



NORTHUMBERLAND MARK

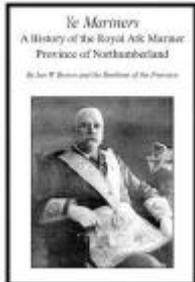
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RWBRO. GORDON CRAIGS
PROVINCIAL GRANDMASTER.

WBRO. STEPHEN YOUNG
EDITOR.

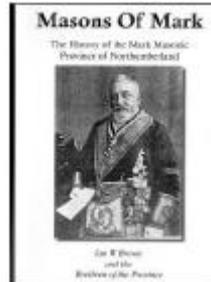
SPRING 2017

LAUNCH OF TWO NEW BOOKS ENTITLED 'YE MARINERS' & 'MASONS OF MARK'.



The first book by Ian 'Masons of Mark' has been a great success and has raised funds for the NMBF. The book contains over 200 pages of the History of the Province of Northumberland and Durham 1870-1920, to the formation of the Province of Northumberland 1920 to date. A good read and reference book to keep at only £10 per copy.

The Royal Ark Mariners AGM of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland in April will see the launch of a book dealing with the history of



Royal Ark Mariners in Northumberland entitled 'Ye Mariners' and priced at £10 per copy.

The author of the book, WBro. Ian Brown PPJGW, has over many years collated the information supplied to him by lodge secretaries and has paid to have it printed. All monies raised from the sale of the book will go to the Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund.

If you wish to re-order your copy as presently only limited stocks are available please contact Ian by e-mail: i.w.brown@btinternet.com.

NMBF Donation to Barndale House School

The NMBF was proud and privileged to donate an iPad Pro with a large format screen to Barndale House School in Alnwick.

Barndale House is a specialist school which provides dedicated help and support to up to 40



children at any one time with a wide range of challenging difficulties. A brief tour of the school highlighted the great service that the school provides and PGM Gordon; DPGM Stuart along with Tom Wingham, WM of Amble Lodge of MMM's No.780 and WBro. George Green took great pride in presenting the iPad to two pupils representing the school.

The Pledger Cup

It's that time of the year again when the Craft & Chapter take on the Mark & Mariners in the biggest Golf tournament of the year. Craft & Chapter Vs Mark Mariners. Arcot Hall Golf Club Monday 22nd May 2017, Tee reserved 13:30. The captain of the Mark and Mariner team is our very own Deputy PGM Stuart Cairns and for the Craft and the Chapter team is John Hannon. The Craft and



RWBro. Craigs PGM presenting the cup at last year's tournament.

Chapter team won last year's tournament.

If you are available to play please contact Stuart (07712161310 or staidans@btinternet.com). The cost for the golf and 2 course meal will be £36.00. Why not go along and support the Mark and Mariner Team.

Contact Details.



WBro. Stephen Young, at provmarknewsletter@gmail.com.

or on 0191 2819020



Your Newsletter needs YOU !!

This is your new Colour Provincial Newsletter. New style, New look and New features!

What we need are Your stories, Your events, Your Photos and most of all Your contribution!

Are You celebrating within your Lodge, have You got something to tell the Province. Just let us know, contact details on page 4.

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PGM ADDRESS AT THE RAM PROVINCIAL ANNUAL MEETING



Good evening brethren and a warm welcome to this annual assembly. I am delighted that so many of you have been able to attend and sincerely hope you have an enjoyable evening. May I also give a very warm welcome to our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro. Fred Main.

Last December I had the pleasure of witnessing two of our Brethren receiving their Royal Mariner Grand Rank at the meeting at Great Queen Street, a most memorable occasion for the recipients. WBro's Reece Valentine and Paul Hilditch were, I am sure, delighted to be supported at the meeting by a number of brethren from this Province. Since that occasion these Brethren have represented me at a number of Installations of which I would like to thank them and thank the Brethren of those Lodges for the warm friendly welcome I know they received. I would now ask you to acclaim WBro's Reece Valentine and Paul Hilditch.



To the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge who were appointed last year I would like to thank them for the support they have given and hope that they have enjoyed their year. Visiting Lodges and making new friends is, I think, one of the major attributes and benefits of freemasonry and being a freeman, especially in our wonderful fraternity.

To the brethren I have just appointed, make the most of this year and of course attend as many of the Provincial visits as you can. The honour is not given but earned with the expectation that you will continue to work for the benefit of your lodge.

Can I once again remind you of the value of fraternal visits. Such visits seem to be popular in the Mark but not, for some reason, in the Mariners. Brethren I can't pretend that all is rosy in terms of lodge attendance and some lodges are struggling to fill all of the offices.

In times of such adversity we have to help each other out and what better way than to have a formal visit. Please start organising visits and I suggest someone has the responsibility of phoning around members and arranging transport where necessary to ensure members cannot plead ignorance and to make getting there easier.

For those of you who have missed the Newsletter I am delighted to inform you that it is being relaunched by WBro. Stephen Young as Editor. On behalf of the Province I would like to thank you for once again taking up the cudgel. Brethren, the newsletter will only be a success if it is supported by you and I look forward to reading the interesting articles submitted by you. I would also ask those of you who use Facebook to help spread the word about how enjoyable our evenings are. If you use an electronic diary you can add to it a list of Mark and Mariner meetings by visiting the Provinces website, www.northmark.org.uk and downloading the diary from the site.

For the past few years we have been delivering talks to lodges who were holding an open night to try and obtain more members. Many of these evenings have been successful in that new blood was brought into the lodges. I have decided to be more proactive in encouraging lodges to hold such evenings so the Provincial Secretary will be writing to lodges who have not held an evening asking them to arrange open evenings where either myself, Stuart or Richard will give a presentation to potential members.

In addition, Stuart has agreed to work with Mariner lodges who wish to hold open nights to recruit new members from Mark lodges, again the Provincial Secretary will be writing to lodges inviting them to hold such events.

As you should already be aware on the 6th may a sponsored walk will take place in Hulne Park, Alnwick for the Mark Benevolent Fund. This walk will take place simultaneously with a walk through the Royal Parks in London and elsewhere in the country

A range of walks are available in Hulne Park of varying lengths so it would be wonderful if we had a good turnout I am sure that you will have support from your friends and family as well as your lodge members. At that end of the walk there will be refreshments available at the masonic hall in Alnwick so please let the secretariat know if you are taking part so adequate catering arrangements can be made.

As was said in the letter sent out from the Provincial Office this gives us the opportunity to go some way to repaying the generosity of the Mark Benevolent Fund and show our appreciation for the phenomenal grant to St. Oswalds Hospice. All those taking part in the walk will receive a certificate thanking them for their efforts and the money they raise will be credited to their NMBF account.

Events such as this evening do not 'just' arrange themselves; they require considerable organisation and it is on top of the normal day to day running of the Provincial Office. I will always be appreciative of the amount of their own time, without any reimbursement, the secretariat give up.

In addition, I would like to thank WBro. Les Francis and his team for their ongoing assistance in escorting me, my deputy and my Assistant.

Can I also thank these who took part in the banner dedication ceremony, particularly WBro. Stephen Young for his excellent oration.

Finally I would like to thank the members of Triangle Lodge for allowing us to hijack their meeting and the management of the Newcastle East Masonic Temple building for their assistance and cooperation

"May the Great Overseer of the Universe have you in His holy keeping now and for evermore."

RAM Annual Meeting

On Monday 12th December 2016, RWBro. Gordon Craigs, the Provincial Grand Master (PGM) with the Brethren from the Province of Northumberland attended the Grand Stewards Lodge down in London and on the following day, they attended the Annual Meeting of the Royal Ark Mariners (RAM).

The first photograph shows the table full of our own Brethren at the festive board.



PGM at De La Val MMM

The above photo shows the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Gordon Craigs, with his Sword Bearer and Banner Bearer plus WBro. Richard Nesbitt (next to Sword Bearer) who received his 50 year Certificate and WBro. David Lynn who received his 40 year Pin Badge at De La Val Lodge of MMM No. 1290 on Thursday 12th January 2017 at Seaton Delaval Masonic Hall. The current Master, WBro. John Barlow is also present.

Travelling Sceptre

During the Provincial Visit to Backworth RAMs on Tuesday 14th February 2017, a large group of members from Northumberland n& Berwick RAM TI lead by WC David Moffett swooped in to claim the Travelling Sceptre. This was presented to the WC by the Deputy PGM, WBro. Stuart Cairns RAMGR

WBro. Ken Tulip RAMGR who delivered a superb degree at very short notice, looked on. In the second photo is the WC David Moffett with WBro. Les Francis Provincial Grand DC with the Travelling Sceptre.



New RAM Provincial Banner



The new RAM Provincial Banner was revealed at the RAM Annual Assembly at the Masonic Hall, Corbridge Road on 4th April 2017. As is usual on these occasions, RAM Annual Assembly was held with kind permission from Triangle Lodge, after the Worshipful Commander of Triangle Lodge 'called off' proceeding and allowed Provincial Grand Lodge to open. The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Gordon Craigs officiating as the 'Dedicating Officer' received the New Provincial Banner accompanied by the preceding Dedicating escort.

After the RW Provincial Grand Master unveiled the Banner, he asked the Dedicating Chaplain, WBro. Stephen Young gave the benefit of pray and then was asked by RWBro. Craigs to give an oration on the Banner, which was received with much pleasure. The Banner was escorted around the Lodge by the Dedicating Officers for the benefit of the Brethren present. The Banner was then blessed by the Dedicating Chaplain. The Banner was placed in its position in the East, left of the RW Provincial Grand Master



The PGM, RWBro. Gordon Craigs and the Dedicating Officers with the new RAM Prov. Banner

The photograph shows the new Banner in all its glory with the PGM, DPGM, APMG and the Banner Dedication Team. WBro. Stephen Young the dedicating Chaplain is on the far right of the photograph.

The PGM also had the pleasure of appointing eight brethren with RAM Provincial Grand Rank, for their work in their Lodge and for Provincial Grand Lodge. He also had the pleasure of presenting NMBF Breast jewels and Collarettes for generous donations to the NMBF.

Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund

The NMBF is the charity of the Mark Master Masons & Royal Ark Mariners in the Province of Northumberland.

The Fund relies entirely on support from the brethren of the Province of Northumberland who are members of the Mark or Royal Ark Mariner Degree, by way of donations from individuals and Lodges, and the proceeds of events organised by the Fund Raising Committee.

The objects of the Fund are as follows:

1. To assist Brethren in need who are Mark Master Masons or Royal Ark Mariners of the Province of Northumberland, their widows, partners, dependents and children.

A Brother must have been a member of the Mark Degree for a minimum of three years for a Brother, his widow or partner, dependent, or child to qualify for assistance.

A widow or partner must have been married or have been a partner of a brother for a minimum of three years.

To qualify for assistance a child must be under the age of 18 years, unless the child is in undergoing full time education.

2. To make contributions from time to time to the MBF.

Each year a donation is made to the Province which is hosting the MBF Annual Anniversary Festival.

Donations have been made in recent years for e.g. 2012—The Province of Middlesex £2000 and 2011 The Province of North Wales £3000.

3. To support other Masonic Charities, e.g. 2009 the sum of £29000 to Prov. Grand Lodge of Northumberland for the 2009 RMTGB Festival.

4. To support and make grants to local non-Masonic Charities.

The PGM of the Prov. Grand Lodge of MMM of the Province of Northumberland has the power in his absolute discretion to instruct the Fund to give relief or assistance in exceptional or urgent cases of need to individuals, charities, or worthy causes within or without the United Kingdom.

In addition to helping Brethren & families in the Province, the Fund has supported many local charities and donations to disaster appeals in this country and abroad.

Where does your donations go ?



Cheque Presentation to RNLI



PGM Cheque Presentation to Guide Dogs



PGM Cheque Presentation to Street Pastors.

Continued Success!!

Record year for Recycled Regalia Initiative (RRI). The NMBF had its best year to date raising £8154 for the fund. With tax relief on the majority this will take the actual amount to approximately £10000.00. Many thanks again to all who have both purchased and donated regalia.

For more information contact WBro. Colin Narey, colin.narey@blueyonder.co.uk or 0191 2403738.

Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) Recognises Member Donations.

The following brethren have been presented with Jewels or Collarettes since the last issue of the Newsletter, recognising their contributions to the MBF via the NMBF for which the Trustees of both funds are extremely grateful. At the annual meeting the RW Asst. Grand Master made particular comment about the significant level of support coming from our Province for the MBF and commended the generosity of our members for this very worthy cause. The presentations to the following members were made, in the main, at their own individual Lodges by either WBro. Colin Narey, or the PGM, Dep. PGM or Asst. PGM.

If a member of the Mark Degree is aware of anyone who could be helped by the fund, they should contact their Lodge MBF Representative or VWBro. David Auld, the Secretary of the Fund. Tel: 01670 512552, e-mail: davidauld552@btinternet.com.

Life Subscribers

J Leslie 1550

Vice Patrons

C Reader 1161
H P M MacLeod 750
J Ormston 788
M Daws 691

Patrons

H Cowie 750
R Turner 1527

Grand Patron

D Moffett 1235

Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Appointments.

J S Dresser TI
T W Pickard 135
N H Reeve 546
J H Dunford 547
C Allan 691
A R T Gould 788
T E Wilkinson 1161

Royal Ark Mariner Grand Lodge Appointments.

WBro. R Valentine TI
WBro. P O Hilditch 346