



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

## Beaming Mariners

By : **Dr. Paul Calderwood**

**F**our of the province's leading Royal Ark Mariners pushed the boat out in London just before Christmas.

The occasion was the annual investiture of Grand Rank for the Order at Freemasons' Hall. It was indeed a day for great celebration as RAMGR (Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank) is one of the most elusive honours in Freemasonry and something that is normally awarded to just four members of our Province each year. As a result, a big turnout of Brother Ark Mariners travelled up from South Wales to London providing strong support not just in the Grand Temple but also at the celebratory lunch and dinner, heartily cheering on their happy shipmates.

Those who received the award in December are pictured opposite;



Those who received the award in December are pictured here (left to right): W.Bro. Ronald Slater, W.Bro. Lyn Guttridge, W.Bro. Stanley Evelyn and W.Bro. Joseph Welch; accompanied by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Dr. Paul Calderwood, in the centre of their line-up.

## New Provincial Grand Master

By : **Jeffrey Clarke**

**O**n 11th December 2015 it was announced that the Grand Master, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO., has invited V.W.Bro. Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, PGJO, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, to succeed R.W.Bro. Paul Raymond Clement as Provincial Grand Master for South Wales with effect from the Annual Provincial Investiture Meeting to be held on Wednesday 1st June 2016, which he has graciously accepted.

We extend to him our warmest congratulations and wish him every happiness and success in his coming new appointment.

R.W.Bro. Paul Raymond Clement, GMRAC, Honoris Causa, Provincial Grand Master will retire from office after 8 years as our Provincial Grand Master on 31st May 2016.

We are all fully aware of his outstanding dedication to Freemasonry in general and to this Mark Province of South Wales

in particular having also served as Deputy Provincial Grand Master from 1996 to 2008 prior to his appointment as Provincial Grand Master.

I am sure that you would wish to be associated in thanking him and indeed his wife Molly for their loyal service over such a long period and wish them both well for the future and we will watch with interest his future progress in Freemasonry.

V.W.Bro. Thomas Richard Eirian Jones will be installed as Provincial Grand Master in a Ceremony prior to our Annual Provincial Investiture Meeting on Wednesday 1st June 2016.

The Provincial Grand Master Designate has been pleased to announce the following forthcoming appointments to be appointed and invested on 1st June 2016:

Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Dr. Paul Richard Calderwood, JP, PGJD, RAMGR, AsstPGM; Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Stephen Charles Evans Harries, GStwd, ProvGDC and W.Bro. Denis Tucker, PAGDC., will be appointed as the new Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

We extend our warmest congratulations to these brethren and wish them well in their new appointments.

## A Grand Lunch

By : **Dr. Paul Calderwood**

**M**ore than 200 Mark Masons and their partners enjoyed one of the highlights of the calendar just before Christmas – the Provincial Grand Officers Mess.

This event, under the chairmanship of the Vice-President of the Mess, W.Bro. Keith Dascombe, supported by his wife Toni, raised a thousand pounds for charity - which will be used to help local Brethren and their families in serious financial distress.

The lunch was held this year at Glyn Clydach Hotel near Neath and was attended by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Paul Clement, as well as the Past Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Desmond Barnett – and the Provincial Grand Master Designate (although news of that title only emerged a week later) V.W.Bro Eirian Jones. All three were accompanied by their wives, Molly, Elaine and Geraldine.

The lunch was such a success that the President of the Mess, W.Bro. Clive Evans and his wife Mair, intends to hold a dinner-dance there in May 2016.

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



## W.Bro. Vernon Holton 50 years a Mariner

By : **Dr. Paul Calderwood**

**W**Bro Vernon Holtam RAMGR achieved a rare distinction recently when he was presented with a certificate recognising his 50 years membership of Royal Ark Mariner masonry.

He was delighted with the presentation and it will join his other 50 year certificates from Craft, Royal Arch and Mark at the nursing home in Barry where he now lives.

Vernon, at 95 years of age, was in good spirits, though still a little frail, but he is hoping to attend lodge meetings in the future!

A Past Commander of Cambria RAM, he is currently a member of De Cymru RAM and an Honorary Member of Barry RAM.



W.Bro.Vernon Holtam pictured receiving the award from W.Bro.Martin Jones, Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary (left) along with W.Bro.Chris Peters (right), W. Commander of Barry RAM Lodge.

## A Special Token of Affection

By : **Dr.Paul Calderwood**

**A** handsome, colourful enamelled Mark Token is being launched this summer to recognise the generosity of the growing number of Brethren who have donated to the 2020 Mark Appeal.

Designed to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the proud Mark Province of South Wales, the object of the Appeal is to assist Mark Masons and their families in South Wales in time of need.

The first of the commemorative Mark tokens will be presented at the meeting of De Cymru Mark Lodge in June to brethren

who have contributed a total of £150 or more to the Appeal.

It is hoped to present additional Tokens over the coming months at meetings in Open Lodge, as we build up to the big anniversary.

Each Token will be accompanied by a personalised Certificate acknowledging the kind support of the donor. If you would like to receive one, please speak to your Charity Steward to obtain details.



## Top Marks to the Craft

By : **Eirian Jones**

**K**eystone Lodge No.9521 is a Craft Lodge with a special Mark flavour. This was highlighted at Aberdare on Saturday February 20th 2016, when the Mark Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Paul R. Clement, and the Provincial Grand Master Designate, V.W.Bro.T.R. Eirian Jones who both attended the election meeting of this Craft lodge to see Bro. David J. Lewis, elected as Master for the ensuing year.

After the meeting, which included a talk given by V.W.Bro. T.R. Eirian Jones, the Brethren enjoyed an excellent lunch in the company of their ladies.

The Keystone Lodge was formed in 1993 to enable Brethren who have been installed in the Master's chair in the Mark degree to swiftly reach the chair of King Solomon in the Craft

The Primus Worshipful Master was the then Provincial Grand Master of the Mark, R.W. Bro. Malcolm Hayes Thompson, who had been previously the Provincial Grand Secretary of the Craft for twenty three years.

The membership of the lodge has included many from the Mark Executive of the South Wales Province, past and present. Brethren approaching the Mark chair who have not yet attained the chair of King Solomon in the Craft, are welcome to become joining members of the Keystone Lodge which is such an important link between the Mark and the Craft in South Wales.

For details, contact; [paulcalderwood@btinternet.com](mailto:paulcalderwood@btinternet.com)



The photo shows (left to right) R.W. Bro.Paul R. Clement, with the Worshipful Master of Keystone Lodge W.Bro.Keith L. Daniels, Bro. David J. Lewis and V. W. Bro. T.R. Eirian Jones.



Great Architect of the Universe - I've been Cloned!



## We kept a Welcome

by : Jeffrey Clarke

A musical note was struck at the February meeting of Stability Mark Lodge, when the Officers and Brethren welcomed back to the Province W.Bro. Ryan Williams, in his new position of Deputy Grand Secretary.

He was welcomed by W.Bro. R. B. James the Worshipful Master and was accompanied by V.W.Bro. S. W. Jeffrey Clarke, Provincial Grand Secretary.

W.Bro. Ryan gave an oration on the Mark Benevolent Fund and presented to the lodge the Grand Patron Gold Award Collarette, of the Mark Benevolent Fund, in recognition of its contributions to the MBF.

During his tenure of Office, the Worshipful Master will have the privilege of wearing this collarette - the first to a Lodge in the Province - and made possible from the Royalties received from the Music Rights of the well known song We'll Keep a Welcome in the Hillside.

For over 40 years, Stability Mark Lodge have been the proud recipient of these Music Rights bequeathed to Mark Grand Lodge, in the name of Stability Mark Lodge, by Bro. Percival Edward Robert Smith.

Bro. Percy was Advanced into the Stability Mark Lodge and became the Lodge Organist in 1947 and remained the Lodge Organist until his demise in 1971. He was appointed the Provincial Grand Organist in 1955/1956.

The Music of 'We'll Keep a Welcome' was composed by Mai Jones, the Aunt of Bro. Percy. She was born in Newport in 1899 and died in 1960. She won a scholarship to study music at the University of Wales, Cardiff and went on to study at the Royal College of Music in London.

As an entertainer, she was a singer and player of both the piano and accordion and was one of the official accompanists for the National Eisteddfod of Wales at Pontypool in 1924. She broadcast on radio for the first time with Jack Payne's band. In 1941 she joined the BBC in Cardiff as a radio Producer of light entertainment programmes.

As part of the of the war time Cardiff artistic music community Mai Jones had known Idols Owen who was a composer, arranger and conductor who performed with the Lyrian Singers and went on to found the Welsh National Opera in 1943.

He was instrumental in providing Mai Jones with a musical score written by a fellow Lyrian performer, Thomas Morgan. Mai Jones collaborated with Lyn Joshua and James Harper on the lyrics to create the Welsh standard we now know as 'We'll Keep a Welcome'. It was first performed by the 25 strong Male Voice Choir, the Lyrian Singers in 1940 on BBC Radio, becoming an overnight success.

The song has been sung since by many Choirs and artists including Bryn Terfel, and Shirley Bassey. It was Harry Secombe, when hosting the ITV series



W.Bro. Ryan Williams (left) presents the certificate to W.Bro. Bruce James who is holding a copy of the music that made it all possible.

Highway in the 1980's, who sang the song and revived its popularity, and as a result Stability Mark Lodge and the Mark Benevolent Fund have benefited greatly from the Royalties received.

In the song there is one word 'Hiraeth' to which there is no English translation, the nearest translation is 'Longing' but this word lacks the true sentiment of the word, sentiments that are felt in the heart much more when sung.

Hiraeth comes through with a feeling only the Welsh understand. The word embraces feelings of warm understanding and love of your fellow man, and I believe that Bro. Percy had similar thoughts when he wished to hand the Rights of 'We'll keep a Welcome' to us.

## Famous People



Do you know who these famous people are? See back page