

# Mark My Words

-- The Newsletter for the Mark Master Mason

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April  
2006



R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett, J.P.  
Provincial Grand Master

## A collection of recent history, current events and future affairs, for Mark Master Masons of the Province of South Wales

An apology to Mark Masons of the Province, that for technical reasons the last copy of the Guildford Gazette was bereft of Mark words of wisdom. For that reason, some of the history is older than the norm



R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett, P.G.M.  
R.W.Bro. Peter Glyn Williams, Speaker  
V.W.Bro. John Davies, C.B.E. and  
R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer, P.G.M.

October 2005  
**I was there**

By : W.Bro. Alan. R. Thomas

On Saturday, 1st October, 2005 The Provincial Directors of Ceremonies Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 1813, a prestigious Lodge founded in the Province of Worcestershire, was given permission by our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett, J.P., to hold its Election Meeting at the Masonic Hall in Cardiff, the Lodge's Worshipful Master being V.W.Bro. Wing Commander John Irfon Davies, C.B.E., P.G.J.O., of our Province. It was indeed a proud occasion for John to have this meeting held in the Principality.

The support afforded him was tremendous. Twenty Provinces were represented, from Durham in the North to Kent in the South. The Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire, R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer and his Provincial team travelled from Birmingham for the meeting, to be met and warmly and enthusiastically welcomed, by R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett and his- on this occasion unofficial - Provincial team.

Three other Provincial Grand Masters attended, namely, R.W.Bro. H. Keith Emmerson, (Herts), R.W.Bro. Raymond S.H. Hussey, (Surrey), R.W.Bro. David Nelson, (Somerset) and the guest speaker R.W.Bro. Peter Glyn Williams, P.G.S.W., G.M.R.A.C., G. Sec. (1986-1996).

The Lodge was honoured by the presence of four Past P.G.M.'s; namely R.W.Bro. David Palmer, (Somerset), R.W.Bro. Raymond Osborne, (Dorset), R.W.Bro. John Wickstead, (Dorset) and R.W.Bro. Colin Woodward (Worcs.), together with a further five Deputy, and three Assistant, Provincial Grand Masters. The members of the Lodge were delighted to find R.W.Bro John supported by Senior Craft representatives, namely, the P.G.M., R.W.Bro. Hywel Davies, Deputy P.G.M. V.W.Bro. Peter Frost, and Past Deputy P.G.M. V.W.Bro. Cdr. Roy K. Hopkin.

Finally, what was most pleasing was the support given by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Gordon A.E. Longmore and twelve members of Ysgolion Mark Lodge, John's own Lodge. A total of one hundred and ten brethren attended.

On arrival guests and members were served coffee and the Lodge was duly opened at 11.00 a.m., the normal business was transacted and a talk was given by R.W.Bro. Peter Glyn Williams, P.G.S.W., G.M.R.A.C., (Honoris Causa) mainly on Masonry in India, with numerous, interesting and amusing anecdotes from Rudyard Kipling The W. M. thanked R.W.Bro. Peter for his

talk, on behalf of all present, and the Lodge was closed in peace and harmony at 12.15 p.m.

The Directors of Ceremonies Lodge members pride themselves on their festive board, their unwritten motto being - 'fine wines with good food, shared with friends, make sure the Lodge is happy and well attended.'

Guests were amazed to find that on arrival at the bar, it was found to be closed, but in the smaller dining room there was a FREE BAR where their wants were supplied by W.Bro. Eddie Bolton's happy, expert band of stewards.

During the meal V.W.Bro. Anthony Francis Moore, M.B.E., our Assistant P.G.M., had arranged for Miss Bethan Watson to play, on the harp, some well known Welsh airs which captivated her audience, and were much appreciated.

Chef Bill Read supplied an outstanding five course meal, with a Welsh flavour - Cream of Fresh Leek Soup and Welsh Lamb etc., accompanied by a selection of wines and port. Grateful thanks must be given to the Bar Manager, Neil Lowes, for his advice and assistance.

Formal toasts were made to the Queen and the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

The Worshipful Master proceeded to welcome the Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire to Cardiff and asked the Brethren to toast the latter's health. In his reply R.W.Bro. Frank stated he had looked forward to his visit to Cardiff and spoke of the close friendship V.W.Bro. John and he had formed through their duties at Grand Lodge. He concluded by extolling V.W.Bro. John's virtues, wished him good health and asked the brethren to join him in a toast to the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Keith H. Turner, T.D., Junior Warden, made the toast to Visiting Brethren; The Tyler's Toast was drunk and the proceedings ended with the singing of the National Anthem.

Many members and guests complimented the Worshipful Master on the excellence of the day and its meticulous organisation, much of which was due to the Provincial Grand Secretary, V.W.Bro. S.W. Jeffrey Clarke, P.G.J.O.

A number stated this was their second visit to Cardiff; they had enjoyed their first visit during the successful 2004 Festival and were now looking forward to their third visit.

Alas! Alas! It will be many years before another Welshman will have the honour of being proclaimed Worshipful Master of The Provincial Directors of Ceremonies Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1813.

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In the centre is W.Master Malcolm Dymott showing the trophies, flanked by the P.G.M. Desmond Barnett JP, Don Lewis OBE, and the J & S Wardens, Michael Davison & Dr. Huw Davies

## Caerffili Mark Lod

**GUILDFORD Gazette 11.**  
On Saturday 3rd December an Extraordinary Meeting was held at the Masonic Temple, Caerphilly, to Dedicate a Lodge which had been very generously donated by W.Bro. Don Lewis, OBE. The Worshipful Master Malcolm Dymott, opened the Lodge at 7.30pm, in the room, while ladies and guests gathered in the Temple.

Called Off the Meeting, and as the Provincial Grand Master and his Provincial team performed the Dedication Ceremony. As may be expected at Caerphilly, the formal events were followed by a side-splitting five-course lunch, in which everyone was able to take an equal part, (with some more equal than others!) wisdom.

## Lodge Centennial - Arthur Lewis Lodge No.585,

The Arthur Lewis Lodge the third oldest Mark Lodge in the Province, will celebrate its Centennial with a meeting at Pontypridd on Monday 24th. April.

Of necessity such a proud and prestigious event will merit the presence of the Provincial Grand Master and his first Team. With the P.G.M.'s W.R.U. background we may be sure that the team will be fully coached and fit for the occasion.

The Provincial Grand Secretary W.Bro. Jeffrey Clarke, has circulated letters to Lodges advising the details of the evening. At this stage Mark My Words wishes the Lodge congratulations, with the hope that the evening will be a truly memorable one, and best wishes for the next hundred !

The Worshipful Master and Officers then proceeded to join the others in the Temple, where the Provincial Grand Master and his Provincial team performed the Dedication Ceremony. As may be expected at Caerphilly, the formal events were followed by a side-splitting five-course lunch, in which everyone was able to take an equal part, (with some more equal than others!) wisdom.

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## Where's Doug

W.Bro. Douglas James Morgan was installed as Master of the Cowbridge Lodge of M.M.M.'s in February. Genial and outgoing Doug wears his infatuation for Masonry boldly on his sleeve, quite unabashed, for all to see.

A product of Tonyrefil Grammar School, his boyhood dreams took him to a career with the RAF, where he describes as "tempting" postings from Grimsby to Wolverhampton, and as "punishment" postings from



A cheerful Doug & Annette

Returning to St Athan to work on Vulcan bombers, he retired in 1980 and transferred to the Civil Service.

Having mourned the loss of his dear wife Audrey to Cancer in 2000, he met a new love at St. Michaels Church Beddau - Annette, a Masonic widow of Bro. Bill Thompson of St. Cecilia Lodge No.748

Spurred by the example of his grandfather, W.Bro. Arthur Henry Morgan a founder of Carmel Lodge, his Masonic c.v. is far too lengthy to itemise, through nine Orders, and through the Chair of six. We salute his energy and commitment

### LODGE NEWS

By : Fred Fox

**Ysgolion** Lodge No.1487 With no meeting in December it was necessary only to celebrate the Festive Season quietly at home, while remembering those Brethren who had gone to the Grand Lodge Above and left sorrowing widows behind them. We are fortunate in Ysgolion to have twelve such ladies to greet, and each was visited by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Gordon Longmore, and given a card and a small gift to show that they were still in our thoughts. We usually entertain them at our regular April Ladies' Dinner, but, alas, anno domini creeps on, and not all are able to join us. The New Year came with the best laid plans going slightly awry,

and some hope to candidates for Advancement, choosing to opt for the Royal Arch rather than Mark as an adjunct to their main work. You are assured that this is only a delay, not a defeat ! They were guaranteed a warm welcome at a further date. Our November meeting, the Members were treated to an explanation of the Tracing Board of the Degree, given tenderly by Bros Stanley Eyles and Fred Fox, with assistance from equipment kindly lent by W.Bro. Stan Woodberry. Good news for the Province is that we have a candidate for District Meeting - W.Bro. Roger Bickerton, of Mark Lodge. That will bring Master - BT Engineering members into the Province, and on the 1st of October, 2005 The Province of

follow. This March meeting at Pontyclun on Friday 31st. will also be our Election Night, when we will plan to "ring out the old, and ring in the new". Our Senior Warden is Bro Neil Charles, currently Worshipful Master of the Harlequins Lodge (or "HQ", as it is recognised!), who hopes to enjoy the three months period between May and September when he is Master of neither! Our Ladies' Dinner this year will be on April 21st., earlier than usual, in order not to clash with the Provincial Grand Master's Provincial Mark Week-end. May I close with my customary request to Masonic Old Boys of Penarth, Cowbridge, or any other Grammar Schools, to be Advanced into the Degree, or to Join us, at Ysgolion, where old but friendly rivalries may be resumed.

Worcestershire, was given permission by our Provincial



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## Going Abroad ?? Why not Visit a Mark/RAM Lodge in Spain??

For those Mark Masons who have never bothered to take their aprons with them on holiday, a new world awaits you!! Better still, if Spain is "your thing," then W.Bro. John Pring PGJD has done all of your spade-work - except for on the beaches! - for you!

John has furnished our Provincial Secretary with a list of Mark & RAM Lodges, totalling 28, who are waiting for you with open aprons! From Barcelona to Benidorm to Rojales, with meeting dates.

Having enjoyed International visiting, your correspondent recommends becoming a visitor at Mark Lodges abroad. The list is incomplete as some Lodges meet in restaurants, but try calling John on 0034 966 698 462 or emailing JJPRING@hotmail.com for further information

## Dates for the Mark Master Masons' diary:

- 1) Tuesday 11th April - Grand Master's Lodge of Instruction Festival in Cardiff. All Brethren will have been advised via their Lodge Secretaries of this event. The PGM looks forward to a good level of support for this dual demonstration of workings, and at the Festival dinner which follows.
- 2) Monday April 24th - Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge Centenary. (See p. 2)
- 3) Weekend of April 28th - Provincial week-end in Fishguard. This popular event will be eagerly anticipated by those Brethren who have previously enjoyed the conviviality and warmth of the Mark Degree in such pleasant and informal surroundings.
- 4) Tuesday 13th June 2006 - Mark Grand Lodge Investiture at Freemasons' Hall, at 3.00pm. It is proposed that tickets be issued this year, as demand threatens to exceed capacity for both the Investiture and the dining in the Connaught Rooms afterwards. Transport will almost certainly be arranged from various places in the Province, so check with the Provincial Office for seat availability.
- 5) Saturday 8th July 2006- Mark Fund of Benevolence 138th Anniversary Festival, this year at Falmouth, Cornwall, under the banner of the Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall, R.W.Bro. Geoffrey Francis William Isaac.

### Advance Notices (watch this space!):

- i) September 30th. SWIMM Lodge No.1201. Golden Jubilee Meeting.
- ii) October 25th-26th Sesquicentennial celebrations of Mark Grand Lodge. These will include the opening of the 150th Anniversary Exhibition at Freemasons' Hall, and the Anniversary Meeting at the Albert Hall. What a treat for our wives!

The Provincial Grand Master, the R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett JP, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master the V.W.Bro. Anthony F. Moore MBE and a large number of the Provincial team visited the Neath Mark Lodge No.1125 on March 9th, to celebrate the new lodge Banner Dedication.

Around one hundred Brethren, ladies and guests attended the unique occasion, enjoying a splendid dinner that followed the colourful and informative ceremony in the Queen Street Temple.

The Provincial Grand Master gave an interesting and amusing history of banners in general and the Neath Mark banner in particular, illustrating the meaning of the symbols there-on, that featured Mark Masonry along with the Neath Castle, a feature of the town since Norman times, and the white Maltese Cross, first brought to prominence in the town via the rugby team, but now a prominent emblem in many instances within Neath.

The banner design includes Mark Masonic symbols in addition to the Neath Castle and river flowing nearby, and the cross that has formed part of the insignia of the borough for many years. The banner was made for W.Bro. Roger Gale by the proprietor of the Newport Sign Company, W.Bro. Bernie Kowalski, Past Master of the Friendship Lodge No.6169 in Newport, and his involvement along with



**A** Wash with six Candidates ! Barry Mark Lodge No.2357 was recently so inundated with Candidates for Advancement that it was necessary to hold an extraordinary Meeting in February, at which two candidates were Advanced. As the regular Officers were somewhat tied up, the PGM, Deputy and Assistant PGM, s turned up to see what they could do to assist !!! Yes - it all took place !

Success breeds success or so the saying goes. Well it is certainly true for Barry Mark Lodge at the moment.

Demand is outstripping supply so much that an emergency meeting was called for February 27th in order to accommodate the additional candidates.

Hearing of this unprecedented event the Provincial Grand Master together with his Deputy and Assistant decided to join in the work load. Not only did they grace the Lodge with their presence but they actually took part in the ceremony and "earned" their wages.

The Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett recalls " It is some 25 years since I worked this hard to justify my wages..... it has though, been a huge pleasure for us all to witness this ceremony and clearly Barry Mark Lodge goes from strength to strength".



Pictured is W.Bro. Kevin Hearne (Worshipful Master) with the executive team having just presented them with wages for a job well done.

that of his good lady Linda was - and is - greatly appreciated.

The banner has been presented to the Lodge by Roger in memory of his Grandfather William Henry Gale, who became Master in 1963, and W.M. of Saint Illtyd No.6078 three years before, and of his father Leslie Gordon Gale, who introduced Roger into the craft, and subsequently became a member of the Neath Mark Lodge himself, following his son into Neath Mark Masonry.

Sadly they both passed to the Grand Lodge above before Roger took the Chair in St. Illtyd and Neath Mark but he is proud that his father knew he was on the way to both chairs, and feels glad to be able to mark the family connection further, through the new Neath Mark banner.

He is the only third generation Mason in Neath, and although the family - being military men through and through and travelling the world - had many homes, it was finally to Neath they came, and the rest - as they say - is history !

William H. Gale received his Grand Lodge Certificate in the Garrison Lodge Number 730 in Dublin on April 11th 1921 (Roger still has his apron) , becoming a member of Neath Mark 1125 in February 1951, his son - Rogers Dad - joining St. Illtyd's 6078 in October 1963, and Neath Mark 1125 in November 1995. When the toast to absent brethren is given in the Queen Street lodge there is a Worshipful brother that remembers two men and Masons that took him there...Father and Grandfather...the banner is for them, and for the Lodge and all its members, past, present, and future.

The evening raised £150.00 for the PGM's "Discretionary Fund", the Worshipful Master W.Bro Brian Isaac presenting a cheque to R.W.Bro. Desmond Barnett, who responded with appreciation for the contribution.

Pictured are the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Brian Isaac, The Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro Roger Gale, and The Assistant Provincial Grand Master.