



Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons West Yorkshire

Provincial Grand Lodge of MMM of West Yorkshire Provincial Grand Secretaries' Report 2024.

Brethren, this is the annual report of the Provincial Grand Secretary which is sent to all Mark Mason's and Royal Ark Mariner's for your information ahead of the Annual Provincial Meeting of the Province of West Yorkshire.

Since the Provincial meeting last April, we have enjoyed many wonderful meetings and occasions to experience the friendship of our wonderful Order.

Our Provincial team have continued to work hard with our Executive, led by our Provincial Grand Master, to promote the Order and provide support and encouragement within our Order and our wider communities.

In the last 12 months we have been busy with numerous memorable events.

Our seven-year Festival culminated in a spectacular event at the Harrogate Convention Centre over the weekend of 30th June & 1st July 2023, where this wonderful occasion was enjoyed by 630 of our Mark Brethren, family, and friends from all over the Country. There it was announced the Province had raised a magnificent £1,582,745, which is the second highest amount ever raised by a Mark Benevolent Fund Festival, despite losing 2 full years of Fundraising due to the pandemic.

On the 12th July, the White Rose Lodge No. 1067. surrendered their Warrant at an emergency meeting called to celebrate the Lodge's 76-year history. The Warrant is currently being held in obeyance by the Province with the hope of resurrecting the Lodge in a new guise in the next three years to continue the proud name close to the heart of every Yorkshireman.

Following the resignation of R.W.Bro. James Steggle, *GMRAC* who had led our Province for 11 years. On 28th October we held an Especial meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge for the Installation of his successor as Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. J. Trevor Bolton, it was a splendid event at Bradford Grammar School supported by a delegation from Grand Lodge headed by the M.W.Pro. Grand Master, John Herbert Prizeman and rulers from all over the North of England. V.W.Bro. Alan Oldfield was re-appointed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and W.Bro. Andrew J. Brown, as Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Our new Provincial Grand Masters first official outing was on the 21st November, the Banner Dedication of the Gilkirk Mark Lodge No. 812, which was immediately followed by the Sesquicentenary celebrations of The Old York Lodge T.I. on the 25th November, this was supported by Grand Lodge, where R.W.Bro. Professor Denovan Keith Wilson, *Assistant Grand Master*, officiated. During these events we enjoyed Orations by our Provincial Grand Chaplain, Rev. W.Bro. Roger Quick, P. Ass. G. Chap.

The year ended with our traditional Carol Concert on Sunday 10th December 2022 at Brighthouse Methodist Church.

Since our last Provincial meeting there have been a number of 50 year Jubilee Certificates presented to Brethren. These include V.W.Bro. Peter Brindley of Gothic Mark Lodge No. 1018, W.Bro. Simon Gazzard of Gilkirke Mark Lodge No. 812, W.Bro. Graham Ramsden of St. Chad Mark Lodge No. 374. And W. Bro. Alan Oldams of Prince Edward Mark Lodge No. 14.

The Grand Rank recipients in June 2023 were, to Active Rank – W.Bro's Andrew J. Brown, Dep.G.D.C. Paul Gareth Bowen, Ass.G.Organist. V.W.Bro. Phillip Oldfield, G.J.O. and W.Bro. Warren Marsden, G.Stwd. First Appointments were to, W.Bro's Andrew Johnson, P.A.G.D.C., A. Michael Dyson, P.A.G.Swd.B., W.Bro. Paul Levey, P.A.G.Swd.B., Anthony Etherington, P.G.Std.B., David J. How, P.G.Std.B., George T. Wise, P.G.Std.B. and via the Province of Cheshire, David J. Smith, P.A.G.Std.B. with Promotions in September for, W.Bro's. James I. Reynolds, P.G.S.D., Alexander Steele, P.G.S.D. and R. Edward Wilkinson, P.G.J.D.

The Annual Meeting of the Charity Committee took place at Tipton Hall, Sheffield on the 2nd March 2024 where W.Bro. Geoff Kendall, Chairman of the Cleeves and Whitehead Trust submitted his Annual Report. This report will be included in the 2023/24 Provincial Yearbook. The Provincial Grand Master and Brethren of West Yorkshire thank W.Bro. Kendall, the Trustees and Charity Representatives for the magnificent support the Trust continues to give to the Mark Masons of West Yorkshire. They also continued to Organise and run the Annual Holiday and the Almoners Lunches.

The Installed Masters' Associations continue their tremendous work across the Province, promoting visiting between Lodges and between Associations. At the beginning of 2023 a presentation was made with information, leaflets and business cards being provided to all the Lodges of the four IMA's in relation to the launch of the 'Magic of the Mark', to assist in the recruitment of the next generation of Mark Masons. Further presentations have been made in a number of Mark and Craft Lodges with further ones planned later this year. We have seen 80 new Mark Master Masons Advanced in the Province during this time which is very encouraging for the future growth of our Order in this wonderful Province.

The Secretariat thank all Lodge secretaries for their continuing support and assistance with the administrative governance of the Province.

W.Bro. G. Gary Parker, P.A.G.D.C., R.A.M.G.R.
Provincial Grand Secretary