

Mark My Words

-- The Newsletter for the Mark Master Mason

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April 2004

THE FINISHING LINE IS NOW IN SIGHT!

It was back in 1996 at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in April, that it was announced that the Province of South Wales was to Chair the 136th Mark Benevolent Fund Festival, this of course was a surprise to most of us, as at that time, the Craft Province of South Wales Eastern Division was in the middle of their fund raising activities for the 1999 New Samaritan Fund which was being held under the chairmanship of The Rt.Hon. The Lord Swansea. In view of the involvement and commitment of our Mark

Brethren, it was decided not to launch the Mark Festival Appeal until the 1999 Craft Festival was concluded.

In September 1999 the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Desmond Barnett launched the Mark Festival and a booklet entitled "On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!" was published and sent to every member of the Mark degree in the Province. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since that announcement and all lodges have been active in their support for the Festival, not only by individual donations to the M.B.F., but also by organising a whole range of Social Evenings which have been varied and enjoyed by those who have been able to attend. Indeed as we write, events are still taking place, and we extend our grateful thanks to you all for arranging and supporting this worthy cause.

The last occasion that the Province of South Wales chaired the Festival was back

**Provincial Grand Lodge of
Mark Master Masons of South Wales** **The Mark
Benevolent Fund**

2004 Festival Celebration Dinner

Cardiff International Arena
Saturday 3 July 2004
 Reception 6.30pm for 7.30pm

**Under the Chairmanship of
 R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett J.P.
 in and over the Province of South Wales**



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in 1968. The Gala Festival Evening was held in London which was the tradition then, hence this is the first time that the Mark Festival has not been held in England, and it is up to us all to make sure that we extend a Warm Welcome to all those Brethren with their families and friends who will be travelling long distances to be in the Capital City of Wales to celebrate the very necessary work of the Benevolent Fund. The support from other Provinces has been overwhelming and a wonderful surprise; it only reinforces the statement that the Mark Degree is the "Friendly Degree". It is now our opportunity to make sure that they receive a real Welsh welcome and thank them for their support. We must of course remember to thank our own families and friends for the help and encouragement they have given during the Festival campaign.

There is still a lot of work to be completed, and again we would ask for you to consider your commitment to the MBF and if able, to renew your Gift Aid donation so that it will continue in the future. It is the R. W. Provincial Grand Master's wish that all Brethren become Festival Stewards and wear the Festival Stewards Jewel with pride.

Applications for tickets to attend the Gala dinner being held on Saturday 3rd July at the Cardiff International Arena are now being received. You are urged to contact your Liaison Officer or apply direct to the Provincial office for your reservations.

The closing date for applications is 1st May 2004. Please hurry!

Remember that non - Masons are most welcome, the Festival is a time of celebration, for the work of the Mark Benevolent Fund and the assistance and support it gives to those in need, as well as supporting non Masonic Charities. We must make this an occasion that we the Brethren of this Province, can look back on and be proud of the effort we have all made in making this

The Festival to be Remembered



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The Friendly Degree arrives at Bargoed

The sun shone on Bargoed on Tuesday 16th March when over 100 brethren filled the Masonic Temple and witnessed the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett, J.P. consecrate the Trinity Mark Lodge No.1845. The consecration marked the end of many frustrating years in achieving this goal.



The Provincial Executive party with the WM, Wardens and R.W.Bro. Brian Cull

The Provincial Grand Master was assisted by V.W.Bro. Paul R. Clement, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Anthony F. Moore, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, his Wardens, Overseers and other Provincial Officers, and we were delighted to have in our company the Provincial Grand Master of Monmouthshire, R.W.Bro. Brian C. Cull.

Following the Consecration Ceremony, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Installed W. Bro. I. L. Hughes as the first Master, W. Bro. C. B. W. Chard as Senior Warden, W. Bro. B. E. Miller as Junior Warden and W. Bro. J. Hood as acting first Immediate Past Master.

It was pleasing to witness such a large number of brethren who had not already been through the chair being invested as officers, and that the membership consisted of a large number of brethren who are actively involved in masonry in the adjoining Province of Monmouthshire.

The singing was also of a high standard and almost lifted the roof of the Temple.

The members of the Trinity Mark Lodge are to be congratulated in the manner they prepared for the consecration especially to W. Bro. Idris L. Hughes and Bro. Malcolm J. Dymott who both had acted as founding Secretary during the formation of the lodge.

The consecration of the Trinity Mark Lodge brings the total number of Mark Lodges in the Province to 29 and with 21 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges a combined total of 50.

The Province wish the Officers and members of the Trinity Mark Lodge well for the future, long may they continue to convey the teachings of Mark Masonry in Bargoed and the surrounding areas.

V.W. Bro. S. W. Jeffrey Clarke, Prov. G. Sec.



W.Bro. B.E. Miller, JW, Bro. I.L. Hughes, WM and W.Bro. C.B.W. Chard, S.W

Yet again the Kilts and the Bagpipes were out in Cardiff!

Burns Night was honoured at the Cardiff Masonic Hall on Saturday 24th January, when the Annual Mark Gala Dinner was celebrated in true Bard fashion. A large number of gentlemen were wearing traditional Scottish dress with a sprinkling of the Welsh Tartan also spotted. It was also a pleasure to see so many of our ladies also wearing Tartan sashes and Tartan skirts.

The Pipes escorted the Chieftain which was paraded around the banquet room and was addressed in fine form by Mr. Rowland Mercer. The menu for the evening was again provided in Scottish tradition with ample wee drams providing liquid refreshment when and where required. The catering staff are also to be congratulated in the preparation and presentation of the food which was enjoyed by all present, we also thank the Bar Manager and his staff for their co-operation during the evening.

ANNUAL PRIZE DRAW

The Annual Prize Draw took place during the Gala Evening and congratulations are extended to the following:

1st Prize	£1,000.00	D. Gwyn Rowlands.
2nd Prize:	£500.00	Mrs Joyce Giddings.
3rd Prize:	£250.00	Geoffrey W. Thomas.

W. Bro. John Pring.

Readers of the Mark My Words section of the Guildford Gazette will remember that W. Bro. John Pring of the Cambrensis Lodge suffered a heart attack in Spain some time ago. Sidney Richards of Cambrensis Lodge is pleased to report that W. Bro. John is now back to good health. So good in fact that he plans a sponsored cycle ride of 5000 miles in aid of the 2004 Festival. Sponsorship from Lodges or individuals is invited. Please contact W. Bro. Sid with details.

Cowbridge Mark Lodge, No. 1573

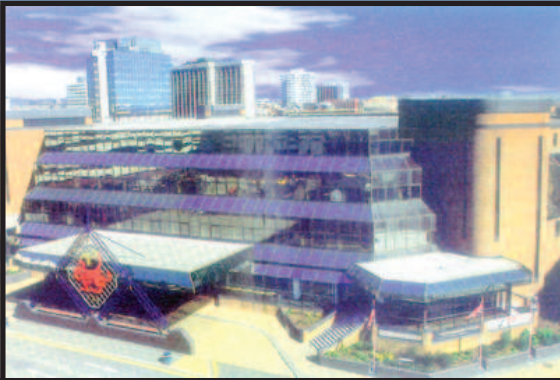
The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, V. W. Bro. Anthony F. Moore congratulated the Cowbridge Mark Lodge at their Installation Festival in February on their fund raising efforts in support of the 2004 Festival. The Lodge has raised over £4000 through their various activities, and special mention was made of W. Bro. Huw Williams, the outgoing Master, Bro. Richard Jasinski, W. Bro. Dennis Jones and W. Bro. Philip James .

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The Cardiff International Arena

Don't Forget
The deadline for applications
for the 2004 Festival is May 1st
Book NOW to avoid
disappointment
Contact the Provincial Office
for details or speak to your
Lodge Festival Organiser



40 Years in Mark Masonry. - Guess Who?

From W.Bro. Jeff Williams

The meeting of Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge on 10th. February was a momentous occasion because that night for the first time they had two candidates for advancement, W.Bro. Rhodri Williams and Bro. Jiles Walby. Also the P.G.M., R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett, was present because he had proposed both the candidates. Immediately after the 3rd and 4th raising, the P.G.M. arose to announce that he wished to enlighten all about a truly remarkable feat in Mark Masonry. Then he proceeded to inform all that last November 11th was the anniversary of 40 years continuous service to Mark masonry for a distinguished member of the Lodge. Most of the brethren were looking around to see to whom he was referring. One of the confused was W. Bro. John Nathaniel who

was rapidly brought back to earth, when the P.G.M. announced his name. His look of surprise will last for many a year with those who could see him.

The P.G.M. then reminded John that he had personally written to him in November to congratulate him on his achievement. Following upon this reminder, he then presented W.Bro. John with a pair of cut glass wine glasses on behalf of the Arthur Lewis Lodge as a token of their respect and gratitude to him for all his service and commitment to the Lodge. This was further enhanced by W.Bro. Gordon Williams, a life long friend, presenting him with a fine bottle of wine, with which to christen the glasses.

W.Bro. John then spoke briefly about this surprise, thanking all for the wonderful gift. He then reflected upon the last year, which had been a very special one for him and his good lady, June. In June 2003 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a surprise party organised by their sons to which a number of his Masonic brethren were invited, and a truly memorable night was had by all that evening.

Now on 31st March W. Bro. John will have an event to conclude his memorable year. He is to be installed as Worshipful Master in the S.W.I.M.M. Lodge, by no less a person than the P.G.M. in the craft, R.W. Bro. Hywel Davies.



John Nathaniel in the late 60's when he worked in an electrical retail shop, serving his mother and W.Bro. Jeff Williams's mother in law

Ysgolion Lodge News

from W.Bro. Fred Fox

With the 2004 Festival knocking at the door, Ysgolion Lodge staged a "Chuckles, Chicken and Chips" evening at Guildford Hall as a fund-raiser just before Christmas, which allowed W Master Chris Davies to present £360.00 towards what I'm sure will be a record-breaking Festival in all respects. We were also very pleased to play a part in the creation of the new Trinity Mark Lodge, which is to be Consecrated at Bargoed on Tuesday, March 16th. We were delighted to Advance three Brethren who will be founder-members of the new Lodge. We wish them, and the Trinity Lodge, the very best wishes for a happy and prosperous future. Your correspondent was fortunate enough to spend some time in South Africa over the Christmas / New Year period, and to visit the Carnarvon (That's how they spell it!) Mark Lodge No 559. To many of the members the name didn't mean anything, so as a Welshman I was glad to be able to relate to their name town. Owing to hefty increases in costs they were forced to increase their subs by 50%. From £10.00 to £15.00! The happiness of the Degree was evident even on the other side of the world, but a poor turnout meant that the Secretary trebled up as Inner guard and Tyler, while the Treasurer acted as Senior Overseer. One unusual practice is for the Treasurer to ask permission from the WM, in Open Lodge, to spend sums of money on their behalf between meetings. It is also usual for Mark Lodges having an RAM Lodge associated to meet on the same evening, to avoid the double travelling which would otherwise be involved for Brethren in both Degrees. At the Ysgolion January meeting our WM was involved in a huge queue on the M4 while travelling back from London. As he had telephoned to warn that he would be late, W Bro David Parsons bit the bullet, and took the Chair to open the Lodge and continue, pending W Bro Chris's arrival. Each noise outside was heard with anticipation of his arrival. The Advancee had just taken his place in the Lodge when the WM arrived! Many mutterings all round, and a suspicion, quite unfounded, that he had been driving around with a stop watch! Our Election Night will be at the end of March, when we will be advancing the WM of Ymlaen Lodge as a candidate. We are looking for 'Old Boys' of Penarth Schools to swell our numbers, as well as Old Cantonians, Cathays High School Old Boys and Old Hawardians, to balance the superiority of Cardiff High School Old Boys. Joining Members will also be welcomed, so why not give it a thought? You won't regret it!