



Warwickshire Mark

August 2021

Important Changes to the Provincial Executive

From the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. P.Wills

After a combined total of 16 years of active service in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Warwickshire, V. W. Bro. Mike Saxon will retire as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in November.

Mike's Provincial journey began back in 1995 when he was appointed Provincial Grand Steward, by the then Provincial Grand Master, Rt. W. Bro. Robert Giles Russell. He was promoted to Provincial Grand Sword Bearer the following year. In 2006 he was promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden.

In 2007 Mike was appointed in Grand Lodge to the rank of, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; later that year Mike also found himself back in active duties as the Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary, an office he held for 5 years, until 2012 when he was appointed as the Provincial Grand Secretary.

In 2014 Mike was promoted in Grand Lodge to Past Grand Senior Deacon. The following year Mike was Appointed as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master; and two years later as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

V. W. Bro. Mike has not only carried the duties of the various offices held with distinction, but at the same time holding very senior office in other Orders; Deputy District Grand Supreme Ruler in the Order of the Secret Monitor for Worcestershire, Substitute Provincial Grand Master for the South Midlands, and the District Grand Recorder of the Royal and Select Masters for the Wyvern District just to name a few.

In addition to his formal Provincial duties, Mike has worked tirelessly behind the scenes organising the trains to Grand Lodge Quarterly Communications, Provincial Grand Lodge arrangements and the 1400 Ladies weekends.

I and the whole Mark Province of Warwickshire owe V. W. Bro. Mike a huge debt of Gratitude for all he has done over the many years.

I am pleased to announce that W. Bro. Andrew Armbrister will replace V. W. Bro. Mike in November; and I am sure that he will endeavour to fill the Office with as much enthusiasm and dedication as his predecessor.

I am equally pleased to announce the appointment of W. Bro. Nigel Clemson to Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Nigel's dedication and hard work as Provincial Charity Steward has been priceless and has set a high standard for his successor W. Bro. Paul Hayward to follow which I have no doubt he will.



Warwickshire Mark Social Committee



Summer Barbecue

Sunday 8th August 2021

Berkswell and Balsall Common Rugby Club

10-30 a.m. onwards

Entertainment includes,

Brass Band

Morris Dancers

Tombola (Donation of Prizes will be welcomed)

Pig Roast

Bar

Skittles(Between the Craft, Royal Arch & Mark)

Mad Dominic Childrens Entertainer

Ice cream van

Ticket Price £15 per adult, £6 per Child 5-15 yrs, under 5yrs free. (Includes food and drink)

Bookings to Cedric Stiles Telephone 07990 521737

Email: brattu@hotmail.com

Or Barrie Ratcliffe Telephone Tel: 02476 682194 Mobile: 07971 184 053

Email: ratcliffebarrie@gmail.com

Bring your own Picnic Tables, Chairs, Gazebos, Parasols, Crockery, cutlery , & glasses etc.

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. The rehearsal Will be on Tuesday 6th July, Coventry rooms, 7.30pm

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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

Getting Back To It Presentation

A group of Secretaries and Scribes of Mark and RAM Lodges joined together over Zoom to receive a very useful and informative presentation given by the Prov. Grand Secretary, Prov. Grand Registrar and Prov. Deputy Grand Secretary entitled 'Getting Back To It' Should any Secretary or Scribe have not been able to join the meeting, the presentation is available on the Provincial website at warksmarkpgl.co.uk (you will need to log in) and any of the above Brethren will be more than happy to answer any questions which it raises with them.

Provincial Grand Lodge
Mark Master Masons



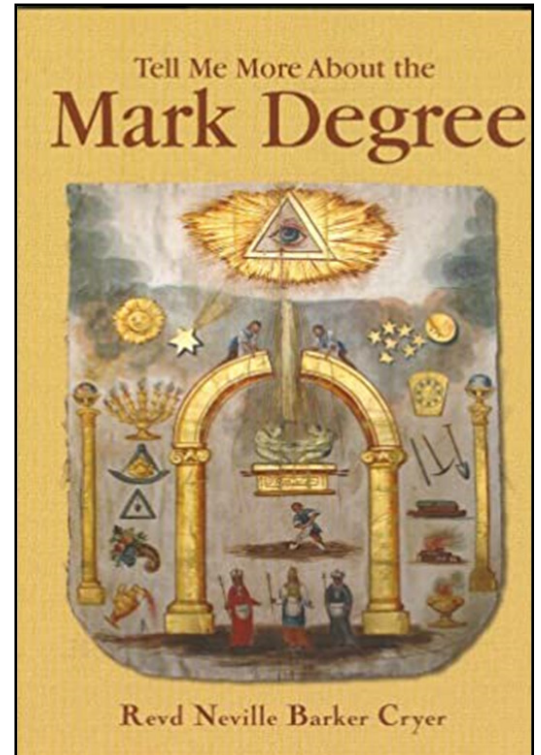
Book Review: Tell Me More About the Mark Degree

by Revd Neville Barker Cryer

In the last edition of the Newsletter the book 'Marking Well' which was published in 2006 to mark the 150th Anniversary of Mark Masonry was reviewed. This volume, published a year later is different, as its author indicates in his introduction, because it tries to gather together material that had been produced over a number of years rather than just that pertaining to the anniversary.

The contents begin with ten 10-minute talks which quite apart from being of individual interest, any of them could find a place within a Mark Lodge Meeting.

- Mark Man and Mark Master
- The Use of the Mark
- The Keystone (or Plug)
- The Cornerstone
- The Tracing Board
- The Heave-over of the Keystone
- The Search for the Stone
- The Overseers
- The Senior Warden's Wicket
- The Mark Master's Apron



These are followed by three longer essays 'The Importance of the Mark for Masonic Degrees', 'Interesting current variations in the Mark Degree' and a detailed but easy to read life of Lord Leigh. The book is completed by reconstructions of the old Mark Degree workings for Mark Man and Mark Master.

Personally I found the longer essays extremely interesting and I learned a lot from them, but the 10 minute talks were ideal to dip into when I had less time. The reconstructions of 'Old Workings' I found difficult at first—as to be honest I would probably find reading through any book of ritual for the first time, out of context. But after a first read through, admittedly skipping the parts that I found uninteresting, I came back to them again and again and eventually I began to see how our present day ritual has developed from these early beginnings.

Heartily recommended and available from the usual suppliers or on-line.

Mark Provincial Shop

If you log in to the Warwickshire Mark Provincial Website at www.warksmarkp.gl.co.uk there is much of interest to be found—but in our present situation of returning from National and Provincial suspensions the Provincial shop may well have things to offer in particular. Up to date ritual books 1& 2 for both Mark and RAM for example, and if your Provincial tie shows too much evidence of Festive Boards enjoyed in the past, perhaps a new one might be in order as well!

Go online and log in or contact the Prov. Deputy Grand Secretary, W.Bro James Freakley

Mancetter MMM 1883 Return



On Thursday 24th June Mancetter Lodge No 1883 held its first face to face meeting in over a year. The meeting held by dispensation to temporarily lift the Provincial suspension, was a great success, with W.Bro Ray Archer being elected and proclaimed as Master. W.Bro Andrew Armbrister Asst.Prov.G.M. and W.Bro Howard Smith Prov.G.D.C. were there as the Provincial Installation team. Two Candidates for Advancement were proposed, and so the Brethren thought it prudent to rehearse the ceremony of advancement in a Covid secure manner.



W.Bro Bill Orton, the Lodge Secretary had made all the arrangements, obtaining the dispensations, issuing the summons - it was just like old times. As a trustee of the Atherstone Masonic rooms he also worked to make sure that all the Covid regulations were in place and followed.

The Festive Board, tables of six, was arranged at the 'Red Lion Hotel, and was enjoyed by all

Of course to make any Lodge meeting complete there has to be a visitor, and the question is did he join the meeting or just the Festive board. This visitor volunteered as the Candidate for Advancement and entertained the Brethren with interesting salutes in the three degrees.



Its Coming Home!



South Wales Craft yesterday hosted the Province's inaugural golf competition in support of the MCF.

Warwickshire Mark played to support and we are pleased to announce that It is coming home. The cup that is - to Warwickshire

The players were W Bros Paul Rowlands, Ian Belsham and David Evans and Bro Paul Skinner

A fun day was had by all with all the proceeds going to the MCF

Paul Rowlands

Active Officer's Rehearsals

A reminder to all Active Provincial Officers that we will be rehearsing at the Coventry Masonic Hall at 7:00pm on Wednesdays July 28th and August 11th.

It is hoped that all Active Officers can attend, but particularly those who are in their first appointment as we are looking forward to a very busy season as meetings start to resume when the current Provincial suspension lifts in September.

The address is 165 Warwick Road, Coventry, West Midlands, CV3 6AU and (according to the Internet) only 0.3 miles from Coventry Station.

PSA Testing for Prostate Cancer

You may recall that in 2018, at the annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, PSA testing for prostate cancer was provided free of charge for all the Brethren and this resulted in a small number receiving an amber or red notification to seek further medical advice.

The Provincial team was once again planning for testing to take place at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting on Saturday 20th November. However the Graham Fulford Trust, through whom the tests are booked, have had to update their systems and methods due to the pandemic and so this means that testing at the meeting is now impractical. The team is naturally disappointed but totally understands the reasons that have made this happen. Any Brother who has any concerns about themselves should immediately contact their GP regarding accessing testing via another route.

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 August ready for the resumption of Mark Masonry in the Province but that does depend upon contributions and every member of Mark and RAM is welcome to contribute.

As Mark Masonry starts to come to life as soon as it is safe to do so, 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