

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of West Lancashire

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Reference: Website <http://www.westlancsmark.co.uk/>

(Click the "Charity" menu)

To All Mark and RAM Members of West Lancashire Mark Province

29th March 2016

Dear Sir and Brother,

The West Lancashire Mark Charity Fund (WLMCF) has donated many thousands of pounds to deserving causes over the years and it is important that we continue to support the fund through our Charity collections to ensure that we may continue to do so for many more years.

There are a number of ways in which Brethren can make donations to the West Lancashire Charity Fund which are outlined below and I ask that you consider adopting them if at all possible.

1. The 21st Century Club

The Province operates this "Club" as a small lottery where half of the ticket money goes to **charitable causes** identified by Mark Masons in West Lancashire, i.e. "us", and the other half of the money is returned via multiple **cash prizes** to the participants: **1st prize of £750.**

Tickets are **£5** each per year; however you will receive **ONE FREE** ticket when purchasing four (i.e. **5 for £20**) or **TWO FREE** tickets when purchasing six (i.e. **8 for £30**).

Mark Masons can join the 21st Century Club at any time throughout the year and can buy tickets with cash, cheque or via a Standing Order.

The draw is made in May at the Provincial Mark Lodge event.

Further details, including an **entry form** are available on the **website**, or through your Lodge Charity Steward.

2. Gift Aid Scheme

I am sure that you are all aware of the Gift Aid Scheme which can be applied to any Charitable donations you may make provided that you are a tax payer

The scheme provides a terrific benefit to the West Lancashire Mark Charity Fund (WLMCF) by providing a further **25 pence for every pound** donated through the scheme from the Government, and it **costs** the donor **not a penny more**.

Every Lodge is encouraged to establish this scheme under the administration of the Lodge Charity Steward (or another Lodge member that is willing to administer the scheme).

All that it is required is for every member who is a tax payer to enter their details on the front of the pre-printed Gift Aid envelope and put their donation inside the envelope.

The Lodge scheme administrator is then responsible for collating and recording the envelopes' contents after each meeting.

The tax refund is claimed annually by submitting the Lodge record to the Provincial Charity Steward who will then manage the Gift Aid claim to WLMCF on the lodge's behalf.

3. Charity Petitions

The WLMCF is very keen to support local Charity projects and if you are aware of any that may require additional funding will you please ask your Lodge Charity Steward to submit brief details of the Charity and the project to the Provincial Charity Steward.

The type of project that the WLMCF would like to assist would be those where financial need is required for tenable **assets**, e.g. **equipment** or **facilities**. Please note that any requests for financial assistance for running costs will not be supported at all by Province.

It would be ideal if such equipment/assets could be "**badged**" as being provided by Mark Masons, as it is felt that positive promotion of the Order in the areas local to our lodges would be beneficial.

Further details for making a successful petition can be found on the **website**.

Perhaps the tragic consequences of recent appalling weather and flooding have left some local, Masonic or non-Masonic groups with loss or damage to equipment or facilities?

Any brother who believes he knows of a project worthy of support is to submit details (all information required in the guidelines) to his Charity Representative (Charity Group Leader or Deputy) in the first instance and send a copy to the Provincial Charity Steward by email to ejsarti@iee.org

Current Petitions for charitable assistance:

If your Lodge has already decided to "ring-fence" some of their charity donations to the WLMCF, either individually or by joining with other Mark or RAM Lodges, please let the Provincial Charity Steward know the details. It is possible that a further donation may be available from the WLMCF.

On behalf of the WLMCF Charity Trustees and the future recipients of grants from the WLMCF I thank you for your support and long may it continue.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. C. Bicknell". To the right of the signature are three small, stacked square symbols.

John Bicknell
Provincial Grand Secretary