

# The Cheshire Mark Mason

Autumn Edition

September 2006

## Mark Charity in Action.....

### Community First Responders

The Mark Province of Cheshire, in its drive to support charitable work in the community, is supporting a project known as "MRAS First Responders Community Scheme". The Province has already given £5,000, as the first of five annual payments of £5,000 to support the initiative.



*Just what is the "First Responders" Scheme all about and where is it based?*

The project is operated by the Merseyside Ambulance Service (MRAS) and committed to improving community based first aid skills. They have established a series of community first responder groups who provide the Trust with a community based first response to a range of 999 calls. They are linked to ambulance emergency control via pager and radio and operate in various parts of Cheshire and the Wirral. This scheme is managed by Steve Evans, First Responder Manager. He can be contacted at Trust Headquarters, Elm House, Belmont Grove, Liverpool L6 4EG, telephone 0151 261 2661 or email [steveevans@mras-tr.nwest.nhs.uk](mailto:steveevans@mras-tr.nwest.nhs.uk) – can you help?

Volunteering is a great way of developing new skills and learning from new experiences. It is an opportunity to meet friends, learn new skills or put experience to good use. It is also a chance to be part of a team that will make a difference to people's lives. In the Cheshire area the scheme is already operating in the following areas: Wirral, Nantwich, Congleton, Knutsford, Malpas, Poynton, Tarvin, Alsager and Tatton Hall.

Those participating receive training, support, expenses and basic equipment from the Ambulance Service – but others help with fund raising as this is the primary source of revenue.

### *So what do "First Responders" do?*

They primarily respond to Heart Attack victims. Schemes consist of a team of trained volunteers who operate within a three mile radius of their home. The operational area is limited to ensure a rapid response. Team members are on 'standby duty' on a voluntary rota - equipped with a pager, radio, automatic external defibrillator and a trauma kit including oxygen equipment (as carried by MRAS paramedics). They cannot be contacted directly and are only licensed to respond once a 999 call has been made. The MRAS are solely responsible for the deployment of "First Responders" who work as an integral part of the Ambulance Service.



"First Responders" are easily recognised as they wear high-visibility jackets and MRAS uniform with the name – First Responder – and the MRAS logo prominently displayed. All responders carry an Official ID Card bearing their name and photograph.

### *Meeting our commitment*

The Mark Province of Cheshire is delighted to be involved in this important life saving scheme which clearly meets the Provincial objective of supporting our communities in Cheshire.

## Musical Evening at Chester Cathedral

The Cheshire Mark Mason brings you advance notice of a musical evening which has been arranged for the enjoyment of brethren, their partners and friends and families and at the same time, in support of the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund.

The entertainment takes place at the beautiful Chester Cathedral on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at 7.30pm . The evening boasts one of the UK's best known organists, Nigel Ogden, supported by the Altrincham Choral Society.

Nigel is the well known presenter of the popular radio show on BBC Radio 2 "The Organist Entertains". In order to delight and entertain the brethren and their guests Nigel is to present a programme of popular light music to be played on the fabulous Chester Cathedral Organ – *AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!*

Tickets are price at £7.50 each and available from your Lodge Charity Representative.



## Deeside Mark Lodge ..... A New Banner!

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1923, members of Egerton Mark Lodge No. 165 held an emergency meeting at Birkenhead, to discuss the possibility of forming a new Lodge. Later that year, Deeside Mark Lodge No, 795 was consecrated.

The first mention of a new banner came at a meeting in February 1973, when the lodge was planning its silver jubilee celebration, but for unknown reasons, a banner did not materialise.

Early in 2005, the Secretary, W.Bro. Jim Hardman and the Senior Warden, Bro. Harry Fynn attended a dinner party. It was here that a banner was again suggested. As the party progressed that night, so did the ideas for designs, shapes and sizes and finally a decision was made. A photograph of the proposed design was subsequently submitted to Grand Lodge, via the Provincial office. Within a month it was approved; quickly followed a letter of congratulations.

After discussions with the maker, the Banner was delivered just four months later, to the delight of the two donors, W.Bro. Hardman and Bro. Fynn. The Provincial Grand Secretary was informed, who in turn made arrangements with the RW Provincial Grand Master to attend. He was accompanied by the Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and the Provincial team, in order to dedicate and bless the new Banner.



On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2006, The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro. Bryan R. Ogden, together with 135 other Mark Masons packed the Wallasey Masonic Hall to absolute capacity. Guided by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. Peter Dowell PAGDC, the Banner Bearer, Bro. Nikolas Miles Hardman, the son of the Lodge Secretary, proudly paraded the banner into the Lodge room (see photo), where the Dedication ceremony proved to be most interesting and enjoyable for all. The Provincial Grand Chaplain, W. Bro. Bruce Harry PAGChap rendered a most interesting oration which enriched the whole ceremony.

The design of the banner was taken from the Lodge logo, as depicted on the summons. On the left is a representation of the column which stands at the summit of Caldy Hill in West Kirby, commemorating those lost in the Great War, 1914-1918. In the centre is depicted the Old Lighthouse at Kings Gap, Hoylake. The Lighthouse acted a warning to shipping entering the Dee Estuary as the port was once very busy indeed. On the right is the 'Dee Mark', which is located at the mouth of the River Dee, as a marker indicating to shipping that they are leaving the Irish Sea and entering the Dee.

Deeside Mark is a vibrant lodge, having advanced over thirty brethren since the year 2000. It continues to work hard, both in lodge and for the Charities. We wish them well.

### Report on the Grand Officers Dinner

Held annually since 2003, the Grand Officers dinner was once again well attended when the Provincial Grand Master hosted the event at Cheshire View, Christleton, at the end of June.

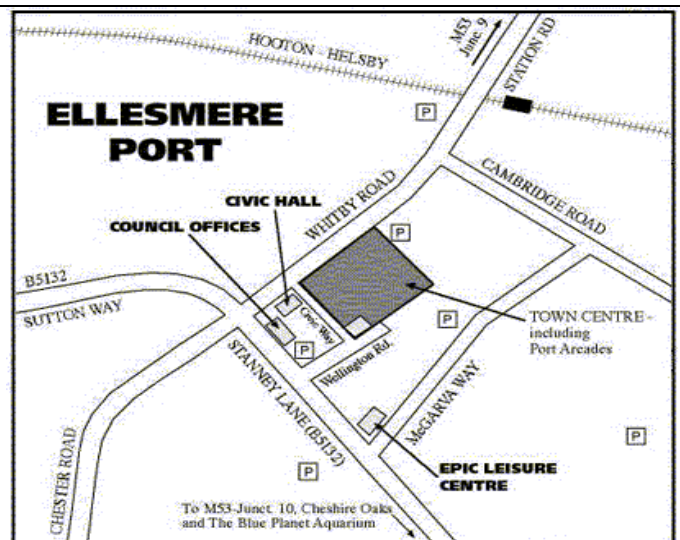
Following an excellent meal the Provincial Grand Secretary delivered a state of the nation presentation, which prompted a useful exchange of ideas provided and much appreciated feedback. The Provincial Grand Master continued by welcoming the newly appointed Grand Officers and thanked all for their support over the year.

Points made by the PGM at the Dinner;

- The past 3 years have witnessed growth in unique membership
- Advancements in 2005 highest number since 1998
- Mark membership at 15% craft, need to continue to encourage new candidates
- RAM membership at 46% of Mark, need to stimulate new candidates
- No exclusions in 2005!
- Quality of ritual work important, sharing is encouraged

### New Grand Officers for 2006

W. Bro. Walter John Astbury to AsstGSdBr  
W. Bro. Paul Bullows to Grand Steward  
W. Bro. John Ishmael to PAGDC  
W. Bro. John Roland Chantler to PAGDC  
W. Bro. Benjamin Marsh Edwards to PAGDC  
W. Bro. Jonathan Terence Crompton to PAGDC



## Ellesmere Port and Provincial Grand Lodge

### Annual Meeting 2007 New Venue

Brethren we would like to remind you that in 2007 the Annual Meeting for the Cheshire Mark Degree will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 at the Ellesmere Port Civic Hall Ellesmere Port, Cheshire

The meeting commences at 11.00am  
Please make all efforts to attend - Car parking is available.  
Please see map for your directions

## Consecration of the Cheshire Installed Commanders Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 1468

Early in 2005, the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Bryan Russell Ogden asked W.Bro. David R. Sellers RAMGR and W. Bro. William A. Chalmers RAMGR, to look into the possibility of founding a new Royal Ark Mariners Lodge - exclusively catering for Installed and Past Commanders. The idea was to allow senior members of the Province to meet and exchange ideas and innovations for the promotion and betterment of the degree in Cheshire. The principle was working very well in the Mark degree through the East Cheshire Lodge of MMM 1468 and the West Cheshire Lodge of MMM No 1497 – so why not for the Ark Mariners Degree.



Following much consultation and planning, it was at a meeting of the East Cheshire Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1468 on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2005, when W.Bro. William A. Chalmers PGJD, the newly installed Worshipful Master rose. He gave a brief description of events, formally proposing that the East Cheshire Mark Lodge be the sponsoring lodge for the new Installed Commanders Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, which was to be founded in May 2006. This was seconded by W.Bro. David R. Sellers PGJD and approved with acclaim by the assembled brethren.

And so the foundations of the new Lodge were laid, the efforts of which came to fruition on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006, at Cheshire View, Christleton. On this date over one hundred brethren joined with Provincial leaders and thirty nine founders to consecrate the Cheshire Installed Commanders Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 1468.

At 6pm exactly, the Consecrating Officer, RW Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden, entered the Lodge and took the chair. Following salutations and prayers, he explained the reasoning behind the consecration. The Petitioners formed up in the East to hear the Warrant read by the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Peter E. Carroll PAGDC. Following a most interesting Oration by the acting Provincial Grand Chaplain, W. Bro. B. S. Raby, the Consecrating Officer, assisted by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. Peter J. Dowell PAGDC, perambulated the lodge scattering the emblems of abundance, plenty, joy, gladness, peace and harmony. Completing the ceremony, the consecrating officer dedicated and consecrated the new lodge.

The Installation of the Primus Commander saw W.Bro. David Robinson Sellers RAMGR, ably installed into the chair by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. David Alldred RAMGR. Following the appointment and investiture of the officers, the Lodge was closed and the brethren retired.

The event concluded with good food and company at an excellent festive board which saw the dining room filled to capacity. We wish the members of the new Lodge well for the future.



## Notable Lodge Meetings for Your Diary

Date	Meeting	Place
20 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	Mark Charity Reps Dinner	Middlewich Masonic Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2006	Exhibition of Mark Masonry	Freemasons Hall Great Queen Street London
24 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	Grand Masters Lodge of Instruction	Mark Masons Hall London
25 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	Mark 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner	Guildhall London
26 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mark Grand Lodge	Royal Albert Hall & Freemasons Hall London
27 <sup>th</sup> November 2006	Team Visit Middlewich Lodge No. 902 - 75 <sup>th</sup> & Bro.J.M.Clerc's 50 <sup>th</sup>	Middlewich Masonic Hall
7 <sup>th</sup> December 2006	Mark Musical Evening	Chester Cathedral
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2006	Grand Mark Lodge RAM Annual Meeting	Mark Masons Hall London
9 <sup>th</sup> January 2007	Team Visit Birkenhead Lodge No.1072 – Lodge 60th Anniversary	Birkenhead Oliver Street

### Report on the Annual Masters Dinner

Once again, Middlewich Masonic Hall played host to the annual Masters Dinner held during May earlier this year. As always, a good attendance of Masters and Commanders set the scene for a successful evening enhanced by the excellent food consistently provided by the Manager at Middlewich, W.Bro. Dave Topp and Mrs Topp.

Ably organised for many years by VW Bro Graham Humphries PGJOv, the meeting provides a forum for Masters of Mark Lodges and Commanders of RAM Lodges to meet each other, exchange views and put questions to the Provincial Grand Master.

2006 proved to be an interesting meeting with a number of challenging but constructive questions put to the Provincial Grand Master, who thanked all present for their continuing efforts in support of the popular and expanding Mark degree in the Province of Cheshire.

### Farewell ..... But not goodbye!

Both W.Bro.David Heathcote and W.Bro.David Lawrence are leaving the Cheshire Mark Mason Editorial Team for pastures new. David Lawrence is planning to move, not just out of Runcorn but to America – *Wenatchee* to be specific, David said with a smile *"I would have still been involved, even on e-mail but I won't be able to get to the planning meetings – unless the Province can fund the flights!"*

After personally printing over 34,000 pages of the Cheshire Mark Mason W.Bro.David Heathcote said *"My printer has given up! Seriously, both David Lawrence and I have enjoyed our time on the team, it's sad that David is moving away, but we wish him well. For my part I have other duties in the Craft which are taking more time and I need to work on those projects now that the CMM is an established newsletter"*

W.Bro's. Paul Bullows and Jon Clipsham will continue to produce the CMM, if you would like to join the team please contact Paul on the number or e-mail given below.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**This edition has a larger font than usual for the visually impaired. Lodge Almoners may wish to consider visiting Brethren who would otherwise be unable to read the Newsletter due to blindness or serious sight impairment and read the Cheshire Mark Mason to them – after all we are the friendly and caring degree**

#### 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 22 Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners



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