



Mark Provincial Times

August 2020 Edition 3

Welcome from Ian Vincent

Welcome to the third 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

Don't forget the Provincial Grand Lodge for Mark Master Masons for Hampshire and Isle of Wight has a revamped website containing a lot of information? Please visit the website at this [link](#) Also a reminder that The Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight for Mark Master Masons has its own [Facebook Group](#).

VW. Bro. Brian Ridler, P.G.J.O., R.A.M.G.R.

Five things you may not know about our Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW. Bro. Brian Ridler, P.G.J.O., R.A.M.G.R. These were originally published on the Facebook Group following a request from W.Bro. Simon Lancaster, P.G.Std.B. They are now shared in this Newsletter for your interest.

1. I am a Devonian, like a number of well-known Brethren in Hampshire and Isle of Wight. I was born in Lymptone, Nr. Exmouth: the village is just south of the Marine and Commando Camp at Exton. I was not quite four years old when my Father died after which the family left our farm and moved to Exeter. As a schoolboy, I was a reasonable athlete and represented the school and county at junior level for the ½ mile and mile. I doubt whether I could run ½ mile now!!
2. I have always been charity minded and I think it was back in 1961/2 that with a group of 7/8 from our youth club we foolishly pushed a bed for about 200 miles around Devon raising money for charities for deprived children.
3. Professional qualifications for both banking and accountancy fifty years ago were done mainly by correspondence courses and the like, although I did attend Whiteknights Hall at Reading University for a crash course on one of the papers. Aside from the Accountancy aspect of banking I particularly enjoyed Monetary Theory, and yes Brethren, we are in a depression!
4. Many of you may know, but the Mark "selected" by me at my Advancement (prepared by my Proposer W.Bro. Ralph Page, P.G.Std.B., was the corporate logo of British Rail or BR, my initials of course, "it was aptly chosen and clearly defined"! I even have a pair of socks with the logo on given to me many years later by a kindly member of my Lodge!
5. My children were involved in swimming at an early age and Joy and I became interested in the sport. Both of us later became National Referees and we enjoyed some 20 years at the top level of the sport attending events around the country.

My thanks to V. W. Bro. Brian for being such a good sport.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Mark Masons help the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

Following the £1,000.00 donations to nine Hospices in Hampshire and Isle of Wight for the express purpose of buying Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), a further donation of £1,000.00 has been donated to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Although based at Farnham just outside our Province, the Hospice specifically includes North-East Hampshire as well as West Surrey in their area of operation. It is fitting that this Hospice is included in the help we are giving to all the Hospices in our Province to purchase Personal Protective Equipment for their staff.

Grateful thanks from Hospices, and news about our latest Charitable works, can be found on the website at this [link](#).

A new Golfing Lodge

A number of keen Mark Golfers have expressed their desire to form a Mark Golfing Lodge in Hampshire and Isle of Wight as a number of other Provinces have already done. To gauge the viability of such a Lodge we need to know how many Mark Masons would be pleased to help found such a Lodge. Obviously, this would take place after the current restrictions have been eased.

It is intended that the Lodge:

- will meet three times a year – one will be an Installation meeting at the same location and the other two will be at different venues.
- will hold the other two meetings at different venues and will probably involve a round of golf in the afternoon followed by a Meeting in the evening at a convenient location.
- will welcome Joining Members and Candidates for Advancement from other degrees who may be keen golfers and attracted to a Golfing Lodge.
- will play Lodge competitions and trophies as well as fielding Lodge teams for inter Lodge matches as well as the Annual Mark Golf day and against other Mark Provinces. We will also be pleased to play against other Masonic Golf Societies.

If all this has whetted your appetite to keep your golf clubs polished and your golfing trolley oiled up we need to hear from you! The initial response has been good enough to form a new Lodge with Golf as it is special interest. But, of course, we are still keen to attract more prospective Founder members.

Please indicate your interest in joining such a Lodge and becoming a Founder Member by e-mailing me at niwilk02@gmail.com as soon as possible. W.Bro. Nigel Wilkinson, Provincial Grand Charity Steward

153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festival 2021



The Provincial Grand Master for the Province of East Lancashire has the honour of presiding over the 153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festival. Festival Badges will be available from the Provincial Wardens, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, and the Provincial Grand Treasurer, for the sum of £10 each to enable you to support the MBF and the Province of East Lancashire.

Provincial Virtual Business Meeting

As you will recall, the Provincial Grand Master had to postpone the Provincial Annual Meeting, which should have been held on Saturday 18th April 2020 because of the Coronavirus pandemic, the lockdown which followed, and the subsequent suspension of all Masonic activity.

It was stated at the time that the Provincial Grand Master intended to hold a scaled-down meeting when the situation improved, and circumstances permit such a meeting to take place. Attempts to arrange such a meeting at Botley in October has also been abandoned.

An application to Grand Lodge to hold a Provincial Virtual Business Meeting has been successful and permission granted to hold a virtual meeting on the 26 August 2020 at 6 pm as per the special circumstances provisions contained within the Constitutions & Regulations of the Order.

A copy of the paper of business for the 2020 Provincial Virtual Business Meeting and instructions for joining the meeting have been sent to each Lodge Secretary in the Province for distribution.

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 donations to the MBF totalling £8000.00. 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 initiative.

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 Facebook Group. So far you have helped them raise more than £600.00 towards the 2026 Festival and more than £600.00 towards non masonic charities. Full details of this Draw can be obtained from Patrick Burrige, Provincial Senior Warden or Richard Cox, Provincial Junior Warden.

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 would Brethren please 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 W.Bro. Nigel Wilkinson, Provincial Charity Steward.