

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

NEWSLETTER

No: 25

September 2013

The Provincial Grand Master writes :

Another very busy and excited year finished with Provincial Grand Lodge on the 20th. June. Firstly many thanks for all those that attended in such good numbers, I trust you enjoyed the day. One of the highlights of the day was the presence of the Assistant Grand Master R.W.Bro. Keith Emerson an old friend of the Province, as he often visited us when he was Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire. Also present was W.Bro. Paul Tarrant the new Grand Secretary.

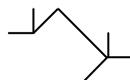
In his address to the Provincial Meeting the Assistant Grand Master mentioned the forthcoming 100th birthday of V.W.Bro. Wally Simmons on 27th July. A special meeting of the Wiltshire Installed Master Lodge No 1460 was held on 29th August to celebrate and congratulate him, when 100 sat down to dine

Following our meeting, our Deputy V.W.Bro. John Bell and his wife Mary completed their sky dive to raise money for "Hope for Tomorrow", the charity we all supported last year. The sky dive was a great success and raised over £6,000 .

Our web site www.mmmwilt.org.uk, has now been running for a year. May I sincerely thank Bro. Alan Kerr, our Web Master for all the hard work he has undertaken to get it running and keeping it up to date. Also thanks to those that have contributed. It is a site for all members, if you have anything of interest past or future please let him have it through our Provincial Secretary W. Bro. Bob Blake.

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

Martin Brown



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. John Ingram, who has had a very successful year as W.M. Two new members have been advanced and we received a very interesting lecture from W. Bro. Richard Evans. Our Master Elect Bro. Kevin Lowe, will be installed in November and we look forward to another busy year. We have three new members for advancement and a joining member in the pipeline. An enjoyable year was had by all at 178

Swindon Keystone Lodge No 401 Swindon

The first meeting of 2013 was to Install W. Bro Peter Burrows for another period as Worshipful Master. During his investment of Officers he thanked the retiring Secretary, W. Bro Stephen Blanchard, for 15 years' service in that post during which time the Lodge had gone from a weak position to its healthy and happy position today. This was evident at our May meeting when we had a Provincial Team Visit to see another Advancement carried out. We have also balloted for five new Honorary members and we are now looking forward to the Advancement of two candidates and our 125th Anniversary of the Consecration in June 2014.

Elias de Derham Lodge No 443 Salisbury

We have gained 1 new Member since last year— Bro Bill Wyatt but we have had 4 resignations in the year – although none were regular attenders. We have 2 candidates already balloted for. The Lodge continues to do well with the core of about 17 regular attendees. Meetings have included an Advancement, a demonstration, a very informative lecture on some historic aspects of the Mark Degree and a ladies white table. We have also held a very successful skittles social evening. The quality of the ritual is again of a very high standard both by the new Worshipful Master W. Bro Rob Barrett and by the rest of the Officers. We continue to work closely with our fellow Salisbury Mark Lodge (Radnor Mark 853) which often increases the numbers attending each other's meetings.

Chaloner Lodge No 599 Melksham

The Lodge has had a very good year under our WM, W. Bro. Jim Speed who was installed by W. Bro. David Hogg. Bro. Simon Rogers, our only candidate this year was Advanced in r December in a most admirable manner. In February The Mark Masters' Degree Lecture was given by 6 members of the Lodge. W. Bro. Tadman also gave a talk on the History of the Lodge. In April R. W. Bro. Martin Brown (our PGM) recounted a story about the Provincial Sword which was presented to the Province in 1917 by W. Bro. Sholto-Hare,

and who became WM of our Lodge in 1918. It was also established that at least seven other Provincial swords as far apart as Essex, Cornwall and Monmouthshire were similarly presented. The story told was magnificent, left the audience wanting to know more and richly acclaimed by the Brethren.

Radnor Lodge No 853 Salisbury

Our Year was overshadowed by the loss of our Worshipful Master W. Bro David Beale, who was very sadly called to the Grand Lodge Above in July after a long illness bravely fought. However the Lodge rallied round and the IPM W. Bro Maurice Lound, together with other Past Masters, has led the Lodge over the intervening period until the next Installation. Our new Worshipful Master, W. Bro Keith Rundle was installed in May We have been fortunate during the year to be able to Advance one candidate Bro Abed Najjar. But sadly have had the resignation of one long standing member, Bro. Derek Ricketts, owing to advancing years. In addition W. Bro Pat Paisey, who had been the Lodge's Treasurer for many years, was voted to become an Honorary Member in recognition of his long and meritorious service. The Lodge has been honoured to have amongst its membership this year the Grand Master Overseer of Mark Grand Lodge, V. W. Bro Bryan Little. The Lodge undertook one demonstration of the Ceremony of Advancement and had a very enjoyable white table supper at which wives, partners and other non Masonic guests were invited.

We have been pleased to support and receive valuable support from our brother Mark Lodge in Salisbury, Elias de Derham. At this time that we have no confirmed advancees for the coming year but we are actively seeking recruitment of suitable candidates and have one in our sights. The Lodge hopes that 2013 – 2014 will be a successful year.

Geoffrey Short Lodge No 971 Trowbridge

Following two very successful years under W Bro Stephen Richards we had an impressive Installation Ceremony when W Bro Peter Davies was Installed. At the following meeting, Bro Mark Griffiths was the Advancee and expressed how much he had enjoyed the ceremony which bodes well for the future. There followed a demonstration at our next meeting which stood us in good stead for our meeting in March when we had another Advancee, Bro Michael Thomas, which went particularly well in front of the Provincial Team's Official Visit. We are now in possession of our splendid new banner, and are working towards the Dedication Ceremony which will coincide with the Installation of the new Worshipful Master in September. Despite our building problems, we remain in good heart looking forward to our new year when we already have a candidate.

Lansdowne Lodge No 1035 Chippenham

The highlight of the Mark year in Chippenham was the return of our highly revered Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro Martin Caunter, back in harness following his enforced lay off. We have had two Advancees during the year, who from their work ethos shown in the Craft should become stalwarts of the Lodge. Right from the outset they are showing a willingness to learn and become involved. In April the brethren were treated to a first in the Mark degree, a lecture by W. Bro Dr Mike Smith on the connection between Mark Masons and Box Tunnel, a fascinating insight into its planning, construction and historical connection with our degree; one worth adding to our list of lectures. The Worshipful Master introduced some innovations during his year, including round tables at the festive board, rather than the accepted practice of 'Sprigs'. The Lodge has been fortunate in having a new caterer which has also enhanced our festive boards. Currently we have one Advancee and one joining member in the pipeline.

Warminster Lodge No 1110 Warminster

During this year we have advanced one very good candidate Bro. Paul Pilkington very ably conducted by our W M W. Bro. C W Ayton supported by his team of outstanding officers, however it was with great sadness that we lost W. Bro Terry Darvill who passed away unexpectedly in December, he had been our treasurer for many years. For the ensuing year we are very hopeful that our Master elect W. Bro. D A P Carpenter will be able to introduce new candidates. Warminster Mark remains a vibrant and enthusiastic Lodge

Border Lodge No 1143 Ludgershall

The year began with the Installation of Brother Andrew Blizzard by W. Bro Alan Faver in the presence of the PGM and his officers. In November, R. W. Bro. Michael Meade gave a very interesting talk on Historical Aspects of the Mark Degree. The content of the talk resulted in many interesting questions. In February, there was a Eulogy to V. W. Bro. John Smart who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above; he had been one of the 3 Advancees on the Lodge's first ordinary meeting in 1950. This was followed by the Advancement of Brother David Stagg. In April R. W. Bro. Meade gave a talk entitled 'Noah, His Lasting Influence'. Once again the talk was received with great interest.

Installed Mark Masters

No 1460

It is with much sadness that we report the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of two of our Members. Firstly, VWBro. J.R.K. Smart who was the last of our Founder Members; he was Master of the Lodge in 1980 and Treasurer from 1988 to 2011. Secondly, WBro. E.F. (Ted) Goodman, a Member since 2005. During the year the Lodge has undergone a few changes, commenced by our IPM, WBro. John Bell and followed on by VWBro. Len Hayward, culminating in a vote at our meeting in April to change the date we meet, which is now the last Friday of April and October. At this meeting the Lodge took ownership of our own Officers' Collars and Jewels, these being donated by each of last year's Officers whose names are engraved on the reverse of each Jewel. VWBro. Hayward has provided a chest to keep Collars and Jewels in, together with any other items the Lodge may acquire, the chest is now situated at our "new home" The Masonic Hall, Devizes. VWBro. Len has also set in motion the provision of an Honours Board which the Devizes Masonic Hall Committee have agreed we may hang in the Lodge. One Sunday in March, Members and their Guests attended a Lunch at The Bear Hotel, Devizes. The idea was spearheaded by our Worshipful Master and organised by W Bro. Michael James and his Wife, this proved to be so popular that it will become an Annual event. At our Installation meeting on 26th April we welcomed two Joining Members before Installing W Bro. Peter Sidnell as Worshipful Master.

St. Aldhelm Lodge No 1531 Malmesbury

Over the last 12 months the Lodge has averaged over 30 brethren present at each regular meeting with over 50 attending the Installation meeting in November which saw W. Bro. A J Eldridge become Master. We have received good support from visiting brethren throughout the year including a cross province exchange of visits with the William Bathurst Mark Lodge in Cirencester. Such regular support has allowed the Lodge to make charitable donations to both Hope For Tomorrow and the Malmesbury Branch of Parkinson's UK who attended our June meeting to give a talk, where the charity was presented with a cheque for £500. We have had two Advancees over the year, with two candidates awaiting Advancement and a further two in the pipeline. Unfortunately we had four resignations this year from Brethren who have been unable to attend the Lodge for quite some time. We are pleased to note that for another year all our progressive offices, including the Overseers, are occupied by brethren who have yet to become Master.

Kennet Lodge No 1599 Marlborough

Unfortunately it has been yet another barren year for Advancements but there is early optimism that there may be a couple in the pipeline for the coming year. There have been two resignations - one of our founding members and first Master, WBro John Watson (PGJD) who is moving away from the area and Bro John Cook, owing to work commitments. Following the regular meeting in February, the lodge opened its doors to visiting Craft and Mark masons alike to receive a presentation about Mark masonry, which was ably led by the PGM and his Deputy. Since the meeting a number of the visiting Craft masons have expressed an interest in joining Mark masonry; the first of which may be advanced in Feb 2014. During the year final funds have been secured for the production of a lodge banner. The date for its dedication has been agreed as 5th September 2013 and will be coupled with a PGL team visit. The Members of the 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.

Wiltshire Downs Lodge No 1843 Warminster

The Lodge has just had another successful year under the direction of our Worshipful Master John Withey in the chair of Adoniram again after 30 years, with an average attendance at his meetings of 25. We have had an excellent lecture on

The Masons' Mark and Alphabet also an Advancement Demonstration. The Lodge has purchased New Collars and Collar Jewels that were used for the first time at the when Andy Blizzard was Installed in a very dignified manner by W.Bro. Bill Platts as John Withey had been hospitalised with pneumonia and was not well enough to attend. There were 15 Members and 13 visitors in attendance. We have lost two Members to the Grand Lodge Above but have gained two joining members. W. Bro BA Pinnell is retiring to the Isle of Wight and will be leaving us soon. We now have three Brothers in the Lodge who are willing to progress to the Chair of Adoniram so we have at least three full Installations to look forward to in the future and hopefully a few more joining members, all we need now is Advances! and for the first time since 2005 we have appointed a Lodge Steward. Our Director of Ceremonies W. Bro Malcolm Lloyd received PAGDC at Grand Lodge in June. It is the wish of our W.M. and all the Members of the Lodge that if no 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 the usual Mark Friendship. The Lodge is applying to become a Patron Lodge of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Guidance from Down Under

First part of the instruction given to Initiates before they can be Passed (UGLV)

The Shape of the Lodge

The Lodge is set out as a parallelepipedon (a geometric solid whose six faces are parallelograms) in length east to West and in breadth north to south, from the surface of the earth to the centre and even as high as the heavens. The lodge is described this way to show the universality of the science that a Mason's charity should know no bounds save those of prudence.

In the First Degree imagine our Lodge as a quarry!

With the members sitting round the outside of the Lodge it could in some measure represent a quarry. As masons also worked in quarries, hence work being carried out on the central region. The officers on the external part of the floor (quarry area) could represent the different levels of management.

The People

Master (CEO and his Board)

Sits in the East usually with senior colleagues around him.

Wardens (Directors)

Sit in the West and South

Secretary and Treasurer (Administrators)

Sit in the North

Almoner (Members Welfare)

His duty is to enquire about indigent and sick brethren and their families.

Floor Officers (Worker Force)

Director of Ceremonies (Foreman)

Directs the floor officers and ensures the rituals are performed correctly.

Senior and Junior Deacons (Leading Hands)

Senior sits to the right of the WM

Junior sits to the right of the SW

Inner guard (Security)

Sits inside at the door of the Lodge

Tyler (Security / Guardian)

Sits outside and guards the entrance to the Lodge

From the Provincial Grand Registrar

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

- 178 Kent J. Baxter
- 401 Geoffrey R. Jones
- 853 Abed H Najjar
- 971 Michael D. Thomas
- 1035 David Bristow, Brian Feaver
- 1110 James Russell
- 1143 David H. Stagg
- 1460 Steve Darlington & Arthur Lawrence (both J)
- 1531 Andrew P. Whelan, Kevin Logan
- 1843 Michael Dowell & Graham Greenhill (both J)

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

- 401 Michael Mitchell
- 443 Kenneth Staniforth
- 1035 Terry P. Moulder
- 1110 David R. Bush & Nigel H. Poole
- 1460 Robert A. Blake, Mervyn J. Johns, & Stuart Hambleton (all J)
- 1843 Paul W. Darlaston; Colin. C. Cheshire (J)

I should have your first name correct, but 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 Peter Burrows
- 853 Bernard Rundle
- 1460 Peter Sidnall
- 1843 Andrew Blizzard

RAM

- 178 John Merrett
- 443 Nigel Dalby
- 1460 Keith Nisbeck

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

Bro. Terry Roberts Mk 401,

WBro. Rene Young Mk 971, PAGDC

WBro. Kenneth Pickernell Mk1143 PPrGJW

WBro. Ted Goodman Mk 178 & 1843 PPrGJW

WBro. Pat Paisey Mk 853 PPrGJW.

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 or **01985 213433**.

Thank you to all Secretaries & Scribes for passing on the necessary information promptly – long may this continue!

Frank J. Fletcher

Mark Accessories

The Province has a supply of the updated **Mark Promotional 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 **Advancees'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 01722 504702 ian.gibson33@ntlworld.com Cash with orders please, so as to simplify administration.

Daylight Lodges

The term Daylight Lodge may seem strange to some since at certain times of the year it still is daylight when you go the meetings in the evening! However the term particularly applies to Lodges that **don't** meet in the evening. Most daylight lodges meet in the mornings, have lunch and members are away by mid-afternoon at the latest. In some bigger provinces or centres with large masonic populations, there are lodges that meet at breakfast time as well as those that meet in the afternoon.

There are a number of factors that may attract masons to daylight lodges. First, there are an increasing number of brethren, who find it difficult, if not impossible, to drive at night and can't always arrange – or don't like to ask for – a lift. Second, there are those who find it difficult to eat after an evening meeting and so stop going to their lodge because they don't like to go to the meeting but not stay for the afterproceedings. Thirdly, there may be some who, perhaps, double up as carers at home but can get cover during the day but not at night. Finally, there are also those who cannot get enough masonry and are happy to give their support to daylight lodges as well.

Within the Province there are three daylight lodges : the Craft *Fiat Lux* Lodge which meets in Devizes; the Mark *Wiltshire Downs* Lodge which meets in Warminster; and the Royal Ark Mariner *Stuart Parry* Lodge which meets in Ludgershall. In addition, the *Chapter of Rectitude* also meets in the mornings, although one of its meetings is sometimes in other Provinces.

Details of all these can, of course, be found in the Provincial Reference Book and all would appreciate your support when possible.

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Banners

Congratulations to Kennet & Geoffrey Short Lodges 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.

Provincial Grand Lodge

The Brethren assembled at 2-30pm and the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master A. Martin. J. Brown, his Officers and visiting Right Worshipful Brethren entered the Lodge. Present were 13 Right Worshipful Brethren 20 Very Worshipful Brethren including V.W. Bro Paul Tarrant, the Grand Secretary and many members of the Province and visitors.

The Provincial Grand Master then welcomed a delegation of Royal Ark Mariners of the Province to the meeting accompanied by the Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Banner. The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and other Right Worshipful Brethren were saluted and all responded appropriately. The Assistant Grand Master R.W. Bro H. K. Emmerson accompanied by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies entered the Lodge and were warmly welcomed by the PGM who then introduced 58 visitors from 24 Provinces and Districts and members of the Province who were senior members in various other Degrees. They were all given a very warm "Wiltshire Welcome".

The Provincial Grand Chaplain read out the names of 10 members of the Province who had died since the last meeting. The Brethren stood to order as the Chaplain offered prayer for the departed Brethren.

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 Re-appointed V.W. Bro John Bell PGJO as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Wiltshire. He also appointed Michael James as Senior Warden and Harvey Groves as Junior Warden, together with all the other Provincial appointments, promotions and RAM appointments.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. He was very grateful for the support today and thanked all who had prepared for the meeting especially the Chaloner Mark Lodge and Wiltshire Keystone 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 more Banner Dedication Meetings. 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 brought the attention of the Brethren to 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 will bless and guide us all until we meet again.

The address was met with acclamation.

Continued over..

The Assistant Grand Master addressed the brethren outlining the future intentions, organisation and transparency envisaged by Grand Lodge. He made mention of the new Grand Secretary, here present and wished him well in his new capacity.

The Provincial Grand Master presented cheques to R. W. Bro Francis Wakem for the Craft 2017 Festival and to V.W. Bro Jeffery R. Green, DPGM of Buckinghamshire for the Mark 2014 Festival.

Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form. Alms amounting to £973.75 including Gift Aid were received during the singing of the closing Ode.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 25 Sep : Installation & Banner Dedication 971

Sunday 6 Oct : Sunday Lunch at Melksham 12 noon for 1pm

Saturday 26 Jan : Provincial Officers Dinner - Devizes

Monday 7 Apr : RAM team visit to Lansdowne 1035

Tuesday 13 May : Mark team visit to Warminster 1110

Further information on all these meetings can be obtained from the relevant Secretaries/Scribes.

Distribution

This Newsletter will, hopefully, 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.

Side Degrees

Strictly speaking there are NO side degrees in English Masonry. Technically, a Side Degree is where a Brother in possession of certain secrets takes another Brother *aside* and confides those secrets to him. This happens mostly in other Masonic jurisdictions!

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 an adjoining Lodge Room with a video link. The meeting was presided over by the Grand Master, HRH The 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 Deputy Grand Master as well as the promotion of our DPGM, John Bell, to PGJO. Also promoted was Frank Fletcher who became Grand Senior Deacon. First appointments were Stuart Hambleton, Peter Sidnell and Malcolm Lloyd all appointed PAGDC. Although the investiture proceedings were managed as slickly as ever there were again more appointees attending than usual so the meeting finished somewhat later than expected. However we were able to catch the bus and get to our dinner in Fleet only a little behind time. We are grateful to the Province of Dorset for the travelling/dining arrangements.

Congratulations to the many Mark members who have been honoured by the Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, including Chris Robbins as Senior Warden and Maurice Lound as Junior Warden. We also congratulate Tony Oke on his appointment as 2nd Provincial Principal Michael Taylor as 3rd Provincial Principal and David McMullin as Provincial Scribe E in the Chapter.

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 Mariner matters in the Province and beyond – including footage of the sky jumps!

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

The Editor writes....!

Unless you are one of those people who start reading from the back, you may have noticed that this is the 25th edition of the Mark Newsletter. It was originally the brainchild of R. W. Bro. Stuart Parry when he was PGM, and he often said to me that we ought to have our own newsletter. I was obviously slow on the uptake as what he really meant was “You, the DPGM, ought to get on with this”. Eventually I realised that this was the coded message and so the saga began! I continued to edit it even while I was PGM, and it was with some trepidation that I accepted the request from Secretaries/Scribes at the Provincial GP meeting one year that we should send it out electronically wherever possible. Although I realised that this was the way forward, I was very much afraid that the formatting would get lost in transmission and that it would become a mess of orphans and the like. Sadly I was proved right as the copies that were emailed to me by the Secretaries of the Lodges to which I subscribed were often a jumble of muddled pages. Sometimes this was just a quirk of e-transmission but sometimes it was that some fonts had totally different appearances in different operating systems on people’s pcs. A lesser example of this is to be found, sadly, in the copy on the provincial Website, where the symmetry of the original layout has been somewhat lost. I have had an offer of help from an IT expert so perhaps this edition will be better! I would also say that as I have less time to visit Lodges now, I am finding it increasingly difficult to sense what is really happening around the Province and thus include it in the newsletter. It may thus be time for someone else to take this task on and perhaps give us a new and more lively format. I know there won’t be a long queue of volunteers, since for the last 18 months I have been telling readers of the Parish Magazine that I edit that after 30 years I am giving up after the December edition. I suspect they just don’t believe me! Nevertheless I hope that you find something of interest in this edition.

MM

Installed Mark Masters Lodge 1460

Please note that the Lodge now meets on the last Friday in October & April instead of the last working day in April & September.

Our Mark Centenarian
Very Worshipful Brother Walter Ernest
Simmons
Past Grand Senior Overseer

Wally was born on the 27th July 1913 in London one of five children. He started work as an apprentice with British Tompson in their Drawing Office ; this was followed by other jobs with other firms during which he gained many engineering qualifications. The main part of his career, however, was with the old Air Ministry. Much of it was spent in the Far East where he also fitted in some golf – well quite a lot of golf actually.

On his return he was in charge of work services for Boscombe Down. Finally he was the Engineer in charge of Planning, Design and Project management for the Bulford Area Office. He also ran the “BAGS” Bulford Area Golfing Society which played regional matches throughout the South West.

He was initiated into the South Croydon Lodge No 4567 on 20th April 1951 and served as Master in 1965 and 1982. He was exalted into Holy Royal Arch Chapter on 14th January 1960 into the Duke of Connaught Chapter No. 2940 meeting in Ceylon, he joined the South Croydon Chapter No 4567 in 1961 and served as MEZ in 1969 and 1975. He joined Lodges and Chapters in Wiltshire, serving as Scribe E for Stonehenge Chapter for 4 years. He received Provincial Honours in both Surrey and Wiltshire in the Craft and Chapter.

In our Mark Degree he was advanced into the Elias De Derham Lodge on 2nd June 1967 and served as Master in 1984, he joined our Installed Mark Masters Lodge in 1986 and was Secretary from 1987 until 2011 some 24 years. Additionally in recent years Wally has always presented the Keystone & Charity Jewels to our new Master at the Installation Meeting, in a clear and precise manner with no hesitation or prompting. He was appointed to Grand Rank in 1993, promoted in 2004 and again 2009 to PGSO. He was a founder member of Wiltshire Downs Lodge.

In the Royal Ark Mariner Degree he was elevated into the Elias de Derham Lodge in 1981 was Commander in 1986, and then Scribe for many years; appointed to RAMGR in 2001. He was a founder member of the Reginald W. Short Installed Commanders Lodge and also Stuart Parry Lodge.

Continued overleaf

In the "Operatives" he was admitted as an Apprentice into the Box Tunnel Assemblage in 1996, one the first group admitted, served as DMM in 2003 at the age of 90 and appointed VII° (Honoris Causa) in 2004. He was a founder member of 2 other Assemblage in the Region. Just to complete his CV he was Admitted as a member of Harewood Forest Council in the Order of Royal and Select Masters in 2005. Wally was also a great traveller to other Provinces, attending their annual meetings on such a regular basis that his absence was noted! "Where's Wally?" they would ask. To continue the celebrations, the Installed Mark Masters Lodge held a special meeting in Chippenham on 29 August which was attended by 100 Brethren including many current and past PGMs, deputies and other senior Mark masons from across southern England, as well as our own members. The night was enhanced with a demonstration by the Somerset Ancient Mark team. It is a privilege to able to celebrate this excellent young centenarian Mark Mason!

Sunday Lunch - 6 October

Don't forget the Sunday lunch at Melksham Assembly Rooms on 6 October for members, their families and friends. This has traditionally been an excellent occasion and no doubt will be again. The cost is only £18.00 a head. If you haven't booked yet, please contact V. W. Brother John Northover on 01249 653974

And finally...

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a Harley, when he spotted a world-famous heart surgeon in his workshop. The heart surgeon was waiting for the service manager to take a look at his bike. The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc can I ask you a question?" The famous surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I also can open hearts, take valves out, fix'em, put in new parts and when I finish this will work just like a new one. So how come I get a pittance and you get the really big money, when you and I are doing basically the same work?" The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over, and whispered to the mechanic..... "Because I do it with the engine running!"

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