



# Mark Provincial Times

June 2020 Edition 1

Welcome from Ian Vincent

Welcome to the first 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](mailto: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](#).

A message from the Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro. George J. Deacon

Brethren, Friday 22 May has seen a new page in the history of this Province. R.W. Bro. Michael J Wilkes retired as Provincial Grand Master having served this Province in an active role for more than 20 years, and we thank you Michael for giving up so much of your valuable time for the good of the Craft. We wish Mike and Kay a happy and healthy retirement.

V.W. Bro. Jonathan Whitaker is now "Deputy in Charge" until such times when the Lockdown is lifted and he can become Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of Hampshire & IOW. We wish Jonathan every success for the future and I hope I can say on your behalf that we will give every support to Jonathan in continuing the success of this Province, particularly at this difficult moment in time.

Thank you and God Bless you.

V.W. Bro. Harold Edward Mayne, PGMO, PAPGM

W. Bro. Harold Edward Mayne passed to the Grand Lodge above on 4 April 2020, one month short of his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was born in 1922 and was married to Win for over 60 years. He was initiated into the United Services Lodge No 1428 in August 1953, going through the chair of Arthurian Lodge No 5658 in 1968. He was Advanced into Carnarvon Mark Lodge No 62 in 1956, going through the chair in 1968. He was elevated into Royal Ark Mariners in 1971, went into the chair in 1983 and made RAMGR in 1989.

V.W. Bro. Harold was appointed to ProvGMO in 1972, Provincial Assistant Secretary in 1975 and made PAGDC in 1978. He became Provincial Secretary in 1985 and promoted to PGJD in the same year. In 1988 the then Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Dr Michael Morgan, appointed V.W. Bro. Harold as APGM, holding active office until 1995. In 1990 he was promoted to PGJO and in 1996 to PGMO.

Harold, also known as Mike by his family and "Riser" by others would always choose Mark/RAM over all other Degrees in Masonry. "The 7 years as APMG were the best time of my life." Harold would have joined Thistle & Shamrock MMM No 1048 but despite a special GPC to consider his application he was turned down on the grounds of insufficient Scottish or Irish family ties. Their loss was Carnarvon's gain.

He was a Founder of Mark of Ed (Mark) 10/11/1977 and Mark of Ed RAM (Primus Cmdr) 05/01/1993. Also, Honorary Member of at least 13 Mark and 6 RAM lodges as well as Arthurian. He lived respected, died regretted.

## New 2026 MBF Festival Draw

There is a 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 will cost £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 **30<sup>th</sup> September 2020** with delivery of the Ceremony to be scheduled for **early 2021**. Full details of the Draw have been sent to Lodge secretaries. Please support this new initiative. W.Bro. Simon Lancaster, ProvDGSec looks forward to receiving your entries to the draw.

## A Message from our new Assistant Provincial Grand Master - W.Bro. Tony Green, PGStwd, APMG

The general suspension of all Masonic activity in March, has seen us all experience unusual times and for some, this has presented greater difficulties in day to day living than others. Masonry in general has played its part, by not only supporting members of the fraternity, but also by helping the more vulnerable in society and the wider community, through various initiatives, fund raising and donations.

Communication remains the biggest asset we all have in our power to give to each other during these difficult times, so let us be pro-active and ensure that we do this. I would encourage all Mark and RAM lodges to ensure that **all** their members are contacted on a regular basis, whether this be by phone, email, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, or any other mode of communication. Prior to the suspension, there would have been many candidates about to be Advanced into the Mark Degree. Please ensure that we keep in touch with these brethren and maintain their interest in becoming a member of our wonderful 'progressive' order, as soon as we can restart again.

The Mark Provincial website page has recently been redesigned by W.Bro. Guy Sudron, and now includes an "In Memoriam" section, where the passing of Mark Brethren is recorded and allows comments to be posted. We thank W.Bro. Guy for his skills in producing this, so please visit and experience the new layout.

Brethren, the Province has recently set-up its own Facebook page, which is proving to be a very successful and popular communication tool, details on how to join the group have already been circulated and hundreds of brethren have so far joined up. Many lodges are now using Zoom, Skype, or similar video conferencing tools to have group talks etc. Why not try this and perhaps take it bit further by inviting brethren from other lodges in your area group to participate or indeed invite a guest VIP to join in. Food for thought brethren!

The situation regarding the lockdown and the gradual relaxation of restrictions appears to be changing on a frequent basis and this is being carefully monitored by the Executive, in the hope that masonry will soon be able to recommence. Therefore, we must plan ahead and with this in mind, our PGM is hoping to hold a rescheduled AGM, which has been provisionally booked for Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020, at Botley Masonic Centre. Likewise, the Executive have also undertaken to produce a provisional schedule of official visits to selected Mark and RAM lodges within the Province from September onwards, should this capability arise.

We are ever mindful that when we are able to hold meetings again, there may still be some limitations in force and we can assure you, that the safety of the brethren will be paramount in whatever is planned. An integral part of these

official visits is what is affectionately known as the "Wardens Swindle", in which the Wardens raise money for charitable purposes, a function they have been deprived of doing. However, not to be out done, this year's Warden's, W.Bro. Pat Burridge and W.Bro. Richard Cox have instigated a charity draw to raise funds for their chosen charities and the MBF, whilst providing three prizes for the brethren taking part. The first draw was recently drawn live on Facebook: I will not say who won the first prize! This charity draw has proven to be so popular that it is now being repeated on a regular basis and is open to all members of the Province.

May I take this opportunity to thank our Provincial Almoner, W.Bro. Malcolm Lloyd for his recent letters and his invaluable work, much of which is undertaken behind the scenes and often goes unnoticed. Let me assure you that our Provincial Grand Master remains positive in his outlook and supported by his Executive, seeks to ensure that when masonry is able to start again, our Mark Province is ready to commence too!

Brethren, please keep in touch with each other, take care and above all stay safe.

### Mark Recruitment and Retention

During the lockdown W.Bro. Bob Brown and W.Bro. Mike Lewis have updated the presentations for Mark, RAM, Red Cross, Royal & Select and a new one, the Allied Degree. They have all been updated to cover memberships and the change of the Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Mark and R.A.M., W.Bro. Tony Green. A personal thank you from Bob and Mike to W.Bro. Peter Lewis who over the last five years has supported them both, and their program.

They have also taken an in depth look at the number of Members in our Lodges. Lots of new Brethren are joining throughout the Province and they congratulate the Lodges for finding these candidates - long may it continue. Remember, Bob and Mike are here to help and support you all as and when needed.

There are still a few Brethren resigning which is a shame. To that end they are starting to talk to Lodge Secretaries to see the reasons for this. In one or two Lodges they have suggested that a Brother takes the role of a "RETENTION OFFICER." Working with the Lodge Secretary and the Lodge Visiting Grand Officer it is hoped that they can find a way to reduce the number of resignations. The Lodge may find a small change to their procedures could help retaining members.

Some Centre's have TV adverts running in their lounge areas – is your Lodge a part of this? Does it need to be updated with regards to meeting times, events, Official visits, social events? This is probably one of the best tools our Degree has at its disposal. If you do not have an advert there – do you want one? If help in changing how you sell your Lodge is required, then do call either of them. They are available to hold a RECRUITMENT evening and they have started to reserve bookings for around March and April 2021, so when the time is right please get in touch.

### 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. Full details of this Draw can be obtained from Patrick Burridge, Provincial Senior Warden, Richard Cox, Provincial Junior Warden or Ian Vincent at [newsletter@hants-iow-mark.org](mailto:newsletter@hants-iow-mark.org)