

**MARK PROVINCE OF CHESHIRE**

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**PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER**

R.W.Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden

**DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER**

W.Bro. David Alldred, P.G.J.D.

**ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER**

W.Bro. Christopher John  
Macdonald, P.G.Stwd.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire consists of 43 Lodges of Mark Master Masons and 21 Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners

Current subscribing membership being 1237 and 510 masons respectively.

**The Editorial Team**

If you have any ideas for improving this Newsletter, perhaps you have material or pictures about the Mark Degree in Cheshire which you think should be included, the Editorial Team would be pleased to receive them. We welcome **YOUR** news and views as this is our first Newsletter, help us to make it interesting for everyone.

The team can be contacted via e-mail or telephone - the details are below

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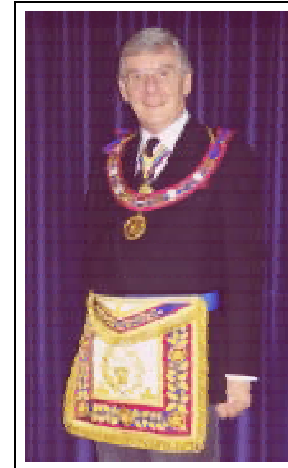
We are looking forward to providing you with new and exciting news about the Mark Degree in Cheshire.

Mark Province of Cheshire

**The Cheshire Mark Mason**

**Volume 1 Issue 1**

**October 2003**

**The Provincial Grand Master Writes**

Welcome to the 1st Issue of the Provincial newsletter; a newsletter designed to keep you in touch with what is current in this wonderful Mark Province of ours.

The past twelve months have witnessed many changes within the Province and we now pass confidently into a new phase in the history of Mark Masonry in Cheshire; a phase in which, building on the past and working together, our Province will flourish and grow.

As you read this we will have once more embarked upon a new a Masonic 'season', hopefully imbued with enthusiasm to further develop our Lodges and secure their futures.

There are some 7000 Craft Masons in Cheshire who are not Mark Masons and this is where our future lies. Long gone are the days when we waited for someone to show an interest in our Degree. The time is now to be pro-active and to introduce those friends in our Craft Lodges to the delights of receiving their Mark, of extending their Masonic knowledge and of our fraternity.

A very busy programme of visits has been organised in support of your endeavours I wish you every success. Mark well

R.W.Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden



## The Cheshire Mark Benevolent Fund

Dear Friends,



May I take this opportunity through the pages of this our first newsletter to thank you all for what we have achieved over the last 13 years, culminating in the magnificent figure that has been donated and invested in the Cheshire Mark Benevolent Fund.

This fund was started in 1990 from humble beginnings to a fund now envied by many. The value of the fund as this report is written is in the region of £300,000.

The capital invested is made up of Lodge donations, Personal donations, Donations from Dinners and functions from the highly successful Salmon lunches both at Woodford and at Neston. The donations received from the Salmon lunches since their inception in 1990 is over £30,000. Of equal importance is the 1000+ Club which has been so successfully run by W. Bro. Alan Smith. The

club has, since its inception, raised over £33,000 towards the Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund. I urge you to continue your marvelous support.

As you know, only the interest from the invested capital is used for needy causes, and as a result of an underspend two years ago, the amount distributed last year was over £20,000 covering grants to non Masonic Charities, Masonic Charities and to Brethren in relief of their distress.

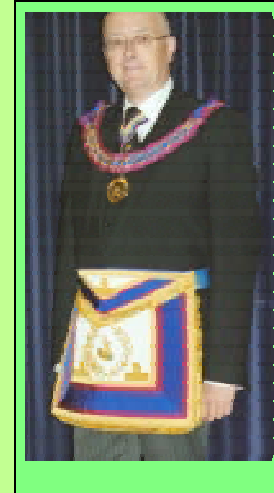
If you know of any needy cause that may be sourced from the fund, or indeed a brother in need, please contact your Charity Steward who now has a new user friendly application form and information to help in its completion.

At your next meeting, if you have not already done so, please complete a Gift Aid Declaration Form. You need not pay any money at this time, but any donation made by you in the future can be processed with the tax benefit passed on to the Fund.

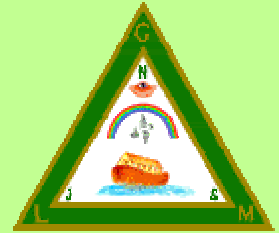
Thank you all again for your continued support of the fund, and thank you also to your partners and friends who support this fine Province of ours by attending our activities.

W. Bro. David Alldred, DPGM

## Royal Ark Mariner Degree



Even for an experienced Mason this Initiatory Rite holds a powerful spiritual as well as material enlightenment.



The Degree was once part of a series of ceremonies e.g. Past Master, Link, Wrestle and even the Royal Arch itself. As to how Mariner Lodges were originally "moored" (now attached) to Mark Lodges, this would, and does, take a book to describe.

Starting September 2003, a new initiative is being adopted; handing a leaflet to a Mark Brother when he receives his Mark Grand Lodge certificate to enable him to quickly further his "daily advancement". Indeed, the Provincial Grand Master and the Assistant both took this course - it was the first "chair" into which they were ever installed!

The R.A.M. degree is frequently coupled with another for the evening, i.e. a Mark or Allied. Nonetheless, it has established itself as a significant contributor to the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund raising the magnificent sum of £27,000+. In recognition of its own efforts, Neston R.A.M. will shortly be receiving its first maul.

An immediate Provincial objective is to move the present 48.5% of Mark Masons who are R.A.M. members to over the 50% mark.

W. Bro. Christopher John Macdonald, APMG

### West End Salmon Lunch Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2003

As usual, it was a great delight to welcome so many Brethren with their wives and families to Neston Civic Hall on a beautiful August day. We very much valued their support and the presence of the three rulers of the Province.

It is 10 years since we first ran this event and it is an accepted part of the Mark year in the western area of the Province, demonstrating how important the brethren at that end feel it is to support the Cheshire Provincial Mark Fund of Benevolence.

However, nothing is ever perfect and we would very much like to hear from other brethren who may be interested in helping us. New ideas are very welcome, indeed they are required if we are to continue to command the support that we have hitherto received. If you would like to help, please contact me by e-mail on [info@regalia.uk.com](mailto:info@regalia.uk.com).

**W.Bro.Duncan Moore**

### Annual Salmon Luncheon Woodford Community Centre

W.Bro.Douglas Green the late treasurer of Composite Mark Lodge No.1005, resided in Woodford and was very much involved in the Woodford Community Centre. It was he, together with W.Bro.Michael Stratton, and other worthy brethren who instigated the first salmon luncheon in 1984 for the purpose of generating funds for the 1989 Cheshire Mark Provincial Festival.

This function has proved to be a huge success. From records available it is recorded that from 1993 to 2003 a total of £14,502 has been donated to the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund. The event is currently organised by W.Bro.Alan F. Squires together with Past Masters and their ladies, all of whom are members of Composite Mark Lodge.

The continued success of the lunch is undoubtedly due to the wonderful support given every year by the Mark Masons of our Province, their Lodges and their friends. Tickets can be obtained, either from your Charity Representative or myself -

**W.Bro.Alan Squires**

### Report on the Masters Dinner

Thanks are due to W.Bro. Graham Humphries, who once again organised a very enjoyable and well attended annual Master's Dinner, at Middlewich on 23rd of May this year. Following an excellent dinner, the Provincial Grand Master took questions from the floor, prompting a lively and constructive discussion and the exchange of many ideas and opinions. The highly successful meeting concluded with W.Bro.Alan Smith conducting the 1000 Club draw.

## Know Your Cheshire Mark Festival Jewel

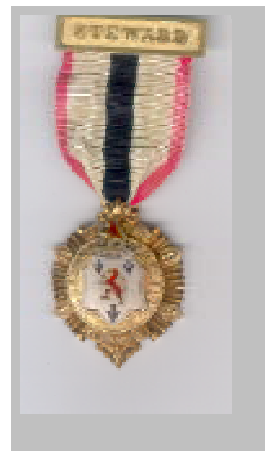


This feature is intended to introduce brethren to the Mark Festivals held in the Province of Cheshire and the jewels issued. The first festival for the Mark Benevolent Fund held in Cheshire was in 1885. The two jewels reproduced below are the standard 1885 Stewards Jewel and the Honorary Festival Presidents Jewel issued to Lord Egerton of Tatton as President of the Festival. This jewel was recently recovered from a private collection in Canada and returned to Cheshire. The turning point in history for the MBF came in 1885, and it came for two reasons. A record Festival and the establishment of an Annuity Branch for the fund.

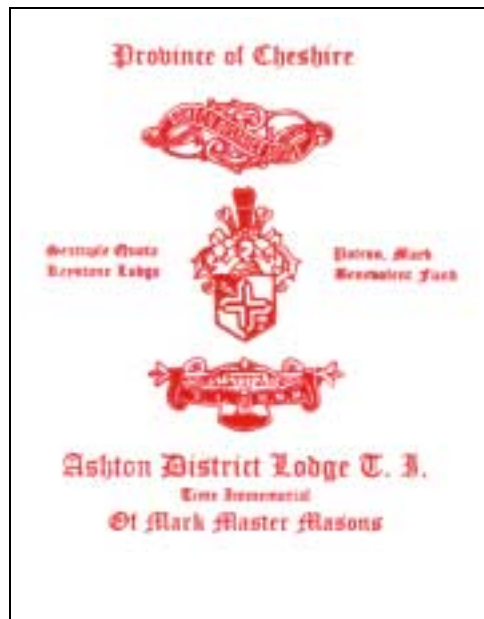
The 17th annual festival was held at Crystal Palace on July 22nd under the Presidency of the PGM for Cheshire, R.W.Bro.The Rt.Hon.The Lord Egerton of Tatton, the Deputy Grand Master. The fantastic total was £1,721 16s and was the direct result of Lord Egerton's own efforts and the largest board of Stewards recruited at the time, 87 in total (the total in 1884 was £884 with 47 Stewards).

It is interesting to note that the stock from which the MBF derived its income was held by the Trustees of Grand Mark Lodge - M.W.Bro.The Lord Egerton of Tatton, M.W.Bro.The Earl of Euston and R.W.Bro.Frank Richardson.

Handfield Jones in his work on the History of the MBF says of Egerton's achievement '*The result was not only a record but the first to exceed £1,000.00 and was over double the previous best*'. Brethren, a landmark to say the least when you consider that at the time the Province had just 8 Mark Lodges !!



## A Profile of Ashton District TI Lodge of MMM



Ashton District TI Lodge of Mark Master Masons is the oldest and most senior Mark Lodge in the Province of Cheshire. Proof exists of its working in 1830 and there is strong evidence indicating its existence as far back as the 1790's.

ADTI as it is known today, has a unique history steeped in colour and intrigue, and is well known during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century for having been a travelling Mark Lodge, commonly meeting on Sunday afternoons in some thirty Craft Lodges in the Provinces of Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire. As a consequence, it was commonly known as the Sunday travelling lodge.

Its members were not impressed when the Grand Mark Lodge was formed in 1856. This was no doubt due to the fact they were not invited to attend any of the planning meetings. They immediately formed their own Grand Lodge, having the title 'The Honourable United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of the Aston-u-Lyne District'! They even went as far as to support other Lodges, including Joppa Mark in Birkenhead, where they 'Inducted' all of Joppa's Founders. They have the accolade of being the last Sovereign Grand Body to have recognised Grand Mark Lodge in 1900, when they submitted to its authority at a special moveable Grand Mark Lodge held at Dukinfield, where it continues to meet today.

Following a further one hundred years of service to Mark Masonry, in 2000, ADTI celebrated the Centenary of its Reconstitution, in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Benjamin Addy, now Assistant Grand Master. Today the lodge flourishes and shines a bright beacon for Cheshire as being fifth in the role of some eighteen hundred Mark lodges under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas. We wish the Lodge and its members well.

## Notable Lodge Meetings - for your diary

### 2003

20th November Walter de Hereford Mark No.1275 Team visit

### 2004

19th February Leverhulme Mark / RAM No.1325 Team visit  
 20th February Neston Mark No.1445 3 Overseers Mauls  
 16th April Hyde Mark No.868 75th Anniversary

## Provincial Grand Mark Meetings

3rd April 2004 Mark AGM Chester College  
 19th May 2004 Mark Masters' Dinner Middlewich  
 18th June 2004 Mark GLO Dinner Christleton  
 17th September 2004 Charity Reps Dinner Middlewich

## Grand Mark Meetings

9th December 2003 RAM Investiture Meeting  
 8th June 2004 Mark Investiture (All ticket meeting)

## Report on Mark and RAM Grand Officers Dinner 2003

The first ever Mark and RAM Grand Officer's dinner was held at Cheshire View, Christleton, Chester, on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> June was a tremendous success. The event was very well supported with over 60 Grand officers in the two Degrees in attendance.

In welcoming all present, The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden mentioned that there had been many changes in the Mark and RAM Degree over recent months. He expressed his thanks for their commitment in the past and looked forward to their continued support in the future.

The Provincial Grand Master then presented an audio-visual presentation on the state of membership and age profile in the Mark and RAM. Pointing out that we are now entering a new era with new challenges. There was an emphasis on increasing membership in the future, not only to stimulate Lodges who have not had candidates recently, but also to maintain numbers due to the passing of Brethren and also from resignations.

There was a lively discussion with observations, comments and suggestions from the Grand Officers which were most welcome. Everyone agreed that the evening was a great success and that it should be repeated again next year.