

Mark My Words

-- The Newsletter for the Mark Master Mason



2004 Festival - We're Nearly There



Photo :
Anthony Howell

Desmond Barnett, J.P.
President of the 2004 Festival for
the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Another edition of the Gazette, and a couple of months nearer to the 2004 Festival in July, it becomes a sobering thought when you realise that we are now in the year 2004 and that the Festival which we have been planning and preparing for, is almost upon us.

We cannot say it is next year any more - it is now only months away. For many Lodges there will only be one meeting before the Festival and so time is now very short. A large part of the "Mark My Words" section of the Gazette will therefore be devoted to the Festival, and to emphasising the arrangements which have been put in place, and what still needs to be done.

What can YOU do to make this Festival a SUCCESS?

You will all have had your own information pack, giving details of the Festival Gala Dinner to be held on Saturday 3rd. July at the Cardiff International Arena, together with information on the welcome party on the evening of Friday 2nd. and details of accommodation available in the city if you wish to stay overnight.

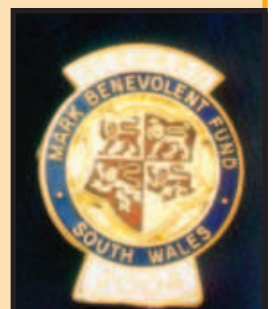
The package also included details for obtaining the Festival Jewel and draw tickets, the proceeds of which will go to our Festival fund.

Inform your Lodge Festival Liaison Officer of your intentions so that he can add your name and those of your guests to his list. The Gala Dinner is open to everybody and you are encouraged to invite your family, non Mark Masons as well as gentlemen who are not Freemasons to the Festival.

We only ask that they should be accompanied by a Festival Steward. The Festival is a celebration and one we wish to share with all.

FESTIVAL STEWARDS JEWEL.

It will have been noted by most of our brethren that the 2004 Festival Stewards Jewel is now being worn at our meetings and After Proceedings. It is the Provincial Grand Masters wish that all Mark Masons will, before the 2004 Festival next July, qualify and wear this Jewel with pride. To obtain the Festival Jewel please contact your Lodge Charity Steward or the Provincial Office.



The Festival Jewel

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

The qualification required to obtain this Jewel is a minimum contribution of £50.00 to the Mark Benevolent Fund. Most of our brethren have contributed over the years to the M.B.F. and many have already qualified, without realising, as Stewards. It is therefore only necessary to make contact with the Charity Steward who will be pleased to present you with the Jewel on payment of £4.00.

We urge you to give this our Mark Festival the support it deserves. Not since 1968 has the Mark Festival been under the chairmanship of this Province and then the Festival Gala Dinner was held in London. **THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE MARK FESTIVAL HAS BEEN HELD IN CARDIFF, THE CAPITAL OF WALES.** Let us make sure that it will be a FESTIVAL that will long be remembered by all those present.



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FLURRY OF LODGE BANNERS.

The last couple of months have been rather hectic for our Provincial Grand Master and his Provincial Officers, with no less than four Lodges celebrating the dedication of a new Lodge Banner.

St. Tydfil, Barry and South Wales Installed Mark Masters Lodge all had their Banners dedicated by Desmond Barnett during their Regular Lodge Meetings, the ceremony never fails to impress those present with the ceremonial and the colour of the occasion.

Stability Mark Lodge, through the offices of the Provincial Secretary, (we think he is a member of this lodge), was granted permission from Grand Lodge for the Banner Dedication ceremony to be performed in the company of ladies and invited guests. The Dedication took place after regular Lodge business had been transacted and the Lodge was closed. The brethren present wore their regalia according to their rank.



Consecration of the Barry Lodge Banner.



L to R : Mrs. Molly Clement, Paul Clement, Mrs. Elaine Barnett, Desmond Barnett, Mrs. Andrea Clarke, Anthony Moore, and Jeffrey Clarke at Stability Lodge Dedication

The ceremony included the Opening and Closing Hymns and the perambulations of the Banner.

This all helped to make the ceremony most enjoyable and gave the brethren the opportunity of wearing their regalia, some for the first time, in front of their guests, all adding colour and dignity to the ceremony.

The Banner was presented to the Lodge by Mrs Andrea Clarke, the wife of our Provincial Grand Secretary. The thanks of the Lodge were extended to her by the Worshipful Master, Eifion Bowen-Jones, who also presented her with a most beautiful bouquet of flowers. The S.W.I.M.M. banner was dedicated at Brecon on 27th. September. The Worshipful Master was Hywel Davies (Provincial Grand Master in the craft) and the banner was borne into the Lodge by Vernon Upton, G.M.

**W.Bro. EDWARD JOHN WILLIAMS, P.Pr.G.S.W.,
R.A.M.G.R.**

The Province is delighted to extend Fraternal Greetings and Congratulations to Edward (Uncle Ted) Williams, who was Advanced in Langley Mark Lodge No. 28 on 1st. December 1954 and Elevated in St. John's R.A.M. Lodge No. 28 on 21st. November 1956. 'Uncle Ted' celebrated his 100th Birthday on Monday 15th. December 2003. As if that was not enough to celebrate, Ted was recently voted the country's number one neighbour and was crowned the national champion by the charity "Care for the Family" at a ceremony held at the Radisson Edwardian Hotel in London. He had turned his garden into a play area for local children and organised a street party prior to being nominated. Ted was nominated by two of his young neighbours, schoolgirls Vicky Stolley and Adele Page who were also invited to attend the ceremony with their mums.

Ted was presented with a glass award together with a cheque for £500.00. He has donated £250.00 to the St. Joseph's Hospice in Hackney, where his daughter Christine is a director, and £250.00 to the Mark Benevolent Fund 2004 Festival. We salute him on reaching his 100th birthday and thank him for his kindness in remembering our Festival appeal.

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY ?

Have you obtained your 2004 Festival Merchandise ?

Ties, Pin Badges, Cuff Links and Mark Tokens are available from your Lodge Festival co-ordinator or Charity Steward. Merchandise is also on sale from the Mark Office :

The Coach House
128 Newport Road,
Cardiff.
CF24 1DH



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The Arthur Lewis Lodge Fourth Annual Boxing Tournament

The highly successful annual boxing tournament held by the Arthur Lewis Lodge (585) is to be repeated at the Llantrisant Leisure Centre on 12th. March next. Tables of ten are available at £25 per head, to include a three course dinner. Ladies are welcome. Dress is formal (dinner suit, lounge suit or jacket & tie) and dinner will be served at 7.30 p.m. Many Welsh champions are expected to take part. Entrance is by ticket only - available from Tony Wynne (01685 879051) John Nathaniel (01443 435023) or Jeff Williams (01443 227146)

Proceeds kindly donated to the 2004 Festival.

The Sound of the Bagpipes, the Swirl of the Kilt - Yes!, it's the Burn's Night Gala Dinner!



The last Annual Provincial Mark Festival Gala Dinner before the 2004 Festival will be held at the Cardiff Masonic Hall on Saturday 24th. January, starting at 7.30 with a champagne reception. There will be a six course meal with wines and entertainment, prize draw and raffle. Tickets are £29.00 each and will be allocated on a first come first served basis from the Provincial Office in Newport Road.

Cowbridge Lodge Race Nite 14th. November

Cowbridge Mark Master Masons organised a superb race night recently in aid of the 2004 festival. Some 100 Mark Master Masons and Guests attended and enjoyed an evening of racing, eating, and drinking in pleasant company. Thanks go to the race sponsors, horse owners, gamblers, advertisers, printers and caterers for making it such a successful night. Particular thanks should go to Glynne Roach (and family), Jim Cartwright, Jerry Scarfe and Richard Jasinski. The impressive sum of £1200 was raised for the Festival.

Pictured are the race officials - Glynne Roach, Keith Browning, Desmond Barnett (PGM), John Roberts and Terry Scarfe.



WE'LL KEEP A WELCOME.

With the 2004 Festival almost on us it was perhaps appropriate that at the Banner Dedication Ceremony at Stability Mark Lodge Jeffrey Clarke, Provincial Grand Secretary, presented to the Provincial Grand Master, Desmond Barnett, J.P. a cheque for £6,483.74 being the total royalties received to date from the performing and printed music rights of the song "We'll Keep a Welcome".

The rights of this song were given to the Mark Benevolent Fund in the name of Stability Mark Lodge by Ivor John, P.Pr.G.S.D. who died in 1977. This was a wonderful gesture on his part and one which has benefited the Mark Benevolent Fund greatly over the years.

Let us make sure that we will keep a welcome when we receive our guests at the 2004 Festival in our Capital City next July.

CYNON DARE ROYAL ARK MARINER LODGE No. 1590

The Consecration of the Cynon Dare R.A.M. Lodge took place on Thursday 6th. November 2003 at the Masonic Temple in Aberdare.

The Provincial Grand Master, Desmond Barnett, J.P. was the Consecrating Officer and was accompanied by his Wardens and Officers, the Oration was given by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, John B. Russell, O.B.E. Gareth Gait was afforded the honour of being appointed and invested as the first Commander of the Lodge, W.Bro. Denis Cotter, Senior Warden, W.Bro. Alan Rosser Thomas, Junior Warden. W.Bro. Malcolm Clarke was the Founding Secretary and was appointed as the Scribe of the Lodge. In total there were 24 Founders and all but one were able to attend the meeting.

John Pring.

As most of you will know John Pring suffered a heart attack one year ago. After leaving hospital he was restricted to riding his bicycle for ten minutes per day. Those of you who know John will realise how restrictive this was to him.

However, this riding time was gradually increased until a few months ago, when John was given the all clear to ride as much as he wished, but to 'train not strain'.

On hearing this good news he decided to undertake a sponsored cycle ride in support of the 2004 Mark Festival. He now cycles almost every day with his wife Jill who is a great support to him.

During the summer he undertook a 350km mountain ride over part of last years Tour of Spain course, completing this in five days. Then in the autumn he completed a four day ride to Cartagena and back - a distance of 260km.

He has set himself a target of 5000 miles before the first of July 2004 and to date is on target.

He is asking each Mark and RAM lodge to support him by donating the sum of twenty five pounds to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund adding the

Porthcawl Mark Lodge (1377) held a very successful evening at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. Over 200 people attended the "Owen Money Cabaret Dinner Dance". Lyn Guttridge would like to extend his appreciation to all attending, including the Brethren from the Craft Lodges of Porthcawl. Special thanks to Jim Childs and Roger Parsons for co-ordinating the event. The magnificent and surprisingly appropriate sum of £2,004.00 was raised for the Festival.