

The Mark, Our Charity..... Good News!

The Mark continues to be active in Charitable work at all levels, in this edition of our Newsletter we can report the following successes for the Communities of Cheshire -



The Chester Chronicle reports the gift of £1000.00 to the Countess of Chester Hospital. The money was used to buy a hand held saturation monitor used to show how well babies or children with asthma are breathing.

We were asked if this editions competition was spot the baby..... but we thought better - it's obvious!

Do you have any News about Charitable work your Lodge has undertaken..... let the team know.

On the right we have the presentation of a new Audio system by our RW Provincial Grand Master and our APGM.

The gift was made to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Chester. The pretty one is Mrs. Ann Edwards, the Matron of the Hospice and wife of the Inspector General for the Rose Croix in Cheshire Marsh Edwards.

The system will be used at fund raising activities, particularly outdoors.



Grants made to Cheshire Hospitals - At the last meeting of Grand Mark Lodge a total of £2.1 million was granted to support Hospitals throughout the UK to assist in targeting Prostate Cancer. The money will be used to buy much needed equipment. Two Cheshire Hospitals have benefited - North Cheshire with **£44,607** and with the second largest overall donation - Wirral Hospital NHS Trust **£107,411 !!!**



Left to right - Bro's. Kevin Chesters, Jon Clipsham, Peter Hull and Julian Daniel

The story gets better. We now have 5 prospective candidates for the new season, and 3 joining members, taking the lodge membership over 40. The age profile of those joining is below state retirement age (in some cases significantly below). Next year's 'ladder' officers will all be Mark Master Masons, and our stewards collars will get an airing for the first time in a number of years. This should also mean that we do not have to ask our visitors to step into office at the last minute (which is just as well, as most of our regular visitors have now applied to become members of the lodge!).

There is no single, right answer to developing the membership of the Mark degree. What we have done at Eaton worked for us. If our ideas can be applied at your lodge, or stimulate your thoughts, then this article has been worth writing.

Jon Clipsham WM Eaton Mark Lodge 1607

Lodge Names

Following a recent visit by the Provincial Team to Walter de Hereford Mark Lodge No 1275 I was asked by several visitors "what was the derivation of the Lodge name?". The Lodge was founded in 1963. The founders found it difficult to find a name for the Lodge which suited everybody, but special circumstances solved the problem. King Edward I on his return from the wars founded in 1277, at Vale Royal, the largest Cistercian Abbey ever built. In the King's Chamberlain's accounts in the British Museum it is recorded that **Walter de Hereford was the Chief Overseer** who examined the work and paid the workmen their wages. It would be interesting for the derivation of other Lodge names to be explained so why not put pen to paper and let us all be enlightened.

T G Jones, Lodge Secretary.

Stamford Mark Lodge No.148

The Stamford Mark Lodge No. 148 was consecrated at Altrincham Town Hall on 15th July 1872. Seven Masons including the first Master, W.Bro. James Arthur Birch, had the honour of being Founders. So intense was the interest in the Mark Degree during this early period, that no less than three emergency meetings swelled the numbers to over 30 before the end of 1872.

The birth of Stamford Mark Lodge saw the number of Mark Lodges in Cheshire rise to five, the others being Ashton District, Joppa, Benevolent and Fidelity. It seemed to the local Senior Mark Masons, that with the additional Mark Lodges in North Wales, and no doubt due to the threat caused by the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland warranting Mark Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodges in Northern England, that it was eminently desirable to establish a Mark Provincial Grand Lodge in Cheshire, under the English Constitution, as soon as possible.

And so the Stamford Mark Lodge came to prominence again, at another emergency meeting held on 5th April 1873, it had the honour of hosting the consecration of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire and North Wales, where the Hon. Wilbraham Egerton was Installed as the first Provincial Grand Master, by RW Bro William Romaine Callender, the Mark Provincial Grand Master of Lancashire, and six Brethren of Stamford Mark, were invested as Acting Provincial Officers. Making progress from such a successful start was not easy. In 1875 the lodge numbers began to decline and during the 1880's a number of meetings were abandoned. In 1891, things changed and the ten years leading up to the death of Queen Victoria saw no less than 55 advancements.

The Lodge had its ups and downs during the twentieth century, as most others have, but met continuously, with only one meeting suspended, throughout both war periods and continued to do its duty in supporting the charities so well. During its long life, it has boasted a number of eminent Masons within its numbers, including the Hon Alan de Tatton Egerton (later 3rd Lord Egerton of Tatton), Bro. George Leigh OBE and Bro. F. Broadsmith.

In 1947, a number of Lodge members petitioned Grand Mark Lodge to establish a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, to be moored to the Stamford Mark Lodge, resulting in the Consecration of The Stamford RAM Lodge No. 148 on 7th May 1948. In 1991, some 119 years after its founding, the Lodge was proud to celebrate its Centenary, the lateness being due to the abandoned meetings in 1880's falling foul of Grand Lodge's requirement for "regular" meetings, when determining qualification for a Jubilee or Centenary.

In 1966, the Lodge moved its meeting place, from Altrincham, to Sale Masonic Hall where it meets today. We wish the Stamford Mark Lodge No. 148 and all its members well with continued prosperity into the new Millennium.

Notable Lodge Meetings - for your diary

Lodge RAM meetings 2004- 2005

1st Sept	Massada Mark	Consecration
28th Sept	Benevolent TI Mark	Presentation of Maul
15th Oct	Neston RAM	Presentation of Maul
12th Nov	Cestrian Mark / City of Chester RAM	Presentation of Maul
19th Nov	Egerton Mark	Team visit

Provincial Grand Mark Meetings

17th September 2004	Charity Repts Dinner	Middlewich
2nd April 2005	Mark AGM	Chester College
TBC May 2005	Mark Masters' Dinner	Middlewich
TBC June 2005	Mark GLO Dinner	Christleton

Grand Mark Meetings

14th December 2004	Royal Ark Mariner London
7th June 2005	Mark Investiture London

What No Ham?

The Royal Ark Mariner degree has different levels of understanding and here is a brief but interesting interpretation. Noah had three Sons, Japeth, Shem and Ham.

Noah (knower) is a word related to Nous or intelligence and therefore the Higher Mind or Wisdom.

Japheth represents the Japhetic or European race of peoples and the word Europe taken from the ancient Indo European languages means '*good form*'. Europe is the home of invention and science and can be seen as the head in the Northern Hemisphere, therefore Japheth can be related to the head or level of ideas in man.

Shem is the Semetic or mid zone with stress on the feeling and emotional levels.

Ham has definite links with the Hamitic races of North Africa and is the source of good Jazz rhythms.

Japheth, Shem and Ham correspond with the three levels in man Head, Heart and Belly. Perhaps Ham still needs to remain hidden as it can represent the hot, dark energies which are best concealed. It also represents a primitive form of the Will. It can be seen that this level best remains hidden and refined through ritual and work on the higher centres.

Gordon Smith Birkenhead Ram/Mark 1072