

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

**NEWSLETTER**

**No: 26**

**February 2014**

*The Deputy Provincial Grand Master writes :*

It's that time of year when I reflect on the events of the previous year and look forward to the coming year which as you all realise will be a year of change. I always reflect on the Christmas and New Year celebrations which play quite a major role in most of our lives. I trust that you have all enjoyed the festive season in your own way, whether the emphasis be religious, commercial or simply to share quality time with your families. Whilst the festivities do seem a long time past I hope you are still feeling refreshed and looking toward the events of the coming year.

The social functions within the Province have all shown excellent attendances this year, and long may it continue. I believe that it is important for us to spend time together with our family and friends and involve them in our Masonic lives. Our visits to Grand Lodge also showed increases in numbers with many of us joining the Dorset Brethren on the coach organised by them. This is proving to be a very popular day and is set to continue for the foreseeable future.

Some of our lodges are experiencing, at times, low attendances whilst membership remains good. I would urge you all to contact the absent brethren in an effort to encourage their attendance and remind them that we do think of them. Perhaps lodges could consider 'allocating' an absent brother to each of your regular attendees so that they could contact them on a regular basis before each meeting. I am sure regular contact would encourage them to attend and at the very least it would keep us updated on their wellbeing. Fraternal visits could also be considered with other lodges also increasing numbers at meetings.

Last year again saw fantastic support for Hope for Tomorrow with un-solicited donations being made by lodges and other Orders as well as the monies donated by yourselves in support of the Skydive made by Mary and myself. Our combined efforts have ensured that the charity and our Province have received acclaim and recognition at Grand Lodge and other Provincial meetings for being the first to recognise this wonderful charity and bring it to the attention of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

You will probably be aware that the MBF has decided to give considerable support to Hope for Tomorrow. At the Grand Lodge meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March representatives from the charity will give a presentation within Grand Lodge and I hope there will be some indication of what the support will be. May I thank you all for the support that Mary and I have received during the last year and may you all continue to Mark Well

*John Bell*

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**Dates for your new diaries :**

Monday 7 April : RAM team visit to Lansdowne 1035

Friday 25 April : Installed Mark Masters' Installation, Devizes

Tuesday 13 May : Mark team visit to Warminster 1110

Tuesday 20 May : Provincial GP Meeting, Trowbridge

Wednesday 28 May : Installed Commanders' Installation, Devizes

Saturday 7 June : Swindon Keystone 401 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Tuesday 10 June : Mark Grand Lodge Investiture Meeting

Thursday 19 June : Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting

Sunday 5 October : Sunday Lunch at Melksham.

*Details on all these Meetings can be obtained from the Respective Secretaries & Scribes*

## News from our RAM Lodges

### **Wiltshire Anchor Lodge**

**No: 178 Devizes**

The Lodge is in very good spirits with all parties working well together. We had a very good year under the leadership of W. Bro. Stuart Hambleton who made every effort to travel the Province during his year as Commander. He Installed Bro. John Merrett into the chair at the Installation meeting. Attendances have remained constant over the past year. Although we have been unfortunate in not having any candidates, we have one for next year. We held two lectures and delivered the Tracing board. We are currently holding a recruitment campaign among are newer Mark members, two have shown an interest.

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

**Swindon**

This Lodge continues to be a happy Lodge; as ever we endeavour to provide the highest standards of ceremonial and hospitality. W. Bro John Bartlett was installed as Commander by W. Bro. John Hughes and is looking forward to another successful year. We congratulate W. Bro Stephen Blanchard on his appointment to RAM Grand Rank.

### **Elias de Derham Lodge**

**No: 443 Salisbury**

The Lodge has been able to recruit one new Member this year. After 2 years in the chair, W. Bro. Ian Gibson handed on to W. Bro Nigel Dalby, who at the end of his year will take on as Treasurer after our long serving Geoff Newman stands down.

### **Concord Lodge**

**No: 971 Trowbridge**

We have had another good year with our new Worshipful Commander Nick Riley being installed at our September 2013 meeting. At our November meeting we Elevated Bro Mark Griffith from the Geoffrey Short Lodge this is the 1<sup>st</sup> candidate we have had in the last 18 months. Our membership still remains low at 21 members and we are trying to improve the situation but unfortunately we do not have any suitable candidates at this time. The Lodge although small is still in good heart and we are looking forward to all our ceremonies in 2014.

### **Lansdowne Lodge**

**No: 1035 Malmesbury**

In November we were pleased to install Bro. Malcolm Mace as Commander and are grateful to W. Bro Brian Dancer who is acting as organist while Malcolm is in the chair. We have supported the mayor of Malmesbury's appeal for flooding relief in the town – as did all the Lodges meeting here. We have also supported the DPGM's sky dive and the Craft 2017 festival. We have elevated one new member since last year's report and look forward to another successful year.

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

We have Elevated 2 new members and have a third in the pipeline for our next meeting. In November, W. Bro. Bill Platts was installed for the second time by W. Bro. David Carpenter. We have lost W. Bro. Bernie Pinnell to the Isle of Wight but are looking forward to another successful year.

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

The Lodge has enjoyed another successful year with membership rising to 43. It is financially sound. Contact has been maintained with surrounding Provinces resulting in a number of visits to them and also receiving visitors from them. Attendance has been good normally in the upper thirties and at the Installation meeting 45 sat down to dine. In May W. Bro Keith Nisbeck was Installed as Commander and in December we had another interesting lecture on the history of the Wiltshire Constabulary (Part 1)! Membership is open to all Installed Commanders throughout the Province and those not yet members are encouraged to join.

### **Stuart Parry Lodge**

**No: 1843 Ludgershall**

We have had another successful year with 2 joining members and one Elevatee. We have also heard about the history of the Provincial sword and its many fellows across the south of England. At the end of his year as Commander W. Bro. Mervyn Johns installed W. Bro. Ian Gibson as the fourth Commander. Our second Commander, W. Bro Bernie Pinnell and his wife Ros have moved to the Isle of Wight and we wish them well in their new home. We have a candidate for our March meeting and are looking forward to another successful year.

## Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly

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, Benjamin Addy.

Nearly 20 members of the province attended to witness 2 of our Brethren - W. Bros Brian Amos & Stephen Blanchard - 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. 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**. 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 new RAM introductory leaflet for new Advancees.

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### The Sunday Lunch

As will be seen from page 1, this year's Sunday Lunch will again be at the **Assembly Rooms in Melksham**, on **Sunday 5 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. W. Bro Ian Gibson has taken over from John Northover as the focus for this and he will be pleased to give you all the info.

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### 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.

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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!

## Leonard John Hayward

Len was born 30<sup>th</sup> June 1922 in South London, and died 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in Devizes aged 91.

After Grammar School, he joined the Civil Service in 1938 as a clerical officer. In 1940 he joined the REME but was invalided out in 1944. He met his wife Lucille whilst he was in hospital and they married in 1948; over the years they had three children, Adrian, Kate and Barbara.

During his working career he became a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries besides being an FAIA. Just prior to Len retiring as a Permanent Secretary in the Department of Pensions (as it was at that time) he was awarded the CBE and with his wife they moved from Woking to North Wiltshire where they had bought a soft fruit farm in readiness of his retirement. When Lucille died in 1983, Len bought the farm next door which was set-up as a chicken rearing unit. There he managed 60,000 chicken on a rotation basis handling day-old chicks which moved through a six week lodging before passing them on to the next larger chicken rearing units in other areas of the country. He was an efficient worker in the business because he could hold six birds in his hands while somebody inoculated the chicken against various diseases. Len's son at the funeral service recalled on one occasion whilst he helped his father to inoculate the chicken, inadvertently shot the needle into Len's finger - Len responded accordingly to which his son replied "Well at least Dad you won't get chicken flu!"; after that his son had to hold the chicken whilst Len used the inoculation gun.

Len was also Chairman of Age Concern in North Wiltshire for almost 17 years. He was also heavily involved in many community organisations in Devizes where he lived, particularly he was a bowling enthusiast and was a well-known referee in that part of the country travelling widely to various bowling centres.

**Craft** He was initiated into Freemasonry in his father's Lodge Wilberforce No 5186 on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1944 as his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday present from his parents. He became Master of the Lodge in 1966. In the meantime he had joined for a brief period lodges in West Lancashire and the Sudan, where he went due to work. When he came to Wiltshire he joined Moonraker No 8747 and was a founder of Fiat Lux No. 9773

He was appointed to London Grand Rank, Past Grand Standard Bearer and Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

**Mark** He was advanced into the Sudan Lodge No 602 meeting in Khartoum in 1958; on returning to England he joined the Percy Lodge No 114 in Surrey where he came Master in 1974. In Wiltshire he was a member of the Installed Masters Lodge being WM last year and a founder of the Wiltshire Downs Lodge

**RAM** he was elevated into the Percy Lodge in 1963 and Commander in 1973, in Wiltshire joined the Wiltshire Anchor Lodge and was a founder of Reginald W Short Lodge.

He was given Provincial and Grand Ranks in both orders being Past Grand Junior Overseer (and a Very W. Bro.) in the Mark and Grand Rank in Royal Ark Mariner.

V.W.Bro. Len was a very kind and understanding Gentleman but had very fixed views about some items, he was admired and respected by many as was shown at his funeral, which was contacted by Revd. John Hughes, the Provincial Deputy Grand Chaplain, who incidentally had served with Len's son Adrian on a RAF Station in the South Atlantic..

I think we will all remember him as Provincial Grand Chaplain for the last 16 years, during that time he prepared Orations for 2 Lodge Consecrations, one Centenary and 15 Banner dedications.

## From the Provincial Grand Secretary

As you may be aware Grand Lodge is in the process of computerising the many aspects of its business. It has started slowly with the Annual Returns being sent out for updating by Lodge Secretaries through the Provincial Grand Registrar for the year ending 2013. As time progresses the data base will gradually be expanded to include Provincial details not currently held.

The system is live and can be updated instantly which should mean that all Secretaries have access to the very latest, accurate information. So much for the theory. In order that this can happen all members of the Province are encouraged to inform their Secretary immediately there is a change in their circumstances. By that I mean, for example, change of telephone number, e-mail address, postal address, next of kin. This information, once received by either the Provincial Secretary or the Provincial Registrar will be transferred to the main computer in London – aka Keystone Online.

To make life even easier for the Lodge Secretaries, Province now requires details of deaths and resignations as they occur so preventing demands from Grand Lodge at the end of the year for dues pertaining to a deceased member or a member who has resigned during the year but whose name has not been taken off the books at Grand Lodge. The practise of Secretaries keeping this information to themselves until the year end is to be discouraged. (This matter will be discussed further at the GP Committee meeting in May).

If any brother is at all concerned by personal details being held on any computer please remember that that the information is only for those who require it for administration purposes and is protected by the Data Protection Act.

*Robert A. Blake*

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## Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting

This year's Provincial Meeting will see a slight change of format. Melksham House is no longer available for the lunch so we shall have both the meeting and the lunch in the Assembly Rooms; apart from that it will follow the normal pattern. The meeting will also include the appointment and investiture of the new Deputy Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. Andy Beaumont. Please make sure you remember these new arrangements!

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**[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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## Initiation!

A new initiate returns home to his wife who is naturally curious to know what went on. The conversation goes something like this:

She) Well how'd it go?      He) Very well - most interesting

She) What did go on?      He) I'm not really sure if I can tell you about it.

She) Well is there anything you *can* tell me?

He) It seems there are 3 classes of members -      walkers, talkers and Holy men

She) What do they all do - if you can tell me?

He) The Walkers walked me around the lodge. The Talkers talked to me and      to the Walkers as I was led around ...

She) And the Holy men? What of them?

He) They seem to be a special class of men - all in dark blue and gold aprons and collars. They just sit on the benches around the lodge with their heads in their hands chanting repeatedly - "Oh My God Oh My God!"

## From the Provincial Grand Registrar

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

178 Edwin Dredge  
401 Richard Pracy  
443 William Gane  
971 Geoffrey Brewer, Stuart Brown (Rejoining)  
1035 Clive Carey (J), Mark Fuller  
1143 Andrew Bryan  
1460 Stephen Richards, Terence Stevens, David McMullin (All J)

The following have been elevated into or joined (J) the **Royal Ark Mariner Degree** during the same period.

178 Stephen Bridge  
971 Mark Griffiths  
1035 Monty Buck  
1110 Derek Atkinson

You are 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

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 178 Kevin Lowe        | 443 Ian White        |
| 599 Richard Young     | 971 James Brown      |
| 1035 Ian Dunbar       | 1110 David Carpenter |
| 1143 Larry Baldry     | 1531 David Hendry    |
| 1599 Peter Wollington |                      |

### RAM

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 401 John Bartlett | 971 Nick Riley             |
| 1035 Malcolm Mace | 1110 William (Bill) Platts |
| 1843 Ian Gibson   |                            |

### 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 often remembered, may they rest in peace.

VW Bro Len Hayward, PGJO, RAMGR, Mark 1460 & 1843, RAM 178 & 1460  
WBro Charles Humby, PPrGJW Mark 853  
WBro Walter Franklin, PAGSwdB Mark 971  
WBro Rod Newton, PPrGJW, PrRAMGR Mark & RAM 401  
WBro Tony Claydon, PAGDC Mark 1460

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 the Provincial Secretary/Registrar if necessary. It is so 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 **0198521 3433 alanwelch@btopenworld.com**

*Frank J. Fletcher*