

**Brethren all,**

**As 2021 comes to a close I would like to share with you a few of the year's highlights rather than dwell on its negatives. That's not to say we shouldn't spend a few moments in silent reflection to remember those friends, brothers, and colleagues we have lost this past year.**



We all know this has been a difficult year but in many respects, it has also been positive one.

Through your generosity we have been able to continue our support of the local charity SAFE (Supporting Asperges Families in Essex), have made contributions to every Hospice in the Province via the MBF, supported the Craft 2022 Festival and helped local Mark Men to name but a few. We were also highly recommended in the Pride of Essex awards!

Our Media Team continue to do a magnificent job keeping you informed and up to date with events and other activities via all the social media platforms. Our regalia shop with all its merchandise goes from strength to strength and your uptake of the 2030 Festival Jewels and support of the events that have taken place so far has been amazing. Please may it continue.

Whilst talking about the 2030 Festival I am often asked why are we starting to raise funds so far in advance. The answer brethren is easy. All money raised goes to charity so the earlier we start the more chance we have of raising a healthy sum we will be proud to present to the MBF in the name of our Province. And for those of us who may not be around in 2030 it's our legacy for those who will be, allowing them to look back at us with pride knowing we did our bit.

We have numerous other events planned over the next few years which we hope you will continue to support.

Other positive items include the Reponment of the Isthmian Mark Lodge and the Consecration of the Southern Star Daylight Lodge, bringing the total of Mark Lodges in the Province to 50 with 39 (soon to be 40) Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, making the Province the third largest in the constitution, our membership numbers are now starting to grow again as well, which is more good news.

We also dedicated a new Bible for Northern Star Lodge and a new Lodge Banner for the Combined Stewards Mark Lodge.

W. Bro. Alan Hoggett completed 60 years in Mark Masonry and V.W. Bro. Chris Carter of Potters Clay Lodge, W. Bro. Michael Murphy of Upminster Lodge and W. Bro. Ken Headworth of Aurelius Lodge all received their 50 year certificates.

As Lodges returned to face-to-face meetings it was good to see so many smiling faces and a real hunger to once again enjoy our Mark Masonry to its fullest.

Our Installed Commanders & Masters Lodge 1044 was honoured to receive the Pro Grand Master at its meeting in September together with 150 brethren in attendance, a marvellous attendance bearing in mind the circumstances.

Our 3R's groups, lead by the Deputy PGM and two Assistants, continue to work hard behind the scenes and their work will be circulated in the New Year, along with other exciting media and recruitment, retention and reinvigorating initiatives.

Brethren I do thank you all for your support over the past 12 difficult months but as I say we have plenty to be positive about.

Next year will no doubt bring its own challenges which we will face head on, but on the positive Constantine Lodge will celebrate its 150th Birthday and we will hopefully once again be able to hold a face to face Provincial meeting at Felsted. Meetings should be back to a normal schedule and candidates in waiting can join us.

**Lastly, can I wish all those who celebrate Christmas to have a very merry one and those who don't to have a very happy holiday period. I also wish everyone of you and your families a healthy, prosperous, and happy New year.**





# question MARK

by David Wilson P.Prov.G.S.O.

## The Mark Tracing Board.

We are all familiar with the Tracing Boards used in Craft Masonry and hopefully their Operative as well as their Symbolical meanings. Many of these appear on the Mark Tracing Board. But there are others, in addition to the Keystone, which are unique to the degree.

The most popular design sees us looking through the Temple door, between the two pillars with their celestial and terrestrial globes, and seeing a depiction of the clay grounds, where work on the construction of the Temple was carried out, between Succoth and Zaradatha, in the forests of Lebanon near to the steep shores of Joppa.

A sunbeam strikes the roof of the Temple in the distance. Of particular importance to Masters of this degree.

A Masonic cypher is shown as a depiction of how our 'Marks' are derived.

The 'All Seeing Eye' reminds us that our words and actions are observed and recorded by the 'Great Overseer of the Universe'.

The 'Hour Glass', whose sands are an emblem of the quick passage of time, reminds us to use and improve our life on this earth wisely. Using the lessons given by the staves on 'Jacobs Ladder' and with the spiritual 'Rope & Anchor', we shall eventually ascend to those blessed mansions and be safely moored in that peaceful haven of eternal life and light.

The Equilateral Triangle is an ancient symbol of the Deity as well as the Mark Masters mark of approval. It therefore reminds us to do our duty to God and Man in order that we may, one day, receive the approval of the Great Overseer of the Universe.

'Lapis reprobatus, caput, anguli'. The stone which was rejected has become the head stone of the corner. The fundamental teaching of this degree. Whilst human judgement can be fallible, often misjudging or misunderstanding, God sees us not as Man sees us so that we place our reliance for our reward on Him who is as merciful as He is unerring.

**Perhaps Post-Covid we shall all view  
the Mark Tracing Board with a fresh  
viewpoint.**

### The Essex Mark Charity Golf Day 2022

#### Venue

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



#### Date

Friday 29th July 2022

#### Arrival time

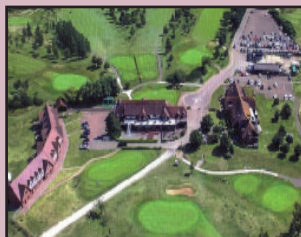
10:30am - Tea/Coffee & Bacon  
Rolls

#### Evening Meal

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



**Full details of costs and dining fee to be confirmed.**

#### Contact Event Coordinators:

**Tony Latham 07940 913463 Abmlatham@aol.com**  
**Geoff Newman 07850 629937 geoff.newman@mac.com**

### Essex Mark Bonus Ball Game

The Bonus Ball Game is still proving to be very popular with our members and continues to raise funds for the Essex Mark Welfare fund.

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.

£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 in the name of your Lodge - a nice way to increase funds.

**Thank you for your continued support.**



## Recent Highlights



Saturday, 13th November, saw the Northern Star Lodge honoured by a visit from Right Worshipful Brother Terence Douglas Sheern, Provincial Grand Master. As is usual with this unique Lodge, a fried Breakfast was taken first, heralded by the Master processing in, attired in a dressing gown and with a sleepy, "faraway look", and leading the Wardens all with "Wee Willie Winkie" candle-holders with a lighted candle to set the mood of the meal.



Friday, the 12th November saw the dedication of the Combined Stewards' Lodge banner. Many years ago the Langdon Hills Mark Lodge was in dire trouble and considering surrendering its Warrant. After much deliberation, a decision was made to make it the Combined Stewards Lodge, No.1628. It was repurposed to accept, Provincial Stewards, or their equivalent, from ALL of the recognised Orders represented in Essex.



It was rather wet and dreary on the morning of Wednesday, 10th November 2021 at The Square in Upminster as the Brethren gathered to be a part of another landmark moment in the history of the Mark Province of Essex; the birth of a new Lodge, The Southern Star Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 2026. Landmark because this Lodge brings us to an impressive "first" fifty in the number of Lodges in the Mark Province a testament to the energy, drive and commitment of the Provincial Grand Master, his Executive and all the Mark Men in Essex to our Order especially given the "challenges" of the recent past.



Wednesday 13th of October 2021 was a gloriously sunny day in Southend and a good day for an early start to witness the rebirth of an Essex Mark Lodge that had fallen into darkness 12 years previously. The Isthmian Mark Lodge had handed back its Warrant in May of 2009 and was the only Essex Mark Lodge to remain closed. The Provincial Grand Secretary read the Warrant of the Isthmian Combined Services Lodge, the Petitioners were arranged before the PGM and the Ceremony of Reponement was carried out, to bring this Lodge back to light with a new purpose, that of catering for those Brothers who are volunteer, Retired or Serving members of the Emergency, Civil, Crown or Public Services.



Friday 25th of November saw 90 Grand and Provincial Grand Officers gather at The Hutton Masonic Hall Mount Avenue, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex. It was the first Officers Mess in two years due to Covid Restrictions. The President, W.Bro. Norman took the opportunity of addressing the Brethren and then went on to propose the toast to our Provincial Grand Master which was met with acclaim. The Prov.G.M., in his response, reminded all of the ongoing initiatives in Essex as well as updating all on upcoming events. As is the usual custom, he also took the opportunity to announce the names of the next Provincial Wardens as well as his nomination for Grand Steward.



As part of the MBF Capital Grant initiative all 48 Mark Lodges in Essex selected a Hospice of their choice and these were collated by the Provincial Almoner. There were 8 Hospices identified by the Lodges and with a total of £48, 000 to distribute the following Hospices received grants.

Farleigh Hospice Chelmsford, St Francis Hospice Havering, St Helena Hospice Colchester, Haven House Children's Hospice Woodford, Havens Hospice Southend, Little Havens Children's Hospice, St Luke's Hospice Basildon, St Clare's Hospice Harlow



Following our support for the Clowns in the Sky charity, the Mark Province of Essex received a "Highly Commended" award in the Pride of Essex Award Ceremony.



## Festival Information

On the 16th of April next year, these six intrepid Essex Mark members, will launch themselves into the unknown to help launch the Essex Mark 2030 Festival. These brave (or daft) members will perform a ZIP-WIRE challenge at the Bluewater Shopping Centre in Kent. Sponsorship is in aid of the Essex Mark 2030 Festival. The day will finish with a relaxed dinner with family and friends at the Rochford Hundred Golf Club. Further details can be found on the Essex Mark Website.



Left to right:  
 W.Bro. John Finlay  
 W.Bro. Geoff Newman  
 W.Bro. Paul Busby  
 W.Bro. Steve Joslin  
 W.Bro. Dave Todd  
 and seated  
 W.Bro. Les Irving,



**£10**  
 each  
 plus p&p if ordered  
 from shop



The new larger and colourful Essex Mark Token was launched at the Provincial Officers Mess in October and is available to buy from the online shop or by accosting the PGM, DPGM or the APGM's, all of whom will be carrying supplies for you.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Latin inscription, you will find the answer elsewhere in this edition.



Essex Provincial Grand Mark Lodge  
 Benevolent Fund

smile.amazon.co.uk

Amazon Smile is a simple and convenient way for you to support our charity Essex Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Benevolent Fund 2008.

Every time you shop Amazon Smile will donate a portion of the purchase price to our Charity. Simply go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) on your web browser or in the Amazon Shopping App.

Available to all Amazon shoppers

**How to use Amazon Smile on a web browser:**

- 1) Open your Amazon account in the usual way or;
- 2) Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com;
- 3) Search in settings Amazon Smile; Go to search clarity;
- 4) Select Essex Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Benevolent Fund 2008;
- 5) Remember to check out at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to generate donations for your chosen charity (should be automatically done)

**How to use Amazon Smile using the Amazon app on your mobile phone:**

- 1) Open the Amazon Shopping app;
- 2) Navigate to the smile menu (-);
- 3) Tap on Settings and then select "Amazon Smile" Go to search clarity;
- 4) Select Essex Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Benevolent Fund 2008 follow the on-screen instructions to turn ON Amazon Smile in the mobile app. Once Amazon Smile has been activated in your app, future eligible app purchases will generate a donation for the charity you have selected.

Some of you will be receiving letters offering you first appointments and promotions.

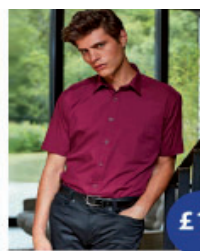
Congratulations if you are one of those!

If you need regalia, please look in our shop as we have a varied stock of regalia for most orders.

Craft and Royal Arch included.

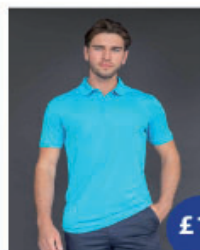
If you can't see what you are after, email Steve Joslin as he may have the item.

[jbossly69@gmail.com](mailto:jbossly69@gmail.com)



£16

The new improved range of clothing is available on the website. Each shirt is subtly printed with our smart MMM logo, whether on the collar or on the chest. These garments were designed so that you could wear them in any "smart casual" setting, whilst proudly showing off our MMM logo.



£15

Available in a wide range of sizes and colours from the Website Shop.



£13

