

Marking Time

Something New

Welcome to the first edition of "Marking Time" our new Provincial newsletter for the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees in Cornwall.

We hope that within this first edition you will find something to interest you and with which we can all make our "daily advancement". As we are all in one way or another affected by the worldwide effects of the ongoing Covid19 Coronavirus Pandemic, the four month suspension of our Masonic meetings and the Governments advice to self isolate, has affected all of our daily lives, making the need for us to keep in touch and ensure that self isolation does not for some become being isolated, more important than ever before.

Our Provincial Grand Master along with the members of his Provincial Executive, have been in contact with some of our more isolated members, our Provincial Almoner Raymond Lewry has already written to Lodge Almoners and Secretaries, offering guidance and support. Should any of your Lodge members need help or assistance, please make contact with your Lodge Almoner, Raymond or a member of the Provincial Executive, who will be only to willing to assist.

At times like this we are all Almoners and it is heartening to see support being offered to those in need and the innovative ways our members are finding to keep in touch and maintain our sense of masonic community, with the use of social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and many more being used to keep in touch with vulnerable members and arrange help and support. A guide on setting up WhatsApp has been circulated by our Provincial Secretary to all Lodge Secretaries and Scribes along with a guide to setting up a "ring a round system" for Lodges to ensure that all members are in contact.

Provincial Grand Lodge Update

With our Provincial Grand Lodge meeting due to have been held on Saturday 9th May, the onset of the Corona Virus and the "Suspension of all Masonic Activity" well and truly sunk our plans! Leading sadly to an enforced shortening of the year for our current active officers who had supported the presiding officers at Installations across the Province in such great numbers, as well as carrying out the first Provincial Working of the year at Trevaunance Lodge in January, when we welcomed Bro Chris Fooks to the Mark Degree.

However we have rebooked with the Atlantic Hotel and are planning for our meeting to take place on Saturday 26th September, when the Provincial Grand Master looks forward to welcoming you all and to meet with his new team of active officers, also to have the chance to thank his active team from 2019-2020 for their support.



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Special points of interest

- New Date for Provincial Grand Lodge 26th September 2020
- Suspension of Provincial Dues
- Cornwall Mark Foundation grants to local charities and groups exceed £20,000
- Mark Grand Ranks Announced
- Provincial 100 Club Draw Results



2020 Grand Parade

At the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge on Tuesday 12th March 2020, those present were able to listen to an update on the Partnership between the Mark Benevolent Fund and the Lifelites Charity.

The Mark Benevolent Fund has carved out a reputation for selfless concern for the well-being of others, with the donations from Lodges and individual members enabling the Trustees to approve grants averaging over £206,000 each year for the last one hundred and fifty-two years to Individuals in need and worthy causes which benefit the wider community.

It is that aspect of the work of the Fund which enabled members at the meeting to welcome representatives from the children's hospices that have benefitted from the grant of £141,423 made to the Lifelites charity in 2019.

The Mark Benevolent Fund has been delighted to work closely with the team at Lifelites helping them in their mission to bring the hospice into the home and to provide cutting edge technology to the hospices with the provision of interactive entertainment units. The support provided to these organisations by the Mark Benevolent Fund has enabled each of them to achieve their goals more quickly than might otherwise have been the case.

The partnership forged with Lifelites will endure, underlining the Mark Benevolent Fund's commitment to practice charity in its broadest sense.



“over £206,000 each year for the last one hundred and fifty-two years to individuals in need and worthy causes”

Cornwall Mark Foundation AGM update

As many of you will remember our Provincial Grand Charity Steward John Mills wrote to Lodges towards the end of 2019, asking for nominations from Lodges for grants to charities and worthy causes from the Cornwall Mark Foundation.

Unfortunately due to the Corona Virus the planned meeting had to be cancelled, however following discussions between the Provincial Grand Master, Trustees and Members of the Committee, we are pleased to announce that donations totalling £12,000.00 have been made to twenty four local groups, with a further £8,500.00 being granted to four local charities.



1, Bodmin Memory Café	£500.00	13, 1st St Stythians Rainbows	£500.00
2, 11th Falmouth Church, Guides	£500.00	14, GOFA	£500.00
3, Man Down (Mental Health for Men)	£500.00	15, Telya	£500.00
4, 8th/9th Falmouth Scout Group	£500.00	16, St Austell Youth Band	£500.00
5, Walker Lines Gymnasium Trust	£500.00	17, Kilkhampton Preschool	£500.00
6, Falmouth Greenbank Rowing Club	£500.00	18, Mount Edgcumbe Hospice	£500.00
7, Chy Sawel Project	£500.00	19, Clear	£500.00
8, Goonown Playing Field Association	£500.00	20, Port Isaac Village Hall	£500.00
9, Penhaligon's Friends	£500.00	21, Macular Society	£500.00
10, St Ives Town AFC Under 11s	£500.00	22, White Gold Cornwall	£500.00
11, Curnow School Association	£500.00	23, Combat Stress	£500.00
12, Hi-5 Talk Time Cafe	£500.00	24 169 Squadron ATC (St Blazey)	£500.00

Requests received from Two or More Lodges

Merlin MS Centre	£2000.00
iSight Cornwall	£500.00
Sowenna Unit	£5000.00
Motor Neurone Association Cornwall Branch	£1000.00

Grand Lodge News and Announcement of Grand Ranks

Following the Suspension of “Masonic Activity” the staff at Mark Masons’ Hall have continued with their various roles by working from home, many of you will have seen the guidance notes and updates on GDPR for Almoners and Lodge Secretaries.

The team at Grand Lodge are working tirelessly to ensure, that during the period of suspension, that our Provinces and Lodges are supported and where necessary help is available from the Mark Benevolent Fund.

We are delighted to announce, that H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO. Grand Master, has been pleased to confer the following first appointments and promotions within Mark Grand Lodge on the following members of our Province.

First Appointments

W.Bro. John Edgar Redman, Carew Lodge No1098,
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

W.Bro. Adrian Ashley Waters, Trevaunance Lodge No1023,
Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

W.Bro. James Alan Wonnacott Victory Lodge No1030
Past Grand Standard Bearer.

Promotions

W.Bro. Peter Cheesman, Carew Lodge No1098
Past Grand Junior Overseer.

W.Bro. Simon John Trevains, St Nicholas Lodge No1188
Grand Junior Deacon.

Provincial 100 Club

The latest winners of the two postponed draws of the Provincial 100 club, are !

1st Prizes of £60.00, Stan Suthern, Love and Honour No94 & David Trevains St Nicholas No1188

2nd Prizes of £40.00, Mike Johns Sir Bevil Granville No1231 & Colin Carter Boscawen No101

3rd Prizes of £20.00, Peter Long St Nicholas No1188 & Robert Bode Cornubian No87

Time to Toast & Time for Tea

With the Coronavirus pandemic curtailing our meetings and seriously affecting our daily lives. It’s a great reminder of the age-old Masonic tradition of the toast to Absent Brethren at 9.00pm, when the hands are “on the square” which reminds us all, that wherever we are, somewhere in the world somebody will be drinking a toast at 9.00pm. United Grand Lodge have been using their Twitter feed to get #TimeToToast trending each evening.

Mark Masons Hall, have been using the #TimeForTea or T@3 as a toast at 3.00pm, as you can see our Provincial Grand Master has been supporting both #TimeToToast and #TimeFoTea.

Why not Email in your time to toast or time for tea photos for our next edition



Message from the Provincial Grand Master

Dear Brethren , I hope that the ongoing Corona Virus outbreak is not causing you too much hardship and distress. It has been heartening to see our members pulling together at a time of crisis, supporting each other along with the vulnerable in our communities.

A great deal of work is being carried out by members supported by our Lodge Almoners, to ensure that our members do not unduly suffer from feelings of isolation, this I know is being replicated across the length and breadth of the country, showing the caring nature of our members at the beating heart of our “Mark Family”

I am of course mindful that during this crisis many will find an increasing strain on their finances, although I have no “magic wand” I have decided that the Province will not be collecting the dues payable by Lodges to Provincial Grand Lodge, of £5.00 (MMM) and £1.00 (RAM) per member in September 2020, I hope that this will in some small way help you all and your Lodges.

I hope you find something within this newsletter to interest you and that you approve of this initiative, if you have any items for inclusion in the next edition please forward them to our Provincial Secretary.

I look forward to meeting up with you all when we are able to resume our meetings, renewing old friendships and making new ones alike, in the meantime remember we are all in this together, don’t be afraid to ask for help, if you need us the Provincial Team will be only too happy to help

Stay Safe

Kevin

The Royal Ark Mariner Degree, Explained!

By V.W.Bro. Peter Johns PGJO, RAMGR. Deputy Provincial Grand Master



It is not until times like these that we even more appreciate and miss the friendship and brotherly love that Freemasonry and the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degree gives us all. And it is to that end that these few words are aimed not only to the brethren of the Mark Degree who have not taken the step of joining the Royal Ark Mariner Degree, but also to Royal Ark Mariners for their perusal.

The Royal Ark Mariner Degree is one of the oldest Degrees in Freemasonry and is based on a period which predates Christianity. It comes from the description in Genesis of the Great Flood and the part played by Noah in saving man and animal life. As usual in Freemasonry the origins of a Degree and in particular the Royal Ark Mariner Degree are shrouded in mystery due to it being passed on originally from generation to generation by word of mouth and the Masonic tradition of keeping as much of its secrets to just its members.

In this Degree the ceremony of admission is called an "Elevation" and for those who are "Elevated" to become a Royal Ark Mariner soon realise that the Degree is not only simple but beautiful. Like the Craft and Mark Masonry, the Royal Ark Mariner Degree makes reference to that great Masonic tradition of Building. However, this Degree and the Ceremony celebrates the achievement of the Patriarch Noah in his construction of the Ark. The ritual of the Degree is, as it's name suggests is based on the story of the flood when Noah at the request of God built the Ark for the preservation of his family and all the known creatures of the earth.

The Lodge is set out to resemble the interior of the Ark and is in the form of an equilateral triangle. A perfect geometrical shape which has been used by many religions to depict the Almighty. The three points of the triangle represent Wisdom, Strength and Beauty. The three Senior members of the Lodge sit at the three points of the triangle and represent Noah and his two sons Japeth and Shem. In this Degree Noah, who sits at the head of the triangle is referred to as Worshipful Commander, while his sons Japeth and Shem take up the offices of Senior and Junior Warden respectively and sit in the West, much like the layout of an Ancient Craft Lodge. In the ceremony the candidate takes various steps and is instructed in the five Cardinal virtues characteristic of Freemasonry, Watchfulness, Discretion, Brotherly Love, Truth and Charity which are well illustrated. The tools of the Degree are the Axe, Saw and Auger, the tools which Noah worked used when building the Ark, and their symbolical meanings are explained in the ceremony.

The Tracing Board of the Degree is old and from a time when all Degrees were worked in the same lodge. It portrays scenes not only from the origins of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners but also episodes and symbols relating to other orders in Freemasonry. The ritual of the Tracing Board contains over 2500 words and due to that fact, it is rarely heard in our Lodges. But that is soon to change. There is a team of dedicated ritualists beavering away at this very moment with that task and it is hoped that they will be ready to captivate the Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in the Province with their rendition as soon as restrictions come to an end!



The Cornwall Travelling Ark

The Royal Ark Mariner Degree, Explained! (continued)

The Degree although worked under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons has no historical connection whatsoever with the Mark Degree. Mark Grand Lodge however has ruled over the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity since 1871 simply because they bought the Degree for £25-00 from a Morton Edwards who at that time was given the task of reinstating the Royal Ark Mariner Degree into the mainstream of Freemasonry, which enabled it to gain a firmer base and stabilised what was up to then a fairly turbulent existence.

The Grand Master of the Mark Degree is also the head of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree and is ably supported by the Pro Grand Master and The Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters. Other Senior members of the Order are elected to sit on the ruling body which is called The Grand Masters Royal Ark Council. At Provincial level the Executive also mirrors that of the Mark Degree with our Provincial Grand Master Right Worshipful Brother Kevin John Hicks at the helm and the head of our Ark. (excuse the nautical pun)



The Regalia of the Degree is both simple and colourful consisting of an apron in the colours of a rainbow and a breast jewel depicting a dove bearing an olive branch, suspended beneath a rainbow which is hung from a rainbow coloured ribbon. In the Bible the rainbow was a symbol of God's covenant to man, never to destroy earth again by water and the rainbow represents a token of his infinite mercy in sustaining mankind. The rainbow is therefore a wonderful reminder to us all on our reliance in God and how much we depend on him for our fragile existence.

All Royal Ark Mariner Lodges are attached or moored to a Mark Lodge and have the same number but might not necessarily have the same name. As in the Mark Degree the Royal Ark Mariner Degree covers England and Wales, it governs 41 Provinces including the Channel Islands as well as 27 District Lodges overseas. There are nearly 800 Lodges in England and Wales and over 170 Lodges overseas. In Cornwall there are 16 Lodges spread throughout the Province. The only requisite to join the Royal Ark Mariner Degree is to be a Mark Master Mason.

In this degree there are some really meaningful portions of ritual which are guaranteed to make a lasting impression on every candidate. The only other ceremony in this Degree is the Installation of a new Commander which is both unusual and very memorable. To obtain the Chair of Commander of a Lodge does not require the candidate to be Installed as a Master in the Mark Degree. Indeed, some of the brethren who have attained the Chair of a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge have found that they had gained valuable experience which enabled them to be better prepared for the Mark Chair.

In the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners there exists a real feeling of friendship and support and a special bond of fellowship which stands out as a core aspect of the fraternity and "Elevation" into the Royal Ark Mariner Degree is another step in a Freemason's journey of discovery and represents another advancement in his search for Masonic knowledge. For those of you interested in taking this step, you will find a wonderful Degree, steeped in history, colourful regalia, interesting and dedicated Brethren who will guide you through your voyage of discovery aboard the Ark.

I wonder when Noah built the Ark, if he made certain rules for the journey, maybe they looked a bit like the following!

Noah's Ten Commandments

Don't miss the boat

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Stay fit. Like Noah, even when you get older, someone might ask you to do something really special.

Don't listen to critics just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Build your future on high ground.

For safety's sake travel in pairs (Family members only!)

Speed isn't always an advantage. The snail was onboard with the cheetahs.

When you are stressed, float awhile. You'll find every cloud has a silver lining.

No matter the storm, like Noah when you are with the Supreme Commander, there's always a rainbow waiting. Most people walk in and out of your life but FRIENDS leave footprints in your heart forever,

Keep safe and we look forward to seeing you all again when life gets back to some sort of normality

A Look Back in Time

MARK MASTER MASONS

MEMBERSHIP OF 1,000 IN CORNWALL

The annual Provincial Grand Mark Lodge and general communication of Mark Master Masons of the Province of Cornwall was held on Wednesday, under the banner of "St. Columba" Lodge, No. 700, St. Columb. The R.W. Bro. Sir P. Colville Smith, C.V.O., P.G. Overseer (Eng.), Prov. G. Mark Master Mason, presided.

In his report, W. Bro. Mabbott recorded another year of continued interest in and appreciation of the Mark degree in the province. The work generally of the lodges had been eminently satisfactory, and the harmony that had so long characterised the degree continued. The wardens had been most exemplary in the visitation of the lodges throughout the province, and the Prov. G. Secretary (W. Bro. T. Shopland) had been untiring in his desire to maintain the high standard the Mark degree had attained. W. Bro. Shopland had been a tower of strength. It was regrettable to have to record a decrease in numbers, and W. Bro. Shopland and himself had taken steps to prevent a recurrence in the loss of membership this year if possible. Seven lodges recorded an increase of 20 members and eight a decrease of 40. The present total membership was 1,000, against 1,011 in the preceding year. Fifty new members had joined during the year and six had come to them from outside lodges. The financial condition of the lodges, generally speaking, was quite satisfactory, and contributions to the charities had been well-maintained. Many lodges continued to remember W. Bro. E. A. P. Broad (late Deputy Prov. Grand Mark Master Mason), and sent affectionate messages to cheer him in his long-continued illness.

The Prov. G. Master said the decrease in membership to which reference had been made was not confined to Cornwall, and was probably due principally to the fact that the times were not so good as some years ago. He thought, however, that the interest being taken in Masonry in general was really greater than it was just after the war, when there was a large influx. The Provincial G.M. paid a high tribute to the work of W. Bro. Shopland as Provincial Grand Secretary, and wished W. Bro. Mabbott, who was shortly making a voyage to Canada, a pleasant holiday and renewed health. Sir Philip also thanked W. Bro. John Palmer (Redruth), who for the past three years has carried out very efficiently the duties of Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Chain of Office Presented

W. Bro. J. C. Annear, Penryn (hon. treasurer), reported that receipts for the year, including a balance of £7 18s. 8d. brought forward, totalled £52 0s. 2d., and after meeting expenditure there was a balance of £17 15s. 5d.—The accounts were adopted, on the motion of W. Bro. H. Dunstan (St. Ives), seconded by W. Bro. E. A. Savage (Falmouth) and the Prov. G.M. thanked W. Bro. Annear for his services.—On the proposal of W. Bro. Shopland, seconded by W. Bro. C. J. Cook (Redruth), it was decided to vote ten guineas to the Mark Benevolent Fund.—W. Bro. W. K. Thomas (St. Columb) was appointed treasurer for the ensuing year and Bros. E. R. E. Whiting and S. H. Tamblin (St. Columb) auditors.

W. Bro. Mabbott intimated that he desired, in appreciation of all that the province had done for him, to present to the province the Deputy Provincial Mark Master Mason's chain, which was his personal property, to be worn in perpetuity by successors in the office.—The Prov. G.M. accepted the gift with thanks but expressed the hope that W. Bro. Mabbott would continue to wear the chain for many years.

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT & STRATHEARN, K.G., M.W. GRAND MASTER
THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF STRADBROKE, K.C.M.G., M.W. PRO. GRAND MASTER.
THE RT. HON. LORD ALDENHAM, R.W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

Province of



Cornwall.

INSTALLATION

OF

V.W. Bro. P. COLVILLE SMITH, P.G. Overseer

AS

Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall

BY

R. W. Bro. The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT VALENTIA, C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O.,

Provincial Grand Master for Berks & Oxon.

FALMOUTH,

April, 1923.

A Provincial Grand Lodge and General Communication of Mark Master Masons for the Province of Cornwall will be held at the **Wesley Hall**, adjoining the Wesley Chapel, **Truro**, on **Monday, the 23rd of April, 1923, at 11.45 a.m.** for the purpose of installing the Provincial Grand Master Designate, the appointment of Provincial Grand Officers and the transaction of the Provincial Business; when and where the Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and Overseers of the Mark Lodges in Cornwall are hereby convoked to attend and at which all Mark Master Masons are fraternally invited to be present. The attendance of Mark Master Masons of other Provinces is cordially invited.

By Order,

W. W. J. SHARPE, P.G.D.,

Provincial Grand Secretary.

(FULL MARK MASONIC CLOTHING).

A **Luncheon** will be held at the **Red Lion Hotel, Truro**, at **1.30 p.m.** at which the Rt. Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master will preside and the Rt. Worshipful Installing Master and other Officers of Grand Lodge will be present.

Tickets 3/6 each can be procured from W. Bro. R. Rowe, 10, Station Road, Truro, up to April 16th, and only those having Tickets will be provided for.

The **Rt. W. Provincial Grand Master**, assisted by other **Officers of Grand Lodge** will subsequently consecrate the **Tregenna Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 787**, in the same Hall at 3 p.m. All Mark Masons are invited to attend. After the ceremony, the W.M. and Brethren of Fortitude Lodge, No. 78, will entertain the Brethren to tea.

It has been an ambition of the Province to have a newsletter for some time, with the Corona-virus forcing us all to stay in doors, now seemed the perfect time to launch our newsletter to enable us to update you and keep you informed on what is happening in the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees in the Province and around the country.

In future editions of Marking Well, we will, we hope be presenting a "Spotlight on" feature, in which we hope to highlight a Lodge or perhaps a member.

So we are looking for your help to fill this space, I will be contacting Lodge secretaries asking them to supply a short piece on their Lodge. We would be delighted to hear from any of our members who have a particular interest, hobby or an unusual current or past career to share with us.

Crossword

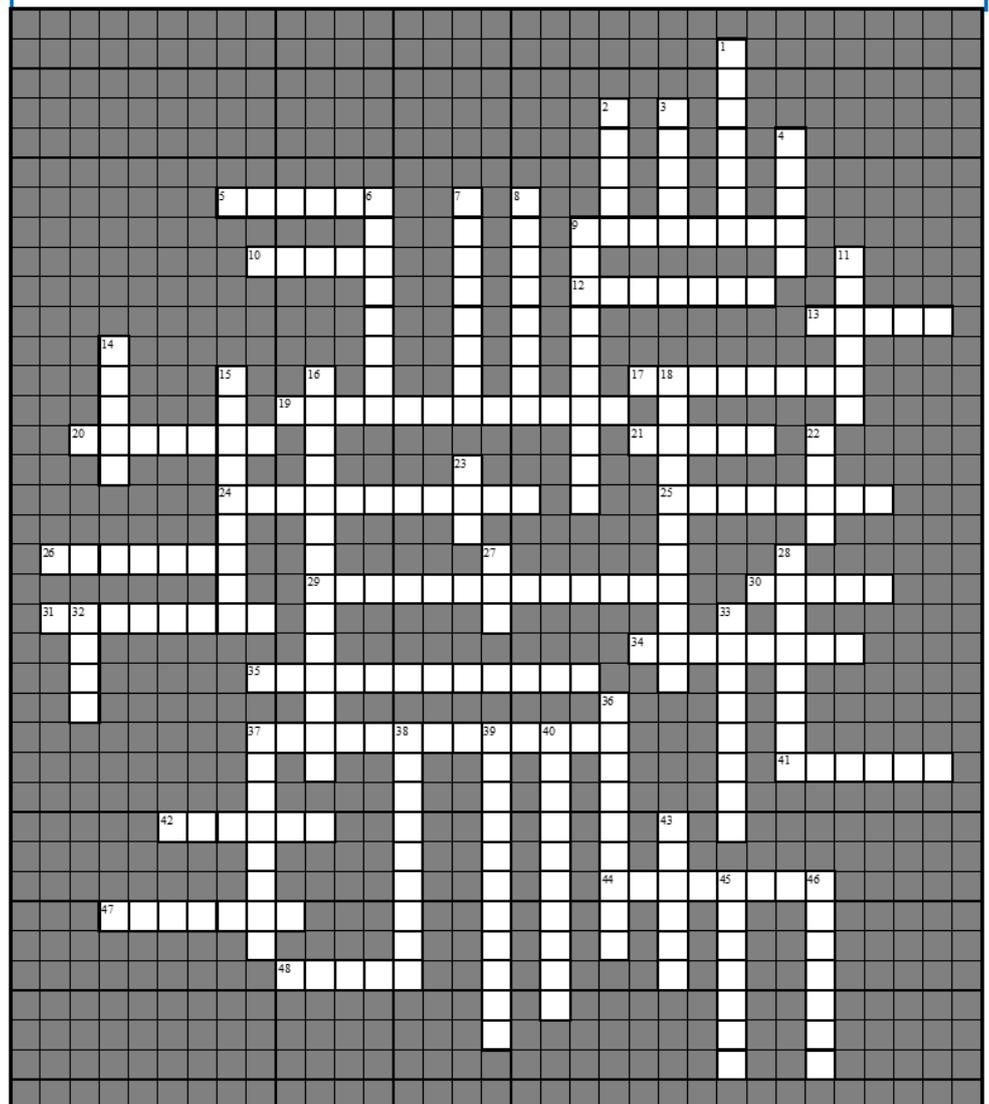
Across

- 5 SD does this with his wand. 6
- 9 Chosen Mark lines are. 8
- 10 IG announces this before a degree. 5
- 12 Workman from the quarries are this. 7
- 13 Collected by the SD. 5
- 17 Important item in the Mark degree. 3,5
- 19 Name of third sign. 12
- 20 Can be given on the Tracing Board. 7
- 21 Brothers Mark is chosen this way. 5
- 24 Signed before admitting. 11
- 25 WM declares lodge open in this name. 8
- 26 Open for candidate to see. 7
- 29 Such ingenuity deserves this. 13
- 30 The King of Tyre. 5
- 31 Mark the sun at. 8
- 34 Chaplain reads this. 4,4
- 35 SD and Candidate do this around lodge. 12
- 37 Used during the Advancement. 8,5
- 41 Number of the Heave-Over sign. 6
- 42 Usually found in red. 6
- 44 Candidate accused of this. 8
- 47 There are two of in the Advancement. 7
- 48 Part of sign given before discharging. 5

Down

- 1 Type of apron worn by Deacons and Candidate. 7
- 2 Apron worn by Candidate. 5
- 3 Password of the passgrip. 5
- 4 Time of the hour and day in the degree. 5
- 6 Portions of the ritual are. 8
- 7 Approved work was passed to these. 8
- 8 Working Plan is placed on each one. 8
- 9 Work is reported to be at this status. 10
- 11 Used to tap the stones. 6
- 14 SW sees them distributed. 5
- 15 Stationed on the plains of. 9
- 16 Prize for he who succeeds in finding it. 6,8
- 18 MO demands this of the JO and SO. 11
- 22 Candidate chooses this. 4
- 23 Number of Principal Officers in the lodge. 3
- 27 The father of the daughters. 3
- 28 Candidate worked in this as an EA. 8
- 32 Gate of the MO. 4
- 33 Hebrew characters are this. 8
- 36 SD and Candidate move this way. 9
- 37 Ancient word. 8
- 38 SW says ancient punishment must be this. 9
- 39 JW discharges this. 7,4
- 40 Taken on kneeling stool. 10
- 43 Start of degree. 6
- 45 Type of Craftsmen who prepared it. 7
- 46 Stone was disposed of amongst this. 7

Answers will be in edition No2



Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Province of Cornwall.

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