



Middlesex Mark Matters

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A Newsletter for Middlesex Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariners

Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Update April 2015

Forward

To all Lodge Director of Ceremonies, following a communication from Mark Grand Lodge the following changes should be noted and acted upon by all. I would also like to see an improvement in the level of ritual, this can be achieved by attending lodge of instruction. Otherwise you can call upon the ceremonial Support team to assist in your meetings

Mark Ritual Changes

Further to the recent changes to the Mark ritual No 1- 2014 edition and to avoid any misunderstanding arising from the description as penned in the first full paragraph on page 50 of that version of the ritual.

The Third part of the sign is to be given by;

1. Dropping the right hand to the horizontal.
2. The right hand is held palm flat and upwards, the four fingers straight and together with the thumb bent across the palm of the hand (i.e. as in the sign manual of a Mark Man).
3. The right wrist is then struck with the edge of the left hand.

In order that the words spoken by the Worshipful Master should match the actions which he will perform, and which the candidate will copy, the following words should be used in place of those printed;

“The third part alludes to the ancient punishment and is given by dropping the right arm to the horizontal, resuming the sign manual of a Mark Man and then striking the right wrist with the edge of the left hand”

The above is not an option to be considered, it is a directive via the Grand Master’s Lodge of Instruction and is to be adopted in every Lodge.

Royal Ark Mariner Ritual Changes

Similar to the changes in the Mark Ritual, the Grand Master’s Lodge of Instruction have instructed that every Royal Ark Mariner Lodge will blindfold the candidate for Elevation prior to him entering the Lodge.

Lodge of Instruction

With the masonic season in full swing it may be time to reflect on some aspects of our wonderful Order. Are we doing it, or ourselves justice when we perform a ceremony for a new Advansee or install a new Master? Do we make excuses to our guests when the work performed is not quite up to scratch? Is it really ok to read the ceremony?

The Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Ceremonies should be treated with the same dedication and commitment as is afforded the Craft and Royal Arch.

We are quite rightly denominated the Friendly Degree but that shouldn't mean that we are any less committed to learning or delivering a ceremony that will have a lasting impression on the candidates for the right reasons.

At a time when recruitment and retention are paramount to the long term survival of our organization it is even more important that we make the experience one that can inspire and captivate and what better way than in ceremonies that are delivered confidently without the aid of the book.

To assist in getting members around the Province to the standard that we would all be happy with, there are 4 locations offering Lodge of Instruction within Middlesex. All of these are open to any members of the Province, with experienced Mark Masons keen to impart their knowledge and assist all those who attend to learn or improve their existing skills.

If you as the Lodge DC, or your members are interested in attending please contact the Secretary, Preceptor or Dep Preceptor at one of the following;

Cole Court Lodge of Instruction meeting at Twickenham District Masonic Centre,
Meeting at 8pm on 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month including August.
Secretary & Preceptor: V W Bro Michael Faulkner PGJO, RAMGR - 020 8979 4975
Dep Preceptor: W.Bro John Billett PGStwd, PProvGSwdB - 01932 780576

Saint Giles Lodge of Instruction meeting at Ickeham Institute.
Meeting at 8pm on alternate Mondays from September to May.
Secretary & Preceptor: W Bro Paul Craker ProvGJD - 01895 230704,
Dep Preceptor: W.Bro Chris Nixon ProvGChStwd - 01494 766504

Staines Lodge of Instruction meeting at Staines Masonic Hall
Meeting: 7:15 1st Wednesday each month including August
Secretary: V W Bro Michael Faulkner PGJO RAMGR - 020 8979 497
Preceptor: W.Bro Philip Pickard PGJD RAMGR - 1784 740233

Northwick Circle Lodge of Instruction meeting at Harrow District Masonic Centre
Meeting; 8pm on alternate Tuesdays from September to May
Secretary & Dep Preceptor: W Bro Peter Lawson – 020 886 6487
Preceptor: W.Bro Terry Wright PProvGSW, RAMGR - 020 8863 3729

Ceremonial Support Team

When organising a meeting it is appreciated that sometimes it is the lack of numbers that is the biggest obstacle to providing a good ceremony. So with this in mind the Province have put together a Ceremonial Support Team who will on request attend your meeting and not only come to your lodge to assist in your ceremonies by filling offices where you may be deficient but also perform a ceremony purely for you and your guests entertainment.

If you would like to be a part of that team you are more than welcome or if you wish to call upon the team to support you or to perform for you please contact W Bro John Billett, PGStwd, PProvGSwdB - 01932 780576



Eddy Garty PGJD
Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies