

## Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
5th May 2016	Team visit to Wythenshawe Mark	Christleton
16th May 2016	Masters and Commanders' Dinner	Middlewich
7th June 2016	Mark Grand Lodge (Investiture meeting)	London
14th June 2016	Grand Officers' Dinner	Christleton
28th September 2016	Harry Cook's 60th (RAM)	Runcorn
25th October 2016	John Forbes' 50th (Mark)	Dukinfield
16th November 2015	C. W. D. Chandley's 50th (Mark)	Stockport
28th November 2016	Team Visit to Middlewich Mark	Middlewich
13th December 2016	R.A.M. Assembly (Investiture meeting)	London
12th January 2017	Cheshire Provincial R.A.M. Assembly	Christleton
18th March 2017	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port



**A VISIT from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Austin Bamber, to Hyde RAM No.868 late last year resulted in the Lodge being doubly honoured receiving another at their next meeting in January from the Provincial Grand Master.**

**A cheque given to W. Bro. Bamber towards the Mark Benevolent Fund had resulted in the Lodge qualifying to receive their third maul and out picture shows R. W. Bro. David Sellers presenting it to the Worshipful Commander Bro. Dennis Connor.**

## 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

### 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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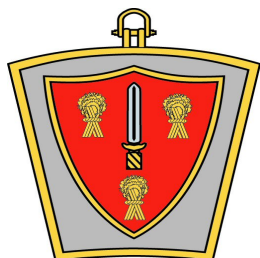
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Mark Province of Cheshire

# The Cheshire Mark Mason

Spring Edition

April 2016

## Cheshire reaches out to carers

### THE 2016 annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at Ellesmere Port in March was another day Cheshire Mark Masons could be justifiably proud of.

The Civic Hall hosted a gathering of members from all parts of the Province north, east, south and west with every one of its Lodges represented, plus a full turnout of the Lodges under the Royal Ark Mariner degree banner adding that additional burst of colour.

An attendance of 213 applauded as 13 P.G.M.'s. from other provinces took their place on the stage before the start of the meeting and they were supported by 36 other distinguished guests, while the heads of 16 Cheshire Masonic orders were also present.

The Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. David Sellers addressed the assembly, stressing the fact that Cheshire was in good heart financially and with a membership that was steady.

He also pointed out that there was much to look forward to in the year ahead, particularly with the launch of the Cheshire Mark Benevolent Fund 2024 Festival planned for October.

He also underlined the continued success of

the charitable efforts of the brethren, saying: "The Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund continues to thrive and provide support to many local causes, MBF Festivals and individual members in need. In line with the objectives of Canon Portal founder of the MBF, we aim to provide support rapidly and with the minimum of paperwork to worthy causes.

"Of particular note this year has been our support to a young carers group. We have been able to fund weekends away for two separate groups of ten youngsters who rarely have holidays and spend much of their time aiding a disabled mother or father. The feedback we have had from those who took part is quite moving and convinces us we are really helping a needy and deprived group of young people.

"My thanks go to all who assist in raising the funds which allow the CPMBF to take up projects like this."

And the brethren attending the meeting boosted those charitable funds with an alms collection that totalled £1,391.16.

■ The highlights from the Provincial Grand Master's address are on the centre pages.

## EAST OR WEST, THE SALMON'S THE BEST CATCH

ARRANGEMENTS for the highly popular salmon lunches have now been completed for this year and in keeping with tradition the Mark Masons in the East will lead the way.

Their event will be taking place at tried and trusted venue of Manchester Rugby Club at Cheadle Hulme on Sunday, June 12. Lunch starts at midday and tickets cost £12.50, which includes a glass of wine or a soft drink.



Booking forms are available from Keith Goulding (0161 449 9555) Howard Waddell (0161 612 5130), John Goldsmith (0161 456 5086) or Barry Goulden (0161 483 0449).

Graham Kyffin leads the team in the West end of the Province, whose lunch will be held on

Sunday, September 18 at Ellesmere Port Masonic Hall.

Tickets cost £12 and booking forms can be obtained from Graham at "Brookdale," 300 Greasby Road, Greasby, Wirral, CH49 2PP or by emailing him at [graham.kyffin@yahoo.com](mailto:graham.kyffin@yahoo.com).

Organisers of both events would be grateful for contributions of raffle prizes to try and raise as much as we possibly can for the charities.

## Clock's ticking on Festival lift-off

THE countdown has well and truly started to the lift-off of the Cheshire Mark 2024 Festival and bookings for the first major event are already being taken for the Festival Launch dinner dance to be held at the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton Road, Warrington on Saturday October 8.

The four course, black tie, dinner will consist of a choice of starters, main courses, and desserts and finish with cheese and biscuits and tea or coffee and mints, followed, of course, by the dancing and fund-raising activities.

Tickets are available at a cost of £40.00 per person and booking forms are available on the Cheshire Mark website and will be circulated by email. Anyone wishing to attend that has not received the booking form or would like further information should contact either Graham Hall on 0151 606 0526 [grahamshall@aol.com](mailto:grahamshall@aol.com), Howard Waddell on 0161 612 5130 [howardjwaddell@sky.com](mailto:howardjwaddell@sky.com) or Mike Jones 01244 566395 [mike@majltd.co.uk](mailto:mike@majltd.co.uk) The function room capacity is 280, which is only 140 Masons and partners, so please get your ticket requests in as early as possible.

Bookings can be made by filling in your form with your meal choices and sending it, either with your payment in full or cheque for £20.00 per person deposit: made payable to Mark Events Account, to W. Bro. Graham Hall, 6 Cedarwood Close, Greasby, Wirral CH49 3GU.

The hotel have made a limited number of rooms available at the special rate of £75.00 per night BB for single occupancy or £79.00 per night BB double occupancy.

Please book your room direct with the Park Royal Hotel on 01925 730706 Quoting Freemasons Charity Event.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Brother David Sellers, together with your committee hope you will help to get the Festival off to a great start by supporting this prestigious event.



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.

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.

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](mailto:bob@markmasonry.co.uk), David Heathcote (Deputy) mobile 0798 056 4938 or [genmanguildhall@aol.com](mailto:genmanguildhall@aol.com), Colin Hambleton (Secretary) tel. 0161 366 7807 Or [secretariat@cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk](mailto:secretariat@cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk), Nick Wild (Treasurer) tel. 01625 575324 or [wilddn947@gmail.com](mailto:wilddn947@gmail.com), and Graham Kyffin tel. 0151 678 9125 or [graham.Kyffin@yahoo.com](mailto:graham.Kyffin@yahoo.com)

## COLLARET SURPRISE FOR COLIN



THE Provincial Grand Master kept one surprise well and truly up his sleeve at the RAM Assembly. As the round of promotions came to a close, R. W. Bro. David Sellers caught the escort party unawares as he told them to stand fast for one additional preferment that he wished to bestow. It caused some puzzled looks amongst the brethren, particularly on the Provincial Secretary's table, but all soon became clear when it was announced that the recipient would be none other than Colin Hambleton himself.

The P.G.M. explained that the promotion had not appeared on any list as he wished to keep it a surprise for Colin, adding he would now have to go back to the Provincial office to print off a certificate as, under the unusual circumstances, there had been no way of producing one without giving the game away.

Praising the Provincial Grand Secretary on the excellence of the work he had done on behalf of the Mark and RAM degrees, he added that under the circumstances he would also forego the fee of honor, which only served to increase the size of the grin on Colin's face.

**T**he Provincial Grand Master also had a special welcome for his predecessor, Bryan Ogden, at the Assembly, saying: "It is now fifteen months since I had the pleasure of being invested as your Provincial Grand Master and took over the responsibility of leading this Province from R. W. Bro. Bryan Ogden.

"During the first year of any new patent it has been accepted protocol that the previous incumbent follows a low profile path in the Province allowing the new man the chance to settle in. Bryan I am delighted to welcome you to Our Assembly today I thank you for the consideration you have shown to me in my first year as Provincial Grand Master and I look forward to you now returning to take a full part in all the activities you wish to follow in this Province.

## Grand day out

THE Annual Royal Ark Mariner Investiture meeting in December was presided over by M. W. Bro. Richard Wallis, our Pro Grand Master. This was a welcome return from injury for him following the rupture of his Achilles tendon. After nearly three months away he declared himself very pleased to be back, though he still has to take the steps to the throne with great care.

He sent his best wishes to all Royal Ark Mariners and gave thanks to all who had sent him good wishes during his incapacity.

Three Cheshire brethren were invested with Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank by the Pro. Grand Master. They were Graham Stanley Hall Joppa 11, Michael Leslie Richardson Weaver 824, and Brian Benjamin Williams Leverhulme 1325.

We congratulate them and thank them for the time and commitment they give to this Order. It was a delight to see them being invested.

I highly recommend that members put this meeting in their diary and attend, it is a great chance to make a visit to the Grand Temple at Great Queens Street on a less busy occasion and experience a fine meeting which is not too long and hear the marvelous tones of the newly reconditioned organ, as well as supporting members of our Province who are being honored.

Since our last meeting the most important change to have taken place in Cheshire Freemasonry is the appointment of R. W. Bro. Stephen Blank as our new PGM in the Craft. Whilst new to many masons in Cheshire I can tell you he is a Mark Mason and was installed as the Worshipful Master of Progress Lodge in East Lancashire.

I have written a letter of congratulations to him on all his appointments from myself and all Cheshire Mark and RAM members.

I did take the opportunity to invite him to become a member of this degree in Cheshire and he has graciously accepted my invitation to become a member of Stamford Lodge. It is I feel, most important that we have warm and friendly relations with our Craft and Royal Arch leaders, we have had that relationship for many years in Cheshire and I feel assured it will continue under our New Provincial Grand Master. We do at the same time congratulate V. W. Bro. Alan Glazier on his appointment as Dep. P.G.M. in the Craft. He is a fine choice for the role.



## A warm 'welcome back' for Bryan

I HAVE now had the Privilege of being your Provincial Grand Master for 18 months; time really does fly when you are busy and having fun.

It is my very great pleasure to welcome for the first time as our Past Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. Bryan Ogden. Protocol dictates that on the appointment of a new Provincial Grand Master the retiring Provincial Grand Master maintains a low profile and allows the new man time and space to settle in.

Bryan you have been most kind during my first year in allowing me that space, but always being available when I have needed to seek your advice.

Most Worshipful Bro. Benjamin Addy left us not to keep a lower profile, but to rise to the highest office in Mark Masonry where his influence and leadership have been of great benefit to our whole Order.

This appointment took him away from Cheshire and prevented him from being present at our annual meetings, and he regrets he is unable to be here again today.

Now they have both relinquished their roles of active leadership, I congratulate them on the parts they have played in the life of this Province and on the national scene and I look forward to seeing both of them out and about enjoying their Mark and RAM Masonry wherever they may wish to go throughout this Province.

The Acting Officers of the year retire today. The first full team I

**TODAY sees the retirement of two long serving officers. W. Bro. Bob Hall, pictured right, who has been our Provincial Tyler for 17 years.**

**This office is most onerous as it means moving banners, swords and setting out all the equipment needed for any occasion and at the end when we are all in the bar, clearing away. In addition he spends all the time outside the door on his own. It therefore takes a great deal of commitment and dedication to carry out this task for any length of time.**

**W. Bro. Brian Raby has been Deputy Provincial Chaplin for the last nine years. Brian's thoughtful and dignified presentations and prayers have been well received by all present.**

**I thank both these long serving brethren for the service they have given and I wish them well and hope they will continue to have many years enjoying their Mark Masonry, in Bob's case inside the lodge room.**



have appointed, they have been ably led by Howard Waddell Senior Warden and Mike Jones Junior Warden and I thank all my officers for their dedication and attendance at our many outings and visits around the Province.

I trust that they have enjoyed their special year and will take away a better understanding of Mark Masonry over the whole Province, as well as making many friendships which will endure for years to come.

The year was tinged with sadness caused by the death whilst in acting office of Frank Loftus our Sword Barer and Michel Speed Pr.A.G.D.C. of the year. Frank's talent in woodwork en-

abled him to make the stand for the Provincial Sword we use today. It was therefore a natural choice for me to invite him to fill the role of Sword Barer this year.

Both brethren were unfortunately called by the Great Overseer of the Universe before they could complete their appointments.

The Team makes four full visits each year, this year we visited Rivacre Mark and RAM, Altrincham Mark and RAM, Hyde Mark, and Cornwall Legh Mark and RAM. On all occasions we have been welcomed most graciously by the members of these lodges and both Team and Lodges have enjoyed these visits.

ONE of the great privileges of being the Provincial Grand Master is the chance to carry out anniversary celebrations for long serving brethren.

This year we have celebrated 50th Anniversary's for W Bro. Sidney Radcliff of Sincerity Lodge and W. Bro. Reg Wilson of Claughton Lodge and a 60th Anniversary for W Bro. Harry Cook of Mersey Lodge. These celebrations marked many years of distinguished service to this



**PARTY TIME ... Glynn Hewitt, David Sellers join Reg Wilson to celebrate his 50 years in Mark Masonry**

degree.

The information, which is obtained about these brethren both in their work and personal

lives as well as their Masonic activities, is amazing.

I am much indebted to lodge secretaries,

who for the most part, illicit the information which allows me to paint a picture of the brother whose celebration it is and bring out the wealth of experience and commitment they have shown.

On all of these visits as well as the Provincial Team Visits we have had the support of many other Grand and Provincial Officers.

I am sure they have enjoyed their time at each event, but I do thank them for their support.

## Provincial office switches to a new base at Ellesmere Port

*THE Province remains in a very healthy state financially with good reserves for all eventualities.*

*The careful management of our Provincial Secretary Colin Hambleton and his team has seen us develop a lean and fit organization, where your money is used wisely and without waste, allowing the treasurer to reduce the Provincial fees this year by 25p per member. Every little helps brethren!*

*Since developing an independent secretariat we have rented office facilities at Hyde Masonic Hall. The management there has been most kind in assisting our secretariat.*

*However, the position of Hyde at the very east of the Province makes it a considerable distance in travel for those members in the West. We have therefore looked for an office nearer to the centre of Cheshire, which has space to accommodate us.*

*From the end of this month, therefore, we shall have moved the office to Ellesmere Port Masonic Hall which will be more convenient for western and central members and I thank the hall for agreeing to accommodate us on their premises.*

THE Cheshire Mark Reception Committee assist in setting up the venue for the Annual Meeting, arranging transport of the necessary lodge furniture, conveying of attendees between Whitby Masonic Hall and the Civic Centre and most of the door tying, visitor "comforts" and other bits and pieces. However, the number of volunteers is reducing, mainly due to retirements, and some newer, fresher volunteers are required and, while the duties are not very onerous a few more willing volunteers would help tremendously. If you could assist on the odd day, please supply your details to either W. Bro. Albert Elliott on [ellioal1942@gmail.com](mailto:ellioal1942@gmail.com) or to W. Bro. Brian Rose on [brian.rose2@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.rose2@btinternet.com) and details of duties etc will be supplied. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

WHILST 2024 seems a long way off, many lodges have begun to place money in our fund for this festival, indeed I have had the pleasure of presenting to Benevolent TI lodge the first Grand Patrons Gold Award Jewel, they being the first lodge to qualify as a Lodge for this top award.

I congratulate them and feel sure I can rely on all your support as we work towards this festival.

This Cheshire Mark Benevolent Fund 2024 Festival launches on the 8th October this year with a black tie Ball at The Park Royal International Hotel in Appleton Thorn. W Bro. Bob Macmillan Chairman of the Festival Assisted by W Bro. David Heathcoat and their team are working hard to make this a success and I invite you, your wives, partners, and friends to give them your support.



## PMG's address to the RAM Assembly

# £1,000 boost for Cumbria

THIS assembly which is now a well-established event in our Royal Ark Mariner calendar is a local affair in that we do not have guests from other Provinces, leaving the duty of entertaining visitors to the Mark Annual Meeting in March.

This does not mean we lose interest in the concerns of our neighbours, particularly given the devastating floods which have affected many of our brethren in Cumberland and Westmorland. R W Bro. Keith Hodgson the Provincial Grand Master set up a relief fund to assist and I have authorized a donation of £1000 from this Province to this relief fund from the CPMBF. I trust I have your support in aiding our friends.

I am pleased to say that our subscribing membership has increased by twelve this year, which is encouraging after a few years with small losses.

Elevations and joining members exceed resignations. This growth is largely accounted for by a very pleasing growth in membership of our Installed Commanders lodge which now exceeds 50. With the Installation meeting now settled in Sandbach and the second meeting moving round the Province, I encourage all past Commanders to avail themselves of the opportunity to join this prestigious lodge.

I welcome our new members elevated in the past year and trust they are enjoying our fellowship. Whilst half our lodges did well in attracting new members, the remaining half had no candidates.

In this degree we have a special relationship with our Mark Lodges; each lodge is sponsored by and moored to a Mark lodge and bears the same number. May I request you to nurture and care for this relationship, it is therefore a reason and gives us a great

advantage and privileged access to friends we already know well, we should therefore be in a good position to attract them to our Order.

Whilst we should treasure the relationship we have with our sponsoring Mark Lodge, please look to develop relations with Mark Lodges who have no attached RAM lodge. A diversity of members from different Mark lodges provides interest and the chance to widen the fellowship, as well as providing some protection if one particular Mark lodge falls on hard times.

Many of our RAM lodges meet on the same night as their Mark lodges. Whilst this reduces cost, it does make for an early start to the RAM meeting which precludes many working Mark Masons from considering membership.

I have noticed that it also tends to mean that if the Mark Lodge has a candidate the RAM does not because it means too much work in one evening.

I know that one or two lodges are considering their meeting policy and I encourage them to find a way forward which best suits their existing membership, but also takes into consideration the chance for growth.

If your lodge has no candidate please find some work to stimulate interest and enjoyment. It is no fun to go to a lodge which opens, reads the minutes, hears the communications and closes.

If members are not enjoying their Masonic meetings they will soon fall away into other pursuits.

I once again draw your attention to the lecture on the RAM Degree which is to be found on the web site. It can be a useful tool in bringing new members into the enjoyment of our Order.

## Bob's Provincial treble



BOB OWENS should know more than most about representing the Province ... when he was invested as Senior Warden at the Annual Meeting in March it was his third acting rank.

A member of Centenary Craft Lodge No.5896 – he was initiated at Clifton Road in 1994 –

and four years later he decided to further his masonic knowledge by joining the Mark degree, being advanced into Sincerity Lodge No. 327 at Wallasey, which, in turn, was followed by a move into the RAM when he was elevated into De Tabley No.396 in 1999.

During his Mark career he has been a Provincial Steward (2006) and Provincial Grand Overseer (2013).

A member of several Mark lodges and the Almoner of the RAM Installed Commanders Lodge, he is also a member of Royal Arch, Rose Croix and the Red Cross of Constantine.

He spent 20 years in the Merchant Navy as a Radio Officer, and came ashore in 1990, taking up a position with Bass as a pub landlord until taking early retirement in 2011 and says: "I have two children both married, one boy one girl and 5 grandchildren from two years old to 22, all taking up what spare time I have from masonry."

The new Junior Warden, Graham Kirby, was born in the heart of the Province in Chester and took his first steps in Freemasonry in that city in 1994 when his brother, Geoff, proposed him into Gateways Lodge No.6374 in 1994. Two years later he was exalted into the Royal Arch in Letchworth Chapter 1996 and three years after that was advanced into Ashlar MMM Lodge No. 1090, quickly followed a year later by his elevation into the RAM degree also in Ashlar.

Originally an accountant at Hawker Siddeley, he found office life a bit dull and joined Cheshire Fire Brigade in 1977, serving at Ellesmere Port, Widnes, Chester, Warrington and the service's headquarters, racking up 30 years before his retirement in 2007.

Very much a family man, he has been married to Julie for 38 years and they have three children, Michael, Laura and Natalie, and five grandchildren.

Graham is also active in Rose Croix, the Allied Masonic Degrees, and the Order of the Secret Monitor and is a member of the Sutton Coldfield Study Circle Demonstration team, travelling around the country performing initiation, passing and raising ceremonies in 1765 full costume.



THIS year's Wardens' Mess, the annual gathering of the past wardens of Cheshire, was an extra special occasion with three of the Province's finest taking pride of place at the top table. For the first time the Past Pro Grand Master, Ben Addy's calendar allowed him to accept the invitation to the dinner at Christleton and our picture above shows him in conversation with the Past Provincial Grand Master Bryan Ogden and the current leader David Sellers.

THERE are two daytime operating in the Province - Wythenshawe Lodge meets twice a year at Christleton, while The Doric Lodge meets three times at Hyde - and both are open to new and joining members. Daylight Craft Lodges and Chapters are doing well and seem to serve a need for both more elderly mason and the younger masons who have difficulty attending evening Lodges due to work and/or family commitments. Festive boards are light lunches and proceedings are usually completed by 2.30pm. Any brother would be welcome to visit and try them out and full details can be obtained from Wythenshawe secretary, W. Bro Timothy Capner 01244 378983 or Doric's David Heathcote 0161 480 6531.



WHEN Cumbria & Westmorland webmaster, Bro. Terry Watton was asked to produce artwork for a Festival Jewel and logos for the 2024 Cheshire Mark Festival, the Province was delighted with his work, describing him as a "skilled craftsman," and R. W. Bro. David Sellers presented the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, of Cumberland and Westmorland, V. W. Bro Keith Young, with a cheque for £500 towards their 2016 RMBI Festival.