

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
14th November 2017	Team visit to Ashlar Mark and RAM Lodges	Christleton
20th November 2017	T. B. Wood-Griffiths 50th (Claughton Lodge of MMM No.705)	Birkenhead
12th December 2017	RAM Annual Investiture Assembly (Freemasons' Hall)	London
11th January 2018	RAM Provincial Assembly	Christleton
22nd January 2018	Wardens' Mess	Christleton
12th February 2018	Team Visist to Joppa Mark	Birkenhead
5th March 2018	Acting Officers Dinner	Christleton
17th March 2018	The Cheshire Mark Provincial Meeting	Ellesmere Port
11th April 2018	J. Staig 50th (Deeside Lodge of MMM No.795)	New Brighton
20—22nd April 2008	Mark Weekend Away	Blackwell Grange Hotel, Darlington

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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Mark Province of Cheshire

The Cheshire Mark Mason

Autumn Edition

November 2017

We're in the driving seat



THE Provincial Grand Master, David Sellers, and his wife Maira stand proudly by the treatment unit presented to the St John's Ambulance Service – full story page 2

MBF BACKS ST JOHN'S WITH £3.2M

THIS year we celebrate 150 years of the Mark Benevolent Fund and, having completed its commitment to the charity Hope For Tomorrow, which has provided Mobile chemo therapy units to rural locations, the Fund sought a suitable project to support which would be worthy of this anniversary.

A project to renew the ambulances and treatment units of the St John's Ambulance Service, which the fund last supported 17 years ago, was selected and £3.2m was earmarked for the project.

The first ambulance was to be placed in the Province of East Lancashire and the first Treatment Unit in Cheshire.

The presentation and dedication of these first vehicles by the chaplain to the Order of St John took place



The well-equipped interior of one of the ambulances supplied by the MBF

on 17th July, 2017 at Armoury House, City Road, London in the presence of HRH Prince Michael of Kent Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and HRH The Duke of Gloucester Prior of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, also present were the President of the Mark Benevolent Fund and the CEO of the

Ambulance Service together with Trustees of the MBF and other leaders of the Mark. As the vehicles were to be placed in the Provinces of East Lancashire and Cheshire the Provincial Grand Masters of each Province, together with their wives, were also invited to attend.

They were able to witness the dedication and presentation made by Prince Michael to

the Duke of Gloucester by the handing over of the keys to the respective vehicles.

Those present were able to inspect the two vehicles which are to the latest specifications and show quite clearly with bold letters that they were donated by Mark Masons.

Following the presentation all those present retired inside Armoury House for refreshments and a chance to meet with Prince Michael and the Duke of Gloucester as well as leaders of St John's and the Mark Degree.

There was a further celebration of the MBF's fine work when the two vehicles earmarked for Cheshire and East Lancashire were officially handed over at a special ceremony at the Macron Stadium in Horwich in October.

The "lunch bunch" dining on success

THE annual Salmon Lunches morphed into something a bit different this year, with both East and West sides of the Province ringing the changes.

A total of 144 gathered at Ellesmere Port Masonic Hall with the West committee trying a new format of a mixed buffet. The response to the change was very favourable and it will be repeated next year.

The generosity of those attending generated the sum of £1,800 through the raffle and donations, and that was

forwarded to the CPMBF

There was a vote of thanks to Adrian Davies, Harry Knapton and caterers Jen and Mark Gill for their very hard work.

Committee chairman Graham Kyffin said he looked forward to welcoming everyone back next year when they will do their best to make it a happy, enjoyable and successful fund-raising event again.

There was a big change in the East where the lunch moved from Manchester Rugby Club to The Guildhall in Stockport.

Salmon did feature on the menu, but there was a choice on this occasion.

The event raised £1,000 for the Festival, and committee member Howard Waddell said the lunch would feature in 2018 but a venue had to be finalised because of on-going building work at The Guildhall, saying: "At the moment we don't know what facilities will be available so we'll have to make a decision nearer the time, but it will be on the second Sunday in June as usual."

Cheshire is main attraction



Grand honours for three Mariners

THREE of Cheshire's Royal Ark Mariners will be promoted to Grand Rank this December.

W. Bro. Clifford Jewell of Wythenshawe Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No.532, W. Bro. Michael Shaw of Hyde Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.868 and W. Bro. Michael Whitlock of Birkenhead Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No.1072 have been selected by the Province to receive this prestigious honour.

The investiture meeting will be held at Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street in London on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 12, starting at 4pm and scheduled to finish at 5.45pm.

CHESHIRE was a magnet for the rulers of Mark Masonry in October as two of our Royal Ark Mariner Lodges celebrated centenaries.

Staley Lodge No. 597 was honoured with the presence of the Deputy Grand Master R. W. Bro. John Prizeman at their special meeting at Hyde and R. W. Bro. Stephen Davison, the Assistant Grand Master was in attendance at Sale as Wythenshawe Lodge No.922 blew the candles out on their cake.

Ben Addy, the M. W. Past Pro Grand Master looked on proudly as he joined members of his mother RAM Lodge, Staley, on their big night. A subscribing member, he went through the Commander's chair almost 40 years ago, in 1978, and, no doubt, many happy memories came flooding back.

The Deputy Grand Master had travelled north from his home in Hampshire to Oaklands Masonic Hall to join the Provincial Grand Master, David Sellers, in marking this very auspicious occasion.

Both addressed the well-attended meeting, which included the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Austin Bamber, and members of the Cheshire Provincial team, with the Deputy Grand Master presenting the W. Commander, Mark Holmes, with a Centenary Warrant, while R. W. Bro. Sellers delivered a special certificate from the Province of Cheshire.

The W. Commander responded by saying that the Lodge would have them both framed and displayed prominently at future meetings.

To add to the special occasion the Lodge Scribe, W. Bro. David Smith



R.A.M.Prov.G.R. was presented with a Patron's collar to recognize his contributions to the 2024 Cheshire Festival.

The meeting, which was conducted in an excellent and most enjoyable manner, was followed by an

equally fraternal social board.

It was a very busy twenty-four hours for the Staley Lodge and its W. Commander for the following evening saw him proclaimed in the Chair for a second year at their regular installation meeting.

The meeting at Sale Masonic Hall that celebrated Wythenshawe No.922's 100 years was an equally impressive and joyous occasion.

The Assistant Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Stephen Davison, joined our Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. David Sellers, his Deputy, W. Bro. Austin Bamber and the W. Commander of Wythenshawe Lodge, W. Bro. Clifford Jewell and members of his Lodge to mark this very special event.

After W. Bro. Peter Carroll had delivered a precis of the lodge's history, the Centenary Grand Warrant was read by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. W. Bro. John Vause, while R. W. Bro. Sellers presented the Provincial Centenary Certificate.

The social board was very relaxed and the Assistant Grand Master was on top form, making everyone in the room feel at ease and taking time out to speak to as many Brethren as he could. One of the highlights of this part of the evening was the cutting of a special cake (pictured above) to mark the centenary by the W. Bro. Jewell and the Assistant Grand Master.

MARK BENEVOLENT FUND

THE CHESHIRE FESTIVAL 2024

Typical Beneficiaries

- Projects supplying hardware, specialist items, medical scanners and diagnostic equipment.
- 'Hope for Tomorrow' - help with provision of Mobile Chemotherapy Units.
- RNLI - help to provide a new lifeboat.
- Emergency relief, at home as well as overseas.



Mark Benevolent Fund. Registered Charity No. 207610



Having a ball at the Royal

THE setting was perfect, the wine flowed and Cheshire Mark Master Masons had another wonderful evening together in order to raise funds for the 2024 Festival.

In the beautiful Cheshire countryside, close to Daresbury the home of Lewis Carroll, The Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, once again hosted this prestigious event. The food was wonderful, the ladies divine and the Masons... well... they were generous! More than £1,115 was raised on what seemed to be, a never ending raffle!

Our Provincial Grand Master David Sellers and his Lady Maira were once again joined by those die-hard Cheshire Masons who just can't avoid a good time in good company.



Keith Gray and wife Jackie won the first prize in the raffle at the ball ... a television

John takes fund-raising to Berlin

JOHN CAVANAGH completed an anti clockwise walk around the former path of the Berlin Wall in eight days two years ago for the

Diabetes Charity, and next year he is going to do it again in August. except this time he's going in a clockwise direction and raising

money for the MBF Cheshire Festival 2024.

"I enjoyed myself tremendously the first time, it was hard but I did it and I always said I'd do it again the other way round and what better way than to raise some funds for the Cheshire Festival." says John.

"Last time I walked the entire 101 miles in 37½ hours and I've vowed to beat that this time around."



TWELVE months has passed since the 2024 Festival launched at the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton and on Saturday 14th October the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master announced that the total to date had reached a magnificent amount of £146,359.88

Merchandise in the form of ties, postcards, cufflinks and Mark tokens have been designed and purchased for resale and seem to have been well received by the brethren of this wonderful friendly and generous degree.

Worshipful Brother John Cavanagh of Stamford Lodge has issued details of a sponsored walk round the Berlin Wall and is seeking the sponsorship of Mark and RAM Lodges in the amount of £50.00 per unit which if successful will raise over £3,000, while our Festival chairman Bob McMillan has embarked on a sponsored slim, aiming to shed

**Festival
nears
£150,000**

4st 8lbs, and is asking individual brethren and Lodges to sponsor his effort.

We have realised that in its present form the Provincial Ball is struggling for support and so the event at the Park Royal will not be repeated, however, it has been suggested that we could do it at a Masonic hall such as Ellesmere Port, Christleton or Hyde so your opinions would be gratefully received on this matter.

Your committee is as always looking for individuals and Lodges to come up with fun ways to help the cause and of course enhance their enjoyment of the Mark Degree.

Although we are off to a good start with the Festival we

cannot afford to be complacent.

The Province had been putting money in ahead of the start of the Festival and some lodges had been saving money for a rainy day which they have donated.

It is highly unlikely that our total this time next year will be double the amount!

On behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund we would like to appeal to you all to consider regular giving with or without gift aid just £1.00 per week or £4.33 per month would make an enormous difference to our efforts, particularly if this amount was gift aided, £1 per week from 800 Brethren would give the charity a boost of £ 364,000 by the end of the fund raising period.

And finally the website is well and truly up and running and we now have a donation page for the CPMBF with BT Mydonate, all monies donated in this way will go to the Festival.

Big Bob's shrinking contribution



SOME less charitable members of our fraternity have said they would be happy to see less of Festival Chairman Bob McMillan... well, their wish is about to be granted! When he saw this picture (left) in a previous Newsletter he decided it was time for action and a change of lifestyle, so on 13th September he enrolled at Slimming World, weighing in at a prodigious 19st 8lb.

Now he needs your help to keep him on the straight and narrow by sponsoring him to lose his weight. All proceeds will go to the Cheshire Festival. Help Bob lose lbs while the MBF gains £'s.

There are many ways to sponsor Bob. Those in generous mood can sponsor him (as one brother has done) for £1 for every 1lb he loses, if so just fill in a form, don't pay anything, and receive the bill at the end of September 2018. Similarly you can opt for an amount per stone as another brother has done (£10 per stone), again just fill in a form and await the bill! You can back Bob to reach his target of 15 stones, if Bob fails you pay nothing, if Bob succeeds you get a bill, or you can simply give a donation now. If Big Bob, who promises to give updates monthly after 13th November 2017, actually gets bigger he says he will match the sponsorship received. Please help both Bob and the Festival achieve their goal! You can ask Bob for a sponsorship form or donate online at <http://mydonate.bt.com/events/bigbob/450106>.

Darlington getting ready for another

ONE of the major highlights in the Cheshire Mark calendar is our annual weekend away and bookings are now being taken for the return visit to County Durham in the spring.

The well-appointed and impressive Blackwell Grange Hotel, situated on the outskirts of the market town of Darlington, proved extremely popular with those who travelled there this year and it will again be the venue for the weekend running from Friday, April 20 to Sunday, April 22, 2018.

Set in wooded parkland, the hotel is almost midway between York and Newcastle and on the edges of the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors, offering a variety of options for those who like to enjoy spending time in the countryside.

Also within striking distance is the famous Beamish Museum, with its 1900's town, which includes a Masonic Hall from the period, an attraction that was opened to the public by the Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent in 2006, in an event that was supported by 2,000 local Masons dressed in their full regalia.

Darlington itself offers numerous attractions

The "weary" Warden

THE editor was somewhat bemused to find the photograph (below) land on his desk last month. "whatever do I want with a picture of Beaker



for?" he mused.

However, closer examination, revealed it was not the accident-prone laboratory assistant from the Muppets, but none other than his extremely convincing stunt double in the person of our very own Provincial Grand Junior Warden Derek Walsh putting the fun into the Festival at the Ball in Warrington last month.

Mark invasion

and, more importantly, there's a good selection of shopping options for the ladies, consisting of high street names and smaller independent stores, plus the Queen's Arcade and the Cornmill Shopping Centres, while there is also a very busy and interesting market in the town centre.

Those who have succumbed to the golfing bug will be welcome to play the Blackwell Grange Golf Club at a special price of £17.50 and afternoon tee times are available.

But if you just want a quiet restful break, then the Blackwell Grange Hotel, which is four-star rated, is the ideal venue. You can have a leisurely meander through the gardens, splash out in the heated swimming pool, make use of the facilities in the spa, solarium, sauna and gym and there are pampering sessions for the ladies in the beauty salon.

The hotel has set aside 80 bedrooms for our party, including some that are available for single occupancy without surcharge. Check in is from 3pm on Friday, with departure set for Sunday morning.

The weekend starts with an informal hot buffet on the Friday evening in the Jacobean Suite at 7.30, with a variety of food to suit all tastes on offer, after which you can relax in Havelock's Bar and Lounge.

Saturday offers the opportunity to visit local attractions or go shopping prior to a gala dinner and dance (lounge suits), commencing at 7.00pm and boasting a five-course dinner with plenty of choices and during the evening there will be the usual raffle, the proceeds of which will go towards the Cheshire 2024 MBF Festival.

The cost of the weekend (2 nights bed & breakfast & two dinners) is £167.50 per person, but the hotel is also offering deals of £212.50 for three nights bed, breakfast & dinner and £252.50 for four nights bed, breakfast and dinner.

Demand for places on the weekend away is always high and organiser Stephen Flood anticipates that the 2018 event will be as popular as ever, so it is advised that you make your bookings early as they will be taken strictly on order of receipt.

A deposit of £67.50pp will be required and full information and booking forms can be obtained from the Provincial website www.cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk.

Northern PGMs relax in Durham



OUR Provincial Grand Master, David Sellers, and his wife Maira enjoyed a fine time at the Northern PGM's weekend, which was hosted this year by the Durham PGM

Denovan Wilson and his wife Dorothy

Jim reaches new heights in

Cheshire

THE 4th of May was a very special day for V. W. Bro.

James McKeeman, who celebrated his 60th Anniversary as a Mark Mason in Wythenshawe Mark Lodge No.532.

The meeting of the daylight lodge, which started at 11am, was very well attended by the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and Assistant, the Past PGM, Past Pro Grand Master, and Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire as well as many Grand and Provincial Grand Officers many of whom were long standing friends of V. W. Bro. Jim.

Having been born and brought up in Dunfermline Scotland-he was initiated in Torrie Lodge No.1141 (Scottish Constitution) where he was also advanced in the Mark degree. It was a delight to see Jim being

supported by Bro. Sandy Gardner R. W. Master of Torrie Lodge and five

other brethren of the Scottish Lodge, showing the very high regard in which James is held.

A full account of Bro. Jim's Masonic, family and professional life were recounted the latter recording his service in the Cheshire Police, where he completed his service with the high rank of Sub Divisional Commander. Some amusement was caused when in reply to the question why did a Scotsman join the Cheshire force he replied "because I was not tall enough for any of the Scottish forces."

Following the celebrations in the Lodge room those attending retired to a good lunch which was conducted with great fun and happy banter.