

New Royal Ark Mariner Lodge

Earlier in the year the then, Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Keith Emmerson had the happy duty of consecrating a new Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, making a total of thirty-two RAM Lodges in the Province.

The new Lodge is the Stanstead Abbots Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 1809, it is moored to the Stanstead Abbots Lodge of Mark Master Masons and meets at the edge of the Province in Sawbridgeworth. These being the only Mark / RAM Lodges meeting in Sawbridgeworth.



The members of Stanstead Abbots Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners

R W Bro Dennis Thomas

One major loss to the Province, and to Freemasonry this year was that of Dennis Thomas.

Dennis was a well-known figure in Hertfordshire in a number of degrees apart from the Mark. He had been an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft but the Mark remained his greatest passion.

Dennis was Advanced and Elevated in Watford Mark and RAM Lodges and served as Worshipful Master and Commander of them both. He became ProvGSW in 1977 before taking up the office of ProvGSec in 1978 - an office he held for three years prior to his appointment as DPGM in 1981 and then PGM some seven years later. Dennis was our PGM until he retired in 1998 when Keith Emmerson was appointed in his stead.

In Mark Grand Lodge, Dennis received a first appointment in active rank as AGDC in 1979, this was followed in 1981 by promotion to DGDC, an office he

held for three years whilst still serving as DPGM. A further promotion to PGJO followed in 1986. He received RAMGR in 1978 and was an enthusiastic member of the GMRAC from 1993.

"Most of the fund-raising was done under Dennis' energetic leadership."

R W Bro Keith Emmerson presided over the 1999 Festival for the Mark Benevolent Fund and some £450,000 was donated under his leadership. Most of the fund raising, however, had been done by the Province under Dennis'

energetic leadership.

Sadly, after such a busy Masonic life, spanning over 50yrs, his health deteriorated not long after his retirement and it was necessary for him to withdraw from active participation for some time prior to his death.

Typically, he left his regalia to the Province and his PGM's apron is now worn by RW Bro Chris Radmore.

He will be remembered with affection.

Hertfordshire Mark Masons Endowment Fund

The Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Chris Radmore is energetically promoting the appeal launched by R W Bro Keith Emmerson during his final year in office.

The charity appeal aims to raise £25,000 over the next two years for a Scholarship Endowment Fund at the University of Hertfordshire.

The interest generated from the fund, once the target is met, will allow the Province to support one undergraduate student every three years at £1000 per year.

This appeal is different to those in the past in that the benefits will be on-going in perpetuity and is one which will be sure to have the support of all Brethren in the Province.



Hertfordshire Mark focus

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

Winter 2008

Volume 2, Issue 1

New Provincial Grand Master Installed

Following the retirement of Keith Emmerson, the MW The Grand Master was pleased to appoint W Bro Chris Radmore as his successor.

The installing team, led by the MW Pro Grand Master entered in procession preceded by our own W Bro Geoff Parrish, PGStwd who was acting as Grand Sword Bearer for the day.



R W Bro Chris Radmore



M W Bro John Hale entering Provincial Grand Lodge in procession

In This Issue:

- PGM Installation
- New Charity Appeal
- Berwick to Land's End with a bus pass
- Capt John Dodsworth meets the PM

Contents

New PGM Installed	1, 2
Honour for Hertfordshire Mason	2
Awards and Achievements	3
Farewell to Keith Emmerson	3
Sponsored Bus Ride	3
New Royal Ark Mariner Lodge	4
Obituary: R W Bro Dennis Thomas	4
Endowment Fund	4

Chris was installed as Provincial Grand Master at a special meeting held on 15th July 2008 at The Royal Masonic School for Girls.

Chris is well-known to us all having served the Province first as Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary and latterly as Provincial Grand Secretary, an office he held for three years.

The special meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was opened by R W Bro John Oakley-Smith, Deputy Provincial Grand Master-in-Charge.



R W Bro John Oakley-Smith entering Provincial Grand Lodge

Chris Radmore was escorted into Provincial Grand Lodge by R W Bro Graham Herbert, GDC and the Masters of several Hertfordshire Lodges especially selected for the occasion, read his Patent of appointment, was obligated, invested and installed by the Pro Grand Master.

Chris then appointed R W Bro John Oakley-Smith, PGJW as his Deputy and W Bro Colin Hellyer, PGJD as his Assistant.

Provincial Grand Lodge was then called off and the new Provincial Grand Master was escorted from Provincial Grand Lodge by the Provincial Grand DC. Over three hundred Brethren then retired for an excellent luncheon.



R W Bro Chris Radmore retires escorted by the Provincial Grand DC



www.hertsmark.org

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

Hertfordshire Mark focus Edited and Produced by:

David N Bondy
2 Woodside
Cheshunt
Hertfordshire
EN7 5DE

Tel: 01992 641628
Mobile: 07525 261363
editor@hertsmark.org

PGM Installation Continued ...

Prior to lunch the M W Pro Grand Master and the newly-installed RW Provincial Grand Master circulated amongst the Brethren and chatted to them.

At the special festive board, almost all of the other orders in the Province were well represented and their heads joined the members of the Mark Province for lunch.

Amongst these were Rt W Bro Arthur Craddock, First Grand Master Mason of the Worshipful Society of Freemasons (Operatives), M W Fra John Paternoster, Supreme Magus of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia as well as, from Hertfordshire; the R W Provincial Grand Master, Colin Harris; the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch, E Comp John Illott; R E Kt Brian Blanchard, Provincial Prior of the Knights Templar, R III Kt Brian Muir, Divisional Intendant General for the Red Cross of Constantine; R III Comp Colin Thurston, District Grand Master for Hertfordshire in the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, the aforementioned R W Bro John Paternoster as District Grand Prefect for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire in the Allied Masonic Degrees; R Wy Bro Keith Huddleston, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Beds, Cambs and Herts in the Order of the Secret Monitor.

Later in the afternoon, Provincial Grand Lodge was resumed and the Provincial Officers of the year were appointed and invested.

Significant amongst these was the appointment of W Bro Richard Walker as Provincial Grand Secretary

who is sure to receive much wise-counsel from his predecessors.

Presentations were made of £7,000 to R W Bro Colin Harris, Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of Hertfordshire for their 2009 festival and a further £2,000 to the St John Ambulance to pay for the upkeep of the two ambulances previously presented.

Proceedings being over and all business concluded, the



The Recession Assembles

Provincial Grand Master then closed Provincial Grand Lodge in Due Form and the Provincial Officers, principal guests and other dignitaries retired in procession.

It is not often that one has the opportunity to attend the Installation of a Provincial Grand Master and all present agreed that it was truly a momentous occasion and one which they will remember for a very long time.

Honour for Hertfordshire Mark Mason

All members of the degree will have seen the Veteran's lapel badges worn by many Freemasons in and around the Province. But did you know that there is a similar badge now being awarded to veterans of the merchant navy? One such veteran is Bro Captain John Dodsworth of Halsey Lodge of Mark Master Masons — John is also a Past Commander of Halsey Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners..

John, along with his wife Beryl, was invited to Downing Street to receive his badge personally from Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Secretary of State for Defence Des Browne. John was recognised for his participation in the Suez Crisis of 1956.



John and Beryl on the steps of No 10

Awards and achievements

Congratulations to W Bro **Paddy Wood** on his award of an MBE in this years' Queen's Birthday Honours. The award recognises Paddy's work as Chairman of the Harpenden branch of the RNLI.

Congratulations also to W Bro **Geoff Ascott** of Latimer Lodge of MMM No. 962 and to W Bro **John Bluett** of Justice & Liberty Lodge No. 1593 on their being awarded the PGM's Silver Token of Merit.

Farewell to Keith Emmerson

A dinner was given at the end of May to mark the retirement of R W Bro Keith Emmerson as our Provincial Grand Master after ten years.

Keith was invested as Provincial Grand Master in September 1998 and retired in June of 2008.

On behalf of all the Lodges in the Province, W Bro Geoff Parrish, who had organised the dinner, presented Keith with a hallmarked silver Armada dish. The dish sits on a plinth of polished wood to which is affixed a plate showing that the dish is a gift from the members of the Province as a gesture of thanks for ten happy years under Keith's direction.

Keith's wife, Jean, was presented with a gift of rose bushes of a variety called "Hertfordshire."

Keith's health was proposed by W Bro John Oakley-Smith, Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Keith replied in suitable terms.



Geoff Parrish and Keith Emmerson

Sponsored Bus Ride



W Bros David Trumble, Eric Grosvenor and Ron March

In June the Province received an email from W Bro Eric Grosvenor, a member of the Durham Province, asking for support for his sponsored bus ride from Berwick-upon-Tweed to Land's End using only his concessionary bus pass, to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

He explained that his grandson had been diagnosed as a Type I Diabetic earlier in the year and he wanted to do something to help.

His plan was to visit as many Mark Lodges as possible en route and to this end he asked if he could visit Bishop's Stortford Lodge No. 1236 (amongst others in the Province). The Lodge readily agreed to invite him but rather than sponsorship decided to donate the contents of the Alms Maul to the cause.

W Bro Eric subsequently attended both the Mark and RAM Lodges and the total collected (including personal donations from members of the Provincial Executive) amounted to just under £160. The Province had previously agreed to match this amount so a very happy Eric left the festive board, where he had been a guest of the Lodge, with a cheque for £315.84. In his thanks he said that this was the largest single donation he had received on his travels.