

**PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER  
MASONS OF WILTSHIRE**

# NEWSLETTER

No: 24 February 2013

*The Deputy Provincial Grand Master writes :*

At this time of the year I find myself looking forward, in anticipation, to a new year which promises to be as eventful as the last and realising how quickly time passes. I also reflect on the events within the Province during the last year with a great deal of pride. We are only a small Province but our achievements have been tremendous and a great credit to you all. The launch of the Hope for Tomorrow vehicle in May was but one of many notable events, too many to mention fully here. Our website is now available to you and your lodges to use and will be as good as you make it.

There have been many fraternal visits to and by us which mean meeting and making new friends, involving our partners and making our Masonic lives more interesting. There was also the visit to Grand Lodge to see W. Bros Richard Evans and Francis Wakem receive R.A.M. Grand Rank. The largest contingent of Wiltshire Brethren attending a single Grand Lodge meeting made even more pleasant by joining our Dorset friends on their coach. We have enjoyed another year of excellent support from the other Masonic degrees within the Province and we must continue to foster these relationships which help to make our Province the best. Looking forward the economic situation looks set to continue and I would ask, in particular, all lodge Almoners to be more vigilant to the needs of our brethren especially to those who haven't attended lodge for some time. A telephone call to enquire about them and their families will at least let them know that we are thinking of them. We are all aware that among Mark Master Masons we will always find friends but sometimes we do need to remind brethren that they have got friends who will help if needed. I look forward to continuing as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and being able to serve you and the Province. May I take this opportunity to thank you for all the support I have received during the last year and wish you and your families a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. If I can help you in any way please do not hesitate to contact me. May we all continue to Mark Well. *John*

*Bell*

## Dates for your new diaries :

Wednesday 27 Mar : Mark team visit to Geoffrey Short 971

Tuesday 9 April : RAM team visit to Warminster 1110

Tuesday 30 April : Installed Mark Masters' Installation, Devizes

Wednesday 8 May : Mark team visit to Swindon Keystone 401

Wednesday 22 May : Installed Commanders' Installation, Devizes

Tuesday 11 June : Mark Grand Lodge Investiture Meeting

Thursday 20 June : Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting

Saturday 13 July : Dinner/Dance at Melksham – details from Bernie Pinnell

Sunday 6 October : Sunday Lunch at Melksham.

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## District Grand Lodge of Spain

Early in January this year a number of our Brethren made their individual ways to Spain, accompanied by their wives for the District Grand Lodge meeting on 12 January. Those involved were the DPGM, and W. Bros Blake, Gibson & Robbins. On the Friday afternoon we all met up with W. Bro Clive Greenwood – whom some of you may remember -and the members of his Installed Masters Lodge in Spain – Temple Builders Lodge and witnessed an 18<sup>th</sup> Century working of an advancement ceremony given by the Somerset SAMMS team who had flown over especially for the occasion. Pictures can be viewed on the Web Site – highly recommended if you believe Benidorm is nothing but a seething mass of intoxicated people. On the Saturday we witnessed R.W Robert Munday handing over the office of District Grand Master to R.W. Bro Barry Mansell and while we were in the meeting our wives enjoyed a day with the ladies of Temple Lodge. After spending several relaxing days in the sun we returned to the harsh reality of the UK in deep midwinter. Quite a shock to the system.

**R.A.B.**

### **News from our RAM Lodges Wiltshire Anchor Lodge No: 178 Devizes**

We have had another successful year under the enthusiastic leadership of W. Bro Rob Bullen with 3 new Elevatees and a very happy atmosphere at all our meetings. In May he installed W. Bro Stuart Hambleton into the Chair which of course he previously occupied in 1993. Although we have no further candidates at the moment we are holding a recruitment campaign among newer Mark Masons, which hopefully will be fruitful. We are delighted that both Richard Evans and Francis Wakem were appointed to RAM Grand rank in December.

### **Goddard Lodge No: 401 Swindon**

We have Elevated three new members during W. Bro. Mike Farrow's year as Commander and we hope that this will continue into next year. In November Bro. John Hughes was Installed as Commander and we look forward to another busy year under his leadership. We were delighted that W. Bro. Roger Prince will be appointed to Provincial Grand Rank in June.

### **Elias de Derham Lodge No: 443 Salisbury**

W. Bro. Ian Gibson is doing a second year as Commander with all the officers remaining in place as well with assistance from W. Bro. Kevin Cardy as Scribe. We welcomed one new candidate in October and we had an interesting talk on the legacy of RAM ritual on other orders and we are looking forward to further progress next year.

### **Concord Lodge No: 971 Trowbridge**

We have had another successful year under the leadership of W. Bro. Mike Dowell with 2 candidates joining our Lodge. At the Installation meeting in September W. Bro Brian Weston was installed as Commander. At this meeting our long serving Scribe, W. Bro. Jack Drewett, stood down after almost 20 years in that office. We are most grateful for all he has done over these years and are sorry that ill health has made his retirement necessary. We congratulate W. Bro. Bob Britton on his forthcoming appointment to Provincial RAMGR.

### **Lansdowne Lodge No: 1035 Malmesbury**

We have been delighted that W. Bro. Bob Roberts-Phare has been Commander this last year following his serious illness. We have had two Elevatees as well as a lecture during this last year. Although we are still a small Lodge in numbers we are strong in heart and in generosity as our support for the 150<sup>th</sup> Keystone Fund and Hope for Tomorrow has shown. In November we were pleased to install Bro. Chris Watling as Commander and we look forward to another successful year during which our Scribe David Palmer will be appointed to Provincial RAMGR.

### **Warminster Lodge No: 1110**

We have had a successful year under the leadership of W. Bro. Bill Platts and we have welcomed one new member. We are grateful to the PGM and his Deputy who have supported our meetings this year including an official visit in February. In November Bro. Bill Reid was Installed as Commander and we congratulate Alistair Lawrie on his appointment to Provincial RAM Grand Rank next June.

### **Reginald W. Short Installed Commanders Lodge No: 1460**

In May our PGM Martin Brown installed W. Bro John Price into the chair. This meeting was again well attended with 9 visitors from other Installed Commanders' Lodges. In December we were privileged to have a practical demonstration of the stone mason's art when W. Bro. Alan Wolsey from Dorset bravely and successfully showed how to cut a symbolic triangle from a block of stone. This was well received by those present and Bro. Wolsey was warmly thanked for his work.

### **Stuart Parry Lodge No: 1843 Ludgershall**

Although we did not Elevate any candidates this year we have very interesting presentations on Masonic stamps by the PGM and on the Porphyry Stone by Don Jackson. W. Bro Bernie Pinnell concluded a successful year by installing our third Commander in the person of W. Bro Mervyn Johns who in turn appointed a new team of officers. As our Scribe was wearing his DPGM hat that morning as Presiding Officer, the PGM acted as Scribe! We are grateful to Bro. David Hawkins who has made a board for the names of Commanders to be recorded and to another Brother who paid for the heading to be inscribed thereon. We have a candidate and a joining member in the pipeline and are looking forward to another successful year.

## Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly

The Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall was almost full for the Annual Investiture meeting in December, which was presided over by the M W Pro Grand Master, Benjamin Addy. Nearly 20 members of the province attended to witness 2 of our Brethren

-W. Bros Francis Wakem & Richard Evans - being honoured by the MW Grand Master and we congratulate them on this well deserved honour. There was less general business this year and so the meeting was over in just over an hour.

The majority of our members travelled up on a coach organised by the Province of Dorset and we are grateful to them for allowing us to share with them. We have now travelled with them on a number of occasions and this may well be our preferred means for the foreseeable future, subject of course to Dorset allowing us to join them. It does make the visit to Grand Lodge both easier and cheaper. After the meeting we unfortunately got caught up in some very heavy traffic and so were a little late getting to our usual excellent meal in an hotel in Fleet in company with our Dorset brethren. All Brethren are welcome to take advantage of these facilities -whether for the Mark or RAM meetings and if you have never been, a visit to either of these occasions is recommended.

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## Mark Accessories

For those Lodges that wish to use them, the Province has a supply of **Advances's tokens**, price £3:50; **lapel badges** £2; **cuff links** £5 and **ties** £8, as well as cards on which the Advancee's Mark can be delineated, which are free of charge! We also have the **Mark Promotional leaflets which have now been completely revised by our PGM**. All these items are available from the Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Ian Gibson, 21 Silverwood Drive, Laverstock, Salisbury, SP1 1SH Tel : 01772 504702. Cash with orders please, so as to simplify administration. The PGM hopes that all members will at least have a tie — **and preferably the current one!** Additionally, all Mark Lodges should have copies of the RAM introductory certificate for new Advancees.

## Provincial Year Book

Hopefully all members of the Province will get to see the new Provincial Year Book which this year has many different coloured pages for each main section. There are also some excellent photos of several senior members of the Province. We have not spotted any errors on our pages as yet, but quite a few corrections were made by your Editor after the final versions had been forwarded by Secretaries and Scribes!

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## The Sunday Lunch

As will be seen from page 6, this year's Sunday Lunch will again be at the **Assembly Rooms in Melksham, on Sunday 6 October**. If you have never been to this event, it is always a most pleasant and enjoyable occasion. Why not give it a try this year. V. W. Bro John Northover will be pleased to give you all the info.

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## Distribution

We shall again be sending out this Newsletter both electronically and in hard copy as appropriate to each Mark Lodge. Each RAM Lodge will receive newsletters for any Ark Mariner not in a Wiltshire Mark Lodge.

**Secretaries and Scribes are asked to distribute them to their members as soon as possible.**

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## Provincial Appointments

Congratulations to those who have recently received notice of new Provincial appointments or promotions. Without wishing to detract from commercial suppliers, especially the excellent ones locally, there are a number of contacts within the Province where regalia - especially apron badges and past rank jewels - can be exchanged at very reasonable prices; you may wish to check first!

### Dinner/ Dance

Following the success of last year's dinner/dance at Melksham, Bernie Pinnell is organising a repeat performance with same band etc., on Saturday 13 July. Watch for details!

### [www.mmmwilts.org.uk](http://www.mmmwilts.org.uk)

The Provincial Web-site is there for all to use and where possible to add to the contents and can only succeed if it meets your needs and interests. This means that it requires input from all of us to keep it fresh, informative and exciting. Please pass all material you would like included to W. Bro Bob Blake, Provincial Secretary.

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### Secretaries' meeting

At the end of 2012, all Secretaries and Scribes were invited to attend a meeting in Trowbridge, chaired by the Provincial Grand Master. This proved of great worth, not only to discuss the state of the Province from a secretarial point of view but for everyone to renew acquaintances around a conference table not over the telephone or the internet. Remember Brethren, if you have any comments, grievances, problems or even, dare I say, praise, concerning our beautiful degree, please speak with your Secretary or Scribe he has access to a wealth of information and experience if needs be. **R.A.B.**

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## Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting

Despite our initial fears, Melksham House will be available for the Provincial meeting, so it will be the normal format at least for this year. Agendas etc. will be coming out next month.

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### Hope for Tomorrow

The mobile Chemotherapy unit funded by Hope for Tomorrow is now stationed at Salisbury District Hospital and is also making visits to Savernake Hospital at Marlborough and to one or two other centres from time to time. If you look on their website you will see some interesting pictures! Another mobile unit is planned in Hampshire and the Mark province of Hampshire & IOW is working hard to raise funds for it.

## News from Down Under

United Grand Lodge of Victoria is in the middle of a recruiting drive (and for the first time in many years they have more joining than leaving). The younger lads joining now have had a good look on the internet before they apply. The UGLV has an education programme in place where after a candidate has finished his 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree before he can move on he has to complete a Masonic Advancement Programme (MAP). We also have a rule that a candidate cannot take his 3<sup>rd</sup> degree until he has completed 52 weeks after his Initiation. And he cannot get a collar round his neck till after 52 weeks after finishing his 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. On these MAP courses they spell out the symbols and allegories of the degrees and then offer a Certificate of Masonic Studies as a gap between the end of their 3rd and being able to take an office. The Grand Superintendent of Education is chasing Lodges to do 5-10 minute Masonic Moments (talks) when they do not have ritual work on. It is not all Beer and Skittles, but they are slowly working into the whole programme. As they say "you can lead a horse to water...."

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## The Influence of Ark Mariner Ritual

When the UGLE came into being in 1813 its first Grand Master wanted to eliminate all other degrees except Craft & Chapter; most English Freemasons it seems were equally determined to maintain the other degrees, even if now considered beyond the pale. Despite the Grand Master's wish, his advisors clearly overlooked one very obvious connection with past when defining the new rituals and regalia. In the early days of speculative Masonry it is probable that the Initiation ceremony was based on the story of Noah rather than part of the Hiram legend. Ark Mariners will know that one of the symbols of that degree is the dove bearing an olive branch – and that symbol continues in most Craft Lodges, including Grand Lodge, to this very day. Where?

## An ancient document on the correct procedures for a new contract has been unearthed!

Gentlemen, assist me to prepare the contract. What is the first care of every building owner?

*To see that the contract is properly prepared.*

The next care?

*To see that none but friends are included.*

To order gentlemen with your black labels! How many principal parties are there to the contract?

*Three; namely the building owner, the architect & the quantity surveyor.*

How many assistant parties are there?

*Three besides the sub-contractors and the builder's clerk, namely the general contractor, the clerk of works and the general foreman.*

The situation of the sub-contractors? *In the depths of despondency.* Their duty?

*To exercise their sub-contracts in due form, to make applications for payment on account from the general contractor, and when refused to advance toward the architect, giving the sign and exclaiming "O eminent architect is there no justice for a sub-contractor?"* The situation of the builder's clerk? *In the office of the builder.* His duty?

*Being armed with a book of unsigned cheques, to ward off all sub-contractors making application for payment using the words "Oppit" or*

*"Clearoff" both words having a similar import "The builder is out".* The situation of the general foreman? *On the job.* His duty?

*To bear all commands and messages from the architect to the general contractor and to see the majority are disobeyed.* The situation of the Clerk of Works? *In a wooden hut on the site.* His duty?

*To inspect all goods on delivery and work executed and to condemn the same without scruple or diffidence.*

Why in this peculiar manner?

*Without scruple, well knowing he is paid to do so and without diffidence from the great reliance he places on the support of the architect in these days.*

The situation of the general contractor? *In his office.* His duty?

*To neglect the contract in hand, to wangle others, and to see that he makes as many extras as possible.*

The situation of the Quantity Surveyor?

*At or near the office of the Architect.*

His duty?

*To draw his fees on the first certificate and to ensure the final account is never adjusted.* The situation of the Architect? *Between his office and the job.*

His duty?

*To inspect the work as it proceeds, to issue certificates in due form and to see the same are punctually obeyed.*

The situation of the building owner? *In his office or home.*

His duty?

*To meet all certificates issued by the Architect and to ensure funds are available at all times.*

Gentlemen, the contract being properly prepared before I proceed to sign it, let us invoke the assistance of all concerned that our labours thus begun in order may be conducted in peace and closed in harmony.

## The Mark Fund of Benevolence

The 144th Annual Festival of the Fund was held at the RFU ground at Twickenham in September under the banner of the Province of Middlesex and was attended by the PGM, the DPGM, the Provincial Charity Steward, the past PGM, and the Past DPGM together with their ladies. The Festival raised almost £675K for the Fund. The 145th Festival will be held on 21 September in Norwich under the auspices of the Province of East Anglia. You can get all the details of the festival on their website. The Fund supports Mark Masons and their dependents in distress as well as supporting good causes -like Hope for Tomorrow as well as previous grants to Hospices, to St. John Ambulance – including one in Salisbury – and to treatment of Prostate Cancer – with an ultrasound machine in Salisbury Hospital – as well as to Hope for Tomorrow. It can, of course, only continue to make these grants, if we in turn support the fund.

## From the Provincial Grand Secretary's/Registrar's Desk

Brethren At the last Provincial Meeting, the PGM re-allocated the duties of the Provincial Secretary & Registrar. This is working well and has evened out the burdens. The information on these pages is therefore drawn from both sources.

### .Welcome

Since September the following have been Advanced or Joined the Mark Degree in Wiltshire:

178 Leslie Welling  
401 Jason Edwards, Scott Landis also John Porter to Honorary Membership 443 William Wyatt  
599 Simon Rogers, Alan Kerr(J)  
853 Abed Majjar  
1035 David Bristow, Alan Feaver  
1110 Paul Pilkington  
1531 Daniel Stallard

The following have been elevated into or joined the degree of Royal Ark Mariner during the same period. We warmly welcome you and sincerely hope you will encourage other Mark Brethren to join this degree which teaches us many useful lessons.

The ceremony of elevation and particularly the Installation of Commander is one of the best in Freemasonry.

401 David Wetton  
443 John Mussell  
1035 Robin Dixon  
1110 David Bush also Michael James to Honorary Membership  
1843 Mike Farrow (J)

Hopefully I have your first names correct, please let me know if not, but in any case we welcome you and trust you enjoy many years in both Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees

**Congratulations.** New Masters and Commanders  
Mark

78 John Ingram  
401 John Hughes  
443 Rob Barrett  
599 Jim Speed  
971 Peter Davies  
1035 Ian Priest  
1110 Colin Ayton  
1143 Andy Blizzard  
1531 Tony Eldridge  
1599 Nick Gourd

RAM

401 John Hughes  
971 Brian Weston  
1035 Chris Watling  
1110 Bill Reid  
1843 Mervyn Johns

### **In Memoriam**

Since September we have lost four long serving members to the Grand Lodge Above:

W. Bro. Frank May PPrGJW 178

W. Bro. Terry Darvill PPrGJW, PrRAMGR, 1110 Mark & RAM, 1460 RAM

V.W. Bro. John Smart PGJO, RAMGR, 1143 & 1460 Mark, 443 & 1460

RAM Bro. Don Wilcox, 599 Mark.

Can all members please ensure that any information regarding illness or deaths is passed to your Almoner and Secretary, who will then pass it to the Provincial Almoner or me if necessary. It is most important that we have the information as soon as possible. Please remember our **Provincial Almoner W. Bro Alan Welch** is there to assist and may be contacted at **alanwelch@btopenworld.com** or **01985 213433**.

Thank you to all Secretaries & Scribes for their prompt response to the annual returns and to the Treasurers for dealing with the financial aspects equally promptly. It would be a great help if when GL Certificates are received, Secretaries/Scribes could pass the certificate number to the Provincial Registrar to go on the database.

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*This newsletter is printed by Royan Athelton Reographics and published by the Mark Province of Wiltshire.*