

## A Most Excellent Installation

by : Paul Calderwood

**T**he Most Excellent Grand Superintendent of the Holy Royal Arch was installed as Worshipful Master of a Mark Lodge in February 2017.

WBro David Anthony Westall was installed as Worshipful Master of Cowbridge Mark Lodge No 1573 in what was an outstanding ceremony, beautifully conducted by WBro Martyn Wake.

The meeting was held at Cowbridge Town Hall and was attended by a very large number of Brethren, who afterwards filled to capacity the dining facilities at The Bear Hotel nearby.

The entire Mark Executive was present and included the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Dr Paul Richard Calderwood, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Steven Charles Evans Harries, and the Provincial Grand Secretary, WVBro Jeffrey Clarke.

From the Craft, the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Gareth Jones, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Revd Alistair Swinford, and the Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Gerald Rowbottom, together with the Past Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Hywel Davies, were also in attendance.

In addition, there was a large number of Mark Brethren who also hold senior posts in the Royal Arch - including the Deputy Grand Superintendent, WBro Colin Weatherall, and the Past Provincial Grand Superintendent WBro John Taylor.

At the dinner, afterwards, the Mark Provincial Grand Master spoke about the forthcoming 150th anniversary of the Mark Province.

In connection with that, he presented red Collarettes to six Brethren who had each donated a total of £150 to the 2020 Appeal and reminded Lodges to send in their own draft histories as soon as possible, so that they can be incorporated in the Provincial History



Book that will be published.

During the course of the evening, the Mark Benevolent Fund benefitted to the tune of £372 in the form of sponsorship pledges offered for the team from South Wales, who will be taking part in the MBF Walk in London on 6 May 2017.



All Photographs by : Anthony Howell.



## With England in their Sights

**T**he Bisley Shooting Range Complex in Surrey was the target in January for twelve intrepid Welsh Masons from Tremains Mark Lodge, No.1952 and Porthcawl Mark Lodge, No.1377, who, made the not inconsiderable journey to attend a Meeting of the Oak Tree Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Lodge No.1839.

The reason for their journey was to witness the Installation of Bro Stephen Williams, MBE, the Secretary of Tremains Mark Lodge and Scribe of Tremains Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, who is also a Member of Porthcawl Mark Lodge.

The Meeting was honoured by the presence of RWBro Ian N Clark the Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Surrey and a number of Grand Lodge and Acting Surrey Provincial Grand Lodge Officers.

The meeting followed a short Royal Ark Mariners Meeting, and after the formal greetings of the Surrey PGM and his Team, the business of Installation was commenced.

As a Mark of deference to the Welsh contingent some of them were invited to take an active part in the ceremony with W Bro Lyn Guttridge, PGSD acting as Senior Warden, WBro Bill Wilson, PGJD acting as Junior Warden and Andrew Morgan, PPrGJW acting as Inner Guard. WBro Jim Childs PGSD gave a perfect rendition of the working tools of a Mark Master Mason.

After the installation ceremony and the appointment and investiture of the Officers, the Members of Oak Tree Lodge voted to donate the sum of £3,500 towards the Surrey 2022 MBF Festival.

The Cheque was presented to the Provincial Grand Master who said how truly delighted he was to receive such a significant donation and that it was a tremendous achievement for the Membership.

He then surprised the assembled Brethren by producing the Grand Patron Gold Award Collar and placing it around the neck of now WBro Steve Williams, the newly Installed Master, confirming that Oak Tree Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 1839, was the FIRST Surrey Mark Lodge to be awarded with the highest MBF Honorific.

Upon leaving the Lodge Building the Brethren were surprised to see two inches (50cm for our younger Brethren) of snow had fallen whilst they were in Lodge.

The Brethren 'carefully' made their way to the Festive Board, which was held at the 'City Rifle Club Pavilion'. All present enjoyed a splendid meal and the usual welcoming and joyful company that is the distinguishing Mark of our Fraternity.

The response to the "Toast to the Visitors" was provided by WBro Mike Hulton, PrGSwdB, who was, on this occasion, also the PGCD ('Provincial Grand Coach Driver'), having driven the Brethren from Wales in the ubiquitous 'Porthcawl Minibus', which this time was a hired 17 seater.

Mike, in his inimitable way, had the Brethren, from both sides of the Bridge, in fits of laughter on the telling of "just one more true" story.

All in all, a very enjoyable occasion where Fraternity, Friendship and Fun was had by all present.

### The Photo shows from Left to Right

Back Row; WBro Roy Baker, Surrey PrDepGDC: Bro Jeffrey Tombs: WBro Peter Taylor, PPrAGStdB: WBro Kenneth Bonham PPrGSwdB: Bro Robert Raikes: WBro Andrew J Morgan, PPrGJW: WBro Nicky Smith, PPrJGW: WBro Alan Dicks.

Front Row; WBro Jim Childs, PGSD: WBro Lyn Guttridge, PGSD: RWBro Ian Clark, Surrey PGM: WBro Stephen Williams, MBE: WBro Phil Thompson, Installing Master:

WBro Bill Wilson PGJD: WBro Michael Hulton, PrGSwdB.



## Alan Dicks goes into Mark Chair

by : Paul Calderwood

**M**ore than one hundred Mark Masons squeezed in to the Porthcawl Masonic Hall just before Christmas, taking up almost every seat in the building.

The cause of this remarkable turnout was the installation as Worshipful Master of Porthcawl Mark Lodge No 1377 of the very popular South Wales Mason WBro Alan Dicks.

Although Alan was initiated into Craft Freemasonry 39 years ago, and since then has deservedly been appointed to Grand Rank in both Craft and Royal Arch Masonry – but this was his debut as a Worshipful Master of a Mark lodge.

The remarkable legion of friends who attended this celebratory event included the Mark Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, WBro Dr Paul Calderwood and WBro Stephen Harries.



Considerable praise was rightly heaped upon the Installing Master, WBro Stephen Rock, who delivered an excellent installation ceremony.

## A Winter Warmer

**T**he winter meeting of the Mark Provincial Grand Officers Mess was held this year at the Ty Newydd Hotel, near Hirwaun, and it was a great success. More than 150 people sat down to enjoy a hearty lunch at the event which was brimming over with bonhomie and warm friendship on Sunday 4 December.

A high standard, three-course Christmas luncheon, with alternatives available, was served and was greatly enjoyed by this large turnout of friends and families. The event was chaired by the Vice-President of the Mess, WBro Howard Vaughan, and his wife Barbara. The Vice-President played a very active part in the planning of the event, well supported by the experienced Mess Secretary, WBro Neil Charles, and WBro Garry Davies.

Senior Officers present included the Patron and Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones (accompanied by his wife Geraldine), the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Paul R Calderwood (with his wife Jean), the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Stephen C E Harries (with his wife Gillian), the Provincial Grand Secretary, VWBro SW Jeffrey Clarke (with wife Andrea), the President of the Mess, WBro Melville Davies (with his daughter Mary Rogers) and Past President of the Mess, RWBro Paul R Clement (with his wife Molly).

Bouquets of flowers were presented to Mrs Geraldine Jones and Mrs Barbara Vaughan and all the Ladies were presented with a box of chocolates.



Photographs by : Anthony Howell

The Raffle (with an extremely generous number of prizes from the Mess Members) together with donations from absent Members raised £790.00, which was donated in equal parts to the PGM's Discretionary Fund and to the 2020 Appeal.

With the lunch and venue being so well received, an advance booking has been made for next year's lunch. The Members of the Mess are now looking forward to the Dinner/Dance, to be hosted by the President, WBro Melville Davies in May 2017, at the Hi-Tide in Porthcawl. The photo shows WBro Howard Vaughan and his wife Barbara.

## Grand Rank for Five Mariners

by : Paul Calderwood

**F**ive of the most senior South Wales members of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners were appointed to Grand Rank in December 2016.

Their appointment was confirmed at the annual assembly of the Order at the impressive Freemasons' Hall in London.

Pictured (left to right), they include WBros Jeff Williams, Bill Mullins, Stephen Harries, Denis Tucker and Anthony Howell. Warmest congratulations to this Famous Five.



Photographs by : PGM I Jones



## The South Wales Walkers

All Photographs by : Anthony Howell

**T**he Mark Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and Assistant are part of a team of 'energetic' Mark Master Masons from South Wales who are getting themselves ready for an eight mile sponsored walk on 6 May.

On that day, Mark Master Masons from all over Britain will be converging on London for what is called The Mark Charity Walk; the first ever, single-day, charity fundraising event organised to support the Mark Benevolent Fund. Supported by Mark Grand Lodge, the first to step off in the Mark Walk 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 walkers from our own province is expected to take part in the 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. The beneficiary of their efforts, the Mark Benevolent Fund is currently providing twenty mobile chemotherapy



units all over Britain that enable people, particularly those in rural areas, to receive treatment without undergoing arduous journeys. Full details regarding the Walk have been published on the South Wales Mark Provincial website at <http://www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk/index.html> through which 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.



## Anniversary Items

by : Paul Calderwood

**S**ince the start of the year, two smart new additions have augmented the range of commemorative items associated with the 150th anniversary of the Mark Province.

They include a pair of glittering cufflinks that feature the crest of the Province and a bright red ribbon from which to suspend the token of the 2020 Appeal.



The cufflinks can be purchased for £12 per pair from the Mark Provincial Secretariat, and all the profits will go to support the 2020 Appeal – so that elegance and kindness can go together.

The bright red ribbon from which to hang the Commemorative Token will be presented to all Brethren who have donated £150 to the 2020 Appeal. It may be worn in lodge and at the Festive Board afterwards to remind people of the importance of supporting this appeal which is intended to benefit needy Brethren and their families within the Mark Province of South Wales.

## The Presentation of 2020 Charity Collarettes



**MARK WEBSITE : [southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk](http://southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk)**