



# MAKING OUR MARK

The Newsletter of Staffordshire & Shropshire Mark Master Masons

A note from the  
Provincial Grand Master



*Dear Brethren All,*

**Cessation of Suspension of Masonic Activity**

With the gradual relaxation by the UK Government of the various Covid restrictions, and in accordance with guidance received from Mark Masons’ Hall, it appears appropriate to review the local suspension which is currently in force across Staffordshire & Shropshire.

Accordingly I am pleased to announce the cessation of the suspension with effect from Monday 17th May 2021. From that date it will be in order for Lodges to commence meeting again, but only so long as they operate within the Government restrictions which remain in force, as well as directives from Mark Masons’ Hall, and the requirements of Covid compliant Masonic meeting places.

It must remain your own individual decision whether you wish to attend meetings under these circumstances, and no pressure is to be exerted by anyone on any brother who feels unable to attend at this time.

I am grateful to all those brethren who have kept in contact with their fellow-brethren over this difficult period, and let us hope it will not be too long before we can all with confidence meet and enjoy each other’s fraternal company once again.

Keep safe and well.

*Kindest regards,*

*Nihs Heenan* 

Provincial Grand Master

# Provincial Grand Lodge of MMM of Staffordshire & Shropshire The work of the Executive



Brethren often ask “Who are the Provincial Executive?”, “What do you do?”, “how often do you meet?” To answer these and other questions about the work of the executive team this article provide some insights on what is undertaken and how the pandemic has changed the way in which the Executive operates.

The Executive consists of the Provincial Grand Master, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Secretary and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. Additionally, other Brethren will attend from time to time to provide an update on some aspect of the Province e.g. The Provincial Treasurer to provide his report prior to its submission to the Province. Before the pandemic the Executive would meet 4 times a year in February, May, August and November. However, Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the way we work - mainly because it has not been possible to meet in person. Notwithstanding, the Executive has undertaken its meetings via Zoom and in fact has been meeting on a regular basis approximately every 3 weeks. This has brought many benefits in that important matters requiring a discussion can now be acted upon quickly without having to wait almost 3 months for the next face to face meeting. It has been recognised by the Executive that in the fast-changing world we now live it is highly likely that post pandemic when face to face meetings will again be allowed, the Executive will continue to host their meetings with a mixture of Face to Face and Zoom.

It isn't possible to explain in detail the each and every one of the various topics that are discussed at the Executive meetings - not least because some will be of a confidential nature. However, regular topics include:

- Communication – Making our Mark and Provincial Communications
- Provincial Events / News – discussion and decisions on Full Provincial Visits and the Installation schedule for the Province
- Grand Lodge of MMM – consideration on directives from Grand Lodge and impact on the Province and what further guidance may well be needed to Lodges / Brethren. Discussion will also take place on Initiatives that may well be happening in other Provinces and whether such Initiatives are useful for the Province of Staffordshire and Shropshire.
- Provincial Grand Lodge – Appointments and Promotions process, preparation for PGL each year.
- Social Events
- There will also be temporary items that will occur and can cover a multitude of subjects eg. Charitable donations from the Province, review of Lodges with low numbers, recruitment and retention.

As you might expect, discussions usually result in an ‘Action’ list which is then monitored and updated from one meeting to the next.

As with all organisations it is highly important that our role is not seen as all one way; we are open to ideas and suggestions. We urge all Brethren to put forward any suggestions or items for discussion to any one of the Executive team. You can be assured it will receive due consideration.

# Selwyn John Burton

## The Provincial Grand Secretary of Staffordshire & Shropshire Mark Master Masons



Selwyn was initiated into St. Edwards Lodge 966, Leek on 28th April 1983 and served as the Worshipful Master in 1993, he has been the lodge Secretary, Treasurer and Director of Ceremonies.

His Mark Lodge is St. Edwards 1182 also in Leek. Selwyn was Advanced in December 1985 and served as the Worshipful Master in 1994 and 2004. He currently a Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden as well as Provincial Secretary a role he was appointed to in October 2018.

Selwyn was Elevated into Royal Ark mariners in December 1996 and was Worshipful Commander in 2002 and was appointed to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in December 2018. He is active in the Craft as Provincial Communications Officer and is a Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden, Royal Arch as Provincial Scribe 'N', and Knights Templar as Past Provincial Almoner, he is also a member of the 30° in Rose Croix. A retired detective chief inspector, (who also served three periods as temporary superintendent, Deputy Divisional Commander) and is now a parish clerk, he has a BSc (Hons) in Policing and Police Studies from Portsmouth University and a Post Graduate Certificate in Management from Staffordshire University and is a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management. He is a black belt in Ju-Jitsu and enjoys going to the gym, walking the dog, DIY, computer work and chess.

**Lodge Secretaries were recently told about the arrangements for notifying nominations for capital grants to hospices in memory of HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.**

**Don't forget to send your Lodge nominations to Grand Lodge by 31st May**



### Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Staffordshire and Shropshire

Right Worshipful Brother Michael Richard Heenan  
Provincial Grand Master

From :  
The Provincial Grand Master  
R.W. Bro Michael R. Heenan

Stokesay,  
91, Tixall Road,  
Stafford,  
ST16 3UY

10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

*Dear Bro Secretary,*

#### **CAPITAL GRANT TO HOSPICES in Memory of HRH, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh**

You will have had the e-mail concerning the above from Mark Masons' Hall.

Can I confirm that it is not the intention of the Province to make submissions on behalf of Lodges, so please submit your nominations direct via the online portal.

You will note the hospice selected should be from within our Province, be supported by the members of your Lodge, and the nomination should be submitted by **31<sup>st</sup> May 2021**.

This is a great opportunity to promote Mark Masonry, and once agreed appropriate publicity will be arranged at local level.

Keep safe and well.

*Kindest regards,*

*Michael Heenan*   
Provincial Grand Master