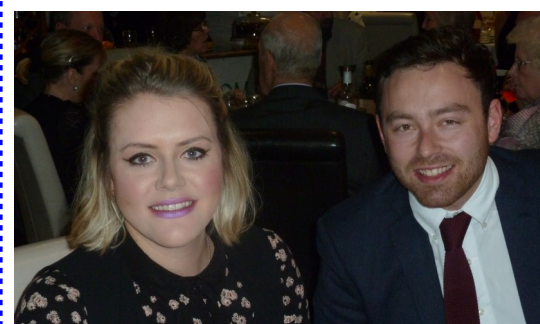


Valentines at Scraftoft Golf Club



On Saturday 13th February 2016, Stony Gate Lodge of MMM, held their annual Valentines evening at the Scraftoft Golf Club. It was once again well supported by Brethren and their families and friends. The PGM, RWBro. Stephen Davison and his Deputy, VWBro. Ghanshyam M. Patel, were both in attendance, as was the Past PGM, RWBro. Anthony Morris. The food and service was excellent and an enjoyable evening was had by all. The Raffle was, as usual, a mammoth affair, raising £450 which was donated to the PGM's Discretionary Fund.



Benidorm—District Grand Lodge of Spain



The first of the year's Magic of the Mark trips was to Benidorm. No less than 18 Brethren and their wives and partners travelled out from Birmingham to the warmer climes of southern Spain on February 4th on a very comfortable Monarch plane. We then transferred to Benidorm in a coach that was waiting for us and checked in to our Hotel, the Gran Bali, which happens to be the tallest hotel in Europe.

After a quick wash and brush-up we were out on the town to try a great meal in a typical Spanish restaurant selected by the PGM. (My roast suckling pig was absolutely delicious).

Friday morning saw a leisurely start and the chance to meet up with many other friends in the Mark Degree from various Provinces and Districts. Most of us then went to the old town and walked along the promenade in the sun in short sleeved shirts. The DPGM then selected a café for coffee. Moving on we found a delightful area on the promontory where we could overlook the old harbour and see the tower of our hotel about 1.5 miles away!

Tired by all this activity we then made our way to another seafront restaurant to enjoy a light lunch before heading back to the Hotel. The Mark District Grand Lodge of Spain had organised a demonstration of the Mark ceremony of Advancement as worked in Scotland and this took place in the conference centre at the hotel. Most of our party attended and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

After the Masonic meeting we attended a reception given by the District Grand Master and then split up to have an evening meal.

On the Saturday the District Grand Lodge of Spain held their Annual meeting at 10.30 am and there were around 280 Brethren attending from Spain and other Provinces and Districts. We were joined by WBro. Mark Pierpoint and WBro. Mark Meade and his wife Hazel, who had been holidaying at their respective homes in Spain.

While the Brethren attended the meeting most of the ladies were taken on a trip to a winery for a talk on the cultivation of the vines and the chance to sample the results! Afterwards they went on to a Spanish restaurant to have a lunch and watch a demonstration of Flamenco dancing. The Brethren meanwhile had settled in to eat a most delicious and filling lunch which went on for about 3 hours!

Needless to say, the Brethren and their ladies had to have a slight break before venturing out once more for a fairly light meal at an Indian restaurant selected by the DPGM.

Next day, most of us had a stroll along the promenade and a lunch at an Italian restaurant before going back to the hotel to pack and get ready for the return home, which went very smoothly. The only problem was that it was lashing down with rain when we landed at Birmingham! It makes you think that people who winter in Spain have got it right!

Don Peacock

East Goscote Mark No. 970 - Double



East Goscote Mark Lodge No. 970 performed a double ceremony on Tuesday 23rd February at Syston Masonic Hall. The PGM, RWBro. Stephen Davison was in attendance, together with his Deputy, VWBro. Ghanshyam M. Patel, to witness both Bro. David John Highton and Bro. Barry John Webster being Advanced into the Mark Degree. The Worshipful Master, Bro. Ivan W. Scott had the pleasant task of carrying out an impressive ceremony, ably supported by his Officers. WBro. Martin Waddington, the Provincial Senior Warden, delivered the Secrets, Bro. Stephen Topham the Working Tools and Bro. Richard Barrett the Concluding Address.

The Provincial Grand Master presented a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Kevin Williams, giving a comprehensive explanation of its contents.

The Festive board continued in the same vein, with enthusiasm and happiness permeating the whole evening. The raffle raised £120, of which £60 was donated to the PGM's Discretionary Fund.

District Grand Mark Lodge of W. India



On 16th January 2016, the DPGM, VWBro. Ghanshyam M. Patel visited the District Grand Mark Lodge of Western India, in Pune. He is seen here with other high ranking Masons, from left to right:

- Asst. Provincial Grand Master of Kent.
- Provincial Grand Master of Gloucestershire & Herefordshire.
- Grand Master of the Mark for India.
- Past Grand Master of Mark in India.
- District Grand Master of Mark for Eastern India.
- District Grand Master of Craft for Western India.



Fowke Mark No. 19-Advancee



On Thursday 11th February 2016, Bro. Kelvin R. Tompkins was Advanced into the Mark degree by the Worshipful Master, Bro. Roger Quantock and his team of Officers. The DPGM, VWBro. Ghanshyam M. Patel was in attendance. The Secrets were delivered by WBro. Stephen Finnigan, the Working Tools by WBro. David Sandrovitch and the Concluding address by Bro. Bipinchandra Shah.

50 Year Certificate for VWBro. John Knew



Happy smiling faces says it all. The PGM and DPGM with the Master of the Simon de Montfort Lodge, together with the recipient, VWBro. John Knew.

On Thursday 25th February 2016, VWBro. John L. Knew was presented with a Grand Lodge 50 Years Certificate to celebrate his long service to the Order. This pleasant duty was in the hands of our PGM, RWBro. Stephen Davison, who carried out the task in a comprehensive and informative manner. He also presented a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Kenneth Hornsby, who had been Advanced in the previous meeting.

At the same meeting, the Master of the Simon de Montfort Lodge No. 194, Advanced Bro. Maurice Battye into the Order. He was assisted by WBro. John Pinnock, who gave the Secrets and Bro. Patrick Woods, who delivered the Working Tools and the Concluding Address.

The evening was completed with an excellent Festive board. The collection raised £122 for the PGM's Discretionary Fund.