

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date Event	Venue	
11th June 2019	Grand Lodge (Investiture Meeting)	Freemason's Hall, London
13th September 2019	Charity Reps and Almoners' Dinner	Middlewich
20th September 2019	W. Bro. Albert Spencer 50th Hyde No.868	Hyde
24th September 2019	W. Bro. Bernard Rourke 60th MBTI	Stockport
20th November 2019	W. Bro. Ken Thompson's 50th. Earl of Chester Mark No. 196	Christleton
17th—19th April, 2020	Mark weekend away	Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange-over-Sands

Your editor needs you!

THE Cheshire Mark Newsletter depends on the membership of the membership for information, stories and pictures about what is happening within the various areas of the Province.

I have been editing the Newsletter for the past six years and I'm very grateful to the editorial team that had supported me during that time. However, some have had to stand down because of other Masonic commitments, while others have felt the time was right for them to step down, which has left us short-handed.

I would, therefore be grateful to any brethren from the Wirral, mid Cheshire, Sale and Stockport who could step up to join the team and ensure that the publication is as broad as we can make it, featuring news from way out west to back in the east and all places in between.

With just two editions a year it won't take up a lot of your time and your assistance would be most welcome. Anyone interested can contact me by email at j.forbes6@yahoo.co.uk or on 07973

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R. W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

V. W. Bro. Austin Westbury Bamber P.G.J.O..

R.A.M.G.R.

ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

W. Bro. Ronald Glyn Hewitt P.G.J.D. R.A.M.G.R.

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Mark Province of Cheshire

The Cheshire Mark Mason

Spring Edition

April 2019



WE'RE ALL GOING ON A SUMMER HOLIDAY



A delighted Katy Frankland, Project Manager at Signpost Stockport For Carers, proudly holds the keys of their new minibus, courtesy of the MBF, aloft.

By John Forbes
THE headline could become the theme tune for the young carers of Stockport as they set off in style to their national festival in Southampton in June in a new minibus courtesy of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The Signpost For Young Carers Service, based at Heaton Moor, has received support from the Cheshire MBF and local lodges for some time now to help them finance outings for their group and when they enquired about assistance in funding a bus the request was forwarded to London and they responded with a magnificent grant of £35,620, enabling them to buy a new vehicle.

Katy Frankland, project manager at Signpost says: "I can't believe it. We had our old bus for 15 years, but it was old and leaking at the back and had served its purpose.

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"It's absolutely ideal for our group"

■Continued from page 1

"I was overwhelmed when the Mark Masons said they would fund a new one and I'm over the moon after seeing it for the first time today as I know everyone is going to love it.

"It's got air conditioning and all the latest specifications and we will be travelling in luxury when it has its first outing to the festival at Southampton in a couple of months. It's absolutely ideal for our respite and group evenings as well as our six residential holidays which we arrange throughout the year."

Katy travelled to London for the Mark Benevolent Fund Grand Parade at Freemasons' Hall earlier in the year to celebrate all its donations to different organisations the length and breadth of the country and she described the visit as "wonderful" and was delighted to learn more about Freemasonry and its charitable

Pop in to the pop up

THE latest initiative to boost the total of the 2024 Cheshire Mark Festival is a pop-up shop charity shop which is being opened by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Austin Bamber and his wife Gill for a week in the summer.

The shop is at 29 Seaview Rd., Liscard, Wallasey CH45 4QN and it will be open between June 13 and 20, with the exception of Sunday, June 16.

Obviously help will be required to run the venture and Austin says: "We require assistance in manning the shop, which is open from 9-30 a.m. until 4-00 p.m. It is thought that it could be split to 9.30am to 1.00pm and 12.30pm until 4.00pm dependant on numbers of volunteers.

From our previous experience using the charity shop (for Springer Spaniel Rescue) we will require at least three, but preferably four people per session i.e. four - eight people per day, depending on whether they are able to do a full or half day"

If you have any Bric a Brac or Clothing etc that you no longer require please get in touch with Austin or W. Bro Derek Walsh who will be pleased to accept it, while there will also be a drop off point at Middlewich Masonic Hall.



THREE members of Cheshire Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association were at the Wallasey No.600 Mark Lodge in March where W. Bro Harry Shone Prov.G.S.D. & President of the CWSMBA (pictured on front row wearing leather bikers' jacket) gave a very informative talk about the Widows Sons. Which culminated in the Lodge presenting a cheque for £50.00 to Harry for the CWSMBA Charity. (Just wonder if they had Hog roast at the social board, sorry couldn't resist, editor)

Assembly attendance is a boost for R.A.M. degree



THE popularity of our RAM Annual Assembly remains as strong as ever. There was an excellent attendance of 129 at Christleton in January, with 68 brethren sending their apologies, and they listened intently to the Provincial Grand Master's address.

R. W. Bro. David Sellers told the gathering: "I thank you for your attendance this evening in such good numbers both here in the lodge and at the following dinner.

"The enthusiasm you have for this degree and your support for it is a great encouragement to me and my fellow leaders and we look forward to the coming year with anticipation and pleasure.

"We meet today to review the past year and support and congratulate those who I have been pleased to appoint to Provincial Grand Rank.

"It is my pleasure to welcome our Past Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. Bryan Ogden, many thanks for your continued support and your presence here this evening and I extend a warm welcome to you on behalf of us all.

"The Royal Ark Mariner Investiture meeting took place



in London in December at Great Queens Street and was conducted by the Pro Grand Master. This year the weather, unlike last year was bright and sunny and there was a good attendance.

"Cheshire had three members who were to receive Grand Rank, W. Bro. Mike Jones (pictured above), W. Bro. David Grisdale and W. Bro. Colin Hambleton. Unfortunately, Colin was unable to attend as his wife Joyce was in hospital undergoing an operation and he needed to be on hand to support her.

"We congratulate all three

on their well-deserved preferment .

"The Acting Officers made their usual Team visits this year in the Mark and where the RAM Lodge met on the same night also visited there as well.

"However, I decided that a visit to a stand-alone RAM Lodge should make up the fifth Team visit this year so as to point out the importance of the degree and to indicate to all the acting Officers the importance of being a member of the order in order to take a full part in all Team visits.

"The Team visits have so far been very well supported this year and I thank all those Grand and Provincial Rank holders who have taken the time to come along and lend their support I know their presence is much appreciated by the Lodges visited.

"The one visit by the Team to a RAM lodge will be built in to future programs.

"The Province continues to maintain a strong financial position and it is not necessary to propose any increase in subscription this year. We are indebted to our Treasurer and the Secretariat for their careful financial management."

Menus East and West for Festival success

IF it's good food, good company and a good day out you're looking for then we have a couple of important dates for your diary.

The East end of the Province gets the fun started with Keith Goulden and his team promoting their Salmon Lunch on Sunday, June 9. The event was moved to Oaklands Masonic Hall last year where it proved a great success and it is being held there again this year.

Tickets are £15 and can be obtained from Howard Waddell on 0161 612 5130, John

Goldsmith on 0161 456 5086 or Barry Goulden 0161 483 0449.

And Graham Kyffin is well advanced with his arrangements for the annual buffet lunch at Ellesmere Port which will be held on Sunday, September 22, with tickets priced at £12, which are available from Graham at "Brookdale" 300 Greasby Rd., Greasby, Wirral CH49 2PP.

Both lunches are being staged to raise funds for the Cheshire Mark Festival 2024 and donations of raffle prizes would be appreciated.

Provincial team saluted Brian's 50

THE Civic Hall at Ellesmere Port was once again the popular venue for the Annual Meeting of the Mark Province of Cheshire in March and it was well attended.

The Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. David Sellers addressed the brethren on the events and successes of the previous twelve months, saying: "Brethren it is once more my pleasure to welcome you all to this our Provincial Annual meeting here at the Ellesmere Port Civic Hall. It is good to meet with you all and I thank you for finding the time to join me on this important occasion in the life of the Province of Cheshire. I trust you will enjoy the time we spend together at this fine venue.

"I have already introduced our many visitors from other Provinces who have supported us today it is always a pleasure to welcome them and to have the chance of repaying the very kind hospitality we always receive on visiting their Provinces and I thank them for the very real friendship and support they give not only today but throughout the year.

"I equally welcome the leaders of other Orders in Cheshire and thank them for the cooperation and support they give to this degree. We once again are pleased to welcome our past Leaders and the continued support of R. W.

Bro. Bryan Ogden Past Provincial Grand Master, V. W. Bro. David Alldred Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master and V. W. Bro. Chris McDonald Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master is much appreciated.

"The full Provincial Team have carried out five visits this year and have been very ably lead by Graeme Sambrook, Senior Warden, and Stephen Flood, Junior Warden, while being supported by a good number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers on each occasion. The visits were to Four Cardinal Virtues Mark, Stayley Mark, Hyde Mark, Macclesfield Mark, and De Tabley Mark.

"The visit to Macclesfield gave us a chance to celebrate the 50th anniversary of V. W. Bro. Brian Haslam as a Mark Mason. Brian has served the Province and his Lodge well, mainly as Chaplain, and in the wider community as School Master and Church Lay Reader. His Anniversary was well celebrated in his lodge and as a Province we congratulate him and thank him for his dedication to the order."

(The PGM delivered a history of the life and Masonic career of Brian, and presented him with a Certificate of congratulation from Grand Mark Lodge and a second from Provincial Grand Lodge, plus a gold plated Mark Token.

Brian was visibly moved by the whole experience whilst at the social board members of the

Lodge reminisced about the help, kindness and wisdom given to both them and the Lodge over the years.)

"Once again last year it was not possible for me to announce the names of those who were to receive Grand Ranks in June due to the reorganization of the scheduling by Mark Masons Hall the appointments not being announced until the end of March. Although it now seems a long time ago it is right that we recognize them in this Provincial Meeting.

"Rev Bruce Harry was reappointed Grand Chaplain; first appointments - Mike Jones and Howard Waddell P.A.G.D.C. David Hinde and Mike Richardson P.G.St.B.

"Promotions were Held at the September Quarterly in an attempt to reduce the crowding at the June meeting, this proved to be very effective and Barry Travers received a promotion P.G.J.O (V.W. Brother) and our very hard-working secretary, Colin Hambleton, was promoted to P.G.S.D. It is now intended that promotions will be a regular feature of the September meeting. We congratulate these worthy brethren on their appointments.

"The leaders have been pleased to represent Cheshire at some 14 other provinces during the year and we have always been made to feel most welcome and as I said earlier, we are pleased to be able to repay there kindness today."

Keep The 2024 momentum going

THE Cheshire 2024 Festival for the Mark Benevolent Fund remains the focus of our attention and we are maintaining a strong drive to maximise the efforts of our members.

In his speech to the brethren at Ellesmere Port R. W. Bro. David Sellers was quick to praise the work being done by the team set up to plan and co-ordinated the endeavours of all concerned.

"It is now two and a half years since we launched the Cheshire MBF Festival 2024 and the team led by the Chairman W. Bro. Bob McMillan is working with great enthusiasm to bring forward fund raising at both lodge and provincial level and at the level of personal giving," he commented.

"Bob completed his sponsored slim and John Cavanagh his sponsored walk on the path of the Berlin Wall. I thank them for their commitment and dedication to the fundraising and you brethren for your support in sponsoring them.

"Whilst we were concerned to find a venue for our Festival 2024 in Cheshire, I am pleased to confirm we have secured a booking at Thornton Manor, former home of Lord Leverhulme. The event will take place in the walled garden of this Manor House on the Wirral and has the approval of the Grand Secretary as a very suitable venue.

"Please book the date for this event in your diary for the first weekend in July 2024 Unfortunately, due to the indisposition of our Festival Vice Chairman David Heathcoat I have

THE Provincial Grand Master continued the charity theme by adding: "Last year I was able to announce the presentation of our St Johns Ambulance treatment centre which I am informed is being well used throughout the Province and I trust many of you had a chance to look it at last year's Provincial Meeting.

"A windfall of some £400,000 came to the fund by the very generous sponsorship of the Park Walk held from Mark Masons' Hall around the Royal Parks in London.

"This exceeded all expectations and the Trustees felt it should go to the provision of Blood Bikes throughout the country with teams of bikers providing this service. A national presentation and dedication were held at the National Motorcycle Museum when The Grand Chaplain Bruce Harry officiated at the dedication.

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.



MBF powering on after 150 years

Mark Benevolent Fund. Registered Charity No. 207610

had to find a replacement for this important Role, and I am most grateful to W Bro, Stephen Flood for agreeing to take over this position.

DON'T LET HOWARD TAKE THE

PLEASE think carefully before asking our new Provincial Senior Warden, Howard Bickerton, to take the floor ... he might just respond to your request literally!

After leaving school, he went to work in the construction industry and eventually set up his own company, H.V.B. Flooring Services in Stockport.

The town has played a major part in his life, having been born and brought up there, while all his various Masonic memberships are with lodges affiliated to the Guildhall.



It's not surprising he chose to follow the Masonic path as he is a double Lewis, both his father and grandfather having been members, as well as one of his uncles.

Howard joined Unanimity Lodge No. 287 in 1973 and he served lodge as its Worshipful Master in 1984 and 1995, the year in which he was advanced into the Mark Degree in Ben T.I. where he was Master in 2004.

This is his third acting rank in the Mark Province of Cheshire.

He also holds Provincial Grand Rank in the RAM as a

FLOOR

member of Cornwall Legh Lodge No. 839, which he was elevated into in 2000 and served as Worshipful Commander in 2011 and 2012.

Howard is involved in the Royal Arch and the Rose Croix and has attained the 30th degree.

He has a son and daughter and six grandsons and one granddaughter.

Golf is a consuming passion and he's been a member of Bramhall Golf Club for more than 25 years and was honoured with the captaincy in 2003 and became its President in 2017.

He says: "I was overwhelmed with the attendance when I was appointed at the Provincial meeting and felt quite humble."

Appointment Rocked "Red" Rose

CYRIL ROSE, who occupies the Junior Warden's chair, hails from the western tip of the Province on the Wirral where he lives with his wife Pamela.

He was initiated into Freemasonry in 1985, in Francis Columbine Lodge No. 5849, taking on the role of Worshipful Master nine years later.

In 1992 he made the decision to join the Mark Degree and he was advanced into Rivacre Lodge No. 1016 where he took that chair there for the first time in 2001, and again ten years later.

He is also a member of West Cheshire Mark Lodge No. 1497 of which he was Master three years ago, and was elevated into Rivacre Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in 1999, becoming its

Worshipful Commander in 2005, and he is the holder of RAM Provincial Grand Rank.

Other Masonic orders to which he belongs are Chapter and Rose Croix and 31st degree.

And he is certainly a man who believes strongly in serving his local community for he is a Past President of both the Ellesmere Port Lions and Probus Clubs.

A retired engineer, he served his apprenticeship with B.I.C.C.; moved on to U.K. A.E.A. at Capenhurst in Chester, then to Van Leer at



Ellesmere Port before finishing off at British Aerospace.

Cyril is also very much a family man, with two children and four grandchildren, who help to keep him busy and in whatever spare time he can find he follows Liverpool and enjoys reading and gardening.

He says: "It was a great shock to receive the letter informing of my appointment, but a pleasant one."

"I am really looking forward to playing my part within the Provincial team on our visits."

ARTHUR'S JEWEL MAKES THE LONG

THE secretary of Sincerity Lodge No. 327 received a very welcome phone call on the eve of their Installation meeting in February.

W. Bro. Bill Hall, who is currently in the chair of Torfaen Lodge of MMM No. 796 in Monmouthshire, was making contact with Harry Shone as he had a past master's jewel, which had been presented to his wife's father, W. Bro. Arthur Oliver Chatterley P.A.G.D.C., following his year as W. Master of Sincerity in 1945, which he and his wife Jeanna were anxious to return to the Wallasey lodge.



W. Bro. Bill Hall (right) presents his father-in-law's Past Master's jewel to Sincerity's W. Master Michael Jones as D.P.G.M. Austin Bamber looks on

CHESHIRE will be well represented at the investiture meetings at Grand Mark Lodge in June with Rev Bruce Harry to be reappointed as Grand Chaplain and Michael Nolan being honoured as a Grand

JOURNEY HOME

Bill then offered to travel up to Wirral the following day to "repatriate" the jewel and asked permission to address the brethren, which was swiftly granted and he gave the following history of his father-in-law's life.

"W. Bro Arthur Oliver Chatterley was born on November 8, 1899 and died in 1978 Aged 79. He lived at Oriel Road Liverpool opposite the Town Hall, attended Liverpool University, and his initial Architectural thesis was entitled "Masonic Buildings in England and America".

"He was a member of Liverpool University Lodge and won a national architectural competition in Birmingham so moved to Sutton Coldfield in 1928 where he raised a family of three girls and designed several Schools in Birmingham as well as private houses.

"He kept his office in Liverpool as well as his office in Birmingham travelling to Liverpool every second week as well as attending his Lodge in Wallasey and his University Lodge in Liverpool.

"During WW1 he was a fighter pilot in the Royal Flying Corps which later became the RAF, flying Sopworth Pups and Tiger Moths amongst others in later years.

"In the WW2 he and three others ran the Birmingham fire service and were responsible for the central section of the city. He was an Air Raid Warden when off duty and also ran the local Home Guard. He joined Lodges in Birmingham and as an organist was in great demand.

"When desperately ill with cancer he played the brethren out of the lodge room after the meeting and halfway through the festive board the members noticed he was missing and found him collapsed at the organ. He refused to take pain killers and died at home with his family at his side."

Going for gold

Steward, with former Wardens of the Province Graham Kirby and Bob Owens getting the rank of P.A.G.D.C. and Ken Isherwood P.G.Std.Br.

Brethren who will be attending the meeting in London in September for promotions are A.P.G.M. Glyn Hewitt who goes to P.G.J.O. and John Cavanagh and Mike Shaw to P.G.J.D.