

Notable Dates for Your Diary

| Date Event | Venue |
|---------------------|--|
| 27th November 2018 | W. Bro. J. Brian Haslam's 50th Macclesfield Mark No.964 Macclesfield |
| 11th December 2018 | Grand Lodge Royal Ark Mariner Assembly Freemasons' Hall, London |
| 10th January 2019 | Cheshire Royal Ark Mariner Assembly Christleton |
| 25th February 2019 | Team Visit to De Tabley Mark No.396 New Brighton |
| 12th March 2019 | Grand Lodge Freemasons' Hall, London |
| 16th March 2019 | Cheshire Mark Provincial Meeting Ellesmere Port |
| 11th June 2019 | Grand Lodge (Investiture Meeting) Freemason's Hall, London |
| 24th September 2019 | W. Bro. Bernard Rourke 60th MBTI Stockport |
| 8th November 2019 | W. Bro. Derek Hobbs 50th Egerton Mark No.165 New Brighton |
| 20th November 2019 | W. Bro. Ken Thompson's 50th. Earl of Chester Mark No. 196 Christleton |

Contributions

The Cheshire Mark Mason team are always grateful to receive information and 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
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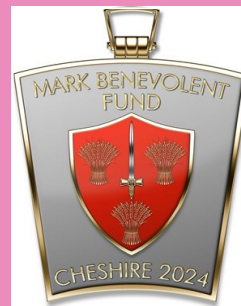


Mark Province of Cheshire

The Cheshire Mark Mason

Autumn Edition

November 2018



On the right road



The wife of our Provincial Grand Master, Maira Sellers take a close look at one of the blood bikes that have been donated to units all over the country by the Mark Benevolent Fund—full story page two

Festival Finale Gala Dinner venue announced - see page 4

We're making a "huge difference"

WE have now entered the third year of our Cheshire 2024 Festival in aid of the Mark Benevolent Fund and if brethren needed any reminding of just how big a difference our charity work is making then they had some wonderful examples in recent months.

The Walk In The Park initiative in London proved an amazing success with participants exceeding all expectations by raising £400,000 as Freemasons, their families and friends turned up in huge numbers.

Cheshire was not represented in the walk, but the Province made a donation, our P.G.M. R. W. Bro. David Sellers explaining: "We discussed the options and decided the cost of people travelling to London and hotels would be counter-productive and supported it with a cheque for £3,000."

That money raised that day



helped to fund the provision of new motorbikes and cars to the men who provide an invaluable service to the NHS, transporting blood and vital samples etc. from hospital to hospital.

There was an official handover of the machines at the National Motorcycle Museum at Solihull, which was attended by David and his wife Maira (see picture on page one), while the Grand Chaplain, our own Rev Bruce David Harry was on hand to officiate at the dedication.

One of the new blood bikes is being shared between Cheshire and Merseyside and Simon Dennett, the vice-chairman of

this group, expressed his gratitude to the MBF by saying: "We received one motorcycle from the Mark Benevolent Fund, a Yamaha fjr1300, which is based north of the river Mersey.

"To date it has already covered almost 7,000 miles and it is a familiar sight at Halton and Clatterbridge hospitals, but it is positioned in such a way it can serve any of our clients within the hour.

"I would like to thank you for your donation, which has made a huge difference to our group."

The fund was also happy to leap into action much further from home, making a grant of £30,000 to provide relief for those affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia.

The grant will be used to purchase 857 ShelterKits provided by ShelterBox Disaster Relief.

Amongst other items ShelterKits (pictured above) provide a tarpaulin, hammer, nails, a shovel and rope to help utilise existing materials that may be on hand to make quick repairs and provide immediate shelter.

Those are just two extremely fine instances of the work undertaken by the Mark Benevolent Fund and are very powerful reminders of just how important a charity we are supporting as we press on with our efforts to make our current Festival as successful as we can.



THE leaders of the Province and their wives were given a tour of Claire House Children's Hospice on the Wirral, which we support financially annually to see a new bath with a hoist which that money helped to buy

Our weekend away moves to Grange

THE Mark weekend away continues to be a very popular event in the calendar of Cheshire Masons and organiser Steve Flood has come up with a tempting new venue which looks sure to live up to the high standards of this get-together.

After two excellent years in Darlington, the scenery changes to Grange-over-Sands and the Cumbria Grand Hotel, which is set within the Lake District Park and is an ideal base for exploring the great natural beauty that the area has to offer. Only a few minutes drive from Lake Windermere, the hotel is set in 20 acres of private gardens and woodlands and overlooks Morecambe Bay.

The hotel has ample parking spaces, lifts to all floors and free wi-fi, with the sportsmen and women well catered for with snooker, pool and darts available, while for those of a more energetic nature there are tennis courts and a putting green.

The weekend starts on Friday, April 12 when, after you have settled into your rooms and done a bit of exploring, you can make your way to the dining room for an informal buffet dinner after which you can relax in the bar and lounge areas.

After breakfast the following morning, you will have plenty of free time to make the most of the local surroundings and attractions before assembling between 6.30 and 7pm for the gala dinner (lounge suits) and entertainment, including a raffle in aid of the Cheshire MBF Festival 2024..

And to finish a great weekend, you can enjoy the breakfast delights again on the Sunday morning before starting to make your way home.

Cost of the weekend is £167.50 per person for the two nights, but if you wish to add another night's stay with dinner and breakfast it is £212.50, or £252.50 for a four-night break. A deposit of £67.50 pp is required at the time of booking with the balance to be paid by February 25.

A total of 82 bedrooms have been reserved for our party and, with early booking brisk, you are advised to reserve your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

For further information contact any of the Events Committee Members; Glyn Hewitt on 01244 675263 or glyn.hewitt22@btinternet.com Ken Davies on 01606 832793 or daviestropicals@btconnect.com Iain Urquhart on 01260 224420 or iainurquhart784@btinternet.com Steve Flood on 0777 249 6483 or floodno4@yahoo.com We very much look forward to welcoming you to Grange over Sands



A Grand Night Out for 3 Mariners

THE RAM Assembly has been gathering in strength since its inception twelve years ago.

Attendances have shown down the years the enthusiasm for this excellent Degree amongst those who have made the progression from the Mark Degree and another large turnout is expected at Christleton for the next gathering on Thursday, January 10.

And it will be a very special occasion for three of the members as they will be entering the lodge room as holders of Grand Rank for the first time, having been promoted to that status at the December 11 Assembly in Freemason's Hall in London.

Leading the way will be our Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Colin Hambleton, a member of Joppa RAM Lodge No.11, who has done such sterling work for Cheshire in the manner in which he has led the secretariat.

W. Bro. David Grisdale, a Past Commander of Wythenshawe RAM No. 922, is also being honoured alongside W. Bro. Mike Jones, a former Warden of the Province, who is a member of Leverhume RAM Lodge No.1325.

The meeting at Christleton will start at 6pm followed by what is always a very convivial social board. The cost of the meal is £21 and dining applications must be submitted to the Provincial office no later than Saturday, December 15.



Idyllic setting for Festival finale

A QUARTET of Past Wardens of the Province, under the leadership of Derek Walsh, were charged with finding the perfect venue for the gala dinner which will mark the finale of the MBF Cheshire Festival and they have come up trumps with a setting truly fitting of the occasion.

Derek, Mike Jones, Howard Waddell and Steve Simpson searched high and low and finally recommended Thornton Manor near Thornton Hough in Cheshire.

The leaders of the Province, accompanied by Derek Walsh, Stephen Flood, Steve Simpson and Festival chairman Bob McMillan, inspected the venue and informed Grand Lodge that a one thousand seater venue had been identified in Cheshire which we felt was suitable for our needs.

The Grand Secretary R.W. Bro. Ryan Williams and the Charities Co-ordinator W. Bro. Darren Coleman have also inspected the venue and have given it the green light.

That means that the Mark Benevolent Fund Festival Dinner, hosted by the Province of Cheshire in 2024, will be held in the idyllic setting of The Walled Garden Marquee at Thornton Hall, which is pictured above.

Thornton Manor was the former home of Lord Leverhulme a prominent Cheshire Mason and so the venue is very appropriate indeed!

Cheers for 'lunch bunch'

THE festival pot was given a nice boost by another highly successful couple of lunches at both ends of the Province.

Hyde was the new venue for the feast in the east and it proved highly popular with 130 in attendance, raising the magnificent sum of £1,400, a cheque for which was handed to the PGM at the Charity Reps Dinner in September.

Keith Goulden thanked all those who had supported the event and those who had donated prizes for the raffle, confirming the committee had already booked Oaklands Hall for next year's lunch on June 9.

There was also a good turnout in the west in September at Ellesmere Port and, once again, the Festival was the beneficiary of the generosity of the people who contributed £1,050 through a raffle and other efforts.

Committee chairman Graham Kyffin reported that the feedback from the event has been very positive and those who couldn't attend this year supported the day with donations and prizes for the raffle.

Festival total now tops £200,000

By Bob McMillan
AT the last meeting of the Cheshire Lodge of Installed Commanders No.1468 held at Sandbach on Thursday 25th October the Provincial Grand Master announced that the amount raised for the Festival to date, including donations from other Provinces, stands at £208,000.

This represents a fine effort from everyone who has donated in the two years that have elapsed since our launch in October 2016.



Unfortunately David Heathcote, the Deputy Festival Chairman, has found it necessary to step down for personal and health reasons and I would like to thank him for the considerable contribution he has made to date in getting the Festival off the ground, and wish him well for the future.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master has appointed the current Provincial Junior Grand Warden, Stephen Flood (pictured left), to succeed him and I am sure that you would like to join me in wishing him all the best in his new role.

Let's give organisers our best support

AS our current running total suggests, we are making steady progress in our efforts to achieve a total worthy of our great Province and we urge you to continue to give your support to all the functions that are being staged to keep up the momentum.

Recently we held an Elton John tribute night at Christleton hosted by Howard Waddell and Mike Jones. The excellent evening of entertainment was enjoyed by 71 people including the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and their wives and raised a further £690 towards our effort at the same time.

A lot of the people present were non-Masons, brought along by their Masonic friends, which is, of course, excellent news. But the flip side is that the attendance on the night shows that Mike and Howard did not enjoy the support of the Brethren that their efforts so richly deserved and we would ask you to do everything you can to give your backing to future fund-raisers.

MBF powering on after 150 years

THE Mark Benevolent Fund was founded in 1868 by Canon George Raymond Portal to help poor and distressed Mark Master Masons and their immediate families and to date over £7m has been disbursed in grants to individual petitioners, while it also makes donations to many other charities, which have totalled over £20 million since 1868.

Examples in recent years are £2.6m to the Hope for Tomorrow Cancer Charity; £12,937 to the Dogs for Good charity for the training and development of support dogs; £1.4m to St Bartholomew's Hospital for Cancer Care; £13,150 to the Baldwin Trust for the refurbishment of canal boats specially modified for disabled visitors; £107,628 for St Oswald's Hospice in Northumberland to replace and upgrade their kitchen facilities and a renewed partnership with St John Ambulance pledging over £3m to help replace their fleet of vehicles.

Four Cardinal Virtues Lodge marches under a new banner

THE Four Cardinal Virtues Lodge of MMM, No.723 hosted the first Provincial Team visit of the new Masonic year and almost the whole of the Provincial team were in attendance to support the P.G.M., his Deputy and the A.P.G.M.

The business for the evening was to Dedicate the new Lodge Banner.

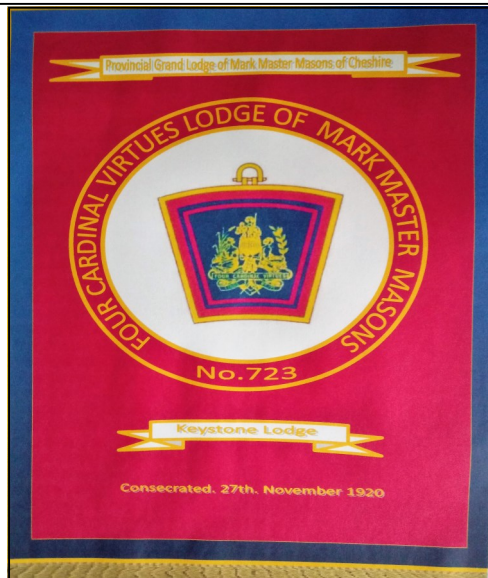
The R. W. Provincial Grand Master, David Sellers, took the Chair and requested the Provincial Wardens to occupy their respective chairs there then followed a wonderful dedication ceremony.

The banner was paraded into the lodge with a Provincial escort accompanying the banner Donor, V. W. Bro Keith Wilford, and the banner bearer, Bro. Greg Brereton.

Following the Dedication the Provincial Dep. G. Chaplain gave an excellent oration, outlining the history of the Lodge and the signification of the banner.

Before relinquishing the Chair to the W.M., the P.G.M. referred to the fact that this was the first banner dedication that he had officiated over.

The ceremony was followed by an



excellent festive board at which some 60 Mark Master Masons enjoyed the friendship of the Degree.

PGM ISSUES A RALLYING CRY TO HELP STAYLEY MARK BUILD THEIR MEMBERSHIP

THE Provincial Grand Master issued a rallying cry to the members of Stayley Mark Lodge No 597 when he led a team visit to the Hyde-based lodge in November.

R. W. Bro. David Sellers mentioned that years ago the Stamford Lodge No.148 was at a low ebb and in danger of collapse when the then Provincial Grand Master and his assistant and Deputy came to visit and all joined the lodge.

They remained members for a number of years until the

Lodge got back on its feet and began to prosper again.

The Provincial Grand Master at that time being none other than M. W. Bro. Benjamin Addy a founder member of Stayley Lodge, which now finds itself in a very similar precarious position.

The P.G.M. stated in his speech that he would join Stayley Lodge if the Brethren agreed, to try to help them out, and indicated that he has no hesitation in letting it be known that he is encouraging other

brethren to do likewise.

As he put it - "I do not think that Grand Lodge would be too pleased with me if I had to tell them that the Lodge of the M.W. Past Pro Grand Master was going to hand in its warrant."

At the meeting W. Bro. Robert Stephenson, who is in the chair in the Mark degree for the first time, entertained the members of the Provincial team with an excellent rendition of the Mark lecture on his maiden attempt.

Anyone fancy a stroll in the park?

CHESHIRE Mark Mason John Cavanagh completed his mammoth 101-mile trek around the former walled in City of West Berlin along the former route of the Berlin Wall in 33 hours.

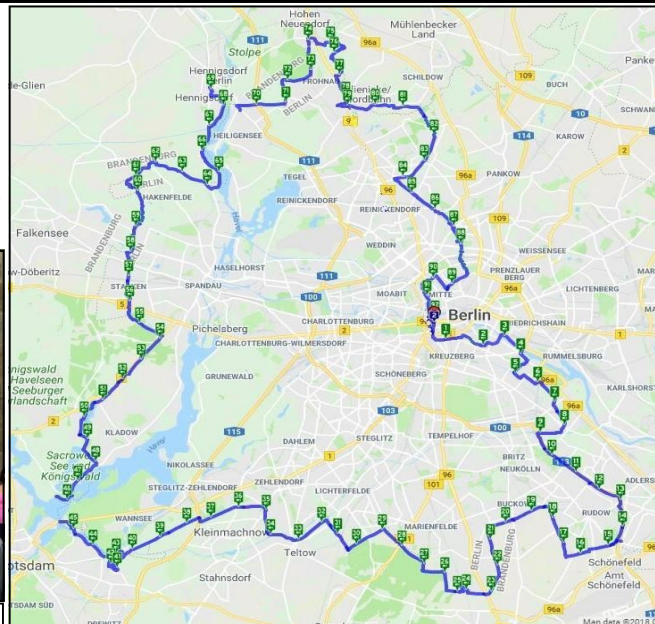
John was accompanied along the way by Mark Masons from



John Cavanagh

other Provinces, and they all passed under the Brandenburg Gate at a hearty pace.

Much money has been pledged for the MBF and the 2024 Festival from Masons, friends and family and John is



available to attend lodges to give a talk about the many stories about Berlin and his walk, for a small donation.

On this occasion John walked the Wall in a clockwise direction and has been

encouraged to walk it again next year the opposite way around, a challenge that John has accepted with much delight, so if you fancy a long or a short walk with him, you'd be very welcome.

Slim chance of success pays off big

HAS anyone seen Bob McMillan? The question has been gathering pace around the Province as concern builds for our Festival Chairman.

There have been cruel suggestions that he might have fallen down a grid or he has become invisible to the naked eye when turned sideways following a highly successful sponsored slim in aid of the charity.

"Big Bob" weighted in a 19st 8lbs when he commenced his weight-loss programme in September last year and twelve months later he was down to a svelte 14st 6lbs, a magnificent effort, shedding a total of 5st 2lbs or 72lbs for easy reckoning.

Many of you promised to support Bob in his

endeavours by pledging various amounts should he achieve his target weight.

Some were even brave enough to pledge £1.00 for every 1lb shed.

Well Bob has delivered on his promise so now it is time to reward his endeavours by paying your pledges into the MBF in support of the Festival.

And the man himself says: "I would like to send a big "thank you" to all of those people who generously sponsored me in my effort to lose weight. You have raised an amount approaching £2,500 it has been credited to your MMH number at the MBF and will go towards your honorific total."