

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

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



We have a new PGM!

On Monday 28th November a very foggy day dawned over "The FED" at Dunston for the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Durham.

There was lots of activity from early hours to set everything up and prepare for the formalities which were to follow. This would be the culmination of many weeks of diligent preparation by Allan Gurney and his team, and Mike Davies and the DC team. The installing team from Grand Lodge assembled and progressed through practices with the officers from Durham, with the aim of a problem free ceremony.

Whilst this was going on, Brethren started arriving from all over the country and assembled for the big occasion, with an excited atmosphere building. A new Provincial Grand Master had to be installed following the recent appointment of Denny Wilson to Assistant Grand Master (AGM). There was an air of anticipation building along with a few nerves for the big event. What would follow, was a splendid and slickly performed ceremony with all the panache and pomp to be expected of such an occasion.

To enable the meeting to proceed, Presiding Officers Frank Rankin and Danny Guy, both Past Deputy PGMs of the Province, opened Provincial Grand Lodge. The Pro Grand Master, John Prizeman and his team from Grand Lodge were announced and entered in majestic procession. They then occupied the various offices and took over to install the new Provincial Grand Master.

The Pro Grand Master, acting as Installing Officer, addressed the meeting and thanked Frank for his service to the Province and for acting as Presiding Officer. In a slight break with protocol, the Past PGM was allowed to attend, much to the delight of all present, although it was pointed out with a smile, that Denny was here as the AGM.

The Patent of Appointment was presented to the Installing Officer. An escort was prepared comprising of members of Mark Lodges from the Province of Durham. They then re-entered accompanying the PGM Designate, David Nigel Hanson. The chain of office was proudly carried at the front of the procession by Gil Crossley Snr.



The Patent of Appointment from the Grand Master was read to all present by the Deputy Grand Secretary, Dan Heath.

The new Provincial Grand Master was duly presented, obligated, invested and installed by the Installing Officer, John Prizeman. David was then proclaimed Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Durham by the Grand Director of Ceremonies.



With David in the chair, the job of the day however was only partly completed. David then had the pleasure to instal the new Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Trevor Lynn in similar grandiose manner. The new Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Michael Wilkinson was then installed with the same splendour.

David then thanked the Pro Grand Master and his team for making the day such a wonderful occasion for the Province of Durham. He commented on how busy he

is in his new role, having just performed ceremonies in Switzerland, Italy and Romania as well as installing two new Provincial Grand Masters. He also took the opportunity to acknowledge his good judgement of character, having appointed Prof. Denovan Wilson as Assistant Grand Master. David then made his presentation to the assembled brethren.

A full transcript of David's presentation is available on the Mark Website.

Following closing of Provincial Grand Lodge, the hall was readied for the banquet where everyone enjoyed a fine meal and a few drinks. It was a wonderful happy and friendly atmosphere where enjoyment was the order of the day.

In replying to his toast, the Pro Grand Master, John Prizeman stated that it had been his pleasure to install the 10th Provincial Grand Master of Durham Mark Province. However, he was no stranger to Durham, having attended the AGM as the PGM of Hampshire & Isle of White and more recently at several centenary celebrations. He acknowledged that occasions such as this take much time and effort to organise and thanked the Provincial Grand Secretary, Allan Gurney for his work.

In addressing the membership, he advised that this Province can only prosper by supporting the new Provincial Grand Master. But above all, continue to enjoy yourselves. It has been a special day, the PGM's role is a very demanding one, but David brings a wealth of experience and knowledge, with your support he will be able to lead the Province.

It is customary for meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge to be covered by members of the St. John's Ambulance Service; this was no different. In recognition of their continued support and assistance, the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund presented a cheque towards their funds.

A very memorable day for everyone in attendance, but especially so for some.

You can find out more about St. John's Ambulance service at :-
<https://www.sja.org.uk/>



Dinner for Denny

Ferryhill Masonic Hall was the venue for the Dinner for Denny to celebrate his 8 years as Provincial Grand Master and subsequent appointment as Assistant Grand Master. This was an opportunity to say thank you for his leadership and friendship from the Province of Durham.



The Dinner for Denny saw well over 100 brethren from around the Province come together for the celebration. Everyone assembled in the lounge to meet up and have a chat before moving to the hall for the splendid meal.

The tables in the hall were beautifully set out ready for guests. Each setting was adorned with a 'Dinner for Denny' place card for the occasion. Inside was the story of the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge at which Denny was installed as AGM.

After the meal, Norman Eric Heavyside stood at the front and presented the toast to Denny in his own inimitable style. He was pleased that a recent health issue and surgical procedure hadn't prevented him from attending.

He started by saying how delighted he was to be proposing this toast to Denny as their association goes back a long way.



When he formed a team in 2005 to progress 'The Big Conversation' within Lodges, he chose Denny as one of the six members. Denny soon became an important and influential member of the team.



It would be fair to say that Denny has been in Freemasonry for quite some time, having been initiated into Palatine Lodge in 1973, the week after Sunderland triumphed at Wembley. Progressing through the Lodge offices and then the Provincial ladder, becoming Senior Warden in 2005. That year he was invited to become the Assistant PGM to Eric when he took over after the passing of Derek Richmond. He would later become Deputy PGM in 2008 until 2012.

Denny joined the Royal Arch and numerous Orders during his distinguished Masonic career. Notably, he joined Bede Mark in 1975 and becoming their Master in 1989. He was appointed in the Mark to Provincial Grand Junior Warden in 1994 and a succession of acting offices followed, and then to Deputy PGM between 1998 and 2005. This was a post he would be appointed to again in 2011 before becoming PGM in 2014.

It was during his time as Deputy PGM in the Craft, that there was pressure to allow him to be released to the Mark. Being of similar ages, Eric realised that this was a perfect opportunity for Denny as he may not get the chance in the Craft.



Eric then went on to describe Prof. D. K. Wilson, the man. He is someone we all know as a friend, a leader and one who doesn't criticise others. A very humble gentleman highly educated and a good confidant. Someone who is a real team player, one who listens and delivers without dictating.

Eric did allude to Denny's foibles, he struggles to say NO, but if he had, perhaps he wouldn't be where he is now! He also was never one for gardening, often removing flowers instead of weeds, much to the dismay of his wife. But behind all this is Denny's beloved wife Dorothy who has supported him throughout.

The toast was followed by a rousing, 'For he's a jolly good fellow'. David Hanson, Deputy PGM in Charge then spoke about Denny and presented him with various gifts and flowers for Dorothy.

In his response to the toast, Denny firstly thanked Eric and then David. Addressing David as Deputy PGM in Charge before saying, "no, no, no, ... PGM Designate", in anticipation of the 28th of November 2022.

Denny advised that at every position he has been appointed to, at some point he's been 'wet behind the ears', and so it continues now!



He then revealed three pivotal points in his career. First, the wonderful moment that the whole light of Freemasonry was revealed to him at his Initiation.

Next came when Bill Gillhespy appointed him as acting Junior Warden in the Mark. At the end of the year, he thought that would be it, but Peter Croft invited him to be Deputy DC. The final pivotal moment was in the Craft, representing the PGM, then a Grand collar, then being invited to be an acting Warden.

Whilst Denny thought he would be doing a retirement speech after standing down as PGM, it is not to be as another chapter opens. He concluded by saying his "good journey is because of you, wonderful Brethren; you've been an inspiration". But he had to get one last chance to say his favourite line of ritual, "among Mark Master Masons, you will ever find friends" - how true.

Following his reply, Denny took the opportunity to present the Provincial Grand Master chain and collarettes to David Hanson in readiness for his investiture. He advised that the chain is not a Provincial one, it is a Mark Grand Lodge chain, which will be presented by the rulers of Mark Grand Lodge, but he couldn't resist passing it on personally. In presenting it, he noted, "the past is past, present is now and the future is in David's hands".

The raffle from the evening raised £640 which will be going to the 2029 Festival in honour of Denny.

The final toast was made by Trevor Lynn in which he thanked John Dodds, John Nye and the staff of Ferryhill Masonic Hall for putting on the Dinner for Denny. It has been a huge success and a fitting tribute to an amazing Provincial Grand Master.



Visit to Clavering Mark Lodge

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge took his Team to Dunston to visit Clavering Mark Lodge. The Team was in for a treat as it was not only the Installation of the new Master of Clavering, but also the presentation of a 60-year certificate. It was an early start due to the agenda for the evening. This did not deter many from turning out and fighting the traffic on the A1. It was not long before the DPGM in Charge, David Hanson and the Provincial Team were warmly welcomed into the Lodge.



The first business was to Install Ian Dixon into the master's chair of Clavering Mark Lodge. This was executed in style by the Installing Master, Christopher Ansell before Ian invested his officers for the year.

The next important event was for the DPGM in Charge to present Alfred Morris with a certificate for 60 years of continuous service in the Mark Degree. David invited Alf Morris to join him on the floor to reminisce about his time.

Alf was a child of 1938 and born in the Scotswood area of Newcastle. On leaving school he took an apprenticeship as a panel beater before setting up his own coach building company. He retired from the business at 50 due to poor health but carried on working as a gardener until a cancer diagnosis called time on this at an age of 79! In his teens, his interest was football. He both played and managed at a local non-league level for St Bede's and Malvain. Alf entertained everyone with many funny stories of this era.

Alf commenced his Masonic journey when he was initiated into Clavering Lodge on 4th February 1962, at the age of twenty-one. His proposer was his father and his seconder was a well-known Freemason, Tom Butterwell. Alf progressed through the ranks, becoming Master in 1976, receiving Provincial honours in 1980, and further promoted in 1991. In the Mark and Mariner Degrees, Alf holds Grand Rank.

When his mother Lodge surrendered its Warrant in 2006, Alf joined Winlaton St. Paul's Lodge. He was proposed by Frank Rankin, seconded by



Keith Liddell, and progressed to the Lodge Master in 2012.

His early Masonic career saw him join a number of other Masonic Orders, namely Royal Arch Chapter, Mark, Royal Ark Mariners, Rose Croix, Red Cross of Constantine and the Allied Degrees.

He is renowned for his ritual and puts this down to his late mentor, John George

Hancock. Together, they were prolific visitors in Northumberland and Durham Provinces and spent many Sunday evenings together reciting ritual.

To this day, Alf has remained very active in his various Masonic activities and thoroughly enjoys delivering ritual whenever the opportunity arises. He is often relied upon to stand in at very short notice and always happy to oblige.



It was noted during the toast to Alf by Frank Rankin, that Alf had a very good memory and David had a struggle to get a word in, Alf being so enthusiastic. Frank then presented a gift on behalf of Clavering Mark of some 'light refreshment' to go in the decanter he got for his 50th.

It was a superb night, one to remember and it is fair to say that Alf left his mark with everyone who attended.

Hackworth Mark Lodge Centenary

The Mark Provincial Team made tracks to Shildon for the Hackworth Mark Lodge Centenary. On this occasion we were honoured with the presence of the Past Deputy Grand Master, Keith Emmerson. Our own Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Mike Davies also took on duties as Keith's Grand Director of Ceremonies for the evening.



The Worshipful Master, Chris Downey first welcomed into the lodge the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge, David Hanson and his Provincial Team. He then welcomed the Past Deputy Grand Master, Keith Emmerson.

For the main part of the proceedings, Keith took the chair. He commented that when he retired as Deputy Grand Master, he thought he wouldn't be doing events like this again. However, he was delighted to have the chance and be 'taken off the shelf'.

Keith went on to enthuse about Timothy Hackworth, a great railway engineer from whom the Lodge takes its name. He then indicated that he had stated many times on such occasions, that Mark Masonry is to be enjoyed and the numbers attending is demonstration of this. He hopes the times of separation due to Covid are now firmly in the past.

The main business of the evening was for Keith to present Hackworth Mark Lodge with their Centenary Warrant on behalf of the Grand Master. Prior to this, Keith requested the Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary, Graham Wharton to read out the Lodge Warrant to the brethren present. This was followed by Keith's DC, Mike Davies reading the Centenary Warrant which was then handed back to Keith. In presenting it to the Master of the Lodge, he acknowledged the fantastic achievement by Hackworth Mark in achieving their Centenary and being based in Shildon all this time.



One hundred years is a fantastic milestone for any lodge especially when that lodge is still very much alive and well. He then stated that it was his honour and pleasure to present the members of Hackworth Lodge with their Centenary Token. The members in procession proudly received their respective jewel from the Past Deputy Grand Master.

The Lodge then presented every visitor present with a Token as a memento of the evening and celebration of the Hackworth Centenary.



The formal meeting was soon followed by the festive board and drinks. It was the first time that the Past Deputy Grand Master had visited Shildon however his memories of Durham go back a long way. When on visits he ensures he makes time to chat with as many of the brethren as he is allowed to; the Directors of Ceremonies always keen to keep the proceedings moving.

In thanking Keith for his attendance, David noted that it was following his appointment that Keith had started the change for the Mark rulers to get out into the Province.



In responding to the toast to Keith by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge, he thanked everyone for such a warm welcome. He again congratulated member of the Lodge on the Hackworth Centenary. Keith encouraged members to keep looking for friends to invite to the Mark and Mariners. In addition, if they are not in the Craft, why not invite them to join?

The Lodge presented David with cheques for £761 to the Benevolent Fund and £310 from the raffle to the 2029 MBF Festival.

For more information about Timothy Hackworth visit :-

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_Hackworth

<https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/people/ap218/hackworth-timothy-1786-1850-railway-engineer>

For more information about the Mark Degree visit :- <https://bit.ly/MagicOfTheMark>



DURHAM 2029 MBF FESTIVAL LAUNCH

Saturday 21st January 2023
6:30pm – 12:30am
The Fed, Dunston, NE11 9JR

Join us for a night of entertainment and merriment as we launch the Durham 2029 MBF Festival in style!



Featuring the wonderful and popular performer Chris Tame and the incredibly talented Enter CIC!



This is a 'Black Tie' event and will be a chance to mix with family and friends as we start our Festival period together with one aim in mind - to raise money and awareness for the most-worthy cause that is the Mark Benevolent Fund.



Giving is not just about making a donation - it's about making a difference.



All are welcome to attend. To book tickets, follow the QR code or visit durham2029.org/events

MARK AND RAM INFORMATION

MARK PROVINCIAL VISITS

January 2023

5th	Spennymoor (50th year certificate) - 981	Spennymoor	Confirmed
24th	Eclectic (60 year certificate) - 39	Hartlepool	Confirmed
25th	Ravensworth (50 year certificate) - 718	Sunderland (Queen Street)	Confirmed

February 2023

17th	Moseley (50 year certificate) - 925	Birtley	Confirmed
------	-------------------------------------	---------	-----------

March 2023

9th	Ferryhill (Wardens Dinner & Full visit) - 1560	Ferryhill	Confirmed
-----	--	-----------	-----------

April 2023

4th	Cestria 1151	Chester-le-Street	Confirmed
21st	Barnard Castle (Small delegation) - 778	Barnard Castle	Confirmed

May 2023

June 2023

28th	Annual Provincial Meeting	The Fed	Confirmed
------	---------------------------	---------	-----------

RAM PROVINCIAL VISITS

December 2022

19th	Hackworth—761	Sildon	Confirmed
------	---------------	--------	-----------

January 2023

17th	Industry—293	Dunston	Confirmed
------	--------------	---------	-----------

February 2023

23rd	Clavering—896	Gateshead	Confirmed
------	---------------	-----------	-----------

March 2023

31st	Royal Ark Mariner Assembly	Ferryhill	Confirmed
------	----------------------------	-----------	-----------

RAM INSTALLATIONS

WORSHIPFUL COMMANDER

SEPTEMBER

Stanhope	1551	John Maurice Nye	2nd
Union	124	David Dorward	14th
Bernard Gilpin	860	Brian Eltringham	19th
Industry	293	Philip Borlace	20th
Moseley	925	Donald MacKenzie	26th
Bede	605	William Henry Finkle	27th

OCTOBER

Eclectic	39	Gordon Thornton	3rd
Dunelm	356	William Bentham	12th

NOVEMBER

Ryton	1714	James Jordan	2nd
Durham I.C.s	1492	Robert William Emerson	17th
Barnard Castle	778	Barrie Burn	21st
Spennymoor	981	Robert William Grimley	28th

MARK INSTALLATIONS

MARK LODGES	No.	WORSHIPFUL MASTER	INSTALLED
SEPTEMBER			
Ferryhill	1560	David Charles Thompson	8th
Ryton	1714	Philip Chaffer	9th
Darlington Steadfast	250	Ian Applegarth	14th
Ernest Dixon	1015	John William Cox	20th
St. Andrew's	854	Leslie William Robinson	33nd
Ravensworth	718	Robert Hoy	28th
OCTOBER			
Cestria	1151	Kieran John Fyland	4th
Bernard Gilpin	860	John McCormack	11th
Percy	122	Leonard Andrew Young	13th
Elevation	1112	Malcolm Cuthbertson	13th
Bede	605	William Woodbridge Telfer	14th
William Todd	929	Gordon William Foster	18th
Ambrose Crowley	1269	Andrew Jonathan Mason	18th
Clavering	896	Ian Wilson	19th
Barnard Castle	778	John Bainbridge Finlay	21st
Moseley	925	Peter Layton	21st
Durham Installed Masters	1492	John Maurice Nye	24th
Provincial Grand Stewards	1820	William James Bell	26th
NOVEMBER			
Penshaw	1055	Joseph William Pearson Dodson	10th
Indaba	1936	Andrew David Watson	25th
DECEMBER			
Walton	1106	John David Lonsdale	5th

OTHER NEWS

VW Bro. Keith Dinning deceased, PGJO, ProvGChap

Following the funeral of VW Bro. Keith Dinning on 10th October 2022, a donation of £250 in memory of Keith was made to The Durham Mark Festival 2029 appeal, being part of the collection monies received at the Church service. Our grateful thanks go to Mrs Audrey Dinning, Keith's widow, for arranging such a generous donation.

St Benedict's Hospice

The hospice has recently held a fundraising money raffle, with prizes of £1,000, £500, and £250. WBro Joe Higginbottom, Past Master of Unity Lodge No. 827, is a regular monthly donor to the hospice and has been since the death of his partner Angela in 2020.

When the winning numbers were announced, Joe was fortunate indeed to scoop the second prize of £500.

Joe generously donated £100 of his windfall back to the hospice as a thank you and to help in a small way with their wonderful and important work.

Joe is pictured here and has assured the editor that he has not been sent to the naughty corner once again!!

Well done Joe. A very nice gesture. Keep smiling!



Union Mark Lodge No. 124

On the 27th October 2022 Union Mark Lodge No.124, who meet at Queen Street, Sunderland welcomed and advanced a new candidate for the Mark Degree.

Lodge Officers and stand-in Officers from among the visiting brethren conducted the ceremony of Advancement which saw Bro Simon Thompson become a Mark Master Mason in a dignified and excellent manner.

The Worshipful Master WBro David Lawson congratulated Bro Thompson and welcomed him to the Mark Master's Degree and into Union Lodge of M.M.M. No.124 in particular.



The wonderful evening continued with an excellent festive board and good cheer displayed by everyone present, a good night Marked well!



MERRY
Christmas
And Happy New Year

Deadline for the Spring 2023 newsletter is Monday 20th March 2023.

Please send contributions to newsmarkdurham@outlook.com

(Articles in Word and tables in excel please.)



OBITUARIES

“They rest from their labours and their good works do follow them.
Thanks be to God, they have marked well.”



Title	Forename	Surname	DofB	Mark	RAM	Mother Lodge	MarkGR	MProvGR	RAM Rank	Died
WBro	John	Victor Thompson	16/06/1944	1560	981	Ferryhill	N/A	unknown	unknown	02/08/2022
WBro	Robert	Henry Jones	14/09/1936	250	N/A	Darlington	N/A	PPGJW	N/A	10/09/2022
WBro	John	Wilson Best	27/12/1943	605	N/A	Bede	N/A	PPAGDC	N/A	12/09/2022
WBro	Terence	Henry Lewis	24/10/1918	39	39	Eclectic	N/A	unknown	unknown	20/09/2022
					981; 981; 1560;					
VWBro	Keith	Dinning	13/05/1942	1806	1806	Spennymoor	PGJO	PPGJW	RAMGR	21/09/2022
WBro	Norman John William	Moffitt	25/11/1953	1714	1714	Ryton	N/A	N/A	N/A	09/11/2022
WBro	Raymond	Stephenson	04/04/1942	122	122	Percy	N/A	PPGJW	RAMGR	17/11/2022
WBro	Raymond Gregory	Snaith	07/04/1946	1936	250	846	PAGDC	PPGSW	ProvRAMGR	24/11/2022