

The Cheshire Mark Mason

Spring Edition

March 2007

Grand Lodge celebrates its 150th Anniversary in style.....

Thursday October 26th 2006 was one of the most memorable dates in the history of the Mark Degree in living memory. On this date over 6000 Mark Masons, wives, partners, and friends made the journey to London to participate in the Celebration of 150 years of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. So great was the support for the event that the Albert Hall was filled to capacity, and additional accommodation had to be found at Freemason's Hall.

The Province of Cheshire was very well represented at the event, with over 160 brethren and partners making the journey South. On the day before the main celebration, executive coaches were organised from Christleton and Timperley to transport the Cheshire contingent, many of whom took advantage of the 'competitively priced' accommodation offer at the Bedford Hotel.

During the evening of Wednesday October 25th, a magnificent dinner was held at the Guildhall for Senior Mark Masons, at which the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden, VW Bro. Timothy Richards Grand Master Overseer and W Bro. Paul Bullows Grand Steward were privileged to be present.

The main celebration took place during the afternoon of Thursday 26th October, when brethren from all over the world, dressed in full regalia, joined their partners in an afternoon of pageantry, music, speeches, and a wonderful demonstration of that often unsung aspect of our freemasonry – charity. The majority of the Cheshire group were seated together in the gods; however, there were two large projector screens



The Grand Master addresses the assembled brethren and guests



Dinner at the Guildhall, London

above the stage which enabled the proceedings to be viewed with great clarity. The proceedings were also transmitted 'live' to those at Great Queen Street. The event began with a procession of acting Grand Officers, followed by the Provincial and District Grand Masters, Heads of other Masonic Orders, the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, accompanied by the Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Master for the Craft, and finally with the Most Worshipful Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, accompanied by the Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Assistant Grand Master taking centre stage. Princess Michael of Kent was evident in the Royal box. (A comment was made during one of the formal speeches referring to the array of gold present as 'Masonic bling'!) To see unity so much in evidence among the various orders was a delight. An opening address and prayer was followed by a musical interlude provided by The Royal Masonic School for Girls. RW Bro. James Daniel then gave a witty and expertly illustrated talk on Masonic Founders and Builders – a very detailed presentation of some of those influential and active Mark Masons, without whom a 150th celebration might not have happened.

To further mark the event, the five founding lodges (Bon Accord, Royal Cumberland Lodge of MMM, Northumberland and Berwick upon Tweed Lodge of MMM, Old Kent Lodge, and Phoenix Lodge of Mark Masters) were presented with new banners. The banners were then paraded and dedicated. At this point in the proceedings, the principal guest arrived – HRH the Duchess of Cornwall, who was present in her capacity as President of the National Osteoporosis Society. A cheque was then presented by the President of the General Board, to the Society for £3 million for the purchase of Mobile Osteoporosis Scanners (which equates to around £70 from each Mark Mason – Ed). This is the largest single donation ever made by the Mark Benevolent Fund since its inception in 1868.

The celebration closed with the National Anthem and outgoing parade. Those brethren who were watching at Great Queen Street were later treated to a visit from the Prince Michael of Kent and the other leaders of the Order, which was a very welcome surprise. The brethren who attended received a commemorative programme, breast jewel, book of lectures, and a Mark token and the ladies, a scarf – wonderful reminders of a fantastic occasion.

On the Thursday evening, 80 brethren and their partners joined a dinner at the Imperial Hotel, which was attended by our own leaders. Overall a hugely successful event, with some poignant and very happy memories. Our grateful thanks go to W.Bro's David Heathcote and Paul Bullows who organised the transport, accommodation and dining for the brethren of Cheshire.



The presentation of the cheque for £3 million

Celebrating 75 years at Middlewich Mark Lodge!

On 27th November 2006 the brethren of Middlewich Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 902 were joined by our Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden and the full Provincial team to celebrate the Lodges's 75th Anniversary. It was a full house and a very enjoyable occasion, made even more special by the added celebration of W.Bro. Malcolm Clerc's 50 years in Mark Masonry which came with a most amusing explanation of how his family named was derived!

Our Provincial Grand Master took the chair and delivered a warm and most interesting oration reflecting on some interesting past history together with hearty good wishes for the future. There were 57 brethren present at the 3.45pm Consecration meeting of the Lodge held on Saturday 7th November 1931 at Kinderton Street, Middlewich. R.W. Bro. Cuthbert Leicester Warren then PGM was in attendance and V.W. Bro George Leigh JP PGO DepPGM proceeded to Install W.Bro Evanson PPrAGDC as Worshipful Master. Dinner was priced at the princely sum of 10/6!

There were only 7 founder members, none of whom were actually from Middlewich however, W.Bro Evanson and his officers advanced no less than 12 Brethren in their first year, most of whom were members of Middlewich 's Avondale Craft Lodge No 2389. From 1932, Mark Lodges were encouraged to become Keystone Lodges, which Middlewich MMM Lodge achieved in 1940. Between 1932 and 1945, a further 20 brethren were Advanced however, the Lodge does not record many visitors in attendance probably due to WW2 and during the war years there were no festive boards held.

Since 1932, the Lodge has gone from strength to strength and now boasts some 50 members and is currently the largest Mark Lodge in the Province of Cheshire, saving the flagship lodges of East and West Cheshire.

The brethren are proud to have contributed considerable funds to the Mark Benevolent Fund and have an abundance of Mauls presented by our PGM on numerous occasions. One such PGM visit was to celebrate W.Bro Ken Davies's feat of walking from John o' Groats to Lands End at the same time raising £ 2700 for the Fund!

Since 2000 the Lodge has attracted a candidate for Advancement at every meeting or, put another way, one candidate for every meeting this century. Proud of their history and traditions, they are looking to the future with confidence and are always on the look out for worthy Craft candidates.

We are indebted to the Lodge Secretary, W.Bro Reg Jackson PPrGSwdBr, for supplying us with this most interesting history of Middlewich Lodge of MMM. (*Thank you Reg—Ed*).

An evening of Music at Chester Cathedral

Chester Cathedral provided a superb setting for the beginning to the 2006 Christmas festivities. The evening of music was ably organised by our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. David Alldred PGSD, himself an accomplished organist. Some 346 brethren and guests attended, including the Deputy Lord Mayor of Chester and Consort and a number of leaders from degrees other than the Mark, such as Tim Richards, Peter Chapman, Mike Shaw, Ian Cranston and John Ellershaw, as well as our own Provincial Grand Master, Bryan Russell Ogden.

The entertainment was provided by Nigel Ogden and the Altrincham Choral Society. Nigel of course, is a very well known organist, presenting regularly on Radio 2's *The Organ Entertains*. The quality of the music was superb, and enjoyed by all - how do you make a church organ sound like a Wurlitzer? - and the rendition of the programme devised by both Nigel Ogden and the Choir was more than just simply music, it was entertainment of the highest order.



Nigel Ogden



The magnificent organ at Chester

At the time of going to press, we understand the event raised around £700 for the CPMBF, a significant achievement. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master has asked that thanks on behalf of himself, the Provincial Grand Master, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and indeed the whole Province, must go to all Lodge Secretaries and Charity Representatives for their efforts with the sale of tickets and to the brethren for their support of the event and continued support for the Mark Province of Cheshire.

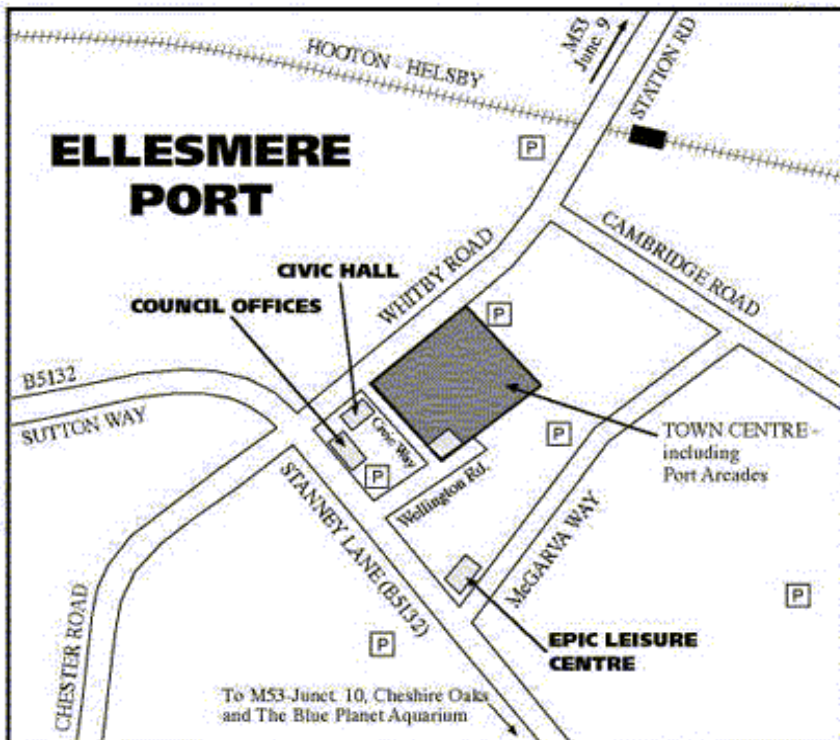
CHESTER CATHEDRAL

The story of Chester Cathedral can be traced back to the time of the Saxon Minster, which in 907 housed the remains of St. Werburgh. During the period 1092 to 1540 the Benedictine Abbey of St Werburgh flourished on the same ground. The story continues with the foundation of a Cathedral for Chester Diocese by Henry VIII in 1541, and on to today. As a result, the present building contains materials belonging to every Christian century since the tenth, including a plentiful assortment of Masons' Marks!

Provincial Grand Lodge at Ellesmere Port

Annual Meeting 2007 New

The venue this year, for the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be the Ellesmere Port Civic Hall. Dining after the meeting will be at the Masonic Hall, 141 Chester Road, Whitby, Ellesmere Port CH65 6SD. Please note that **only** those brethren booked in to dine will receive a parking ticket for the Masonic Hall – no ticket, no parking because space is limited. All other parking is Pay & Display (reasonable charges) in the Town Centre by the Civic Centre, behind the Market and at the junction of Cromwell and Wellington Roads. Access is onto Station Road (A5032) from Junction 9 of the M53, over the railway bridge (becomes Whitby Road) and car parking and Civic Centre are to the left through the Town Centre. Carry on down Whitby Road, becomes Chester Road, as far as the Cottage Hospital and the Masonic Hall is opposite on the left. Approaching from the A41 Chester side, fork right onto the A5032 at Backford again heading for the Hospital. Approaching from the A41 Birkenhead side, turn left in Great Sutton onto the B5132 Sutton Way to the junction with Whitby Road.



Transport to and from the Civic Centre from the Masonic Hall will be by car between 8.00am and 8.45am for current Acting and Designate Acting Officers, those receiving honours and or promotions and RAM delegates; and by Carver's coaches from 9.45am to 10.10am for VIP's and remaining diners. If the weather is good, and for brethren so inclined, the walk is about half a mile! Brethren involved in the rehearsals, processions and the RAM delegation must be at the Civic Centre by 9.00am please, other brethren to be seated by 10.30am. We hope you enjoy the day!

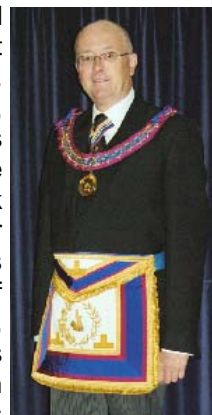
CPMBF Update — 1000+ Club



The 1000+ Club was founded after the 1989 Festival in order to revitalise local funds. Aply run by W. Bro. Alan E. Smith PGSD for the past ten years, the club is the largest single contributor to the CPMBF. Alan has made a few recent improvements and the top prize has now doubled to £100, with a £50 and a £25 prize also available. The lower level prizes have now gone. With twelve draws a year, taken between May and December, ensure you have a good chance of winning by buying an extra ticket! Why not buy one for your partner too! W. Bro. Alan sends grateful thanks to those who have contributed so well, it makes such a difference to those in need.

The APGM to Retire

At the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge on March 17th, our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Christopher John Macdonald PGJD, RAMGR, retires. Bro. 'Chris' has made a significant contribution to the wellbeing and promotion of the Mark degree in Cheshire over the past four years and of course we will all miss him as one of our leaders! On behalf of all the members of the Province, we would like to thank Chris for all his considerable efforts and wish him well in his recent appointment as Intendant General for the Division of Cheshire in the Degree of Red Cross of Constantine. Of course, Claire, his wife, is now eyeing the inevitable spaces in Chris's diary, but we are sure she will have no trouble at all in filling them in! Good Luck Chris!



Acting Officers Dinner



Following on from last year's very successful event, the lush settings of the Daresbury Park Hotel once again played host to the Acting Officers Dinner. The Provincial Grand Master took questions from the floor prompting constructive discussion. This was followed by the usual high quality food and wine, which, allied with such good company, made for an excellent night enjoyed by everyone who attended.

To fill the position left free as a result of Chris's retirement, the Provincial Grand Master has been pleased to appoint W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers PGJD, RAMGR as Assistant Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Cheshire. Bro. David will be Obligated and Invested at the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge on March 17th 2007. A full report will be given in the next edition of the newsletter.

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
13 th March 2007	Grand Lodge Meeting	Mark Masons' Hall, London
17 th March 2007	Mark Provincial Grand Lodge	Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port
28 th March 2007	Team Visit—10th Anniversary of Marple Mark Lodge	Oaklands Masonic Hall, Hyde
24 th April 2007	Friendship Meeting, Benevolent TI Lodge	Masonic Guildhall, Stockport
15 th May 2007	Consecration of Tarporley Royal Ark Mariner Lodge	Portal Premier, Tarporley
30 th May 2007	Masters' Dinner	Masonic Hall, Middlewich
12 th June 2007	Grand Lodge Investiture	Great Queen Street, London
29 th June 2007	Grand Officers Dinner	Cheshire View, Christleton
11 th Sept 2007	Grand Lodge Meeting	Mark Masons' Hall, London
21 st Sept 2007	Charity Representatives' Dinner	Masonic Hall, Middlewich

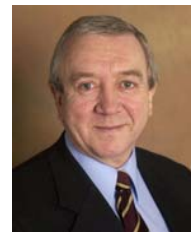
Cheshire Mark Mason welcomes three new members to the Editorial Team

Following the appeal in the last issue of the CMM, the Editorial team received a boost recently with three new members joining. They are Rick Henshaw, Fraser McCord and Brian Rose, all well known in the Mark Province of Cheshire.



Rick of course is well known in Cheshire in many orders. He has recently been assisting in Provincial office with the identification and cataloguing of the books and papers in the archive. He began his career in the Mark Degree in Tuscan Mark Lodge No. 922 in 2000 and went on to join Altrincham Mark No. 1024 in 2005. He is currently Master in both Lodges! He was further Elevated into Altrincham Royal Ark Mariner Lodge during 2002. Welcome Rick.

Advanced into the Altrincham Mark Lodge No. 1024 in March 2000, Fraser is a Dentist—Professor of Restorative Dentistry at the University of Glasgow. He went on to join Derby Mark Lodge in East Lancashire and was Elevated in the University Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No. 1001 in 2001 and joined Altrincham RAM in 2002. He is currently Commander Elect in University Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, going into the chair in June this year. Welcome Fraser.



Brian is a retired electrical engineer. He was Advanced into the Earl of Chester Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 196 in April 1995 and is currently a Mark Provincial Grand Steward. He was Elevated into the Cestrian Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in February 1996 and is presently a Past Commander. He is well known of course, as the Press and PR Officer for the Chester and Christleton Districts, a useful position to hold as a member of the CMM Editorial team! He is also Secretary of the reception committee for the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall. Welcome Brian.



Contributions

The *Cheshire Mark Mason* team are always grateful to receive information and or photographs relating to Mark events in the Province. Please contact any member of the Editorial team, details below.

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DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

W.Bro. David Allred PGSD RAMGR

ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

W.Bro. Christopher John Macdonald PGJD RAMGR

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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