



Mark Provincial Times

February 2021 Edition 9

Welcome from Ian Vincent

Welcome to the ninth 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

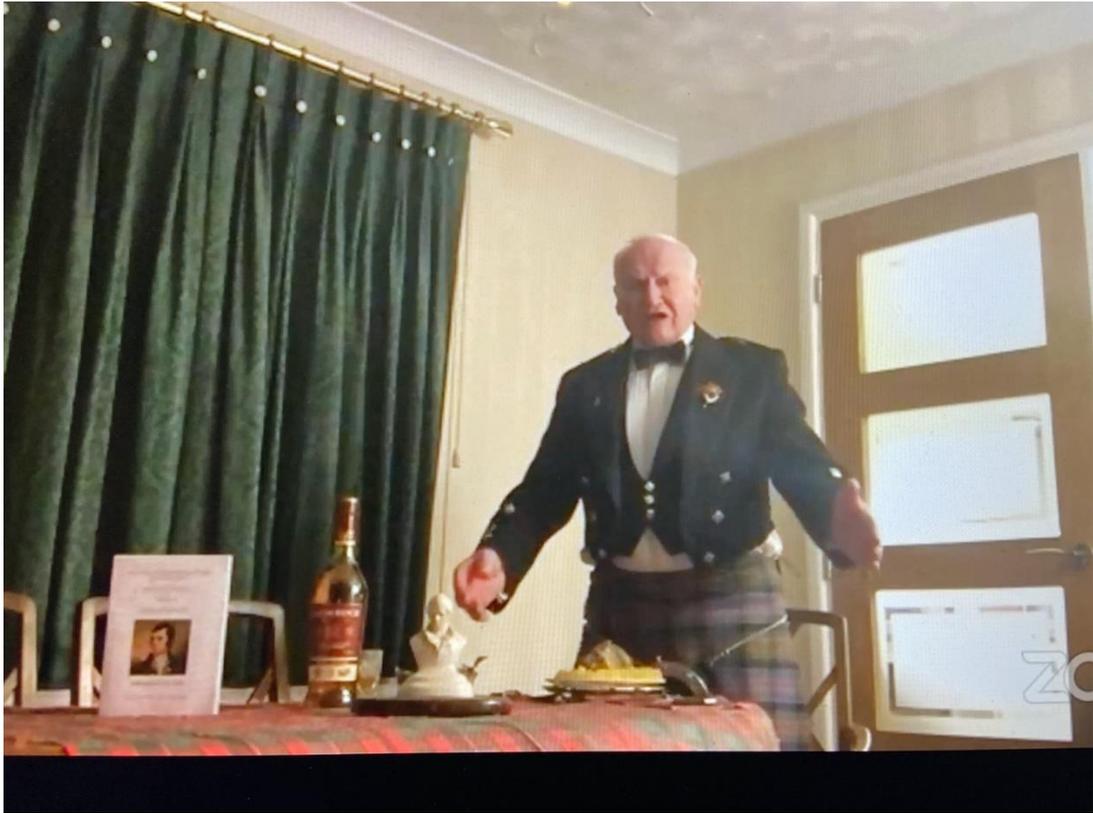
Don't forget the Provincial Grand Lodge for Mark Master Masons for Hampshire and Isle of Wight has a website containing a lot of information. Please visit the website at this [link](#) Also a reminder that The Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight for Mark Master Masons has its own [Facebook Group](#).

Provincial Wardens Burns Night on Facebook
Monday 25th January 2021



Burns Night attendees on Zoom

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W.Bro. Arthur Hawthorne "addressing the Haggis".

The Provincial Wardens hosted a Burns Night evening on the Facebook Group on Monday 25 January 2021. They were joined by W.Bro. Arthur Hawthorne, W.Bro. Peter James, W.Bro. Paul Miles-Knight and W.Bro. Richard Newman also taking part. One of the highlights of the evening was W.Bro. Arthur Hawthorne's rendition of the Address to the Haggis.

Following W.Bro. Arthur's address the Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. George Deacon presented W.Bro. Arthur with a 60-year certificate from the Grand Master, and signed by the Grand Secretary, in recognition of his outstanding commitment and contribution to Mark Masonry.

Much to W.Bro. Arthur's surprise the Deputy Grand Master, W.Bro. John Prizeman read out a letter from H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, Grand Master and signed by the Grand Secretary. In recognition of his 60 years in the Order, W.Bro. John carried out a Field Promotion on W.Bro. Arthur to P.G.Std.B. adding that he still continues to hold an active office in Thistle and Shamrock Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1048 as Almoner. The Deputy Grand Master added that as a Scotsman W. Bro. Arthur would be pleased to know that as this was a field promotion there are no dues to pay for this preferment!

W.Bro. Arthur said he was overwhelmed with the honour thanking the Order for their kindness and he looks forward to celebrating his promotion with the members of the Thistle and Shamrock Lodge. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge, V.W.Bro. Jon Whitaker, W.Bro. Brian Ridler, W.Bro. Tony Green, W.Bro. Adrian Cleightonhills and W.Bro. Nigel Bell all joined in congratulating W.Bro. Arthur for his service and commitment to Mark Master Masons. V.W.Bro. Jon also thanking W.Bro. Arthur for his commitment and contribution to the Craft and the Royal Order of Scotland.

The order of the evening's festivities were as follows; -

Welcome - W.Bro. Patrick Burrridge and W.Bro. Richard Cox
Selkirk Grace - W.Bro. Peter James
Piping in the Haggis
Address to the Haggis - W.Bro. Arthur Hawthorne
Supper and Conversation

Toast to the immortal memory of Robert Burns - W.Bro. Arthur Hawthorne
Loyal Toast – W.Bro. Richard Cox
Remembering lost Brethren – W.Bro. Paul Miles-Knight
Toast to Absent Brethren -W.Bro. Peter James
A mans a man for aw that – W.Bro. Richard Newman
The Masters Apron – W.Bro. Paul Miles-Knight
Tae a fart – humorous in the style of Burns – W.Bro. Patrick Burridge
Closing Ode – W.Bro. Richard Cox
Auld Lang Syne
Sign off – W.Bro. Patrick Burridge and W.Bro. Richard Cox

Brethren, if you can watch the recording on the Facebook Group, I recommend you to do so as it was a very entertaining evening, enjoyed by one and all.

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!

Thomas a Beckett Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 775, Cosham

As we are still in lockdown members of the Provincial Team are attending Virtual Meetings of those Lodges which were due Official visits this year. On the evening of Tuesday 2 February 2021, the Province carried out an Official visit, by Zoom, to Thomas a Beckett Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 775. At that meeting the Lodge presented the Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £500 towards the Mark Benevolent Fund and 2026 Festival.

This Official visit is the first of many visits to be carried out in this manner for the time being. The evening was supported by 6 Members of the Provincial Team and 11 Members of the Lodge.

Itchen Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No 613, Woolston

The Itchen Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 613 in Woolston has presented the Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £1000 towards the Mark Benevolent Fund and 2026 Festival; a very generous amount and always appreciated.

Albany Craft Lodge No 151 (late 176)

W.Bro. Vernon Gibbs has been carrying out some research into some of the historical records of Albany Craft Lodge No. 151. It relates to a Brother who is a severing officer in India, having been Passed & Raised in Albany in 1858, and becoming a Mark Mason, requesting his certificates. I have reproduced below the extracts collated by W.Bro. Vernon for your interest.

Extract from the Minutes of the Lodge in relation to a censure from the new Provincial Grand Master, William Beach MP in relation to an Item in the 13th of September 1869 Minute, noted on the second inspection of the Lodge Minute Book at a Provincial Grand Lodge held at Cowes on the 8th of August 1870.

September 13th, 1869

The following correspondence was read.

**To the Secretary
Albany Lodge
Newport, Isle of Wight**

Octacamund, 20th July 1869
Neilgherry Hills, Madras, Residency
East Indies

Dear Sir & Brother.

In the year 1856 when serving as a Lieutenant in H.M. 96 Reg't then stationed at Parkhurst Barracks, I was in the Albany Lodge raised to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason. As a Lodge has started here amongst viz: The Faith, Hope & Charity, I should feel much obliged if you will obtain for me my Master's Certificate from the Grand Lodge to enable me to join my fellow craftsman out here in the "land of the Sun". And in the meantime, favour me with a Lodge Certificate till the other is available.

Any funds that are required I will instruct my agent to supply you with as also postage etc. wishing all prosperity and apologizing for the trouble I am giving you.

Believe me Dear Sir
Yours truly & fraternally
W. Cameron Geddas
Capt late H.M. 96 Foot

PS I was also made a marked Mason – does this require a certificate.

**Reply
To Capt W. Cameron Geddas**

78 Upper St James Street, Newport, I of W
2nd September 1869

Dear Sir & Brother

Your letter of the 20th of July addressed to the Secretary of the Albany Lodge has just been handed to me. In reply I have much pleasure in forwarding your certificate of the Grand Lodge of England & also the certificate of the Albany Lodge of Mark Masons, the key for the reading of which you were entrusted at the time of your enrolment which ceremony doubtless is not effaced from your memory. As you were Initiated into Freemasonry in a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Scotland it became necessary for you prior to being Passed & Raised during the time you were stationed at Parkhurst. To join the Albany Lodge and hence the attainment fee of one Guinea for such Joining & accommodation. The Grand Lodge of England certificate being seventeen shillings extra and the Mark Masons certificate of Enrolment twelve shillings & six pence. Which sums doubtless owing to your leaving England, have remained unpaid & are still due to the Albany Lodge, the items follow.

Viz;	Joining fee	£1-1-0
	G.L. Certificate	17-0
	MM Certificate)	<u>£2-14-3d</u>
	& Enrolment }	12-6d
	Postage	3- 9d

Which amount you will much oblige by directing your Agent to remit to me as Treasurer of the Lodge. I also enclose a new edition of our Byelaws thinking perhaps you may find then of assistance when arranging a code of regulation of your New Lodge.

Trusting the Certificates may arrive safely with every good wish & fraternal regards.

Very faithfully yours
George Wyatt PM
pro tem Sec 151

Provincial Grand Masters Comment recorded across the Minutes of the Lodge for 9th of May & 13th of June 1869
Submitted in PG Lodge 8th August 1870 PGM

In a different hand

Attention directed to a Mark Certificate having been granted illegally signed *W.W. Beach*

13th of September 1870

Bro Treasurer claimed the attention of the Brethren whilst referring to the Minutes of the 9th of May whereon the endorsement by the R.W Provincial Grand Master (Bro W.W. Beach) on the 8th of August is as follows "Attention directed to a Mark Certificate having been illegally granted" from which it would appear that the Albany Lodge had committed an act contrary to the Constitution of the fraternity. Whereas the fact is simply the record of a perfectly legal act forming part of a correspondence on business of the Lodge with a Brother visiting in India, but in order to explain the matter he (Bro Wyatt) had written the following letter, which when read the WM directed that it should be entered on the Minutes.

To the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire & the Isle of Wight.

83 Upper St James Street, Newport IW
9th September 1870

R.W. Sir & Brother

On referring to the Minute book of the Albany Lodge to ascertain the duties of the forthcoming Lodge meeting, I was sorry to find an endorsement made on the 8th of August last to the effect "Attention directed to a Mark Certificate having been granted illegally" W.W. Beach PGM.

Having been unavoidable absent from the Provincial meeting held at Cowes on the 8th ultimo, no explanation could be tendered which had I been present my explanation may have prevented such entry being made. I therefore beg leave most respectfully R.W. Sir to submit for your consideration the following, and at the same time to ask your withdrawal of the term illegal.

I will presume that the entry in the Minute book of the 13th of Sept 1869 (marked there X) relating to the Mark Certificate for Bro Geddes, who was enrolled in the Albany lodge of Mark Masons in September 1857 but did not happen to take his Certificate to India with him. Is the Certificate to which you direct attention, that being the only one mentioned in the Minute book and that entry forms part of a correspondence to the enrolled Brother, then in the East Indies and that letter having been read in Lodge ((as Sec pt) was directed to enter it on the Minutes for the guidance of any future communication.

However, the point of your enrolment is that the Mark Certificate had been granted illegally.

With all due reverence R.W. Sir, I simply send you an extract from a correspondence at a prior date viz:

To the newly constituted M.W. Grand Master of Mark Masons of England & Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown.

Noble Sir & Brother

In reply to the communication issued under your superintendence inviting all Mark Masons to co-operate with you.

We the undersigned Master Overseer, Officers & Brethren, being regularly enrolled Mark Masons accordingly to the usages and established customs of Ancient Lodges, and members of the Albany Lodge in Newport, Isle of Wight No 176 on the present Grand Registry of England. Moved by a hearty desire to promote the welfare of Freemasonry and especially uniformity in the working of the Mark Degree in accordance with Ancient Custom peculiar to the Order. Do hereby conditionally agree to accept a Warrant of Confirmation, that is to say, such Warrant of Confirmation shall recognize our time honoured Ancient privilege to muster at all times when and wheresoever, our Master Overseer may command within the Province of the Isle of Wight, with free power as heretofore to enrol Brethren accordingly to Ancient Custom as Mark Masons and that our Insignia of Badge & Ribbon and Jewel now in use shall continue to be the distinctive Insignia of Mark Masons Enrolled in the Albany Lodge, Newport, Isle of Wight. That our Ancient form of Certificate in Mark Characters shall continue to be issued for Enrolment in this Lodge No 176 aforesaid and that no fee shall be demanded by the Newly Constituted Grand Lodge of Mark Masons from the Albany Lodge aforesaid for issuing such Certificates of Enrolment.

----- Extract from reply -----

Stoneleigh Abby
Kenilworth, 14th June 1858

With regard to Certificates such as those to which you have alluded but with regards to their effect. I should anticipate much inconveniences to the proposer of any document not thoroughly comprehended by those to whom the might be produced. The Certificate issued by the Grand Lodge is a simple one in the English language, but I can see no objection to the form of substance being altered or to the issues being left to each and every Lodge should such a course on free discussion appear advisable.

In conclusion I venture to express my hope that your Lodge will assume the right it possesses of declaring itself a member of a United body without seeking to fix unilaterally at the present time any point in which you may differ from even a small minority of your Brethren. But on the other hand, evince such confidence in your own worthiness and in the right spirit of your Brethren as to wait confidently that recognition of the Land Marks which it is the interest of the Craft should shortly take place.

I have the honour to be
Dear Sir & Brethren
Your very faithfully Servant
Leigh

From the foregoing R.W. Sir you will glean by the dates that the certificates alluded to was granted in September 1857 nine months prior to the Lord Leigh's letter dated 11th of June 1858 and the fact of the undigested matter contained therein will speak for itself and you may also infer that the Albany Mark Lodge was not, neither has it ever been in union or in any way subject to the Grand Lodge of Mark Masons of which there is abundant proof of recent date. Therefore as an independent Lodge of Mark Masons there is no law which can abrogate the prescriptive right of the Albany Lodge of Mark Masons to grant certificates of Enrolment to Brethren duly Enrolled in the aforementioned Lodge and consequently no Certificate duly issued having been granted illegally.

In conclusion R.W. Sir I venture to XXX that had the circumstances been known to you doubtless you would not have made the objectional entry and hence it is sincerely hoped that you will kindly cancel the endorsement of the 8th of August which only nullifies your approval of the said minutes of the 13th September 1869 and which after due examination were signed by yourself on the 30th of November following, but at the same time record on the Minute book of the Albany Lodge No 151 late 176 that the Brethren have been deemed guilty by the Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire & Isle of Wight of an illegal act.

With every good wish & fraternal regard
I have the honour to be
R.W. Sir & Brother
Your Obe't
George Wyatt PM 151 pt Sec 151

----- Reply -----

Minute 10th October 1870
To Bro George Wyatt

Oakley Hall, Basingstoke
September 12th 1870

Dear Sir & Brother

No one can suppose that I am hostile to the Degree of M. Master or to the Grand Lodge which rule over it.

The Albany Lodge of Mark Masters have a perfect right to grant certificates to the Members of that Degree, but the circumstances which was brought to my notice and to which I referred was that on the Minutes of a Craft Lodge was the record of a Mark Certificate having been granted. The Degree (however excellent) not being recognised by the Grand Lodge of England, no Lodge has the power to grant a Mark Certificate and I am bound to point out the circumstances in confirming the minutes.

From your letter I rather infer that you merely think I alluded to the Albany Lodge of M. Masters being independent of the GL of M. Masters. With that I have nothing to do.

It was not illegality of the Albany Lodge of M. masters granting such certificates that I referred but to the proceedings recorded on the Minute Book of a Craft Lodge.

I shall be very glad if I can mitigate or alter what I wrote down at the time and I might possibly alter the word "granted" to "entered on the minutes" and substitute the word "inadvertently" for "illegally".

I am very sorry that I had not the pleasure of seeing you at Cowes on the first opportunity perhaps I may see the Minute Book again and see what change can be made.

Believe me yours faithfully & fraternally.
W.W Beach

The Minute book is next presented to a Provincial Grand Lodge in Gosport on the 17th of August 1871. There is no further mention of the above or amendment to the original notation.

Vernon Gibbs
Compilers Observation
P t = pro tempor
January 2021

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 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.