

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND REGISTRARS REPORT ON THE ROYAL ARK MARINER DEGREE IN SOMERSET.

RW Provincial Grand Master, it is with pleasure that I present my report for the year 2010.

I can confirm another successful year with respect to the Royal Ark Mariner Degree, maybe not in attracting large numbers to the Degree, but undoubtedly maintaining the ties, comradery and atmosphere, which exists within it.

The annual returns submitted by Lodge Scribes indicate that all your Royal Ark Mariner Lodges held elevation ceremonies, 23 in all in addition there were 6 joining members, 1 of which was into the Installed Commanders Lodge. Taking into account the sad fact that we have lost members to the Grand Lodge above, resignations and 2 cessations, membership subjected to Grand Lodge Dues remained the same. However, honorary membership conferred on 3 Brethren for outstanding service meant an overall net gain by the same, in all, Approximately 37% of the Mark Degree membership, the pool of potential members.

The Travelling Ark continued to circumnavigate the Province to further strengthen ties between Lodges, renew acquaintances and encourage members to visit more widely, (to great effect I may add), as visitors to the very informative Provincial web site www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk may also witness. The Ark is currently moored at Thackeray Lodge Clevedon and is due to arrive at Portal Lodge Frome on Wednesday, where I know it and the accompanying Brethren will receive a very warm Masonic welcome.

The Provincial Team has made several Lodge visits during the year and The Provincial Lodge of Improvement under the direction of W.Bro Derek Wilton has also been in action delivering the Lecture on the Royal Ark Mariner Tracing Board.

RW Provincial Grand Master, I am pleased to report that all the Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in our Province continue to flourish and are in very good heart, due in no small measure to your enthusiasm, direction and leadership and also that of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Raymond Guthrie, who, as we all appreciate, worked tirelessly to maintain **our** course during your temporary absence and who, we all of course, congratulate on his forthcoming appointment as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in The Craft.

In conclusion, I thank the Provincial Grand Scribe W.Bro. John Morgan for his support and information and, on his, yours and my own behalf I thank all Lodge Scribes for their support and continued commitment to office.

W.Bro. S.John Smith,
Provincial Grand Registrar.
12th February 2011.