

T.I.	Old York
14	Prince Edward
53	Britannia
58	Fearnley
110	Integrity
111	Copley
127	Portal
137	Truth
352	Prince Leopold
374	St. Chad
398	Danum
457	Legiolium
493	Eland
501	Caldene
525	Haywra
535	Bronte
545	Dartmouth
618	Cleeves
641	Dewsbury
651	Rother
658	Pudsey
669	Aries
681	Peace
706	Halifax
715	Lightcliffe
727	Worth
753	Brighouse
768	Knares' Castle
812	Gillkirke
878	Pontefract
887	Lascelles
943	Sincerity
400	Thorne
1018	Gothic
1027	Wharfedale
1067	White Rose
1079	St. Hiev
1139	Escafeld
1191	Vulcan
1257	Castle
1523	Beaumont
1739	Ainsty
1769	Aireferry
1905	James Bramley Morley

RAM

T.I.	Old York
14	Prince Edward
53	Wentworth
58	Fearnley
110	Carl Whitehead
111	Elmete
127	Portal
137	Truth
501	Caldene
525	Claro
535	Bronte
641	Dewsbury
651	Welcome
658	Pudsey
681	Peace
715	Hipperholme
768	Abbey
878	Pontefract
1004	Thorne
1079	St Hiev
1905	The Bram Morley
1965	Rugby Football

**Provincial Grand
Lodge**



West Yorkshire

**of Mark Master
Masons**

**Welcome to this eleventh issue of the West Yorkshire Newsletter,
'Marking Well'.**

Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, I wish you all a very happy New Year and welcome you to this first issue of "Marking Well" in 2020. And what a super year this is going to be: Two Mark Lodges celebrate 150 years, Integrity in May and Copley in September, Thorne Royal Ark Mariner celebrates its Golden Jubilee in March and Lightcliffe Mark its Centenary in July. The West Yorkshire Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge will be Consecrated on 2nd May to become the 45th Mark Lodge in the Province, and please don't forget the Provincial Meeting itself which will be held at Bradford Grammar School on 18th April this year.



In preparation for the Province's own 150th Anniversary in 2021, a Provincial Sesquicentenary jewel will be launched at the Provincial Meeting this year. It really is a superb jewel, which I am sure you will all be very proud to wear, so get yours ordered today. The main Provincial Festival event in 2020 will be the Masonic Cycle Challenge, which will take place between 20th and 24th June. 400 miles over some very demanding terrain and not for the faint hearted. Sponsorship greatly appreciated.

We will also be seeing our Recruitment and Retention drive gathering pace this year as we seek to safeguard the future of Mark Masonry in West Yorkshire. Several 'Magic of the Mark' presentations are already being planned in Lodges across the Province. Would such a presentation benefit your Lodge? All this is in addition to our usual program of Provincial events, so there really is a great deal to look forward to.

So 'Mark Well' for 2020 and let's enjoy our year in Mark Masonry to the full.

Best wishes to you all.
Jim Steggles



Message from the Editor

I trust that you all find this, the eleventh Issue of the News letter, interesting, informative and, perhaps, a little stimulating. It could not have been done without the technical assistance of W.Bro. Stuart Burrows who has my very grateful thanks. I end , however, with a continuing plea that you initiate some of the content for the Web Site, the more the merrier, it is your News Letter.

Fifty years a Mark Master Mason, R.W. Bro. Brian Morris Batty

Monday, 11th. November 2019, Brighouse Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 753 was opened in due form by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Marios Adamou. Housekeeping matters despatched, the Almoner's Report was delivered by W.Bro. Tony Etherington, who asked brethren to please put a pound in the Almoners hat but, if you haven't got a pound, a fiver will do !

Unsurprisingly this event was very well attended and, before the main item on the Agenda could commence, Rulers of this and other Provinces were admitted; namely R.W.Bro. Jim Truswell Past P.G.M. V.W.Bro. Richard Puttrel, R.W.Bro. Fred Smith and V.W.Bro. Frank Woolgrove Past Dep.P.G.M.s and V.W.Bro. John Fred Clough Past Asst.P.G.M. Upon a further report the Prov.G.D.C., W.Bro. John Vause, ushered forward the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. James Steggles G.M.R.A.C., together with his Deputy, W.Bro. Alan Oldfield, his Assistant, W.Bro. Trevor Bolton and an escort of Provincial Officers of the year. The Gavel was offered and, on this occasion, taken; the Acting Provincial Officers then took post.



R.W.Bro. Jim took the floor and requested R.W.Bro. Brian join him and it was revealed that he was initiated into Brighouse 1301 by his Father, Leonard, when he was W.M. in March 1966. It was an important year for Brian as five months later he married Paula, who he had met the year before. At that time, he was intrigued to learn that her father was then the Master of Scientific 439 at Bingley. Some three and a half years later on the 13th. October 1969, having been proposed by his father, Brian was advanced into Brighouse Mark and began a long period of service to the Lodge, the Province and to our Order. Sadly his Father had died six years later and, in retrospect, he realised just how much he was indebted to him, as Freemasonry had undoubtedly changed his life; as also had his marriage to Paula with whom he has shared fifty three years of happiness and who has been his rock and supported him throughout his masonry. After his Father had died he followed the same masonic course as he had, being W.M. in the Mark and, 11 months later, in the Craft where he holds the rank of Past Junior Grand Deacon.

The years passed and in 1984 he became the Provincial Grand Secretary and, in consequence, he was very involved when the Province hosted the M.B.F. Festival in Harrogate in 1988; the first to be held outside London and a then record amount of nearly £250,000 raised. Thirty five years later we will return to Harrogate to celebrate another such Festival in 2023.



In July 1989, the Deputy P.G.M, V.W.Bro. Frank Whitworth died and the P.G.M, R.W.Bro. Carl Whitehead, retired after thirty years at the helm. The new team was P.G.M., R.W.Bro. Bram Morley, his Deputy, W.Bro. Philip Birch and Assistant, W.Bro. Brian. This was a busy time for him with all the arrangements to be made for the first Provincial Installation in West Yorkshire for 30 years which prompted his children to coin the phrase "is there life after the 19th. September" - that being the date of the Installation.



After a very successful five years as P.G.M., Bram Morley was succeeded by Philip Birch and a further five years later he handed over to Brian. Some wonderful times in the Province; much change for the better, evolution not revolution. As Brian said Masonry is a wonderful fraternity but particularly so with the Mark Degree, a unique fellowship, the friendly degree, the Magic of the Mark.

He had served the Province solidly for a period of twenty three years as a member of the Executive when he finally 'hung up his Patent' in 2007 and felt privileged and honoured to have had the opportunity. Pondering over the years he reflected upon certain of his contemporaries sadly no longer with us; Brian Emmett, an example to all, Alec Keay, what a sense of humour and Brian Addy, computer king. He was extremely proud of his very first Provincial appointment when he attended St. Chad 374 and appointed a certain Jim Steggles as our very first Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary on the 11th November 1999 - exactly 20 years ago !

Brian is a member of the Mark Provincial Grand Secretaries Lodge, Grand Stewards' Lodge, Grand Master's Lodge and the Lord Swansea Lodge. He is presently the Master of Grand Master's Lodge and the only Chair he has not yet filled is that of Grand Stewards' Lodge which he will potentially attain in three years time. The Grand Lodge Certificate was presented by R.W.Bro. James Truswell and the Provincial Certificate by the P.G.M, after each one was read out by the Prov. G.Sec., W. Bro. Fraser MacPherson. An excellent Festive Board beckoned but what a wonderful Meeting.

The Toast to R.W.Bro. Jim was in the hands of the W.M., W.Bro. Marios who complimented him upon his commitment, particularly as he was suffering from a throat malady. Jim confirmed and thanked him for his kind words and the Brethren for their reception of them. Up stepped W.Bro. Tony Etherington to submit the toast to R.W.Bro. Brian whom he has known for many years, they are very good friends and he has come to know him as a most diligent and conscientious man.



It is however his pastoral qualities that particularly stand out as many of us would testify; how he knows all our names and those of our nearest and dearest and because he is one of the most caring individuals most of us have probably known. Responding R.W.Bro. Brian said it had brought back many memories of his Father and of the most significant moment in his masonic career when, in 1989, he became Assistant Provincial Grand Master; the rest as we say is history.



The response to the Toast to the Visitors was provided by R.W.Bro. James Truswell who said that he felt that he had been corralled by members of the Secretariat, but knew he had great support from our extremely experienced D.C. Team. He, likewise, had always been impressed by Brian's memory for names and had found him a joy to work with him, noting that it was Brian who created the Cleeves and Whitehead Trust in its present format.

A truly memorable occasion for all present and we look forward to the company of Right Worshipful Brother, Brian Morris Batty for many years to come.

Actions speak much louder than words

Some of you will recall that I have used my old Grammar School motto to encourage action before, here we go again. I know where I will be on Saturday, 18th April, the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at Bradford Grammar School.

This meeting is the highlight of the year which is the only time you receive a personal Invite from R.W.Bro. Jim Steggle, *G.M.R.A.C* to his Lodge and it is an opportunity for you to do the courtesy of reciprocating his visits to you.

Allow me also to remind Masters in the Chair that one of your prime responsibilities is to represent your Lodge at the Provincial Meeting, if possible with your Wardens and some Brethren. It goes without saying that Grand Lodge officers together with their colleagues of Provincial Grand Lodge should also appear, they should lead by example. I know that I can count upon you all not to let the Province, that means all of us, down or R.W.Bro. Jim. I look forward to seeing you but, particularly, I hope that Jim does.

**Worshipful Brother Duncan Smith P.G.S.D.
Communications Manager**

Newsletter February 2020

MC² - the build up to the Masonic Cycle Challenge is happening as you read this newsletter, cyclists honing themselves to perfection! A team 21 cyclists preparing for the whole gruelling route, setting off on June 20th. Fancy joining them for part of the way of just at the stop over points, let W.Bro Rod Dyer know. event@westyorksmark.org.uk 07764 887117

So who are these tremendous Brethren taking the MC²?

Rod Dyer	Fearnley No. 58
Chris Oldfield	ditto
Craig Johnson	ditto
Steve Rawlinson	ditto
Robin Price	ditto
Andy Johnson	Old York T.I.
Edward Wilkinson	ditto
Steven Spooner	Peace No.681
Geoff Pearce	Brighouse No. 753
Richard Cameron	Kirklees Craft No. 4710
Steve Wade	Halifax Craft 4135
Billy Light	Worth No. 727
David Brian	St Germain
Ian Ward plus two,	West Lancs
John Sealey	Lightcliffe No.715
Martin Bolt	Unattached
Ken Bearpark	ditto
Craig McIntosh	ditto
Nick Doyle	ditto



Why not sponsor one of them, follow them with interest throughout the ride. Why not support this years main event either through the web site or via the sponsorship forms being passed around the Lodges (but don't feel that you have to fill in every form at every Lodge you visit, give what you wish is all we request).

The final Festival weekend is drawing nearer, Kent this year, East Lancs next, followed by Surrey and then it's our Festival, the culmination of all your efforts in supporting the West Yorkshire MBF Festival. More than 20 of us are going along to Kent's Festival celebrations, to what promises to be a great weekend. Why not join us next year, over the border into East Lancs? Just let me know if you would like more information, it's released just after the end of the preceding Festival event. Unfortunately, Kent's celebration is now fully booked.

What will happen at the West Yorkshire Mark Festival weekend? A weekend in Harrogate where we can welcome Brethren from all over the country and showcase our wonderful Province. More details will emerge later on, but preparations are well under way thanks to W.Bro Tom McDougall, V.W.Bro Ian Wolstencroft and Ruth Drury. A Friday evening "meet and greet" with music and supper, during Saturday visiting guests will be able to experience the delights of Harrogate and surrounding countryside, followed by a more formal dinner on Saturday night, finishing with entertainment. Make a mental note to be there on Friday 30th June and Saturday 1st July 2023.

Are you or your partners Twitter fans? No? Neither was I, but now I have signed up to get all the news of other Festivals and updates of our own. Why don't you or your partner join us and swell our numbers. #mbf2023festival or the Provincial page @westyorksmark.

Richard Puttrell
Festival Chairman

Chaplains Corner, a message from on high?

In the last issue, I promised to consider in turn the 4 R's which are so vital to the continuing health of our great province, and to look at each from a spiritual perspective. The second R is Retention. After Recruiting new brethren to the Mark, we want to hold on to them. We hope that they will find the Mark Degree as fascinating, as worthwhile, and frankly, as much fun as we do. And if we enter into the spirit of the ceremony of Advancement, we can't fail. It's a great story, and a wonderfully human story, with considerable potential for dramatic interpretation. Enthusiasm is infectious; where we obviously enjoy what we're doing, others will catch that spark, and want to be part of it.



But that's not all. Retention has another meaning; to keep in the memory. If I'd known how easy it was to learn ritual thirty years ago, I'd have learned more of it! We work hard to get our ritual off by heart; that phrase is significant, for when we take time to commit something to memory, it goes deep into the heart of us. Good thoughts can make us better men. The richness of what we say and hear in the Mark – of what we retain – shapes us for good; it encourages the perfect ashlar to take shape.

And there is yet a third understanding: retaining can mean to hold back. Sometimes we need to hold back our criticism. One of your brethren may have royally mucked up your favourite part of the ceremony; he may have communicated the wrong secrets; he may, heaven forbid, have neglected to tell the candidate what King Solomon did with his pomegranates. But he was doing his best, just like you; just like the rest of us. If we retain our sense of perspective, and our sense of humour, we are more than halfway to retaining our brethren, and Marking Well.

 

Change is a constant in our lives, prepare for another.

When the Provincial Grand Master approached me to be the first Communications Manager for the Province, my initial thoughts were, a great opportunity with new ground to till and bare pages upon which to write and influence the Brethren; all of that has been fulfilled

I most certainly, however, was not aware of the degree to which it would take over my life, but I have thoroughly enjoyed it in the company of the Brethren, you the Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariners of West Yorkshire. I will conclude seven years in the role in June which is when we really need to have a successor in place ready to take over in August 2021 when I will retire.

The constituent aspects of the job are obvious, reporting upon Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge events, Installations and other Lodge activities, Centenaries, 50th Certificates and other awards. In addition, to report upon the Cleeves and Whitehead Trust, the 2023 Festival and to be present at the IMA Annual General Meetings and provide a report. During the past Masonic year that gave rise to seventy eight items and that does not include the four Mark Well Newsletters. Undoubtedly there is a requirement for an Assistant but the priority now is to have someone on board who shares our passion for Mark Masonry and the RAM Fraternity, wishes to contribute to their own future development and who has a penchant for delivering sound, accurate detail. It is intended that the successful candidate would initially work as my understudy for six months, the roles then reversed for the final period; it is intended that, in the latter, we will appoint an Assistant. If you require any clarification on any aspect of the job, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Interested, then could you please contact myself or the Provincial Grand Master; the final decision will then be made by R.W.Bro. Jim.

I look forward to hearing from you,

W. Bro. Duncan Smith P.G.S.D.

Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner 2019.

A select group of Royal Ark Mariner brethren caught their respective trains on Tuesday, 10th December to witness the Investiture meeting which was held in the Grand Temple at Great Queen street, to be followed by the Festive Board in the adjacent Connaught rooms. Surprisingly I cannot report anything untoward on the journey to and from the capital, this may have been due to the fact that elements of the troublesome South Yorkshire deputation were conspicuous by their absence.

The meeting was held in the presence of the Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Raymond John Smith accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother John Prizeman and the Assistant Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Stephen Davison. It was opened in style with one round of salutations whereupon the usual housekeeping matters were concluded. The Investiture process progressed in smooth order. For the record, the following Brethren received R.A.M. Grand Rank;



**W.Bro. Mickael Ricketts, Thorne No. 1004,
W.Ro. Keith Robinson, Fearnley, No. 58 and
W.Bro. Duncan Smith Portal No. 127.**



The Pro. Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond Smith then addressed the meeting and advised that a new Tracing Board has been commissioned and will be revealed in due course. He reminded all of the importance of the implementation of the 4 R's initiative to preserve membership levels. He also, alluding to the five cardinal virtues of the Fraternity, stressed that we must act upon, and demonstrate these principles to the world at large throughout our daily lives and actions; small acts can make an important difference. Finally, he announced that in the year, the Mark Benevolent Fund has approved forty petitions to good causes totalling Nine hundred and thirty three thousand pound; all can be very proud. of that achievement. Meeting closed, photos were taken with the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Jim Steggles, *G.M.R.A.C.* and a photo shoot with the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison, a regular visitor to our shores. The Festive Board beckoned and I think none can have any issues regarding the service and the quality in the Connaught rooms but, in my humble opinion, at £49.50 per head it is not value and, as we had to leave before the dessert and coffee, the timings should be altered to cater for those north of Birmingham.

It is important at these meetings, that we all support our Province and particularly our Provincial Grand Master who, I am sad to report, has found himself rather alone on occasions. Accordingly we did support, finding upon arrival in London, that R.W.Bro. Jim sat at the top table in acknowledgement of his membership of the Grand Masters Royal Ark Council. A somewhat embarrassed R.W.Bro. Jim apologised but, in his defence, it was at the request of the Pro. Grand Master so he was forgiven.

Enjoy your Royal Ark Mariner Masonry.

**Worshipful Brother Duncan Smith, PGSD.
Communications Manager.**

A wonderful new home for Welcome Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 651.

Monday, 12th January and the gates of Rotherham Golf Club, Thrybergh, opened wide to receive the Members and Visitors attending the Installation Ceremony of Welcome Lodge of RAM, its very first meeting in these premises, and from the outset none were disappointed. A most imposing building superbly presented and warm, not just the temperature, but primarily the welcome all received from the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. James Newman O.B.E, his Officers and Brethren; in that respect no different from Wellgate.

The Secretary, W.Bro. Ian Stephens firstly read out the Dispensation following the change of venue and salutations were given, most importantly to the Admiral of the R.A.M. Fleet, R.W.Bro. James Steggles, G.M.R.A.C. and also his predecessor R.W.Bro. James Truswell, remainder according to Rank. W.Bro. Ian then gave a detailed report of the Lodge activities in the preceding twelve months where they had enjoyed an Elevation, Bro. Joseph Brian Walker, sadly two resignations but, as we later found, three propositions for new members, the future is bright.

The Ceremony of Proclamation was perfectly orchestrated by the Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Michael Minns culminating in him proclaiming W.Bro. James Worshipful Commander for the ensuing year and reminding him of the duties of his office which remained within his purview. The Appointment and Investiture of the Officers was then delightfully despatched, with appropriate comment to each by W.Bro. James, which prompted a response by the Chaplain, W.Bro. David Bacon, 'and I give you my blessing' I think that he meant it for us all, thank you. At this juncture, I should add that W.Bro. James was due to hand the reins to W.Bro. Peter Riggall who was in our hearts and minds throughout the proceedings and all were united in hoping that we see him in the chair in due course.



Next, introduced by the DC, W.Bro. Michael, was the presentation of a Past Masters Jewel to W.Bro. Chris Hamer who was not present to hand over to his successor a year earlier and has continued with ill health for some time. He was present and the Jewel was his by right, so to quell any doubts, the P.G.M under the authority vested in him by the Most Worshipful Grand Master gave his permission and presented it himself. R.W.Bro. Jim Truswell then introduced a Past Masters Jewel which had been the property of the Grandfather of W.Bro. James suggesting that it could now be presented. Again it required the intervention, quite correctly by the PGM **people come before process**, and W.Bro James will wear it throughout his second year. There was quite a diverse programme in the Summons which took us to the Presentation by, R.W.Bro.Jim, of a Grand Lodge Certificate to Brother Joseph Brian Walker, something he will remember for many years. The remaining items duly processed, the Lodge was closed in due form and all adjourned to the Festive Board which, In keeping with all that had gone before, was delightful, no complaints anywhere.



The Toast to R.W.Bro. Jim sincerely and professionally delivered by W.Bro. James commenting that not only did we have a leader who had the rare honour of being a member of the Grand Masters Royal Ark Council but was a very friendly, approachable and inclusive man. Responding R.W.Bro. Jim complimented the Lodge upon the quality of their new facilities, congratulated W.Bro. Stephen Fletcher upon his appointment in April as the Provincial Grand Senior Warden and the Worshipful Commander for all he had achieved in the Masonic Charitable Foundation. That prompted a reference to the M.B.F. which, in the past year has made numerous

donations to Charitable causes in the Province of West Yorkshire. These have totalled in excess of two hundred thousand pounds to date including a Support Vehicle for St. John Ambulance, a rapid response vehicle for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and, in April, a refurbished Barge for the Safe Anchor Trust, as he then said, **'be proud of what we do'** The remaining toasts were then submitted in fine form and equally well received.



What a wonderful evening of the Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners not a Member, then come and join us!

**Worshipful Brother Duncan Smith P.G.S.D.
Communications Manager**

Focus on the Provincial Grand Master

I asked the Provincial Grand Master to write a short article about his work, his family and life outside Freemasonry and to answer a series of set questions. I hope you will find his response interesting if not enlightening.

The Provincial Grand Master, in his own words:

“It’s difficult to find a place to start when asked to speak about life outside Freemasonry, as for many of us Freemasonry has in itself become a way of life. I have been a Freemason for almost 40 years, a Mark Mason for 38 years, my wife Joan is a Freemason and most of our friends are Freemasons. But that said, let’s give it a try:

I left school in Sheffield in 1962 with just the right GCEs to secure an Engineering apprenticeship with what was then ‘Post Office Telephones’. After completing that apprenticeship I became a Technical Officer,

planning telephone exchanges in the Sheffield Area, whilst at the same time studying for a HND in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

I had by that time met my wife Joan and we were married in Sheffield in 1967. In 1972 our son was born, just before I was offered my first management job in Middlesbrough. This took us, now with a very young family, to live in Stokesley, Teesside. Our daughter was born there just 2 years later.

During my time in Middlesbrough I studied with the Open University and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Science and Technology in 1976.

A further promotion in what was then soon to become ‘British Telecom’ brought us all back south to Leeds in 1979, and I was fortunate enough to make further progress in the company without ever having to move home again. I retired from B.T. in Leeds in 1997.

I have played golf (not very well) and tried my hand at Video Editing as hobbies over the years, but outside Freemasonry my personal space has been very much filled with family life. Joan and I now have 2 grown up children, 2 grandchildren (both girls) and after 52 years of marriage are still going strong together. Long may that continue.”

Questions I then asked the P.G.M.:

What do you most value above all other things and why?

My wife Joan. I could not have done most of the things I have done, or achieved most of the things I have achieved, without her support and encouragement.

The temptation you wish you could resist?

Looking in my email 'in box' just one last time before going to bed, and then trying to answer everything which needs a reply before I retire.

The best book that you have ever read and why?

'Nightfall' - by Isaac Asimov. As a Science Fiction fanatic I have read most of Asimov's books (and he was a very prolific writer) - but 'Nightfall' is a Classic. This might be closely followed by Edward Patnick's 'Confessions of a Junk Dealer' !!

The happiest moment that you will cherish forever?

I can't pick only one. There have been many and I must have been very lucky. The day I met my wife, our wedding day, the birth of my children and grandchildren, their first steps, the day we moved into our first home - and the list goes on. But I notice that these are all family events, which must say something very special. Yes, I have been very lucky indeed.

How would you spend a fantasy 24 hours with no monetary or travel restrictions?

On board the International Space Station, in its orbit around the Earth. Perhaps I would be able to see if Freemasonry was indeed universally spread across its surface !!

What is your most unfulfilled ambition?

To speak Spanish - even though I have spent a fortune on books, tapes, CDs and interactive computer courses such as 'Rosetta Stone Spanish'. I'm obviously not an 'another language' person.

Other than close family, the person who has had most influence in your life and why?

My proposer into Freemasonry - and also into Mark Masonry - the same person. No name - but he knows who he is and Freemasonry has changed my life forever.

What has been your biggest achievement?

My Open University Degree. Being at the time in full time employment with BT, teaching Maths to adult students 2 nights a week, and serving behind a bar 2 nights a week to support a young family, this was, for me, a difficult achievement indeed. But 6 years of burning the midnight oil (literally) paid off and gave me a qualification which again changed my life.

Who do you most admire and why?

Once again it's got to be my wife, for simply putting up with me over the years, for her continuous understanding and support, and for eventually giving in to become a Freemason herself! (In her words "If you can't beat 'em - join 'em")

The best film that you have ever seen and why?

'Failsafe' - once again a Classic in Black and White. The film is about what could happen if systems we rely on fail in a cold war age - ending in the nuclear destruction of Moscow and New York! It highlights the need for respect and understanding in the world, for us to work (and play) together even in adversity, and for us to build a mutual trust in humanity (Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth?).

What is your favourite food?

I am not really a food person. I eat to live rather than live to eat. After saying that, I prefer anything savoury rather than sweet, spicy rather than mild. Most Indian, Chinese and Mexican dishes meet these requirements, so I suppose my favourite dishes are from amongst those cuisines.

Which famous figure in your lifetime would you have liked to invite for Dinner and why?

Dr. Stephen Hawkins. To hear him explain to me first hand the possibilities, or otherwise, of faster than light travel - the only way we could reach the stars. I have my own views on this and it would be an amazing discussion to have. I wonder if he liked Chinese food !!

What is the most profound advice you would give to a child?

Don't waste your time trying to grow up too fast. You are old for many more years than you are young, with many of those years spent wishing that you were young again !

What would you like your epitaph to be?

Entered on the edge of the chisel, worked well and worthily, departed in Love and Harmony. Or perhaps it could just be 'Hope he remembered the password !!'

The Philosophy that under pins your life?

Try to appreciate and understand everyone's point of view. People are so important. Everyone has something to offer, It's just that sometimes you have to look a little harder to find it !

Given your passion for Mark Masonry, if you were to meet an Alien from another Planet, in two sentences, how would you describe Mark Masonry to him?

Freemasonry is a way of life which encourages friendship, goodwill, enjoyment and mutual understanding, to make better men out of men. Mark Masonry then adds another dimension to that, to make better Freemasons out of those Freemasons.

