



MAGIC OF THE MARK

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Grand day out for our Ken

With perfect timing, the Province had its very own active Grand Officer at the heart of the Order's 150th Anniversary week-long celebrations in London in October.

Worshipful Brother Ken Beesley was on duty as Grand Steward and along with his wife Valerie played a full part in the events to mark this very important point in the history of Mark Masonry.

He said: "We both had a great time and it was an honour for me to be involved as an active officer in the same year as this was happening. "The functions were very enjoyable, especially the main event at the Royal Albert Hall which was a full house and it is something we will never forget."

The Province was well represented at that great occasion with a large contingent headed by R.W.Bro. Anthony Morris, his Deputy Peter Green and Past PGM Michael Herbert along with 42 other Mark Masons from Leicestershire and Rutland.

It was perhaps appropriate that this Province in particular was so well represented as it was pointed out that a very important factor in the founding of the Order was the Friendly Society whose offices still remain across London Road from our own HQ!

The programme began with a preview of the exhibition of Mark Masonry at Freemason's Hall, Great Queen Street, London, followed by the Grand Master's Lodge of Instruction the next evening before a celebratory dinner at the Guildhall.

Then came the main celebrations at the Royal



Mark of pride: Worshipful Brother Ken Beesley enjoyed at first hand the 150th anniversary celebrations as an active officer

Albert Hall followed in the evening by a reception at Drapers' Hall for brethren from overseas.

It was a tremendous schedule and was, as you would expect "star-studded" with the major figures in Masonry but W.Bro. Ken was also very impressed to find that, included in the week's programme was an ordinary Mark Mason, a recent advancee who has been selected at random to be part of it all. Hard to imagine a better example of what Mark Masonry is all about.

The Magic of the Mark has adopted a new format but as before its success depends on getting news and information from your lodges to us. Please contact me at wfanderson@hotmail.co.uk and let us know what is going on throughout the Province. Bill Anderson, Editor.

MAGIC OF THE MARK

The year ahead

Once again the Magic of the Mark will be spreading extensively through the Province with a busy programme of events.

The official Provincial visit this year was to St. George's Lodge of MMM 1133 for the Installation of W.Bro Michael J. Downing and R.W.Bro. Anthony Morris led the congratulations in a well supported meeting.

Next year the official visit will be to Market Harborough for the Installation meeting of the St Peter's Lodge 1078 on April 2, 2008, but before that there is a long list of events starting with the eagerly awaited and enthusiastically supported Ladies Dining Out night on August 29, always a special event for those holding active rank and perhaps attending for the first time.

On August 30, the Secretaries and Scribes meeting will be held at Syston and then, in September, is one of the highlights, the Sandbanks weekend from September 7-9.

The Province itself, along with Mark lodges Fowke 19 and Howe 21, will be celebrating 150 years in existence next April and a committee will decide how best to honour this incredible landmark.

But the biggest event of all is looming - the Mark Festival celebrations next year at the Walkers Stadium on Friday and Saturday July 4-5, 2008. That promises to be an amazing occasion and underlines the fact that the Magic goes on!



In the chair: W.Bro. Michael Downing is congratulated by R.W.Bro. Anthony Morris at his installation as Master of St. George's Lodge when the Provincial Team made their official visit.

Events calendar 2007 - 2008

Ladies Dining Out Night	29th August 2007	Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester
Secretary & Scribes' Meeting	30th August 2007	Syston Masonic Hall, 7:15 p.m.
Wyggeston Lodge Garden Party	2nd September 2007	Roe's Rest Farm, Peckleton, Courtesy of Bro. & Mrs. David A. Hurst
150 Sesqui-Centenary Meeting	12th September 2007	Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester
Official Visit to Simon de Montfort RAM	13th September 2007	All Active & Qualifying Provincial Officers
Sandbanks, Poole Weekend.	7th-9th September 2007	First Weekend in September. Contact: Bro. Ian Johnson
RAM Ladies Dining	5th October 2007	Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester
Mark Grand Officers Mess	30th October 2007	Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester
Visit to Nottingham RAM from Howe RAM	26th November 2007	Nottingham RAM 344
RAM Grand Lodge	11th December 2007	Luxury Coach from Syston. Lunch at Mark Masons Hall
Family Christmas Lunch	23rd December 2007	Freemasons' Hall, Leicester
Committee of General Purposes	26th January 2008	Last Saturday in January
Provincial Visit to St Peters, No: 1078	2nd April 2008	Freemasons' Hall, Market Harborough
Mark Provincial Golf Tournament	28th April 2008	Beadles Lake
Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting	13th May 2008	Freemasons' Hall, London Road, Leicester
Mark Grand Lodge	10th June 2008	Luxury Coach from Syston. Lunch at Mark Masons Hall
Mark 2008 Festival 150th	4th-5th July 2008	Walkers Stadium
The Province Celebrates 150 Years	September 2008	To be Advised

Province marks 50th anniversary for Gayton

A very special installation ceremony of the Simon De Montfort Lodge saw past master and Past PGM of the Craft Gayton Taylor honoured for his 50th anniversary in Mark Masonry.

After the lodge was opened, our PGM Anthony Morris took the chair and ceremonially presented R.W.Bro. Gayton with a special certificate marking the occasion, congratulating him on reaching the landmark as well as to his service to the fraternity in general.

After the installation of W.Bro David Bull as Worshipful Master, a highly convivial festive board ended with R.W.Bro. Gayton cutting a special 50th anniversary cake as well as being presented with a specially commissioned painting of a Norfolk coastal scene by Bro A J Hughes, depicting an area very close to R.W.Bro. Gayton's home.

Responding to the occasion, R.W.Bro. Gayton wrote: "It was a pleasure to be present to witness an excellent Installation ceremony conducted so ably by W.Bro. David Newnham and I am certain that the new Master, David Bull, will have a most successful year.

"Also please be so kind as to thank on my behalf the brethren for their kindness and generosity to me. The festive atmosphere on this birthday occasion was outstanding and memorable.

"I much appreciated the water colour of Cley Windmill by Bro. A.J. Hughes presented to me. I know the scene well. The painting was beautifully executed with marvellous colouring. I shall treasure it.

"It was a particular pleasure to be surrounded by so many of my old friends and the whole evening can be summed up as typical of the "Magic of the Mark".

Also this year, R.W.Bro. Anthony Morris conducted a similar duty for W.Bro. John Farmer on his 50th anniversary in Mark Masonry. W.Bro. John was Worshipful Master of the Wyggeston Lodge back in 1971 and has been a tremendous supporter of the order.



Our PGM Anthony Morris presents R.W.Bro. Gayton Taylor with the certificate of his 50 years in Mark Masonry



W.Bro. David Bull, master of the Simon De Montfort Lodge presents R.W.Bro. Gayton Taylor with the specially commissioned painting of the area close to his Norfolk home



Honoured: R.W.Bro. Anthony Morris celebrates with W.Bro. Walter White, left and W.Bro. Norman Pettit on the occasion of them joining W.Bro. John Knew in achieving Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

Mariners on board

R.W.Bro. Anthony Morris was delighted to congratulate three brethren on their attaining Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank at the investiture in London.

W.Bros. Walter White, Norman Pettit and John Knew ensured that the Province once again featured prominently in the honours and R.W.Bro. Anthony said: "It is a great honour for the Province and for our three brethren, and thoroughly deserved for their work in the order."

The day saw our three holders of Grand Rank well supported by a large contingent of brethren from the Province on yet another fine day out organised very well to ensure everyone enjoyed themselves.

After a luxury coach trip to London, the Leicester party lunched at Mark Masons Hall before attending the investiture at Great Queen Street and the day ended with everyone well satisfied with yet another fine RAM day out. Unsurprisingly, a similar outing is planned for the next RAM Grand Lodge in mid-December but before that,

brethren of the RAM will be participating in other functions and visits.

In September, the Province's newest RAM lodge, Simon De Montfort No. 194 will receive an official visit from the Provincial Grand Lodge, the first time the lodge has received this honour.

Next, in October, R.W.Bro. Anthony Morris, again for the first time, has planned a RAM Ladies Dining evening. He said: "Our Ladies Dining evening in the Mark has been a great success and I thought it would be good for our ladies to meet with the Mariners in the same way. I am sure it will prove enjoyable to all who attend."

Next will be the annual exchange visit between the Nottingham RAM and the Howe RAM, always well supported by the brethren of the Province. This year the visit is to Nottingham and will be on November 26.

All in all, it proves to be a busy and successful period for Royal Ark Mariners whose energy and enthusiasm is an ample reflection of the Mark as a whole.