



Marking Time

A Christmas Update

Provincial Grand Master



Dear Brethren

Sitting in my office having not been to the pub for nearly nine months and having not been to a Masonic meeting since the 14th March, I reflect on 2020 and how the World and Masonry has changed in that time.

Retention has been our watchword this year as we strive to retain the active engagement of our members. It's not been easy, but I am pleased to say that as the year ends I am able to report a net decrease in our headcount of 3.5 %, that's no mean feat in the current climate and is a testament to our sharpened focus and hard work by our various secretariats, executive, and in particular my Deputy, Assistant and our hard working Provincial Secretary.

Masonry and society in general may probably never be the same again and I ask you all to consider carefully the way forward if we are to carry on enjoying our wonderful degree, it is a time to reflect and consider that perhaps we should operate in a "New way" in order to expand Mark Masonry and indeed the whole of Freemasonry. Grand Lodge has taken this on board and there will be an increased focus on recruitment and retention in the coming months, which I know will be very exciting for our order. Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge has taken the opportunity to improve the way we administer our Order by refining systems and developing new processes. We've revamped our website, and I think you will agree that it gives us the sort of online profile we deserve, and I thank our assistant secretary and his helpers for their efforts.

Communication has been a key theme for me and the introduction of V.B.M's. and social Zoom's have been a great asset in these trying times, and I ask ALL Lodges to continue their use on their meeting dates. I hope you'll agree that keeping you better informed has probably enhanced communication, connection with our order and reinforces to you all, that you are all valued and an integral piece of the jigsaw that is freemasonry.

As always, our commitment to charity has continued, despite the lack of fundraising due to lack of meetings this year, with numerous grants being made to worthy causes through our Benevolent Funds. In many instances, these grants have appeared in our newsletters, press articles and on our website and social media feeds, underlining our mission to look beyond the masonic arena and help the wider community, where appropriate.

That said, we must not forget the more private work of the various Funds in supporting Brethren and their families when in need. None of us knows what the future holds but our expectations must be for good health and happiness; the love and support of our families and friends and, of course, a bright future for Mark Masonry, but as I implied earlier please be flexible in your approach to meeting dates and venues, Covid 19 could inspire us all to build a better future for ALL Masonry not just the Mark degree. Wherever you are and whoever you meet over the coming festive season, I send you my warmest fraternal good wishes for Christmas and the New Year and look forward to your continuing support in 2021.

With fraternal regards and best wishes

Kevin





Mark Charity News



Updated Logos for the MBF

Secretaries of Mark and Scribes of Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, will have recently received from the Provincial Secretary updated logos from the Mark Benevolent fund for use on agenda and correspondence. The logos now highlight the levels of patronage achieved by individual Lodges and the support given to the Mark Benevolent fund and now enable the patronage of Royal Ark Mariner Lodges to be more clearly identified



We are also pleased to see further positive press coverage in a recent edition of the "West Briton" following the donation mentioned in last months edition of "Marking Time to ISight Cornwall of £10,700 to assist with the refurbishment and upgrading of their reception area.

Accompanied by further coverage by Newham Bid in Truro, who featured our Provincial Grand Master in and article on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/newhambid/> as shown on the left.

The End of Lockdown two! Tiers, Social and V.B.M. Zoom's and a Chimp!



You would imagine that with no meetings taking place the life of a Provincial Secretary has been pretty quiet since March, however I'm pleased to report that's not been the case, the lack of meetings has allowed time to "rip apart" and unify the three Provincial databases into one, giving us a more usable and efficient structure for the future along with a lot of scanning and archiving of old Provincial records.

The lack of meetings has also given the chance to look at how we administer the Province and with that new word we have all learnt since March, Zoom! unsurprisingly figuring prominently, enabling us to continue with our regular extended executive meetings as well as engaging with my fellow Provincial Secretaries in Devon and Somerset to see how they do things, I'm delighted to report Cornwall is more than keeping up! Along with meetings with Lodge Secretaries in our own Province.

With the second lockdown now behind us, the inevitable question is what happens next!, as you will have seen in last month's edition of Marking Time, the results of our members survey showed a significant majority of our members were understandably reluctant to return to meetings.

Within the Progressive Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, we are fortunate to have a Grand Secretary who is willing to be "Progressive", not be constrained by the past and looking to the future, this has ensured that steps were taken early on in the pandemic and options were made available to us all, to ensure the continued smooth running of our Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, by means of "Virtual Business Meetings"(V.B.M's) along with being encouraged to keep in touch with our fellow brethren by making use of "Social Zoom Meetings".

So far two Lodges have held V.B.M's, Trevaunance and Fortitude to transact items of overdue business. St Michael's Lodge has been granted a dispensation to hold a V.B.M. in January, with a number of Lodges holding regular Social Zoom meetings, recently the Provincial Grand Master was pleased to join the members of Victory Lodge M.M.M and was heartened by the attendance and upbeat outlook of the members. My own Lodge St Nicholas Lodge have been holding Social meetings on the evenings of our regular meeting, which have evolved from a "get together and chat" to a quiz night! with the next evolution being a quiz and horse race evening on 17th December including our families and friends (if you would like to pop along, give the secretary a call for the login details) this option in one form or another has been embraced by a number of other Lodges, so if you haven't tried a "a Social Zoom" yet and need some help please let me know, if you are holding a Social Zoom and would like it advertised to the other Lodges please let me know.

As expected the changes to the tier system has brought an update to the guidance from Mark Masons' Hall, which was circulated to Lodge Secretaries and Scribes on 3rd December and is on the back page of this newsletter. But the over-riding concern of the Provincial Grand Master and us all is, that our fellow Brethren and their loved ones remain well, feel safe and when the time comes, no one feels compelled to attend meetings until they themselves feel safe and until that time, all members are kept in contact with by their Lodges.

Communication has become ever more important in the face of the pandemic, and good communication will in turn be key to the ongoing success of our order and our Lodges going forward, currently in our members database we have 587 members listed having email addresses, no doubt some, if not all of the 587 will have recently received emails covering the survey results and the November newsletter, of the 587 I received a large number of emails "bouncing back" due to incorrect details, which I assisted by the Lodge Secretaries have been working on. As you may know this year the Provincial Grand Master took the decision not to collect Provincial dues from Lodges, a brave but necessary decision which only goes to focus our attention on reducing cost where possible and finding useful low cost or cost free alternatives.

Communication and low cost, so now to the **Chimp!** Over the coming weeks we will be trying a free, correct free! Service to enable us to forward email direct to you the members without further burdening your Lodge Secretaries as has happened in the past.

Lastly, best wishes to you and your loved ones over Christmas, a special thanks to our Lodge Secretaries, Scribes and our Deputy and Assistant Provincial Secretaries.

I look forward to seeing you all when meetings resume sometime in the New Year, in the meantime most of all

Have a Wonderful Christmas and Stay Safe Simon

Spotlight on!

Love and Honour lodge No94

Love and Honour Lodge No. 94

Love and Honour Lodge No. 94 under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and Districts and Lodges Overseas and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cornwall. Date of Warrant 9th June 1866 and consecrated on 16th June 1866.

According to the Centenary History, at the inaugural meeting of the Installation of the first Provincial Grand Master, Fredrick Martin Williams M.P., was held in Truro on 1st October 1867. The Province had 4 Mark Lodges, Meridian No. 73, Fortitude No. 78, Cornubian No. 87 and Love and Honour No. 94. As these lodges were formed before the Province, they are Mark Master Lodges and not Mark Master Masons Lodges.

Today the current subscribing membership is 18 of which 1 is a Grand Officer, W. Bro Stan Suthern, a further 8 are Provincial Grand Lodge Officers, 1 Worshipful Brother and 8 Brothers. 6 were Advanced into Love and Honour 94 and the remaining are joining members. According to Keystone, 7 live in Falmouth, 1 in Camborne, 1 in Helston, 1 in Penryn, 1 in Redruth, 1 in St Agnes, 5 in Truro and 1 in Valentine, New South Wales, Australia.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, in every Mark lodge the most important assets are its members. When we visit lodges in any Order, we see old friends and new faces. We listen to their meetings and how they may differ from our own. We catch up with friends and learn about those we have not met before. 7 of Love and Honour members have taken the time to write a bit about themselves for you all to read and enjoy below:

W. Bro Jonathan Ward **Worshipful Master**

It's not often a father and son stand around on the dark street corners of Falmouth waiting for women dressed in funny clothes, but that is what Dad and I have been doing for several years now. Wearing hi viz jackets and armed with torches, we were part of the team of marshals guiding the lovely ladies around the town for their annual sponsored Moonlight Memory Walk in aid of the Children's Hospice South West. A favourite charity of ours, we also marshal for them at the Christmas Santa Run at the Eden Project and the hilarious Rainbow Run at St Mawgan where everyone goes home covered in powdered paint which is thrown over the runners as they pass various stations around the airfield. Non-runners are lucky to escape the 'rainbow hug', but it is great fun and all in a good cause.

After the terrible earthquake in the Himalayas a few years ago, fund raising for the Gurkha Welfare Trust to support ex Gurkha soldiers and their families in Nepal became especially important. The support of fellow masons at events such as the Gurkha Curry Night was greatly appreciated. I personally owe a great deal to the Gurkhas - two of them saved my dad's life when they carried him out of the Malayan jungle after he was shot in the knee by the communists back in '57. So, without the Gurkhas, I wouldn't be here today!

These and other fund-raising events for the British Legion Poppy Appeal and various Masonic Charities have, sadly, been put on hold because of Covid. We were able to support Cornwall Cloth Masks in their making of literally thousands of safety masks for needy organisations including Great Ormond Street Hospital (over 1500 masks to them I think) by organising fabric collections and making deliveries to the sewists (it doesn't sound polite to call them sewers!) They were the ones who did all the hard work stitching, but it was good to feel we were helping out in some way.

Our other way of fund raising this year has been to support local pubs by ordering plenty of delivery meals, and I must say that has been very enjoyable indeed. Hopefully, we will be able to have some more quizzes and do the treasure hunt we had planned for lodge funds very soon.

We are all looking forward to getting back to our regular events - it's a great way to make friends meet new people, and Dad (W. Bro J D and I miss standing on dark street corners waiting for women dressed in funny clothes.

Merry Christmas and stay safe, WM Jonathan Ward

Spotlight on!

Love and Honour lodge No94

(continued)

W. Bro Leslie Johns PProvGMO

I was born at Gweek in March 1950, attending Boskenwyn Junior School from the age of 5, progressing to Gwealhellis

Secondary School when I was 11, my parents were farmers and farming was my interest.

I was always interested in Geography and during my latter years at school, we had several sessions on Pearl Diving, which I found most interesting, being a keen swimmer and loving the water, I informed my parents in 1965 that I would like to become a diver, much to their aghast, as in those days, they knew very little about diving and thought I would continue farming and eventually take over the family farm.

In 1966 I joined the Royal Navy as a seaman at HMS Raleigh, during my training there, I joined the diving club and did my first dive in a large water storage tank, and remember to this day, being able to breath underwater was amazing. Later that year I transferred to HMS Vernon at Portsmouth, continuing my training as a Sonar Operator, which I didn't particularly like, looking back I must have driven my course officers mad, because all I wanted was to become a diver.

I was accepted for diving training later that year and in February 1967 I completed a four-week Ships Divers course at HMS Drake in Plymouth, my steppingstone to becoming a full-time diver.

In the following three years I spent time on three Leander Class Frigates, HMS Penelope, Minerva & Cleopatra, where with other duties I was part of the diving team, travelling to the Mediterranean and the West Indies.

In 1970 I was accepted for Clearance Diver training, returning to HMS Vernon at Portsmouth, the following six months were pretty tough, involving long physical days of exercises, mud runs, long endurance swims and spending hours underwater swimming jackstays using oxygen rebreathers, deep diving and explosive ordinance disposal training, I eventually qualified, fit as a fiddle, and joined a minehunter HMS Nurton working out of Port Edgar on the river Forth, working at various locations around the Scotland and the North of England, surveying wrecks, port entrances and EOD works.

Leaving the Navy in 1976, pursuing a commercial diving career in Oil & Gas, working world wide in deep saturation diving, involved with heavy subsea construction, pipeline installation, towing, mooring and hooking up of Floating Production Systems in faraway places for example, South Korea, Brazil, West Africa, Malaysia and the Far East. Retiring in 2015 to our 5 acre hobby ranch at Constantine, keeping poultry and horses which keeps me busy and out of mischief.

I was initiated into St Glulvias Lodge in 1988, joining the Love & Honour Mark Lodge in 1990, becoming master in 1996, when I had a most enjoyable year and attended nearly every meeting, which was always challenging with my works. I am a member of Volubian Chapter, Rose Croix and TGP RAM where I am currently WC, taking the chair for the third year owing to Covid19 restrictions.

During my travels I have often visited lodges and met many interesting masons, once I was invited to a meeting in Aberdeen, however, I said I must decline as I only have a light slacks, white shirt and a blazer, he replied, that will be alright laddie, so long as you are tidy, it's not the clothes that makes a mason, but the person in them, I went along to the meeting and was made most welcome.

I have always enjoyed my Masonry particularly Mark and RAM, if anyone would like to join our Penryn Three Grand Principles RAM Lodge, there is a free tie in the offering.



Spotlight on!

Love and Honour lodge No94

(continued)

W. Bro Chris Semmens - PProvGSwdB

Little known fact about me is that: -

I started playing volleyball in order to achieve my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This I continued and was one of the founder members of the Six Pak Volleyball Club.

Since then I have qualified to International Standard as a Coach and currently a national referee and representative for the South West on the National referee panel, although things have been very quiet these last few months.

W. Bro John Penpraze PProvGJW

A little bit about me.

I have been a Mark Mason for about 25 years and D.C. of Love and Honour Mark Lodge for several years.

Mark Masonry is very important to me, but I am also very involved in several other Masonic Orders and my responsibilities include being the Deputy District Grand Prefect for Devon and Cornwall in the Allied Masonic Degrees, and Provincial Prior for the Westcountry in the Order of St Thomas of Acon.

I also currently have active ranks in: - Royal and Select Masters, The Operatives, Royal Order of Scotland, and SRIA.

I am now retired after many years in teaching and as an Electronics consultant.

Outside of Masonry, my hobbies are Classic cars, sailing and boat building. I am a member of Cornwall Masonic Car Club and the picture shows me with my 1972 V12 Cobra at a Masonic Garden Party last year with another well-known Cornish Mason. I have also built several kit cars and one is shown on the bottom



Spotlight on!

Love and Honour lodge No94 (continued)

W. Bro Stan Suthern PAGDC

I am now in my 30th year of being a Freemason.

I joined what was a new Lodge in Falmouth which is called The Cornish Maritime Lodge No. 9374. I was the first initiate in the Lodge and was initiated on the 7th September 1990. I was also the first initiate in the Lodge to be Installed as Worshipful Master in 1996. I stayed a member with them until they moved to Penryn Lodge. They changed the night that they had their meeting, this did not suit my working programme so I resigned and joined Colville Smith Lodge so I still kept my connection with Falmouth. I have since been approached to re-join Cornish Maritime Lodge as a Honorary Member which I have accepted.

In the meantime, I joined several side Degrees. The foremost was Love and Honour No.94 of Mark Master Masons. That was in 1995 the Worshipful Master at the time was W. Bro. C.T. Piddington he was a real colourful character. I went through various offices and attained the Chair in 2000. At the time V.W.Bro. G.W. Hubber was the Secretary. He was given the honour to be made the Provincial Grand Secretary, so he had to resign as Secretary of Love and Honour Lodge. W. Bro. R. Ash took over for the time being. Being Secretary got too much for Bob because of his health and his wife not being very well. I was asked would I like to take the Secretary's position and I said I would try it and I am still there now. I have many memorable years of being Secretary, the one that sticks out in my mind the most is Love and Honours 150 years Sesquicentenary meeting. I worked on the preparation for that night for nearly eighteen months in the end I think all the work that was put in was worth it and the attendance that evening was out of this world. I was proud to be part of it.

W. Bro Brian Tyler PProvGJW

Born and raised in the Medway Town, Kent, on leaving Gillingham Grammar School in 1975, I worked for 15 months in Whitehall for the Ministry of Defence, before joining the RAF in October 1976, first as a Trainee Weapons Technician, then remustering as a Personnel and Administrative Clerk. My 12 years' Service took me literally around the World, posted to various locations in the UK, with tours in the Falkland Islands a year after the Conflict and Germany (RAF Gutersloh from 1985 to 1988). Only two of the Units I served at now exist – RAF Halton and RAF Northolt (not that I am a Jonah in any way!). After my service, I spent 25 years with BT as a Sales and Customer Service Advisor, eventually going into semiretirement following numerous health issues. As yet, at 61 years of age, I may still take on some employment, though as I have Fibromyalgia this is becoming increasingly unlikely.

After my RAF service, I was looking for something that gave me a similar sense of belonging and Brotherhood, and coming from a Masonic family (my Grandfather and Father in Law were both active Masons) I was Initiated into Trevaunance Lodge in August 1997, eventually serving as WM for three years, joining various Degrees and Orders, notably being Advanced into Trevaunance Lodge MMM 1023 on 17th September 1999. I first took the Chair of Trevaunance in 2004, and again in 2009 and 2017, becoming a Joining Member of Love and Honour 94 in 2008 and serving as Master in 2009, 2010 and 2017. Appointed as a Provincial Steward in 2007, I have since been fortunate enough to rise to Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden in the Mark.

Owing to my youngest daughter being Autistic, I have supported local and national Autism Charities for many years, in addition to my involvement with the Gurkha Welfare Trust and Educate the Kids, a Scottish Charity providing education in a Kenyan Village. Also, for some years I served as a Civilian Instructor with the Air Cadets, to put back some of what I had gained from my RAF Service.

In my free time (such as it is with my extensive Masonic Memberships), I enjoy going to Air Shows and since 2015 I have been a regular attender of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Spotlight on!

Love and Honour lodge No94

(continued)

W. Bro Ron Scamp PProvGJW

Born in 1943 lived in Cornwall, Somerset and Kent.

Studied management and with the (CWS) Co-operative Wholesale Society linked with Loughborough College and spent over 40 years in retail management, in various parts of the UK.

Served as Chairman on the PT association for All Saints School, also as Chair and General helper with the Falmouth 8th/9th Scouts group, and at one time chairman of the Mawnan Smith Angling club and Hon life member , also of the St Keverne Garden Society.

For over 40 years as Secretary, Chairman and then president for the Falmouth Spring Flower Show.

Began hybridising Daffodils in 1978 as a hobby and founded the business "Quality Daffodils" in 1991, now known as "Scamps Bulbs".

I did not receive any formal training in horticulture. In fact, spent most of my career in retail management.

My passion for flowers, and in particular daffodils, came about when as a child spent a lot of time with daffodils on the flower farm of Uncles' Dan and Peter du Plessis in the Tamar Valley. It was Uncle Dan who passed on his knowledge and love of daffodils and also gave me the advice and encouragement to become involved with hybridising and exhibiting.

In 1991 I produced my first catalogue and started a small mail order and business selling "Quality Daffodils". By this time I had accumulated a large collection of the very best varieties available, including many of my own breeding stock, and today, some 30 years later, the collection has grown to almost 2500 different varieties plus many 100s of un-named varieties under trial for the future, and is reputed to be the most comprehensive collection internationally.

During this time Adrian my son has joined the business and is taking over to give me some semi-retirement.

We have been awarded 35 Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medals for their displays, and I have received the "Williams Memorial Medal" for Excellence in Horticulture. And also, the RHS "Peter Barr" Award and the Cory Cup in recognition of successful breeding programme and the introduction of a new range of Daffodils considered to be of "distinction and garden worthiness".

The Springfield's Horticultural Society and Daffodil Industry awarded "The Carlo Naef" Trophy to me, in 2013 in recognition of significant contribution to the UK flower bulb industry.

I am privileged to be a Hon. Vice President of the National Daffodil Society, The South East of England Daffodil Society and the Cornwall County Garden Society.

On 2 occasions I have been a guest speaker at the All-States Daffodil Conventions; in 2006 the American Daffodil Society awarded me their highest award, their Gold Medal, for work with Daffodils.

The future lies with Adrian who I am sure will continue this work and carry the Business into the future.



The Mark Province of Cornwall

Invites you to

"A Cracking Cornish Christmas"

**An evening of Festive Cheer for all the family led by
The Provincial Grand Master**

**Optional Dress Code, Christmas Jumper and /or festive hat!
Glass of Wine and a pen and paper may be required!!**

**Tuesday 22nd December
2020 @7.00pm**

Zoom Login details

Meeting ID:

814 3374 9935

Passcode:

410048



And Finally!!

We hope you have found something worthwhile and interesting in this edition of Marking Time.

A special thank you to all those who contributed articles and information.

So we need your support, have you got an item that would be of interest to others, your other hobby perhaps? Your work experiences? Do you do quizzes or cross-word puzzles, or Sudoku?

The ideas are endless!

Send your articles to our Provincial Secretary, whose details are at the bottom of the page!

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Province of Cornwall.

3 Higher Broad Park, Treffry Lane,
Lanhydrock
Bodmin, PL30 5AF Phone: 07580 363312

03/12/2020

Dear Bro. Secretaries and Scribes,

New Coronavirus Tier Restrictions

Following the approval by parliament of the new Coronavirus Tier Restrictions and communications from the Grand Secretary, I am able to provide you with further direction as to the impact these measures will have on masonic activities.

With effect from 02-12-2020, the general suspension of masonic meetings, introduced at the beginning of November, have been lifted. Meetings may resume subject to the directions given overleaf and having regard to the level of risk within our Province.

We recognise, that many if not all of our Masonic Halls in Cornwall are closed and likely to remain so until at least the first quarter of 2021, we also learnt from our members survey, that the majority of our members understandably felt an unease about a return to meetings until the risk had reduced significantly. As you will be aware there are still options open to lodges to hold either Virtual Business Meetings or Social Meetings via (Zoom/video conference) during the period in which they are unable to meet, the details of which have been previously circulated and are available from the Secretaries section of the Provincial website.

Tier 1

Masonic meetings fall within the 'permitted organised gatherings' exemption in the new legislation which means that they may only be held in Masonic Centres or on other premises permitted by law i.e. a function room in a members' club or hotel.

Those responsible for organising such meetings, as well as those who manage the premises where they take place, are obliged to conduct a risk assessment and take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus.

Consequently, meetings may resume subject to the Rule of Six which, for the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, does include the Tyler (or equivalent).

Tier 2

The new law also allows masonic meetings to be held in areas falling within Tier 2 as 'permitted organised gatherings' described above. Local Heads of Order may exercise their judgement as to whether to allow meetings under Tier 2 restrictions to take place within their jurisdiction

To minimise the risk of transmission of the virus, the maximum permitted attendance at a meeting is Six (to include the Tyler (or equivalent)).

Tier 3

The restrictions on people from separate households meeting indoors means that in areas falling within Tier 3, masonic meetings cannot take place and should be suspended.

Movement between areas subject to different Tiers

Individuals who live in Tier 3 areas are not permitted to attend masonic meetings in Tier 1 or Tier 2 areas.