



# Mark Provincial Times

October 2020 Edition 5

Welcome from Ian Vincent

Welcome to the fifth 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](#).

## The Provincial Wardens Facebook Event with the Deputy Grand Master



Those Brethren who were able to view the Provincial Wardens regular Monday night light-hearted banter and the toast to absent Brethren on Facebook, were treated to a very important guest on Monday 5 October, the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. John Herbert Prizeman. It was a very informative and interesting evening, with the DGM providing up to date information regarding our Order and enlightening us on the current situation at Mark Masons Hall.

The DGM also reminded Brethren on the excellent charitable donations of the Mark Benevolent Fund. Particularly the donation of £200,000 for a Nanoscope in the Cancer Unit at Southampton University Hospital Trust, which is a wonderful piece of equipment. In addition, the Mark Benevolent Fund has also donated £37,000 to the Unit for a Sampling Cabinet for clinicians and scientists to carry out research into cancer and Covid.

They were also joined by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. George John Deacon and W.Bro. Simon Lancaster, Provincial.Dep.G.Sec. who carried out the 2026 Festival Draw which raised a fantastic sum of £10,400. Congratulations go to Oakley Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.886 who won the Elevation Ceremony to be delivered by the Provincial team. Winchester Lodge of Mark Masters No.969 won the Advancement Ceremony to be delivered by the Provincial team.

The monthly Wardens Swindle was won by the Provincial Grand Master (he also had the third prize!), both prizes were donated back by him to the Mark Benevolent Fund.

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## 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 Burrridge, Provincial Senior Warden or Richard Cox, Provincial Junior Warden.

### How Your Charitable Donations Really Help – Niamh Ford's story

Back in 2015 the Mark Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight assisted the Bordon Lodges by donating towards the purchase of a 'Vest Clearance System' package at a total cost of some £7,500 for a young child called Niamh Ford aged 3 at the time who suffered very severely from Cystic Fibrosis. Her Parents and Grandparents endeavoured to raise the required amount by various activities but still fell short of the target. V.W.Bro. Peter James appealed to the then Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. John Prizeman for help in raising the balance needed. A sum around £2,400 was donated by our Province which enabled the Vest to be purchased and it did indeed give Niamh a much improved quality of life although she still had to be hospitalised on several occasions following particularly severe attacks.

V.W.Bro. Peter has now been able to update us on the latest developments. Niamh has been selected to be a participant in the case study for a new and hopefully "wonder drug" called 'Kaftrio'. Apparently, this is most unusual because the general rule is for participants to be at least 12 years of age or over whereas Niamh is now only 8. Her consultant has advised her parents, Justin and Vicky that Niamh can expect a much-improved quality of life. But the Vest package we helped fund will continue to benefit sufferers as it will be available to them through Basingstoke and North Hants Hospital facilities.

A second and perhaps unexpected benefit from this donation was that Justin, her father, felt strongly that he would like to join an organisation which had shown such generosity and consideration to someone they did not really know. As a direct result he joined Woolmer Forest Craft Lodge and is currently the Junior Deacon and is a great asset to the lodge. When work and family commitments allow there is every hope, he will join the Mark Degree.

The message from this story is that it shows how your charitable giving helps so many needy and worthwhile people in their time of real need.

### 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

## Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank Appointments

I am delighted to be able to report that the Grand Master has been pleased to appoint to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank,

W. Bro. Christopher Thomas Brooklyn Davis  
W. Bro. Alan John Krzysica  
W. Bro. Simon Paul Lancaster  
W. Bro. Howard John Pollard

I am sure you will all wish to join the Provincial Grand Master and his Executive in congratulating these worthy Brethren on their preferment. The Royal Ark Mariner Annual Investiture at Great Queen Street, would in normal circumstances, be held on Tuesday 8th December 2020. However, with the current COVID 19 restrictions on the holding of meetings, this Annual event is looking doubtful.

Further details regarding the Investiture will be promulgated as soon as they are known.

W. Bro. Nigel Bell, Provincial Grand Secretary

## 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 costing £10 are now available from members of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Provincial Executive including the Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Wardens, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, and the Provincial Grand Treasurer. Please support the Mark Benevolent Fund and the Province of East Lancashire by purchasing a badge.

## Distribution of Mark Benevolent Fund Honorifics

Mark Benevolent Fund honorifics are currently being distributed around the Province by the Mark Executive Team as there are 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. It is however an ideal opportunity when receiving your award to have £10 to hand in order that you can purchase a Festival badge.

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

## 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.