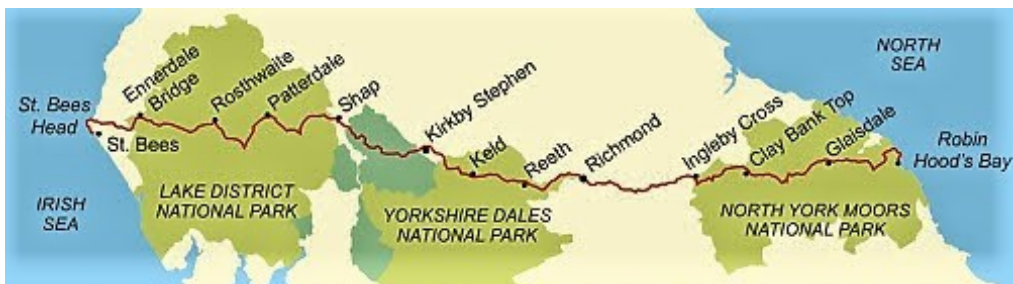


Dave's coastal crusade

W. BRO. DAVID SMITH is a Mark Mason who proudly straddles The Pennines. Prominent in both Cheshire and West Yorkshire – he has twice held Acting Provincial Grand Rank in both Provinces at the same time – he will be crossing the dividing line again this year, but on two feet.

He will be setting out on a journey to raise funds for prostate cancer research with a march from one side of the country to the other and is hoping that his many friends in Freemasonry will help him with sponsorship.



He says: “Last year I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, but following a radical prostatectomy in September 2020 I have now been declared cured.

“I have decided to do a sponsored walk to raise awareness of this terrible killer disease, and to help with research into finding a cure so that no-one else need suffer as I did.

“In August this year I will attempt to do the Coast to Coast walk. This starts at St. Bees Head, and crosses the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, and the North York Moors, finishing 190 miles later in Robin Hood's Bay.

“If anyone feels able to assist in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me on djsmith6256@gmail.com

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The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire consists of 40 Lodges of Mark Master Masons and 24 Lodges of Royal Ark Mariners

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Mark Province of Cheshire

The Cheshire Mark Mason

Spring Edition

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PROVINCE ON SCREEN

WE have all had to become accustomed to zoom meetings over the past year as lockdown prevented normal gatherings from taking place and, frustratingly, the Mark Annual Meeting in March was restricted to yet another IT event.

However, the show must go on and 86 members of Cheshire Province tuned in on their computers, laptops, ipads, et al to take part in the event.

Everyone was ushered into the “waiting room” when they logged on and they were able to catch up with old friends that they

had not seen for some time and chat about things in general before the host Andy Tong muted the microphones without a speaking part in the actual event.

After Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers, as Presiding Officer, had declared the meeting open, the Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Colin Hambleton, read the dispensation allowing the virtual meeting to take place and the business of the morning commenced.

■THE Provincial Grand Master's address to the meeting is on the centre pages.

Jewel in Cheshire's crown



IT'S been a very difficult year for everyone and with no meetings the push for our Mark Benevolent Fund 2024 Festival has suffered, so, as we return to our lodges we ask you all to concentrate your fund-raising efforts to help revitalise the drive towards a total worthy of Cheshire. And if your name is "Sylveste" there's plenty of room on your chest for the handsome Festival Steward's jewel (pictured left), which is being added to the Festival must-haves. Application forms are available through the Provincial Office and orders are to be made direct to Grand Lodge.

The new distinctive jewel and ribbon comes with a breast pocket pad, a year bar and your name will be added to the Stewards Roll of Honour in the Festival Results Booklet.

In the meantime you can support the cause by purchasing some of the wide range of reasonably-priced Festival merchandise, which is available through Michael Jones via his website,

www.cheshire-regalia.co.uk.

Brian's been keeping busy on the lathe

I'M sure that we all got up to some crazy things to stave off the boredom during the long months of lockdown. Newsletter readers will recall the madcap hair raising coiffures of Deputy Chairman of the Festival, Stephen Flood, from our last edition, but Brian Williams of Leverhulme Mark Lodge No.1325 really took on a challenge as he set about restoring an ancient lathe to working order.

"All I can say is it's a Colchester Lathe built in England around 1900/15," comments Brian.

"They were used a lot on Royal Naval ships from around 1905 up to the 1950's as they did not need electrical power. The photo (above, right) is of slightly smaller and lighter duty but similar lathe with treadle mechanism

"My Machine was found in a garage in a very sad state, given to me to try to resurrect it or bin it. So I removed the treadle and legs then placed the lathe on a solid bench, made and fitted a



new headstock spindle with tapered roller bearings and twin vee belt pulleys to a 1hp motor at the rear with a variable speed controller headstock chuck attachment, the thread was changed to a Myford Lathe Thread as this is the popular size for chucks etc.

"All the slides were levelled up by grinding and scraping. The various threaded cross-slides and main lead screw spindle were replaced along with the relevant threaded phosphor bronze bushes to remove 120 years of wear.

"The headstock was out of alignment the original adjustment was vague at best so

I fitted four adjusting grub screws and they worked well.

"Final adjustments and alignments were around a max 0.002" error which is remarkable considering its over 120 years old. It is complete with all Gears, Woodworking rests and chuck drivers etc."

I think we should be having a word with the Provincial Grand Master Overseer, Keith Roden. surely a man with such talent as Brian Williams possesses would be a welcome addition to the workforce in the quarries ... he's certainly sent many much less gifted craftsmen there over the years!

No London outing but RAM trio join the gold standard

THREE members of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree in Cheshire were rewarded for their service to the order by being elevated to Grand Rank last year.

W. Bros. Michael Conroy of Hyde RAM Lodge No.868, Graham Hamilton-Taylor of Joppa RAM Lodge No.11 and Graham Kirby of Ashlar RAM Lodge No.1090.

They should have travelled down to London on December 8 to be presented with their promotions but, of course, the investiture was just another of our big occasions that fell in the midst of the pandemic lockdown measures.

It was a disappointment for our trio as well as all those who had been looking forward to making the journey from other Provinces and the Grand Master H. R. H. Prince Michael of Kent acknowledged that in the message that he sent out on the day from Kensington Palace.

He said: "In more normal circumstances, many of you would be looking forward to attending Grand Assembly today to witness the investiture of those Brethren I have appointed



GRAHAM KIRBY

to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank – a distinction which recognises faithful and distinguished service and is a relatively recent introduction in the Order, having first been bestowed on deserving Brethren in 1967.

"To each of you being promoted today, I send my warmest congratulations and trust that you will have many opportunities to enjoy your new status."

"In my Address to the Annual Investiture meeting of Grand Mark Lodge in June last year, I reflected on the many changes I have seen since my Advancement just over 40 years ago. Little did I know then what was to come but I feel sure that a spirit of optimism still prevails among us; that our

collective reaction to the adversity we have faced in recent months will positively influence the way in which our Order develops; and that our heritage will be the foundation upon which we will build our future."



Preparing to set sail

ONE of our last great gatherings last year was the ever-popular Royal Ark Mariner Assembly at Christleton in January when it was a packed house in the main lodge room.

Of course, it was impossible to hold the meeting this year because of the constraints in place, but everyone will now be looking forward to returning to Cheshire View in 2022.

I am sure that the date, Thursday January 13, 2022, has been circled in most calendars as it is always a special occasion where the true warmth and friendship of the Mark degrees is felt to the full in a relaxed atmosphere.

Technology is a winner

GOOD morning Brethren and may I welcome you to this Zoom meeting which is our AGM today.

You may remember the last time we were due to meet was at this time last year when all was prepared for our meeting to go ahead when the pandemic brought all our plans to a standstill. It was not clear at that time how long the suspension of our lodge meetings was going to last but most thought it would all be over by the summertime; how wrong can one be.

We are now a year on from the first lockdown and our activities are still seriously limited. Grand Lodge meetings in London have not taken place due to the virus and those of our Brethren appointed to Grand Rank in June have missed out on the usual celebrations of a trip to Grand Lodge. We do congratulate them on their preferment and hope they will soon be able to show off their now not so new regalia around the Province.

The title Zoom was, I think not one to which most of us were familiar a year ago, but it has proved a very useful piece of tech, which Grand Mark Lodge allowed to be used when it was clear face to face meetings were not possible.

These meetings have proved very useful in

THE Provincial Grand Master, anxious not to let another year go by without a Provincial Meeting because of lockdown restrictions, made full use of the internet to get his message across as we all look forward hopefully to some form of normality. His address is on these two pages.

allowing our members to keep in touch and keep up with business aspects of lodge meetings as we are using it today.

I congratulate all those who I have named today as Brethren receiving Provincial Rank either as first appointment or promotion it is a great sadness that I am not able to invest you or shake hands in the normal way, I trust it will be possible to meet in the not-too-distant future.

As those who were appointed last year to acting Rank have had no chance to take part in team visits etc. I felt it was only right to roll over their appointment for a second year and give them a chance to enjoy being part of the team, most have accepted the offer and I hope it will be of enjoyment to them.

BOB OWENS (right), a well-known and respected Cheshire Mark Mason, has an important role in a new and prestigious lodge in Warwickshire.

Three times an acting officer in our Province, the last as Senior Warden in 2016, he will be Treasurer in the as yet unnamed lodge, membership of which is restricted to those that have been acting Wardens in their Province.

Ian Belsham, the Mark Provincial Grand Secretary of Warwickshire, wrote to his counterparts in England and Wales asking them to



advise those in their areas who had been Wardens and were interested to contact him so that they could gauge interest in the project and decide whether to proceed.

The initial response was very encouraging with more than 40 brethren coming forward to accept the opportunity to become founder members. Within a couple of weeks a first zoom meeting was organised when Bob was elected to his latest role.

Cheshire was also represented by Graham Kirby, Junior Warden in 2016, Steve Simpson and our current Deputy Provincial DC Derek Walsh, who were Senior and Junior Wardens in 2017, and Newsletter Editor John Forbes, the 2012 Senior Warden.

Steve Simpson takes over benevolent role

A NUMBER of long serving Officers asked to stand down from office — Bruce Harry as Chaplain; Bill Caren as Provincial DC they are replaced by Basil Keys and David Bradbury respectively.

As members of the GP Committee Keith Wilford and Jim Munro retire on health grounds and sadly Alan Smith who passed to the Grand Lodge Above at Christmas.

All these Brethren have served the Province in exemplary manner for many years, and I thank them on behalf of all of us who have benefited by their efforts.

Alan Smith was a most important member of the Benevolent Committee looking at each petition and visiting to ascertain what was needed in each case and bringing the information to the committee. Steve Simpson had been acting as a shadow to Alan Smith for the last year and will take over the tasks carried out by Alan.



David Bradbury

When it does become possible to meet again face to face, we will all have a good deal to do. Recruitment of new members has always been important, but may I suggest that retention of our existing members who have fallen out of regular attendance should be the primary aim of us all, keep in touch speak on the phone make sure they feel wanted and valued.

Whilst we have not been meeting the raising of money for our charity has been difficult, we in Cheshire are responsible for the Mark

Benevolent Fund 2024 Festival and a number of our fundraising events have not been possible as an example the Mark weekend away could not go ahead and hence the £1000, we would normally raise on the raffle was lost.

As a means of raising money, I commend the Stewardship Jewel which will shortly be available.

These are specially made for our Festival and will be ordered direct from London on a form available from our Provincial Secretary Colin. These can be worn with all Mark Regalia and so far 129 members have indicated they wish to obtain this jewel, may I encourage you to join them.

It would be quite wrong to end this meeting without thanking our Provincial Secretary and his team for the great effort and work that they have put in to keep up with all the alterations that have had to be made both in dealing with Grand Lodge requirements and individual Lodges.

Keep well

David R Sellers

Provincial Grand Master

Grand Ranks

EIGHT Cheshire brethren had good reason to celebrate this month as their names were published in the list of Mark Masons to be honoured in 2021.

They are – First Appointments: W. Bro. Stephen Flood Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; W. Bro. Graeme Sambrook Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; W. Bro. Terence Raymond Oke Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer; W. Bro. Keith Arthur Evans Past Grand Standard Bearer; W. Bro. Robert William Kyffin Past Grand Standard Bearer. Re Appointments - V. W. Bro. Rev Bruce David Harry Grand Chaplain, W. Bro. Anthony George Mathie Grand Steward. Promotions - Rt. W. Bro. Rev Bruce David Harry Past Grand Junior Warden, W. Bro. David Allan Richards Past Grand Junior Deacon (West Lancashire)

ADTI ready for flying start

THE long wait for a return to Mark Masonry may soon be over.

Our Lodges have been silent for more than a year, but, provided there are no unexpected detours on the roadmap from lockdown and we get the green light from Grand Mark Lodge to return to business, we will be able to shake the dust off our regalia in a couple of months.

And Cheshire could be one of the Provinces leading the way with Ashton & District Lodge of Mark Master Masons Time Immemorial, due to hold one of their regular meetings at Dukinfield all on Tuesday, July 27, in the vanguard.

This is the only lodge in Cheshire with a mid-summer meeting, the remainder having schedules which start in September. It is popular with

brethren looking for an unexpected opportunity to enjoy a night's Mark Masonry while their own lodges are in recess and the ADTI membership is already starting to make preparations to make this year's meeting an enjoyable occasion as they can should they get the green light.

They will certainly be keeping a very close eye on instructions emanating from Grand Lodge about any relaxation of the current suspension.

However, it could well be that the Rulers may favour a unified resumption at the beginning of September and should that happen, Staley No.597, who are due to meet on September 9, would lead the way in the Mark Degree, with Sandbach staging the first Royal Ark Mariner gathering on Monday, September 6.

St John Ambulance thumbs up for MBF

IT is heartening when charities etc. that we support through the Mark Benevolent Fund come back with positive responses.

We're all aware of differences that have been made with donations in this area, including St John Ambulance and their newsletter was a pleasure to read.

"As ever, we remain extremely grateful to Mark Master Masons across the country for their continuing support. I know that some local donations have been made over the past few months aiding us in our effort to keep people safe in exceptional times.

"In addition, our Mark Master Mason vehicles continue to play a vital role in serving our communities, and I am delighted to share with you some of the ways in which these vehicles have enabled us to respond to local needs during the pandemic. The attached report comes with our sincere thanks for all your support."

In 2017, the Mark Master Masons generously donated over £3m to help fund 52

replacement ambulances, treatment centres and support vehicles. These vehicles continue to be invaluable to our work and, in recent months, to our covid-19 effort.

We run nurse-led outreach clinics with local organisations. The clinics typically take place both within partner buildings and in our mobile treatment vehicle, which has an area where patients can be assessed and treated privately. Due to covid restrictions, we have been running all our clinics uniquely from this vehicle ensuring people continue to get the help they need.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we also travelled to the hostels and hotels that our clients were staying in temporarily as part of the 'Everyone-In' measures. In the period from April to November, we saw almost 200 people.

In Manchester, we work as part of a Street Engagement Hub. In response to covid-19, our training team developed a 'covid-19 care' module enabling volunteers to work in

hospitals and emergency wards for the first time.

As the hotels began to close it was decided that the service would change to a mobile hub. Our West Lancashire Treatment Centre now parks in Manchester city centre twice a week and works alongside the other partner agencies. This has made us more visible not only to the homeless communities but also the general public. The treatment space has also been used by other services during the pandemic, such as the blood borne virus team who use the vehicle to treat clients in a clean, safe and dignified environment.

On behalf of St John volunteers, staff, and the communities we serve, we thank you for your generous support. The vehicles donated by the Mark Master Masons have enabled us to adapt our services to meet the changing needs during the pandemic and will continue to help keep communities safe, in ordinary and extraordinary times, for many years to come.

HYDE WILL CELEBRATE WITH DOUBLES!

TWO Brethren who have been absolute stalwarts to Mark and RAM Masonry in this Province and beyond will be honoured in two celebrations at Hyde this autumn.

M. W. Bro. Ben Addy and V. Worshipful Bro. David Alldred have completed 210 years between them in the two degrees and their achievements will be recognised in two double meetings.

David, who was Deputy Provincial Grand Master to R. W. Bro. Brian Ogden, should have been marking his 50 years in Mark Masonry with Hyde Lodge No.868 in April, but the lockdown restrictions put an end to that plan.

However, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Bob McMillan stepped into the breach and after discussions with the secretaries of the Mark Lodge and Hyde RAM No.868, where he also completes 50 years' service this year, it was decided to utilise the RAM lodge's October 15 meeting for a double event.

The evening will open with the regular meeting of the RAM Lodge during which they will conduct their business and when that closes the Mark Lodge will commence and everyone will honour both half centuries, with the Provincial Grand Master paying tribute as



BEN ADDY

DAVID ALLDRED

he presents David with two certificates.

The brethren of both degrees will then move to the Orangery where there will be a joint social board to finish off the evening's work and brethren who wish to attend should contact W. Bro. Michael Conroy, who is co-ordinating the dual meeting.

Centre of attraction

Just over a month later, on November 16, Ben will be the centre of attention as he celebrates his 60th year in the Mark degree and 50 in the RAM at a special emergency meeting of Staley Mark Lodge, both 597.

He, of course, went through the ranks of Mark Masonry, serving the Province of

Cheshire as Provincial Grand Master for ten years from 1990 before going on to London to achieve even greater recognition for his work as Assistant Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and finally Pro Grand Master.

This is bound to be a strongly supported event and anyone interested in attending should book in with secretary David Smith as soon as possible.

The Provincial Team will be present on both occasions.

W. Bro. Clifford Jewell will mark his 50 years in the Mark degree at Wythenshawe Mark No.532 on November 4, while Four Cardinal Virtues Mark No.723 will hold centenary celebrations in December this year or February 2022.