



The Magic of the Mark

JANUARY 2011

NEWSLETTER

HEADLINES

- Garden Party raises £5000 for Craft 2012 Festival
- Still time to book for Chepstow weekend ... but only just!
- Sandbanks accommodation limited again this year.
- 2 new appointments to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank

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Grand Master's Lodges of Instruction

The Grand Master's Lodges of Instruction for Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariners was established to help members of those Degrees practice and learn the Ceremonies of those two beautiful and important degrees in Freemasonry.

The culmination of the season is the Annual Festival where the Grand Master's Demonstration Team demonstrates the Mark Advancement Ceremony including the lecture on the Mark Master Masons Degree and the Royal Ark Mariners Elevation Ceremony, including an explanation of the Tracing Board.

The 2011 Festival will be held at Freemasons' Hall, 80

London Road, Leicester on the 28th April under the Presidency of our Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Anthony Morris and it is hoped that the Brethren of the Province and other Provinces will be present in strength to support him.

Details of this event have been circulated to every member of the Province and Brethren are encouraged to attend both ceremonies or the Mark Ceremony if not a member of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree and the Festive Board.

The Demonstration workings are of a very high standard and offer an excellent opportunity for observing how the rituals are intended to be performed.

Brethren wishing to attend should complete the application form and return it to the Provincial Grand Secretary, Stephen Davison, 68 Main Street, Cossington, Leicester LE7 4UU as soon as possible.



**R.W. Bro. Anthony Morris,
Provincial Grand Master,
President of The Grand
Master's Lodges of Instruction**

Chepstow Mark Weekend

Once again, the Provincial Grand Master will be sponsoring a spring weekend away for Brethren of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees, their families and friends.

The venue for this event will be the luxurious 4* Marriott St-Pierre Hotel in Chepstow and the dates are 8-10 April.

The event has already been well supported by the Brethren but a few places are still available.

Brethren wishing to attend should contact the organiser, Mike Jacobs, as soon as possible on 0116 241 2000 or email him at mike@mikejacobs.co.uk

Closing date for applications is 28 February and places will be allocated on first come, first served basis



Marriott St-Pierre Hotel, Chepstow

Mark Ladies' Dining Out



Three generations of Provincial Grand Masters attend Ladies' Dining Out.

The ever-popular **Mark Ladies' Dining Out Evening** was held on 25th August.

Almost 100 invited guests of The Provincial Grand Master attended, including the active Provincial Officers of the year, Grand Officers, Heads of Orders and other invited guests.

The Province was particularly delighted by the attendance of Past Provincial Grand Master, Reg Reader - now in his 91st year - who had travelled up from Devon for the occasion with his daughter, Christine.

Guests enjoyed a superb meal of Sea Bass followed by fresh strawberries provided by the ever-obliging John Stew and his staff.

Sandbanks 2010

*17th Annual
Mark Festival
Weekend at
Sandbanks
another
resounding
success!*

A record crowd of 150 Brethren, their wives and families descended on The Haven Hotel in Sandbanks on 3rd September for the 17th annual Mark Festival Weekend. Every bedroom in the hotel was occupied and the event was fully subscribed within days of the invitations being issued last January. The sun finally shone and a good time was had by all. Many Brethren took the opportunity of extending their stay and some

now consider this to be their main annual holiday. A raffle was held on Saturday night which raised almost £900 for **The Provincial Grand Masters' Discretionary Fund**, a fund which is specifically for the assistance of needy Mark Brethren and their families in this Province. The first prize – a weekend for two at The Haven Hotel – was won by Ray Folland, of East Goscote Lodge, and his wife, Joan and the second

prize, dinner for two with The Provincial Grand Master at Ashfields Restaurant was won by the Assistant Grand Master, Michael Herbert, and his wife, Nancy.



The Haven Hotel, Sandbanks



Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Peter Green, presenting cheque for £1000 to Rainbows Chief Executive Geoff Ellis

£1000 for Rainbows from Xmas Lunch

220 Mark Brethren, their wives and families filled Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, to capacity on 19th December for the **Mark Christmas Lunch**.

Following a superb reception and meal provided by John Stew, Karolina and the catering staff, the **Devonshire Place** team led by Nicola &

Carly organised seasonal entertainment and a rousing rendition of the most popular Christmas Carols.

Santa Claus (who bore a striking resemblance to Ken Beesley) then distributed presents to the children.

The raffle, supplemented by a donation from the Province, enabled a donation of £1000 to be given to the **Rainbows** hospice.

Provincial Grand Master's Garden Party

The Provincial Grand Master, Tony Morris, and his wife Janet hosted one of their renowned summer garden parties at their home on 29th August in aid of the **Craft 2012 Festival**. More than 350 Brethren, their friends and their ladies attended and the magnificent sum of £5000 was raised for the festival.

Although the weather was inclement, the sun did eventually shine and spirits were high – as was the gust of wind which caused one of the marquees to take off and fly over the hedge into the adjacent paddock! However, there were many willing hands to recover it and the day was saved with no harm done.

Many, many thanks to Janet and her enthusiastic band of helpers for their magnificent hospitality, which together with Tony's barbecuing skill and Martin Sercombe's famous Hog Roast contributed to yet another unforgettable Mark occasion.



Biker's Dream

When Malcolm Bond - a member of Fidelity Lodge MMM - & Jean Bond got married in 1962, their pride and joy was their motorbike: a Matchless 350 Twin Sport. However, before too long the patter of tiny feet were expected and the bike had to be sold to buy a pram. That was Jean's last experience of biking. So, imagine her surprise when arriving at Janet & Tony Morris's garden party on 29th August when she found a shiny BMW 1200 Sports Tourer parked in the driveway. As she stood drooling over this magnificent machine, its owner, Alf Roper, a member of The Old York Lodge of Mark Master Masons, offered her a ride and off they went. They returned after an exciting 20 minute spin and no words are necessary to describe Jean's delight: her face says it all!



**Jean Bond & Alf Roper, after their spin.
More than a little windswept!**

Royal Ark Mariner News



At the **Annual Assembly of The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners** held on 7th December 2010, **Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank** was conferred on two brethren from the Province of Leicestershire & Rutland, **W. Bro. Leslie Woodhouse**, a Past Commander of the **Wiclif Lodge, No. 1068** & **W. Bro. John Channing**, a Past Commander of the **Knight of Malta Lodge, No. 30**. We congratulate these brethren on their well-deserved honours and wish them many happy and healthy years to enjoy this superb degree in Freemasonry.



Wiclif Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners



At the December meeting of the Wiclif Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, No 1068, the Worshipful Commander, **Bob Townsend** presented a cheque for £288 to **Martin Sercombe** (Treasurer of the League of Friends of the hospital) for the purchase of teddy bears for young patients receiving treatment at the Cottage Hospital at Lutterworth. The donation was supported by **W. Bro. Reg Dickinson**, who had previously received excellent treatment at the hospital and was pleased the lodge was able to support the hospital. W. Bro. Sercombe, who has been Treasurer for over 30 years, thanked the Lodge for its support.

Sandbanks 2011

Enclosed with this edition of The Magic of The Mark is the booking form for **The Mark Festival Weekend** at Sandbanks, which will be held on 2nd - 4th September. This year, the Haven Hotel have a wedding on the same weekend as our event, so our allocation of rooms is even more than usually limited.

Priority will be given to those Brethren whose applications were unsuccessful last year and then to other Brethren, as usual, on a first come, first served basis. Actual room allocations for guests without special needs will be by lottery, the date of which will be announced.

If you wish to attend, please return your booking form and deposit promptly!

And finally: The Long Way Home

On Sunday 11 July, a number of Masonic "Bikers" led by **Michael Robinson** and including **Mark Pierpoint & Matt Robinson**, members of **Joey Dunlop Lodge of Mark Master Masons** and other Mark Masons embarked on an historic 6 day 1500 mile journey to visit all 17 RMBI Care Homes in England and Wales. The route took the bikers from Oadby through York, Northumberland, Manchester, Merseyside, Llandudno, Porthcawl, Exeter, Bournemouth, Hindhead, Shoreham, South Croydon, Chislehurst and Bury St. Edmunds, arriving back at Oadby to a welcome home party. The ride raised over £4000 for the 2012 Craft Festival.



Mike Robinson receiving cheques from Mark PGM for West Lancashire, **Peter Connolly** & Chairman Assoc. of Friends of Tithe Barn, **Laurie Scott**