



Hertfordshire Mark *focus*

The Newsletter of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Hertfordshire

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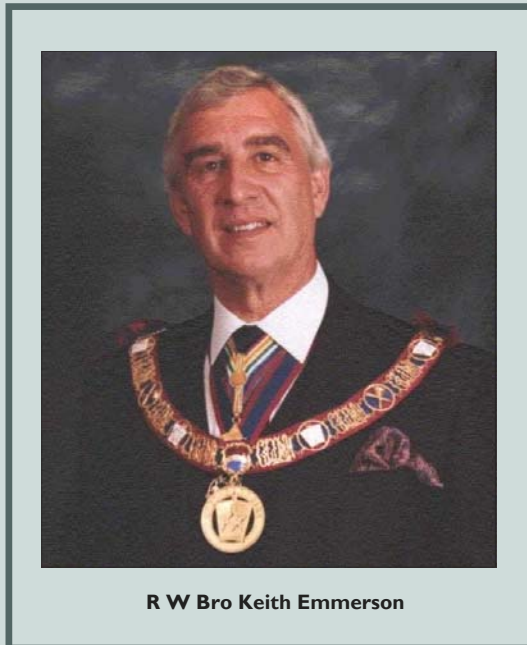
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Introduction and welcome

I am delighted to have the opportunity of welcoming you to this, the first issue of **Hertfordshire Mark focus**.

It has, for a number of years, been one of my aims to be able to publish, on a regular basis, a newsletter providing details of just what is happening in this lovely Mark Province of ours colloquially known as 'Happy Hertfordshire.'



R W Bro Keith Emmerson

I hope that it will be a conduit whereby news items, stories of interest, personal views and thoughts, individual profiles, charitable issues, general information and many other matters, affecting not only the Province but Lodges and individual members, can be expressed.

It will provide the opportunity for each of us to express our views, ideas and thoughts on a whole range of issues ranging from matters within our own Lodges, the Province or even wider to those affecting Mark masonry generally.

It does, of course, mean that for our Newsletter to be successful we need to assist our Editor, W Bro David Bondy, by providing items of interest together with those snippets of information that will keep us both amused and intrigued.

Amongst our large membership it is inevitable that there are brethren with amazing stories to tell, be they Masonic or personal, that would be of interest to us all.

This is your Newsletter so, don't be shy or reticent, please drop a line to the Editor.

Finally, I do hope that you all fully enjoy this, our first publication.

Keith Emmerson
Provincial Grand Master

PGM's "Pop" joins Hemel Hempstead Lodge of MMM

Provincial Grand Master Keith Emmerson's father Alf has become a member of our Province by joining Hemel Hempstead Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

It was felt that whilst Bro Alfred Emmerson has been a most ardent and strong supporter of Hertfordshire ever since Keith first took office, it was high time he became a fully subscribing member!

Bro Alf, now in his 90th year, is a member of the York, TI Lodge of MMM in the Province of North and East Yorkshire, He was the recipient of the R W Provincial Grand Master's Silver Token of Merit in 2003 and was further honoured at Provincial Grand Lodge this year when the PGM had the pleasure of appointing him to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Inner Guard.

Our photograph shows father and son (father is on the right!) at the meeting where Alf was elected a joining member.



Keith & Alf Emmerson

Hertfordshire Mark ambulance presentation

Following a three-year appeal by the Provincial Grand Master, more than £50,000 has been raised by the Mark Masons of Hertfordshire in just 30 months.

This money has been given solely by the members of the Mark degree from their own resources, unlike many other groups which collect money from the public for similar good causes.

It has enabled the purchase of a Crusader 900 Ambulance which is fully equipped to do everything from minor operations to resuscitating Heart attack victims as well as provide the first-aid cover for which the St. John Ambulance is famous.



The PGM presents the ambulance to the County Commander. The Deputy Commander, the DPGM and the APGM look on

The Hertfordshire Mark Ambulance was dedicated and formally presented to St. John Ambulance on Sunday 22nd May at the Abbey Church and Cathedral of St

Alban. The service of dedication took place as part of the service of Choral Eucharist. The presentation itself taking place outside the West Door.

R W Bro Keith Emmerson, placed his hand on the Ambulance and said "On behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Hertfordshire, I present to the Prior of the Priory of England and the Islands of St John Ambulance, this Ambulance and request that you accept it and make use of it for the work of St John Ambulance in Hertfordshire for the benefit of those who are sick or injured and for the training of those who take part in that work".

The County Commander of the St. John Dr Christopher Lund laid his hand on the Ambulance and replied "On behalf of the Prior of the Priory of England and the Islands of St John Ambulance, I accept this Ambulance. I thank you for your generosity in providing St John Ambulance in Hertfordshire with such an important and useful vehicle for the continuance of our work in the community".

The Chaplain of the St. John then blessed the Ambulance.

On this occasion and by special permission of the MW Grand Master, full-dress Mark regalia was worn both inside the Cathedral during the dedication service and outside at the handing over ceremony. The St. John members present wore ceremonial regalia and the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and Assistant all wore their respective chains of Office.

Mark masons help support prostate cancer treatment

As part of their £2 million national initiative to support diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer, the Mark Fund of Benevolence have donated £29,000 to the Urology department at Barnet Hospital to buy a new state of the art Ultrasound Scanner. The presentation took place in the Boardroom, Barnet Hospital, on the afternoon of Wednesday 30th March 2005.

On presenting the equipment, R W Bro Keith Emmerson said, 'On behalf of the Mark Fund of Benevolence, I am delighted to make this

presentation today. It is hoped that by this national initiative, hospitals such as Barnet and Chase Farm, and other similar hospitals throughout the country will be able to provide an early and greater level of treatment for those suffering from this particular disease.'

In reply, Consultant Urologist Tim Briggs said "We are delighted to receive such a generous donation. Our department carries out over 650 biopsies each year to determine whether our patients have prostate cancer, this new equipment is essential to making the diagnosis."

"This piece of equipment will help to ensure a quick and accurate diagnosis for the patient."

The new scanner, which was also part funded by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, is the replacement for an older such piece of equipment and will enable quicker patient diagnosis. Tim Briggs explained

"Ultrasound assisted biopsies is a minimally invasive procedure which is performed under local anaesthetic. This piece of equipment will help to ensure a quick and accurate diagnosis for the patient."



The PGM along with Tim Briggs and James Gelister (Consultant Urologists) at the presentation

V W Brother Kenneth R Chopard, PGJO



V W Bro Ken Chopard

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V W Bro Kenneth R Chopard, PGJO, aged 74 years, in this our inaugural 'focus' Newsletter, and I am sure the thoughts and sympathy of us all go out to his wife Rosalie at this time.

In the early 1960's his work as a Sales Executive for Vauxhall Motors took him to South Wales and it was here that he was initiated in Ystradyfodwg Lodge No 7638. He returned to our Province in 1974 when he pursued his Masonic interests more vigorously, primarily in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

Within our own Province he will be most remembered for his love of, and association with, the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees. He was Advanced into Harpenden Mark Lodge No 1254 in February 1976. He was also a Founder of St Cecilia Mark Lodge No 1701 and White Stone Mark Lodge No 1832 and a member of Hertfordshire Installed Masters Lodge No 1121.

In the Degree of Royal Ark Mariner he was Elevated in Harpenden Lodge, a member of Hertfordshire Installed Commanders and was the holder of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

He was involved in the Province for many years with a first appointment in 1988 to Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer with promotion in 1991 to Provincial Grand Junior Warden, followed by appointment as Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 1996 and Deputy Provincial Grand Master in 2002. In Grand Lodge he held the rank of Past Grand Junior Overseer.

In addition, he was a member of many other Degrees and Orders primarily within the Provinces of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, holding senior rank in most of them. He was also Deputy District Grand Prefect of the District of East Anglia of the Allied Masonic Degrees, as well as that of Deputy Intendant-General of the East Midlands Division of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine.

He was a caring and sensitive man, forever with a smile on his face and twinkle in his eye, ready to extend a warm welcome to all. Throughout his active association as an Executive member of the Province he showed great commitment and dedication, providing sound and constructive advice. He was also known and respected well beyond the boundaries of our own Province.

During his relatively short illness he displayed great fortitude and strength of character facing it head-on. He will be missed by us all.

Hertfordshire Membership at an all-time high!

In giving his annual report to Provincial Grand Lodge the Provincial Grand Registrar, W Bro David Trumble was pleased to be able to say that the number of Advancements has continued at last year's high level.

Only five Mark lodges failed to have at least one candidate during the year.

He went on to comment that what he found even more encouraging is that exclusions were down by fifty percent to their the lowest levels in a decade, similarly, resignations were down by twenty percent which, as a percentage of the total membership, is the lowest level in living memory!

Our subscribing membership therefore stands at 1,233 showing a rise of six over last year. This continues the ever-upward trend since the low point of 1998/99.

In the Royal Ark Mariner degree, after last year's thirty-four percent increase in the number of Elevations it

was, perhaps, inevitable that this year would be more normal, and so it has proved.

Whilst it was pleasing to see some 33 brethren Elevated, similar to two years ago, we unfortunately had 43 resignations resulting in the number of

subscribing members falling to 798.

On a more positive note, however, we need to recognise that still one third of members of our Mark Lodges do not belong to a Royal Ark Mariner

Lodge. From this it is intended to continue with and, perhaps, give more emphasis to the Mark Meets Royal Ark Mariner initiative.

W Bro Trumble ended his report by reminding the members that "We still have more members in both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees than we had in 1992!"

"We still have more members in both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees than we had in 1992!"

Awards and achievements

Congratulations to W Bros **Maurice Lilley** and **Alan Hopwood** on being awarded the PGM's Silver Token of Merit.

Congratulations to W Bro **Paul Ostwind** and Bro **Keith Stevens** who have both achieved the status of Grand Patron of the Mark Fund of Benevolence.

Congratulations also to V W Bro **Ralph Wheeler**, W Bro **Malcolm Hill** and W Bro **Paul Gower** who have all become Grand Patrons of the Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund.

Masters and Commanders Sunday lunch

Sunday April 10th at Mayflower Place, Hertingfordbury was the date and venue of this year's Masters and Commanders carvery luncheon. The ladies were invited and the event was fully subscribed and very much enjoyed by all.

Questions have been asked, however, following the PGM's return from Australia with a pattern for new headgear (complete with dangling corks) to be worn by members of the Provincial Executive!



Members of the Executive model the PGM's proposed Provincial headgear!



The Newsletter of The
Provincial Grand Lodge of
Mark Master Masons of

Hertfordshire Mark focus
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What's next on the Charity side?

The reaching of the target and the closing of the ambulance appeal last year heralded the start of the newest Charity initiative of the Province.

The purpose of this is to support the many varied and local, smaller charities and good causes that operate within and around the Province.

This has steadily been gathering pace and a number of Lodges have already adopted a charity of their choice.

Support, given by way of donations, made both from the Lodge, backed up an additional donation from the Provincial Benevolent Fund has enabled financial assistance to be given to a number of small charities who often operate on a shoe-string budget. These

donations have been very warmly and gratefully received by all of the charities concerned.

Our Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W Bro Andy Golledge, urges those Lodges who have not yet adopted a local charity or good cause to seek one out and then pledge money towards it. By contacting Andy they can gain further support from the Province and make a significant contribution to their chosen charity to assist them in the valuable work that they carry out in our community.

Andy can be contacted by on charity@hertsmark.org