



# TAUNTON MASONS

## The Crescent Chronicle

Edition 2 Spring 2020



Editor Bro Andy Newland Lodge Communication Officer  
No.9391 Emergency Services Lodge.



07751 033332



[tauntonmasons@aol.com](mailto:tauntonmasons@aol.com)

Brethren All, Welcome to our second edition of **The Crescent Chronicle**. Clearly the times and circumstance we all find ourselves in currently are meaning that we have all had to adapt to a new normal and no doubt a very much changed routine. Having had the much enjoyed opportunity to attend Masonic meetings removed for us all understandably so – we have all had to maintain our masonic contact and friendships via phone, social media or even video conferencing. It has been heartening to see so many social media messages detailing some excellent work to support others by Masons whether from Taunton Lodges, our own province of Somerset or further afield. In particular we know many of you will have been raising a glass at 9pm for Absent Brethren and also for those in the NHS, Health and Social Care, and essential and emergency services.

We hope that this newsletter serves to bring us all together as we read through it and importantly that we find you and your family safe and well, we are grateful to all those brethren that have contributed by sending information through to Bro Andy Newland via his e-mail [tauntonmasons@aol.com](mailto:tauntonmasons@aol.com)

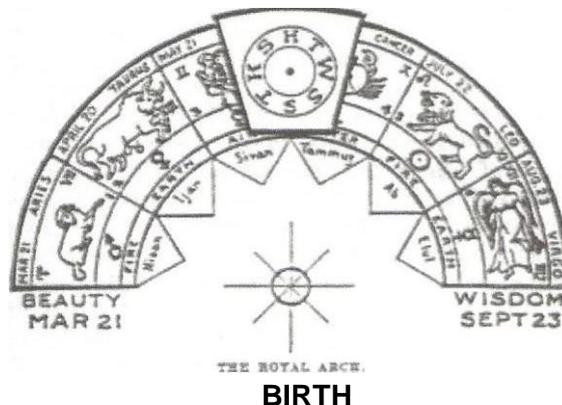
### Masonic Business, Charitable Endeavours, and Social Opportunities

#### WHAT ROYAL ARCH MASONRY?



Now, if the Royal Arch were not an integral part of Craft Masonry, the latter would be an incomplete teaching. In fact, it would no longer be mystical but purely allegorical, because the essence of a mystical teaching is to give man a glimpse of what lies beyond death and to show him its intimate connection with what lies this side of death: birth and life are otherwise as inexplicable as death.

#### STRENGTH



We begin our mystical instruction in Craft Masonry with the First degree where all the symbolism points out our introduction to the goipu 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 that material phase of our existence; and as our existence is material during that interval, progress lies mainly in raising the level of Matter, hence the importance attached to Science, which is the highest level of Man's labour on the material plane. Even the Almighty is referred to in that degree as the Grand Geometrician of the Universe.

It is unfortunate that the general run of uninitiated humanity, and alas, even many masons fail to realise that scientific progress should always and only be directed towards the ultimate Pattern, or Master Design of 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 xui-pog or "moment" of death? Those who have been at death's door, either in sickness, or by drowning, and then brought back to life, have all witnessed to the fact that their whole life passed before them in review: 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 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 MYSTICISM OF THE ROYAL ARCH by the  
late  
W. Bro. Lt.-Cdr. C. R. MANASSEH, P.M.  
London Grand Rank - London Grand Chapter Rank  
Lodge No. 3549 (Old Bradfield);  
P.Z., Chapter No. 2233 (Public Schools)  
1027 (Shanghai Tuscan), 2060 (La France)



Neil Hurcum is our Provincial Craft/HRA Co-Ordinator [hurcummasonic@btinternet.com](mailto:hurcummasonic@btinternet.com) and he would welcome any enquiries from Taunton Craft Lodge Brethren that may wish to join The Holy Royal Arch.

# COMPLETE YOUR JOURNEY

from *Initiation*



@PGLSomerset



to *Exaltation*



@PGCSomerset

the Holy Royal Arch Ceremony  
is the only **Pathway** to  
**YOU**

becoming

**A COMPLETE FREEMASON**

***Three Royal Arch Chapters meet in Taunton***

**Chapter of Sincerity (261), Chapter of St George (3158) and Taunton Deane Chapter (5221)**

Speak to your Holy Royal Arch Rep  
or contact the Craft/HRA Co-ordinator for more information  
W.Bro Neil Hurcum :hurcummasonic@btinternet.com





**The Provincial Grand Master  
of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Somerset  
Extends an Invitation**



To you to consider becoming a Mark Master Mason in Somerset

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons in Somerset have produced a Presentation giving you a great insight into the degree and with the permission of the craft PGM this can now be presented at your craft meeting.

You can obtain more information on the Mark Degree or arrange for the presentation to be made at your lodge by contacting any of the following Mark Lodges, all within a reasonable travelling distance from Taunton.

**Fidelity & Unanimity Lodge at Taunton.** Secretary, Harry Price. [harryprice183@btinternet.com](mailto:harryprice183@btinternet.com)

**Portcullis Lodge at Langport.** Secretary, Ian Moore [secretaryatportcullis2038@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryatportcullis2038@gmail.com)

**Monument Lodge at Wellington.** Secretary, Richard Dunn [monument1295@hotmail.com](mailto:monument1295@hotmail.com)

**Exmoor Lodge at Minehead.** Contact, Graham Gamble [randgathg5361@aol.com](mailto:randgathg5361@aol.com)

**Quantock Lodge at Bridgwater.** Secretary, Dave Smith [dlacsmith@talktalk.net](mailto:dlacsmith@talktalk.net)



**Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity No.261.**

On January 15th W.Bro Brian Pollard installed our new WM, W.Bro Peter Bland into the chair of King Solomon [for the 7th time I believe!] It was an excellent ceremony in the presence of W.Bro Darren Sinclair ProvJW representing the Provincial Grand Master. Brian Pollard made a good job as Installing Master and we had a really good turnout of members and visitors. An added bonus was our Festive Board which was once again back in the very capable hands of dear Karen. We are so pleased to have her back in the fold and look forward to many more delicious meals from her kitchen – once she has mastered the new cooker which, she informs us, she can operate from her bed!!! - Don't ask.

*Photo W.Bro Peter Bland and W.Bro Darren Sinclair.*

What a splendid evening was held on 19th Feb when Unanimity and Sincerity were honoured by a visit from the Provincial Team headed by W.Bro Ben Batley. Martin Slocombe was placed in the chair of King Solomon and presided over the raising of Bro Peter Gibson. The DPGM presented Bro Chris Lewis with his Grand Lodge Certificate and 261 were pleased to receive the Travelling Trowel from Forest of Selwood Lodge. This will be passed on to Quantock Lodge in Watchet on 4th March. Photo shows from L to R APGM Martin Slocombe, DPGM Ben Batley, WM261 Peter Bland, New MM Peter Gibson and APGM Barrie McCormack. *Photo courtesy of Adrian Halliwell.*



### **Taunton School Lodge No 8215**

The members of Taunton School Lodge were to celebrate their Installation in May until the Grand Master declared Freemasonry suspended for four months. The Master elect was to be a Past Master from Quantock Lodge, Edward Martin, and the work was to include a presentation of a G L certificate, and a 50 year certificate to Geoffrey Bryant. However, we consider this work to be postponed until better times. At the last meeting in February a Grand Lodge Certificate was presented and the Secretary gave a rather wobbly recitation of the "Walking Charge". To anyone who would be interested, I can let them have a copy of this Charge, together with an explanation of its history. WBro Michael Griffin [mandsgriffin4@gmail.com](mailto:mandsgriffin4@gmail.com)

### **Vivary Lodge No. 8654 - At the Double!**

It's been very much the case of Vivary Lodge meetings being held at the double this season. Last April's successful Vivary's Gentlemen's Evening saw four of the attendees expressing a desire to enter Freemasonry which has resulted in two double initiations.

November saw the first double initiation ceremony undertaken by Vivary Lodge for many decades in which Jon Cresswell and Andy Hayes were welcomed into the Lodge

And just like the saying about Buses another one came along in February when at a double initiation Neil Hitchcott and Ben Gavins joined the brethren of Vivary



### **Christmas cheer**

As has now become traditional the Festive Board of the December meeting saw the members joined by their wives, partners and guests to celebrate Christmas tide with a meal of roast turkey and all the trimmings. This was followed by all participating in singing of traditional Christmas songs led by W. Bro. Adrian Halliwell and accompanied by W Bro Alwyn Clegg on the piano.

**Adrian asks the Questions!**

In February the Vivary Quiz Night organised by W Bro Adrian Halliwell and his wife Anne took place in the Masonic Hall. 12 teams of Brethren and their guests from not only Vivary but other Lodges took part. A fun filled evening was enjoyed by all with the team captained by Bro Mike Marshall coming out on top by the small margin of only two points. Besides the quiz there was also a raffle and the evening raised £500 in total in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind which is the Worshipful Master's chosen charity



#### **Royal Ark Mariners, Fidelity and Unanimity Lodge No 348 – D P. Takes the Commanders Chair.**

On Friday 3rd April a prominent Taunton Mason WBro David Palmer was Installed as the new Worshipful Commander of the Fidelity and Unanimity Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No348 here in the Masonic Hall. With the Mark Provincial Grand Master RWBro Philip Voisey in attendance, it was also a special night for WBro Rod Green, The Installing Commander.

Both Rod and David being members of the same Craft Lodge, St George 3158, their Masonic careers in Taunton have run almost in parallel. Rod was initiated into Masonry in Jan 1989 and David in Jan 1994, and for one reason or another Rod has had the pleasure to install David in the Chairs of Craft ( St George 3158 ) Chapter ( St George 3158 ) Mark ( Fidelity and Unanimity 348 ) and now Fidelity and Unanimity 348 RAM Lodge. That's a unique pairing if you study the Honours Boards in the Sherry room. No two other Brethren have achieved this. Of course, a lot of this is largely down to WBro Terry Wood who was very persuasive in encouraging Brethren to join Degree's that he was in!

Neither Rod nor David could work out if this happened because Rod slowed down in his progression or David sped up in his. Anyhow a good night was had by all in attendance and we wish David all the very best for his year as Commander of The Ark. - WBro Rod Green, Scribe.

## The Burns Night at the Taunton Masonic Hall January 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020

January's Burns Night Dinner at the Masonic Hall organised Taunton Lodge Liaison Group (TLLG) proved as popular as ever being starting with a Prosecco reception and the swirl of bagpipes played by a Piper in full tartan attire.



Burns Night traditions were upheld with the piping in of the haggis followed by its "killing" with appropriate words by W Bro Jack Leeming and tots of whisky raised in celebration.

After an excellent four course meal that included "neeps" & "tatties" as well as haggis the traditional toasts were given with Bro Richard Wilson proposing the Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. The Toast to the Lassies was given by Bro Mike Marshall and featured readings of selected Robbie Burns poems by Mike's "volunteers" from the TLLG and additionally from Assistant Provincial Grand Master Martin Slocombe plus W Bros Mike Meatyard and Peter Light. Mike Marshall's wife Lilian responded on behalf of the lassies with the Toast to the Laddies.



The evening was rounded off with some lusty singing of Scottish songs accompanied by Jack Leeming on piano.

Monies raised by this event are going towards the Taunton Masonic Hall funds.



So to sign off for now, we hope that you continue to keep safe and well, and remember the stable foundation that we all share, as it is from here that we will continue to build upon when we return to our labours. Our trusted friend, the little Blue Book gives us all some wise words that will keep us looking forward until we meet again. *"Keep within hail, so as to come on in due time, that profit and pleasure may be the result"*

Sincere and Fraternal Best wishes from Your Taunton Lodges Liaison Group Representatives.

Bro Andy Newland of Emergency Service Lodge 9391 Tel 07751033332 [tauntonmasons@aol.com](mailto:tauntonmasons@aol.com)

Are we missing anyone from the Social Media List below? Please let us know.

<https://twitter.com/Huish8518>

<https://www.facebook.com/9391ESLodge/>

<https://www.queenscollegelodge.co.uk/>

[https://twitter.com/lodge\\_st\\_george](https://twitter.com/lodge_st_george)

<https://twitter.com/9391ESLodge>

<https://twitter.com/queens6988>

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