

## A New Year's Message from The Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones

Dear Brethren,

As we commence another journey into a new year, it is a very great pleasure to extend to you and your families very best wishes from Geraldine and myself for a happy and healthy 2017.

I also wish to express my gratitude for all the kindness, friendship and goodwill that you have shown me since my Installation as Provincial Grand Master last June.

It has been a busy six months for me since then - having visited thirteen Provinces and seen three new Provincial Grand Masters Installed and attended a very successful Mark Benevolent Fund Festival in Torquay which raised over £1 million for our Mark Charity.

There have been some notable events within our own Province including: the presentation of a 50th Jubilee warrant at Rhaeadr Gwy Lodge No.1318; a highly enjoyable Gala Celebration Dinner in October to thank RWBro.Paul R Clement for his past service to the Province; and the dedication of a Lodge Honours Board at De Cymru Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.1606. This together with a Provincial representation at twenty-five Installation meetings in the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees has kept myself, the Deputy Provincial

Grand Master and Assistant Provincial Grand Master all busy. I would here like to place on record my grateful thanks to both of them for the support they give me.

So what of 2017? As I have said previously, I am so fortunate to have been appointed as Provincial Grand Master of such a successful Province and I look forward to seeing the Province continue and hopefully even to increase the success it enjoyed under the leadership of my predecessors. I do not expect any major changes in the near future but inevitably, being a dynamic body, the Province must evolve.

This year I hope to see our 2020 Provincial Appeal, helped by a number of initiatives, gain impetus towards our financial target of £150,000. Also to see all Mark and Mariner Lodges produce their own history for inclusion in a Provincial history book. I hope to attend domestic meetings occasionally to enjoy ceremonies of advancement and elevation and to get to know the junior members, and especially new candidates. This year, hopefully, will see the re-emergence of a Provincial Support team of experienced brethren able to provide support with the ceremonies of advancement and elevation when required.

Finally I look forward to working



Photograph by Anthony Howell

with you all in 2017 in promoting our friendly Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees throughout South Wales.

With the warmest and most fraternal regards and best wishes for the year ahead: T R Eirian Jones, Provincial Grand Master.

## New Grand Secretary to be Appointed

By : Paul Calderwood

At the Quarterly Communication of Mark Grand Lodge in September, the Pro Grand Master, MWBro Richard Victor Wallis, announced that the Grand Secretary RWBro LtCdr Angus P D Hannagan, RD will retire from office in June 2017.

Angus Hannagan has served the Mark Degree and all other Orders administered by Mark Masons' Hall for the last seven years and latterly as Grand Secretary or equivalent.

The Pro Grand Master announced that VWBro Ryan Andrew Williams, PGJO, Deputy Grand Secretary, would take over the Office of Grand Secretary in the Mark Degree and assume the equivalent role in the other Orders on 13 June 2017.

Both of these Brethren have strong connections with South Wales; Angus Hannagan was born in Barry and Ryan Williams was born in Miskin.

Here especially, members of all the Orders administered at Mark Masons Hall have been keen to be associated with extending thanks to Angus for the sterling work and dedication he has afforded the Order and extend congratulations to Ryan Williams on the announcement of his forthcoming promotion to Grand Secretary - an honour justly deserved and one in which the whole of our Province rejoices.

The Province looks forward to their presence at the Annual Meeting of the Province in June 2017 when we shall have the opportunity to express our thanks personally to Angus for his dedication and hard work on our behalf and our congratulations to Ryan Andrew Williams, on his appointment.

Photograph by Anthony Howell



RWBro LtCdr Angus P D Hannagan, RD



VWBro Ryan Andrew Williams, PGJO,

### Neapolitan Sixths and other Delights

by : **D Roger Lewis**

**W**hile I was undertaking research for the forthcoming publication of the history of the South Wales Mark Province I quickly became sidetracked by the fascinating history of Masonic music.

This was hardly surprising when you consider my musical background. My father's family were steeped in musical tradition; some were hymn writers and composers and were members of the Gorsedd of Bards. My father was a chorister at Gloucester Cathedral and I have continued this tradition through my involvement with The Royal School of Church Music.

My curiosity was aroused when I discovered that the most famous Masonic musician was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. His favourite Masonic key was that of three flats, Eb Major, C Minor or its parallel minor Eb Minor and he considered that it 'evoked stateliness and an almost religious character'. Mozart was initiated into the Loge zur Wohltaligkeit, Charity, in December 1784. His occupation was noted as Kapellmeister and his Masonic journey inspired him to write, Gesellenreise, The Fellowcraft's Journey, Die Maurerfreude, The Mason's Joy and the famous Die Zauberflote, The Magic Flute.

However, it was not only Mozart who set me on the path of Masonic music, but a small entry in the Musical Times of April 1898 in which a reference was made to Dr Thomas Westlake Morgan, organist of Bangor Cathedral. Dr Westlake Morgan was at one time organist of St David's Church, Merthyr Tydfil



220px-Frederick Ousley

and was the first Welsh organist to be appointed Grand Organist in the Mark Degree. He was also Provincial Organist in the Order of Knights Templar in the North West of England and his predecessor at Mark Masons' Hall was the eminent Victorian musician, Sir Frederick Gore Ousley, Bart.

Dr Westlake Morgan was an enthusiastic, accomplished musician and although we are not aware of any of his compositions the fact that he performed J S Bach's St Matthew Passion twice in Holy

Week, 1898 together with two Choral Festivals of one thousand voices, full band and organ is a formidable achievement by anyone's standards.

There is a fine tradition of Wales providing Mark Masons' Hall with its organist which carries to this day with our own WBro Naughton Lilles being the present Grand Organist in the Mark Degree. It is also appropriate to mention that WBro Wayne Warlow of Cambria Mark Lodge was selected to give the Prestonian Lecture in 2010 on the subject of Music in Masonry.

The other famous Welsh Masonic musician was Dr Joseph Parry, 'Bachgen Bach o Ferthyr' as he was known in Eisteddfodau circles, indeed another Merthyr connection.

Joseph Parry emigrated to Danville, Pennsylvania in The United States with his family to work in the iron and steel industry. In the Cyfarthfa Ironworks in Merthyr he worked as a pit boy at the age of nine and then in the puddling mill at ten. His journey is outlined in Jack Jones' famous novel 'Off to Philadelphia in the Morning'. In America, Joseph Parry continued his formal musical education funded by other Welsh iron workers who raised enough money for him to be educated



Joseph Parry

at the Genesco Music College in New York. It was during this period that he successfully competed at several eisteddfodau including Swansea 1863, Llandudno, 1864 and Chester in 1866 using the nom de plume Bachgen Bach o Ferthyr, Erioed, Erioed. Forever a Little Boy from Merthyr. He completed his studies in 1878 by securing a doctorate from Cambridge University. Dr Parry was initiated into the Mahoning Lodge, in Danville, before returning to Wales as Professor of Music at Aberystwyth and then Cardiff.

Whilst in Aberystwyth he joined the Aberystwyth Lodge No. 1072 where he was Lodge Organist and composed Ysgytwad y Llaw, The Handshake, a copy of which now seems lost in the mists of time.

Joseph Parry was one of the great Victorian musicians composing such hymns as Aberyswyth and Dies Irae. Aberystwyth has stood the test of time. It was written in a minor key which transcends much of the sentimentality of Victorian hymnody of its day.

Interestingly enough, Aberystwyth, which first appeared in 'Ail Llyfr Tonau ac Emynau' is now famously associated with Charles Wesley's words 'Jesu Lover of my Soul' which is based on the phrase, 'thou lover of souls' found in the Wisdom of Solomon 11:26 and the phrase, 'nearer waters', 'gathering waters' in Hymns Ancient and Modern is from Matthew Prior's poem 'Solomon'

An interesting diversion which illuminates how Masonic music and musicians have contributed not only to the richness of our order but to the enrichment of social history in general.



Mozart

## Gala Dinner to Celebrate 20 Glorious Years

by : **Paul Calderwood**

A special gala dinner was held in October 2016 to celebrate the twenty years which RWBro. Paul Clement has devoted to Mark Masonry in South Wales, as a member of the Provincial Executive. Paul was accompanied by his wife Molly and their daughter Grace and son Lewis. For the past eight years he was Provincial Grand Master, and for 12 years before that, he had been Deputy Provincial Grand Master.



Richard Eirian Jones, who was accompanied by his wife Geraldine, It was a special pleasure to see Paul's predecessor as ProvGM, RWBro Desmond Barnett present together with his wife Elaine. Indeed, several hundred people supported the event, with demand for tickets far exceeding supply.

Paul and his wife Molly were the recipients of a number of presentations and they said how overwhelmed they were by the magnificent display of support and good wishes.

A fantastic evening of entertainment was fully enjoyed by all present. It featured great songs from the world of opera and the shows, performed by the powerful singing duo Opera Belles.

At the end of the evening, thanks to donations as well as a giant raffle, it was made possible to present three large cheques to charities namely; Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, £1,000.00; Order of the Secret Monitor Benevolent Fund, £1,000.00; Mark Benevolent Fund, £1,000.00.



Masons from throughout the Province, as well as neighbouring Provinces and other Masonic Orders, gathered with their wives and partners at the Heronston Hotel & Spa in Bridgend to celebrate this magnificent achievement and to express their thanks to him for the tremendous progress which the Order of Mark Masonry had enjoyed during that very long period.

The evening was presided over by his successor as Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas



## Charity Appointments

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, recently appointed WBro Brian Isaac PAGSwdB as Provincial Grand Charity Steward and WBro Gareth Andrews PPrGJO to the position vacated by Bryan as the Assistant Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

These appointments followed the sad decision by WBro Neil Morgan to stand down as Charity Steward for the Province, after many years valuable service, for business and personal reasons.

The Provincial Grand Master accepted Neil's resignation with great reluctance and paid tribute to the outstanding work which he had undertaken; particularly in the launch and support of the 2020 Appeal.

The new Provincial Grand Charity Steward and his Assistant said how much they are eagerly looking forward to helping the Province celebrate its 150th anniversary in great style by achieving a great result for the 2020 Appeal.

The money raised by the appeal will assist Brethren and their families within the Province who are in serious need of help from the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.

The photo shows WBro Brian Isaac (left) and WBro Gareth Andrews hoping to get everyone up to speed.



## The Mark Charity Walk

by : **Paul Calderwood**

**M**ark Masons and their family members from all over Britain will be converging on London for The Mark Charity Walk on 6 May 2017.

This event, launched in September 2016 by the Pro Grand Master, MWBro Richard Victor Wallis JP, will be the first ever, single day, charity fundraising event, organised for the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Supported by Mark Grand Lodge, the first to step off will be the Pro Grand Master himself, together with the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro John Raymond Smith, and the Assistant Grand Master, RWBro John Herbert Prizeman.

A team of six walkers from our own Province is expected to take part in the seven mile walk which will start at Mark Masons' Hall and will pass through four of the most beautiful parks in London, namely St James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Full details will be published on the South Wales Mark Provincial website at:

<http://www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk/index.html>

Through this website the South Wales Walkers are hoping to attract lots of sponsorship. It is important to note that both individual and Lodge sponsorship donations can be allocated towards MBF patronage qualifications.

So Brethren please go to the South Wales Mark website and think about how you can support our team to achieve this worthy goal.



## A Sunday Treat for all

by : **Paul Calderwood**

**T**he Annual Sunday Lunch, hosted by Caerffili Mark Lodge No.1348 and Caerffili Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No.1348, raised over £900 for charity in October 2016.

This very popular and successful event was organised by WBro Philip Davies, and was attended by more than 70 people; consisting of Mark and RAM members together with family, friends and even grandchildren.

The Provincial Grand Secretary, VWBro Jeff Clarke, and his wife Andrea, represented the Province as guests of the Worshipful Master, WBro Nicholas Gregory, and the Worshipful Commander, WBro Keri Evans.

The raffle raised £900 and provided a boost to the three charities the event was held to support. They were the Worshipful Master's Charity 'The British Lung Foundation', the Worshipful Commander's Charity, 'The Children's Liver Disease Foundation', and the 2020 Appeal, celebrating 150 years of the Mark Province of South Wales.

A first class three course, comprehensive lunch was again enjoyed by all with some light background music. The afternoons entertainment provided by WBro Keri Evans's disco equipment, and a few dressed-up props to add to the superb entertainment.

The photograph shows the organiser, WBro Philip Davies, presenting a cheque for the 2020 Appeal to the Provincial Grand Secretary, VWBro Jeffrey Clarke.

Philip Davies commented that the event was again a great success due to the support of both Lodges and all the helpers on the day. The Brethren and their guests look forward to the event being repeated, as planned, next year.



### Some Famous Quotes to Inspire

If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. **Mark Twain**

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. **Winston Churchill**

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. **George Bernard Shaw**