting. This, he stated, was a tribute to the original Members and Founders of the Lodge, and also to the present Members and their practicing of Mark Masonry.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain felt that the Lodge could look forward to the future with hope and confidence, and he gave his good wishes for the days ahead.

Alms:

Alms amounting to £53.83 were then collected.

Communications

1st Rising:

The Secretary acknowledged receipt of Minutes of the Communications of Grand Lodge which were held on 12th March and 11th June 1996, and notice of the Communication to be held on 10th September 1996, the 1996-97 Yearbook, and Literature in connection with the 129th Anniversary Festival of Grand Mark Fund of Benevolence to be held on 2nd July 1997,

2nd Rising:

The Secretary acknowledged receipt of Communications confirming that the R. W. Provincial Grand Master would join with us in celebrating our 75th anniversary this evening, the Provincial Gazettes for May to October, the form for the Grand Lodge annual returns, a letter regarding actions to be taken before a Member may be allowed to be excluded from or resign from membership, a copy of the proposed updated Byelaws of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Presentation:

The W.M., W. Bro. J .H. Holmes, presented a cheque for £150.00 to the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, for charitable purposes, and to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Lodge.

3rd & 4th Rising:

The Secretary acknowledged receipt of a letter dated 1st May 1996 from the West Hartlepool Masonic Hall Company with reference to revised arrangements for ordering meals, a further letter dated 11th October 1996 from the West Hartlepool Masonic Hall Company informing us that they now hold an insurance policy which provides a blanket cover for all Lodge regalia used by Lodges in the building, so saving Lodges the expense of separate insurance, that the internal walls of the building have been damaged by the use of pins and adhesives and requesting all Brethren to refrain from attaching notices to the walls, and informing us that they intend to circulate a newsletter to all Hartlepool Masonic Brethren in January 1997.

Copies of Summonses from Eclectic Mark Lodge and Percy Mark Lodge,

A letter from the Bargain Book Company of Nun Street, Newcastle, regarding their Masonic showroom, and a forthcoming open day for all Masonic Brethren and their families.

Apologies for unavoidable absence had been received from numerous Brethren, including Provincial Officers and from our Senior Overseer, Bro. Philip Smith, apologies for absence plus an Anniversary Greetings Card, together with a beautiful Anniversary Cake in the shape of a Keystone and fully decorated for the occasion. This cake was enjoyed by all of the Brethren at the Festive Board.

Greetings:

Fraternal Greetings were received from Grand Officers, Provincial Grand Officers and the Visiting Brethren and the Brethren of Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The W.M. thanked the Brethren for their greetings.

Congratulations:

The W.M, W. Bro. J.H. Holmes, congratulated W. Bro. Martin Slimmings, P.M, on his receiving Provincial Honours of Past Provincial Grand Master Overseer, W. Bro. Slimmings suitably replied.

Closing:

The Dues having been rendered, the Wages Paid, and the Working Plans deposited in a Place of Safety, the Lodge was Closed in Harmony and with Solemn Prayer.

The Mark Benevolent Fund Gold Patronage



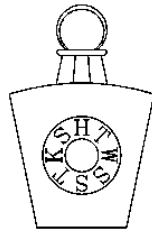
On the 29th November 2016 the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, Richard Victor Wallis JP was pleased to accept the invitation of the Provincial Grand Master to attend the especial Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham. The theme on this memorable occasion was the celebration of the Province of Durham attaining Grand Patron Gold status in the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Harte Mark Lodge had been a Patron since 2006 and Durham was in 2016 only the second Province to receive Grand Patron Gold status.

During the meeting Richard Victor Wallis JP was delighted to be able to make the presentation of the Grand Patron Gold Award collaret's personally, not only to Harte Mark Lodge but to each Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham. Never before had 67 Grand Patron Gold Collaret's been presented in one year which is outstanding in the 148-year history of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons

‘Keystone Lodge’



When the original Keystone Fund was established on the 3rd June 1930, it was on the basis that it would only apply to the Mark degree. Such was the enthusiasm of other Orders being administered by Mark Masons’ Hall that in 1933 it was extended initially to the Knights Templar, and it was agreed that a special ribbon could be worn by “Keystone Preceptories”. Eventually this arrangement was extended to all the other Orders. The primary purpose of the Fund was to help finance major capital projects to improve the fabric, facilities and quality of Mark Masons’ Hall.

At the celebratory meeting of the 150th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons held on Thursday 26th October 2006, the Grand Master; M.W. Bro., H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, G.C.V.O., announced the establishment of the 150th Anniversary Keystone Fund.

The 150th Anniversary Keystone Jewel is identical to the existing Keystone Jewel save that the ribbon is embellished with the addition of an enamelled 150th Anniversary button of the same design as the 150th Anniversary logo.

The qualifying contribution for a Lodge to become a Keystone Lodge was £25.00 per subscribing Member. Harte Mark became a qualified Member and as a qualified Lodge, they were encouraged to display on their respective circulars/summons a copy of the Keystone Jewel.

In recognition of the Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons success of becoming both a Patron and a Keystone Lodge, a full deputation of Provincial Officers led by the P.G.M Peter Croft visited the Lodge in April 2006, it is recorded in the minutes as follows,

“The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. James Peter Croft presented the Gavel to W. Bro. J.C. Bailey to mark the Lodge’s achievement of Keystone Status and becoming a Grand Patron of the Mark Benevolent Fund. The Provincial Grand Master expressed his view, “You have Marked Well”. Additionally, he requested the Gavel be displayed on the master’s pedestal on all our Harte Lodge Meetings”.

Worthy Brethren

Many worthy Brethren have passed through the various chairs to high office, several of whom have now gone to the Grand Lodge above, amongst them are many names which will be familiar to most of the brethren present this evening, including Bill Plews, Norman Frost, John Bailey, Brian Todd, John Coward and Jeff Roffey. There are many others, of course, but those who I have mentioned gave excellent service to this Lodge and should be remembered with affection and grateful thanks.

As in any period there is always some stalwarts who are the mainstay of any organization and in this last thirty years there are several who deserve mentioning,

A brother worthy of a mention who is not a member of Harte Mark is Bro David Harrison of Eclectic Lodge No 39, he has been an exceptional visitor and in his many years of support to the Harte Mark he has taken up the office of Tyler on 10 occasions, and on numerous occasions assisted with the ceremonies.

W Bro Charles Brian Todd P.G.S.D, who unfortunately is no longer with us was advanced into Harte Mark 9th December 1974 and was reigning master in 1983 and again in 1984, W Bro Brian gained his Provincial honours of P.P.G.S.D 24th June 1988 and in June 1998 became a Grand Lodge officer attaining the rank of P.A.G.D of C, and in June 2004 in recognition of his sterling service to the Mark degree he was promoted to the rank of P.G.S.D, W Bro Brian served the Lodge diligently for many years including occupying the office of D.C for seven years and Chaplain for thirteen years, W Bro Brian was a natural mentor to all who joined the Lodge, a dedicated mason and an exceptional ritualist.

W Bro Brian Twedde P.P.G.J.W was advanced into Harte Mark 12th October 1981 and was reigning Master in 1989 and has held an office within Harte Mark ever since, in 1991 he took up the role of Treasurer an office he occupied for thirteen years, he then decided he needed a challenge and became DC for eleven years, now needing to recuperate he became inner guard for two years before taking up his current office of A.D.C which he has held for five years. W Bro Brian gained his Provincial honours of P.P.G.Treas in June 1993 and was promoted to P.P.G.J.W, on 27th June 2001.

W Bro Derek W Cornforth P.P.G.J.W was advanced into Harte Mark 13th April 1992 and was reigning Master in 1999. W Bro Derek is the current D.C an office he has held for 7 years and before that he was A.D.C for 10 years and for a number of years he also simultaneously held the office of Almoner. His dedicated service to Lodge has been recognized and over the years has had several promotions, in June 2003 he received the honour of P.P.G.J.D and in June 2012 he was promoted to P.P.G.R swiftly followed by promotion in June 2016 to P.P.G.M.O and in June 2021 he was promoted P.P.G.J.W.

W Bro F William Lynas P.P.G.S.O was advanced into Harte Mark 12th October 1992 and was reigning Master in 2002 and again in 2011 and on both occasions, he occupied nearly all of the various offices leading to the chair including the roles of Senior and Junior warden and since coming out of the chair he has been Senior Deacon continuously for the 9 years. In June 2006 he received the honour of P.P.G.J.D and on 24th June 2015 was promoted to P.P.G.S.O.

W Bro Lewis John Ayers P.P.G.J.W was advanced into Harte Mark 8th October 1990 and wasted no time in getting involved, he served two years as Inner guard before in 1994 taking up the onerous task of Secretary, an office he occupied for five years, this was in advance of him going on to the floor to become the reigning Master in 2001. In recognition of this on 28th June 1995 he was honoured with a Past Provincial Grand Stewards collar. Since being in the chair W Bro Lewis has served the Lodge as treasurer for eighteen years and in this period he was promoted in June 2005 to P.P.G.R, and in June 2014 he was honoured with a further promotion to P.P.G.J.O, and in June 2020 he was promoted P.P.G.J.W. It is noted in the minutes that W Bro Lewis has assisted in nearly all of the ceremonies and whether it was entrusting the candidate with the secrets of the degree or part of the ceremony they were always carried out with great aplomb. W Bro Lewis is a dedicated Mason with a natural ability to communicate and address the brethren in a commanding but friendly manner and is a great asset to this Lodge and Freemasonry in general.

W Bro Gordon King Douglas P.P.G.J.W was advanced into Harte Mark 9th December 1991 and was Master in 1998 and from being Master until 2017 he had held an Office in every year, including Tyler, A.D.C, Registrar and secretary for 12 years. He gained the Provincial honour of P.P.G.S.D in June 2003 and gained further promotions of P.P.G.R in June 2006 and P.P.G.J.O in June 2011 and in June 2013 he was promoted P.P.G.J.W.

W Bro Neil Syres P.P.G.J.D was advanced into the Harte Mark 12th October 1998. 2021 is W Bro Neil's third year as Master having served the Lodge as Master in 2006 and 2020. In between these years he has served the Lodge diligently occupying the office of Tyler for two years, Junior Overseer for five years, Master Overseer for two years and again Senior Warden before taking up his second year as Master and in June 2011 he was honoured with the rank of P.P.G.J.D

W Bro John Coward P.P.G.J.O was advanced into Harte Mark 9th October 1967, and although W Bro John was advanced over 50 years before his demise in 2020, he sadly due to a brief spell when he had resigned meant that he had not maintained 50 years continuous service and missed out on being awarded his 50-year membership certificate. When W Bro John did get involved like several other Brethren never a year passed when he was not in an office, as well as serving as secretary for six years he served as Chaplain for four years, plus Tyler and Inner Guard. In June 2003 he received his Provincial honours of P.P.G.S.D and in June 2018 he was promoted to P.P.G.J.O.

100th Anniversary.

MINUTES of MEETING HELD on 11th OCTOBER 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 740, which was the 100th Anniversary meeting, was held in the Masonic Hall, Raby Road, Hartlepool, when the W M, W. Bro. Neil R Syres and the Lodge Officers and brethren were present.

Opening:

The Lodge was opened in due form by the W.M, W. Bro. Neil R Syres, and the minutes of the last Regular Meeting were read by the Secretary, confirmed by the Brethren, and signed by the W.M. as a true and correct record.

Congratulations:

The W.M, W. Bro. N. R Syres, rose on a happy note to congratulate W. Bro. Derek Cornforth, on his receiving Provincial Honours of Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden and belated congratulations to W. Bro Lewis Ayers on receiving the same honour in 2020. W. Bro. Cornforth and W. Bro. Ayers suitably replied.

Deputation:

The Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Frank Rankin accompanied by a large deputation of Present Provincial Officers and Provincial Grand Officers then entered the Lodge in due ceremony conducted by the Provincial Director of Ceremonies and were greeted in due form with the appropriate salutes.

The Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master W Bro Stephen Davison, accompanied by a deputation of Grand Officers then entered the Lodge in due ceremony and were greeted in due form with the appropriate salutes.

Orations:

The W.M requested that W Bro Merrick Hamilton read the abridged minutes of the Consecration meeting held on 15th September 1921.

W Bro Bill Florentine gave a brief history of the Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons and presented a copy of the full history to R.W. Assistant Grand Master and the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The Brethren also received a copy of the full history as they left the Temple.

The Lodge was then presented with the Centenary Warrant and the Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master W Bro Stephen Davison then presented each of the Harte Brethren present with their centenary jewel.

Presentation:

The W.M. W. Bro. N. R Syres, presented a cheque for £200.00 to the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, for charitable purposes, and to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Lodge

Closing:

The Dues having been rendered, the Wages Paid, and the Working Plans deposited in a Place of Safety, the Lodge was Closed in Harmony and with Solemn Prayer.

After the proceedings the Brethren adjourned to the Festive Board and all usual Masonic Toasts were observed.

Overview

It would be remiss of me not mention the devastating effect that COVID 19 has had not only in Freemasonry but life in general, fortunately after 18 months we appear to have turned a corner and getting back to some form of normality.

Sadly, in the years since the late seventies membership of Harte Mark has been in a slow decline, as previously recorded we maintained membership of 70 plus throughout the 1970's, in 1983 there were 45 member's and in 1993, 41 members, today we have only 20 members. It is noted in the media that during the lockdown the population are returning to old traditions, pastimes and games, there is no reason why Freemasonry in general can't be part of this resurgence, it is a very Honourable and noble organisation that the majority of people would be proud to be associated with, and with a little bit of effort there is no reason why we can't become the force that we used to be, because despite the outside influences that have troubled Freemasonry from time to time, we have survived. Brethren, we are all survivors, and we will survive.

We look forward to continuing to do so and in particular, to celebrating our 125th anniversary in the year 2046. Perhaps there are some Brethren present tonight who will be here to witness it and add to the impressive list of Masters that have graced our Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons. There are four past Masters of Harte Lodge of Mark Master Masons present tonight who were also present at the 75th Anniversary.

W. Bro. D.W. Cornforth.

W. Bro. L. J. Ayers.

W. Bro. F. W. Lynas.

W. Bro. W. V. Florentine.

Many thanks go to the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master, Grand Lodge officers, Provincial Officers and Brethren all who have given up their time to attend this evening.

**Harte Lodge
of
Mark Master Masons No 740**

Centenary Jewel



To all to whom

Robt. Allen Smith, Deputy Grand Master

these Presents shall come We Arthur William Patrick Albert Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, K. G. G. C. Grand Master of Mark Master Masons in England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown

Send Greeting:

Whereas a Petition has been addressed to the Grand Master by Brothers William Wallace, Tom Johnson Carter, Charles Ferguson Howard, Frederick Henry Bennett, William Scrimshaw Gales, Christopher Parry, John William Simpson and eight others regularly registered Mark Master Masons praying that they may be constituted a regular Lodge and the Grand Master has confidence in the prudence and fidelity of these Brethren Now be it known that the Grand Master doth hereby constitute these fifteen Brethren a regular Lodge of Mark Master Masons under the Title of the

Harte Lodge, No 740

in the Register of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons to be holden under the Grand Master and his Successors in Office for ever and doth hereby appoint Brother William Wallace to be the first Master, Brother Tom Johnson Carter to be the first Junior Warden and Brother Charles Ferguson Howard to be the first Senior Warden of the said Lodge giving to them and their Successors regularly elected and installed authority to convene a Lodge of Mark Master Masons at the Masonic Hall West Lane West Hartlepool in the County of Durham upon the second Monday in every month or such other time as they may appoint It is hereby declared that these three Brethren and their Successors in Office on behalf of themselves and the Harte Lodge by the acceptance of this Warrant become bound over and hereafter to pursue the Tenets of the Order, to observe its ancient usages and established customs and to obey and conform to all the regulations from time to time made by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for the Government of the Mark Degree and strictly to enforce them within their own Lodge Upon these conditions only this Charter or Warrant is granted and it is revocable in default of such compliance therewith Lastly the Grand Master for himself and his Successors declared that in due compliance with these conditions and the Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons relating to the same he will protect and uphold this Lodge and every Mark Master Mason lawfully advanced therein In witness whereof he hath hereunto set his hand and caused his Great Registrar to affix the seal of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons this eighth day of August One thousand nine hundred and twenty one

Grand Registrar



Arthur W. P. Albert
Grand Secretary