



Welcome to the MARK

The Newsletter of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Warwickshire

This sixth edition of Welcome to the Mark is again being distributed as part of the Craft Newsletter.

We hope the contents are of interest to all readers.

The Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees are described on our website, together with information and application forms for the many social activities we organize, most of which can be enjoyed by all Masons, their families and friends. They are great opportunities for introducing potential candidates to the fellowship we enjoy outside the Lodge room.

For full details, and to see the latest news about Mark Masonry in Warwickshire visit:

**www.
warwickshiremark.
org.uk**

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Rockin' Berries Roll

Over 200 guests attended another spectacular Mark Social Committee Ball at Stirling Road in support of the 2012 Festival Appeal.

Following the successful and popular format of the previous year's Chinese Valentine's Ball, entertainment during the meal was provided with a lively and colourful dance routine. The main act later in the evening was the legendary Rockin' Berries, who shared many mutual memories with the guests, filling the dance floor throughout.

The sophistication of the professional casino tables enabled everyone to participate in Roulette and Blackjack whilst taking a break from the dancing. A further opportunity to empty



The Legendary Rockin' Berries

New APMG

Despite heavy snow, the Annual Meeting of Provincial Mark Grand Lodge was very well attended, and included the investiture of W Bro Derek Griffin as Assistant Provincial Grand Master. RW Bro David Rawlins, Provincial Grand Master, made special mention of the excellent work of Derek's retiring predecessor, W Bro Stephen Wright, and presented Stephen with a token of appreciation from everyone in the Province.

The ProvGM was also pleased to appoint the new team of

Provincial Officers, with W Bro Phil Wills taking over as Provincial Director of Ceremonies, and to promote those who had continued to give outstanding service to the order. He also appointed 12 Brethren to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

There was a wonderful turnout of Warwickshire Brethren and visitors from other Provinces and Districts including 22 Provincial Grand Masters, together with Deputies, Assistants and other Officers.

The ProvGM welcomed the several leaders of other

pockets, wallets and purses was provided by a raffle, with a range of high quality prizes.

The event raised £3,000 towards the 2012 Festival and particular thanks were given to Adrian Rawlins and Peter Wellings for their personal efforts in delivering their original promise - a great night to remember!

And that promise will be repeated again, same place, same time, on Saturday 25th February 2012. It will be a grand finale to boost the Festival coffers, with over 100 advance bookings already in place. Put the date in your diary now, and apply early for your tickets!

Orders present, and gave sincere thanks to the many brethren who contributed so much to the ongoing success of the Province.



*(L-r) Roger Mac, Deputy PGM
David Rawlins, PGM
Derek Griffin, Assistant PGM*

Marking Well

One of the most enthusiastic Mark Masons to enjoy his time as an acting Provincial Officer is undoubtedly W Bro Vernon Munton of Signa Bene Lodge MMM 1501 (Alcester).

From the day of his appointment as Provincial Grand Inner Guard in 2008 he was determined to make the very most of the opportunity by visiting as many Provincial and Lodge events whilst in office, camera to hand. This

continued unabated the following year after he had been promoted to Provincial Grand Junior Overseer.

Vernon's wife Barbara was equally enthusiastic and encouraged him to bring back souvenirs of all his visits, including summonses, photographs, menu and place cards etc., even chopsticks from the Chinese Ball! All of these she has meticulously assembled into an amazing album, together with a variety of magnificent embellish-

ments, with a personal recollection of each event by Vernon. A remarkable tome, which will no doubt bring back many happy memories for many years ahead.

Vernon Munton (right) at his last meeting before Brian Nutt (left) succeeded him as ProvGJO



New Banner for Harry Wilson RAM

At the Banner Dedication of The Harry Wilson Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners 1574 there were 14 members of the Lodge present, together with 6 Grand Officers, twenty two acting Provincial Officers, four other visitors, and both the RW Provincial Grand Master and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who



(l-r) Tony Green, Ivan Norris, George Simpson, Phil Wills, ProvGM David Rawlins, Bill Clark, DepProvGM Roger Mac, Jack Chetwynd, Tom Collins, Graham Humphreys

is a member of the Lodge. This was the highest attendance recorded since the Lodge was consecrated in 1994.

Following the Banner Dedication ceremony, held at the Nuneaton meeting rooms, Bro Bill Clark was installed into the chair by Bro Jack Chetwynd.

Mountain goes to Mohammed

RW Bro David Rawlins, Provincial Grand Master, accompanied by nine members of The Harry Wilson Lodge of Mark Master Masons 1574, made a special visit to the home of W Bro Martin Heatley to invest him with the rank of Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer.

At the time of the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, Martin was in hospital recovering from a serious

illness, and is undergoing an operation at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital to re-build his hip joint, which was seriously damaged by the illness. He is a Past Master of The Harry Wilson Lodge and a Founder member of the Mancetter Lodge MMM 1883.

The PGM said he was delighted to be able to visit Martin and invest him with his rank, and looked forward to his full recovery and seeing him on the visiting circuit.

Subject to the operation being successful Martin hopes to be back on his feet within three months, resuming his Masonic duties in the several Orders of which he is a member.



ProvGM David Rawlins (centre right) invests Martin Heatley

Harmonious Notes for Installed Masters

Members and guests at the Warwickshire Installed Mark Masters Lodge 1400 were treated to an entertaining and informative presentation about Masonic Music and Musicians by Bro Mario Rizzardi, the Provincial Grand Organist for Staffordshire and Shropshire.

Commencing with a fanfare (freemason Mendelssohn's Bridal March) Mario interspersed his fascinating presentation with a wide variety of morceaux on his keyboard, accompanied by flipchart illustrations of the Masonic musicians and composers he referred to, in chronological order. These included, and outlined, the characteristics of many

famous names embraced within the period since freemasonry was formally established in 1717, commencing with Thomas Arne (who composed *Rule Britannia*), followed by others such as William Boyce, Samuel Wesley, Sir George Smart (a good chum of Beethoven), Sir Michael Costa, Michael Balfe and several others.

Many had been Grand Organists, some even Masters of the King's Music, all of which Mario enjoyed dwelling upon, in addition to outlining the influence on Masonic music-making by several others. These included the Bachs, Mozart and Haydn, together with US Shiner JP Sousa (Stars and Stripes forever), as well as the famous Victorian partnership of Gilbert and Sullivan.

In his thanks to Mario, WM Brian Price referred to the significance of the music mentioned in several Masonic orders, which of course every mason should learn about by joining them!

He also announced that W Bro Gareth Hughes would be installed as Master at the next meeting, which news was received with great acclamation. The date of the meeting had had to be changed to Thursday 28th April as a result of the Royal Wedding!

A motion to donate £600 to the Air Ambulance service was proposed and approved.

New Commander

A meeting of the Warwickshire Installed Commanders Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners 1400 was held immediately prior to the Mark meeting, at which W Bro Michael Saxon, was declared Commander Elect of the Lodge, again to great acclamation.

Commander elect, W Bro Mike Saxon (left), with W Bro Peter Huckle, the present Commander



(l-r) Master Elect Gareth Hughes with Bro Mario Rizzardi and WM Brian Price

What's On 2011

WIMM Lodge 1400 Ladies Festival Weekend
18 –20 March
Haven Hotel, Sandbanks
This event is sold out

Lodge of Instruction Festival*
Wednesday 30 March
(no charge for newly advanced MMMs)
Clarendon Suites, Edgbaston

Family Sunday Lunch
Sunday 8 May
Clarendon Suites, Edgbaston

Golf vs. Worcestershire
June
Details to be announced

Mark Grand Lodge Annual Investiture Meeting*
Tuesday 7 June
Great Queen Street, London

Gala Amateur Boxing Night
Saturday 25 June
Clarendon Suites, Edgbaston

Provincial Golf Tournament
July
Details to be announced

Mark Benevolent Fund 143rd Anniversary Festival
Saturday 2 July
Venue Cymru, Llandudno

Brass on the Grass
Sunday 10 July
Guy's Cliffe, Warwick

Cricket vs. Worcestershire
August
Details to be announced

Provincial Officers' Lunch*
October
Details to be announced

Fireworks Bonanza, Bonfire, BBQ & Pig Roast
Sunday 6 Nov
Park Farm, Hampton-in-Arden

Annual Meeting of Mark Provincial Grand Lodge*
Saturday 26 November
Clarendon Suites, Edgbaston

Mark Carol Service
Sunday 11 December
Edgbaston Old Church

Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners*
Tuesday 13 December
Great Queen Street, London

Black Tie Ball
in support of the 2012 Festival
Saturday 25 February 2012
Clarendon Suites, Edgbaston

* restricted to Mark/RAM Masons

For Contact Details, Booking Forms and an outline of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees, visit:

www.warwickshiremark.org.uk