

The Official Magazine for Freemasons in the Province of Somerset

Compass

Somerset Masonic Review

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Issue 2 June 2020

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

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Introduction



Welcome to the 2020 edition of *Compass*. This masonic year has ended in a most peculiar fashion and is a source of huge concern for all of us.

However, Freemasonry has survived for three hundred years and we must concentrate on the positives that will help us survive through this crisis, hopefully stronger than we entered into it. Our community, supporting each other, caring for each other and looking out for each other should be the rule not the exception. It is not the quality of the ritual that counts - it's the care and companionship.

It is the end of my first year as your Provincial Grand Master. It has been a steep learning curve and I would like to thank so many of you who have helped me along. The Province is not unlike a Roman Galley, *everybody* can row but it works best if it's in time and in the same direction! However, unlike the Romans, my Galley is manned by free-men and everyone on board is an essential part of the whole, from the water boy

keeping everyone hydrated, to the man beating out the rhythm. The PGM is the one gazing out over the horizon saying left a bit, right a bit and keeping the ship on course.

Inclusion, this is my mantra and I shall continue to work to involve young and old to that end. The 70 year veteran is as essential as the newly made Brother. We are all aboard the "Galley" - even those who cannot attend as often as they would like.

Modern Freemasonry has grown over the last two decades and along the way introduced a number of initiatives. It may have been a challenge for some of you to appreciate the reasoning behind them. Brethren, there is always a reason, and I have no doubt you will be aware of those that have succeeded.

One of the abiding memories of my inaugural year is attending a Lodge where the Master and his two Wardens had an average age of 80 years - and they were enjoying every minute of it! In Masonry, age should not be a barrier to our enjoyment, in fact it is an advantage. The young and the old working together with a common aim of enjoying themselves while helping others.

We work hard to welcome new members, befriend them, encourage them and nurture them but we must remember that some of us are less mobile, on fixed incomes and dare I say 'getting a little set in our ways'!

I would like to thank all of you who have worked so hard to make the 2020 Festival a success. It is the culmination of eight years of unstinting and often unappreciated work by hundreds of our members, and will be appreciated for years to come by those who have reason to call on the Masonic Charities for assistance. I wish you all good health and a wonderful new decade.

Happily may we meet, happily may we part and happily meet again.

David Medlock
PGM Somerset

Care, Charity, Communication & Community

Ben Batley DepPGM



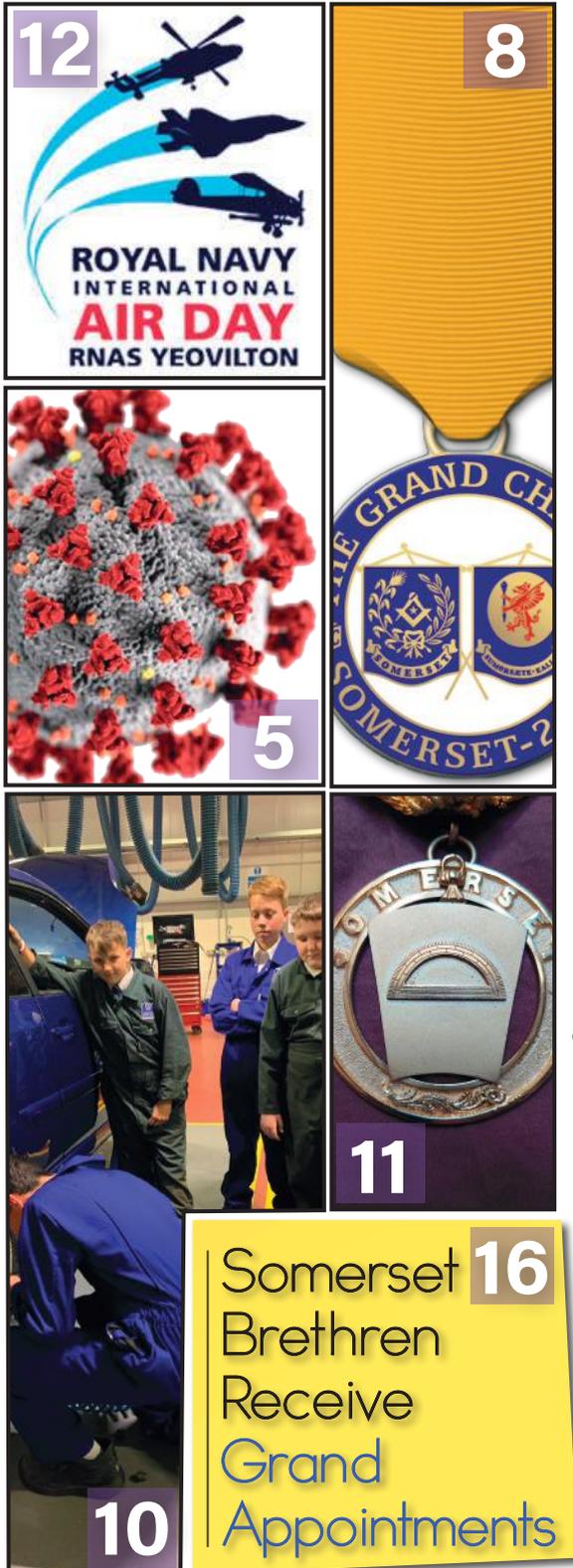
When you are part of an organisation that was founded over 300 years ago, in the Province of Somerset's case over 250 years ago, you are surrounded by history, by memorable events and memorable people. The best memories engage us, enrich us, and enable us. The best memories shape our current actions and our future dreams.

These past twelve months have left me with a number of best memories, which I hope you share. The new *Provincial Website* has been launched providing first class communication with our members and the community. We have seen record levels of charitable support delivered to our members through caring initiatives, and by our members to local communities increasing public awareness and understanding of the positive nature of Freemasonry.

We have seen the Provincial Team deliver support to Lodges in many ways, and I thank everyone who has contributed to making those twelve months such a memorable and positive legacy.

The next twelve months will see the Province celebrate the culmination of nine years planning and preparation for the 2020 Charity Festival recognising the Grand Charity, now part of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

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Editor - Barry Davies PAGStB
(British Society of Magazine Editors)

Graphics & Design - © Clive Davies

Assistant Editors:
Scott Gibbons
Andy Baird

compass@somersetfreemasons.org
Compass: 4, Slades Orchard, Horton,
Somerset TA19 9SQ.

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Care, Charity, Communication & Community

Ctd from Page 2

An achievement to be proud of. Something that has involved so many of our members in so many ways and warrants a huge thank you to each and every one of you.

In Ceremonial terms the next twelve months will see a change to our *Travelling Trowel* initiative with Lodges now grouped into five areas. Your Lodge will visit another Masonic Centre but travelling distance will be shorter. The Provincial Team will, amongst its other far ranging activities continue to support Lodges, celebrate their Centenaries and take part in their Ceremonies. I hope to see a steady increase in 'Solomon Nuggets' on your meeting agenda to enhance our education as I visit during the year, in addition to membership focus that continues to increase and retain numbers mindful of our 'Masonic Pathway' and 'Future of My Lodge' initiatives.

The introduction of our 'Freemasons Footprint', which provides specially designed *Wall Plaques* and *Window Stickers* to identify to the public locations or vehicles that they have been 'Supported by Somerset Freemasons' has been well received here in the Province and recognised across the country. Please consider using these when you are engaging with your local community as I believe it will increase community engagement.

As we move forward over the next twelve months we need not only to remember our past successes but also reflect on the negative impact of the memory of our shortcomings and failures. Through continued focus on 'Care, Charity, Communication and Community' initiatives I believe we will shape the creation of positive memories that will be celebrated upon our next anniversary!

*Ben Batley
Deputy Provincial Grand Master*

Richard Winter appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master



Richard Winter APGM

Richard Winter of Admiral Blake 4692 has been appointed APGM. He was initiated into Admiral Blake in 2004 and became its Master in 2013. He is a Past Master of Lodge of Perpetual Friendship 135, Somerset Farmers 9180, and a member of Somerset Masters 3746. He is Master of Sylvanus 9741 until September this year. and is Joshua in Devon & Somerset Farmers Chapter C9180. He holds the Provincial rank of PPrSGD which he was awarded in 2018.

Barry Davies – Compass Editor finds out a little more about him.

“Congratulations Richard on your appointment as Assistant PGM. I wonder if you would mind telling us a little about yourself and how it all came about. What was your reaction when the PGM offered you the post?”

“Surprise! I had been informed by APGM Martin Slocombe that the PGM wished to speak to me but no more information was forthcoming. It was completely unexpected and I am

deeply honoured. I will endeavour to do my very best to support and promote Freemasonry in Somerset.”

“Can you tell us a little of your Masonic history?”

“I was initiated 16 years ago into Admiral Blake 4692 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members for the support they have given me since I joined. The experience gained in my Mother Lodge coupled with the opportunity to visit other Lodges has given me the confidence to extend my Masonry into several other Craft Lodges in Somerset”.

“How do you see your new role?”

“I love visiting Lodges and meeting people. As APGM I will have the perfect opportunity to build on this and develop new friendships both inside and outside the Province. I hope the enjoyment that I get from my Masonry will rub off on others. The more we put into our Freemasonry the more we get out of it, both as individuals and collectively.”

“What about the ritual side?”

“I am looking forward to working with the Provincial team on fraternal and team visits as well as in my own right. I enjoy our ritual, both delivering it and watching others grow in confidence as they deliver theirs. Support and encouragement is my goal, promoted in an enjoyable environment - our Lodges.”

“How do you see Freemasonry progressing over the next 5 years?”

“All things have to move with the times and Freemasonry is no different. The Province of Somerset has been at the forefront of embracing change and looking to the future. One thing is for

sure, as Masons we need to continue supporting our Initiates and making them feel valued. They are our future. If they make friends in their mother Lodge they are more likely to extend their Masonry by visiting other Lodges and making more friends. Every Mason must make an effort to offer support and friendship at every level. These attributes will help to make our Lodges stronger happier places to be”.

“What is your professional background?”

“Horticulture is my game. Many of our members know me as the ‘Strawberry Man’ because my Company produces 450 tons of strawberries every year. I have lived and worked at Bower Farm, which is on the outskirts of Bridgwater, all my life. The farm has 4 acres of glass-houses and 11 acres of poly-tunnels covering 500,000 strawberry plants all grown on a table top system. The farm has always been a horticultural site but we started specialising in strawberry production in 1998. By 2002 the whole Bower Farm site was growing strawberries supplying M&S, Sainsbury’s and Somerfield.”

“What are your hobbies and interests?”

“I am a season ticket holder at Exeter Rugby Football Club and attend regularly with my family and friends. I am keen on country sports, especially game shooting which started when I was very young. My father encouraged me to keep the pigeons off the cabbages, sprouts and cauliflowers which he grew on the farm! This was good fun until the weather changed and became wet and cold, then commitment and dedication came to the fore. I also like to keep fit through hill walking, cycling and going to the gym.”

“Can you tell us a little about your family?”

“I am married to Paula who is a senior nurse and works for the Nuffield Health Group of hospitals and we have two

daughters. Paula sings in a Ladies Acapella Chorus and this takes her out of the house several times a week which works well with my Masonic activities! She is very supportive as regards my Masonry and enjoys attending our social events, even singing at some of them to raise money for our charities.”

“Do you have a message that you would like to pass on to the Brethren?”

“Freemasonry is changing as it progresses. Whether we are a Private, Provincial or Grand Lodge - *United We Stand but Divided We Fall*. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are as important now as they ever were and will continue to be so.”

“Support and encouragement is my goal” - Richard Winter APGM

Covid-19 update from Ian Walker – ProvGAlm

In view of the Covid-19 crisis, the MCF have taken the decision to suspend all home visits by the *Visiting Volunteers* to complete applications for MCF assistance until further notice.

If you, or a dependant require assistance from the MCF you should contact them directly on:

0800 035 6090 or help@mcf.org.uk

A full statement from the MCF is available to read at: <https://mcf.org.uk>

Additional information is available at: <https://www.ugle.org.uk/coronavirus-member-update>

The very latest Government information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

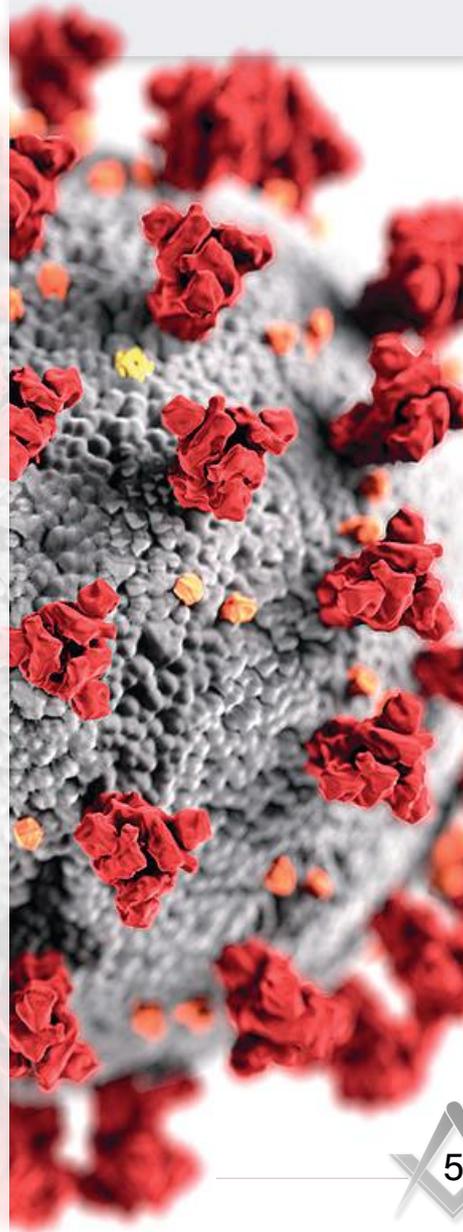
You can also speak with your Lodge Almoner who may be able to assist you over the telephone or via e-mail.

Loneliness for some is going to be a major problem over the coming weeks and your Lodge Almoner is again your point of contact. He will be pleased to have a chat with you and put you in touch with others – just pick up the telephone! His contact details are in the Somerset Masonic year book.

There is a loneliness fact sheet on the MCF website at: <https://mcf.org.uk/>

I urge everyone to take great care to avoid contracting or transmitting this appalling virus.

Ian Walker



Barry McCormack resumes his role as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies



Barry Davies

be changes but they will be gradual and organic. Our Brethren are already good at what they do and my aim is to help them be better.”

“You held the Office of Provincial DC for three years between 2014 and 2017 and were a deputy DC for two years before that. You clearly love the role, although some Brethren may think it strange that you should take such an unusual step?”

The Office of ProvGDC is more than just a title.

It requires meticulous planning, organisation and communication skills as well as an encyclopaedic knowledge of the ritual.

The ProvGDC has two deputy DC's and four assistants in his team, all of which have to be trained to a high standard.

Barry McCormack has been our Assistant PGM for the past three years and is now returning to his previous role of Director of Ceremonies. *Compass* asked him how he would approach his new appointment armed with the experience gained as APGM

“There were a number of reasons for my decision to re-engage with the role of ProvGDC. As you stated earlier, I really enjoy the office and I also recognised the need to re-establish the organisational link between the ProvGDC and ProvGSec. The appointment of our new PGM gave me that opportunity.”

“Succession to the higher offices in Freemasonry is essential if we as an organisation are to prosper. What are the qualities you will be looking for in your eventual successor?”

“It is my intention to review the route to the role of ProvGDC, starting with the newly appointed Provincial Grand Stewards. As demonstrated in recent years, good Provincial Stewards have the potential to be promoted to ProvADC the following year.”

“I am sure you will agree that the office of Lodge DC is a critical one. A good DC, in control of his ...

... Lodge Ceremonial (including the Festive Board) is essential in ensuring candidates and members enjoy their masonry and that the Lodge has many visitors. Will you be introducing any formal training for Lodge DC's?”

“I could not agree more. A good DC is one that is in control of both the Ceremony and Festive Board ensuring that they maintain momentum and do not get stalled. A Ceremony that flows maintains the member's interest. The Festive Board can finish as early as you like. If members want to remain or leave, that is their choice. A good DC knows what works in his Lodge and plays to its strengths whilst trying to eliminate the weaknesses. Regarding formal training for Lodge DC's, there are no plans for formal training at present, however if the demand is there then I will gladly organise it.”

“Do you have a message for all the DC's across the Province?”

“I have so many messages for them that they have been committed to print in the form of the *Lodge DC's Handbook* which can be found under the resources tab on the Provincial Website www.pglsom.org Additionally, if they have questions that they cannot find answers to they know how to reach me.”

“Barry, we all thank you for the great work that you have done as our AsstPGM over the past three years and we look forward to seeing you resume your role as our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.”

“Barry, congratulations on your appointment as ProvGDC. Will you be making any changes in the light of your experience as APGM?”

“Holding the office of APGM has reinforced my ideas of good practice and the standards required in our rituals and Ceremonials. There will

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Masonic Charities

2020 Festival - *Compass* asks David Maddern for an official update!

With the 2020 Festival fast approaching *Compass* editor Barry Davies caught up with Provincial Charity Steward David Maddern to find out how we are getting on.

“David, you have been at the forefront of Somerset Festival Appeal for the Grand Charity and I know it has been a demanding job. There has been tremendous support from all around the Province. What are some of the things you will particularly remember?”

“First, let me say it has been an honour and privilege to have been a part of such a deserving cause. The selfless support and commitment from the Lodges and Brethren of our Province has been heart-warming. We have had some incredible fund raising events such as Aeroplane Wing Walking at 100 feet, Dragon Boat Racing in Bristol docks, to walking barefoot across red hot coals, to name but a few.”

“Has Gift Aid made a big difference?”

“Absolutely. When we started the appeal in 2012 we estimated that some 800 gift aid mandates for donations into individual Lodge Charity Relief Chests were in place, we believe the lasting legacy of the Festival Appeal has seen this number grow to almost 1,800. The Lodges of Somerset will benefit from this legacy as we move forward when the festival finishes later this year.”

“That’s a lot of money to keep track of.”

“We have had the good fortune of being able to keep very accurate and up to date records and analysis of how the festival appeal has been performing. I would like to thank *Wynne Jones* (Rural Philanthropic 291) for his meticulous

bookkeeping and diligence in ensuring the information I had to work with was accurate and correct. Keeping track of over £2M is not an easy task!”

“The Festival Jewel with its distinctive yellow ribbon has been seen all over the Country. How many have been issued?”

“In total 1,600 Jewels: 853 Stewards, 429 Vice Patrons, 237 Patrons and 61 Grand Patrons. They are a permanent Jewel and holders can wear them with pride for as long as they wish.”

“The Ashlar Award scheme has been very popular. How many Lodges have taken it up?”

“In all 385 Ashlars have been presented and I am absolutely delighted to tell you that every Lodge has at least 1 Ashlar with 14 obtaining the Golden Ashlar bringing their total to a fantastic six! Over half the Lodges in Somerset have attained 5 or more Ashlars, a wonderful achievement. I would also like to place on record my thanks for all those who have committed to presenting the Ashlar Awards over the years and special thanks for the Past Festival Chairman David Medlock (now PGM) for his enthusiasm and guidance in keeping the Festival Appeal on track. Above all, I would like to thank all the Lodge Charity Stewards for their assistance and support, we really couldn’t have done this without each and every one of you.”

David Maddern

Festival Fact

If all the 88 qualifying Lodges in the Province achieved 5 Ashlars we would have presented a total of 440 Ashlars. The 384 Ashlars *actually* presented represents an achievement against the 440 of 87%. Breakdown as follows:

0	Ashlars	0	Lodges
1	Ashlar	5	Lodges
2	Ashlars	4	Lodges
3	Ashlars	13	Lodges
4	Ashlars	21	Lodges
5	Ashlars	33	Lodges
6	Ashlars	14	Lodges
The Golden Ashlar			



Somerset 2020

Festival for

The Freemasons' Grand Charity

Dedicated to supporting people in need

PGM remembers 'Those Who Gave Up Their Today For Our Tomorrow'



David & Philippa Maddern with Jackie & David Medlock at the Memorial Gardens in London.

On November 7th last year PGM David Medlock accompanied by his wife Jackie, together with David Maddern ProvGChStwd and his wife Philippa, attended the opening of the Remembrance Gardens at Westminster Abbey. The event was organised by *The Poppy Factory*, a charity that helps ex-Service men and women with mental or physical health challenges find and stay in work. The MCF recently awarded the charity a grant of £120,000 for a project to rehabilitate ex-Service men and women in Somerset and the South West. The attendees were afterwards invited to lunch at the House of Commons by Lord Ian Wigglesworth, which was attended by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. The occasion was a poignant reminder of all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, "Those who gave up their today for our tomorrow*."

If you know of any veterans who might benefit from *The Poppy Factory's* employability service or would like to support in any way, visit: <https://www.poppyfactory.org>

*John Maxwell Edmunds [1875 – 1958] "For your tomorrow we gave up our today".

Newly appointed Director of Charity & Care Revealed *Andy Baird*

David Maddern has been appointed to the newly created post of **Director of Charity and Care (DC&C)**. Assistant *Compass* Editor *Andy Baird* asked him what the position involved.

“David, This is a brand new post, what exactly does it entail?”

“This new post will work within the existing ‘Somerset Masonic Charity’ (SMC). I will be responsible for the Provincial Almoner, Charity Steward, Somerset Masonic Friends Association and support for the Cadogan Court Masonic Care Home”

“How will your new appointment fit in with the existing charitable arrangements within the Province?”

“It will join up all aspects of Charity, Fundraising, Benevolence and Care within the Province, encourage engagement with our communities and to recognise opportunities. We must make the *Somerset Freemasons Footprint* bigger and more extensively distributed through our communities.”

“Sounds like quite a task! What does it mean in practice?”

“We need to ensure our members have the opportunity to safeguard their health and well-being. We are arranging a series of ‘drop in’, clinics for brethren to have tests for PSA (Prostate), Melanoma and Diabetes. We are considering arranging first aid training at each centre in case of emergency. We will be looking to recruit members to sit on a Provincial *Well-Being Committee* and a charitable *Fund Raising Committee* so we can plan events and incentives. **There’s lots to do and some exciting times ahead!**”

DPGM Ben Batley Introduces Somerset's Freemasons Footprint



Somerset's Deputy PGM, Ben Batley, had been looking for something special to leave a ‘Masonic Footprint’ around the Province to mark its charitable giving. Then, on a visit to Freemasons Hall he came up with the answer – a plaque recently unveiled by the Duke of Kent to commemorate the opening of the MCF's refurbished offices, suitably adapted, would be perfect! Following consultation the plaques designers and the MCF, Somerset's new ‘*Freemasons Footprint*’ was created.



Ben Batleys Freemasons Footprint Plaque

Ben told *Compass* “We are delighted with the result. Whenever we make a charitable donation our ‘*Freemasons Footprint*’ will be left with the Charity to encourage engagement with the public about the good works that we do.” The first plaque was installed in Somerset at the headquarters offices of the *Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for the County at Hestercombe House* to mark a donation of £16,500 given over three years as a bursary fund by Somerset Freemasons to enable disadvantaged and vulnerable participants to be included. *The idea has proved so popular that other Provinces are following Somerset's initiative and introducing their own plaques – another first for Somerset! - Ed.*

Masonic Charity

Weston-super-Mare Lodges and PGL Somerset raise £11,500 to Unlock Potential

Barry Davies



(From left to right): Ben Batley (DPGM); Denis Burn (Former High Sheriff of Somerset); David Medlock (PGM); Martin Slocombe (APGM).

Somerset Freemasons have donated £11,500 toward a pilot programme run by the 'Crimebeat Trust' called 'Unlocking Potential'. The programme is designed to assist young people from disadvantaged backgrounds obtain the skills and confidence necessary to be able to attend interviews with prospective employers

The presentation was attended by the PGM, David Medlock accompanied by his wife Jackie along with the Deputy PGM, Ben Batley and his Wife Keris. David said "Throughout the programme, the young people will meet employers and have the chance to speak to them about apprenticeship offers, interviews and work experience. The aim is that these students will meet and develop

with a view to obtaining an apprenticeship. The programme includes training in communication skills such as public speaking, team building, along with the opportunity to meet potential employers and talk with their apprentices.

The former High Sheriff of Somerset, Denis Burn who supports the Charity, was presented with the award by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Martin Slocombe at the annual Christmas Carol Service held at 'All Saints' Church, Weston-s-Mare. Martin told *Compass*, "The participating Schools are *Hans Price* and *Broad Oak*, with the active support of Yeovil College. We are particularly keen to encourage the involvement of parents and carers so that they can support their child and build on the information and learning of the programme.

new contacts through the programme who may later be able to assist as they start to think about applying for an apprenticeship."

Ben Batley presented Denis with a plaque. He said "We are delighted to leave our '*Freemasons Footprint*' in the form of this plaque engraved with the words 'Supported by Somerset Freemasons' to encourage engagement with the public about the good works that we do." (See page 9)

Denis thanked the PGM saying "I really appreciated the work that Freemasons do on behalf of others, which often goes unnoticed."

The money was raised by the Weston-s-Mare Craft Lodges (£2,500), PGL Somerset (£2,500), MCF (£5,000) and made up to £11,500 by offertory collections from All Saints Church.

Somerset Mark Masons donate £11,500 to local foodbanks

The Somerset Mark Province in association with the Grand Lodge Mark Benevolent Fund have made a donation of £11,500 to seven local foodbanks across the Province: Clevedon; Weston-s-Mare; Somer Valley; Bridgwater & Cheddar to provide assistance to those whose lives have been turned upside down by the COVID-19 lockdown. *Philip Voisey Mark PGM thanks you all!*

Somerset Mark Masons launch 'Keeping In Touch' initiative



Mark PGM Philip Voisey with DPGM Anthony (Tony) Guthrie.

Phillip Voisey, PGM of the Mark Degree in the Province of Somerset has given members the opportunity to stay in touch during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Together with the DPGM Tony Guthrie they have personally contacted each Mark Lodge and asked for the Secretary, DC, Treasurer, Almoner and Charity Steward to be responsible for keeping in touch with one fifth of its members. Phillip told *Compass* "This will enable anyone with worries or concerns to discuss them with another brother who may be able to offer assistance or guidance. As a fraternity we are ideally placed to help each other during times of stress – it just needs a contact point to get things

rolling. By dividing the membership between five officers it reduces the strain on the Almoner and increases the opportunity for Brethren to keep in touch, especially those who may be self-isolating."

What is The Mark Degree?

The Mark degree tells the story of the building of King Solomon's Temple and guides the Candidate along a journey which teaches him to contemplate and appreciate his own strengths and weaknesses. It is a very practical degree where the candidate is 'Advanced' to the degree of a Mark Master Mason by acting

out his part in the building of the temple. The Grand Master is Prince Michael of Kent and the Grand Lodge is situated at Mark Masons' Hall, Saint James, London. Many Craft Lodges also meet there.

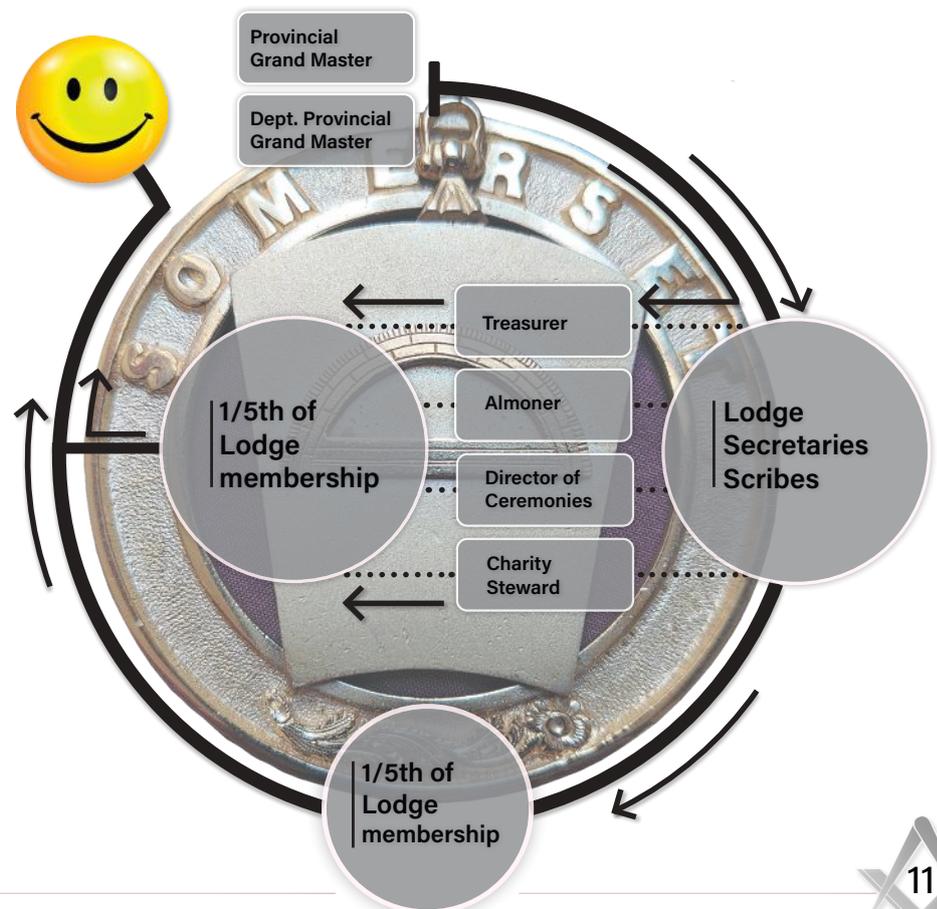
To find out more about Somerset Mark Masons visit www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk or ask your LCO or mentor to let you know who in your Lodge is a member. To find out more about Somerset Mark Masons visit: www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk

or ask your LCO or mentor to let you know who in your Lodge is a member.

*Barry Davies
Editor*

Somerset Mark Masons Keeping In Touch

THE DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATES HOW THE KEEPING IN TOUCH INIATIVE WORKS



Royal Navy International Air Day Yeovilton



The Royal Navy International Air Day held at RNAS Yeovilton is currently the only air show based at a Royal Navy Air Station in the UK and the 2019 show attracted an estimated 40,000 visitors. Scott Gibbons, assistant Editor of Compass and members of Royal Naval Lodge 2761 were there!

After months of planning, the day finally arrived: the Yeovilton International Air Day 2019 – but with a twist. The Province of Somerset was going to be represented for the first time. This privilege fell to the members of the Royal Naval Lodge based in Yeovil.

The Province supplied a marquee, flags and promotional material (you would be surprised to learn what materials the Province has to support this type of event - contact your Lodge Communication Officer to find out more). We needed to decide what are we going to wear, and what are we going to say to people?

Regarding the question of what to wear? Fortunately the weather forecast was for sun, so shorts and Masonic polo shirts were the order of the day. The question was asked - do we have a provincial one? – The answer being no for the present, but watch this space!

As to what to say, this was always going to be tricky and was hotly debated. We felt we needed a guiding hand, but in these days of information overload and questions concerning the



(From L - R): The 2761 team: Frankie Barrie; John Rawlins Jr - Chaplin; Russ Woodland - WM; Scott Gibbons - Secretary at Yeovil Air Day.

reliability of the information, where should we look? Fortunately, we now have a one-stop shop, thanks to Solomon.

Fully prepared we arrived at 06:00, cleared security and were set up by 09:00. Like all good Masons, we had already rehearsed the set-up, and this went well, with no 'helpful' suggestions from the side-lines.

Finally the gates were opened and 40,000 spectators hurried through, with a clear surge towards the 'flight line' for the best positions. We were well situated between the Commando and the Supercar displays.

We had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day, all keen to find out what we were about and why we were there. Our visitors ranged from fellow Masons from all over the world, children asking about the teddy (for loving care), sailors asking us about some of the nautical items, and some wanting to find out about Masonry.

The feedback we had was that we were well received by the public, fellow stallholders and the many Masons who came to our stand.

It was an exciting day for us all and one that we all agreed was very worthwhile for the Province and for Masonry in general.

Scott Gibbons RN 2761
Assistant Editor
ACO South East



Crowds at the Show

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY to Andy Anderson of Prudence and Industry



Happy 100th Birthday - Andy with his specially engraved Gavel.

The Lodge of Prudence and Industry 1953, Chard was definitely the place to be on Wednesday 26th February 2020. Brethren came from across the South of England to celebrate the 100th birthday of W.Bro. Albert 'Andy' Anderson PSGD which had occurred on the 13th February.

The PGM David Medlock was in attendance accompanied by Graham Glazier PGM of the Province of Dorset, (a personal friend of Andy), Past PGM Stanley Hopkins, Grand Officer Roger Jago and Barry McCormack APMG, who headed the official fraternal visit from the Province. To add to the occasion a coach full of Brethren from Andy's Mother Lodge, Landport 1776 (Hampshire and Isle of Wight) led by

their WM, Roger Littlemore, also came along bringing the total to 103. The meeting was a 'Passing' and Bro John Stuart was ably passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft by the WM, John Nichols and his team. Stanley Hopkins then treated the Brethren to an outline of Andy's long life and masonic career emphasising what an incredible 100 years it has been

The *Travelling Trowel* was then presented to the Lodge by David Probert, Master of Wellington School 7230, accompanied by several of his Brethren. The Festive Board was as you would expect when such a number of Mason's gather in celebratory mood. The atmosphere was buzzing. The food was lovely and bonhomie reigned. Stanley presented Andy with a Ceremonial Gavel which had been specially engraved as a present from the Lodge. He told him "We all wish you and your family well, good health and good fortune and we hope to see you in this Lodge for many years to come."

This was followed by a roof-raising rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. Stanley remained on his feet and gave the toast to the visitors. The response came from Roger Jago and the anecdotes were fascinating, reinforcing the regard with which Andy is held. Roger defined Andy as a 'Colossus' of Masonry, a very fitting tribute.

The PGM, David Medlock congratulated all concerned and said how proud he was that Somerset and neighbouring Provinces could coalesce on such an occasion. *A truly remarkable meeting to honour a truly remarkable man.*

Thanks to: Alan Gitsham (LCO) & Paul Brice-Bullows (Sec) 1953



(From L - R): Graham Glazier (PGM Dorset); Stanley Hopkins (PPGM Somerset); Andy Anderson (Birthday Boy); David Medlock (PGM) & Barry McCormack (APGM)

Masonically, Andy has had a most illustrious career, particularly in the Holy Royal Arch. He was Initiated in 1952 by his step-father Percy Wilson Fourmier into Landport Lodge 1776 at Portsmouth (Hampshire & Isle of Wight) and became its Master nine years later in 1961. His first Provincial Honour was that of active ProvSGD and from there he was invested with Grand Rank as PGStB and subsequently promoted to PSGD a rank he still holds today.

In the Holy Royal Arch, he was Exalted into Neptune Chapter 5150 also at Portsmouth where he eventually reached the Chair as First Principal. He became a Founder of the Chapter of Rectitude 335 (Wiltshire) where he remains a member today. The Chapter was established for the benefit and support of senior Royal Arch Masons of the Southern and Western Royal Arch Provinces of England and Wales.

He was appointed ProvGDC in the Royal Arch Hampshire & Isle of Wight, an office he held for some seventeen years, before he was promoted to Deputy Grand Superintendent, where he served for a further fourteen years. Andy also joined the Rose Croix and the Royal Order of Scotland.

In 2018, Andy and Kathleen moved to Chard, where he joined the Lodge of Prudence and Industry 1953 where he has made many new friends in a short space of time.

A total of sixty eight year's service - quite an achievement!

*Stanley Hopkins
PPGM Somerset*

Brethren In Focus

Neil Hurcum appointed Provincial Junior Grand Warden

Assistant Compass Editor Scott Gibbons



Neil Hurcum of Southey 6650 has been appointed ProvJGW.

He was initiated into Southey in 1995 and became Master in 2003. He is a member of Somerset Masters 3746 and was Exalted into Wrington Vale Chapter C1199 in 1997. He served as Third Provincial Grand Principal in the Holy **Royal Arch** between 2018 and 2019. Assistant Compass Editor Scott Gibbons met with him to find out more.

Antient Freemasonry. The teachings of the Craft and the Royal Arch sets every Mason on the right path with the right tools to explore the other orders such as Mark, Rose Croix, Knights Templar and so on,”

important work done by HRA Reps in their Lodges is a valuable, but under-used asset that I shall be working with in the future.”

“How much impact do you think Solomon has on HRA membership through access, nuggets & education?”

“Have you any thoughts that you would like to pass on to the Brethren?”

“Solomon has had a positive impact on both Craft and Royal Arch Masonry; its dual role will give individuals, particularly the younger members their chance to investigate and educate themselves on many aspects of Freemasonry.”

“Enjoy yourself and Smile! We all know the work we put in to our Ritual and the Meetings so let’s enjoy it when we do it! Talk to people, we are all Brothers so don’t be shy. Give yourself time to learn your ritual – and don’t doubt yourself; yes– you DO know it!”

“How would you strengthen the link between the Craft and HRA?”

“Tell me about your promotion to ProvJGW and will you use this to promote the Holy Royal Arch?”

“I’d like to see the indissoluble link made known to incoming candidates as early as the interview stage in Craft. The notion of “The Complete Mason” i.e. one who has completed their journey and joined the HRA should be the norm.”

“It was a shock! I have never expected anything in Freemasonry, but have been so lucky in having had many great roles and been part of many active Provincial Teams. I will most definitely be promoting the HRA; the principle concept is to Engage, Encourage and Enthuse. I am looking forward to working under my third PGM. David Medlock. It’s an honour for me and for my Lodge and I am very much looking forward to visiting parts of the Province I have never been to, making new friends and enjoying my time !”

“You were Third Provincial Grand Principal in the Holy Royal Arch (HRA) in Somerset, what would your advice be to any Mason considering the HRA?”

“What do you think about the Provincial initiative to have HRA members attend Provincial Fraternal Visits?”

“What does masonry mean to you?”

“My advice before joining any Order is to make sure practically you can afford the time. The Order is looking for committed members, not necessarily always to take office, but to regularly attend and support its meetings. Specifically, joining the Royal Arch completes your journey in Pure

“As the HRA co-ordinator with the Craft, I can tell you that we committed to attend 50% of the Provincial Fraternal Visits each quarter. I would like to thank those Lodge Secretaries who have hosted a joint visit and the HRA members for their hospitality. The

“Everything! The great friends, the challenge of ritual, making sure we provide good meetings for our members, the charitable effort and of course the banter!”

Clive Lambert appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden

Assistant Compass Editor Andy Baird



becoming Master there in 2008. I was Exalted into The Holy Royal Arch by Connaught Chapter 3573 at Midsomer Norton in 2003, becoming MEZ in 2011. I have since joined three more Somerset Lodges as well as two in London. I also belong to numerous other Masonic Orders in Somerset.”

“ Sounds like Freemasonry keeps you pretty busy. Dare I ask if you have time for any other pastimes and hobbies? ”

“Yes, I do. I’m a keen follower of all things motorsport. I enjoy clay pigeon shooting and I also have a long-held interest in Horology; the study of watch and clock making and its history. I am also a Liveryman of *The Worshipful Company of Carmen* in the City of London, which is one of the oldest based on transport. Penny and I enjoy attending the Livery Company events together.”

“ What about the Clive Lambert ‘Strongman’ era, unknown to many Brethren? ”

“Yes OK! I previously competed at International level in super-heavyweight powerlifting, bench press, and strongman competitions. Some amazing experiences whilst competing all over the World. I was British Champion 10 times, a British record-holder and a best placing of 5th in the World.”

“ What are your hopes and expectations in this new decade for Freemasonry in general and our Province in particular? ”

“I really hope the emphasis regarding Masonic education continues, building

on the launch of Solomon. There are some great lessons and truths to be learned from our wonderful Ceremonies. Encouragement to look under the surface and ask, ‘Why are we doing and saying this?’ and ‘what does it mean?’ can surely only make us better Masons. I believe there is much pleasure to be gained by increasing our Masonic knowledge and the better we will then be enabled at explaining ourselves to both Brethren and non-Masons alike.”

“ As Dep’ Grand Supt’ in The Holy Royal Arch and also Prov’ Senior Grand Warden in The Craft, how do you personally hope to strengthen the link between the two Orders in Somerset still further? ”

“For me personally, the foundation of Masonry really *is* the Craft completed by the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch. As the Pro Grand Master recently said “I am all for our Craft Brethren joining whatever other legitimate Order that they want, but strongly believe that the Royal Arch should come first”. I hope that I will be able to put my privileged positions in both Craft and Holy Royal Arch to good use this year, thereby playing my part in promoting both the Craft *and* this important message throughout our wonderful Province.”

“ Thanks Clive – I am sure we are all looking forward to seeing you in your new role. ”

Andy Baird

Clive Lambert, Deputy Grand Superintendent in the Holy Royal Arch has been appointed ProvSGW. *Compass’s Andy Baird finds out more!*

“ Greetings Clive, It’s good to catch up with you in order to ask you a few questions upon the announcement of your promotion to ProvSGW. I’ll start by asking you to outline your home and occupation for us. ”

“I have lived in the Oakhill and Shepton Mallet area all my life. Penny is my partner and I work in IT, as I have done since the early 80’s, firstly for St Ivel Ltd, then Somerfield Stores and now Capita.”

“ You are well known to many of the Brethren in Somerset. Where did your Masonic journey start? ”

“I was initiated into Kenneth Kennersley 9128 in 2002 at Midsomer Norton,

Editorial Column



remembering that we are Brothers.

We may not be able to physically meet but we can pick up the telephone and keep in touch with others who perhaps are not so well placed or live alone. If they have a problem, then we can do our best to help. It may be that they would appreciate the opportunity simply to talk with someone or that they need some supplies delivered to their door. Now is the time to remember the Four C's - *Caring, Community, Charity and Communications*.

The Provincial AGM has been provisionally deferred until October 15th and the 2020 Festival celebration due to be held on June 27th is currently under review and updated details of how we will mark this magnificent achievement will be circulated in due course. It seems ironic that we as Somerset Freemasons have been looking forward to 2020, the culmination of 8 years of fundraising for the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) and achieving our goal of raising £2.8 million. Although this first year of this new decade will go down in history for a different reason – we can still be proud, because the money we have raised will be needed even more. We have all done a small part in bringing relief to those who are suffering the most.

“ This is **exactly** the challenge that **Freemasonry** is **designed** to meet. ”

On a brighter note, many of the articles in this magazine reflect on things that happened only a few weeks ago, before the current crisis and I hope you enjoy reading them; however it is important to remember that things WILL return to normal and as Freemasons we will endeavour to do our bit to help make it happen.

Congratulations to our new APGM Richard Winter (see page 4) who takes over from Barry McCormack. Barry is returning to his role as ProvGDC (see page 6) and I know that we would all like to thank him for the work that he has done over the past three years. Thank you also to my Assistant Editors Andy Baird & Scott Gibbons who have helped in bringing you this second edition and also Clive Davies (not yet a Freemason) for putting together the graphics - no mean feat! Finally keep safe and remember to keep up to date at: www.pglsom.org

Barry Davies
Compass Editor

Welcome to the second edition of Compass-SMR. The last few weeks have been dramatic, a challenge for us all.

Our Lodge meetings have ceased due to Covid-19 and Freemasons' Hall is closed. The future is looking uncertain. *However, this is exactly the challenge that Freemasonry is destined, by virtue of its values, to meet.* We will find a way through these difficult times by

Somerset Brethren Receive

Grand Appointments

Appointment to Grand Rank is a great honour and is made by UGLE on the recommendation of the PGM. Compass is delighted to congratulate the following

Somerset Brethren who have this year received their first Grand Rank appointment along with the two brethren who are receiving highly deserved promotions.

First Appointment

Craft

Christopher Anthony Cluff	AGSuptWks
Raymond Johnstone – Smith	PAGDC
Colin Ronald Fredrick Vine	PGStB
Barry Christopher Davies	PAGStB
Samuel Richard Mayer	PAGStB

First Appointment

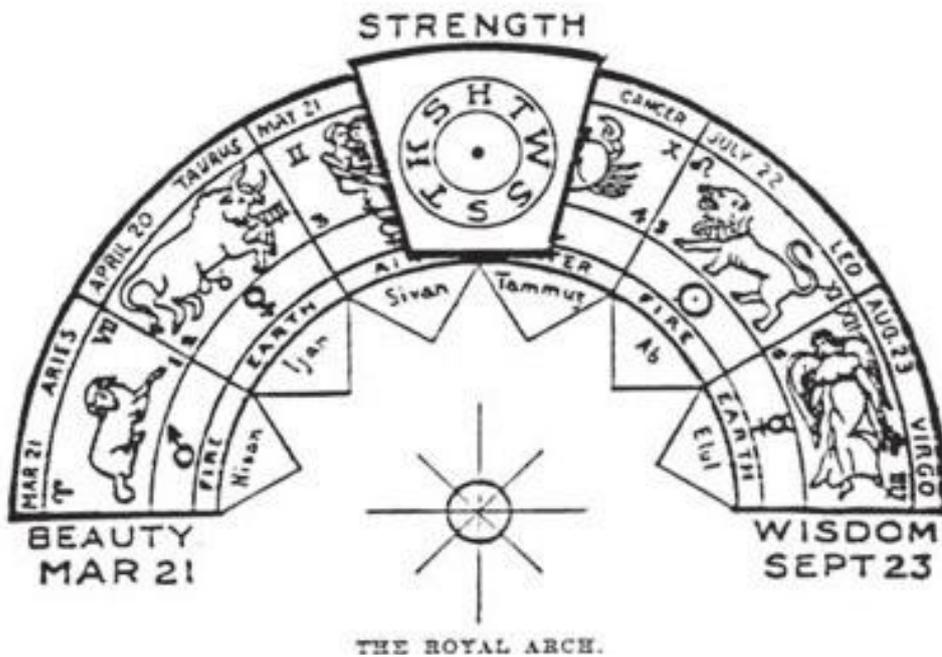
Supreme Grand Chapter

David John Medlock DL	AGSoj
Neil Russell Hurcum	PGStB
David Kenneth Parslow	PGStB

Promotions

Craft

Benjamin George W. Batley	PGSwdB
Martin Charles Slocombe	PSGD



THE ROYAL ARCH.

The late Lt. Cdr. C.R. Manasseh LGR; LGCR wrote a much acclaimed paper entitled 'The Mysticism of the Royal Arch'.

The Grand Superintendent, Barry Woodside has passed a copy to Compass and it makes very interesting reading. We are therefore pleased to bring you an edited version in this edition.

PREFACE

The title of this paper does not imply that mysticism is confined in Masonry to the Royal Arch alone, and that there is none in the Craft degrees. On the contrary, as the First Principle informs the newly Exalted Royal Arch Candidate the degree he has just taken is but a completion of the third degree in Craft Masonry, thus inferring that the Royal Arch is an integral part of Craft Masonry and, therefore the conclusion of the latter's mystical teaching.

Now, as will be seen later, there is, in my opinion a very good reason for separating the three Craft or 'blue degrees' from the Royal Arch Ceremony. The Craft degrees take us through our experiences of life on this earth and the Royal Arch then tries to initiate us into the Grand Mystery of the Life hereafter.

BIRTH

"We begin our mystical instruction in Craft Masonry with the First degree where all the symbolism points out our introduction to the $\mu\omicron\iota\pi\alpha$ * to which the Grand Architect of the Universe has called us. Our state at this moment, one of the two great mystical ones in our life, is clearly engraved in our minds by our preparation before the Ceremony and by the impressive ritual reminder, during the Ceremony, that we enter life on earth 'poor and penniless, and in a state of helpless indigence'."

LABOUR

"The Second degree symbolically refers to the life of toil and sweat which lies before us at birth and behind us at death. It also points out the line of progress we must follow during this phase of our existence. Hence the importance we attach to Science,

which is the highest measure of man's labour on the material plane. Even the Almighty is referred to in this degree as the *Grand Geometrician* of the Universe."

DEATH

"And when by means of that contemplation she has conducted you through the intricate windings of this mortal life, she finally instructs you how to die.' I wonder how many realise how closely the ritual of the Third degree symbolises the *xaipoc*, or "moment" of death? As many of those who have been at death's door and then brought back to life, have experienced their whole life pass before them, so does the ritual recapitulate the whole of our Masonic teaching before taking us through the 'gates of Hades'."

"Then we are raised, but left in a state of wondering bewilderment. Where do we go from there? From that stage of transition which, according to the Tibetan Book of the Dead, lasts for forty nine days? *We are merely given a tenuous direction, and it is not until the exaltation in the Royal Arch that the final revelation completes our resurrection.*

**The universal law of $\mu\omicron\iota\pi\alpha$ is that everyone has his own portion either good or bad. (Source – brill.com)*

From 'The Mysticism of the Royal Arch' by Lt.Cdr. C.R. Manasseh, P.M.



News from around the Province

Provincial 1st Degree at Benevolent Lodge AND £1500 for local Charity

Barry Davies

WM Michael Nicholson and the Brethren of Benevolent 446 meeting at Wells were in for a treat at their October meeting. They were able to sit back and relax while 28 members of the Provincial Team accompanied by not one but TWO Provincial Assistant Grand Masters performed the Ceremony of Initiation for Candidate Sean Sloan. Barry McCormack took the Chair while Martin Slocombe acted as IPM. Prior to the Ceremony the Lodge was called off and Provincial Charity Steward David Maddern joined with Lodge Charity Steward John Law to present Bridget Harvey and Claire Hak from the local Charity *Heads Up* with a cheque for £1500. The Lodge had raised £1000 during IPM Nigel Dovel's Mastership with an additional £500 match funded by the Province.

Heads Up is based at Wells working with individuals across the Mendip area of Somerset who are affected by mental health issues and other difficulties.

During the Tercentenary Celebrations in 2017, for the first time in the history of the Masonic Charities, the general public were asked how they would like the Masonic community to support people in need, and vote on a number of registered charities approved by the Province. *Heads Up* received the highest number of votes in Somerset and were awarded a grant of £25,000. Some of this was used to create a 'Community Shed' - a place where both men and women can feel at home and pursue practical interests at their own pace in a safe, friendly and inclusive venue. John Law told *Compass* "This is a very deserving charity and we as a Lodge are pleased to be able to continue to support them in the excellent work that they do."

Further information can be found at www.headsupsomerset.org

Barry Davies
Compass Editor



The Provincial Team on their visit to Benevolent Lodge at Wells

(Front Row Standing - first light blue collar on L - R): John Law - ChtyStwd; Barry McCormack - APM; Mike Nicholson - WM; Nigel Dovell - IPM; Martin Slocombe - APM; David Maddern ProGChtyStwd (Seated - from Heads Up): Claire Hak - Fundraising Officer; Bridget Harvey - Director

DPGM Ben Batley is No. 2 with Quantock



Ben Batley is No. 2 with Quantock!

Deputy PGM Ben Batley had a surprise on his Fraternal Visit to Quantock 4446. WM Chris Crump presented him with a framed football shirt in the colours of Ben's favourite team – Reading – nicknamed 'The Royals'.

Ben told *Compass* "It was completely unexpected and a wonderful surprise. And the number on the shirt? – Number 2 of course!

New Crescent Chronicle published by Taunton Freemasons

Andy Newland of Emergency Services 9391 is the editor of the new *Crescent Chronicle*, an e-mail newsletter for Taunton Masons of all Masonic Orders that meet at Taunton Masonic Hall.

The idea originated from the Craft Lodges LCO's and the Taunton Lodges Liaison Group (TLLG). The *Chronical* will carry news on Masonic business, charitable endeavours and social opportunities.

Andy told *Compass* "One of the intended outcomes of this new shared communication is to support brethren that may wish to visit other Taunton Lodges to witness a Ceremony without perhaps the responsibility of undertaking work on the floor. Knowing who to contact and having access to information and upcoming events will be very useful." For your copy e-mail Taunton Masons at :

<https://www.facebook.com/TauntonFreeMasons>
Twitter@MasonsTaunton

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few" *

**Quote - Sir Winston Churchill*



King Alfred 3169

Remembered the few with a magnificent Memorial Dinner held at the MH Weston-s-Mare on November 16th. The dining room was draped with flags of the Royal Air Force and the Union Jack (Union Flag).

Between each course the lights were dimmed and guests were transported back in time with short readings entitled: Setting the Scene; The Early Days; Height of the Battle and The Turning Point.

Phillip Lewis (WM) proposed the Loyal Toast which was followed by the National Anthem and an enthusiastic rendition of *Land of Hope & Glory* and *Jerusalem*.

A very emotional toast to the 'memory of the Few' was proposed by Flt. Sgt, Jason Lewis MBE, the son of the WM, via satellite link from Nigeria where he is stationed on active service, The evening raised the magnificent sum of £1,300 to be shared between the 2020 Festival and the Local Air Cadets whose presence on the evening added that extra touch of nostalgia.

*John Cole
LCO 3169*

Weston Lodges celebrate Burns Night and raise £2K for Rosie-May appeal

Members of the WSM Lodges have raised the magnificent sum of £2,068 for the Rosie-May appeal by holding a very successful Burns Night. Rosie-May, aged 5, suffers from Cerebral Palsy and her mother, Josie Edwards is hoping to raise £100,000 to send her daughter to America to undertake 'Selective Dorsal Surgery' which is currently unavailable on the NHS.

Josie accompanied by Rosie-May attended the event and were able to thank everyone personally. The evening commenced with the Haggis being escorted into the room to great fanfare by a Piper dressed in full Scottish regalia. Each guest was offered a tot of whisky or a glass of sherry. Following dinner, the band played highland jigs for the guests and great evening was enjoyed by all.



*Front Row: Liz Kennedy; Rosie-May; Josie Edwards (mum); Rose Barnett
Back Row: Trevor Barnett; Danny Kennedy; Justin Pursey; Jeremy Thomas*

Danny Kennedy, Tivoli Lodge Mentor who organised the event told *Compass* "I would like to thank, Mike Collins for the raffle, my wife Liz, Trevor and Rose Barnett, Jeremy Thomas, Justin Pursey and all of the Craft Lodges in the Weston Masonic Centre for their support and for donating their alms over the Christmas period."

*Danny Kennedy
Mentor 9417*

New Tracing Boards for Weston Masonic Centre – all the way from Scotland!



Brethren from the W-s-M Lodges show off their newly dedicated Tracing Boards

Weston-s-Mare Masonic Centre has a brand new set of Tracing Boards. The boards were hand painted in Scotland by artist Philip Lardner, himself a Freemason. He used watercolours on acid free Fabiano Academia paper and incorporated certain special features which make each board unique.

In Somerset, a new set of Tracing Boards presents an excellent opportunity to call on Province to pay a visit, and the PGM, David Medlock, accompanied by his team, duly arrived on December 6th 2019 to a meeting of Athelstan 9033 to perform the Ceremony of Dedication. The Boards were received on behalf of the Weston Lodges by Simon Shuker (WM Athelstan), Gordon Vinnecombe (WM St Kew 1222) and Mike Williams (WM Birnbeck 7160).

It was also a special day for Ashley Brown who was presented with his Grand Lodge Certificate by the PGM himself! Certainly an evening to remember!

The Boards were generously donated by four Brethren from Lodges that meet at the Centre and are for the use of all the Lodges meeting there.

*Thanks to Brian Ruse
Chaplain 9033*

The Somerset Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge

Amongst any group of Masons dressed in their regalia there is always one that stands out – the maroon coloured apron of a Provincial Grand Steward. Who are they and what do they do?

Membership of the Somerset Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge 9189 is open to those Brethren appointed to the active rank of Provincial Grand Steward in the Craft, Royal Arch or Mark Degrees. Its purpose is to support the PGM and Rulers in both the Ceremonial and Festive requirements of the Province. A ProvGStwd will often act as the *Escorting Officer* when a Ruler visits a Lodge and it is the Provincial Stewards who form the vanguard when the PGM is escorted into the Provincial Grand Lodge. The definition of Steward is 'Someone who protects and is responsible – a keeper or Guardian'. Stewards are often considered for promotion to other offices such as Provincial AGDC. In UGLE the Grand Stewards Lodge is one of the few that does not have a number. There are only 19 Grand Stewards appointed each year to Grand Lodge and an appointment to that Office is a great honour.



(Rear): Peter Greenway; Adrian Ambrosini; James Brown. (Center): Mark Ambrosini; David Alexander. (Front): Rob Young; Michael Mallon. A fine body of men! - Ed

In Somerset we have eight active Stewards. Past Stewards have a gold braid sewn into the fabric of their collar where as an active Steward does not.

Richard Baker of Prudence & Industry Crosses the Atlantic - In a Rowing Boat!



(From L - R) Ian Duncan; Roy Dixon; Ian Davies and Richard Baker celebrate at the end of their 3,500 mile, seven week journey across the Atlantic Ocean in a rowing boat.

Richard Baker of Prudence & Industry 1953 is part of a team of four who have challenged the Atlantic Ocean and travelled 3500 miles – in a rowing boat! Richard, joined Roy Dixon (Guys 395 - PGL Warwickshire), and team mates Ian Davies and Ian Duncan to take part in the *Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge*. Their team *The Atlantic Mavericks* completed their epic voyage in 50 days and 19 minutes.

The *Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge* is known as the world's 'toughest row', starting from La Gomera (Canary Islands) to Antigua, a distance of some 3500 miles. All of the crew have served 20 years or more in the British Army and have been preparing for the event for almost two years including sea-rowing sessions under the guidance of GB Olympic Coastal Rowing Coach, Bob Cottell. They have the endorsement of, and are raising funds for, the Royal British Legion, the cancer charity Myeloma UK and 353 - a military charity set up in the memory of Pvt. Conrad Lewis, the 353RD British soldier killed in Afghanistan.

Richard, known to his friends as 'Tiny' is the 2018 *World Indoor Gig Rowing Champion* (Veterans Class). He is also a keen rugby player. He told *Compass* "We completed the challenge on the 31st

January after 50 days and 19 minutes at sea, a total of just over 3500 miles."

"On occasion we faced waves as high as 30 feet (11.88m) which coupled with the tedium of two hours on – two hours off working the oars made for quite a challenging crossing. However, some days the ocean could be just like a 'mill pond', no wind and no current to assist us which meant it was even harder! We broke our keel board (*retractable stabilising centre board – Ed*) on the first night when we were almost capsized by waves which also caused a problem with our steering which cost us almost a day in race time."

Richard is a member of Prudence and Industry 1953, Cerdic 571 (Mark) and Harry Franklin Rose Croix Chapter 1139. Roy Dixon is PM of Guys 395 and Schola Warwicensis 9321, MEZ in Guys Chapter 395 and DC in Guys Cliffe Rose Croix 877 (all PGL Warwickshire). Unfortunately the two Ians are not Masons – yet! The team have raised around £60,000 for their chosen charities which includes a donation from Guys 395 of £750.

Find out more about Ian's epic voyage at <https://www.atlanticmavericks.com>

What is the London Grand Rank Association?

The **Somerset Group** of the LGRA was established 36 years ago in 1984, only the fifth such group started in the Provinces. There are now a total of ten, the first being the Wessex Group meeting in Bournemouth and the most recent in Herts and Beds meeting in Radlett.

Membership is open to all London Masons who have been awarded either London Grand Rank or London Grand Chapter Rank in all or any of its levels. New Members are always welcome, as are *Bulletin* Subscribers who are entitled to join and attend but are unable to vote on any resolutions.

The Group meets at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster on the first Wednesday in March, May, October and December at 10.30 am for coffee. Meetings start at 11 am and last about an hour and half. There is a short opening followed by a speaker and then lunch. Dress is smart casual the Ladies attend most meetings. To find out more contact the Secretary Roger Earthrowl:

Roger.earthrowl@btinternet.com



Somerset Membership on the Increase

Nick Wright



Nick Wright, Provincial Membership Officer has some good news as we move into the new decade.

Following positive on-going proactive press releases, the recognition we obtain through our charity work and our improved visibility within the Province, interest in joining our Fraternity has continued to grow. As a result, self-referrals over the past three years have seen a 10% increase year on year while the number of resignations has been reducing - long may this continue!

Members of the public who take an interest in Freemasonry via the media need careful and sensitive guidance. This is achieved through the excellent work and dedication of the Area Membership Officers and the Mentoring Team, resulting in a significant increase in the number of self-referrals that go on to become members of the Craft. In 2018 we saw an increase of over twenty percent in the number of self-referrals that went on to join Lodges when compared to that of 2017 and there is a strong indication that this trend will continue.

The Provincial Membership and Mentoring Teams continue to support Lodges in promoting the *Members' Pathway* and the UGLE on-line learning resource *Solomon*. A number of Lodges within the Province who have been suffering declining membership have embraced the *Members' Pathway*

with the result that they now have a waiting list of candidates. Brethren – IT WORKS!

For those who as yet have not enrolled in *Solomon* then both you and your Lodge are really missing an opportunity. It is a vast repository of useful information regarding masonic history and ritual and can provide a great deal of helpful guidance on the successful management of your Lodge. Use of *Solomon* will lead both the Lodge and its members to be able to speak knowledgeably, confidently and freely about Freemasonry to their friends and the community.

If your Lodge program is such that there is no planned Ceremony, then the ProvGMentor & Preceptor Richard Parrish, or myself will be delighted to come along and provide an interactive presentation of '*Solomon*,' which will give guidance on how it can be used. A number of these presentations have already taken place and have been very well received.

Nick Wright:
membership@somersetfreemasons.org

Richard Parrish:
family_parrish@yahoo.co.uk rish@
yahoo.co.uk

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the Area Membership Officers and the Mentoring Team for their dedication and support, without which many of the successes we have seen in recent years would not have been achieved and sustained.

Did you KNOW...

The Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London (MetGL) system of honours differs significantly from that of the Provinces in that there are no past ranks. The London system consists of London Rank (LR), London Grand Rank (LGR), and Senior London Grand Rank (SLGR). LR, LGR & SLGR should not be confused with that of Grand Rank. Grand Rank can only be bestowed by Grand Lodge and the holder becomes an officer of the United Grand Lodge of England – a Grand Officer.

The Adair Club for New and Young Masons

Sam Mayer

As many readers will already be aware, the Adair Club is an established Club for Masons who have yet to reach Provincial Rank, and aims to promote the interests of those new to Freemasonry and enhance their experience of the Craft.

Gaz Bottomley of Royal Naval 2761 has been appointed Chairman of the Adair Club. Gaz was initiated on September 9th 2016, his wife's birthday, (brave man), and was recently appointed Inner Guard. Workwise, having joined the army in 2000 he is currently a Crewman Instructor in the Army Air Corps and has served in several tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. He ended up settling in Queen Camel near Yeovil, where he lives with his wife and two children. Gaz has taken to his role as Chairman with great enthusiasm and we look forward to the Club continuing to grow under his leadership. The Club would very much like to thank our outgoing Chairman *Harry Binston* for his enthusiasm and support over the years. *Craig Harding* of Royal Cumberland 41 takes over from Gaz as Membership Secretary.



The new Adair Club Chairman
Gaz Bottomley - Royal Naval 2761



Club Sec Sam Mayer WM of Royal Sussex with members of Clubs from four Provinces

Club Events

Visit to Royal Sussex Lodge.

2019 ended with a bang when the Club visited Royal Sussex 53, Bath, for their December installation to see Club Secretary Sam Mayer installed in the Chair. The event was an unusual one in that representative from *New and Young Masons Clubs* from four Provinces attended, including Brethren from the *Sarsen Club* of Wiltshire and the *Prorsum Semper Club* of Gloucestershire & Bristol.

Adair watch Six Nations at Bath Brewhouse.

The first social event of the New Year in February was a double whammy with a tour of the Bath Masonic Hall followed by the France v England Six Nations rugby match at the Bath Brewhouse. Fifteen Brethren attended and enjoyed a stimulating game, even if the score was a little disappointing! Further rugby based events will be planned when things return to normal.

Future Events for 2020

We have a comprehensive calendar of events planned for later on in the year when social distancing rules are relaxed. These include: Lodge visits around the Province; Somersetshire Lodge in London; St Vincents in Bristol; Holy Royal Arch Chapter in Bristol; Camping / BBQ / Cider weekend at Radstock (provisionally August); Dragon Boat Race team for the Bristol harbour event in September and an 'Airsoft Tournament' head to head with our neighbours the *Sarsen Club* of Wiltshire in October.

All Masons yet to reach Provincial Rank are eligible to attend and would be most welcome – you can sign up to our regular newsletters via email or subscribe to our *WhatsApp* group for regular updates. To find your local Club representative and loads more info visit Twitter [@The Adair Club](#) or find us on Face Book.

Who is eligible for help from the MCF? We ask Ian Walker Provincial Almoner

Barry Davies Compass Editor



There are 89 Lodges in the Province, each with its own Almoner and they carry a lot of responsibility.

Over the past two years they have been able to call on specialist knowledge from the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) in the form of the Visiting Volunteers Scheme (VVS). *Compass* asked Ian Walker, Provincial Grand Almoner, how the scheme had been developing over the past 12 months.

“Ian, can you remind us please what the Visiting Volunteers Scheme (VVS) is all about?”

“The VVS, which operates in all 48 Provinces, was designed to take the pressure off Lodge Almoners who can now concentrate on their essential pastoral work within their Lodges. The Lodge almoner will be keeping an eye on his members, particularly those who do not attend regularly and when he spots a member in distress he can discuss the problem with the Provincial or Assistant Grand Almoner who can then commission a Visiting Volunteer

(VV) visit to investigate the problem further. Members or their widows are also free to contact the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) direct by telephoning the number at the bottom of this article.”

“Why do we need Visiting Volunteers?”

“The MCF is a charity which was founded to assist needy Freemasons and their eligible dependents. The rules of eligibility are complex as is the state benefit system in this country. The VVs are trained to check that a member or dependent is accessing all state benefits to which they are entitled. He then looks at the applicant’s family income, expenditure and savings and if they come within certain parameters they complete the MCF application form for assistance. This is sent to the MCF where a decision is made and, if appropriate, a daily living expenses grant is awarded. The Visiting Volunteer will then, after twelve months, visit again to review the situation so that the grant can continue to be paid into the future.”

“Who appoints the Visiting Volunteers and how are they trained?”

“Visiting Volunteers are appointed by the MCF which is situated at Freemasons’ Hall in London. Somerset has ten VVs all of which have received two days of intensive training by MCF training officers.”

“Can you give us some examples of how the scheme has helped Somerset Brethren?”

“Redundancy: When a Mason is made redundant it can be very traumatic, savings are rapidly used up paying essential utility bills and items for the children to use at school. We have assisted several Somerset Masons in this situation.

Life Changing Injuries: When parents have received life-changing injuries

in a motor vehicle accident, the MCF has provided daily living expenses grants, vital assistance with specialist electronic furniture and electrically adjustable beds, and ensured that the children have school uniforms, computer equipment, funds for special lessons and school trips etc.

Medical Expenses: Several Masons this year have benefitted from a grant to see a medical consultant. If a doctor recommends a visit to see a consultant and the wait is longer than eight weeks the MCF will pay up to £500 for a private consultation. *This is not means tested and is available to everyone.* We also have access to a professional counselling service which is free and not means tested. The MCF has this year, provided home adaptations for wet rooms, wheelchair ramps, door widenings, etc.”

“How much was granted to Somerset Brethren in 2019?”

“Over the past twelve months we have processed 102 grants and Somerset masons and their dependents have received a total of £260,796. In addition to this, funds have been paid to the Masonic care homes to support Somerset residents who can no longer fund all of their fees.”

“What would you say to Somerset Freemasons who need help? Who do they get in touch with, if say they were not able for personal reasons to talk with their Lodge Almoner?”

“Telephone either myself or the AsstProvGAlm, Steve Defries (details in the Somerset Reference Book) or ring the MCF during normal office hours on their Freephone number.”

0800 035 60 90

Or find us on our website:
<https://www.mcf.org.uk>

A Great Year for the SMFA

Adrian Robson

The **Somerset Masonic Friendship Association (SMFA)** which incorporates the Masonic Widows, Veterans & Friends in Somerset, has been established for over six years. *Compass* spoke with **Adrian Robson, Provincial Co-ordinator** to find out more.

“Adrian – are you pleased with the way the SMFA is evolving?”

“Yes - I'm very pleased to say that the association continues to thrive and grow across the Province with many social events being held within the five areas. Our primary aim is to continue to provide a vitally important link for not only our Masonic Widows but also our more senior brethren who perhaps now struggle to attend evening Lodge meetings but may be able to get along to a coffee morning, lunch or an organised day trip.”

“Is the membership of the association increasing?”

“Definitely. As the association approaches its seventh year, I am delighted to have seen the membership steadily grow and to become for many, a regular and important part of their lives and something which they look forward to. This clearly proves the need for such an association within our Province. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who work extremely hard to achieve its success, the team leaders, area coordinators and many dedicated helpers.”

“Who can join and how do they go about it?”

“You don't have to be a widow or widower to come along to the meetings, just a desire to meet likeminded people

and enjoy yourself. Membership of the Association is free and is open to all Somerset brethren, their wives, partners and friends. The Province has been divided into five areas, each with its own representative. Your Lodge Almoner can put you in touch or you can telephone them directly.”

SMFA AREA REPORTS – Just a sample of the many events organised by the SMFA over the past year.

Central area:
Bridgwater; Burnham; Glastonbury; Shepton Mallet; Wedmore; Wells

The **Central area** held their annual Christmas get together at Bridgwater Masonic Hall. Over 70 guests enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch with members of the St Cecilia Lodge Choir leading the singing of festive carols.

John Hartry - 01458 443726

South East Area:
Bruton; Chard; Crewkerne; Ilminster; Langport; Wincanton; Yeovil

The **SMFA lunch** held last summer was a great success and was a further opportunity for Lodge members to stay in touch with our senior folk. Needless to say, wheelchair transport was provided as necessary, as was transport for a few of our widows to attend the annual 'Masonic Carol Service' held at the Parish Church, Combe St. Nicholas, followed by excellent tea and sandwiches at the village hall.

Mike Waterman - 01935 478067

South West Area :
Minehead; Taunton; Watchet; Wellington; Wiveliscombe

Chairlady Lynn Evans decided to have a 'Plastic Free' day at the Annual Christmas party and made up some 'goodie bags' to replace the traditional crackers. This proved a great success and much fun was had in guessing what was inside! The bags can of course be used again next year.

John Trowbridge - 01823 412044

North East Area:
Bath; Frome; Keynsham; Midsomer Norton

(Dunkerley Club) Members enjoyed a fascinating talk by wine connoisseur David Hayward who has accrued 50 years' experience in the Hotel and catering industry. He spoke of the changes that he has seen during this time and in particular what is happening in the world of wine today. During his talk members were delighted to given the opportunity to partake in a tasting or two! In December at Bath MH, members joined Bath Masonic Widows Association for Christmas lunch during which they enjoyed a most interesting talk by David Hogg on the significance of the pictures adorning the dining room walls.

Val Cooke - 0117 940 5938

North West Area:
Weston-s-Mare; Blagdon; Clevedon; Nailsea; Yatton

Andy Gray - 01275 791290

Patron: John. W. Winston (PDepPGM)
Vice Patron: Raymond Baines (PJGD)

SMFA Raise over £1200 for Macmillan Cancer

The **SMFA** has raised the fantastic sum of £1279 on behalf of *Macmillan Cancer Care* by holding coffee mornings at Bridgwater and Clevedon Masonic Halls. Over the last weekend of September 2019 Adrian Robson and his team raised a healthy £513.91 at Bridgwater, while over at Clevedon, Brian and Carol Clayton, with copious help from Neil Hercum and Zena, raised another £766! Brian told *Compass* “Over 100 people attended and we were overwhelmed by the support we received for this most deserving of causes – a big THANK YOU to all those who came along.” This was echoed by Adrian who said “We only managed to get one photograph – we hardly had time to stop!”



Brian & Carol Clayton at the SFA Coffee Morning at Clevedon MH



SFA Area SE at Combe St. Nicholas



(From L - R): Sheila Banfield; Sue Hartree; Mandy Moore; Debbie Robson; Maureen Moore; Adrian Robson - SFA Provincial Coordinator

Family, Friends and Brotherly Love

Martin Slocombe APMG



In January 2020 I was honoured and privileged to be asked to present a 50 year Masonic Veterans Certificate to John Durston at Southey Lodge. It was a splendid occasion, attended by many of John's Masonic friends. John was able to attend as he was picked up by his son-in-law Peter Henley, who he had proposed into the Lodge in 1995.

In February I attended Admiral Blake 4692 when James Brown initiated his son into Freemasonry and later in the year I look forward to attending Vivary 8654 when John Rudge will install his son as Worshipful Master. These are very special occasions for all concerned, enhanced by close family connections.

It is at meetings such as these when the past, present and future of masonry merge, that perhaps we should consider and contemplate our position as the current guardians of *The Antient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons*. In 2017 we celebrated 300 years since the formation of the first Grand Lodge and in 2018, 250 years since the appointment of the first Provincial Grand Master for Somerset.

Where we will be as an organisation in 250 and 300 years-time, is impossible to predict. But I would certainly like to believe that the structure we currently enjoy will be available for many generations in the future.

It is pleasing to see that during 2019 Initiations were up, the highest for five years and resignations down, the lowest for ten years.

New Masons Evenings have been very well supported with over 80 attending one of them including many wives and partners. The enthusiasm of the new Masons was very visible and very encouraging to see. Congratulations to Richard Parrish for organising such a successful event, also to the Lodge Mentors and Personal Mentors for their essential support.

It is clear that many Lodges are adopting and working with *The Future of my Lodge, The Pathway* and increasingly the use of *Solomon*, thus ensuring the interest and development of all members is continued.

I would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank all those on the Provincial Team for their attendance and active participation on Provincial Fraternal Visits. There are some 30 visits a year and the support from team members to both the Individual Lodges and the Province has been exceptional. Much good work being achieved and many friendships made.

In my report last year I referred to work started with the *Somerset Crimebeat Trust* (The High Sheriff's Charity), to provide a range of apprenticeship opportunities for disadvantaged young people in Weston-super-Mare. Thanks to the generosity of the WSM Lodges and assistance from the Somerset Masonic Charities, the MCF and St Margaret's Church, £11,500 was presented at the WSM Carol Service in December last year. Equally important, the WSM Masonic Hall is now being used to provide ongoing facilities for their training, preparation of CVs and interview experience.

See page 10 - Ed

In conclusion, let us celebrate the past, endure the present and plan for the future, ever maintaining during this difficult time the grand principles on which the Order is founded - *Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth*.

Somerset support COVID-19 Crisis

Look after your self – with these simple steps

Ben Batley DPGM



Naturally, the pandemic has occupied a lot of our time and attention over the past few weeks. Everything has changed dramatically and very quickly. Many of us will have relatives we are worried about, childcare issues, or financial hardships, as well as changing the way we work. And of course we don't know how long it will all go on for – more uncertainty. So, inevitably it will be affecting our thoughts, behaviours, feelings and possibly even physical sensations. You are not alone – everyone is feeling fear and anxiety and this is normal and not something we can wish away. SO, it is critical now, more than ever, that we practice self-care:

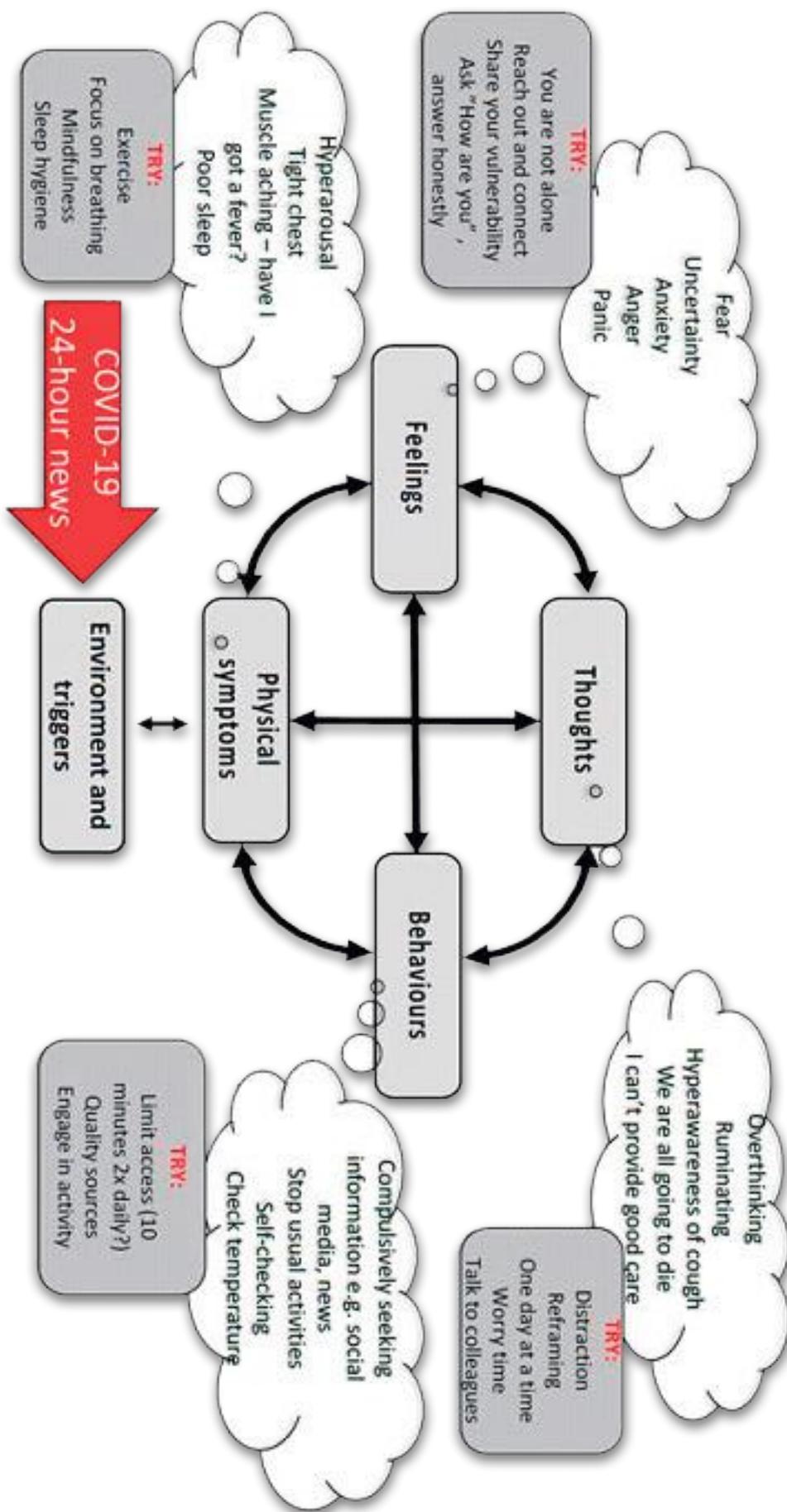
TAKE REGULAR BREAKS and use them for rest.

REFUEL: Take a drink and have a something to eat.

TAKE SOME DAILY EXERCISE: Go for a walk, run or cycle. *Maintaining social distancing rules.*

BE KIND to yourself and to others – situations like this bring out the best and worst in us.

TRY TO BE DISCIPLINED about your consumption of news and social media. *Don't believe everything you read!* Double check it. Set limits to your time on line *and stick to them.*



MCF support Nailsea School to produce anti COVID-19 Face Shields



Vicky wearing her new Face Shield.

Chris Perry of Estune 6817, in partnership with Nailsea School where he is operations manager, and head teacher Dionne Elliot is manufacturing face shields using the schools five 3D printers. The face shield is to help protect the wearer from virus entering the body via droplets splashing onto the face. Chris told Compass “We can produce around 14 shields a day and are distributing them to local doctors surgeries and care homes. Ten were sent to a Care Home in Derby following a request from a Brother who’s step daughter Vicky is a manager there, and a further 6 to the local Nailsea Police. Cadogan Court received 20 right at the beginning which were delivered by Harry Blinston, a member of the Widows Sons motorcycle club – on his motor bike, much to the delight of the residents!” The £1000 grant will be used for the on-going purchase and replacement of materials etc.

What is a 3D printer?

A 3D Printer works by extruding a thin filament of material through a small bore “heated” nozzle to create a very thin 2D shape on a flat bed, it then overlays this with further thin layers 1 at a time under computer control to create complex 3 dimensional shapes.

Barry Davies

Yatton Freemasons give £1000 to help needy during Covid-19 Lockdown

Romajos Community Meals have received a welcome boost – from Somerset Freemasons! On April 23rd Stephen Collings, Charity Steward of Lodge of Agriculture 1199 presented Jonny Burnett with a cheque for £1000 at the Butchers Arms Yatton where the meals are prepared - using the Pubs award Winning kitchen. Since the Corona Virus lockdown, Romajos have produced meals for 150 people 7 days a week which are then distributed to the most needy in the area, including the elderly. The Romajos team consists of 90 volunteers who organise everything from food preparation and labelling to admin and delivery. The meals are free and food costs are met by community donations. The Butchers Arms, run by Caroline Radnedge and Nick Williams, known locally as ‘Caz and Tonks’, also provide fruit and veg boxes into the community - around 140 per week.



Caroline and Nick with there SMC plaque

Stephen told Compass “Freemasons all over Somerset are doing their bit to help out with the Covid-19 outbreak and we are delighted to be able to assist this very deserving charity.” £700 was donated by the Lodge and made up to £1000 by the Province. Thanks to Steve Collings – LCO 1199

Barry Davies
Compass Editor

Who is behind the New Provincial Website?

You may have noticed that the Provincial Website has undergone something of a transformation recently. It now boasts a search function and works on most digital formats from PC’s to mobile phones – no mean feat.

The man behind all this is the WM of Tennyson 4947 Andy Wade. Andy told Compass “It’s been a lot of work but I think the results speak for themselves. The site is written in ‘Word Press’ which has a lot of features built in.”

“An example of this is that the Area Communication Officers (ACO’s) can upload articles and photographs directly without having to go through the web team. This leaves us more time to maintain the actual site itself.”

The site also has a new name:

www.pglson.org

So – if you haven’t already done so give it a go!

Did you KNOW...

COronaVirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease causing **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**. The disease was first identified in 2019 in Wuhan, China, and has since spread globally. Common symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Complete or partial loss of smell and loss of taste have also been reported. While the majority of cases result in mild symptoms, some progress to pneumonia and multi-organ failure.

The virus is typically spread during close contact and via respiratory droplets produced when people cough, sneeze, or touch a contaminated surface and then their mouth, eyes or nose (face). It is believed that the virus can live on surfaces for up to 72 hours. Time from exposure to onset of symptoms is generally between two and fourteen days. *Source - NHS England*



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0117 909 4000 | info@henriquesgriffiths.com

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