



A Message for the New Year

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dear Brethren,

Another year has passed and it only seems a short time ago that I penned my last message to you, I hope that you have had a year that you can look back upon and say, with heartfelt thanks, that it was a good one. I wish health and happiness to you and all your families for the coming New Year but I am fully aware that none of us knows what the future will bring.

The dreaded pandemic still rears its ugly head, albeit much more infrequently, to remind us that it is still around. Fortunately, it does not appear so virulent now that vaccines have played their part. It is however, still important to be vigilant.

I am delighted to report the new initiative from Mark Masons Hall, 'The Magic of the Mark' is gathering momentum and there is a strong bond developing between the Rulers of the Craft and those of the Mark. This is important as every Order depends on a strong Craft connection and this is a win-win situation for everyone.

I am also pleased to inform you that the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund continues to support and help those individuals and organisations who need help at this time. This is only possible through the generous donations that Brethren and Lodges have made in the past and it is greatly appreciated by those who have been helped.

I am similarly very happy to announce that our new Mark Provincial website is now fully functional and provides a vast amount of information not only for Lodge officers but also for Brethren. It can be found at the following address:
www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk



I look forward greatly to being in your welcoming company during the coming year always remembering that amongst **'Mark Master Masons you will always find friends'**.

May the Great Overseer and Supreme Commander of the Universe bless and keep you and your families safe and in his care.

Sincerely and fraternally, *Eirian, Provincial Grand Master*

Out and about

Members of the Mark Province of South Wales, despite having busy Provincial schedules, are delighted to support other Mark Provinces. Images show recent visits to Brownsea where a new Mark Scouts Lodge was Consecrated, a companion Lodge to our very own Scouts Cymru Mark Lodge. A visit to London is always an event to look forward to and is well supported as is similarly an inter-Province visit this time to the Mark Province of Devon at Torquay as the accompanying images show.





South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund Supports Prostate Cymru

Unfortunately, WBro Robert Murphy, earlier this year, was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. During one of his visits to hospital and speaking to his consultant Mr Andy Thomas, he was told that Mr Thomas had founded a new charity called Prostate Cymru.

The charity was hoping to construct a specialist large vehicle which would be driven around Wales informing, raising awareness and testing men for signs of Prostate cancer. Funding was also needed to provide the running costs to man the vehicle.

Robert approached his own Craft Lodge, Afon Dar No.8829, for a donation. He also contacted other Lodges in Aberdare and surrounding area. These, too, also kindly donated funds. As a Past Master of Cynon Dare Mark Lodge, he spoke to WBro Gareth Andrews, Provincial Charity Steward of the Mark Province of South Wales, who suggested that he could apply to the South Wales Mark Master Masons Benevolent Fund. On receiving the application, a meeting was held with the Trustees and they

supported the application with a generous cheque for £500.00.

On his next visit to his consultant, the cheque for Prostate Cymru was handed to Mr Thomas. Prostate Cymru is the leading prostate health charity in Wales supporting men with benign prostate disease and prostate cancer. This charity was founded due to the high number of males who discover they have prostate issues.

The charity has no national or government funding, relying upon the kindness and generosity of its fundraisers and volunteers to fulfil its core aims:

1. Raising awareness of prostate cancer and prostate diseases, educating men in Wales about the diseases and their risk. Prostate cancer affects one in eight men in Wales and the risk increases to one in three if there is a family history of the disease. Their awareness team provide free of charge workplace awareness sessions and talks to other groups.



2. Supporting treatments and improving equipment for prostate diseases. To date they have supported Green Light Laser treatment for benign prostate disease and funded the training of surgeons using the Da Vinci robot for minimally invasive prostate cancer surgery.

3. Funding research and innovation across Wales to ensure that men in Wales suffering with prostate diseases will have access to the best available treatments from the NHS in Wales.

4. Supporting the education of medical professionals and students. If you would like to discover more and take a questionnaire, please visit:

(prostatecymru.com) Health-Check-Leaflet_proof-v.3.-copy.pdf

Some Dates for your Diary

March 2024

Tuesday, 12: Mark Masons Grand Lodge, Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

April 2024

Saturday, 27: Royal Ark Mariners Provincial Assembly and Investiture at The Masonic Hall, Bridgend.

May 2024

Sunday, 12 : Mark Provincial Grand Lodge Officers Mess, Sunday Luncheon at Towers Hotel, Swansea.

Thursday, 16: : Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. General Purpose Committee Meeting, Penarth. To be followed by the Installation Meeting of Stability Mark Lodge No.758.

June 2024

Wednesday,5: Provincial Mark Grand Lodge Meeting and Investiture, Cardiff Masonic Hall

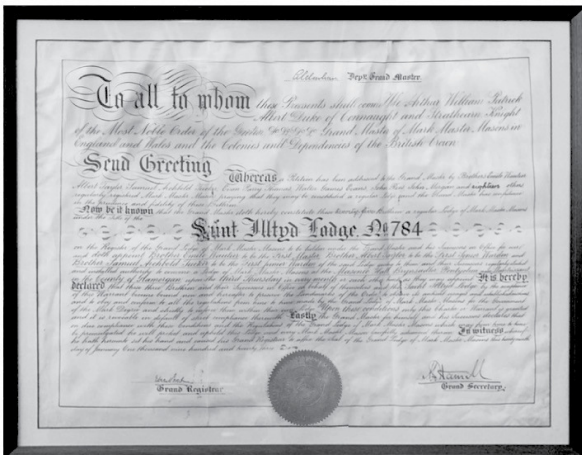
Tuesday,11: Mark Grand Lodge Annual Investiture, Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London

Centenary Celebrations at St Iltyds Mark Lodge

by : Gary Hurst

Thursday, 22 June 2023 was an auspicious day in the history of St Iltyds Mark Lodge, No.784, being their 100th Anniversary, and to mark the event, an emergency meeting was called to celebrate the occasion.

The Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones and his Executive Team were in attendance and the highlight of the evening was the Provincial Secretary WBro Martin A Jones reading aloud the 'New Warrant' and the Provincial Grand Master presenting the Warrant and Anniversary Jewel to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, WBro Nicholas Cocco.



The Senior Past Master of the Lodge WBro Peter Glyn Jones then presented a short history which was very well received. St Iltyd Mark Lodge received its warrant on 29 January 1923, and was Consecrated at Carmarthen on 21 June 1923. Carmarthen being the home of Mansel Mark Lodge, the earliest warranted Mark Lodge in the Province. The fact that the Consecration did not take place in Pontyclun underlines once again the inadequacies of the Ivor Arms. Within less than two years St Iltyd Mark accompanied Trisant and was transferred to the Old National School in School Street (the other side of the station), on the site where the medical centre is situated today.

There were twenty-four Founder Members of the new Lodge, the majority being members in the Craft of either Trisant or the Ogmore Lodge No.1752 in Bridgend.

It would appear that the sponsoring Lodge may have been the Langley Mark Lodge in Cardiff, as the senior Founders included John Rees, D Pugh Jones and W Games Evans, all Past Masters of Langley Lodge.

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The first Worshipful Master was Emile Wautier who had been the second WM of Trisant in 1921/22. The Junior Warden in that first Lodge was a Scottish doctor from Llandaff by the name of John McGregor who was destined to become one of the greatest Mark Masons in South Wales.

Despite the great interest shown in Freemasonry in Trisant, which quickly grew to a membership of over one hundred, St Illtyd rarely exceeded more than forty members in the first twenty years of its existence. It would appear that it was a fairly selective Lodge, where almost all the advanced Brethren were professional people of some standing in the community. For example, in the years between 1934 and 1939 only 18 Brethren were Advanced and these included two medical practitioners, four schoolmasters, three accountants, a farmer and the Town Clerk of Llantrisant Council.

Originally compiled by the late WBro Paul Anthony Young



Cambrensis Mariners Bow out in Style

Wednesday, 11 October was a poignant meeting for the Brethren of Cambrensis Royal Ark Mariners as it marked their final meeting before they amalgamated with Principality Royal Ark Mariners to form a new Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, Principality and Cambrensis.

The Worshipful Commander WBro Paul Kelvin-Smith RAMGR and his team of Officers performed an impeccable double Ceremony of Elevation. The two Candidates, Bros Peter Hopkins and Mark Mulford were admitted into the Order and were congratulated by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Philip William Davies.



The 'Ins and Outs'

Traditionally the Mark Provincial Team hold their annual 'Ins and Outs' luncheon in early September prior to the beginning of the Mark Masonic season. This year it was held at the Bridgend Masonic Hall and, as usual, was very well attended by the incoming and outgoing Provincial Officers of the year and their partners.

The Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones thanked all the outgoing Officers for their hard work which had ensured another successful year. He then welcomed the incoming Officers wishing them an enjoyable and happy year and emphasised how much he was looking forward to working with them at Installations and other events in the Provincial diary.

The Provincial Grand Master then invited the Provincial Charity Steward, WBro Gareth Andrews and his team, to conduct the raffle with all proceeds going to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.

This was an extremely successful raffle, the many prizes being donated by the Brethren and their partners.



SWales Mark Masons Support Rhymney Valley Cinema Club

by : Dennis Irish

Holy Trinity Church were delighted to be recently presented with a donation of £250.00 from the Mark Master Masons of South Wales Benevolent Fund. This money was used as a contribution towards the purchase of a replacement projector for use by the Holy Trinity Church Community Cinema Programme.

Unfortunately, their LCD projector has incurred a serious fault and they sought aid to raise funds for a replacement. The photograph shows myself presenting a £250.00 cheque from the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund to Father Stuart Tanswell following the Sunday morning Church Service.

In the picture left to right are: Mrs Sue Mills (Warden), Father Stuart Tanswell, Mrs Angela Treherne (Warden), WBro Dennis Irish PPrGReg and WBro. Brian Eveleigh PAGDC.

Holy Trinity Church in Ystrad Mynach has been running a Community Cinema Programme from their Church Hall for many years now. The programme offers a safe zone each month where they strive to keep social isolation at bay.

Entry is free and members of the Community can gather to meet with others, for refreshments, to watch a film (Holy Trinity Church is licenced to screen a wide variety of films both old and new issues) and enjoy a natter.

Holy Trinity Church is in the Benefice of the Taff Rhymney Ministry Area. The Ministry covers Bargoed, Bute Town, Fochriw, Gelligaer, Llanbradach, Nelson, Pontlottyn, Treharris and Ystrad Mynach. Father Stuart is the Ministry Area Leader.

The Church and members of the congregation are delighted and extremely grateful that the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund was able to support their community outreach work, that tackles social isolation which unfortunately affects so many people.

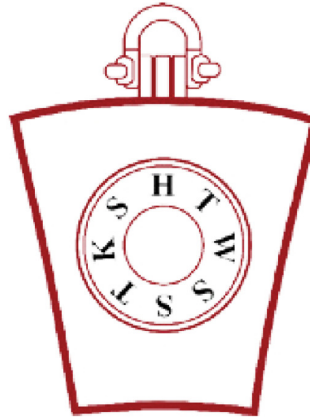




History of Mark *The friendly Degree*

The Mark Degree is under the control of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas. It has many similar associations with the old operative system of Freemasonry. The ritual is founded upon ancient Craft legends of this operative system and reflects portions of Biblical History that are far earlier than other degrees.

It deals with events before or at the building of King Solomons Temple and the problems that arose during its construction. It was found necessary to ensure completeness and perfect accuracy in all departments of the work and to establish a system of grades amongst the vast number of workmen employed, under which each member of each grade marked his work with some particular mark or symbol thereby enabling the overseers to know the hand which prepared each particular piece of work.



Thus a very early system for 'Quality Control' and ensuring value for money was established. In the old Guilds the Ceremony of selecting and registering a Mark by newly admitted Craftsmen was second in importance only to that of his first admission into the Society.

The Masons' Marks on ecclesiastical buildings are of great antiquity. We are informed that the Cathedral Church of Aberdeen founded in 1357 has upon it Masons' Marks from the foundation upwards.

Mark Degree is one of encouragement and the ritual is built on a single verse from Psalm 118. "The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner".

It illustrates that the wisest of men can be mistaken and that experts are often wrong, that the weakest can display perseverance far better than the strongest and that we all have a part to play in the building of life. It demonstrates that the pursuit of excellence and the realisation of distinction are within everyone's grasp.

Today the prerequisite for advancement into the 'Friendly Degree' is that the Candidate has attained the rank of Master Mason in the Craft.

Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank and Provincial Grand Rank Appointments

The RW Provincial Grand Master has made the following Appointments to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank:

- WBro Paul C Bunyan, Abertawe RAM Lodge No.179.
- WBro R John Edmunds, Arthur Lewis RAM Lodge No.585.
- WBro Dennis J Irish, St Tydfil RAM Lodge No.639.
- WBro John K Pillinger, Stability RAM Lodge No.758.
- WBro David C Hicks, St Iltyd RAM Lodge No.784.
- WBro W Spencer Shemwell, St Iltyd RAM. Lodge No.784.
- WBro David T Hopkin, Barry RAM Lodge No.1043.
- WBro Robert W Adler, Afan RAM Lodge No.1088.
- WBro Geoffrey L Lewis, Neath RAM Lodge No.1125.
- WBro Terence G Ap Hywel, Caerffili RAM Lodge No.1348.
- WBro F Lindsay Morgan, Porthcawl RAM Lodge No.1377.
- WBro Gherold M Davies, Sketty Hall RAM Lodge No.1685.
- WBro Gareth Andrews, Brychan RAM Lodge No.1725.
- WBro Roger E W Andrews, Tremains RAM Lodge No.1952.

Their Investiture took place at the Provincial Grand Assembly which was held during the meeting of the South Wales Installed Commanders Lodge No.1201 in Bridgend on Saturday, 22 April 2023.

I am sure you wish to join with me in extending our congratulations to these Brethren on their appointments.

It is also with much pleasure to announce that the Province has been informed of the appointment of the following Brethren to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank:

- WBro David Baldwin, St Tydfil RAM Lodge No.639.
 - WBro David M Allen, Principality RAM Lodge No.1057.
 - WBro S James Needs, Sir Frederick Alban RAM Lodge No.1455.
- In addition, WBro Ian D Belsham, who is a member of Cambria RAM Lodge No.823, has been similarly honoured through the Province of Warwickshire.

The Investiture took place at Freemasons Hall on Monday, 11 December 2023, and our congratulations are extended to these Brethren on their well deserved appointments.





Mark My Words *The News Letter for the Mark Mason*

Maesteg Mark hold Proclamation and Elevation

Saturday, 18 November 2023 at Maesteg Masonic Hall saw the Llynfi Valley Royal Ark Mariner's Installation. In attendance was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Worshipful Brother Phillip W Davies and his team.

Due to the passing of Senior Warden Roger Thomas, Worshipful Commander Michael Winn was Proclaimed by the Deputy Grand Master as Worshipful Commander for the ensuing year. Following this he Appointed and Invested officers for the coming year.

Bro Stephen Thomas was Elevated to the rank of Royal Ark Mariner and for this Ceremony the Deputy Provincial Grand Master stood in as Senior Deacon and escorted Stephen throughout the Ceremony and also explained the Working Tools to him. The signs of this Degree was expertly explained and demonstrated by Bro Vincell Haskins.

To continue his extremely busy morning the Deputy Provincial Grand Master then gave an explanation of the Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro Talfyn Harries, elevated in April 2023 and after signing same was presented to BroTalfyn by the Worshipful Commander.

An excellent Festive Board followed the Ceremony, joined by wives and partners of the Brethren. The toast to Province was made by Worshipful Commander Michael Winn and responded to by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master who was also presented with a cheque for the Benevolent Fund.

All in All an excellent Ceremony very well presented by the Brethren.

The photo below shows from the left to right, newly Elevated Brother Stephen Thomas, Worshipful Commander Michael Winn and Deputy Provincial Grand Master Worshipful Brother Phillip W Davies.




HARRIES FINANCIAL WEALTH MANAGEMENT

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Retirement Planning
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Stephen Harries
stephen.harries@sjpp.co.uk
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SJP Approved 25/08/2023

Masonic Regalia Exchange

Unused and Recycled Regalia of all Masonic Orders

Masonic Hall Bridgend CF31 2AP
Email - Web Site - Phones
info@bridgendregalia.org.uk
www.bridgendregalia.org.uk
Mobiles: 07761 584 126 & 07827 675 190

We accept donations of Masonic regalia of every Order. Most people have no idea of how to dispose of Masonic regalia and are loath to discard such things into the general rubbish.

These items are not 'sold' as such but are offered at a suggested donation amount. The inability to afford this figure is no bar to a Brother making a confidential offer within the limits of his personal circumstances.

This is a non-profit fund and all net proceeds after cleaning or postage are used to improve the comfort and enjoyment of all who use our Hall. Lodge Members ~ our Ladies ~ our Guests

We also make donations to local areas of need when necessary

We accept any good quality Regalia, Masonic Clothing, Ties and Cases. Please contact us if you have unwanted items, and would like to donate.

Prospective clients may view the items by arrangement
Mail Order is conducted on a Sale or Return basis.

*WBro Hugh Thomas - WBro Philip Aubrey
WBro Sylvester Crowley*

Tel. 07761 584 126 or 07827 675 190