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Over 150 Brethren and their partners participated in the 16th consecutive **Mark Festival Weekend** at Sandbanks in September. The new format of entertainment and cabaret was greatly enjoyed by all present. Remember to book early for next year!

The PGM, pictured with his new

Provincial Wardens, Don Peacock & Brian Wilkinson

Provincial Grand Lodge

At a packed meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge on 12th May, the Provincial Grand Master appointed **W. Bro. Donald Peacock** and **W. Bro. Brian Wilkinson** as his Provincial Grand Wardens. Don Peacock, who is presently

Provincial Grand Secretary in the Craft, is a Past Master of The Knight of Malta Lodge in Hinckley and Brian Wilkinson is a PM of St. Peter's Lodge in Market Harborough.



Ladies' Dining Out Evening

The Province was delighted to welcome R. W. Bro. Reg Reader, Past Provincial Grand Master, who had travelled all the way from his home in sunny (?) South Devon to be present at the Ladies' Dining Out Evening on 26th August. This event was started as one of R. W. Bro. Reg's

initiatives whilst he was PGM and the guests included those Brethren who had received appointments or promotions at Provincial Grand Lodge, together with Mark Grand Officers and Heads of other Orders. Coincidentally, there were present all of the surviving Past Provincial DC's, the

most senior of whom is R. W. Bro. Michael Herbert, who has since been appointed to one of the principal offices in the Order as President of the General Board.



Past Provincial DCs at the Ladies Dining Out evening. L-R: Bros. Jackson, Jacobs, Bramford, Herbert & Reader

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Mark Masons donate new lifeboat to RNLI



boat "Mark Mason" during a ceremony on 5th June 2009.

The Angle station Tamar Class lifeboat is pictured arriving on station for the first time. Angle's Tamar, which was declared operational on 23 March 2009 has already proved her worth, having launched on five rescue missions. The lifeboat was funded by a donation of £1.6M from The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and by RNLI supporters in Pembrokeshire who donated over £400,000.

HRH Prince Michael of Kent, The Grand Master of the Order of Mark Master Masons, named a new life-

"This fund enables me to provide immediate assistance to needy Brethren in the Province"

Tony Morris, PGM

PGM's Discretionary Fund

The Provincial Grand Master's Discretionary Fund exists to provide immediate assistance to Brethren in the Province of Leicestershire & Rutland without the necessity of lengthy application

procedures. The fund has already provided a lifeline to many of our Brethren in need. The PGM is grateful for all donations and asks all Lodges to bear it in mind as a potential beneficiary

for Almoners' collections. All donations will be thankfully received and faithfully applied!

The Royal Ark Mariner Degree

The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners (RAM) has been under the jurisdiction of The Grand lodge of Mark Master Masons since 1871. In chronological terms, it precedes the Mark Degree by hundreds of years because it relates to the building and voyage of Noah's Ark and the great flood. The ceremony symbolises wis-

dom, strength and beauty, which are not only relevant in the construction of the ark but also for their moral significations to the candidate as an individual. There are nine RAM Lodges in this Province, each attached to a Mark Lodge. Membership is open to all Mark Master Masons and anyone interested in learning more about this beauti-

ful degree is invited to contact The Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Bryan Simpson (0116 260 6755) or the scribe (secretary) of any Royal Ark Mariner lodge, whose contact details may be found in the 'blue book'.



God told Noah to "make yourself an ark of gopher wood." *Genesis 6:14*



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The Magic of the Mark

Devonshire Court Coffee Mornings

The residents at Devonshire Court are always delighted to receive visitors and never more so than when those visitors are local Freemasons.

The PGM is keen that all Mark and RAM lodges should support Devonshire Court and would like all lodges to arrange and sponsor coffee or sherry mornings for the residents. RW Bro Tony Morris will give guidance based on his own experience. Lodges wishing to support this initiative should, in the first instance, contact Vicky Nicollelo, Activities Co-ordinator at Devonshire Court on 0116 272 9928.



Mark Christmas Luncheon

What better way to end the year than by joining your Mark Brethren, their families and friends at the annual Mark Xmas Luncheon?

This year's event will be held on Sunday, 20th December and will once again be at Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester, where Nicola, John and all of the staff will ensure that a good time is had by all!

There will be a drinks reception, a sumptuous luncheon, a visit from Santa Claus with presents for all of the

children, and an opportunity to sing your heart out with all of your favourite Christmas carols.



**Santa Claus will be coming,
with presents
for all the children!**

There will also be a Grand Raffle, with amazing Christmas hampers to be won!

Places are necessarily limited and tickets (Adults: £21; Children £11) are available on a 'first come, first served basis' from Bro. Steve Davison, the Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary, who can be contacted on 07932 165614.

Merry Christmas!