

A New Year's Message From the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones

Dear Brethren, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to extend to you and your families the very best of wishes from Geraldine and myself for a happy and healthy New Year of 2018.

In my first full year as Provincial Grand Master, and during my travels through the Province, I have encountered so much kindness, goodwill and support from all the Brethren of South Wales, for which I am extremely grateful.

It has again been a full Masonic year for me, having visited many Provinces at home and abroad, including attending a successful Mark Benevolent Fund Festival in Berkshire, which raised over £666,666 for our Mark Charity. Our ongoing tradition of having a Provincial representation at all our Installation Meetings in the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees has kept myself, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Assistant Provincial Grand Master very busy. I would like to place on record my grateful thanks to both of them for the support they give me.

In October Geraldine and I, in common with many other Provincial Grand Masters, were privileged to attend the Sesquicentenary Celebrations of the Province of Cornwall at Newquay. Over 280 Brethren and their partners, in the presence of MWBro Raymond John Smith, Pro Grand Master, enjoyed a wonderful banquet. The Province of Cornwall produced a fascinating booklet outlining their history – and I hope in 2020 our Province will emulate both the banquet and the booklet.

There have been again in the past year some notable events within our Province most of which are mentioned elsewhere in this issue. They include the Investiture of WBro Philip W Davies PAGDC as the new Assistant Provincial Grand Master at the De Cymru Mark Grand Officers Lodge No.1606 on 6 December, and the Dedication of a Lodge Honours Board for De Cymru Mark Grand Officers Lodge at the same meeting. Also one of our senior Mark Brethren, WBro Donald Lewis, was presented with his 60 year's continuous membership certificate in October 2017.



2018 will see other events taking place. In common with other Provinces, we will hold our first Mark Awareness event at Ysgolion Mark Lodge, Pontyclun on 26 January 2018, to raise the awareness of the Mark Degree with our Brethren in the Craft and hopefully to attract additional candidates into our wonderful Order.

It is hoped that later in the year the Province will see the formation of a new Lodge for Brethren with an interest in, and connection with, the Scouting Movement.

Our 2020 Provincial Appeal, helped by a number of initiatives, is gaining impetus towards our financial target of £150,000. The number of Brethren wearing a scarlet collarette at Festive Boards, indicating their significant contribution to the Appeal, is increasing noticeably. A 2020 Appeal Information Pack is being planned for distribution early in the New Year. Mark and Mariner Lodges are now producing their own history for inclusion in a Provincial History Book. We all realise time is short.

I look forward to this new year and to working with you all in promoting our friendly Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees throughout South Wales.

With the warmest and most fraternal regards and best wishes for the year ahead.

New AProvGM Invested

by : **Paul Calderwood**

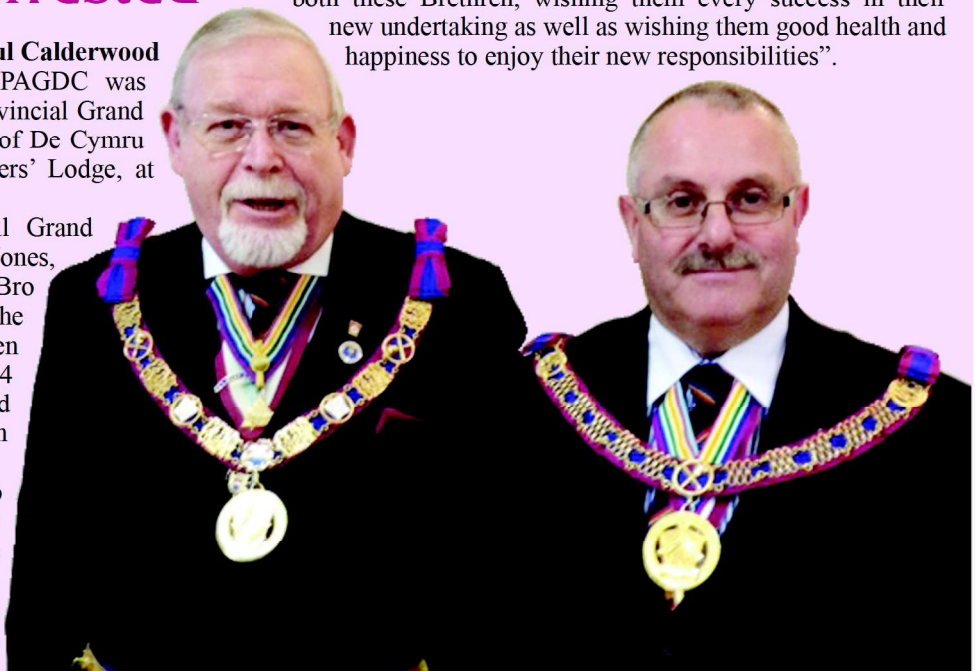
WBro Philip William Davies PAGDC was invested the new Assistant Provincial Grand Master, at a very full meeting of De Cymru Mark Lodge No.1606, the Grand Officers' Lodge, at Caerphilly on 6 December.

Before investing him, the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, expressed his grateful thanks to WBro Stephen Charles Evans Harries for the sterling work which he had undertaken as AProvGM before his retirement on 4 December, supporting both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees – not only in South Wales but further afield.

Later in the month as planned, WBro Stephen Harries was invested as the new Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province.

At the Mark Investiture, Eirian Jones said "I am sure that you would all wish

to be associated with sending our sincere congratulations to both these Brethren, wishing them every success in their new undertaking as well as wishing them good health and happiness to enjoy their new responsibilities".



Pontypridd provides helping hand

by : Paul Calderwood

Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge No.585 at Pontypridd provided a substantial boost in October to the 2020 fundraising appeal designed to help South Wales Mark Master Masons and their families.

No less than eight members of the Lodge qualified to receive the distinctive Red Collarette award at this meeting – a truly remarkable achievement. Brethren receive this distinctive honour when they donate a total of £150 during the period that leads up to 2020 - when the Mark Province will celebrate its 150th anniversary.

At the Installation meeting of Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge in October, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Dr Paul Richard Calderwood, (right), supported by the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, WBro Brian Isaac (left) was able to present Collarettes to; (left to right) VWBro Hywel Davies, WBro Andrew Hopkins, Bro Rhodri Williams, WBros Lance McPhail, Ken Mason and Maldwyn Williams. In addition he thanked WBro Frank Heathman and Gordon Ponsford, who were unable to

remain for the presentation photograph.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master made particular mention of the Lodge's hard-working Charity Steward, WBro Maldwyn Williams, whose sterling efforts had made this special presentation possible – an achievement which was enhanced still further by a generous donation that night from the Lodge of £600 to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund and £200 to the ProvGM's Discretionary Fund.

All in all, it was a great demonstration of the kindness and generous support given to charity by the Brethren.



A Scouts' Lodge

A group of Mark Masons are exploring the possibilities of forming a new Lodge in South Wales for Brethren with an interest in, and connection with, the Scouting Movement.

Across the UK, there are some forty or so Craft Lodges with an affinity to Scouting or some other youth movement. In addition, there is a Royal Arch Chapter and three Mark Lodges – with two more being formed. All of them are Members of the Kindred Lodges Association.

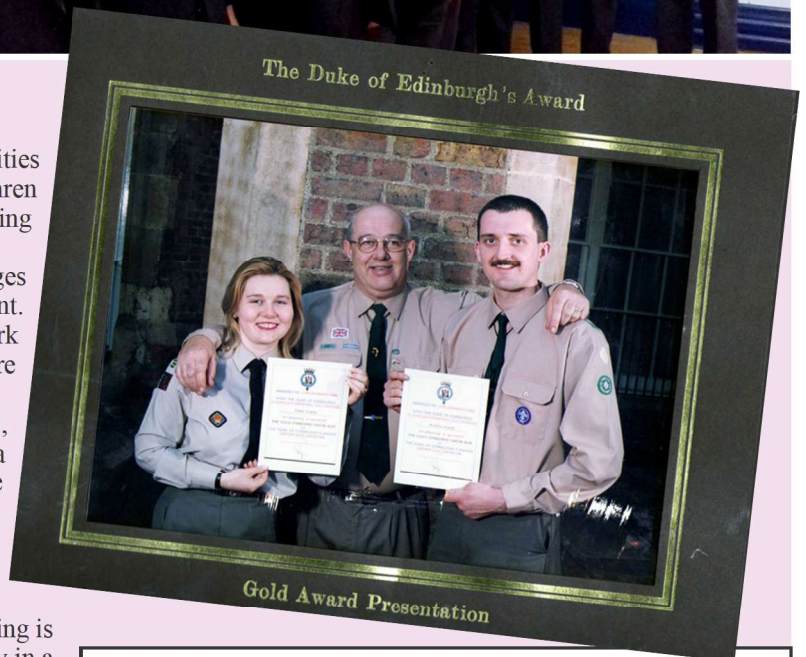
WBro Alun Morton of Caerffili Mark Lodge No.1348, who was a Scout Leader for 23 years, is at the centre of a group of Brethren in our Province who want to assess the demand for such a Lodge among Mark Master Masons in South Wales and the adjoining Provinces.

The benefits he envisages include increased awareness of both organisations; thus raising the potential for recruitment for both. As Alun said: "The plan that is emerging is to form a Lodge that meets three times a year on a Saturday in a Masonic Hall close to the M4; perhaps at Caerphilly or Bridgend or Pontyclun".

Scout Leaders could be invited to give talks after Lodge Meetings and Brethren might organise Scout style social meetings at Scout Camp sites. The project has already received support from the Mark Province and from the Scout Commissioner for Wales.

If you were a scout or scout leader and would like to learn more about this initiative, Alun Morton would be very pleased to hear from you at morton362@btinternet.com.

Regarding the picture, Alun explained: "it has to be twenty years old - it is when my daughter, her then boyfriend, now my son-in-law WBro Nick Gregory PM of Caerphilly Mark Lodge No.1348, were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at St James's Palace. I'm the good looking clean shaven fellah in the middle."



Your letters matter!

Do you have something to say or an idea that will benefit us all? This is your chance to get your opinion shared, observed or literally torn to pieces! Is there something going on that you do not like or you have a suggestion that would improve our fraternity? We really want to know!

This is your magazine and always remember:

We are all in this together

Send your letters to the Editor by email (below) or;
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Your permission is presumed for your name
and the name of your Lodge to be printed.

Editor : roger@justkitchensltd.co.uk

Ins and Outs Lunch

by : **Paul Calderwood**

Accompanied by their ladies, Brethren appointed to Active Provincial Grand Rank this year - together with their immediate predecessors and their ladies - enjoyed the annual 'Ins and Outs Lunch' in September.

This year it was held in the impressive surroundings of the historic Miskin Manor, near Pontyclun. A large turnout ensured an abundance of anecdotes, experiences and advice enjoyed over a splendid lunch and refreshments.

This very happy annual occasion was presided over the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Thomas Richard Eirian Jones and his wife Geraldine.

It continues a tradition which began many years ago of inviting the newly appointed



Provincial Grand Officers and their partners to meet socially with those who most recently retired at the annual meeting of the Province in the company of their partners.

Many questions and much advice is traditionally exchanged on such occasions and strong friendships created and developed. It also gives the Executive the opportunity to thank the retiring team and to get to know the incoming team in a more relaxed environment. Needless to say it was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

RAMGR Investiture

by : **Paul Calderwood**

HRH Prince Michael of Kent was pleased to appoint six distinguished Brethren from the Province of South Wales as Holders of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in December.

They are:

- WBro John Roger Aston
- WBro Melville Buckley
- WBro Michael George Couch
- WBro Peter Reuben Gilbert
- WBro Gareth Jones OBE
- WBro Wayne Buffet Warlow

The investiture took place at Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street, London on 12 December 2017. I am sure that all the members of this Province extend their warmest congratulations to them on this recognition of their dedication and hard work for the Order.



Dad Installs Son; then Son Installs Dad!

by : **Paul Calderwood**

It was an historic evening at the recent Installation Meeting of Langley Mark Lodge No.28, when the Worshipful Master WBro Robert Payne very ably installed his father, Bro Geoffrey Payne into the Master's Chair.

Although it is not uncommon for a father to install his son, the roles were reversed on this occasion and Robert installed his Dad (a Craft Mason of 47 years).

An added point of interest was that Dad Geoff had only earlier this year installed his son, as First Principal into Emerald Chapter. Our Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones and his Executive team of Officers, were there to officiate and take part in the celebrations. Indeed, over 50 Brethren were there to witness this very special occasion.

Robert explained, in his response at the Festive Board, that he was delighted that in his year the Lodge had Advanced two Brethren (Bro Spiro Ginis and his uncle Bro Graham Payne) and had also welcomed a third, WBro Louis Mahendra, as a joining member from the Province of Monmouthshire.



With two more candidates ready to be admitted at the next two meetings of the Lodge in November and March, Langley Mark Lodge is certainly moving from strength to strength.

New Provincial Grand Chaplain

By : Paul Calderwood

It was with great sadness that it was announced in August that we had suffered the grievous loss of the Provincial Grand Chaplain of the Mark Degree, WBro Revd Alistair Swinford, following a heart attack.

A very large number of his Brethren attended the funeral at Bridgend and several weeks later the RW Provincial Grand Master announced the appointment of Bro Revd Edward Dowland-Owen as the new Provincial Grand Chaplain.

At the same time, he announced the appointment of a new Deputy Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro Revd Gareth Thomas with immediate effect.



New Overseer Pedestals and Gavel Posts for Barry

A special presentation took place during the first meeting of the year of Barry Mark Lodge No.1043. Junior Warden Bro Gareth Duddridge had a busy summer making new Overseer Pedestals and Gavel Posts, as the old ones had seen their fair share of use over the years.

The Pedestals were presented to The Worshipful Master, WBro Shaun Cuddihy, who gratefully accepted them on behalf of the Lodge. The Worshipful Master indented the Triangle on the presentation plaques on each pedestal, to show his mark of approval of the work as being fit to take its place in the Lodge.



Pictured above kneeling, Worshipful Master, WBro Shaun Cuddihy indents the Triangle. Left to right, Bro Gareth Duddridge, Junior Warden, WBro Keith Puncher, Acting Senior Overseer, WBro Christopher Peters, Acting Master Overseer, Bro Phillip Coughtrey, Junior Overseer and WBro Brian Dowling, Senior Warden.

Worshipful Master, WBro Shaun Cuddihy (pictured left) accepts the new Pedestals on behalf of the Lodge from Junior Warden Bro Gareth Duddridge (left).

Find out about Mark & Ysgolion



by : Paul Calderwood

A Mark Awareness event will held at Pontyclun on 26 January partly to attract additional candidates into the Order and partly to raise the profile of our distinguished Schools Lodge; Ysgolion Mark Lodge, among Brethren who might wish to think about becoming Joining members

The Provincial Grand Master and his Executive team will host the event, followed by a brief 6 pm meeting of the Ysgolion Mark Lodge.

Mark Master Masons are requested to wear Mark Regalia

but non-Mark Masons are not required to bring any Masonic Regalia. Normal Craft dress rules apply; a dark suit, white shirt and a Masonic tie.

The Temple will be set up as a Mark Lodge and there will be presentations by the Provincial Executive, who will talk about the Degree; and there will be plenty of opportunity for questions and answers. Members of Ysgolion Lodge will also answer questions about their own Lodge and its history.

Care will of course be taken to ensure that no one will be made to feel uncomfortable if they decide to postpone a decision about becoming a member of this Degree. A flyer about the event and a dining form appear on the Provincial website.

This is a great opportunity to showcase our Order and convince any waverers that are interested in Mark, but who have not yet taken the plunge!

Craft AProvGM Installed in Mark Chair

by : Paul Calderwood

On Friday 20 October 2017, fifty Mark Master Masons were present at the Installation Meeting of Cambria Mark Lodge No.823 in Cardiff to witness the Installation of Bro Alan Gardener, Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, into the Chair by WBro Phillip Morgan.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, accompanied by his Wardens and a large number of Provincial Officers together with twelve Grand Officers, was in attendance and expressed his pleasure at being present on such a noteworthy occasion.

Also present in support of Alan Gardener, were a number of senior Craft Brethren including WBro Roger Richmond, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Geoffrey Thomas, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master and WBro Peter Jones, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Installing Master, WBro Phillip Morgan, proceeded to Install Alan in an exemplary manner and the ceremony was enjoyed by all. The RWProvincial Grand Master in congratulating the incoming



Master reminded him of the importance of Adoniram in our Masonic tradition.

Later, during the Ceremony, the ProvGM took the opportunity to give an explanation of the Mark Grand Lodge Certificates being presented to newly Advanced Brethren.

Sunday Lunch at the Provincial Grand Officers Mess

by : Paul Calderwood

The Annual Sunday Luncheon held by the South Wales Provincial Grand Mark Officers Mess, took place on 3 December 2017, at Ty Newydd Hotel, Hirwaun.

It was hosted by WBro Neil Charles PrGJW, and his wife Patricia. Neil, who is this year's Provincial Grand Junior Warden, is also the Vice-President of the Officers Mess for this Masonic year.

The Patron of the Mess, the Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones was present and accompanied by his wife Geraldine, along with the DepProvGM, WBro Dr Paul R Calderwood and his wife Jean, and the AProvGM, WBro Stephen C E Harries and his wife Gillian.

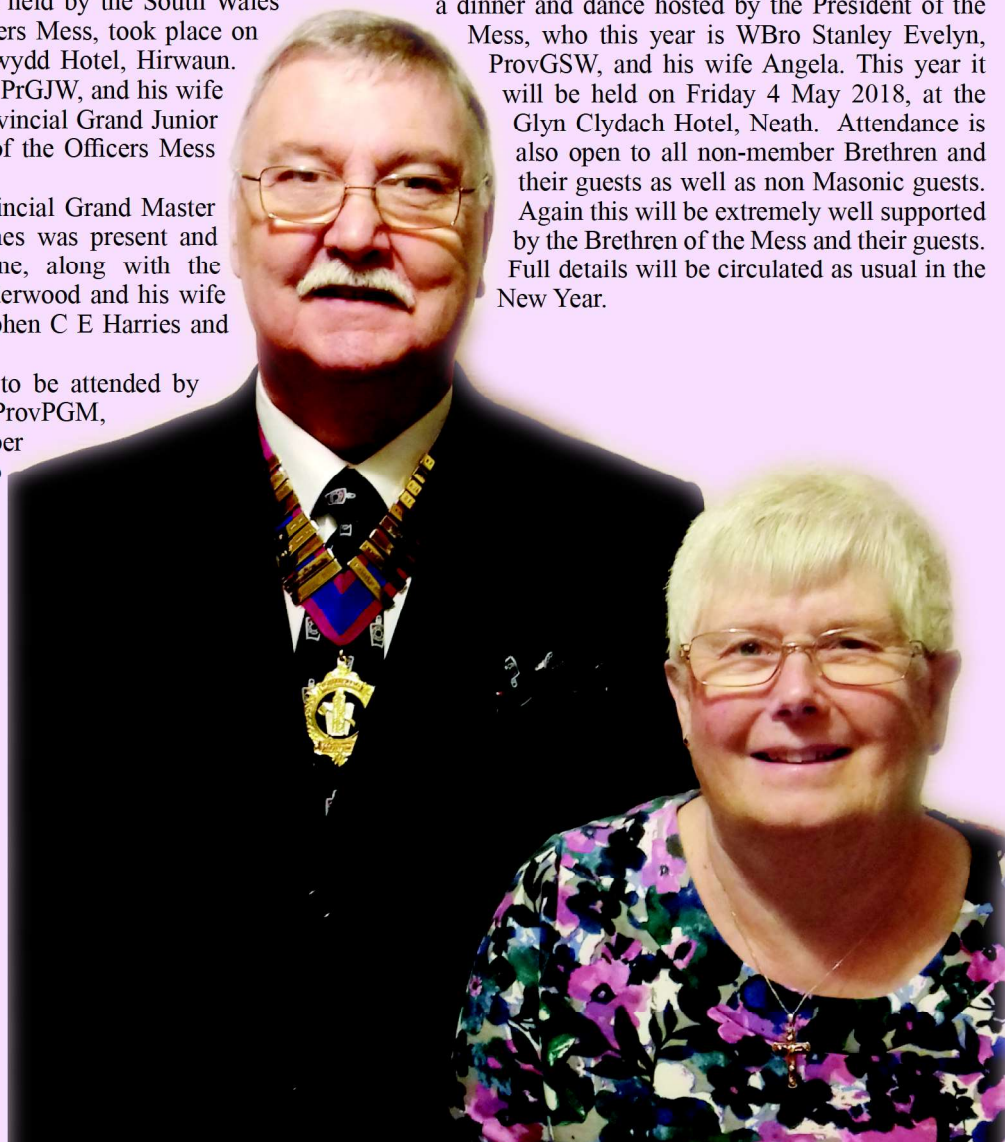
This was the last Mark function to be attended by WBro Stephen in his Office of AProvPGM, as he officially retired on 5 December 2017. His successor WBro Philip W Davies, PAGDC and his wife Allyson were also present.

This function is always extremely well supported by Provincial Officers and their wives and this occasion was no exception. There were present 150 Brethren, wives and guests, who partook of an excellent three course luncheon, provided by Ty Newydd Hotel and its staff.

As is customary, after the Loyal Toast, the Vice President welcomed everyone to the function and announced that the raffle had raised in excess of £700.00, which he was pleased to present to the Provincial Grand Master for the 2020 Appeal.

Membership of the Mess is restricted to Provincial Grand Officers Present and Past.

The Mess hosts two social functions a year, the other being a dinner and dance hosted by the President of the Mess, who this year is WBro Stanley Evelyn, ProvGSW, and his wife Angela. This year it will be held on Friday 4 May 2018, at the Glyn Clydach Hotel, Neath. Attendance is also open to all non-member Brethren and their guests as well as non Masonic guests. Again this will be extremely well supported by the Brethren of the Mess and their guests. Full details will be circulated as usual in the New Year.



Don Lewis Lewis's 60 years in Mark Masonry

by : Terence Scarfe

In September 2017, at Caerffili Mark Lodge Meeting, around 120 Brethren and guests celebrated WBro Don Lewis's wonderful achievement of sixty years in Mark Masonry.

The Meeting was attended by the Assistant Grand Master, RWBro Stephen Davison accompanied by DepGDC WBro Mark Golding, the Provincial Grand Master of the Province of South Wales, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, along with many other distinguished Brethren.

Stephen Davison outlined Don's career in Mark Masonry and presented him with a Certificate marking his 60 years' service and he went on to announce his appointment as PAGDC.

The Provincial Grand Master also presented Don with a Certificate from Provincial Grand Lodge. Don said that he would be delighted to see them again in ten years' time when he hoped to celebrate 70 years in the Mark Degree.

At dinner, the ProvGM was also delighted to present Don with an engraved Mark Jewel as well as an engraved Mark Token.

The toast to Don Lewis Lewis was proposed by his great friend WBro Arthur O'Neil in which he said: "We all know Don as a happy jovial person who never has a bad word to say about anyone, a real gentleman".

"Don joined the RAF during the Second World War and became a Navigator, flying in Sterlings and Lancasters. How he qualified as a navigator still amazes me because four years ago when I was on holiday, he received an invitation to a Masonic meeting, and arranged for a Brother to drive him. They set off at 5 o'clock for



Photograph by Anthony Howell

a 6:30 meeting and, because of heavy traffic, arrived in Swansea a little late - only to find that they should have been in Merthyr Tydfil anyway".

Don was Initiated into Lodge of St Ilan. He has joined many Orders and Degrees, attaining the Chair in all of them and from today is a Grand Officer in all of them. He has also been very active in forming new Lodges in the Craft and other Degrees and has been the Founding Master of at least two of them.

"Don, on behalf of all your friends here and those who could not be here, may we wish you continued good health and happiness for many years to come and indeed look forward to being with you again in a few years' time when you celebrate your 100th birthday".

Worshipful Brother Don's response was: "What a load of old rubbish". This response is typical of Don and why so many attended this truly wonderful evening of celebration

Many Hands make light work

by : Paul Calderwood

In a way that ought to be the motto of the South Wales Mark Provincial Stewards Lodge No.829 - whose primary role is to be a source of assistance to the Province with the running of events.

Every year newly appointed Provincial Grand Stewards are elected to join the ranks of this distinguished and highly valued Lodge, which holds meetings in both Merthyr Tydfil and Aderdare.

At its meeting in November for example WBro Alun Morton, PrGStwd, a member of Caerffili Mark Lodge No.348, and Bro Mark Randell, PrGStwd, a member of Cynon Dare Mark Lodge No.1590, were admitted to membership - as two of this year's Active Stewards.

Past Stewards who have not yet joined are also very welcome. All enquiries to the new Secretary: WBro Garry Davies: 37, The Struet Brecon LD3 7LW Email garrymdavies@gmail.com Tel 01874 625176

The camaraderie of the Lodge is well known and, just like their emblem, the cornucopia - it is overflowing.



Photograph by Anthony Howell

Mark Randell on duty with the ProvGM.

Double Celebration at Caerffili Mark Lodge

by : Paul Calderwood

Caerffili Mark Lodge Installation Festival on Friday 9 November 2017 proved to be a double celebration with an Advancement Ceremony prior to the Installation of its new Worshipful Master, Bro Michael William Thomas.

The Installing Master, WBro Colin Pitman gave way to the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Designate, WBro Philip Davies, who Advanced his son Lloyd Davies in what was an excellent and emotional Ceremony.

To complete the double celebration, Colin Pitman Installed



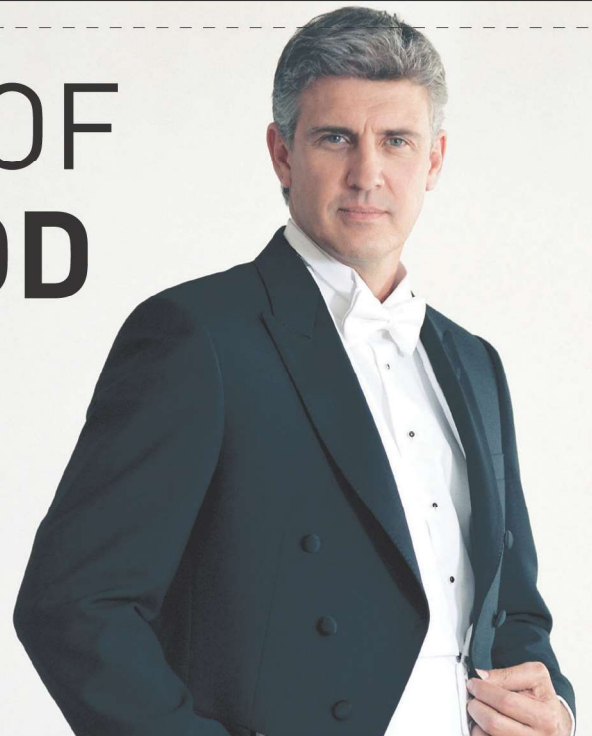
Photographs by Anthony Howell

Michael Thomas into the Chair of the Lodge, supported by a strong team of Past Masters and Brethren.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Stephen Harries observed the excellent support received by the Lodge from all of its Brethren. The strength of support by Brethren yet to progress to the Chair was most encouraging, because they make up all the progressive offices in the Lodge. A few weeks later, on 6 December 2017, Philip Davies was invested as Assistant Provincial Grand Master at De Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons. Due to his previous advancement, his son Lloyd, was then able to take part in that celebration.

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