

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
13th September 2011	Grand Mark Lodge (RWBro Addy Investiture)	London
16th September 2011	Charity reps / Almoners Dinner	Middlewich
25th September 2011	West End Salmon Lunch	Ellesmere Port
28th September 2011	Mersey Mark / Weaver RAM (Team Visit)	Runcorn
16th November 2011	Earl of Chester / Cestrian RAM (Team Visit)	Christleton
13th December 2011	RAM Grand Assembly	London
11th January 2012	Fidelity Mark (Team Visit)	Birkenhead
12th January 2012	RAM Provincial Assembly	Christleton
6th February 2012	Namptwych Mark (Team Visit)	Nantwich
17th March 2012	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port
22nd March 2012	Macclesfield Mark (Team Visit)	Macclesfield

West End Salmon Lunch

After fears that the West End Salmon Lunch was not feasible in 2011 due to staff retirements and rising hall costs, Graham Kyffin has made a big effort and has changed the venue and date so that the event can now take place as usual with our Provincial Mark Grand Master and other leaders in attendance.

The new venue is the Whitby Masonic Hall, 141 Chester Road, Ellesmere Port, Wirral, CH65 6SD. The date is Sunday 25th September 2011, meeting at noon and hopefully concluding by 2pm. The cost is £10 per head and the menu is Poached Salmon or Boiled Ham with new potatoes, salad and a sweet to follow.

Tickets are available directly from Graham at "Brookdale", 300 Greasby Road, Greasby, Wirral, CH49 2PP. Telephone: 0151 678 9125 e-mail: graham.kyffin@yahoo.com

Or, you could order them from your Mark or RAM secretary/scribe. Our Provincial Grand Master is looking forward to be in the company of as many of you as are able to support this event.

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PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

R.W.Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

WBro. David Robinson Sellers PGSD RAMGR

ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

WBro. Austin Westbury Bamber PDGSwdBr RAMGR

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire consists of 43 Lodges of Mark Master Masons and 24 Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners

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Mark Province of Cheshire

The Cheshire Mark Mason

Summer Edition

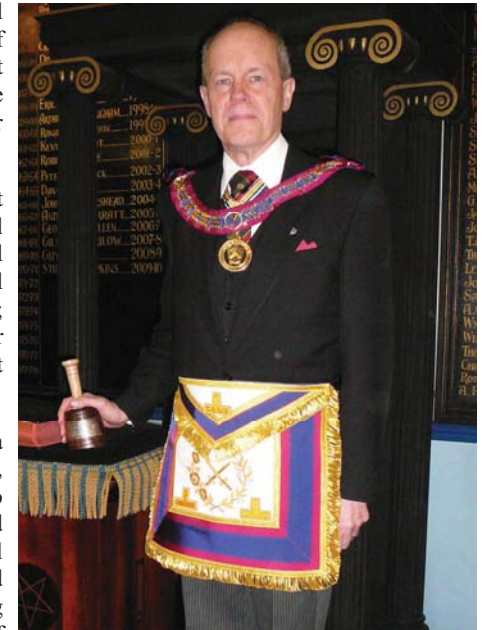
July 2011

New Assistant Provincial Grand Master Appointed

At the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire held on Saturday 19th March at Ellesmere Port, over 400 brethren from the Province joined many distinguished guests for another very successful and happy meeting.

The meeting was especially memorable, as it marked the retirement of Very Worshipful Brother David Alldred as our Deputy Provincial Grand Master; the promotion of Worshipful Brother David Robinson Sellers as his successor; and the appointment of Worshipful Brother Austin Westbury Bamber as our new Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Austin was born in Wallasey in 1950, and is a Mechanical Engineering Draughtsman by trade, running his own business. He was initiated into Seabank Lodge 5116 two days before his 23rd birthday. He was exalted into Evening Star Royal Arch Chapter 3644 in 1974, and was advanced into Sincerity Mark Lodge 327 in 1975. During the year 2010-2011 he held the very high rank of Deputy Grand Sword Bearer in the Mark degree. He was elevated in Excelsior RAM Lodge 359, and holds Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. Austin is a member of many other Masonic orders, holding high rank in most of them, including PAGDC in the Craft and PGStB in the Royal Arch. He is married to Gillian, and his other main interest outside of freemasonry is walking, sometimes with and sometimes without his dogs. He is a supporter of English Springer Spaniel Rescue.



Our new Assistant Provincial Grand Master pictured at Congleton Masonic Hall

When asked about how he saw his role, our new Assistant replied:

"I see my task as helping the Provincial Grand Master and his Deputy; to promote the Mark as the "friendly degree", to encourage Craft masons to consider taking that important "fourth step", a completion of the Passing Ceremony in Craft Freemasonry; there is also an additional signification for all Craft Installed Masters.

Plus, to raise the awareness, of brethren who are not members of the Order, of the beautiful & colourful Ancient & Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners degree".

Our Provincial Grand Master Writes:

It is some time since I last contributed to our newsletter but now I believe is an opportune time to correct that oversight.

Those of you who attended our Annual Meeting held at the Ellesmere Port Civic Hall on the 19th March will be very aware of the changes to the Province effected on that day, when WBros. David Robinson Sellers and Austin Westbury Bamber were Appointed and Invested as Deputy and Assistant PGMs respectively following the retirement of VWBro. David Allred. The meeting also marked a new beginning for the administration of this Mark Province with the severing of our association with the Provincial Office at Clay Lane in Altrincham.

This latter change is perhaps one of the most fundamental to have affected this Province for many years and was brought about following an investigation into the Secretarial operations of Clay Lane by the PGM for the Craft, RWBro. Steven Adcott. It became evident from this review that the most attractive course for our Order into the future was to restructure, become self-contained and base ourselves elsewhere. Consequently a new Secretariat has been appointed, the details of which have been forwarded to all Lodge Secretaries. The changes are entirely based upon the efficacy of our operation and it is anticipated that benefits will flow to our membership as a result.

The severing of our bond with the Secretariat at Clay Lane is being brought about most amicably and there is no doubt that our Provincial Grand Master for the Craft is keen to ensure that the close relationship enjoyed between our Orders in the past endures into the future. The office has served this Mark Province for very many years and I pay tribute to it for the contribution it has made to our prosperity during a long and happy association.

And so we look forward to a new and independent future; one in which, with your continued support and enthusiasm, I have no doubt that we will prosper.

Our New Provincial Grand Secretary

There would only have been few of those who attended the Provincial meeting at Ellesmere Port in March, who would have been aware of just how appropriate a choice Ron Marrow is for the role of Provincial Secretary, as Ron did, quite literally, serve his time in the quarries and knows more than a little about smoothing stones and preparing materials to an acceptable level.

Before going on to become a Civil Engineer, he completed a five-year apprenticeship as a stone mason, qualifying him as a craftsman, and he can therefore claim to have been an entered apprentice twice – once operatively and once speculatively.

A Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, he went on to enjoy a successful career in highways construction and maintenance, working with Hyde, Sale, Denton, Stockport, Oldham and Tameside councils, before setting up his own planning, building and civil engineering consultancy.



Grand Mark Lodge Annual Investiture

As is usually the case, a large number of Cheshire Masons made the trip down to London for the annual investiture meeting of Grand Mark Lodge and it was wonderful to see a significant number of their colleagues appointed to, or promoted in, Grand Mark Rank.

Congratulations are due to all of the following brethren: WBro's Andrew Neville Wood of ADTI and Robert David Wilde of Tuscan Mark Lodge, both of whom are past Wardens of the Province and WBro. Ronald Marrow of Hyde Mark who all received first appointments to PAGDC. WBro. Kenneth James Saxon of Altrincham Mark received PAGSwdB and WBro's. Charles Reginald Sharman of Walter de Hereford and Graham Stanley Hall of Egerton Mark received their first appointments to PGStdB.

WBro's Derek Brough of Stayley Mark and James Ian Munro of Macclesfield were both promoted to PGJD and The Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. David Robinson Sellers of Stamford Mark along with W.Bro. John Edward Lightfoot of Warren de Tabley were promoted to PGSD.

Finally, three Cheshire Brethren became Very Worshipful when they were promoted to the very high rank of PGJO namely VWBro's Kenneth George Thompson of Earl of Chester, Eric Foxwell of Tuscan Lodge, and Thomas Brian Wood-Griffiths of Claughton Mark.

We should also offer our congratulations to the four Cheshire Brethren who received Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank at the RAM Investiture on 7th December 2010; James Ian Munro of Commemoration, Richard Sutton of Cestrian, Denzil Griffiths of Weaver and Eric Foxwell of Wythenshawe RAM.

The investiture took quite some time with more than 450 Brethren being invested and in the absence of the Grand Master, The Pro Grand Master MWBro. John Hale addressed the assembled brethren, congratulating all those who had been invested. Then to everyone's surprise he announced that he would be leaving office in September.

The banquet afterwards was held in the Grand Connaught Rooms on Great Queen Street after which the Cheshire Brethren repaired to the Bedford Hotel to change and then went out 'to inspect the bottom of a few of London's drinking glasses' under the guidance of WBro. Chris MacDonald, culminating with pizza in the 'wee small hours' allegedly. Later that morning after the 'optional' breakfast most brethren made the short walk to Great Queen street for the quarterly communication of UGLE and then took the train home.

A visit to the Annual Investiture is a great experience, so if you have not made the annual trip before, your correspondent recommends that you try it, but please beware of that 'morning after the night before' feeling!

UPDATE:

We have now been informed that our Past Provincial Grand Master and the now Deputy Grand Master RWBro. Benjamin Addy will be the new Pro Grand Master; RWBro. Michael Edward Herbert will become Deputy Grand Master; and RWBro. Herbert Keith Emmerson, Assistant Grand Master. The Installation will take place at Great Queen Street on Tuesday 13th September. This event is bound to be well attended so you will be well advised to make your arrangements early particularly as many Cheshire Brethren will wish to be there.

East End Salmon Lunch

This year's East End Salmon Lunch was again a great success.



The groaning raffle prize table

At the lunch, our Provincial Grand Master paid tribute to the Organising Committee after the 27th function raised its usual £1000.00 for the Cheshire Mark Benevolent Fund. He also thanked Keith and Marian Goulden, Howard and Janet Waddell, Terry and Edith Varty and John and Margaret Goldsmith for all their hard work in once again organising the event.

All of the raffle prizes were donated and a large donation of fruit and vegetables from a very generous anonymous source was divided into several platters, beautifully gift wrapped by Terry and Edith Varty, a task which must have taken a great deal of patience and no little skill.

Albert Blurton once again donated the flowers which were red and yellow in memory of WBro. Ken Walker, a stalwart of the Masonic Guildhall in Stockport for many years, and a great servant to both the Mark degree and Benevolent Lodge of MMM TI.

A total of 125 people consisting mainly of Mark Masons with their partners and guests attended, paying the very reasonable sum of £10.00 a ticket for a main course followed by a sweet and including a glass of wine.

Before lunch the event started with a few words of welcome on behalf of the committee from Howard Waddell and stand up bingo, which was won by Mrs Jessie Rourke.



Howard Waddell in full flow

A splendid salmon lunch and sweet followed amid the sound of chattering and laughter as the assembled throng enjoyed the fellowship of each other's company.

The raffle was then drawn, the whole committee participating in its execution, with the shy and retiring Howard Waddell struggling to be heard above the shouts of "shake em up".

After a very enjoyable time, having sung happy birthday to Keith Goulden and with the grateful thanks of the Provincial Grand Master ringing in our ears it was time to go home - laden with raffle prizes! (or not as the case may be)



PGM, Bryan Ogden, mingles at the Lunch

Ron is an extremely enthusiastic Mason. He was initiated into Freemasonry in Onward Lodge No.6528 in 1984, served as Master in 1998, and has been its Secretary since 2004. He was advanced into Mark Masonry in 1991, joining Hyde Lodge of MMM No.868, became Master of the Lodge nine years later, and has been the Secretary there since 2002. He was appointed Provincial Grand Senior Deacon in the Mark Degree in 2006 and a year later he was elevated into the Hyde Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.868 where he is due to become the Worshipful Commander next year. He is also actively involved in a number of other degrees.

Ron is very much a family man. He has been married to Joan for 46 years and they have a son, two daughters and six grandchildren. Ron and Joan spend their spare time gardening, caravanning, walking, and visiting National Trust Houses and Gardens. When he was approached by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master last October with a view to taking on the duties of Provincial Grand Secretary, he discussed the appointment with his family before making the commitment.

Ron says: "I will be mainly working from home using my existing business office, however, we will be taking an office at Oaklands Masonic Hall in Hyde. Thankfully I will not be on my own, but will be to call on the help of my deputy Brian Mayoh of Stamford Mark Lodge and assistant Michael Richardson of Mersey Lodge of Mark Master Masons. Hopefully the new secretariat will enable the Mark Degrees and RAM Degrees to cut back on costs and consequently enable them to keep down the fees paid by the membership. I am tremendously proud to have been appointed the Provincial Grand Secretary. It is a great honour and I can assure all Cheshire's Mark Masons that I will be working hard on their behalf."

Special Night For Hyde RAM Lodge

HYDE RAM Lodge No.868 held a special meeting in January when they added two new names to their burgeoning membership list.

The double elevation was in itself a very special occasion, however, the fact that the candidates were father and son, and that the Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters were present made the meeting particularly memorable.

John Keyworth and his son Mark Keyworth, both Past Masters of the Hyde Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 868, were admitted to the Degree in an excellent manner by the Worshipful Commander Mike Shaw and his team, whose work received praise from W. Bro. David R. Sellers, then Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

He said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his first visit to the Lodge, adding: "It was a delight to see two more candidates join a Lodge that is looking very strong. It was good to see so many members present and I look forward to my next visit."

The two latest additions to Hyde RAM take the membership to a very healthy 37.



Mike Shaw, the Worshipful Commander of the Hyde RAM Lodge No.868 is pictured flanked by the two newest recruits to the degree, John Keyworth (left) and his son Mark.

MBF Festival 2011 - "a resounding success"

On Saturday 2nd July 2011 RWBro. T. Gareth Williams Provincial Grand Master for the Province of North Wales brought to a conclusion some seven years of hard work in the cause of charity, when he presided at the Annual Festival Dinner in aid of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The weekend started on the Friday night with a buffet and entertainment at the Venue Cymru Llandudno. The main event, the Festival Dinner on the Saturday, was handsomely supported by 726



Masons with their partners. When the totals were announced by RWBro. John Brackley, the magnificent total of £645,738 was revealed. The Province of Cheshire gained a special mention for our donation of £25,000 as did Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire for their donation of £15,000, due to a large refund from the caterers at their festival the year before (The Cheshire Mark Benevolent Fund was started by a refund in similar circumstances).

Brethren may be both interested and proud to learn that although the fund has been in existence since its formation in 1868, in the last twenty years it has given £3,941,725 to individual petitioners; £13,290,907 in major grants to worthy causes including £1,282,242 to Barts Cancer Centre in 2010/11; and £2,242,918 in smaller grants to worthy causes making a grand total of £19,475,550.

Cheshire was well represented with a delegation of 16 brethren and their wives, including our PGM, Deputy PGM, Assistant PGM, and our Past Deputy PGM and enjoyed a very happy weekend in each other's company. The next Festival will be held in the Province of Middlesex, at Twickenham on Saturday 29th September 2012. Further details will be circulated in due course.

The New Provincial Grand Senior Warden



David Heathcote MSc, was born in May 1963. He is married, and is a retired senior Police & Counter Terrorism Officer, who now has a wide range of business interests both at home and abroad.

He was initiated into Meridian Lodge in 1988 and served as WM in 1995. David is a joining member of eight other Craft Lodges and founder of two more. He is a Provincial Officer in Warwickshire and Cheshire and is currently the Provincial Grand Orator of Cheshire. He was elected an Honorary member of the Grand Lodge of Utah in 2008.

In the Mark Degree, he was advanced into Benevolent Lodge TI, and is a joining member of three more. David is a member of the Cornwall Leigh Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners and holds Provincial RAM Grand Rank. He is a member of many other Masonic orders.

Cheshire Mark Weekend Away 2011

Well, what a fantastic weekend that was! 'What was?' you ask. Another successful stay at the Cairn Hotel in Harrogate, organised by the Mark Events Team!

The event, was, once again enjoyed by a large number of Cheshire Mark Masons, together with their wives and guests. Whilst the weekend's focus was relaxation and fun, the highlight was the Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening. Everyone was made welcome by the Provincial Grand Master as he made his way around the dining room. He can be seen in the picture with WBro. Bill Cavanagh and Mrs Norma Cavanagh, not only with a raffle prize, but one of the magnificent table centre pieces beautifully made by the Deputy PGM's wife Mrs Maira Sellers.



WBro. Bill Cavanagh and Mrs Norma Cavanagh with the PGM

During the evening our PGM thanked all those who had attended. He pointed out that the weekend away was not just for Mark Masons, observing that "other members of Freemasonry not in the Mark, together with friends who are not Freemasons, would also be warmly welcomed". The event raised the magnificent sum of £700, which has been donated to the CPMBF.

In 2012, the Cheshire Mark weekend away will take place, between the 20th & 22nd of April. The location will be The Hydro at Bowness-on-Windermere. Originally built as a Water Cure Hotel in the late 19th century, catering to wealthy industrialists. This elegant Victorian building, with its breathtaking views is now a fine hotel and conference centre. Lake Windermere and the Lake's edge are only minutes away, with many of the local attractions and shops in Bowness close by. More details will be circulated in the Autumn.

The New Provincial Grand Junior Warden

Malcolm Edward Orr is a retired Senior Building Estimator, who enjoys his National Trust membership, fly fishing, walking, and visiting his son and family who live in Norway.

Malcolm was initiated in 1978 into Oxton Lodge No 3462, and holds the rank of PPrSGD. He was advanced in Leverhulme Mark Lodge in 1982, and has enjoyed four active ranks within the Province. He is Past Commander of the Leverhulme RAM Lodge and holder of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

Malcolm is also PPrGSN in the Royal Arch; holds 30th degree in the Rose Croix; PAGDC in The Degree of Royal & Select Masters; and is a member of the Order of Silver Trowel. He is currently Supreme Ruler of Shield of David Conclave in the Order of The Secret Monitor.

