

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
10th December 2013	RAM Grand Assembly	London
9th January 2014	Cheshire RAM Annual Assembly	Christleton
15th March 2014	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port
9th—11th May 2014	Mark Weekend	Kenilworth
15th May 2014	Mark Masters' and Commanders Dinner	Middlewich
10th June 2014	Grand Mark Lodge	London

ONE of the suggestions forthcoming from the Masters and Commanders Dinner earlier in the year was that a Royal Ark Mariner meeting similar to that to the Friendship meetings held to encourage membership in the Mark degree would be a useful aid in our desire to further the development of our Ancient and Honourable Fraternity. This has now been developed and the presentation formulated, which is available on our website, can be given in either a Royal Ark Mariner or Mark Lodge if the latter is considered appropriate. As in the Mark degree the Province will be delighted to give support, given adequate notice, which can be arranged through the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V. W. Bro. David Sellers. The presentation is an interesting one and should prove thought provoking, not only to potential members but also existing membership.

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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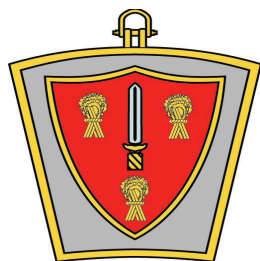
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Mark Province of Cheshire

The Cheshire Mark Mason

Autumn Edition

October 2013

Smiles all round at Bowness

AFTER a nice, long, relaxing weekend, away from the hectic nature of work, Freemasonry and life in general, the Mark Masons of Cheshire returned home from yet another enjoyable visit to the Windermere Hydro Hotel.

Following the successes of previous years the organisers were confident of another demonstration of support from our members, but even they were amazed when this year the event sold out in three weeks. Elaine McMillan, wife of organiser Bob, said she had never seen him move so fast!

As with all of the Cheshire Mark Masons events the CPMBF was at the core of the activities and Brian Mayo and his wife Carol, together with other Brethren, oversaw another magnificent raffle which generated £800.00 towards the fund. Indeed the raffle table overflowed.

As has become customary the blooms and table decorations, supplied by Mrs Maira Sellers, were beautiful. Each lady received a gift of a vase and flower with the central decoration on every table being given to a lucky recipient following a draw.

A new addition for this year was the inclusion of photographs of many who attended on the Provincial Web site. If you haven't been on one of the many Mark weekends just view the pictures at: <http://www.cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk/page2203.htm> to see what you have been missing!

The team have switched the venue and date for 2014 to the splendid four-star Chesford Grange Hotel at Kenilworth, near Warwick from 9th to the 11th of May. Please book early when the event is formally announced to avoid disappointment.



■ The Provincial Grand Master addresses the members, wives and friends at the dinner at the Hydro Hotel

■ For more pictures from the weekend turn to pages four and five

Grand day out for Cheshire At Great Queen Street

A LARGE number of Cheshire Mark Masons made the trip down to London once again, for the annual investiture meeting of Grand Mark Lodge.

All were very pleased to see a significant number of their colleagues appointed to, or promoted in, Grand Mark Rank and we were honoured by the presence of The Grand Master His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent.

Attendances have been increasing in recent years so it should not have come as a shock when over 2000 brethren attended the meeting filling not only the Grand Temple but the overflow temple as well, leading to a record number of 924 brethren dining.

With over 400 people to invest the twelve Grand Stewards who took them round had their work cut out on a very hot day indeed, with the air conditioning struggling to cope. Congratulations go to W. Bro. Stephen Adcott our PGM in the craft who received his first appointment to the very high rank of P.S.G.D.

Very honoured

Congratulations are also due to all of the following brethren: W. Bro's Kevin Atherton, Colin Hambleton our Provincial Grand Secretary, Graham Kyffin and Timothy Russell Moore, who all received first appointment to the Rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of ceremonies, whilst that very well-known Brother Brian Sykes Raby received Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer.

The Province of Cheshire were very honoured indeed to see three brethren promoted to Very Worshipful ranks. David Robinson Sellers, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master and William Andrew Chalmers (better known as Bill!) received Past Grand Junior Overseer but the icing on the cake was David Robert Littler receiving the acting rank of Grand Junior Overseer and we wish him a very enjoyable year in office.

The Revd. Bruce David Harry of West Cheshire 1497 was re appointed Deputy Grand Chaplain and W. Bro's. John Ismael, Charles Anthony Bailey and Peter Gordon Watkin all became Past Grand Senior Deacons, while our Past Grand Steward, Ronald Glynn Hewitt was promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon.

The investiture took quite some time and the Grand Master addressed the assembled brethren, congratulating all those who had been invested.

Bob's Masterful response

The banquet afterwards was held in the Grand Connaught Rooms on Great Queen Street after which the President of The Board of Grand Stewards Proposed the Toast to the Health of the Grand Master, who responded and Proposed the Health of the Board. Traditionally this toast is responded to by the Treasurer of the Board, who this year was our own W. Bro. Robert Alexander McMillan Past Grand Steward, who was delighted to have had such an opportunity.

Once again a good time was had by all. So if you have not made it to Grand lodge before your correspondent recommends that you try it every Brother is welcome irrespective of Rank.

SALMON TOPS CHARITY MENU

MORE than 90 Mark Masons, families and friends from the West end of Cheshire Mark Province enjoyed the 2013 Salmon Lunch at Ellesmere Port Masonic Hall in September.



The Salmon Lunch at Ellesmere Port in full swing

Following lunch the guests were entertained by Bob Kyffin's unique version of Irish bingo which preceded the raffle, which comprised a diverse selection of donated prizes ranging from hanging baskets, pot plants, inevitably several bottles of various alcoholic beverages and uniquely, a flower arrangement comprising solely of items of confectionary.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Austin Bamber thanked Graham Kyffin, the committee, and caterers for arranging such a successful and enjoyable event again—with the added bonus that he was getting out of doing the washing up!

Graham announced at the closing of proceedings that the day's Salmon Lunch had raised a magnificent £900 for the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund

And it was a very similar story in the East of the Province when they gathered at the Manchester Ruby Club in Cheadle Hulme for their summer get-together in June.

Keith Goulden and his team combined to deliver another highly successful lunchtime assembly in the North West sunshine that resulted in everyone going home looking forward to next year.

A total of 105 Mark Masons, wives and friends enjoyed an excellent meal and a free glass of wine, while the raffle for a very extensive collection of prizes produced £900 to be handed over to the Cheshire Mark Provincial Benefit Fund.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, David Sellers and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Austin Bamber both attended the function and helped with the efforts of the fund-raisers on the day.

"I thought that it was another excellent lunch," commented Keith Goulden, "and the feedback for everyone was very positive. In fact, we have already booked the Rugby Club for next year's event, which will be held on Sunday, June 8!"



Keith Goulden flanked by Austin Bamber and David Sellers with fellow lunch organisers Howard Waddell & Albert Blurton

Party time in the Lakes



Provincial Grand Master Bryan Ogden enjoys a pre-dinner chat with his deputy David Sellers and Chris Macdonald



The beautiful view over Lake Windermere from one of the rooms at They Hydro Hotel in Bowness, which is proving such a popular venue for the Mark Weekend Away.



Bob and Jean Marley ready for the dinner at The Hydro at the weekend away



Eric and Heather Thomason

Some of the guests pictured relaxing (left) in the hotel lounge prior to the gala dinner, while (right) Jean Lloyd, Ian and Wendy Urquhart and Colin and Joyce Hambleton are clearly enjoying themselves



Taking time out for coffee in Bowness are (l to r) Carol Heathcote, Sue and Stephen Flood and Fred and Shirley Withington



Jim Todd, who has completed 60 years in the Mark and RAM, with wife Jean



It's a busy time for Kishore

KISHORE BALGOBIN was facing a hectic time as he looked forward to his Installation in Deeside Mark Lodge No.795 in October. The Lodge has a healthy list of candidates building up and are so anxious to accommodate all the potential newcomers that they are even considering seeking approval for an additional meeting in their syllabus to enable them to get through the work. Secretary Jim Hardman says: "We have a busy schedule for 2014. We have two candidates for February, two for April, with a possibility of seeking a dispensation to hold an extra meeting in March for another candidate.

"The lodge is very active, with constant Lodges of Instruction meetings and get-togethers out of season – i.e. barbecues and social events, so we all keep in contact. We are building up to our centenary in 2023, which may seem a long way off, but time goes so quickly we are preparing now. We have 38 members, with an average turnout of 60% and we are constantly looking for members, we always ask the question to members of the Craft: "which Mark lodge are you in?" Of course if the answer is positive we invite them along to our Mark meeting, if the answer is negative then out come the application forms, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

"We are looking forward to the new season with anticipation, particularly with Brother Balgobin in the Chair. He is an excellent Freemason and he has progressed through every office on his way to his Installation in the Mark."

Jim is also the Secretary of Sincerity R.A.M, which is moored to Deeside Mark Lodge, but now meets at the Queen's Royal Hotel in New Brighton. Residing rent-free at its new home, the Lodge is now back in good financial health following the move two years ago. "We are not a large lodge, just 19 members, but all active and keen. The move to New Brighton Wirral has been a blessing, we had very little in our account, but within two meetings we were solvent and even able to donate to Masonic charities again. We try to have a candidate for each meeting and, up to now, we have been successful."

YOUR PROVINCE NEEDS YOU!

FOR many years stewarding for the Provincial Mark Special Events, and in particular, the Provincial meeting, has been provided by volunteers drawn mainly from the Lodges in the Chester and Ellesmere Port districts. The number of brethren available as Event Stewards has been falling and it has become necessary to widen the net and appeal for any Cheshire Mark Mason to volunteer to assist in the running of special events.

For 2014 we are in sore need of three or four brothers to assist in transporting the Provincial team from Whitby Masonic Hall to Ellesmere Port Civic Hall between 8am and about 9.30am on Saturday 15th March and also for about half a dozen brothers to steward in the Main Hall and Reception areas prior to the start of the Provincial meeting.

As about one third of our present stewards list are either directly involved in the Provincial meeting or are receiving a Provincial honour or promotion, we would like to be oversubscribed rather than undersubscribed with regard to numbers. If you would be kind enough to volunteer for this duty please contact either myself, Brian Rose (Chairman) on 01244822878 or brian.rose2@btinternet.com, or our secretary Albert Elliott on 01244851801 or ellioal1942@gmail.com. We would be delighted to hear from you and look forward to working with you on the day.



FATHER and son Alan and Michael Coles made it a very special night at the Installation meeting of Four Cardinal Virtues Lodge of MMM No.723 at Willaston.

It was a proud moment, indeed, for Alan as he undertook the pleasant duty of presenting Michael to Jim Valentine, who then proceeded to Install him into the Master's chair in the presence of V. W. Bro. Alan Smith P.J.G.O., who was the Representative of the Right Worshipful Grand Master at the well-attended meeting, a gathering that included a number of Grand Officers including W. Bro David Wright G.S.D. and Provincial G.D.C. of the Province of North Wales

It was a second significant night at the Lodge for Alan as he had previously Advanced his son Michael into Four cardinal Virtues during his year as Master in 2008/09.

Pictured above (l-to-r) back row: Bro. Peter Owen J.W., Bro. Liam Carter S.W., Bro. Michael Coles W.M., W. Bro. Alan Coles, W. Bro. Jim Valentine I.P.M. Front row: W. Bro. Glynn Hughes P.A.G.Swd.Br., W. Bro. Bernard Sole P.G.J.D., W. Bro. David Wright G.S.D., V. W. Bro. Alan Smith P.G.J.O., W. Bro. Keith Wilford P.G.S.D., W. Bro. Gerald Newton P.A.G.Std.Br.

De Tabley are ready to blow out the 125 candles

THE November meeting of The De Tabley Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.396 will be a very special one as the members and their guests will be celebrating the Lodge's 125th birthday.

The membership is planning an evening to remember on Monday, November 25, when they will be joined by the Provincial Team, headed by the leaders of the Province, the R. W. Provincial Grand Master Bryan Ogden, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master David Sellers and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Austin Bamber.

De Tabley's secretary, David Rogers says: "Obviously this special birthday is attracting a lot of interest in this part of the Province and we are expecting the lodge room to be very crowded on the night."