

MARK Times

Edition 9

Christmas 2022

The Newsletter for the Mark Province of Essex, incorporating the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners



Welcome to the Christmas 2022 edition of the Mark Times, which I trust you will find interesting and informative. I also send a special welcome to our new members who may not have received this publication before.

This year has been another busy year for our Province, following the launch of our 2030 MBF Festival we have seen many and varied fund-raising events taking place. They range from Race Nights, an evening with Mark Smith, to the many different dining functions that have been held. I give a big and heartfelt "thank you" to all those who have given up their time to help organise, arrange, manage, and attend events. For the contributions of each and every one of you, it has been magnificent! Thank you all.

Next year will be no different as we continue our efforts to make our Festival 2030 one we can all be proud of. I'm sure we will raise a substantial amount of money for the Mark Benevolent Fund, which, as you know, does so much good for those needing our help.

As well as our fund-raising activities, the Province also undertook several Ceremonial Duties as well as other events which included, the Reponement of the Isthmian Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner, the dedication of a Banner for both the Lodge of Love and Remembrance and the Naze Tower Lodge as well as a Banner and Bible dedication for Southern Star Lodge of Mark Master Masons. There was a wonderful celebration at the Constantine Lodge of Mark Masters to mark their 150th anniversary and at the Potters Clay Lodge of Mark Master Masons on their 50th anniversary. Finally, there were three very successful Awareness events bringing in around 50 new Advantees as well as the launch of our new monthly LOI held at Chelmsford.

Looking ahead to 2023 we will be consecrating the new Southern Star Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner and dedicating a new Banner for Aurelius Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner.

I will also be undertaking my 'Wing Walk Challenge' in May and our AGM will be held at Felsted School on 1 June. We also are going to release further videos highlighting our themed Lodges as well as publishing some podcasts, so, keep an eye out for the information and don't forget to share it with your Craft colleagues.

As we approach the holiday season and if you, or anyone buying presents for you, run out of ideas



please remember our website shop for stocking fillers; we have Shopping Trolley/Golf Ball Markers, Rory the Lion Festival Mascots, Festival Tokens, Napkins, Regalia and lots more.

Lastly, looking at our membership figures for this year I am pleased to say our numbers continue to grow despite the setback caused by Covid-19. Despite some resignations "from largely older members" from multiple memberships,

our membership across all Lodges has increased by around 30 and members by the same amount. Brethren I thank you all for your continued support of our wonderful Degree, your Lodges and our Province, you should be very proud of your achievements.

If you celebrate Christmas, please have a very happy one. For those who don't, please have a happy holiday period and I wish everyone a very successful, peaceful, and healthy New Year.

Thank you



The Mark Benevolent Fund Grand Patron

Brethren All,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that, due to your continued generosity, the Province of Essex have reached and have been awarded with MBF Grand Patron Gold status. This is a wonderful achievement and one you should all be very proud of.

Becoming a Grand Patron Gold Province means that every Mark Lodge has also achieved at least the MBF Grand Patron Gold Level as well.

Your individual MBF status should be proudly displayed on your Lodge Summons as well as the Provincial Gold status.

With just over 7 years now before our 2030 MBF Festival, it leaves us enough time to set the challenge of aiming to become a Diamond Award Province as well.

Thank you all once again for your generosity and please remember when you are giving your money, it goes to helping the lives of others.

Terry



With the recent retirement of one of the recent stalwarts of Essex Mark Masonry, V.W.Bro. Mark Reeve, P.G.J.O. and now Past A.P.G.M. we bring you some farewell thoughts from him. He has been an influential figure in matters of ritual and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of protocol. Although he stands down as a member of the Executive there is no doubt his steady counsel will always remain available as well as his constant smile and humour.

Below are a few thoughts from him on Masonry in general and Mark Masonry in particular.



I joined Masonry in 1993 when I was initiated into the St Helens and St Giles Lodge No.9133 in Upminster. On joining I found the charitable commitments admirable but I must admit that I enjoyed the constant progression through its "secrets" with an allure of "finding out more" as you progressed. To give that some reference. I am now a member of a further ten Masonic Orders!

As (then!) a young Mason, I found I had an appetite for that appeal and, whilst reading a Craft Yearbook, I was exposed to information on further Orders. In conversation with a senior brother in Craft I spoke about the Mark Degree and that, as they say, is where the journey began!

I was advanced into the Mayflower Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No.1536, in 1997 at its then meeting place in Wickford, so this month sees my 25 years in Mark Masonry! I became Master of that Lodge in 2002 which was an interesting year as I was also Commander in the R.A.M. and Master in my Craft Lodge too!

I must confess that, success in it aside, Mark has always been my favourite Degree. Starting, as it does in the Craft Second Degree, it completes that Degree and then proceeds to pick up on an element of Freemasonry that had been bypassed. This Degree, in my mind, fully exemplifies the camaraderie of Masonry, it is the appreciation of our serious but friendly Ceremony that brings out the warmth and deep sense of brotherhood towards our fellow Mark Master Masons.

During my time in Mark Masonry I have been honoured with Acting Rank under three Provincial

Grand Masters. A first appointment to Prov.Asst.G.D.C. in 2005; a promotion to Prov.Dep.G.D.C. in 2008. A further Promotion to Prov.G.D.C. in 2012 under Michael Spencer and, finally, appointed to the position of Asst.P.G.M. by Terry Sheern. It has been a singular honour to have escorted two of those P.G.M.s as well as discharging the official position when attending on them at celebration meetings.

To have represented the P.G.M. as his Assistant in Essex Lodges, as well as making official visits with him to other Provinces, has been a wonderful honour and I have formed memories and friends that I shall forever remember and cherish. Finally, to have been promoted to Past.G.J.O. and thus achieve Very Worshipful status, is a tremendous honour.

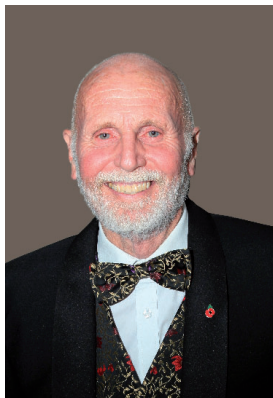
Because of my commitment to Mark Masonry, it has been difficult to invest as much time as I wanted to the other Orders of which I am a member but, having just completed a year as Prov.G.Stwd in the Royal Arch, I am looking forward to giving them the time and effort they deserve.

Whilst Masonry has played a large part in my life, I have always tried to remember, and to remind others, that whilst it may be a "way of life", it is our hobby! We all have family, home and work commitments which must take precedence when necessary. Whilst many Brethren may well have more time to commit to Masonry, others are in earlier stages of their working or family life. This must be appreciated and accommodated and never be detrimental to their Masonic progression.

Finally, although we have all experienced difficult times recently with the Covid pandemic and lockdown and now a period of financial instability, it has been an honour to assist the Prov.G.M. with combating the problems caused. He has ensured that we have kept our Brethren and families safe and informed; secured funding for, and the distribution of, meals to those less able to go out.

We have Consecrated and Reopened Lodges and with our 3Rs programme have regenerated our Recruitment, Retention and Reinvigoration initiatives and have the MBF Festival 2030 to look forward to. I'm sure that, as I close this chapter of my Masonic life, that our Brotherhood, and especially the Mark Degree, maintains an excellent foundation on which we can take further to the future. I, for one, am greatly looking forward to it and to helping, advising and assisting where I can.

I wish you all well and give my good wishes to my replacement, W.Bro. John Stannard, and look forward to continuing to meet you all, enjoy my Masonry and whatever the future may bring us. Mark Well, brethren!



Interview with the Provincial Charity Steward

Our Media Manager, W.Bro. David Todd caught up with W.Bro. Peter Maloney our Provincial Charity Steward for an informal chat to learn more about him.

Pete, tell me why you joined Freemasonry

There is no single reason I joined Masonry in the beginning, only that a few friends I worked with were Masons and it progressed from there.

What does Freemasonry mean to you? Especially the Mark Degree?

Being a Mason, is to me an important part of my life and one which I enjoy. The only regret I have is that I did not join at a much earlier age. But then hindsight is a wonderful thing.

Over the years I have joined a number of orders. But to me personally, the Mark Degree is closest to my heart. It is called the Friendly Degree and I have found it to be just that. Although I take my ritual seriously, being at a Mark meeting is by far the most relaxed and enjoyable.

The camaraderie is second to none and it has certainly pulled me through some challenging times in my life, for which I am profoundly grateful.

Has the role of the Provincial Charity Steward changed over the years?

The fundamentals of any Charity Steward have in my opinion not changed over the years. I can well remember the morning when I had a phone call from our present Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Terence D. Sheern asking me if I would accept the office of Provincial Charity Steward. Strangely enough, I needed no prompting and gratefully accepted the role with open arms, not really knowing how much it involved. I had however been Charity Steward in my Craft Lodge for some twelve years prior.

I must admit, it was a major learning curve for me. I settled into that which I had considered a relatively easy position, one of collecting alms and running raffles to raise money.

Very soon reality set in and the role became a little bit more demanding in aiding Lodges to obtain their MBF honours.

All seemed to be settled for a time, then it happened, and Essex was into 2030 Festival mode. It has now turned the position of Provincial Grand Charity Steward into a somewhat complex position. Records must be kept regarding the various appeals and fund-raising events throughout the years.

Amounts raised must be correctly allocated for Lodge honorifics. Personal donations must be collated to ensure members qualify for the various levels of MBF honorifics issued from MMH and then making sure those members receive their collarettes.

Having to work closely with the financial department at Mark Masons Hall, I am indebted to the two personnel there with whom I liaise. They are extremely willing to give their undivided attention to any problems that arise.

What would you say has been your greatest achievement in Masonry?

I consider my greatest achievement is, quite simply being a Mark Man and enjoying the warmth and friendship it emulates.

However, on my journey I have been W.M. in my Craft Lodge. MEZ for the second time in Chapter, Supreme Ruler in OSM. W.M. in the Mark Degree and W.C. in RAM Degree both for my joint mother lodges.

I am at present the treasurer for four degrees, which include three separate Mark Lodges.

I have also been honoured with Grand Rank in both Mark and RAM degrees.

What are your outside interests?

My outside interests are many and varied. I like to play an active role in the local community, and for my sins, am a trustee and vice chairperson of our village hall, plus maintaining the bells in our church.

But having been raised in the country, my greatest passion is the conservancy of nature and maintaining a sustainable balance.

My final comment is for those Masons out there that are not part of this wonderful degree and want to continue their journey, consider joining the Mark degree. You will be welcomed with open arms and meet a whole lot of new, friendly, like-minded people.

There are breakfast Lodges that meet on a Saturday morning, a military Lodge and even one for public service personnel. The Province of Essex run a number of introduction days during the year at various locations where you can find out all the information needed.

Might I dare mention, now is a suitable time to consider becoming a Mark Man. The 2030 Festival is well under way and there are plenty of functions where we just enjoy going out for an informal meal where all family members are welcome to come along. Or perhaps you would like to see our Provincial Grand Master do his wing walk next year in aid of raising money for the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Peter, thank you for this interview and all the good work you carry out around the Province



Centurio Renatus. A story of new beginnings.

The Centurion Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1804 found itself in the difficult and unenviable position of considering either handing back its warrant or amalgamating with another Mark lodge in Essex. The lodge had found itself with an aging and shrinking membership, not uncommon in masonic units post pandemic. The members had approached the Province for guidance and discussions soon centered around repurposing Centurion into a specialist lodge or one with a different format. Some members were in favour, and some were not, but all agreed that the lodge should be saved from closure.

Much at about the same time, two Essex Mark Men were exploring the possibility of consecrating a new Mark Lodge in South Essex which would meet on a Saturday morning and mirror the format of the Northern Star breakfast lodge which meets in the North of the county.

During lunch before the recent "zip wire challenge" which was undertaken by some courageous Mark Men, the subject of consecrating a new lodge was presented as an idea in principle to the Deputy P.G.M, although the two petitioners had some support from potential founders, there was not sufficient support for the idea to move forward.

The Dep.P.G.M. explained the situation with Centurion Lodge who currently meet at the Rochford Masonic Centre and was therefore geographically ideally placed for their intended purpose. After discussion it was agreed that the two, W.Bro. Dave Todd, Essex Media Team Manager and W.Bro. Steve Joslin, Essex Mark Shop Manager would put their heads together and try to come up with some ideas that may save Centurion and satisfy the need for a Saturday morning Breakfast Lodge in the South of Essex.

After initial discussions twelve new members were recruited from across the Province. These then decided it was desirable to change the meeting dates and location of the meetings to best suit the new format. Fraternity Hall in Eastwood was chosen as the Lodge's new home. The meetings will now take place in January, April and July, with July being the Installation meeting. The original concept was altered slightly to allow traveling brethren from the North of the Province to join the Lodge and attend the meetings without the need for leaving home pre-dawn! The Lodge will meet at 1000 and a breakfast brunch festive board following the lodge meeting! There are also plans to have a BBQ get together after the July meeting as the weather should be good enough at that time of year.

Another part of the new look will see the Installation meeting moving from South to North Essex on alternative years, this was decided upon to encourage brethren in the North of the province to join the

Lodge. Once the bylaws were agreed upon they were presented to the Province for approval.

All of the proposals met with provincial approval and joining forms for the twelve were submitted to the Lodge. The new members joined the Lodge at the July 2022 meeting. Unfortunately some of the current members were either unable to make the new meeting dates or simply found the new format not to their liking and have joined other lodges.

The Lodge will hold its last meeting in its original format at Rochford on Saturday 22nd October 2022 where V.W.Bro. David Garson the Primus Master of Centurion will be installed as Worshipful Master for the third time in its history, and where the new Lodge Officers will be appointed and invested. "Centurion Reborn" and saved to celebrate its silver anniversary in 2025.

January 2023 will see an official visit from the Provincial Grand Master where the Lodge hopes to advance its first candidate for a considerable time. There are also plans to procure and dedicate a Lodge Banner in the near future hopefully incorporating our new motto "Centurio Renatus" (Centurion Reborn). Hope and optimism now abound in the Centurion Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The Lodge will always welcome joining members and visitors to any meeting, look out for the summons on the Essex Mark Facebook site or check the meetings calendar on the Provincial website.

Contact the Secretary
at: centsec1804@
gmail.com



An important message from our shop



https://www.essexmark.co.uk/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

Brethren are reminded that purchases made on the shop are for postage only.

The delivery and collection can only be carried out in exceptional circumstances.

Please remember to select the correct postage when purchasing items.

Don't forget to visit the shop for all your regalia needs.

Mark Awareness Events



Whilst the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees are enjoyed by all those who have made that "fourth regular step", many other Master Masons are deprived of the opportunity to equally enjoy our Ritual and camaraderie and, additionally, since membership of the Degree of a Mark Master Mason is a gateway to more, much more, they are also deprived of taking that "daily advancement" that is so often extolled as a virtue.

To that end, a series of "Awareness Events" took place in what we now call "Pre Covid"!

Being successful in attracting a significant number of Master Masons, during lockdown the current Dep.P.G.M. W.Bro. John Finlay was tasked with building on the success of his predecessor.

So, after a study of the results and, building on the already successful platform, a slightly different approach was tried with events now being held on Saturdays and not necessarily in the evening but with flexible starts to accommodate the preferences of the intended audience.

The original format has been adapted to include several very knowledgeable members of the Province to entertain, advise and inform Master Masons and Companions of the Holy Royal Arch of the relevance and importance of our Mark Degree as well as touching on the Royal Ark Mariner Degree. There is now a dedicated team of enthusiastic Mark Men, under the guidance of John, to ensure the presentations remain



fresh and interesting. The latest presentations involve Mark Men demonstrating part of the Advancement Ceremony without giving away too much and spoiling the ceremony for any potential candidates.

There have now been events held at Hutton, Clacton, Southend and Colchester, which has seen over fifty new members Advanced into Mark Masonry.

There are further events planned for the new year, so if you know anyone in the Craft or Holy Royal Arch who may be interested in our "Friendly Degree" please keep them informed and pass on the link below, where all future events will be published, and they can see our great success stories.



In aid of the
**ESSEX
MARK
WELFARE
FUND**



Did you know – the most successful Saturday draw Bonus Ball number is number 8, and the least successful is number 51. Since our games started, our most successful numbers are number 10,12 & 20. These have been drawn 9 times.

Launched in May 2018, the Essex Mark Bonus Ball Game has raised in excess of £5,000 for the Essex Mark Welfare Fund.

From January 2021 the game was opened up to all Essex Masons and their friends and families. This meant that Essex Mark Masons could now give friends and family the chance to share in our game.

The cost is £10 per number in a game that runs for 10 weeks on consecutive Saturdays, and each week the owner of the winning number receives £30. The winning number being the Bonus Ball drawn each Saturday for the National Lottery draw.

£50 will purchase your number for 50 weeks over 5 consecutive games. This method of entry has been established to enable Lodges to purchase entry numbers. Contact us for more information via:

emwfbonusball@gmail.com

or buy via:

https://www.essexmark.co.uk/store/p508/Essex_Mark_Bonus_Ball.html

The Holy Royal Arch

A Chapter in the Journey of a Mason

Much has been said, discussed and debated over 'The Fourth Step' in Freemasonry, and in this article, we will try and give a layman's explanation of what the Royal Arch is and why it, by definition, forms an integral part of any Master Mason's journey through Freemasonry and why the Master Mason needs to become a Royal Arch Mason no matter which route they take to get there. Although Mark Masonry, Craft Freemasonry and the Royal Arch are separate entities, they do work extremely well together and have done so for many years.

So, let's start at 'the beginning' and take a whistle stop tour through hundreds of years of biblical and masonic history. That said starting at 'the beginning' is already itself a conundrum since as a Master Mason, with the exception of Installation, you will have been told that you have completed your Craft 'journey'. The Master Mason has, though, been 'raised' to a higher level of awareness and contemplation and has been told that 'something' has been lost and 'something else' substituted in its place.

The Mark Master Mason who, owing to an historical compromise, must now be a Master Mason first, is aware that 'someone' has been replaced following the loss of another. Neither, however, is aware yet of what that true loss in the third degree was; this is where the Royal Arch comes in.

The Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch or, as it is sometimes commonly known, 'Royal Arch' is the progression of the journey started at every Mason's initiation. In former times, both the Mark ceremony and a Royal Arch ceremony would have been worked in some form in a Craft Lodge, and the agreement that was struck between the two masonic factions lead us to where we are today and makes English Freemasonry uniquely beautiful and interesting, and we can draw many comparisons between Lodge and Chapter terminologies.

Today, the Royal Arch is worked under the aegis of Supreme Grand Chapter and Provincial Grand Chapters, and indeed the Duke of Kent as well as being the Grand Master in the Craft is also the Grand Superintendent in Royal Arch Chapter, and likewise RWBro Paul Tarrant as well as being the Provincial Grand Master in the Craft in Essex is also the Provincial Grand Superintendent in the Royal Arch. The administration of the Royal Arch is generally, but not exclusively, the same as that of the Craft and key Provincial Officers can be different from their Craft counterparts. This is something that the Mark Master Mason has already come across in the Royal Ark Mariner which is administered by Mark Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodges but at Lodge level, offices will be held by differing people. Royal Arch

Chapters, like Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, also bear the same number as their original sponsoring Lodge.

The Royal Arch is a spectacularly colourful telling of the return of the exiled people of Jerusalem to their holy city and of their work in reconstructing the Temple on the ground where the first Temple formally stood, although some of the details are dealt with in other masonic orders administered by Mark Grand Lodge, specifically these are the Order of Royal and Select Masters and some of the degrees in the Allied Masonic Degrees. These two sovereign Orders have some of the most spectacular ritual you will encounter (and more on those in later additions of the Essex Mark Times), but they also require any aspiring candidate to be a Royal Arch Companion first. The Royal Arch is more than just the continuation or ending of a story as it enables you to uncover new perspectives and hidden meanings within the ceremony. The Royal Arch, however, takes up the story after the Mark Degree and tells of how the loss suffered through the death of the principal architect of the former temple was made good by the recovery of that which the Master Mason acknowledges as lost.

Another interesting, though often overlooked or completely missed point of connection between Mark Master Masons and Royal Arch Masons is the terminology. Royal Arch masons are referred to as 'Companions' not Brethren. When the Mark Master Mason is given the meaning of the 'ancient word' they are told it signifies 'Companions of the Mark' even though Mark Master Masons are still referred to as 'Brethren'!

In the Royal Arch then, a Companion not only experiences a dramatic ceremony but also a spectacular moment when he emerges from the darkness and bereavement of the third degree into a new light when the true and bright light of Masonry is finally revealed to him.

So, the questions left are 'why' and 'when' to join the Royal Arch?

The answer to 'why' is quite clearly 'why would you not?' since it is clearly the culmination of Craft Freemasonry and a fulfilment of the three ceremonies prior to Installation as Master.

It is also a prerequisite for entry into a number of Masonic Orders, e.g. Knights Templar and the Red Cross of Constantine, and thus, not only does it complete your Craft Masonry, but it also opens many other spectacular doors leading to further personal fulfilment and fun.

The answer to 'when' is always a personal one, but as a Mark Master Mason you have a Royal Arch contact in your Craft Lodge, you have Brethren in Mark that have already joined who will be only too happy to give you advice and encouragement.



Spotlight on the Essex Mark Welfare Fund

We are told from our very first steps into Freemasonry that "charity to all" is one of the cornerstones of Masonry. Indeed, in the Advancement of each of us, we heard those comforting and encouraging words, that "among Mark Master Masons you will ever find friends, who will administer relief to your distress and comfort in your affliction".

So, what does that mean in practice? Well, the Mark Province of Essex has several Charitable and Welfare Funds from which we freely support those in need.

Here we shall have a look at the work and principles of the Welfare Fund in particular.

Over the past three years, the fund has received over £70k from sales of regalia and various other initiatives, including the Bonus Ball Scheme and a further £46,275 from personal donations.

One of the important things to remember is that the Welfare Fund is not a charitable fund within the definition set by The Charity Commission. If that sounds confusing, in essence it means that there are less restrictions on how we spend the monies we raise.

So, although donations can be made to 'formal' charities, they can also be spent on local worthy causes that are not charities.

The advantage of money in the Welfare Fund means that we can support and assist brethren and the families and dependents where the recipient is not, necessarily, a 'charity' and it has often been used to financially support (for example) widows with unexpected costs as well as assisting in the purchase or renting of a number of mobility scooters; assisting with wheelchairs, and, in one case, the purchase of a medical bed.

On top of that, the Fund has paid £70,598 to charities which include 'SAFE' (Supporting Asperger's in Essex) and Hamilton Court, which are made on an annual basis.

To the Great Wakering Sea Scouts.

The Kingsway Pre-school.

In supporting the appeal for George Nye, an 11-year old boy from South Woodham Ferrers, who needed adaptations in his house and further support having been diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

In supporting the efforts of a charity for Essex and London Homeless.

To Clowns in the Sky.

To the Southend Foodbank.

To Safe Ship, who champion work and life skills training for people living with a learning disability, of all ages.

To Safe Steps, who provide support to victims of

domestic abuse and violence.

The Ukraine Disaster Fund and to the Lennox Children's Cancer Fund.

The Essex Mark Welfare Fund is administered locally by elected Trustees who are, currently, R.W.Bro. Terence Sheern, Prov.G.M., W.Bro's. John Finlay, the Dep. Prov.G.M.; Roy Kaye, the Prov.G.Almoner, and Peter Maloney, the Prov.G.CharityStwd.

It is their role to receive and examine the applications for assistance or relief and to ensure that the requests for assistance comply with provincial guidelines. They will then speak to the petitioner and agree at what level and frequency support needs to be made.

The Fund is fully audited annually and subject to scrutiny by examiners who prepare an annual, public, report.

The Provincial Grand Master is keen to remind everyone that donating monies to the Fund allows funding decisions to be made at a local level here in Essex. At the same time, donations made on a personal or Lodge basis will also count towards the same with respect to the Essex 2030 Festival.

So, if you know any worthy causes that may benefit from our help, don't be afraid to ask!

Brethren, we hope that this article has been of some interest and assistance and, if you wish to know more or seek assistance for yourself or others, in the first instance, speak to either your Lodge Almoner or, if the circumstances require, the Provincial Almoner Roy Kaye, whose contact details are freely available on the Essex Mark Master Mason's website.



Essex Mark and RAM
Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons

Media Team



Our Province continues to be a hub of activity and the Media Team are there to capture the story. The Province is currently covered by 2 Media Liaison Officers each of whom has 25 Mark & RAM Lodges to look after so we are looking for some additional help. Their relationship with secretaries & scribes is most important

and the Team will always try to make sure this is in place but this has to be a two-way street. There are also photographers, editors, channel managers (Twitter/Facebook/Mailchimp), graphic designers and a webmaster in the team. If you would like to get involved in any aspect of this work, please get in contact. The Media Team can be contacted by emailing: essexmarkcomms@gmail.com



Recent Highlights

OFFICERS

MESS

This year's mess was held at Hutton Masonic Centre. The Mess was hosted by the current Prov.G.J.W., W.Bro. Robin Morley. Members of the Executive present took part in the traditional "round robin" and chatted to everyone, making for a very relaxed, fun and informative evening. The splendid meal finished, the formalities commenced. Last year's President, W.Bro. Norman Eastbrook, proposing the toast to the current one.

The Prov.G.M. then went on to inform those present of his choices for Wardens/Steward for the ensuing year.

- SW: W.Bro. Rob Sandy, of The Beaconsfield Lodge of Mark Masters, No.205
- JW: W.Bro. Geoff Waddoups, of The Mark of Love and Remembrance, No.1718
- GStwd: W.Bro. Clive Snell, of The Tuscan Pillar Lodge, No.1142

The speeches and announcements completed, the brethren retired to the bar, the raffle raised £535 which was duly donated towards the Prov.G.M.'s Wing Walk.



Wednesday 12 October marked the culmination of 3 years hard work for a team of brethren, when the Isthmian Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner No. 891 was Reponed, having handed in its original warrant in 2009. The Reponement ceremony was presided over by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Terence D. Sheern; ably assisted by his Deputy, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, the Provincial Grand Chaplain, and a number of other Provincial Grand Officers. There were 50 Royal Ark Mariners in attendance to witness this unique event. W.Bro. Geoff Waddoups was installed as the first Commander, who then went on to appoint and invest his officers. Bro. Robert Selwyn was then Elevated into the Lodge. Finally, all that remained was to complete the remainder of the Lodge business and with a double Elevation organised for their February meeting, the Lodge has work to do. Those in attendance retired to a friendly and enjoyable Royal Ark Mariner festive board, which caused much amusement among the attendees when it came to the Fire! The Isthmian RAM is the 40th RAM Lodge in the Province to sit alongside the 50 Essex Mark Lodges.

Those in attendance retired to a friendly and enjoyable Royal Ark Mariner festive board, which caused much amusement among the attendees when it came to the Fire! The Isthmian RAM is the 40th RAM Lodge in the Province to sit alongside the 50 Essex Mark Lodges.

Sunday 18 September saw brethren from around our Province meet at the Chelmsford Masonic Hall for the first Provincial LOI.

The meeting was to cover the ritual and work of the Overseers, covering the presentation of the "materials for the building" by the Deacons and Candidate and the examination of the Stones by the Overseers. First there was a demonstration of the ritual as it should be done and then there was an opportunity to ask questions. One of the important points brought up concerned the examination of the stones and the point at which the ritual was to be spoken.

This is how the LOI came into its own for, as explained by the Dep.P.G.M. John Finlay, a full examination of the rubric reveals that the examination takes place before any words are spoken.

Some of the finer points of detail were also covered, for instance, the JO does not put the stones down on the pedestal before handing them back to the workmen, but that the SO and MO do, and place their hands on the stones when speaking to the Deacons.

It was hoped that everyone who had attended had learned something and would take away a better understanding and delivery of our Ceremony. The next session is planned for Sunday 19 Feb 2023.

Festival Information



The Festival was launched in 2020 by the P.G.M. at the Provincial meeting at Felsted and is now in its third year with eight years left to hopefully achieve a respectable amount of money for the MBF (Mark Benevolent Fund). The members of the Essex Mark Province continue to support the many fund-raising events that are organised and a very big thank you goes out to each and every one of them during this difficult economic climate.

The Festival Food fundraising events held around Essex continue to prove popular and attract many people to the different venues they are held at. Over the next few years the Race Nights and Quiz Nights will gain momentum and be held at different masonic centres around the Province, and new initiatives are being announced all the time.

The merchandise sales continue to do well with more new merchandise ideas being launched in early 2023. The Festival Committee continue to strive to provide new fund-raising events around the Province and 2023 will see these events highlighted and promoted on all social media platforms. To date the Mark Province of Essex has raised over £220,000 for the Festival and will continue over the next 8 years to raise a total to be proud of.

W.Bro. Richard J. Goodwin P.G.J.D. A.P.G.M. Festival Chairman



Festival 2030 Race Nights

After months of planning, the first Race Night took place on Friday 18 November 22 at Saxon Hall. With over 80 people in attendance, the event raised in excess of £1,500 for the Festival 2030. This event was organised by members of the Festival 2030 Committee. More Race Nights in 2023 are now being planned by individual Mark Lodges in different parts of the Province, one at Hutton and one at Frinton. It is hoped that these Race Night events will become an annual feature going forward.

The support and generosity shown by many at the first Race Night at Saxon Hall is hopefully the start of what will be a fun journey around Essex in support of the Festival 2030.



Day 1: Pick up Saxon Hall | Additional stops en route | Dover Calais Crossing | Drive to IBIS Hotel Albert. Check in late afternoon | In the footsteps of Geoff rey Malins | Battlefield walk Beaumont Hamel | Dinner Buffet or full meal to be confirmed. (Extra cost) | Return to IBIS Hotel Albert

Day 2: Battlefield Tour to include: The Trenches at Serre, Newfoundland Memorial Park | Soup and a roll lunch at Ocean Villiers dressing station and Muesum | Thiepval Memorial Wreath laying ceremony | Devonshire Trench | Mametz Wood and the Dragon | German Cemetery at Fricourt | Buffet at Ocean Villas/Battle of the Somme Film | Return to Hotel

Day 3: Visit the Battlefield of: Artois, La Targette, Neuville St Vaast, Notre Dame de Lorette | Sandwich lunch on Battlefield | Return to Calais | Return to Saxon Hall



Our Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Terence D. Sheern believes in setting an example and has signed himself up to take part in a daring wing walk on top of a Boeing Stearman WW 2 biplane, travelling at speeds of up to 135 miles per hour. The event will take place at Damyns Airfield, Upminster on Sunday 21 May 2023, in aid of MBF Festival Essex 2030. Timings to be confirmed.

For further details contact:

W.Bro. Paul Thurgood

07907 992 090 | paul.thurgood@btconnect.com