

MARK BENEVOLENT FUND



ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL PRESIDENT

*R.W.Bro. Peter Hawken, M.B.E.
Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire*

FESTIVAL RESULT

Saturday, 2 July 2016



R.W.Bro. Peter Hawken, *M.B.E.*
Festival President and Chairman

2016 FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

V.W.Bro. Peter Balsom, **PGJO**, DepProvGMaster
Chairman

W.Bro. John Clendinning, **PGStwd**
Provincial Grand Secretary

W.Bro. Mike Daniels, **PGSD**, ProvGChStwd
Treasurer

Members

WBro. David Purdie, **PGJD**

W.Bro. Gerald Smith, **PGJD**, AsstProvGSec

W.Bro. Trevor Jenkins, **PAGDC**

W.Bro. Paul Bradfield, **PAGDC**

W.Bro. David Tucker, **PAGDC**

W.Bro. Alistair Duncan, **PAGSwdB**, ProvGTyler

W.Bro. Neil Room-Doubleday, **PGStB**

W.Bro. Nick St J White, PProvGSW

W.Bro. Lee Taylor, ProvGJW

W.Bro. Ronald Smerdon, ProvGDC

W.Bro. John Smerdon

Introduction

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FUND A BRIEF HISTORY

It was not long after the official founding of the Mark Degree in June 1856 that the Reverend George Raymond Portal (in 1881 Canon Portal) devised the idea of a charity separate from that of the United Grand Lodge of England. Canon Portal was born in 1827 and was the fourth son of John Portal, a renowned manufacturer of paper for bank notes. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford and began his Masonic career in 1848 at the age of 21. At the formation of the new Mark Grand Lodge in 1856, he was appointed as its first Grand Chaplain. By 1866 he had ascended to the rank of Deputy Grand Master, swiftly followed in 1869 by the highest rank of all – Grand Master – an office he held until 1873. From his early days in Freemasonry he despised the fact that access to funding for those in need took so long to administer. Canon Portal wanted a charity where immediate aid could be granted. He faced much opposition to the idea which was deemed to be rather more radical and progressive than the general thinking of the time and it took a while for his scheme to gain support and to take root. Finally in 1868 the Mark Benevolent Fund was born.

The aim of the charity was to help poor and distressed Mark Master Masons, their wives or widows, their children and their sisters. This aim is as true today as it was almost 150 years ago. To date almost £7 million has been disbursed in grants to petitioners.

In December of 1868 the General Board received the first report that the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons had donated £50 to the new Benevolent Fund. The first grant of £5 was made to a Mark Mason called George Morris. George was a ship steward who had lost all of his possessions in a shipwreck and had returned to his home in Southwark, London, completely penniless.

By June 1869 it was reported that the fund had dispensed another £20 and that only £25 remained. Portal, now being Deputy Grand Master of the Mark, realised his dilemma and it was important not to lose face.

What to do? Canon Portal came up with the idea of holding a festival. After all, the Craft had been doing it for years.

And so, the first festival of the fund was held at the Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court, on Tuesday 10 August 1869. It was attended by 53 members and their ladies and whilst the Benevolent Fund embraced the rather novel idea that ladies should attend the festival, the organisers did not let this innovation get out of hand. It is reported that the ladies were seated on the outer tables and their men-folk sat at the inner tables!

The first festival raised the sum of £79. Not bad for such a small gathering. Today this would equate to around £55,000. Curiously the sum raised was reported incorrectly as £97 and has never been changed. The tradition of a Festival has continued from that time and since 1879 a festival has been allocated to a different Mark Province every year. The Festival in 2015 was held in Droitwich Spa for the Province of Worcestershire and raised £561,577. This year we are here in the Province of Devonshire.

The Mark Benevolent Fund also makes donations to other charities and worthy causes. These grants have totalled over £19 million since 1868 and the Committee, which meets up to three times a year, may grant any amount up to £100,000 on each occasion. Larger donations are made every few years. Examples of grants over recent years are £1.6 million to the R.N.L.I. in Wales to assist in the purchase of a new lifeboat, £18,000 for Northumbria Blood Bikes for the purchase of one fully equipped bike, £1.4 million to St Bartholomew's Hospital for Cancer Care, £13,150 to the Baldwin Trust for the refurbishment of canal boats specially modified for disabled visitors, £225,000 to the Children's Burns Trust and a pledge of £2.6 million to the Hope For Tomorrow cancer charity to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Mark Benevolent Fund in 2018.

As the Sesquicentennial of the Mark Benevolent Fund approaches it is important to reflect on Canon Portal's drive, enthusiasm and dedication, remembering that to him it was wrong for there to be any delay in providing assistance to those in need. Canon Portal's own Latin tag "Bis dat qui cito dat" – He gives twice who gives promptly *or* A gift given without hesitation is as good as two gifts, became the guiding principle of the M.B.F. We still live by that adage, which is as relevant today as it was when he founded the Fund almost 150 years ago.

THE FESTIVAL RESULT

Devonshire	£
Mark Lodges	513,904
Royal Ark Mariner Lodges	82,924
Craft	46,050
Royal Arch Chapter	5,250
Great Priory	750
Red Cross of Constantine	300
Royal and Select Masters	950
Allied Masonic Degrees	1,218
Order of The Secret Monitor	300
Knight Templar Priests	100
Royal Order of Scotland	1,700
Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia	300
Fund Raising and Others	103,814
Sub Total	757,560

Donations made from outside the Province

Provincial Grand Lodges	200,653
Inspectorates	2,093
District Grand Lodges	8,650
Unattached Lodges	5,960
Other Masonic Orders	487
Other Donations	8,341
Sub Total	226,184

Total Donations 983,744
Interest Credited to the Festival from MMH 29,010

Festival Total 1,012,754

25 May 2016

Hon. Secretary, Board of Stewards



DEVONSHIRE

MARK LODGES

£

9	Fortescue	35,862
15	St. George	7,365
16	Friendship	7,713
23	Russell	4,936
35	Sincerity	7,003
48	Brunswick	8,376
50	St. John	18,754
64	St. Aubyn	8,941
66	Fortitude	7,024
76	Charity	5,124
91	Fidelity Huyshe	9,034
96	Metham	6,476
100	Hawton	17,748
169	Elliott	16,510
187	St. Peter's	9,648
215	Devon	11,145
316	Benevolent	9,413
319	Jordan	8,737
372	De La Pole	7,730
383	Lodge of St. George	7,464
438	Duncombe	8,706
540	North Devon Union	4,235
586	Torbay	5,425
617	Sir Francis Drake	8,534
675	Pleiades	12,348
696	Strode	12,142
737	Dartmouth	17,624
783	Unity	17,466
798	Caput Anguli	4,144
822	Perseverance	9,794
849	Amity	12,194
958	Athelstan	11,098

1029	St. John's	6,625
1038	Ashburton	14,153
1075	Exon	17,178
1076	Manadon	5,182
1100	Plympton Erle	22,291
1116	Lodge of St. Simon	2,653
1159	True Love and Unity	11,737
1180	Lodge of the West Gate	11,761
1264	Benevolence	31,849
1284	Lewis	21,268
1370	Sanctuary	11,530
1495	Spencer	4,312
1727	Holsworthy	9,771
1750	Devonshire Lodge of Installed Mark Masters	4,881
	TOTAL	513,904

ROYAL ARK MARINER LODGES £

9	Fortescue	8,429
15	St. George	5,281
23	The Russell	4,221
35	Sincerity	2,721
64	St. Aubyn	4,727
100	Hawton	10,384
316	Benevolent	3,209
319	Jordan	2,922
372	De La Pole	4,521
383	St. George	3,187
540	St. Nicholas	2,874
617	Sir Francis Drake	3,177
696	Strode	4,520
783	Unity	3,023
1038	Ashburton	3,499
1076	Manadon	4,987
1159	True Love and Unity	3,622
1264	Benevolence	4,667
1750	Devonshire Lodge of Installed Commanders	2,953
	TOTAL	82,924

OTHER MASONIC ORDERS

CRAFT

£

	Devonshire Craft Provincial Grand Lodge	30,000
70	St John	250
105	Lodge of Fortitude	250
202	Lodge of Friendship	250
1247	St Johns	500
1885	Torridge	500
2258	Western District Services	3,000
3226	Philammon	300
3337	Royal Navy	500
4604	Dartmoor	500
4894	Helvetica	10,000
	TOTAL	46,050

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

£

	Provincial Grand Chapter of Devonshire	5,000
1247	Unity	250
	TOTAL	5,250

GREAT PRIORY

£

	Provincial Priory of Devon & Cornwall	500
628	The Madyllion	250
	TOTAL	750

RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE

	Divisional Conclave of Devon & Cornwall	250
270	Mount Lebanon	50
	TOTAL	300

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

	District Grand Council of Devon & Cornwall	750
212	Twyford	200
	TOTAL	950

ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES

	District Grand Council of Devon & Cornwall	968
33	St Aubyn	250
	TOTAL	1,218

ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR

Provincial Grand Conclave of Devonshire	300
TOTAL	300

KNIGHT TEMPLAR PRIESTS

District of Devon & Cornwall	100
TOTAL	100

ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND

Province of Bedfordshire & Northamptonshire	300
Province of Devonshire	600
Province of Hertfordshire	500
Province of South Western Counties	300
TOTAL	1,700

SOCIETAS ROSICRUCIANA IN ANGLIA

Province of South Western Counties	300
TOTAL	300

FUNDRAISING AND OTHER DONATIONS

Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire	39,000
Devonshire Provincial Mark Balls	32,500
Devonshire Festival Committee Summer Balls	6,000
150 Club Monthly Prize Draw	5,000
ProvGL of Devonshire Alms Collections	1,369
Other Provinces Alms Collections	1,767
Sundry Gift Aid	12,347
ProvGM Sponsored walk - other donations	1,977
Miss Fiona Duncan	1,261
Mrs Wendy Hawken	500
Mrs Diana Heffer	1,250
Mrs M Keast	250
Mrs S L Purdie	128
Mrs B K Cavvell	100
In memory of Donald Barwick in lieu of flowers	90
In Memory of F Pester-Young	275
TOTAL	103,814

Total from within the Province	757,560
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DONATIONS FROM OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE OF DEVONSHIRE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGES

	£
Berkshire	1,000
Bristol	1,625
Buckinghamshire	1,598
Channel Islands	50
Cheshire	5,425
Cornwall	51,780
Cumberland & Westmorland	1,439
Derbyshire	574
Dorset	1,661
Durham	6,000
Dyfed	9,484
East Anglia	18,202
East Lancashire	6,000
Essex	5,086
Gloucestershire & Herefordshire	1,397
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	20,655
Hertfordshire	2,698
Kent	3,250
Leicestershire & Rutland	2,500
Lincolnshire	2,000
London	2,583
Middlesex	3,252
Monmouthshire	2,500
North & East Yorkshire	5,562
North Wales	4,807
Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire	5,146
Northumberland	2,063
Nottinghamshire	3,625
Oxfordshire	1,275
Somerset	7,125
South Wales	1,825
Staffordshire & Shropshire	268
Surrey	2,600
Sussex	2,563
Warwickshire	2,477
West Lancashire	1,600
West Yorkshire	5,133
Wiltshire	1,793
Worcestershire	2,032
TOTAL	200,653

INSPECTORATES **£**

Isle of Man	2,093
TOTAL	2,093

DISTRICT GRAND LODGES **£**

Belgium	50
Hong Kong	3,546
Madras	500
The Netherlands	4,500
South & East Caribbean	29
The Transvaal	25
TOTAL	8,650

UNATTACHED LODGES

Grand Stewards	2,745
Grand Masters	750
The Mark Provincial Grand Secretaries	250
The Lord Swansea	240
New Quarries	1,975
TOTAL	5,960

OTHER MASONIC ORDERS CRAFT

Zetland Lodge, Hong Kong	487
TOTAL	487

OTHER DONATIONS

J.D.A. Platts	2,500
G. Craigs	2,250
C.R. Cook	2,500
Sundry Donations	161
In memory of James Sweeney	115
In memory of R.B. Walker	265
In memory of Revd Dr Michael Morgan	550
TOTAL	8,341

Total Donations Outside the Province of Devonshire	226,184
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Note:

Donations received from individual members are not normally listed in this booklet, the donations from members within the Festival Province are included in the total shown for their Lodge and for members and units outside the Festival Province their donations are included in the Province/District Grand Lodge or Inspectorate totals.

STEWARDSHIP QUALIFICATION

Donations and Steward's Fee

A brother or lady can serve a Stewardship by paying a Steward's fee of £50.00.

Festival Badge and Bar

Everyone is entitled to purchase a Festival Badge and Bar which can be worn during the year of the Festival.

Collarettes

Collarettes, to which the charity jewel is suspended, are issued to subscribers qualifying as Grand Patrons – Gold Award, Grand Patrons, Patrons or Vice-Patrons. Ladies will receive a jewel which can be worn as a pendant or brooch.

Annual Festival

A Brother who wishes to dine at the Festival may do so on payment of the dining charge which is determined annually. They may invite ladies and friends as guests on payment of the dining charge.

DONOR QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications of donors are as follows:

Brethren	£
Life Subscriber	50
Life Governor	100
Vice-Patron	250
Patron	500
Grand Patron	1,000
Grand Patron – Gold Award	2,500

Ladies/Lewis*	£
Life Subscriber	25
Life Governor	50
Vice-Patron	125
Patron	250
Grand Patron	500
Grand Patron – Gold Award	1,250

Lodges	
Vice-Patron	£25 (per member)
Patron	£50 (per member)
Grand Patron	After Patron status a further £1,000
Grand Patron – Gold Award	After Grand Patron Status a further £2,500

*A Lewis is the son of a Mark Master Mason.

MARK BENEVOLENT FUND STEWARDS 2016

A summary of brethren and ladies qualifying as Stewards by Province.

	No. of Stewards
Belgium	1
Cheshire	7
Cornwall	4
Cumberland & Westmorland	2
Derbyshire	3
Devonshire	17
Dyfed	4
East Anglia	3
Essex	1
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	93
Hertfordshire	6
Isle of Man	2
Kent	4
London	5
North & East Yorkshire	5
North Wales	2
Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire	1
Northumberland	1
Nottinghamshire	2
Oxfordshire	3
Somerset	1
South Wales	2
Staffordshire & Shropshire	3
Surrey	1
Sussex	1
Warwickshire	3
West Lancashire	2
West Yorkshire	10
Wiltshire	3
Unattached UK	1
TOTAL	193

GENERAL SUMMARY TO 1 JUNE 2016

Grants made to Individual Petitioners

£

£

2012/13	341,894	2014/15	104,540
2013/14	86,028	2015/16	44,268

Grants made to Worthy Causes

2012/13

£

The Myriad Centre	45,000
North Wales Flood Appeal (Dyfed Province)	5,000
Rainbow Hospice	45,000
New Zealand Earthquake Relief	25,852
Hope for Tomorrow – Hampshire	72,000
Smile Support & Care	50,000
Lifelites	24,000
East Sussex Association of Blind & Partially Sighted People	20,000
William Wilberforce Trust	27,500
TOTAL 314,352	

2013/14

Hope for Tomorrow – Lincolnshire	260,000
National Star Foundation, Gloucestershire	150,000
New Zealand Earthquake Relief	26,454
Addenbrookes Charitable Trust Biopsy Machine	50,000
Shakespeare Hospice, Warwickshire	8,750
St. Mary de Castro Church Spire Appeal, Leicester	2,500
Heel & Toe, help for childrens mobility conditions	25,922
Ucare Oxford, Lifestyle & Wellbeing Charity	12,000
TOTAL 535,626	

2014/15	£
Cyclone Pam Fund Vanuatu	25,000
Hope for Tomorrow – Swindon & North East Wiltshire	230,900
Hope for Tomorrow – Cornwall	260,000
Hope for Tomorrow – Advance on next unit	78,000
Philippines Tsunami Appeal	11,843
Shelter Box for Nepal Earthquake	29,500
Smile Support & Care	119,000
Thumbs Up Club	4,460
Hop, Skip & Jump Centre	10,000
	TOTAL 768,703

2015/16		
Hope for Tomorrow – Balance for West Suffolk, Bury St Edmunds	182,000	
Hope for Tomorrow – Nurse Support Vehicle, Somerset	12,500	
Myaware – Support for people livng with Myasthenia	4,513	
Flood relief		
Cumberland & Westmorland	25,000	
East Lancashire	25,000	
North & East Yorkshire	25,000	
West Yorkshire	25,000	
Hope for Tomorrow – Advance on next units	156,000	
Hope for Tomorrow – Balance for East Essex, Colchester	182,000	
Martha’s Dancing Heart	5,000	
Northumbria Blood Bike	18,000	
Special Olympics 2017 World Winter Games	20,000	
	TOTAL 680,013	

SUMMARY

Since the establishment of the fund in 1868 the following grants have been distributed

	£
Grants to Individual Petitioners	6,819,891
Grants to Worthy Causes	19,670,148
TOTAL	26,490,039

FORTHCOMING FESTIVALS

2017 BERKSHIRE

2018 LINCOLNSHIRE

2019 SUSSEX

2020 KENT

2021 EAST LANCASHIRE

2022 SURREY

2023 WEST YORKSHIRE

2024 CHESHIRE

2025 OXFORDSHIRE

2026 HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

2027 WARWICKSHIRE

Further particulars can be obtained from:

The Honorary Secretary,
Mark Benevolent Fund,
Mark Masons' Hall,
86 St. James's Street,
London, SW1A 1PL

The
One Hundred and
Forty-Ninth Anniversary
FESTIVAL

will be held on

SATURDAY,
8 July 2017

**Under the Chairmanship
of
The Provincial Grand Master
for
Berkshire**