

## Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
24th April 2015	Samuel Sidney Radcliff 50th	Wallasey
29th April 2015	Harry Shepherd Cook 60th	Runcorn
20th May 2015	Masters and Commanders' Dinner	Middlewich
4th June 2015	Grand Officers' Dinner	Christleton
9th June 2015	Mark Grand Lodge (Investiture meeting)	London
16th November 2015	Reg Wilson 50th	Birkenhead
8th December 2015	R.A.M. Assembly (Investiture meeting)	London
14th January 2016	Cheshire Provincial R.A.M. Assembly	Christleton
19th March 2016	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port

KEITH Goulden and his team in the East of the Province are already taking bookings for their Salmon Lunch, which will be held at Manchester Rugby Club in Cheadle on Sunday June 14.

The buffet lunch will get under way at midday and the tickets, which include a glass of wine or soft drink, are on sale at

## GOING FISHING

just £12.50 and can be obtained from the following brethren - H Waddell (0161 612 5130); J Goldsmith (0161 456 5086) and B Goulden (0161 483 0449).

The lunch in the West of the Province is under the management of Graham Kyffin and his

team and that will take place on Sunday, September 20 at another popular venue—Ellesmere Port Masonic Hall—with the tickets on sale at £12.

Both occasions will feature raffles, with the proceeds going to the CPMBF and the organisers would be grateful for any donations of prizes.

## 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. David Robinson Sellers R.A.M.G.R.

### DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

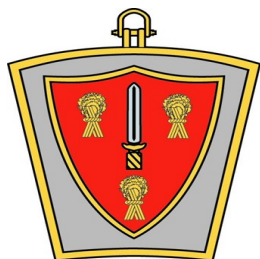
W. Bro. Austin Westbury Bamber P.D.G.Swd.Br. R.A.M.G.R.

### ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

W. Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt P.G.J.D. R.A.M.Prov.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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Mark Province of Cheshire

# The Cheshire Mark Mason

## It's business as usual as the New leader settles in

**By Bob McMillan**  
**AFTER the unexpected announcement at last year's meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, with record numbers of leaders from other provinces in attendance we were expecting Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015 to be a much quieter affair and so it proved to be.**

Our new Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers presided for the first time and the brethren were naturally curious about what he might say in his first address, setting the tone for the year ahead.

Expectedly it was business as usual but with the exception that the forthcoming appointments and promotions in Grand Rank had been announced by Mark Grand Lodge earlier than usual so he was able to congratulate the following Cheshire Brethren, asking them to stand as he did so.

Receiving their first appointments W. Bro. Ronald Adrian Davies and W. Bro. John Alexander Forbes to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. Charles Peter Lockett to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer, W. Bro. Philip Broadhurst to Past Grand Standard Bearer and W. Bro.

Keith Rogerson to Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer. V. W. Bro. Bruce David Harry was to be re-appointed Grand Chaplain, while W. Bro. Christopher John Macdonald was to receive promotion to Past Grand Junior Overseer, making him a Very Worshipful Brother.

Also receiving promotion were W. Bro's. Denzil Oliver Griffiths and Samuel James Keery to Past Junior Grand Deacon and a surprised and delighted Robert Alexander McMillan to the Acting Rank of Grand Junior Deacon.

Other Cheshire Brethren receiving honours due to their membership of other provinces were W. Bro. Prof. James Fraser McCord Past Grand Junior Deacon and W. Bro. David Alan Richards to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

Due to the unavoidable absence of W. Bro. William Edward Caren the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, who was recovering from surgery, W. Bro. David Stuart Bradbury, the Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies was in charge of the proceedings on the floor. David who is Worshipful Commander of his Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, stepped up well to the Mark - ably assisted by W. Bro. James Ian Munro, our previous

Director of Ceremonies, who stood in as the Deputy, and the Assistant Provincial D.C. W. Bro. John David Johnson

After the usual Investiture which saw the promotion of W. Bro Howard John Waddell to Provincial Grand Senior Warden and W. Bro. Michael Anthony Jones to Provincial Grand Junior Warden, W. Bro. Austin Westbury Bamber our Deputy Provincial Grand Master proposed a vote of thanks to the hard working secretariat and all those who helped to man the reception and organise the meeting which was richly deserved and accepted with acclamation.

After the meeting the usual festivities were held at the Ellesmere Port Masonic hall, as always to a high standard and the brethren all went home happy.

All Mark Master Masons are entitled to attend Provincial Grand Mark Lodge and are also encouraged to attend Meetings of Grand Mark Lodge in London. And I recommend both of those meetings to you all!

■ **Continued on page two**

# NEW WARDENS TAKE THEIR SEATS

HOWARD WADDELL, right, who was invested as the Province's new Senior Warden at the Annual Meeting on March 21, is very much a Stockport man. He was born in the town, still lives in the Bredbury area, and his Masonic roots there go deep.

He took his first steps in the fraternity in 1985, joining Norbury Lodge No.5656 which amalgamated with mother lodge Cheadle to become Cheadle Norbury Lodge No.3731 in 2006. Ten years after his initiation he entered mark Masonry, being advanced into the degree in Composite mark Lodge No.1005 of which he became Worshipful Master in 2001.

His first Provincial appointment followed in 2006 when he was invested as a Steward and that was followed by promotion the following year to Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon and he was made a Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer in 2011. That was the year when Composite surrendered its warrant and he then became a joining member of Cornwall Leigh No.839.

It was Cornwall Leigh that he had looked to when he decided to become a member of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree, being elevated into that degree in 2002. He was installed in the Commander's chair in 2009 and was promoted to RAM Provincial Grand Rank at the Assembly at Christleton in January.

He has been married to his wife, Janet for 39 years and they have two sons and three grandchildren. He says: "I am now retired, having worked in Diesel engineering for Mirrlees Blackstone Ltd (which is now part of MAN Diesel Ltd) for 40yrs. The first twenty years of my career was on the marine side putting and servicing engines in ships worldwide and then I moved on to the Industrial side selling power station solutions worldwide as an Area Sales Manager."



OUR new Junior Warden, Michael Jones, below left, from Deeside, is certainly a dedicated Freemason, steeped in the tradition, but he is also very much a family man and will have to make room in what will be a busy calendar this year to celebrate his Ruby Wedding.

He entered the Craft in 1982 by joining his late father's lodge, St Michael's No.4615, which closed nine years ago, becoming W.M. 1989 and he then progressed into the Royal Arch, before entering Mark Masonry.

He says: "Having gone through the chairs in Craft and the Royal Arch I decided to further my knowledge in Masonry by joining the beautiful Degree of Mark Masonry in 1989 and I was advanced in Joppa Mark Lodge No.111. I went on to attain the Master's Chair in 2000 and I subsequently joined Leverhulme Mark No.1325.

"As usually happens when you start joining different Degrees, forms are inevitably thrust under your nose and you are told to sign, and that was the case with the RAM of which I became a member in 1998 when I was elevated into Leverhulme RAM, attaining the Chair in 2002.

"I am married to Diane, who has been my great support through the years, and we will be celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary later this year. I have two grown up daughters, Helen and Jennifer, both married and fled the nest, and in April 2013, I became a proud Grandad to Ahnya.

"My Hobbies are Masonry, DIY and Fly Fishing, however, owning my own Chartered Quantity Surveying business for the past nineteen years, I do not get much time for the latter."



# Talking of recruitment ...



THE membership of the RAM degree in Cheshire has this year seen a fall of just under 2% with a net loss of 10 members, taking our Cheshire membership to 499. This means that the proportion of Mark Masons who join us in the RAM is still just under fifty per cent. There is still plenty of scope brethren for us to bring in our dedicated friends from our Mark Lodges who are not yet enjoying this fine Order.

A good tool to encourage this may be the lecture on the RAM degree which has been available on our web site for the past year. It mirrors much of what is done in the Mark Friendship Meeting and it can be used in a RAM lodge where business is completed and Mark guests are then admitted, or as a lecture in open Lodge in a Mark meeting for the information of all the members.

I recommend this lecture to all Lodges who may find it useful in bringing new members into this beautiful Order.

I am pleased that the Cheshire Installed Commanders Lodge is

showing signs of growth.

This Lodge was set up to allow Past Commanders in the Province to meet twice a year for the furtherance of the degree and to promote friendship and exchange ideas across the Province.

After the initial success, membership has not grown as a lodge of this importance should have done and it has now taken up the challenge of writing to all Commanders as they go into the Chair of their RAM lodge and inviting them to take up membership. I am much indebted to Bro. Mike Richardson for undertaking this task and agreeing to become it's new secretary.

The Lodge will now hold its Installation meetings at Sandbach and at the other meeting it is proposed that the Lodge is peripatetic moving to various other meeting places as they are available.

I express my thanks to the Provincial Secretariat for their hard work which provides us great efficiency and service

whilst keeping a tight control of cost, which enables our dues to remain unchanged in 2013 and 2014 and only a small increase being envisaged for 2015.

It will be my pleasure in a few moments to invest those 16 brethren who I have appointed to Provincial Grand Rank in this Degree this year. It is of course for me as well as them a momentous occasion being the first investiture I have had the privilege to carry out. I trust they will all be as delighted to receive the award as I will be in presenting them. I thank each and every one of them for the efforts they have made on behalf of the Order and in their own particular lodges, as always it is not only a reward for those past services but also an anticipation of their services in the future.

**THE R.W. Provincial Grand Master in his address at the RAM Assembly made reference to the signs that recruitment to the Cheshire Installed Commanders RAM Lodge was improving and that was being highlighted at their April meeting where ten Past Commanders were signing up.**

**This will be something of a voyage of discovery for the new additions to the "crew", along with the rest of the membership, for the lodge is changing its By-Laws to make Sandbach its new base. This is where future Installation meetings will be held each October, while by dispensation the lodge has become a peripatetic or travelling lodge for its April meetings. This means that the April meeting can be held at any suitable venue in the Province.**

**The business meeting this April was being held at Knutsford to be followed by the Installation at Sandbach in October, where a decision will be made regarding the venue for next**

**April's meeting.**

**By moving around the Province it is hoped to make the Cheshire Installed Commander's Lodge even more attractive to prospective members, but the move to make it in part a travelling lodge, does not mean that it can be held at all of our Masonic venues as some, such as Ellesmere Port, are already committed to their Craft and Royal Arch meetings on the dates of the Installed Commanders' meetings, the fourth Thursdays in April and October.**

**One suggestion to get round this problem is that the lodge could possibly consider holding a daylight meeting, which would certainly increase the number of halls that could entertain it, but at this moment in time that is merely a suggestion to be discussed by the members.**



## **Year of change for Mark Masonry**

BRETHREN it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Ellesmere Port and its Civic Hall for the Cheshire Mark Provincial Meeting. Your attendance in such numbers is a reflection of the commitment you have to the Order in general and this Province of Cheshire in particular. It a great encouragement to me and the Leadership Team and I thank you for your support.

I have already introduced to you our visitors from other Provinces and I once again thank them for their attendance and support here today. One of the great strengths of the Mark degree has always seemed to me to be the friendship and mutual support there is between one Province and another and this bond of fraternity does much to enhance and enrich the order nationally and justly earns us the attribution of the "friendly degree".

It has been a year of change in Mark Masonry. At this time last year M. W. Bro. Benjamin Addy was still our Pro. G. M. and R. W. Bro. Bryan Ogden was our Provincial Grand Master. At the conclusion of our last AGM, R. W. Bro. Ogden announced he was to retire after a very successful and dedicated twelve and a half years of service to this Province. I paid tribute to his many achievements at my installation in October but I have no hesitation in once again acknowledging his fine record which will be long remembered.

It took some little while after R W Bro. Ogden announced his retirement for the investiture meeting to be arranged and by that time M. W. Bro. Addy had also stepped down as Pro. Grand Master. It was expected that our new Pro. G. M. M. W. Bro. Richard Victor Wallis would officiate, but in a generous and sensitive move he invited M. W. Bro. Addy to be the Installing Officer, much to the delight of myself and all brethren of Cheshire and provided a fitting conclusion to a wonderful career in the highest leadership rolls of Mark Masonry.

I trust we will see much more of him and R. W. Bro. Bryan Ogden at future Provincial meetings and at ordinary Mark Lodge meetings around the Province. It will be a pleasure to welcome two such distinguished Past Provincial Grand Masters.

The Acting officers of this year were of course appointed and invested by R. W. Bro. Ogden and experienced a change of leadership when I was invested. It was my pleasure to invite them to continue in office until today and I thank them for the commitment they have shown and the enthusi-

asm they have exhibited in the many official and pastoral visits we have made in all parts of the Province. I would especially like to mention W. Bros. Graham Monahan and Peter Sandland, our Senior and Junior Wardens, who have given great leadership and encouragement to all the team. Not only that but Graham has acted as my driver on so many occasions I have lost count but I do assure you Graham it has been very much appreciated.

No Province can be run without a capable and dedicated secretarial team. We have been well served in Cheshire by our Provincial Secretary Colin Hambleton, his Deputy Brian Mayoh and Assistant Mike Richardson. I thank them for their dedication and commitment and for the efficient and prompt manner they facilitate the business of the Province. I would particularly like to thank Mike Richardson who is retiring today. I and my predecessor are much indebted to him for his enthusiasm and dedication.

In a few moments I shall have the privilege and pleasure to appoint and invest the Officers of the year and to carry out promotions. For many this will be a first as it will be for me and I congratulate all and trust they will enjoy their new ranks as I am doing. I know you will be proud to wear your new regalia and will hold office with pride. I remind you that it is reward for past services and an encouragement to dedicate yourselves to further commitment in the Province and in your Lodge.

Brethren of Cheshire, I have now had six months in office as your Provincial Grand Master. I feel it a tremendous honour to serve you in this roll and I am gradually getting used to the duties and requirements of the office. In that time I have had tremendous encouragement and assistance from you all and I thank each one of you for that support, which is much appreciated. With that support I hope am able to follow in the footsteps of my illustrious predecessors, so that I may with the assistance of my Deputy and Assistant guide this Province forward into the future.

## ***Resignations a concern***

OUR membership in Cheshire fell by 23 last year a reduction of just under 2%. Whilst this is small it is the 63 resignations which are of most concern and I ask all Lodges to investigate fully the reasons for a Brother leaving our Order and ask them to make retrieval of him a priority. The recruitment of new members to our order is not however even across all Lodges, whilst some manage two or three advancements or joining members per year, other have had 2- 3 fallow years. I encourage those Lodges who have found themselves in this position to make strong links with more than one Craft Lodge so that they increase the base from which they draw and have a wider range of members.

The most disturbing report I had from one young Brother was when I asked why he had not joined the Mark, he said "I find that those in my Craft Lodge who join other orders loose interest in the Craft Lodge" Now I know that this is not true of us all but we have to take care that the impression we give in our Craft Lodges is one of enthusiasm and commitment. We will then be a worthy example for that young man to follow.

THE Cheshire Mark Weekend has become an established part of our social season and our visit to Kenilworth last May was a very happy event. This year we look forward to taking even more of our number to Stratford upon Avon. My thanks go to the organizing committee who find interesting venues and organize not only good food and a friendly atmosphere but also produce a substantial contribution to our Mark Charities. When this is added to your generosity to our CPMBF whether by direct giving, 1000+ Club or by supporting the Salmon Lunches it has enabled us to make donations of £42,327 to deserving causes in Cheshire, The Mark Benevolent Fund by way of donations to current Festivals and a further £5000 in support of the Cheshire Craft 2016 Festival.

We are now aware that Cheshire will be responsible for the Mark Festival of 2024 and whilst it is not intended to launch this festival at this early stage, you will begin to see the redirection of funds from our Cheshire Charity to this festival in these early years starting with an initial donation of £17000 which is shown in this year's accounts. I have invited W Bro. Bob McMillan to chair a Festival Committee and W Bro. David Heathcote to be his Deputy Chairman. Both have enthusiastically accepted my invitation and we will begin to make plans for a festival in 2024.



OF our four full team visits the first was in September when we celebrated 150th anniversary of Benevolent T I Mark Lodge in Stockport. It was a magnificent occasion presided over by the Deputy Grand Master H Keith Emerson (above) and the Grand DC's team led by the Grand DC Keswick Jones. I congratulate the lodge on their work and organization in preparing for the event and in putting together the lodge history in which they can take great pride. I would like to in particular mention the WM of Benevolent TI at that time W Bro. Bernard Lawrence who though not a young man was in no way over awed by the experience and the presence of so many senior brethren and to recognize this it will be my pleasure later to invest him as a Provincial Steward.

Other Team visits to Claughton Mark and RAM and Massada and Deeside Mark have I hope provided these Lodges with a well-attended and enjoyable evening and the members of the team with an opportunity to see and experience Mark Masonry across the Province.

A notable meeting in October was the 50th Anniversary of V. W. Bro. Jack Devlin in his Lodge ADTI. This marked an important anniversary for a great character in Cheshire Freemasonry. The attendance on the night showed the high regard in which Jack is held by all his fellow Mark Masons.



**Assembly  
success  
story  
keeps  
growing**

THE success of January's Royal Ark Mariner Assembly at Christleton again highlighted the popularity of the degree with Cheshire Masons. This was the seventh time that the Province has held such a meeting and it was the best attended yet. The large lodge room at Cheshire View was almost at bursting point as additional seating had to be brought in to accommodate all the brethren.

In the end 144 attended the meeting, a fact which delighted the new Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. David Sellers, who has the R.A.M. Degree very much at heart, and it was just as pleasing to see the Stanley Walker Suite at Cheshire view equally busy as 122 sat down to enjoy a most convivial festive board that was very much in keeping with the tone of the evening.

R. W. Bro Sellers acknowledged the depth of feeling shown for Royal Ark Mariner Masonry and this page and that facing feature the remarks that he addressed to the assembled brethren.

## CHANGE IS NECESSARY

**BRETHREN it gives me the greatest of pleasure to welcome you all in such good numbers to this Cheshire Provincial Royal Ark Mariners Assembly.**

The Cheshire Royal Ark Mariner Assembly is now well established as a landmark in the RAM year.

It is a time when we reflect on the things which are especially important to the Order, review how the past year has gone and take the chance to look forward to the New Year with anticipation. We also meet to honor those who are to receive Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Rank this year.

Change is a necessary part of any vital organization and in the words of M W Bro. Benjamin Addy it may often be desirable. I attended this Assembly last year as the Dep. P.G.M. with no indication that I would not be in the same roll again this year.

But 2014 was to be a year of change. When at the Mark Provincial meeting in March R. W. Bro. Bryan Ogden announced his retirement and informed you that the Grand Master had been pleased to appoint me in his stead. Brethren it is a roll I was very pleased to accept for both the Mark and RAM degrees, though obviously it was tinged with a little apprehension at the prospect of following in the footsteps of M. W. Bro. Benjamin Addy and Bryan.

I paid tribute at my installation to the excellent leadership we had been privileged to enjoy under Bryan's direction and I have no hesitation in saying that that leadership was superb just as much in the Royal Ark Mariner Degree as in the Mark.

The changes in 2014 extended in June to M W

Bro. Addy when he retired as Pro. Grand Master, a post he filled great distinction and charm.

It seemed that my Installation in October would be carried out by our new Pro. Grand Master M. W. Bro. Richard Wallis but it was a delight to all in Cheshire especially myself when the new Pro Grand Master invited M. W. Bro. Benjamin Addy to officiate, a move of great kindness and sensitivity on his part, understanding Cheshire's great affection for it's former Provincial Grand Master and marked a fine conclusion to an illustrious Mark and RAM career in this high office.

### Promotions

I thank both our past Provincial Grand Masters for the service they have rendered to the Royal Ark Mariner degree in Cheshire and we look forward to seeing them out in this Province enjoying their Mark and RAM lodges in a more relaxed role.

Last month saw the Royal Ark Mariner investiture meeting in London presided over by M. W. Bro. Wallis at which three members of Cheshire received RAM Grand Rank. We congratulate W. Bros. John Forbes, Graham Kiffin and Ken Davies on their promotions. Not many of these Grand Ranks are available and the attainment of such honour is a sign of a prolonged and dedicated commitment to our Order and I congratulate them on their promotion.

## ANIELLO ADVANCES IN STYLE

### AT WILLASTON

**BROTHER Aniello Ursini was advanced into the Mark degree at the February meeting of Four Cardinal Virtues Lodge No.723 the lodge at Willaston, with a ceremony that he will remember for a long time.**

It was conducted by the Immediate Past Master, W. Bro. Mike Coles, as the Master had resigned earlier in the year when he moved to the South of England, and he was ably assisted by, W. Bro. Paul Rushton with the Working Tools being presented by Bro. David Bailey, who had proposed

Bro Aniello's into the Lodge.

The Lodge was honoured by the Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers along with the Provincial Grand Senior and Junior Wardens, W. Bros. Graham Monaghan and Peter Sanderland, and the evening was further enhanced by the presence of R. W. Bro. T. Gareth Williams, the Past Provincial Grand Master for North Wales, along with W. Bro. David. A. Wright

Deputy Provincial Grand Master (designate) for North Wales and other Brethren from that Province, as well as brethren from Staffs and Shropshire.

Brother Aniello, whose Craft lodge is in Staffordshire, could not fail to be impressed by the affection and friendliness that the neighboring Provinces have for each other. Without a doubt it is 'The Friendly Degree'.

The evening was rounded off with a very fraternal social board in keeping with the earlier part of the evening, that was enhanced by a splendid meal prepared by Bob Bateman, who is the Chef at the Masonic Hall, Willaston.

### Cheshire Wardens entertain E. Lancs PGM

THERE was a happy and relaxed informal meeting between the Provinces of Cheshire and East Lancashire at this year's Cheshire Wardens' Mess dinner at Christleton.

It may have been January but it proved to be a very warming occasion as the Cheshire Wardens past and present broke with tradition for the first time since this annual gathering was inaugurated back in 2009 by inviting a guest, none other than R. W. Brother Keith Schofield, the P.G.M. of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of East Lancashire and our picture, right, shows him and our own P.G.M. David Sellers at the event.

The arrangement came about as a long overdue return of hospitality, the original idea of a Wardens' Mess for Cheshire having been formed when our Past P.G.M. Bryan Ogden was invited to "cross the border" to enjoy their hospitality.

He suggested at the conclusion of last year's Mess that the Wardens issue the invitation, which was done, and everyone was delighted when R. W. Bro. Schofield accepted and they also extended the invitation to W. Bro. John Hudson of East Lancashire, who was his P.G.M.'s driver for the evening.

