

£1.6m Donation from the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for new Tamar Class RNLI Lifeboat

A dream has been realised for the RNLI crew at Angle recently, when the station's modern new Tamar class lifeboat arrived at its new home and was dedicated by The Grand Master HRH Prince Michael of Kent. The RNLI's most technologically advanced lifeboat will reach casualties faster and help the volunteer crew save even more lives at sea. It is now officially placed in service, the crew having completed an intensive training programme.

The arrival of the Tamar is the culmination of three years of fundraising, which RNLI supporters began so effectively at grass-roots level in Birmingham and Pembrokeshire following an appeal launched in 2006.

A £1.6M donation from the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, the largest individual donation ever made by the Mark Benevolent Fund, completed the task to foot the bill of the £2.7M lifeboat. The significant donation has given Grand Lodge the right to name the lifeboat, which was duly called 'Mark Mason', during the dedication ceremony in June.



The Grand Master HRH Prince Michael of Kent at the controls of The Mark Mason (Photo: Martin Cavaney)

Angle is the second RNLI lifeboat station in Wales to take delivery of a Tamar class lifeboat, the first being Tenby, which welcomed Haydn Miller into service in 2005. The Angle RNLI crew collected their new lifeboat from the RNLI's headquarters in Poole and following a passage through Weymouth, Plymouth, St Mary's and Padstow, they arrived in Angle recently.

The Tamar class is the latest design of RNLI all-weather lifeboat and features cutting edge technology to enhance its lifesaving capabilities. The new lifeboat replaces the station's Tyne class all-weather lifeboat, which was built in 1986. Compared to the Tyne, the Tamar is bigger - 16 metres as opposed to 14 - and faster, with a speed of 25, rather than 17 knots.



The Mark Mason at sea (Photo: Martin Cavaney)

John Allen-Mirehouse, RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager at Angle says: 'This is a very exciting day for the volunteer RNLI crew at Angle and a momentous occasion for the station. We are extremely proud to be the second of the RNLI's 31 lifeboat stations in Wales to take delivery of this fantastic boat and seeing her arrive in the distance was quite a moment for everyone. As a charity, the RNLI is eternally grateful to everyone who has given so generously to make this dream a reality.'

Extensive modifications have been carried out to the boathouse and the slipway to allow a new larger lifeboat to operate. The re-profiled slipway was put to the test in December when a relief Tamar was put through its paces to ensure everything was operating correctly, in anticipation of the arrival of the new boat.

Mr Allen-Mirehouse adds: 'Last year, the Angle all-weather RNLI lifeboat launched 25 times and rescued 21 people. A large proportion of call-outs for the volunteer RNLI crew at Angle are to vessels in trouble a long way from the shore. Angle's crew spent 72 hours at sea during 2008 and many shouts were long towing operations. The Tamar class lifeboat is not only faster which will ensure the lifeboat is able to reach casualties quicker, but it is more comfortable and safer.'

The Tamar has more safety features built in to protect the crew, including a new seat design that will reduce loadings on crew members' spines in rough weather. A new on board computer known as SIMS (Systems and Information Management System) further improves safety because a lot of the lifeboat's functions can now be managed remotely. This means the crew do not have to move around the boat while underway, reducing the risk of accidents. Using SIMS also allows better task sharing between crew members, as the various functions required to operate the lifeboat can be accessed via screens at any of the six crew positions.

Provincial Meeting Goes From Strength To Strength

This year's Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, held at Ellesmere Port, was again a great success. On this occasion, the Meeting was honoured by the presence of the Assistant Grand Master, RWBro Benjamin Addy. The following is a summary of the two main speeches at the meeting.

Précis of the Provincial Grand Master's Speech on 21st March 2009:

The PGM stated that Membership remained a priority and he was proud that, for 8 years, membership had remained quite constant. Recruitment into the Mark and RAM continued at a level commensurate with progress and has averaged in excess of one new member per Lodge. However, resignations, particularly in the Mark Degree, had increased, resulting in a net loss. The role of the Lodge Almoner in these circumstances was crucial - his priority must be to maintain contact with those whose attendance at Lodge is infrequent and whose commitment may be wavering.

Due acknowledgement was accorded to WBro Alan Smith who for 20 years has worked tirelessly for CPMBF and other charities. The PGM mentioned four Lodges, Tarporley, Stamford, Ashton District TI, and Eaton which received commemorative Overseers Mauls in recognition of contributions of £6,000.

Of the Provincial Team visits, perhaps the highlight of the year was the Centenary of Stayley Mark Lodge No.597. Other highlights included the Golden Jubilees of VW Bros William Noel Ashton, Gwilym Roberts, Bill Hopwood and WBro Sydney Alfred Jones, however, even these were eclipsed when WBro Jim Todd celebrated his Diamond Jubilee. Sadly VW Bros Gwilym Roberts and Bill Hopwood have since been called to Higher Service.

The separate RAM Assembly on March 2nd had been a great success and as less than 50% of Mark Masons were in the RAM degree, those not in RAM were encouraged to join.

2009 appointees to Provincial Grand Rank were made aware of their responsibilities and the outgoing team thanked for their industry. Thanks were also accorded to the Clay Lane secretariat and all within and outwith the order.

Précis of the Assistant Grand Master's speech:

After thanking the PGM for his kind invitation, the Assistant Grand Master recalled that seven years ago, as PGM he "predicted the approach of a new dawn, with a splendid sunlit upland awaiting the brethren of this Province, under a new Provincial Grand Master and with fresh and younger minds willing to face, with confidence, the future." He had not been disappointed and stated "being back with you is, for me, one of the most moving and thrilling moments in my Masonic Life."

As Assistant Grand Master he stated that "the Province of Cheshire stands today without rival, highly respected throughout the constitution. Its commitment and support to Grand Lodge is legendary and, under the leadership of your Provincial Grand Master, its opinions are not only highly respected but are actively sought. Do not, therefore, be led away by any fair-seeming appearances of fortune but rather put your trust in those deep, slow-moving tides that have borne you thus far already and will surely bear you forward still."

He then presented the PGM with a Provincial Keystone Jewel, delivering a homely anecdote of the one he had "borrowed" from a neighbouring Province.

In thanking the PGM for his very kind thoughts in inviting him to the Provincial meeting, and also the brethren for their very kind reception, he concluded by stating:

"Finally, brethren, may this Province long continue to prosper and may you all never fail in your zeal for our order. Let every Mark Mason within the Province act now in accordance with what he thinks is his duty, in harmony with his heart and conscience and with his brethren of every rank and title. May God bless you brethren and may God bless this Province."

Important Diary Date: Please Note

Next year's Annual Meeting of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire
will be held on
Saturday 13th February 2010
at Ellesmere Port

RAM Provincial Meeting - A First for the RAM !!

On the second of March 2009 the first ever Cheshire Royal Ark Mariner Assembly was held at Cheshire View, with the PGM, his Deputy and Assistant, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and many of the Provincial team in attendance, together with some 130 plus RAM brethren, including those receiving Provincial Grand Rank.

In his address the PGM stated that the idea of this assembly had been in mind for a while as he considered that the RAM was unfairly cast as the poor relation to the Mark degree instead of the beautiful and important degree that it is, which is much loved by those who are members of it.

The PGM then went on to say that the strength of this Province is the collective strength of its members and that the members enthusiasm is the catalyst for the success of the Province and the durability and nature of its Lodges. He continued with an assessment of the membership trends, pointing out the importance of support to both new and "wavering" members. He also commented that sharing the ceremonial work may well be the most elegant way in overcoming the difficulty of finding time to learn our rituals that some brethren experience these days. He added that it behoves us all to embrace the responsibilities implicit in our acceptance of any office and that the dignity of our ceremonial is part of those responsibilities.

The PGM then went on to thank those RAM Lodges who are now the proud owners of three mauls for the generosity of their contributions to the CPMBF and observed that he had been delighted to present the Sincerity Lodge of RAM's with their 150th Anniversary Keystone Jewel, the first to a RAM Lodge in the Province. Following this he paid tribute to the Secretariat at Clay Lane and the Provincial team for their invaluable, and rarely recognised contributions to our work.

The PGM then invested those selected for promotion to Provincial Grand Rank.

An excellent and relaxing Festive Board was enjoyed by some 129 of those attending and the proceedings adjourned until 6.00pm on the 14th January 2010 when the next RAM Assembly will take place once again at Cheshire View, Christleton.

The Mark Gala Weekend in Harrogate

For the second year running, the Cairn Hotel and the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Bryan Ogden, welcomed members of the Cheshire Mark Province to the wonders of Harrogate and its surrounds. The weather in early April is unpredictable at best, however, the memories of last years late snow were soon melted by what turned out to be a glorious weekend. An extra ten rooms allocated to us by the hotel were soon filled and 120 brethren, wives, partners, family and friends assembled for an informal dinner on the Friday evening. Of course some had arrived early and added an extra day to the schedule, but most arrived late afternoon and settled in to chat informally in the spacious and comfortable waiting areas close to the restaurants. As would be expected, the famed Yorkshire hospitality did not fail and good food coupled with the best company led to an enjoyable first evening.



Archie and Dot Peat

Saturday morning brought a hearty English breakfast followed by a day of choice. Many explored one or more of the historical buildings and sites in the area including the beautiful Fountains Abbey, whilst others enjoyed the quiet gardens and countryside which are so appealing at springtime in Yorkshire. WBro. Ken Davies led a group on a leisurely five mile walk finishing up in a local hostelry for lunch.



Michael and Cedra Nolan

Saturday evening brought the eagerly anticipated five course gala dinner, which did not disappoint. Beautiful flowers again arranged by Mrs. Maira Sellers adorned the tables alongside colour menus provided by WBro. Doug Watts. The Provincial Grand Master, speaking after the dinner, said how pleased he was to see so many attending and thanked them for their much valued support. He also thanked the organisers of the event. The raffle attracted a huge number of prizes and the DC for the evening, WBro. Brian Mayoh, ensured not too much time was taken in distributing them all!

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro. David Sellers, on behalf of the Organising Committee, presented a cheque for just over £600 to the Provincial Grand Master, in favour of the CPMBF, this being the proceeds of the raffle. The Provincial Grand Master rose and thanked all those present who had so generously given by donating prizes and purchasing tickets.

The evening concluded with music and dancing. Sunday morning allowed most to catch up with a little extra sleep followed by a late full English breakfast, before making their own way home.

The Provincial Grand Master once again invites all Mark Masons, wives, family and friends to next years event, at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate, over the weekend of May 7th – 9th 2010. Booking forms will be available via Mark and RAM Lodge Secretaries or from any member of the Organising Committee in the autumn.

Meet the New Provincial Wardens

At the Annual Meeting of Mark Provincial Grand Lodge on 21st March, WBros Geoffrey Alexander of the St. Hilary Lodge of MMM's No. 1081 and Tom Lewis of the Earl of Chester Lodge of MMM's No. 196, were invested as the Provincial Senior and Junior Grand Wardens respectively. (Geoff is on the left of the picture and Tom on the right.)

Geoff is a retired Police Inspector, who lives in Parkgate with his wife Lynne. He has three children and seven grandchildren. Geoff's son is also a Freemason.

Geoff joined Claughton Lodge No. 3915 in the Craft in December 1973 and is also in the Buckingham and Chandos Lodge no. 2667. He holds the rank of PPrJGW. He is also a member of the Zion Royal Arch Chapter No. 537, holding the rank of PPrGSN, and of the St. Hilary Rose Croix Chapter No. 365 – this Chapter being the only one in Cheshire meeting in conjunction with a Mark Lodge. To complete the picture, Geoff is also a member of the City of Chester Lodge of RAM No. 953.



Tom is now retired, having previously run his own building company. He lives in Farndon with his wife Pat, has two children and three grandchildren. In retirement, Tom intends to build his own house, starting this year – can't make the excuse of waiting for the builder can he?!

Tom joined Clarence Craft Lodge No. 2386 in 1972 and also holds the rank of PPrJGW. He is also a member of the Clarence Chapter and the Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No. 3449 holding the rank of PPrGSwdBr., as well as the City of Chester Rose Croix Chapter No. 945, the Cestrian Lodge of RAM No. 196 and he is a founder member of the Christleton Conclave No. 504 of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

Tom was also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Freemasons Hall (Chester) Ltd for five years.

Both of these brothers are extremely honoured, and justifiably proud to have been selected to serve the Province in these senior positions.,

PGM Visits the first Daylight Mark Lodge in Cheshire

On Thursday 7th May 2009 the PGM, accompanied by his Deputy and Assistant, the Provincial Director of Ceremonies and four of the other Acting Officers for the year, paid a visit to the Wythenshawe Lodge of MMM's No.532, now meeting at Cheshire View, Christleton, to witness the advancement of WBro. George Mann (the Provincial Senior Grand Warden of the Craft in Cheshire).

In a wonderful demonstration of the friendliness of the Mark degree, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro David Alldred, acted as Organist for the meeting and at the Festive Board.

The Master, Brother Harry Parry, who, at the age of 81, very ably conducted the advancement of Brother Mann, assisted by VWBro. James McKeeman and WBro. Brian Rose.

The PGM expressed his hope of a second Daylight Lodge perhaps being opened in the East of the Province and suggested that it was obvious that "Daylight Masonry" had a part to play in our Masonic lives for a number of reasons. He congratulated the Lodge for increasing its membership from twelve to twenty five, including three advancements, in the short period since its transfer to Christleton and he wished the Lodge well for the future. The Master then presented him with a cheque for £532 towards the CPMBF.



**Don't forget to visit the Provincial website for regular updates and information.
You can also download copies of all the editions of the "Cheshire Mark Mason".**

<http://www.cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk/>

Unique in Cheshire - Sixty glorious years

The cold winds of February earlier this year did nothing to deter the celebrations in Composite Mark Lodge No. 1005 at Stockport, which witnessed WBro. James "Jim" Todd celebrate sixty years as a Mark Mason. The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Bryan R. Ogden, delivered a detailed life history and congratulated Jim on his achievement, which he thought to be unique in Cheshire. The birthday boy completed his night at a most convivial social board after the lodge meeting.

Bro. Jim was Advanced in a Craft Lodge, as is the custom in Scotland, in Lodge St. Barchan No. 156SC in 1949, just a couple of years after returning from active service in submarines in the Royal Navy's Pacific Fleet. Following military service, most of Jim's career in civvy street revolved around sales, culminating in his appointment as Sales Director for a well know national company.

Married to Jean for fifty years, Jim has one son Kenneth and grandchildren Katie and Gemma. He enjoys a game of golf as well as his Freemasonry, and is a member of Stockport Golf Club.

Bro Jim, the Mark Masons of Cheshire wish you well and send you their hearty congratulations.



WBro. Robert J. Marley presents Bro. Jim with a rather special single malt

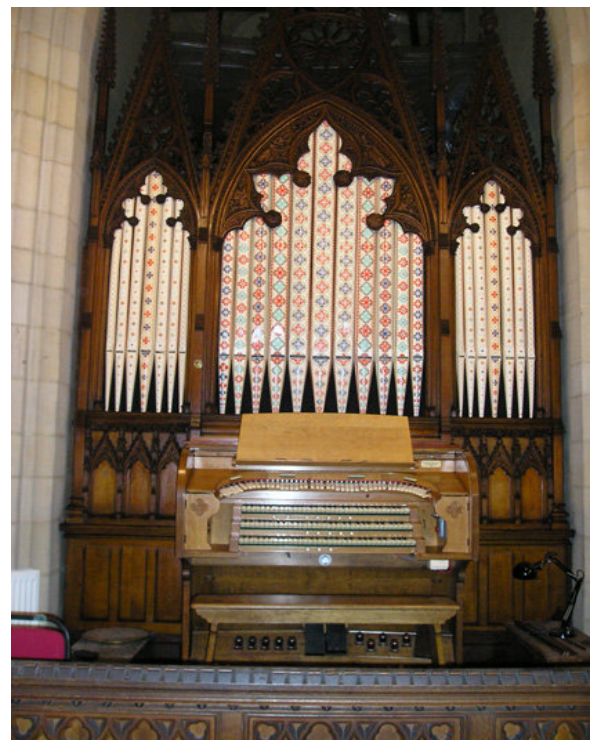
Donation Aids Restoration of Organ Case Pipes



Pictured above: Deputy Provincial Grand Master, David Alldred with the Rev. Eric Breeze and Michael Holmes, director of

Following an application from Hyde Chapel, Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire, for help with the restoration of the historical organ case pipes, Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent fund made a grant of £1000.00 towards the cost of this restoration.

The history of Hyde Chapel goes back to before 1708, when the congregation built the first Christian place of worship in Hyde. A new church replaced the former building in 1846. This second chapel, which houses the organ which Cheshire Mark Masons have helped to refurbish, is a noted local landmark, and is also a Grade II, listed building.



Pictured right: the Hyde Chapel organ pipes restored to their former splendour

The work required took quite a few weeks to complete as it was part of the complete organ case restoration.

An invitation was received from Michael Holmes, director of music at the Chapel to attend a dedication service on Sunday 28th June 2009. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, along with Mrs. Alldred and members of Mark Lodges in the Hyde area were happy to attend the morning service, during which the work on the organ was dedicated and the donation from Mark Masonry in Cheshire was acknowledged.

The Mark Barn



On Saturday 9th May 2009 the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. David Alldred PGJOv opened "The Mark Barn" at Dunham Massey Scout Camp, near Altrincham, Cheshire.

The purchase of the Barn was made possible by a donation of £4000 from the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund, for the benefit of all aspects of the Scout movement and will be a useful addition to the facilities for all weather activities.

The Provincial delegation were given a conducted tour of the very impressive facilities at Dunham Park prior to the opening ceremony which culminated with the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayors of three councils officiating at various presentations.



Pictured above left: WBro David Sellars, APrGM, WBro Alan Smith, WBro David Alldred, DPrGM, Karen Salisbury, WBro Doug Watts, and above right, David Alldred opens the Mark Barn

The Salmon Lunches make their Mark



There is no doubt we owe a lot to the former brethren of Composite Mark Lodge No. 1005, who founded what we now know as the annual Salmon Lunches. Under the watchful eyes of W.Bro's Doug Green and Mike Stratton, the first such event took place in Woodford Community Hall in 1984, a venue which was to provide the same delightful Sundays entertainment in June for the next 24 years, culminating this year with a move to the Manchester Rugby Club in Cheadle Hulme, where the brethren, their families and their friends gathered in glorious sunshine to enjoy the event silver jubilee. The Manchester Rugby Club, which proved to be a most genial host, is the second oldest Rugby Union Club in the world, having been established in 1861. The marquee style accommodation provided for our event was light and airy and will no doubt prove to be the home of the "East End" Salmon Lunch for years to come. The organisers of the event under the Chairmanship of WBro Keith Goulden did an excellent job as always and we look forward to next years lunch, on Sunday 13th June 2010, once again at the Manchester Rugby Club.

W.Bro. Mike Shaw discusses the new venue with the PGM

Of course, a similar event is now in place in the West of the Province, under the chairmanship of WBro Graham Kyffin. This has proved just as popular as the first event regularly attracting over 150 diners and enhanced by an equally well stocked raffle prize table! The Sunday Lunch in the West of the province this year will be held on Sunday 25th August at Neston Masonic Hall.

It is recognised that the Salmon Lunches over the years have been an invaluable source of funding for the CPMBF, some £50,000 having been raised in total and equally importantly, the brethren and their friends and families have been able to enjoy what is now a truly fixed social event in the Cheshire Mark Provincial Calendar.

Our thanks go to the Lodge Charity Representatives and the Salmon Lunch Organisers for their continued efforts on all our behalf, but particularly on behalf of the recipients of the grants from the fund.

Time for Melody

Following the very successful event in December 2006, the Mark Province of Cheshire is pleased to repeat this event on Saturday 5th December 2009 at Chester Cathedral at 7.15p.m.

The featured artists will be Dr. Kevin Morgan and The City of Chester Male Voice Choir under the direction of their Director of Music, Rodney T. Jones, their Principal Accompanist, Helen Everett and Deputy Conductor, Lance Howie. Kevin Morgan will be playing a varied programme of popular music on the Cathedral Organ.

The Mark Province of Cheshire looks forward to welcoming you at the Cathedral on the 5th December 2009, for a most enjoyable evening. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund for the benefit of the community in Cheshire.

Tickets are available from your Lodge Charity Steward or via the Secretary, priced at £8.00 per person

For more details contact David Alldred (e-mail to: david.alldred1@ntlworld.com or telephone 0161-427-2180)

Please do support this event, which again promises to be a great success. A flyer for the event can be downloaded from the website:

<http://www.cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk/page2202.htm>



Kevin Morgan



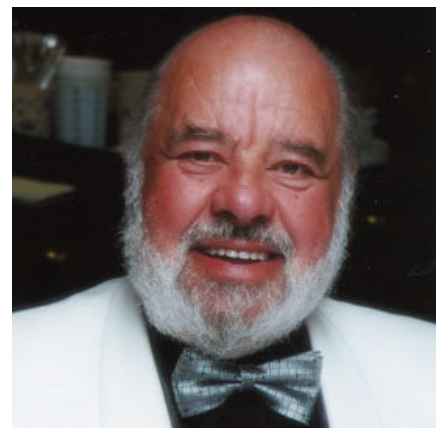
The City of Chester Male Voice Choir



Rodney T. Jones
Director of Music



Helen Everett
Principal Accompanist



Lance Howie
Deputy Conductor

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
18 September 2009	Charity Representatives Dinner	Middlewich MH
22 September 2009	Full Team Visit to Macclesfield Mark Lodge No. 964	Macclesfield MH
29 September 2009	50th Celebration W.Bro. Bernard Rourke, Benevolent TI	Stockport Guildhall
27 October 2009	Full Provincial Team Visit to Ashton District TI	Dukinfield MH
18 November 2009	Rivacre Mark Lodge 1016 Friendship Meeting	Ellesmere Port
08 December 2009	RAM Grand Assembly	Mark Masons Hall London
14 January 2010	Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Assembly	Christleton
20 January 2010	De Tabley RAM Lodge No. 396 Lodge 50th and Full Team Visit	Knutsford MH
13 February 2010	Cheshire Mark Provincial Grand Lodge	Ellesmere Port

Grand Mark Lodge Appointments and Promotions

Congratulations to the following brethren who have received appointments and promotions in Grand Mark Lodge:

Promotions

Charles John Mandleberg, Past Grand Junior Warden
 Barry Worthing Travers, Grand Senior Deacon
 Alvine Raymond Drinkwater, Past Grand Senior Deacon
 Benjamin Marsh Edwards, Past Grand Senior Deacon
 Malcolm Irving Bell, Past Grand Junior Deacon
 Paul Bullows, Past Grand Junior Deacon
 Anthony William Sutton, Past Grand Junior Deacon

First Appointments

Peter Gordon Watkin, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
 Oliver Denzil Griffiths, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
 Thomas Alan Roberts, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
 Robert John Ellershaw, Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
 Gerald Newton, Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
 Philip Stockford, Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer

We wish them all well with their new ranks.

From the Editorial Team

Due to heavy business commitments, one of our regular contributors for many years, WBro Rick Henshaw, has decided to step down as a member of the Cheshire Mark Mason Editorial Team. On behalf of the Province, and the Editorial Team, we wish to thank Rick for the many articles he has written, which have been enjoyed by all our readers, and we wish him well for the future.

As a result, the Team now has a vacancy for another volunteer newshound. If you would like to join us, please contact any of the Editorial Team (details below), and we'll be pleased to tell you more.

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.

MARK PROVINCE OF CHESHIRE

Ashcroft House
 36, Clay Lane
 Timperley
 Altrincham
 Cheshire

Telephone - 0161 980 6090
 Web site: www.cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

RWBro. Bryan Russell Ogden

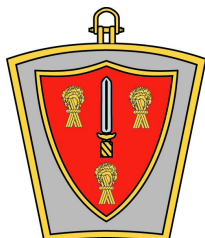
DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

VWBro. David Alldred PGJO RAMGR

ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

WBro. 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



CMM EDITORIAL TEAM

Paul Bullows 0161 456 0053 pbullows@btinternet.com

Jonathan Clipsham 01625 433293 jon@rabbithutch.fsnet.co.uk

Fraser McCord 0161 440 9204 fraserandmorag@ntlworld.com

Brian Rose 01244 822878 brian.rose2@btinternet.com