

TRIANGLE

SOMERSET

NEWSLETTER FOR MARK MASTER MASONS & ROYAL ARK MARINERS OF SOMERSET
ISSUE 5 - February 2009

150 Years of Somerset Mark Masonry



Left to right: **Mary and John Brackley with Catherine and David Nelson**

Mark Masonry in Somerset celebrated its 150th year of continuing Masonic work with an Anniversary Dinner at the Webbington Hotel, Loxton nr. Axbridge; the same popular venue used for the Annual Provincial Meeting. The Provincial Grand Master for Somerset David Brian Nelson and his wife Catherine accompanied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Raymond Guthrie with his wife Hazel were very pleased to receive the guests of honour Right Worshipful Brother John Brackley, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons together with his wife

Mary. As the evening progressed, the success of the evening was easily confirmed by the loud and happy banter from the diners around the large banqueting room interspersed with much laughter and appreciations from each table in turn visited and amazed by the skill and slight of hand of 'close-up-Magician' Chris Green. Following on from the Loyal Toast and that to the Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, the toast to our own top Mason David Nelson was given by the Provincial Grand Senior Warden, Alan Holton in a very professional manner. *Cont.*

150th Anniversary Celebrations

*Continued...*The toast to the Province of Somerset presented by Basil Barke the Past Provincial Grand Master for Gloucestershire, and Herefordshire completely captured the listening audience with his repartee and happy manner. The final toast, that to our ladies and guests, was given by Raymond Guthrie in his usual inimitable way.

To those fortunate to be there, a very happy occasion, to those unable to, a missed pleasure, perhaps we can all meet at the 200th Celebrations! ...*Copy/pictures,Ed.*



A Toast to another 150 years!



The Magician Entertains,
Raymond & Hazel Guthrie, Chris Green & John Peters

All guests present were presented with a commemorative key-fob to 'mark' this special occasion, but how many of you realised that the fob doubles as a £1 coin for those occasions you find yourself at the supermarket trolley park and can't find a £1 coin to release the trolley; you get it back too!



Portcullis Lodge supports the 2008 Annual Meeting

Portcullis Sponsors Provincial Meeting 2008

This years meeting met under the banner of Portcullis Lodge,1656. The banner, which had been made especially for this event, was proudly paraded at the start of the meeting by Master Barrie Baker and members of his Lodge.

The main duty of sponsoring such an event is to provide the Lodge furniture. Any one familiar with the Saint Mary's Chapel in

Langport will appreciate the difficulties in moving such large chairs, but thanks to the organiser, Terry Haggett and Senior Warden David Bates the furniture was loaded onto Graham Lock's van without a hitch.

However it was realised at the last minute that the Lodge candles were too fragile to transport and in keeping with the traditions of the Mark degree a telephone call to the Master of Exmoor Lodge-young *Bill Shorey*-candles were soon on their way to the

Webbington Hotel.

We would like to thank all those who supported their new banner, in particular the removal team and the Exmoor Lodge of Mark Master Masons...**Barrie Baker**

The picture shows, from left to right: Dennis Carson, Richard Francis, Graham Lock, David Bates, Barrie Baker, (seated) Terry Haggett (kneeling) John Vowles, Ian Moore, Peter Knapman, Frank Parsons and Tony Hooper.



Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners of Somerset The Masonic Hall, Nailsea, Saturday 28th February 2009

Under the Banner of the Somerset Commanders Lodge No. 1652.

Brethren to be seated by 10.45am.

Sunday Luncheon for Somerset Installed Mark Masters

Members of the Lodge with their families and non-Masonic friends met at the newly restored early 16th century Tithe Barn in the medieval village of Dunster. Some had left their cars at Bishops Lydeard and were able to sit back and enjoy an hour's ride through the countryside by steam train to Dunster. Many thanks to members of Exmoor Lodge, 697 who met the travellers at the station and ferried them to the barn. After a welcome drink or two and a few words of welcome from Worshipful

Master Peter Atkins, 78 diners sat down and enjoyed a beautifully served and prepared lunch of their choice. No toasts, no speeches, just a totally relaxed and enjoyable time for all. Thanks must go to organiser extraordinaire John Lendon for yet another successful event, thank you John from us all.



The friendly faces appearing in the photographs, need, I am sure, no introduction! ...Ed.



SAMM's give £1500 to charities

The Somerset Ancient Mark Masons continue to carry the name of our Province far and wide. Under the direction of Geoff Nash, the team has performed their version of an old working of the Mark Degree at five venues during the past year. In addition to making a very successful 'home' appearance to Hallam Mark Lodge in March the team have performed at Devon, Sussex, Dorset and Oxford Lodges of Installed Mark Masters.

At their AGM in April it was decided to distribute £250 each to six local charities or good causes. Namely, Portishead Lifeboat, Nailsea MS Society, The Magic Wand Appeal at Frenchay hospital, North Somerset Mencap cool summer camp, St. Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil.

The final gift was to the mother of a young girl in Street. Bethany has had renal failure and suffers from juvenile arthritis. She is also very prone to any sort of infection. All these problems mean regular visits to Great Ormond Street. In the photo left, Bethany is with Mum in Great Ormond Street Hospital. Different members of the SAMMs team presented all the cheques in person. The photo top right shows team members Derek Townsend and David Platten presenting a cheque to St. Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil, and the money will be used towards a special garden project intended to make the hospice gardens



more easily accessible to wheelchair users. (Not all the cheque presenters were brave enough to appear in SAMM's uniform!) The final photos shows youngsters enjoying the cool summer camp.

Ray Guthrie,
SAMM's
Treasurer.





At a visit to the Haynes Motor Museum at Sparkford, a very well known and much respected Mark Member was caught on camera demonstrating to his grandchildren how to drive the latest mini-model.

Off to Mark Lodge now, see you next Saturday!

With these words, Richard Cooper, Royal Cumberland Lodge, T.I. and Bob Cole, Hallam Lodge, 730, set off to an Installation Meeting of Richard's other Mark Lodge, Eothen, 264. Only problem of course being that Eothen meet at **Zetland Hall, Hong Kong!**

We never really need a reason to go to Lodge, other than we want to enjoy the meeting, the fact that Richard, worked with the Installing Master, Jonathon Legat and that Bob attended the same school as the Master Elect, James Wort, appeared to both Bob and Richard as a good enough reason to attend.

Couple that with the fact that Richard had not been able to visit his Mark Lodge in Hong Kong for over ten years, there were very compelling reasons to make the trip. In true Mark form, Bob was asked to assist in the working and undertook the address to the Overseers.

Travelling 6,000 miles just for one meeting would have been a little excessive so the intrepid Somerset pair enjoyed two English Constitution meetings and an Irish meeting during the trip...**Richard Cooper.**

The picture shows from left to right:

Bob Cole. James Wort, Jonathan Legat and Richard Cooper.



500 Club Winners

Congratulations to the lucky winners over the last eight months. The new competition started last September at the George Norman Lodge, No. 967, Yatton. So brethren, speak to your Lodge Charity Steward about the entry forms or use the form enclosed with this magazine. The previous competition raised nearly £3000 for the Provincial Benevolent Fund which in turn supports local Charities. And nearly £3000 will be paid out in prizes...**John Nicholson.**

Provincial Charity Representative (North)

Draw	Name	Lodge
May-08	W. Bro. John Nicholson	177
"	W. Bro. Alan Webber	697
"	W. Bro. Harry Bourn	TI
June-08	W. Bro. Derek Pike	128
"	W. Bro. Alva Excell	191
"	W. Bro. Jimmy Durant	348
Sept. 08	W. Bro. Walter Wood	1548
"	W. Bro. Richard Stone	162
"	Mrs. Jean Douglas, Portishead	BS20 7LG
Oct. 08	W. Bro. Charles Langdon	749
"	W. Bro. Sydney Brailey	102
"	Mrs. Joy Dyer, North Petherton	749
Nov. 08	Bro. Roy Harkness	571
"	Mrs. Susan Todd	155
"	Bro. R. G. Naish	1656
Dec. 08	W. Bro. John Peters	119
"	Bro. David Smith	155
"	W. Bro. Richard Stone	162
Jan. 09	W. Bro. Paul Jones	967
"	W. Bro. Garry Hughes	1615
"	Mrs. Debbie Nicholson	177

Christmas Bonus Draw

Mrs Sheila Holman, Mendip Lodge No. 781

Bro. Paul Cullum, Exmoor Lodge, No. 697

Bro. Cardy Foulds, George Norman, No. 967

Who won respectively,

£150, £60 and £40.

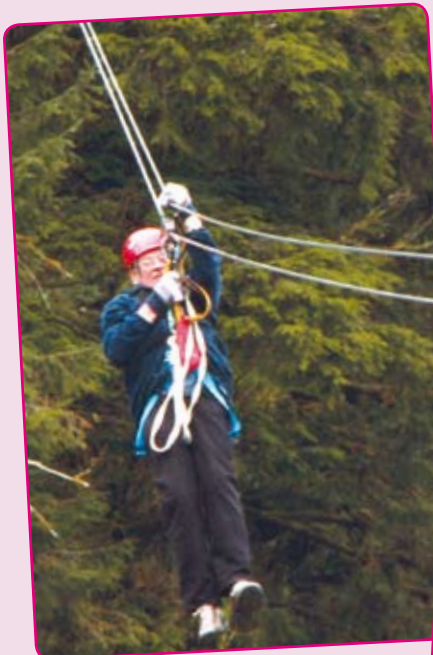
Tradition informs us that at the building of the Temple, each workman placed his own Mark upon his own material. The tools of a Mark Master Mason are the Chisel and the Mallet, with which he fashions his work. His Mark, therefore, should be one made with the straight cutting edge of the Chisel. A Mark should be composed of straight lines in any form, whether in squares, angles or triangles. Such Marks can be made by the edge of the Chisel, under the stroke of the Mallet. **Information courtesy The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta (web-site).**

It's that man again!

John Lendon, Secretary extraordinaire of the Exmoor Lodge of Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariners, 697 and the Somerset Installed Mark Masons Lodge, 1652, is very happy not to be involved with these new fangled computers. Consequently this involves him at times having to go to extraordinary lengths to deliver Lodge summons! John, seen 'hanging about' on the left, was caught on camera by our undercover Triangle agent, delivering a summons to one of the lesser populated areas of our Province.

And afterwards? A well earned rest!

We are happy to say that John is very pleased with this article! ...Ed.



Actuality, John is seen above on his Rainforest Canopy Adventure Holiday in Ketchikan, Alaska.

... See - alaskacanopyadventures.com



SAMM's Team News Flash!



Meet our latest recruit played by new member John Nicholson... **Barrie Baker**

Over the last 12 years the SAMM's have been entertaining Mark Master Masons both home and abroad with their very distinctive version of the Mark Ceremony.

They have performed in front of the Grand Master HRH Prince Michael of Kent and the Pro Grand Master M. W. Brother John Hale. Most Mark Masons will recognise the ritual, but will find it very different from the one we use today... *Copy from Sept. 2006 edition.*

Lendon to London

Some time ago John Lendon thought it might be a good idea to arrange a coach to take brethren to the June Mark Grand Lodge meeting. Twelve years later this annual outing is still taking place and in June 2008 the brethren of Exmoor Mark Lodge gathered at the "Sweet and Tasty" restaurant near Minehead at 6.00 am for a fried breakfast before the coach arrived. Brethren from all over the Province were picked up en-route to Freemasons Hall. After the Bristol pick-

up, smoked salmon sandwiches, flavoured with a hint of lemon juice were served by the stewards accompanied by a flavourful little Chardonnay. Gin and tonics followed before the coach pulled into Great Queen Street where the brethren alighted to be escorted into the Hercules Pillars public house for lunch. After which the brethren took their seats before Grand Lodge commenced. The first procession was led by the Grand Stewards which included our very own

Grand Steward, Peter Atkins of Exmoor Lodge. The main procession that of the Grand Master, was led by the Grand Sword Bearer Cliff Hannabuss of Nailsea Lodge, a proud time for all Somerset Masonry. *At this meeting The Grand Master was pleased to promote Deputy Provincial Grand Master Ray Guthrie to the rank of PGSO and John Morey and Trevor Cooper to PGJD. First appointments of Grand Rank were awarded to Neville Harrison, Erick Kellett, David Hanks and David Hartley.* After a very

warm afternoon the coach arrived and left London for home via the Sally Pussie Inn where all enjoyed a very welcome carvery. The coach finally arrived at Minehead at about midnight. Our congratulations go out to all those brethren who were promoted or received Grand Rank for the first time and our special thanks to Peter Atkins and Cliff Hannabuss for the way they represented the Province. A day to feel proud of being a Somerset Mark Master Mason, and of course, as ever, our grateful thanks to John Lendon for organising the trip.

Pictures and copy...Barrie Baker



Provincial Grand Secretary's Corner

Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners



On Saturday 28th February 2009 the fifth Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners will be held at Nailsea Masonic Hall under the banner of the Somerset Commanders Lodge No.1652. 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. For the first time 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. The Assembly will commence at 11am. Brethren are to be seated by 10.45am. Further information can be obtained from Lodge Scribes. Those Brethren who wish to stay for lunch following the Assembly and Installation Meeting of the Somerset Commanders Lodge will need to contact W.Bro. Peter Boice, (Scribe, Somerset Commanders Lodge).

Provincial Meeting

As you are aware the Annual Provincial Meeting of Mark Master Masons is to be held again at the Webbington Hotel on Saturday 2nd May 2009 and the Provincial Grand Master would like as many Brethren

to attend as possible. With this copy of the Triangle you should have received your individual copy of the Provincial Summons and reply slip for those wishing to dine; (those Brethren who are to be appointed Provincial Officers for the forthcoming year would already have indicated earlier, if they are dining). As you probably know 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. For the first time all new Mark Master Masons Advanced since the last Provincial Meeting will receive a personal invitation from the Provincial Grand Master inviting them to attend when they will be allocated reserved seating.

Speakers

In the last edition of Triangle I indicated that I would like to establish a directory of speakers who would be prepared to give talks or presentations relevant to the Mark Degree or Royal Ark Mariner Degree to any Lodge who are in the unfortunate position of not having a candidate. I am still trying to put together the directory and would ask again if you would be willing to have your name placed on this directory. If so, I would therefore be grateful if you would contact me giving a title and a short synopsis of your talk or presentation. The directory will in due course be made available to all Lodge

Secretaries and Scribes.

Mark and Royal Ark Mariners Grand Officers Mess

The second Grand Officers Mess has been arranged for Tuesday 17th March 2009 at Bridgwater Masonic Hall commencing at 12.30 for 1pm. If any Grand Officer has not received the information regarding this event and the cost and would like to attend, I would be grateful if they would contact me as soon as possible.

Secretaries/Scribes and Directors of Ceremonies Meeting

It is proposed to hold a further meeting for Lodge Secretaries, Scribes and Directors of Ceremonies on Friday 28th August 2009 at Wedmore Masonic Hall. On this occasion the meeting will be chaired by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. David B. Nelson. Again this meeting will also be open to Assistant Secretaries and Directors of Ceremonies. Further information will be sent to all Lodge Secretaries/Scribes in due course.

I look forward to meeting as many Brethren as possible during my travels to Lodges around the Province in this coming year. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all Lodge Secretaries and Scribes for their continued support, commitment and hard work in helping in the smooth running of our Province.

John G. Morgan

Provincial Grand Secretary

First Grand Officers' Mess held at Nailsea Masonic Centre

Thirty five brethren attended the first Mark Grand Officers Mess held at the Nailsea Masonic Centre. The Provincial Grand Master David Nelson accompanied by his Deputy, Ray Guthrie happily



greeted all those arriving and after a splendid lunch in a very convivial atmosphere, The PGM rose and formally welcomed all to the meeting. Questions were asked and opinions sought concerning all things Mark and



a lively exchange soon took place. It was unanimously agreed that this exchange of ideas was beneficial to Somerset Mark Masonry in general and to the membership in particular. It was proposed that it should become a regular feature in the Provincial Calendar.

Can't get away from it!



Menu for the Members of the Independent Lodge of 'Spiritus Sanctus' and Guests. Specialities and delicacies of Polish, Hungarian, Jewish, East-Prussian and Armenian Cuisine. Wines and Liqueurs from Middle Europe. Slow & Eco Food. Live music.

On a recent cruise to Estonia and a trip to the Capital and largest City Tallinn, our own PGM David Nelson and his lady Catherine discovered some well known symbols on the panels of the door of a local shop, happily he had his camera with him!

But what of Tallinn? The city lies on the northern coast of Estonia on the Gulf of Finland and was first settled about 3500 years ago. By the 10th Century ancient Tallinn was known as a port and marketplace among Scandinavian and Russian Merchants. In the 12th Century, the Arabian mapmaker – Al Idrisi – marked Tallinn on his world map. In the 13th Century, the Knights of the Sword from Germany expanded to the eastern part of the Baltic Sea, bringing Christianity

to Estonia making it part of European culture and economic life. However, in 1219 the city and northern Estonia was conquered by the Danes led by King Waldemar hence the name Tallinn was derived



from the Danish = 'Taani Linn' meaning Danish City. Today Tallinn is the capital of one of the most rapidly developing economies in the Baltic Sea Region. The city has grown into modernity with tall steel and glass buildings. It has large shopping malls, a newly renovated airport and ever growing cargo and

passenger ports.

The Medieval capital has turned into a modern IT driven business centre. The airport, harbours, bus and train stations are all located within easy reach of the city centre and the old town.

Information taken from: the Estonian capital virtual guide:

www.tallinn.info/flash

Travelling Keystone Programme

Brethren,

The Travelling Keystone has been roving around the Province for the last 19 years, its mission to bring Mark Masons together at their various Lodges, forging new friendships and strengthening old ones; long may this continue in this our happy Degree! Here is the programme until May 2009, where are YOU on it?

25th February

Royal Cumberland Lodge to Hallam Lodge

20th March

Hallam Lodge to William Long Lodge

31st March

William Long Lodge to Fidelity and Unanimity Lodge

15th April

Fidelity and Unanimity Lodge to Cerdic Lodge

2nd May

Cerdic Lodge to Provincial Grand Lodge

Did You Know?

The Province of Somerset Mark Master Masons has had a long and distinguished history with the first Provincial Grand Master the Earl of Carnarvon, appointed in 1858. This was just 2 years after the formation of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons in 1856. Since that time there have been just 13 Provincial Grand Masters, with such well known Mark names as Richard Charles Else, Col. William Long and George Norman, through to our friends of more recent years namely, John James Webber, David Palmer, Anthony Walter Samson Hick, to our present incumbent David Brian Nelson.

An interesting fact that is seldom noticed, the Jewel worn by the Provincial Grand Master shows the open compasses laid across the square in the 2nd Degree or Fellowcraft position!

Lifeboat Donation from SAMM's

At the AGM of the Somerset Antient Mark Masters Demonstration Team, it was agreed that donations received from the last year's performances would be distributed to local charities.

One of those chosen was Portishead Lifeboat and a cheque for £250 was presented to them at their headquarters. The photo shows me with two crew members wearing survival suits, the donation will enable another survival suit to be purchased. *The photo, taken by Derek Wilton, shows the tractor which moves the lifeboat to and from the slipway.*

...**Bob Cole.**



Exmoor Lodge, No. 697



John Lendon receiving the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Merit from Somerset's top Mark Mason David Nelson, with WM Bill Shorey looking on!

Help for Springboard



'Springboard' is a registered charity set up to provide help for pre-school children who have special needs. The Springboard Centre in Chippenham provides day care and stimulation for young children together with advice and support for parents.

Our grandson Sam, who is now two, has been attending the Day Centre for over a year. When he was three months old Sam suffered infantile spasms, a severe form of epilepsy in very young children. This has left Sam with very limited motor skills, but the thing he really does best is to smile! The Centre provides different forms of stimulation to help children improve movement and mental ability.

In March 2008 Sam's mum Susy Woodley, successfully ran the Bath Half-Marathon to raise money for the Springboard Centre, which relies mainly on charitable funding for its income. Sponsorship raised over £2,000. This was augmented by donations from Carnarvon Mark Lodge, the Provincial Benevolent Fund and Exmoor Mark Lodge, in all totalling £1,500.

I went along with Susy and Sam for the presentation in May 2008. The staff and volunteers who run the Centre were of course delighted to receive the donation. I met some of the other mothers and children who attend regularly with Sam and Susy. Seeing these kids, some of whom have really severe problems was a sharp reminder that not everyone can be helped by the enormous advances that have been made in medical science. All we can do is help as best we can and just like Sam, **keep smiling!**...Ray Guthrie.

Help for Heroes

Pictured left, with his parents Jenny and Philip is RAF Sergeant Jason Lewis MBE at the presentation of a cheque for £253 from Tony Edwards, Master of the Else Lodge of Mark Master Masons, 102. The donation was one of many towards Sgt Lewis's nominated charity 'Help for Heroes.'

Jason Lewis, is currently the most decorated soldier in the RAF Regiment and was helped by the charity when he was medivac'd out of Afghanistan in 2007. He is planning to cycle across America coast to coast starting in June or July of this year. The aim is to complete the 3,181 mile journey in 46 days, a distance of approx 100 miles a day with every 7th day as an "admin" day (bike repairs, kit maintenance etc).

If you would like to know more then details can be found on :-

www.RAFcoasttocoast.co.uk **Operation Long Road.**

Jason's dad, Bro. Phil has been visiting Lodges in the Weston-super-Mare area, giving a brief talk about his son and raising money for the Help for Heroes charity. So far he has raised nearly £900 from the Lodges visited. If you would like to speak to Phil, about his son and his project, or would like to know more about his talk, please call 01934 414022.

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

The editor would be pleased to receive articles, news and photographs for consideration. Please send to:- **Pat Morrissey, "Ashcombe Lodge", 3 Milton Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2SA. Tel. 01934 631449. Email:- patmorrissey@btinternet.com**

