

## Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
9th—11th May 2014	Mark Weekend	Kenilworth
21st May 2014	Mark Masters' and Commanders Dinner	Middlewich
10th June 2014	Grand Mark Lodge	London
11th October	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port
	Investiture of V. W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers as PGM	
9th December 2014	RAM Grand Assembly	London
8th January 2015	Cheshire RAM Annual Assembly	Christleton
21st March 2015	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port

THE Mark and RAM Lodges that meet at Hyde and Marple enjoyed their second annual lunch at Oaklands Masonic Hall in February and it proved another great success. Members of Marple, Hyde, Staley and Doric Mark Lodges and Stayley and Hyde RAM Lodges and their family and friends gathered in the new Orangery and the Cheshire Mark Benevolent Fund was the winner with the event raising £315 through tickets and a raffle.

Keith Goulden and his team are busy preparing for their 30<sup>th</sup> annual Salmon Lunch in the eastern end of the Province, which will be held at Manchester Rugby Club in Cheadle Hulme on June 8.

Tickets cost £12.50, including a glass of wine or soft drink. Booking forms can be obtained from Keith on 0161 449 9555 or by email

[gouldek@ntlworld.com](mailto:gouldek@ntlworld.com) or from W. Bro. T. Varty on 01925 630620; W. Bro. H. Waddell 0161 612 5130 or W. Bro. J. Goldsmith on 0161 456 5086.

Graham Kyffin has been finalising arrangements for the Salmon Lunch in the West and has confirmed it will be at Ellesmere Port Masonic Hall on September 21. Tickets cost £12 for and cheques should be made payable to "The West End Social Committee" and sent to Graham at "Brookdale," 300 Greasby Road, Greasby, Wirral CH49 2PP.

## Contributions

The *Cheshire Mark Mason* team are always grateful to receive information and or photographs

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### PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

R.W.Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden G.M.R.A.C.

### DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

V. W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers P.G.J.O. R.A.M.G.R.

### ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

W. Bro. Austin Westbury Bamber P.D.G.Swd.Br. R.A.M.G.R.

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

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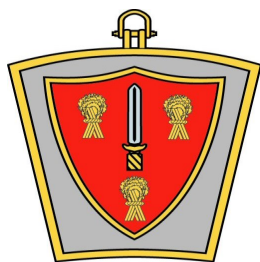
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Mark Province of Cheshire

# The Cheshire Mark Mason

Spring Edition

April 2014

## PGM's address is a stunner!

**THERE was nothing at all out of the ordinary on Saturday March 15 2014 when the usual Provincial meeting at Ellesmere Port Civic Centre was held and many Mark Masons went along as they have done many times before, expecting to see their friends invested with their new ranks and to enjoy the festivities afterwards at Ellesmere Port Masonic Hall.**

However, right from the start it felt like an extra special meeting with no less than 12 Right Worshipful Brethren in attendance, eleven of them current Provincial Grand Masters, along with other senior brethren representing 14 Provinces, a staggering one third of the Constitution of England and Wales.

There was a special atmosphere with our Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden in jocular form, welcoming each distinguished guest with a personal touch, which had everyone smiling, particularly when The Provincial Grand Master of North Wales said "don't mention the rugby" The reply was "I hadn't intended to but thank you for mentioning it for me!"

However, during a very emotional address to the assembly, he turned to more serious matters; mentioning the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Mark Benevolent Fund in 2018 and the plan to celebrate it by funding ten mobile chemotherapy units in conjunction with the charity Hope For Tomorrow and the forthcoming retirement of M. W. Bro. Benjamin Addy as Pro Grand Master.

**FOLLOWING the Annual Meeting it has been announced that W. Bro. Austin Westbury Bamber will be promoted to the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master and W. Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt will be the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and both will be invested at Ellesmere Port on October 11.**

After the address followed the Investiture, the Provincial Grand Master, as always, chatting with each brother as he invested him with his new rank in that personable style that we have all become so used to over the last twelve years.

"Beware the Ides of March" sprang to mind when just as thoughts were turning to the banquet, came the announcement we were not expecting. He remarked that he had just given his valedictory address and had decided that this was the right time to retire and to hand on the baton of leadership.

He further announced that his successor had been confirmed as his Deputy V. W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers. This was met with acclamation by all in

attendance and at the end of his speech he was given a standing ovation, befitting of his service to the Province of Cheshire and his great popularity with both the brethren of the province and our distinguished guests, who had travelled far and wide to attend the event.

Stunned, we repaired to the masonic hall where we enjoyed excellent food and good company before V. W. Bro David Robinson Sellers proposed the health of the R. W. Provincial Grand Master in glowing terms, thanking him for all he had done for the Province and wishing him a long and happy retirement.

In reply he joked that he was retiring because he had run out of words! But if you believe that brethren! His reply was received with sustained and rapturous applause.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. Austin Westbury Bamber proposed the health of all our visitors and distinguished guests, even managing a mention of England and Wales (accidentally of course) before the proceedings were closed.

Just another Annual Provincial Meeting really!

# A personal message from the Provincial Grand Master

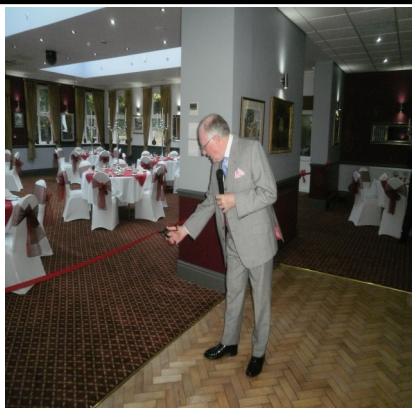
BEN ADDY has announced that he will retire as the M. W. Pro. Grand Master at the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge in June after almost a quarter of a century's service as one of the Order's rulers, an era during which he has made an enduring impact on Mark masonry.

He was Elevated into Staley Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.597 in November 1961 and progressed through the offices to take become its Worshipful Master in 1970. He then moved up through the Provincial ranks before he received Grand Mark honours for the first time when he was made a Grand Steward in 1981.

He was appointed the Assistant Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Cheshire in 1986 and the following year was promoted in Grand Mark Lodge to Grand Junior Deacon. In 1988 he became the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and two year later he was invested as the Provincial Grand Master, an office that he was to hold for twelve years, during which he added to its lustre with his own personal mix of dignity and charm. He then answered the call from London to become the Assistant Grand Master, before rising to Deputy Grand Master in 2010 and then Pro. Grand Master in 2011.

Now he feels that the time has come to pass on the baton of responsibility and is looking forward to enjoying his Mark Masonry more locally in future. Although he has been seen around the Province on occasion during his roles at Grand Lodge, he says: "You could say I have been a bit scarce on the ground and it will be good to have the time to get around a bit more." He has done so much for Mark Masonry on a national and provincial scale that it is sure to be an emotional occasion at Grand Lodge in June, and there is certain to be a strong contingent from the Cheshire Mark Lodges in attendance to support him.

Ben Addy is a Hyde mason through and through and it seemed most appropriate to ask him to cut the tape when the latest addition to the facilities at Oaklands Hall – The Orangery – was opened. Our picture shows him performing that duty, before which he praised the committee and members of the Hall for providing facilities that were as good as anything in the Province.



THE Derbyshire Scout Lodge, a travelling Mark Scout Movement Lodge based at Derby, will be visiting Willaston Masonic Hall on Saturday, June 21 to conduct a Ceremony both Mark and R.A.M. Senior Provincial officers are expected to be in attendance.

●JACK DEVLIN, a very well-known figure in Cheshire mason-

ry, will celebrate a masonic hat-trick at Dukinfield on Tuesday, October 28 when he completes 50 years in Mark masonry at the regular meeting of ADTI.

V. W. Bro. Jack achieved 50 years in Craft masonry in 2012 and last year enjoyed a similar "birthday" party in the Royal Arch.

## SENIOR WARDEN WILL SERVE US WELL!

GRAHAM MAXTED MONAGHAN, the Province's new Senior Warden, is certainly a man that knows the meaning of giving service. After completing his apprenticeship as a joiner, he enlisted in the Royal Marines in 1962. On leaving the armed forces he exchanged one uniform for another when he joined the Manchester Fire Brigade in 1970 and the pattern continued in

1979 when he went on to become a member of the Greater Manchester Police, from which he retired in 1996.

His masonic career began in Clarendon Lodge No.1166 at Sale in 1993, progressing to Worshipful Master five years later and he was also a founder member and Past Master of Sentinel Lodge No.4707.

He was exalted into Tuscan Mark Lodge 922 in 1999, and he became

its Worshipful Master in 2004. He joined Wythenshawe RAM No.922 in 2005 and was Worshipful Commander in 2011.

He is also active in the Royal Arch as a member of Hale Chapter No.3749.

He has been married to Sandra since 1966 and they have two sons, Mark and Karl, who was born in Singapore, whilst Graham was stationed there.



## DEDICATED PETER IS A TRAVELLING MAN



PETER SANDLAND who is this year's Provincial Grand Junior Warden in the Mark degree is a dedicated mason having previously had membership of eleven Lodges and been in the chair of them all. He is presently a member of seven different degrees.

In 1985 he joined his Sandbach Craft Lodge Samaritan No.368, becoming Worshipful Master in 1996 and is

presently Assistant Director of Ceremonies. His membership of the Mark Lodge Namptwyche No.1206 began in 1987 and he has been D.C. for the past eight years. He is also a founder member of Sandbach Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No.1609.

Married to Jennifer in 1968, he has two daughters and one son. He owned his own business and garage,

repairing HGV's for 35 years, and they recently "sold up" and retired.

He and Jennifer hope to travel more (in between masonic commitments of course!) and to continue attending many more masonic social events which they both enjoy. Having acquired a new greenhouse, Peter also hopes to fit his new gardening hobby into his busy "retirement" schedule.

ASSISTANT Provincial Grand Master Austin Westbury Bamber was installed into the chair of

West Cheshire Lodge of Mark Master Masons at Clifton Road, Birkenhead on March 10 and the proceedings had a feeling of déjà vu. Owing to the indisposition of Frank Lowe, the outgoing Master, he was placed into the chair by his longstanding masonic friend Alan Glazier. They were initiated into the same Craft Lodge within a few weeks of

## A case of déjà vu at Birkenhead

each other over 40 years ago and have installed each other into chairs in this and other degrees.

This glittering occasion was attended by a strong contingent of Provincial and Grand Lodge officers and the Representative was David Robinson Sellers, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He conveyed the R. W. Provincial Grand Master's good wishes

to the newly installed Master and thanked him for the excellent work he was doing as APGM.

West Cheshire Lodge of Mark Master Masons is a relaxed and enjoyable past masters lodge and meets at Clifton Road on the second Monday in March and September and is open to all who have been installed into the chair of a Cheshire Mark Lodge.



# Meeting of Grand Lodge will be a day to remember

BRETHREN, once again we meet to preside over the beginning of a new Provincial year. As I have said on other occasions our meetings are always an eclectic mix of reflection and anticipation and this year is no different but before I go any further let me warmly welcome you to this meeting and to this venue. Thank you for attending in such numbers; our gatherings are always happy occasions and today, I am sure will continue this very pleasant tradition.

As ever the past year has been a very busy and enjoyable one. The fundamental affection of the Mark mason has been present on every occasion be it at a Private, Provincial or Grand Lodge meeting. It is present today and amply exemplified, not only by your support, but also by the number of distinguished guests we host.

This affection was also much to the fore at the meeting of Grand Mark Lodge in June last year when I was privileged to witness, along with many other brethren of this Province, thirteen Cheshire Mark Men receive promotion to Grand Rank from the hands of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Michael of Kent. I will not name them individually as, nine months on, they are now all well known to you but I was particularly delighted with the appointment of V.W.Bro. David Robert



Littler to Grand Junior Overseer; a very senior active office.

A similar inclination was also expressed only four days ago when, as you may have read from the recently circulated e-mail, at the meeting of Grand Lodge our Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Benjamin Addy, announced his retirement as a Ruler of the Order.

As we all know, M. W. Bro. Ben is a most committed Cheshire mason and I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him well in his retirement; I feel quite confident that many of you will be able to do so personally as he will no doubt enthusiastically refresh his association with this Province in the future.

He will be succeeded by R. W. Bro. Richard Victor Wallis, our

current Deputy Grand Master, who in turn will be succeeded by R. W. Bro. H. Keith Emmerson, our current Assistant Grand Master, and R. W. Bro. Raymond John Smith, President of the Mark Benevolent Fund will be appointed his successor.

It will therefore be all change at our Grand Lodge Investiture Meeting in June and an important occasion not to be missed. I hope that many of you will attend to offer your support to our new rulers together with those Cheshire brethren who will receive promotion to Grand

## THANK YOU

**OUR social events were also once again very much enjoyed and well attended, so much so that our weekend away in May this year has exceeded all expectations and, catering for around 170, was almost fully booked within a month of release.**

**I must acknowledge the contributions of those brethren who organise our social events. They voluntarily and conscientiously work, very often with their wives and partners, to ensure that we and our families can enjoy ourselves in convivial and relaxed environments. We owe them a considerable debt of gratitude, one that I express on your behalf, for their devoted attention to our needs.**

## CPMBF GOING STRONG

IT has become an established practice that I add a few words regarding the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund on these occasions. It is a Fund very much cherished by Mark masons throughout the Province and your contributions to it over the 25 years since its inception are now in excess of £350,000; a most magnificent achievement.

I am also aware that equal support has been given to Craft Festivals in this period which makes your contributions even more commendable.

Our investments are in a healthy condition and provide much needed income which together with your donations and other revenues are dispensed by the Benevolent Committee in a fashion which not only fulfils a need but does so in an efficient and economical manner. We have, over the past year, been able to support worthy causes with grants to the value of circa £31,000

Charitable need however is not solely associated with charitable organisations; some of our members require support also. We are all Almoners to some degree but I hope that your Lodge Almoner is conscientiously undertaking his duties and maintaining contact with those brethren whose attendance at Lodge is infrequent. As you will know not only does this contact assist in retaining membership but it is equally important in identifying need. Our Provincial Grand Almoner, Kenneth Mayer, although happily not over employed, is always happy to provide assistance if need be; he is very experienced and well versed in what is available from both the CPMBF and the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Whilst on the subject of the MBF you will be delighted to learn that, to mark its sesqui centenary in 2018, substantial support is to be given to a very special charity named "Hope for Tomorrow". This provides Mobile Chemotherapy Units, thus bringing cancer treatment much nearer to the patient; reducing waiting times and the distress of traveling. The Trustees of the MBF have approved the funding of up to ten new vehicles over the next few years to be used in various parts of England and Wales; the first of which will be presented to the Charity next month for use in the Province of Lincolnshire.

Many of us in this room will be only too well aware of the benefits this initiative will bring to those suffering from this pernicious affliction. We can be very proud that once again our Grand Charity is providing worthy and worthwhile support to a very special community.

Returning to the Cheshire Benevolent Fund you will understand that it cannot succeed in its objectives without the contributions made by the Trustees and members of the Benevolent Committee who work very hard on our behalf. I pay tribute to them today through the Chairman, W. Bro. Glyn Hewitt, who takes great care that our investments provide the returns we require, and W. Bro. Denzil Griffiths our Provincial Grand Charity Steward, who retires today after three very fruitful years.

Above all thank you brethren for the support you continue to give, both individually and collectively. The achievement of our Charities is testament to your beneficence and compassion.

MANY Lodges have been visited by my colleagues and I since we last met; on a number of occasions accompanied by the current acting officers who, founding new friendships, have taken a great delight in the experience.

I would particularly thank them for discharging their responsibilities in such an excellent manner. Team visits were made to the Stamford, Walter de Hereford, Egerton and Leverhulme Lodges; to the Walter de Hereford Lodge to celebrate their Golden Jubilee.

Another Lodge anniversary of note was that of the De Tabley Lodge who celebrated their 125th.

It has been a very quiet year for personal milestones, however a rare 60 years as a Royal Ark Mariner was celebrated by W. Bro. Jim Todd of Cornwall Legh.

●The full address is available on the Provincial website

# Assembly success builds

THE increasing popularity and importance of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree was never better illustrated than at the Annual Assembly, which was held at Christleton in early January.

It was the sixth such Assembly and it was attended by a fifth of the entire membership of the RAM in Cheshire and most of the Brethren remained at Cheshire View following the official proceedings to enjoy an excellent meal in a very friendly and convivial manner. The following are extracts from the R. W. Provincial Grand Master's remarks at the Assembly.

“**T**his Assembly is now an important fixture in our Provincial diary. In my address to the inaugural meeting I said that Royal Ark Masonry in this Mark Province has perhaps been cast as the poor relation of the Mark by many Mark Master Masons instead of it being recognised for the beautiful and important degree that it is. We know that it is not a trivial little degree of small significance and it is far from being superficial, fulfilling as it does the peculiar characteristics of an initiatory rite. It is a degree which, in general, is much loved by all those who participate in it; something amply demonstrated by the resilience the Order has shown in this millennium. Over the past thirteen years Royal Ark Mariner masonry in this Province has retained over 90% of its subscribing membership compared with a little over 60% in the Craft.

Whilst these statistics may be considered comforting, they underline, if any re-emphasis is necessary, the imperative of supporting our Craft Lodges and they also conceal the fact that once again over this past year nearly half of our Lodges enjoyed neither a new nor joining member.

It is evident that almost without exception, Lodges are working to maintain interest by including appropriate lectures and the occasional explanation of the Tracing Board but it is, as ever, the introduction of new lifeblood that is the priority. I was delighted therefore when I was asked at our Masters and Commanders dinner in May whether a friendship meeting presentation could be produced as an aid to encouraging Mark masons to join us. This is completed and copies have been circulated; it is of course also available on the secretarial sec-

tion of the web site. Whilst I have not noted any Lodge utilising it to date I sincerely hope that those Lodges experiencing difficulties will do so; as ever assistance is available at Provincial level if required.

Whilst we at a Province can assist you with your efforts it is you, who as the custodians of your Lodges are the ones to effect change. The tools are available. All that is required is a little more application in the coming year to encourage our friends in the Mark to join us and experience the joys of this Degree. With a less than 50% penetration of Mark membership the potential is there, it only needs turning to account.

Over the past year I and my colleagues have visited many of your Lodges, as have our Grand Lodge Officers as my representatives at your Installation meetings. Thank you for the manner in which we have been received. I can say on behalf of all of us that it has been a delight to share in your fellowship and to witness

you working.

We are all aware of the importance of the quality of our ceremonial and ritual to our enjoyment. Indeed after providing for the succession of your Lodge they are the two most important elements of work and add immensely to our satisfaction. In my experience they are generally of a high standard but sadly I still occasionally receive a report that “open books spoiled a good evening”. I am sure that we are all aware of the effect read ritual has on our satisfaction; it does nothing to stimulate attendance at future meetings if it becomes the norm and its consequence may be disaffected members; something no Lodge can afford. Please ensure that our ritual is given the courtesy it is

**“With a less than 50% penetration of Mark membership the potential is there”**

YOU have never been to Great Queen Street, London? I suggest you take an early opportunity of rectifying that, **writes Brian Mayoh.**

Our expedition to London started on Monday, 9 December, 2013. If you are able to book the train well in advance, the cost can be held at modest levels. Only two hours and eight minutes and the train is arriving at Euston Station. It is an excellent service and one which is extremely reliable. It is almost like an annual event now for the four of us from Stamford Mark Lodge No 148 that make the trip.

On this occasion, of course, we were attending the Royal Ark Mariner Grand Assembly which is always held on the second Tuesday in December.

A short bus ride and we are at the hotel. Lunch and a couple of drinks and we are on our way to Mark Masons' Hall. Being a Past Grand Steward and a member of Mark Grand Stewards' Lodge, we take advantage of a very kind invitation from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master to attend one of his Mark Lodges for their installation meeting.

It is quite an experience. To attain the chair of this Lodge is like a marathon run - it takes forever but Very Worshipful Brother Jack Devlin is almost there. The ceremony of installation is conducted by Right Worshipful Brother Richard Victor Wallis JP, the Deputy Grand Master in a flawless manner.

Another good reason for going down to London is the dining experience at Mark Masons' Hall. Everyone should take the

## A trip not to be missed



opportunity of taking their lady to dine there at lunchtime..

Tuesday morning sees us at the London Bridge Experience. A little scary but not something I would recommend. Certainly not as entertaining as some of the “tours” we have enjoyed in the past - the Emirates Stadium, Tower Bridge, the Imperial War Museum, the Cabinet Rooms and many more.

After lunch, we prepare to go to Great Queen Street. As the Mark Meetings are so popular and very well attended these days, Mark Masons' Hall can in no way accommodate the number of brethren who would wish to attend. The Grand Temple can cater for approximately 1,700 brethren and at the Grand Assembly it is almost full. If you are the recipient of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank as I was, you have your own seat

allocated to you. It is not surprising that Seat No 113 is next to Seat No 112 where W Bro Ken Mayer is located. How nice is sit next to someone from your own Province. On the other side is a Brother from the Province of Middlesex - we are all in alphabetical order.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies gives the entire meeting a briefing before the three processions are led in. The Provincial Grand Masters take their seats as do the Distinguished Guests. The Pro Grand Master is announced and takes his rightful place in the East to open the Grand Assembly and conduct the business of the meeting.

Then, all of a sudden, you are being escorted by a Grand Steward to the Pro Grand Master, who doesn't just shake you by the hand and congratulate you but also takes the opportunity of speaking to each recipient individually. There are a considerable number of brethren to receive honours but the Pro Grand Master does not falter in his wish to make everyone feel very special.

Into the Connaught Rooms for dinner. It has to be said that the meals are now very much better than they were a few years ago and the experience is well worth the meal cost. You have the opportunity of dining with the brethren of your own Province in a convivial atmosphere. Toasts are few, speeches are short and we are back at the hotel where the celebrations continue. No problem sleeping that night.

What an experience. Why don't you try it? You will not be disappointed.