

## Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date Event	Venue
4th November 2021 W. Bro. C.C. Jewell 50th Mark Wythenshawe 11am	Christleton
16th November 2021 M. W. Bro. Ben Addy 60th Mark/50th RAM	Staley Mark/RAM Hyde
19th November 2021 Neston Mark Team visit	Neston
4th December 2021 Festival Christmas Party Whitby Social Club	Ellesmere Port
7th December 2021 RAM Grand Ranks	Freemasons' Hall, London
13th January 2022 RAM Assembly	Christleton
14th February 2022 Four Cardinal Virtues Mark Centenary Centenary Team	Willaston
3rd March 2022 Acting Officers' Dinner	Christleton
19th March 2022 Cheshire Mark Provincial Meeting	Ellesmere Port
22nd—24th April 2022 Mark weekend away Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange-over-Sands	
25th April 2022 V. W. Bro. Bill Chalmers 50th Middlewich Mark	Middlewich
16th May 2022 Masters & Commanders Dinner	Middlewich
1st June 2022 Grand Officers Dinner	Christleton

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### ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

W. Bro. Robert Alexander McMillan P.G.J.D.

RAM.Prov.G.R.

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

Autumn Edition

October 2021



THE efforts of the members of the Mark Province of Cheshire have been giving a promising lift-off to getting our MBF 2024 Festival back on track following the upheaval caused by covid and lockdown, which has cost us so much in time and fund-raising.

The loss of meetings and special events for 18 months has been a serious blow, but the Festival team are working hard, confident that we can make up for that lost time with a super push over the remaining period available to us.

It has been highly encouraging to see a number of the membership already sporting the splendid new Festival jewel, pictured right, at the meetings which have been held so far since restrictions were lifted.

Hopefully that number will grow and grow as we get



back into the swing of things, so make your Festival mark by buying and wearing your jewel with pride.

Purchasing the Festival jewel is a very simple process.

Application forms are available through the Provincial Office and orders are to be made direct to Grand Lodge.

The distinctive jewel and ribbon comes with 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 also give your support to the cause by purchasing some of the wide range of reasonably-priced Festival merchandise, see page 3, which is available through Michael Jones via his website, [www.cheshire-regalia.co.uk](http://www.cheshire-regalia.co.uk).

# Weekend away is back in Grand style



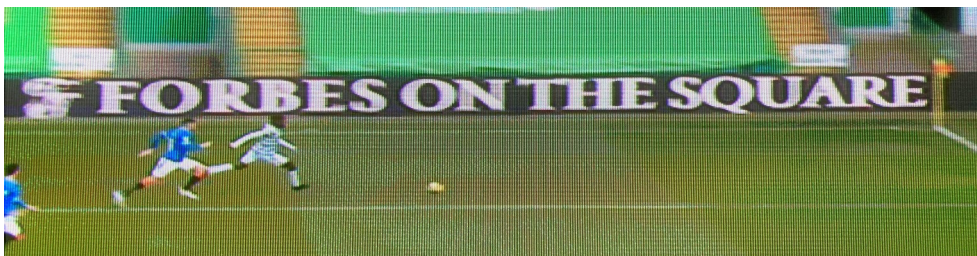
ANOTHER of the highlights of the Cheshire Mark Calendar, that had to be cancelled this year, the highly popular Weekend Away, will be back in 2022 and, we hope, bigger than ever.

We will be returning to the Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange over Sands, and those who paid deposits on their bookings will have them carried over to next year.

Provincial Grand Secretary, Colin Hambleton says: "This is always a very casual and pleasant weekend not to be missed, the full details of the weekend will be published within the next few weeks.

"Let's make it a brilliant time at the Cumbria Grand where your company will be appreciated.

"The weekend starts on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 and finishes after breakfast on Sunday, April 24, but there will be an option of extending your stay at the very competitive rates we have agreed too."



NEWSLETTER editor John Forbes is not slow in coming forward, but, even by his standards the picture above would appear to indicate that he's taking things a bit far these days. Pitch-side advertising at a televised match between Celtic and Rangers to shout his Masonic membership, a step too far surely. He was far from happy himself the signage having been placed at Celtic Park, while John is a Rangers fan! Truth is it was an ad for a Glasgow tailor, mind you Forbes probably needs his help.

The Grand boasts 124 really well-appointed guest rooms and suites – some with views of the bay.

A traditional hotel, it is an outstanding building in a beautiful area and it proved a highly popular choice when the members of our Province and their families and friends who descended on it to make the most of the facilities available in 2019.

For the sports minded there is a snooker table, table tennis and a dartboard, or if you prefer something a little more "strenuous" it also features a putting green.

The outdoors also affords a chance for a game of tennis, fitness walks and a play area for the children and there are plenty of places to visit in the gorgeous surroundings of the Lake District.

It is bound to be as popular – if not more – than ever so be prepared to act quickly when the announcement is made.

# CHESHIRE WARDENS TAKE TOP ROLES IN NEW MARK LODGE

THE Provincial Grand Wardens' Lodge of Mark Master Masons is on target for a February 2022 launch.

Hosted by the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Warwickshire, its membership is restricted to brethren who have held the office of an acting Senior or Junior Warden in their own Province and it is being well supported by Cheshire.

The project was only floated back in February in the midst of lockdown when a general email from W. Bro. Ian Belsham, Provincial Grand Secretary of Warwickshire, was sent to all Provinces in England and Wales to see if there was sufficient support to take matters further.

Just over a fortnight later he reported that the response had been good and a first Zoom meeting of interested parties was arranged for March 29. And things moved on apace following that under the supervision of W. Bro. Chris Denley, who was appointed the first Secretary of the fledgling Lodge.

The enthusiasm of the would-be founder members was outstanding and the Petition was handed over in Freemasons' Hall at the meeting of Grand Mark Lodge on September 7, thanks to the assistance of the Warwickshire Provincial

Grand Master R. W. Bro. Phil Wills.

There were 37 names on the Petition, five of them – John Forbes, Stuart Jones, Graham Kirby, Bob Owens and Derek Walsh – representing Cheshire.

The date for the Consecration of the new Lodge is Saturday, February 26, 2022 and it will take place at Rugby Masonic Hall with three of the Cheshire five due to take office – W. Bro. Forbes as the Senior Warden. W. Bro Owens as the Treasurer and W. Bro. Walsh as the Assistant Director of Ceremonies.

Rugby has been chosen as the venue for the initial meeting because it is the biggest in the area and a large attendance is expected. In

In future the February gathering will be the Installation and will be held at Knowle Masonic Centre near Solihull on the fourth Saturday with the second meeting at a venue of the reigning Master's choice in either September or October.

Based on seniority of membership John Forbes was to have been Senior Warden, but elected to drop back an office so if all goes to plan he will be Master in 2024 when he aims to bring the second meeting North to Cheshire to round off out MBF Festival year.

## Bob and Howard are booked in for a trip to London

HOWARD Waddell and Bob Owens are booked in for a trip down to London to receive their promotions to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

The pair have both held the rank of a Warden in the Mark Degree in the Province, Howard having been the Senior Warden in 2015, and Bob having followed him into the same chair twelve months later.

They have both worked hard in their respective RAM



Lodges – Howard in Cornwall Legh No.839 and Bob in De Tabley No.396 and those efforts will be rewarded when they visit Freemason's

Hall in Great Queen Street on Tuesday, December 7 for the Grand RAM Assembly.

The highlight of the RAM Year is, of course, our own Annual Assembly, which was yet another victim of lockdown in 2020.

But we expect to be back in business again on Thursday, January 13, 2022 when all roads will lead to Christleton for one of the most fraternal evening's Masonry on the calendar.



# DAVID ALLDRED — A MAN WHO MARKS VERY WELL

FOR V. W. Bro. David Alldred, October 15 will live long in his memory as a very special night.

Surrounded by friends and colleagues from the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees, he celebrated a highly noteworthy contribution to both with a double 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

The evening's events at Oaklands Hall, Hyde, started with the regular meeting of Hyde RAM No.868, of which David is a founder member, and when that closed, they hosted a special meeting of Hyde Mark Lodge No.868 by dispensation.

The Brethren welcomed the Past Pro Grand Master M. W. Bro. Ben Addy and Past Provincial Grand R. W. Master Bro. Bryan Ogden and then a strong Provincial Team processed in to the meeting with all three leaders of the two degrees, Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. David Robinson Sellers, Deputy Provincial Grand Master V. W. Bro.

Austin Westbury Bamber and Assistant Grand Master W. Bro. Robert Alexander McMillan, present.

After taking the Chair the R. W. Provincial Grand Master proceeded to deliver a hugely interesting history of David's life both Masonic and family, highlighting his varied and highly successful business CV, which featured his many and diverse talents, driven with great professionalism and enterprise.

And his Masonic biography was even more fascinating as his progress through the various Degrees was explained from his Initiation into the Craft in Onward Lodge No.6528 in 1969.

David described his introduction into the Mark as being "press-ganged" by another well-

known Hyde Mason, W. Bro. Norman Plant. A touch on the shoulder with one hand as the other appeared with a pen and a form in it, was something that many of us can attest to as Norman was a fiery recruitment officer.

And, just two years on from his Initiation into Onward Lodge, David was Exalted into Hyde Mark, quickly followed by another touch on the shoulder and an application form for membership of Staley RAM No.597, into which he was elevated in the same year.

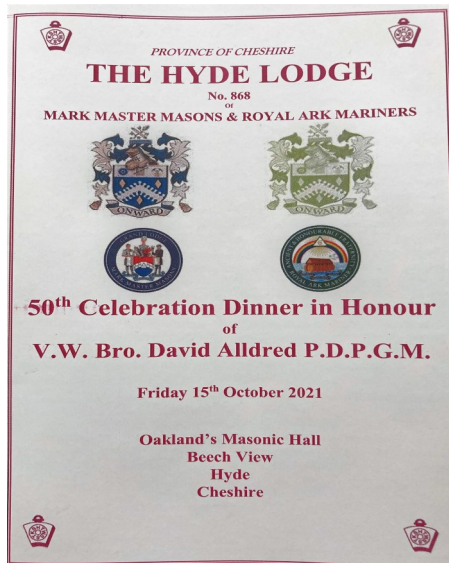
This, however, was a bit of a ruse as David had already been conscripted into a group of local Masons, headed up by, yes; you've guessed it, Norman Plant, who were busy formulating a new RAM Lodge to be known as Hyde No.868.

Obviously, he had to be a member of the Order to be able to become a founder of the new Lodge of Hyde RAM, so Staley provided the perfect

stepping stone and he became a founder in 1972, which means he has another 50<sup>th</sup> to look forward to next year when that Lodge will achieve its half-century.

Both Hyde Lodges were also able to celebrate their commitment to the Festival with Hyde RAM being presented with a collarette for achieving Patron status, and Hyde Mark's Mike Shaw and Barry Sant receiving awards for contributions that saw them reach Vice-Patron.

And that theme continued throughout the evening with the two Lodges donating £100 each to the Festival, along with the charity plate and raffle, while David Alldred added a private cheque to the total.



## Tea and biccies - fuelled the rise to the top

DAVID ALLDRED'S march through the ranks was steady and thoroughly deserved. He was rewarded with RAM Grand Rank in 1990 and his first appointment to Grand Rank in the Mark Degree was as Past Grand Standard Bearer in 1997.

There were even more surprises in the offing, however. Five years on David received a call from Bryan, the recently appointed Provincial Grand Master.

"The call came out of the blue," says David. "Bryan asked if we could get together for a chat and he was prepared to come across to my neck of the woods and I thought the best place for a chat and a cup of tea and biscuits was the Alma Lodge Hotel.

"I had no idea at all what the meeting was about. It was a very busy period for the Province, a time of change, a fresh start, and it could have been about absolutely anything. There are so many ways of serving the Province.

"I never dreamed I would be offered the position of Assistant Provincial Grand Master and it came as quite a shock when Bryan explained his plan in the middle of our little tea party, but I was delighted to accept."

Just twelve months later the Provincial Grand Master was again looking to David when a new Deputy Provincial Grand Master was required and he stepped into that role seamlessly, in which he served for eight years before standing down from the front line role.

One of the other great loves in David's life is organ music, something that began when he switched from the piano to organ as a 15-year-old and he has supplied harmony at numerous Lodges on many occasions, even at the Provincial Meeting.

Three years ago the Provincial Organist W.

Bro. David Mairs had to send a late apology when he woke up on the morning of the meeting to find his home flooded. The combination of R. W. Bro. Brian Ogden, another enthusiastic organist, and David came up with a plan.

A quick dash to Bryan's house to get the necessary sheet music and back again to the Civic Hall at Ellesmere Port where David gave up his place amongst the assembled leaders and dignitaries on the stage in exchange for the organist's stool from where he produced the music that put the sparkle into the assembly, which got under way with just a minor delay.



**The Provincial Grand Master, David Sellers, and David Alldred enjoying the Hyde celebrations**



# RIVACRE ARE JOINING THE CLUB

THE closure of Ellesmere Port Masonic Hall just before the pandemic took hold was an extremely worrying development.

The hall was home to several lodges in different Degrees and the venue for the lunch following the Mark Annual Meeting at the Civic Hall, but the time of inactivity during lockdown has given everyone affected the opportunity to take stock and a new "home" for Freemasonry in the area is emerging at the town's Whitby Club.

Rivacre Mark Lodge No.1016 has already made the decision to take up the offer of using the multi-purpose location and is holding its first meeting there on November 17, when Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. Bob McMillan will be present to cast his expert eye over the Club and it will be the venue for the lunch following the 2022 Provincial Meeting.

W. Bro. Adrian Davies, a member of Rivacre Lodge says: "I think most of the Masons in the Ellesmere Port area will be pleased to see a hall offering a much-needed alternative to the old place. There are many members who live around

the area and it will be good for them if they can stay local.

"Apart from Rivacre, I understand that Stanlow Craft Lodge has decided to go there and there seems to be quite an upsurge of interest in the region with a healthy number of prospective candidates looking to join Freemasonry.

Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, Derek Walsh is also making use of the Club to stage a Christmas Party in support of the 2024 Festival on Saturday, December 4, featuring a hot buffet, festive music, and raffle.

The cost is £20 (children under twelve £10). These can be booked through Derek Walsh at [dj.walsh@rjfacilities.com](mailto:dj.walsh@rjfacilities.com) and the fun will commence at midday, running through to 4pm.

The afternoon will also feature a Christmas jumper competition. I've already noticed that the bookmakers have made W. Bro. Walsh a hot favourite to take first place. He is not exactly known as the shy, retiring type when it comes to dress sense and I think we can all expect something a spectacular effort at the party.

## Staley's big night for Ben

STALEY LODGE No.597, who led Cheshire out of lockdown when the covid restrictions were lifted by holding the first Mark meeting of the new season in September, will have the hottest summons in town when they gather again at Hyde on Thursday, November 16 as Past Pro Grand Master M. W. Bro. Ben Addy celebrates his 60<sup>th</sup> year as a Mark Master Mason and 50 in RAM.

A large attendance is expected at Oaklands Hall to pay tribute to a Mark Mason who has been an example to us all and anyone interested in attending should book in with secretary David Smith as soon as possible.

Locally his talents and love of the Degree saw him rise to the rank of Provincial Grand Master, after which he became a leader nationally, attaining the highest office possible.

He has distinguished himself time and again over the past six decades, proving to be one of the Order's greatest assets and a man of integrity..

W. Bro. Clifford Jewell will mark his 50 years in the Mark degree at Wythenshawe Mark No.532 at Christleton on November 4.

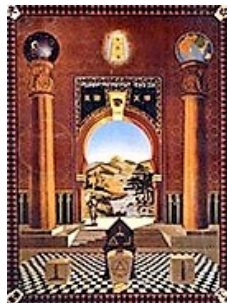
## Search is on for Boards

KATHERINE Kopsis, the Private Secretary to the Grand Secretary has issued an appeal for help to all Provinces and Lodges for any assistance we can give in a research project into Tracing Bords.

She says: "Some time ago we asked for information about any unusual Mark Tracing Boards in use in your respective Provinces as part of a project being undertaken by V. W. Bro. M. C. Black.

"The intervention of the pandemic halted that work somewhat abruptly and V.W. Bro. Black is now keen to re-start his research .

"If you do have any such Tracing Boards which you think might be of interest to V. W. Bro. Black, who is trying to chart the development of Mark Tracing Boards and, in particular, local variations to the standard form, please contact him via email at [t.board@hardknott.org](mailto:t.board@hardknott.org)"



## THE FESTIVAL EMPORIUM

THERE'S only a few weeks shopping left before Christmas and the Mark Benevolent Fund 2024 Cheshire Festival "department store" has plenty of good ideas if you're looking for something on the Mark Masonic theme. It's a great opportunity to assist in boosting the Festival coffers as we look to make up for time and opportunities lost during the lockdowns and restrictions. It's quite a varied selection, from shirts through pens and keyrings, with plenty in between and you can purchase them through Mike Jones at [cheshire-regalia.co.uk](http://cheshire-regalia.co.uk) or the Festival Deputy Chairman, Steve Flood.



Front and back view of bespoke Mark Penny



Masonic Tie with Matching Pin Badges & Cufflinks

