

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others”

by : Roger Lewis

It is not a new concept helping those who need help and it is extended all over the world through such organisations as Christian Aid, Oxfam and Médecins Sans Frontières. Unfortunately, this necessity will continue and the demands on individuals and organisations 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 and find themselves 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 Tiny Tim in ‘A Christmas Carol’.

Charity is not confined to Freemasonry but it is a central precept 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 forefront 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.

At a recent meeting of Dunraven Mark Lodge, No.950, the Grand Secretary RWBro Ryan Williams outlined to the Brethren present some of the recent projects the Benevolent Fund had been involved in. These included: Blood Bikes to transport urgently needed blood for transfusions; mobile Chemotherapy Units particularly for those in rural areas; support for the homeless in London and the latest initiative in providing vehicles for the St John’s Ambulance Service.

Secondly there is the South Wales Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund, which was established many years ago – and currently has an Appeal underway to coincide with the 150th Anniversary of the Province and is funded entirely by South Wales Mark Masons. Its aim is to assist those Mark Masons and their families in need in the South Wales Mark Province.

Reference is often made in the Lodge to the ‘Charity Chest’



and the Charity Account which is separate from the main Lodge account. This is more than a figure of speech or a convenient phrase, as originally the Fraternities or Guilds kept their money for charity and other needs in a large box. Initially there were no banks and if there were there was no guarantee that your money would be safe; many Western films and others testify to the vulnerability of your money when held in such places.

Money was then kept in lockable metal or thick heavy wooden safes. These ‘safes’ had two, three or even more locks with their accompanying different keys. Each designated Member of the Lodge would have his own key, which meant that the box or chest could only be opened when all the key holders were present. Similarly, there had to be agreement that the box needed to be opened and that the circumstances were safe and secure.

It was a banking process in which those members who were in need could borrow money and replace it with an IOU from the borrower. This was not necessarily to ensure the money would be repaid but to act as a receipt of monies received. This would then be countersigned by the keyholders or ‘Boxmasters’ as they were often called. Some boxes had secret drawers known only to the Boxmasters, hidden under removable fronts for extra security.

The familiarities with current requirements are obvious, cheque signatories and balance sheets etc. So in reality, although the mechanics have changed over time, the need has remained.

Pictured above are Porthcawl Mark Lodge No.1377 Members receiving their Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund Collarettes. (left to right) WBro Lyn J Guttridge, Bro Roger J Parsons, WBro Clive Evans, WBro R Alan Dicks WBro Peter E Taylor, Bro F Lindsey Morgan and WBro Paul Calderwood.

De Cymru Mark Grand Officers’ Lodge Honours Board Dedication

by : Roger Lewis

At the meeting of the De Cymru Mark Grand Officers’ Lodge No.1606 on 7 December 2017, which included the Investiture of the



newly appointed AProvGM, Philip William Davies, a Past Masters’ Board was presented by RWBro John Irfon Davies. He was capably assisted in the procurement of the Board by VWBro Alan Ford Thomas.

The Board was duly

presented in the presence of a packed Temple of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers, and then dedicated by the ProvGM RWBro T R Eirian Jones, who on this occasion was also the Worshipful Master of De Cymru Lodge.

The ProvGM then gave an extremely interesting and informative résumé of the purpose and place of a Lodge



Photographs by Anthony Howell

Honours Board within the context of Freemasonry. The Board contains the names of all the Past Masters since the Lodge’s Consecration in May 1984. The Board will be erected in the Masonic Hall Caerphilly, a venue which is used for the December meeting of De Cymru Lodge.

The End of an Era

by : Roger Lewis

It is said that all good things come to an end and so it is with the retirement of the South Wales Provincial Grand Secretary VW Bro Stanley William Jeffrey Clarke PGMO.

VW Bro Jeff as he is known to all Mark Masons in this Province, and many other Provinces nationwide, has been a stalwart in the service of the Province and a fount of knowledge regarding Masonic protocol and procedure in both the Mark Degree and indeed other Orders. He was always the first port of call for advice and guidance and generously gave his time to all.

However, this expertise has not been lost to the Mark Province of South Wales as VW Bro Jeffrey Clarke is being promoted, by RW Bro TR Eirian Jones, ProvGM to Deputy Provincial Grand Master on the retirement of the current Deputy WBro Dr Paul R Calderwood PGSD.

Jeffery Clarke was advanced in the Stability Mark Lodge No.758 on the 12 October 1970 and is currently its senior subscribing Past Master. He was elevated in the St John's Lodge No.28 of Royal Ark Mariners in 1971 and is a Masonic Veteran in both Orders having continuous service of over forty years. He steadily advanced through the Mark Degree becoming AProvGM in 1990, a post he held until he was invited, in 1993, by the then ProvGM RW Bro Malcolm Hayes Thompson to succeed VW Bro Alan Hines, PGJO as Provincial Grand Secretary for the South Wales Province.

The role included the establishment of a Provincial Mark Office to administer all aspects of the Order and assist in the day to day organisation of the Province. This position he has held for twenty-five years, this record being only surpassed by WBro John Rees in the first part of the last century.

Jeff has had the honour of serving five ProvGMs. He was

responsible, with the expertise of WBro John Giddings, PAGDC, for the introduction of computerised data being used for the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund in 1981.

In 1988, he was assigned the task of assisting in the preparation of the separation of the Province of South Wales and the creation of the Province of Dyfed, which took place in 1989. He was also the organising Secretary for the Mark Benevolent Fund Festival held in Cardiff under the chairmanship of the then RW ProvGM, RW Bro Desmond Barnett, which was held in the Cardiff CIA Building, now called the Motorpoint Arena, where over 1200 Brethren and their families attended and raised over £500,000 for the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The Province wholeheartedly thanks Jeff for his dedication in leading the Mark Province as Provincial Secretary over the last twenty-five years and extends grateful thanks to his wife Andrea for her unstinting support during this time.

VW Bro Jeffery Clarke will be invested as Deputy Provincial Grand Master by the ProvGM, RW Bro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones at the Mark Annual Provincial Convocation to be held on Wednesday 6 June 2018 in Cardiff. He will be succeeded as Provincial Grand Secretary by WBro Martin A Jones, PGJD the current Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary, who will also be invested as the new Provincial Grand Secretary at the same meeting.



The Stone the Builders refused has become the Headstone of the Corner

by : Roger Lewis

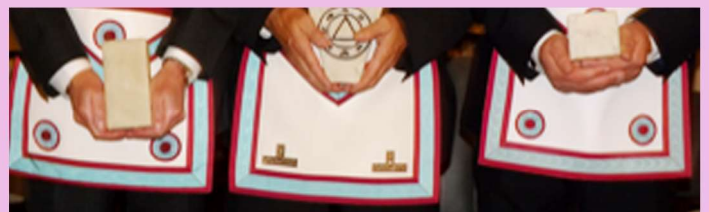
At the last ordinary meeting of the Ysgolion Lodge of Mark Master Masons in Pontyclun, the event that took place was far from ordinary. The meeting centred around the title of this article which is a verse from Psalm 118 and is the whole underlying rationale upon which the Mark Degree is based.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an explanation of the Mark Order to those Master Masons who had expressed an interest, but who were not yet members of the Mark Degree. The meeting was very ably led by the Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Province of South Wales, RW Bro TR Eirian Jones accompanied by members of the South Wales Mark Executive; WBro Paul R Calderwood, DepProvGM, WBro Philip W Davies AProvGM, VW Bro S W Jeffrey Clarke, ProvGSec and the DepProvGSec WBro Martin A Jones.

The message the Provincial Grand Master gave to the assembly of Grand Officers, Provincial Officers, Brethren from the Craft and Mark Degrees, who came to support this event, was that if you wish to expand your Masonic knowledge then becoming a member of the 'friendly degree' and joining the Mark Order would be highly desirable and beneficial to your Masonic advancement.

The Executive then proceeded to outline and explain many aspects of the Mark Degree, which included the history of the Degree both nationally and internationally; that the South Wales Province was established in 1870 and is celebrating its sesquicentenary in 2020, making it the sixth oldest and eighth largest Mark Province worldwide.

Further explanation centred on the history of the Degree and a brief insight into the ceremony, which is an impressive retelling of the story of King Solomon's Temple. This is considered to give the



Candidate further insight and depth of understanding of the Fellow Craft Degree.

The history of the Mark Degree was further exemplified using marks of individual Masons and their purpose and a brief outline of the role played by mediaeval masons in the buildings of their time.

Modern day Mark Masonry further expands this role by placing great emphasis on an individual's contribution to everyday life in helping others and, most importantly, that the weak can make just as important a contribution as the strong. There is a firm belief that whatever your background, your contribution is of value and distinction is always within grasp.

The presentation concluded with a brief explanation of the Regalia and the Masonic cyphers and symbols which figure prominently in the Mark Degree.

This very successful evening ended with an informal buffet. Members mixed with visitors from the Craft, answering any questions they wished to raise. It is anticipated that in the future similar events will be held. Should further information regarding membership of the Mark Order be required, the Provincial Grand Secretary can be contacted via www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk or by writing to the Provincial Grand Secretary, The Lodge, 128, Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 1DH

DID YOU KNOW... The Mark Benevolent Fund gave a grant of £1.6 million to RNLI for a Tamar Class Lifeboat, called 'Mark Mason' stationed at Angle, West Wales Addenbrooke's Hospital received over £2 million to assist in the diagnosis of prostate cancer, and a pledge of £2.6 million has also been made for the purchase of mobile chemotherapy units.

Dunraven Lodge celebrates Members' achievements

by : Roger Lewis

At the December meeting of Dunraven Mark Lodge No.950, two of their long standing, faithful Members were presented with 40 year Mark Degree Veteran Certificates.

They were WBro Noel Alleyne PGSD and Bro Glyn Watts Jones PPrAGDC. The evening was particularly memorable because in addition to it being the Christmas Ladies' Dining Evening, the Grand Secretary RWBro Ryan Williams, a member of the Lodge, WBro Philip Davies APGM and VWBro SWJ Clarke, Provincial Grand Secretary were all in attendance to present the Certificates.

RWBro Ryan outlined his memories of the two Members during his



early years in Dunraven Lodge and noted that he was in school when both these Mark Masons were Advanced in the Mark Order.

It is interesting to note that these two Veterans took different paths within the Order. Glyn only remained a Member of Dunraven, whilst Noel spread his Mark affiliations more widely with not only being a member and founder of many local Lodges, but also a member of the Provincial DCs' Lodge No.1813 based in Birmingham in the Province of Worcestershire.

It is not surprising that both these Veteran Mark Masons have fond memories of their past times in Dunraven Mark Lodge confirming indeed that the Mark Degree is indeed the 'Friendly Degree'.

Glyn remembers that his Companion when he was Advanced, on the 31 October 1977 was Bro Brynley Moore and recalls that the Worshipful Master was WBro Peter M Williams, the Secretary was WBro Arthur Elliot and the Immediate Past Master was WBro Ron

Moon. The annual subscription to the Lodge in 1977 was £4 per annum!

Noel has similar fond memories being Advanced in the old Temple in Adare Street, Bridgend and being Worshipful Master in the new Temple, having progressed through all the Offices.

He was influenced in those early days by WBros Alan Hines and Ron Moon, whose encouragement helped to cement a long, enjoyable and fulfilling time in Mark Masonry.

The picture left shows from left to right: VWBro S W J Clarke, Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Philip Davies AProvGM, Bro Glyn Watts Jones, WBro Jan Deenik WMaster, WBro Noel Alleyne and RWBro Ryan Williams, Grand Secretary.

New Worshipful Master in Porthcawl Lodge

by : Roger Lewis

The 180th Regular Meeting of the Porthcawl Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1377 was held at the Masonic Hall, New Road, Porthcawl on Wednesday 13 December 2017. The main purpose of the meeting was to Install Bro David John Hughes, Senior Warden and Master Elect, as Worshipful Master for the Ensuing Year. The Installing Master was WBro Alan Dicks, who conducted the ceremony with great dignity, sincerity and in an exemplary manner.

The photograph taken following the meeting shows the newly installed Master with his Installing Master together with the Executive members present. From the left to right WBro Dr Paul R Calderwood, DepProvGM, WBro David John Hughes, WBro R Alan Dicks, IPM & Installing Master and WBro Philip W Davies, AProvGM.



Afan Mark Lodge No.1088 Donates £400 to Mumbles Lifeboat

by : John Purchase

Each year the WMaster of Afan Mark Lodge chooses a charity that he would like to support. This year the Worshipful Master, WBro Phil Rice (who has a brother and a nephew among the lifeboat crew), chose the Mumbles Lifeboat. After spending an enjoyable and interesting hour being shown around the lifeboat, WBro Phil formerly presented the cheque for £400. This will be used to purchase thermal imaging equipment, which will aid with search and rescue, especially at night.

Pictured from left to right: WBro Robert Adams (Secretary), Dave Rice (Dep Launch Authority), Nigel Garner (Dep Coxwain), WBro Brian Lloyd (IPM), WBro Phil Rice (WM), Ben Bellingham (Mechanic), WBro David Rees (DC) and WBro Robert Adler (Treasurer).



A First for RAM No.1088

by : John Purchase

The 23 January 2018 was a special night for Afan RAM No.1088. In his first ceremony after his Installation the WCommander, WBro. Robert Adler, Elevated three of his close friends into Afan Lodge. With space being tight, it took some skilful manoeuvring to guide the three Candidates around the Lodge, but with expert guidance from the senior Brethren the Ceremony went like clockwork.

The WCommander and the three Brethren were all Masters of their respective Craft Lodges in Port Talbot back in 2005/2006. They have perambulated together for the last 16 years, since being thrown together as Junior Wardens. They have forged a firm friendship both in and out of the Lodge.

Not being content with Elevating three Brethren, Afan RAM also had a Joining Member to welcome, WBro Gherold Davies, WCommander of Sketty Hall RAM No.1685.

So all in all a great start to 2018 for Afan RAM.



Pictured above (Left to right); Bro Brian Lloyd, WBro Robert Adler, Bro David Rees and Bro Phil Rice

Dual Celebration at Lodge of Endurance

There were dual celebrations at the meeting on 5 February 2018. First Bro Roger King celebrated being a Member for 60 years, having been Initiated into the Lodge on 3 February 1958. Due to work commitments taking him all over the country, he had not progressed in the Lodge but had remained a full member for 60 years. The photograph right shows Assistant Provincial Grand Master WBro Stephen C E Harries, PAGDC presenting Roger with a 60 year Pin and Certificate.

The Lodge was also celebrating achieving Gold status for the 2021 Festival. The AProvGM congratulated the Members of the Lodge on this fine achievement and presented the Lodge with a Certificate. The Photograph below shows the AProvGM with WMaster, WBro Colin Morgan and the Lodge Charity Steward WBro Gerald Rogers MBE, PProvJGW, receiving the Certificate.



Photographs by Anthony Howell



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