

**Welcome once again to the latest addition of the Mark Times. I don't think I need say too much about our current situation or the Coronavirus as I suspect like me you have had your fill.**

However as we approach the holiday season we should spare a few minutes reflecting on our memories of those who have passed.

Looking ahead to happier times and whilst I write this those times are still uncertain. Never the less I do believe there is hope at the end of the tunnel and we may start to return to some normality in the Spring.

I am of course aware that many Lodges have now held VBM via Zoom and that will have helped those lodges to keep their administration functions in order. If your lodge has not held these meetings please ensure you have read all the available information on what to do when meetings resume.

If you have not heard, the decision has been made (in line with Grand Lodge), that all of this years Active Officers will be reappointed to enable them to enjoy their ranks when Lodges re-open.

Can I thank all of you, as individuals or Lodges that have donated to the Welfare fund, these donations have been really appreciated and allowed us to continue supporting our local causes. For example: -

**SAFE (Supporting Asperges Families in Essex).**



**Clowns in the Sky: for children in hospitals in Essex suffering from Brain Tumours.**

**Purchase of a specially adapted wheel chair for a local boy with a muscle wasting disease "Duchene muscular dystrophy".**

**East Lancs MBF Festival (remembering it was the MBF, which funded our Meals on Wheels Sunday lunches). And others.**

Please keep an eye on our web site and Facebook pages for news on the exciting Zoom talks we have coming up, including an ex-marine and member of the special forces (SBS) to talk about his experiences and W. Bro Mark Smith our Craft Orator and military expert, who as many of you know, is a member of the Antiques Road Show and who will be talking to us about behind the scenes of that TV show.

You will also no doubt have started to see information about our MBF Festival to be held in 2030. As we start to plan for this provincial milestone watch out for important information on how you can help it to be a success.

Lastly I say to those who celebrate Christmas, have a very happy one, and to those that don't, please have a very happy holiday period. I wish you all a very successful and prosperous new year.

Thank you for your continued support to the order in general and to the Province in particular.



## Essex Mark Media Team 2020

The Essex Mark Province continues to be a busy hub of activity, and the Media Team are always there to capture a story behind an event. The Media Team is ever evolving and there have been a few changes this year. Please look at our details on the Provincial web site - [www.essexmark.co.uk](http://www.essexmark.co.uk).

If you are interested in joining the Media Team, please contact Dave Todd or Geoff Newman - details on the web site.

### EDITORS NOTE:

We have permitted the PGM to use the C word. This will be the only reference in this edition of Mark Times. We all look forward to the time when we can meet and share our time together in a safe and secure way.



# question MARK

by David Wilson PGSwdB.

*In this edition we direct our comments to our RAM brethren, and who knows, this might prompt our Mark members to enquire about the RAM degree.*

## Royal Ark Mariner points of interest.

We are all guilty at times of repeating words or actions which we may not understand the meaning of or their context within that degree. The RAM degree in particular has a few.

**Antediluvians** – Those who lived on earth after Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden. They were wicked and unrighteous, displaying greed and avarice causing God to bring on the great flood, from which they perished.

**Noachida** – As all men, post the Great Flood, are considered to be Sons of Noah, in our modern context the reference to a child of Noah would be correct and that the candidate wishes to gain refuge in the symbolical Ark from all that is not approved by God.

**Porphyry Stone** – This refers to a textural term for an igneous rock consisting of large-grained crystals such as feldspar or quartz dispersed in a fine-grained

silicate rich ground mass. So this is a type of rock not one particular stone which perhaps makes more sense when we hear it was used as a pillow, alter and anchor.

**Where's Ham?** - A RAM Lodge represents the Ark which is governed by two of Noah's sons, Shem and Japheth. The youngest Japheth is Senior Warden indicating that merit and ability takes precedence over seniority. The middle son, Ham, is not represented as after the Flood Noah cursed him. His non appearance may imply that only those of good report can attain safety in this symbolical Ark.

**Rainbow** – The emblem of our order. After the Flood, God repented for what he has done to mankind and blessed Noah and his sons, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth". God entered into a covenant with Noah. "Never again all flesh be cut off by waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." As a sign of this covenant God set a rainbow in the sky.

**Noah** – In his later years Noah planted a vineyard, made wine and by all accounts became a heavy drinker. This is excused by his "ignorance and inexperience of the proper amount to drink". No doubt we have all had our 'Noah moment'.

## The Essex Mark Charity Golf Day 2021

### Venue

Langdon Hills Golf & Country Club  
Lower Dunton Road, Bulphan  
Upminster, Essex. RM14 3TY.  
01268 548444  
www.langdonhillsgolfclub.co.uk



### Date

Friday 30th July 2021

### Arrival time

10:30am - Tea/Coffee & Bacon  
Rolls

### Evening Meal

3 Course Evening Meal  
Raffle/Charity/Fund Raising



### Prizes

Singles & Team Competition  
Nearest Pin on all Par 3 holes  
Nearest the line on 11th hole  
Beat the Pro 14th hole (prize if shot is bettered)  
Putting Competition

**Cost per person Whole Day - £60 incl. Breakfast, Golf and Evening Meal (Evening Meal Only) - £27**

**Contact Event Coordinator: Tony Latham  
07940 913463 Abmlatham@aol.com**

## MBF Festival ESSEX 2030

ESSEX MARK to hold MBF Festival 2030

R. W. Bro. Terence D. Sheern, Provincial Grand Master of Essex Mark Master Masons spoke about the 2030 Festival during this year's provincial meeting address, and we are now pleased to announce the launch of the scheme which will be known as the 'MBF Festival Essex 2030'.

Every so often a province will be given the opportunity to host the MBF Festival and it will be the 5th time that Essex has been given this honour, having hosted it in 1899, 1932, 1957 and 1992.

Leading up to the MBF Festival celebrations, the province will look to raise a sum of money that goes towards the MBF, which is then used for distribution to charitable causes.

A Festival committee has been formed and plans are underway for a series of fundraising events, including family fun days and repeat of the magnificent auction that was held in 2017.

More information will be provided next year as we start to gear up to our Festival.



## Essex Mark Bonus Ball Game 2020/21

The Bonus Ball Game has proved to be very successful since its launch at the Provincial meeting at Felsted in May 2018, and has to date produced much needed funds for the Essex Mark Welfare Fund, raising in excess of £5,000.

The Media Team, led by W. Bro. Richard Goodwin, developed the game to its present success and it has proved immensely popular, with many individuals regularly purchasing numbers for themselves, and many Lodges purchasing under their unit's name.

On his recent appointment to APGM, Richard relinquished leadership of the team to Dave Todd. Media Team members Steve Yates and Paul Snoad took over the running of the game. With over 200 winners so far, the Media Team will continue to promote the Bonus Ball and look forward to seeing many more winners. Don't forget though, "You have to be in it to win it".

The cost is still only £10 for a single number in a game that runs for 10 weeks (£1 per week) on consecutive Saturdays, and each week the owner of the winning number receives £30. The Bonus Ball popularity has prompted many members to ask how they can buy more numbers. Once again this year, we are running a

Christmas Special with £200 going to the lucky winner! This year it is in aid of the MBF Festival Essex 2030.

We are now hoping that more individuals and Lodges in Essex will consider purchasing a number on a regular basis as many have done already.

£50 will purchase a number for 50 weeks over 5 consecutive games, which is the best part of a year, and 2 wins during that period would see the entrant's money returned with £10 to spare. Contact us for more information.

Purchasing numbers can be done via the Essex Mark web site at [www.essexmark.co.uk](http://www.essexmark.co.uk) or by sending an email to [emwfbonusball@gmail.com](mailto:emwfbonusball@gmail.com) requesting a number, where we will deal with your request and notify you of your allocated number. Remember, you can also purchase a regular number for the year costing £50 which would run for 5 consecutive games of 10 weeks each.

The adjacent QR Code will take you to the Bonus Ball web site.



**Thank you for your continued support.**

## Essex Mark Regalia Shop

My name is Steve Joslin, and I took over the running of the Provincial regalia shop in 2019. The shop has been in the hands of many worthy Mark Men before me and is an excellent place to buy good preloved regalia and to donate your unwanted or out of date regalia.

The proceeds of everything go to the MBF and the shop does a steady trade throughout the masonic year and during the quieter periods too.

The shop is usually represented at the Provincial meeting in May at Felsted School and usually makes a good number of sales. It is becoming a one stop shop for your Mark Masonry needs in Essex. It now sells the regular Bonus Ball Game, the 2030 MBF Bonus Ball Game and has helped to promote and sell several other fund-raising initiatives during the year including the new range of Essex Mark Merchandise.

It currently sells badges in support of East Lancashire Province, who are in their festival year, in an effort to help them raise more money whilst meetings are suspended. The shop also sold entries for a 'How many Balloons in the Car' competition.

I have no doubt that there will be many more things to be bought as our province moves towards 2030.

The shop receives regular donations from many members around the province including the PGM and DPGM and many more besides.

I recently took a large donation from a brother in Clacton which included all his regalia from several orders, unfortunately he is unwell and cannot carry on his masonry at any level.

The shop is not a Mark Masonry shop only and has items from just about every order that you might want to join. It also has books and other ephemera which might be of interest.

Please continue to support the shop in whatever way you can and be happy in the knowledge that you are assisting the province as well.

**SEE NEXT PAGE for details of the growing range of Essex Mark Merchandise. Our range is sold with all profits going to the Essex Mark Welfare fund.**



**The new range of merchandise in support of the Essex Mark Welfare fund is now available, and is constantly under review with new items coming along.**

**POLO shirts are available in a choice of four colours  
BLACK - WHITE - PURPLE - BLUE  
and are embroidered with the Provincial logo.**



**Baseball Caps available in Burgundy, Black or White  
Printed with the Provincial logo**

**"I MADE MY MARK IN ESSEX"  
Provincial ceramic mugs.**



**Zip neck sweat shirts available in Grey or Magenta marl.**

**Beanie hat  
and Golf towel**



**Key Ring - Golf Marker - Locker Coin**

**SPECIAL MARK TIMES OFFER**

**We are offering our best selling key ring at £3.00 each or two for only £5.00.  
A saving of £1.**





## Interview with V.W. Bro Richard Bowyer PDPGM



At the September meeting of Essex Installed Mark Master Masons Lodge No 1044, V.W. Bro Richard Bowyer stood down as DPGM and shortly afterwards, media team member, Steve Bannington caught up with him.

*SPB: Good evening Sir, and on behalf of the Provincial Media Team, let me thank you for talking to me. Given the difficulties in which we are living, I guess the first question must be to ask how you are managing to cope with the restrictions to both masonry and day to day life.*

PDPGM: Thank you Steve, and yes, we are living in very strange times. Although, I have managed to attend a number of Masonic meetings.

*SPB: Do you fear for the impact that this pandemic will have on future membership, in particular in the Mark, where I think it's fair to say that members generally tend to join several years after being Initiated into the Craft and are often of an older generation and in the "at risk" category.*

PDPGM: It's unfortunate that the Govt guidelines of six had to be so rigorously imposed, recognising the way that many Masonic centres had invested a lot to ensure that they could hold meetings of 30 people in a completely compliant and safe environment, far better than Pubs and Restaurants. To answer your question though, I think that it is a concern that the longer this situation continues, some of the membership may be lost for a variety of reasons.

*SPB: I was intrigued to see from your Masonic CV that you were Advanced into the Mark degree only two months after being raised in the Craft, which strikes me as being very unusual, you must have had some strong influences in your early career to encourage you to join so quickly.*

PDPGM: Well, in Stifford Heath Lodge No.8327, where I was initiated, there were a number of Mark men, who encouraged me to join Mark before other orders as they viewed this as being the correct path to follow. Being very enthusiastic and keen to learn the "Masonic Story" in the right order, I was eager to progress as quickly as possible. I actually went through the chair in the Mark before being Master in the Craft, which I think was a very beneficial experience as it was like serving an apprenticeship, so by the time I was in the chair in the Craft I had the confidence to enjoy the role.

*SPB: Having joined the order so early and having risen through the ranks to become DPGM, the Mark degree must hold a special place for you.*

PDPGM: Yes, Mark has always been my favourite order and I've always felt that Mark men are especially friendly and very supportive. During my time in the Mark, I think that the people who have been in key positions have always been good teachers. I can

honestly say that I've never met anyone who does not enjoy Mark masonry. Having said that, I have always been very supportive of the Craft and Royal Arch, having achieved PPGJW and PPGSN, as without Craft members the Mark cannot exist. Similarly, I believe that to be in high office in any order and to have the ability to teach others, you must have experience of other orders. I am active in seventeen other orders.

*SPB: Having served the Province as Prov. Grand Sec, how did you feel when you were asked to become a DPGM?*

PDPGM: I was very honoured when being asked to become DPGM., I had enjoyed being Provincial Grand Secretary so much but I did look forward to the office with a great deal of enthusiasm and passion.

*SPB: Whilst in office was there any particular moment that you will always remember?*

PDPGM: Yes, definitely my investiture as DPGM at Felsted when W. Bro. Ryan Williams, now Grand Secretary, delivered my proclamation. I had known Ryan for a number of years so it made for a very memorable experience.

*SPB: You have been very active during your time as DPGM, but what do you feel has been your biggest achievement during this time?*

PDPGM: Supporting and assisting the Provincial Grand Master has been the most important and enjoyable task, but setting up and delivering the Mark Awareness programme has given me most satisfaction, as apart from being a very enjoyable experience, it was also enormously successful and introduced many new members to the order.

*SPB: Were there any occasions where you had to stand in for the PGM at short notice?*

PDPGM: No, not many, it's actually surprising how few times that happens although there was one occasion when I got a call one afternoon to attend the Lodge of True Friendship as the PGM could not attend at the last minute, and when I arrived, they had baked a special cake for him, but it was a great evening nevertheless.

*SPB: Although you are obviously an extremely busy freemason and a keen golfer, do you have any other interest outside of freemasonry?*

PDPGM: My family are obviously very important to me and I like to spend as much time as possible with them. On a daily basis, I always keep myself busy. As a keen golfer, I play a couple of times a week and with six Grandchildren I spend as much time as possible with the family. After I retired some years ago, I joined The Worshipful Company of Bowyers, a Livery Company in London, which has been a wonderful experience and I'm now Treasurer. Visiting the various Livery Halls across the city is a fantastic experience, knowing that they've been operating from the same buildings for hundreds of years.

*SPB: Sir, thank you once again for taking the time to talk to me, it has been an honour and pleasure to enjoy a frank exchange with you. From our conversation, it's clear that you will continue to enjoy both your Mark masonry and your involvement in other orders.*



## The last meeting of an Essex Mark Lodge took place on Monday 16th of March.

The formation of a Mark Lodge in Essex with Military connections was originally suggested by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Terence Sheern in 2018. Following a few meetings with interested Brethren, Mark Grand Lodge was petitioned and permission was granted to form the Essex Armed Forces Lodge of Mark Master Masons with the number 2016. This was the first new Mark Master Mason Lodge in Essex for twenty years, and on Tuesday 15th October 2019 the Provincial Grand Master consecrated the Lodge. The meeting was attended by 72 brethren. The second meeting of the Lodge was held on Monday 16th March 2020 at the Chelmsford Masonic Hall. At this time, Grand Lodge had decided that the more formal Festive Boards could no longer be held, but if the Masonic Halls and Catering Services were willing to co-operate, a social meal would still be possible, provided no Masonic toasts were made. Military personnel thrive in adversity, and as it is well known that the Green Beret is not only bullet proof, but also chemical proof and germ proof, and two of the members being Royal Marine Commandos, their magic protection was extended to cover the other members and guests. Ten of the founding members were able to attend the meeting together with six guests, one of whom, Bro. Mark Lawrence acted as Organist. Several of the other guests also stood in for some of the offices, as is the general practice for Mark Lodges.

The official business of the meeting was conducted, the minutes were passed as a true record. The Worshipful Master then invested Bro. Martin Bevan

as the Treasurer. W. Bro Bill Fraser was elected to be the second Master of the Lodge and the Immediate Past Master would act as Tyler in the ensuing year. The remainder of the business was deferred to a later date but notice of motion was given concerning future joining members and candidates and the proposal that the serving Master and Secretary of the Middlesex Armed Forces Lodge No.1999 should be permanently invited as guests at all future meetings. As is the tradition of the Lodge, following the closing of the Lodge, the Last Post was played, followed by the Closing Ode and National Anthem. Another tradition of the Lodge is that Brethren wear their military head-dress in the bar prior to the meal, which is removed prior to the Chaplain giving the prayers. The "Social Meal" was very well received by all the Brethren, and although it could not be a truly Masonic process the friendship and Brotherhood was very much in evidence.

We parted in harmony and in the hope that all Brethren would remain safe and that we should soon meet again for labour and refreshment.



## Clowns in the Sky

As mentioned by the PGM on page 1, the Essex Mark Welfare fund have recently supported several local good causes. One such cause is "Clowns in the Sky", a charity which was set up following the death of three year old Jennifer, who died after a nine month battle against a brain tumour in 2004.



Supporting Children with Brain Tumours

The charity provides play facilities and support to children with brain tumours and their families. They provide arts and craft materials and sensory trolleys to hospital wards across the UK and locally are helping Romford, Basildon, Southend and Colchester hospitals.

The Welfare Fund donated £750 specifically to sponsor the placing of a new activity table at Broomfield

Hospital in Chelmsford and to restock it during the first year.

The Trustees of the Essex Mark Welfare fund were impressed by the dedication of this amazing charity and were delighted to be able to offer support, especially to local children who will benefit.





## Essex Enthroned Commanders and Essex Installed Mark Masters Lodges, No.1044

Both the Essex Enthroned Commanders and Installed Mark Masters Lodges are always well attended with most of their 255 Members each in attendance at the September meetings. On this occasion, however, they were both reduced to 30 members that could attend either meeting. This caused a few sleepless nights for both the Secretarial and Ceremonial teams in trying to juggle those who were needed as well as how the Ceremonies needed to be adapted and where officers could be seated.

### Essex Enthroned Commanders

With W. Bro. Mark Reeve, APMG, stepping in as Installing Commander and W. Bro. Vince Bull as DC, despite the dramatic reduction in numbers, the meeting was conducted with warmth, accurate ritual and the sense of intimate friendship so characteristic of the Degree. W. Bro. Barry Coombes was installed as Commander., the address was given by W. Bro. Mark Reeve and the officers appointed. It was, all in all, an excellent meeting and one that will be a talking point in the Lodge history.

### Essex Installed Mark Masters

The Temple received its cleansing "fogging" and with the Lodge opened and furniture moved to accommodate the Provincial Grand Master and his escort, the ProvGDC announced the presence of the PGM. A full procession of Acting Officers entered and the Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Terence D. Sheern, was received to acclaim.

The PGM took the Chair of the Lodge and requested his Officers to assist him in the two Installation Ceremonies. The PGM addressed the Lodge on the purpose of the meeting as well as giving thanks to V.W. Bro. Richard Bowyer, PGJO, the outgoing DPGM for all his years of support.

The ProvGDC, having ascertained that W. Bro. John Finlay, PAGDC and DPGM Designate, was in attendance he was escorted into the meeting, Obligated, Invested, Installed, Proclaimed and Saluted as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The ProvDepGDC then proceeded to escort W. Bro. Richard Goodwin, PGJD and Assistant Provincial Grand Master Designate into the meeting, where he was Obligated, Invested, Installed, Proclaimed and Saluted as Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Both Ceremonies were discharged in superb fashion and credit goes to the Ceremonial Team for producing the Ceremony in "interesting" times.

Once the PGM had completed the Ceremony, the Lodge was returned to V.W. Bro. Mark Reeves, who proceeded to Install his successor, W. Bro. Derek Manister, PGSwdB, in a first class Ceremony. V.W. Bro.

Mark also delivered the Address to the Master with our new APMG, W. Bro. Richard Goodwin, delivering the Address to the Brethren.

A most excellent time was had by all who attended this "historic" meeting, it will be remembered by all who attended. Once the meeting was finished, the Brethren retired for some socially distanced refreshments.

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### Address by the Provincial Grand Master

*Brethren, firstly I thank you for attending this meeting today under these difficult conditions. This is an important day for the Province, and I did not want to it go by without holding this meeting if possible. I think we owe it both to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate and to the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Designate to have a full Installation rather than letting them take office in the default manner. I trust that by holding this meeting they will, like you, recall it with fond memories and in the annals of time we will all earn a beer or two telling the story of how we were part of an Installation meeting wearing masks and shields!*

*Brethren, before I install both W. Bro's. John and Richard I trust their appointments meet with your approval. They have both worked tirelessly both visibly and behind the scenes on behalf of you all and the Province in general and have given me first class support in particular.*

*For those of you who read my address contained in our PGL booklet you will have seen what I said about my outgoing Deputy, V.W. Bro. Richard Bowyer. Richard has been an acting officer in the Province for over 14 years in one role or another, and, to be honest, I could not have asked for a better, more hard working and knowledgeable Deputy. What Richard does not know about the administrative workings of the Province is not worth knowing. He has tried to keep me on the straight and narrow and not allowing me to get carried away by offering good, honest, and helpful advice. As well as all that, he was instrumental in the implementation of the awareness evenings, representing me and the Province on many visits around our Lodges as well as further afield in many parts of the Country.*

*I know Richard was disappointed when I asked him to stand down but, as I have always said, the only way others can experience high office is for those in it to move aside.*

*We have had many a beer and laughs together along the way and I am sure that will continue. Richard has also agreed to remain active behind the scenes for me.*

*So, once again, and in public, I want to sincerely thank V.W. Bro Richard for his service, his help and support. Richard, genuinely, "thank you!"*