



A Message for the New Year

"No one has ever become poor from giving."
Anne Frank

Dear Brethren,
The notion of time is a strange phenomenon. It only moves in one direction; a progression from the past into the future. It is measurable and it is a continuum. And yet another year has passed and although time feels short since I last wrote to you I can only hope you can look back upon it and say, "last year was enjoyable and fulfilling".

This year has been particularly pleasing and successful for the Province with no less than five of our Grand Officers receiving Active Rank at Mark Grand Lodge. They will have the privilege of wearing their Chains for the duration of their year in office and I, on behalf of the Province, congratulate them and wish them well.

The Mark Benevolent Fund at both National and Provincial level continues to remind us that all is not well in the world. Suffering and tragedy have visited many over the past year and it is gratifying to know that we can play our part through the Mark Benevolent Fund by supporting those in need. This is only possible through the generosity of the Brethren and I again thank you all for your support of the Benevolent Funds at both local and national levels.

I was delighted to welcome the Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother John Herbert Prizeman, to our Provincial Assembly in June 2024. He was elated with the warm Welsh welcome he received and we were equally pleased that he could visit the Principality.

He outlined the continuing bond between the Craft and the Mark and I would urge you all to support your Craft Lodges as they are the lifeblood of all the other Orders. I wish health and happiness to you and all your families for this New Year and I look forward greatly to being in your welcoming company during the year ahead, 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

Do Good and Share with Others

by : Roger Lewis

Do not forget, to do good and to share with others is not a new concept. Helping those who need help is extended throughout the world through such organisations as UNICEF, Christian Aid, Oxfam and Save the Children.

Unfortunately, this need will continue and the demands on those who can help those who are in need will always be required.

Freemasonry, and indeed all other fraternal organisations, have a history of helping those who are less fortunate than themselves having fallen upon hard times. Indeed, Charles Dickens wrote a book called 'Hard Times' and his Victorian works are littered with examples of poverty and despair. However, there is often light at the end of the tunnel, a shining example being that of the Cratchit's in 'A Christmas Carol'.

Charity is not confined to Freemasonry but is a central tenet of the Fraternity. It is not confined to the Craft and all other Orders have charitable foundations.

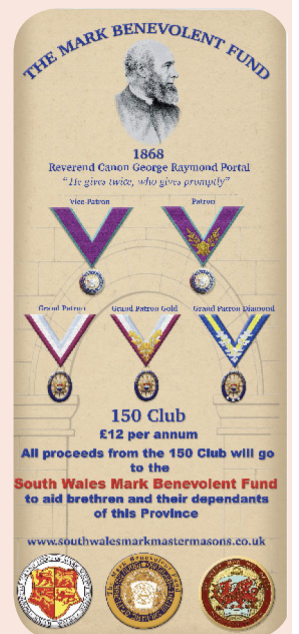
From the perspective of the South Wales Mark Province there are two aspects which are foremost in the minds of Mark Masons. Firstly, there is the Mark Benevolent Fund which is administered from Mark Masons' Hall in London. This has an international, as well as a national brief, and its coffers are swelled by contributions from Mark Masons worldwide. Here are some of the recent projects in which the Benevolent Fund has been involved.

These included: support for babies with heart conditions, support for people with autism, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries, wheelchair rugby, British Liver Trust and education for children in Ghana. The latest summary report from the MBF outlines support of £2,900 to local communities, £3,000 to members, £25,000 to humanitarian aid, £57,000 to secondary emergency services, £10,000 to the youth sector, £81,238 supporting those with disabilities and £27,392 for medical support.

Secondly there is the Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund which has been set up to assist those in need in the South Wales Mark Province. This was set up to alleviate those locally who have needs.

It is funded entirely by South Wales Mark Masons. Recent donations have been made to Ty Hafan, wheelchair rugby groups, The Wallich and the Brecon Mountain Rescue in addition to supporting smaller worthy causes.

Further details regarding how one can support the fund can be obtained from the Mark Provincial Office. The Provincial Charity team also give a presentation at each Installation and can be approached for further details.



Bro Peter Hamley Installed at Llynfi Valley Mark Masons

On Wednesday, 6 November 2024, Llynfi Valley Mark Master Masons held their Installation Meeting at Maesteg Masonic Hall.

A full meeting of members and guests witnessed an excellent Ceremony as Worshipful Master Chris John Installed Bro Peter Hamley into the Chair of Adoniram.

The Executive Team consisted of Deputy Provincial Grand Master Phillip Davies, his team of officers and Worshipful Bro Phil Rice, filling the role of Director of Ceremonies.

After Peter was Installed and his Officers Invested, the Immediate Past Master was presented with his Jewel by WBro Talfyn Harries.

An excellent Festive Board followed with the toast to Province proposed by Bro Nigel Pickett which was enthusiastically responded to by the Deputy Grand Master.



Talfyn proposed the Toast to the Mark Benevolent fund and this was responded to by the Assistant Provincial Charity Steward WBro G Hurst

An excellent evening with a Festive Board to match, enjoyed by everyone present.





Neath Mark Lodge Celebrate 75th Anniversary

by : Chris Mugford

There was an excellent evening of Celebration at the Neath Mark Lodge No.1125 on Saturday, 13 July 2024, at the Neath Masonic Hall when WBro Keith Hoyle opened the Lodge in order to celebrate its 75th Anniversary Meeting, having been Consecrated on 7 July 1949.

The Meeting was held in the presence of RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Wales and WBro Philip Davies PGJD, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. They were supported by a large number of Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Officers, together with Members of the Lodge.

The Meeting was 'called off' and a significant number of Ladies, Brethren and Gentlemen were admitted to the Temple where WBro Martin Mogford PGSD (a Past Grand Senior Warden of the Province) gave a superb and inspiring discourse on the founding and history of Neath Mark Lodge which was met by a high degree of approbation by all present.



Llynfi Mark Lodge Master Elected



At the Election night of Llynfi Valley Mark Lodge No.1592, Mark Master Mason, Bro Peter Hamley was Elected as Master Elect for 2024/25 and will take the Chair of Adoniram in November 2024. Peter is pictured above, (right) with Worshipful Master, WBro Chris John.

The Guests having retired from the Temple, proceeded to the dining hall, the Lodge was then 'called on' and the Ceremony continued.

The Provincial Grand Master congratulated the Worshipful Master and the Members of the Lodge on the Ceremony and gave strong praise to Martin for all his in-depth research and presentation of its history.

The Festive Board followed in the dining hall with the usual excellent repast for which the hall is noted. The evening was continued with musical entertainment.

The Neath Mark Lodge meets at the Neath Masonic Hall on the second Wednesday in February, April, October and December and interested Candidates should contact the Secretary, WBro Howard Lines PAGSwdB at h.j.lines@ntlworld.com

RAM Grand Rank Appointments

It is with much pleasure that we have been informed of the Appointment of the following Brethren from our Province to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank:

- WBro Henry A Barnes – Abertawe RAM Lodge No.179
- WBro Mark P Nicholls – Neath RAM Lodge No.1125
- WBro David E Williams – Llynfi Valley RAM Lodge No.1592
- WBro Howard LG Vaughan - Brychan RAM Lodge No.1725

The Investiture took place at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London on Monday, 9 December 2024. We extend our heartiest congratulations to these Brethren on their Appointments.

Pro Grand Master Visits South Wales

by : Roger Lewis

The Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones was delighted to welcome the Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother, John Herbert Prizeman and his team to the Mark Provincial Assembly.



The Pro Grand Master was thrilled to receive a warm Welsh welcome and received tokens of appreciation for both himself and his wife from the Province.

He spoke at length about the Mark Order, the cordial



and constructive relationship between the Craft and the Mark. He emphasised how it was of benefit to all Brethren to support both.

He then went on to congratulate Brethren of South Wales who were to receive Appointments and Promotions in Mark Grand Rank and wished them well on their special day.

Trinity Mark Bargoed Celebrate 20 Years

Trinity Mark, Lodge No.1845, Bargoed, 19 March 2024 celebrated its 20th year since its Consecration in 2004 with the Installation of WBro Nigel 'Bear' Davies into the Chair of Adoniram.

In the words of Assistant Provincial Grand Master Worshipful Bro Alun Thomas "what a pleasure seeing 17 junior Brethren in attendance, especially all in new progressive offices" Trinity is going from strength to strength with another four Candidates ready for this year. Nigel will be organising a Charity Garden Party at the Taffs Well Inn in the summer, with all funds going to local charities.



Out and About

by : Roger Lewis

The Provincial Grand Master RWB T R Eirian Jones and his hard working team of Officers not only represent the Province locally but are often to be seen in other Provinces and events.



Promotions in London

Recently they have supported Brethren who have been Promoted and Appointed to Grand Rank in London and have attended the Mark Provincial Grand Lodge in Dorset and the Channel Islands.



Dorset



Channel Isles

In September 2024 the Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Provincial Grand Master were delighted to be present when WBro Marc Lewis was Installed in the Chair of St Tydfil's Mark Lodge in Merthyr Tydfil. St Tydfil's is one of the oldest Mark Lodges in the Province and WBro Marc was delighted to follow in the long line of distinguished Brethren who have been Masters.



Merthyr Tydfil



Albert Edward Bowls Club

A new event this year was the inaugural inter Province Bowls Match between the South Wales and Monmouthshire Mark Provinces held at the Albert Edward Bowls Club in Porthcawl.



Channel Islands

The annual 'Ins and Outs' luncheon took place recently at Bridgend and was well supported. The Provincial Grand Master was delighted to welcome the Heads of four other Orders in the Province who are all Mark Masons.



Heads of Orders in Bridgend

The above image shows VWBro Dr Viv Thomas, Grand Master of the Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City, VWBro Dr Paul Calderwood, Provincial Prior of the Order of Knights Templar, Province of Monmouth and South Wales, WBro Paul Kelvin-Smith, Inspector General of the Ancient and Accepted Right (Rose Croix) of South Wales and Monmouthshire District, and WBro William Jenkins, District Grand Master of the District of South Wales Royal and Select Masters with the Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones.