



Mark Provincial Times

July 2020 Edition 2

Welcome from Ian Vincent

Welcome to the second edition of the Monthly Newsletter for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for Hampshire and Isle of Wight. I hope you enjoy this edition and you find it informative and useful. If you have any comments please contact me at newsletter@hants-iow-mark.org

Did you know that the Provincial Grand Lodge for Mark Master Masons for Hampshire and Isle of Wight has a revamped website? Please visit the website at this [link](#) Also a reminder that The Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight for Mark Master Masons now has its own [Facebook Group](#).

The Deputy Grand Master

Brethren, have you been following the Deputy Grand Master on Facebook and his various pictures of taking tea in the afternoon; and needing a haircut? Reproduced below in case you are unable to access Facebook. We look forward to seeing more photos!



I could quite take to this drinking in the afternoon!



Bolly at 3.



Haircut required.

Message from the Provincial Almoner

I have been an Almoner in different Orders of Masonry and the duties are the same throughout, but I find it one of the hardest offices to carry out properly. We are dealing with human beings and each of us are different in our perceptions and needs.

It is said that the core role of the Lodge Almoner is to be the "eyes and ears" of the Lodge, ensuring the welfare of its members and of their widows and dependants. The responsibilities include;-
Keeping in touch, by maintaining regular contact with sick or distressed Lodge members and Lodge widows, there are specific guidelines regarding any visits to widows. Keeping in touch with families of recently deceased Brethren.
Keeping Informed, to be aware of all possible associations, organisations, and regulations that can be of benefit to members and their dependants. Where offered attend any possible training, none of us know it all or if we think we do, it does not hurt to be reminded now and again as to what is available. This is very pertinent during our present situation.

Like in many positions, good records are essential regarding any expenses or costs incurred. Also keep a record of any visits made to members or their dependants, this is not happening at present I know, but we will be doing this again in the future. When reporting to Lodge members the report should be on the lines that someone is not well, it should not contain details as to their particular illness. In all of this CONFIDENTIALITY is paramount. One must have the trust of their fellows.

I quote, "To perform this role the Almoner will need to possess considerable tact, courtesy, discretion, patience and humour, together with a sympathetic disposition, a commitment to helping people and time and energy to devote to the benefit of Lodge members and their dependants. Poverty is not an easy thing to admit to. Health worries are often kept hidden. It is often painful to admit to others what may seem to be a failure and an inability to cope. Confidentiality and a caring approach can be the key to relieving those worries."

During my couple of years as Provincial Almoner I have learned a lot. One thing is to be a good listener, another is to become more involved with some of the applications for assistance. One great thing to remember is, as said above, people are very private and do not always wish to share their problems with others. This I very much respect but am also very conscious of the fact that sometimes a problem shared is a problem halved. Please have faith in Almoners. The weekly letter that I send out just happened in the first instance as I wished to give some form of encouragement and it has grown from there.

W. Bro. Malcolm Lloyd, Provincial Grand Almoner.

Regular Giving

In these worrying times it is not easy to have charitable giving at the forefront of your minds. Nevertheless, the phenomenal work of the Mark Benevolent Fund goes on regardless. Of course, there is much more focus at present on helping needy Mark and RAM Brethren and their families.

In the absence of Masonic meetings and gatherings the opportunity to make your donations to charity has diminished. In light of this I would ask Brethren to consider becoming either Regular Givers to the MBF (if you are not one already!) or to make your donations by single payments. Both types of giving will, of course, count towards your personal patronage honorifics as well as the 2026 MBF Festival this Province will host. But most importantly if the Coronavirus is having an adverse effect on your finances please, please, please ignore this request!

Both Regular Giving and Single Donation forms are available at this [link](#). If you're not sure of your MMH number don't hesitate to contact me by 'phone or e-mail and I'll let you know it straight away.

My sincere thanks to you all for your continued commitment.

W.Bro. Nigel Wilkinson, Provincial Charity Steward

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Mark Masons help Hospices at this trying time

£1,000.00 has been donated to each of the nine Hospices in Hampshire and Isle of Wight for the express purpose of buying Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The Hospices to benefit are:

- St. Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke
- Mountbatten Hospice, Southampton
- Naomi House & Jacksplace Children's' Hospice, Sutton Scotney, Winchester
- The Rosemary Foundation Hospice, Petersfield
- The Countess of Brecknock Hospice, Andover
- Rowans Hospice, Waterlooville
- Oakhaven Hospice, Lymington
- Winchester Hospice, Winchester
- Mountbatten Hospice, Isle of Wight

Alison Price of The Rosemary Foundation wrote "I am writing to thank you for the very kind and generous donation of £1,000 from Mark Freemasons in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.....Our nurses are continuing to provide care for our patients and their families throughout these difficult and challenging times. We are so grateful for your contribution which enables this vital work to continue" Grateful thanks from other Hospices, and news about our latest Charitable works, can be found on the website at this [link](#).

New 2026 MBF Festival Draw

Don't forget the new and exciting opportunity to have fun in the Mark and RAM degrees and help contribute to the Mark Benevolent Fund. The Province intends to run a "Grand Draw" in aid of the 2026 MBF Festival, where the prize will be the delivery of an Advancement or Elevation Ceremony by the Provincial Grand Master and his Active Team of Provincial Officers for 2020 –2021.

Each draw ticket costs £100.00 with a limit of 3 tickets per Lodge. Every donation will contribute to a Lodge's MBF honorific. The closing date for this year's draw will be **30th September 2020** with delivery of the Ceremony to be scheduled for **early 2021**. To date W. Bro. Simon Lancaster, ProvDepGSec has had responses from 20 Mark Lodges and 13 RAM Lodges with donations to the MBF totalling £7000.00. This means that with around 50% participation, the Draw is proving very popular.

This is fantastic Brethren and I am sure our Provincial Grand Master will be delighted by the response received from you all. Full details of the Draw has been sent to Lodge Secretaries. Please support this new initiative.

Masonic Centres

Brethren, the Provincial Grand Master wishes to say a big thank you to all the Management & Volunteers who have been working very hard to maintain our Masonic Centres in preparation for our return. He suggests that when things start to get better how about some social distancing Coffee mornings to ease ourselves into some form of normality. This could be for Brethren, their Friends and Partners.

Provincial Grand Wardens Swindle

Don't forget that our Provincial Grand Wardens have created a new 100 Club Draw. Tickets are £10 each and you can purchase as many as you like. The Draw is held live on our newly created Facebook Group. The 'Wardens Swindle' 100 club "Number Three" is currently up and running. So far you have helped them raise £600.00 towards the 2026 festival and £600.00 towards non masonic charities. They have also handed over £800.00 in prizes.

Full details of this Draw can be obtained from Patrick Burridge, Provincial Senior Warden or Richard Cox, Provincial Junior Warden.