



Triple Tauk

COMMUNICATION for the ROYAL ARCH in SOMERSET

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ABOVE

William Taylor Coleridge
1795 when he lived at

Nether Stowey

BELOW

W Bro Tim Coleridge, 4
times great grandson

2015



The GOLDEN CAREER of our GRAND SUPERINTENDENT

50 years young in Masonry



Wednesday 7th April at Coleridge Lodge No. 1750 Clevedon and RW Bro Stuart Hadler PGM presented a 50th veterans certificate to VW Bro D John Bennett. Our MEGS was Initiated into Coleridge Lodge on 10th March 1965 and installed in the chair in 1975.

The evening was further enhanced with the attendance of W Bro Tim Coleridge, 4 times great grandson of Samuel Taylor Coleridge the 18th century poet and co founder of the romantic movement and after whom the Lodge took its name in 1878.

The evening commenced with an oration presented by W Bro Robert H Moore our Deputy GS entitled 'Milestones' which explored milestones in life and Freemasonry which was well received by the brethren.

RW Bro John, or as we all know him Most Excellent Grand Superintendent has a distinguished Masonic career and yet we all know his enthusiasm, energy and passion for what he does could well see him through many more milestones.

The picture shows him with his wife Jenny who has supported him throughout his career.

Is that really an angelic halo ???





125 into 250

Especial Convocation, Bath, March 2015

125 Companions of the Order packed into the Bath Masonic Hall on Wednesday 18th March to celebrate 250 years of continuous Royal Arch working in Somerset.

It was a splendid evening and had all the pomp and ceremony that the occasion demanded. Since the first recorded meeting in Bath in 1765 there have been many changes in Masonry but the principles and tenets of the Order remain as solid as ever.

The Most excellent Second Grand Principal, George Pipon Francis was the main guest and was able to exercise grandeur with informality. The assembly heard him talk of the rich history of the Royal Arch in Somerset.



ABOVE—Serious contemplation by Stuart Hadler PGM and Robert Moore Deputy GS before entering.

RIGHT—George Pipon Francis with D John Bennett, MEGS.

Below—Second Grand Principal with his DC E Comp Chris Evans



The meeting was followed by a reception and fine dinner at the Bath Hilton Hotel.

250 years is a wonderful achievement for any Masonic Order and Somerset Royal Arch must revel in this success with pride.



ABOVE—E Comps David Smith and Andrew Clapp celebrating just being there.

BELOW—GPF with Ray Johnstone-Smith Inspector General of the Ancient and Accepted Rite in Somerset





"Where did they go"? Suggests E Comp Ian Barrie DC

"I don't know or care, I know where I'm going" suggests
E Comp Chris Moore, 3rd Prov Grand Principal Elect.

Beam me up Scottie ! Were the three Principals vapor-
ised by the excitement of the day?

(Showing the magnificent reredos in the east at Bath Masonic Hall)



E Comps David
Jenkins and Rob-
ert Biggs



E Comps Denis Calderley
and Keith Fisher

*Relaxing moments amidst
the formalities*

The Man who Changed the Calendar >>>> 8 days a week - 25 hours a day

Ray Beckingham a man with more knowledge and experience than a bus load of veterans. Born in Bath in 1945, obviously a celebration at the end of hostilities, joined St Johns Ambulance when in his Westhill Comprehensive school days when he regularly attended theatre and cinema events.

His early employment was as an apprentice Grocer and Provisions merchant, working with different companies and rising to an assistant manager at 18 and store manager at 19. When working for an upmarket store in Bath he set his sights even higher by meeting his future wife Chris, the quality of goods has resulted in 48 years married, 2 children and 4 grandchildren. Even today they bowl each other over by playing ten pin weekly.

He joined the TA, 44th Royal Tank Regiment learning to drive tanks and as a radio operator where he became Lance Corporal but resigned when joining the Bath City Police Force aged 21.

This new career introduced him to Alsatian training leading to numerous obedience shows, that was for the dogs, Ray was considered a lost cause. Other activities included Bleadon Youth Club and a regular table tennis player.

Then transferring to Weston-s-Mare where he worked as a Beat Officer, Control Room Operator and on Task Force. In 1980 he went to Rhodesia for their Elections as a Firearms Officer. Ray retired from the force in 1992.

When in Weston he met a man who introduced him to Masonry, they became friends but the waiting list was 3-4 years, however a new Lodge had been formed in Nailsea named Wraxall Lodge No. 9011 to which he was proposed in 1983 by two Police colleagues, and that is where his life spiraled almost out of control on the Masonic ladder.

He was Installed in the Chair in 1992, became assistant DC under the late Robin Bex whom Ray regarded as his

Mentor. He then became DC for 6 years.

There was frequent visiting to Forest of Mendip No. 8019, even occasionally taking Office. Ray joined them in 1996, took the Chair, served as Secretary, Almoner, DC, Asst DC and now Chaplain. He is also a Past Master of Somerset Masters Lodge No. 3746.

His first Craft Provincial was Grand Registrar, (no longer a first appointment rank). Followed by promotion to Past Junior Warden, Active Junior Warden, Past Provincial Senior Warden and currently Provincial Mentor and is receiving Grand Rank on 29th April this year.



As for Chapter, he joined Wrington Vale No. 1199 in 1988 serving all Offices, becoming Provincial Asst DC then Provincial DC, this was followed by SGC rank as PGStd in 2008. He is now Third Grand Principal of Somerset.

Then there's Som 1st Prin Chapter, Calderley C of U and an Hon member of Dungarvan.

He is a Knight Templar in Worlebury and Templecombe Preceptories and Marshal in both.

He served 3 years as Prov Deputy Marshal culminating in Great Officer as P Gt A-de-C.

What about spare time !!! Well Ray Socialises puppies for the Disabled from around 4 to 14 months old when the puppy is passed on for further training. His previous and current puppies are to work with children with Autism. Ray also attends Kewstoke school once a week helping children to read.

Such devotion to a cause is commendable, it was always said "if you want something done, ask the busiest person", Ray puts his principles as a Mason into daily practice by simply doing things for others, this is not only admirable but humbling.

**From Grocer to Copper to Masonry
he has served us well and remains a
RAY of hope to us all.**