

Marking Time

Welcome to the June edition of our Newsletter.

[Update from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master](#)

“It’s life Jim, but not as we know it”

This phrase does seem to sum up life as we are experiencing it at the moment. The restrictions and changes means that things are not the same as they used to be “It’s life Jim but not as we know it”

When lockdown came, I think we didn’t really believe the news that a pandemic was about to hit us. I can remember when I heard of Covid in February 2020 we were on holiday in America, but when we arrived back at Manchester Airport we were greeted by a cold and very wet morning and the news that Covid had become a notifiable disease in the UK. I consider ourselves very fortunate to have got back to England without any sign of illness and also very lucky that our flight from Manchester back to Newquay was one of the last by Flybe before they went into liquidation. Now I know what you are thinking “Lucky so and so for having a holiday last year!” But that was the last time we saw our daughter and her family until last weekend. And I think that was the time and the realisation that life would be different going forward. From one day which was normal to a surreal world which felt anything but normal as we have literally had to set up our own desert island at home.

So how do we approach this new normal? The experts believe that Covid will be with us for many years to come, and according to some we may never be able to eradicate it and that will mean managing the disease which will require us adopting a more careful approach to the way we live our lives in the future.

I don’t profess to have a crystal ball as up until now we have had a couple of false starts or should I say false finishes but because of the vaccine rollout it should allow us to return to our Masonic life sometime in the near future and some of us maybe asking “How do I see my Masonic life in the future?” Whilst there are a lot of initiatives being put forward on how to address this problem, the answer really lies with the individual, and that’s where we all can play a part. Nobody wants to return to Lodge if they don’t feel safe and rightly so. By reassuring brethren that they are most welcome and missed they will in time again feel the wonderful friendship of Mark Masonry. It is also a time that when the Lodge as a whole might want to reassess its approach to its members and consider ways that this might be achieved. Some of these ideas are taken from a paper from Kent M.M.M. and from our own Provincial working party which you might want to consider to give us all inspiration for the future as a Lodge and an individual.

(continued overleaf)



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Special points of interest

- Cornwall Mark Foundation Letter of Thanks
- M.B.F. Hospice Donations Update

“It’s life Jim, but not as we know it”

These are in no particular order.

- * Try to be positive, enthusiastic, encouraging and inspiring.
- * Be responsible for continuous improvement of and in the Lodge.
- * Ensure that the ritual and ceremonies are of an excellent standard to impress candidates and visitors (I can see you reaching for your ritual books already!)
- * Consider a pre-return get together i.e., Coffee morning. Barbecue or afternoon tea.
- * Arrange an Awareness evening to eventually assist in recruitment when circumstances allow.
- * Remind members to invite a guest from another Lodge to your meetings.
- * Make your first meeting back a special occasion.
- * Try and assist in transport arrangements for members to attend Lodge meetings.
- * Invite Non-Members from Charities or local speakers to participate in the meetings to enhance the enjoyment for the members.
- * Consider organising or participating in a multi lodge gathering.
- * Continue to arrange and participate in virtual meetings to help to keep members in touch.
- * Make sure we engage with all.
- * Encourage all members to have some participation in the lodge .
- * Above all enjoy each other’s company again and have fun.

I was going to call this our Ten Commandments for the future but when I counted them up there were 15 points. Though I found that the number 15 was quite applicable as 15 signifies a new beginning, a fresh start, an advancement, rejuvenation and remoulding. But others might just say it’s just a number between 14 and 16! I’ll leave it to you to put your own interpretation on that!

It’s been a really sad time for our Order again over this last month, as dear Geoff Grenfell lost his long and courageous battle against Motor Neurone disease. His funeral was held at Gulval Parish Church, where a Guard of Honour of 18 Masons, were able to pay their last respects to him.

Only a few days ago we heard of the loss of Very Worshipful Brother Harold Wearne. He was Secretary of St John the Baptist Lodge for many years and a member of several other Orders. For those of you that met and knew Harold I’m sure you have your own stories to tell about him. But my own recollection of him is that he had such a wonderful sense of humour and always had an encouraging word to say to everyone. He was a real gentlemen and a wonderful Mason (Rest in peace two exceptional men and Masons)

These few words were given to me by dear old George Bunt who I’m sure lots of you also remember.

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright,
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun,
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive,
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess
I wish that all your good times far exceed your sad

Stay safe, I wish you all, the above and more.

Peter j

P.S. A small prize for anyone who can tell me where the title of this forward came from.

Diary Date: Charity Golf Day Friday 10th September at Merlin.

Mark Benevolent Fund Major Capital Grant to Lodges in England and Wales

Arrangements are well in hand following the nominations by members of the Hospices to receive donations from the Mark Benevolent Fund to mark the service given to this country by and life of H.R.H. Prince Phillip the Duke of Edinburgh.

As soon as the arrangements are finalized they will be circulated out to Lodge

Other Charity News from around the Province

The results of the May draw of the Provincial 100 are:

- 1st John Thomas
- 2nd Tony morby
- 3rd Tony Moyle

Congratulations to all the winners



MARK BENEVOLENT FUND
Registered Charity No. 265225



Tel: 01736 364307
Email: pengarth_day_centre@hotmail.com

Secretary
 Andy Matthews
 11 Tencreek Avenue
 Penzance
 Cornwall
 TR18 2QB

27th Ai

Dear Mr Matthews,

On behalf of all the clients and staff at Pengarth Day Centre we would like to express our thanks to Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Kevin Hicks and all Mark Masons of the Province Cornwall for your generous donation of £500.00 to our centre. Please also pass on our gratitude to members of the St John the Baptist Lodge who were kind enough to think of us.

As you can imagine, these last 12 months or so have been challenging in the extreme and your dor will help us to continue in our work of supporting the elderly and vulnerable in our community during difficult times.

As you mention in your letter, it is unfortunate that we cannot arrange a formal presentation at the n but with the situation starting to look much more positive I hope that we will be able to invite you to Pengarth Day Centre in the very near future. As soon as restrictions allow I will make contact with y that we can arrange a mutually convenient date and time.

Once again, many thanks to you and all in your organisation and hope to see you in person very so please stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,
 Sharon Mitchell



Manager
Pengarth Day Centre

Andy Matthews

11 Tencreek Avenus

Penzance TR18 2QB

CTIPA Food Bank

The Store (Garage no 30), Treweath Road,

Treeneere Estate, Penzance TR18 3PZ

18th May 2021

Dear Andy,

On behalf of CTIPA and of the Food Bank staff and clients, in particular, I should like to thank you, the Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Kevin Hicks, all Mark Masons of the Province of Cornwall and the member of the St John the Baptist Lodge meeting at Penzance for your generous donation. It will benefit those most at need in our society greatly and is sincerely appreciated by us all. Thank you also for respecting the constraints that Covid regulations and sensible caution places upon the presentation of the funds. This has been a challenging time for us all!

With all good wishes,
 Yours sincerely,



Professor Michelle P. Brown FSA
 Chair, CTIPA Food Bank

153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Festival Result Announcement



Saturday 3rd of July should have signalled the start of a return to normality, with the Mark Province of East Lancashire hosting the celebrations to mark the culmination of the 153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Festival at Old Trafford with 600 guests booked to attend.

To mark the end of the Festival period, R.W.Bro. Alex Sillars McLaren, Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire and President of the 153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Festival, invites you to join him, V.W.Bro. John Bell, P.G.M.O., President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, and members of the Province at a very special Zoom meeting.

During the meeting, the Grand Secretary R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, P.G.J.W., will announce the grand total raised for this year's Festival.

Although the celebratory function, planned for this day at Old Trafford Football Stadium, has had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we hope you will be able to join us on the call and help make this a memorable event for everyone involved.

We look forward to you joining the Provincial Grand Master on the call.

Please log in early on Saturday 3rd July, the meeting will commence at 2.00pm

To join us, please click the following link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88576532042?pwd=dWc2R0dsNDExbG51MVZyODJSWUsvUT09>

Meeting ID: 885 7653 2042

Passcode: 347872

“over £206,000 each year for the last one hundred and fifty-two years to individuals in need and worthy causes”

Spotlight on! Three Grand Principles Lodge No879(continued)

Three Grand Principles Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 879

Three Grand Principles, No. 879, 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 3rd May 1929 and consecrated on 17th May 1929. Three Grand Principles meet at the Masonic Hall, New Street Penryn on the fourth Monday in September, November, January, March, and April for their Installation meeting.

The Provincial Grand Lodge meeting was to be held under the banner of Three Grand Principles, in Truro at Fortitude's Lodge Room, for the first time on the 27th May 1943, again on 5th May 1961 at Trescobas School Falmouth, 6th May 1978 at Falmouth School and then on 8th May 2004 at Falmouth Community School. In 2002 Three Grand Principles celebrated their 500th meeting with a visit by the Provincial team. January 1967 saw the 4th Exchange meeting with Love and Honour Lodge No. 94 which has continued ever since, notwithstanding the past couple of years during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

According to Keystone Online, Three Grand Principles Mark Lodge has a current membership of 26 and 4 of them have Grand Rank amongst whom is the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro Peter Furness. A further 9 members hold Provincial Grand Rank, and the remaining membership consists of 2 Worshipful Brothers and 11 Brothers. 13 of the members were Advanced at Three Grand Principles and the remaining have all joined the lodge.

As mentioned in all proceeding Lodge Spotlights, in every Mark lodge its members are the most important part of the Lodge. 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 and above all, and probably most importantly, we enjoy their company and have fun. 4 Mark Men of Three Grand Principles have taken the time to write a bit about themselves for you to read and enjoy:

W. Bro Kevin A J Dower, P.A.G.Swd.B., Provincial Grand Treasurer

I joined freemasonry in 2003, being proposed into the Lodge of the Three Grand Principles No. 967 by my father-in-law W. Bro Trevor James. I had been going to social events for years which was a good way of getting to know the members. I asked to join once I had completed my Open University Degree in Natural Science. As I did this as a hobby rather than for work it took a lot of my evenings up and I did not want to commit to joining the lodge until I felt I had the time to put to it. I became Worshipful Master in 2013 and was fortunate to be promoted to Provincial Grand Steward in 2016 and to Provincial ADC in 2018.

I am a member of the Holy Royal Arch in the St Meriadoc Chapter No.1544 Camborne joining in 2011. I became MEZ in 2011, my first chair in masonry and received the honour of Provincial Principle Grand Sojourner in 2014.

I was Advanced into Three Grand Principles lodge of Mark Master Masons No.879 in November 2005 when the Worshipful Master was W. Bro Peter Furness, now our Assistant Provincial Grand Master. From the start I really enjoyed Mark Masonry and over the next 12 years worked my way up through the offices to become the Worshipful Master in 2017.

Every year our lodge welcomes our friends from Love and Honour Lodge No. 94 for an exchange meeting. One of the highlights of my year as Master was carrying out a ceremony on the return meeting in Falmouth.

In 2008 I became a member of Three Grand Principles Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 879 the year my father-in-law, W Bro. Trevor James was Worshipful Commander. I became Commander in 2016 and stayed there for a further year in 2017.

I have been a member of the Mark Charity Committee since 2013 and in 2018 I was honoured to be asked to become Provincial Grand Treasurer.

Outside of masonry my hobbies include playing the trombone, although I haven't played regularly for some time now. Brass band was a big part of my life from the age of 11 giving me the opportunity for some great experiences and to make many friends along the way, some of which are masons too. I also read a lot particularly books on science, both the history of and physics especially.

Cycling and growing vegetables are also things I enjoy and give me a chance to try and get fit and clear my head after a long day testing roof design software.

It has been good to see many Mark friends catching up online during the pandemic and I am looking forward to getting together again in person when the time is right. Stay safe brethren.

Spotlight on! Three Grand Principles Lodge No879(continued)

W. Bro Geoff Webster – Worshipful Master

Lancastrian born in 1946 and eight years later moved to Yorkshire to continue schooling. Failed my 11+ and had to wait a year to take again and pass! Ever since always been late doing something or somewhere in life. 1965 back to Lancashire for College and training in Hotel and Catering Management and in 1968 escaped and set free in the big world, starting in London.

My work in hotel management took me from London to Hull, Eastbourne, Dundee, back to London, to Birmingham (got married here in 1975) and finally Preston. In 1979 moved to a business based in Coventry, a consultancy supporting organisers of conferences and events in both the UK and overseas and involving a good deal of travel. My wife and I lived in Kenilworth enjoying a good life with much travelling both work related and personal. This continued for twenty-five years before retirement.

Fifteen years ago, after retirement, we moved to Cornwall (my wife was of many generations Cornish – a Bawden). Annual holidays and family visits had been down here since before we were married and before the M5 was built. Sadly, I am now a widower and happily Cornwall is home! My neighbour introduced me to Masonry in 2008 at The Lodge of Three Grand Principles No.967, Penryn and I was raised in June that year. Commencing as a Steward and then starting with the Office of Tyler I went through all offices, being installed as Master in January 2016.

Mark Masonry saw me advanced September 2009 at Three Grand Principles No. 879 and again after going through all Offices I was installed as Master in 2019 and where, because of Covid, I remain through April 2022.

In Chapter I was exalted into St. Meriadoc No.1544, Camborne in 2014 and have not progressed.

Other interests and commitments over my years in Cornwall keep me very much “out of mischief”, including any more Masonic activity. I’m Chair of a local walking group, Publicity Officer for a local Music Festival Society, Churchwarden, Vice-Chair Parochial Church Council, other church offices and local Probus Club. At home in Gwinear the house is large, the garden big and I’m incredibly happy with my lot; a family of eleven fish in the pond and a multitude of wild birds to feed!

W. Bro Robin Leslie Haywood, Secretary

Secretary to the noble band of Mark Master Masons of Three Grand Principles No, 879, emerged, blinking, and more or less on time, in February 1946 in his grandfather’s bungalow in Falmouth. Robin is thus two thirds Cornish; his mother was Cornish, and he was born here. Reputedly a VE day baby by scurrilous rumour.

After a few years, his parents reluctantly took him with them when they moved to Nottingham and then Surrey. Robin would have much preferred to have been left with his grandparents in Cornwall.

Anyway, following not particularly distinguished academic performances in embarrassingly distinguished places he moved his career through the civil service and thence to what was called the London Carriage Trade. This was a pun on the posh end of the car trade, run, then as now, by what his father, an army officer, would have called temporary gentlemen. It was huge fun, but promotion took him to Catford, which was not.

So on, by accident, to what you might call weird banking. This was nothing like retail banking, but we did have to show diversity in our clients in order to secure funding at the lowest rates. This also was hugely enjoyable, but after twenty years the high street banks were buying up anything they could, and we were bought by Lloyds. This was worse, much worse, than Catford!

Other jobs were available in the peripheries of financial services, which can cover anything, but by the age of fifty it suited to take an early bath and scuttle back to Cornwall. Fortunately, apart from doing a bit of profitable property dealing it was only necessary to keep himself occupied, so the last decade of his life was spent happily building bicycles and finally as regional bicycle manager and lead technician to JJB sports. Robin remains a keen cyclist and owns two touring tricycles most of which he either built altered, or redesigned. Also, a keen angler, before Covid Robin regularly visited the USA, Ireland and Australia.

Robin lives happily up his hill, in the middle of nowhere much, with his wife of forty-two years, two Labradors, three cats and hundreds of goldfish.

Robin cannot quite recall how many children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren he has, but they all seem to know who they are.

Spotlight on! Three Grand Principles Lodge No879(continued)

W. Bro Peter Furness, Assistant Provincial Grand Master

My Masonic Life

Freemasonry seems to have been part of my life since my earliest memories. My father was a very keen mason, and it was normal for him to be out most weekday evenings. My Grandfather and Uncle were also involved in masonry, and I remember seeing a very high stack of masonic cases in my Uncle's Hall! He was probably in every degree going.

However, my father never told me much about masonry, and possibly due to the fact I left home and moved away at 22, he never had chance to ask me himself if I wanted to join. He was therefore very pleased when I did.

After I moved away, I was asked to join masonry a couple of times but always turned it down. However, later when I was asked by my proposer Gary Hawkins if I'd ever thought about joining, the time felt right, and I was duly initiated into the Three Grand Principles Lodge 967 in 1994. My father travelled down for the meeting.

On completion of my Third Degree, I was approached along with W Bro Craig Bryant who had joined the month after me, by W Bro Richard Spear and W Bro Len Burton. They said, "You boys will join the Mark Degree, won't you?" Being young and naive we just nodded and agreed, we assumed that was what everyone did.

So, in 1995 I was advanced into The Three Grand Principles Lodge of MMM No 879 and once again my father, who was a Grand Officer, was able to attend.

I enjoyed all the aspects of masonry and was taken under the wing of W Bro Trevor James and W Bro Richard Spear who took me round Cornwall visiting various lodges. I joined the Three Grand Principles Chapter in 1999 and then, mistakenly one night at the bar in 2021, asked Richard Spear what the Royal Ark Mariner degree was all about, I joined the Three Grand Principles RAM Lodge at their next meeting!

Taking every office in the Lodge I reached the Craft chair in 2002 and the Mark in 2005, RAM followed in 2007 and Chapter in 2010. 2013 saw me Perfected into the Falmouth Chapter of the Rose Croix and at present I'm the Most Wise Sovereign.

I was honoured in the Mark Degree to be promoted to Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 2009 and I was also active in the Craft the same year. I found it difficult to balance work, family and trying to get to as many meetings as possible. You never know when these opportunities will come round again, if ever, and so I was determined to make the most of the year. I certainly didn't want to get to the end of the year thinking I could have done more.

With the sad, and far too early, death of W Bro Richard Spear, I found myself Director of Ceremonies of the Three Grand Principles MMM Lodge, a roll I came to love. In 2012, RW Bro Geoffrey Isaac asked me to be his Provincial Grand Treasurer which came a bit out of the blue and I had my first Grand Rank the following year. When Geoff stepped down and RW Bro Kevin Hicks became PGM, I was asked to be Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. It was a wonderful job, and I enjoyed every minute. There is no doubt that sometimes it could be stressful, but at the same time it could be very satisfying, especially when a meeting went well. I had great support from the small group of Past Provincial Director of Ceremonies who understood the role, and if I ever had a difficult situation, I could ask their opinion. Although this was not always helpful as they usually each gave a different answer! During my time as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies I was lucky enough to have a promotion at Grand Lodge to Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (active). One of the best masonic experiences is parading into the packed Grand Temple at Great Queens Street.

I've put a lot into my masonry, but it's given me so much more back in return. Recently I had a memorable, and totally unexpected, experience. By chance I sat next to W Bro Derek Gregory at a festive board, and he mentioned he had a connection with a Lodge in Heckmondwike, Yorkshire. I knew my uncle had been a member of a lodge that met in the same temple and Derek very kindly arranged for us to go there for a meeting. At the meeting I had the opportunity to return my uncle's Past Masters jewel to the lodge. It was a wonderful experience, and I was so well received that it brought home to me that wherever you are in Freemasonry, you are always among friends.

So, I now find myself as Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Degree. In these strange times, I've held this position for over a year but have not yet attended a meeting! Hopefully, we all will soon.

With this being the fifteenth edition of Marking Time, we hope you have enjoyed the this as well as the previous editions.

We extend our grateful thanks to all those who have contributed over the last year, and look forward to your support as we move forward.

If you have an article you would like to share please email it to PGSec.mmm.Cornwall@gmail.com

Also if you have any comments, good or bad, please let us know.

All back copies of the newsletter are available on the Provincial website www.cornwallmark.com Along with a wealth of other items of interest .

And Finally, We Plan Our Way Back.

Following on from the meeting held the 28th May, to discuss the plans for Lodges to start to think about returning to meetings following the lifting of the local suspension 1st September, the Provincial Grand Master will be hosting a follow up meeting on Friday 30th July at 7.00pm, for Lodge Secretaries, Scribes, Worshipful Masters, Commanders, Directors of Ceremonies and any other member who wishes to attend.

The meeting will be to discuss progress so far, along with the next steps to enable us all to make a safe return to our meetings..

Login details have been circulated to your Lodge Secretaries, and should you wish you are more than welcome to attend.

Upcoming Zoom Meetings

Tregenna Lodge No787

Wednesday 30th June 7.30pm

Boscawen Lodge No101

“Present a virtual Advancement”

Tuesday 6th July 7.00pm

Meeting to discuss resumption of meetings
(All are welcome) (details are available from your
Lodge Secretary)

Friday 30th July 7.00pm

Circulation of Newsletters

The newsletters are circulated to all members via email, and are posted on the Provincial website www.cornwallmark.com

All members, not on email will be receiving copies via Royal mail direct from the Province commencing with Edition 11, February 2021 .

Should any member not on email require a copy of one of the previous editions please contact the Provincial Secretary on 07580 363312.