

**PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK  
MASTER MASONS OF WILTSHIRE**



**Provincial Minutes, Accounts and Reports  
2025**



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## Provincial Grand Lodge Minutes – Thursday 20 June 2024

Summary Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for Wiltshire held at the Melksham Assembly Rooms, Wiltshire, on Thursday 20 June 2024.

The brethren assembled were seated at 10:40am. The visiting Right Worshipful Brethren entered in procession, followed by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Stephen Lee, accompanied by his Active Provincial Officers and Past ProvGM's and DepProvGMs of the Province.

In attendance were 146 brethren of which 13 were Right Worshipful Brethren visiting from other Provinces.

The opening Hymn was sung and Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form at 11:00 am. The Provincial Grand Master welcomed a delegation from the Royal Ark Mariners of the Province, with W.Bro. P. Wollington formally presenting the Travelling Ark to the Provincial Grand Master after completing its inaugural voyage around every Royal Ark Mariner Lodge within the Province.

Under the instruction of the Provincial Director of Ceremonies the Provincial Grand Master received salutations from all present. Salutations were also given to the visiting Right Worshipful Brethren, the most senior of which responded in the person of R.W.Bro. E. Rymer from the Province of Worcestershire.

The Provincial Grand Master then introduced 55 visitors from 21 Provinces and Mark brethren who were senior members in various other companion orders. They were all given a very warm "Wiltshire Welcome".

The Provincial Grand Chaplain read out the names of 9 members of the Province who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above since the previous Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting. Following which, the brethren stood to order as the Provincial Grand Chaplain offered prayer for the departed brethren.

The previously circulated minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 were proposed and seconded by the Provincial Grand Wardens and confirmed by the brethren.

The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that all the Active Provincial Officers were accounted for and also stated that all Mark & RAM Lodges were represented.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer stated that a copy of his Treasurer's report and examined accounts for both the General and Charity accounts had previously been made available and copies can also be found within the Minutes, Reports and Accounts booklet. The accounts were proposed and seconded by the Provincial Grand Wardens and adopted by the Wiltshire brethren.

The acting Provincial Grand Almoner and Provincial Grand Charity Steward confirmed that their respective reports were included within the Minutes, Reports and Accounts booklet. The Provincial Grand Master thanked both brethren for their work and in particular to the acting Provincial Grand Almoner, W.Bro. Colin Ayton, for his discrete and caring work behind the scenes, especially since taking on the office following the recent passing of the previous Almoner W.Bro. N. Dalby.

The Provincial Grand Secretary stated that the approved minutes from the 21 May GPC meeting had previously been circulated to Provincial Secretaries and Scribes and a copy of which can be found within the Minutes, Reports and Accounts booklet. Printed copies of which were available at the Secretaries table. It was at this meeting that it was agreed to donate £2,000 to the Province of Cheshire, who are hosting their MBF festival dinner next month and for £1,000 towards the Oxfordshire festival who will culminate their festival in 2025.

The Provincial Grand Master reported that he had only received one nomination for the office of Provincial Grand Treasurer in the person of Bro. A. Wheeler. He therefore declared Bro. A. Wheeler re-elected as the Provincial Grand Treasurer. The Provincial examiners for the year were re-elected in the persons of W.Bro. M Johns and Bro. G Hunt with grateful thanks for their efforts during the past year.

The Provincial Grand Master reappointed W.Bro. S Bridge as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Wiltshire. The Provincial Grand Master invested and re-appointed Active Provincial Grand Officers, those receiving Past Rank, Promotions and Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

### **Summary of the Provincial Grand Masters Address**

The Provincial Grand Master addressed Provincial Grand Lodge and expressed his gratitude for the support shown at the meeting. He thanked all those involved in the preparation of the day's proceedings and acknowledged the contributions of the retiring Provincial Officers, particularly for their support at Installations and Team Visits which were very well attended.

He offered his congratulations to all those he had invested in both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees, and looked forward to working alongside them in the year ahead. He also congratulated those Brethren who had received appointments or promotions to Grand Lodge and Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank, with specific mention of: W.Bro. D. Clarke, to be promoted to PGJD in September; W.Bro. M. Pheffe, recently appointed as PAGDC; W.Bro. K. Alley, appointed to RAMGR in December.

He encouraged Brethren to continue supporting their Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters, and to make use of the 'Magic of the Mark' materials to promote the Order to potential candidates. The Provincial Grand Master reported that the Province had welcomed 14 Advancees over the past year, the highest number since 2015. This included Bro. John Reid, the Provincial Grand Master for the Craft and Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch. In addition we received four Joining Members from other Provinces.

He reminded the Wiltshire brethren of the Provincial Lodge Support Team, who are available by prior arrangement to support meetings and deliver talks, especially where there are gaps in the summons.

Thanks were extended to Lodges and Brethren for their ongoing support of the MBF. With the Province's Festival year scheduled for 2032, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward will continue on his journey around the Province visiting Lodges during the year to offer information and guidance on the MBF's honorific system for individuals and Lodges.

The Provincial Grand Master paid special tribute to three esteemed Provincial Officers, recognising their exceptional service and dedication. He spoke with particular reverence of W.Bro. Peter Morgan, Provincial Grand Treasurer, and W.Bro. Nigel Dalby, who served with distinction as Provincial Grand Almoner for the past six years, both of whom have sadly been called to the Grand Lodge Above. W.Bro. Dalby was especially remembered for his selfless and compassionate support to the Brethren under his care. He also paid tribute to W.Bro. Simon Finn, who retired today from his role as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, after ten years of exemplary service. W.Bro. Finn's dedication and support across the terms of the last three Provincial Grand Masters was acknowledged with deep gratitude and sincere appreciation.

In conclusion, the Provincial Grand Master wished all present a safe and healthy summer, and may the Great Overseer of the Universe guide us until we meet again.

The address was received with acclamation.

### **End of the Provincial Grand Masters Address**

The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that apologies and best wishes had been received from brethren outside of and within the Province, and these would be recorded. A joint invitation was received from the Geoffrey Short Lodge of MMM No.971 and The Kennet Lodge of MMM No.1599 to hold the next Annual Provincial Meeting on Thursday 19 June 2025 under their respective banners. These were gratefully accepted.

Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form. A retiring collection was made amounting to £800.50. This will be added to the Provincial Grand Charity Fund along with reclaimed Gift Aid. The meeting was closed at 12.30pm followed by a reception and lunch at 1pm.

**W.Bro. Ray Pipe** Provincial Grand Secretary

# General Purposes Committee Minutes – Zoom Meeting – 7pm 20 May 2025

## ATTENDEES

R.W.Bro. S. Lee	Provincial Grand Master - <b>Presiding</b>
W.Bro. S. Bridge	Deputy Provincial Grand Master
Bro. A. Wheeler	Provincial Grand Treasurer
W.Bro. C. Ayton	Provincial Grand Almoner
W.Bro. R. Pipe	Provincial Grand Secretary (Produced meeting minutes)
W.Bro. I. Priest	Provincial Grand Charity Steward
W.Bro. N. Poole	Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary

Mark Representative	RAM Representative
M0178 W.Bro. J. Day	R0178 W.Bro. S. Botham (Apols)
M0401 W.Bro. C. Webb	R0401 W.Bro. S. Grove
M0443 W.Bro. P. McCarthy (Apols)	R0443 W.Bro. P. McCarthy (Apols)
M0599 W.Bro. P. Lane (Apols)	R0971 W.Bro. P. Lane (Apols)
M0853 & M1460 W.Bro. R. Moore	R1035 W.Bro. C. Watling
M0971 W.Bro. R. Penny	R1110 W.Bro. C. Ayton for R. Chalmers
M1035 W.Bro. F. Fletcher for D. Bristow	R1460 W.Bro. R. Moore
M1110 W.Bro. C. Ayton for R. Chalmers	R1843 W.Bro. L. Baldry
M1143 W.Bro. L. Baldry	
M1531 W.Bro. P. Brygan	
M1599 W.Bro. B. Cowley	
M1843 W.Bro. I. Gibson (Apols)	

## AGENDA

### 1. Welcome

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. S. Lee, admitted attendees into the Zoom meeting, which formally commenced at 19:02. He welcomed everyone and expressed his thanks both for their attendance and for submitting their respective reports ahead of the meeting. In response to feedback received last year, additional efforts were made to ensure that the Reports and Accounts were made available to lodge representatives in advance of the GPC Zoom call.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from: W.Bro. C. Robbins ProvDC, W.Bro. D. Bristow M1035, W.Bro. P. McCarthy M0443/R0443, W.Bro. S. Botham R0178, W.Bro. P. Lane M0599/R0971, W.Bro. R. Chalmers, W.Bro. I. Gibson M1843

### 3. Report of the Provincial Grand Treasurer

The Provincial Grand Treasurer provided a high-level overview of his Report and Accounts and there were no clarification or points raised. Refer to the 2025 Provincial Minutes, Accounts and Reports booklet for full details.

### 4. Report of the Provincial Grand Almoner

The Provincial Grand Almoner provided an overview of his Report and expressed his thanks to lodge Almoners and Secretaries/Scribes for keeping him informed of those brethren and families requiring follow up calls. There were no clarification or points raised. Refer to the 2025 Provincial Minutes, Accounts and Reports booklet for full details.

**Follow up action: Brethren to continue making the Provincial Almoner aware of those requiring assistance/support**

### 5. Report of the Provincial Grand Charity Steward

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward provided an overview of his report that had been released prior to the meeting, noting that the full details of charitable donations made by Mark and RAM Lodges were currently incomplete. This

was due to a number of lodge returns not including information on their charitable contributions. The Deputy Secretary advised that he had recently received further updates.

**Follow-up actions:**

1. The Deputy Secretary to provide the latest updates to the Charity Steward.
2. The Charity Steward to update and reissue his report with the latest lodge donation figures, for inclusion in the 2025 Provincial Minutes, Accounts, and Reports booklet.

## **6. Status of Provincial Membership**

The Provincial Membership Report was made available prior to the GPC Zoom meeting and has been included in the 2025 Provincial Minutes, Accounts, and Reports booklet. There was general discussion regarding the Provincial Membership Status Report. The Provincial Grand Master noted that Lodges had performed exceptionally well in Advancing and Elevating a high number of brethren during the year, the highest number recorded in the past 15 years. The net membership gain was also very encouraging and appears to be in line with the national Mark and RAM trends. Based on the lodge reports, the outlook for the coming year is positive, with a strong pipeline of candidates for Advancement and Elevation.

## **7. Lodge representatives reports**

A summary sheet of the lodge reports was made available prior to the GPC Zoom meeting. The Provincial Grand Master thanked the Lodges for submitting their returns and expressed appreciation to W. Bro. Nigel Poole for following up and collating the reports into a single document.

The Provincial Grand Master noted that the reports generally reflect a positive outlook, building on the success of the previous year. However, it was also observed that, outside of Installation meetings and official team visits, visitor numbers appear to be low.

## **8. Provincial Initiatives**

### **i. Retention/reinvigoration**

- a. **Advances.** Try and make a new Advancee ceremony a positive experience by aiming for high standards of ritual. Where possible try not to have ritual books on open display and being obviously read by observer. Ensure there is engagement with new Advancees. Without undue pressure try and get a member of your lodge to accompany a new Advancee to visit another lodge to witness an Advancee. This could be the Advancees Proposer/Secunder or other member of the lodge.
- b. **Magic of the Mark.** Encourage your members to utilise the tri-fold leaflets/business cards
- c. **Lodge Meetings.** Ensure the lodge Summons are engaging and rehearsal(s) are scheduled. Contact the Provincial Support Team or Provincial Secretary in good time if Lodges are struggling to fill offices or would benefit from a visitor to give a talk
- d. **Visiting other Lodges.** Outside of Installation Meetings guests to the lodge are generally low and usually are the 'usual suspects'. Lodges to try and encourage visiting. It was suggested that this could be Lodges 'buddying up' and having reciprocal visits, WM visiting lodges accompanied by the SW, JW and or other members of the lodge

### **ii. Travelling Ark**

- a. **Reflection on first two years.** Based on the Lodge Scribe reports, the introduction of the Travelling Ark has helped strengthen connections between Royal Ark Mariner Lodges within the Province and has also contributed to an increase in guest attendance. The route for the coming year has been revised to bring variety to the order of visits. There was some discussion around the long-term sustainability of this initiative, given the relatively small number of Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in the Province, and whether it may eventually lose momentum.
- b. **Travelling Keystone.** The Provincial Grand Master briefly raised the idea of introducing a Travelling Keystone for Mark Lodges. While the concept has not been forgotten, it will remain on hold for the time being.

### iii. **Supporting the Wiltshire 2032 MBF Festival**

- a. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master announced that a commemorative 2032 MBF Festival enamelled token will be launched at this year's Annual Provincial Meeting, priced at £20. An antique finish version of the token has also been produced. The Provincial Grand Master requested each Mark Lodge to contribute £100 to the Wiltshire Mark Charity Trust Fund for 10 antique finish tokens which can be given to candidates during the Advancement ceremony. The Provincial Grand Charity Steward will ensure the contributions will be passed on to the MBF and allocated appropriately for Lodge Honorifics. In principle, those in attendance were in agreement with the proposal.
- b. It is also hoped that the 2032 Festival jewel will be available for purchase at the Provincial Meeting on a sale-or-return basis to the Province. The jewel will be priced at £100, with the amount credited toward individual MBF honorifics.
- c. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master shared details of what is hoped to be the first of several 2032 charity events, currently in the planning phase. The event will be a boat pull up the Caen Hill flight of locks in Devizes. While still in the early stages, it is hoped that Lodges will each sponsor a lock through which they will pull a boat. The date is yet to be confirmed.
- d. Finally, Lodges are encouraged to start thinking of additional charity initiatives and events that members and their families can enjoy together, combining fun, engagement, and fundraising in the lead-up to the 2032 Festival.

## **9. Charitable objectives for the coming year**

The Provincial Grand Master confirmed that, as is custom, donations of £1,000 each will be made to the host of the 2026 MBF Festival, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, and the 2027 MBF Festival, Warwickshire. He noted that these contributions are drawn from the Wiltshire Mark Charity Trust Fund, which relies on ongoing support from individual Lodge donations and the Annual Provincial Meeting envelope scheme. He commented on the reduced donations in the previous year to the Fund which reflects Lodges making donations both to the MBF in support of the 2032 Festival and to local charities. Charity Funds remain healthy and the movement of funds will be monitored in case further action is needed.

## **10. Annual Provincial Meeting – Melksham – Thursday 19 June 2025**

The Provincial Secretary confirmed that:

- The provincial equipment, furniture of the lodge and carpet are stored in Chippenham and volunteers will be required to collect (day prior), drop off at Melksham (day prior) and return back (3pm day of meeting)
- All Mark and RAM Lodge banners are requested – With the exception of the sponsoring banner Lodges (M971/M1599) banner poles are not required

The proposers and seconders at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting will be as follows:

	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
2024 APM Minutes	W.Bro. R. Moore (SW)	W.Bro. M. Johns (JW)
2024 - 2025 Treasurer's Accounts	W.Bro. R. Moore (SW)	W.Bro. M. Johns (JW)

## **11. Alms from annual Provincial meeting**

It was agreed that Alms will be collected during the PGL meeting, with proceeds going to Wiltshire Charitable Trust Fund.

## **12. Banner Lodges for the 2025 Annual Provincial Meeting (also providing Stewards)**

The Provincial Grand Master confirmed that the sponsoring Lodges at the Annual Provincial Meeting on 19 June 2025 will be as previously agreed:

- M0971 Geoffrey Short
- M1599 The Kennet

### 13. Banner Lodges for the 2026 Annual Provincial Meeting (also providing Stewards)

The Provincial Grand Master confirmed that the Banner Lodges for the 2026 Annual Provincial Meeting be:

- M0401 Swindon Keystone
- M0853 Radnor

### 14. Provincial Team visits 2025/2026 by rotation

The Provincial Grand Master confirmed that next year's Provincial Team visits, by rotation, will be:

- M1143 Border 04 Feb 2026
- R1035 Lansdowne Early April 2026 (Regular meeting of 6 Apr is a Bank Holiday)

Due to the excellent support shown by the Provincial Officers at Installation meetings over the past few years, the Provincial Grand Master has decided to reduce the number of Mark Team visits to a single visit, in order to lessen the burden of visiting commitments.

### 15. Any Other Business

#### 1. 2025-2026 Provincial Calendar

**Follow up action: Secretaries and Scribes to review the coming years calendar to ensure that their lodge meeting dates are correctly indicated**

#### Notices

- |  |             |                       |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1. 2025-2026 Active Provincial Officers Indian | 28 Aug 2025 | Devizes               |
| 2. Sunday Lunch                                | 28 Sep 2025 | Wragg Barn, Highworth |
| 3. Active Provincial Officers Dinner           | 14 Mar 2026 | Chippenham            |
| 4. 2026 GPC Meeting                            | 19 May 2026 | Zoom Call             |
| 5. 2026 Annual Provincial Meeting              | 18 Jun 2026 | Venue TBA             |

**The meeting was closed at 20:18pm**

***W.Bro. Ray Pipe***

Provincial Grand Secretary

# Provincial Treasurer's Report and Accounts

I am pleased to submit my report and the accounts for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

## General Fund

The General Fund has a surplus for the year of £700.39. This is in the main due to the net cost of the PGL Meeting in June 2024 reducing to £1694.40 compared to a net cost of £2,586.80 in 2023.

In addition, other costs were down on 2024, helping bolster the surplus.

As of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, the General Fund has £11,601.99 in reserves.

Please note that the General Fund bank account now holds funds on behalf of the Contingency & Discretionary Fund, following a decision by the Executive to close one of the bank accounts held at Lloyds Bank, due to the bank introducing monthly account charges.

## Contingency & Discretionary Fund

The Contingency & Discretionary Fund has increased by £2194.00 in the year. This is mainly due to an increase in regalia sales, which increased from £754 to £1542. Many thanks to Merv Johns for all his efforts in the recycling of the regalia.

Following the decision last year to invest £15,000 of the Contingency & Discretionary Fund in a 1-year interest bearing bond, £540 of interest was paid on its maturity. This therefore boosted income accordingly.

It was agreed with the Provincial Grand Master to re-invest £15,000 of the Contingency & Discretionary Fund into an interest bearing 1-year fixed term account with Lloyds Bank.

As of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, the Contingency & Discretionary Fund has £24,080.92 in reserves.

## Charity Fund

For the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 the Charity Fund has received donations and gift aid totalling £2,814.57 and has donated £2,000 to two PGL MMM Festivals during the year, being £1,000 to Oxfordshire and £1,000 to Hampshire & IoW. It also donated £250 to the Stars Appeal.

This delivers a surplus for the year of £564.57

As of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, the Charity Fund has £13,400.26 in reserves.

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I would like to thank Merv Johns and Geoff Hunt in their time for examining the accounts.

**Bro. Adrian Wheeler**

Provincial Grand Treasurer

# Provincial Treasurer's Accounts – General Fund – Year Ended 30 April 2025

## GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2025

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2025	2024
<b>INCOME</b>		
Provincial Dues Mark & RAM	2282.00	2286.00
Honour Fees Mark & RAM	440.00	560.00
PGL Meeting	2380.00	2010.00
Officers Dinner Surplus	112.50	131.00
Sundry	0.00	0.00
	<u>5214.50</u>	<u>4987.00</u>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
IT Costs	152.00	212.74
Insurance	90.00	85.00
PGL Meeting	4074.40	4596.80
Postage	17.55	0.00
PGL Wilts Reference Book	52.00	351.00
Stationery	0.00	72.20
Bank Charges	8.88	0.00
Donations	100.00	0.00
Sundry	19.28	-0.14
	<u>4514.11</u>	<u>5317.60</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	<u>700.39</u>	<u>(330.60)</u>

### **BALANCE SHEET**

#### **ASSETS**

Prepayments	50.39	46.51
Bank Account	<u>20432.52</u>	<u>11285.09</u>
	20482.91	11331.60

#### **LIABILITIES**

Held for Discretionary Fund	8880.92	0.00
Accruals	<u>0.00</u>	<u>160.00</u>
	8880.92	160.00
	<u>11601.99</u>	<u>11171.60</u>

#### **REPRESENTED BY**

Receipts in Advance	510.00	780.00
General Fund	10391.60	10722.20
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	<u>700.39</u>	<u>(330.60)</u>
	<u>11601.99</u>	<u>11171.60</u>

**Adrian Wheeler FCCA**  
Prov G Treasurer

**Examiners**

  
Merv Johns Geoff Hunt

# Provincial Treasurer's Accounts – Contingency & Discretionary Fund

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2025

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2025	2024
<b>INCOME</b>		
Sale of Ties	260.00	235.00
Regalia Sales	1542.00	754.00
Mark Sunday Lunch	2175.00	1704.00
Sale of Festival Badges	1000.00	1000.00
Interest Received	540.00	0.00
	<b>5517.00</b>	<b>3693.00</b>

### **EXPENDITURE**

Festival Badges	1000.00	1000.00
Mark Sunday Lunch	2088.00	1540.00
Almoners Expenses	0.00	190.85
Chaloner Mark Open Evening	0.00	120.00
Mark Benevolent Fund	135.00	0.00
The Beach Appeal	50.00	0.00
Sundry	50.00	0.00
	<b>3323.00</b>	<b>2850.85</b>
Movement of Funds	<b>2194.00</b>	<b>842.15</b>

### **BALANCE SHEET**

#### **ASSETS**

Held by General Fund	8880.92	0.00
Bank Account	15000.00	21686.92
Almoners Float	200.00	200.00
	<b>24080.92</b>	<b>21886.92</b>

#### **REPRESENTED BY**

Accumulated Fund	21886.92	21044.77
Movement for the Year	2194.00	842.15
	<b>24080.92</b>	<b>21886.92</b>

**Adrian Wheeler FCCA  
Prov G Treasurer**

**Examiners**



**Merv Johns**



**Geoff Hunt**

# Provincial Treasurer's Accounts – Charity Trust Fund

## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF WILTSHIRE CHARITY TRUST FUND

Registered Charity Number 291454

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH APRIL 2025

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2025	2024
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations from Lodges	70.00	666.00
Donations - Other	720.00	160.00
Collection at PGL	800.50	849.66
Raffle at Provincial Lunch	510.00	400.00
Gift Aid	255.13	526.53
Interest Received	458.94	495.05
	<b>2814.57</b>	<b>3097.24</b>

#### **EXPENDITURE**

PGL MMM Cheshire Festival	0.00	2000.00
PGL MMM Oxfordshire Festival	1000.00	1000.00
Stars Appeal	250.00	0.00
PGL MMM Hampshire & IoW Festival	1000.00	0.00
	<b>2250.00</b>	<b>3000.00</b>
Movement of Funds	<b>564.57</b>	<b>97.24</b>

#### **BALANCE SHEET**

Lloyds Bank Current A/c	629.96	481.41
Lloyds Bank Deposit A/c	4033.62	3617.6
CIOF Deposit Fund	8736.68	8736.68
	<b>13400.26</b>	<b>12835.69</b>

Prepared by **Adrian Wheeler FCCA**  
Prov G Treasurer

#### **Examiners Report:-**

We the undersigned having been appointed examiners, report that we have examined the books of account, statements and records maintained by the Charity Steward, and confirm the accounts and balance sheet, as presented, are in accordance therewith.

Signed  Date   
Merv Johns

Signed  Date   
Geoff Hunt

## Provincial Almoner's Report

Dear Brethren,

Please find my annual report as the Provincial Grand Almoner.

Let us begin by pausing to remember with deep respect those Brethren and their loved ones whom we have sadly lost during the past year. Their presence is missed, and their memories remain dear to us. May they rest in peace.

Since taking on the Provincial Almoners role last year, I have had the privilege of attending a one-day Almoners' Seminar at Mark Masons' Hall on behalf of the Province. One key message shared during the seminar was a reminder that the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) is well-positioned to support Brethren and their families who find themselves in times of difficulty. As Almoners, we were encouraged to identify anyone in need, be it a Brother or an immediate family member, who might benefit from this support. Should you become aware of someone who could use a helping hand, please do not hesitate to contact me in confidence. Help is available, and we are here to extend it.

I am grateful to the many Lodge Almoners who keep me informed through their regular reports. These updates are not only valued, but they also reflect the care and attentiveness being shown throughout the Province. It is truly heartening to see so many of the Mark and RAM Almoners actively engaging with and supporting their members with such dedication.

Let us also continue to be especially mindful of the widows of our departed Brethren. They may sometimes feel isolated, and it is part of our shared duty to reach out, include, and support them as extended members of our Masonic family. Likewise, those Brethren who live alone or face difficulties attending Lodge meetings deserve our ongoing consideration and care.

Some members within our Province are currently facing serious health challenges. Please remember, should any Brother or family member require assistance, I am always available, whether by telephone or email and will do all I can to help.

I extend my sincere thanks to all Lodge Almoners for the compassion, commitment, and hard work you continue to demonstrate. Together, may we ensure no Brother is left behind or without support in times of need.

Finally, I wish you and your families continued good health and happiness, in the year ahead.

Thank you, Brethren and Mark Well,

**W.Bro. Colin Ayton** P.Prov.G.S.O.  
Provincial Grand Almoner

## Charity Steward's Report

On behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, I would like to thank the brethren of the MARK and RAM Lodges for their continued support for Charitable giving, especially during this period when we are all as Craft Masons donating to the 2028 festival.

During the period from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025, £12,097 was distributed to local and national charities. The three Hospices within the province were well supported with donations of £826 which included £100 to Prospect in the memory of W.Bro. Dennis Kilford who was called to the Grand Lodge above. Following the devastating flooding to the centre of Chippenham when the river Avon overflowed its banks, £200 was sent to the Chippenham Air Cadets who lost everything and are still in temporary accommodation. Bath and Wiltshire Air Ambulance and many more smaller deserving registered Charities received donations. £1,250 was donated to four national charities, including £200 being donated to Pancreatic Cancer UK in memory of the wife of a W.Bro. During the year a sum of £3,255 was donated by lodges to the MBF, with two Lodges using their money to reach their next honorific.

The Provincial Grand Charity fund continues to acknowledge the importance of the MBF by supporting the Mark Provinces in Festival, Cheshire with £2,000 for their 2024 festival and Oxfordshire a similar amount as this year's Festival hosts.

In March this year on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master I was honoured to be at the Stars Appeal offices (Charity No 1052284) at Salisbury District Hospital for a presentation of a cheque for £2,000 from the Province, Mark and RAM Lodges based in Salisbury and other side orders who are administered by Mark Masons Hall. We received an enlightening overview from Dave Cates the chief fundraising officer for the Stars appeal of where the monies are spent in support of the NHS in Salisbury. I wish to record my thanks to W.Bro. Peter McCarthy, Elias De Derham Mark Lodge for arranging the presentation.

### **2032 Festival**

Following positive feedback from the owners of Devizes Marina the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and myself will be having a meeting shortly to discuss our requirements for the boat pull at Caen Hill Flight. This will be the first big event for our Festival. More information will be published on the Mark web site and through the Newsletter.

2032 may appear to be some time in the future but it will soon be upon us, so now is the time to start planning how your Lodge will celebrate. Who will be on the festival committee, please get the other halves involved, we all understand they are far more organised than we are. The festival dinner date is set in tablets of stone by the MBF for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2032 and yes, we are actively looking at suitable locations to hold the event.

Our previous festival was last Century and for most Mark brethren this will be the only festival we will be actively engaged in. The festival is for our family and friends, the important fact that we need to remember is, to enjoy the period ahead.

### **MBF Grants**

In early May this year the trustees of the MBF agreed a grant of £16,623 for the construction of accessible toilet and changing room for a new complex being built for 'The Gympanzees Charity.' No 1189357. The Charity offers a 'World of fun and fitness for all disabled children between birth to 25 years.' Based in Aust Bristol their catchment area includes a large swathe of our province

### **MBF Individual Honorifics**

We have seen an increase in Honorifics issued last year and I thank you all. Remember any sum above a minimum of £10, will be credited as requested and aggregated towards the festival fund. The appropriate jewel or collarette will be issued when qualification is achieved, starting with a Life Governor at £100 through to a Diamond award at £5,000. If you are a UK taxpayer gift aid is applied to your donations. The collarettes can be worn with pride at all Mark and Royal Ark Mariner meetings throughout your Mark Masonic career.

The 2032 MBF Stewards jewel is available and can be worn straight away. They cost £100 and with gift aid that equates to £125 towards your MBF honorifics. If you have not donated before it will also entitle you to a Life Governors Jewel.

### MBF Lodge Honorifics

Below is a table containing an updated list of the Lodge Honorifics. We currently have five Lodges who have reached the Diamond Award and eight Lodges who are just one step away from reaching the highest award available. The Provincial Grand Master would like all Lodges to make every effort to become holders of the Diamond award by 2032.

#### Wiltshire Mark lodges at 25.4.25

lodgeno	Name	LodgePatronStatus	Money at MMH	For next level	Next level
0178	The Wiltshire Keystone	Gold Award	£ 5,332.34	£ 3,167.66	Diamond Award
0401	Swindon Keystone	Diamond Award	£ 11,375.55		
0443	Elias De Derham	Gold Award	£ 7,564.54	£ 935.46	Diamond Award
0599	Chaloner	Gold Award	£ 5,164.10	£ 3,335.90	Diamond Award
0853	Radnor	Grand Patron	£ 3,043.86	£ 456.14	Gold Award
0971	Geoffrey Short	Gold Award	£ 6,782.66	£ 1,717.34	Diamond Award
1035	Lansdowne	Gold Award	£ 5,775.15	£ 2,724.85	Diamond Award
1110	Warminster	Diamond Award	£ 9,254.89		
1143	Border	Diamond Award	£ 9,757.29		
1460	Wiltshire Installed Mark Masters	Diamond Award	£ 8,700.00		
1531	St. Aldhelm **	Diamond Award	£ 9,425.00		
1599	The Kennet	Gold Award	£ 4,678.67	£ 3,821.33	Diamond Award
1843	Wiltshire Downs	Patron	£ 1,316.00	£ 734.00	Grand Patron

#### Wiltshire RAM lodges at 25.4.25

lodgeno	Name	LodgePatronStatus	Amount at MMH	Required for n	Next level
0178	Wiltshire Anchor	Grand Patron	£ 2,131.70	£ 1,368.30	Gold Award
0401	Goddard **	Gold Award	£ 6,001.53	£ 2,498.47	Diamond Award
0443	Elias De Derham	Grand Patron	£ 2,440.00	£ 1,060.00	Gold Award
0971	Concord	Grand Patron	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,000.00	Gold Award
1035	Lansdowne	Gold Award	£ 7,500.00	£ 1,000.00	Diamond Award
1110	Warminster	Patron	£ 300.00	£ 700.00	Grand Patron
1460	Reginald W. Short Installed Comma	Grand Patron	£ 3,300.00	£ 2,275.00	Gold Award
1843	The Stuart Parry	Grand Patron	£ 2,335.00	£ 2,365.00	Gold Award

\*\* Denotes Grand Master's Keystone Fund Lodges

I close by sincerely thanking all Lodge Charity Stewards throughout our Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges for their continuing fundraising efforts. Please keep up the good work for the ensuing Masonic year in raising funds for such worthwhile charities and our 2032 festival

**W.Bro. Ian Priest**

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

## Membership Report

The report has been produced by the Provincial Grand Master. The core data being extracted from Keystone Online. There can be some variation between these numbers depending when Resignations are fully processed.

## **Mark**

### **01-Sep-23 to 31-Aug-24**

The Province experienced mixed fortunes. We had a reasonable number of Advancements (14), with only one Lodge without a candidate. Sadly, we saw a large number of losses through cessation, resignation and death. The figures are slightly skewed as St Adhelm saw a few resignations due to the move from Malmesbury to Calne and Border saw an unprecedented number of cessations. We started the year with 296 individual members and ended the year with 273 members, a decline of 23.

### **Current Year**

The Province is showing a great improvement. We are on target to have 20 Advancements, the largest number for over 10 years. Our losses are significantly reduced, we are currently well down on resignations. We started the year with 273 individual members, and currently should end with 285 members, an increase of 12. Only Wiltshire Installed Masters experienced a loss in membership. Only one Lodge has not had a candidate.

## **RAM**

### **01-Sep-23 to 31-Aug-24**

The trend mirrors Mark. We had a reasonable number of Elevations (7), however three Lodges did not have a candidate. We started the year with 133 individual members and ended it with 126, a decline of 7. That means we had 46% of our Mark members belonging to a RAM Lodge.

### **Current Year**

Once again, the trend mirrors Mark. We are on target to have 8 Elevations bringing the number of individual members to 131, an increase of 5. Only one Lodge saw a loss in membership, of one member, and this was the only Lodge to not have a candidate.

***R.W.Bro. Steve Lee***

Provincial Grand Master

# Membership Report 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 plus current year

Lodge Number	Name of Lodge	Members 01-Sep-23	Advanced Elevated	Joined	Died	To Hon. Member	Excluded	Resigned	Members 31-Aug-24	Variance	Current year		
											Advanced Elevated	Variance this year	Members
178	The Wiltshire Keystone Mark	24	0	2	0	0	0	1	25	1	1	26	
401	Swindon Keystone Mark	30	0	1	2	0	1	2	26	-4	3	27	
443	Elias de Deham Mark	25	2	0	2	1	0	1	23	-2	1	23	
599	Chaloner Mark	22	0	0	1	0	0	2	19	-3	1	21	
853	Radnor Mark	21	2	0	1	0	0	0	22	1	3	24	
971	Geoffrey Short Mark	18	1	1	0	0	0	2	18	0	2	18	
1035	Lausdowne Mark	37	3	1	0	0	0	1	40	3	1	40	
1110	Waininster Mark	30	0	0	0	0	1	3	26	-4	1	27	
1143	Border Mark	31	2	1	0	0	7	1	26	-5	2	27	
1460	Wiltshire Installed Mark Masters	45	0	3	2	1	0	0	45	0	0	43	
1531	St Aldhelm Mark	31	2	0	2	0	1	5	25	-6	3	26	
1599	The Kennet Mark	24	1	0	1	0	0	2	22	-2	2	24	
1843	Wiltshire Downs Mark	14	1	8	0	0	0	2	21	7	0	22	
<b>Total Memberships</b>		<b>352</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>348</b>
<b>Total Individual Mark Members</b>		<b>296</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>-23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>285</b>

178	Wiltshire Anchor RAM	21	2	0	0	0	0	0	23	2	0	-1	22
401	Goddard RAM	26	1	0	2	0	0	2	23	-3	1	0	23
443	Elias de Deham RAM	21	1	0	2	1	0	1	18	-3	1	2	20
971	Concord RAM	15	0	0	1	0	0	1	13	-2	1	0	13
1035	Lausdowne RAM	19	0	1	0	0	0	3	15	-4	1	1	16
1110	Waininster RAM	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	2	2	26
1460	Reginald W Short Installed Commanders RAM	32	0	4	2	0	0	0	34	2	0	0	34
1843	The Stuart Parry RAM	18	3	1	0	0	0	2	20	2	2	0	20
<b>Total Memberships</b>		<b>176</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Total Individual RAM Members</b>		<b>133</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>131</b>

# Provisional Provincial Calendar 2025 - 2026

## Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Wiltshire Meeting Calendar 2025 - 2026



	2025					2026						
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
<b>Mark Lodges</b>	178	Wiltshire Keystone		10	12	13	11	10			178	
	401	Swindon Keystone			12					13	401	
	443	Elias de Derham		3	5	6		3		15	443	
	599	Chaloner		7	2	3		7			599	
	853	Radnor	6		10	12		9		11	853	
	971	Geoffrey Short	24		26	28		25			971	
	1035	Lansdowne		27	15	26			27		1035	
	1110	Warminster		14	9			10		12	1110	
	1143	Border	3		5		4		1		1143	
	1460	Wiltshire Installed Mark Masters		31	4			3	24		1460	
	1531	St. Aldhelm	12		6		5		2		1531	
	1599	The Kennet				6					1599	
	1843	Wiltshire Downs (am)	17					18		20	1843	
	<b>Royal Ark</b>	178	Wiltshire Anchor	5	7			6			1	178
		401	Goddard	26	28						8	401
443		Elias de Derham		27		26		23			443	
971		Concord	11	13			12				971	
1035		Lansdowne	8	10				??			1035	
1110		Warminster		25					14		1110	
1460		Reg. W. Short Commanders			1		10			27	1460	
1843		Stuary Parry (am)			4			5			1843	
<b>Provincial Grand Lodge Meetings and Socials</b>												
		28	Sunday					14			19	18
	Act.Off. Supper	Lunch					Act.Proff. Dinner			Prov. Meeting		
<b>Grand Lodge Meetings</b>												
		TBC			TBC		TBC				TBC	
		Mark			RAM		Mark				Mark	

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- Regular Installation Meeting
- Team Visits - Border Mark, Lansdowne RAM
- Clashing Meeting dates
- Dispensation to enable an extra meeting or change of regular meeting date
- Travelling Ark Route