

Staley Lodge Centenary

Hyde Masonic Hall at Oaklands hosted the Centenary celebrations of Staley Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 597 on Thursday 4th September 2008.

The Lodge was consecrated at Stalybridge on 2nd May 1908 by W. Bro. Lilley Ellis, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Amongst the fifteen Founders was a notable Brother, Lt. Col. Hubert Cornwall Legh of High Legh Hall, Knutsford, SW designate, and afterwards in 1919 of course, Provincial Grand Master.

During the past 100 years, Staley Mark has held 410 meetings, installed 105 Masters, Advanced 209 Mark Masons, and set the record for the longest serving Secretary, WBro Oswald Andrew at 47 years, also a Founder. It has also produced the current Assistant Grand Master, RWBro Benjamin Addy, who is the current Master, two Provincial Grand Masters, one Assistant Provincial Grand Master, 9 Grand Officers and 49 Provincial Grand Officers. A magnificent record!

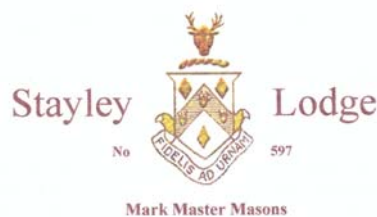
The celebratory evening went very well, with the Assistant Grand Master, and longest serving member, RWBro Benjamin Addy in the chair. The full but hushed lodge room saw the Provincial Grand Master expertly expound on the past 100 successful years of the lodge as it passed through both turbulent and more prosperous half centuries. Of note was the excellent historical record booklet given to all present, produced by WBro Kenneth Hall, the Lodge Secretary, which records many of the interesting events and statistics relating to the Lodge.

As Staley Mark Lodge now sets out on its second century, it can be proud in the knowledge that it has marked so well and made such a significant contribution to Freemasonry in Stalybridge and Hyde, and to the Mark degree in the Province of Cheshire.



(L to R) RWBro Bryan R Ogden Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Benjamin Addy Assistant Grand Master, WM and VWBro David Allred, PGJO, Deputy Provincial Grand Master

PROVINCE OF CHESHIRE



First Lodge Qualifies for 150th Anniversary Keystone Button

The Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Bryan Ogden was pleased to present the first 150th Anniversary "button" in Cheshire to WBro Doug Watts, PGJD, currently the WM of the Cheshire Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1825 on 2nd September 2008. The PGM complimented the Lodge on being the first in Cheshire to qualify for the button, which now enhances the existing Collarette and Jewel of the Lodge. At the meeting, the lodge received a very entertaining lecture entitled Masonic Impostors presented, given by Bro F Lomax of the Manchester Lodge of Research.

The first qualifying RAM Lodge, and second overall Cheshire qualifier is the Sincerity Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 327 meeting at Wallasey and their Collarette and Jewel was presented by the PGM in October.

Whilst the PGM has expressed the wish that all Cheshire Mark Lodges qualify for the 150th Anniversary Keystone Jewel, no such request has been made of RAM Lodges so, well done the Stewards for leading the pack and well done to Sincerity RAM.

Bill Ashton's Jubilee



On Wednesday 19th November 2008, almost one hundred Mark Brethren from across the Province, including the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and a galaxy of Grand Officers packed the lodge room at Whitby, to join with VWBro William "Bill" Noel Ashton PGJO in Rivacre Mark Lodge No. 1016, to celebrate his attaining fifty years in Mark Masonry.

The celebration included the presentation of a well researched and most interesting resume of Bill's personal and Masonic career, including his military service, by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Bryan R Ogden. In the Mark degree, Bill was Master of Rivacre Mark Lodge in 1968, serving as a Warden of the Province and attaining Grand Rank as PAGDC in 1991. He was further promoted to PGSD in 1998 and PGJO in 2004.

The work in the Lodge room was followed by a most enjoyable social board with good food and good company, and complemented at the end by a most amusing dialogue, delivered so expertly by WBro Michael Anthony Smith PAGDC.

The large number of brethren attending both the lodge and the social board to support Bill was a testament to his popularity in the Mark and struck a fitting tribute to such a distinguished Mason. We wish him well for the future.

Altrincham Lodge of MMM and RAM Lodge No 1024 receive a Special Visit

This October saw Altrincham Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and Altrincham Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 1024 (which meet consecutively on the same evening) honoured by the presence of two very special visitors, one officially, and one unofficially.

The RAM lodge was opened in due form by the Worshipful Commander Bro Richard Henshaw and his officers and under the direction of, WBro James Munro, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro David Robinson Sellers PGJD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master entered and was given a most cordial welcome to the Lodge. Accompanying WBro Sellers and in an unofficial capacity was RWBro Benjamin Addy, Assistant Grand Master, who was also given a very warm welcome.

As there was important business to be conducted later in Altrincham Mark Lodge, the Worshipful Commander closed the Lodge in peace and harmony and the room was prepared for the next proceedings.

Altrincham Lodge of Mark Master Masons No1024 was then opened by the Worshipful Master WBro Alfred J. Prime and his officers and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies again announced that WBro David Robinson Sellers, PGJD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master accompanied unofficially by, RWBro Benjamin Addy, Assistant Grand Master were without and desirous of joining the brethren. The Lodge stood to receive their very important guests and the Worshipful Master extended a most warm welcome.

Thereafter followed the most important part of the evenings proceedings, the Advancement of Bro Jonathon Terris May, a member of Eaton Lodge No 533, to the Honourable Degree of Mark Master Mason, which was carried out in an excellent manner by the Worshipful Master and his Officers. WBro David Sellers then congratulated the Worshipful Master and welcomed Jonathan into the order and wished him many happy and memorable years as a Mark Mason.

WBro Sellers then presented a maul to the Lodge in recognition of contributions made to the Cheshire Mark Benevolent Fund which the Worshipful Master received with grateful thanks. There being nothing further to offer for the good of the order in general or of Altrincham MMM Lodge No1024 in particular, the Lodge was closed in peace and harmony and solemn prayer.

West End Salmon Lunch

This year's annual Sunday Lunch, held for several years at the Neston Civic Hall, has traditionally been well supported and this year's efforts on 17th August were no exception. Some 150 guests and their ladies were present and the event raised £1,280 for the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund, much to the delight of Bryan Ogden our Provincial Grand Master and his assistant, David Sellers. At £8.50 a head, this a remarkable achievement considering the continual improvements in quality of presentation the organisers seem to be able to produce.

The event is organised by the West End Social Committee chaired by Graham Kyffin and is, of course, very much a team effort. Graham would be delighted to hear from any brother who would be able to assist him in the organisation of the Salmon Lunch. If you would like to volunteer or have a chat with Graham, he can be contacted on 0151 878 9125.

Tuscan Lodge Celebrate Three Quarters of a Century

The evening of Thursday 16th October 2008, marked the 75th Anniversary of Tuscan Mark Master Masons Lodge No 922, held at Sale Masonic Hall. The meeting, which was attended by the full Provincial Team proved a resounding success.

The Anniversary Celebration was preceded by a meeting of Wythenshawe Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No 922, which had recently moored itself to Tuscan Mark Lodge. The Worshipful Commander, WBro Harold Price and his officers proceeded to elevate Bro David Hiley, a member of Tuscan Mark Lodge into the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners in an exemplary manner.

Following a short interlude, Tuscan MMM Lodge No 922 was opened in due form and with solemn prayer by the Worshipful Master WBro J W Grainger and his officers. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies entered and called the brethren to order.

RWBro Bryan Russell.Ogden, Provincial Grand Master, accompanied by, WBro David Alldred, PGJO., Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and WBro David Robinson Sellers, PGJD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master and acting officers of the Province then entered in procession and the Worshipful Master and Brethren gave the warmest of welcomes.

After the initial Lodge business the Worshipful Master announced the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Lodge and RWBro Bryan Russell Ogden. Provincial Grand Master was invited to take the chair. The Lodge Secretary WBro Robert D Wilde, Provincial Grand Senior Warden, had produced a most informative booklet with a copy for all present, expanding upon the Lodge History from its Consecration on Saturday 29th July 1933 at the Brooklands Hotel Sale, to the present day. The contents included, a copy of the Consecration Summons for which the officiating Provincial Grand Master at the time was, RWBro Cuthbert Leicester-Warren. Reference was also made to the newly installed WM and Founder Member VWBro Lieutenant Colonel Warren Hastings, PGOV. a PM of Valentia Lodge of MMM's No 623, and another notable name, WBro CHG Cornwall-Legh then Provincial Grand Senior Warden who was invested as Senior Warden of the Lodge. Cornwall Legh MMM Lodge No 839 now meets at Stockport.

The Provincial Grand Master then gave a splendid and sincere oration on the Lodge History and an often humorous resume of the life and times in which the early Lodge members lived and worked. These included: 1940: Country Membership at £1 per Member, 1950: Annual Subscription - 2 ½ Guineas and Advancement at 3 Guineas. 1951: Brooklands Hotel increases rehearsal rate to Seven and Six.

At 12th February 1952 meeting reference was made by the then WM, to the untimely death of His Majesty King George VI, Past Grand Master. By 1952 there had been 74 Advancements and 10 joining Members of the Lodge and it was noted that Tuscan Lodge moved to Sale in the October of 1965 where it still meets today with further reference made to more recent times including names of the present members of the Lodge.

The WM then resumed proceedings and thanked the R.W. Provincial Grand Master for his visit and work undertaken in the Lodge. Before the Lodge was Closed, two new collars and jewels were presented to the WM for use by the Lodge, that of the Almoner was presented by WBro Graham Monaghan PM and that of the ADC by WBro Richard Henshaw PM.

The festive board thereafter proved a most convivial affair. Happy Anniversary Tuscan Lodge.

Charity Stewards and Almoners Dinner

As we know the roles of the Lodge Charity Steward and Lodge Almoner have been recently enhanced. The recent dinner for Mark Charity Representatives and Almoners, held at Middlewich Masonic Hall, proved an excellent discussion forum for those responsible for discharging the duties of these two important Lodge offices It also provided an opportunity to meet other Charity Stewards and Almoners from around the Province.

After dinner, RWBro Bryan Ogden, Provincial Grand Master, addressed the meeting and spoke of the excellence of the Mark Benevolent Fund and thanked all brethren for their contributions to date and with grateful anticipation of our (collective and individual) continued support.

One specific item he referred to was to the provision of grants from the Mark Benevolent Fund, which he said have always been available but perhaps had not been over publicised. Grants may be available to mark Master Masons and their dependants, provided that they are for the relief of need. Any brother who is in distress is therefore encouraged to contact his Lodge Almoner or Charity Steward for help and assistance.

He then referred to the Provincial Almoner's Fund, designed to assist with initial medical consultations. Should any brother have been waiting for an appointment to see a consultant or specialist, funds are available to assist in making speedier consultations available. Should surgery for example then be required this would be carried out by the National Health Service through normal waiting procedures, (possibly supported by the Masonic Samaritan or other funds). The main aim of the scheme is to eliminate the anxiety experienced by patients whilst waiting to find out what the problem is.

If any brother feels they can take advantage of this scheme please consult with your Lodge Almoner. Alternatively, the Provincial Almoner, WBro Ken Mayer, would be happy to provide information and advice. Ken can be contacted by telephone on: 01625 432322 or by e-mail on: kenmayer@btinternet.com

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
14/01/09	Dukinfield Mark Lodge, Team Visit	Dukinfield
23/02/09	De Tabley Mark Lodge, Team Visit	Knutsford
02/03/09	Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Assembly	Christleton
21/03/09	Mark Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting	Ellesmere Port
25/03/09	Wallasey Mark Lodge Centenary / Team Visit	Wallasey

A New Mark Scout Lodge

We have been informed that a new Mark Scout Lodge is being formed to meet within the Mark Province of Derbyshire.

The purpose will be (1) to bring together, from many Provinces, Mark Masons with an interest in Scouting and to act as a focus for support to Scouting from within Mark Masonry and (2) to promote Mark Masonry among Craft Masons who are involved in Scouting, perhaps who are members of a Scout Craft Lodge.

If you are interested in becoming a Founder of such a Lodge, please send an email to WBro Paul Bullows at pbullows@btinternet.com, and your message will be forwarded to the Provincial Grand Secretary, who will contact you directly.



Annual Meeting of the Cheshire Provincial Grand Mark Lodge 2009

Next year's meeting will be held at the Ellesmere Port Civic Hall on the 21st March 2009 - the meeting will be opened at 11am.

This venue is ideal for the purpose, however, requires plenty of stewarding. For 2009 another one or possibly two volunteers (wives or partners would be ideal) will be needed to assist with the refreshments prior to the meeting, and up to another six brethren to act as Stewards on the day. The current band of willing helpers is slowly diminishing and needs a bit of a boost.

Stewards are required to assist with transporting people from the Whitby Masonic Hall for pre-meeting rehearsals as well as for "policing" in the Civic Hall.

If you are able to volunteer, please contact Brian Rose at brian.rose2@btinternet.com please (phone number below).

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

VW.Bro. David Alldred PGJO RAMGR

ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

W.Bro. David Robinson Sellers PGJD RAMGR

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire consists of 44 Lodges of Mark Master Masons and 23 Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners



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