



**Brethren, I am very privileged to be able to send you a message at this time of the year.**

*May I start by thanking you for your continued support to The Province and your Lodges. I am acutely aware of the commitment many of you give to lodges that have not been in the best of health, by turning up at meetings to help ensure a lodge survives, when it may be easier to say "There's nothing going on" and not attend.*

*I am also aware of the hard work and effort that many put in to help turn those lodges around and I do thank you. Your efforts have not been in vain and we have certainly turned a corner and our numbers have seen increases over the last couple of years. However, the age profile of our members is also increasing so we need to concentrate on encouraging younger masons to join our wonderful Order.*

*This past year has seen many successes, with our continued support for SAFE and our new contribution to Sponsor a Sibling being just two of them. There have of course been many other donations to other local charities and concerns. All of which contribute to our*

*local communities and go some small way in making the lives of other better.*

*Can I once again thank those who helped organise and run the Golf day, Officers Mess, Cluster meeting and other Provincial meetings and events, without your help none of these could take place or be as successful as they have been.*

*I believe we have a vibrant 'can do' Province that we should all be proud of and I look forward to meeting new members and working with you all again in the New Year.*

*As we approach the holiday period please remember those less fortunate than ourselves, make contact with family and friends and look after the less able or more vulnerable.*

***Whether you celebrate Christmas or not please have a happy, safe and joyful holiday period with your families and friends and I wish you all the New Year you would hope for.***

## Advancee packs

A new initiative consisting of a pack of essentials for new Mark Advancees has been put together.

This is, we think, an excellent way of making a memorable evening even more so, with our new brother being able to go home with all the items that will make him really feel part of his Lodge and our Province.

The pack contains a Ritual Book, book of Constitutions, an Essex Mark token, Provincial Tie, Provincial cufflinks, a personal letter from the PGM, an explanatory leaflet on the Ceremony and Order in general and details for Essex in particular, an application form for a friend to join the Mark and an application form for the Royal Ark Mariners, all in a handy box.

The Advancee packs are now available via the Essex Mark website.



## Golf day 2018.

Once more, Essex Mark's Charity Golf Day was a spectacular success, held again at the wonderful Stock Brook Manor Golf Club in Billericay.

With temperatures soaring, so were the scores, but some managed to post respectable and, in a couple of cases, very respectable scores. The PGM was there handing out his golfing tips as well as selling drinks to thirsty golfers and, no doubt, fining some for misdemeanours.

The whole day was in support of the Essex Mark Welfare Fund and the evening saw everyone who stayed enjoy a fine meal and presentation of the prizes.

The final total raised was a magnificent £3,500, a cheque for which was presented to our PGM by the organiser, Richard Goodwin.

Our grateful thanks go to everyone who attended and took part whether by playing, or by helping in the organisation in some way.

**2019 event**

**Friday 26th July**

**Watch for further details or**

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

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



## New Website for Grand Lodge

Who says there is no change in Freemasonry! The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons has updated and improved its website and the new address and link appears below.

The new site incorporates all of the Orders administered by Grand Lodge from Mark Mason's Hall, as well as an easier access to useful documents and information.

Please take the time to visit the site regularly and bookmark it.

The new site can be found at:

[www.markmasonshall.org](http://www.markmasonshall.org)



## Sponsor a Sibling Gazebo

At the recent meeting of the Essex Enthroned Commanders and Essex Installed Mark Masters Lodges, No.104, two volunteers were on hand to demonstrate the gazebo which had been donated by the Essex Mark Benevolent Fund.

## Aurelius Lodge Summer BBQ

Aurelius Lodge No 814 are holding a BBQ on Saturday 1st of June 2019 at Colvin Memorial Temple in aid of Sponsor a Sibling and Essex Mark Benevolent Fund. The food will be prepared by professional event caterers.

Starting at 2.00pm and finishing around 10.00pm, the BBQ is open to everybody. Families are especially welcome as Laura and the Sponsor a Sibling team will be attending.

Tickets are £10 and should be paid for prior to the event.



There will also be a Raffle, any donations of prizes would be greatly appreciated.

To book tickets please contact Dave Todd on email [davetodd471@hotmail.com](mailto:davetodd471@hotmail.com) or tel 07930596371.

## Crowstone Chinese buffet

Once again Crowstone Lodge held their Zen City Chinese buffet and raised £850 for the Essex Mark Benevolent Fund.



As in previous years, around 80 members and guests enjoyed a sumptuous Chinese buffet at the Zen City restaurant in Westcliff on Sea.

The PGM was on hand to receive a cheque from Paul Thurgood, on behalf of the Crowstone Lodge. The event organiser, Peter Steele, who was recovering from surgery, had unfortunately missed the event.

## Essex Mark Bonus Ball UPDATE

The Essex Mark Bonus Ball game was launched at Felsted earlier in the year and continues to grow and provide a good mix of winners - although one or two members have been luckier than most. To date Bonus Ball has raised in excess of £1000 for the Essex Mark Benevolent Fund. Make sure that you have the chance to win and help this fabulous fund-raising activity by purchasing your number for each game. The cost is £10 for 10 weeks and you can get you numbers by emailing [emwfbonusball@gmail.com](mailto: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.





# Northern Cluster Meeting

The latest cluster meeting took place in October and was hosted by Easterford Mark Lodge, No. 1781 at their Centre in Kelvedon.

The night was to prove a great success with most of the northern Lodges represented and with the Temple and the Festive Board full to capacity - indeed two dining rooms were necessary to accommodate all present.

With the Lodge open, the evening began with the Provincial Grand Master entering, escorted by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and attended by nineteen acting Provincial Officers including the Deputy PGM; both APGM's and both Provincial Wardens. It was a bit of a squeeze, but everyone was seated somewhere!

The PGM took the Chair for a short while, as is his custom, to introduce the Provincial Officers and to briefly address the Brethren on the purpose of the meeting before returning it to the Master of the Lodge. The WM and his officers then proceeded to Advance Bro. David Hylands and Bro. Nicholas Horner

in a most impressive display of ritual, all the more impressive when one considers the WM is in his 90's (and was, by his own admission taught all he knew by Hiram himself!); there were the customary Easterford "variations" which included some fine singing and some, clearly, chastened Overseers.

The Ceremony over, the PGM had one more surprise for everyone, not least the WM, W. Bro. Peter Curtis, who he announced was to be promoted to Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden; a field promotion that came as a complete surprise to W. Bro. Peter.

Finally, the PGM, in a nod to the obligation taken by all Mark Master Masons, presented W. Bro. Peter with his Mark and announced that his request was that Peter should attend PGL next year so that he could be formally invested.

The Provincial Grand Master then retired in procession with all assembled, to enjoy a small sherry, as is the Easterford custom, and a fine Festive Board.

All in all, an excellent evening held in the finest traditions of Essex Mark Masonry.

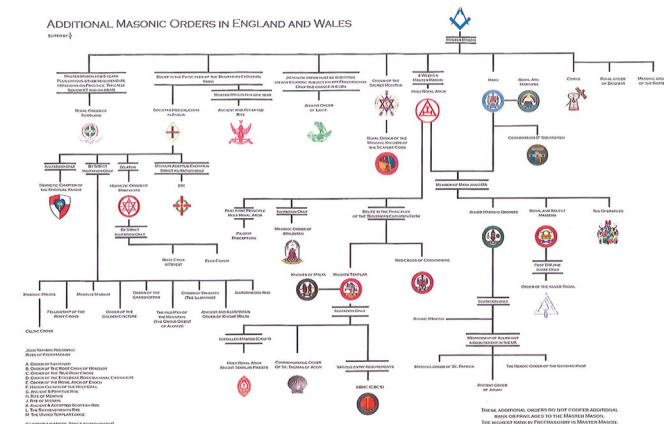
# Awareness Evenings

As part of an ongoing initiative and building on the success of previous events, further Mark Awareness Evenings are planned at:

- The Square, Upminster - Tuesday 5th March, 2019**
- Cross Keys, Grays - Wednesday 10th April, 2019**

All Mark Master Masons are requested to ensure suitable members of their Craft Lodges are made aware and invited to attend one of the sessions. The intention is to open up a Mark Lodge to Craft Master Masons so that they can be informed and made aware of the Mark, and Royal Ark Mariner, Degrees.

**Membership of Mark Masonry is a pre-requisite to other interesting and absorbing Orders.**



# Military Lodge

It is the hope of the Provincial Grand Master for Essex, Right Worshipful Brother Terence D. Sheern, to Consecrate a new Lodge in the Province exclusively for serving and retired members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

It is intended that the Military Lodge will be a full working Lodge drawing on the many members of Craft Lodges who are serving military personnel, or veterans, as candidates for Advancement. It is suggested that there would two meetings per year

and, at present, the preferred location is in Colchester because of the obvious Military connections with the town. This, however, is not set in stone and if a majority of founders thought that other Centres would be more advantageous or even having a peripatetic Lodge, this could be considered.

If you would like more information please contact W. Bro. Bill Dyer giving brief details of your military service and your centre for meeting preferences.

Contact Bill on [bankdyer@sky.com](mailto:bankdyer@sky.com) or 07775 880436





## The Khalsa Royal Oak Tree Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Terence Sheern, escorted by The ProvGrDC, W Bro John Finlay, and accompanied by a number of Provincial Grand Officers, was delighted to attend the meetings of the Royal Oak Tree RAM and Mark Lodges recently.

In recognition of all the hard work put in by the Brethren, RW Bro Sheern added this meeting to his schedule to reinforce the support that he and his Provincial Officers could give in return.

The evening began with a meeting of the RAM Lodge where a fine Installation was carried out by W Bro Latchman as Installing Commander of W Bro Bhogal who, we suspect, is hoping some new blood can be found for the future, but these are truly, two Lodges re energising and looking to the future.

The Mark meeting began with a relatively uncommon event; The Royal Oak Tree Lodge of MMMs had petitioned for, and been granted, a name change to The Khalsa Royal Oak Tree Lodge of MMMs, No. 1244. The Declaration from Grand Lodge on the Warrant authorising the name change was read by the Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary before being formally presented to the Lodge by the Provincial Grand Master.

The "new" Lodge then proceeded to Advance two new brethren into Mark Masonry, in a splendid Ceremony performed by W Bro Latchman and his Lodge with just a little help from three Acting Provincial Officers and, in particular, two Brethren who were Advanced earlier that year, who took on the Overseers roles in an impressive display of Ceremony.

It was truly a fine, enthusiastic and heartfelt Ceremony carried out in the finest traditions of Mark Masonry and to the enjoyment of all present.

### COMMUNICATION TEAM

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## Counselling Careline Available.

The Masonic Samaritan Fund, part of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, wishes to remind all Freemasons, and their eligible dependents, of the availability of their counselling careline. The following is a lift from their website:

"Our Counselling Careline provides immediate help from a qualified counsellor over the phone and can arrange up to six face-to-face counselling sessions for Freemasons or their families.

"Everyone feels low at some point in their lives and for those struggling to cope it may be difficult to see beyond their current situation.

"That's why we provide access to our Counselling Careline, a completely free and confidential service operated by experienced counselors who will listen and offer professional guidance.

"Freemasons and their family members (aged 17+) can access our Counselling Careline telephone service and arrange up to six face-to-face counselling sessions within five working days".

To access our Counselling Careline today, please call 020 7404 1550 or for further information go to

[www.msfund.org.uk/counselling.php](http://www.msfund.org.uk/counselling.php)

### KEY PROVINCIAL CONTACTS

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