

TRIANGLE

SOMERSET

NEWSLETTER FOR MARK MASTER MASONS & ROYAL ARK MARINERS OF SOMERSET
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<http://www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk>

All Bull at Congresbury!



The Provincial Officers for the year 2011-2012 met, together with their ladies at the Marco Pierre White Function Room at the Cadbury House Hotel, Congresbury. It was, as always, a happy affair with little formality and much happy chatter. The evening was a 'thank you' to all the Officers for their hard work through the year and of course to their ladies who ever support them. On entry all guests were greeted with a glass of sparkling wine during which time our PGM David



Nelson with his lady Catherine together with Ray Guthrie our then Deputy accompanied by his lady Hazel circulated amongst the brethren chatting to all. During the meal David rose to propose three toasts, to the Queen, that to the Grand Master and finally to our ladies. A moment of surprise for David and Catherine was when those stalwarts from Taunton, Deacons Sidney French and Peter Penfold presented them with a package for their grandchildren. It was not surprising to find that when unwrapped, two fine Bulls appeared! What else could we expect from Farmer Sid and Co! We thank the permanent members of the Provincial Team for all their guidance during the year. The pictures are not named; you all know who you are!...*Copy/Pics,Ed.*



Annual Provincial Meeting 2012



This year's Annual Meeting was held under the Banner of the Exmoor Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 697 from Minehead. It was a meeting with a difference, for we said a sad farewell to Ray Guthrie after eight years as our ever popular & dare we say well-loved Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Conversely, on a bright note we also said welcome & congratulations to John Morgan who takes up the challenge as our new Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

Under the ever watchful eye of Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Ray Johnstone-Smith the visiting dignitaries took their place after which all rose to receive the Provincial Grand Master Right Worshipful Brother David Brian Nelson accompanied by Worshipful Brother Ray Guthrie, escorted by the Sword & Banners of the full Provincial Team.

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in form after which a delegation of Royal Ark Mariners dressed in their Rainbow regalia & to the organ accompaniment of 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' were escorted into the assembly & welcomed by R. Worshipful Brother David.

The PGM next welcomed by name all the visiting dignitaries from Somerset & many other Provinces, some new & many old friends of our Province. A roll of Somerset Mark & Ram lodges were next called, it was gratifying to note that all Lodges were represented by the brethren present.

The PGM next rose & with great sincerity thanked V. Worshipful Brother Ray on behalf of all his friends in Somerset & beyond for his unstinting hard work over his eight years in office & presented him with a beautifully wrapped box. After tearing the paper off, he discovered the very camera he thought his wife Hazel was buying him for his birthday! A bit of collusion there I think!

Items of business were speedily dealt with taking the meeting up to the appointment of Worshipful Brother John Graham Morgan, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate. Appointed brethren retired under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and re-entered the lodge bearing the regalia of the Deputy PGM Designate followed by W. Brother John. The Patent of Appointment was read after which the PGM addressed the Deputy PGM designate as to the nature of his duties. W. Bro John took his solemn obligation & was invested with the Chain of Office by the Provincial Grand Master. The new Deputy was escorted to his seat, proclaimed by the Provincial Director of Ceremonies & saluted by members of the Province.

R. Worshipful Brother David next rose and following the names read out by the acting Provincial Grand Secretary, appointed and invested the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge. At the completion of this pleasant duty, R. Worshipful Brother David addressed Provincial Grand Lodge.

(His address can be read in full on the Mark Provincial web site, <http://www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk>).

Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form and all retired from the Assembly enabling the meeting room to be converted into the dining room by the hotel staff.

During the meeting our ladies had been entertained with a talk on beauty products with afternoon refreshments. We then joined them for pre-dinner drinks in the bar.

.....continued over.

The Festive Board that followed was a very happy, somewhat noisy & successful end to a very special day.

During the dinner, a floral presentation was made to Ray & Hazel, & a cheque for £500 presented to members of St. John who were guests of honour at the festive dinner. We wish W. Brother John success in the years to come, success to V.W. Brother Ray as Deputy PGM in the Craft, & to all the new Provincial Officers in their duties over the following year.

...Copy/pictures, Ed.



Keystone to Portcullis



On the 17th of April the Worshipful Master of the Else Lodge of MMM, No 102 accompanied by 17 Else members attended Portcullis Lodge of MMM No. 1656 who meet at St Mary's Chapel, Langport to deliver the travelling Keystone. They were entertained by an excellent ceremony when the Worshipful Master,

Ken Gillard Advanced Brother Paul Conway into Portcullis ably assisted by his officers. Barry Baker also demonstrated his versatility by not only being Secretary but also providing the music from his miniature organ, (which apparently he keeps in his pocket – just in case)! After the meeting everyone retired to the



Langport Arms and enjoyed a plentiful and very happy festive board. ...Pic/copy, Toby Hammond. What a coincidence, our Worshipful Master Mike Willis won a very appropriate raffle prize. A Weston donkey, a bucket & spade sun hat & glasses! Thanks to Barrie Baker for the picture...Ed.

Provincial Grand Secretary's Corner



Having now settled into the position as Provincial Grand Secretary burning much midnight oil, tarmacadam and inkjet cartridges, feeling very privileged to be part of the Provincial Executive Team in this very happy and thriving Province. I must express my thanks to all members of the Province who have pledged their support and assistance, particularly Lodge Secretaries and Scribes and especially our new DPGM John Morgan, all of whom have many other interests, a number still with work commitments and without whom my job would be impossible. *Thank you all Brethren.*

For your Diary,

Secretaries/Scribes and Directors of Ceremonies Meeting.

A meeting for Lodge Secretaries, Scribes and Directors of Ceremonies will be held on Friday 31st August 2012 at Wedmore Masonic Hall. The meeting on this occasion will be chaired by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master followed by light refreshment and as in previous years is open to Assistant Secretaries, Scribes and Directors of Ceremonies. Further information will be sent to all Secretaries and Scribes in due course.

Almoners and Charity Stewards Meeting.

A meeting for Lodge Almoners and Charity Stewards will be held on Monday 29th October 2012 at The Masonic Hall, Burnham-on-Sea. The meeting will be chaired by the Provincial Grand Master followed by light refreshment. Further information will be sent to all Lodge Secretaries and Scribes in due course.

Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners.

The Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners will be at Nailsea Masonic Hall on Saturday 9th February 2013. 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. As in previous years, all members Elevated since the last Assembly will receive a personal invitation from the Provincial Grand Master and will be allocated reserved seating. The Assembly will commence at 10.45am followed by Luncheon, summons and lunch booking form will be available from Lodge Scribes in due course and will also be available for download from the website.

Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Annual Provincial Meeting of Mark Master Masons will be held at the Webbington Hotel on Saturday 4th May 2013 and the Provincial Grand Master would like as many Brethren as possible to attend, as you are no doubt aware Somerset is the only Province in which the ladies are invited to join us for dinner following the meeting having been entertained during the afternoon whilst the meeting is in progress. The Provincial Summons and dining slip for those wishing to dine will again be included with the spring copy of Triangle.

Reminders.

May I take this opportunity to remind all Lodge Secretaries and Scribes that should their Lodge be without a candidate or indeed a Principle officer for a particular meeting, members of the Lodge of Improvement under the leadership of W.Bro. Derek Wilton are only too willing to assist individually or as a team.

Provincial Ties and Tokens.

Provincial Polyester or Silk Ties at £10 or £15 and Mark Tokens at £1.50 can be obtained from the Provincial Grand Secretary via your Lodge Secretary.

Provincial Website. For the latest information and form downloads, visit www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk

S. John Smith

Provincial 600 Club Winners

Congratulations to our lucky winners.

Speak to your Lodge Charity Steward about entry forms.

The WM and his Wardens draw the lucky winners.

Prizes: 1st.£150, 2nd.£60, 3rd.£40.

Draw	Name	Lodge
March.	Bro. Derek Lewison	697
“	W. Bro. Derek Bromwich	730
“	Mrs. Dee Kellett	781
April	Mrs Pamela Edwards	102
“	W. Bro. Peter Atkins	697
“	W. Bro. Roy Wilton	191
May	Mrs. Hazel Guthrie	119
“	W. Bro. Mike Needs	749
“	W. Bro. David Bond	177
June	W. Bro. Alan Webber	697
“	W. Bro. Cedric Platt	1548
“	Mrs. Diane Hawes	177

Dear Deputy.....



Dear John,
congratulations & greetings from all your Mark friends in Somerset. We have no doubt that you will carry out your duties in your new role in the same distinguished manner as you did as Provincial Grand Secretary over the last five years.

We look forward to greeting you at many of our Lodges during the forthcoming Masonic season.

John is seen here at Mark Grand Lodge with Fifi who is a VIP in the Mark Hierarchy!

Mark & Craft donate to the Somerset Young Carers Project

At a recent meeting, the Quantock Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 749 raised £250 which was the first request submitted to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons to be fund matched. While at a recent charity night, Craft Lodge Admiral Blake, No. 4692 raised £1,071 this too was fund matched by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset with a further £1000.

Each Lodge donated the money raised to **The Somerset Young Carers Project;** the total was £2,571. The Somerset Young Carers Project exists to provide support, advice and respite breaks for children

and young people aged 8 to 18 years who have substantial caring responsibilities at home. This could be helping to care for a physically disabled parent or sibling, or a parent experiencing mental ill health, alcohol or drug misuse. The caring role would usually be having a detrimental impact on the young person's development in terms of difficulties at school, emotional difficulties or social isolation.

The Project has two broad aims – firstly to ensure that the person who is cared-for has access to all the services available to them, thus alleviating the burden of care upon the young person, and secondly, to offer the young person a break from caring, by attendance at one of the Young Carers Groups across the county, one to one volunteer befriending, or by linking the young person to a leisure activity of their choice in the community. Also provided are day trips to such things as a pantomime, bowling or cinema as well as counselling and access to on-going support to finance travel and professional services. The Project works as holistically as possible with each young person, looking at their home situation, education and social life and working alongside professionals such as social workers, mental health staff, youth service and schools. Project Workers cover the whole county of Somerset and if you would like more information about the Project and what's going on in your area, please contact them direct on 08453 459122.



It has been specified that half of each donation should be spent in the Sedgemoor and West Somerset areas whilst the remainder can be used across the County, ensuring that local Masonic donations have the best effect.

The picture right shows: *Peter Holmes Master of Admiral Blake and left: Dave Attwater Master of Quantock Lodge presenting cheques to Jo Sylvester, Regional Coordinator together with Mr Tony Hunt, Treasurer for Friends of Young Carers.*

Special thanks to Lodge Charity Stewards Robin Back of Admiral Blake & Dave Smith of Quantock, who took the pictures and wrote the copy.



Herbert Fuller finally get their man!



Many brethren were present in Wincanton on 6th June 2012 when Neville Harrison finally became a Royal Ark Mariner. Neville is well known in the Mark Degree in Somerset, he is the Secretary of William de Irwin Lodge in Yeovil and a Grand Officer in the degree. The photo shows him at the festive board following his elevation with the Commander of Herbert Fuller Lodge, Roly Bisgrove. **Thanks to Trevor Smith for the photo.**

Unbelievable, but is it true?



The above picture has been received from our mid Somerset reporter Barrie Baker, purporting to be genuine!

Has John Lendon really replaced his pen for an electronic one? We await his next summons with baited breath!

Where's the mouse John, is it near that 13amp plug??

Hallam Lodge is Past It !



To round off our 90th year a Past Masters meeting was arranged for February, with our most senior Lodge members taking the Principal offices. Bob Cole as WM, Roger Poynton as S/Warden and Robin Bex as J/Warden; over a hundred years of experience between them. Our most junior Honorary Member Ray Guthrie rolled back the years as Senior Deacon!

Eldon Mark Lodge was also in attendance on their fraternal visit and we all witnessed a superb ceremony proving that the “pasties”

still had it!! Our recent Advancee Shane Danter just escaped serious injury when the Senior Warden mistook him for his brother Thomas, who was the Candidate!

Again laughter and the animated buzz of conversation filled the dining hall as the Lodge enjoyed the delights of the Festive Board. The Picture shows Thomas Danter surrounded by the Past Masters of the Lodge with one “imposter”.

...Neil Hurcum, Secretary, 730.

Mark Grand Lodge Appointments 2012

The Most Worshipful Grand Master, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, was pleased to invest the following Brethren of this

Province with Grand Rank Honours at the Annual Investiture Meeting of Grand Lodge on Tuesday 12th June 2012.

First Appointments

Sydney J. Smith to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Mervyn T. Haggett, to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
Philip C. Coles, to Past Grand Standard Bearer
Ian G. P. Strickland, to Past Grand Standard Bearer
Stephen N. White, to Past Grand Standard Bearer

Promotions

Clifford A. Hannabuss, PGSwdBr, to Past Grand Junior Overseer
Derek E. Wilton, PAGStdBr, to Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
John G. Morgan, PAGDC, to Past Grand Senior Deacon

We congratulate the brethren on behalf of the Province.

Travelling Keystone Programme to Mark Lodges

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; shown right is the programme for 2012 - 2013



2012

3rd September - Eldon Lodge to Somerset Installed Mark Masters Lodge
20th September - Somerset Installed Mark Masters to Science Lodge
3rd October - Science Lodge to Quantock Lodge
30th October - Quantock Lodge to Fidelity and Unanimity Lodge
26th November Fidelity and Unanimity to Royal Sussex Lodge

2013

15th January - Royal Sussex Lodge to Mendip Lodge
20th January - Mendip Lodge to Cerdic Lodge
27th February - Cerdic Lodge to Hallam Lodge
25th March - Hallam Lodge to George Norman Lodge
4th May - George Norman Lodge to Provincial Grand Lodge

Sword Play at Else Lodge



At the regular May meeting of the Else Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 102 the Lodge was host to the W. Master & nine brethren from the Hallam Lodge on the occasion of their fraternal visit. During the ceremony, the Mark Lecture was presented by twelve Else members stationed around the Lodge Room, to the appreciation of all who witnessed it.

Two brethren present at the meeting have brought honour to their respective Lodges. Past Master Wayne Kelly of the Else Lodge was recently invested as Provincial Grand Sword Bearer whilst W. Brother Derek Wilton of the Hallam Lodge was promoted to Deputy Grand Sword Bearer at the Annual Investiture Meeting of Grand Lodge at Great Queen Street in London. To introduce these two distinguished brethren to the festive board, the Else Worshipful Master, Michael Willis presented both brethren with their own personal swords as a tribute to their high rank! *Copy/pics,Ed.*



Langdale Lodge presentation to Musgrove Park Neonatal Unit



The picture taken at the visit to the Neonatal Unit at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, on Friday 4th May, shows the Unit Manager Mrs Sue Spooner, (centre) Master Kevin Aylott and myself Geoff Dolling. Langdale Lodge made available the sum of £500 for the purchase of a suitable piece of equipment for the Unit. In addition the Province supported our cause with a further amount of

£300 from the Provincial match fund scheme, endorsed by our PGM David Nelson.

The Neonatal Intensive Care Baby Unit receives premature babies from the adjoining Maternity Unit at Musgrove and elsewhere and those with birth abnormalities suffering from illness requiring incubatory Hospital care. One in nine babies born requires support from such units and in Taunton this equates to one baby every day being transferred to the unit. Although funding for the Unit is from the NHS Trust Budget, private donations are received to enhance the quality of equipment. NHS standard equipment is traditionally basic, whereas that found in private clinics is to a higher standard. Additional funds, therefore enables the Unit to upgrade as appropriate. It also

enables accommodation improvements for parents of the unwell babies. Our donation will pay for a *Grasely Neonatal respiratory baby monitor* to replace one that failed after twelve years and is beyond repair. These monitors are about the size of a Masonic reference book and are attached to the baby with a sensor to monitor irregular breathing or failure and immediately alert a Nurse when required.

This particular Baby Unit was identified to the Lodge Brethren by W. Bro. John Winston whose granddaughter, Cary was born on 1st April 2010, some six weeks prematurely and directly benefited from the highly skilled work and care of the Unit's team. The dedication of the Staff and kindness shown to John's family 'high-lighted' the Unit to our attention and needless to say our Brethren were delighted to respond... *Geoff Dolling.*

Travelling Ark Programme to Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Wed 5th September - Bath Lodge to Somerset Commanders Lodge No 1656, Wedmore.

Fri 12th October - Somerset Commanders Lodge to Fidelity and Unanimity Lodge No 348 Taunton.

Mon 3rd December - Fidelity and Unanimity Lodge to Thackeray Lodge No 730 at Clevedon
2013

Wed 9th January - Thackeray Lodge to Nailsea Lodge No 1548 Nailsea.

Wed 20th Feb - Nailsea Lodge to Portal Lodge No 155. Frome

Fri 22nd March - Portal Lodge to William Long Lodge No 191 at Burnham.

Wed 22nd May - William Long Lodge to Cerdic Lodge No 571, Chard.

Fri 14th June - Cerdic Lodge to Exmoor Lodge No 697 Minehead

Mon 23rd Sept - Exmoor Lodge to Herbert Fuller Lodge No 128 at Wincanton.

Mon 18th November - Herbert Fuller Lodge to Irwin Lodge No 119 Keynsham.



Happy Installation at Irwin RAM



Irwin Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, No. 119 meeting at Keynsham, were, (to the sound of a fanfare of drums & bugles from music-man Ray Ling) delighted to welcome WBro. Raymond Guthrie on one of his last visits as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Ray was in attendance for the Installation of Commander Elect John Musket. The Ceremony was carried out in a relaxed and happy manner by the out-going Commander Toby Hammond. The Past Commanders present were indeed privileged to witness the Inner Workings, which left new Commander John in no doubt that he was indeed Master in the chair!

Pictured left, *Happy Scribe, Neil Hawes.*

Pictured right, *Ray Guthrie with Senior Warden Ken Ellis, Commander John Muskett, Immediate Past Commander Toby Hammond and Junior Warden Paul Giblin.*



Royal Ark Mariner Assembly

Ninety Royal Ark Mariners gathered at Nailsea Masonic Hall on Saturday 11th February 2012 for the 8th Annual Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Assembly. The Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro David Nelson presided assisted by his Deputy W.Bro Ray Guthrie. There were five visiting Provincial Grand Masters present, Geoff Isaac - Cornwall, David James - Monmouth, John Platts - Bristol, Martin Brown - Wiltshire and Jeremy Short - Dorset. The Provincial Grand Master was also supported by Tony Helliker, Provincial Senior Warden and David Bates acting as Provincial Junior Grand Warden together with other members of his Provincial Team. In addition to appointing 8 Royal Ark

Mariners to Provincial Rank, members of the Lodge of Improvement headed by Derek Wilton recited excerpts from the RAM ritual in an excellent fashion. Ian Strickland communicated the Secrets and gave the charge after the Installation of a Commander. Geoff Seaman presented the working Tools and Neil Hawes demonstrated the Nine Steps. The PGM also welcomed new members of the degree into the Assembly and addressed the brethren.

The brethren enjoyed an excellent lunch and were regaled by R.W.Bro David James the PGM of Monmouth with a very humorous response to the toast to our visitors, (see below). *Copy/pics.Ed.*



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

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