



Brethren all, welcome to the latest edition of the Mark Times, I hope you find it informative and interesting.

I am of course pleased to say the Province continues to evolve and grow and I thank you all for your continued support, contributions and hard work in helping it to do so.

You may recall when I became the Provincial Grand Master back in May 2015, I stated my main objectives were Recruitment and Retention and this was later amended to include Improve Communications. I hope you agree we have made significant inroads to these objectives. This publication is obviously one such example!

At the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting on the 30th May 2019 I will be pleased to report our membership and member numbers continue to grow in both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariners and we now have the third largest Royal Ark Mariner Province in the constitution.

We of course must not become complacent because as our age profile rises we need to attract younger members to continue to grow.

For those who have been able to join me at the annual meeting at Felsted I thank you for your attendance and support. For those unable to attend I do understand it's not always possible to attend this meeting but hope you may be able to join us in the future. But please remember the meeting

is open to ALL members of the Province.

For those in attendance I hope you get the opportunity to visit the displays of the other Orders and have the opportunity to see their regalia, ask questions and take information away with you.

As I look ahead to the forthcoming year I am excited by what we hope to achieve.

I am aware the Wayfarers Lodge are in the process of having a Lodge Banner approved and then dedicated later in the year, which I am sure will be a splendid occasion. Plans are also still moving forward for the possible Consecration of two new Mark Lodges; a Saturday morning Lodge and a Military Lodge. It is also hoped that a new DC's Lodge may also be formed. We will also continue with the Northern Lodge Cluster meeting and the Lodge and location for this next year will be announced during the annual meeting at Felsted. Information regarding all these events will be circulated nearer the time.

There are lots to be proud of in our Province, let's continue to promote what we do in a strong positive message to others.

Lastly Brethren, may I also take this opportunity to thank all those who work behind the scenes on your behalf for their contributions and hard work.



Provincial Grand Master

Essex Mark Golf Day 2019



Now in its 5th consecutive year, The Essex Mark Charity Golf Day will take place at Stock Brook Manor Golf & Country Club, Billericay on Friday 27th July 2019. All golfers are welcome, whether a masonic member or otherwise, and the whole golf course is given over to our use for the day. Ideally teams of 4 golfers are required but individual players will be placed into teams, and non-golfers are urged to support the evening meal and presentations.

There is fun for everyone on this charity day with raffles, auctions, golf simulators and spot prizes, and anyone who can offer assistance during the day is urged to contact the organisers. With the PGM and the provincial executive in attendance, it is hoped the day will be another successful event for the Mark Province and that the weather is kind to us. Anyone interested in either playing golf during the day or just attending and supporting the evening meal, please contact Richard Goodwin. richard-goodwin@virginmedia.com

Military Lodge

Plans for the new Military Lodge are now well under way and the Consecration is expected to be on the 15th of October 2019. It is hoped that the Lodge will meet twice a year; at Colchester plus another venue to be confirmed.

The Petitioner forms have been sent out and should be completed and returned to Bill Dyer or Ray McKerron. If you would like to be considered as a Petitioner or have yet to receive your form, please contact Bill or Ray straight away.

FUTURE EVENTS

Aurelius Lodge are holding a BBQ/Funday on Saturday 1st of June at Colvin Memorial Temple, Clacton-on-Sea, in aid of Sponsor A Sibling and Essex Mark Welfare Fund. From 1pm to 10pm.

Tickets from Dave Todd - davetodd471@hotmail.com or call 07930 596371. Tickets cost £10 adult £5 child under 14.

Crowstone Lodge are holding their annual fundraiser on Tuesday the 1st of October at the Zen City Chinese Restaurant in Hamlet Court Rd, Westcliff.

Tickets from Peter Steele - petersteeles@aol.com or call 07447 941205. Tickets cost £17.50 each.



Essex Mark Bonus Ball Update

There are many ways that money is raised in the Province of Essex for the benefit of the Mark Degree Charity and one way is by supporting the Essex Mark Bonus Ball Game.

The scheme was introduced at the Provincial meeting at Felsted in 2018 and has so far brought in over £2000 for the Essex Mark Welfare Fund.

Each Bonus Ball Game runs for a period of 10 weeks at a cost of only £1.00 per week, with a chance to win £30. You pay £10.00 for 10 games. Just under half of your £1.00 per week goes towards the Essex Mark Welfare Fund. All those that have entered the current game are notified of the winners each week by email.

Anyone interested in purchasing a number for the next game or any future games can do so on the Essex Mark website at www.essexmark.co.uk or from any of the Essex Mark Bonus Ball Team around the Province.

All enquiries can be made at emwfbonusball@gmail.com.

Should I be a Mariner?

question
MARK

by David Wilson PGSwdB.

I am sure, like me, a Brother Mark Mason has asked, "so why should I join the R.A.M.?" The answer often being, "it's only 3 meetings and on the same day as the Mark"!

Leaving aside the beautiful ceremony with its moral and allegorical lessons, there is a more fundamental reason to join.

In the *Graham Manuscript* dated 1726 'Masonry is founded on three characters, each with Holy Inspiration and a Secret. Noah, to build the Ark, Bezaleel, to build the Tabernacle and Hiram to build King Solomon's Temple.

Most intriguing though is that it is Noah who has died with 'the Secret' and his three sons, Ham, Shem and Japeth who 'raise him from the grave'. The manuscript describes in detail the method of raising, identical to our 3rd degree, and that the substituted word is "Marrow in the Bone".

So Noah was originally a far more central character than he is today. Could that be why the Lodge Deacons jewel is a dove with an olive branch?

As members we should be looking at Noah in a different light and encouraging those who are not yet members of this lovely degree, to be part of the link back to pre 1800's Freemasonry.

Source A.Q.C. Volume 131.

Beaconsfield RAM Centenary



Almost 100 RAM members and guests enjoyed a ceremony to remember when the Beaconsfield RAM lodge entertained the Assistant Grand Master, R W Bro Stephen Davison; the Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Terence D Sheern, and Grand Lodge and Provincial officers. The meeting marked the Centenary of Beaconsfield Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and the Installation of the new Commander.

Visitors witnessed the Commander's chair occupied by no fewer than four brethren. The PGM took the chair when it was offered by W Bro David Garston and, having addressed the meeting, relinquished it in favour of the Assistant Grand Master who presented the Lodge with the Centenary Warrant, before passing back the Commander.

Those present were entertained by W Bro Dennis Baum with some recollections from over forty years of membership, and of the many family connections to the Lodge. The Worshipful Commander then Installed his successor, Bro Martyn Pinkney.

The Assistant Grand Master was called upon to present Grand Lodge Certificates to Bros. Ronnie Schwartz and Michael Pearsons in a most impressive fashion which was very much appreciated by all.

The celebratory festive board, at which all present received commemorative gifts and a Lodge history booklet, was closed with toasts and speeches which entertained all present.

Help for Ken

After a series of falls W. Bro. Ken Finch asked Aurelius Lodge Almoner, W. Bro Les Thurston for some help. Les contacted our Provincial Almoner W. Bro. Roy Kaye who very kindly arranged for Ken to take possession of an electric bed to assist him getting in and out of bed. Especially useful after a glass of wine or two at the Festive Board.

Members of Aurelius Lodge carried the bed up four flights of stairs to Kens flat and once assembled Ken had a little lay down to test it.



Ken at the ripe old age of 93, is still very active in Aurelius Mark and RAM, where is the current Worshipful Commander, and is hoping to be at Felsted again this year.



Essex MARK matters

Here are some of the images submitted from around the region - we are sorry if yours is not included.



Wayfarers Lodge Installation meeting and cheque presentation



Aurelius 814 Lodge Installation



W. Bro The Rvd Michael Scotchmer was Installed into the Chair of Chingford Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

W. Bro Darren Bartlett presented the Lodge with a Bronze award from the West Essex Hospice Appeal. The first lodge in the Mark Degree achieve this.



On Friday 12th of April Ken Finch aged 93, installed his successor Ken Headworth aged 86 in Aurelius RAM meeting. It was a superb ceremony, befitting two experienced Masons.



Alan Penny, recent Advance into Aurelius Lodge



A recent visit to the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Sussex



Tuscan Pillar No 1142



St. Nicolas Lodge



Adam Mills, newly Advanced into Wyvern Lodge.



Oakleaf Installation meeting



W. Bro. Chris Hicks visited George Gravely Lodge and presented the WM with the MBF collar for Gold Award Grand Patron



A recent Potters Clay RAM meeting



W. Bro. Michael Levene and newly Advanced Bro. Timothy Holland



The Sponsor a Sibling gazebo recently donated by the Essex Mark Welfare Fund



On the 12th of February the PGM R W Bro Terry Sheern visited Beriffe Lodge in Brighlingsea to attend their Installation meeting. After the meeting he was presented with a cheque for £2000 towards the Essex Mark Welfare Fund by W Bro Jeff Hierons



Northern Star Lodge

Plans have been advanced for the creation of a new Lodge in the North of our Province. Its name will be Northern Star Lodge of Mark Master Masons. Being a peripatetic Lodge, it will be based across three centres, Harwich, Kirby Cross and Brightlingsea. It will meet twice annually, on 2nd Saturday of March and November.

Uniquely, it will be our first breakfast Lodge, with the meetings commencing at 9.00 a.m., with a full English breakfast, coffee/tea, toast and marmalade. Masonic toasts would be taken with our coffee or tea!



It is anticipated that the meal will be completed allowing for the meeting to take place, and be finished, well before midday.

The chosen centres will have eight direct feeder Lodges, so it is hoped the future of Northern Star Lodge is good. Should the concept of a Saturday peripatetic Lodge prove successful, we will consider establishing similar Lodges in the West and South of our Province.

Essex Masters Lodge - 1044

The 19th March saw the latest meeting of the Essex Enthroned Commanders and Essex Installed Mark Masters Lodges, No. 1044 at Saxon Hall, where over 160 Mark and RAM Brethren met.

They were honoured to receive many guests from surrounding Mark and RAM Installed Lodges, in particular, RW Bro. H. K. Emmerson, Past Dep. Grand Master, who is the current WM of the Hertfordshire IMM.

The RAM meeting saw our PGM, RW Bro Terence D. Sheern, together with his team of Acting Officers, enter in Procession and form a Provincial RAM Assembly for the purpose of conferring ProvRAMGR to 12 Brethren.

The Mark meeting was the Installation Meeting with the WM, W Bro. Richard Goodwin, GJD, installing W Bro Mark Reeve, PDepGSwdB, APM into the Masters Chair in an excellent manner. Both meetings were conducted in fine form and to the delight and satisfaction of all.

Afterward, the Brethren attended the festive board, held in the wonderful Jubilee Suite, which was enjoyed by all, dining on a fine main meal of Scampi and Chips. The event concluded with the customary Toasts and speeches.

Media Communications

There is no better way to know what is going on in the Province than by having good communication, and with the Essex Mark Media Communications Team it is hoped to make this happen. In all parts of the Province covering the North, East South and West there are MLO's (Media Liaison Officers), who are there to report on stories of interest from your MMM Lodge meetings.

Secretaries who pass on short reports and photos of Installation, Advancements, Elevations and celebratory events will look to get them published on the Essex Mark website, Facebook, Twitter and if room in the Mark Times. If you have events of interest from your MMM Lodge meetings, share them with the Province and the MLO's will make that happen for you. The team are there to promote the Province and can only report what is given to them.

We hope to get the Essex Mark Media Communications Team more known around the province and thus allow others to be able to approach the team with information to report on. Be proud of your MMM Lodge and share events of success with others around the Province, and remember communication is a two way thing.

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