

Welcome to the first issue of MARK Times the newsletter for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Essex, we hope you enjoy it. We are planning for this Newsletter to be produced twice a year, in the Summer and in the New Year and to be distributed electronically via email to all members. For those members who do not have email, your Lodge Secretary will be able to print copies to either send to you or let you have at the next meeting. The aim of the Newsletter is keep Mark Men up to date with information and forthcoming events, and to act as an advert for the Mark Degree in Essex for those Craft Masons yet to join.

This Newsletter is YOUR Newsletter! We need to have your views, your stories and your photos to make it live. There will also be permanent sections such as Key Contacts, Grand Appointments, etc. Plus an Events section and a Charity section so you can see details of any special events. And of course, you can add to this with your stories.

R. W. Bro. Terence D. Sheern

Provincial Grand Master



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE 2018

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Essex is, again, being held in the picturesque setting of Felsted School. Once again we have various stands and informative displays in the main corridor from other Masonic Degrees and Orders especially those orders administered by GLMMM, as well as those from UGLE. Each display has a number of brethren from that Order on hand to give fuller details and information on request. Also available are our own design Mark polo shirts, on sale in all sizes from Advancee to Grand Officer! As ever, all profits from sales will be donated to the Essex Mark Welfare Fund.

Mark Master Masons as well as Provincial and Grand Officers, this is YOUR Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, and it is YOUR Brethren who are being honoured with appointments and promotions.



This year sees Lodge Banners displayed at the meeting to make the day much more of a spectacle in the venue and to add to the interest of members.

Additionally, the new Essex St John Ambulance paid for by the Mark Benevolent Fund from all of your donations will be blessed and handed over to St John prior to the meeting. There will be an opportunity for brethren to go on-board and see what you have contributed towards.

The venue and grounds are an excellent sight and, in good weather (fingers crossed!), a wander around the public areas does wonders to make room for dinner. There is, of course, a bar where you can relax over a pint or two and the dining room easily accommodates our numbers.

On another note, if you are being promoted, or have been in the past, do consider donating your old regalia (apron badges, collar jewels etc) to the Regalia Shop. Many brethren prefer to purchase items from it as all proceeds are donated to The Essex Provincial Mark Welfare Fund, which does so much to support local good causes. This is especially popular this time of year as appointments and promotions become known. Saleable items can be given to W. Bro. Mick West, Prov. Dep. GDC or through any member of the Provincial Team who will be pleased to receive them, additionally they can be received at the meetings of the 1044 Lodges.

(contact mickjwest@icloud.com if you need assistance)



EVENT INFORMATION

Essex MMM Charity Golf Day

The annual Essex MMM Charity Golf Day draws ever nearer and Friday 27th July will soon be upon us. There are spaces available for the evening meal and presentations at £25 per person, and it would be good to see more brethren attending and supporting the event. You are guaranteed an enjoyable time and I am sure those who have previously attended will vouch for that. Please book in as soon as possible and guarantee a place. All active officers of the year are encouraged to attend and support if possible.



Table Menu

The annual Essex MMM Charity Golf Day also produce a stylish table menu for the evening presentations and we are looking for sponsorship from either individual Lodges, members or companies.



The prices to place an advert or best wishes are:

¼ page advert £25

½ page advert £50

Whole page advert £75

If your MMM Lodge or yourself want to advertise in the table brochure, please contact to place a booking:

Trevor Poole TP1914@msn.com

Paul Thurgood paul-thurgood@sky.com

Essex Mark Bonus Ball Game

The Essex Mark Bonus Ball game is launched at Felsted today and the PGM is looking for as much support as possible in this venture. Look out for posters advertising the event and if you were not able to attend Felsted, you will be able to purchase a number at £10 for 10 weeks by emailing emwfbonusball@gmail.com and one of the team will deal



with your request. The National Lottery Saturday evening draw will see a winner receive £30 each week from the correct bonus ball drawn. Your £10 will run for 10 consecutive weeks. You will be allocated a number and the team will let you know the number after payment has been received. All winners will be notified each week. The Bonus Ball Game is hoped to continue for many weeks and months after Felsted.

Crowstone Chinese buffet - 2nd October 2018

Once again Crowstone Lodge are holding their Zen City Chinese buffet with proceeds going to the Essex Mark Benevolent Fund. This years event takes place on 2nd October.

Previous years have seen around 100 members and guests enjoying a sumptuous Chinese buffet at the Zen City restaurant in Westcliff on Sea.

Places are still available and interested parties should contact: *Peter Steele on 07447 941205 or email petersteales@aol.com.*



Media & Communication

You may have seen over the last year a number of Communication initiatives used around the Province. These have included the updated website, questionnaires sent electronically to members, personalised email information and this Newsletter. Over the next year you will see Pop Up banners and Posters in Masonic Centres, adverts for Mark Masonry in publications, on websites and on Social Media and leaflets describing the Mark Master and Royal Ark Mariner degrees. All of these initiatives are aimed at increasing membership through gaining new members and retaining existing members by engagement and involvement. If you would like to help in this please contact Chris Hicks who is leading the Communication Team.



RITUAL SUPPORT AND DEMONSTRATION TEAM

One of the new initiatives within The Province is the formation of a team of experienced and dedicated Mark and RAM Masons to support Lodges when they have problems filling an office or have an empty meeting where a demonstration degree could be performed.

To that end, the PGM has asked his Deputy GDC, Mick West, to oversee the formation and administration of that team. The team is now in place and ready to assist Lodges with immediate effect.

If your Lodge has a meeting, particularly a Candidate for Advancement, and you need help with any part of the ritual: Senior Deacon; Overseers, Wardens or any part of the Master's ritual (signs; tools, in conclusion etc.) the team is ready to assist. This also extends to similar work in the RAM Degree. The intention is to assist Lodges where officers may be absent to ensure we give the Candidate the best possible experience of his Advancement into Mark or RAM Masonry.

Additionally, any part of an Installation Meeting in either Degree can be covered.

Members of the team expect to travel and dine at their own expense such that no additional financial burden is placed on Lodges.



"You haven't seen a Keystone anywhere have you?"

If you find yourself in such circumstances, please contact W. Bro. Mick West, Provincial Deputy GDC, on mickjwest@icloud.com The more notice, the better, but Mick and the team will endeavour to accommodate all requests, even those at short notice.

The PGM is adamant that the Candidate is the most important person in your Lodge and should be given the best ceremony possible in-order to make a lasting impression on his Advancement or Elevation, so do ask for help if needed.

GRAND RANK APPOINTMENTS

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master is delighted to inform you all that the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to offer the following appointments to Essex Brethren which have been duly accepted. The annual investiture will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London on Tuesday, 12th June 2018 (First Appointments) & Tuesday, 11th September 2018 (Promotions)

All Members of our Province are entitled to attend and a good turn out not only honours our Province but, especially, the brethren who are to be appointed.

Appointment to Active Rank

Richard Goodwin	<i>Grand Junior Deacon</i>
Dan Heath	<i>Reappointed as Assistant Grand Secretary</i>
John Finlay	<i>Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies</i>
Roy Kaye	<i>Grand Steward</i>
Len Millings	<i>Re-appointed as Grand Tyler</i>



First Appointments

John Jackson	<i>Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies</i>
Bill Dyer	<i>Past Grand Standard Bearer</i>
Peter Maloney	<i>Past Grand Standard Bearer</i>
Derek Hester	<i>Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer</i>

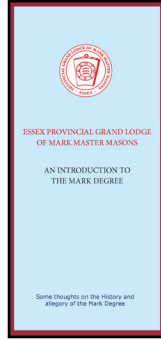
Promotions

Steve Vanhinsbergh	<i>Past Grand Junior Overseer</i>
Dan Heath	<i>Past Grand Senior Deacon</i>
David Awcock	<i>Past Grand Junior Deacon</i>
Barry Coombes	<i>Past Grand Junior Deacon</i>
Dick Caldwell	<i>Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies</i>



Information Leaflets

As information for new and prospective Mark Masons two leaflets have been produced. These will give information on the history of the degree, some information on where it fits in the Masonic structure and some little teasing tidbits. But the secrets will NOT be given away. The leaflets are available from the Provincial Office and through the Communication Team. They will also be available in the new Welcome Pack which is being developed. Please request copies of these as they will do more good being given to people than sitting in the office.



A leaflet on the Royal Ark Mariner's Degree is also being produced and will be available shortly after the Provincial Meeting.

Lodge of Instruction help

Lodge of Instruction meetings are now being held on the first Tuesday of each month at 11.00am.

The team who are organising these meetings hope that they will assist Brethren from any Mark or RAM Lodge to practice ritual and prepare for ceremonies where time doesn't allow for the Lodge to hold its own Lodge of Instruction.

The meetings are held at Chingford Masonic Centre and anyone interested should contact Dave Hook, whose details can be found in the communication team details below.

The LOI team will help with whatever ritual is needed, whether it be a brush up of the Mark tools or a complete RAM Installation.

COMMUNICATION TEAM

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geoff.newman@mac.com



Jack Saunders 07595 628350
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fdhook@btinternet.com



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fennasteven@gmail.com



FACEBOOK & Social Media

For some people Social Media is becoming their main route of communication, for others it is a pain and a nuisance. In reality it is one or many routes that information can be shared. The Essex Mark Face Book Group, Essex Mark and RAM Masons, which is a closed group currently has nearly 300 members on it who share events, photographs and information. This Group is linked to the Essex Craft closed Group which has 1,200 members and items can be shared between the two Groups. These Groups are CLOSED, which means that only members can post information and can see who is a member, so the general public cannot see in. To join the Group contact the Communication Team to be added.



However, we do have an OPEN Facebook page which can be seen by anyone - @PGLExEssexMark. This page is used to promote Mark Masonry to non-masons and has information on charity donations, Events and general news stories, such as "Hope for Tomorrow". Nearly 200 people have viewed or liked the page and a significant number of these are non-masons! It is linked to the Craft OPEN Facebook page and the same rules apply to what should be posted or circulated.

KEY PROVINCIAL CONTACTS

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Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary
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