

Mark My Words

-- The Newsletter for the Mark Master Mason

Page 1



January
2007

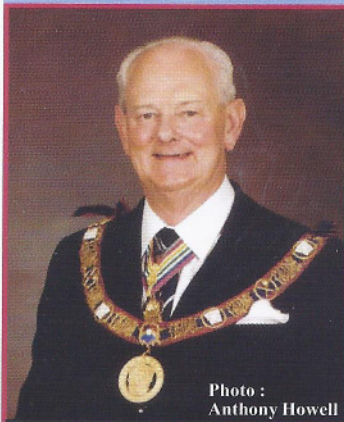


Photo :
Anthony Howell

R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett, J.P.
Provincial Grand Master

A collection of recent history, current events and future affairs, for Mark Master Masons of the Province of South Wales

Sesquicentenary Edition

1856 - 2006

**On such an occasion as this—All time and nonsense scorning,
Nothing shall come amiss—And we won't go home till morning.**

John Baldwin Buckstone 1802 — 1879



A Glittering Occasion to Mark 150 years of Mark Masonry

On Thursday 26th. October 2006, Mark Master Masons from all over the British Isles gathered to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the Mark Degree, at the Albert Hall, in London. The Grand Master, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, entered in procession, and after an opening hymn and prayer an illustrated talk was given by R W Bro. James W Daniel on the Founders and Builders of the Premier Lodge of Mark Master Masons, in 1856.

There followed a musical interlude in which the assembly was entertained by the choir and solo Instrumentalists of the Royal Masonic School, after which the five founding Lodges of the Degree were presented with new Banners, which were then dedicated in a ceremony performed by the Grand Master.

A charitable donation was then made, in the sum of £3M, to the National Osteoporosis Society, to provide a number of mobile scanners - 20ft vehicles - containing very high-quality bone-scanning equipment, run by trained health professionals. These vehicles will be used to visit areas which are remote enough to make travel to medical centres a problem, or where existing services are overwhelmed by the demand. The cheque was presented (picture on following page) amid tumultuous applause

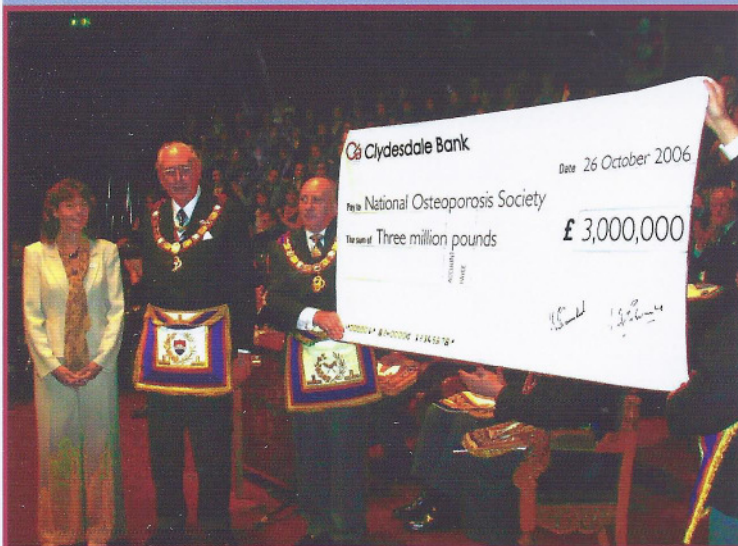
Mark My Words

-- The Newsletter for the Mark Master Mason

Page 2



January
2007



The National Osteoporosis Society accepts the cheque for £3M from the Grand Master. The assembly was also honoured by the presence of the Society's President, the Duchess of Cornwall, whose entry into the Albert Hall was greeted with warm applause, and Princess Michael of Kent.



Two Grand Masters—two Brothers (Rt. Worshipful) Prince Michael presents a commemorative Mark Stone to the His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent Rt.W. Grand Master in the Craft.

Over 160 Brethren from the S Wales Province attended, in both the Albert and Freemasons' Halls, concluding a week of Mark celebrations, which showed an exhibition on Mark Masonry in Freemasons' Hall, a special meeting of the Grand Master's Lodge of Instruction, and for Brethren of our Province, a Dinner organised by our PGM, Rt. W Bro Desmond Barnett, at the Royal Overseas League Club in St. James's Street, a splendid event which was enthusiastically attended by 98 Brethren.



Pictures show

- (left) the commemorative Jewel issued for the Anniversary;
- (top right) the seal to mark the 150 years;
- (bottom right) the Anniversary token;
- and
- (near right) the Royal Overseas Club where the Provincial Dinner was held

Souvenir DVD

A souvenir DVD of the week of celebrations is available at a cost of £9.95, incl. VAT and postage.

Apply via
the Provincial Office on
029—20490555



Congratulations to the following Brethren, who have been given Royal Ark Mariners Grand Rank:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| W Bro David Elwyn Davies | — | Abertawe Lodge No.179 |
| W Bro Morris Charles Fish | — | Neath Lodge No.1125 |
| W Bro Robert Ramsay Harry | — | Cambria Lodge No.823 |
| W Bro John Pring | — | Cambrensis Lodge No.1528 |
| W Bro Alun Williams | — | Dunraven Lodge No.950 |

All were invested on 12th December 2006

Mark My Words

-- The Newsletter for the Mark Master Mason

Page 3



September
2006



Bill Laskey - Man of the hour !

By : Fred Fox

To walk into a Masonic Hall with Bill Laskey is to suddenly take a back seat while all around come to greet him. He is such a well known Mason that I'm sure that many will wish to know more about him.

Bill is a family man who in 2005, celebrated his Diamond Wedding anniversary with his charming wife Florence. He has two sons, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Born in Stogumber, in the Quantocks, Bill joined the Army in 1936, as an Apprentice Artificer in the Royal Artillery, which involved a four-and-a-half year course at the Military College of Science. He served, during the war, with 78 Division, through North Africa, Sicily and Italy. After the war he took a teaching post at the Army Transport School in Bordon (Hants), where his two sons were born, before going to Libya where he was joined by his family. In 1951, as a Warrant Officer (Artificer), he transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and joined a Workshop which specialised in all Army vehicles and mechanical equipment. It was while working here, with its' instrument

section, that his lifelong interest in clocks and watches became renewed. His first sight of Cardiff was when he was reluctantly posted to a TA unit here. He was to fall in love with, and settle in, the City. On-demobilisation, as a Captain, he worked with distinction for twenty-five years with the Ministry of Defence, in factories in Wales and the West Country, being involved with guided missiles and retired, in 1986, after fifty years of service to the Crown.

He is pictured above with a clock of which he made every piece, except the hands. He will explain that it has a rare mechanism – a grasshopper escapement – as designed by 17th Century John Harrison, who was responsible for inventing a chronometer accurate enough for ships to calculate their position at sea.

Initiated into the Howardian Lodge No.5317 in 1967, Bill's Lodge Memberships are too numerous to mention, but in the Mark Degree he is proud to be WM of the de Cymru Grand Officers' Lodge No.1606, and a Past Master of Ysgolion Lodge No.1487. At the age of 85, Bill has recently completed an overhaul of all of the clocks in the County Club, in Cardiff, and is truly a "man of the hour" and a fine, and well-respected Mason.

The Mark Degree Tracing Board



W.Bro. Stan Woodberry of Stability Lodge No 158, is well known for his interesting and informative Masonic Lectures, and his daughter Alyson has assisted him in his ventures by producing a large Mark Tracing Board which can be seen from the far reaches of most Temples.

Ysgolion Lodge has used the large Board to good effect to deliver the Lecture, and W Bro Stan will be quite happy to either give the Lecture himself, or lend the equipment to any Lodge which wishes to borrow it. The equipment comprises the picture, which is rolled and fits into a tube, a fold-down Flip-Chart stand, and a lectern.

Requests via the Provincial Office please.

Reports from the Lodges: Ysgolion Lodge No.1487

The Lodge was pleased to welcome the Assistant P.G.M., V.W.Bro. Anthony Francis Moore, MBE to its' Installation meeting in September of last year. It was particularly pleasant as V.W.Bro. Tony had been the Organist of the Lodge for many years, and knew many of the older members quite closely. W Bro Neil Charles was Installed as Master, and a splendid evening was had by all. The Secretary was able to report that candidates for Advancement were waiting for at least two of the possible three Advancement Meetings, with a likelihood of a third. The Lodge, composed as it is of Brethren from school Lodges in the Craft Degrees, enjoys an extra friendly ambience, even for the Mark degree, and visitors are regular in their attendance. We are still hoping to engage the interest of Masons from other than the established School Lodges who, attended Grammar Schools in the area !

In November we welcomed Bro. Graham Gwyn Evans, a Past master of Themis Lodge, as a new Mark recruit, and we are certain that he will truly enjoy all the fun and merits of being a Mark Master Mason.

Save the Children Fund

Not to be outdone, Stan Woodberry's Ngranddaughter Kat has raised over £700.00 for the above fund, partly by taking part in a sponsored Sky Dive (picture) She wishes to thank all Masons who supported her in her ventures. She did not win the Miss Wales title, but was awarded the "Brightest Smile" prize. Looking at the photograph, we are not surprised !!

Well done, Kat !!



Obituaries:

We are sad to report that the following Members of the Mark Degree have passed to the Grand Lodge Above since our last edition:

W.Bro. Ivor John Matthews,
P.Pro.G.I. Works
Bro. Roy Edward Chapman

Both members of the
Ysgolion Mark Lodge No 1487