



Mark Men support Benevolent Fund

by: Roger Lewis

Charity and support for those in need is always in the minds of Mark Men and the need to provide assistance unfortunately ever present.

The Mark Benevolent Fund administered by Mark Masons Hall in London and has been in existence since 1868 and at the time, was a radical and progressive way of supporting those in need. Its focus was on the swift disbursement of funds without the delays often associated with charitable support.

Over the years many millions of pounds have been spent helping individuals, and charities in the wider community. Many thousands of pounds have been allocated to deserving causes in South Wales. All this has been made possible by the generous donations from individual Mark Men and Mark Lodges.

Photographed below include WBro Wayne Cowley and WBro Michael Thomas of the Caerfilli Mark Lodge receiving their MBF Collarettes from the Provincial Grand Master RWBro Eirian Jones and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Philip Davies

Three members of the Ysgolion Mark Lodge, left to right WBro Peter C Hunt, WBro Graham G Evans and WBro Keith Dascombe, also supported the MBF and are pictured with their Collarettes.



Ysgolion Mark Lodge



Caerfilli Mark Lodge



Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank Appointments



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

- WBro R Alan Jones, Arthur Lewis RAM Lodge No.585
- WBro Alan F Wismann, Stability RAM Lodge No.758
- WBro Gareth R Thomas, St Illtyd RAM Lodge No.784
- WBro John Davies, Dunraven RAM Lodge No.950
- WBro David J Goodall, Barry RAM Lodge No.1043
- WBro Robert Clarke, Principality & Cambrensis RAM Lodge No.1057
- WBro David H Elliott, Principality & Cambrensis RAM Lodge No.1057
- WBro Terence J Scarfe, Principality & Cambrensis RAM Lodge No.1057

- WBro Graham G Evans, Caerffili RAM Lodge No.1348
- WBro Richard Fry, Sir Frederick Alban RAM Lodge No.1455
- WBro Norman England, Llynfi Valley RAM Lodge No.1592
- WBro Kevin J Mitchell, Sketty Hall RAM Lodge No.1685
- WBro D Robert Andrews, Brychan RAM Lodge No.1725
- WBro Peter E Taylor, 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, 27 April 2024. Congratulations to these Brethren on their well-deserved Appointments.



Long Service Awards

by : Roger Lewis

It's always a delight when members of the Provincial Executive are able to publicly recognise the contributions Brethren have made to the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Orders over many years.

Recently a Presentation Certificate was awarded to VWBro PGJO William Wilson of the Dunraven Mark Lodge No.950. WBro Bill has also been a Founder Member of three other Mark Lodges, South Wales Provincial Mark Stewards, De Cymru Grand Officers Lodge and Tremains Mark Lodge.

Photograph (right) shows WBro Bill Wilson, RAMGR receiving his fifty-year Royal Ark Mariner Certificate from WBro Dr Paul Calderwood, RAMGR

Other photographs show WBro D Nicholas (Nicky) Smith RAMGR receiving his 40-year Certificate from WBro Alun H Thomas RAMGR, Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Nicky was Elevated into the Porthcawl RAM Lodge in 1984 and later became a Founder Member of De Cymru RAM Lodge and a Joining Member of Tremains RAM Lodge. The Provincial AGDC WBro Norman England is also in the photograph.



The third photograph shows WBro Stanley Evelyn PGJD receiving his forty-year Certificate from WBro Philip W Davies, PGJD Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Secretary VWBro Martin A Jones GJO. Stanley is a Past Master of Ysgolion Mark Lodge and is currently the Worshipful Master of the South Wales Lodge of Installed Mark Master Masons



Special Evening at Sketty Hall

by : Phil Davies

Another successful meeting for Sketty Hall Mark Lodge No.1685, with an Advancement Ceremony for Bro Morgan Edwards with WBro Gherold Davies helping out as WM.

After a short comfort break the Lodge was called back on and with great delight, and with a warm and sincere Ceremony, WBro in the Chair, WBro David Davies, Installed our Craft Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, VWBro D Gerald Rowbottom into the Chair of Adoniram.

The evening was well supported by many active Mark Grand and Provincial Mark Officers. A memorable evening was had by all.





New Worshipful Master for Dunraven Mark Lodge

by : *Chris Mugford*

New Worshipful Master for Dunraven Mark Lodge No.950 is part of a 'Family Affair'. There was another excellent evening of celebration at the Lodge on Tuesday, 2 April 2024 at the Bridgend Masonic Hall when WBro Mark Ridgeway expertly Installed his successor Bro Mark Reynolds as Worshipful Master in the presence of WBro Philip Davies PGJD, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Wales. He was supported by a large number of Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Officers, together with Members of the Lodge and a goodly number of visitors.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master congratulated the new Worshipful Master on his succession and praised the high standards of the Installing Master in carrying out the Ceremony.

He also mentioned the family connections within the Lodge. The 'retiring' Immediate Past Master, WBro Carl Davies PPrGSO, Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland, being the brother-in-law, and the new Junior Warden, Bro Michael Davies, being the father-in-Law of the new Worshipful Master.

The Provincial Grand Master also surprised all present by requesting the Provincial Director of Ceremonies, WBro Richard Phillips PAsstGDC (the Provincial Sub-Prior of the Order of Knights Templar) to bring forward WBro John Davies PPrGSW and presented him with his Vice-Patrons Collarette of the Mark Benevolent Fund, which was met with a large and well-earned round of applause from all of the Brethren present.



The extremely convivial Festive Board was held in the dining room of the Bridgend Masonic Hall with the usual excellent repast for which the Bridgend Hall is reputed.

The Dunraven Mark Lodge meets at the Bridgend Masonic Hall on the first Tuesday in February, April, October and December and interested Candidates should contact the Secretary, Bro Paul Deenik at: dunravenmark950@gmail.com



Llynfi Valley Mark Celebrate 150th Meeting

Llynfi Valley Mark Master Masons celebrated their 150th meeting on Wednesday, 3 March 2024.

They were honoured by the visit of Deputy Provincial Grand Master Philip Davies and his team who were delighted to join the Lodge on this special occasion. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Candidate for Advancement was unable to attend, so an Enactment of the Ceremony was conducted by Worshipful Master Christopher John and his officers, some Officer positions covered by visiting Brethren.

A history of the Lodge was very ably presented by the Worshipful Master and was very well received by all the Brethren. Everyone then enjoyed an excellent Festive Board, which was a great ending to a wonderful celebration.



Dr Viv Thomas delivered a Lecture to save the night

by :Tal Harries

Llynfi Valley Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners met on Saturday, 20 April where, unfortunately, the Candidate for elevation was unable to attend.

Despite this, various ballots were taken, Worshipful Commander David Williams, Treasurer Dr Stephen Howlett, proposed joining member David J Williams, and a ballot for Elevation, WBro Peter Hamley were both successful.

Bro Stephen Thomas was presented with his Grand Lodge Certificate with an explanation of the Certificate was delivered by WBro Lyn Guttridge.

Following the conclusion of Lodge business, it was closed accordingly and Worshipful Commander David Williams invited wives and partners of the Brethren into the Lodge to hear to a lecture, very ably presented at short notice, by WBro Dr Vivian Thomas on 'Knights and their horses'.

An excellent five course Festive Board followed where the ladies were toasted and thanked for their attendance by the Worshipful Commander WBro Michael Winn.



Llynfi Valley enjoy a superb Ceremony assisted by Visitors

by : Tal Harries

A large number of visitors witnessed the superb Elevation Ceremony and the Lodge were honoured to have two Provincial officers and four Grand Lodge Officers among their numbers. During the Ceremony, where some of the visitors assisted, filling different positions.

WBro Linsay Morgan, Tyler, WBro Alan Price, Inner Guard, WBro Alan Hulbert, Junior Overseer and WBro Mike Hulton, Chaplain,

The signs were very ably demonstrated by VWBro Lyn Guttridge and the Tools by WBro Dr Steve Howlett. The Candidate was escorted through the Ceremony by Senior Deacon Bro John Williams.

At an excellent Festive Board the Brethren were joined by wives and partners who were welcomed and toasted by the Worshipful Master.

Special mention must be made of VWBro Bill Wilson who is a regular attendee of Llynfi Lodge. He is always eager to help in any position that is needed and the Brethren of the Lodge are always delighted to see him.



St John's RAM Installs New Worshipful Commander

by : Chris Mugford

At a Regular Meeting of St John's Lodge No.28 of Royal Ark Mariners, the Oldest Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in the Province, held on 17 April 2024 at the Cardiff Masonic Hall. Worshipful Commander, WBro Robert G Payne, AProvGM in the Craft, Installed Bro Michael Thomas as the Worshipful Commander for the ensuing year 2024/25.

Present for the occasion was: RWBro T R Eirian Jones, ProvGM, WBro Philip Davies RAMGR, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Christopher M L Davies (a Member of the Grand Master's Council, who is also an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft). A number of Grand Officers including WBro Ralph Jeffery, RAMGR, the Senior Past Commander of the St John's Lodge and WBro Dennis Tucker and several Provincial Grand Officers and Brethren.

At the conclusion of the Installation Ceremony, The Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones, requested the Provincial DC to present Ralph Jeffery. With the assistance of Philip Davies, he proceeded to award and present Ralph with a 40 Year Membership Certificate of the Order. The presentation was received with lengthy acclamation by all.

The Meeting was followed by a memorable Festive Board and an excellent repast which is the norm at Cardiff Masonic Hall. As is the tradition in the St John's Lodge, the new Worshipful Commander was entrusted with the Lodge's miniature Ark and his Sailor's hat to keep for his year in the Chair.

St John's Lodge meet at Cardiff Masonic Hall on the third Wednesday in April and November. Mark Master Masons who wish to find out more about the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners can find detail on the Provincial Website www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk or can contact the Provincial Secretary at provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk





A Master and Commander

by : Gary Hurst

A kin to the film with Russell Crowe, an extraordinary bond between two respective Leaders took place at St Illtyd Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.

When WBro Nigel Williams occupied the Chair of St Illtyd Mark Lodge No.784 at the start of the Masonic season, he got together with WBro Richard Clarke, Commander of St Illtyd RAM lodge to hatch a plan to raise money for charity.

The seed was planted in October 2023 and through much planning by their wives, they agreed on a date in February to raise some money for charity. The only question (apart from all the work the wives would have to do) was which charity?

Richard and Nigel agreed that any money raised needed to be put to good use in the local community as soon as possible. It was then decided to give the money to the Rhondda Branch of the National Autistic Society to help fund the excellent work they do in helping autistic families with their day to day challenges such as organising youth clubs and swimming sessions for autistic people in the area.

The announcement of the chosen charity clearly touched all those in attendance on the evening and raised £1050 directly from attendees and a further £250 was added by the Mark Province of South Wales Benevolent Fund.

The evening was a huge success and since then, other Lodges have provided WBro Richard Clarke with cheques to pass onto the organisation. In addition to the £1300.00 raised at the event an additional £100.00 has been provided to the Branch by



Cwm Rhondda Mark Lodge and Cowbridge Mark Lodge. Also Richard has managed to raise another £300.00 making the total £1850.00 from Mark Lodges and their members. A superb effort highlighting the generous nature of Mark Masons.

Grand Lodge Appointments and Promotions 2024

The Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to make the following Appointments and Promotions to Brethren within our Province:

Acting Rank

VWBro Christopher M L Davies re-Appointed to Grand Director of Ceremonies.

WBro Martin A Jones Appointed to Grand Junior Overseer

WBro Mark P Nicholls Appointed to Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

WBro Philip D Rice Appointed to Grand Inner Guard.

WBro David H Elliott Appointed to Grand Steward.

Promoted

WBro Howard LG Vaughan Promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon.

First Appointment

WBro D Roger Lewis Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.
WBro Ernest R Haines Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer.

In addition, WBro Ian D Belsham, who is a Member of Cambria RAM Lodge No.823, has been Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies through the Province of Warwickshire.

Brethren receiving Active Ranks and First Appointments to Past Ranks were Invested at the meeting of Grand Lodge held on Tuesday, 11 June 2024. Brethren receiving Promotions will be Invested at the meeting of Grand Lodge to be held on Tuesday, 10 September 2024. Both meetings will take place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

We offer our congratulations to all these Brethren and hope that they will enjoy their new ranks for many years to come.





Out and About

The Mark Degree is known as the 'Friendly Degree' and the Provincial Executive, supported by Brethren, are often seen around the Province encouraging Brethren to enjoy their Mark Masonry.

In recent weeks they have attended the Provincial General Purposes meeting at Stability Mark Lodge No.758, Penarth, supported new members and Joining Members of the St Tydfil Mark Lodge No.639, Merthyr Tydfil. Presenting MBF Collarettes and Long Service Certificates at Ysgolion Mark Lodge No.1487 and further afield, represented the Province at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cornwall.



Ysgolion Mark Lodge, Pontyclun



Provincial Grand Lodge, Cornwall

150 Club Winners

The June 2024 draw of the 150 Club took place at the Mark Provincial Meeting which was held at the Cardiff Masonic Hall.

The lucky winners were:

First Prize of £350 - VWBro Dr Viv Thomas.

Second Prize of £250 - Bro Martyn T Woodfield.

Third Prize of £150 - WBro Richard O W Edwards.

As usual, an equivalent sum of £750 was donated to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund. Congratulations go to the three winners and many thanks go to all those who are members of the 150 Club.

If you wish to join the 150 Club and participate in future draws, please download the application form from our website or contact the Mark Provincial Office. It only costs £12.00 a year per number and there are two draws every year.



St Tydfil Mark Lodge, Merthyr Tydfil



Stability Mark Lodge, Penarth

Paul Corcoran Promoted to Provincial Grand Organist in Mark

by : Gordon Schumack

The Brethren of Penarth Lodge No.4113 were delighted to extend their heartfelt congratulations to WBro Paul Corcoran on his remarkable achievements. WBro Paul, renowned for his exceptional talent and dedication as the Organist of Penarth Lodge also plays at other Lodges in the Province, together with those of Monmouthshire and Bristol. On 5 June 2024 Paul was Promoted to the prestigious position of Provincial Grand Organist in the Mark degree.

This well-deserved Promotion stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to the musical enrichment of Masonic Ceremonies and his profound impact on the Craft.

Pauls musical journey within the Masonic community has been marked by excellence and passion. His masterful organ renditions have not only elevated our ceremonial experiences but have also inspired countless Brethren to once again enjoy singing at our assemblies.

The role of Provincial Grand Organist is fitting recognition of his skill, dedication, and the harmonious contributions he has made over the years.

Adding to this accolade, he has also been Elected as the Chairman of the Colonnade Club, a distinguished society within our Provincial Masonic community.

The Colonnade Club, known for fostering camaraderie will undoubtedly benefit from Pauls involvement, as was very noticeable when a number of members of the Colonnade Club were among the visitors to Penarth Lodge on 28 May, to witness the Election of Bro Richard Shumack and the Initiation of Bro Christian Healy.

As Paul embarks on this new chapter, the Brethren of Penarth Lodge extend their best wishes and unwavering support. His journey reflects the values of Freemasonry: dedication, excellence, and a commitment to uplifting the spirit of Brotherhood. May his contributions continue to resonate, inspiring harmony and unity within the fraternity.



Provincial Grand Master Installed as Master of Lodge of Advancement

On Monday, 25 of March 2024, Provincial Grand Master, RWBro D Gerald Rowbottom was Installed as Worshipful Master of South Wales Lodge of Advancement No.8748.

Over 70 Brethren, many from across multiple Provinces, attended Neath Masonic Hall in support of the newly Installed Worshipful Master who attained his 9th Chair in the process.

The original Warrant of the Lodge belonged to Saint Cecilia Lodge No.8748, which was Consecrated on St Davids Day in 1977 at Penarth Masonic Hall. Unfortunately over the years the membership dwindled. With the surrender of the Lodge Warrant becoming likely. On 13 September 2023, rather than the Lodge be erased, it was re-purposed, re-homed, and re-named, to South Wales Lodge of Advancement, now meeting at Neath Masonic Hall.

The Lodge has increased its membership, attracting many Brethren from across the Province. Stability and future planning will enable the Lodge to survive and thrive for many years to come, which is testament to the hard work and commitment of all its new members.

The Installation meeting was a wonderful occasion, with Worshipful Master, WBro Andrew Hollo-Tass opening the Lodge, then handing the gavel over to the Installing Master, WBro Huw Parry Evans, who Installed the Provincial Grand Master into the Chair of King Solomon, with aplomb.

If you would like to find out more about South Wales Lodge of Advancement, you can contact the Lodge Secretary: Bro Steven Lovett – lovettmajor@aol.com

