

Mark Matters



I hope you enjoyed the first issue of our new Nottinghamshire Mark newsletter 'Mark Matters' and that this issue will make you more aware of what is happening around the Province.

You may recall that in May, I together with a team from Nottingham took part in the Mark Benevolent Fund Charity Walk around the Princess Diana Memorial Walk through the Parks in London. We had a very enjoyable day as did all the participants from all around the Country - the final total raised was an amazing £437,934. The Mark Benevolent Fund have decided to use these funds to provide new motor-bikes for the National Association of Blood Bikes; a very worthy charity and I look forward to having the great pleasure of making a presentation to the Nottinghamshire branch. I trust that you received a copy of the Mark Benevolent Newsletter via your Lodge Secretaries which does highlight the donations made by the Fund; one major initiative this year is the launch of the partnership with St. John Ambulance with a pledge amount of over £3,000,000 for new ambulances and support vehicles.

The Mark Benevolent Fund has also pledged £30,100 to my Nottingham Mencap Appeal, which together with the monies raised within the Province takes the total raised so far to just over £51,000; my grateful thanks to all of you who have and continue to support this appeal.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Chris Adkin is assisting our Editor in producing this newsletter and I am indebted to them both for their efforts.

Do please keep supporting your Craft Lodges and keep an ever watchful eye open for prospective Candidates for Advancement into Mark Masonry.

R W Bro Peter M Ball
Provincial Grand Master
Nottinghamshire Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons



Donations can be sent directly to W Bro Alan Naylor, the Benevolent Fund Administrator; who can also supply regular 'giving' forms. W Bro Naylor can be contacted by email at naylor.alank@gmail.com

Thank you once again for your continued support...

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**W Bro JD Gibson, Celebrating
50 Years of Mark Membership**



Provincial Grand Mark Lodge

At the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge on 30th March 2017, the Provincial Grand Master presided over a most enjoyable and successful gathering of over 200 Mark Master Masons followed by a very convivial Festive Board in the Belgrave Suite. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this meeting; and congratulations to all those who received appointment or promotion in Provincial Grand Rank.

On Tuesday 14th November 2017 the Provincial Team will be making a ceremonial visit to the Worksop Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners to dedicate their Lodge Banner. The Worshipful Commander happens to be our Provincial Grand Secretary, W Bro Malcolm Beecroft, whilst the dedication and oration is to be delivered by VWBro Rev John Burgess. On this special occasion we shall be inviting our Ladies to join us to witness the dedication ceremony and to dine with us at Worksop Masonic Hall. This is also a great opportunity to invite any Mark Masons who have not yet joined the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners to come along and get a feel for this beautiful and welcoming Degree. Full details will be circulated to all Lodge Secretaries in good time, so put the date in your diary now!

Each year some of the newly appointed Provincial Officers seek clarification on how they “fit in” to the Provincial Ceremonial Visits to Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. This is a perfectly reasonable question, so hopefully the following explanation will clarify the position for us all.

Provincial Grand Mark Lodge administers the RAM Degree in our Province and as such the same set of Mark Provincial Officers represent the Province at RAM meetings if they are members of the RAM Degree. It therefore follows that the Provincial Grand Senior Deacon, for example, will also take that same role in ceremonial visits to RAM Lodges; provided that he is a Royal Ark Mariner, but regardless of whether he is a recently Elevated new member or a holder of RAM Provincial Grand Rank. Some Mark Offices are not represented in the RAM Degree, such as the Overseers, but the holders of these Active Offices for the year do form part of the Provincial Team when visiting RAM Lodges; again subject to the Brother being a member of the RAM Degree.

In an attempt to strip away a further layer of confusion, every member of the Provincial Team who is a member of RAM will wear their personal RAM regalia appropriate to their own RAM rank (and not their Mark rank) when attending a Ceremonial Visit to a RAM Lodge. There are no Provincial collars or jewels worn in RAM Lodges (except for the Provincial Grand Master and his Deputy).

Social Diary Dates:

Wednesday 15th November 2017

The **Mark Cantonese Buffet Evening** at Springwater in Calverton has become an annual tradition and this year it will take place on Wednesday 15th November 2017. An occasion for friends and family to be a part of the fun and happiness of all we do in Mark Masonry. The popularity of this evening grows each year so book your places with W Bro Peter Allan.

Masonic Diary Dates:

Tuesday 14th November 2017

Banner dedication at Worksop RAM (see above)

Monday 27th November 2017

Visit to the Nottingham Lodge of RAM by the Howe Lodge of RAM from Leicestershire, together with attendance by the Provincial Officers of both Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.

Thursday 21st December 2017

Visit to the Trivona Mark Lodge in the Province of Derbyshire, meeting at Long Eaton, by members and visitors of the Chilwell Mark Lodge, together with the Provincial Officers of both Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

From around the Province

On Monday June 26th 2017, **Ribblesdale Lodge of Mark Master Masons** became the first **Daylight Mark Lodge** to meet in the Province. The meeting was attended by some twenty Brethren, including the Provincial Grand Senior Warden, W Bro Peter Pickering. There followed a thought provoking and very informative presentation entitled "Back to the Quarries" by W Bro Phil Parker ProvAGDC which was followed by a very convivial Festive Board luncheon. W Bro Steve Bott (WM) said: "We are hoping that our converting to Daylight Workings will have a two-fold benefit. Firstly, we hope that the Lodge will enjoy an upturn in interest and ultimately, membership and hopefully more Candidates for Advancement. Secondly, we hope that as the Province's first and at this time only Daylight Mark Lodge, it will prove to be a useful and unique resource to the Province."

For those interested in visiting, joining or being Advanced into a Daylight Lodge, Ribblesdale Lodge meets at Goldsmith Street at 11 a.m. on the fourth Monday in April, June and September (which is also the Installation Meeting). Please contact Steve Bott on 07811 807351 or David Barber on 07970 044103.

Arthur Morley Custance Lodge are holding their Annual Lunch at Newark on Sunday 26th November and welcome all Brethren to join them. Please contact grahamjones@easynet.co.uk At their January meeting they are having a lecture from Mario Rizzardi DepGOrg, the eminent musical lecturer.

Celebrating 50 Years in the Mark

On Wednesday 20th September, RW Bro Peter Ball was delighted to present a 50 Year certificate to W Bro John Gibson at the meeting of Carnarvon Mark Lodge, which was a very happy and joyous occasion to mark this milestone.

Grand Mark Lodge

At the Investiture Meeting of Grand Mark Lodge on Tuesday 13th June 2017, the Grand Master Most Worshipful Brother H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO presided and made the following appointments and promotions to brethren of Nottinghamshire:

Promoted to PGSW and re-appointed as Grand Treasurer; RW Bro John Howitt
 Promoted to PGJO; VW Bro Christopher Adkin
 Promoted to PGJD; W Bro Peter Zipser
 Appointed to PAGDC; W Bros Joe Ingram and Bruce Routledge
 Appointed to PGStB; W Bros John Hayes and Rex Wyer
 Appointed as a Grand Steward; W Bro John Bassford

Congratulations to all of these Brethren on their well deserved Grand Rank appointments. The annual investiture meeting saw changes in the leadership, as well as the Ceremonial and Secretarial teams at Grand Mark Lodge. The day was completed with a most enjoyable Festive Board providing good food, good fellowship and plenty of wine!



Meet the team - Provincial Grand Secretary, W Bro Malcolm Beecroft PAGDC

Born at Mansfield not long after the war (second) and Dad was licensee of the Ravensdale Hotel. Moved to a Derbyshire 'Pit' Village where parents had a very good pub. Miners worked hard and drank hard, appreciating a good pint of Mansfield Bitter which flowed like a river at weekends. I remember Dad cutting a small hatch in the clubroom door for some secret meetings – "R.A.O.B" as I recall. By fourteen, I could 'pull a good pint', tap, spile, tilt and change barrels – a fully qualified cellarman. Happy times with the Colliers. Worksop College and then onto Nottingham Trent University Faculty of Law. Then a complete education in life as an operational Police Officer for 33 years. Enjoyed too much sport at College with the games master being Captain of the British Lions and not enough academia.

Good times in the Police Service? Yes we had the best and I pity serving Officers today. Greatest pleasure? – being an operational detective in real time 'Life on Mars.' 'Wouldn't get away with it these days' is very true and being a lorry driver on several aid convoys to Bosnia was also 'fun' with a serious purpose. Retirement from the Police and a few legal qualifications gives me Law Society Accreditation to be paid to represent poor and distressed souls in need of my advice whilst in criminal detention. I married Gill in 1969 and she still puts up with me going out several times each week. Two children have given us four grand-children, with Grandad duties great fun. When time permits we fly to our Spanish bolthole, and we are both highly honoured to be Past Captains of Sherwood Forest Golf Club.

Craft:

Initiated into Elliott Lodge No. 8569 in 1992, WM in 2002 followed by over a decade as Lodge Secretary. Appointed ProvSGD in 2009 and promoted to PPrJGW in 2015. Joined Old Worksopian Lodge No. 6963 in 1995, WM 2005, currently Lodge Secretary.

Royal Arch:

Exalted in Ashfield Chapter No. 2412 in 1998, M.E.Z. in 2010, currently Scribe E. Appointed ProvGStB in 2015 and promoted to PastAsstGSoj in 2016.

Mark:

Advanced in the Mansfield Manor Mark Lodge No. 654 in 1996, WM in 2006, currently Treasurer. Joined Arthur Morley Custance Lodge of Installed Mark Masters No 1808 in 2010. Joined Provincial Grand Secretaries Lodge No 1641 in 2015. Honorary Member of Notts. Combined Provincial Stewards Lodge No. 1972. Appointed ProvGIG in 2008, ProvGSwdB in 2009, Deputy ProvGSecretary in 2010, and promoted to PProvGMO in 2013. Appointed as Provincial Grand Secretary and served this Office since March 2015. Appointed **PAGDC** in 2015.

Royal Ark Mariners:

Elevated in Ashfield Lodge No.1146 in 2005, joined Worksop Lodge No.810 and currently Worshipful Commander having been installed in June 2017.

Rose Croix:

Perfected into Trinity Chapter RC No. 566 in 2011, currently Second General.

Allied Masonic Degrees:

Received into the Maun Council No.215 in 2013.

The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners



The Provincial Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners was held on Tuesday 30th May 2017 at which meeting RW Bro Peter Ball was pleased to invest the following Brethren as holders of Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Rank:

W Bro PR Bowes
W Bro CC Bush
W Bro DP Mace

W Bro LN Page
W Bro BE Routledge
W Bro A Sears

Congratulations to each of these Brethren and please keep in mind that any member wearing the rainbow jewel in your Mark Lodge will be pleased to discuss this beautiful and important degree with you – please ask us!
