

## A Grand Mark Day Out

by : Paul Calderwood

**A**t the annual investiture meeting of Mark Grand Lodge, in June, more than a dozen members of the Province of South Wales received the distinction of an appointment or promotion as a Grand Officer. It was an especially well attended occasion with over two thousand Brethren in attendance. Held at Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street, the Grand Temple was filled to capacity and the proceedings were relayed by closed-circuit television to Brethren in several packed rooms elsewhere in the building.

It was made all the more remarkable and well attended because a new Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Master were appointed and invested that day, namely MWBro Raymond John Smith, RWBro John Herbert Prizeman and RWBro Stephen Davison.

Those receiving Honours that day included the following Brethren from our own Province: VWBro Ryan Andrew Williams as Grand Secretary and PGJW (becoming RWBro).

WBro Neil Howard Matthews as Grand Inspector of Works.

WBro Naunton Charles William Liles as Grand Organist.

WBro Alun Howell Thomas as Grand Steward.

WBro Alan Ford Thomas as Past Grand Junior Overseer

WBro Paul Richard Calderwood as Past Grand Senior Deacon

WBro Nigel Angell as Past Grand Senior Deacon

WBro Stephen Charles Evans Harries as Past Grand Junior Deacon



WBro Stanley Evelyn as Past Grand Junior Deacon  
WBro Kenneth Heath as Past Grand Junior Deacon  
WBro Keith Dascombe as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies  
WBro Roy Hart as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies  
WBro Brian Edmund Dowling as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies  
WBro Howard James Lines as Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer  
WBro Anthony William Seymour as Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer  
WBro Paul Simon Cage as Past Grand Standard Bearer  
WBro Alan Charles Greedy as Past Grand Standard Bearer  
A large group of supporters from South Wales made the journey up to London to share in the happiness which was written on every face. Warm congratulations to one and all!

## Bells Ring out in Celebration

by : Paul Calderwood

**S**hips bells rang out (metaphorically), as a distinguished crew of Royal Ark Mariners were appointed to Provincial Rank - at the 14th annual assembly of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners of South Wales on 22 April.

This celebratory occasion and meeting was held under the Banner of the South Wales Installed Commanders Lodge No.1201 at Bridgend.

The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, thanked these hard-working and dedicated Brethren for their much valued service to the Order within the Province and

those that he invested on that day included the following:

WBro Keith Dascombe, St John's Lodge No.28

WBro David J Yeates, St John's Lodge No.28

WBro Richard T Pelzer, Abertawe Lodge No.179

WBro Nicholas Marsh, Arthur Lewis Lodge No.585

WBro M Huw Williams, Dunraven Lodge No.950

WBro Kevin Hearne, Barry Lodge No.1043

WBro Edward J Shepherd, Afan Lodge No.1088

WBro Keith O Fry Neath Lodge No.1125

WBro Phillip W Davies, Caerffili Lodge No.1348

WBro Phillip F Brothers, Porthcawl Lodge No.1377

WBro M Hywel Williams, Sir Frederick Alban Lodge No.1455

WBro Maldwyn Green, Cambrensis Lodge No.1528

WBro David N Parker, Cynon Dare Lodge No.1590

WBro Howard L G Vaughan, Brychan Lodge No.1725



Photograph by Anthony Howell

## Dinner Dance Success

by : Paul Calderwood

**W**Bro Melville Davies, as Provincial Grand Senior Warden, presided over the annual dinner-dance of the Mark Provincial Grand Officers Mess this year together with his daughter Mary Rogers.

It was a very happy occasion which attracted strong support from right across the Province, with 120 people booked in for dinner.

Held at the Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl, Mel was supported by the Vice President of the Mess, WBro Howard Vaughan and his wife Barbara and a host of Grand Officers including: The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones together with his wife Geraldine, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Stephen Harries and his wife Gillian, two Past Provincial Grand Masters,



RWBro Desmond Barnett together with his wife Elaine and RW Bro Paul Raymond Clement and his wife Molly, the Provincial Grand Secretary, VWBro Jeffery Clarke and his wife Andrea.

Thanks to an extremely generous number of prizes and donations from Mess members, a total of £625 was raised for charity – shared equally between the 2020 Appeal and the PGM’s Discretionary Fund.

All thoughts are now turned to the next major social event in the life of the Mess, which is the Christmas Luncheon. This year it will be held again at the very popular Ty Newydd Hotel, at Hirwaun, on 3 December.

It will be hosted by the new Vice President of the Mess, WBro Neil Charles and his wife Patricia. For a number of years, Neil has worked extremely hard as the Organising Secretary ensuring the success of Mess lunches and dinners and there is no doubt that he will receive tremendous support on this important occasion.

## Grand Temple in Mark Masons has never looked like this!

by : Paul Calderwood

**O**n the morning of Saturday 6 May, hundreds of walkers from all over England and Wales assembled in the Grand Temple to set out on the first ever Mark Walk and together they raised a phenomenal amount of money for charity. Having initially been set a target figure of raising £100,000 for the Mark Benevolent Fund, the sponsored walkers raised a total of more than £437,000.

Playing a part in that great occasion was a happy team of six walkers from South Wales which comprised WBros Dr Paul Calderwood, Stephen Harries, Gareth Andrews, Philip Davies, David Elliott and John Theophilus Jenkins Davies. With a start time of 10.30am, it meant an early set off from home for many Brethren but nonetheless the turnout was tremendous. Every Province was represented and over 250 people took part in the venture.



Leading the walk, the Pro Grand Master, MWBro Richard Victor Wallis said at the end:

“To see so many of you in the Grand Temple at Mark Masons’ Hall on Saturday was a true testament to the generosity and camaraderie of a Mark Master Mason and such a gathering of Mark Masons from almost every Province in England and Wales is undoubtedly unique in the history of our Order”.

The eight mile course followed the route of the Diana Princess of Wales Walk, starting at Mark Masons’ Hall and passed through four of the most beautiful parks in London, namely St James’s Park, Green Park, Hyde Park and

Kensington Gardens.

The founding principle of the Mark Benevolent Fund was to provide relief to Mark Masons and their dependants quickly – he gives twice who gives promptly.

That aim is as relevant today as it was almost 150 years ago when the Fund was established and as Mark Masons we can feel justly proud of a Fund that has contributed over £19 million pounds to worthy causes over that time.

In recent times the Fund has provided significant financial support to the RNLI, the St John Ambulance Brigade and the Mobile Chemotherapy Units of Hope for Tomorrow among others.



# A Tremendous Record of Service

by : Paul Calderwood

**L**ong Service to the Order of Mark Masonry took centre stage this year - with presentations to three of our Brethren in South Wales, who between them have given a total of 180 years dedication to the Order.

WBro John Selwyn Bishop and WBro Hywel Hughes have been members for 50 years each and WBro Brian Lopez and WBro Maldwyn Williams have been member for 40 years each – a truly remarkable achievement.

In April, at a meeting of Rhaeadr Gwy Mark Lodge No.1318, WBro Selwyn Bishop PPGSW and WBro Brian Lopez PPGSW were formally presented by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, with Certificates in recognition of their Long Service.

In 1966, just after its consecration Selwyn Bishop was the first candidate to be Advanced into the Lodge and he went on to become its Worshipful Master in 1976.

Brian Lopez was Advanced in Zambia in Federation lodge No.1493, under the Scottish Constitution and soon afterwards Joined Kafue Lodge No.1212 under the English Constitution. In 1983 he joined Eothen Lodge in Hong Kong before returning to the UK when, in 1987 he joined Rhaeadr Gwy (30 years ago) – and more recently he joined the Mark Lodge of Progress at Caerffili in 2012.

Also in April, WBro Maldwyn G Williams PPGJD, was presented with a 40 Year's Certificate at a meeting of his

Mother Lodge, Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge No.585 by the Provincial Grand Secretary, VWBro Jeffrey Clarke. WBro Maldwyn served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1989.

In May, at a similar meeting of Brychan Mark Lodge No.1725, Bro Hywel Hughes PPGSW was formally presented with a Long Service Certificate by the Provincial Grand Master – at an event which was also attended by the ProvGM of Monmouthshire who offered his congratulations and thanks to WBro Hughes.

On that occasion our own ProvGM, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones noted: "On 7 Feb 1967, at the one year old Albert Edward Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Bro Hughes was Advanced into the Mark Degree. If he had stayed at the Albert Edward Mark Lodge my friend RWBro Derek Thomas, ProvGM of Monmouthshire, would be making this presentation but you moved to the Porthcawl Lodge No.1377 in 1989 and so our Province beats Monmouthshire by 28 years to 22, So I now present you with your 50 Year's Certificate".

Each of these stalwarts of the Order – WBro Bishop, WBro Lopez, WBro Williams and WBro Hughes – were also presented by the Provincial Grand Master with a special Mark Token and a Lapel Badge which proudly proclaims their many years service. A remarkable record



## What Energy!

**A** couple of our Executive Brethren (who seem to have time to spare) were recently installed as Worshipful Master in the Mark degree.

They include the Provincial Grand Master himself, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones; who was installed as WM of South Wales Installed Mark Masters Lodge No.1201 and of De Cymru Mark Grand Officers Lodge No.1606.

While the Provincial Grand Secretary, VWBro Stanley William Jeffery Clarke - not to be outdone - returned to be the Chair of Stability Mark Lodge No.758 (just 35 years after he last occupied that Office).

It is rumoured that they are patenting a design for the elastic diary.

## Cambria Mark Lodge advances from Strength to Strength

by : James Forbes

**B**rethren of the Cambria Lodge of Mark Master Masons celebrated their second double advancement ceremony in two years on 23 March 2017.

This time, under the experienced rule of our Worshipful Master, WBro Phill Morgan, two Master Masons from the Lodge of Round Table, Bros John Bell and Andrew Newson were made Mark Men before being Advanced to the Degree of Mark Master Mason in a dignified yet dramatic double ceremony.

Bros John Bell and Andrew Newson are both past Chairmen of Pontypridd & Rhondda Round Table, having met each other over twenty years ago, and shared many hours of fellowship and community service together in that organisation.

John Bell was Initiated into Freemasonry in the Rhondda Lodge back in 2002 and then became a joining member of the Lodge of Round Table in 2014.

Andrew Newson was Initiated directly into the



Lodge of Round Table in March 2016, following in his late Uncle Charles' footsteps, who had obtained the rank of Past Provincial Assistant Grand Registrar in the Province of Surrey before ascending to that Grand Lodge Above. We wish them well for their future in Freemasonry in general, and the Cambria Mark Lodge in particular.

The picture above shows smiles all round following the double advancement (left to right), Senior Warden Bro Norman Hosking, senior advancee John Bell, Worshipful Master Phill Morgan, advancee Andrew Newson and Junior Deacon James Forbes Keir. Pictured on the left shows what better way to celebrate than with a tippie or two of Maker's Mark Kentucky Straight Bourbon Handmade Whisky? Advancees Andrew and John relax in the bar at the Cardiff Masonic Hall after enjoying the Festive Board and toasts.



# The Annual Meeting of the Province in June 2017



## Distinguished Supporters of the Appeal



by : Paul Calderwood

**T**he 2020 fund raising appeal - designed to help South Wales Mark Master Masons and their families - made further progress this summer as our photograph shows, with even more Brethren receiving the distinctive red Collarette award.

This appeal will climax in 2020 when the Province celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Brethren who donate a total of £150 during the period that leads up to the event receive this distinctive Collarette and the Provincial Grand Master (centre) was able to make a number of such awards recently after the meeting

of the South Wales Installed Commanders Lodge to; (left to right) WBros Hywel Hughes, Malcolm Kidd, Ralph Jeffery, Keri Evans, Nick Marsh and Fred Fox.

*Photographs by Anthony Howell*

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