

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
23rd October 2015	Team visit to Altrincham Mark& RAM	Macclesfield
16th November 2015	Reg Wilson's 50th at Cloughton Lodge	Birkenhead
20nd November 2015	Team Visit to Hyde Mark	Hyde
8th December 2015	R.A.M. Assembly (Investiture meeting)	London
14th January 2016	Cheshire Provincial R.A.M. Assembly	Christleton
17th February 2016	Team visit to Cornwall Legh	Stockport
7th March 2016	Acting Officers' Dinner	Christleton
8th March 2016	Grand Mark Lodge	London
19th March 2016	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port
16th May 2016	Masters' Dinner	Middlewich
14th June 2016	Investiture meeting at Grand Mark Lodge	London

SIEGFRIED WILL BE ADVANCING IN STYLE

SIEGFRIED SUPPAN will be entering a busy lodge room when he is advanced into Mark Masonry at Hyde Mark Lodge next month.

A member of Onward Lodge in the Craft, he will be taking another stride in his Masonic career before the Cheshire Provincial Team, led by the Provincial Grand Master David Sellers, at Oaklands in Hyde on Friday, November 20 and the lodge Secretary, John Keyworth, reports that he is getting a lot of interest from Mark Masons in the area.

Contributions

MARK PROVINCE OF CHESHIRE

Oaklands Hall
Motttram Road
Hyde - Cheshire
SK14 3DE

Telephone: **0161-366-7807**

E-mail: secretariat@cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk

Web site: www.cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk

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

CMMM EDITORIAL TEAM

John Forbes 0161 330 7997

j.forbes6@yahoo.co.uk

Adrian Davies 0151 625 1438

adrian.davies3@btinternet.com

Fraser McCord 0161 440 9204

fraser.mccord@sky.com

Bob McMillan 01539 530034

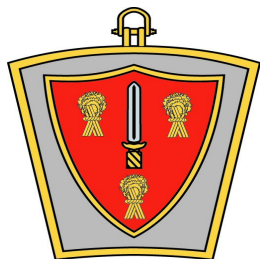
r.a.mcmillan@btinternet.com

Brian Rose 01244 822878

brian.rose2@btinternet.com

Keith Wilford 01270 665974

knmwilford@btinternet.com



Mark Province of Cheshire

The Cheshire Mark Mason

Autumn Edition

October 2015

October 2016 is set for the launch of Cheshire Festival

EVERY 35 years each Province in Mark Masonry Hosts the Annual Festival in Support of The Mark Benevolent fund. Cheshire last hosted the Festival in 1989 under the then Provincial Grand Master Charles Victor Vinten-Fenton, it will therefore be our turn again in 2024 which is now 8 years and 10 months away.

As is the case with the Craft Festivals a period of fund raising within each Mark Province has to take place in order to raise a total which befits the stature of the Province concerned.

The recent festivals have raised amounts ranging from £456,205 in Buckinghamshire in 2014 to the amazing result of the Province of Cumberland and Westmorland in 2009 of £788,892. In July the Province of Worcestershire, a province with 24 Mark and 16 RAM Lodges raised the sum of £557,529 and it is hoped that here in Cheshire with 43 Mark and 24 RAM Lodges, we will be able to exceed that achievement.

The leadership of the Mark Degree in this Province however, recognise the fact that the Craft Province is still 'in festival' and so our launch has been



BOB McMILLAN ... will chair the Festival Committee

deferred until 8th October 2016 to enable the Brethren of the Mark Degree in Cheshire who are also members of the Craft in Cheshire to complete their commitments to the Samaritan Fund, which finishes in May. The Mark Benevolent Fund Festival 2024 to be hosted by this Mark Province will there-

fore be launched at a Black Tie Dinner at the Park Royal Hotel at Stretton, on Saturday 8th October 2016. There is space for 280 people to attend, the tickets will cost £40.00 per head and we hope that the Brethren of our Mark and RAM Lodges and their wives support it and future events going forward.

Although we don't officially launch until next October there is no harm in your Lodge re-directing its giving towards the festival in the meantime, to get you off to a good start, provided of course that your lodge does not have a maul target in mind in advance of the planned closure of the scheme to coincide with the festival launch.

Cheshire has an excellent record with the Mark Benevolent Fund; most of our Lodges have achieved Patron Status. Mark and RAM Lodges qualify as a Vice Patron of the Fund by giving £25.00 for every subscribing member, a further £25.00 per head entitles the Lodge to Patron Status, while another £1,000.00 per Lodge achieves Grand Patron; with a further £2,500.00 required to become a Grand Patron Gold Award Lodge.

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'Forward as a team'



THE Park Royal Hotel Warrington, the venue for the launch of the Festival

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Individual Brethren qualify as follows; a donation of £50.00 qualifies them as a life Subscriber, £100.00 as a life Governor, £250.00 as a Vice-Patron, £500.00 as a Patron, £1,000.00 as a Grand Patron and £2,500.00 as a Grand Patron-Gold Award. There are also honorifics for Ladies and Lewis's.

Gift aid forms are available from your Lodge Charity Steward or directly from any member of the committee namely; Bob McMillan (Chair) tel. 015395 30034 mobile 0771 990 2289 or

bob@markmasonry.co.uk, David Heathcote (Deputy) mobile 0798 056 4938 or genmanguildhall@aol.com, Colin Hambleton (Secretary) tel. 0161 366 7807 or secretariat@cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk, and Nick Wild (Treasurer) tel. 01625 575324 or wilddn947@gmail.com.

Chairman Bob McMillan says: "Brethren, your Festival Committee will be relying on every Lodge Charity Steward to be a Champion of the festival and encourage his Lodge and individual Brethren to support it by their own donations, with gift aid and by organising and supporting events.

"We will only be successful if we go forward as a team and your committee and I look forward to working with you all."

Board meeting with a difference!

BRETHREN attending the meeting of Staley Mark No. 597 on Thursday September 3, at Oaklands Masonic Hall, Hyde were treated to a variation on a theme of the Mark Tracing Board.

The Worshipful Master, David Heathcote, introduced the speaker, Professor Fraser McCord who started the lecture as per the first page of the ritual book.

Here, and to the surprise of the brethren, the Worshipful Master then interrupted the speaker to ask a question about the Tracing Board which was projected onto a wall.

This was a planned, rehearsed interjection as the whole presentation had been formulated by Fraser in conjunction with David, who then assumed the role of John Humphreys and Fraser as the contestant.

In the course of the evening, some light was shed on the symbols depicted on the Tracing Board and, further, on the evolution of the Tracing Board.

To the amusement of the brethren, David kept pressing Fraser on the nature of the Tracing Board and, to the surprise of the audience, Fraser showed a copy of the Rosenthal Board which was quite different from the Carter Board shown in the Ritual book; it was also interesting that Temperance Mark No. 56 (East Lancashire) have a facsimile of the Carter Board (re-drawn in 1936).

At the end of the presentation, David and Fraser then answered questions on the content of the presentation.

The brethren all agreed that, on this occasion, they had indeed increased their knowledge of (Mark) Masonry.

A Grand "voyage" for three Mariners



Michael Richardson

THREE brethren from Cheshire's membership of the Royal Ark Mariner degree will be "setting sail" for London and a visit to Great Queen Street on Tuesday, December 8 on what will be a very special day for them.

Graham Hall of Joppa Lodge No.11, which meets at Clifton Road on the Wirral, Michael Richardson, a member of Weaver Lodge No.824 based in Runcorn, and Brian Williams of Leverhulme Lodge No.1325 at Clifton Road are the members that have been handed the degree's highest honour, Grand Rank.

Graham joined Joppa Lodge in 1986 and was the Worshipful Commander in 1991, and 2006. A former secretary of the Lodge, he now holds the office of ADC.

Although Michael's voyage in the RAM was launched in 1983, he was forced to withdraw from Masonry through work commitments four years later, but he returned in 1995, was installed in the Commander's chair at Weaver in 1999, and received Provincial Grand Rank in 2008.

He took over the Secretary's duties at the Installed Commanders' Lodge No.1468 last year and has been running a very successful recruitment programme that has boosted the membership of this important lodge.

Brian was elevated into Leverhulme Lodge in 1988 and was Commander in 1996. He received Provincial Grand Rank in 2004 and is currently the treasurer of the lodge.

Another successful year for the lunches

THE two ends of the Province held their annual "Salmon Lunches" again this year and Mark Masons turned out in strength to support them.

There was another very good turnout for the lunch organised for the members of the Mark and RAM lodges in the west and their friends at the Masonic Hall at Ellesmere Port on Sunday 20th September, with 120 tickets sold.

The Provincial Grand Master David Sellers and his Wife Maira supported the event along with other leaders in the province and their wives, including the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master Bryan Russell Ogden, and his wife Margaret.

The tried and trusted format was again in use with Jen and Mark Gill responsible for the catering and every one was suitably provided for.

Thanks went to the caterers and the hall for their support along with everyone who came and the generosity of those who could not make it but still gave both in donations and raffle prizes as well as the members of the committee and their families.

The lunch proved as big a hit for the charities as well as those who supported it, enabling us to give £1400 to be donated to the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund.

That followed the success of the lunch held in the east of the Province in June when, once again, Manchester Rugby Club, played host to 110 members, family and friends of the local Mark Masons, another event that was also supported by the order's leadership, with David Sellers and Austin Bamber in attendance with their wives.

The raffle prize table groaned under the weight of the prizes, ensuring that the charities received a considerable boost, with a total of £950 raised.

After consulting the leaders it was decided to give one half to the CMBF and the other to help the launch of the 2024 Festival.

A fine afternoon was enjoyed by everyone and Keith Goulden and his team have already booked the Club for Sunday, June 12, 2016 for the next one.

Mark weekend in Stratford sure to be another success

THE annual weekend away has become a highly popular part of the Provincial calendar in the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees.

Year on year the enthusiasm for this gathering has increased and the 2016 renewal will be no exception.

Arrangements have been made to return to the St James's Falcon Hotel, which proved a big hit with last year's party.

In the centre of Stratford upon Avon and just a short walk from all of its attractions, the hotel is ideally-situated as a base from which to explore the surrounding area.

The hotel car park can accommodate 120 cars and parking is free of charge.

Arrangements have been made to make all of the 83 bedrooms available for a short period to enable us to get your bookings in.

Only four of these double rooms are available for single occupancy without surcharge.

Check in from 3pm on the Friday, with departure on the Sunday morning.

The weekend will consist of an informal hot buffet of five seasonal salads, Cold meat platter, hot vegetable medley and a selection of bread rolls & butter at 7.30 p.m. on the Friday evening



SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE ... one of the many attractions that Stratford-upon-Avon has to offer

in the Verona suite, followed by a full English breakfast on Saturday morning. Daytime is free to explore the town and surrounding attractions.

Shakespeare Country has a wealth of things for visitors to see and do.

Enjoy its myriad of attractions such as its stunning gardens, explore the history of its famous castles at Warwick and Kenilworth and historic houses such as Anne Hathaway's Cottage or maybe take in some heritage and culture at the famous Stoneleigh Abbey.

For a good introduction to Stratford, take in the Shakespeare's Town Tour, or you can shop 'til you drop in quality independent shops and high street names before recharging your batteries at one of the many cafes, pubs and restaurants.

For the golfers among you, Ken Davies will be researching

the opportunities in the area and no doubt a bulletin will be out in the near future.

In the evening there will be a five course Gala Dinner and Dance, lounge suits, at 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. Breakfast will be served on the Sunday morning prior to departure.

Total cost of the weekend will be £165 per person, although we can offer three nights dinner, bed and breakfast for £210.00 per person and four nights D & BB for £250.00 per person.

A non-returnable deposit of £65 per person is required at the time of booking.

The balance is payable by 29th February, 2016.

It is anticipated that there will again be a big demand for the event and booking will be taken strictly in order.

Bob McMillan can be contacted on 015395 30034 or 07719 902289.

**Down
on
the
river**



THIS montage of pictures shows some of Cheshire's Mark Masons enjoying themselves on an outing along the river Avon at the 2015 weekend away organized by the Province, which was another sell-out event.

The organisers, of course, ensured that all aspects of "health and safety" were adhered to, insisting that

each boat had enough "Mariners" on board in case of an emergency!

The picture on the far left shows the Provincial Grand Master, David Sellers, relaxing in one of the bars at the hotel after leaving his "crew" to attend to the landing procedures at the riverside.

IT'S A VERY SPECIAL 60th FOR HARRY

A MOST enjoyable evening was had by all who attended Mersey Mark Lodge No. 824 on April 29 when the Lodge celebrated the tremendous achievement of V.W. Bro Harry Shepherd Cook's having reached his personal milestone of 60 years membership of the Lodge and the Order.

Harry was Advanced into Mersey Mark by William White on the 27th of April 1955 and he steadily climbed the ladder being installed as Worshipful Master in January 1965. Three years later he was appointed Mersey's Director of Ceremonies, an office he held until 1974.

In Province Harry's first appointment was Provincial Grand Junior Deacon followed in 1974 by promotion to Past Provincial Grand Master Overseer. In 1976 he had a second term as Lodge Director of Ceremonies until 1978 and in 1984 received further Provincial promotion to Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden.

Harry was honoured in 1988 when he was appointed Grand Standard Bearer and during his year of office attended on the



Grand Master and carried the Grand Master's Personal Standard. In Grand Mark Lodge in 1995 Harry was promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon and in 2003 to the rank of Junior Grand Overseer, while he also holds the Rank of Royal Ark Mariner

Grand Rank which he received in 1991.

The celebration was attended by the Provincial Grand Master, David Sellers escorted by VW Bro's David Kinsey, James McKeeman, David Littler, James Thomas Hardman along with other Officers of Grand Lodge and Members of the Provincial Team.

The Provincial Grand Master gave a résumé of Harry's personal and Mark Masonic career and proceeded to present a Grand Lodge Certificate, a Provincial Grand Lodge Certificate and a golden Mark Penny in token of the high esteem in which he is held.

After a short reminiscence by the celebrant, Mersey Mark's Worshipful Master David Cox presented a Personal Lodge Certificate on behalf of the Lodge members recording the affection and high esteem in which he is held by the membership.

The main business of the evening having concluded everyone continued Harry's celebration at the social board in concord, brotherly love and affection.

Northern PGM gathering is a hit



NINE of the Northern Mark PGM,s together with their wives meet annually for a social weekend that allows them to get to know each other better and to co-operate together on subjects of common interest. It also allows their wives to socialise with each other making good friends as well as being able to put a face to a name when a neighbouring PGM is referred to by their spouse.

The weekend this year was organised by the PGM for Cumberland and Westmoreland Keith Hodgson and his wife Sue at the Hunday Manor Hotel in Workington. This proved a super venue with views over the sea to Scotland, Good food and very comfortable surroundings. After gathering on Friday afternoon a good dinner was enjoyed by all in a private dining room where all could renew friendships and welcome the two new members of the group who have been installed since last year's gathering and one who will be installed later this month.

The weather was ideal for a late summer tour of the Northern Lake District which began at the New Lakelands Distillery, an early testing of the product was essential, went on to Dalemain Mansion for a tour and lunch and was completed by a Steamer Cruise along Ullswater. A return to the hotel for dinner and chat completed a very enjoyable weekend, which was concluded after breakfast on Sunday.

Keith and Sue had worked hard on the organisation of the weekend and even arranged fine weather. I trust that we can do as well when the group come to Cheshire in September next year



Dawn Walsh, wife of Worshipful Master Derek, makes her speech under the watchful eye of the DC, James Hardman at Deeside Mark Lodge's ladies' evening .

The ladies make their Mark on

Deeside

THE number of ladies' evenings has dropped considerably in recent years, so it was a bold move on behalf of Deeside Mark's Worshipful Master Derek Walsh to reintroduce the event to the calendar in his year.

It had been some years since the Lodge had staged such a social, but Derek's decision was vindicated with everyone enjoying a wonderful night on the Wirral in June at the Thornton Hall Hotel's Pullford Suite and the charities, as ever, were the beneficiaries of the generosity of those attending.

Derek, his wife Dawn, together with the Provincial Grand Master, David Sellers and his wife Mrs Maira, were paraded in to the acclaim of the guests.

Grace was followed by a sumptuous meal that was enjoyed by all and then charity became very much the focus with Dawn and Derek having secured over 40 raffle prizes and five auction items, which included a relax and lunch day at the Thornton Hall Spa centre,

two Tickets to any Liverpool match next season and a meal at Scogs Restaurant in West Kirby.

They had also donated the floral displays on each table, which were raffled separately and those efforts combined to raise the magnificent total of £1076, which was donated to the Grand Mark Benevolent Fund in conjunction with the Charity "Hope for Tomorrow".

The evening continued with the 16 piece swing band and disco until early Sunday morning.