

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

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

DURHAM



PGM of DURHAM - RW.Bro. Prof. DENOVAN KEITH WILSON



Burnopfield Masonic Hall on the 14th December 2017 was the venue for a special occasion. Over 100 brethren attended Elevation Lodge of Mark Master Masons to witness V.W. Bro Anthony Craven PGJO, Prov GD of C being presented with his certificate for achieving 50 years membership of the Mark Degree.

The Prov G.M. R.W. Bro Prof Denovan Keith Wilson presented the certificate after discussing with VWBro Craven the history of his masonic career.

Tony was born in Rowlands Gill on the 7th Oct 1941, he still lives in the village today. When questioned about his youth he explained that the it was a beautiful but quiet part of the country where a young lad could grow up without too much to lead him astray. After leaving school he began working for a local builders merchant and after changing jobs a couple of times.. he eventually began selling ceramic tiles for a local bathroom supplier.

In his late 30's Tony decided that he had learned enough about the trade to start his own company, which he still runs today with considerable help from his son John and daughter in law Clare.

Tony married his wife Val in 1971. They met when they worked for the same company but it was considered improper to become involved with a colleague in those days. Once he knew he was leaving the company he asked Val out on a date and as the say the rest is history.

Tony has two Grand Children Oskar and Isabella who he absolutely adores. They keep Val and himself very busy and young at heart.

Tony was initiated into Tynedale Craft Lodge in Nothumberland in 1966 and was Master in 1980. The Lodge closed in the year 2000 but before the closure he was encouraged by W.Bro. Frank Rankin to join Winlaton St Paul's Lodge in Dunston and about 5 years ago he also joined Rowlands Gill Lodge.

Having worked with the Northumbrian ritual for 40 years he admits that he struggles with Emulation.

During his 50 years in the Mark degree Tony has served 34 as an Officer for 5 Provincial Grand Masters no less, during which time he received several Provincial promotions culminating in him becoming a Grand Lodge Officer in the year 2000. He learned of a well-deserved promotion to Acting Grand Senior Deacon While on the golf course. He rang his wife to tell her he would be late home and she mentioned there was a letter from Grand Lodge. He asked her to open it and it was news of his promotion. He left his pals in the middle of the round and rushed home to read the letter for himself.

Tony told the brethren how much he enjoyed masonry ever since the day he joined and that he still has a deep love for the Fraternity.

Although there were many high points during his many years as a freemason, this special evening with so many brethren attending, including the P.G.M. from Cumberland and Westmorland R.W.Bro Keith Hodgson, the P.G.M. from Durham R.W.Bro. Prof Denovan Keith Wilson with his Provincial team, is the most special and unforgettable event which will be remembered by Tony with deep affection and he thanked the assembly with heart felt gratitude

TC



A CHRISTMASS MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY



MARK MASONS' HALL, LONDON



As the year draws to a close, each of us will reflect on 2017 for different reasons. Some of us will be remembering friends and loved ones we have lost while others will recall the birth of a child, the marriage of a son or daughter or some other happy occasion.

Masonically speaking, 2017 will undoubtedly be remembered most of all for the tercentenary celebrations of the United Grand Lodge of England which culminated in an outstanding celebration at the Royal Albert Hall in October when over 4,500 guests witnessed an outstanding depiction of the development of English freemasonry over the last 300 years. On your behalf, I send my very best wishes to our colleagues in the Craft and pledge our continuing support of their efforts to spread the good news about freemasonry .

For me, one of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly being invested as Grand Secretary at the Annual Investiture meeting of Grand Mark Lodge in June. I feel very humbled and greatly honoured to have been afforded the opportunity to lead the team at Mark Masons' Hall and I pledge myself to do my utmost to further the interests of our nine Orders whenever possible. I am very fortunate to have the support of a wonderful team and I thank them all for their efforts. There has been much change at head office in the last twelve months – we've recruited several new members to the team; we've started the journey to change the way we do things and deliver a more efficient service for our members; and we've invested heavily in improving the fabric of Mark Masons' Hall. And all this against a background of increasing assets and a strong balance sheet. All our Orders are showing a net increase in members and whilst that should give all of us grounds for optimism we shouldn't be complacent – we still have much to do to ensure we recruit new members and retain existing ones and you'll see much more happening in this area next year.

I am constantly amazed by the generosity of our members in support of our various Benevolent Funds and nowhere was this exemplified more than in May when we held the Royal Parks Charity Walk in support of the Mark Benevolent Fund. Over 300 Brethren, their wives, friends and families participated in this sponsored event which raised more than four times the target sum – achieving a massive £437,934. This event demonstrated the true impact of our collective efforts which will enable the Fund to provide further vehicles for Blood Bike charities up and down the country – watch this space for details of the vehicle distribution early in the New Year.

I feel confident that we are well placed to face the challenges of 2018 and with your support I am sure we will have another successful year.

Whatever you're doing over the coming festive season and wherever you may be, I send you my warmest fraternal good wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

With fraternal regards and best wishes.

R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W.

Grand Secretary



R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W.

Grand Secretary



Denny and Dorothy

send their Very Best Seasonal Greetings

and a very happy New Year to all the brethren and their families.

" PLEASE GIVE ATTENTION TO OUR CHAPLAIN "



AUDREY AND KEITH DINNING

At the majority of our Masonic meetings our attention is drawn to the Chaplain for the benefit of prayer. In the case of the Mark Degree the Provincial Chaplain is Keith Dinning.

Keith was born and brought up in a small village, Kelloe which is situated south of Durham City. There he commenced his education which he completed at A.J. Dawson Grammar School, Wellfield.

He and his wife Audrey have been married for more than fifty years. They are proud parent's of their now adult children together with six grandchildren and two great grandsons.

Keith's career has been mainly spent working with people, firstly at two prisons, Durham and Grendon (Bucks), the Probation Service for 20 years (Teesside and County Durham) and in Education Welfare for 17 years. He retired in 2009.

In 1979 he was initiated into Freemasonry at Ionic Lodge, Spennymoor. He has served as Master and been active in lodges, usually as Chaplain, Secretary and Treasurer.

In 1998, Keith was appointed Provincial Assistant Grand Chaplain in the Mark degree, and has served in the past 19 years as Assistant/Deputy culminating in being appointed Provincial Grand Chaplain in 2014

He has always been and continues to be active in his local Methodist Church serving the church and its

community. Keith also helps out as a leader of Worship when required.

At a recent Festive board, during grace before dining, I was taken by the words of thanks, hope and seasonal greetings. It was delivered with reverence and appropriate humour. On behalf of our readership I took the opportunity to ask Keith where he got his ideas from when composing such prayers. I hope that you find his reply was both enlightening and informative.

"It is the time of year when a lodge chaplain is looking for different graces (before and after dining) at the Festive Board. For some years now I have been the receiver of many suggestions as to what is acceptable or otherwise.

As the Provincial Grand Chaplain of the Mark Masons of Durham I have the honour and opportunity of visiting many Masonic Halls in that capacity. Preparing orations and dedications for various anniversaries, consecrations and dedications of Regalia etc. takes time, but doing justice to the occasions means research and collating information.

I enjoy the month of December leading up to Christmas and New Year festivities when I can use my favourite "grace" which just happens to be the longest.

The majority of Graces I use are taken from, a "Book of Graces" given to me as a present many years ago from W.I. Publications, which I amend appropriately.

I would like to share the following grace with you, offering my good wishes to you and your families, hoping you have a joyous and peaceful Festive Season and health and happiness in 2018, not forgetting those who are in greater need than ourselves.

For holly's cheerful crimson berry, for people's faces
shining merry,
For all Mark Masons gathered here, for absent Brethren
far and near,
For food to hearten us in eating, for wine to gladden us
in drinking,
For love, for health, for happiness, for joy and faith, and
hope of peace,
For countless other gifts beside, we thank thee Lord this
Christmas tide."

Michael Wilkinson,

Appreciation for the contributions by Keith Dinning.

For several years Hackworth Lodge of Mark Master Masons have played host to a Provincial Deputation at their regular December meeting. At the festive board there is an expectation of a seasonal pantomime and this year was no exception.

This year's production was loosely based on the theme of 'Cinderella'. The cast are members of the Lodge and to their credit, the executive members of our order. The narrator, being (Ken Moore) and principle architect of the 'Dis Nee Matter Production'.

The stage was set from the time that 'Cinderella' returned from the ball where she had been charmed by the handsome Prince (Denny Wilson) who had given her a wonderful apron which was left as she fled at the stroke of midnight. Cinderella was being consoled by 'Buttons' (Trevor Lynn) and joined by her 'Fairy

Godmother' (Danny Guy)

Enter the now extremely handsome Prince and his escort (David Hanson and Gary Quinn) who tried the apron on the two really ugly sisters with no success. However, you would not be surprised to hear that the apron did fit 'Cinderella' (Michael Wilkinson) but a kiss was required to ensure that there was a happy ending.

Yes! There was a happy ending, as the laughter and applause testified the brethren's approval. Was there a magic kiss? - Now that's a good question. What do you think? - Really! Well you had to be there so please try to come along to next year's meeting.



Left to right: PGM, Den Wilson, ProvSec, Trevor Lynn, Asst PGM David Hanson, Michael Wilkinson, Garry Quinn, Royston Smart, Colin Raine, DepPGM Danny Guy. Narrator : Ken Moore



Frank Rankin and Graham Wharton

Graham had the original idea for the badge as a way to promote Mark Masonry. The PGM then suggested the sale of these badges could also be used to raise money for the Centenary Celebration Fund, which has proved to be a great success.

Frank Rankin, the Director of the Centenary Festival 2020, then took centre stage as he announced the festival fund had exceeded its original target of £10,000 standing at almost £14,000. He stated that to date amount was all due the magnificent generosity of lodges and the brethren. He further explained, that whatever the final total that the amount raised would be given to charitable causes. These would be identified by the lodges themselves and their members. Information on that process would be circulated nearer to the festival itself.

Looking to the future, he disclosed that on Saturday 13th June 2020 there would be a Celebratory Ball at the Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgfield. Details will be circulated in the New Year.

The Provincial Grand Master, when restored to his personal comforts, took the opportunity to convey the Very Best of Seasonal Greeting to the brethren and their families.

Michael Wilkinson



Hackworth Lodge of RAM No.761 had a meeting on the 18th December 2017 in Shildon and at the festive board after the meeting the WCmdr. Alan Dargue together with Danny Guy and Royston Smart presented Pamela Douglas with a special gift of her favorite "Tippie" in recognition of the outstanding work and support she has and continues to give to the Shildon Masonic Temple, making their meetings so wonderful and special. Royston praised Pamela highly for the support she has given him when he took over some of the duties Lewis used to carry out at the Temple. The presentation was warmly acknowledged with applause by all the brethren in grateful thanks to Pamela for her fantastic service and kindness.

The Durham Mark Master Masons “Lodge of Instruction”

For better Understanding & Enjoyment of the Mark & RAM degrees



YET ANOTHER FAMOUS MASON

(Doesn't our Preceptor VW Bro Danny Guy suit a hat & moustache?)



Your Lodge of Instruction needs YOU!

The Durham Mark LOI is recruiting. Any Mark Master Mason can apply to join. £25 one off payment for lifetime membership. Come along, demonstrate our degree, be it Mark or RAM, in any number of roles (eg you don't need to be a PM to be WM). You'll learn far more about the degrees, visit other Temples throughout the Province, and of course enjoy the friendship and camaraderie of some excellent Mark Master Masons.

Interested?

Contact Richard Hogg on durhammarkloi@gmail.com, 07966 183317. Jeff Awdas, Doug Quickmire and Danny Guy will also be only too pleased to tell you more, or answer any query.

Secretaries / DCs: If you'd like the Demonstration Team to visit your lodge, contact any of the brethren above to set a date....



**PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF DURHAM
DURHAM LODGE
OF
INSTALLED MARK MASTERS
No.1492**



***"Another evening not to be missed"
on Monday 26th feb. 2018***

That night we have the pleasure of introducing **W.Bro. Dr. Rod Taylor**, a very well respected speaker from West Yorkshire who will present an **An Illustrated lecture on the First Royal Mark Mason**, which tells of the life and masonic career of Prince Leopold the youngest son of Queen Victoria who died of Haemophilia.

This will be a lecture not to be missed so please put the date in your diary and inform as many Mark members as you can, remember these meetings are open to all Mark Masons.

If anyone wishes to dine then all I ask is to let me know at
mj.cgraham9910@gmail.com

This event is open for ALL Mark Masons and YOU are invited
If you are an Installed or Past Mark Master why not come along see what we have to offer and become a member
If you wish to dine afterwards the cost will be £7.00 but please let me know before hand on

mj.cgraham9910@gmail.com

**DURHAM LODGE OF
INSTALLED MARK MASTERS
NO.1492**

Birtley Masonic Hall

"TELL ME A STORY"

There is a saying, **"That it's good to talk"** and that is at the heart of the news initiative launch by the Mark Executive to support the popular Provincial Newsletter composed and circulated by Martin Schoolkate for several years. To assist in the circulation of the content of Mark / RAM meetings that maybe of interest to brethren that simple phrase has been taken one step further by giving brethren the opportunity to give their account of a meeting or event. It is acknowledged that not everyone has the time or ability to write an article but they could give a verbally explanation. **"Tell me a Story"** allows anyone who feels that the event/s within a meeting or an individual they know is worth reporting. So, if you feel you have something that you would like to share through the Provincial Newsletter or website all you have to do is; Provide photographs - ideally at least 3 - more would be better. Call the mobile of Michael Wilkinson - 079632 13336, You will be able to give a verbal explanation of your story or details of something or someone you consider would be of interest.

That's it! - you will receive feedback and if appropriate the article will be written and circulated on your behalf. It is hoped that by offering this option it will add to content and interest of our newsletter. In addition it will further assists Martin in producing his monthly publication. There are lots of stories to be told so please get involved and **"Tell your story!"**



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Michael James Wilkinson,
Contact details :

michael.w@learning4ever.co.uk

Mobile: 079632 13336



Thursday, 30 November 2017

Honorary Secretary of the Mark Benevolent Fund, R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, P.G.J.W., this week presented a cheque for £4,000 to taxi drivers, Dean Thomas, Norman Rose and Anton Haynes, to pay for rucksacks, underwear and sleeping bags for 100 of London's Homeless. They set up a group called, **#taxiwarmclothing** an organisation set up by London Hackney Carriage drivers, members of the LTDA (Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association), to hand out sandwiches, wraps, baguettes, rolls, tea and coffee every Wednesday outside Charing Cross Police Station. Amongst the taxi drivers who distributed the goods last night were Steven Crisp, Scott Daniels, Ian Gray, Dave Clements & Tony Cadman. A few more in this city will sleep a little better during this winter period.

Issued by the Charities Office, Mark Grand Lodge, Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PL

MARK	JANUARY	2018	DAY	TIME	NOTES
Geo.Washington no.1626	2	Tuesday	7.00		
Spennymoor no.981	4	Thursday	6.45		
Darlington no.250	10	Wednesday	6.45		
Penshaw no.1055	11	Thursday	7.00		
Ferryhill no.1560	11	Thursday	6.45		
Jarrow no.701	15	Monday	7.00	Installation	
Ernest Dixon no.1015	16	Tuesday	7.00		
Auckland no.596	17	Wednesday	6.45		
St.Thomas no.1511	23	Tuesday	6.45		
Eclectic no.39	23	Tuesday	7.00		
Ravensworth no.718	24	Wednesday	7.00	Provincial visit	
Union no.124	25	Thursday	7.00		

RAM	JANUARY	2018	DAY	TIME	
Stockton no.122	16	Tuesday	7.00	Installation	
Industry no.293	16	Tuesday	7.00		
Spennymoor no.981	22	Monday	6.45		
Moseley RAM no.925	22	Monday	7.00		
Barnard Castle no.778	29	Monday	7.00		

Mark Gala Dinner 2018

The Mark Gala Dinner is to be held on 12th May 2018 At Spennymoor Town Hall Dinner & Entertainment also the Mark Money Draw
Contact Arthur Clark for tickets on: ajc5807@gmail.com

Brethren can support the Durham 2020 Festival by purchasing this special badge which can be supplied by

WBro.Graham Wharton on
07855815958
and WBro.Frank Rankin



SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM JIM

Jim would be most grateful if any brethren have any Mark or RAM Regalia they would like to donate as he is running very low on stock.

JIM STUBBINGS
WARDEN OF REGALIA
Tel: 0191-4166764
Email: j.stubbings@talktalk.net



GRAND MEETINGS CALENDAR 2018

MARK Grand Lodge - Tuesday, 13 March 2018, FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

MARK Grand Lodge - Annual Investiture Tuesday, 12 June 2018, FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

MARK - Meeting of district of Spain - Hotel Bali, Benidorm. 03/02/2018 - Start: 10.30 Finish: 12.30

Terry Porter - 0034 966 716 711 secretary@districtmarkspain.com

OBITUARIES

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



08/12/2017 W Bro Donald William Easton PPrGJW M1112, RAM1112 ProvGRank

17/12/2017 W Bro George Matthews Armstrong PPrGSW M981

31/10/2017 Bro Ronald Cook PPrGStB M860