

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
9th December 2014	RAM Grand Assembly	London
8th January 2015	Cheshire RAM Annual Assembly	Christleton
2nd March 2015	Acting Officers Dinner	Christleton
21st March 2015	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port
24th April 2015	Samuel Sidney Radcliff 50th	Wallasey
20th May 2015	Masters & Commanders' Dinner	Middlewich

RAM Grand Rank For Three Cheshire

THREE Cheshire brethren have been honoured with promotions in the Royal Ark Mariner degree.

Ken Davies, John Forbes and Graham Kyffin are all to be recipients of RAM Grand Rank at the forthcoming Annual Assembly in London.

Ken Davies was elevated into Four Cardinal Virtues RAM Lodge No.723 in 1991, while

Masons

John Forbes entered the degree in Hyde RAM Lodge No.868 in 1995 and Graham Kyffin's membership also dates back to the same year when he joined Sincerity RAM Lodge No.327. He has since become a joining member of Joppa RAM No.11 as well.

All three brethren are also members of the Cheshire Installed Commanders Lodge No.1468 – Ken and Graham are, in fact, Founder Members – and hold office in that Lodge. Ken was recently invested as the Junior Warden, John took over the office of Chaplain and Graham was re-invested as the Director of Ceremonies.

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. David Robinson Sellers P.G.J.O. R.A.M.G.R.

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

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

ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

W. Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt P.G.J.D. 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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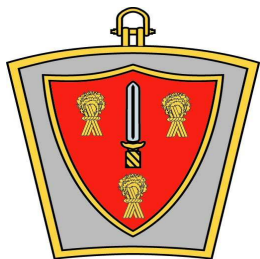
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Mark Province of Cheshire

The Cheshire Mark Mason

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The Start Of A New Era

A NEW era in Mark Masonry in Cheshire was ushered in on Saturday, October 11 as our new Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers was Installed by the much loved M. W. Bro. Benjamin Addy Past Pro Grand Master at a packed Ellesmere Port Civic Hall.

Because protocol dictates that the outgoing Provincial Grand Master does not attend his successor's Investiture, proceedings got under way when Provincial Grand Lodge was opened by The Presiding Officer, V. W. Bro. David Alldred P.G.J.O., the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, assisted by The Deputy Presiding Officer W. Bro. Christopher John MacDonald P.J.G.D, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, who had entered in procession with the members of the current provincial team.

M. W. Bro. Benjamin Addy then entered in procession to rousing applause from the brethren who were delighted that he was to be the Installing Officer. V. W. Bro. Alldred proffered the gavel of Provincial Grand Lodge to him, which he accepted, taking the chair.

After addressing the brethren he immediately proceeded to replace the Provincial Officers with the Installing Officers who had travelled up from Mark Grand Lodge for the occasion. R. W. Bro. Sir Frederick Crawford was the Grand Senior Warden, R. W. Bro. Keith P. Schofield Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire the Grand Junior Warden, W. Bro. Patrick McGlone



The new R.W.P.G.M. David Robinson Sellers flanked by his Deputy, Austin Westbury Bamber (left), and Assistant, Ronald Glyn Hewitt

monies were W. Bro's Ryan A. Williams and Philip J. Purves and the Grand Organist was W. Bro. Naunton Charles William Liles.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies then formed an escort of Worshipful Masters of Lodges from as many different parts of the province as possible - W. Bros Laurence representing Benevolent TI (Stockport), McDonough Middlewich 902, Cornes Cestrian 953 (Chester), Broadhurst Macclesfield 964, Main Birkenhead 1074, and Scott Sandbach 1609.

W. Bro. Mark Sellers, the IPM of Stamford 148 (Sale) who is the son of the P.G.M. Designate, was the Chain Bearer he was understandably very proud, while the Patent Bearer was W. Bro. James R. Lewis WM of Sincerity 327 (Wallasey)

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The Escort left the hall and returned immediately with the PGM Designate to the applause of the brethren and after his patent of appointment was read out by the acting Grand Secretary, he was obligated and Installed in style by M. W. Bro. Addy. After the Installation he was Proclaimed and Saluted by all present.

The new Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers then announced that his Deputy was to be W. Bro. Austin Westbury Bamber P. Dep. G. Swd. Br., and the slightly slimmed down escort of six brethren left the hall and

returned to applause with The Deputy Provincial Grand Master designate who's patent was in turn read out and he was Obligated, and Invested, by the R. W. Provincial Grand Master. He was then proclaimed and saluted by the brethren present.

The Provincial Grand Master then announced that the new Assistant Provincial Grand Master was to be W. Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt. The escort now reduced to four brethren, again left the hall and returned once again to enthusiastic applause with the Assistant Provincial Grand Master designate who like the deputy before him, had his patent of appointment read and

was Obligated and Invested by the Provincial Grand Master and afterwards proclaimed and saluted.

The Provincial Grand Master then confirmed the Provincial by-Laws and addressed the Installing officer, thanking him in glowing terms for the way that he had conducted the ceremony and expressing his personal delight that it had been our own Past Pro Grand Master who had been selected to carry out the duties of Installation.

The Past Pro Grand Master then retired in procession with all of the Installing brethren and the generous applause underlined the regard that he is held in.

A Job Very Well Done

FOLLOWING his investiture the Provincial Grand Master addressed the brethren assembled at Ellesmere Port.

He thanked M. W. Bro. Richard Victor Wallace the new Pro Grand Master for his sensitivity and sense of occasion in having invited M. W. Bro. Ben Addy, himself a former Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire, to preside. He also thanked all of the team from Mark Grand Lodge and congratulated them all for the manner in which they had discharged their duties.

He then thanked the distinguished brethren from other provinces for their support mentioning that there was no fewer than eleven Provincial Grand Masters present.

He went on to inform the brethren that he was the thirteenth P.G.M. of Cheshire and that although he was not superstitious, he hoped that the number would not have an effect on his length of tenure or the quality of his work.

He then spoke in the most glowing terms of the record of his predecessor R. W. Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden, thanking him for his leadership and for progressing the Mark Degree in Cheshire so ably during his tenure.

He stated that Bryan had certainly added many fair and square stones to the edifice which is Mark

Masonry in Cheshire and thanked him on our behalf for his leadership.

He also expressed his gratitude to the secretariat in Cheshire and W. Bro. Bill Caren and the DC's department for all their hard work in arranging the day's events before returning to his predecessor by saying: "R. W. Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden said one of his Yorkshire tenets was that if a job was worth doing it was worth doing well. Brethren he certainly fulfilled that tenet on a personal level and in his leadership of this Province and he encouraged many others to do the same. I trust that with your help and support we will move forward with the same determination, sense of enjoyment and friendship which he engendered and which has always characterized the Mark Degree in Cheshire."

Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed.

The festive board, as always, was held at the Masonic Hall Ellesmere Port and was enjoyed by all present. At the end of proceedings, the Provincial Grand Master presented the M. W. Past Pro Grand Master with a book of all the places that he had visited as Pro Grand Master and some more besides! (at least we think that's what it was as he didn't unwrap it!)

And as always a good day was had by all!



New APM Ready For Challenge

THE new Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Glyn Hewitt is a local lad (albeit born and brought up across the border in Buckley) who married a Chester girl, Sue,

and then adopted that city as his home.

He has three grown up children, two very dear grandchildren, and one son-in-law who is a member of his craft lodge.

A chartered accountant who trained and qualified with a local firm in Chester, he says: "For the past eight years I have pursued a sole-practitioner career maintaining a general practice, which gives me more flexibility to get out from behind the desk and visit my clients at their premises which I find very satisfying and it fits in with my assorted masonic involvements.

"I was initiated into Craft masonry in The Lodge of Independence No721 at Hunter Street Chester and after a couple of years settling in and enjoying the Craft was advanced into Earl of Chester Lodge of Mark Masters No 196 at Cheshire View. I am a Past Master of the Birkenhead Lodge No.1072 and Past Commander of Birkenhead RAM Lodge.

"As a Mark Master Mason I had a fairly early involvement with the CPMBF, looking at changes in charity laws and how that would impact upon the Trust, and I was subsequently appointed a trustee and latterly the chairman of the trustees.

"I have enjoyed for very many years – even as a MMM – the fellowship and fun of the Mark Grand Lodge Annual Investiture meeting at London in June of each year, and also the good craic and 'early breakfasts' at The Bedford Hotel.

"One of my masonic highlights was being appointed a Grand Steward of GLMMM. I made great and lasting friendships with other members of the Board of Grand Stewards of my year.

"Another, of course, was my conversation with V. W. Bro. David Sellers earlier this year enquiring whether I would join his team by taking on the role of A.P.G.M. for the Mark Province of Cheshire. With Sue's blessing I was delighted to accept, and hope that with the support of the brethren I will be able to be half as successful as my illustrious predecessors.

"The Mark advancement ceremony is a beautiful and dramatic ritual and cannot fail to impress a candidate when properly and sincerely enacted. It has its amusing side, but also brings home the important principles of brotherly love and there is no greater truth than that '.. among Mark Master Masons you will ever find friends.' Well I have certainly found that anyway.

"I believe that in Cheshire we have a vibrant province. We cannot afford to be complacent and should not be selfish in keeping the joys of Mark Masonry to ourselves. Long may we continue to enjoy the fellowship of Mark Masonry."

BENEVOLENT TI celebrated its 150th birthday in true Cheshire Mark Masonry form with more than 100 brethren attending the Stockport Guildhall. Not only was our then Provincial Grand Master present accompanied by his fellow Leaders, but the Lodge was also blessed with the presence of the Deputy Grand Master, Keith Emmerson. During the course of the meeting W. Bro. David Heathcote gave a summary of the Lodge history. This was only achieved following the recovery of the Lodge's 1864 Minute book. As a consequence of the book being found, evidence came to the fore to suggest that the Lodge was considerably older than its 150 years.

The Worshipful Master Bernard Laurence presided over a most enjoyable and happy meeting, during the course of which our then P.G.M. R. W. Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden together with the Deputy Grand Master and the Past Pro Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Ben Addy, were made honorary members. The occasion was also bitter sweet in that this was to be the last official meeting as Provincial Grand Master for Bryan.. The high regard in which he is held was evinced at the social board when the Brethren present sang several rousing courses of "For he's a jolly good fellow."



Deputy Grand Master Keith Emmerson presents W. Bro. Bernard Laurence with a special warrant

It's Another Grand Day Out For Cheshire in London

WHAT an amazing day the Annual Investiture meeting of Grand Mark Lodge at Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street in the heart of London was.

Not only was this an exciting event for all of those that were being invested as Grand Officers, but it was equally so, for those who would be appointed to senior positions as Leaders of our Order.

Such as has been the interest and expansion of the Mark Degree in recent years that the Grand Temple was overwhelmed by the numbers in attendance to see the appointment of the new Pro. Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Richard Victor Wallis. As has become the custom, many Brethren found themselves either watching from the balcony or from the several overspill viewing rooms.

Cheshire was once again very well represented with large numbers of Brethren not only attending to watch, but attending to receive appointments in or to Acting or Past Grand Rank.

These included the Reverend Bruce Harry, who was Invested as Grand Chaplain, David Heathcote as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, David Bradbury and Paul Crudge as Grand Stewards, Jim Hardman and Keith Wilford as Past Grand Junior Overseers.

Shaun Crutchley was honoured with Promotion to the rank of Past Grand Senior Deacon, Malcolm Orr was appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and our treasurer Mark Lennard to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer and by no means least David Williams to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

However a word of warning to all of those who might be thinking of attending the meeting in the future – make sure that you allow yourself plenty of time.

One Cheshire Mark Mason that was making the journey for the first time believed that he had done just that, but his train was delayed, firstly at Piccadilly and again during the jour-



David Bradbury, David Heathcote and Paul Crudge after receiving their honours

ney, finally arriving in London nearly an hour late.

Racing to the taxi rank, he discovered that they were in short supply as, apart from the usual demand in the capital, there was also a Royal Garden Party being held at Buckingham Palace that day and the queue stretched almost all the way back into the forecourt of Euston station.

Arriving breathless a minute or so after the start of Grand Lodge, he found the doors locked and well tyed and he ended up having to join a great many other latecomers forced to watch his friends receive their honours and promotions on a TV screen in an adjoining lodge room. It's a long day out just to watch the television!



THE Most Worshipful Grand Master, H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent was unstinting in his praise of M. W. Bro. Ben Addy, the retiring Pro Grand Master at the meeting of Grand Mark Lodge in June, saying: "I appointed Bro. Benjamin Addy to the office of Assistant Grand Master in 2002 and I promoted him to be my Deputy in 2010. His further promotion to Pro Grand Master took place in 2011 and he has served that office with distinction since that time.

"He has given a total of 24 years of dedication to the Order as a ruler as I first appointed him as my Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire in 1990. I should now like to express to him the gratitude of us all for those years of unstinting service and loyalty, and to wish him a long and happy retirement. His decision to retire in the light of those years of service is understandable and I have no doubt that he will be remembered for many years to come.

"I would now like to express my personal thanks to our retiring Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Benjamin Addy who has served our Order for twenty-four years as a Ruler, and is held in a very special place in our hearts. In the three years that he was my Pro Grand Master he represented me on very many occasions, not only in this country but also abroad, and he rightly became a much loved and revered figure for the friendly and dignified way in which he carried out his duties.

"Brethren, he will be sorely missed and I wish him a long and happy retirement."

TO GO OR NOT TO GO ...

THE Province's annual Mark weekend away continues to grow in popularity and the take-up for next year's event is already extremely high.

The venue is Stratford-upon-Avon, with the group taking over the whole 83-room Falcon Hotel situated in the centre of the historic town that was the birthplace of William Shakespeare. The weekend runs from Friday, April 17 through to Sunday, April 19.

An informal hot and cold buffet meal will be served on the Friday evening and there will be a five-course gala dinner (lounge suits) on the Saturday, with entertainment and a special draw in aid of the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund. The price of £160 per person, also includes breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, while there is an additional option of an hour's cruise on the Avon on the Saturday for £6.50pp.

Organiser Bob McMillan confirms that booking for the weekend away has already been very heavy and that anyone interested in joining should get in touch as soon as possible. He can be contacted on 015395 30034.



The Mark group's visit to Guy's Cliffe

The venue for last year's weekend was Kenilworth, with 162 Mark Masons, family and friends filling the Chesford Grange Hotel and an excellent time was had by everyone. The charities also benefited with more than £1,000 being raised from the draw at the gala dinner.

Some members of the group took the opportunity to visit Guy's Cliffe, an historic building that is mentioned in the Domesday Book that is reputed to be haunted. Part of the building serves as a masonic meeting place.



TWO very happy occasions in the Mark year in Cheshire were captured by the camera. Above, Jack Devlin gets some help from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Austin Bamber as he blows out the candles on the cake made especially for the occasion of his 50th anniversary of his Advancement into ADTI at Dukinfield last month by the hall manager Donna Gregory. There were 61 brethren present to join in the tributes to one of Cheshire's finest, including the P.G.M. David Sellers, the A.P.G.M. Glyn Hewitt and the P.P.G.M. Bryan Ogden.

Below it is the occasion of the West End Salmon lunch held at Ellesmere Port and attended by 124, who enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch provided by the Masonic Hall caterer. A draw was conducted by Graham and Bob Kyffin, which realised the magnificent sum of £1,350 for the Mark Benevolent Fund. Guests of honour were the then P.G.M Bryan Ogden and his wife Margaret, who had just returned from a cruise to celebrate their golden wedding and as it would be the last engagement that they would take prior to his standing down in October, a special presentation was made to them both, which is picture below.

There was another very successful lunch held at Manchester Rugby Club in the East of the Province, which was attended by 120 and raised £900. Bryan and Margaret Ogden were present on that occasion as well and receive presentations for the organisers. Keith Goulden has already secured the venue again for the 2015 lunch, which will take place on Sunday, June 14.



THE Cheshire Installed Commanders' Lodge was consecrated in May 2006 by the then Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Bryan Russell Ogden who together with the other members of the Provincial Leadership saw the need for a Lodge to sit between coming out of the Worshipful Commander's Chair and RAM Provincial and eventually for some, RAM Grand Rank honours.

The Lodge was also to be the only Installed "Commanders" Lodge in the Mark Province of Cheshire and so it remains.

The Founding Members concurred with this assessment and 39 Past Commanders agreed to form the lodge which was to meet centrally at Leicester-Warren Masonic Hall, Knutsford on the 4th Wednesdays in May (Inst) and September.

But, it became apparent that the Lodge for all its strengths did not attract an increasing membership as it ought.

Logically with half of the Mark Degree Membership becoming members of their respective RAM Lodges and the Province having 24 RAM Lodges installing Worshipful Commanders each year, one would expect these committed masons to join what undoubtedly is the premier RAM Lodge in the Province.

Why do I say committed masons – in order to become a member of the Cheshire Installed Commanders' Lodge the applicant will have been in the chair of a Craft Lodge to become installed in the chair of a Mark Lodge unless a dispensation from Mark Grand Lodge has been given. Likewise the applicant will have been in the

Time To Sign On For The Crew

chair of a Mark Lodge before being installed into the chair of a RAM Lodge unless once again a dispensation has been granted by Mark Grand Lodge. Having made it into the chair of his RAM Lodge only then does he become qualified to be a member of the Installed Commanders' Lodge.

This somewhat arduous route to entry by its very nature denotes commitment as I found when I was due to go through the Commander's Chair first, followed by the Mark Chair, followed by my Craft Chair and that a double dispensation would be necessary.

Needless to say I postponed my installation into the RAM Chair but went into the Mark Chair in the January followed by the RAM Chair in the November followed by my Craft Chair in the following April.

As I considered joining Cheshire Installed Commanders' Lodge I found I couldn't because there was a clash of dates with my Mark Lodge. This was resolved by the Lodge's founding scribe, V. W. Bro. Bill Chalmers, and other senior members of the Lodge, listening to the reasons given

for poor recruitment, changed the meeting dates so that there wouldn't be any clashes with other Mark or RAM Lodges, opting for the 4th Thursday in April and October (Inst).

The venues were then considered and it was thought that by changing the Installation Meeting to Christleton for the west of the Province and having the business meeting in April at the normal Knutsford venue, recruitment would improve.

Unfortunately this has not proved the case and although the dates have proved a success, the cost of venues has increased to the extent that committed but retired Commanders have to consider cost before joining other lodges.

To this end a committee meeting was held to see what was needed to improve recruitment and it was resolved that the lodge should move to a more central location on the existing lodge dates. By doing so, subscriptions, meals and travelling costs would reduce.

When I look at the current membership I find that all the Leaders, all the Secretariat will be or are members and when I look at other members, virtually all of the re-appointed Provincial Officers are also members.

The bottom line therefore fellow Commanders is come and join us even if it is only as a visitor. As this lodge is the only one that covers all of Cheshire it is therefore it is the only lodge where acting officers of a past Provincial Team can enjoy the friendship and fellowship once again of the team to which they belonged—**W. Bro. Michael Richardson, Scribe.**