



# Mark Provincial Times

January 2021 Edition 8

Welcome from Ian Vincent

Welcome to the eight 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](#).

## Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Assembly



The Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Assembly was held as a virtual meeting on Saturday 16 January 2021, similar to the Mark Provincial Meeting. It was broadcast live on Facebook and there were 41 participants.

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. George Deacon, welcomed everyone attending on-line, and those viewing the Meeting on Facebook Live. The Dispensation allowing the Province to hold a Virtual Meeting was read by the Provincial Grand Secretary.

The Provincial Grand Master informed the Brethren that several Brethren had passed to the Grand Lodge Above over the past year. More recently W.Bro. Larry Harding, R.W. Bro. Brian Wareham, and R.W. Bro. John Brackley, all great supporters of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree, and many other Orders.

Subscribe to our newsletters: <https://hants-iow-mark.org/province/subscribe>

The Provincial Grand Master welcomed all the visitors here this morning, most notably The Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. John Prizeman, and Heads of other Orders.

Following his warm welcome, The Provincial Grand Master invested all the Brethren receiving Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. The Provincial Grand Charity Steward and the Provincial Grand Almoner then gave their reports.

There then followed the address by the Provincial Grand Master.

---

### The Provincial Grand Masters' Address

Brother Royal Ark Mariners, I welcome you to this Virtual Business meeting of Provincial Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners.! I am going to keep this Address as short as possible so do not switch off!!

I am incredibly pleased that so many of you have attended and supported this Zoom meeting. Normally, we would be holding this Meeting in conjunction with the "Installed Commanders Lodge" where we usually have 150 attending, sadly this year we must adjust and adapt to Virtual meetings and I am pleased to see so many Lodges have taken social Media on board to carry out VBM and to meet up socially. Brethren, it is very important that we keep in touch with each other and particularly those Brethren and their dependants who are vulnerable. Malcolm Lloyd is a terrific Almoner, and it makes his task easier if he is kept informed of good and bad news.

I am particularly pleased to have been able to welcome our Official guests from our neighbouring Provinces, Heads of other Orders and their representatives, it is an illustration of the strong bonds of Brotherhood which exist throughout our Fraternity that they should join with us today at this our Virtual Meeting of the Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity.

I know I congratulate all those who I have had the pleasure of appointing and symbolically investing you to Provincial Rank in this Ancient and Honourable Fraternity. I know that you have worked hard in your Lodges and for the advancement of the Order. This appointment is a fitting reward for all your efforts. I have no doubt that your enthusiasm and devotion to the Order will help you to enjoy the greater responsibilities you are now required to undertake, and I wish you every success in your efforts. I look forward to your company on our Provincial visits when we do get back to some form of normality, particularly to RAM Lodges, your appointment today should be considered as an active rank in the coming year.

On Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2020, many of us would have attended the Grand Assembly to support those who were to receive RAMGR, unfortunately this was not possible, and we do congratulate, their names are as follows: Chris Davis of Sandown Bay Lodge, Howard Pollard, Portsdown Lodge of RAM. Alan Kryscica, Chandlers Ford RAM and Simon Lancaster of Winchester RAM. Congratulations you and I know you will continue to deserve this high Honour. Our Membership is slowly falling due to the suspension of Meetings last year, so please continue to promote the Order and support our "Open Evenings". Bob Brown and his Team work extremely hard to promote both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner and they are available for talks on Zoom, so in supporting Bob you are supporting this Province. Brethren, the success of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree in this Province is down to us as a Team, so let us continue to work together in Promoting this wonderful Order and make sure we communicate our enjoyment to others. A very big thank you for supporting all our fund-raising ideas.

I would like to thank the Provincial Wardens once again for their entertainment every Monday and their fundraising and to you Brethren for supporting them with words of encouragement, they have been brilliant. Brethren, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity and support for the "Mark Benevolent Fund". In 2026 we will Host the MBF Festival and I am sure Brethren you will give every support in the run up to the Festival. Brethren, I am only too aware that charity always seem to come out of the same pockets, but I know I can rely on your generosity. We have a long way to go and I encourage you to consider completing a "Regular giving" form.

Brethren, I have been very privileged to have been appointed Head of an Order, but the success of any organisation rests not with one person but with us all, I have a fantastic Team and wonderful Province and I will support you and you Lodges as you support this Province and our Wonderful Orders.  
May our Ancient and Honourable Fraternity continue to flourish, as I am sure it will with your continued enthusiasm and the blessing of the Supreme Commander of the Universe.

Thank you, Brethren, for your kind attention and God bless you all.

-----  
Finally, next year's meeting will be held at Botley on Saturday 15 January 2022.

Those Mark Master Masons who are not Royal Ark Mariners I urge you to join this wonderful Order. Please speak to RAM members in your Mark Lodge and ask them to propose you!

Here is a link to view the recording of the RAM Assembly, which is available for any member to watch. The link will take you directly to Zoom's cloud facility, where it will be deleted automatically after 30 days. For Facebook viewers however, it will be there for the foreseeable future.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/xYF3D5I\\_heVnPZJbMpaUQ1V-G8bWEIEvqYnKFvgB5u1N\\_UTj1qToNZGV6gB38C2Q.6oXtw8I82IE\\_rb9E](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/xYF3D5I_heVnPZJbMpaUQ1V-G8bWEIEvqYnKFvgB5u1N_UTj1qToNZGV6gB38C2Q.6oXtw8I82IE_rb9E)

Passcode: f.\*g4ZI\*

Over the hour or so this meeting was broadcast, we had a live audience of nearly 50 who were commenting enthusiastically throughout - which was gratifying to see.

Hot off the Press

Have you got any spare regalia, if so the PGM is very keen to set up a regalia shop with the proceeds going to the 2026 MBF Festival? Watch this space!

### 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. If you send them £11, which includes postage, they can post one to you.

Please support the Mark Benevolent Fund and the Province of East Lancashire by purchasing a badge.

Provincial Wardens Burns Night on Facebook  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021



Brethren,

As you know, your Wardens organise a small Facebook broadcast every Monday evening to include the toast to "Absent Brethren". Now, rather encouragingly the 25th falls on a Monday which gives us an unmissable opportunity to celebrate Burns night. Leading a notably colourful life, which included a love of Freemasonry, about which some of his finest work was penned, we would love you to join us in honouring the life and works of Robbie Burns.

Are you a Burns aficionado, do you like to recite any of Burns work or sing any of his songs? Naturally we will have a haggis which will be addressed in the traditional manner by a well-known Brother, are there any of us in this Province who would like to get involved and perhaps regale us with your version of:

- Ode to a Mouse
- Burns Masonic Grace
- Farewell to The Brethren Of St. James Lodge, Tarbolton
- Ye Sons of Old Killie
- The Masters Apron
- Closing Ode
- My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose
- Tam-O'-Shanter
- Or anything else topical
- Do we have a piper in our midst?

It is not essential to learn them off by heart, they can be read, but a practised and polished delivery is always better. Of course, the evening will end with our own rendition of the bard's best known work: Auld Lang Syne.

We will all meet on Zoom as Richard and I do every Monday (get the tartan out if you wish – I will). I will organise the invitations to join and co-ordinate the live Facebook broadcast, so no technical knowledge will be necessary.

Feeling motivated? Good! Please drop me a quick email ([patrickdburrige@gmail](mailto:patrickdburrige@gmail.com)) and we can get it organised. Do not be shy! We look forward to a rare old party.

Patrick Burrige and Richard Cox

Provincial Wardens 2020-21

## Brain Teaser Quiz

Brethren, if you have not already done so please enter V.W.Bro. David Smith's Brain Teaser Quiz which has gone out through Lodge Secretaries. It is in aid of the 2026 Festival and Mark Benevolent Fund with a suggested entry fee of £5. There are two prizes available and is open to everyone (family, friends, and neighbours). Good luck!

## 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 Regular Givers to the MBF. We currently have 14% of the Mark Masons in Hampshire and Isle of Wight who are Regular Givers. You can still 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 which 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 P.G.S.D., Provincial Grand Charity Steward