

Dear Brethren all, welcome to the latest edition of the Mark Times.

Since the last publication, the Province has continued to adjust to the new norm that has been established post Covid restrictions.

I know for some, the past few months has continued to be a worry and some are still feeling a little vulnerable. I do hope, however, as we adjust to the new norm, lodge members will feel safe to return to their meetings.

Whilst on the subject of meetings, can I firstly remind you that Grand Lodge continue to offer a 50% reduction in joining fees for the remainder of this financial year, so now is the time to get your candidates advanced!

January saw the usual Burns night celebration at Tuscan Pillar Lodge and in February Love and Remembrance Lodge had their new Lodge banner dedicated.

In February several brethren attended West Ham Royal Ark Mariner Lodge to witness W.Bro. Len Abrahams deliver another perfect exaltation degree. I think of the 14 who attended however, at least 10 of us went down with Covid shortly afterwards!

The Installed Commander and Master Lodges 1044 had more successful meetings in March with over 140 in attendance. The Installed Commanders hosted the Royal Ark Mariner Assembly where Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand ranks were bestowed and the Mark Masters meeting saw the Installation of W.Bro. David Awcock into the chair.

May saw a banner dedication for the Naze Tower Lodge.

The Annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting is upon us, and plans have been ongoing for some time to ensure the first face to face meeting in three years is a success. I do hope you enjoy the displays and stalls made available to you.

Later in the year there are plans to reponne Isthmian Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and Banner & Bible dedication for the Southern Star Lodge.

The MBF Festival 2030 is now another year closer, and events and dining experiences are being planned, so once again, please keep your eyes peeled on the website and other social media platforms for those details, as well as circulations to your lodge Secretaries.



These events will include the Tony Latham Memorial Golf Day on 28 July and an 'Audience with Mark Smith' (Antiques Roadshow fame) who will be giving a presentation on the Antiques Road Show from behind the scenes, at Saxon Hall, Southend on 14 October.

MBF Festival 2030 Jewels are still for sale and can be purchased via the website at [www.essexmark.co.uk](http://www.essexmark.co.uk). Around 230

jewels have been sold so far which is fabulous news and accounts for nearly a quarter of the Province so far.

Whilst talking about your generosity, I can also inform you that our appeal for funds for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal has raised well over £7000 to date, and it is not too late to contribute. All contributions will be accredited to either your personal or Lodge MBF totals and collarette awards.

A new MBF Festival 2030 website will be launched at the A.G.M. at Felsted to ensure you are kept fully up to date with all the festivities and events leading up to the Festival banquet.

As you know, I receive a copy of every Lodge Summons and it's heartening to see the number of new candidates being Advanced throughout the Province and I thank you all for your hard work and efforts, so let's ensure we give those candidates the best ceremony possible.

The provincial media team continue to work hard and we will be releasing the first of our 'themed lodges' videos shortly. I hope they will spark some interest and attract new members.

Brethren, you should all be very proud of how you weathered the Covid Storm, have returned to meetings and are now catching up on delayed business and I thank you sincerely for doing so.

Lastly, please remember to use the Provincial website for information about the Province as it has much to offer and includes of course our website shop. If you use Facebook and are not a member, please sign up to our Facebook page as well.



# question MARK

by David Wilson PProvGSO.

## Making your Mark as a Mason

The dictionary definition is, 'to do something which causes you to become noticed or famous.'

We know that those who could not read or write would be asked to 'leave their Mark', usually an X as a sign of a signature on a document.

Both of these we can see are used by the Ancient Stone Masons. There were in fact 3 types of Marks:

- Quarry marks to identify origin and quality of a stone.
- Assembly marks to assist in correct positioning and sequences.
- Banker marks were put on stones to show the Mason who prepared it before being sent and used by the walling Masons. This is where the majority of marks can be found especially when payment was by results rather than time.

Of course the more intricate work took longer and was prepared by the most experienced and skilled Craftsman which was more to do with quality than quantity.

In the Mark Degree we each receive a mark as a Mark Man and Craftsman. Having prepared our work, and figuratively placed our mark upon it we parade with other Craftsman who have prepared their stones for the walling Masons, square and oblong. But ours is 'curiously wrought', the rest we know. By preparing this stone and making our mark we have become noticed or famous in the story. Our work is paraded and we are publicly rewarded.

- Masonic teaching reminds us that through:
- Brotherly Love, respecting everyone.
- Relief, giving time and money to those in need.
- Truth, being true to yourself and who we strive to be.

We all can make and leave a mark in our lives that will stand the test of time. To be remembered by the generations to come.



Pictures from Colvin Memorial Temple Wall Freeze  
Clacton on Sea



Following the recent untimely death of our friend and fellow Mark Mason, we are holding a competition to present a new memorial trophy in Tony's name. Please join us and enjoy a game of golf on this fabulous course, and remember Tony as he would wish us to do so.

All profits on the event will be presented to the Essex Mark Benevolent fund.

## The TONY LATHAM memorial golf trophy

Thursday 28th July 2022  
at Rochford Hundred Golf Club, Hall Rd,  
Rochford, SS4 1NW.

To be played in teams of three.

Coffee and bacon roll, shotgun start at 1.30pm,  
18 holes of golf followed by 2 course dinner.

Places are limited and will be booked on  
a first come, first served, basis.

Cost per player £60.00. Handicaps are required  
Limited spaces are available for  
evening dinner at £25.00pp

Please contact Geoff Newman on  
[geoff.newman@mac.com](mailto:geoff.newman@mac.com) / 07850 629937  
or  
Andrew Cuthbertson on  
[andrew.cuthbertson2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:andrew.cuthbertson2@tiscali.co.uk) / 07833 608054





### Essex Mark Shop

Ever since I became the custodian of the shop it has changed considerably.

The shop originated as a second-hand regalia shop where anyone could hopefully find any piece of regalia that they required.

Since that time the shop has evolved into a fully functioning webshop with sales for the Bonus Ball, 2030 Festival items such as the new token, Rory the Lion and the Marks Banner.

We have also sold many other items in aid of the Essex Mark Welfare Fund such as Ray's Cookbook which was put together by WBro Ray McKerron during the lockdown period of the pandemic.

The shop allows anyone to make a purchase from anywhere in the world, but it is mainly used by Essex Mark Master Masons. Donations can be made directly to the welfare fund; 2030 festival jewels can be purchased with



our instalment scheme and most obviously we hold regalia from many of the different orders within freemasonry.

We have regalia from the Craft, Royal Arch, Royal and Select Masters, Knights Templar, Knights of Malta, Knights Templar Priests, Royal Order of Scotland, St Thomas of Acon, Order of the Secret Monitor, Red Cross of Constantine and Rose Croix.

All of the regalia is in good condition or better and is priced to reflect the fact that it is pre-used. The shop aims to get items dispatched in as short a time frame as possible, but this can be as long as three or four days.

There is a lot of good quality regalia just waiting for a new owner so have a quick look and see if we can help you or anyone you know in need of regalia. Thank you. Steve Joslin, Shop Keeper. [www.essexmark.co.uk/store/c1/Featured\\_Products.html](http://www.essexmark.co.uk/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)



### Essex Mark Bonus Ball Game 2022/23

The Essex Mark 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 more than £15,000, which was a main stay of the Sunday Meals delivered during Lockdown.

The Media Team 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 appointment to A.P.G.M., Richard Goodwin relinquished leadership of the game to Media Team member Steve Yates who took over the running of the game.

With over 260 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. This year in aid of the Essex Mark Welfare Fund, 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 and Good Luck.





**Interview with W. Bro. John Finlay  
Deputy Provincial Grand Master.**

**Interviewed by W. Bro. Steve Joslin  
Essex Mark Media Team.**

**Sir, How did you first become a Freemason and what moved you to take that decision?**

Steve, I'm guessing exactly the same as just about everybody else in Freemasonry, somebody asked me! Thinking about it, perhaps it was the intrigue of finding out what it was all about, perhaps the kudos of being part of a "secret society" that nobody knew much about, with all its alleged secret handshakes and the like, but definitely I sensed it would give me the opportunity to meet and bond with like minded people.

I have always been a "people person" with regards of wanting to be with like-minded people, so that was the greatest attraction for me and, of course, since joining Freemasonry I've found that in spades.

**Why did you decide to join the Mark degree in particular?**

I, like many others I don't doubt, had no idea the Mark Degree existed when I joined the Craft.

I was, however, really fortunate in having someone who I still consider a mentor, and a very good friend, in V.W. Bro. Bob Potts, a Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Degree and now the District Grand Master of the Royal and Select Masters in Essex.

Bob introduced me to the Mark Degree, followed by

the Knights Templar, the Allied Masonic Degrees, the Red Cross of Constantine, the Royal Order of Scotland, Rose Croix, the Order of the Secret Monitor and the Scarlet Cord, and to just about every other Masonic Order!

I was introduced to the Mark Degree very shortly after I was Exalted into the Holy Royal Arch and, in many respects, I don't think it was a bad decision to join the Royal Arch first but, equally so, if I had known about the Mark Degree beforehand, I probably would have joined that first.

**What would you say stands out for you about the Mark Degree, especially as you have had the experience of travelling from a newly Advanced Brother to your current position as Deputy Provincial Grand Master?**

The Mark Degree, to me, is very special. I see it as one of the main building blocks of Freemasonry, much as our ancient brethren did when the Mark was part of the Craft Ceremonies. Without the Mark I don't think you've got the whole. I consider it a true "Craftsman's Degree", the whole allegory is shaped towards labour, reward, and fraternal union. To me that's a very important part of Freemasonry. In the Mark Degree, when brethren join they are accepted for who they are and never discriminated against, whether that is in respect of their position in life or Freemasonry.

**Is Freemasonry something you are proud to be a part of and, if so, why? What, if anything, stands out as the defining reason?**

I've met an awful lot of people through my twenty plus years in Freemasonry and I find them almost without exception to be good decent human beings, and that for me is the one defining reason. I don't think there's much more that I need to say other than I am very proud to be a Freemason.

**Does the Mark Degree have more significance for you than the other Degrees in Freemasonry?**

The Mark Degree dovetails very nicely into the Solomonic legend, and therefore is an integral part of those Solomonic Degrees. Without the Mark Degree, the complete history of the Temple, and the allegory that Freemasons have applied to it, would be missing something very important.

Before becoming a Freemason I was never what I would consider a very religious type of person, but joining Freemasonry and then the Christian orders that I am a member of, opened my eyes and allowed me to realise my own idea of Religion and God. I think that it is important for all men to find that, and Freemasonry gives you that opportunity. The Mark Degree is simply part of our whole journey.

**Following on from that, as you just mentioned, you are a member of other Orders in Freemasonry,**





## **how many, how did you come to join them and how do they fit in with Mark Degree for you?**

Currently (!), I am a member of 13 Masonic Orders. Joining most was simply natural progression, but some were because I was just curious after reading about them or being canvased by a member. Once you get hooked it is quite easy to come across the other Orders.

Freemasonry is a journey for everybody, and for some that journey is over far too quickly in my opinion. Brethren will be initiated, passed, and raised, and some don't go a great deal further; perhaps their circumstances won't allow it, but if they are happy, then I am happy for them.

For me, as I've got an inquiring mind, I just like to know what's going on, the "why's and wherefores"! I've enjoyed all the Orders that I have joined because I get something different from each of them. You will find something different in all of the Degrees and Orders in Freemasonry, and once you join any particular one it soon makes perfect sense as to why somebody in the past decided to make a Masonic Degree out of part of a whole story.

As I said previously, the Mark Degree is part of the whole in my opinion, and I do think all the other Orders dovetail together to make a very interesting whole.

## **Moving outside of freemasonry a little, how do you balance your home, work, and personal life with the commitments you now have to Freemasonry?**

Don't sleep, don't eat and keep moving that is about the best answer I can give you! . Seriously, I am very time poor and not helped by still working full time and earning a living. I have a wife, four children and seven grandchildren who all need some time. I have got other interests outside of Freemasonry so I don't really have a minute in the day, I could do with a nine day week!

## **Is being part of the Essex Mark Provincial Executive a position, you ever foresaw yourself being in?**

No, absolutely not, but it's a position I am immensely proud to have. My first ever appointment was in the Craft after I came out of the Chair. I was appointed a Craft Steward, holding that active office opened my eyes to Freemasonry generally and how Freemasonry works as an organisation. I very much enjoyed my time in that office, it was good training for the future. I was very involved in the ceremonial aspect as a Craft Steward, which again was very good training for the future.

I was really fortunate after my year as a Steward to be appointed to another acting rank as a ProvAGDC, both of those ranks were subsequently mirrored in

the Holy Royal Arch. I gained a considerable amount of ceremonial experience in these roles which helped me greatly when I was eventually appointed as the ProvGDC in the Mark. After my first appointment came in the Mark I have just been swept along with it ever since. I absolutely never ever envisaged that I could possibly have reached the position where I am now, as I said before it is one I am incredibly proud to hold, and I am incredibly pleased to serve the ProvGM, the Province and its brethren.

## **My last question for you is, how many meetings a week is too many?**

My wife would most certainly have a different answer to me! There are weeks where I have attended five meetings between a Monday and Saturday, which is too many. I'm sort of comfortable with two meetings a week, but it regularly is at least three. When I am not out at meetings I spend most evenings working on behalf of the Province at home and I still spend an inordinate amount of time on zoom, but how many meetings is too many meetings? Well, I am led to think that when they are screwing the lid down on you, you want to make sure you've got the best out of this life, so I will do as many as I can.

## **Worshipful Brother John, thank you very much, Sir, for your time.**





## Recent Highlights



### Maul's Travels - And so it begins !!!

The Travelling Maul started its journey through the Province on Tuesday 18 January 2022 when Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Richard Goodwin presented it to 98-year-old V.W.Bro. Alf Garner who was deputising as W.M. of Constantine Lodge No.145, the oldest Mark Lodge in Essex at St. Giles Masonic Centre, Colchester.

On Wednesday 2 February W.Bro. Sid Philpin the secretary of Constantine Lodge presented Maul to W.Bro. Martyn Pinkney, the W.M. of Beaconsfield Mark Lodge No.205 at their meeting at Southend.

The third port of call for Maul was George Graveley Lodge No.461 meeting at Crossed Keys, Chadwell St.



Mary where W.Bro. Martyn Pinkney presented the Travelling Maul to the reigning Master W.Bro. David Burgess.

In a busy start to the year, Maul also travelled to both Chelmer Lodge No.342 & St. Nicholas Lodge No.413 in April and will be making the journey to Brentwood Lodge No.377 in June.



Dates for all future visits can be found on the Provincial website at: <https://www.essexmark.co.uk/travelling-maul-dates.html> or by using the QR code opposite.



### Constantine Lodge of M.M.M. No.145 150th Anniversary Meeting St.Giles Masonic Centre Colchester Friday 22 April 2022

On Friday 22 April at the St. Giles Masonic centre in Colchester, the Constantine Lodge of Mark Masters No. 145 celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Lodge was Consecrated on Wednesday 17 April 1872 at the Three Cups Hotel in Colchester and is the oldest Lodge in the Mark Province of Essex.

Over the following 7 years, Constantine Advanced 30 Brethren, and in 1883, the Lodge became a Founder of the Province of East Anglia.

For today's celebration, the Constantine Lodge was opened and its regular business was undertaken.

The Lodge was then Called off so that the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Terence D. Sheern and his Provincial team could assemble and enter the Lodge.

The Prov.G.M. took the Chair for a short time to introduce his team which included the Deputy P.G.M., W.Bro. John Finlay and an Assistant P.G.M., W.Bro. Richard Goodwin. The Chair was returned to the Master and the celebration of the Lodges' 150<sup>th</sup> year began.

The current Secretary, W.Bro. Sid Philpin then gave a brief history of the Lodge, recounting the early years and giving those assembled a few facts and figures to set the scene before moving into the lives of a few of the Brethren that have had a lasting impact on the Lodge.

70 Brethren remained to dine and were gifted a history of the Constantine Lodge booklet and a Mark Token to mark the occasion. The Prov.G.M. stood at the festive board and relayed some sadness about the sudden passing of the Assistant Grand Master, who was due to attend the celebration as the official visitor of Grand Lodge and who was looking forward to the event.

The evening ended with a few final words from the Master who thanked the Constantine team for organising the event and those in attendance to support them in their anniversary year, with an eye to the next 150 years.





The Provincial Membership Strategy Group (P.M.S.G.) working under the lead of the Prov.G.M., R.W.Bro. Terence D. Sheern, and the Executive Officers has been busy in looking at how we can maintain and improve our Province under the headings of the “3 R’s”, i.e. Recruitment, Retention and Reinvigoration.

The Mark (and Royal Ark Mariner) Degree is the third largest after Craft and Royal Arch Masonry (no mean feat when, by definition, Craft must always be the largest Order). Essex Mark has always maintained a high profile and high membership but, as with everything else, Covid has had a lasting effect on membership. Not to be deterred, Mark Masonry remained active (using the Zoom platform) throughout the various lockdowns and restrictions on meetings and, once “face to face” meetings resumed took “reinvigoration” to heart. Key lead details are available on our website at [essexmark.co.uk](http://essexmark.co.uk).

To assist an active recruitment drive, Essex Mark, has researched and published a number of relevant and informative documents relating to the history and symbolism of Mark Masonry. These are also available on our website at [essexmark.co.uk](http://essexmark.co.uk).

Of particular note are the articles on the Mark Master Masons’ Marks of which mention is made in the Royal Arch but, in Mark masonry, forms an integral part of our Ceremony. You, and all your Craft Brethren, are recommended to read and disseminate the information contained therein.

Looking at recruitment, two “parent groups” have been set up looking at “North and South” respectively. Within that umbrella, two recruitment events were delivered, one at Southend with the assistance of Battlesbridge Mark, and a second at Kirby cross with the assistance of the Naze Tower Lodge.

At both, a dissertation on both Mark and Royal Ark Mariner was delivered by experienced and enthusiastic Mark Men, which led to a combined total of over 30 Craft masons looking to join mark masonry. That in itself is a superb result, 30 new members is a Lodge in itself! We hope that all of these candidates will be Advanced and Elevated soon and thus experience the enjoyment, friendship and fun of Mark Masonry!

The Retention drive has seen an interactive database and questionnaire set up to properly understand what future aspirations and expectations existing members have and has given an excellent insight into those members perceptions of the Order and good information for strategic planning for the future of the Province. We are, as some may recall the saying, “In good heart!” The current ProvGDC has set out a basis for a “formal” Provincial Lodge of Instruction and, subject to Executive sign off, this will bear fruition later this year. In the meantime, members are reminded that the Fillebrook Lodge has been reponed as a Lodge of Instruction for Directors of Ceremonies and other brethren looking to extend their knowledge of and proficiency in both the Mark and RAM Degrees,

Reinvigoration has produced a reinvigoration guide for Lodges to work with, which included a succession planning document, a subject often overlooked, key officers of any Lodge should know who is their replacement and train and assist them to take the role over.

The Essex Keystone Lecture is in its first year after introduction by this group. To be presented annually and for the first time at Felsted 2022.

We have constant and ongoing Media campaigns linked to the media team, keeping the Province vibrant and updating existing and prospective members on initiatives on all our existing platforms.

A Lodge health register covering all the Essex Lodges has been produced and this register, when coupled with the database, gives a clearer picture of the whole Province as regards to its’ overall health , which assists the executive in forward planning for the future success of the Province.

Brethren, the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees are important, informative and symbolically relevant Degrees in Freemasonry without which a full understanding of Craft cannot be obtained. They also form a gateway to other masonic Orders (go to the GLMMM website at [Mark Masons’ Hall](http://MarkMasonsHall.org) ([markmasonshall.org](http://markmasonshall.org)) for a fuller understanding of the connection of our “several parts”.

Brethren, the provincial Executive are available for all to ask questions of, their contact details are on the website at Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Essex - Essex Mark Master Masons where there is also a wealth of information on the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees.

Remember those words you heard at your Advancement, “among Mark Master Masons you will ever find friends, who will administer relief to your distress and comfort in your affliction”. Let that message be conveyed to all your brethren who have yet to hear it.



# Festival Information

**FESTIVAL 2030**  
MARK BENEVOLENT FUND  
8 YEARS LEFT  
**BANQUET**  
1st SATURDAY  
JULY 2030



Purchase a Festival Jewel



Take out a Covenant



Hold a Fund Raiser

**What is the Province doing?**

**How can you help?**



Mark Token



Marks Banner



Festival Mascot



Traveling Maul



Fine Dining



Evening with Mark Smith

...with more to come in 2023



## Fine Dining 2022

Continuing on from the successful events held in 2021 and earlier this year in support of the MBF Festival Essex 2030, there are a number of dining events planned for later this year. Some details are yet to be confirmed but still to come this year are:

- A BBQ to be held at Rochford Masonic Centre on a Sunday in July
- An evening meal at The Ship public house in Kirby Cross
- An Italian meal at Antica Roma in Rochford in September
- A Chinese meal at Zen City in Southend on Tuesday 4 October
- An Indian meal at Kanchans on Sunday 20 November

Keep an eye out for the Flyers for these events providing the final details.



On Friday 14 October 2022, Mark Smith, the BBC's Antiques Roadshow Military expert, will be giving a presentation at Saxon Hall in Southend.

The event will also include a buffet and a raffle in aid of the MBF Festival 2030.

The cost of a ticket for this evening's entertainment is £25.

Tickets for this event have almost sold out, but if you are interested in attending, please contact W.Bro. Richard Goodwin (email below) who has the final few and will be happy to add your name to a reserve list, should further tickets become available.

[richard-goodwin@virginmedia.com](mailto:richard-goodwin@virginmedia.com)



On Saturday 26 November 2022, at Saxon Hall in Southend, W.Bro. Geoff Waddoups and his team will be running a Race Night. Final details will be released soon.

These Race Nights will become an annual event in support of the MBF Festival 2030 and the Festival Committee have all of the equipment needed to run such an event.

If your lodge would like to host one of these evenings, contact the Festival Committee Chairman, W.Bro. Richard Goodwin at [richard-goodwin@virginmedia.com](mailto:richard-goodwin@virginmedia.com).