

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
28th November 2016	Team visit to Middlewich Lodge of MMM No.902	Middlewich
13th December 2016	R.A.M. Investiture Meeting (Freemasons' Hall)	London
12th January 2017	Cheshire Provincial R.A.M. Assembly	Christleton
3rd February 2017	Team visit to Sanbach Lodge of MMM No.1609	Sandbach
14th March 2017	Ashlar Mark (Installation)/RAM No.1090 (PGM N. Wales attending)	Christleton
18th March 2017	Cheshire Provincial Mark Meeting	Ellesmere Port
21/23rd April 2017	Mark Weekend Away	Blackwell Grange Hotel, Darlington
4th May 2017	James McKeeman 60th (Wythenshawe Lodge of MMM Mo532)	Christleton
22nd May 2017	Master & Commanders' Dinner	Middlewich
7th June 2017	Grand Lodge Officers' Dinner	Christleton
13th June 2017	Mark Investiture Meeting (Freemasons' Hall)	London
14th October 2017	The Provincial Mark Ball	Park Royal Hotel Warrington

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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The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of
Cheshire consists of 43 Lodges of Mark Master Masons
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Making Our Mark

Mark Province of Cheshire

The Cheshire Mark Mason

Autumn Edition

November 2016



A Festival Flood-ti(d)e

Story on page 3

THE BALL GETS THE FUN ROLLING

THE 2024 Mark Cheshire Mark Festival was well and truly launched at a superb Inaugural Ball at the Park Royal Hotel in Warrington.

More than 150 Brethren accompanied by their ladies attended to witness the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, David Sellers, proclaim the commencement of the Festival and they made sure that it got the best possible start with more than £2,000 going straight into the coffers.

The P.G.M. outlined Cheshire's responsibility to make its commitment known to the Mark Benevolent Fund. He spoke not just of the serious endeavour of fund raising over the next eight years but most of all of the fun that we should all have in doing so.

W. Bro. David Heathcote gave a presentation highlighting the work of the M.B.F., the mantle of which was being passed to our province, including slides showing some of the many needs which have been met by the work of Mark Masons in supporting many festivals over the years.

He went on to speak of the need to continue that work and explained why we are so involved in supporting diverse causes such as those suffering through earthquakes, floods and other



The P.G.M. David Sellers and his wife Maira present the first prize—a 49” digital television — to Brian and Kate Williams at the Festival Launch Ball

major disasters, whilst at the same time supporting people in our own local communities with sorely needed medical equipment.

The P.G.M. thanked all who attended and for their contribution to the magnificent sum of money raised.

Music and dancing followed the dinner, while the raffle, boasted a first prize of a 49” digital television.

The thanks of the P.G.M. and Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Festival were given to the Brother who donated this magnificent prize, and all who brought numerous other prizes.

A separate raffle was drawn for an original and unique Swarovski Crystal necklace, which had been donated by Helen Leecy,

daughter of W. Bro. Mike Jones. There was also a raffle for a one-off version of the new Festival tie and, to much laughter and applause, the PGM somehow managed to draw his own ticket!

The P.G.M. was absolutely delighted with the manner in which the Festival had been planned and extremely grateful to W. Bros. Mike Jones, Howard Waddell and Graham Hall, who handled the organisation and mustered the troops to support the night. Their efforts were very instrumental in the success of the ball.

The Festival Chairman, W. Bro. Bob McMillan and his deputy David Heathcote, together with the P.G.M., thank everyone for this magnificent start. Let the FUN commence!



Lymm hosts Northern P.G.M.'S

OUR Provincial Grand Master David Sellers and his wife Maira proved excellent hosts as always when they arranged this year's gathering of the Northern Provincial Grand Masters in the Mark Degree.

The venue was the picturesque four-star Statham Lodge Hotel in Lymm and the PGM's of seven other Provinces attended.

David Sellers says: "We conducted the party round the sites of North Cheshire and despite a wet Saturday it was enjoyed by all and we all get to know each other better. The wives also enjoy the event, which gives them an ideal opportunity to get to know the other PGMs and their ladies."

Our picture shows David and Maira (centre) with a very happy looking group of guests.

A very proud trip to London for John

THERE was a very strong deputation from the Province of Cheshire that travelled down in the Capital earlier this year there to lend their support several colleagues appointed to Grand rank for the first time or receiving well-deserved promotions at the meeting of Grand Mark Lodge at a packed Freemasons' Hall in June.

W. Bro. John Cavanagh was appointed a Grand Stew-

ard, while V. W. Bro. Bruce Harry was reappointed to the office of Grand Chaplain.

W. Bros. Keith Goulden and Graham Hamilton-Taylor, both former Provincial Wardens, were given the ranks of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, while W. Bro. Robert Hamilton was made Past Grand Standard Bearer.

V. W. Bro. Alan Glazier was promoted to Past Grand Junior

Overseer, while W. Bro. Bill Caren was made a Past Junior Grand Deacon and our former Tyler Bob Hall Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

There was also a promotion for V. W. Bro. Ian Brookes to the rank of Past Grand Junior Overseer. Ian was being honoured for his work in East Lancashire, but he is also a strong supporter of the Degree in Cheshire and a member of ADTI.

Grand day out for Cheshire trio

OUR Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Glyn Hewitt heads the list of Brethren who have been honoured with Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank this year.

A member of Birkhead RAM Lodge No.1072, he is one of just three Cheshire Mariners making the trip to Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London on Tuesday, December 13 to be invested.



Accompanying him will be two other well-respected and hard-working brethren from Cheshire in W. Bro. Gerald Edwards of Ashlar RAM Lodge No.1090 and David Heathcote of Cornwall Legh RAM Lodge No.839 and I am sure everyone in the province will wish them well for their big day in the Grand Temple.

Proceedings start at 4.30pm and all members of RAM Lodges are welcome to attend.

The Mark weekend away heads to

THE Mark weekend away has established itself as one of the highlights of the Province's social calendar.

Having started out at Harrogate, it has developed a nomadic existence, moving on to Windermere in the Lake District, down to the Midlands for highly enjoyable visits to Kenilworth and Stratford-upon-Avon, and it will travel north again in 2017 with the historic market town of Darlington the latest destination.

There is no shortage of activities and sight-seeing opportunities in the County Durham town, ranging from the Head of Steam Museum dedicated to the pioneering days of the railways, with which Darlington was closely associated, a life-size sculpture of a train made from 185,000 bricks, a heritage trail and a Roman fort.

As always there are plenty of shops, pubs and café's to keep you interested as well as the Teesside Park Leisure and Retail Park for the serious shopper.

The Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro. David Sellers invites you and your partner to join him and other Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Masons and their guests for a Gala Weekend for two nights commencing Friday 21st April 2016 at the Four Star Blackwell Grange Hotel, Grange Road, Darlington.

This event traditionally attracts high demand, and we expect that there will be significant and early support. Your quick response therefore, would be highly advisable and appreciated.

The Blackwell Grange Hotel is a stunning 18th Century mansion, which enjoys an enviable setting in the beautiful County Durham Countryside.

Situated midway between the historic cities of

York and Newcastle, right on the border of North Yorkshire and nestled between the stunning landscape of both the Yorkshire Dales and the North Yorkshire Moors, Blackwell Grange provides a warm northern welcome like no other and is the perfect base to explore the wonders of this beautiful part of the country.

Inside the hotel you can enjoy a dip in the heated swimming pool, the use of the spa, solarium, sauna and gym – or enjoy a treatment in the beauty salon.

Arrangements have been made to make 80 bedrooms available for a short period to enable us to get your bookings in.

Some rooms are available for single occupancy without surcharge. Check in is from 3pm on the Friday, with departure on the Sunday morning.

The weekend will consist of an informal Hot Buffet on the Friday evening in the Jacobean suite at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday starts with a full English breakfast on Saturday morning. Daytime is free to explore the town and surrounding

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

The total cost of the weekend will be £165 per person, although we can offer 3 nights dinner, bed and breakfast for £210.00 per person and 4 nights DBB 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 28th February 2017. It is anticipated that this will be a very popular event and bookings will be taken strictly in order of receipt.



The Blackwell Grange Hotel, Darlington

a new venue in the North East

For the golfers among you, the neighboring Blackwell Grange Golf Club has offered the special price of £17.50 (reduced from £25.00).



One of the well-appointed bedrooms at the Blackwell Grange Hotel

On the weekend tee-off times are available in the afternoon.

All members of Mark and RAM Lodges should have received details and booking forms through their Lodge secretaries, if you have not then you should get in touch with them or any of the Events Committee Members, whose contact details are; Glyn Hewitt on 01244 675263 or glyn.hewitt22@btinternet.com; Doug Watts on 01270 760236 or dougiewatts@elworth.wanadoo.co.uk; Ken Davies on 01606 832793 or daviestrocals@btconnect.com; Iain Urquhart on 01260 224420 or iainurquhart784@btinternet.com; Bob McMillan on 015395 30034 or 07719 902289 or r.a.mcmillan@btinternet.com; or Stephen Flood on 0777 249 6483 or floodno4@yahoo.com.



The indoor pool

Birthday boys with plenty to celebrate

THREE of Cheshire's Mark Masons reached notable landmarks this year and W. Bro. Harry Shepherd Cook R.A.M.G.R. led the way by celebrating a remarkable 60 years in the Royal Ark Mariner Degree and our picture

(bottom left) shows him receiving a certificate commemorating the event from Jim Tang, the Worshipful Commander of his Lodge Weaver No.824.

The picture on the right shows W. Bro. Brian Mayoh on a spe-

cial visit to the home of Bro. Duncan Chandley with a certificate to mark his 50 years as a member of Cornwall Legh Lodge No.824, while the picture centre) shows Newsletter editor John Forbes, with (l-to-r) W. Bro.

Austin Bamber D.P.G.M., the P.G.M. R. W. Bro. David Sellers and Glyn Hewitt, A.P.G.M receiving his special Mark penny to record his Golden Jubilee in the Degree at a meeting of his Lodge ADTI.



Happy Namptwyche is advancing again thanks to the new recruits

THE Namptwyche Mark Lodge has suffered many sad losses of older members in recent years, writes Keith Wilford.

For several years, since 2005, the Lodge had relied on the kindness and willingness of the visitors to assist with parts of the ceremonies at most meetings, which, along with the dedication and commitment of the members, has been very much appreciated.

The visitor exchange between members of this Lodge with Middlewich, Four Cardinal Virtues and Sandbach Mark Lodges, has formed a very strong bond which is still very much in evidence today.

Encouragement

However, Namptwyche Mark Lodge is now, to quote a railway expression, very much "back on track".

The Lodge has been fortunate, since 2009, to have Advanced two candidates each year with three candidates in 2013.

This meant that at our Installation in October 2015, for the first time for many years, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge was able to appoint and invest a brother into every junior position, giving encouragement to the younger members to work



PETER SANDLAND ... his guidance as Director of Ceremonies at Namptwyche Mark Lodge has been invaluable in the Lodge's resurgence.

posed and that went ahead at our April meeting.

The successful recruitment has been the result of the collective efforts made by the Lodge members under the enthusiastic guidance of the Worshipful Masters in the last few years, these being W. Bro. Ian Muirhead, Geoff Brunt an, Sebastian Daly, to whom we give many thanks for all their hard work and leadership.

The Lodge is in good order and the members are in very good spirit, due in no small way to the excellent guidance of the Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. Peter Sandland P.Pr.G.J.W. and his team together with the fine co-ordination of events by the Secretary, W. Bro. Roger Currie.

Honoured

At the last Provincial Meeting the Lodge was honoured by the promotion of two of its members. W. Bro. Roger Currie was promoted to Prov. Grand Sword Bearer and W. Bro. David John Salmon to P. Prov. G. Overseer.

The current Membership now stands at 26 and, with the anticipation of further Candidates over the next twelve months, the Lodge is looking forward to a good future in the Province of Cheshire Mark Masons.

●The next meeting of Namptwyche Lodge of Mark Master Masons will take place at Acton Masonic & Parish Hall, Chester Rd., Acton, Nantwich on Monday, December 5

hard together as a team for the future of their Lodge.

Another three candidates during 2015, an achievement which was celebrated at our meeting on 1st February 2016, when the Lodge was honoured with the attendance of W. Bro. Ronald Gwyn Hewitt, Asst. Provincial Grand Master to witness the Advancement of yet another candidate, Bro. Simon Heywood.

Later in the evening, the Asst. P.G.M presented a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Dennis Morris, while another candidate, Bro. Richard Beckett, was pro-



The new Festival tie is proving to be the must-have accessory

OUR front page picture, captured by Neville Wood, shows the Cheshire Mark Events Committee member Stephen Flood getting busy with his latest job ... tie salesman.

The new distinctive Festival tie is now available at a

cost of £15 and there has been a good response from the Mark masons of the Province.

David Heathcote, Deputy Chairman of the Festival, says: "The ties have been selling really well and in the first month of the Festival more than 150

have been bought by members.

"Obviously we're absolutely delighted with the way the launch has been going and we expect to be adding to the merchandise on offer in the coming weeks, with cufflinks, tiepins, lapel pins and napkin pins

on order."

There is also a special festival postcard featuring Festival jewels of yesteryear, no doubt inspired by David who, of course, just happens to be a leading expert in Masonic jewels, particularly those from Cheshire.

QUICK OFF THE MARK TONY SETS A GOLDEN STANDARD IN THE RACE TO 2024

THE slogan adopted by the Cheshire Mark Festival 2024 – "he who gives early, gives twice" – was certainly taken to heart by Tony Mathie. A member of Four Cardinal Virtues Lodge No.723, he stepped up to receive his Patron Gold award just forty-eight hours after the launch of the Festival at Warrington.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Austin Bamber attended the meeting of the Lodge at Willaston and our picture (right) shows him making the presentation flanked by Nigel Curry, Worshipful Master of Four Cardinal Virtues, and W. Bro. David Wright, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of North Wales.



January date for the RAM Assembly at Christleton

MEMBERS of the Province's R.A.M. Lodges are reminded that the Annual Assembly will be held at Christleton on Thursday, January 12, 2017.

The meeting, at which the Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. David R. Sellers will appoint and invest those receiving Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Ranks, will start at 6pm,



but brethren are asked to take their seats in the lodge room by 5.45pm.

This meeting has grown in popularity over the years and

another large attendance is expected in January.

The meeting will be followed a dinner, the menu for which is Ham Hock, Braised Steak, Apple Crumble and Custard, Cheese and Biscuits, Coffee, and the cost for that is £19. Bookings for the meal will close on Saturday, December 17.