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December 2022

The PGM Writes...



Brethren All,

When I last wrote for the *London Mallet* in September, I mentioned it was the start of a new and busy Mark season. How prophetic were those words! I have been trying on a regular basis to report on my activities and those of the Executive through Facebook posts, but October and November have seen a whirlwind of activities and I have been a bit quiet on Facebook but not, I assure you, in flying the flag for London Mark. Within this article I'll endeavour to make up for that omission and include some photographs which haven't been posted on Facebook by others.

Over those past few months we have held our usual Royal Ark Mariner Assembly within the London Installed Commanders' meeting and invested a number of Past Commanders

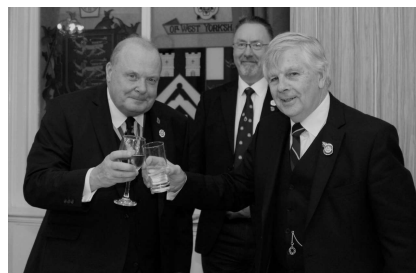


a great success and, as well as proving an excellent day out for our golfers, it raised over £1,000 for various charities. Our Mess lunch at the Union Jack Club was another highly enjoyable social event, as was the Diamond Geezers' Dinner (anyone looking to achieve MBF Diamond Patron status and thereby qualify for the Diamond Geezers' Dining Club – please contact me or David Ashbolt).



There is a very long list of Masonic activities which has kept me and my team ultra busy over the autumn. The Province of Kent celebrated its 150th Anniversary at Detling; Middlesex Province moved its Annual Meeting to Great Queen St. where the PGM Eddy Garty (another ex-pat Scot like myself) was piped into Grand Temple; I had the honour and pleasure to dedicate Aegean Lodge's beautiful new banner.

In my absence, Tim MacAndrews Deputy PGM consecrated our newest Mark Lodge The RAF Lodge of MMM. In my absence



because, I was in far off Bucharest, in the company of our Grand Master, supporting our Romanian Brethren with the Consecration of a new Mark Lodge (Prince Michael of Kent); the Consecration of the new District of Romania and – the icing on the cake - where I had the honour to consecrate the first two Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in that new District.



That trip to Romania was barely a week after our Freemasons Without Borders trip to Scotland (including a visit to a Craft Lodge No. 374 SC). The Lodge meeting was in Edinburgh – in the magnificent surroundings of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

After the memorable ceremony during which the Lodge Advanced a brother into our wonderful

Order, there was a hugely successful banquet where I was able to present the PGM for Edinburgh with over £600 cash raised in the alms collection.

November 29 saw our successful Mark Awareness Event: the first face-to-face presentation since lockdown ended. There were some 40 potential candidates present and by all accounts we are likely to see most of them being Advanced during the remainder of this season.



for our much-missed (Covid again!) End of Year Party at the Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, where the hotel really did us proud on the catering front and we were entertained by the Hendo Washboard Jazz Band. As the [website photographs](#) show, a great time was had by all and we raised a staggering £2,400 for our London Mark Benevolent Fund charity.

On that very point you will be interested to know that the new Board of Trustees met recently and have sanctioned donations of £3,000 to the South London Xmas Dinner Charity (for people no longer eligible for Carer charity) and £1,500 to the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers' charity, to sponsor a London cab to take sick and disabled children to Euro Disney next summer. Hopefully you will all agree that these are indeed very worthwhile causes.

Please also continue to be on the look-out for **our** members who might be in need of assistance. There is a separate article elsewhere in this *London Mallet* from our Provincial Almoner, David Nunn. Please read it carefully and take action as required.

Brethren, 2023 promises to be just as busy as the latter part of 2022. For Provincial Grand Officers there is still time to join the Delegations when the 'Chains' go out on their Official Visits and we have our Mess Dinner meeting on 25 April at Bakers' Hall, to name but a couple of ways you can support this wonderful Province of London.

As usual at this festive time of year, it is my pleasure to end my message with a mention of the Brethren of many faiths who make up the Mark Province of London. However you may celebrate over the coming days, Eunice joins me in sending you and your families the compliments of the season and our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mark Well, Brethren.

Tan 25



On 29 November, a very successful Mark Awareness Evening was held at Mark Masons' Hall with over 30 interested members of the Craft (Kent Club for London Freemasons and the Connaught Club) attending.



Following a detailed presentation of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees by members of the Mark Executive, those who were new to MMH were given a tour of the building by the APGMs and all were treated to a buffet supper and a chance to mingle with the Executive and other members of the Province. Judging by the amount of form-filling going on, a good pipeline of potential Advancees has been created!



Provincial End of Year Party goes with a swing!

Over 150 members of the Province and their guests gathered at the Holiday Inn in Bloomsbury for the Provincial bi-annual end of year party.

After pre-dinner drinks in the bar, everyone headed into the festive dining room. But before tucking into a very tasty 3 course meal, the evening's Master of Ceremonies, V.W. Bro. Tim MacAndrews DepProvGM, drew everyone's attention to the newly-updated tri-fold leaflets as well as the new plastic business cards that were on every table. Both the leaflets and the business cards are designed to be given to prospective members of the Mark and contain QR codes to the Magic of the Mark video and to our Provincial website (please see a member of the Executive if you would like some leaflets and/or business cards).

rum cake – one of three baked by our very own Jerry Gangadeen (the other two were eaten by everyone after dinner). The total raised for the London Mark Benevolent Fund was a staggering £2,400!

Despite the great food, copious amounts of wine and terrific music, people kept disappearing from the room – apparently there was something important being shown on the TV in the bar??

When Stephen Henderson's white-jacketed jazz band took over, people jumped onto the dance floor led by Tom and Eunice Quinn. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the feedback overall has been very positive – over to Tim now to start organising the next one!

With thanks to Hiko Tanaka for the [photos](#).



Banner Dedication for Aegean Mark Lodge No.1978

On 22 November, the Grand Temple at Mark Masons' Hall was packed to see the members of Aegean Mark Lodge No.1978 dedicate their new banner.

In an excellently planned and executed meeting, the brethren first saw the new Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Kyriakos Andreou, installed after which the Provincial Grand Master took the reins and he and his Provincial team then dedicated the banner in an interesting ceremony rarely seen.

The banner dedication was actually held when the Lodge was called off, enabling a number of Craft masons and prospective Craft masons to join in.

After the meeting the 100 or so brethren headed upstairs to dinner, to be treated to a Greek feast accompanied by live Greek music. Such was the level of enjoyment, some

With thanks to Mahir Kilic for the [photos](#).



Consecration of the RAF Mark Lodge No.2042

On 12 November the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W. Bro. Tim MacAndrews, led the Provincial team in a faultless Consecration ceremony followed by an equally superb Installation by V.W. Bro. Wes Hollands APGM. After the well-attended meeting there was a happy and thoroughly enjoyable Festive Board.

The day was a culmination of “ardua” and now we wish this new Mark Lodge “ad astra”!



Donations from the London Mark Benevolent Fund 2022

This year the London Mark Benevolent Fund has sponsored the following charities:

- South London Christmas Dinner is organised by a team of volunteers who work together to provide a special and fun-filled Christmas day, along with a most scrumptious dinner for young people, aged between 18 and 25, who were in care but are now out of the care system. As well as a Christmas dinner, guests are gifted presents and treats along the way. Amount sponsored £3,000.00
- The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers' Charity. To raise funds for the

Both these charities were recommended to the Trustees by Mark Masons of London. If other Mark Masons of London are passionate about their London charities and wish to be considered for sponsorship, please email details of the charity to be supported to the London Mark Benevolent Fund Secretary at marios.s@btconnect.com



Paul Walsh's London Marathon Run 2022

Thanks to everyone's contributions Paul was able to raise **£1,480** for The Royal British Legion!

Here's his story:

Just to give a bit of background as to why I've done this; not only are the Royal British Legion a great cause supporting our ex-forces personnel who have for years risked their lives to provide safety and freedom for us all, but it's also one close to my own heart. I'm pretty sure most of us will know or be related to someone who is currently serving or has served in the forces and the sacrifices made to make our day to day lives as safe and as free as possible does not even amount to what I'll be trying to raise. In all honesty it's nowhere near as you can't put a price on our freedoms.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Paul Walsh



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!

Amazon has set up AmazonSmile which, if you purchase items (at the same price as standard Amazon) they will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price to nominated charities. It really is quite a simple process: 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

will direct monies to that charitable account automatically.

So far, between July and September with thanks to those participating brethren, Amazon has donated **£11.82** to the London Mark Benevolent Fund. In the words of one of the leading supermarkets - every little helps!



Almoner's Letter

Brethren,

As we approach the festive season, I would like you to consider especially those less fortunate than ourselves. I know you always do, but I want to draw your attention to those brethren whom you may not have seen for some time, who have been absent from Lodge meetings, may be avoiding Festive Boards or who may be in arrears. In this time of inflation of food and fuel prices it would not be surprising if some of our members are struggling but who are averse to asking for help. It is an appropriate time of year to contact all such brethren, to enquire after their health and ask if they are in need of anything. Secondly, it would also not be surprising if we have members who have been waiting for long periods for medical treatment.

In both instances, the Masonic Charities exist to assist. The Masonic Charitable Foundation can be contacted direct, while an application to the Mark Benevolent Fund has to be channelled through me. The MBF usually expects an applicant to have approached the MCF, but sometimes is able to provide urgent assistance rather

If a Brother is in need but reluctant to share his problems with a member of his Lodge, I am available for advice.

Brethren, let us all do our best to ensure that the coming weeks are enjoyed as they should be by all of our members and their families.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,
David Nunn P.G.J.D. R.A.M.G.R.
Provincial Grand Almoner



Provincial Delegations

If you have Provincial Rank and are thinking of ways to support the Province of London, then signing up for some Provincial Delegations may be just what you are looking for.

All Active and Past Provincial Ranks are entitled to attend the Delegations supporting the Deputy and Assistant PGMs, the two active Provincial Grand Wardens and the Provincial Grand Secretary. The Provincial Grand Master also carries out Full Team Visits throughout the year, to which all Active Officers and Past Wardens are entitled to attend.

These meetings are, for the most part, scheduled for the whole season ahead and sent to eligible parties prior to the start of the new Masonic season, giving you good notice for fitting into your schedules. They are also available on the Provincial website as a download. To reduce the email load we send out these to all first appointments, all active ranks and anyone who has attended at least one delegation in the previous 2 years. A second mailing also goes out as a reminder roughly half-way through the season.

Since the Covid lockdown period attendance at Delegations has, understandably, been down. Obviously the current "Cost of Living Crisis" has meant many have had to tighten their belts and make more selective choices on their meetings. If cost is a concern, you should be aware that it is perfectly acceptable to attend a Delegation and not dine - as much as the Lodges would love to have your company at the Festive Board, we are all only too well aware of the ever increasing cost of private dining.

If you haven't tried a Delegation yet, give it a go! There are still plenty of opportunities get out and support, right up to the day before our Annual Provincial Meeting in July.

So, if you think that you may have some time in the New Year to support a Delegation then look for the mail in the coming weeks, check the Provincial website or simply drop an email to me at secretariat@markprovinceoflondon.com and I will send you a list of the remaining Delegation and, if eligible, Full Team Visits.

W. Bro. John Waggott Prov.A.G.Sec.



CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that the RAMGR Assembly date has changed from the second Tuesday, to the Monday before the second Wednesday of December.



Welcome all, to the [Recipe of the Month](#)! I do hope you enjoy it - please let me know the next time you see me!

Dates for your Diary

13 January, 2023 - 15 January, 2023 - Burns Weekend
27 February, 2023 - London Installed Masters' and Commanders' meeting
25 April, 2023 - Provincial Grand Officers' Mess Dinner
13 July, 2023 - Provincial Annual Meeting

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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