



## Save the Date



Please note your diaries - this year's Mark weekend will be held at the St. George's Hotel, Llandudno over the weekend of the 7th and 8th October.

This is the time when we come together with our "Mark" friends to enjoy a relaxing weekend, to renew acquaintances and ENJOY ourselves. The St. George's Hotel is a new venue for us, but is one which promises to live up to our highest expectations.

More information will follow as we get nearer the date – **so watch this space.**

## Mark Grand Lodge



On Tuesday, 8 March, Brethren from across the Constitution arrived at Freemasons' Hall, London, for the first communication of Mark Grand Lodge of 2022.

Despite there still being some understandable anxiety around travelling into central London, and attending large gatherings, there was a good turnout for this meeting. It was strange to reflect that, two years previously, this same meeting had been overshadowed by a new unknown illness that was spreading across Europe. By the date of the

meeting, we were coming up with ever more imaginative ways of greeting each other without shaking hands.

In his address, the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, took the theme of 'A Helping Hand' to highlight the need for Brethren to assist those who may not yet be comfortable returning to meetings adding that "A Helping Hand, to enable members to return, needs thought, action and sensitivity.

Click on the Grand Lodge Logo for the full address



## Mark Emergency Relief Fund



At the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday 8th March, the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, announced that the Mark Benevolent Fund is donating £25,000 to the Mark Inspectorate of Romania who have been working proactively in many ways to provide support and relief to their neighbours in Ukraine.

The Inspectorate will account to Grand Secretary for the disbursement of these funds. In the main the monies will be used to support the Inspectorate's efforts in supplying transportation, accommodation, medical, food and clothing supplies to Ukrainian refugees.

A Relief Chest in the name of the **Mark Emergency Relief Fund** has been set up to receive donations from those brethren who wish to add their own support by making a donation.

If you would like to make a donation, please follow these simple guidelines to enabling funds to be transferred efficiently to where they are needed most:

- **For individual donations of less than £100** - please make arrangements with your Mark Lodge for these to be collected centrally and then for the Lodge to make one consolidated donation into the Fund. These consolidated donations will count toward the Lodge's M.B.F. honorifics, rather than each individual.
- **Donations of £100 or more** may be made by individuals directly into the fund and will count towards the Brother's M.B.F. Honorifics
- **In all correspondence**, please make sure you donating to the following Relief Chest:

Name: Mark Emergency Fund

Relief Chest Number: MMM185622



## George Hargreaves 1304 Installation Ceremony

Wednesday 16th February saw a very windy night but that meant that some very important Royal Ark Mariners were blown ashore at the Rugeley Masonic Centre, Chase Golf Club.

W. Commander Michele Santopietro took the tiller of his Ark at his outgoing meeting, installing W. Commander Steve Bird as his successor.

The winds blew in none other than the Rt. W. PGM Mike Heenan who presided over the meeting with his W Bro Dave Prince, PrGSW, and W Bro Ray Nield, PrGJO, in support. W Bro Pete James, PrAGDC, did a sterling job of ensuring the Brethren were all ship shape and Bristol fashion, assembled by rank and file and giving orderly greetings to the officers of the day.

The ceremony was carried out very skillfully by Brother Mike who installed his successor in his usual calm, measured manner, reassuring everyone with his evident knowledge of the Inner Workings.

As we Royal Ark Mariners know (and Brother Mark Masons you need to join and find out) the final act really should be accompanied by a hearty drink. On this occasion Mike took rather a rather large dip into the bowl and his later libation was most welcome.

It is not W. Bro Steve Bird's first time in charge of 1304 and he received great support from the members of the lodge who took offices as requested and ensured a line of command that would benefit the lodge in future years.



The Festive Board was a very pleasant event with the Chase Caterers in fine form feeding all those who had made a safe landfall and shipped ashore for more than Bread and Water rations.

All told Brethren, a great night was had by all and once more the evenings work was a joy to be part of. What's more, it appears that two new shipmates will be joining the George Hargreaves Ark in the near future.

Visitors are always welcome at 1304 and the crew ensure an evening which their guests often choose to repeat. Fare thee well Brethren!

*Article by W.C. Steve Bird and W.C. Phil Sawyer*

## Consecration of The Provincial Grand Wardens Lodge of M.M.M. No. 2035

On Saturday, 26 February, a new Mark Lodge was Consecrated, The Provincial Grand Wardens Lodge of M.M.M. No 2035, by the Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, R.W. Bro Philip Wills, at the Masonic Rooms, Rugby.

As the name suggests, membership is open to Active and Past Active Provincial Wardens from any Province.

The Lodge was Consecrated in fine style with the scattering of Corn, Wine, Oil, and Salt. The Primus Master was then

Installed by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Andrew Armbrister, and the address to the Master given by Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Nigel Clemson.



The Consecration was followed by a lively festive board with much good humour. One of the objectives of the Lodge is to support The M.B.F. festivals and the Portal lecture, this was given a good start with over £700 being donated from a raffle and collection in support of the Almoner and M.B.F.

The next meeting of the Lodge will be on Saturday, 17 September, at Alderson House, Warwick, when V.W. Bro. Rod Taylor will give the Portal Lecture "The First Royal Mark Mason".

*Question - For no prizes whatsoever, how many past Wardens from Staffordshire & Shropshire can be seen in the picture? Answer to*

[communications@markmasonry-staffsandshrops.org.uk](mailto:communications@markmasonry-staffsandshrops.org.uk)

## The Travelling Keystone

As our Mark masonry begins to emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic, now is the time to relaunch **The Travelling Keystone**.

The idea of the Travelling Keystone is to encourage visiting between the Mark Lodges in the Province Staffordshire and Shropshire. To claim the Traveling Keystone a deputation of five or more members to include the Worshipful Master and or a Warden from one visiting lodge, must attend the meeting of the Lodge holding the Keystone.

**The Keystone is currently held by Severn Lodge No.1617** – so why not form a raiding party and claim it for your Lodge. The next meeting of “Severn” is the Installation meeting on 26th April, at Alveley, Nr Bridgnorth. You will be most welcome.



The Ground Rules are as follows:

- i) To claim the Traveling Keystone a deputation of five or more members to include the Worshipful Master and or a Warden from one visiting lodge, must attend the meeting of the Lodge holding the Keystone.
  - ii) A Lodge in possession of the Keystone may also if it wishes, take and present it to another Lodge as long as they notify that Lodge one week prior to the meeting of their intentions. Same rules re numbers apply.
- If Lodges with equal numbers of brethren visiting the Holding Lodge make a claim to the Keystone, then the Lodge that meets the furthest from the Holding Lodge takes precedence.
  - The Keystone should be claimed or presented as an item under “Any other business” on the Agenda
  - The Secretary of the Lodge giving up the Keystone should inform the Provincial Secretary where it is now residing and ensure that the accompanying ledger is completed before handing the Keystone over to the receiving lodge.
  - The Secretary receiving the Keystone shall inform the Provincial Secretary that they have the Keystone in safe keeping advising him of the next meeting of the Lodge.
  - The Provincial Secretary should make every effort to publicise the next meeting of the holding Lodge to encourage as many visitors as possible
  - The Keystone must be displayed in full view in the Lodge room of the possessing Lodge at all open lodge meetings
  - At each Annual Mark Provincial Grand Lodge meeting the Keystone should be presented to the Provincial Grand Master for the duration of the meeting by the Worshipful Master or a Warden of the Lodge holding the Keystone. The PGM will then present it to the lodge with the most dining brethren.

## See how you can save money on your regalia purchases



Colin Albrow is the man to contact if you want regalia for any masonic orders, but don't wish to pay too much for it.

Colin recycles regalia donated by Masons who have received promotions and have aprons, collars and jewels etc. that are surplus to requirements. He can often supply you with regalia that is in good order for a fraction of the price that you would pay for new items. However, if you would prefer to purchase brand new regalia he can still accommodate you and offer a saving on the amount you pay to retailers. However, the good news doesn't stop there. All profits made by Colin are put to good use and goes directly to the SSMBBA to support their charitable work. Of course to continue this laudable work Colin needs everyone to donate unused regalia to him. If you are buying or donating please waste no time in contacting Colin by emailing: [colin.masonic@gmail.com](mailto:colin.masonic@gmail.com)

## Full Provincial Visits

**All Mark Master Masons & Royal Ark Mariners are invited to attend; you are most welcome.**

**18th May 2022** - Round Table & Rotary Lodge No 1630 @ Freemasons' Hall, Crewe St, Shrewsbury - **Banner Dedication**

**9th June 2022** - Severn Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No 1617 (venue TBA) - **Elevation**

**21st September 2022** - Robert Mummery Lodge No 1304 @ Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton - **4 Provinces Meeting**

**26th September 2022** - Dartmouth Lodge No 993 @ Masonic Hall, Edward St, West Bromwich - **Advancement**

## The Provincial Grand Master's Easter Egg Hunt



Brethren attached is a letter from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, explaining the reason for the cancellation of the Easter Egg Hunt, which was planned for 3rd April 2022. Please read this letter as there is some important information, which may answer any questions you may have in respect to the cancellation of the event.

[Easter Egg Hunt Cancellation Letter](#)

