

MARK AND RAM TRAVELLERS NEWS

November 2014

(WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT THE TRAVELLERS)

(A) COMMENTS FROM THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

The Mark Province of Buckinghamshire is justifiably proud of its Travellers and will support them whenever possible. Not every Lodge in the Province is blessed with large numbers and to have experienced Mark Master Masons ready and willing to take on any office is a great asset. Even if they don't join in the ceremony, the fact that they are there, enjoying the meeting and the company is of great benefit still.

The PGM and the Executive wholeheartedly support the Travellers and recommend that as many members of the Province as possible join up and attend other Lodges. One doesn't have to travel the length of the Province, just support a Lodge near you but do get involved, get out and enjoy the company of other Mark Master Masons. Contact WBro Nigel Dyke nigel39@virginmedia.com

David Tremaine Provincial Grand Secretary

(B) WHAT DO THE TRAVELLERS THEMSELVES SAY ?

(1) As a Bucks Mark "Traveller" I find it very enjoyable visiting other Mark Lodges. It is interesting to see the small variations in Rituals and proceedings. The Lodges make me feel very welcome and the meetings always seem very happy occasions.

I think that by being a Traveller visiting Lodges does help them to have more in attendance and it adds to the atmosphere. My own Mark Lodge is always very pleased to receive visits from Travellers.

W Bro Colin Kidby, St Peter & St Paul Mark Lodge 163.

(2) I enjoy being a Mark Traveller in Buckinghamshire immensely. Mark is the 'friendly degree' and I have been made most welcome wherever I have been. I have visited so many centres for the first time and met so many interesting brethren who I feel I can now call my friends, from the PGM to the newest candidate.

Nigel Dyke makes it so easy to be a Traveller by emailing details of meetings across the Province and he will even book you in for dining to make it easy. By

sharing lifts we make travelling across the Province part of the pleasant experience. You will find Travelling very rewarding

W Bro Bernard Jones PM Beaudesert Mark and WCdr Grand Union RAM

3) Why not join us ? Treat yourself to a night out and have a change of scenery? Better still why not ring one or two of your friends & visit another Lodge together ? Masons are well known for supporting others - it's what makes us different. So dust the old sat-nav's off and make the effort - you know you'll enjoy it !

Allen Worrall PM Beaudesert Mark Lodge 1350

(4) Being a traveller is much more than just a visit to another Lodge, I have been travelling for quite a few years now and it has added another dimension to my masonry. I have always been made most welcome at all the meetings I have attended and over the years met with a great many of Bucks Mark masons, several becoming firm friends. I take pride in being invited occasionally to fill in for any of the vacant offices on the night and it helps to keep me on my toes with the ritual. Of course anyone who is a traveller is never pressed into helping out in this way unless he is happy to do so, and if not he will be made just as welcome. It is also very interesting to see how other Lodges operate as they all differ in one aspect or another and you may earn something new or interesting yourself.

Do try it and visit a couple of Lodges. It is nice, for example at Provincial Lodge meetings, when you bump into so many people you have got to know through travelling to other Lodges. All these comments apply as equally to the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge meetings as to Mark.

WBro Ken Robinson Merlaue Weir Mark and RAM Lodges

(C) WHAT DO THE LODGE SECRETARIES/SCRIBES SAY ?

(1) I would just like to say how much the members of the Merlaue Weir Mark and RAM Lodges appreciate the regular appearance of the Travellers at our meetings. They are always most welcome additions, especially when they sometimes have stood in for missing officers. It has reached the stage where it wouldn't be the same without them and those we see on regular occasions we have come to regard as very good friends - almost members in fact. **Paul Cawte - Secretary and Scribe of Merlaue Weir Mark and RAM Lodges no. 1510.**

(2) I whole-heartedly endorse the value and pleasure from receiving visits from members of the 'Travellers' who regularly attend our meetings. They receive an extremely warm welcome from the Brethren, and are regarded as more than just

guests. They somehow become part of the Lodge. If occasionally one or two of our regular Lodge officers are unable to attend, we are always delighted and most grateful when a 'Traveller' is happy to step in to assist us with our Ceremonies.

If you are considering becoming a 'Traveller' yourself, don't hesitate to say 'yes'. You will gain a great deal of satisfaction by visiting different Lodges and meeting new friends, as well as offering assistance when needed. I am certain you won't regret it and it will add considerably to your enjoyment of Mark Masonry,

Keith Bristow Secretary / Scribe Misbourne Mark Lodge / RAM Lodge No. 1087

(3) Lodge Secretaries such as myself like Travellers. Treat yourself to a night out and have a change of scenery ? Better still why not ring one or two of your Mark friends & visit another Lodge ? Masons are well known for supporting others - it's what makes us different..So dust the old sat-nav's off and make the effort - you know you'll enjoy it ! **Allen Worrall Secretary Beaudesert Mark 1350**

(4) At the Great Ouse Valley Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, we are always delighted to receive Travellers. As a small Lodge any absentee causes some difficulty in occupying the various offices. Most recently the Travellers took up the offices of Junior Warden, ADC and Guardian and without their assistance we would have struggled. There is no doubt Travellers provide a welcome assistance in order to conduct our ceremonies and long may it continue. **Colin Hughes Scribe Great Ouse Valley RAM Lodge**

(5) I need to state, as the Secretary of Bletchley Mark Lodge, how grateful the members of our Lodge are to the several 'Bucks Mark Travellers' who joined with us for our last Meeting which was held in October this year.

The main work of the evening was to Advance a Brother. We had an unfortunate experience in that our Junior Warden resigned just a few days before the meeting - and a number of other brethren had commitments precluding them from attending.

Speaking, now, as the Provincial Chaplain as well as the Secretary - to have the support of the Travellers was a 'Blessing' indeed - in fact W Bro Nigel Dyke recently - on learning of our plight and knowing that all our attending members already had work to carry out - immediately agreed to Act as Junior Warden for us - and in his own inimitable way carried out the Work impeccably. This is the practical value of the Travellers - to swell numbers at a meeting - but also, when willing, to assist in the ceremony if needed !! 'Travellers' - we thank you - and may more Mark Men be added to your number !! **WBro David M Sawyer Secretary Bletchley Mark Lodge**