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December 2021



The PGM Writes...

Reflecting on the last few months since my last newsletter, I am astonished at what we have all been able to achieve since Masonic suspension was lifted and there was a virtual 'explosion' of Masonic activity. In addition to the several visits to hospices by all the Chains to present MBF cheques, there have been almost 30 Official Visits to Lodges – and these on top of regular Lodge meetings where an Official Visitor has not been present. Official Visits have included Centenary and Sesquicentenary celebrations for Kelvin, Panmure, Royal Colonial Institute, Keystone and Connaught Army & Navy Lodges; and 50 Year long service citations at Thistle (Tony Kirby), Savage Club (Allen Covey), and Fitzroy (Michael Mullally). A Silver Pin adjudication at London East Africa Lodge – successful, I am delighted to add, for Ravi Patel; and other ad hoc visits where I have been pleased to assist with Advancement and Elevation ceremonies. I am also so encouraged to note that there have been some 60 Advantees welcomed into our Province since the summer – these were candidates from a Covid-induced waiting list of over 100 brethren who you have kept interested in our wonderful Mark Degree and who have joined in a flurry of ceremonies, which in most instances have seen meetings combine Installations/Proclamations with full Advancement ceremonies. Well done to all of you! [READ MORE](#)



Membership Engagement Survey - the results are in!

Many thanks to the 550 of you (24% of the total membership) who took the time to complete our recent engagement survey. The Communications team has analysed the data and reviewed all the feedback that was so generously submitted.

When asked "how well do you believe the Province engages with you?" the members gave it a rating of 81%. Similarly, when asked "how interested are you in what happens in the

Province?" the rating was 87%. And the question "do you care about the future of the Province?" achieved a resoundingly positive rating of 93%.

Although these ratings are high, we did detect opportunities to improve and so the Executive recently approved a number of initiatives which include:

- the 2022 End of Year Party will be held at a different location than in previous years
- an additional social event will be added to the calendar in 2022 - one that has a lower price point than the End of Year Party or Burns Weekend
- the mechanism for releasing tickets for the Burns Weekend will be reviewed
- the website will have a complete refresh, which will include a secure members' area as well as being enhanced to make it more "smartphone-friendly"
- the Provincial WhatsApp group will be re-invigorated but will become a one-way means of communication (from Province to members) to address concerns raised about members being "inundated" with endless conversations/jokes/etc.

Work on some of these initiatives is already underway, and some will take a little longer to materialise. Regular updates will appear in *The London Mallet* - which will continue to be published quarterly in line with your feedback.

We will also run a similar survey in the summer of 2022, to determine how these initiatives have translated into an improved engagement rating.

Finally, if you have any questions regarding the survey and the results, please speak with your Official Visitor or Richard Criddle.



During the month of November, one of our Provincial Charity Stewards - Attilio Grandani - was busy taking part in the Movember challenge in support of the MBF. Here you can see "before" and "after" photographs, with Attilio showing off his rather luxurious facial adornment. His target was to raise £800 - but the level of support shown by brethren was such that he has raised over twice that amount. Well done, Attilio!!



How would you like to be able to donate money to charity without it costing you anything? Well, there is a way to do just that. many people purchase small to medium capital goods (and even foodstuffs) through Amazon, where the prices are generally good and the delivery service is market-leading

Amazon has set up AmazonSmile which, if you purchase items (at the same cost as standard Amazon) they will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price to nominated charities. At London Mark we identified this opportunity and we are now delighted to say that the system is fully up and running. It really is quite a simple process inasmuch as simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone within the Settings or Programmes & Features menu. You will be asked for the name of the charity and it is the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of London Benevolent Fund. Once you have entered the info you need to, you are sorted out, and AmazonSmile will direct monies to that charitable account automatically.



We do hope that you will be generous enough to support this endeavour and to see if, in a year's time, we can show a small donation to the worthwhile causes we support.



Provincial Grand Officers' Mess Dinner

The Mess Dinner will be hosting Stratton Richey as its guest speaker on 22 March, 2022. A face known to many Met Masons, Stratton will be entertaining us with his talk - "A Wobble through Aviation" - which will cover his fascinating and varied career flying a wide variety of fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, latterly with BA. For more information, please click [here](#). Details of the venue, menu and cost will be released nearer the date.



The London Mark Rugby Football Club, an inclusive Rugby Union club for anyone affiliated with or interested in Freemasonry and rugby.

It's easy to become a member for only a £20.00 annual fee. Just email londonmarkrugbyfootballclub@gmail.com to receive a form.



Bird in a Bird in a Bird

Welcome all to the Christmas Recipe of the Month!
As a change, this month's recipe is not for the faint-hearted or beginners - good luck!

John Ellis
Assistant Provincial Grand Master

Dates for your Diary

14 - 16 January, 2022 - Provincial Burns Weekend - SOLD OUT
17 February, 2022 - Mark Awareness Evening (via Zoom)
26 February, 2022 - Khalsa R.A.M. Consecration
5 March, 2022 - Locomotion R.A.M. Consecration
24 March, 2022 - Provincial Grand Officers' Mess Dinner
30 April, 2022 - Metropolitan R.A.M. Consecration
5 May, 2022 - Ceremony of the Keys, Tower of London

You can keep up to date with all the News and Events from across the Province (including galleries containing pictures of all the Executive visits to our Lodges, and useful information) by visiting the Provincial website - <http://www.markprovinceoflondon.com/>

Regular updates from Mark Masons' Hall on all the Progressive Orders can be found [here](#).

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This email contains details of the forthcoming virtual Burns Night

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