

## The Degree of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners

This ancient degree, the earliest confirmed working being 1790, has been under the jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons since 1871 and is governed by The Grand Masters Royal Ark Council. The Degree is only conferred on Mark Master Masons and further develops the Initiatory rite; that of a new start or outlook on life. It is based on the story of Noah building the Ark to preserve mankind from the Great Flood. Each Royal Ark Mariner Lodge is attached to a Mark Lodge and will bear the same number but not necessarily the same name. Like the Mark Degree there is only one ceremony, that of Elevation, which has some beautiful portions of ritual, guaranteed to make a lasting impression on every candidate.

Cheshire has 23 RAM Lodges, a full list of which can be found on the Cheshire Mark Masons web site, together with the places of meeting. Some Lodges meet on the same night as the Mark Lodge to which they are attached and share a social board, others meet separately. Members of the Degree are easily identified by the Rainbow Jewel they wear with their Mark regalia, the rainbow being the sign of the Degree. The Leaders of the Degree at Grand and Provincial level are the same as those in the Mark. A Lodge is headed by a Worshipful Commander. Ranks for members are solely Brother, Past Commander, RAM Provincial Grand Rank and RAM Grand Rank.



The Members of the RAM Lodges have always been represented at the Province of Cheshire Mark meeting by a delegation of Commanders and you will have seen this small piece of ceremony at the start of the meeting when you have attended. The Order is still represented in this way at the Mark Provincial Meeting but now also holds its own RAM Assembly each January to confer Provincial Ranks and to allow the Provincial Grand Master to address the Assembly on matters of particular importance to members of the Order. Of the Mark Masons in Cheshire a little under half are also members of the RAM Degree and thoroughly enjoy it. If you have never taken the step from Mark Masonry into the RAM Degree please talk to one of the members of your Mark Lodge who wears the Rainbow Jewel and find out more about this beautiful Degree.

### A Banner for the Order

With the Annual Assembly now well established, the Provincial Grand Master has proposed that the Order in Cheshire has its own Banner which should be distinct from that of the Mark Degree and depict the essentials of the Order and the symbols of Cheshire. He has asked for design ideas for this new banner, which any brother of an artistic bent is invited to submit to one of the Provincial Leaders before the end of May 2010. It is hoped that a banner can be made in time for dedication and use at the 2011 Assembly.

### Cheshire Installed Commanders Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners 1468

In 2006 this Lodge was consecrated with the aim of promoting the degree in Cheshire and allowing Past Commanders of different Lodges to meet together, exchange ideas and receive lectures and demonstrations relevant to the order. The Lodge meets at Knutsford on the 4th Wednesday of May and September, the installation being in May. Our Provincial Grand Master initiated the move to form the Lodge and he is keen to see its membership extended to all Past Commanders who would like to participate.

The Grand Master's Lodge of Instruction Team is to visit the Lodge on Wednesday 22nd September 2010 to demonstrate the ceremony of Elevation. This is a most important visit for the Lodge to receive and all RAM Masons are invited to attend, you are assured of a great evening. Booking is on a first come first served basis as space is limited. The fee for dining is £14.50 and a cheque to "Cheshire Installed Commanders Lodge" will secure your place. If you would like to attend this meeting or if you would like to become a member of The Installed Commanders Lodge please speak to the Scribe: W. A. Chalmers 16 Paddock View Middlewich CW10 9DB (Tel: 01606 833 555 email: billchalmers@tiscali.co.uk.)

### The Cheshire Mark Ball

After a twenty one year absence, The Cheshire Mark Ball is to make a comeback. The prestigious black tie event was last held in 1989 (according to popular belief!) and is set, once again, to become a regular feature in the Provincial Calendar.

Our Provincial Grand Master RWBro. Bryan Ogden has announced that there will be a formal dinner dance to be held at Cheshire View, Plough Lane, Christleton on Saturday 6th November 2010, 6.30 for 7pm. The sumptuous dinner menu includes five courses starting with Crown of Galia Melon with port and seasonal fruit, followed by Vegetable Soup, then a choice of Duck in Orange and Whisky Sauce or Salmon with Watercress sauce or Nut Roast, finished off with Brandy Snap Basket filled with Fruit and Fresh Cream, followed by Cheese and Biscuits and then Tea or Coffee and after dinner mints.

The Dinner will be followed by dancing to the sound of The Four Originals. All of this is being arranged for the very reasonable cost of £35.00 per head. Tickets are available from: Doug Watts (01270 760236, email: dougiewatts@elworth.wanadoo.co.uk), Paul Bullows (0161 456 0053, email: pbullows@btinternet.com), or Brian Mayoh (0161 945 4680, email: candbmayoh@btinternet.com)

## 2010 Provincial Meeting - Another Great Success

The 2010 meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire meeting was held on 13th February at the Town Hall, Ellesmere Port. The meeting was well supported by 221 Mark Masons from our Province, plus 41 distinguished guests from other Provinces

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden made recruitment the central message of his address to an attentive audience at the meeting. With the new Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, RWBro. Steven Adcott, attending the meeting for the first time, and sitting just a few feet away, he emphasised that it was just as important for the Mark brethren to seek to increase numbers in their Craft lodges as it was in their Mark and RAM lodges. As he reported on an Order that he said was “buoyant,” he spoke of strong recruitment in both the Mark and RAM Degrees, but warned that with resignations above the long term average, the Order had suffered a further erosion in membership and urged Almoners to offer advice and support to those brethren whose attendance was starting to tail off; however he went on to stress that a strong membership in the Craft was an essential ingredient in building for the future.

*“Many Craft masons have yet to join our ranks and there remains a considerable latent potential”*

“Whilst it goes without saying that recruitment is crucial to our future, it is crucial that we must also recognise that the lifeblood of this Degree is the membership of the Craft,” he commented. “Many Craft masons have yet to join our ranks and there remains a considerable latent potential. But as you all know the Craft in the Province has suffered a substantial loss of membership over the past years and as a result that potential has been somewhat diminished. I can do no more than ask that whilst you continue to ensure the future of your Lodges, you will also give the utmost support to

our new R. W. Provincial Grand Master in his desire to “Grow Freemasonry in Cheshire” during his stewardship; for only by doing so will we acquire increased opportunities to secure growth in the Mark.”

Having earlier referred to an “irrepressible enthusiasm,” in the Order, he added that he and his Deputy and Assistant had been impressed by the attitudes in the Lodges that they had visited during 2009. He said: “There is an old homily that ‘our prospects are transformed by our own attitudes.’ So it is with the environment within our Lodges; enthusiasm is infectious. It has been gratifying therefore to witness your enthusiasm revealed in the quality of your work. I am left in no doubt that we all recognise that a high degree of fulfilment and enjoyment is the reward of Lodge membership.”

He also registered his pleasure at the continued backing from the membership in the cause of charity – “The generosity of your support of our Charity is truly exceptional for since its inception (the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund) the fund has received nearly £300,000 from Mark and RAM Lodges throughout the Province; a truly remarkable achievement and on behalf of the Fund I thank you all for your beneficence. Seemingly undeterred by the prevailing economic environment, our Charity has enjoyed a very good year. An increase of income has enabled it to award grants to a value well in excess of the previous year, whilst the recovery of a grant previously made but not utilised has facilitated the support of two very worthy Cheshire causes, namely Claire House and Francis House Children’s Hospices who, between them, received grants totalling in excess of £20,000. It is only when you witness the emotion and joy with which our grants are received that you truly understand how important they are to these hard pressed organisations.”

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The RW Provincial Grand Master encouraged members to submit applications for grants – both Masonic and non-Masonic – wherever they saw a need and reminded the brethren that the Mark Medical Consultation Scheme, set up to aid brethren unable to afford initial private consultations to reduce time between GP referral and hospital treatment, was available to all members.

Prior to investing the new officers for 2010, he took a moment to thank VWBro. John Brian Haslam, the retiring Provincial Grand Chaplain, and WBro. Keith Rogerson, who was stepping down from the office of Organist, adding that “he wished WBro. Rogerson every success in his forthcoming role as Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals in the Royal Arch.”

The organising committee must again be praised for their efforts. The shuttle service operation to and from the Civic Centre at Ellesmere Port ran like clockwork as usual and the arrangements at the Hall were first class. Following the meeting 150 brethren returned to Ellesmere Port Masonic Hall where they enjoyed an excellent meal, to round off a day that truly reflected the tenets of Freemasonry.

### Doric Mark Lodge

Many Cheshire Mark Masons will be aware of the recent success of Wythenshawe Mark Lodge which recently became a very successful ‘daylight’ Lodge. The concept of creating a similar Lodge on the Eastern side of the Province has been under consideration for some time and a proposal is now in place to move the Doric Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 792 from Stockport to become a daylight Lodge, meeting at Hyde.

No decision has yet been made on the day or time of the proposed meeting. If there is sufficient interest a meeting will be arranged to further the project in due course.

If you would be interested in supporting such an endeavour will you please respond to Bro. David Littlewood on 0161 430 2819 or e-mail @ david.littlewood@cheshiremasons.co.uk

## Meet the New Provincial Mark Wardens for 2010/2011

At the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Cheshire held at the Ellesmere Port Civic Centre on Saturday 13th February 2010, Worshipful Brothers Timothy Russell Moore of the Walter de Hereford Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1275 and Graham Kyffin of the Deeside Mark Lodge No.795 were rewarded for their hard work and dedication to the Mark Degree by being invested as Provincial Senior and Junior Wardens respectively.



Tim Moore, married to Adene for some 42 years, has two children, Rachel and Ian, and three grandchildren, Hannah, Tom and Sam. When not on Masonic Duties, Tim, a retired Project Director with the Nuclear Industry, enjoys motor caravan holidays – especially in France (for the food and wine!), researching his family history, golf, walking, his Probus club (more food) and, of course, his grandchildren.

Tim was initiated in 1968 into Semper Fidelis Lodge No. 3453, and was advanced in the Walter de Hereford Mark Lodge in 1984. In the Mark degree, he was appointed PPrGIG in 2001, PPrGSwdBr in 2004 and now, to PrGSW in 2010. He is a past Commander of the Weaver Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.824, having been elevated in 1999.

Tim is also PPrSGD, PPrDepGSwdBr in the Royal Arch, and holds 30° in the Rose Croix.

Graham Kyffin, a committed Bachelor, hails from the Wirral and had a varied and colourful career commencing with an apprenticeship with Rushworth & Dreaper, travelling round the country with Offley's, ITT and Granada and finally creating his own business – which is still in existence.

Graham was initiated into the West Kirby Lodge No.2690 in 1991 and was appointed PPrJGD in the Craft in 2003. He was exalted into the Commercial Royal Arch Chapter No.3628 in 1993, and is a member of Hilbre Chapter No. 2375. Graham was appointed a Provincial Grand Chapter Steward in 1999 and PPrGSoj in 2009.

Graham was advanced into the Deeside Mark Lodge No. 795 in 1994 and is its current Treasurer. He was appointed Provincial Grand Steward in 2004, PPrGSD in 2005 and now Provincial Grand Junior Warden. Graham is also a member of the West Cheshire Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1497, the Provincial Mark Stewards Lodge No. 1825 and is Master of the De Tabley Mark Lodge No. 396.

His Royal Ark Mariner Lodge is Sincerity Lodge of RAM No. 327 where he was Commander in 2003 and he is a founder of the Cheshire Installed Commanders Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.1468. Graham was honoured with Provincial RAM Grand Rank in 2010. In case that isn't enough, Graham is the Chairman of the West End Social Committee and has been a leading light in organising the Annual Salmon Lunch at Neston.

Graham was admitted into the Salem Council No. 28 of the Allied Masonic Degree in 1998 and became Master in 2007. In addition to all of that, Graham is also in Knights Templar, Rose Croix, the Royal Order of Scotland and the Red Cross of Constantine.



## Harrogate 2010



Time is running short to book your place on the annual Cheshire Mark Masons trip to Harrogate, which has proved so successful over the past three years. This event is taking place at the Cairns Hotel from the 7th to the 9th May 2010 and commences with an informal dinner after arrival at the hotel on the Friday evening. Breakfast on Saturday is followed by a free day for people to enjoy such delights as Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Gardens, as well as the myriad other local tourist attractions and historic buildings, or even the excellent local shopping centre. For the more energetic, there are some lovely local walks or you can partake in a round of golf. The delights of York, Ripon and Knaresborough are within easy reach of the hotel.

The five course Gala Dinner takes place on the Saturday evening. There are still a few places available and can be booked at the very reasonable cost of £138 per person. As time is short, full payment is required at the time of booking. Please contact any of the following to book your places:

Doug Watts: 01270 760236 Email: [dougiewatts@elworth.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:dougiewatts@elworth.wanadoo.co.uk)  
Paul Bullows: 0161 456 0053 Email: [pbullows@btinternet.com](mailto:pbullows@btinternet.com)  
Brian Mayoh: 0161 945 4680 Email: [candbmayoh@btinternet.com](mailto:candbmayoh@btinternet.com)



## Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
8th June 2010	Mark Grand Lodge Investiture Meeting	London
22nd October 2010	Sincerity Lodge of MMM 327(Team Visit)	Wallasey
January 2011 (tbc)	Warren De Tabley Mark Lodge 622(Team Visit)	Knutsford
13th January 2011	RAM Annual Assembly	Christleton
19th March 2011	Cheshire Mark Annual Meeting	Ellesmere Port

### Appointments and Promotions to Mark Grand Rank

Congratulations to the following brethren on the forthcoming preferment.

#### Acting Ranks

Austin Westbury Bamber	Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
Ronald Glyn Hewitt	Grand Steward
Royce Batters	Grand Steward

#### Promotions

Alan Eli Smith	Past Grand Junior Overseer
James Munro Adams	Past Grand Senior Deacon
William Anthony Stringer	Past Grand Junior Deacon

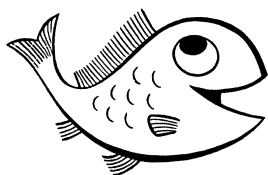
#### Appointments

Albert Cross	Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Kenneth Davies	Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Kenneth Mayer	Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
William Stephen Shorrock	Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
William Edward Caren	Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
David Nicholas Wild	Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer

### Editorial Team Changes

After seven years on the editorial team of the Cheshire Mark Mason, WBro. Paul Bullows has decided to retire. Paul has been involved with the newsletter since its inception and is the final member of the original team to retire. The editorial team would like to thank Paul for his enormous contributions to the newsletter since 2003, and for his continued guidance to the new team over recent years. To return the team to full strength, two new Cheshire Mark Masons have agreed to join the team - WBro. Bob McMillan and WBro. John Forbes. Their profiles will appear in the next edition.

### 2010 Salmon Lunches



The West End Salmon Lunch will be held in the Neston Civic Hall, from 12.00pm to 2.00pm on Sunday 22nd August 2010, (cost to be advised) at which our Leaders have already intimated their intention to attend. This lunch has always been well attended and this is in no small measure due to the efforts of Graham Kyffin, David and Lynn Sayce and the rest of their hard-working team who make it such an enjoyable day. For further details please contact Graham Kyffin on 051 678 9125 or e-mail him: [graham.kyffin@yahoo.com](mailto:graham.kyffin@yahoo.com)

The East End Lunch will take place on 13th June 2010, at Manchester Rugby Club, Grove Lane, Cheadle Hulme, also from 12.00pm to 2.00pm. Tickets are £10 each and are available from K. Goulden, 49 Peregrine Road, Offerton, Stockport SK2 5UP (cheques made payable to Salmon Lunch Account).

### 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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#### PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

R.W.Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden

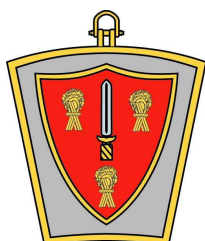
#### DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

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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