



Warwickshire Mark

September 2021

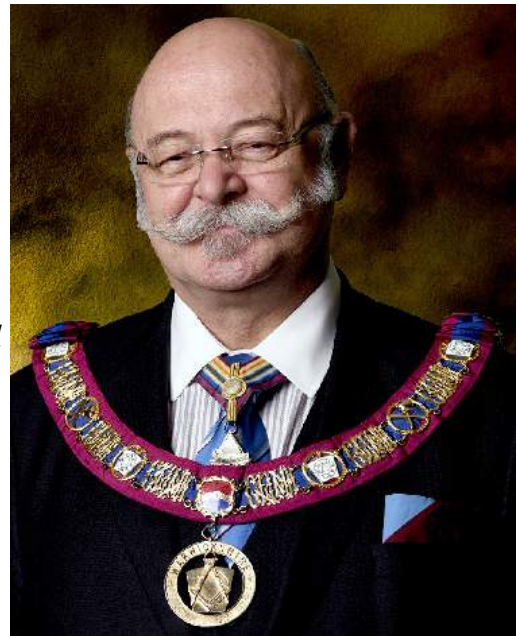
Message from the Provincial Grand Master

R.W.Bro Phillip Wills

Lifting of the Local Suspension

Earlier this year I issued this statement in the monthly newsletter:

'Brethren, you will no doubt remember, that on the 25th September last year I imposed a local suspension of all Masonic activities in Warwickshire. The reason this was done was to prevent Secretaries and Scribes having to produce and circulate a Lodge Summons, only to have to declare the meeting cancelled. That suspension remains in effect and will probably stay in place until 31st August 2021, but will be kept under review during the coming weeks.'



Well here we are, and yes the Local Suspension ended at mid-night on Tuesday 31st August and we are all raring to go...or are we?

There may be a good number of Brethren who are still anxious about meeting in large numbers or potentially being involved in physical or even close contact with others during our ceremonies; there may be concerns about the procedure at Festive Board or even changing areas. I would ask you all to explore any issue that may arise so as to ensure as far as possible the best solution for all; but let me reiterate; *'that No-one should feel coerced into returning to Lodge activities until they feel safe and comfortable to do so!*

I can confirm that the Rulers, Principle Officers and members of the DC team are all happy and determined to resume Installation duties and indeed to meet the demands of the extra meetings.

Brethren, I look forward to seeing you all in due time and enjoy your company in the 'Magic of the Mark'.

Until then stay safe.

Summer Barbeque

Sunday 8th August saw the resumption of Warwickshire Mark Social events with the much awaited Summer BBQ; and despite the weather...which was a bit 'iffy' to say the least was a resounding success.

The event enjoyed a bumper turn out with more pop-up gazebos than ever.

The entertainment was provided by the Bilton Silver Band, the Ansley Morris Dancers and throughout the day by Mad Donimic who roamed the site taking magic and fun to all.

The annual Mark skittle match was incorporated in the event this year due to the pandemic and was again contested between the Craft, Royal Arch and ourselves. It eventually came down to a single bowl shoot-out between the Craft, represented by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Peter Manning and the Royal Arch (defending champions), represented by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Philip Hall. The trophy was retained by the Royal Arch by one pin.

There was again an impressive display of classic cars thanks to members of the Square Wheels Craft Lodge again organised by W.Bro. Peter Manning.

Brethren as you are aware events such as these do not happen by chance and an awful lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes and of course during the day and I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all involved.

Let me begin by thanking the members of the Mark Social Committee led by W.Bro. Cedric Stiles who work so tirelessly to ensure we can enjoy an excellent day. The hard working Bar Staff W.Bro's. Graham Eden, Roger Milwater, Paul Rowlands and anyone else who gave assistance; also to W.Bro's, Andy Roxburgh and Roger Smith for attending to our dietary needs at the Burger Bar. I must also thank Gary Malpass for looking after the 'Door' and Roger and Nigel for organising the tombola.

An especial word of thanks much be extended to those two ladies who work so hard behind the scenes, Benesha Rattu and Laura Eden, not only in preparing the food for us but also in working so hard in helping with the physical set up on Friday and Saturday but also the breakdown after the event.

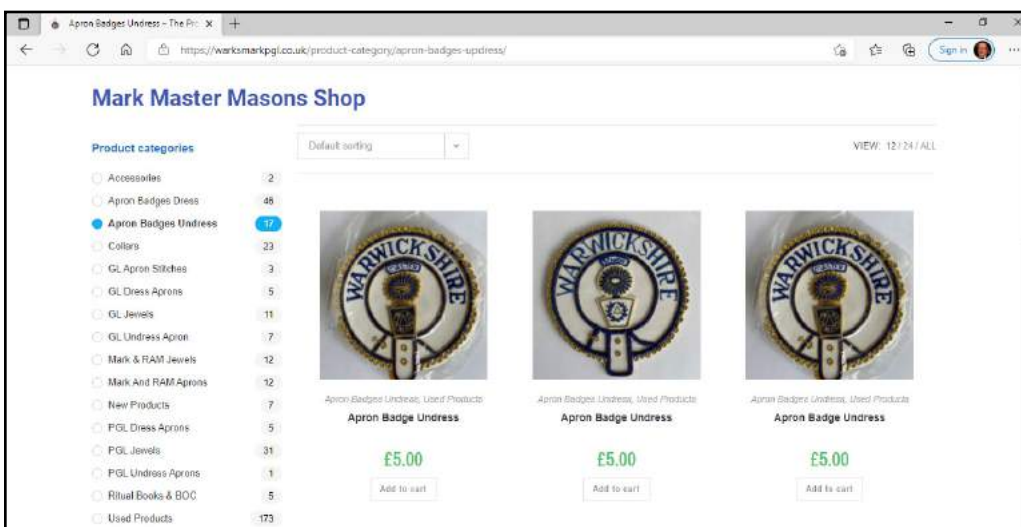
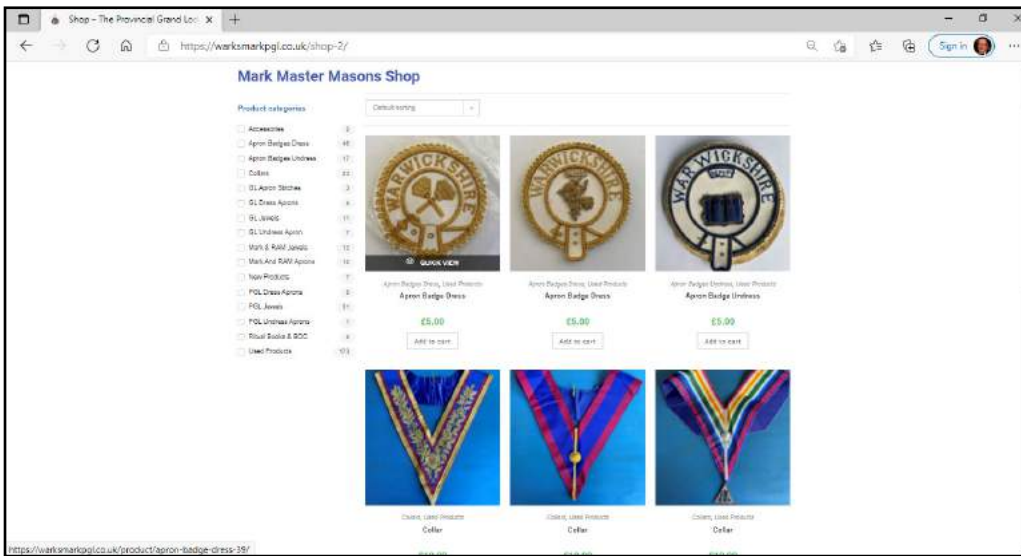




The Provincial Shop

In every issue there is always a mention of the Provincial Shop to a greater or lesser extent (see right) but this month W.Bro James Freakley the Prov.Dep.G.Sec. with responsibility for the shop (is there such a thing as a Provincial Grand Shopkeeper?) has asked for a higher profile article to feature not only those things you can't buy elsewhere like ties and coins, but also the second hand regalia that he is selling to benefit the upcoming Festival. This has come from Brothers who no longer need it and is available not only for far less than the usual regalia suppliers charge but also far more quickly—a two month lead time is not unusual and the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and indeed perhaps your own Lodge's Installation are fast approaching—and if your own Installation is close have you copies of the latest ritual books as well? If not you know where to get them from!

The current stock is shown on the provincial website at www.warksmarkpgl.co.uk—Just click on the shop tab.



Birmingham Ultra Low Emissions Zone—A Reminder

If your next trip to a Lodge meeting takes you into or through Birmingham remember that The ULEZ has been operating since the summer.

The good news is that the vast majority (>80% apparently) of vehicles are exempt including all electric, most hybrid, most petrol since about 2005 and most diesel since about 2016—but you must check on the official website to confirm that your car will not be charged.

You will not get a reminder, just a penalty charge 14 days later if you get it wrong.

<https://www.gov.uk/check-clean-air-zone-charge>

Bits and Pieces

The LOI Festival will be Saturday 9th October. It will follow the usual format of breakfast at 9am followed by demonstration at 10. for details contact the secretary:- provsec@warksmarkpgl.co.uk

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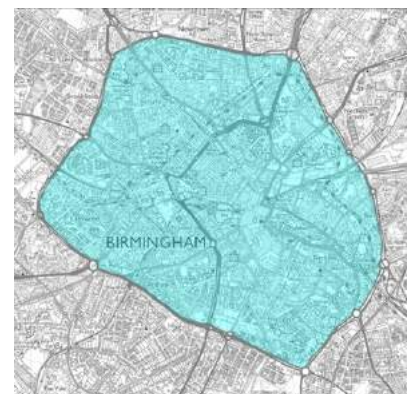
Although we are all keen to be getting back to face-to-face Mark Masonry there may be a little time before ceremonies start to happen again. If this is the case remember that the Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary (Email below) has assembled a number of lectures and talks that might fit into your programme planning.

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Items available at the Mark Provincial Shop include the ritual books, Warwickshire Mark Provincial Tie and the Warwickshire Mark token. If you have items of regalia that you no longer need and would like to donate for sale for brethren to purchase with proceeds going to the 2027 festival please post them to James Freakley, Midland Flooring Unit 9 The Cedars Coton Road Coleshill B46 2HH.

Any questions about the shop or products please contact

James Freakley,
provdepgsec@warksmarkpgl.co.uk



On being Deputy Provincial Grand Master – by Mike Saxon P.Dep.Prov.G.M

What! Me, Deputy Provincial Grand Master? However did that happen, I hear you ask. Well, you and me both. Maybe it was my Machiavellian plan in which I ruthlessly murdered my rivals to get the top job. Watch out Phil. You are next! But no, not at all. I can assure you there was no plan, and no bodies have been found (yet!)

Maybe I have been in a life-size arcade game where, if you press all the right buttons you go to the next level. That is probably a bit more like it. I have definitely pressed some buttons in my time, but only ever accidentally, and never in the right order. Yet here I am.

I once said to the PGM, rather flippantly, that I liked being Deputy Provincial Grand Master as I get all of the influence and none of the responsibility. If only that were true! Yes of course I get some influence some of the time, but the PGM makes ALL of the decisions. Some you win, some you lose, and then you move on to the next hot topic. Even when you are near the top of the tree you are still just one member of a team of people all dedicated to the Mark, all wanting to make it better than it has ever been, and better than anything else around. That is both the challenge and the reward.

There are responsibilities that go with the job, but they are not burdensome. One of the Chains will preside at every Installation meeting, and all Advancements and Elevations if at all possible, but since there are three Chains I get one third of the workload, and it's not really work because going to visit the lodges is the best part of the job. We get to be entertained by the lodge members performing ritual, and that can be great fun. There is a bit for the Presiding Officer to do in delivering the Address to the Master or Commander, but once you have done it a few times it gets easier, and there is always the escorting DC on hand who, in theory, knows it better than you and will jump in with the right prompt at the right time, hopefully! There are, as well, the parish notes to give at the festive board, which vary from meeting to meeting, but I take a checklist with me in an effort to ensure I don't miss anything important. Above all at the meetings it is important to try and get to speak to everyone in attendance. I like to do that before the meeting starts in order to reassure and encourage the participants who can be worried about the task ahead. A few quiet words can often ease their tension. Best of all I get to welcome the candidates to the Province and to congratulate them on their foresight in joining such a fantastic Order as the Mark.

If there was a written job description for the role of Deputy PGM it would probably be quite short and say something like *"support the PGM; support the Province; and do whatever the PGM tells you to do."* There are times when I do actually have to be substitute for the PGM, sometimes at short notice, but those occasions are few and far between, and mostly local, although I did once have to go to London to attend a meeting of PGMs. An interesting day out! I also get to visit other Provinces at their annual meetings and fly the flag for Warwickshire. There are other less exciting things to do, like attending Executive and other committee meetings which are nonetheless important in the smooth running of the Province.

When I was first appointed Deputy, at the PGMs Installation in 2017, one of the visiting Provincial Secretaries, who I knew well from my days as a Provincial Secretary, saw me clearing up papers from the tables after lunch. He said that now I was Deputy PGM I shouldn't be doing that, and I told him that Deputy PGM was the same as Deputy Secretary, except that now I get to sit on the top table. I see the role as being a support for all levels within the Province, and I am happy to give that support whenever and wherever it is needed.

Please note that Mike's article was written before his retirement as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.



Ron Albutt Lodge of MMM Meeting 31st August 2021

Scheduling a Lodge Meeting a week early sounds like a good idea when the usual date clashes with Grand Lodge at Mark Mason's Hall, particularly when you are the Provincial Grand Steward's Lodge as is the case with the Ron Albutt Lodge No.1818 where many members may wish to attend the London Meeting. The only issue is that the meeting then had to open with three dispensations! Firstly to change the date of the Meeting, secondly to hold the Meeting during the Provincial suspension and thirdly to allow W.Bro Joe McCollum to be installed when already in the chair of two other Lodges of MMM. During a very enjoyable meeting W.Bro Mike Grillage, as outgoing Worshipful Master, installed W.Bro. Joe in exemplary manner and with Mark Masonry opening up everything looks set fair for this Lodge and hopefully the rest of the Mark and RAM Lodges in the Province.

The Duties We Owe to Mark Masonry in General

A commentary of snippets from the Constitutions and Regulations of the Order.

115. (i) Every Lodge has the power of framing by-laws for its government provided that they are not inconsistent with the Constitutions and Regulations. The by-laws must be submitted to the General Board – in Provinces or Districts through the Provincial or District Grand Master – for the approval of the Committee, and when approved a fair copy must be sent to the Grand Secretary for registration.

(ii) No alteration of, or addition to, the by-laws of a Lodge shall be made unless notice of a motion for such alteration or addition be given at a meeting of the Lodge, and the summons for the next meeting, which shall be circulated at least seven days before the date of such meeting, contain or be accompanied by a copy of such alteration or addition. If such alteration or addition is approved by a simple majority, with or without amendment, at such meeting, the by-laws as amended shall forthwith be submitted to the General Board as above, and if approved they shall thereupon become of force without need for confirmation at a subsequent meeting, unless the existing by-laws require such confirmation or the General Board directs that they shall be submitted for confirmation.

(iii) Should the new by-laws as passed by the Lodge differ from the copy on, or sent with, the summons, the General Board may, if it think fit, require the by-laws to be submitted for confirmation to a further meeting of the Lodge.

(iv) By-laws, or any alteration thereof, which have been approved by the General Board, shall be deemed for all purposes to be valid and to have been validly enacted and no question of any irregularity in procedure shall thereafter be raised. Provided that if it shall thereafter appear to the General Board that, by reason of changes in the Constitutions and Regulations or other cause, the by-laws of a Lodge contain anything inconsistent therewith, the General Board may withdraw its approval and require the Lodge, whether or not it be a Province or District, to amend its by-laws to bring them into harmony with the Constitutions and Regulations.

Lodge by-laws must be approved by both the Provincial Grand Master and the General Board at Mark Master Masons before they come into effect. Remember - every Brother is entitled to a copy of the by-laws at their Advancement and again at Installation. Grand Lodge produces template by-laws which make sure that nothing contained within them is contrary to the constitutions of the order. It's a good idea to revisit by-laws occasionally to make sure they are still relevant and up-to-date.

99. The Master is responsible for the due observance of the by-laws of the Lodge over which he presides, a copy of which shall be presented to him on his installation.

Most importantly, it is the Master (or commander of RAM Lodge) who is responsible for making sure that the Lodge and it's members conduct their business in line with their by-laws. It's therefore important that a newly Installed Master makes sure he is well informed on both the constitutions and the Lodge by-laws.

Provincial Golf Day Results—Hearsall Golf Club 9th August

First Cliff Bull; Second Pete Rana; Third David Evans; Fourth Dennis Trent; Pairs Paul Rowlands & Cliff Bull; Wooden spoon (last man) Peter Ayris



Editor's Final Note

Once again I have to say a great big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Warwickshire Mark. The next issue will hopefully be with you at the end of September/early October but that does depend upon contributions and every member of Mark and RAM is welcome to contribute.

As Mark Masonry continues to come to life, please let the editor know what you and your Lodges are doing, not just the date and time, but also what is happening—ceremonies, lectures or special events.

Please send your contributions (or any other news) to comms@warksmarkpgl.co.uk