

TRIANGLE

FOR MARK MASTER MASONS and ROYAL ARK MARINERS OF SOMERSET
ISSUE 17 Spring 2015

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

A Great Honour and special evening for Else Lodge No. 102

At the Installation Meeting of Else on Tuesday 18th November 2014, the Lodge was honoured by the presence of Right Worshipful Brother John Graham Morgan, Provincial Grand Master for Somerset. The gavel was proffered by the Worshipful Master W. Brother Mike Fazackerley to our PGM, which to Mike's delight & possible surprise was accepted & RWBro. John took the chair. A knock on the door saw the entry of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. Ryan Williams who announced that the Assistant Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Raymond John Smith was without & demanded admission. All stood as the Assistant Grand Master entered the Lodge, RWBrother Morgan proffered the gavel which was politely refused. He in turn invited the W. Master to resume his rightful place in the Lodge. A first class ceremony of Installation was conducted by the W. Master & his officers for the incoming WM W. Bro. Ben White, charges were presented, officers appointed. After Lodge business the meeting was closed in harmony, the brethren retiring to a very welcome Festive board. Amongst the many guests present on this very special evening was the Worshipful Master and members of Ben's Highgate Lodge of MMM meeting at Mark Mason's Hall, London; where RWBrother Raymond Smith is also a member.

Picture top from left to right..RWBro. Raymond John Smith,
W. Bro. Ben White-WM, RWBro. John Morgan

Picture bottom...Ryan Williams, Chris Avery-S/Warden,
RWBro. Raymond Smith, Ben White, RWBro. John Morgan,
Clive Sutton - J/Warden
with Ray Johnstone-Smith - Provincial Grand DC



The sun shines on the righteous.....



August 2014 had been a largely wet, indifferent month. That was until the very last day, Sunday 31st, when our new Deputy PGM Phil and his wife Gill hosted the annual BBQ for the new Mark Provincial Team in their more than adequate back garden. The day dawned dull, but the clouds soon dispersed and a beautiful afternoon ensued. Many of the team and their ladies were able to attend and enjoyed a sumptuous barbecue in good company and an informal atmosphere. We saw our Deputy Phil in a whole new role as al fresco chef, kept ably under control by the watchful eye of Gill. Several hours of relaxed conversation ensued, assisted by a ready supply of drinks for all tastes and a beautiful selection of desserts prepared by Gill. The aim of the afternoon was to enable the new Provincial Team to get to know one another and meet the heads of the order, form new friendships and renew old acquaintances, all of which were certainly achieved. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and hopefully has now become an established Provincial "tradition" each summer. Sincere thanks are due to Phil and Gill for all their hard work.

*Every picture tells a story!
Copy/Pics Ian Strickland*



Have you heard the one about the giraffe & the dog?

The traditional image of Noah's Ark as used in a Royal Ark Mariners Lodge is one of a wooden hulled boat with a 'bungalow' on top. On Royal Ark Mariner Documents the Ark is shown with a dove bearing an olive branch above it. This is taken from the cover of the Tracing Board ritual. There are many different styles but the content is always the same. If you should visit Nailsea Masonic Hall, check out the Honours Board for Nailsea RAM, No. 1548. You will see the familiar wooden hull with the 'bungalow' but no dove, instead you will see a giraffe, with the giraffe there is a large dog of indeterminate breed. I am reliably informed that when the lodge was founded in 1990, the sign writer who decorated the honours board was not an Ark Mariner, he was given such a poor photocopy of the Ark that his interpretation was somewhat different from what was intended. Thus Nailsea RAM has a unique Honours Board & a unique image on the Lodge summons. Is this where lodge traditions spring from? **Ray Guthrie, Founder Member Nailsea RAM, no, 1548. Found in the September 2006 edition of Triangle...Ed.**

Double thank you from members of Else Lodge



The Immediate Past Master of the Else Lodge of Mark Master Masons, W. Bro. Michael Fazackerley's chosen charity during his recent year as Master was **The Bristol Heart Institute Cardiac Unit**. Mike is also Chairman this current year of the Weston Group of Friends, (GOF, a non-Masonic Organisation). Mike's nominated charity from his GOF members was also happily presented to the Bristol Cardiac Unit.

I asked Mike why the Cardiac Unit was the beneficiary of both his chosen Charities? He explained; ***"There are several members of Else who are also members of GOF so I thought it would be a good idea to make a dual donation at the same time. My reasons for this? I have personally received treatment from them on more than one occasion and its not an exaggeration to say they have saved my life. In addition members of Else and GOF have also received treatment at Bristol, it is the centre of excellence for the south west"***.

The two cheques totalling £1,900 were presented by W. Bro. Mike on Monday 2nd February 2015, to Matron Jenny Anstey, who is in charge of the two units at Bristol.

Mike Fazackerley was talking to Pat Morrissey.

Donation from Exmoor Lodge 697

On Thursday the 2nd October at the Festive Board of the regular meeting of the Exmoor Mark Lodge, to which the Ladies had been invited, a cheque for £200 was presented by Worshipful Brother Richard Wickham to Mrs Pat Blackett, the manager of the Winsor Care Home in Minehead, and Mrs Sue Auger, the coordinator of the homes

'Sanctuary Care Dementia Support Group'. After the presentation, Mrs Blackett gave a short talk on the work that the group carried out and thanked the brethren most sincerely for their generous donation.

W/Bro Norman Ackland LIO

Bro. Andrew Hadley, Charity Steward



A Surprise for Vic

Bro Vic Morris was very surprised to learn he had been made an honorary Member of George Norman Lodge No.967 meeting at Yatton. Victor 83 has had a very colourful and travelled life. Born in Wiltshire, he moved to Sand Bay nr. Weston-super-Mare at the age of 5. When he was 16 he applied and was accepted with 100 other young men to join *'The Big Brother Movement'* and travelled to work in Australia on their farms, sheep stations and in industry.

There he worked for various families until he was 20 years old. After which he returned to England, married Lorraine Campbell and was promptly called up for National Service joining The Life Guard Regiment; within two years he was made up to Corporal.

After being demobbed and now also having a daughter Linda, the three immigrated back to Australia where they lived and worked along the sunshine and gold coast. Within that time he had a son Tony born in Brisbane Queensland. In 1959 the family returned to England, Back to Sand Bay and Kewstoke. He bought a house in the village and worked for a local building firm. After about 7 years he started up on his own and eventually son Tony worked for him.

In 1978 Victor was Initiated into The Lodge of Agriculture and was advanced into Mark Masonry with the George Norman Lodge in 1983. Vic married again, to Brenda Barnett gaining a step-son Gary and step-daughter Rachael.

In March 1990 he was Installed as Master of the Lodge of Agriculture and the following month Initiated his son Tony. Thirteen years later he Installed Tony as Master of the Lodge, which he said was a very proud moment in his

life. Vic retired from building work at the age of 68 mainly forced through ill health with heart problems. and slowly became unable to attend meetings in his Craft & Mark Lodges. He then lived at Earlfield Lodge Care & Nursing Home in Weston, but kept in touch with Lodge events. When George Norman made him an Honorary Member he was, he said, very surprised and overwhelmed.

W. Brothers Tony Atherton, David Powell, Sandy Kemlo and Brother Tony Morris, travelled to Earlfield Lodge to formally present the good news. Sadly on 12th August 2014 Vic passed to The Grand Lodge above; in his 83 years he enjoyed life and he especially enjoyed his Freemasonry. *The picture shows Vic with his friends on that very special occasion.*



Somerset Flooding

Dear Editor,

Last summer Sydney French and myself, accompanied by my wife, Bridget, travelled down to Moorland and Fordgate on the Somerset Levels. The intention was to deliver cheques from The Somerset Mark Flood appeal fund. The Rector, Jane Haslam, helped us find some of the more remote houses.

Although not everyone was in, all those who received cheques were very grateful and the raw emotion following the flooding was still very apparent. What we noticed to our surprise was that Moorland, especially, was a ghost village, with nearly all the houses still unoccupied, but with builder's signs outside. The few residents that were living there were in Caravans.

The cheques delivered were the balance of the flood relief fund set up by Somerset Provincial Mark, the total distributed being £12,500.

Peter Elmont.

Provincial Treasurer.

Secretary's Corner



As we move swiftly into another new year, how time flies, may I first of all take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy, Peaceful and most importantly, a Healthy New Year, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on my travels around the Province and again also take this opportunity of thanking all Lodge Secretaries, Scribes and many others, too many to name but not forgotten, for their continued support and commitment in helping in the smooth running of this very friendly Degree.

For your Diary.

Provincial Mark Weekend

The Annual Mark weekend will this year be held at the Sandbanks Hotel, Sandbanks, Poole. 27th-29th March 2015. This is a new venue at which the Provincial Grand Master hopes to welcome your support. Booking forms may be downloaded from the web site or obtained from you Lodge Secretary.

Provincial Meeting

The 2015 Annual Provincial Meeting of Mark Master Masons will be held at the Webbington Hotel on Saturday 2nd May 2015 commencing at 3pm. (Brethren to be seated by 2.30). The Provincial Grand Master would obviously like as many Brethren to attend as possible and as in previous years, you will receive your own individual copy of the Provincial Summons together with a booking form for those wishing to dine after the meeting. As you are no doubt already aware, this is the only Province in which ladies are invited for dinner following a Provincial meeting and 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. Those Brethren who are to be appointed Provincial Officers for the forthcoming year will have received a booking form with their letter of appointment

Secretaries/Scribes and Directors of Ceremonies Meeting

The annual meeting for Lodge Secretaries, Scribes and Director of Ceremonies will be held on Friday 28th August 2015 at Wedmore Masonic Hall. On this occasion the meeting will be chaired by the Deputy 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.

Almoners and Charity Stewards Meeting

There will be an Almoners and Charity Stewards meeting on Friday 6th November 2015 at Wedmore Masonic Hall. Further information will also be sent to Lodge Secretaries/Scribes in due course.

Reminders

The PGM, DPGM, W.Masters and W.Commanders welcome your support whenever possible at meetings and events and don't forget the Camera for that special picture in your Triangle.

Provincial Website

The Provincial web site www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk has had a makeover and is now regularly updated with news which you submit. Provincial Summons and booking forms etc. can easily be downloaded.

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

John Smith

Provincial Grand Secretary

Club Corner

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 winners.

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

Entry Forms available from your Lodge Charity Steward.

| Draw | Name | Lodge |
|-------|--|-------|
| Sept. | 1st. W. Bro. Mike Waterman | 128 |
| " | W. Bro. Alva Excell | 191 |
| " | V. W. Bro. Ray Guthrie | 119 |
| " | Bro. Malcolm Toogood | 177 |
| Oct. | 1st. Mrs. Sirena Wynne | 128 |
| " | W. Bro. Geoff Seaman | 730 |
| " | W. Bro. Willie Brown | 697 |
| " | Miss Corrina Nicholson | 177 |
| Nov. | 1st. W. Bro. Garry Mackenzie | 102 |
| " | W. Bro. Steve Defries | 781 |
| " | W. Bro. Les Lillywhite | 155 |
| " | Bro. Mike Caswell | 749 |
| | Christmas Draw <i>1st prize - £200</i> | |
| | <i>Followed by 8 prizes of £100</i> | |
| Dec. | W. Bro. Mike Skyrme £200 | 102 |
| " | Bro. Tony Case | 781 |
| " | Bro. Norman Hucker | 749 |
| " | W. Bro. Keith Smith | 1295 |
| " | W. Bro. Matt Westley | 807 |
| " | Mrs. Sue Kelly | 102 |
| " | W. Bro. Cedric Platt | 1548 |
| " | W. Bro. Mike Waterman | 128 |
| " | W. Bro. David Hanks | 1295 |
| Jan. | W. Bro. Tony Wilcox | 128 |
| " | Bro. Dave Grounsell | 1548 |
| " | W. Bro. Garry Hughes | 1615 |
| " | Mrs. Ann Sandford | 730 |
| Feb. | W. Bro. Sidney French | 348 |
| " | VW Bro. Geoff Nash | 191 |
| " | W. Bro. Steve Defries | 781 |
| " | Bro. Martin Slocombe | 1548 |

PGM's First Grand Officer's Mess

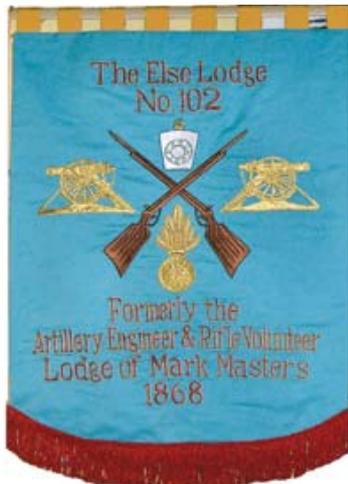


Cheers Sandy!



The first Grand Officer's Mess get-together under the leadership of our new Provincial Grand Master John Morgan, was a happy & relaxed occasion. After a very pleasant lunch provided by Zena & her team, the PGM invited the brethren present to propose & discuss any topic of interest or suggestion relevant to the ever-happy running of our Province & its members.

Lively discussion ensued on various subjects, opinions were stated & overall satisfaction was generally agreed...Ed.



Three brave pilgrims from the Else Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 102, Wayne Kelly, Michael Fazackerley and Pat Morrisey made the hazardous journey over the border into the depths of Devon.

There they attempted to attend the Amity Lodge No. 849, meeting near the unknown sea of Exmouth. Although at first it was difficult to gain entry due to the lack of a

secret password, they eventually gained admission by pulling the secret door instead of pushing it.

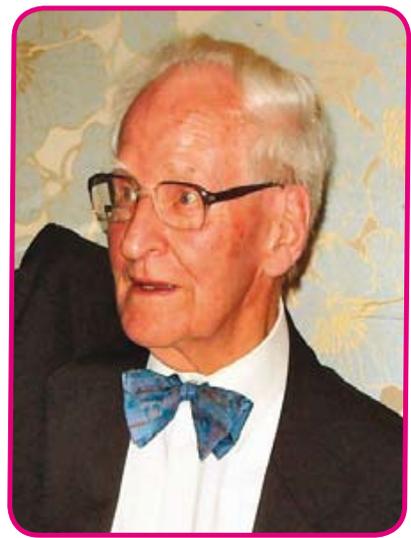
It was a mighty gathering with so much gold in view that the pilgrims were awed into silence. A careful under cover count found an unimaginable number of very Grand Officers present. Including many from the secret inner circle of the Devonian Chain-Gang. Assistant PGMs, Deputy PGMs and Past PGMs.

The Provincial Grand Master of Hong-Kong and the Provincial Grand Master of Devon who reigned supreme.

At the feast that the pilgrims were allowed to attend, they were spotted from the great Top Table by the Right Worshipful Brother Peter Hawkin, PGM of Devon. *"Ah-hah"* he said, *"I see we have missionaries from the dark lands over the border in deepest Somerset, down here no doubt to study our ways and train how to do things properly - Take back my greetings to thy leader", he boomed, "For we know each other"*.

It was with relief that the three returned back to their lodge before the day changed!

R.W. Brother Tony



It was with great sadness we learnt of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of our greatly esteemed Past Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. A.W.S. Hick (Tony) on Tuesday 29th July 2014 after suffering a severe stroke. R.W. Bro. Tony served this Mark Province with dedication since his Advancement into Mark Masonry on 27th March 1973. He held a succession of offices within the Mark Province of Somerset and was appointed our Provincial Grand Master in 1997 an office which he carried out with distinction until his retirement in 2004. Tony will be greatly missed by all. A private cremation was held attended by his family. This was then followed by a Service of Thanksgiving to Celebrate his Life at St John's Parish Church, Staplegrave Taunton on Tuesday 12th August 2014. The Parish Church was full to capacity, in fact to overflowing, attended by his family and many friends, not only from Masonry, but also from Rotary and the Scouting movement. During the service Tony's son Michael gave a very moving and fitting tribute reflecting his father's life which gave an insight into Tony's life as a very caring and loving family man. Donations in his memory were welcomed for the St John Ambulance of which he was a great supporter. R.W. Bro. Tony will be remembered with great fondness and respect and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife June and the family.

**May he Rest in Peace
and Rise again in Glory.**

John G Morgan

Provincial Grand Master

New Commander for Yatton RAM



On Thursday 30th October 2014 the 4th Installation of the recently formed Yatton RAM No. 967 took place at The Masonic Hall, Yatton. Worshipful Brother George Clitherow Installed his successor Tony Edwards into the chair in fine style after which the Brethren retired to a first class Festive Board. Representing the Province was W.Brother Geoff Nash, the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master accompanied by the Provincial ADC Brother Graham Howell.

The picture above show the new Commander Worshipful Brother Tony Edwards flanked by his Wardens Brother Mike Fazackerley *left* (SW) and Brother Sandy Sandford *right* (JW) together with W.Brother Geoff Nash the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

...Garry Mackenzie, pics-Ed.



Noah's Ark is the vessel in which God saved Noah, his family, and all the world's animals from the flood. God gives Noah instructions for building the ark. It was of *gopher* wood. It had three decks and internal compartments.

It was said to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. It had a roof and an entrance on the side. The Ark floated throughout the flood and with the receding of the waters, came to rest on Mount Ararat.

The Ark sails into Clevedon



The December meeting of the Thackeray Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners at Clevedon was its usual mixture of friendship, happiness & impressive ritual.

The Worshipful Commander, W. Bro. Andy Gray controlled the evening with his usual blend of humour & ritual to a high degree.

The Lodge was honoured with the presence of our Provincial Grand Master, RWBrother John Morgan, accompanied by his Deputy & Thackeray IPM Philip Voisey, Past Deputy PGM Geoff Nash & other dignitaries.

The first event of the evening was the delivery of the Travelling Ark from the W.Commander, (a well-known figure in Masonic circles), and brethren of the Somerset Commanders Lodge. Thackeray will, in turn, deliver it to Portal Lodge, 155 in Frome during February 2015.

The second event was the Elevation of Brother Ian McLeod Macdonald, Past Master of George Norman Mark Lodge, 967. Ian was Elevated with great sincerity by the W. Commander & his officers to the very noticeable appreciation of all who witnessed it.

This memorable evening ended with the Festive Board we had come to expect from Zena & her team. Being the last meeting before Christmas, the brethren showed their appreciation to the staff with a collection around the well satisfied tables!...*Copy/pics, Ed.*



From one Commander to another!

Travelling Ark Programme

2015

18th February - Thackeray Lodge to Portal Lodge No.155 (Frome)

27th May - Portal Lodge to Cerdic Lodge No. 571 (Chard)

1st June - Cerdic Lodge to Herbert Fuller Lodge No. 128 (Wincanton)

21st September - Herbert Fuller Lodge to Irwin Lodge No. 1129 (Keynsham)

14th October - Irwin Lodge to Nailsea Lodge No. 1548 (Nailsea)

2016

22nd January - Nailsea Lodge to William Long Lodge No. 191 (Burnham-on-Sea)



The latest initiative for rounding up new recruits!

A delightful afternoon and evening was enjoyed on the 6th September at the **'Keep Calm and Party On Concert'** in Clevedon, held in aid of:-

'Invisible Injuries - Help for Heroes'.

We certainly did party to Jon Lee's Tribute to Frankie Valli – so slick, Sarah Eden-



The PGM flies the Flag!

Winn from 'The Voice' fame and what a voice! Finally and undeniably worth waiting for the new X Factor winner, Matt Cardle. However, the stars of the show, and there were 50 of them altogether in splendid voice,

were **The Military Wives Choir** from Yeovilton who apparently formed in September 2012 following the outstanding success of the original Military wives from Chivenor and Plymouth, made famous through the BBC TV programme with Gareth Malone. Hankies were needed! It was indeed incredible with all this going on, that John Morgan and Ray Johnstone-Smith, found time to round up some new recruits! Thank you John for the invite and the time to reflect on the bravery of our Military men and women and the challenges of service life for them and their families....*Vanessa Johnstone-Smith.*



Tracing Board presented to Quantock Lodge

On Wednesday 4th February **The Somerset Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Team of Development and Improvement**, attended the Quantock Lodge of Mark Master Masons at the invitation of the Worshipful Master W.Bro R. A. Back. There they presented a rendition & explanation of the Mark Tracing Board, which by unanimous approval was performed in a most excellent manner and appreciated by all who attended...*Mike Fazackerley.*

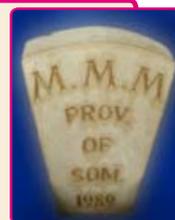


Travelling Keystone Programme

The Travelling Keystone has been roving around the Province for the last 24 years, its mission to bring Mark Masons together at their various Lodges, forging new friendships and strengthening old ones.

2015

27th January - Quantock Lodge - to Fidelity & Unanimity Lodge No. 348
 17th March - Fidelity & Unanimity Lodge to Else Lodge No. 102
 16th April - Else Lodge to Science Lodge No. 128
 2nd May - Science Lodge to Provincial Grand Lodge
 PGM will deliver the Keystone....to be confirmed.



Royal Ark Mariners Assembly Saturday 14th February 2015

The Assembly was held at Nailsea Masonic Centre on Saturday 14th February 2015. This was a very special meeting for two reasons. It was a first not only for our new Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother John Graham Morgan, but also for his Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Worshipful Brother Philip Clifford Voisey. The meeting opened under the watchful eye of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Worshipful Brother Ray Johnstone-Smith. The Provincial Dignitaries, guests & Provincial Grand Masters from other Provinces were escorted into the Temple to stand with the gathered brethren and greet with acclamation the entrance of RW-Brother John Morgan with his Sword & Banner Bearers, his Deputy & the Provincial Team. The opening Hymn was sung, The Provincial Grand Assembly was opened in due form and RWBro. John was Saluted,

after which he greeted his many guests & fellow PGM's together with their colleagues. The Provincial Grand Secretary called the roll of Royal Ark Lodges, happily all lodges were represented. The Assembly's business continued smoothly through the various items which included a very interesting paper presented by WBrother John Oakley-Smith *entitled, "The Origin of the Royal Ark Mariners Degree"*. It described how the Degree was formed, its early difficulties culminating with the successful brotherhood we all know & greatly appreciate. After welcoming the newly Elevated Royal Ark Mariners, The PGM individually invested the recipients of Provincial Royal Ark Mariners Grand Rank, namely, W.Brothers, *G.K.Jeffery, P.B.Buckle, E.A.G. Kellett, R.H.Francis, G.J.Small, W.G.Roast, W.Brown A.L. Kemlo.*

The PGM next addressed the Assembly, his words were sincere & interesting, his last line gave a touch of humour when he asked, *"Why did Noah let two mosquitoes into the ark?"* There was no further business & the Provincial Grand Assembly was closed in due form. The National Anthem was sung, after which the Provincial Grand Master withdrew accompanied by his Provincial Team. All brethren retired to the Dining Room where a very pleasant Festive Board was waiting. The main speaker at the Festive Board together with our PGM was the Right Worshipful Brother, Derek Thomas, PGM of Monmouth, whose wit & repartee was greatly appreciated by us all; a very happy day. *Copy/pics Ed.*



Three Provincial Grand Masters



Cheers to my Deputy Philip



With Their Wardens Norman Ackland, Brian Foster (Acting)



PGM Walk About!

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

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