



Warwickshire Mark

April/May 2021

Warwickshire Province of Mark Master Masons to Consecrate a New Lodge.

A new Lodge is being formed within the Province, The Provincial Grand Wardens Lodge of MMM. The lodge will be open to all those who have held the office of either Senior or Junior Warden within any District or Province under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas.

Two on-line meetings of the Founders have already taken place, and decisions made. The Founding Master will be a character well known to us all, W.Bro. J. Barrie. Ratcliffe, Secretary, W.Bro Chris Denley, Treasurer, W.Bro Robert Owens (Cheshire).

Applications to be a Founder close on 28th May 2021. (contact wardens@warksmarkpgl.co.uk for further detail.)

The Lodge will meet twice a year, the installation meeting will always be in Warwickshire on the last Saturday of February, the second meeting will be in the Province of the Worshipful Master or the MBF festival Province, the date is flexible September/October to fit the diary of the host Province.

Why the MBF festival Province? One of the aims of the Lodge is to support the MBF by regularly hosting the Portal lecture, and when possible supporting the festival dinner.

If all goes to plan the Consecration will be on Saturday 26th February 2022 at Rugby Masonic Hall. The Consecration team will be headed by R.W.Bro Philip Wills Prov.G.M.

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

As a mark of respect following the sad death of The Duke of Edinburgh on Friday, 9 April 2021, Brethren are requested to wear a plain black tie when attending Virtual Business Meetings from now until Sunday, 16 May 2021 inclusive.

A Loyal Address has today been sent to Her Majesty The Queen on behalf of all the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall conveying our sympathies to her and members of the Royal Family at their recent loss.

With fraternal regards and best wishes.

R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W. Grand Secretary

Grand Secretary's Office
Mark Masons' Hall
86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL

MBF 2027 Festival Stewards Jewel

Brethren the application form for the 2027 Festival Stewardship Jewel can be found on page 2 of the documents section of The Mark Benevolent Fund web site. The Jewel is available for a donation of £100.

At the last Lodge of Instruction Zoom meeting the question was raised about brethren who wanted to subscribe for a Stewardship Jewel but because of the current situation with Covid would be unable to make a full financial commitment at this time.

What were the available alternatives?

Brethren I have spoken to the Charities Finance Manager at Mark Masons Hall they are unable to deal with Stewardship applications by way of regular donations (They are and will be dealing with Stewardship applications for Jewels up to 2030 and then ongoing Festivals)

She is happy if brethren want to make regular donations to their Lodges and then for them to apply for a Stewardship Jewel supported by a lodge cheque for the Jewel (I would suggest using a general account and not a charity account for this purpose). Multiple application forms and one cheque is acceptable. In respect of Gift Aid, it is up to a brother to make a declaration on the Stewardship Form regarding Gift Aid. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT NO APPLICATION FOR GIFT AID IS MADE WHERE AN APPLICATION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE or a brother has not paid the equivalent amount in the tax year.

Alternately use the regular giving form for the MCF Relief Chest Scheme. If this path is chosen some important things in addition need to be done. The donation needs to go into the Warwickshire Mark Benevolent Fund Relief Chest MMM2112. The Provincial Grand Charity Steward needs to be informed of the regular giving amount and the start and finish date (Send him a copy of the form) and the intention to use it for a Festival Stewardship Jewel. He also needs to be aware if Gift Aid has been applied for so that the full amount can be transferred to the Mark Benevolent Fund. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT NO APPLICATION FOR GIFT AID IS MADE WHERE AN APPLICATION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE or a brother has not paid the equivalent amount in the tax year. At the end of the period of donation a Warwickshire 2027 Festival Stewardship Jewel application form needs to be completed and forwarded to the Provincial Grand Charity Steward who will then arrange for the Form and funds to be transferred to the Charities Finance Manager at Mark Masons Hall.

W.Bro Ian Belsham, Prov.G.Sec

An Important Reminder

The news that every Brother received via eMail from Grand Lodge noting the ways that Mark Masonry is able to open up in the near future is showing we may well be heading in the right direction at last—but all Warwickshire Mark Brethren need to remember that, as at time of writing, all Warwickshire Mark Masonry is still under local suspension and until this has been lifted we cannot resume our meetings other than virtually. At present all virtual meetings must be carried out as instructed previously in the letter from our Provincial Grand Master dated 25th September 2020.

Any face to face meeting, even under the 'Rule of Six' can only take place if the suspension is lifted temporarily (as long as a local suspension remains in place). Secretaries and Scribes have been circulated with information on the procedure involved should Lodges be considering this.

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

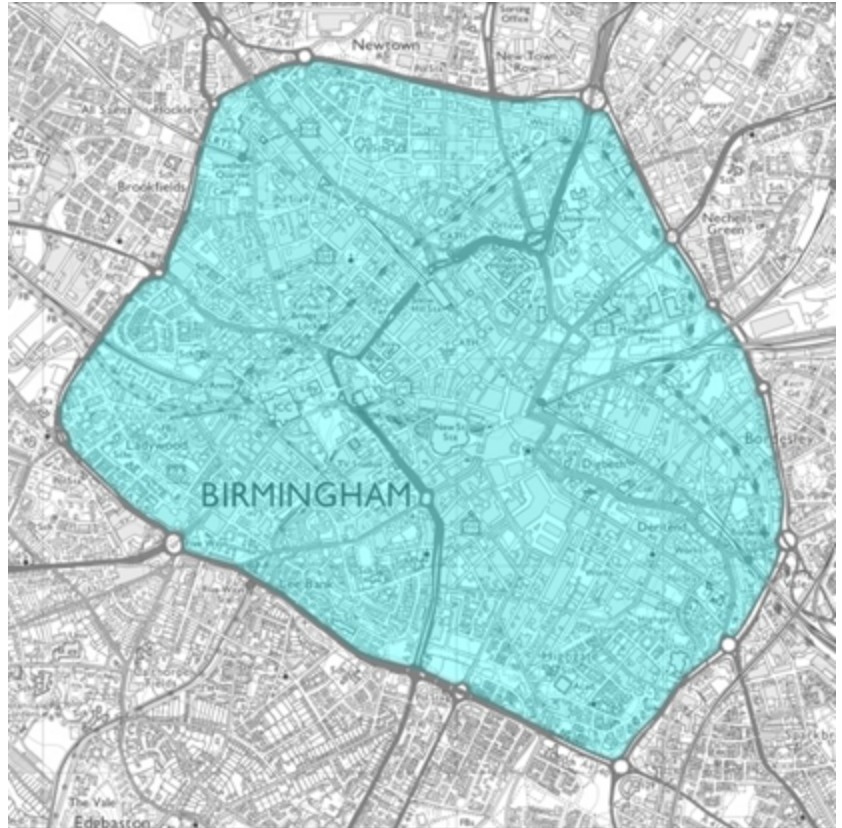
James Freakley,
provdepgsec@warksmarkpgl.co.uk

Birmingham Clean Air Zone

The Birmingham Clean Air Zone was originally scheduled to go live in 2020; however, in response to the impact of Covid-19, the launch date was postponed until 1st June 2021. It will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A charge of £8 will be applied daily. You can pay online up to 6 days before or six days after the day you enter the zone. If you fail to pay the charge, there is a fine of £120, which is reduced to £60 if you pay it within a fortnight. No reminders are sent out – It is up to the driver to pay the charge.

Birmingham's Clean Air Zone will cover all the roads within the A4540 Middleway Ring Road, but not the Middleway itself. For Brethren attending meetings at Severn Street Masonic Hall this means entering the Clean Air Zone, but for those coming from the North of the city and heading to Kings Heath, the Apollo Hotel or Northfield a route avoiding the Zone may need to be found if your vehicle is non-compliant. Similarly those heading from the South towards Yenton, Sutton Coldfield or Wretham Road might also need to plan appropriate routes.

The good news is that not every car will need to pay the charge – petrol cars that meet the Euro 4 standard (most petrol cars made after 2005) and diesel cars that meet the Euro 6 standard (most diesel cars made after 2015) are exempt. While this is a rough guide it is important that you check if your particular car



is exempt by inputting your vehicle registration details into the Government vehicle checker at <https://www.gov.uk/check-clean-air-zone-charge> Hybrid cars should all meet the required standard but again it is important to check. Electric cars are all exempt. It is estimated that only 25% of cars will need to pay the charge.

Cars taxed as disabled vehicles are automatically exempt from paying any Clean Air Zone charges. However this does not include blue badge holders who will be required to pay the daily charge if their vehicle does not meet the emissions standard.

Warwickshire Mark Lodge of Instruction—Webinar Tuesday 4th May 7.30pm

The next on line meeting of the Warwickshire Mark LOI promises to be a bumper evening. Three for the price of one.

1. Provincial Grand Treasurer, W.Bro Nigel Bridges PAGDC will give a brief talk on his duties looking after the money.
2. W.Bro Bill Davies will be talking about the support group being set up to assist Lodges who may be short of numbers for a ceremony.
3. R.W.Bro Philip Wills, Provincial Grand Master, will give an up date on where we are in regard to the local suspension and the resumption of meetings.

The Duties We Owe to Mark Masonry in General—V.W.Bro G.Hughes

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

44. (i) Twenty-four Grand Stewards shall be annually appointed by the Grand Master. Once in each year an invitation to nominate an Installed Master to be appointed Grand Steward will be sent to 24 Provincial Grand Lodges by the Grand Secretary for submission to the Grand Master for approval as a Grand Steward for that year.

(ii) The Grand Stewards shall be responsible for the regulation of the Grand Festival to be held after the Grand Lodge in June and shall so arrange that no expenses thereof shall fall on the funds of Grand Lodge. They shall also when directed attend in the porch of Grand Lodge for the purpose of assisting the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

45. The name, residence, and qualification of a Brother recommended as a Grand Steward shall be transmitted to the Grand Secretary by the last day of February in each year.

46. Should a Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge fail to make a nomination by the prescribed date, or should a Brother nominated decline to serve, or be incapable of discharging the duties of a Grand Steward, or fail to receive the approval of the Grand Master, the right of nomination shall vest in the Grand Master.

47. The Grand Stewards shall have the exclusive privilege of becoming members of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, subject to its by-laws and regulations.

Our Provincial Grand Master is therefore given the option of nominating one of our Brethren to be appointed as a Grand Steward every 2 - 3 years. They may be required to contribute to any loss made on the meal (here called a Grand Festival) after meetings of Grand Lodge.

70. (i) A Provincial or District Grand Master shall be appointed by the Grand Master by Patent to hold office during his pleasure. He must be qualified as an Installed Master of a regular Lodge and must also be a subscribing member of a Lodge in the Province or District. By such Patent he shall be granted powers and jurisdiction similar to those possessed by the Grand Master, but only within his Province or District, except as in these Regulations may be otherwise provided, but shall not assume such powers and jurisdiction until he has been invested and installed. He shall be invested and installed at the next regular Provincial or District Grand Lodge, or at a special Provincial or District Grand Lodge summoned for that purpose, and after installation shall in his Province or District take precedence over all save the Grand Master, Pro Grand Master or Deputy or Assistant Grand Master.

(ii) All applications to the Grand Master or the General Board by Lodges or Brethren in a Province or District shall be made through the Provincial or District Grand Master or his nominee.

It's not only protocol that dictates that all communications from Brethren or Lodges to Grand Lodge must be via the Provincial Grand Master's nominee (the Provincial Grand Secretary), it is also a constitutional requirement.

113. If the Master die, be removed, or be rendered incapable of discharging the duties of his office, the Senior Warden, or in the absence of the Senior Warden the Junior Warden, or in the absence of both Wardens, the Immediate Past Master, or in his absence the Senior Past Master of the Lodge, shall direct the Lodge to be summoned until the next installation of Master.

114. In the Master's absence, the Immediate Past Master, or if he be absent the Senior Past Master of the Lodge present, or if a Past Master of the Lodge be not present, then the Senior Past Master present who is a subscribing member in the Lodge, shall take the chair. If no Past Master who is a member of the Lodge be present, then the Senior Warden, or in his absence the Junior Warden, shall rule the Lodge. When a Warden rules the Lodge, he shall not occupy the Master's chair, nor can advancements take place unless the chair is occupied by an Installed Master.

If a Master is absent from a lodge, then the Secretary needs to be careful in approaching Past Masters strictly in accordance with the above order of precedence to ask them to occupy the Chair.

An eMail from The Charities Manager at Mark Mason's Hall -

Good afternoon Brethren,

I am delighted to announce that the MBF 2021 Quarter 1 Report is complete and now available to download from the MMH website via this link:

<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/mbf-2021-q1-review/viewdocument>

I am sure you will agree that we have certainly been busy so far this year. Please share this with your members and let them know what the fund does for them and their local communities.

W.Bro. Darren W. Coleman-Heald, P.A.G.D.C.

Charities Manager

Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street

Warwickshire v Worcestershire Inter-Province Golf

Tuesday 11th May 2021, Gaudet Luce G.C. Droitwich

Last year the annual Golf match between the Mark Provinces of Warwickshire and Worcestershire had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

This year the organisers are determined that the event will go ahead, following the guidance of England Golf.

Gaudet Luce Golf Club, Droitwich, is the venue and the fee is £20

The match will take place between twelve players from each Province, organised in to pairs. Tee times will be allocated. With the first tee at midday.

Due to restrictions there will be no formal meal after the event, though each four ball will be able to order drinks, enabling a degree of socialising, an opportunity to discuss those missed putts and errant wedges.

If you wish to represent your Province then please contact:

W.Bro Ian Belsham Prov.G.Sec, provgsec@warksmarkpgl.co.uk.



Nearly!

Do you remember?



Name that rune:

A regular monthly puzzle with a quarterly prize.

The phrase below is a play on words. By using the masonic alphabet at the back of the Mark Ritual no1. Can you solve the puzzle.



Clue: Eyrre war film starring Richard Burton.

The answer will be put on the website after two weeks. If you email me the correct answer before then your name will be added to the "Name that rune" hall of fame on the website. There will be a quarterly prize draw into which all winning names will be entered. The more months you send in a correct answer in time, the better your chance of winning.

First prize draw will be in May, for a chance to win a pair of WMBF 2027 Festival cufflinks.

And now, while you have the ritual book to hand, why not read the lecture on the degree of Mark Master Mason, which further explains the origins of our ceremony and signs..

Email answers to: deppgm@warksmarkppl.co.uk



The Mark Social Committee

All through the lock down the Mark Social Committee have been working hard on planning events to get us all back together again, enjoying each others company, as only the Mark Degree knows how to do!

Our next big event is the Rockin Rugby event on Sunday 8th of August at Berkswell and Balsall Rugby Football Club.

If you have been before then you already know what a superb day this is, if not then you are missing out on a super afternoon, bring the family along, invite potential new members, but most importantly bring a smile.

Put the date in your diary now and start to ask family and friends if they would like to come along.

The format will be similar to previous years: great food, drink, live entertainment & great company.....

What more could you ask for on a sunny Sunday afternoon? More information to follow.



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 towards the end of April but that does depend upon contributions and every member of Mark and RAM is welcome to contribute. The original intention was to move to a bi-monthly format over the summer months, but so many great contributions have been made by Brethren it looks like we can continue with a monthly edition until Lodges start to meet again. It is all down to you!

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. I have said it before but Concord Lodge of MMM is 100 years old this year and as soon as we can do so properly we intend to celebrate the fact.

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