



# Mark Provincial Times

September 2020 Edition 4

Welcome from Ian Vincent

Welcome to the fourth 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)

Don't forget the Provincial Grand Lodge for Mark Master Masons for Hampshire and Isle of Wight has a 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](#).

## Mark Recruitment News

Now that most of our Summer is over, (the grass still needs cutting!) I thought I would try and update you all as to the latest activity with regards to the "Recruitment Team". Over the last few months, it has been very difficult. The lack of meeting up with you all, the visits that W.Bro. Mike Lewis and I make through the year and let us not forget the Festive Boards!

So, what have we been up to? Well first thing is that we have expanded the Recruitment team, Mike and I will still work together which has proven to be very successful over the last five years and we have enjoyed every meeting. The second Team is to be headed up by Worshipful Brother Terry Nye who I'm sure most of you have had the pleasure of his company at some. He will be assisted by Brother Gary Harrison and I'm sure that they will also work well together. Terry's assistant is a very active Mason and the good news is that he is in fact the result of one of our recruitment evenings! Great news.

So why at this time do we need to increase the recruitment team? As we stand this month, I have three bookings for the Mark Degree and two for another Degree that we support. If this is to be the trend, then we need to be able to say yes, and we will. Lodges are starting to dip their toe in the water this month and are slowly getting back to some form of normality. The Bournemouth Group that I'm responsible for has seen two Lodges hold meetings in this month of September and I'm sure that as we head towards the New Year there will be many that also start to hold meetings.

So how are your Lodges fixed for work? We all need to plan for the future so if you find that after your Installations, or whatever work you have, that things start to dry up then this could be the time for you to think about a recruitment evening. Remember you find the candidates and we will do our best to help increase your Lodge numbers. We all need to be aware of resignations, not just due to the Covid-19, but in general. Why do we lose Brethren? Is there a reason that we all could help and resolve the situation; to that end Mike and I run a short PowerPoint with suggestions, some ideas and some activity that all your members could take on. A call to our Provincial Grand Secretary W.Bro. Nigel Bell and we can get you booked in.

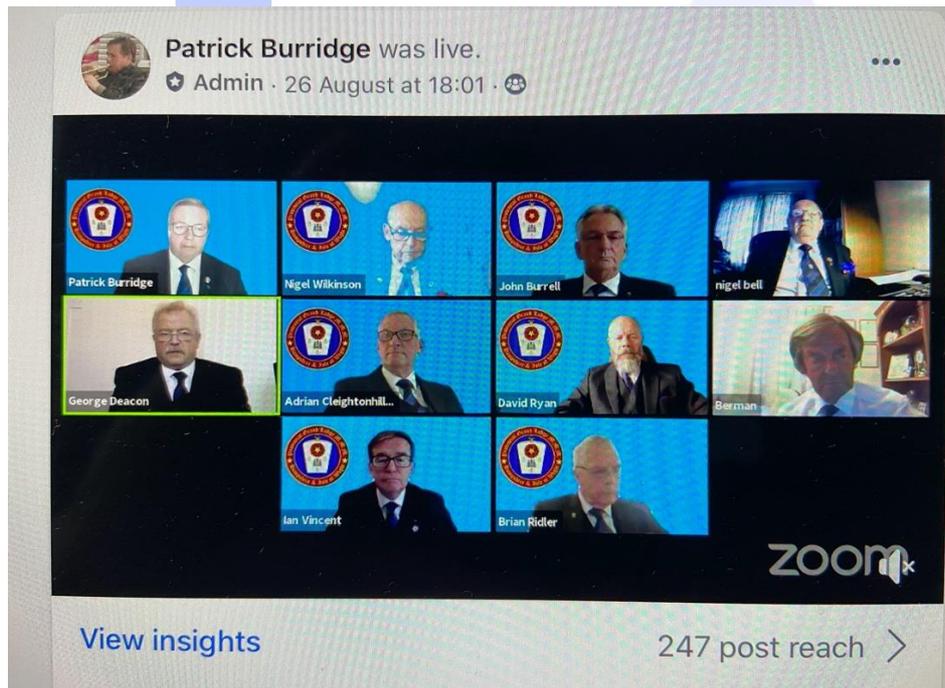
Brethren, this is a wonderful Degree, let's keep adding too, and retaining the Brethren we have. On behalf of our team keep safe and well and we look forward to your company in the months to come. Thank you.  
W. Bro Bob Brown

## 153<sup>rd</sup> 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 members of the Provincial Executive including 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,

A Provincial Virtual Business Meeting was held on the 26 August 2020 at 6 pm and was live on our Facebook Group. It was a very successful meeting with the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E.Comp. Alan Berman, also in attendance. This meeting culminated in the Assistant Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Stephen Davison giving an address to all the Brethren.

## New 2026 MBF Festival Draw

The 2026 MBF Festival Draw, 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, is now coming to a close.

Each draw ticket 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**. To date W. Bro. Simon Lancaster, ProvDepGSec has donations to the MBF totalling £8700.00 with 26 Mark Lodges and 15 RAM Lodges making donations. The Draw has proved very popular.

This is fantastic Brethren and our Provincial Grand Master is delighted by the response and excellent sum received from you all.

## Mark and RAM Masonry following Lockdown

The Provincial Grand Master is keen to hear about meetings which have taken place following the lockdown. This Newsletter is an ideal way to publish details of your meetings (with any pictures you may have). Please forward them to [newsletter@hants-iow-mark.org](mailto:newsletter@hants-iow-mark.org) and they will be included in future editions of the Newsletter.

## Distribution of Mark Benevolent Fund Honorifics

W.Bro. Nigel Wilkinson, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, is currently distributing Mark Benevolent Fund honorifics around the Province. The Mark Executive Team is assisting him in this process as he has a great number of awards to distribute. Sadly, due to the current prevailing difficulties it has been impossible to make all these presentations in open Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master wishes to thank all the Brethren for their continued fantastic support for the Mark Benevolent Fund and the 2026 Festival.

## 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 funds towards the 2026 Festival and non-masonic charities. Full details of this Draw can be obtained from Patrick Burr ridge, Provincial Senior Warden or Richard Cox, Provincial Junior Warden.