

Congratulations

To all the Brethren who received honours:
At Grand Mark Lodge 13th June 2006

Appointments

WBro Jeffrey Bleakley	PGStdB	WBro Christopher Bolton	GStwd
WBro Roy Castle	PAGDC	WBro Carl Dinsdale	PAGDC
WBro Roger Flitcroft	GSD	WBro Alan Garnett	GStwd
WBro Ian Lord	PAGDC	WBro Derek Pilling	PAGDC
WBro Percy Seward	PAGStdB	WBro Joseph Smith	PAGDC
WBro James Wright	PAGStdB		

Promotions

WBro Anthony Adler	PGSD	VWBro Stephen Holt	PGJO
WBro Trevor Jewitt	PGJD	WBro Alex McLaren	PGJD
WBro David Winstanley	PGJD		

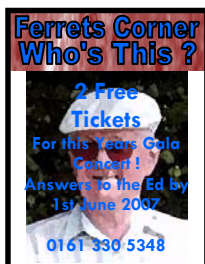
At Grand Royal Ark Mariner Lodge 12th December 2006

WBro Barry Billinge	WBro Malcolm Fletcher	WBro George Catanach
WBro Barry Heap	WBro Trevor Jewitt	WBro Charles Pilkington
WBro James Studwick		

All Mark Masons, particularly those new to our Order would be especially welcome to attend the Provincial Mark Meeting on 6th June 2007

Diary Dates

- 12th Jan 07: Prov Mark Grand Stewards Lodge No. 1272, Rochdale
- 29th Jan: Prov Grand Officers RAM Lodge No. 990, Installation
- 8th Mar: Gawthorpe Lodge Kinship Meeting, Burnley
- 13th Mar: Grand Mark Lodge, London
- 16th Mar: 5th Annual Mark Masters Dinner, Burnley Masonic Hall
- 2nd April: Thomas Sharples Barlow Mark Lodge No. 1383
- 22nd April: Grand and Provincial 2006 Officers Reception
- 24th April: Prov Mark Grand Officers Lodge No. 990
- 6th June: Prov Grand Mark Lodge Annual Investiture, Bolton
- 12th June: Grand Mark Lodge Investiture, London
- 2nd Aug: Leslie F Hiles Golf Trophy Worsley Golf Club
- 26th Aug: Mark Fellowship. Family Fun Day, Middleton
- 7th Sept: Prov Mark Grand Stewards Lodge No. 1272
- 29th Oct: Prov Grand Officers RAM Lodge No. 990, Investiture
- 30th Oct: Prov Mark Grand Officers Lodge No. 990
- 5th Nov: Thomas Sharples Barlow Mark Lodge No. 1383, Installation
- 11th Nov: Mark Fellowship Cabaret Evening
- 9th Dec: Mark Carol Service, Perseverance Mark Lodge, Blackburn
- 10th Dec: Grand Mark Stewards Lodge, London
- 11th Dec: Grand Royal Ark Mariners Investiture, London.



The Keystone & Ark

Welcome

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Special points of interest:
New Grand & Provincial Officers Reception

Looking back over 2006 it has been a very eventful year for Mark Masonry in East Lancashire with the Consecration of Temperance Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in March, which brings our number of RAM lodges to thirty four. The 150th celebration of the Mark Grand Lodge, with our own celebration at Bridge Street in August, and then the Grand Lodge celebration at the Royal Albert Hall in October, the laying of the Foundation Stone for the new headquarters of the St. John Ambulance in October, banner dedications and personal member celebrations.



As well as supporting other Provincial Meetings, we travelled to Cornwall for their Festival and to Switzerland for the Investiture of the new Grand Master. Looking forward to 2007 I think my single Mark resolution for next year would be for me to help you all to enjoy this very friendly Mark degree of ours even more than last year.

My aspirations fall into one or two categories. On Wednesday 29th September 1910 at a meeting in Liverpool, this East Lancashire Mark Province of ours was born. It is my aim to celebrate the centenary of this in 2010, so as they say, watch this space. I will continue to promote and encourage Brethren to take up membership of our Degree, but am ever mindful that we must continually be on the look-out for Craft Masons as without them, our Order will never grow satisfactorily.

I am continuously working towards my aim of having a 2:1 ratio of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner membership and encourage all Mark Masons who have not already taken this next step to seriously consider doing so. Thank you all again for your support, enthusiasm and loyalty to this Degree. May I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Happy and Prosperous New Year and good luck in your own New Year resolutions.

RAM Consecration

On Monday 20th March 2006 at Rochdale the ceremony and everyone enjoyed the Masonic Hall, a new Lodge was born and a new fellowship at the festive board that followed.

RWBro Keith Partington Schofield, Provincial Grand Master, and his team consecrated Temperance Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners which will meet at Todmorden Masonic Hall. Twenty six petitioning founders assembled and the Lodge was Opened, Consecrated, Dedicated and Constituted before the first Commander WBro Reg Newsome was installed.



The Lodge room was full to overflowing for

Provincial Grand Secretary John Barlow



Who's Who

Full Name JOHN BARLOW

Earliest Memory INFANT SCHOOL	Favourite Food ROAST BEEF
Worst Habit REMEMBERING MY RITUAL	What would you spend your last Tenner on A TAXI HOME
The Last White Lie INFORMING MY SON TUESDAY IS NOT A FURTHER CHRISTMAS HE IS 30 YEARS OLD	Your ideal day off MY SON'S DAUGHTER BEING WITH ME
Biggest Regret MY TWIN BROTHER NOT BEING WATE FOR BECOMING A FREEMASON	What annoys you APPOINTMENTS
Favourite Sport MOTOR SPORT	Most admirable quality UNABLE TO SAY 'NO'
Most Prized Possession MY FAMILY	Ambitions to fulfil TO REVERSE 'MOST ADMIRABLE QUALITY'

Provincial Mark Almoner

The Provincial Grand Almoner, VWBro Keith Clayton asks that you let him break new ground. He is talking about health, your health, his health and the health of our wives, partners and dependants.

He thinks that most of you will agree that early diagnosis can save lives and on the basis of these facts he advises you that if the National Health Service cannot provide an urgent consultation with a Specialist / Consultant, whom your General Practitioner recommends, he may be willing to finance a private consultation. In recent weeks Brethren and on numerous occasions he has heard of delays in excess of three months in seeing the appropriate Specialist / Consultant. He may be prepared to finance for a trial period, a one off appointment privately without any

Provincial Almoner Keith Clayton. Tel: 0161 370 1433

Cornwall 2006 Festival

Pendennis Castle in Falmouth was the venue for the 138th Mark Benevolent Festival on Saturday 8th July. A team of East Lancashire Mark Masons, looking for sun, sea and sangria set out for the Cornish Riviera. Well despite a lot of effort, a Thurs evening restaurant dinner, a Friday boat day trip to Truro, a Friday Eve of Festival Gala Buffet and the Saturday Festival, 2 out of 3 is not bad, Where is all the Sangria! The Mark Province of Cornwall with 30 Mark



means testing whatsoever, providing he is assured by the Lodge Almoner or some other responsible member of our Order or indeed the Patient himself that to proceed with a private consultation may cause financial hardship or difficulty. This in his experience tends to expedite any treatment that may be necessary and as he said this may possibly save lives. Keith said "This profound innovation typifies our Provincial Grand Master's foresight and his caring attitude towards others."

Lodges and 14 RAM Lodges raised the magnificent sum of £560,000



Canon's Close Retirement

RWBro Keith P Schofield accompanied by his wife Brenda hung a large framed watercolour of "Lyndene" in the entrance hall of Barlow House on Sunday 13th August. Afterwards celebrating the retirement of Ted Diggle after 19 years as secretary and later chairman of Canons Close, who received from all his friends at Canons Close an Admirals decanter with matching glasses.



committee in 1987 when he was invited to become secretary by RWBro George Gray, later taking over from the then chairman Derek Livesey. His first main task was to oversee the main contractor John Broadley in the building of the new apartment block, now known as Barlow House, on the site where "Lyndene" the former home of Thomas Sharples Barlow stood.

Barlow House was opened by HRH Prince Michael of Kent. Grand Master on 8th December 1987. Ted first became involved with the Canons Close

First Grand and Provincial Officers Reception



Schofield said a few words of thanks for their work within the Mark Degree to date and outlined his expectations of them and the future of Mark Masonry in East Lancashire. This successful event will now be organised for all newly appointed officers each year.

This year the Provincial Grand Master held for the first time a newly appointed Grand and Provincial Officers Reception at the MacDonald Norton Grange Hotel, Castleton. A beautiful day allowed everyone to enjoy the open spaces of the terrace for a wine reception, followed by a buffet style lunch inside the hotel. After which RWBro Keith



Grande Loge Nationale Suisse

Chateau D'Oron played host to the 10th Anniversary meeting and installation of the new Grand Master for Switzerland on Saturday 16th September. Sixteen Mark masons and their ladies keenly set out for the weekend, to a country where 3 languages are spoken by almost all and indeed during the Installation ceremony all three were heard. Where the mountains still have snow, as they found out during the morning visit, up one of the steepest mountain trains in



Europe, to Rochers-De Naye. After the afternoon installation and a celebration drink, the ladies rejoined the group for more drinks and dinner. The scene at the restaurant "La Vieille Ferme" above Montreux resembled an old barn with long tables in all directions, being from Lancashire they had the wit to find their own table fairly quickly and stock it with copious amounts of Swiss beer and Swiss wine. A very tired team arrived for breakfast next day and the journey home, but yet another happy and successful trip.



The Mark Grand Lodge 150th Celebration



Over 5,000 attended the ceremony, but such was the demand for tickets that 500 others met in the Grand temple at Freemasons Hall to watch a video link. Among those present were HRH The Duke of Kent, Lord Northampton and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall in her role as President of the National Osteoporosis Society. She received a cheque for £3 million from the Grand Master as a tangible celebration of the 150th.

150 Mark masons and their ladies from East Lancashire travelled down to London to see history being made on 26th October at the Royal Albert Hall when the Grand Master HRH Prince Michael of Kent presided over the 150th celebration of the Mark Grand Lodge.

Mark Charity Evening

The first Mark Charity evening hosted by the Provincial Grand Charity Steward WBro Bob Slater held at his Priory Mark lodge on 25th January.

The Provincial Grand Master accompanied by a Provincial deputation attended the meeting in a packed room at Clayton-Le-Moors.

WBro John Crawford enlightened all present to the work of the ELMBF, their good deeds, their

work in the community and the two homes run by the Province. The evening raised a magnificent sum of £1,000.00 for the ELMBF.



Mark Celebrations



George Catanach

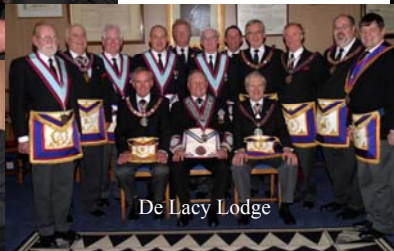
**Supera Moras
Mark Lodge
Banner Dedication
17th May**



James Holden



Sushil Rawal



De Lacy Lodge



Mark Foundation Stone for New Headquarters

RWBro Keith P Schofield, the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Masons of East Lancashire, laid the Foundation Stone of the new Headquarters of St. John Ambulance for Greater Manchester in Stockport.

On Tuesday 3rd October 2006 at 11am, Senior Volunteers from St John Ambulance Greater Manchester were joined by their CEO and Management team along with Senior Mark Master Masons of East Lancashire, attending the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of their new Headquarters at Crossley Road, Stockport.

RWBro Keith P Schofield, the Provincial Grand Master, was invited to lay the foundation stone of the new building, on behalf of the Mark Master Masons of East Lancashire, who are key donors in assisting the work of St John.

The link between the two organisations goes back a long way, starting at the turn of the century when the Mark Grand Master HRH Prince Michael of Kent presented the Grand Prior of St John, HRH Duke of Gloucester with a donation of £2,000,000 for a new fleet of Crusader Ambulances.

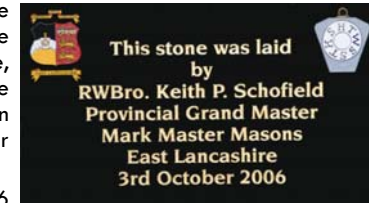
The Mark Masons in East Lancashire elected to support St John further in both their Lancashire and Greater Manchester regions. In 2001



£5,000 was donated to each region for extra on board ambulance equipment. In 2005 another £5,000 was donated to each St

John region. Greater Manchester used this money to purchase specially equipped mountain bikes for rapid response in congested areas.

For the last twenty-four years St John Ambulance has operated its headquarters from an ex purpose-built school premises in Fallowfield. With 650 volunteer adult members and 700 youth members, there was an urgent need for St John in Greater Manchester to build a Centre of Excellence.



St John Ambulance began building the new Centre of Excellence in March 2006 and construction work is now well under way. Situated on Crossley Road, just off the A6, it is due to be completed in the early spring of 2007. The cost of the land and building is

£2,600,000 and St John Ambulance (Greater Manchester) is currently in the process of a major fundraising campaign to meet these costs.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Keith P Schofield was supported by his Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro Mervyn F Wilson, his two Assistant Provincial Grand Masters



David Anderson and Reginald Newsome, accompanied by a number of senior members of the East Lancashire Mark Province.

Members of St John Ambulance (Greater Manchester) at the ceremony were Mr Nicholas Bird, County Chairman, Mr Howard Gooddie, County President, Mr George Almond, County Commander, Ian Jones, Honorary Treasurer, Mrs Lindsey Harding, County Executive Officer, Mr Andrew Moon, Commercial Services Manager,



Mr Robert Carter, Corporate Services Manager.

The Mark Masons of East Lancashire and St John Ambulance have served the communities of Greater Manchester for many many years.

East Lancashire's Celebration of 150 years of Grand Lodge



Bridge Street in Manchester on the 4th August 2006 saw just how the Mark masons celebrate an occasion. Almost 400 Mark masons and their partners attended East Lancashire's' celebration of the foundation of Mark Grand Lodge 150 years ago.

Before, during and after the Buffet style meal everybody was superbly entertained by a top Manchester



pianist during the wine reception, during the meal by the Hoover Brass Band, then for everyone's enjoyment a top class celebrity



singer. A sponsors raffle and a free raffle was drawn by RWBro Keith P Schofield in the Memorial Hall.

