

## REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 2024

In the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to make appointments and promotions for the following Brethren of the Province of Essex. The Investiture was held in June 2023.

W.Bro.	D. Heath	Asst.G.Sec.	W.Bro.	Peter Steele	P.G.J.D
W.Bro.	D. Mersh	A.G.Insp.Wks.	W.Bro.	Gordon Maclean	P.A.G.D.C
W.Bro.	P.Busby	Grand Tyler	W.Bro.	Phil Hind	P.A.G.Swd.B.
W.Bro.	C. Snell	G. Stwd.	W.Bro.	Laurie Kavanagh	P.G.Std.B.
W.Bro.	John Finlay	P.G.S.D.	W.Bro.	Brian Dack	A.G.I.G.
W. Bro.	Peter Maloney	P.G.S.D.			

In the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners, the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to appoint to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank, the following Brethren of the Province of Essex. The investiture was held in December 2023.

W. Bro. Paul Firmin  
W. Bro. Rob Sandy  
W. Bro. Roger Smith  
W. Bro. Paul Thurgood

The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and Provincial Officers have made visits to many of our Lodges where they were made very welcome. These visits included the consecration of the Southern Star RAM Lodge, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Battlesbridge Lodge and Banner Dedications at Aurelius RAM and Centurion Mark Lodges. The Provincial Officers' Mess was held at Colchester Masonic Centre and was enjoyed by all those attending, this was also the meeting where our Provincial Grand Master announced that his successor would be W. Bro. John Finlay.

The Membership statistics attached to this report show the numbers for Mark have increased again for the year ended August 2023, whilst the RAM numbers remained stable during the period. The success of the "Introduction to the Mark" Recruitment events across the Province continues to be reflected in the statistics, with latest Membership Numbers at mid-April 2024 reaching 1,365 (up 3.3% since Aug 23) across our Mark Lodges and over 955 (up 8.3%) in our RAM Lodges. The success of these events is a credit to all those who have put in significant time and effort to deliver them, and all members are encouraged to support any future events.

The Provincial Grand Secretary Designate would like to thank all Lodge Secretaries and Scribes for their continued support, with a gentle reminder that Installation Returns are to be submitted as soon as possible after the meeting, along with a copy of the latest audited Lodge accounts. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies would also like to express his appreciation to all Brethren and Lodges who have assisted during the year to make the meetings so successful.