



Brethren all, welcome to the Christmas edition of the Mark Times, I hope that once again you will find it informative and interesting.

Well what an exciting, busy and jam-packed time the last few months have been. I am pleased to report that the annual meeting this year at Felsted recorded the highest number of attendees ever! So thank you all for your support. I also recently announced that as the result of your feedback we will again be bringing the start time of the meeting forward slightly to 2.30pm and therefore an earlier dining and finish time.

We have also seen lots of hard work and initiatives going on behind the scenes, including the revamping of the media team and responsibilities to improve communication as well as the ongoing Teaser Campaign, work to re-open the Fillebrook Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No 944 as a DC's Lodge, the New Banner Dedication for the Wayfarers Lodge No 1096, the Consecration of the new Essex Armed Forces Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 2016 and the Northern Star Saturday morning breakfast Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 2012, to name but a few.

The Province also held a very successful Northern Cluster meeting hosted by St Nicholas Lodge at Harwich where 21 different Lodges were represented!

Essex Armed Forces Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 2016 was the first new Mark Lodge to be consecrated in Essex for nearly 20 years.

There were 19 Founding Members of the Lodge, whose combined service to Queen and Country totalled 212 years. The event generated a great deal of interest from within the Province and beyond, with several members of Middlesex Armed Forces Lodge, No 1999 included in the 75 brethren attending.

The Consecrating Officer, RW Bro Terry Sheern, PGM, accompanied by his Provincial Officers, was received into the Lodge with great acclaim.

Many of the assembled Brethren had not seen this Ceremony carried out before, and it was remarked that it was a very moving Ceremony carried out to the highest standard.

The PGM then handed the Gavel to the Installing Officer, W Bro Mark Reeve, who proceeded to install the Worshipful Master Designate, W Bro William Dyer, who then installed and invested the officers of the Lodge.

The Worshipful Master closed the Lodge, and the last post was played prior to the closing ode and national anthem, a tribute to all members of the Armed Forces and a distinctive characteristic and future tradition of the lodge.

Brethren retired to the bar where the founding members wore their service headdress.

Also in my attempts to balance out the location of events around the province, this years Officers Mess is to be held at Kirby Cross the home of Naze Tower Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.

I am also pleased to be able to report that the annual golf day held at Stock Brook Manor Golf Club was another successful event raising £3,000 for the Essex Mark Welfare Fund.

I would like to place on record once again my thanks to VW Bro Tony Latham as he stands down as an APGM for his wonderful support and contribution. I also look forward to working with W Bro John Finlay in his new role as APGM and I am confident you will also give him your full support.

Can I once again thank the Active Provincial Officers for their wonderful support they give on my visits to your Lodges, I really do believe their attendance adds so much to the meetings they attend.

Whenever I look back at the events of the year it always amazes me how much you achieve and how generous of your time and money you are, and I do sincerely thank you all.

Brethren may I wish you and your families a very happy holiday period and a successful and healthy New Year



The PGM then thanked the Lodge for making him, and his consecrating team, honorary members and proceeded to present small tokens of thanks to the founding members. To the RAF, he presented a jar of Brylcreem, to the Navy and Marines, miniature bottles of Rum and to the Army members, boot polish. This received a great amount of applause and laughter from all present.

The raffle raised £300 which was then duly presented to the PGM for the Essex Mark Welfare Fund.

The evening finished with all the Brethren parting company having renewed old friendships and making new ones and looking forward to the next meeting to be held at the County Hotel, Chelmsford in March 2020.

If you would like to visit this unique Essex Lodge please contact the Secretary by email medialiasonmmm@gmail.com





Over 70 assorted golfers of differing capability once again supported the Essex Mark Charity Golf Day at Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Billericay, which was yet another successful fund raising golf event to be had over the past 6 years. Over £3,000 was raised for the Essex Mark Welfare Fund and presented to the PGM RW Bro Terry Sheern.

The evening meal and presentations were also supported by many non-golfers swelling the number attending to almost 110, where a raffle and auction items, plus the traditional £1 fines, all helped to raise a tremendous figure.

A 'Win a Trip to Augusta' on hole 4, a 'Beat the Pro' competition on hole 7, a putting competition during the day, an evening putting game to win £20 and a golf simulator all helped to swell the money raised and allow those attending to have lots of fun. A table brochure was also produced with adverts and good wishes from many individuals, companies and MMM Lodges, and a big thank you goes to all those that contributed.

The PGM, RW Bro Terry Sheern was in attendance all day, along with some of the Provincial Executive, where some joined in the golf and others gave their support during the day or in the evening.

As in previous years the art of 'buggy driving' was shown by W Bro Bob Neal who drove the PGM around the course during the day selling refreshments from their buggy, and all proceeds from their sales were also added to the total for the day.

All the golf teams had photos taken on the first hole, as well as some action shots taken on the golf course which were expertly taken by W Bro Les Morgan. Many of these photos were sold to individuals with a percentage of money added to the charity, and thanks go to Les for his time taking all of the photos.

There were many winners from the golf day event with top five individual scores, nearest the pin on all par 3 holes, nearest the pin in 2, putting competition, longest drive and a team competition. It was perhaps fitting that VW Bro Tony Latham APGM who is standing down from the office, was part of the winning team. The golf was played out in glorious sunny weather which made for a fantastic day, with Stock Brook Manor Golf Club being the perfect hosts.

A special mention and a big thank must go out to all of the volunteers who helped to make the day such a success, as without them the day would not be as successful.

question MARK the stone the builders rejected, ultimately became the headstone of the building....
by David Wilson PGSwdB.

We are all familiar with this last statement in the ceremony of Advancement. The headstone in question being the 'keystone of the sacred arch of King Solomon'. We naturally assume that this is an arch which is above ground, for all to see. A Catenarian arch is constructed with the use of a keystone or headstone which locks the remaining stones in place without the use of mortar. Thus being able to support great weights.

In the Cryptic degrees we learn that 9 arches were constructed underground leading to a secret vault where the 'sacred word' was deposited. It is this vault which the Sojourners later discover. Now something odd happens for they remove 'two of the arch stones.....then the keystone'. If this was to happen on a single span arch, it would of course collapse. But this is an arched vault, which can be seen in crypts or domes of buildings. The headstone of that dome or arched vault is a capstone so it is quite feasible now that the Sojourners could have removed the stones in that order and there be no collapse.

Indeed, in all the depictions of King Solomon's Temple there are no arches or domes which can be seen. So can it be that the 'keystone of the sacred, (denoting Holy), arch, (vault), of King Solomon', was in fact the capstone to that vault which contained the lost Master Word set in triangular form in 3 languages, and found by the Sojourners 470 years after the death of Hiram Abiff? "Oh Wonderful Masons".

The Consecration of The Northern Star Lodge
No 2012 recently took place at Kirby Cross Masonic Centre.

A number of brethren from the North of our Province, under the guidance of W Bro John Stannard, took to the idea of a peripatetic, Saturday "Breakfast" Lodge. The PGM was approached, was fully supportive, and the rest, as they say, is history!



An early start saw the Consecrating Team, under the leadership of the Provincial Grand Master, meet for bacon rolls and tea. The Consecration began at 10.30 with the PGM opening a Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The Founders were presented and the Warrant read. Thereafter the Lodge was Constituted, Consecrated and Dedicated in a superb ceremony carried out by all. This was another momentous occasion in the life of any Lodge and Province and, whilst membership numbers in Essex continue to grow, coming so soon on the back of the Consecration of the Armed Forces Lodge it was a source of pride to all. The Lodge had 27 Founders, all in office, and will meet in the various Northern Masonic Centres (or, at least the ones who can cook a mean breakfast!) and will have a broad appeal for those who wish to be Advanced into a "daylight" Mark Lodge.

The PGM was also pleased to make a couple of "special" presentations in his toast to The Lodge, there were alms collection frying pans and a "bespoke" apron for the Head Steward which is intended to be handed on as a badge of honour.

If you are interested in joining or attending please contact the Lodge Secretary, W Bro Robin Morley whose contact details are in the "provincial contacts" section of the website members area.





The Essex Mark Bonus Ball Game was launched at the Essex Mark Provincial meeting at Felsted 2018, and has to date produced funds for the Essex Mark Welfare Fund in excess of £2,500. It has proved very popular with members regularly purchasing numbers for themselves, or their Lodge. The cost is £10 for a single number in a single game running for 10 weeks on consecutive Saturdays, and every weekly winning number receives £30.

The Bonus Ball popularity has caused many members to ask how they can buy more numbers, and last year we had a Christmas Special which attracted a great deal of interest and paid out £200 to the winner.

We are now hopeful that more individuals and Lodges in Essex will consider purchasing a number, and perhaps purchase a number on a regular basis as many have already. £50 will purchase a number for 10 weeks in 5 consecutive games, and 2 wins over 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 Mark website at www.essexmark.co.uk or by sending an email to emwfbonusball@gmail.com requesting a number, where one of the team will deal with the request. You will receive a return email with your allocated number. Remember if you would like to purchase a number for the year costing £50 which would run for 5 consecutive games of 10 weeks each, this is possible.

Thank you all for your continued support.

The Media Team working within the Essex Mark Province are very busy, with so many interesting meetings and events taking place. The province is covered by four Media Liaison Officers who have around 12 MMM & RAM Lodges each to look after. They liaise with secretaries/scribes to receive information and photographs about advancements, elevations, installations and anniversaries that take place, and arrange for the stories to be published on the Essex Mark website, Facebook and Twitter social media platforms, thus promoting the MMM & RAM Lodges.

There are other members of the Media Team such as the Masonic Centre Coordinators, who promote events in the province via posters and leaflets.

The Media team is made up as follows:
Media Communications Team Lead – Richard Goodwin
Media Communications Administrator & Facebook/Twitter Controller – Dave Todd
Media Liaison Officer MLO (North) – Ray McKerron
Media Liaison Officer MLO (South) – Steve Joslin
Media Liaison Officer MLO (East) – Paul Fell
Media Liaison Officer MLO (West) – Dave Hook
Masonic Centre Coordinator – Steve Bannington
Masonic Centre Coordinator – Alan Wood
Masonic Centre Coordinator – Paul Snoad
Website Webmaster – Mick West
Graphics/Mark Times – Geoff Newman
Surveys/Twitter – Jack Saunders
Media Team Photographer – Peter Nason

If you would like to get involved with the Media Team and the work it carries out in the province, contact Richard Goodwin on richard-goodwin@virginmedia.com.



Peter Nason

Wayfarers Mark Master Masons Lodge held its regular meeting in the historic St. Giles Masonic Hall on the outskirts of Colchester Military Garrison. The meeting was attended by the PGM, RW Bro Terence Sheern accompanied by his escorting DC W Bro Mick West and 12 of his Active Officers.



The meeting was opened by the WM, W Bro Vic Hodson. The PGM was then admitted and accepted the gavel, and on taking the chair introduced all of his Active Officers to those present. He then returned the gavel to the WM and the meeting continued with the Advancement of Bro Jason Edmonds, a Master Mason from Grey Friars Lodge No 5169. The ceremony was carried out to a very high standard.

The PGM then took the Chair again and with the Overseers chairs removed, proceeded to dedicate the new Lodge Banner, which was made by W Bro James Burgoyne, in a ceremony rarely seen. A series of photographs were taken to record the event for posterity.

ADVANCED & ELEVATED



Willem van Breen and Martin Parsons
St. Katharines Lodge 1026



Tony Hicks
Beriffe Lodge 825



Richard Goodwin



Dave Todd



Ray McKerron



Steve Joslin



Paul Fell



Dave Hook



Steve Bannington



Alan Wood



Paul Snoad



Mick West



Geoff Newman



Jack Saunders



The annual 'Cluster' meeting was held in the north of Essex at the fascinating and historic Harwich Masonic Centre. It was hosted by the St. Nicholas Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 413 and there were present members of 21 different Essex MMM Lodges, including all of the Northern ones which was a fantastic effort.

With the Lodge opened, the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Terence D. Sheern was received and accompanied by a number of Acting Provincial Officers which included the DPGM, VW Bro Richard Bowyer and our new APGM, W Bro John Finlay. The WM offered the PGM the Masters Chair and gavel which was graciously accepted and the PGM took the opportunity to welcome everyone and introduce his Provincial Officers, as well as two Essex Brethren holding Acting Office in Grand Lodge, they being W Bro Fred Sander, Grand AStdB and W Bro Glen Remblance GStwd.

The PGM then handed the Chair back to the WM. The highlight of the evening was the Advancement of Bro Stephen Fuller who was a PM of the Star in the East Lodge in Harwich. As this was a Cluster Meeting, the various offices and ritual were shared between not just St. Nicholas, but also the Aurelius, Beriffe and Naze Tower MMM Lodges. The ceremony was conducted in an excellent manner by all involved, with special mention to W Bro Bob Crowe who gave the explanation of the Signs and to W Bro Rodney Osbourne who delivered the 'In Conclusion' address. The PGM took the opportunity to welcome Bro Stephen into Mark Masonry and the Province of Essex.



The WM later presented a cheque for £250 from the St. Nicholas Lodge to the PGM in favour of the Essex Mark Welfare fund which was gratefully accepted.

Sixty five Mark Masons then enjoyed a fine Festive Board where the PGM thanked the Brethren of St. Nicholas MMM Lodge for hosting the Northern Cluster meeting to such a high level (and in particular W Bro Manister for all the arrangements) as well as all those who had assisted and attended.

When Fillebrook RAM Lodge had to close it was a very sad occasion, however this story has a happy ending. Our PGM held the warrant in abeyance. The idea was formulated by John Finlay and Mick West to resurrect the Lodge as a "Lodge of Excellence" for DC's and ADC's, to assist Lodges with their ritual. The PGM was keen on the idea as he has often quoted "The candidate is the most important person".



After a great deal of work, the Lodge was re-opened by the PGM, RW Bro T. D. Sheern assisted by his Provincial Officers, and John Finlay was installed as Worshipful Commander.

At the Festive Board the PGM proposed the toast to the new Worshipful Commander, who responded by presenting the PGM with a bottle of his favourite tippie to thank him for his support and assistance in helping to resurrect Fillebrook RAM Lodge.

The Lodge will meet twice a year, once in Chingford and at another venue in the north of the Province. Visitors are most welcome, and joining forms are preferred. Further details are available from their Scribe David Hook by email on fdhook@btinternet.com.

Membership is not restricted to DC's, as the Lodge will welcome anyone interested in improving their ritual. Further details of this Lodge can also be found on our website at www.essexmark.co.uk.

The annual Crowstone Charity Chinese Dinner

was held at Zen City, Westcliff on Tuesday 1st October 2019 and was once again a great success, and enjoyed by all that attended the evening. This is now an annual event which this year raised over £700.00 for Mark Charity! A really great effort from "Team Crowstone" and a special thanks went to Valerie & Peter Steele and host for the evening Paul Thurgood.

VW Bro Richard Bower receiving a presentation cheque from Paul Thurgood.



ADVANCED & ELEVATED



Terry McConnell
Aurelius 814



Richard Hitchcock
Centurion Lodge 1804

ADVANCED & ELEVATED



Tom Kelly & Peter White
Chingford Lodge



Mark Waddoups
Boleyn Castle Lodge

ADVANCED & ELEVATED



Erick Harding
Tudor Lodge 1092



John Woodcraft
Naze Tower Lodge

ADVANCED & ELEVATED



Jantinder Bedi & Dalbir Kathuria
Royal Oak Tree Lodge



Terry Thurston
Combined Stewards Lodge