

The Mark Benevolent Fund - Warwickshire Festival

The last occasion on which Warwickshire was in festival was 1982; that year the Brethren of the Province raised £162,000. Recent Festivals in Devonshire and Berkshire have raised £1.012million and £666,666 respectively.

We are now in Festival once more with celebrations culminating in 2027. Each Province is responsible for organising a Festival once every 35 to 40 years; it is a less onerous obligations than in the Craft where they come around once every 10 or so years.

We have made a fantastic start to our Festival with the MBF Walk which took place in May 2017 giving the appeal a fantastic 'kick start' with almost £20,000 donated by Brethren and Lodges.

But there is a long way to go and the best way to support is through regular giving. If every Brother were to give £10 per month we would achieve a similar result to those recent ones. A regular giving form can be obtained here: - [Download Form](#)

or by contacting the Provincial Charity Steward, W Bro Nigel Clemson, r.n.clemson@sky.com. Please make sure that you give instructions for your contributions to be credited to the Warwickshire 2027 Festival.

Many thanks for your support.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Warwickshire



An Introduction to the 2027 Mark Benevolent Fund Festival

[Ready more ...](#)



The Mark Benevolent Fund - a short history

The Mark Benevolent Fund owes its being to the then Deputy Grand Master and future Grand Master, Reverend George Raymond Portal.

He is said to have despised the fact that access to funding for those in need took so long to administer but faced opposition to the idea of a Fund from those who felt that the idea was rather more radical and progressive than general thinking of the time. To him any delay in providing assistance was wrong; his mantra being 'Bis dat qui cito dat', he gives twice who gives promptly. With this guiding principle and notwithstanding the opposition to the fund was established in 1868 with the aim of helping poor and distressed Mark Master Masons, their wives or widows, their children and their sisters. 150 years on almost £7million has been distributed to petitioners.

So how to raise money for this work? The Craft had been holding Festivals for many years and in August 1869 the first Mark Benevolent Fund Festival was held at the Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court. 53 members attended the event raising £79, around £55,000 today.

The Mark Benevolent Fund - today

The Fund continues to support Mark Master Masons and their families. The original mantra remains but it has broadened its original objective and now supports charities within the wider community. In the recent past a major grant of £1.6million has been made to the RNLI to help fund a new life boat,

Addenbrooke's Hospital Trust received over £2million for machines to help in the diagnosis of prostate cancer and a pledge of £2.9million was made to Hope for Tomorrow Cancer Charity for the purchase of mobile chemotherapy units throughout the UK; this programme comes to an end in 2018, the 150th anniversary of the Fund.



In May 2017 a walk undertaken by teams from across Mark Provinces and organised by the MBF raised over £437,000 and enabled the Fund to commit over £300,000 for 17 Blood Bike charities to acquire 9 Blood Cars and 8 Blood Bikes.

The Mark Benevolent Fund - what next



The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the Mark Benevolent Fund are proud to have a longstanding relationship with the Order of St John and St John Ambulance. At the turn of the

Millennium, the fund provided a significant contribution to help replace the organisation's fleet of ambulance vehicles.

These vehicles have served beyond the call of duty over the last 17 years but technology and innovation in the world of medical health care has progressed at a phenomenal pace during this time. Once again, the Mark Benevolent Fund has joined in partnership with the charity and pledged £3million enabling a two-year programme providing up to 52 replacement state of the art ambulances and support vehicles. All these vehicles can sometimes be the difference between a life lost and a life saved.