

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons West Yorkshire

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Dear Brethren all,

Under normal circumstances we would have met on several occasions in your Mark or Royal Ark Mariner Lodges this year, but unfortunately due to the Masonic Suspension that has not been possible. Over 70 Lodge meetings and Special Events have been lost. However, the Mark Province of West Yorkshire is still very much alive and well. I wish to keep it that way which is the main reason for me writing this letter to every Mark Master Mason.

Firstly, it is essential that we keep alive our chains of communication. I and my executive will need to make certain decisions concerning our return to Mark Masonry and at that time your input regarding those decisions will be crucial. We are all being kept broadly abreast of what is happening in the Province by the Weekly Suspension Bulletins, but within our own Provincial family of Mark Master Masons I believe we can go much further than that. Our Provincial website www.westyorksmark.co.uk has been re-designed to enable messages and stories about what's happening across the Province to be posted in much greater detail than in the Bulletins. It also contains 'Distractions' and a 'Quiz Time' to keep us entertained at home and a Technical section for anyone needing help setting up video calls.

Please visit the website regularly as it is currently our best means of communication. We also have a 'West Yorks Mark' Facebook group. If you use Facebook but are not yet a member of the group **then please join.** This is a quick way to inform each other of things happening across the Province.

Secondly, you will remember that we the Mark Masons of West Yorkshire are in Festival for the Mark Benevolent Fund. During the last twelve months donations of over £200,000 to **charitable projects in our Province** have been made by the Mark Benevolent Fund. This included an Ambulance Support vehicle for St John, a rapid response vehicle for Yorkshire Air Ambulance, a new minibus for Martin House and donations to many other local charities. Our Festival in 2023 will enable this good work by the M.B.F. to continue, **so it is essential that we do not let it fail.**

Lodge Raffles, collections, Lodge Fundraising events etc have all now dried up, **so we must look to other methods of fundraising.** On the website there is a Virtual Festival Balloon Race and watch out for a Photographic Competition to be announced shortly. Taking part in both these events will raise funds for our Festival. The Masonic Cycle Challenge has been deferred until later this year, but its donation site is still open and accessible from our website. Please give it your consideration as it is probably the easiest way to support the Festival at this time.

If you have any ideas how funds can be raised to support our Festival, then please let me know so that your idea can be put forward. I am asking for your help and support as we strive together to maintain the health of our Province and keep our Festival fundraising alive, but in the meantime please keep safe, keep well, and I really do look forward to meeting you all again when our Mark Masonry resumes.

My kindest regards and fraternal best wishes to you all.