

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF
MARK MASTER MASONS OF WILTSHIRE

NEWSLETTER

No: 28

February 2015

The Provincial Grand Master writes:

In the last edition of the Newsletter I wrote that R.W. Bro. Michael Meade had indicated that he wished to give up the editing and asked for volunteers to contact the Provincial Secretary. Unfortunately nobody has come forward.

The Newsletter was the idea of our late Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro.. Stuart Parry and the first edition was produced in 2000, when Michael Meade was Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He has continued as Editor throughout his time as Provincial Grand Master and as Past Provincial Grand Master. We are all most grateful for all the very hard work he has undertaken.

Two editions have been produced each year and originally every member had a hard copy through his Lodge. Times change and now the vast majority of the members of the Province who are on E mail receive them electronically. Additionally we also have our own Provincial Web Site www.mmmwilts.org.uk which has had an increase in hits every month; during last year alone they increased by over 100% averaging over 60 each day. The Web site gives us all the chance to see information quicker and have illustrations. I do however realise that not all members have access to the net.

After very careful consideration it has been decided that this will be the last edition of the Newsletter in this format. In future all information will be published through the Web and also sent to Lodge Secretaries and Scribes. In addition, the Craft have agreed that the Mark Degree can have a page on each edition of "Across the Plain"; this is of course sent to all Masons in Wiltshire by post. So not only will we all have information but those who have not taken the fourth step will be able to read "our page". I do realise that we have a few members of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees who are not Wiltshire Craft Masons so other arrangements will be made for them.

As you all know I have been asking for information and ideas for the Web Site and am very grateful for all those that have come up with ideas and comments (good and bad!!), please keep them coming forward.

Finally may I thank most sincerely all those that have contributed over the 28 Editions and especially Michael Meade, who has been a great tower of strength.

Looking forward to seeing you all again in the coming months and may we all continue to enjoy our Mark Masonry.

Martin Brown



Forthcoming Events

Friday 24 April	Installed Mark Masters 1460 Installation Devizes
Monday 27 April	Mark Team Visit to Lansdowne 1035 Chippenham
Wednesday 27 May	Installed Commanders 1460 Installation Devizes
Tuesday 9 June	Mark Grand Lodge Investiture Meeting Great Queen Street
Thursday 18 June	Provincial Grand Lodge Melksham

Details on all these meetings from the respective Secretaries/Scribes

News from our RAM Lodges.

Wiltshire Anchor Lodge 178 Devizes

The Lodge is in very good spirits with all parties working well together. We have had a very good year under the leadership of W. Bro. John Merrett, , along with a good team. He has made every effort to travel the Province during his year as Commander. At the end of his year he Installed Bro. Steve Botham into the chair.

Attendances have remained constant (22 average) over the past year. We have been fortunate in having two candidates, and we have one for September.

We had a very interesting lecture delivered by W. Bro. P. Hanfrey, We congratulate W. Bro Max Pheffe on his appointment as Provincial RAM Grand Rank.

We are currently holding a recruitment campaign among are newer Mark members, two have shown an interest.

Goddard Lodge 401 Swindon

Current membership remains at 35. Since our last report we have been pleased to Elevate Bro. Peter Evans into membership. We were delighted that R W. Bro Martin Brown, Provincial Grand Master, accepted Honorary Membership. We have two candidates in the pipeline and continue recruiting.

We continue to be a happy Lodge and there is every reason to believe that it will continue to be so. No scurvey here! This was the first year for some time that we could not get our candidates in line quick enough and had to arrange lectures instead. Fortunately W. Bro Peter Hanfrey stood in delivering his lecture on the Tracing Board.. We always endeavour to provide the highest standards of ceremonial and pride ourselves on our hospitality. Nevertheless we still need to increase the number of guests we invite. We congratulate W. Bro. Mervyn Johns on his appointment to Provincial RAM Grand Rank.

This year the Ark is under the captaincy of W Bro John Bartlett and I am certain that our rate of recruitment will beat all records! No doubt he will be in the town centre with his bill-boards on Saturdays! We will certainly have an excellent year I am sure.

Elias de Derham Lodge 443 Salisbury

The Lodge continues in good spirits with a very happy band of members. We have been pleased to welcome Bro. Steve Rayment back into the Lodge after a period of illness.

Our Installation meeting in March saw WBro. Nigel Dalby handing over to WBro. Ralph Moore, who has already hit the visiting trail to other Mariner Lodges. We congratulate W. Bros. John Quigley & Brian Allen on their appointment as Provincial RAM Grand Rank.

We have been grateful to R. W. Bro Meade for a thought provoking talk in November and one by W. Bro Bob Blake, based on a talk by a previous Grand Secretary.

The Lodge continues to seek those Mark Master Masons who would like to join in with, as some would say.....“The Crème de la Crème”

Concord Lodge 971 Trowbridge

At our March 2014 meeting which was our 100th regular meeting we gave a demonstration of the ceremony of Elevation with Bro M Griffiths acting as the candidate. A Grand Lodge Certificate was presented to Bro Griffiths by the PGM.

In September 2014, Ian Burns became our new Commander and we look forward to another successful year. In December W. Bro Rowley Cantello was honoured by the MW Grand Master and promoted to RAM Grand Rank.

While the Lodge has had some excellent ceremonies we are suffering from a lack of candidates and our membership is now at an all time low of 20 members. We do need to find new candidates to allow the lodge to continue as we currently are finding it difficult to fill all the essential offices. However the Lodge is still in good heart and continuing to carry out excellent ceremonies.



Lansdowne Lodge 1035 Malmesbury

During the last year, we have elevated two brethren from the St. Aldhelm Lodge and welcomed a joining member from Jersey. Since our move from Chippenham in 2003 when membership was down to 13, we have slowly increased to our current number of 24. There is no doubt that had we remained at Chippenham, we would probably have had to hand in our warrant due to a lack of candidates and the high costs involved.

Most of the Elevatees over the last 11 years have come from St. Aldhelm Lodge of MMM as although quite a few members of Lansdowne Mark have joined RAM, they have gone to other Lodges rather than this one which is moored to their Mark Lodge.

In November, Malcolm Mace was installed as Commander – a popular choice as our organist and one who is well known around the Province for his willingness to play at various Lodges.

At our April meeting, we welcomed the PGM and his Provincial Officers on a Team Visit which coincided with both an elevation and a joining ceremony. At this meeting we were honoured with the presence of the Craft PGM – R.W. Bro. Francis Wakem who was presented with a cheque for £500 by W.Bro. Mace towards the Craft 2017 Festival.

The Lodge remains in good spirits and strength with all progressive offices being occupied by brethren who have not been through the chair.

Warminster Lodge 1110 Warminster

The Lodge has enjoyed a really wonderful year with W.Bro Bill Platts as WCN at whose Installation Meeting in November we entertained 17 guests including R.W.Bro Martin Brown our Provincial Grand Master and W.Bro John Bell our Deputy Provincial Grand Master together with members of the Provincial team. It was a truly memorable evening. At our February Meeting we had the pleasure of Elevating and welcoming Bro Derek Atkinson at a meeting which was again a most enjoyable evening.

Sadly Bro John Withey was called to the Grand Lodge above. Bro John was Elevated

into the Lodge in February 2012, however he will be sadly and deeply missed. Our April meeting again happily included a Ceremony of Elevation and we welcomed Bro James Russell into our happy and friendly Degree. We have elected Bro Bryan Piper as Worshipful Commander Noah for the ensuing year and are looking forward to another happy year. Finally, we congratulate W. Bro. Bob Blake, the Provincial Grand Secretary, on his appointment to Grand Rank.

Wiltshire Installed Commanders Lodge 1460 Devizes

The Lodge has enjoyed another successful year with membership steadily increasing with three new joining members in May last year and two at our December meeting. However members have also been lost and we must renew our efforts to ensure that new brethren are encouraged to join.

At the December meeting the brethren received a very interesting talk, given by Brother Steve Bridge, entitled “The History and Early Years of the Wiltshire Constabulary”.

Although attendances remain good the numbers of fraternal visits to and by other Provinces has shown a decrease this year. This is one aspect that does need some effort to re-establish. W. Bro. John Quigley is our new Commander.

Stuart Parry Lodge 1843 Ludgershall

The Lodge continues to flourish despite a number of understandable resignations. In the last twelve months two brethren have been elevated and there have been two joining members. This has shown a net increase of one. However we must continue our quest for new members. Sadly we have lost our Treasurer, W. Bro. Allan Hiscock, to the Grand Lodge Above. The Lodge enjoys good attendances at meetings. In June we dedicated a new Lodge banner, produced by a lady living in Ludgershall! W. Bro. Ian Gibson has been our Commander this year and he will be succeeded by W. Bro. David Hawkins. We meet in the mornings, starting at 10:30 am, followed by lunch about 12:30 and away by 2:30pm.

Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly

The ground floor of the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall was absolutely full for the Annual Investiture meeting in December, which was presided over by the M W Pro Grand Master, Richard Wallis.

Nearly 20 members of the province attended to witness W. Bro Bob Blake being honoured by the MW Grand Master; W. Bro Rowley Cantello was also honoured this year but he was unable to attend as the meeting fell on his 88th birthday and his family had organised a party for him. 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. Unfortunately on the way to our evening meal we hit a major traffic snarl up as two motorways were blocked and thus all the traffic was seeking alternative routes. We were thus late for our meal but the hotel kindly accommodated us. We have now used this mode of travel 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. 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.

Provincial Grand Lodge

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting will be held, as usual, on 18 June in the Assembly Rooms in Melksham. Full details will be available shortly; this meeting is open to all members of the Mark Degree – whether of many years membership or brand new; if you have never been it is well worth coming and enjoying the atmosphere as well as seeing those members of your Lodge receive their appropriate new ranks. 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!

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** & the introductory **RAM leaflet** to be presented when a new Advancee receives his Grand Lodge Certificate.. 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!**

The Sunday Lunch

This year's Sunday Lunch will again be at the **Assembly Rooms in Melksham**, on **Sunday 27 September**. If you have never been to this event, it is always a most pleasant and enjoyable occasion, so why not give it a try this year. Full details will be available soon from W. Bro Ian Gibson.

Distribution

We shall again be sending out this Newsletter electronically only; we would be grateful if those Secretaries/Scribes who have members not on email would print off a hard copy for them.

Supporting Our Lodges

One of the main concerns arising during the past few months is that of failing attendances in some of our Mark and RAM Lodges. In an attempt to improve the situation the Provincial Grand Master requested that I write to all current active Officers asking that they consider, as part of their duty to the Province, to support these Lodges by attending their meetings whenever possible. Having gained the agreement of the Lodges concerned this was duly done. It is hoped that the five Lodges involved will now have their numbers swelled by visiting brethren and their problems, in the short term at least, will be eased.

Brethren although the Provincial Officers have been requested to extend their duties in this manner there is no reason whatsoever why any Brother who finds himself free on a meeting of any of these Lodges cannot attend and give them support.

The Lodges which need help are :

Radnor Mark Lodge No 853, Salisbury	2 nd Monday in Jan, Mar, May, Nov
Kennet Mark Lodge No 1599, Marlborough	1 st Thursday in Feb, Apr, Nov
Wilts Downs Mark Lodge No 1843, Warminster	3 rd Wednesday in Mar, May, Sept (Daylight Lodge)
Elias de Derham RAM Lodge No 443, Salisbury	4 th Monday in Jan, Mar, Oct, Nov
Concord RAM Lodge No 971, Trowbridge	2 nd Thurs in Mar, Sept, Nov

Brethren, any assistance will be greatly appreciated and you will enjoy a good evening out at the same time.

During the current Masonic year there will be three Team Visits. The first was to Concord RAM 971 and was extremely well supported by the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers. The next visit is to Chaloner Mark 599 when 23 Provincial Officers are down to attend. The last visit is scheduled for the 27th April to Lansdowne Mark 1035 when it is hoped similar numbers will be present.

The Executive continue to represent the Province at Provincial Grand Lodge meetings throughout the Country so keeping the name of Wiltshire prominent within the fraternity. Our name is still linked with the Hope for Tomorrow Charity and mentioned almost as often with reference to the hard work put in by the Brethren of Wiltshire.

Bob Blake

Bro Jack Johnson

John (Jack) Johnson was the first black man to win the heavyweight boxing championship of the World defeating Canadian Tommy Burns in 1908. Jack Johnson received bad publicity by the press for his two marriages, both to Caucasian women. Due to the racist attitudes of the times, interracial marriages were prohibited in most of America. Johnson was convicted in 1912 of violating the Mann Act by transporting his wife across state lines before their marriage and was sentenced to a year in prison. While out on appeal Jack Johnson escaped fearing for his safety. Posing as a member of a black baseball team, he fled to Canada and later Europe. Jack Johnson remained a fugitive for seven years. He visited

Scotland in 1911 and was initiated into Lodge Forfar and Kincardine No.225 in Dundee whilst still the World Champion, however this would in time cause eruptions in Dundee, the Grand Lodge of Scotland and in America.

This snippet came from the Secretary of the Thistle & Shamrock Lodge No. 1040 G.C. via my Australian contact in the UGL of Victoria!

From the Provincial Grand Registrar

Welcome

Since the last Newsletter the following have been advanced into or joined the **Mark Degree** in Wiltshire.

599	Nicholas Short (J)	971	Bryan Earp & Stephen Goddard
1035	Paul Ginger	1143	Paul Howe
1460	Ivan Carey(J) & Rev John Hughes(J)	1531	Robin Hodgson (J) & Colin Robertson
1599	Robert (Bruce) Walker & John Bell (Hon)		

The following have been elevated into or joined **Royal Ark Mariners** during the same period.

178	Leslie Welling	401	Tony Eldridge
971	Roger Karn	1460	Nicholas Riley (J) & Chris Robbins (J)

I should have your first name correct, you all warmly welcomed and we all hope you enjoy your Mark and RAM Masonry for many years to come.

Congratulations. New Masters and Commanders

Mark

178	Rob Bullen	443	Nigel Dalby
599	Colin Cheshire	971	Brian Weston
1035	Charlie Phippen	1110	Robert Chalmers
1143	John Collins	1531	Robin Walker
1599	Peter Robins		

RAM

401	Ray Pipe	971	Ian Burns
1035	David Rutherford	1110	Bryan Piper
1843	David Hawkins		

In Memoriam

Very sadly during the same period we have also lost five members to the Grand Lodge Above. They will be sadly missed and remembered in different ways :

W.Bro Don Farmer **Mark PGStdB** 971, 1460 & 1110

W.Bro David Wetton **Mark** 1599

W.Bro Brian Gould **Mark** 1143 & 1460 **RAM** 443 & 1843

W.Bro Allan Hiscock **Mark PGJD** 1143, 1460 & 1843 **RAM RAMGR** 178 & 1843

Bro. Brian Earp **Mark** 971

Requiescant in pace

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 on alanwelch@btoopenworld.com or **01985 213433**.

Finally I take this opportunity in thanking each and every Secretary & Scribe for assisting the accuracy of the Provincial and London databases.

Frank J. Fletcher

And finally :

Q. : What is the difference between Past Masters and politicians?

A. : Politicians want to change things!

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