



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

Bringing You News from around the Province

## Camaraderie of the Old School

By: Fred Fox

At the Installation Meeting of the Ysgolion Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 1487, on 25th September last, the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Gareth Parsons, and Brethren were delighted and honoured by the presence of W.Bro. Dr. Paul Richard Calderwood as the Provincial Grand Lodge Executive Officer.

W.Bro. Dr. Paul is always welcome in the Lodge, as his pleasant manner and bonhomie are guaranteed to put at ease those Officers who might find the scrutiny of chained or gold-braided Masons overwhelming!

In the event, W.Bro. Gareth was able to maintain the standards of the Lodge in his Ceremonial work, and installed his successor W.Bro. Graham Fox, with aplomb.

A very enjoyable evening was completed with a Festive Board of the high standard which we have come to expect at Pontyclun, and the accompanying speeches were short enough to entertain but still maintain interest.

All in all, another feather in the Ysgolion Cap, with our visiting friends looking forward to their next chance to attend.

However, we were disappointed that we had no Candidates for Advancement in the last Masonic year, but our hope is that the friendly rivalry of the School Lodges will attract new members



W.Bro. Gareth Parsons, the Installing Master (left) with the new Master W. Bro. Graham Fox, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Dr Paul Richard Calderwood JP.

## Your Lodge is part of our History

By: Paul Calderwood

Arrangements are now gathering pace to produce a fully illustrated history book of our Mark province – as part of the plans to celebrate in 2020 the 150th Anniversary of its constitution.

To assist with the compilation of this milestone publication, every lodge in the province has been asked to produce a short chapter about itself and – with just one year to go before the closing date for first drafts (31 January 2017) – it is clear that the pace of this activity is speeding up.

A number of lodges have already submitted their articles for inclusion – ensuring that they will be well represented in what is sure to be an important reference document for future generations of Masonic researchers.

Although the celebration year itself may seem distant to some brethren, it is fast approaching and there is a great deal of editing and production work still to be done in order to ensure that the book will be a credit to our lodges and our province and a source of great pride.

Do make sure that your lodge is fully represented and - if necessary - offer your help.

to the friendly Mark Degree in the coming year.

If you attended a Grammar school, particularly in the Cardiff area, then this is the Lodge in which to enjoy that little extra! Please contact our Secretary, W. Bro Neil Charles, on (029) 20778854 for details.



To help those lodges that are still preparing their section of this book, a set of useful guidelines as well as suggestions is available from V.W.Bro. T.R. Eirian Jones, P.G.J.O. R.A.M.G.R. Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Chairman of the 150th Anniversary 2020 Appeal Committee.

His email address is [treirianjones@btinternet.com](mailto:treirianjones@btinternet.com).

Please Support the 2020 Appeal - More information on the Mark Website



## Dunraven looks to the Past

By: **D. Roger Lewis**

**D**unraven Mark Lodge No 950 recently hosted a remarkable meeting which looked back to the days of Georgian England. Clearly, that part of the world was a very different place in the late seventeen hundreds.

In 1795, for example, George the Third was King and William Pitt the Younger was Prime Minister. The Prince Regent, the Prince of Wales, married Caroline of Brunswick and the great poet John Keats was born. The American War of Independence had finished and George Washington was President of the United States.

France was in the throes of the French Revolutionary Wars and Napoleon Bonaparte was flexing his muscles to take on Europe. It may seem surprising that Freemasonry could exist in such a period of turbulence and unrest - and one where European conflict was changing the course of modern history. However, this was after the Period of Enlightenment when social liberalism became more accepted and evident. Freemasonry was able to develop in that atmosphere, knowing that freedom of thought was now much more acceptable in a world influenced by the writings of Descartes, Locke and Voltaire.

It was against such a social background, in the Georgian city of Bath, that the Royal Cumberland Lodge of Mark Master Masons was formed. The name itself has royal connotations with the Duke of Cumberland, a prominent royal prince, infamous for his brutal treatment during the Jacobite Rebellion. In 1993 a group of Somerset Mark Masons discovered a hand written manuscript containing the ceremony as performed in a Mark Lodge in Georgian England. The group were encouraged by their then Provincial Grand Master and the Somerset Antient Mark Masons Demonstration Team was formed.

This group visited the Dunraven Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 950 in the October of 2015. They performed, to the delight of members and visiting brethren, the Mark Ceremony of Advancement as performed in 1795. They were dressed in period costume, wigs, buckled shoes and with quill pen, bottle of ink and of course the obligatory harpsichord for musical accompaniment.

The period language, spoken in a West Country dialect, added to the authenticity of the evening. Brethren were particularly interested to observe that the publican, whose premises the lodge

would have used, was attentively on hand to fill up the tankards which were always at the officers' side. This had an effect on the delivery of the ritual as the drinking of Somerset cider encouraged some of the officers to take a little nap during the proceedings. They were abruptly woken when required to take part. There is of course a serious side to these re-enactments and the group has raised over £12,000 for various charitable causes (a considerable amount going to a children's hospice in Somerset).

The re-enactment continued into the after proceedings with the group remaining in costume and singing a toast to King George. The evening was enjoyed thoroughly by all the brethren (many of whom had travelled a considerable distance) including the Provincial Grand Master of Somerset Mark Master Masons, R.W.Bro John Morgan, and the Craft Provincial Grand Master of Monmouthshire, R.W.Bro. Rev. Malcolm Lane as well as the Deputy Grand Secretary, W Bro Ryan Williams.

From closer to home, members of our own Provincial executive were present and enjoyed this very special occasion. They included the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro Eirian Jones, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro. Dr Paul Calderwood, and the Provincial Grand Secretary, V.W.Bro. Jeffrey Clarke.

The evening concluded with the substantial proceeds of the raffle being donated to the re-enactment group for their selected charities.



Members of the Demonstration Team, together with Dunraven Mark Lodge officers (left to right), Bro. Carl Davies J.W, W.Bro. D. Roger Lewis PPr GOrG. W.M, & W.Bro. John Davies TD.PPrGMO. S.W.



Spot the Demonstration Team!



## Family & Friends Sunday Lunch

**B**y an amazing coincidence, the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in both Caerphilly and Brecon selected 4th October 2015 for a “Family and Friends Sunday Lunch” this year. Both were greatly enjoyed by all who attended and a considerable sum of money was also raised for charity.

### Caerphilly

For Caerffili Mark Lodge No 1348 and Caerffili Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No 1348 it was the first time that they had attempted a combined Sunday Lunch and the event attracted 80 people; consisting of Mark and RAM members along with family and friends.

Our Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Paul Clement and his wife Molly attended as guests of the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Alun Morton, and the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro Andrew Hopkins. The Event was organised by W.Bro. Philip Davies with assistance



Left; R.W.Bro. Paul Raymond Clement, the Provincial Grand Master, being presented with a cheque for the 2020 appeal by W.Bro. Philip W. Davies as event organiser.



W.Bro. Andrew E. J. Hopkins the Worshipful Commander of Caerffili RAM being presented with a cheque for his charity from Bro. D. Ben Evans the Charity Steward for Caerffili RAM Lodge.



W.Bro. Alun Morton the WM of Caerffili Mark Lodge being presented with a cheque for his charity from W.Bro. David H. Elliott the Charity Steward for Caerffili Mark Lodge.

from Bro. Ben Evans and a first-class three-course choice lunch was enjoyed by all; followed by some light musical entertainment from W.Bro. Howard Mallett and his ukulele friends from the Caerphilly Lions (who had just completed a sell-out tour of all the “Care Homes” of the Caerphilly area).

As with all such events, of course, a raffle was organised and £990.00 was raised for three charities. These were the Worshipful Master’s charity “Friends of Velindre”, the Worshipful Commander’s charity “The Stroke Ward Llwynypia Hospital” and “The 2020 appeal” celebrating 150 years of the Mark Province of South Wales.

W.Bro Philip Davies commented that “the event was a true success due to all the helpers on the day and we look forward to repeating the event next year”.

### Brecon

At the same time that the diners were settling down to eat in Caerphilly, members of the Brychan Mark Lodge No 1725 and the Brychan Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No 1725 were also holding their well-established and popular annual fixture - a joint Sunday Lunch at the Bishop’s Meadow Restaurant.

The Brethren in the north, accompanied by their wives, families and friends, assembled at the restaurant on a glorious sunny day, with the Brecon Beacons in the distance looking absolutely magnificent.

The lunch was served at 1p.m. and a very convivial time was had by all those present. The occasion was further enhanced by the presence of the

Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Paul Richard Calderwood, who were accompanied by their wives.

During the proceedings, flowers abounded – all the ladies were presented with a single rose to mark the occasion and bouquets were presented to Mrs. Geraldine Jones, the wife of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Mrs. Jean Calderwood, the wife of the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Mrs. Mrs. Janet Rees, wife of W. Bro. Russell A. Rees, the Worshipful Master of the Brychan Mark Lodge, and Mrs. Cheryl Davies, wife of the Worshipful Commander of the Brychan Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, W. Bro. John T.J. Davies.

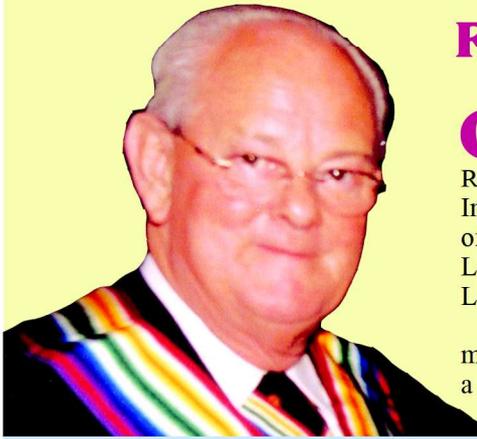
After the meal, a raffle was held and a total of £ 218 : 00 was raised in support of local charities.

The Worshipful Master and the Worshipful Commander expressed their thanks to all those who had contributed in any way to the success of the afternoon - with special thanks being given to W.Bro. Garry M. Davies who carried out all the arrangements for the lunch in such a proficient manner.

A very enjoyable lunch, with good company, left everyone looking forward to the next one in October 2016.



Above; W.Bro. Howard Mallett and his Ukulele friends.



## Ruling the Waves

By: Eirian Jones

On October 7th, our greatly respected Past Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Desmond Barnett, J.P., was Installed as the Worshipful Commander of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Mariner Lodge at Mark Masons' Hall, St James's, London.

Appropriately enough, he arrived at the meeting directly after disembarking from a ship that had berthed at Southampton.

following a month at sea enjoying a relaxing holiday cruise.

At Mark Masons Hall that day he was supported by a number of Brethren from South Wales and indeed appointed some of them to serve as his officers for the ensuing year. They were;

W. Bro. Ryan A. Williams as Scribe, W. Bro. S. W. Jeffrey Clarke as Senior Deacon, R. W. Bro. Paul R. Clement as Organist, W. Bro. Anthony F. Moore as Guardian and W. Bro. T. R. Eirian Jones as Steward.

(Picture left shows R.W. Bro Des Barnett.)

## Caradoc Lodge host visit from Romanian Lodge

by : Fred Lamnea

At the regular October meeting, W.M. Matthew Sims welcomed W. Bro. Adrian Istrate together with seven W. Bros. and Bros. from the Romanian Lodges of Galati. They were attending as guests of W. Bro. Jeff Joseph who, together with Brethren from R.P. St. John Charles, Beaufort and Doric Lodges had visited Romanian Lodges on three previous occasions, including an Installation at Lodges of Galati. It has become an annual event with numbers from our Province increasing yearly.

This was the first time the Romanian Brethren had attended a Lodge in our Province so it was decided to invite them to witness the Second Degree ceremony from the opening.

Their regalia was similar to ours, but more colourful, and you can imagine the surprised look on the faces of our own visiting Brethren on seeing the unknown Brethren occupying the Dais.

The Romanians thoroughly enjoyed our Ceremony and were delighted by the great welcome they received from all



which continued at The Festive Board. Many friendships were established, pictures taken and a beautiful plaque was presented to W.M. Matthew Sims to commemorate the visit.

The following evening the visitors attended Doric Lodge No 5968 Installation.

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