

The Mark Benevolent Fund have been particular supportive to Charities in our Province this year, with grants totalling more than £200,000. This included an Ambulance Support Vehicle for St John Ambulance, a Rapid Response Vehicle for Yorkshire Air Ambulance, a new Mini Bus for Martin House and refurbishment of a Barge for the Mirfield charity Safe Anchor Trust, as well as donations to 2 local Hospices and the Flood victims in South Yorkshire.

None of this wonderful work by the MBF could have been possible without successful Festivals across the Mark Provinces. This is why it is essential during the suspension that we look to find ways to support our own Festival, so that we in turn can support the MBF with a successful Festival in 2023.

Several Lodges and Brethren have qualified for their MBF Grand Patron Gold Awards since our last Meeting and I was going to present them with their collarets today. This will now be done later in the year. 16 Lodges have now reached Grand Patron Gold status and many more are well on their way, so I still expect the Province to qualify as Grand Patron Gold by 2023 as planned.

The Cleeves and Whitehead Trust also continues to do excellent work for us all. I thank the Trustees of the Trust for the magnificent pastoral care and support it gives to all Mark Masons in the Province and for the help it provides to our local communities. Also for the support it continues to give to the Mark Benevolent Fund and our Festival.

This year's Mark Grand Rank recipients were announced just 2 weeks ago, and as last year the Acting Ranks and First Appointments will be conferred in June, with Promotions being conferred in September. The Acting Ranks and First Appointment will assume their new Ranks on the day of the cancelled Grand Lodge meeting, which was due to take place on 9th June.

West Yorkshire has done particularly well this year with the following brethren receiving appointments. I ask them to stand for a moment if they are reading this personally at home !!

*With appointments to **Active Rank**:*

<i>W.Bro. John Maxwell</i>	<i>Knares' Castle 768</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>Grand Senior Deacon</i>
<i>and Edward Wilkinson</i>	<i>Old York T.I.</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>Grand Steward</i>

With First appointments to Past Rank:

<i>Paul Leach</i>	<i>St Chad 374</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>P.A.G.D.C.</i>
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<i>John Marrison</i>	<i>Danum 398</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>P.A.G.D.C.</i>
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<i>Gary Parker</i>	<i>Beaumont 1523</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>P.A.G.D.C.</i>
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<i>Derek Walsh</i>	<i>Integrity 110</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>P.A.G.D.C.</i>
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(via the Province of Cheshire)