

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

**No: 27**

**September 2014**

*The Provincial Grand Master writes:*

Another very busy and exciting year finished with Provincial Grand Lodge on the 19th June. Those that attended know we had to change the layout due to the closure of Melksham House. I thought all went well, but if you have any comments (good or bad) please let W.Bro. Bob Blake know as soon as possible. A more detailed report is included in this Newsletter.

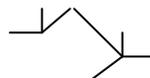
At Provincial Grand Lodge V.W.Bro. John Bell stood down as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Following just over 2 years as Provincial Almoner, when he wrote the Guide for Almoners, I had the pleasure of appointing him as my Deputy, we all know the sterling work he has done over the last four years - deputising for me at Installation Meetings, a Banner Dedication, writing the new publicity leaflets, "Hope for Tomorrow" and much, much, more. I know we are very grateful for all his efforts. He will continue to act as our contact with the Masonic Benevolent Fund (now he is a Trustee), "Hope for Tomorrow and the 2017 Craft Festival.

I had the pleasure of appointing W.Bro. Andrew (Andy) Beaumont as the new Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Andy is a very experienced Mason, firstly in London and following his move to Bradford on Avon in 1993 in our Province of Wiltshire, where he has been in the Chair of Craft, Chapter Mark and other orders in the Province. He was appointed as our Provincial Sword Bearer in 2000, Junior Overseer in 2004 and Senior Warden in 2008. He has just retired from work in IT and now has more time. He will I know be attending as many meetings as possible to get to know those who are not acquainted with him, I am sure you will all wish him well and support him in his new position.

As you can see this Newsletter is No 27, all have been edited by R.W.Bro. Michael Meade and I thank him most sincerely for all the hard work he has undertaken. He is now looking for a successor, if you have any interest please contact our Provincial Secretary.

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

*Martin Brown*



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### Forthcoming Events

Sunday 5 October – Sunday Lunch at Melksham

Thursday 13 November – RAM team visit to Concord Lodge.

Friday 12 December – Banner Dedication Wiltshire Keystone Lodge,

Tuesday 3 February 2015 - Mark Team visit to Chaloner Lodge

Monday 27 April 2015 – Mark Team visit to Lansdowne Lodge

*Further details on all these events can be obtained from the relevant Secretaries/Scribes or from the website*



# News from our Mark Lodges

These notes are based on Reports given at the Provincial G P meeting.

## **Wiltshire Keystone Lodge No 178 Devizes**

Our season started with the installation of W.Bro. Kevin Lowe by the outgoing Master W.Bro. John Ingram. During the year we have advanced two candidates and received a lecture. The business of the Lodge has been carried out in an excellent manner by W.Bro. Lowe, with work shared by other officers of the Lodge. The design for our long awaited Banner was approved by the Lodge after much discussion, and with the approval of the RW Provincial Grand Master, it is now being manufactured, and will be dedicated at our meeting on 12 December. All in all we have had a very successful year and our Master Elect Bro. Robert Bullen will be installed in October. We are happy to report that all the progressive Officers of the Lodge are non Past Masters, so the future of the Lodge is in very good hands. Congratulations to Richard Evans on his appointment in Mark Grand Lodge.

## **Swindon Keystone Lodge No 401 Swindon**

We are still continuing with three regular meetings a year, which is suiting us. During this period we have Advanced two new members and have balloted for and welcomed one new Joining member. In December, one of our long serving members, W.Bro. Roderick Newton, PPrGJW, passed to the Grand Lodge above, he will be sadly missed. We also had one Resignation during this year, and now have a membership of 36. At our Installation meeting, W.Bro. Brian Winyard, PPrGJD (Gloucs & Hereford), was Installed into the chair of the Lodge. We celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Consecration of the Lodge at an Emergency Meeting on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June, details of this are elsewhere in this edition.

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

Our numbers remain strong despite 3 resignations. Meetings have included 2 Advancements, a presentation of the Mark Lecture done by 4 officers of the Lodge and a ladies white table. Our present Worshipful Master W.Bro. Ian White has been very diligent to involve as many of the members of the Lodge as possible in the ceremonies and has corresponded to all the members to make everyone aware of what the Lodge is doing. The small decrease in numbers has not affected the quality of the ritual or the core group of members who regularly attend. Congratulations go to W.Bro. Paul Emerson appointed PrDepGChap, W.Bro. Rob Barrett appointed PrAsstGChap, W.Bro. Pete Hibdige promoted to PPrGReg, W.Bro. Ian Gibson re-appointed PrGDepSec and V.W.Bro. Paul Turner re-elected PrGTreas.

## **Chaloner Lodge No 599 Melksham**

We have had a very satisfying year under W.Bro. Richard Young, installed in September by W. Bro. Jim Speed. Although there have been no Advancees, the WM and his officers demonstrated their proficiency at the December meeting. In February a number of Master Masons were invited to receive a lecture on the "Logistics of King Solomon's Temple", which was well received. The PGM then provided some interesting thoughts which might entice some Master Masons to join. The WM presented a cheque, with matching funds from the Province, to Rachel Williams, a Melksham girl who had had her funding removed by the British Swimming authority; she is now able to qualify for the Open Water team for Rio. In April, the Mark Tracing Board was presented by members of the Lodge and were thanked by the PGM for a piece of ritual that doesn't often get aired.

## **Radnor Lodge No 853 Salisbury**

W. Bro Peter Ellis was installed in the chair in May and we were honoured on that evening by the presence of both the Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire, accompanied by members of the Provincial team and distinguished guests from other lodges. During the year the Lodge undertook one demonstration of the ceremony of advancement and in November had a very interesting lecture from Dr Michael Smith about the Masons who built the Box railway tunnel and the Masonic symbols and marks that they left behind them. In January the Lodge held a successful Burns Night themed White Table supper that was enjoyed by the brethren, their wives, partners and other non-Masonic guests. Sadly, during the year W.Bro. Patrick Paisey, Treasurer of the Lodge for many years, & Bro Charles Humby, Honorary member of many years standing both passed to the Grand Lodge Above. Also unfortunately during the summer 2013 recess the Lodge reluctantly accepted the resignation of two joining members from Hampshire. There has been no advancement or joining members during the year. One member of the Lodge W. Bro. John Price is being honoured by Mark Grand Lodge, being promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon for the work he has undertaken in the Province of Dorset. The Lodge has also been honoured by Provincial Grand Lodge with the promotion of the Lodge Treasurer, W.Bro. Phil Still to Past Provincial Grand Registrar. At this time that we have no confirmed Advancees for the coming year but we are actively seeking recruitment of suitable candidates and the Lodge hopes that 2014 – 2015 will be a successful year.

### **Geoffrey Short Lodge No 971 Trowbridge**

Our year started with a 'bang' in September. Not only did we install W.Bro. Jim Brown for his second term in the chair, the first one being thirty years ago, we had a Banner Dedication Ceremony ably overseen by DPGM, and celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The whole evening was a joyous affair. For our November meeting we advanced Bro. Geoffrey Brewer and also welcomed back into the Lodge, Bro. Stuart Brown aged 91, having previously resigned in 1985. This now brings to five, either direct or indirect, members of the 'Brown Family'. In January we had a most interesting talk by the PGM, on Mason's Marks and Masonic Alphabet followed at the March Meeting by him presenting the Lodge with a copy of the warrant of the St Cuthberga Lodge of MMM. He explained that the original warrant gave authority to convene a Lodge of Mark Master Masons at the Masonic Hall, Trowbridge which, in the event, didn't take place and authority was given by Grand Lodge for the Charter to be removed and a Lodge held in the town of Wimborne Minster instead! We are pleased to report that thanks to donations from the various brethren who use this Masonic Building, work has been carried out on the roof which is now waterproof and further improvements are planned for the heating system. So ended a very successful and productive year.

### **Lansdowne Lodge No 1035 Chippenham**

Lansdowne welcomed one joining member and an Advancee, both of whom have indicated a willingness to become an integral part of the Lodge and progress. W.Bro. Bill Platts entertained the brethren at our December meeting with his lecture on 'All aspects of Mark Tokens' the importance and relevance to the Mark degree was certainly emphasised. The beauty and intricate designs of these tokens were clearly visible during his slide

show. W.Bro. B.M. Ransley delivered his lecture on the 'Mark degree' in April. His deliverance in his own inimitable way reminded the younger brethren of the experience and knowledge that can be found within their own Lodge. Lansdowne Male voice choir excelled by singing Christmas carols again at our December meeting and we would like to think that this will become an annual event. With a Scotsman in the chair and a Lodge meeting near Burns night, once again Haggis was on the menu, this was well received by the brethren and visitors. Following the announcement that V.W.Bro. John Bell was standing down as DPGM, Lansdowne were honoured when the Provincial Grand Master announced at our January meeting that W.Bro. A.P. Beaumont would be appointed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in June. The Lodge presented to V.W.Bro. F Wakem a sum of £300 as a contribution for the 2017 Festival. We continue to move from strength to strength. Although a small Lodge the average attendance of members for the year was 77%. This is indicative of a Lodge in harmony

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

The Lodge has just had another successful year under W.Bro. Colin Ayton and for his efforts in the Lodge he is to be honoured with appointment to Active Sword Bearer by the Province in June. He also did a first class job of Installing W.Bro. David Carpenter into the Chair in October in the Presence of 21 Members and 14 Visitors. This is David's fourth time in a Mark chair, the first being in 1989 in this Lodge and then in Ealing Lodge No 1013 in 1992 and 2002. It is hard to believe it has been over 12 years since his last ceremony. He Advanced Brother James Landry in a very interesting and professional manner, bringing his total of Advancees into double figures. We have lost one member and one honorary member to the Grand Lodge Above, John Withey and Bill

Beaven will both be sadly missed not only by this Lodge but by Mark Masonry in general. Two of our members were honoured in Grand Lodge in June, both with First Appointments, W.Bro. Christopher Robbins as Grand Steward and W.Bro. David Carpenter as Past Grand Standard Bearer, both well-deserved for the amount of work they have both put into Mark Masonry. We also have a new Secretary who days before the Installation thought he was going to be DC! We must record our thanks to Brian Dancer for the sterling work he did as Secretary and wish him and his wife Ene all the best and hope she makes a full recovery. The Lodge is still recruiting well and we have a re-joining member at our next meeting.

### **Border Lodge No 1143 Ludgershall**

The year began with the Installation of Bro. Larry Baldry in the presence of the DPGM and the Provincial team. In November, R.W.Bro. Martin Brown gave a very interesting talk on Masonic Marks & Alphabets. He also thanked W. Bros. Frank Watson & Allan Hiscock for their many years of unstinting service as Secretary and DC, both of whom had stood down at the Installation meeting. In addition, W. Bro. Andy Blizzard was presented with his PM's jewel as an unfortunate accident had prevented him attending in September. The Advancement planned for February had to be postponed as the candidate was in hospital, but he was Advanced in April. W. Bro. Brian Gould announced his wish to retire as Treasurer after many years owing to his declining health. We congratulate W.Bro. Frank Watson on his appointment in Mark Grand Lodge in appreciation of his services to the Lodge & the Province over many years.



### **Installed Mark Masters No 1460**

At our October meeting we welcomed four Joining Members. On Sunday 23<sup>th</sup> March, Members and their Guests attended the second annual Lunch at The Bear Hotel, Devizes. This was once again organised by W.Bro. Michael James and his wife, who are to be congratulated for their efforts in producing an absolutely marvelous gathering, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone attending. At our Installation meeting in April we welcomed two Joining Members before Installing R.W.Bro. Andrew Brass as Worshipful Master. At the meeting of Grand Lodge in June our Master Overseer, W.Bro. Michael James received promotion to PGSD. Other Members receiving their first appointments to Grand Rank are W.Bro. Chris Robbins as Grand Steward, W.Bro. Richard Evans as PAGDC & W.Bro. David Carpenter as PGStdB from the Province of Middlesex. The Worshipful Master and the Secretary continue to visit the Installed Mark Masters' Lodges of other Provinces promoting Wiltshire Mark Masonry. The future for the Lodge looks very promising with more Joining Members in the pipeline.

### **St. Aldhelm Lodge No 1531 Malmesbury**

Over the last 12 months the Lodge has averaged 35 brethren present at each regular meeting, including on average 9 visitors, with 57 attending the Installation meeting in November which saw W.Bro. David Hendry become Master. We have had two Advancees over the year, with four candidates awaiting Advancement. Unfortunately we had two resignations this year, one of whom has moved away and the other for business reasons. We have donated just under £2000 to charity this year. We continued to support the Malmesbury Branch of

Parkinson's UK who for the second year in succession received a donation of £500. We made a £403 donation to the Hope for Tomorrow charity and seven charities, Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Prostate Cancer, McMillan Nurses, British Heart Foundation, Dreamflight, Motor Neuron Disease and Diabetes UK each received a donation of £150. Finally, we have a healthy and vibrant Mark Lodge and continue to attract excellent Mark Masons.

### **Kennet Lodge No 1599 Marlborough**

The Kennet Lodge held a special meeting in September to dedicate the new lodge banner. The meeting was attended by most of the Provincial Grand lodge officers with the Provincial Grand Master dedicating the banner which was received by the outgoing Worshipful Master W.Bro. Nick Goord. The banner oration was undertaken by W.Bro. Rev John Hughes using the detailed notes that V.W.Bro. Len Hayward had completed just prior to his passing to the Grand Lodge above. Following the February regular meeting, the Kennet lodge opened its doors to visiting Craft and Mark masons alike to receive a presentation about the construction of the GWR railway and the Box tunnel and its links with Freemasonry. The engaging presentation was delivered by W.Bro. Michael Smith. One of the non-Mark Master Masons was our Advancee to be, who said it was an excellent opportunity of meeting most of the Kennet members prior to joining. For the first time in a number of years we held a Ceremony of Advancement at our April meeting. With a number of key members not available the WM arranged for W.Bro. P Hanfrey PrGDC to conduct the ceremony of Advancement. The ceremony was expertly undertaken by all those

who took part. One resignation has been received from Bro. L S Goldie. who has lived in Weston Super Mare for a number of years and now finds it difficult to travel to Marlborough. The Members of the Kennet Lodge would like to express their thanks to the PGL team and visiting Mark Masons for their continued support during our ceremonies especially in the lean times that we are in. The future looks bright with a potential two further Advancees in the pipeline.

### **Wiltshire Downs Lodge No 1843 Warminster**

The Lodge has just had another successful year under the direction of Andy Blizzard culminating in an Advancement Ceremony for Bro. George Jolley and the Installation of W.Bro. Allan Hiscock PGJD on the same morning. For his work for Mark Masonry Andy is to be honoured with the active rank of PrGStwd in June. We have lost two member to the Grand Lodge Above, V.W.Bro. Leonard Hayward, CBE, PGJO, and W.Bro. John Withey, PAGDC. However we will have a new joining member at our next meeting in the person of W. Bro. Michael. Farrow. Two of our members are to be honoured in Grand Lodge in June, W.Bro. Michael James Promoted to PGSD and a First Appointment for W.Bro. Richard Evans to PAGDC. It is the wish of our W.M. and all the Members of the Lodge that if no other candidates for Advancement are forthcoming, we should concentrate on providing excellent Papers/ Lectures for the Members and our Visitors, as well as excellent food and good companionship. The Lodge is now a Patron Lodge of the Mark Benevolent Fund and the new Collarette and Jewel was presented to W.Bro. Allan Hiscock after his Installation by the PPGM Michael Meade.

## Grand Lodge Investiture Meeting

The Grand Temple in Great Queen Street was so overflowing at the start of the Annual Investiture Meeting of Mark Grand Lodge in June that once again some Brethren were seated in adjoining Lodge Rooms with a video link. The meeting was presided over by the Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent. There were also many senior visitors from overseas constitutions.

We had one of the largest turnouts from the Province most of whom travelled by bus from Solstice Park to witness the investiture of a new Pro Grand Master, a new Deputy Grand Master and a new Assistant Grand Master. Among our own Brethren, promotions went to Michael James who became Past Grand Senior Deacon and John Price who became Past Grand Junior Deacon. First appointments were Richard Evans & Frank Watson both appointed PAGDC; Chris Robbins as Grand Steward while David Carpenter was appointed PGStdB through the province of Middlesex. Despite the many items of business and the investitures, the meeting was completed much quicker than some expected and so those on the bus were able to get to their evening meal in good time. We are grateful to the Province of Dorset for the travelling/dining arrangements.

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### Provincial Grand Lodge

The Brethren assembled at 2-30pm and the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Martin Brown, his Officers and visiting Right Worshipful Brethren entered the Lodge. Present were 18 Right Worshipful Brethren, 16 Very Worshipful Brethren and many members of the Province and visitors – 178 signed in. Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form.

The PGM welcomed a delegation of Royal Ark Mariners of the Province to the meeting accompanied by the Provincial RAM Banner. The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and other Right Worshipful Brethren were saluted and all responded appropriately. The PGM then introduced 54 visitors from 24 Provinces and Districts and members of the Province who were senior members in other Degrees. They were all given a very warm “Wiltshire Welcome”.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain read the names of 7 members of the Province who had died since the last meeting. The Brethren stood to order as the Chaplain offered prayer. The minutes of last year’s meeting were approved. All officers were accounted for and all Lodges represented. The reports of the Provincial Treasurer, Registrar, Almoner & Charity Steward were approved. V. W. Bro Paul Turner was re-elected Treasurer.

The PGM then thanked V.W.Bro. John Bell for all the work he had undertaken as DPGM over the last four years and presented him with his Past DPGM’s collarette. V.W.Bro. Bell duly responded.

The PGM appointed, obligated and installed W.Bro. Andrew Philip Beaumont as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He then appointed Michael Taylor as Senior Warden and Brian Parker as Junior Warden, together with all the other

Provincial appointments, promotions and RAM appointments.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed the meeting. He was very grateful for the support today and thanked all who had prepared for the meeting especially the Chaloner Mark Lodge and Elias de Derham Lodge. He thanked all the retiring officers for their support at Installation and Team Visits. He congratulated all those that he had invested; these were milestones on the road of Mark and RAM progress and looked forward to another busy year with at least one more Banner Dedication Meeting. He congratulated all those that had been honoured on promotion or appointment to Grand Lodge and RAM Grand Rank. He thanked all Lodges for the welcome he and his Deputy had received on visits. He reminded the Brethren of the Web Site now well established and asked that anyone with items of interest and news in general should submit details through the Provincial Grand Secretary. Finally, he wished all present a good summer and that the Great Overseer of the Universe would bless and guide us all until we meet again. The address was met with acclamation.

The Provincial Grand Master presented cheques to R.W.Bro. Francis Wakem for the Craft 2017 Festival and to V.W. Bro John King APGM for Worcestershire for the 2015 Mark Festival. The Provincial Grand Master invited R.W.Bro. John Prizeman, President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, to say a few words about the work of the Fund but first to present three collarettes to members of the Province. His words were received with warm applause.

Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form. Alms amounting to £998 including Gift Aid were received during the singing of the closing Ode.

## Distribution

This Newsletter will be distributed once again electronically to all Lodge Secretaries/Scribes for onward transmission to their members. We realise not quite everyone can receive it in this way so perhaps Secretaries/Scribes would kindly print off any extra copies that they would need for those not on email. If this causes any problems – financial or otherwise - for any Lodge please let us know.

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## Sunday Lunch - 5 October

Don't forget the Sunday lunch at Melksham Assembly Rooms for members, their families and friends. This has traditionally been an excellent occasion and no doubt will be again. The cost is only £18.50 a head. If you haven't booked yet, contact: W.Bro. Ian Gibson, 21 Silverwood Drive, Laverstock, Salisbury, SP1 1SH T: 01722 504702; Email: [ian.gibson33@ntlworld.com](mailto:ian.gibson33@ntlworld.com)

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**Congratulations** to those Mark members who have been honoured by the Provincial Grand Master in the Craft. Also to Tony Oke on his re-appointment as 2<sup>nd</sup> Principal, Colin Cheshire appointed as 3<sup>rd</sup> Principal and David McMullin re-appointed Scribe E in Provincial Chapter.

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## Banners

Congratulations to Geoffrey Short and Kennet Mark Lodges and the Stuart Parry RAM Lodge on their new banners. Banners not only fulfil their primary purpose as a symbol of the Lodge's identity but when displayed in a Lodge Room, provide a reminder to those not in Mark or RAM that there are other Masonic opportunities open to them.

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## Mark Accessories

The Province has a supply of the updated Mark Promotional leaflets and the new RAM introductory leaflets - *available from the Provincial Secretary* - and for those Lodges that wish to use them a supply of cards for an Advancee's Mark to be delineated upon, both of which are free of charge. We also have Advancee's tokens, price £3.50; lapel badges £2; cuff links £5 and ties £8. These are available from the Provincial Deputy Secretary :

W.Bro. Ian Gibson 21 Silverwood Drive, Laverstock, Salisbury, SP1 1SH.

T : 01722 504702;

Email : [ian.gibson33@ntlworld.com](mailto:ian.gibson33@ntlworld.com)

Cash with orders please, so as to simplify administration.

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## Swindon Keystone Mark Lodge 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Lodge celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an extra meeting on Saturday 7 June. There were 34 members present and the Lodge was honoured by the presence of the PGM and his Deputy. Once the Lodge was opened, it was called off and we welcomed 27 ladies into the Lodge. The minutes of the Consecration meeting were then read by W.Bro. Terry Baker, followed by a brief history of the past 25 years given by Bro. Geoff Hunt. This was followed by an oration by W.Bro. Rev John Hughes. The ladies then retired and the Lodge was closed.

The festive board was then enjoyed by the Brethren and their Ladies and the Toast to the Lodge was proposed by the Provincial Grand Master to which the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Brian Winyard responded. W.Bro. Peter Hanfrey, one of our longest serving members, then made the first cut in the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake. The evening finished with musical entertainment from Neil Patterson which was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to all on the special committee who worked so hard to make the evening a success.

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## From the Provincial Grand Registrar

### Welcome

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

178	Colin Lomas	401	Mike Witt (J) & Robert Slater
1110	James Landry	1143	Andrew Bryan
1460	Peter Wollington (J) & Colin Ayton (J)	1531	Carl Brown & Peter Simmonds
1599	Richard Head	1843	George Jolley

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

178	Ivan Carey	401	Peter Evans
1035	Robin Walker & Robin Hodgson (J)	1110	James Russell
1460	John Hughes (J) & John Merrett (J)	1843	Larry Baldry

You all very welcome and we all hope you enjoy your Mark and RAM Masonry for many years to come.

**Congratulations.** New Masters and Commanders

### Mark

401	Bryan Wynyard	853	Peter Ellis
1460	Andrew Brass	1843	Allan Hiscock

### RAM

178	Steve Botham	443	Ralph Moore
1460	John Quigley		

### In Memoriam

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

W.Bro. John Withey, **PAGDC**, Mark 1110 & 1843

W.Bro. Bill Beaven, **PAGDC**, Mark 1110 & 1460

W.Bro. Bernie Minett PPrGSO, PrRAMGR, Mark 178 & 1460, RAM 178

W.Bro. Michael McGrath, **PGStdB**, Mark 853

W.Bro. Ken Matthews, PPrGJW, Mark 443

*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@btopenworld.com](mailto:alanwelch@btopenworld.com) or **01985 213433**.

**Finally** I take this opportunity in thanking the Provincial Officers for returning the jewels, all in good order, ready for our annual meeting, also for the splendid display of banners.

*Frank J. Fletcher*

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

Not sure what is going on in our Mark province? Then visit our website as above.  
Nothing about your Lodge? Have you sent anything in?

The website contains all the latest information on Mark and Royal Ark Mariners matters in the Province and beyond

**so don't feel left out - log in and find out!**



*Design for a new Lodge Organ?*

## Hope for Tomorrow

If you were not at Provincial Grand Lodge, you may not have heard that the Mark Fund of Benevolence has decided to make a significant commitment to Hope For Tomorrow which in due time will fund up to 10 new vehicles across the country. All this started as a result of the interest given to the Charity by V. W. Bro John Bell and his wife Mary, which in turn led to support from our Province as a whole. This was taken up by other provinces and now by the Mark Fund of Benevolence. As a result of all his work for the charity V. W. Bro John has been elected a Trustee of the Mark Fund of Benevolence – a real first for Wiltshire!

In the meantime, the vehicle we helped to fund is now more or less permanently based at Salisbury – though we understand it is coming to Ludgershall once a week, usually on Fridays! Great Western Hospital at Swindon has a vehicle on loan at present but should have its own dedicated vehicle by the autumn to service north Wiltshire and south Oxfordshire.

From little acorns...

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## Lord Methuen

In case you did not spot it, the 7<sup>th</sup> Baron Methuen died last month. He was born in Corsham the youngest of 4 children. After doing National Service in the Royal Signals he obtained a degree in Electrical engineering at Trinity College, Cambridge. He then went to work for Westinghouse and developed a lifelong interest in railways. Later he moved to Derby and worked for IBM developing engine test beds for Rolls Royce. On the death of his two elder brothers he inherited the family title and took his seat in the House of Lords; when this

was culled of hereditary peers, he was one of those elected to stay and served on the rail advisory panel, a task that took him all over the world. He had 2 daughters by his first wife but it is not clear to whom – if anyone – the title now passes. Although he was not a Freemason, two of his ancestors were and both were Provincial Grand Masters in the Craft: the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron from 1853-1891 and the 4<sup>th</sup> Baron from 1938 -1968; longer serving members of the province may well remember him presiding at Provincial Grand Lodge in the early 60s.



## *And finally...*

We normally finish each Newsletter with an interesting story of some sort usually with a humorous twist but for this edition as a tribute to the late W. Bro. Bill Beaven we finish with one of his little odes which I am sure will ring a few bells! (Incidentally, I had to go to a good Masonic contact in Australia to retrieve a copy, so many thanks W. Bro. Iain.)

### **The Deacon's Lament**

Oh! I wish I'd looked after me ritual, I wish I had studied the book  
I might have got through a few meetings without having to take a sly look  
At the words printed all neat and tidy with capital letters and dots  
And inverted commas and rows of small hammers to remind you about them there knocks.

If I'd attended a lodge of instruction and followed the preceptor's plan  
My signs might be more like a Mason and less like a tic tac man  
For a past master once said with sarcasm as he doffed his apron of blue  
You lay five to one, when the lodge is begun and evens the field when it's through.

Time was, when I was a Deacon I was proud of me wand and me Dove  
Initiation was due, and I was in a right stew so I wrote all me words on me glove.  
Now some candidates are cool and collected but mine he was nervous and hot  
I don't mean to boast, but his hand was like toast left me palm an illegible blot.

As I thumped the warden's shoulder the ink stained his coat a bright blue  
He said "Whom have you there?" I stood in despair, he could see I hadn't a clue  
I gazed at me glove for an answer at those five fickle fingers of fate  
Then the blots rolled away, left the words plain as day

**ST MICHAEL... ALL COTTON... SIZE EIGHT**

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The *Newsletter* is published by the Mark Province of Wiltshire.

