

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of London



Special Opportunity Lodges
within the Province

INTRODUCTION

There are a small number of Lodges within the Mark Province of London which may be able to provide a relatively rapid progression to the Office of Worshipful Master, for Brethren who demonstrate application and commitment to the Mark Ceremony and Ritual. These Lodges have been designated "Special Opportunity Lodges". Such Lodges may be of particular interest to Brethren Advanced in to Lodges where progression to the Office of Worshipful Master may take an especially long time or may, because of membership numbers, simply not be possible at all.

The Lodges

The Special Opportunity Lodges are:-

Panmure	No. 139
Brixton	No. 234
Camden	No. 418
Alliance and Memorial	No. 652
Connaught Army & Navy	No. 748
Meridian	No. 936
Pickwick	No. 997
Commemoration	No. 1091
Pro Minimis	No. 1160
Woodard	No. 1265
London West Africa	No. 1457

Meeting Venues

The following Lodges meet at Mark Masons' Hall:-

Panmure, Brixton, Alliance and Memorial, Connaught Army & Navy, Meridian, Pro Minimis, Woodard, London West Africa, Pickwick

Camden Lodge meets at the Civil Service Club, Gt. Scotland Yard, SW1A 2HJ

Commemoration Lodge meets at Mumbai Square, Middlesex Street, E1

Meeting Dates

Panmure	3rd Weds 4th Weds 3rd Weds	November February May
Brixton	1st Mon 4th Tues 2nd Tues	December February April
Camden	3rd Tues 3rd Weds	October March
Alliance and Memorial	1st Tues Last Wk day 1st Tues	March May November
Connaught Army & Navy	1st Tues 2nd Wed	December July
Meridian	3rd Weds 4th Weds	September April
Pickwick	2nd Fri 3rd Fri 4th Fri	March June October
Commemoration	4th Wed 2nd Fri 4th Tues	October February May
Pro Minimis	1st Thurs 1st Thurs 2nd Thurs	December March June
Woodard	4th Tues 3rd Weds	March October
London West Africa	3rd Fri 2nd Fri	March June & September

About The Lodges

A brief overview of each Lodge is provided in the following pages.

Panmure No. 139

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Panmure Mark Lodge No 139 was consecrated on the 15th of August 1871, we currently have 13 Subscribing Members and 2 Honorary Members. We do have a few Mark Master Masons who have yet to go through the Chair, but there are openings in this Old Lodge for new Members to join us. We are a happy group of Mark Masons and would welcome any joining member who wishes to join our merry band, and I can give an assurance that any joining Brethren would be given every opportunity to progress quickly through to the Chair.

We meet 3 times a year at Mark Masons' Hall on the following dates:

3rd Wednesday in November (Installation). 4th Wednesday in February and the 3rd Wednesday in May

Panmure Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No 139 was consecrated on the 15th of September 1879, we currently have 13 Subscribing Members and 2 Honorary Members. We do have a few Royal Ark Masons who have not yet been through the Chair, but there are openings in this Old Lodge for new Members to join us. We are a happy group of Royal Ark Mariners and would welcome any joining member who wishes to join our merry band, and I can give an assurance that any joining Brethren would be given every opportunity to progress quickly through to the Chair.

We meet 3 times a year at Mark Masons' Hall on the following dates:

3rd Wednesday in November, 4th Wednesday in February (Installation) and the 3rd Wednesday in May

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, WBro Kevin Murphy at smurfman52@gmail.com

Brixton No. 234

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Consecrated 3rd October 1878. Keystone Lodge 1931

A little of the history first and then something about the present members

No records outside of Mark Grand Lodge could be found about Brixton Lodge prior to 1907.

In 1907 Brixton held its meetings at Anderton's Hotel in Fleet Street, London. The dining fee at that time was 3/6d.

By April 1924 Anderton's Hotel gave notice that the premises would have to close. Mark Masons' Hall was at that time located in Great Queen Street and dining at the Connaught Rooms was readily available. Mark Masons' Hall moved from Great Queen Street to Kingsway just around the corner. The members at that time became dissatisfied with the Connaught Rooms and the dining venue was changed first to the Hotel Russell in Russell Square and then to the Westminster Café in Kingsway, Holborn.

By March 1955 the members voted to leave Mark Masons' Hall and move to the Horseshoe Hotel in Tottenham Court Road, where they also dined. Later the Horseshoe was to be redeveloped and a new home again was sought. As is often the case the Lodge then changed the meeting and dining venues a number of times. Various other venues were found and appeared to suit the membership but after a few years the venues were redeveloped and another move ensued. By 1984 the building occupied by the Middlesex Quarter Sessions Court at Clerkenwell Green had been closed as a Crown Court had undergone renovation and was then reopened as the Central London Masonic Centre. Brixton moved in. Brixton Lodge remained at Clerkenwell until it closed. Fortunately suspecting there was likely to be a problem about a year before the closure, arrangements were well in hand to move to Mark Masons' Hall, St James's.

The present membership includes those who are, or have been; Bank Clerk, Detective in the Metropolitan Police, Independent Financial Consultant, Investment Banker, I.T. Consultant, Local Authority Enforcement Officer. Medical Practitioner, Officer in the British Army, Online and in shop retailer, Publican, Royal Navy Officer and Travelling ticket Inspector on the Railway, The age range of the members are 40 to 75 years.

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, WBro Peter Jones at jones5925@btinternet.com

Camden No. 418

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

The Consecration of the Camden Lodge No 418 of Mark Master Masons took place at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet St, London EC4. on Friday the 26th day of September 1890.

The Lodge met at the Anderton's Hotel in Fleet Street, before moving to the Hotel Frascati, Oxford St, in 1908. There they stayed for a good number of years before moving on to Mark Masons' Hall (MMH) and then travelled with MMH until it arrived in St James's Street venue in the 1960s. The Lodges had their 'ups and downs' especially at the time of the two great wars, but survived until the late 60's when an influx of entertainers and musicians boosted the ranks, Edwin & Alan Braden and Bill Bex to name but a few.

All went well up to the late 80's, until, in the space of six months, we lost our Secretary, Treasurer, & Master, and all but two of our Past Masters over the next 18 months. The two remaining Past Masters Laurie Brown and Hubert Warren both in their 80's sustained the Lodges for an extra two years, before departing to the Grand Lodge above. We Advanced four new members during this period and with the help of Bro Arthur Soothill a permanent guest, we survived to the present day.

The next big event in Camden's history occurred when we celebrated our Centenary.

The Lodge now meets at the Civil Service Club, Gt. Scotland Yard, twice each year. The 3rd Wednesday of March (Mark Installation) and the 3rd Tuesday of October.

We have recently Advanced two new members and welcomed a Joining Member (Prov. G. Sec., Alan White.) A total of 15 members, including two Honorary.

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, WBro Richard Hollier at jazzizit@gmail.com

Alliance and Memorial No. 652

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Alliance Mark Lodge 652 was founded in June 1914, many Brothers joined from Alliance Craft Lodge 1827 throughout the early years. Our first meeting was held in June 1914, a few weeks prior to the outbreak of 'The Great War' at Mark Masons Hall which was then at Gt. Queen Street. WB Ernest Clacke PPGM Middlesex occupied the Master's Chair & was assisted by the Rt. Hon. Lord Aldenham, Pro GM Kent along with others. A banquet followed at the Connaught Rooms. The first three Candidates Advanced were: Bro. John Sell Cotman, accountant of 10 Coleman Street, E.C. / Bro. Rudolf Stutz, engineer of 27 Martins Lane, Cannon Street, E.C. - Alliance Lodge 1827 / Bro. George Williams Smith, of 55 St. Georges Square, SW - West Minister City Council Lodge 2282. Gifts were made to the Lodge of the Bible, cushion, mallet & chisel by WB Ernest Clacke. We still use some of these valued items today. Ernest continued to be an extremely active member for many years. Being formed at the outbreak of the First World War, it sadly follows that the minutes record relatives & members who died they included apologies for absence of brethren away on active service. Our meetings & dining moved from Great Queen Street to the Piccadilly Hotel in 1948, to The Charring Cross Hotel in 1968. Cigars often feature among the expenses in the Statements of Accounts. Our first meeting in St. James was in November 1979 and we have been Marking well here ever since.

The Amalgamation between Alliance and Memorial Lodges.

In August 2010 in his capacity as Secretary of Alliance Lodge W Bro Ian Cobden emailed the Secretary of Memorial Lodge (W Bro. Melvyn Danciger), first apologising for the intrusion and for any offence that it may cause but seeing how according to the Year Book the membership of Memorial Lodge was diminishing, suggested a "mutual help" scheme whereby members of one Lodge would attend the other to help increase attendance at Meetings. W Bro Melvyn replied and agreed that this was a good idea and both Secretaries contacted their members and in October 2010, 3 members of Alliance attended the Memorial Lodge meeting. Memorial members reciprocated at the next Alliance meeting and this continued for the next year. After a very successful series of mutual visits, in October 2011 the idea of formalising the amalgamation between the two lodges was proposed. There was almost universal welcoming of the proposal, in fact the only problem occurred with the name of the "new" Lodge in that there was discussion about whether the word "and" should be included. With the assistance of W Bro Paul Muston the amalgamation was formalised and in November 2012 the then Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W Bro "Bill" Divall attended the amalgamation meeting and presented the Lodge with its' new Charter.

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, WBro Peter Chidzey at
p.chidzey@icloud.com

Connaught Army & Navy No. 748

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

A Keystone lodge established in 1921 'primarily for the benefit of present and past officers of HM's Forces.' We have an appendant RAM lodge.

Despite the emphasis on the primary status, with the great reduction in the officer pool in recent years our recruitment has widened considerably, particularly among public servants including police officers and civil servants. Currently only eight members are commissioned officers: three Army and (despite the title!) five RAF. The remainder comprise five policemen, a prison officer, doctor and a civil servant.

We like to consider ourselves a very welcoming lodge and aim to deliver ritual in as capable manner as possible. Above all, we typify the Mark Degree's reputation for friendliness and lack of stuffiness. We would welcome with open arms any joining members and, under the wing of our more senior members, it would be our pleasure to afford them every opportunity to progress through the offices.

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, WBro Gp. Capt. Trevor Dole at trevor@dole.fsnet.co.uk

Meridian No. 936

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Founded in 1934 the Meridian Lodge is a friendly and welcoming lodge whose founders recognised that young men have a life and a living to pursue and if they had to spend time away from London that when they returned every effort would be made not to lose their progression in the lodge. We try to apply a similar approach these days with members whose work and family commitments prevent their regular attendance but who still try to make a real contribution to the lodge. There are currently gaps in our list of progressive offices and offices being filled by Past Masters who would be happy to stand aside to accommodate joining members from lodges where progress to the chair is likely to be slow.

The lodge origins are largely unknown. However, it is known that the Meridian Mark Lodge was founded by members of Meridian Craft Lodge No. 4106, where two of the current members "cut their Masonic teeth". The Mark Lodge moved to Mark Masons' Hall sometime prior to 1984 when it celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The Lodge's fortunes, with regard to its members, have been mixed and currently stands at 13. Due to the inability of some members being able to attend we recently reduced our meetings to two i.e. the 4th Wednesday in April and the 3rd Wednesday in September (Installation). There is a RAM Lodge attached which meets on the same days prior to the Mark Meeting.

We would look forward to new members joining us and assisting them through their passage to the Chair.

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, WBro Frederick Parr, at frederick.parr7@ntlworld.com

Pickwick No. 997

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Founded in 1930's - with Mr Pickwick in mind there was a wealth of tradition begging to be adopted. Remember, too, that the Mark degree is known as 'the fun degree' so the name of Pickwick Mark Lodge must create one of the most 'fun evoking' images of any Mark Lodge in London! For example - the Master of the Lodge adopts the nickname "Mr Pickwick" for his year of office, and every member of the Lodge is given a soubriquet after he has joined us - which is aimed at being the most fitting from all the characters in 'The Pickwick Papers' by Charles Dickens.

Our meetings are always amiable and enjoyable, and with a terrific and excited atmosphere. Although we do take our work & ritual seriously, we certainly don't take ourselves too seriously - if you can get the difference!

After a short period in the doldrums, we are working hard to fully re-establish ourselves again, which means that the size of our Membership provides an excellent opportunity for Mark Masons who are eager to progress to the Chair – but are finding that such steps in their 'Mother Mark' might well be long-drawn out purely because of the number of Brethren who precede them on the progression ladder.

Dates? We meet at Mark Masons' Hall three times a year - on the 2nd Friday in March, the 3rd Friday in June and the 4th Friday in October (our Mark Installation). Festive boards are always amusing and interesting - sometimes the WM (Mr Pickwick!) turns up dressed as Mr Pickwick, sometimes others will come dressed as befits their soubriquet... and these are all events that are not to be missed!

By joining Pickwick, and joining in the fun - your enjoyment of the Mark degree is assured! You will settle in amidst a genial mix of enthusiasm, experience and suitable encouragement for progress.

Maybe your first step should be to come along to meet us – and judge for yourselves how your future in the Mark could blossom.

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, WBro Stuart Henderson at stuardhenderson@btinternet.com Phone: 01844 344960

Commemoration No. 1091

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Our Mark Lodge was consecrated at the Café Royal on 16th December 1947 with 11 Founders. 7 of our Founders were from Mallet & Chisel Mark No.5. We took our name from the Craft Lodge of the same name (No.2663), which was founded in 1897 (to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria). Several of our Founders were members of Commemoration Craft Lodge No.2663 and - over the years - several of our Candidates have come from this Lodge, but - today - we only have one member in our Mark Lodge who is currently a member of the Craft Lodge. Apart from 3 Years between 1970 and 1973 (when we met at the 'old' MMH in Upper Brook Street) and our 'Jubilee' Meeting in 1998, we have never actually met at a 'conventional' Masonic venue!! We have had 12 different venues.

Our RAM Lodge was consecrated on 5th September 1990 at the Park Court Hotel and was the 'brainchild' of Irwin Obadiah. The first Commander was Mike Barnes and Aby Obadiah was the second Commander. We were the last RAM Lodge to be consecrated before the Province of London was 'constituted' in November 1990 and some of the 'Consecration Team' later became 'High-Ranking' Officers in the Province - including Tim Lewis, Brian Vickers and Michael Lawson.

We are a small but friendly Lodge and would welcome Joining Members who would be given every chance to progress quickly through to the Chair.

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, VWBro Aby Obadiah, at aobadiah@btinternet.com

Pro Minimis No. 1160

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Founded 1952, Pro Minimis means “For the little ones”. This is a charity which the Lodge still supports. The founders came from the medical profession and were mostly made up from Doctors and Anaesthetists.

The Lodge meets at Mark Masons’ Hall on the first Thursday in March (Mark Installation), second Thursday in June (RAM Installation) and first Thursday in December.

Pro Minimus is a friendly Lodge with 12 members and is happy to give opportunities to younger joiners to progress through the Chair a lot faster than their Mother Lodge can offer.

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, W.Bro. Michael Hillman, at mjphillman@gmail.com

Woodard No. 1265

Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Originally founded for brethren who were or had been connected with the Woodard group of schools and who were subscribing members of their individual Woodard School Craft lodge, the lodge has for some time now welcomed new and joining members from a wide spectrum into an atmosphere of friendship and fun, over the last few years attracting an influx of ex Round Tablers from Hampshire into the ranks.

We were consecrated on the 19th of October 1962 by the then Grand Master, M.W The Rt. Hon. Lord Harris M.C, V.L. The lodge meets, with its associated Royal Ark Mariner lodge, on the fourth Tuesday in March and the third Wednesday in October (I). Woodard has been honoured in the past few years by having a number of active Provincial Grand Officers as members in the form of Provincial Grand Chaplain, Almoner, Charity Steward and Standard Bearer.

Interested? Please contact the Secretary, WBro Nigel Harris, at harris.nigel@me.com

London West Africa No. 1457 Mark & Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

London West Africa Lodge of MMM No. 1457 was consecrated on 11th March 1976 with a view to extending the Masonic journey to the West African Masonic community within London.

Over the years we have broadened our membership but still retain the essence of our Founders' ideals.

The Mark Lodge has close links with London West Africa Craft/Chapter and Rose Croix units as well as having our own Royal Ark Mariner Lodge moored alongside, meeting on the same day as the Mark Lodge.

We meet at Mark Masons' Hall 86 St James's St. on the following dates:

- The third Friday in March
- The second Fridays in June and September (Installation).

Membership numbers have fallen in recent years and as a result we would welcome all keen masons who wish to expand their membership of, and seek promotion in, the Mark Degree. We offer the possibility of quick progression to the principal offices as well as the opportunity to meet others and to widen your interests.

The existing members are a friendly and enthusiastic team and are looking forward to helping and supporting those interested.

Subscriptions are very reasonable and in line with other Units meeting at MMH. At the present time we have no intention to increase them.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Mark Woolcott
Secretary
markwoolcott@btinternet.com

London West Africa Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners was consecrated on 30th March 1987, eleven years after the Mark Lodge. Since that date both units have met together on the same day, at Mark Masons Hall and have benefitted greatly from the mutual support between the Mark Lodge and RAM Lodge. As with the Lodge we are looking for enthusiastic Royal Ark Mariners and potential candidates who would like to and are capable of taking a fast track route to the Commander's Chair.

We would fully appreciate and support any Brethren "coming on board" and pledge ourselves to providing a happy and memorable association with the London West Africa "crew"!

Subscriptions are very reasonable and once again, have no immediate intention of making any alterations in that area. We currently have 20 subscribing members but are looking for more, active participants.

We look forward to piping you aboard!

Mark Woolcott
Scribe
markwoolcott@btinternet.com