



# Mark Provincial Times

MAY 2021 Edition 12

Welcome from Ian Vincent

Welcome to the twelfth 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](#).

A Right Pair of Wardens - The life and times of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Provincial Mark Wardens (active, well almost) 2020-2021



Phone calls in December 2019 from the RW PGM to his chosen two is where it all started. "Would you like to be an active Provincial Mark Warden?", "Yes please!", "It's a very arduous role, you have to organise trips and dinners, raise money, Swindle the Brethren!" "Still, yes please." "Ok then, the jobs yours, but don't tell anyone!"

2019 became 2020 and the promotions were announced at the Provincial RAM assembly, too much polite clapping, well we liked to think that it was polite. But a cloud was appearing on the horizon, a far distant horizon in the form of the Covid19 virus. It quickly became apparent that the PAGM, scheduled for April, was not going to take place, the country was eventually shut down.

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However, the instruction to 'Swindle the Brethren' loomed large in our minds. How could this be done remotely? The idea for the monthly draw came to mind, and by the end, when assisted by David Smith's quizzes, raised: -

1. MBF £3,250 (Wardens £2,950 + £300 from the two Quizzes organised by David Smith)
2. Parkinson's £3,125 (Paid to the Winchester branch on 13/04/2021)
3. Royal British Legion £100 (Paid 13/11/2020)
4. MBF £3,250 (To be paid w/c 19/04/2021)
5. Capt. Tom £663 (Details to be finalised with Rowans Hospice)

Staggering amounts, for which we are grateful.

The RW PGM, ever being a font of great ideas, suggested, on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May at 7pm (a Bank holiday Monday, on a Friday), that a nine-o clock toast be delivered on the Provincial Facebook page, that night. Dutifully done, and so started the Wardens Monday 9pm slot on Facebook, which continues to this day.

We started to interview members of the executive, the APGM, who is still without his chain of office, the Prov. G Treasurer, the Prov. G DC who is now a D G DC, likewise without a chain, the Prov. Almoner (also with active Grand Rank, but no chain), the Prov. Charity Steward, and of course the RW PGM.

Another 'Great Idea' from the RW PGM later, we were interviewing heads of other orders. Where to start, the top seemed to be as good a place as any and Jon Whitaker, the Dep. Prov. Grand Master in Charge appeared and gave some very candid answers to some searching questions. He was followed by the DGM of the Mark, who went on to appear on other occasions, most notably when the RW PGM was set up to be awarded his honourific. Then, three generations of MEGS, Malcolm Slater, whose list of titles took most of the interview to read out, Roger Bricknell, who regaled us with tales of 'Hooters' girls sat on wings and candidates being shot. David Smith, who received a field promotion, (an almost successful attempt at our first outside broadcast). A very moving interview with Willie Dunford, who, whilst stricken with MS, is still Marking well. Another field promotion, this time to Arthur Hawthorne, after he had delivered his Burns night special ode to the 'Wee Little Beastie'. Yes, a virtual Burns supper. At least we didn't have to worry about driving home, after too much Scottish 'gravy'.

To fill in between interviews we delivered odes, poems, and other such drivel. Albert Ramsbottom and his Lion, made famous by Stanley Holloway, was a favourite, although we started with Sam and his gun. We never quite mastered the northern accents which gave our good friend, dear old Tim Marshall, much cause for micky taking. Also, Pam Ayres, Cyril Fletcher, Flanders and Swann, The Two Ronnie's (well, one of them) and Benny Hill featured. A moving remembrance evening with the Bish. The Mondays all blur into one, how can there be 47 of them? It seems to have gone on for ever but started only yesterday.

Now it is over, we were supposed to go on for another year, but Pat, who also received a field promotion to Grand Rank, was assimilated by the secretariat and the JW became a SW, without putting on a collar! There is a new JW, and the show goes on. We never did get round to organising any meals or trips, but we do have a drag act to deliver.

Thankyou brethren for putting up with us, it was a blast.

**W.Bro. Patrick Burridge, P.G.St.B. and W.Bro. Richard Cox, Prov.G.S.W.**

### Provincial Grand Masters Address – 16 April 2021

Brethren hopefully today will be the last of our Annual Virtual Business Meetings and we can return to Portsmouth Guildhall next April. My thanks to all who attended the meeting today either by Zoom or Facebook, our guests, the Heads of Orders and their representatives and of course The Deputy Grand Master and Past Provincial Grand Master of this Province, R. W. Bro. John H. Prizeman. Brethren,

I am pleased to say that our membership numbers have not fallen too low, sadly deaths and resignations are inevitable, but the good news is that we have candidates waiting to join our Order both in the Mark Degree and the Royal Ark Mariner. Unfortunately, Hindhead Lodge of Mark Master Masons have had difficulty in attracting candidates and so it is our intention to turn this Lodge into a "Fine Dining Lodge" and we now have 20 members wishing to join. The good news is that the Lodge will celebrate its 75th year in September and on the evening, I shall be attending officially and will assist in the handing over the Warrant to Richard Cox, who will become the 1st Master at the reinvention of the Lodge.

Hopefully, we shall soon be back to attending actual meetings. Our official visits are quite extensive with Anniversaries, Banner Dedications and Lodge of Instruction Festivals. It will be good to start visiting again and hopefully dine afterwards.

Brethren, change is necessary and today we say goodbye to W. Bro.'s Nigel Bell, Kevan Brookes and Colin Upton. Nigel has been involved actively with the secretariat office for 13 years as Assistant, Deputy and Provincial Secretary and I wish to place on record our grateful thanks to Nigel for his unstinting and loyal devotion to this Province. Likewise, to Kevan Brookes who has been Assistant Secretary for 6 years and has been invaluable to me, not just in the Mark but in the Royal & Select Masters and to Colin Upton also 6 years and has re-established the duties of Registrar which had been missing for so long. Brethren, their services have been invaluable to myself and this Province and we thank them so much.

This year Grand Rank Appointments and Promotions are as follows:

**Active Appointments**

W. Bro. Adrian Cleightonhills Dep.G.D.C. W. Bro. Malcolm Lloyd G.S.D. W. Bro. Steve Groeger G.J.D. W. Bro. Ian MacGrain G.Stwd.

**First Appointments**

W. Bro. John Peterkin P.A.G.D.C. W. Bro. Robert Walsh P.A.G.D.C. W. Bro. Paul Hillyard P.A.G.D.C. W. Bro. Guy Sudron P.G.Std.B.

**Promotions**

V. W. Bro. David Russell P.G.J.O. W. Bro. Robert Brown P.G.S.D. W. Bro. Michael Geddes P.G.J.D. W. Bro. Ian Small P.G.J.D. W. Bro. Alan Krzysica P.G.J.D. W. Bro. Paul Adams P.G.J.D.

**Special Field Promotions**

W. Bro. Patrick Burridge P.G.Std.B. By the Pro Grand Master.

V.W. Bro. David Smith PGM 50 years in mark Masonry

W. Bro. Arthur Hawthorne PG Std B. 60 years in Mark Masonry

Congratulations to you all and hopefully you will be invested at the September meeting at Great Queens Street. Brethren I'm sure you are all aware that Mark Grand Lodge has reduced the Grand Lodge dues by £10 per member for one year and of course the Province have reduced the dues and fees by 50% for a second year. I hope you consider this as a thank you for your support and assistance during the Pandemic.

The 2026 MBF Festival 2026 is getting closer, and we now have five years to raise as much money as we can. With your support I know we will show how generous this Province is towards a very worthy cause. Our Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W. Bro. Nigel Wilkinson has already sent out details of ways to donate by regular giving or signing up for Stewardship for £100. Nigel is always happy to pop along and give an interesting talk on charity and we have W. Bro. Adrian Bolton, the Assistant Charity Steward who will be responsible for the South Island.

Next year it is hoped we can resume the Golf Day at Paultons Park and I welcome any suggestions for fund raising. W. Bro. Richard Cox has kindly offered his garden once again for a Garden Party. As you know the Provincial Wardens have been very busy entertaining us this year and thanks to you, they have raised magnificent sums of money for Charity totalling £7000 and details of their fund raising will published shortly. W. Bro. Simon Lancaster has been very helpful in raising £10,400 for The Provincial Team to carry out a Mark and RAM Ceremony this coming year to the winners who are Winchester Mark and Oakley RAM, once again Brethren thank you.

Brethren, I now have a volunteer to run a Mark & RAM regalia shop in this Province and I thank Ian Glister for his generous offer to assist. Please get in touch with Ian Glister, details to follow.

Our Festival Committee are now meeting on a regular basis to plan ahead for fund raising and selecting a venue for the Festival in 2026.

In 2023, this Province will be hosting the Grand Masters Lodge of Instruction and it is hoped the venue will be "Sherwoods" of Eastleigh, again news to follow.

Brethren, it has been a strange year, we have lost many Brethren and friends during the Pandemic, but hopefully we are on the way onwards and upwards.

Malcolm Lloyd has been a great inspiration to us with his "Letters from Andover" and his care and concern for those who need someone to say "We are here if you need us". Thank you, Malcolm.

Finally, Brethren, I have been very fortunate to have such a great team during my time as Provincial Grand Master and I thank you all for your friendship and support in making this Province the success it is.

God Bless you all.

## Regalia Shop

Have you got any spare regalia? Ian Glister has volunteered to run a pre-owned Regalia Shop in this Province with the proceeds going to the 2026 MBF Festival. Please get in touch with Ian Glister at [pglmmhantsiow@outlook.com](mailto:pglmmhantsiow@outlook.com)

Items will be sold at a fair price and the purchaser will be asked to make the payment in favour of the MBF. If they are a taxpayer and they complete a Gift Aid form for one-off payments, it will not only boost the donation by 25% but also count towards their personal honorifics.

## The Provincial Grand Master's Mark Lodge of Instruction South



The Lodge has undertaken 4 Virtual practices via the Zoom Platform, hosted by W. Bro A Latter, since the beginning of March 2021, our average attendance being 15. The practices are supported by all the Mark Lodges on the Island by Brethren who have yet to achieve the Chair of Adoniram and Past Masters.

Those Brethren who have yet to pass through the Chair, by rotation, occupy the offices relative to their future role within their Lodge together with undertaking the Signs, Working Tools & Conclusion; the Past Masters present carry out the less significant roles. Meetings are planned for May & June and are open to all Island Mark Masons.

**W.Bro. Vernon Gibbs, P.Prov.G.J.O., Secretary**

## 2026 Festival – The MBF and you

Our Provincial Charity Steward has published a guide to how you can support the Mark Benevolent Fund as we head towards our 2026 Festival. Find the guide [here](#) and other relevant forms on our charity page [here](#). Indeed, any individual that does make their first donation to the MBF for a Festival Jewel under this scheme will automatically qualify as a Life Governor of the MBF for which you will receive a breast jewel. You will therefore receive both your Life Governor jewel and the Festival jewel. Two for the price of one? That's a bargain!

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