

TRIANGLE

NEWSLETTER FOR MARK MASTER MASONS and ROYAL ARK MARINERS OF SOMERSET
ISSUE 15 Spring 2014

<http://www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk>

A chat with our Provincial Grand Master Designate

I asked John for his thoughts and comments over his forthcoming appointment as Provincial Grand Master.

"I have greatly enjoyed my 24 years in Mark Masonry and it was my very good fortune and indeed my honour to serve the Province as Provincial Grand Secretary and more latterly as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. I felt greatly privileged when I was offered the appointment of Provincial Grand Master following Right Worshipful Brother David Nelson's announcement of his retirement as Provincial Grand Master at the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting last May. I know that I have a very hard act to follow and am very conscious that I will need to work hard in my efforts to do justice to all my predecessors more particularly R.W. Brother David.

I have, during my period as Provincial Secretary and Deputy PGM, managed to visit all our lodges within the Province on a number of occasions and had the very great pleasure of enjoying the company of members of those Lodges. As PGM I am looking forward to furthering my relationship with them and look forward to the support and fellowship I hope to receive.

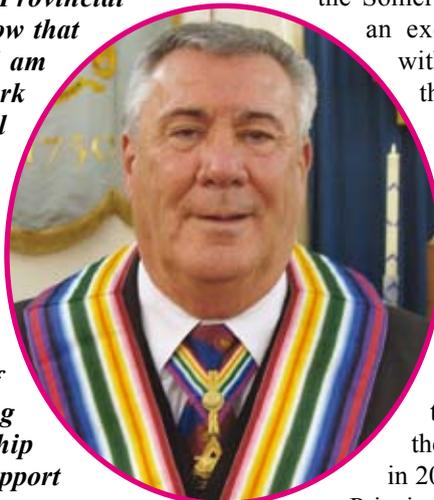
I have been very touched by the number of good wishes and congratulations in the form of telephone calls, e-mails, cards and letters I have received and feel very humble.

I am sure Brethren you will appreciate that in entering my new role I do so with some trepidation, but I do hope that I will earn the support of my Somerset Brethren and that my past experience will help to stand me in good stead. I will take pleasure to continue the good relationships established with the Rulers of other Orders and Degrees.

I greatly look forward to my Installation on the 3rd May 2014 and sincerely hope that as many brethren will attend as possible to witness what is a very special occasion in the history of the Province and an unforgettable experience for me that I will remember for the rest of my life.

Thank you Brethren".....John.

John Morgan was talking to Pat Morrissey.



Worshipful Brother John's Masonic career is all embracing, starting as we all did with Craft where he was Initiated into the Camberwell Old Comrades Lodge No. 4077 in 1978, he was a Founder Member of the Pillar of Kent Lodge no. 9012 in 1981.

John later moved to Somerset where he joined the Lodge of Agriculture, became Worshipful Master in 1995 and served as Lodge Secretary for five years. The Somerset Provincial Team travel to London regularly to attend their namesake the Somersetshire Lodge No. 2925. John, when as

an executive member of that team travelled with them, he became a joining member of the lodge in 2003 and rose to Worshipful Master in December 2007. The many senior Provincial posts he held during these years were, in 2006, rewarded with the appointment from the United Grand Lodge of England to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

John's Royal Arch Chapter career was equally distinguished, joining the Wrington Vale Chapter in 1984, he rose to First Principal in 2007 and was awarded the collar of Past Provincial Grand Sojourner in 2010.

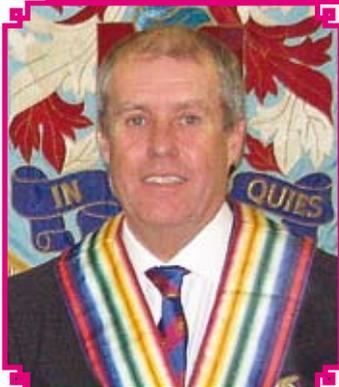
Principally it is John's 24 years in Mark Masonry that I want to illustrate here. From his Advancement in George Norman Lodge, No. 697 January 1989, his Mastership in 2000, through the offices of Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, Provincial Deputy Grand Chaplain, Provincial Grand Secretary, during which time he was also appointed to the Grand Rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Deputy Provincial Grand Master followed during 2012 and in May this year Provincial Grand Master Designate. John will become our Provincial Grand Master at his Installation at the Webbington Hotel, 3rd May 2014.

John is an Honorary Member of Exmoor, Portcullis, the Isle of Wedmore and St. Andrews Mark Lodges. He is equally active in all aspects of the Royal Ark Mariners Degree, as Commander and later Secretary of Nailsea RAM. He was appointed to Provincial RAM Grand Rank in 2011 and RAM Grand Rank in 2012; twenty four years of hard work and distinction well rewarded!

.... Copy/pic, Ed.

Phil Voisey for Deputy PGM, a Happy and Popular Choice



“Phil, What did you think when you were first approached?”

“Well to say I was surprised when W Brother John Morgan asked me to be his Deputy PGM would be an understatement, given the number of able and well qualified Mark Masons in Somerset. Following in the footsteps of our recent Deputy PGMs will indeed be an honour. Mark Masonry and Royal Ark Mariners in Somerset have come

a long way under the stewardship of our current PGM David and his Deputies and I look forward to working with John in carrying on the good work”.

“What will bring to your new appointment?”

“I would see my role as one of listening and helping where needed and sometimes by just sharing in the friendship of the lodge meeting.

During my year as an active Warden, it became clear to me that both Mark and RAM Have a strong bond between the lodges which is reinforced by the PGM and his officers supporting and playing an active role in the meetings. As a past DC to have senior members from the Province at meetings offering to help out, is indeed most welcome and I would look to do the same and be willing to take an office on the night, if it would help the lodge and most importantly the candidate.

To me the Provincial leaders must support the lodges with their presence and be willing to work with the members and help maintain the high standard of ritual that has been achieved during W. Bro David’s time as our Provincial Grand Master. Both Mark and RAM orders find themselves increasing in popularity, so let’s build on this and make Mark and RAM the orders to join”.

A little bit of history...

Phil is happily married to Gill and they have three sons, Craig, Scott and Lee and works for the family business of house builders and developers. He is a busy man and destined, I am sure, to be even busier! His hobbies are, hockey in the wintertime and during the summer season, mountain biking and walking.

In Craft Phil joined Eldon Lodge, 1755 in 1989 and became Master in 1999, became Assistant DC in 2005 and is currently Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon. He was also a founding member of Olympian Lodge, 9703 in 2000, where he is Director of Ceremonies.

He Joined Eldon Chapter 1755 in 1995 and was First Principal in 2005. In 2007 he was promoted to Provincial Grand Charity Steward and is at the moment Past Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

In the Mark Degree, he became a member of Eldon Lodge, 807 in 1997 and was Master in 2003. He rose to Provincial Grand Senior Deacon in 2006 and was promoted to Provincial Grand Junior Warden in 2012; he is at present Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden. To complete the set he Joined Thackeray Royal Ark Mariners, 730 in 2001 and was Worshipful Commander in 2012, he is at present Immediate Past Commander.

...*Philip Voisey was talking to Pat Morrissey.*

Annual Ball, The Redcliff Hotel Paignton, Saturday 29th March 2014

Brethren, don’t leave it too late to book for a long & wonderful week-end with all the family; the rooms are going fast!

**Contact our Organising Secretary
Tony Snook, 2, Verlands,
Congresbury, Bristol BS49 5BL.
Telephone: 01934 838170**

As most of you know, the Redcliff

hotel is directly adjoining Paignton’s main beach, with uninterrupted views across Tor Bay. Torquay is on one side & Brixham on the other. This will be the last Ball that John Morgan attends as Deputy PGM. John will, no doubt, be taking notes for next year when he will preside as Provincial Grand Master!



‘BIG’ day for the Isle of Wedmore Mark Lodge!

The September 2013 meeting of the Isle of Wedmore Lodge of Mark Master Masons held at Wedmore was a milestone in its short history of some three years. On this September day the new Lodge Banner was dedicated by the Provincial Grand Master, R. Worshipful Brother David Brian Nelson, who was accompanied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master John Graham Morgan and members of the Somerset Provincial Team. The big and impressive Banner was generously donated by the first Master of the Lodge W. Brother John Peters and Lodge Secretary, Brother Kevyn Jones. After the Lodge Master, Very Worshipful Brother Cliff Hannabuss had opened the Lodge the Provincial Team was admitted and all stood to welcome the PGM, who, after the lodge business, accepted the gavel and with the assistance of the Lodge and Provincial Officers, dedicated the banner in due form. During the ceremony, the Provincial

Grand Chaplain, Brother Stuart Boyd presented an Oration on the history and development of banners through history; which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all present. At the completion of this fine ceremony, all retired to a very satisfying and happy festive board, many thanks to Zena, Neil and their team for a great meal. Pictures on page four show clockwise from top left:

The Banner Bearer, W. Bro. Barry Burrige (IPM).

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. David Nelson, with the W. Master, VWBro. Cliff Hannibuss accompanied by his Wardens, W. Bros. Derek Wilton and Eric Kellet.

The RWBro. David Nelson and Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. John Morgan with the Provincial Team.

...*Copy/pics, Ed.*

The Isle of Wedmore that special day



Provincial Grand Secretary's Corner



As we commence a new Masonic year may I first of all take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy, Peaceful and most importantly Healthy New Year, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on my travels around the Province and again I take this opportunity of thanking all Lodge Secretaries and Scribes for their continued support and commitment in helping in the smooth running of the Province.

Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners

On Saturday 8th February 2014 the tenth Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners will be held at Nailsea Masonic Hall

The Assembly is open to **all** Royal Ark Mariners and the Provincial Grand Master is anxious that the Commanders of each Lodge together with his Wardens attend wearing their collars of office.

Again all newly Elevated Royal Ark Mariners since the last Assembly will receive a personal invitation from the Provincial Grand Master inviting them to attend and will be allocated reserved seating, as will the new recipients of Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

The Assembly will commence at 10.45am. Brethren are to be seated by 10.30am. You will by now have received a summons and booking form from your Lodge Scribe from whom further information can be obtained if required. Your support will be much appreciated as this will of course be the Provincial Grand Master's last Provincial meeting.

Provincial Meeting

As you are aware the 2014 Annual Provincial Meeting of Mark Master Masons which will be held at the Webbington Hotel on Saturday 3rd May 2014 will be an all-day affair as outlined in the accompanying letter and The Provincial Grand Master designate would like as many Brethren to attend as possible. As in previous years you will receive your individual copy of the Provincial Summons and reply slip for those wishing to dine (Luncheon and or Dinner). Those Brethren who are to be appointed Provincial Officers for the forthcoming year will have received a booking form with their letter of appointment. As you are no doubt aware this is the only Province in which ladies are invited to join us for dinner following the meeting. For the benefit of the ladies, entertainment is provided during the afternoon whilst the meeting is in progress. Hopefully, you will be able to attend together with your wife / partner.

Secretaries/Scribes and Directors of Ceremonies Meeting

It is proposed to hold a further meeting for Lodge Secretaries, Scribes and Director of Ceremonies on Friday 29th August 2014 at Wedmore Masonic Hall. On this occasion the meeting will be chaired by the Provincial Grand Master, Again this meeting will also be open to Assistant Secretaries, Scribes and Assistant Directors of Ceremonies. Further information will be sent to all Lodge Secretaries/Scribes in due course.

Provincial Website

A new Provincial web site is currently being constructed, however, the existing site is still accessible for the purpose of downloading forms etc. www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk

Reminders.

Provincial Ties at £10 or £15 and Tokens at £1.50 are available from the Provincial Grand Secretary.

The PGM, DPGM, W. Masters and W. Commanders **welcome your support** whenever possible at meetings and events.

Don't forget the Camera for that special picture in **your** Triangle.

S. John Smith.

Provincial Grand Secretary.

Provincial 600 Club Winners

Congratulations to our lucky winners.

Each Draw take place at a different lodge each month, the WM and his Wardens draw the lucky winners.

Prizes: 1st. £150, 2nd. £100, 3rd. & 4th. £50.

Entry Forms available from your Lodge Charity Steward.

The Christmas Draw First Prize is £150, followed by seven other prizes of £100.

Draw	Name	Lodge
Sept.	1st. Bro. Jim Beckworth	749
"	RWBro. David Nelson	1608
"	WBro. Ian Strickland	730
"	Bro. Martin Slocombe	1548
Oct.	1st. Mrs. Christine Ifill	TI
"	Bro. Barry McCormack	119
"	Bro. John Hickman	697
"	Miss Sarah Mathews	807
Nov.	1st. W. Bro. Derek Fry	119
"	Bro. Peter Stradling	1295
"	Mrs. Jean Kemlo	967
"	W. Bro. David Burrows	1608
Dec	Christmas Draw	1548
"	1st. Bro. Cedric Platt	119
"	W. Bro. Tony Guthrie	191
"	Mrs. Ann Beckett	177
"	Mrs. Debbie Fearey.	191
"	VWBro. Geoff Nash	162
"	W. Bro. Neville Harrison	1295
"	Bro. Keith Colman	730
"	W. Bro. Neil Hurcum	
Jan	2014	
"	W. Bro. Geoff Seaman	730
"	W. Bro. Tony Edwards	102
"	Bro. Adrian Huggett	781
"	Bro. Doug Stembridge	128

Masons' Marks, Do you know yours?



From Midaros Cathedral, Trondheim Norway. 12th and 14th Century respectively.

Out of one Frying Pan into another!



Brethren, I am sure that we are all now aware that our PGM David will retire before the next Annual Meeting at the Webbington

Hotel on 3rd May 2014. But did you know that on 16th November 2013 he was Installed as **The Right Illustrious Companion District Grand Master for the Order of Royal and Select Masters for the District of Somerset and Wiltshire?**

I caught up with him soon after & asked a few questions about the degree, his explanation follows:

Royal and Select Masters, also known as the Cryptic Degrees, is a relatively small Order in Freemasonry, but has steadily grown over the last 10 years and is recognised for its wonderful ritual and historical lectures linking the Mark and Royal Arch;



Companions of the Order wear a distinctive Triangular Apron.

Unlike the usual named Lodge or Chapter, Royal & Select Masters meet in 'Councils'. The areas covered by this District, Somerset, Wiltshire & Bristol, are in the main representative of the counties as they were in the early part of the 19th century apart from one Council which meets in South Gloucestershire, which was formerly part of Avon.

David is a Member of the Premier of the West Council No. 7 meeting in Park Street Bristol and also the Euston Council No. 4 in London whose members wear a distinctive jewel. For your interest, a brief history of the order follows:

Members of the Order are required to have been advanced into the Mark Degree and also exalted as a Royal Arch Mason. Cryptic in the sense of this Order refers to the Crypt or Secret Vault rather than to cryptology or extreme secrecy. The ceremonies are believed to have evolved in the 19th Century, being in turn based on Jewish legends relating to King Solomon and the building of the Temple.

Meeting of Councils are held under the authority of the Grand Council of the Order and are regulated locally by District Grand Councils. The Ceremonies of the Order link the building of King Solomon's Temple,



in the Mark Degree, through its destruction to the building of the second Temple and the discoveries made in the Royal Arch ceremony; hence the requirement for membership of the Mark and Royal Arch Degrees.

There is no requirement to have attained the Chair of Craft, Mark or Royal Arch. On being received into the Order, the Candidate will take part in some of the most beautiful and mentally stimulating passages of ritual to be found in Freemasonry. On attaining all the Degrees of the Order - Select Master, Royal Master, Most Excellent Master and Super Excellent Master - the Candidate will be enabled to wear the distinctive triangular apron and breast jewel of the Order.

The photographs show the Most Illustrious Grand Master J. Alan Wright handing over the Patent of Appointment to The Right Illustrious Companion District Grand Master David Brian Nelson.

David Nelson was talking to Pat Morrissey

You could not make it up!

Picture the scene, a visiting Mark Golfing Lodge had had a good day on the green at Weston-super-Mare & finished the happy event by holding a Lodge Meeting in Weston Masonic Hall.

All went well & at the end of a pleasant Festive Board all departed about 10.30pm. The Lodge Secretary, who had parked in the Boulevard, puts his regalia & secretary's briefcase complete with Warrant on a nearby grass verge whilst he loaded his passenger's kit on board, then off home to bed. End of the journey, remembers the said cases are still on the grassy knoll!

Panic, it will take ages to return to Weston, what to do? A frantic telephone call to the Secretary of the Host Lodge in Weston who at the time (that being 11.45pm) was in his pyjamas about to have an early night! "They won't still be there" he cried! However with a pair of jeans over his jim-jams a mighty dash to the Masonic Hall was called for. Good job there were no police about, it must have looked very strange, a wild-eyed half-dressed driver plus car rushing out of the darkness & swooping across the

main road towards 3 people standing near two big black cases, car door flung open & with the engine still running, the driver shot out scooped up the bags, made a quick noisy reverse & shot away again into the night, leaving three startled faces showing in the rear view mirror.

Names withheld to protect the innocent!



Thank You

Dear Lodge Secretaries, Masters & all of you who have sent in photos & copy covering the various events that occurred in your Lodge. Without your reports & pictures, what would I have had to fill the pages with over the last 6 months? Thank you for all your efforts, keep sending them in & I will do my best to publish your information.

Pat Morrissey
Editor.

Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF SOMERSET

(Double Keystone Province)



Right Worshipful Brother David Brian Nelson
Provincial Grand Master

Worshipful Brother John Graham Morgan, RAMGR
Deputy Provincial Grand Master

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

The Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners
is to be held at

The Masonic Hall Nailsea

on

SATURDAY 8th February 2014

This will be the last Assembly that Right Worshipful Brother David will attend as our Provincial Grand Master. Let's all put on a great show of support for the very many years he has served the Mark



Degree as Pro. Deputy Grand Secretary, Pro. Grand Secretary and to date, Provincial Grand Master.

During 1989 he introduced the concept of the Travelling Keystone, which has now enjoyed 24 years of continued travel around the Province and, to quote those familiar words:

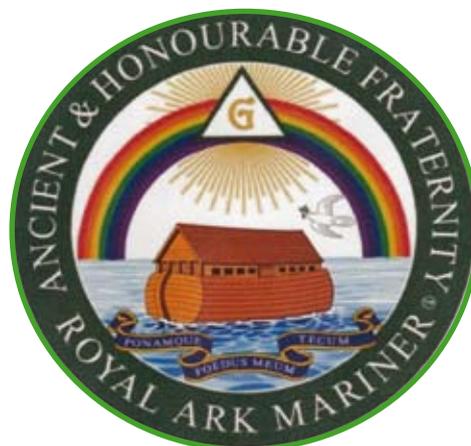
"Its mission to bring Mark Masons together at their various Lodges forging new friendships and strengthening old ones".

See you all at Nailsea!

Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank Appointments

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBrother David Brian Nelson, will be pleased to appoint the following Worshipful Brethren to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank at the Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners to be held at Nailsea Masonic Hall on Saturday 8th February 2014.

J. A. Nicholson TI
V. Cook, 1129
C. R. White, 128
J. A. Chin, 191
R. Troup, 571
C. E. Summers, 697
I. G. P. Strickland, 730
D. J. Hutchings, 967



Travelling Ark Programme

2014

9th February - Irwin Lodge will present the Travelling Ark to the Provincial Grand Master at the Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Assembly.

5th March The PGM will present the Travelling Ark to Bath RAM TI (Bath)

11th April- Bath TI to Fidelity and Unanimity Lodge No. 348 (Taunton)

30th May - Fidelity and Unanimity to Yatton Lodge No. 967 (Yatton)

3rd Sept. - Yatton Lodge to Somerset Commanders Lodge No. 1656 (Wedmore)

1st December - Somerset Commanders Lodge to Thackeray Lodge No. 730 (Clevedon)



Combined Somerset Commanders and Installed Mark Master Lodge summer outing

A party of 32 brethren and their families gathered at Beer Quarry Caves on a glorious Sunday morning in August where they were treated to a tour of the now disused underground Quarry. The guide took us on an hour long tour through the awe-inspiring caves with their mighty halls of vaulted roofs and pillars of Beer Stone which have been likened to an underground cathedral.

This vast man-made complex of underground caverns was created by centuries of quarrying the famous Beer Stone. The underground quarry, first worked by the Romans, supplied stone for 24 cathedrals including Exeter and St. Paul's, parts of Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, Hampton Court and Windsor Castle. Quarried by hand, a small block weighing 4 tons, the stone was carted on horse-drawn wagons and by barges from Beer beach to its destination, sometimes involving journeys of hundreds of miles. The quarry closed around 1920 as a new quarry opposite was opened. This closed in 2003, so there is no quarrying activity now.

Following a 10 minute car journey to Seaton it was all aboard the Seaton tramway for a leisurely 30 minute trip to Colyton. Seaton Tramway operates narrow gauge heritage trams between Seaton, Colyford and Colyton in East Devon's glorious Axe Valley, travelling alongside the River Axe estuary through two nature reserves and giving an unrivalled view of the abundant wading bird life. On arriving at Colyton Sunday Lunch was enjoyed by all before taking the tram back to Seaton.

All agreed it was a wonderful day out and most are looking forward to next year's outing

Unfortunately one of our party was so busy trying to use his mobile phone underground (he is still puzzled as to why it didn't work) he was locked into the cave system but I am pleased to say his cries were heard and he was promptly rescued!

Pics/Copy...Barrie Baker.



John, you get everywhere!



Travelling Key-Stone Programme

The Travelling Keystone has been roving around the Province for the last 23 years, its mission to bring Mark Masons together at their various Lodges, forging new friendships and strengthening old ones.

2014

- 30th January - Exmoor Lodge to William de Irwin Lodge No. 162
- 17th February - William de Irwin Lodge to Carnarvon Lodge No. 119
- 10th March - Carnarvon Lodge to Nailsea Lodge No. 1548
- 15th April - Nailsea Lodge to Portcullis Lodge No. 1656
- 6th June - Portcullis Lodge to Installed Mark Masters Lodge No. 1652



Another Feather in his Cap, but what a big one!



We all know our Provincial Director of Ceremonies, W. Brother Ray Johnstone-Smith and on occasion have felt his watchful eye upon us; long may this continue! So it is with much pleasure that we can all now say **“CONGRATULATIONS Ray on your new appointment as Very Illustrious Brother Raymond Johnstone-Smith, 33rd Rose Croix; Inspector General for the District of Somerset”!**

On the first day of October 2013, Bridgwater Masonic Hall was filled to overflowing, and for many of us the ceremony that followed was the experience of a Masonic Lifetime plus a very proud day for the brethren of Sedgemoor Chapter Rose Croix 996. Not only is Very Illustrious Brother Ray a Chapter member, but is the Most Wise Sovereign in the chair.

The Meeting was opened in an exemplary manner, after which all waited for the report that heralded the entry of the Grand Director of Ceremonies. At his command all stood to receive Members of the Supreme Council 33rd, who opened a Supreme Council Chapter meeting. An escort was formed by the rulers of Somerset Craft, Mark and Knights Templar who, with other distinguished brethren retired to conduct the Inspector General Designate into the Chapter.

The Installing Officer addressed Very Illustrious Brother Raymond on the nature of his duties, his Patent was read, the prayer was given by the Grand Prior and the hymn was sung. The Inspector General Designate made his declaration of Fidelity, and with great dignity the Installing Officer invested him with his silver chain of office and presented his Patent.

Very Illustrious Brother Raymond Johnstone-Smith now Inspector General for Somerset was escorted to a seat on the floor of the Chapter where he was proclaimed.

This very special day concluded with the Festive Board where over 100 diners sat down to a five course lunch interspersed with toasts, happy words and camaraderie... *Copy-Pic,Ed.*

Grand Officers Mess



Yet again another Happy & successful Grand Officers Mess was held at Clevedon Masonic Hall in November last. This is an important event on the Mark Masonic Calendar & it was good to see the dining room full of happy & chatting brethren. As usual, the brethren were greeted by our Provincial Grand Master David Nelson & his Deputy John Morgan, (PGM Designate).



The usual table-plan of random dining places ensured that no-one knew who they would be sitting with, which guaranteed many interesting topics of conversation from the mixture of personalities. The lunch was the usual Clevedon treat, many thanks yet again to Zena, Neil & their team. After the meal, David rose with his usual happy welcome, proposed the Loyal Toast & opened the meeting for general discussion; topics were discussed & hopefully answered. At the end of the discussion period, W. Bro. Derek Shailer rose & on behalf of all present, thanked David, who will retire in April 2014, for all his hard work over the last ten years as our Provincial Grand Master. This was greeted with much applause & approval. Mark Masonry has gained immensely from his leadership over that time & his retirement will leave a gap which we know will be filled by his successor John in his own inimitable way.



...copy-pics Ed..

The Somerset Triangle Newsletter is produced for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Somerset.

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