

IT'S A TOP JOB FOR DAVID

TUESDAY, June 7 will be a special date ringed in the diaries of W. Bros. David Topp and Cyril Rose. On that day Mark Masons will be gathering from far and wide at Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street, London for the investiture meeting of Grand Lodge where David will find himself in an acting role as he has been appointed the Grand Inner Guard.

Cyril Rose, a Past Warden of the Province, will receive the rank of Past Assistant Grand Director

of Ceremonies, an honour well deserved.

Those being promoted will, of course, have to wait until Tuesday, September 13 for their visit to the capital.

V. W. Bro. David Alldred, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master will lead the way on that day to be elevated to Past Grand Senior Overseer.

W. Bros. Ken Davis and John Forbes will become Past Grand Senior Deacons and W. Bro. Michael Nolan Past Grand Junior Deacon.

Notable Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event	Venue
22nd April, 2022	Mark Weekend Away	Cumbria Grand Hotel Grange-over-Sands
25th April, 2022	Middlewich Mark No.902 (Bill Chalmers 50th)	Middlewich
16th May, 2022	Masters & Commanders' Dinner	Middlewich
18th May, 2022	Rivacre Lodge No.1016 Provincial Team Visit	Whitby Club
1st June, 2022	Grand Officers Dinner	Christleton
7th June, 2022	Grand Lodge (Investiture Meeting)	Freemasons' Hall, London
9th Sept, 2022	Charity Stewards' & Almoners' Dinner	Middlewich
13th Sept, 2022	Grand Lodge (Promotions Investiture)	Freemasons' Hall, London
8th Nov, 2022	Joppa Mark No.11 (Sesqui-Centenary)	Birkenhead

MARK PROVINCE OF CHESHIRE

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PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

R. W. Bro. Gary Raymond Horstman

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

R.A.M.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

AGM reception team needs recruits

THE Province is looking for volunteers to join the reception committee for the Annual General Meeting.

A couple of long-serving members of the group have stood down following last month's successful gathering and it is important that replacements are found to ensure that the team is kept up to full strength to carry out the essential tasks of making sure that everything is in place to guarantee a smooth and success meeting.

The Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Gary Horstman says: "We must give a very big "thank you" to Robert Owens, who is standing down as chairman of the Reception Committee after eighteen years, of unstinting service as well as John Bannell who is also standing down this year."

Brethren who are interested in becoming members of the team should email the Provincial Office to offer their support."



Mark Province of Cheshire

The Cheshire Mark Mason

Spring Edition

April 2022

The new PGM sets out his targets



IT didn't take R.W. Bro. Gary Horstman, long to get down to business following his investiture as the 14th Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire at Ellesmere Port last month.

Addressing the brethren, who had travelled from all points of Cheshire for this very special occasion, he was quick to point out that there were now opportunities to move forward again following the hiatus created by the covid pandemic and that we should all make the most of them.

His words were well received by everyone in the crowded auditorium and his speech is reproduced in the centre pages.

'Natural leader' Ben celebrated

THERE was an excellent attendance at Oaklands Masonic Hall in November when the gathering celebrated the 60 glorious years in Mark Masonry of M. W. Bro. Ben Addy, P.Pro.G.Master.

The birthday boy received the warmest of welcomes as he was paraded into the lodge room and it was clearly an emotional moment as he acknowledged the greetings from all those surrounding him.

Such is the esteem he is held in in Mark Masonry that his successor as Pro. Grand Master, M. W. Bro. John Smith made the journey north to Hyde to express the gratitude of Grand Mark Lodge for all that he had achieved locally and nationally.

He also expressed his personal gratitude for all the encouragement and guidance he had received from him on various committees within Grand Mark Lodge.

A highly successful Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire for 13 years, M. W. Bro. Ben started his rise through the Grand ranks when he was appointed a Grand Steward in 1981 and his industry, talents, integrity and particularly his warmth saw his rise in popularity and rank until he could travel no further.

At his 50th anniversary in London the then Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro Michael Herbert, read the following from a biography written by Bro Derek Brook of Haven Mark Lodge No.543: "Ben has proved to be a natural leader, he has not sought high office, rather high



M. W. Bro. Ben Addy is flanked by R. W. Bro. David Sellars and M. W. Bro. John Smith, the Pro Grand Master, at his double 60th. celebrations at Hyde.

office has sought him." and the Pro Grand Master said that the quotation was as relevant today and it was back then.

The social board that followed the celebration was just as poignant as the evening's work with congratulations and warm words flowing throughout the meal and beyond.

R. W. Bro. David Sellars paid an emotional farewell to his final Provincial team at the Acting Officers' Dinner at Christleton in March.

Appointed the 13th leader of the Province in March 2014, he was forced to take a step back to care of his wife Maira, who suffered a fall at the end of last year, his Deputy V. W. Bro. Austin Bamber taking what was hoped would be temporary charge.

However, he reviewed the situation in February and took the decision to retire

David hands over with Christleton farewell

from the post.

A very approachable and charming man, he led the Province of Cheshire with great dignity and worked hard with his team to tackle the challenges which covid brought, particularly in the middle of our MBF Festival.

In his letter announcing

David's retirement, R. W. Bro. Ryan Williams, the Grand Secretary, commented: "His hallmark has been his calm, professional demeanour and welcoming personality which undoubtedly endeared him to you all."

Those are sentiments I am sure are shared by all the members of the Province and I know they will join me in wishing him and his wife all the very best for the future. We look forward to him re-joining us in our lodges when circumstances permit.

All ship shape at RAM Assembly

THE Royal Ark Mariner Assembly returned after a covid hiatus at Christleton in January and it proved as popular as ever.

V. W. Bro. Austin Bamber presided over the gathering in the absence of the Provincial Grand Master and expressed his delight at the size of the attendance prior to welcoming a long list of distinguished Cheshire brethren

He then reported: "Last month we attended the Royal Ark Mariner Grand Assembly held at Great Queen Street, to witness two Cheshire brethren receive RAMGR.

"The Grand Master, Prince Michael of Kent, presided which I believe made the occasion more memorable to our recipients as usually the Pro G. M. presides at this Assembly. The two recipients were W. Bros. Robert Owens, De Tabley No.396 and Howard Waddell, Cornwall Legh No.839. To both, we proffer our sincerest congratulations and look forward to their support of the Order for many years to come.

"Shortly I shall have the pleasure, on behalf of the PGM, of investing those selected for promotion to Provincial Grand Rank. As you are aware, the prime purpose of this Assembly is to acknowledge those who have contributed to your Lodges and the Province over the past years.

"Brethren, neither a Grand nor Provincial Honour is awarded lightly; whilst they show past contributions to a Lodge, the Province, or the Order, more importantly they indicate what is expected in the future. The promotion of the

Order among Mark brethren is an important aspect, but equally, it is hoped their new Rank will help them to encourage and inspire their members and their Lodges to prosper

"I must acknowledge the continued efforts of the Provincial Secretariat for their work. Also, the contribution of the Provincial Director of Ceremonies, and his dedicated team, they have given diligent assistance to the Leaders around and across the Province, and particularly to yourselves brethren, for your support of this colourful and interesting Order and to this Provincial Grand Assembly.

"Finally, I wish to leave you with three "thoughts" (1) We are all Craft masons, support your Craft, so that there is a bigger, stronger, "deeper pool" to "fish in" for those brethren interested in expanding their knowledge of the "Progressive Orders" at Mark Masons Hall. (2) The RAM has a membership of a little over 50% of the Mark, they are the only directly eligible brethren qualified to become members, please increase your efforts to invite them to join us. (3) For whatever reasons, members have not been attending their Lodges, we must all endeavour to help our Lodge Almoner.

Please contact the absentee brethren, ask them how they are, tell them how much they are missed being seen at our Lodges.

Is there a way they can be assisted to return? Because the alternative is brethren:- if they believe they are not missed, they may be unlikely to return at all!

THE Wythenshawe Lodge of accompanied by the Deputy Master Robert McMillan, the Mark Master Masons No.532 Provincial Grand Master Provincial Grand Senior met at Sale Masonic Hall, Austin Bamber, and the Warden Stuart Jones, the Tatton Road on Thursday, Assistant Provincial Grand Provincial Grand Junior 2nd September 1971, to advance, Brother Clifford Charles Jewell.

And some 50 years later, at Cheshire View, Plough Lane, on Thursday 4th November 2021 the Wythenshawe Lodge were pleased to welcome the Provincial Grand Master David Sellars,



Warden Walter Grundy and a delegation of acting Provincial Officers to celebrate W. Bro Cliff Jewell's half-century in the degree.

V. W. Bro. Brian Sigsworth P.G.J.O. gave a valedictory address in honour of the celebrant, which was very well received.

The 2022 Cheshire Mark Provincial meeting

A time of change brings with it new opportunities

BRETHREN, I extend to you all my grateful thanks for your attendance here today, a day of celebration and advancement in the Mark Province of Cheshire, with the passage of time change is inevitable, and only by changing can we move forward and embrace the changing world we now live in.

Recently our lives have been changed in many ways, who would have thought, three years ago, that we would be facing a Covid pandemic which changed the world and has made us look outside the normal and look for different ways to work and enjoy ourselves.

Fortunately, freemasonry adapted with surprising swiftness, taking up Zoom meetings as if they were always part of our masonic life, supporting each other through those hard days and assisting those less fortunate than ourselves, both our Brother Masons and non-masons alike. The statement, we have never done it that way, has now been replaced by members asking how we can do something different, whilst still maintaining our Mark

THE Annual General Meeting heralded in a new chapter in the colourful and wonderful history of the Mark Province of Cheshire as R. W. Bro. Gary Horstman was invested as Provincial Grand Master and he addressed his thoughts on the future in his address, reproduced over these two pages.

traditions.

We now have the opportunity to attract new members, always remembering that the Craft has to succeed for us to add to our numbers, and with people working from home with little, or no outside social contact, they are looking to engage socially in the evenings, so we are perfectly placed to offer them that social contact, and also for them to be part of our great community.

To assist in ensuring that the Mark is ready to attract and receive these new members we have placed on each chair a

trifold leaflet which can be passed to your Lodge or Royal Arch colleagues, this will enable you to discuss with them the Mark Degree and the reasons they should wish to join.

Also on each seat is an application form, not to be thrust into prospective candidates' hands at the first opportunity, but to be completed when they are ready.

Accompanying these are several small cards, one has a QR box with a link to the Cheshire Mark website, so interested members can find some information about the Mark, feel free to give this to your friends who have not yet taken the step into Mark Masonry so they can see what our Order is about.

Another card advertises our 25% Club, it is free to join and in return the government will give you 25% on top of any money you donate to our charities, including of course our Festival, all you have to do is to follow the link on the obverse of the card and fill in the gift aid form.

the instructions of the Grand Director of Ceremonies and with my history as a Director of Ceremonies in many Orders they had to contend with me as well, so not an easy time for them.

I congratulate them all for their attention to detail and their ceremonial work, which they have carried out in a professional manner but still with a smile and cheery countenance.

Big 'thank you' to the support team

I WOULD like to thank the newly installed Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Master and the secretariat for their support running up to this meeting, with four weeks' notice the secretariat have been burning the midnight oil to ensure that all the T's were crossed and the I's dotted ready for this meeting.

The new Director of Ceremonies and his team have also had to adapt very quickly to



OUR new Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Gary Horstman, flanked by his Deputy, V. W. Bro. Austin Bamber (left) and Assistant, W. Bro. Robert McMillan, stand proudly at the head of the Provincial team

BRETHREN my address must of necessity be fairly short, as I do not wish to start my time as Provincial Grand Master being the one who made the Pro Grand Master late home.

However, it would be remiss of me not to take time to mention one of the Grand Team who is here to support us today, and that is our own R. W. Bro. Bruce David Harry, who is, as you all know, the Grand Chaplain.

I was going to say our old friend, but I am taking him home later I did not wish to face one of his head teacher telling off on the way, and of course Bruce would tell you that he is not old anyway.

Brethren many of you will not be aware but this meeting will be one of the last meetings that Bruce will attend as Grand Chaplain, as he is to step down later this year, he will of course still be a presence here in Cheshire and across the constitution, and as always, he will offer his full support to myself and to everyone else he meets.

PROVINCIAL OFFICERS ON THE MOVE

WE, as a Province, will celebrate our 150th Anniversary in 2023, further details will be released later this year.

In November this year, Joppa Mark Lodge No.11 celebrate their own 150th Anniversary, a special night for the Lodge and its members, details will be released as soon as they are to hand.

We have a number of Team Visits planned for the season and I look forward to meeting you with our new Provincial Team as we travel around the Province.

Worshipful Brother Peter Langley has been very busy updating our website and bringing it up to speed with the changes we are making, his work is not yet complete so please bear with him, I would like to thank him for offering his time to do this..

Our upgraded website will contain a link to a calendar so you can all see where your leadership is going and your attendance at each of these meetings will be welcomed.

The website will also contain a list of special events being held in Lodges so again you can support these if you so wish.

One of the Lodges we will be visiting is Fidelity Lodge No.31, which has been badly affected by the pandemic and I encourage any member who is looking to join another Lodge to consider this one, we would of course also welcome any new Mark members into this Lodge, as it approaches its 150th Anniversary.

Brethren you are aware that we now only have a short period of time before the conclusion of our 2024 Festival and the Festival team have been working very hard to catch up after our forced down time due to lockdown and restricted meetings, we have a new Dep Chairman, John Miller, who is working with our existing Deputy Chairman Steve Flood in an attempt to make up for lost time, to that end a number of new initiatives have been released, all details will be sent to you shortly and I encourage you to get involved and support these initiatives.



FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES Mark lodge celebrated its Centenary on Monday 14th February some 16 months late due to the Pandemic.

The Assistant Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Stephen Davison presided with the Deputy P.G.M. V. W. Bro. Austin Bamber and the A.P.G.M. Robert McMillan and there was some 72 Brethren present to help the lodge with its celebrations amongst which there was the P.G.M. for Staffordshire and Shropshire, R. W. Bro. Michael Heenan as well as the P.G.M. for North Wales, R. W. Bro. John Evans.

The celebrations included a brief history of the lodge presented by W Bro Philip Broadhurst and the presentation of 'commemorative Mark Tokens' to the members of the lodge as well as the presentation of new dedicated aprons for the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens which had been donated by the late W. Bro. Tony Mathie.

The evening was rounded off with a superb banquet at which the visiting Brethren each received a 'commemorative token' and a booklet of the history of 100 years of the Four Cardinal Virtues lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Strong Cheshire support for Wardens' Lodge

THE Consecration of the Provincial Grand Wardens' Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.2035 at Rugby was quite an occasion and Cheshire gave very strong support to the event.

Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V. W. Bro. Austin Bamber, and Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Robert McMillan were present to see for of our brethren invested as officers, with W. Bro. John Forbes taking the Junior Warden's chair. W. Bro. Bob Owens was invested as Treasurer and W. Bro. Derek Walsh as ADC, while W. Bros. Stuart Jones and Graham Kirby were Founder Members not in office. The new Cheshire Wardens, W. Bros. Stephen Roberts and John Goldsmith are

expected to become joining members at the next meeting on September.

The Lodge was consecrated by R. W. Bro. Philip Wills, the Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, before an attendance of 77.

A social board followed the proceedings in the lodge room and it was a fine example of all that is good in Mark Masonry with friendship and good humour in plentiful supply.

One of the main aims of the new lodge is to support the Mark Benevolent Fund and it made a great start with £834 being raised between the alms collection and a raffle. £734 was sent to the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey for their Festival appeal, with £100 retained for the

Up the creek ... with a paddle!

THE fund-raising efforts for the Cheshire MBF 2024 Festival will take to the water in June.

A team will be making their way by kayak from Marple in the east of the Province, through to Middlewich on the Cheshire Ring and then switch to the Shropshire Union Canal to finish at Ellesmere Port.

The event will be staged On June 10, 11 12, with teams of two men in the kayaks and they will be on the water for one-hour shifts.

Details can be found on the Provincial website, including a JustGiving page where you can support the "voyage," by supporting to the Festival cause.

Our Deputy Director of Ceremonies, Seb Daly, is a man who prefers to keep his feet on the ground and he will be running to boost Festival funds in the Chester Half Marathon on Sunday, May 15. Again, Seb has set up a JustGiving page which you can log on to via our website.

Robert McMillan, the Festival Chairman, is making a more sedate contribution to the cause, having put up a genuine Louis Vuitton handbag as the prize in a raffle. The draw will take place on Sunday, April 23.

Again details and an opportunity to buy tickets at £5 each can be accessed via the Cheshire Mark website.

The popular Salmon Lunch in the East of the Province, which has been a welcome fund-raiser over many years, returns to Stockport this year. The date is Sunday, June 26 and tickets are £20.

Introducing the Wardens

STEPHEN ROBERTS was invested as Provincial Senior Warden at the JAGM at Ellesmere Port. Initiated into the Craft in Everton Lodge No.823 in 1989, his first association with Cheshire came in 1992 when he joined Rock Lodge No.1289 and when they surrendered their warrant in 2011 he joined Seacombe Lodge No.3468

His association with the Mark Degree started in 1996 when he was Advanced into Rivacre Lodge No.1016, serving as Master in 2003, before joining Wythenshawe Lodge No.532 in 2008.

He was appointed Provincial Grand Junior Deacon in 2009 and promoted to P.Prov.G.S.O. in 2015.

Elevated into Royal Ark Mariner Masonry in Rivacre Lodge No.1016 in 2005, he served as Commander from 2009 to 2011. He joined Sincerity RAM No.327 in 2014 and Weaver RAM No.532 in 2021, receiving RAMProv.G.R. in 2018.

A resident of Eastham on The Wirral with his partner, Jean, he has a son and a daughter and two grandsons.

He joined Unilever at Port Sunlight in 1974, spending 18 years in the Laboratories doing Organic Chemistry then 22 years as a Security/Fire Team leader.

After retiring he was a volunteer at the Wirral St John's Hospice,

THE Mark Mason in the Junior Wardens' chair this year is John Goldsmith.

Married to Margaret, they have two children and four grandchildren.

He was introduced to Freemasonry by his farther-in-law and initiated into Vernon Lodge No.5117 in December 1987, becoming a Mark Master Mason a year later when he was advanced into Composite Lodge of MMM No.1005.

He was installed into the Chair of Composite in October 2006, and again in 2009. John also became a joining member of Cornwall Legh Lodge of MMM No.839 in 2007, and Doric Lodge of MMM No.792 in 2017.

Elevated into the Royal Ark Mariner degree in Cornwall Legh RAM No.839 in 2007, he was Commander in 2016.

In 2014 he received his first Provincial rank in the Mark degree, being invested as a Provincial Grand Steward, and subsequently became a member of the Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge No.1825.

Promoted to P.Prov.G.S.D. in 2015, he was appointed Prov.G.Swd.Br. three years later.

Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Rank followed in 2021. In spite of all this, He still finds time to enjoy crown green bowling where he also showed his leadership qualities by captaining two teams.