

Brief History of the Lodge

The Lodge was consecrated on Weds October 8th 1884, and the original summons in our minute book, indicates the lodge was opened by our mother Lodge, Constantine No 145 and consecrated by VW Bro The Rev. C.J. Martin, PGM of East Anglia (The Province of Essex did not exist then) at the Corn Exchange, Chelmsford. The Installing Master was RW Bro Frederick Binkes, PGW, and Grand Secretary

In order to give the Lodge a healthy start, there were 12 candidates for advancement. 11 from Good Fellowship Lodge No 276 and 1 from the Lodge of St Peter No 1004

A banquet was later held at the White Hart Hotel in Chelmsford at a cost 10/6d, including a pint of wine, and dessert.

This was the 3rd Mark Lodge to be consecrated in Essex following Constantine and Beaconsfield. Like all Lodges it has had some lean times, but the full history is very well recorded in its minutes. Today we are a very well supported Mark Lodge, one of the largest in Essex.

In the 1970's it was affectionately known as the "Farmers Lodge", having amongst its members:-

John Wright (father of Alan, who later became the 14th PGM in Essex), Jack Gemmill, Jack Matthews, John Osborn, Dennis Chennels, Andy Barr (our current Chaplain), Vic Halls, Peter Frost, Jim Hodge, also Peter Finch the shoe retailer, a former major in the Gurkhas and many other distinguished brethren from our local communities

The copy of the Centenary Jewel, which is one of the wall lights in the Temple was made by a Ted Perkins a stalwart member of the Lodge and a former Secretary of the Masonic Hall Company in Chelmsford. Like all the wall lights in the Temple they are made of pieces of glass kept in position by wire frames. The original lights are made of glass beads but those made by Ted Perkins (Including the Chelmer Centenary Jewel) are made from broken bottles of various colours.

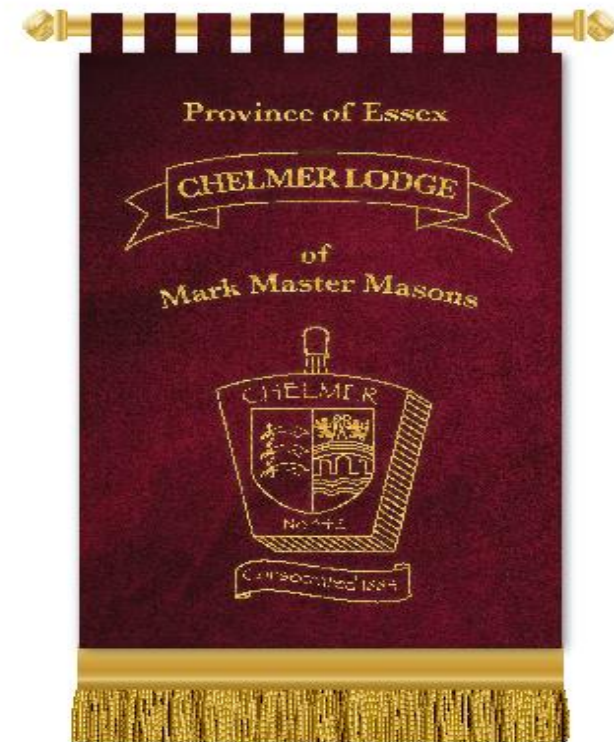
The Tracing Board is one of only 3 of this design in Essex. It was re- framed by W Bro Jennings a few years ago with ultra violet glass for protection. When it was removed from its old frame, it was discovered that it is hand painted on canvas, and is therefore quite rare.

CHELMER LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS No. 342

DECUPLE PATRON LODGE OF "ESSEX MARK BENEVOLENT FUND"

DEDICATION OF NEW BANNER

11th April 2016



Order of Dedication

- Dedicating Officer, will enters the Lodge, accept the Gavel from the Worshipful Master, occupy the Chair of the Lodge and appoints his Officers.
- The Dedicating Officer will addresses the Brethren to enlighten them regarding the purpose of the occasion.
- The nominated Brethren will retire and assemble in the ante-room.
- The nominated Brethren will process the (covered) Banner into the Lodge.

During the process the following hymn is sung:

*Praise my Soul the King of Heaven
To His feet thy Tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise should sing?
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise Him, Praise Him
Praise the everlasting King.*

*Father-like, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In His hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes;
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise Him, Praise Him
Widely as His mercy flows.*

- The Worshipful Master on behalf of the Lodge will ask the Dedicating Officer to dedicate the Banner to the service of the Lodge.
- The Dedicating Officer will signify his assent, formally accept and unveil the Banner.
- The Banner is put on display.

- The following hymn is sung:

*1 - All people that on earth do dwell
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him, and rejoice*

*2 - The Lord, ye know is God indeed,
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, He doth us feed;
And for His sheep He doth us take.*

*3 - For why? The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood;
And shall from time to age endure.*

- Prayer of Dedication by the Dedicating Chaplain.
- The Dedicating Officer calls upon the Dedicating Chaplain to deliver an Oration.
- The Banner is paraded around the Lodge.

During the process the following hymn is sung:

*1 - O worship the King All glorious above;
O gratefully sing His power and His Love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of days
Pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise*

*2 - O tell of His might, O sing of His grace
Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy, space;
His chariots of wrath ,the deep thunder clouds form;
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm*

*3 - The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy power, hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast, by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle the sea.*

- The Banner is advanced to the Dedicating Officer.
- The Dedicating Chaplain delivers the prayer of dedication.
- The Dedicating Officer dedicates the Banner
- The Banner is put on display
- The Dedicating Officer gives the Benediction
- The Dedicating Officer invites the Worshipful Master to resume the chair of the Lodge.