

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
5th March 2012	Active Officers' Dinner	Christleton
17th March 2012	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port
10th April 2012	Tarporley Lodge (Team Visit / D Kinsey 50th)	Tarporley
20th - 22nd April 2012	Mark Weekend	Bowness
16th May 2012	Mark Masters' and Commanders Dinner	Middlewich
12th June 2012	Grand Mark Lodge	London
21st September 2012	Charity Representatives and Almoners Dinner	Middlewich
25th September 2012	Benevolent T.I. Mark (Team Visit)	Stockport
29th September 2012	2012 Festival - Province of Middlesex	
18th October 2012	Haven Mark (Team Visit)	Altrincham
10th January 2013	RAM Provincial Assembly	Christleton
5th February 2013	Cheshire Provincial Stewards Lodge (Team Visit)	tba
16th March 2013	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port

1,000+ Club

In 2011 the **1,000+ Club** donated

£2,872

TO THE CHESHIRE PROVINCIAL MARK BENEVOLENT FUND

Thank You

Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariners for your generosity. It only takes £5, a name, address and post code to take part in the **12** annual draws each with prizes of **£100, £50 & £25**

Why not include your family in 2012?

MARK PROVINCE OF CHESHIRE

Oaklands Hall
Motttram Road
Hyde - Cheshire
SK14 3DE

Telephone: **0161-366-0355**

E-mail: secretariat@cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk

Web site: www.cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

R.W.Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

WBro. David Robinson Sellers PGSD RAMGR

ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

WBro. Austin Westbury Bamber PDGSwdBr RAMGR

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire consists of 43 Lodges of Mark Master Masons and 24 Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners

CMMM EDITORIAL TEAM

Jon Clipsham 07908 967859
jon.clipsham@googlemail.com
Fraser McCord 0161 440 9204
fraser.mccord@sky.com
Brian Rose 01244 822878
brian.rose2@btinternet.com
John Forbes 0161 330 7997
profdog@thekennel6.fsnet.co.uk
Bob McMillan 01539 530034
r.a.mcmillan@btinternet.com



Mark Province of Cheshire

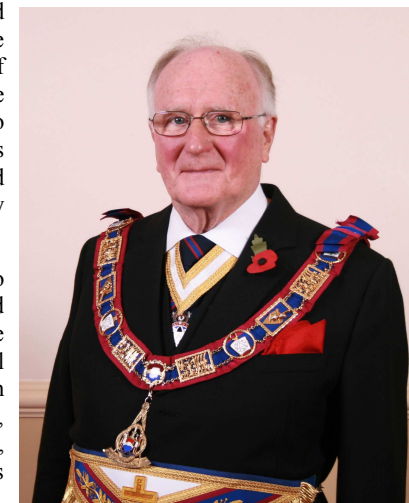
The Cheshire Mark Mason

Spring Edition

February 2012

Golden Jubilee of Pro Grand Master MWBro Benjamin Addy

On Tuesday 8th November 2011, our Provincial Grand Master RWBro Bryan Ogden, accompanied by the entire Provincial Team, opened a special meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of a very special Cheshire Mark Mason - MWBro Benjamin Addy. Among the 205 Mark masons attending were MWBro John Hale, Past Pro Grand Master, 21 Provincial Grand Masters, as well as many other very senior Mark masons and Heads of Orders.



After Provincial Grand Lodge was opened, the Pro Grand Master entered, under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies, RWBro Graham Herbert. He was accompanied by the Deputy GM, RWBro Michael Herbert, the Assistant GM, RWBro Herbert Keith Emmerson, Grand Secretary, RWBro John Brackley, and Grand Tyler, WBro Thomas Thomson. Our own, WBros Peter Dowell, and Geoffrey Roberts, acted as Grand Sword Bearer and Grand Standard Bearer.

The PGM then invited the Deputy GM to assume the chair and conduct the ceremonial, which he did in a most warm and friendly manner, eulogising over MWBro Addy's career, both private and masonic. He concluded with a short quotation from a biography written by Bro Derek Brook of Haven M1543, which he said succinctly, summarized the attributes of MW Bro Addy.

"Ben has brought the skills and qualities gained throughout his early and middle life to the service of Freemasonry and particularly the Mark Degree, both nationally and throughout his beloved Province of Cheshire. A man of integrity and acute perceptiveness; he has developed strongly held views, which he has formed after long, intelligent deliberation; this dapper, modest, incisive gentleman (a gentle man in every respect) has proved to be a natural leader, he has not sought high office, rather high office has sought him. Ben claims that Freemasonry has been good to him, I [the author] am not alone in concluding that Benjamin Addy has been very good for Freemasonry."

The Deputy GM then presented a Grand Lodge 50th Certificate, personally signed by HRH Prince Michael, to MWBro Addy, congratulating him on reaching this milestone in his Mark Masonic career. Our PGM, resumed the Chair and presented MWBro Addy with a Cheshire 50th Certificate, following which he responded in his inimitable style, thanking all for contributing to this most memorable of occasions. The Secretary of the Pro GM's mother Mark Lodge Stayley M597, W Bro David J Smith, then made a presentation on behalf of the members of the Lodge.

At a most convivial Social Board, presentations were made to MWBro Benjamin Addy, MWBro John Hale and to RWBro Michael Herbert, who coincidentally on the same evening was enjoying the 50th anniversary of his Initiation into Craft Masonry.

PGM's Address from the Annual RAM Assembly

One of the highlights from this year's Annual Assembly of Cheshire Royal Ark Mariner Lodges was the address of our RW Provincial Grand Master. In his address, he covered many topics of interest to Royal Ark Mariners and Mark Masons alike. The following are extracts from his address.

Tradition and Ritual

"I advised you last year of the changes being made to the RAM Rituals and in obedience to Grand Council requested that they be adopted in their entirety. Since then, the situation has changed dramatically. The Grand Master's Royal Ark Council have reconsidered and all RAM Lodges were advised by the Grand Secretary last April, that any Lodge which has traditionally used the hoodwink in the Elevation Ceremony may continue to do so, if the Lodge Committee so wish.

I was one of many PGM's who lobbied for the change. As you will know the Elevation Ceremony truly fulfils the criterion of an Initiatory Rite and develops the essence of such a rite; the making of a new beginning or adoption of a new outlook on life. I have witnessed ceremonies where the hoodwink has been omitted and am not in the least impressed. To a large degree the ceremony is emasculated; deprived of its significance. I would therefore request all of our Lodges to continue this tradition, for by doing so we will ensure that our Candidates receive an Elevation which is true to the canon and symbolism of the degree.

I am delighted that some of you have adopted my suggestion of delivering the Lecture on the Tracing Board when no other work has been available. In fact some rather innovative methods have been used to illustrate the Lecture. I have borrowed one of them from our friends in North Wales - an annotated picture of the Tracing Board which when laminated can be distributed to Lodge members to assist in their understanding. The picture can be downloaded from the Administration section of our website. This lecture when delivered (it can very easily be shared) is one of the most interesting and informative in masonry and can provide a very memorable evening.

Membership

It is almost a mantra of mine on these occasions to remind you that the strength of this Province is the collective strength of all its members and that we are merely custodians of the Order for future generations. It is your enthusiasm which is the dynamic determining the success of the Province as well as the durability and nature of your Lodges. I am very conscious of the contributions you make and in paying you tribute I also thank you for the warmth with which I and my colleagues have been welcomed into your Lodges. It has been a delight to share in your fellowship.

As I am sure you are aware there are three fundamental constituents at the core of a Lodge which constantly require addressing. They are to provide for succession within it; at all times work it; and to ensure that the ritual and ceremonial is of a high quality.

The first is self-evident, but as you know numbers alone do not guarantee the survival of a Lodge. Unless it garners the support of its members through their attendance and enjoyment of meetings by applying the other two, failure may forever be on the horizon.

Let me first address the question of succession. I mentioned last year that we live in straightened times. Since then life has not got any easier and the demands on our purse are no less. Since we last met I have taken the opportunity to rebase the statistics we collect in order to reflect the Masonic year rather than the calendar year. Based on this measurement our results for last year were positive, as shown on the report which has been circulated. We remain stable and did in fact acquire an additional five subscribing members.

Gala Weekend - New Venue Proves Popular

Our Provincial Grand Master invites you and your partner to join him and other Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Masons and their guests for a Gala Weekend for two nights commencing Friday 20th April 2012 at the Hydro Hotel, Bowness on Windermere. This is a new and exciting venue for the event, and the weekend is almost a sell out.

The Hydro Hotel is equipped with an indoor pool and spa and is situated seconds from the centre of Bowness, with magnificent views of the lake and surrounding fells. The hotel has ample car parking space. Double, twin or single rooms are available, with check in from 2pm on the Friday and departure on Sunday morning.

The weekend will consist of an informal hot buffet at 7.30 pm on the Friday evening, followed by a full English breakfast on Saturday. Daytime is free to explore the town and surrounding attractions. In the evening there will be a six course Gala Dinner and Dance (lounge suits at 7.00 for 7.30 pm). On the Saturday evening there will be a raffle, the proceeds of which will go to the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund. Prizes for the raffle will be gratefully received. Breakfast will be served on the Sunday morning prior to departure.

WBro Ernie Fallowfield of the Province of Cumberland and Westmorland has made a very generous offer to discount tickets sold in advance for Windermere Lake Cruises. He proposes to make open tickets available (return any time) to our party to sail as a group to Ambleside at 10.10 am on the Saturday Morning from Bowness and for people to return at their leisure after a day in Ambleside and beyond or immediately if they wish. People wishing to take up this offer must enclose £8.50 per person for their Cruise ticket including tea or coffee with the deposit for their booking. (Normal price for the cruise is £11.00). This offer will not be available on the day

There are splendid facilities in the local area and many tourist attractions. Within easy reach of the hotel are Keswick, Ambleside, Grasmere and Coniston and the market town of Kendal. Other local attractions include Windermere Steamboat Museum & World of Beatrix Potter attraction in Bowness, The Lake District Visitor Centre and Gardens at Brockhole, Wordsworth's home, Dove Cottage at Grasmere, the Aquarium of the Lakes at Lakeside and the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway. Alternatively, just enjoy afternoon tea at one of the myriad of local cafés or maybe go up market for afternoon tea or even luncheon at the Old England Hotel

The total cost of the weekend will be £140 per person plus £8.50 per person if you desire to go cruising. A non-returnable deposit of £50 (or £58.50 if cruising) per person is required at the time of booking. Bookings will be taken strictly in order of receipt.

At the time of writing this article 59 of the 60 rooms originally booked had been taken and the hotel have now allocated all of its 75 rooms to us. So there is still space but it is going fast! Further information can be obtained from any of the Events Committee members:

Bob McMillan	Tel: 015395 30034 / 0771 990 2289 e-mail: r.a.mcmillan@btinternet.com
David Sellers	Tel: 0161 962 7609 e-mail: DAVIDSELLERS57@aol.com,
Doug Watts	Tel: 01270 760236 e-mail: dougie watts@elworth.wanadoo.co.uk,
Bryan Mayoh	Tel: 0161 945 4680 e-mail: candbmayoh@btinternet.com

We very much look forward to welcoming you to the Hydro.



The Warden's Mess

The Province's Wardens, past, present and future, gathered at Christleton in January for the fourth meeting of the Wardens' Mess. Started in 2009 when Geoff Alexander of St Hilary Lodge No 1081 and Tom Lewis of The Earl of Chester Lodge No. 196 were occupying the Senior and Junior Wardens' chairs respectively, the Mess meets once a year in an informal atmosphere over dinner. The Provincial Grand Master Bryan Ogden and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Austin Bamber were present at this year's event, with 17 Brethren who had previously occupied one of the Wardens' chairs in the Province, plus the Senior and Junior Wardens designate. The most senior of the former Wardens at the dinner was Eric Thomason of the Neston Lodge No. 1445, who was the Senior Warden in 1985.

The Mess was hosted by the current Senior Warden David Heathcote of Benevolent TI Lodge, who was President of the group for the year, and Malcolm Orr of Leverhulme Lodge No. 1325, the Junior Warden, who was the Vice-President and Ostensible Steward for the evening. They presented the Mess with a set of napkins bearing the emblem of the Mark Province, which was well received by all, including the Junior Warden designate, R. Adrian Davies of the Riveracre Lodge No. 1016 ... until he was informed that as the incoming Ostensible Steward it was part of his duties to see that they were laundered for next year's get-together!

The War at Home

"Six hens and a cockerel, and grow your own vegetables; eggs from woodpigeons nests or any other nest you can find; catch fish from the canal. All these 'luxuries' could be added to your weekly ration of 2oz of butter, margarine, and sugar." This was just some of the information gathered by a group of youngsters in Middlewich when they set out to try and discover what life was like in the town during the 1939-1945 war. They patrolled the town centre, visited the homes of the elderly, and asked questions in a way that only youth can, and they got the kind of answers that only first-hand experience of the war years can provide.



Some of the members of the Middlewich Youth Theatre

Having gathered the information they set about writing a script, casting, acting and producing a DVD under the very capable direction of their leaders. They then shot the professional looking production with an old cine camera. Intersperse the acts with photographs of Middlewich, snippets such as how many people were killed when a bomb scored a direct hit on Middlewich and interesting memories gleaned from their researches, and you have a wonderful DVD where even the creation of 'old' film is achieved by adding faint moving 'scratch' lines to the final production.

The members of Middlewich Youth Theatre were delighted, but disappointed. "We could have done a better job if we had had good equipment like we have at school" they said. "You know we have no money" said the leaders, "but we will try and raise funds and save up until we can afford a good camera" They worked hard but after many months effort only £500 had been put into the pot. Help was at hand as caring Mark masons heard of their plight and submitted an application to the CPMBF, who offered to help. Now the Youth Theatre are the proud owners of a new camera, complete with tripod, boom, radio microphones, and carry cases.

All future film creations will carry a tail scene acknowledging our help. This is just one of the causes supported by the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund in 2011.

The results, however, are skewed by the Consecration of the Sandbach Lodge which contributed largely to our growth. Sadly, over a third of our practising Lodges suffered a fallow year and only three added to their membership. Those leaving our Order remain a concern but I am hopeful that you are all, individually and collectively, working to ensure that these losses are minimised.

I know this is a statement of the obvious but we must continue to recruit if we wish to ensure the continued survival of our Lodges. It is a sad fact that during the past few years many Commanders have completed their year of Office without experiencing the enjoyment of Elevating a potential successor. I can recall, as I am sure many of you also do, the days when it was perquisite for a Master or Commander elect to bring his own work to the Chair. Do you not think it worthwhile to endeavour to return to those enlightened times?

Charities

Our charity is something all Mark Masons and Royal Ark Mariners are proud of and they have every right to be so. Royal Ark Mariner contributions to the CPMBF now total nearly £51,000, with five lodges acquiring mauls this past year.

I am sometimes asked why we present mauls and not sceptres to qualifying Lodges. It is a very fair question and one that is perfectly logical. I have to say that I do not have a satisfactory answer for you other than to advise you that the decision was made at the inception of the scheme over 20 years ago and I have, with the agreement of the Benevolent Committee retained it.

Whilst the mauls are not used ceremonially I do encourage their display on our pedestals to maintain awareness of our brethren of their charitable support. This support is required more today than perhaps ever before - whilst charitable donors are maintaining their support, the value of their donation is reducing. Charities are therefore finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet.

There is no doubt that this equally applies to some of our members who are finding the demands on their household budgets difficult to accommodate. Although not overwhelmed our Provincial Almoner, Kenneth Mayer, is becoming well versed in what is available from both the CPMBF and the Mark Benevolent Fund and is assisting where ever need is demonstrated.

I sincerely hope that your Lodge enjoys an Almoner and that he is maintaining contact with those brethren whose attendance at Lodge is infrequent. If need is recognised and you think we can assist, please ensure that the Provincial Almoner is informed; he will most certainly help if he can.

Grand Lodge

It is not very long ago that an eminent Cheshire Mark Mason celebrated his Golden Jubilee in this Hall. I refer of course to my predecessor and now our Pro Grand Master, MWBro Benjamin Addy. I am sure you will all join me in extending to him the heartiest of congratulations from this Assembly with every best wish for a successful tenure of Office. It was a great privilege for me to assist in a small way at his Installation in June last year. It was also a delight to witness the support he had from the brethren in the Province on this the most illustrious of days.

Just over a month ago I was also privileged to attend a very well supported Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners held at Great Queen Street to witness four Cheshire brethren receive the honour of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. This meeting was also incidentally, the first opportunity our new Pro Grand Master has had to preside over a Grand Lodge which I think made the occasion even more memorable to our recipients of Grand honours. They were: WBros William Edward Caren, Robert John Ellershaw, Rex Marchington Ford and Kenneth James Saxon, and to each I proffer my heartiest congratulations and look forward to their support of the Order for many years to come."

MWBro Ben Addy's 50th Celebration in Pictures



With grateful thanks to WBro Paul Hunt (Hants and IoW) and Bro Derek Brook (M1543) for their photographs