

# The Cheshire Mark Mason

Autumn Edition

November 2005

## The Cheshire 2005 RMTGB Festival

The Brethren of the Mark will now all know of the fantastic result achieved for the 2005 Craft Festival, but for the record the result was:

# £5,690,918

The Mark in Cheshire can be equally proud that we supported our Craft colleagues by giving generously to the cause - the contribution from Cheshire Mark Masons being in excess of £25,000. The final total was announced at the Festival Banquet held at Old Trafford on the 13th of May 2005. The 750 Brethren and Ladies waited with baited breath, in sumptuous surroundings, for R.W.Bro.T.R.R.Richards the Provincial Grand Master in the Craft to announce the final total.

As many will know the original target was around the £4,000,000 mark, even that figure with less members in Cheshire since the last Festival seemed out of reach. Hence, when R.W.Bro.Richards took the podium to announce the total, the shock when he declared the figure was noticeable in all concerned, including the voice of R.W.Bro.Richards, as he gave the final total of £5,690,918. The Craft PGM has asked that his sincere thanks be recorded and that every MMM in the Province who contributed to the magnificent total be thanked via the pages of this Newsletter - *indeed brethren we have Marked Well.*

## Massada Lodge of MMM - A New Mark Lodge for Cheshire

In the 1960's Doctors David Isidor Livingstone and Leslie Citron had a vision to create a Lodge with the Mission Statement, that of being a Lodge for the benefit of all its members irrespective of race, colour, creed or religion. This resulted in the consecration on 5th December 1966 of Massada Craft Lodge No.8130 in the Masonic Province of Cheshire. It was later decided that this proud tradition should be continued and on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1987 Massada Chapter No.8130 was consecrated with E. Comp David I Livingstone, Past Assistant Grand Sojourner as First Principal.

In 2003, now aged 90, V.W. Bro David Livingstone approached 3 brethren, who had the vision and personality he needed to help him create a new Mark Lodge with the same ideals and mission statement as the other Massada Lodges. These three, W.Bros Jack Weiner, Harry Cohen and Steve Simpson gathered together a group of 20 Founders from various Mark Lodges in Cheshire, East and West Lancashire and West Yorkshire. After many meetings and checking availability it was finally decided to meet three times a year on the first Wednesday in September, December and May at the Masonic Hall, Clay Lane, Timperley.

Several of the Founders were also members of Canon Taylor Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1408 in East Lancashire. This Lodge had the same ideals and agreed to be the sponsoring Lodge. This was proposed by W. Bro Peter Schick (the 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Deacon of Massada Mark Lodge) at their meeting and accepted by the members present. Thus was created a link that crossed the Provincial boundaries by Lodges with the same *raison d'être*.

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004 the Massada Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1855 was consecrated by Rt. W. Bro Bryan Russell Ogden, Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire, assisted by the Members of the Provincial Team at the Masonic Hall, Clay Lane Timperley. There were over 100 Mark Masons present at the ceremony.

W. Bro David Alldred, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire installed W. Bro Jack Weiner P. Prov.G.S.Ov. as the first Master and V. W. Bro David Livingstone PGJOv, was invested as the Immediate Past Master.



In December 2004 the Lodge was honoured by the presence of Rt. W. Bro Benjamin Addy, Assistant Grand Master, who watched the advancement of its' first candidate. The Lodge already has several more candidates for advancement. If any Mark Mason wishes to visit this new Lodge they can contact the Secretary W. Bro Peter Schick and a warm welcome will be assured to all.

## Masons Mark Centenary

The CMM is pleased to announce yet another success in media coverage for Mark Masonry in Cheshire. Both the Chronicle and the Mail (Chester papers) carried almost half a page in their February 2005 editions, with the banner headings of *"Masons proud to Mark centenary of their Lodge"*. The articles, written by Robert Margerum (yes a Brother) reported the 100th anniversary of the Cestrian Royal Ark Mariner Lodge held at Christleton. The article which gave considerable detail of the celebrations also reported historical facts about the founders - who included John Hopley a famous and notable Cheshire Freemason. The Lodge which was consecrated by Brother the Rt.Hon Alan de Tatton Egerton PGM, is only the second of the 21 RAM Lodges in Cheshire to have marked this memorable milestone. Well done Brethren!

## Cheshire MBF supports Meningitis Bookmark Project



Towards the end of last year, an 11 year old boy, Adam Doughty, was suddenly and tragically struck down by meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia. His parents have subsequently focussed their energies into raising awareness of the killer disease and its symptoms.

Bro Keith Royden (a member of Middlewich and Eaton Mark Lodges), a friend of the Doughty family, decided, in conjunction with the family, that a bookmark would be an effective way to communicate the message. *"We decided that a bookmark would be the best way to warn of the disease because children and adults could have it to hand in books and be aware of the symptoms,"* explained Keith. *"The bookmarks could also be easily distributed to schools, libraries, doctors' surgeries and so on,"* he added.

The Cheshire MBF was approached with a view to supporting the project, and within 3 weeks of making the application for funds, a cheque for £1000 had been issued to cover the cost of producing 40,000 bookmarks. (The front of the bookmark is reproduced here, which acknowledges the support of the Cheshire MBF).

In an interview with the Cheshire Mark Mason, Adam's mother Alyson said *"Adam would have been over the moon with the bookmark – I can hear him saying 'I'm on a bookmark, look what I'm doing'. You always assume that you are untouchable, and that these tragedies only happen to someone else. Adam's death was our worst nightmare; however, we have got to do everything we can to make people aware of this disease. If these bookmarks manage to save one more life it will have been worth it. We are so grateful to Keith and his wife Val for their work. It has made such a difference to us."*

Keith Royden adds *"We would like to thank all concerned at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire, for the prompt attention that they took to grant this sponsorship for this worthy cause."*

The bookmarks are now being distributed throughout the North West of England. If you would like further information or to obtain the bookmarks, please contact The Meningitis Trust on 0845 120 4764 or e-mail Christine on [christineh@meningitis.org](mailto:christineh@meningitis.org) web site: [www.meningitis-trust.org](http://www.meningitis-trust.org)

**STOP PRESS:** At the time of going to press, the Cheshire Mark Mason has been advised that following their success in the North West of England, the Meningitis Trust intend to roll out the bookmarks nationally, as well as running an awareness campaign directly with schools.

Financial support for both of these projects will be needed, and we can look forward to a further request for funding in the near future.

### Support for life



Adam Doughty was only 11 years old when he contracted meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia and sadly died. But most people survive if they are treated quickly. Be aware of the symptoms of meningitis and tell an adult if you feel unwell. This bookmark has been produced in memory of Adam, keep it safe and maybe one day it will save someone's life.

The Meningitis Trust is a registered charity providing support for life to thousands of people affected by meningitis each year. We offer:

Financial Support Grants  
Home Visiting  
Counselling  
One-to-One Contacts  
Education & Training

If meningitis has had a lasting effect on you or someone close to you and you would like to access these services, please call the Meningitis Trust on 0845 6000 800.

The Meningitis Trust relies on the generosity of the public to fund its work, if you would like to make a donation, please call 0845 120 4989.

meningitis  
trust

Registered charity no. 803016

## Notable Lodge Meetings - for your diary

28th October 2005  
21st November 2005  
13th December 2005  
7th January 2006  
25th January 2006  
3rd February 2006  
20th March 2005  
29th March 2006  
12th April 2006

Altrincham Mark Team Visit  
Claughton Mark 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team Visit  
Ram Annual Meeting London  
Namptwche Mark 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Cornwall Legh Team Visit  
Sandbach 1609 (Team visit)  
Acting Officers Dinner, De Vere Daresbury Pk Hotel  
Deeside Mark New Banner (Team visit)  
Provincial Meeting at Chester College (**note** 4.00pm)

### V.WBro Harry Shepherd Cook PGJOv 50 Years in Mark Masonry

V.W.Bro Harry was Advanced into Mersey Mark Lodge 824 in April 1955, his Craft Lodge being St Lawrence Lodge 7227 in which he was initiated on the 25 January 1954. Harry was soon on the ladder and by January 1958 had risen to the office of Junior Deacon, he was installed as W.Master in 1965. Harry was appointed Director of Ceremonies in 1968, an office which he held until 1974. In that year, Harry received promotion to Past Provincial Grand Master Overseer. In 1976, W.Bro Harry had a second term as Director of Ceremonies until 1978. In 1984, V.W.Bro Harry received promotion to Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden.

In 1988, Harry was appointed Grand Standard Bearer, during his year in office V.W.Bro Harry attended on the Grand Master, and carried the Grand Masters Personal Standard. He has received promotion in Grand Mark Lodge on two other occasions, the first to Grand Junior Deacon in 1995 and to his present rank, that of Past Grand Junior Overseer, in 2003. V.WBro Harry also holds the Rank of RAM Grand Rank which he received in 1991.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2005, V.WBro Harry Shepherd Cook PGJOv celebrated his Jubilee year in the Mark Degree in the Mersey Mark Lodge 824. In the presence of the Rt W.Bro Bryan Russell Ogden, Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Master's, members of the Mersey Mark Lodge and many friends from the many Degree's in Freemasonry which Harry belongs to.

V.WBro Harry has been a leading light in all the Degrees in which he is a member. His kind, quiet way is so much appreciated by all who encounter him, we all look forward to celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> year. The CMM offers it's congratulations on this wonderful milestone

### V.W.Bro. Raymond Pyatt – 50 years in Mark Masonry

Tuesday 22nd March 2005 was a particularly happy occasion for the members of Macclesfield Mark Lodge No. 964. On this date, the Worshipful Master, Bro.David Thomson, welcomed many distinguished members of the Mark degree to a celebration of the anniversary of Raymond Pyatt's 50 years in the order. The Cheshire Mark Mason caught up with VWBro Raymond after the event for a short interview:

**CMM:** What was the highlight of your celebration meeting?

**VW Bro Pyatt:** To be supported, not only by my Lodge colleagues, but also the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy PGM and the Assistant PGM, as well as numerous visiting brethren from Cheshire and Lancashire. This, coupled with a splendid dinner, made for me an occasion which I will always remember with pride.

**CMM:** How would you describe your time in the Order?

**VW Bro Pyatt:** 50 years in Mark masonry is a long time in anyone's language, and for me they have been 50 happy years in such a friendly and happy degree.

**CMM:** What would you say has been the biggest change in Mark masonry over the last 50 Years?

**VW Bro Pyatt:** I think that the biggest change which has occurred in the half-century I've been a Mark mason has been that the degree has become much more democratic, in so far as junior brethren are now encouraged to take a more active part in the running of Lodge activities.

**CMM:** Has anything else changed significantly?

**VW Bro Pyatt:** I also think there is much more visiting done between members of the different lodges, which of course can only increase the happy and friendly atmosphere which has always been a prominent characteristic of this wonderful degree – and may this long continue.

The editorial team join with every other member of our Order in congratulating VWBro Harry and VWBro Raymond on their remarkable achievement, and we wish them both many years of continued enjoyment and happiness in Mark Masonry.

**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

**ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER**  
W.Bro. Christopher John Macdonald

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire consists of 44 Lodges of Mark Master Masons and 21 Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners



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## Report on the Annual Charity Representatives Dinner

Mid September saw Middlewich Masonic Hall once again playing host to the Annual Charity Representatives Dinner, so ably organised by W.Bro. John Ishmael PPrGSW. The event was very well attended as always, by the many Brethren who do such a valuable job in representing each Mark Lodge in the Province, the members of the Benevolent Committee, the Trustees of the Fund and the Leaders. Following dinner, the highlight of the evening was provided by W.Bro. Peter Carroll PAGDC, the Provincial Grand Secretary, who kept attentions focused by delivering a most interesting and informative Power point presentation. The presentation began by giving an insight into the improving membership statistics, both within the Mark and within the RAM in the Province of Cheshire.

Attention then focused on the Mark Charities. The fund currently stands at around £37,000, but fluctuates. The revised policy, as announced by the Provincial Grand Master, and detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter, will see the total fund remaining roughly unchanged year on year. Income from members and lodges, and the interest received from the fund, this will allow for a greater amount being available each year for distribution to deserving causes. This is currently estimated at around £25,000. The Provincial Grand Secretary stressed the amount being lost to the fund in tax which could not be reclaimed. He asked the Charity Representatives to request each and every member to sign a new General Giving Form, and thereby allowing for some £28 to be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue, for each £100 donated.

The evening concluded with a lively question and answer session, followed by words of appreciation and encouragement from the Provincial Grand Master to the Charity Representatives and Officials for their past, current and future efforts.

## A Revised Policy for the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund

Those Brethren who attended the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in April this year, will have heard the Provincial Grand Master announce a change in the policy in which the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund is administered.

Since its inception, the policy has been to invest all monies received and to donate the income from the accumulated fund. Consequently, reserves of the fund have steadily grown to a value today of some £370,000. This policy however, does not conform to the guidelines laid down by the Charity Commission and following discussions with them over a lengthy period, your Trustees have concluded that our existing policy is no longer sustainable, and must change.

From 1st November 2005, our capital reserves will be frozen and all future income and donations will be distributed in the year in which they are received. This change in policy will increase the amount we can apply for charitable purposes, whilst maintaining a substantial reserve. It will add appreciably, to our ability to adopt or support worthy causes within our communities.