

## Let The Magic Begin!

All four of our Associations have now seen the Magic of the Mark Presentation with approximately 140 Brethren present. All 44 Lodges were represented. If you haven't seen it yet, please click on the video on the Provincial Website. It is certainly impressive and inspirational, as was the presentation by V.W.Bro. Alan Oldfield our Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Yes, some of the initial numbers were hard to digest but, we all need to be aware of the facts and the issues we face. In just eleven years our Provincial Membership has shrunk by a third and now stands at less than 1000 members. Approximately 50% of our members are over 70 years old, this applies not only in our Province but nationally as well.

Grand Lodge has launched a national recruitment campaign called 'The Magic of the Mark' to try and reverse the decline in memberships. Members of our Province played a key part in developing the presentation video, you will recognise many of your friends in the pictures it contains. The recruitment campaign is essential, it focuses our minds and efforts in finding new candidates to ensure that the hard work and efforts of those giants of Mark Masonry who have gone before us, and on whose shoulders we all proudly stand is not lost to history. Let's not let their hard work be for nothing. The motivation should be clear. Let us all go out there and 'search' for what needs to be 'found' and, if necessary 'go search again'. New members being the 'reward'. It is said at many meetings that visiting is the life blood of our Lodges. Visiting is of course an important part of our wonderful order but, surely the life blood of our order are the new candidates our Lodges desperately need. A great friend of this Province R.W.Bro. Steve Davison our late Assistant Grand Master was credited with coining the phrase 'The Magic of the Mark'. He used it regularly and it stuck. It really is a fantastic way to describe our order. So, be inspired by that phrase use it regularly and make the magic happen.

All of our Lodges should now have a display of both Trifold leaflets and business cards to be handed out to prospective candidates. These are a great tool to hand to a prospective candidate after your first discussion. The business card has a QR Code on each side. One side takes you to the video and the other side to a document called The Fundamental Principles of Mark Masonry. The leaflet also has a QR code on taking you to the video.

Mark Lodges meet at the following locations:

- Absoldey
- Baldon
- Barnackwick
- Barnsley
- Bingley
- Brighouse
- Cardford
- Cockburn
- Dewsbury
- Dounerley
- Earwood
- Edlington
- Goole
- Hafley
- Harrington
- Hemsworth
- Headingley
- Hippoburn
- Huddersfield
- Kirby
- Kirkstall
- Kirkstall
- Knottingley
- Marfield
- Osby
- Poolefoot
- Pudsey
- Ragon
- Rothwell
- Stanningley
- Sunderland
- Tipton Hall, Sheffield
- Thorncliffe
- Uppermill
- Wetherby
- Widley
- Widley
- Widley

Mark Masonry in West Yorkshire

In 1819 the Grand Master, Lord Leigh, announced that he wished one corner with at least three Lodges to form them into a Province, with a Provincial Grand Master who would be welcomed by the Brethren he had to supersede - a principle that happily still applies today!

The Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire was formed in 1819, with six Lodges on the roll; there are now 44, including a single Lodge. The Province is one of the largest outside London, with over 1000 members who are proudly enjoying their Mark Masonry. Mark Lodges generally meet four to six times a year, mostly in the winter months. Mark Masons recognise the importance of family involvement, and our popular social events run throughout the year.

The ceremony of being made a Mark Master Mason, known as Advancement, is beautiful, involving and enlightening, with the Candidate right at its heart. It depicts an incident at the building of King Solomon's Temple, and the use of a wise mason's selected Mark. It teaches important lessons about our role in life, and how good work in due course earns us our reward.

**The Magic of the Mark**

**The order: "Mark Will"**

The Mark is a very old order, the third largest order in Freemasonry, and traces its origin to the same period of history as the development of the Craft and High Lodge work.

It carries moral patronage: H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent is our Grand Master.

It benefits from a magnificent headquarters, Mark Masons' Hall the London club for Mark Masons.

It is used by many to be their favourite order, new Mark Masons often say that they wish they had joined the Mark years before. There is an emphasis on the social side of Mark Masonry.

The Mark is an inclusive order and advancement is open to all Master Masons irrespective of faith and colour background.

Mark Masonry has its own registered charity, the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF), which does outstanding work in providing speedy support to members, their families and non masonic worthy causes.

It carries a sense of belonging to the Mark family, which has an aim of promoting harmony, friendliness and enjoyment.

**The story and the ritual:**  
**"The 40 Regular Steps"**

Each Mark Mason has his own personal and unique mark, which provides a direct link to operative masons who have used marks to identify their work for centuries.

The Mark degree, founded on the lessons of the sacred arch of King Solomon, provides a comprehensive understanding of the true connections between the Solomonian degree, Craft, Mark, High Royal Arch, Royal & Select Masters and other orders.

The beautifully written ritual teaches lessons of hope and encouragement, having confidence in the quality of one's own work and of the advantages of perseverance.

The dramatic and friendly ceremony illustrates that the mason can be milder, that experts are often wrong, that the most insignificant has the potential for distinction and that we all have a significant part to play in building the temple.

**The individual's perspective:**  
**"Make your Mark"**

Mark Masonry offers an opportunity to meet and from whom to learn, thereby widening a brother's masonic knowledge and circle of friends. It provides a gateway to other Masonic orders.

Mark Masons are enthusiastic, generous and extremely welcoming, there are shorter lines of communication with friendly and approachable executives. Amongst Mark Masons you will always find friends, which is why it is known as the friendly degree.

The ritual and ceremonial offer opportunities for participation to all from the day a brother joins, the candidate is not merely but named the lodge room has increasingly takes an active, central role.

Mark Masonry offers progression and growth for a greater proportion of Brethrens, with a very real opportunity to showcase their qualities and enhance their experience of Masonry as a whole.

**Scan here to watch a video about the Magic of the Mark**

We look forward to welcoming you into our fellowship

James Streggles, G.M.R.A.C.  
Provincial Grand Master

Alan Oldfield  
Deputy Provincial Grand Master

John Edward Vause  
Assistant Provincial Grand Master

"The stone which the builders refused has become the foundation of the corner"



SCAN THE QR CODE  
To watch  
The Magic of  
the Mark video

Or visit [www.westyorksmark.org.uk](http://www.westyorksmark.org.uk)

SCAN THE QR CODE  
For the  
fundamental  
principles of  
Mark Masonry



Or visit [www.westyorksmark.org.uk](http://www.westyorksmark.org.uk)

There should also be a poster on display. The clever thing about the poster is the way that Masonic Symbolism from other orders has been used so it's not alien to the reader. Such as the Arch supported by the Keystone. More importantly the pictures are in the main pictures of the Craft and Mark P.G.M's also other Craft and Royal Arch Rulers in their Mark regalia. Hopefully this will trigger the idea "if its good enough for them then I ought to be involved".



Several months ago Alan was away in the lakes on a Craft weekend and in the same Hotel on the Saturday night a local Craft Lodge was having their ladies evening. He got chatting to a young Craft Mason from our area and Alan mentioned The Magic of the Mark. The young Craft Mason was part of the Leeds Light Blues and took away a business card. A few weeks ago Alan was asked if he would like to attend a seminar promoted by The Leeds Light Blues this would involve a talk about the Royal Arch followed by an opportunity for those attending to find out about other orders. This event will take place at Blenheim House Batley on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 over 150 new and young Craft Masons are already booked in.

Alan had the idea of running the video on a loop using a TV at the back of our display area. He rang the organiser to see if this would be ok. The organiser said of course it was ok and that he had recognised his name straight away from their chat in the Lakes. He told Alan he had watched the video and found it interesting. He then asked if Alan could help him find a suitable Mark Lodge. He is shortly going to be advanced into Haywra Lodge No.525. Brethren proof the leaflets and business cards really do work. This should inspire us all to look that little bit harder for suitable candidates for our wonderful order. So, why not put a few leaflets and business cards in your case and give them to suitable candidates. Brethren get out there and let the magic begin.

Andrew Johnson

Communications Manger