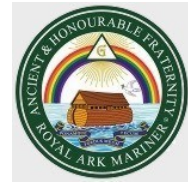


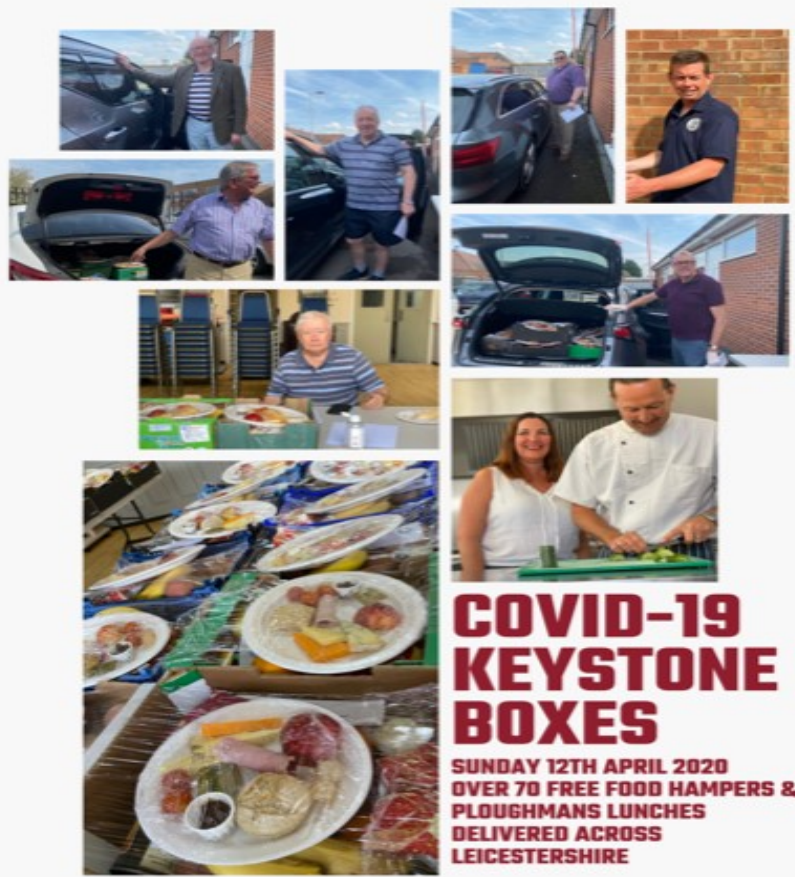
# Howe RAM-Installation



From left to right, the DPGM, WBro. Don Peacock, the SW, Bro. Mark Bigam, the new Commander, WBro. Michael Gyles, the JW, WBro. Tony Fraser and the Prov.G.D.C, WBro. Andrew Lee.

On Monday 9th March 2020, the Master WBro. Michael Mee, assisted by his Officers, Installed WBro. Michael Gyles into the Chair of the Howe Lodge of RAM No. 21. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro. Don Peacock was in attendance and presented the Bible, Warrant, Book of Constitutions and By-Laws to the new Commander. He also presented a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Paul Waterfall, giving a comprehensive explanation of its contents. The Address to the new Commander was given by WBro. David Lathrope, the Keystone Collarette by WBro. Malcolm Carrington and the Exposition by WBro. Barrie Percival. WBro. Mel Cowley was thanked for his 18 years as Treasurer of the Lodge. There were 30 attending the meeting, which was rounded off with an excellent Festive board.

## Over 600 Mark Keystone Boxes Delivered between April and July to Brethren & Widows



THE WYCLIFFE ROOMS  
MEETING ROOMS & CATERING

THE GRAND LODGE OF MARK  
MASTER MASONS OF  
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

## Mark Keystone Boxes



It seems so long ago now that we all went into lockdown as the nation responded to the pandemic crisis, and as the difficulties of enforced isolation and in buying essential provisions started to bite, the message from Provincial Grand Master Phil Mann to our Mark Masons was *"Brethren, let's get involved and make a difference."*

As a result, founded on an idea by Provincial Charity Steward W. Bro. Clive Weston to put our Mark charity funds to the greatest use, working with the Provincial Secretary W. Bro. Peter Gibson-Leitch in the forefront of the management and organisation, on Easter Sunday a trial delivery of thirty-seven Keystone Boxes containing essential provisions was made, funded from the Provincial Grand Master's Discretionary Fund. The deliveries were carried out by a group of volunteer Mark Masons to brethren across the Province who may find coping with the impact of the crisis particularly challenging. It turned out to be such a success that The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master on hearing about the scheme sent through the following message.....*"Please pass on my congratulations to the Provincial Grand Master and all the members of the Province. After three weeks of lockdown a few cupboards may be getting a little depleted so this initiative is well timed."*

With the success of the trial deliveries, a proposal for a more expansive scheme was quickly submitted to the Mark Benevolent Fund in London, whose Worthy Causes Committee awarded a grant of £10,800 for six further drops of ninety boxes each time, on a fortnightly basis to the doorsteps of nearly fifty brethren and also our Mark widows, of which the latter number seventy. The brethren received a box every fortnight, and the widows on a rota basis, every month. Four of our senior brethren, W. Bros. John Stock, Geoff Phipps, Roger Whale and David Cooper, working with Provincial Almoner W. Bro. Geoff Hibbert, established a regime of regular dialogue with our Mark Lodge Almoners, which proved vital in providing a much clearer picture of our brethren who might be finding it particularly difficult in coping with the national emergency, and also in consolidating the up to date list of our widows. R. W. Bro. Phillip expresses his gratitude to the Lodges, the Almoners and these Brothers for entering into the spirit and for their excellent efforts in helping to make a real difference.

With valuable contributions from Morrisons the national food retailer and other commercial partners who were all enthusiastic to participate, sincere thanks go to Rachael Johnson the Hall and Events Manager at Lutterworth, and the wonderful group of volunteer helpers comprising nearly fifty drivers, plus packers, loaders and caterers; the whole affair has been a quite staggering team effort all round, and very fulfilling for those who have played a part and without whose contribution the Mark degree in this Province would not have been able to make the huge difference we have over the last few months for our brethren and widows.

With the exit from the lockdown in July, the Scheme came to an end. However, it was decided to have a fitting finale by making one last drop to our widows which took place on Sunday 19th July, funded from the Provincial Grand Master's Discretionary Fund.

Leicestershire & Rutland's Mark Keystone Box Scheme far exceeded its original simple objectives - to make a difference - and the joy of the recipients in the simple act of being remembered with a simple box of essentials was wonderful to behold. Wider acclaim came in the form of specific reference by The Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the ProGrand Master, and by a feature on BBC TV East Midlands news, and the receipt of the Leicestershire Cares award.

In declaring his own gratitude to the whole team, Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. Phil Mann stated *"I want to express my, Clive's and Peter's most grateful thanks to all and everyone who has assisted in the success of this wonderful initiative. I know that it's their strong wish that the thanks go to the whole team of volunteers which has made all this possible and makes every one of our Mark Masons feel so proud to be making a real difference in everyday life for so many members and their loved ones who are struggling in these trying times. My personal thanks to you all, and the many touching messages of thanks received from recipients go to all Leicestershire and Rutland Mark Brethren, not only for the Keystone Boxes, but also for the warmth and kindness and the simple act of being remembered by the Brethren of our wonderful Order. Brethren and helpers alike, we have MARKED WELL."*



The Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison, fully loaded and ready to deliver his quota of Mark boxes.



## MARK MASONS T@3 MUGS

Over the summer, a total of 160 T@3 Mugs have been sold in this Province, a truly fantastic response from all concerned. We still have a dozen or so in hand which need a good home.

**A good stocking Filler.**

First come, first served.

Once they're gone, there won't be any more.....strictly a limited edition.

Would you like to take a 'tea at 3 o'clock' toast and enjoy a special moment to remember our fellow Brothers and our Mark Widows throughout the Province of Leicestershire & Rutland?

If so, you can have your own T@3 mug which you can order today by calling:

**Clive Weston on 07740 255592**

Price £10 each (of which £3 goes to the Mark Benevolent Fund)



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