

# PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE of MARK MASTER MASONS of DURHAM

***R. W. Bro. Prof. D K Wilson***  
***Provincial Grand Master***

**Report of the Provincial Grand Secretary to Provincial Grand Lodge  
at the Lancastrian Suite, Lancaster Road, Dunston, Gateshead NE11 9JR  
held on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

I present my first Report to the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Durham. The last 13 months have been extremely busy, as you will see from the items listed below. However, the next 18 months promise to be even more hectic, enjoyable, and exciting. Our Provincial Grand Master now presides over his fifth Mark Annual Meeting, and has continued to lead the Province with many new initiatives. It has been another busy year for the Mark Provincial Team, with 15 visits made during the year. While the appointments made in May and June of 2018, are now bedded in, and the work required of the new roles is slowly being learned.

## **Lodge Visits (15).**

The Provincial Grand Master appreciates the support from his Active Team of Provincial Officers which has enabled him to accept Provincial Deputation Visits to the following Mark Lodges: Eclectic 39; Percy 122; Union 124; Industry 293; Dunelm 356; Auckland 596; Hackworth 761; Clavering 896; William Todd 929; Spennymoor 981; Staindrop 1274; Durham Lodge of Installed Mark Masters 1492; Ferryhill 1560; Ryton 1714; and Indaba 1936.

## **Lodge of Instruction.**

The Annual Festival of the Durham Mark Lodge of Instruction will be held at Shiney Row on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019, where V W Bro. Paul Philip Paterson PGMO will preside as President of the Festival.

## **50 Year Certificates.**

During the last year, only 1 Certificate celebrating 50 years' membership of the Order was presented to:  
W Bro Gordon Fletcher, Ferryhill Mark Lodge No. 1560.

## **Installations.**

The Provincial Grand Master was represented at all the Mark Lodge Installation Meetings and the reports of those representing indicated that the Ceremonies were, as usual, of a high standard and well conducted in the majority of cases. Thanks are extended to all those Brethren who represented the Provincial Grand Master so ably, and to the Lodges for the courteous and friendly manner in which the representatives were received.

## **Membership.**

The Membership at the end of 2016 was 1233 and by the end of 2017 had fallen to 1218. At the end of 2018, it had fallen again to 1180. This decrease in Membership of 38 represents a further decrease of 3.12% over the last year; and a total decrease of 4.32% over the last 2 years. If we consider that over the 2 year period, 50 Brethren have passed to the "Grand Lodge Above", and we had 95 resignations, then clearly, 'resignations' is a major issue. All resignations are followed up by contact from either the Deputy or the Assistant PGM, and it is imperative that details of all resignations are sent to Province as soon as Lodge Secretaries are informed of them – a follow-up phone call is useless several weeks later. Hopefully, the launch of the re-vamped and improved "Fourth Step to the Mark" earlier this year should ensure that recruitment will continue to be given high priority.

## Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham

### Summary of Annual Returns of Lodges Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

No.	LODGE	Total Members Installation 2017	A	J	R	D	Ex	HM	Total Members Installation 2018
39	Eclectic	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
122	Percy	23	0	2	1	0	0	0	24
124	Union	23	1	1	1	2	0	0	22
250	Darlington	19	1	0	2	2	0	0	16
293	Industry	26	0	0	0	1	0	0	25
356	Dunelm	43	2	0	0	0	0	0	45
362	Wouldhave Tyne Dock	46	2	0	2	1	4	0	41
596	Auckland	21	1	0	1	0	0	1	20
605	Bede	29	0	0	2	0	0	0	27
701	Jarrow	38	0	1	2	3	0	0	34
718	Ravensworth	21	1	0	0	1	1	0	20
740	Harte	23	0	0	1	0	0	0	22
761	Hackworth	40	0	0	0	1	0	0	39
778	Barnard Castle	21	1	0	0	0	0	1	21
827	Unity	21	0	1	1	0	0	0	21
846	Steadfast	25	2	0	0	1	0	1	25
854	St. Andrew's	33	0	1	0	0	3	0	31
860	Bernard Gilpin	23	0	0	3	1	0	0	19
896	Clavering	18	1	14	0	0	0	0	33
925	Moseley	28	0	1	1	1	1	0	26
929	William Todd	32	1	0	2	0	0	1	30
930	Castle Eden	35	0	0	3	1	0	0	31
981	Spennymoor	26	0	1	0	1	0	0	26
1015	Ernest Dixon	24	1	1	2	1	1	0	22
1055	Penshaw	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	19
1093	St. Lawrence	11	5	1	0	1	0	0	16
1106	Walton	32	0	0	0	1	0	0	31
1112	Elevation	29	0	0	2	2	1	0	24
1145	St. Aidan	20	0	1	0	1	0	0	20
1151	Cestria	53	0	1	2	1	0	0	51
1269	Ambrose Crowley	40	1	1	1	3	2	0	36
1271	Shiple	24	0	0	0	0	0	2	22
1274	Staindrop	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	13
1339	Hebburn	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
1492	Durham L. of I M	50	0	1	3	1	0	0	47
1511	St. Thomas	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
1551	Stanhope	31	0	0	0	0	1	0	30
1560	Ferryhill	30	0	0	3	0	0	1	26
1626	George Washington	22	0	0	3	1	1	0	17
1714	Ryton	30	2	0	1	1	0	0	30
1806	Chief of the Builders	65	2	4	1	3	0	0	67
1820	Provincial Stewards	25	0	3	3	0	0	0	25
1936	Indaba	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
		<b>1218</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1180</b>

## **Mark Grand Lodge Honours.**

At the Annual Investiture Meeting of Mark Grand Lodge on Tuesday 11th June 2019, the Most Worshipful Grand Master was pleased to make the following appointments to Brethren from this Province:

Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	John Arthur, Chief of the Builders 1806
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	George Paylor, Ryton 1714
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies	Leonard Andrew Young, Percy 122
Past Grand Standard Bearer	John William Scott, Spennymoor 981

At the Annual Investiture Promotions Meeting of Mark Grand Lodge on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the Most Worshipful Grand Master was pleased to make the following appointments to Brethren from this Province:

Past Grand Junior Overseer	Keith Dinning, Spennymoor 981
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Frederick Alan Peat Beales, Wouldhave Tyne Dock 362
Past Grand Junior Deacon	Leslie Nevin, Eclectic 39

Congratulations are extended to all the above, with the wish that they have good health to enjoy their preferment, and the determination to continue to work hard for the betterment of the Order.

## **Obituary (21).**

The Province has suffered the loss of many Mark Brethren, whose names are recorded below. We acknowledge the service they gave to the Order in general, and to this Province in particular.

<b>W Bro Guy Paul Gibson</b>		<b>Steadfast Lodge 846</b>
<b>Bro John McLean</b>	<b>PPrGStwd</b>	<b>Percy Lodge 122</b>
<b>W Bro Cyril George Metcalf</b>	<b>PPrGJW</b>	<b>Dunelm Lodge 356</b>
<b>W Bro Peter Gordon Parlour</b>	<b>PAGDC, PPrGJW</b>	<b>Darlington Lodge 250</b>
<b>W Bro Joseph William Raby</b>	<b>PPrGSO</b>	<b>Darlington Lodge 250</b>
<b>W Bro Douglas Alan Wright</b>	<b>PPrGJD</b>	<b>Jarrow Lodge 701</b>
<b>W Bro Charles Brian Todd</b>	<b>PGSD, PPrGSD</b>	<b>Harte Lodge 740</b>
<b>Bro James Burns Hopper</b>		<b>Ernest Dixon Lodge 1015</b>
<b>W Bro Arthur Avery</b>	<b>PAGStdB, PPrGJW</b>	<b>Ernest Dixon Lodge 1015</b>
<b>W Bro Gordon Nicholson Graves</b>	<b>PGJD, PPrGSW</b>	<b>Cestria Lodge 1151</b>
<b>Bro Robert Irvin</b>		<b>Elevation Lodge 1112</b>
<b>W Bro Thomas Gleghorn</b>	<b>PPrGJW</b>	<b>Elevation Lodge 1112</b>
<b>W Bro John Michael Bell</b>	<b>PPrGReg</b>	<b>Darlington Lodge 250</b>
<b>W Bro Matthew Bainbridge</b>	<b>PPrGReg</b>	<b>George Washington Lodge 1626</b>
<b>W Bro Derrick Allison</b>	<b>PPrGJW</b>	<b>Elevation Lodge 1112</b>
<b>W Bro Richard Armstrong</b>	<b>PAGSwdB, PPrGJW</b>	<b>William Todd Lodge 929</b>
<b>Bro Cyril Palmer</b>		<b>Walton 1106</b>
<b>W Bro Harry Robson</b>	<b>PPrGStwd</b>	<b>Ambrose Crowley Lodge 1269</b>
<b>Bro Kenneth James Dain</b>		<b>Ernest Dixon Lodge 1015</b>
<b>Bro Clifton Vasey</b>		<b>Clavering Lodge 896</b>
<b>W Bro Derek Barker</b>	<b>PPrGReg</b>	<b>Steadfast Lodge 846</b>

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

### **Visits to Other Provinces (12).**

The Province has been represented at the Annual Meetings of the following Provinces:

Northumberland; North & East Yorkshire; Cheshire; Lincolnshire; West Yorkshire; West Lancashire; Derbyshire; Leicester & Rutland; East Lancashire; North Wales; Cumberland & Westmorland; and Staffordshire & Shropshire.

### **Other Events.**

On Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> October, the PGM, DepPGM, AsstPGM, ProvGSec, V W Bro F.A. Rankin, and V W Bro A.Craven attended a very special meeting in Nottingham at which V W Bro Joseph Alan Armstrong received an award for 70 years' distinguished service in the Order. He was immediately promoted to the rank of R W Bro Joseph Alan Armstrong PGJW. R W Bro Alan was the first candidate initiated into Elevation Lodge on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1948, and is still a fully paid up member to this day.

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 a Social Evening for Grand Officers and their partners in both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees, was held at the Masonic Chambers, Ferryhill. The event was attended with over 60 attendees, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present. Our thanks are extended to W. Bro. John M Nye for his organisation and the Ferryhill Lodge volunteers who ensured the success of the evening.

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019 the Annual Mark Gala Dinner was held at Spennymoor Town Hall, which was attended by 112 guests, and where an excellent meal was enjoyed by all. There followed the entertainment. The function, together with the annual "Money Draw" raised £3,500 for the Mark Benevolent Fund. We all extend our grateful thanks to the Mark Ball Co-ordinating Committee, chaired by W Bro David Hanson, DPGM, for their hard work.

### **Conclusion.**

Brethren, I present my report for your information and consideration. My grateful thanks go to all the hard working Lodge Secretaries for the friendship they have shown to me since being appointed Provincial Grand Secretary, and I am sure they will continue the good work in their Lodges.

My particular thanks go to my Deputy Provincial Secretary W.Bro Graham Wharton, my Assistant Provincial Secretary, W Bro Doug Quickmire, the Provincial Registrar, W Bro Malcolm Ormiston, and the Assistants to the Secretariat, W Bros Fred Beales, Ian Heaviside, and David Battensby, who have executed their roles most efficiently, and their enthusiasm and assistance is greatly appreciated.

I hope that our annual pilgrimage to the Lancastrian Conference Centre is a success, and I hope everyone has a most enjoyable day.

Brethren, I wish you all well.

*Allan Gurney*

**GStwd, Provincial Grand Secretary.**

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**