

## Another first for Mark Masonry

by : Naunton Liles

In May 2018 a large gathering assembled in Merthyr to witness a new Lodge Banner and a new Honours Board being Dedicated for SWAMPI, properly known as the South Wales Mark Provincial Stewards Lodge No.18. It was considered a unique occasion as the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Richard Thomas Eirian Jones concatenated two ceremonies of dedication into one seamless flow, in an interesting and learned Oration of the origins and purposes of both these important artefacts.

The Lodge having been opened in an adjoining room, the Master, Wardens and Officers of the Lodge processed in to welcome the visitors and ladies. The full Provincial Team then entered and the Provincial Grand Master accepted the gavel. Having put his Officers in place the Banner, which had been purchased by subscriptions from members, was paraded and presented by the WM WBro Kenneth M Gough, PPrGMO to the ProvGM for Dedication. The centre piece of the Banner depicts a cornucopia, a horn of plenty mounted on a purple background and embellished by details describing the Lodge.

The Lodge Board was then unveiled and similarly presented, Dedicated and displayed, showing the names of the first twelve Masters who had served the Lodge since its Consecration in 2003.



RWBro Richard Thomas Eirian Jones then returned the gavel to the Master and withdrew, with his team, from the Temple. After the Lodge closed, the Brethren and ladies enjoyed a magnificent repast of a five course supper, all for the price of £16, which was excellent. Happily, the rugby club car park, where we'd been invited to park on this busy evening, was still open and we were able to hurry through the rain to the comfort of our cars and return home.

It was a very happy event, well organised by WBro Garry Davies and the Officers of the Lodge.



Photographs by Anthony Howell

## Mark Mason's Granddaughter gains Nomination as Welsh Ladies' Hockey Ambassador

by : **Roger Lewis**

**W**Bro Lyn Guttridge and his wife Yvonne are the proud grandparents of a very talented granddaughter, Natasha Mark-Jones, who has accomplished the outstanding achievement of playing for the Welsh Ladies' Hockey Team. This has not been a one off achievement as Natasha has been awarded eighty-four Welsh Caps. Her talent was rewarded by being chosen to represent Wales in the 2018 Commonwealth Games Team in Australia. She took part in the impressive opening ceremony in Brisbane and the following day donned her hockey kit, when Wales took on second-ranking India, beating them three goals to two, with Natasha scoring the winning goal. Her proud parents, Mum Leisa and Dad Alun, were in the Gold Coast encouraging and supporting her all the way.

The Welsh Ladies' Hockey, all amateurs, thoroughly enjoyed their experiences at the Commonwealth Games, playing the likes of England, Malaysia and South Africa.



Her love for hockey started in school at P o r t h c a w l Comprehensive, where she played for the under 14s, under 16s, under 18s and at School



Welsh District Level. She then joined Howardian Ladies' Hockey Club in Cardiff at the age of 18.

With her experience in the game developing and studying for a Sports Degree at UWIC, Cardiff, Natasha earned her place at Senior International Level in 2012. She has played for Swansea Spartans, the only Welsh side in the English Hockey League, and her current club, Clifton Robinsons is one of the top English sides based at Bristol.

Natasha has just been nominated Welsh Ladies' Hockey Ambassador, and she now looks forward to a busy Summer and Autumn promoting and encouraging hockey in Wales.



## But they do it in Welsh!

by : **E W Jones**

**Y**es it's true, and the Dewi Sant Mark Lodge in Bridgend is exceedingly proud of the fact that it is the only Lodge in Freemasonry to be authorised to hold all its ceremonies in Welsh.

At the same time, it is one of the Lodge's fundamental aims to be accessible to all Brethren, regardless of language. Within the Lodge, this was achieved at its Consecration, as the Founders included Welsh speakers, learners and members who, although not Welsh-speaking, are very supportive.

It soon became clear that to enable visitors who were not fluent Welsh Speakers to feel part of the ceremony, and to enable Welsh learners to get to grips with some of the unfamiliar words in the ritual, something needed to be done. On request,

the Lodge can now provide Bilingual (side-by-side) Rituals for Advancement and Installation, enabling visitors and members, regardless of their ability in Welsh, to follow the ceremony with ease. We hope that this will facilitate visiting, as language should no longer pose any difficulty.

*Os hoffet ti ymweld neu ymuno â ni, rho wybod. Buasem y tu hwnt o falch i dy groesawu di. Mae'r cyfeiriad e-bost isod.*

If you don't speak Welsh, are a learner or a less-than-fluent Welsh speaker, you are very welcome to visit us. If you wish, we'd also be highly delighted to welcome you as a Member. Just contact the Secretary, Yr H Fd / WBro Elfan W Jones PGOrg, ProVGSW Ysgrifennydd / Secretary, Cyfrinfa Marc Dewi Sant Mark Lodge No.1914.





## Mark Benevolent Fund comes to Wales

by : **Roger Lewis**

On Saturday, 23 June 2018, the Order of St John and the representatives of the Mark Benevolent Fund met at the Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul in Llandaff Cardiff. Interestingly, the Cathedral is also dedicated to Saint Dubricus who was a Welsh Saint famous for healing the sick through the laying on of hands.

It is therefore particularly appropriate that the President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, the official charity of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, RWBro Dr John Wright, RD, PGSW, handed over three ambulances and a treatment centre to HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, GCVO, GCStJ, Commandant-in-Chief, St John Cymru – Wales.

Following the Annual Investiture Service, The Archbishop of Wales, The Most Reverend John Davies dedicated this gift on the Cathedral Green overlooking the Cathedral.

These vehicles will provide assistance to all those in need throughout the four Mark Provinces of Wales: North Wales, South Wales, Dyfed and Monmouthshire.

This £3 million initiative is part of a national Mark Benevolent Fund project providing new ambulances, treatment centres and support vehicles to St John Ambulance. Vehicles are being handed over in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands in a phased programme throughout 2018, in which fifty-two vehicles will be distributed.

In attendance from Mark Grand Lodge were: RWBro Dr John Wright, RD, PGSW and wife Julia; RWBro Ryan Williams PGJW, Honorary Secretary; RWBro Peter Talbot, ProvGM for North Wales; RWBro David Powell, ProvGM for Monmouthshire; VWBro Jeff Clarke, DepProvGM for South Wales with wife Andrea and WBro Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager, PAGDC.



## 150th Anniversary Celebration

by : **Roger Lewis**

Next year is the penultimate year before the Mark Province of South Wales celebrates its Sesquicentenary Celebrations. Much has been done but much more is required. A book is being produced, edited by WBro Dr Paul Calderwood, to celebrate this milestone in the Province's history. The achievements of every Lodge will be highlighted and the overall history of the Province celebrated.

Every Mark Mason is invited to be part of this prestigious event and everyone can play their part. A tie has been produced; are you wearing it? A 2020 Appeal to support Brethren of the Province has been launched; are you supporting it? A lapel badge has been made available; are you sporting it?

Our Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones is cheered by the fact that so many Brethren are wearing their Provincial Festive Board Charity Collars of either red or red and yellow, indicating their contribution to and support of the 2020 Appeal, under the direction of the new Appeal chairman VWBro

S W J Clarke DPGM. As charity is one of the underlying canons of Mark Masonry, it would be pleasing if the two years left in the run up to the anniversary could see every Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge make a concerted effort to support the Appeal in any way they can. It is very satisfying to know that even the smallest contribution can make a significant difference to those most in need of help and assistance.

By the time you read this, the 2020 Appeal Sunday lunch at the Towers Hotel in Jersey Marine, Swansea will have been held. This was the first of a series of planned events that will be held over the next two years with all proceeds going towards the Appeal target of £150 000. Our Provincial Charity Steward WBro Bryan Isaac believes that if the present momentum can be maintained, then the Appeal target will be reached.

He encourages one more final effort from Brethren and Charity Stewards to help in this push to achieve our target. This would be an admirable achievement, of which our Province can be rightly proud. In the final reckoning, when everything is concluded, we can justifiably say we achieved what we set out to do and helped those in greatest need at a time when they needed it most. This would indeed be a most satisfying conclusion and is reward in itself.



## Mark Masons' Hall visits Provincial Grand Lodge

by : **Roger Lewis**

Photographs by : **Anthony Howell**

**T**he Annual Provincial Meeting of Mark Master Masons of South Wales, held on 6 June 2018, was a very special occasion indeed.

Opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, he was delighted to receive the Pro Grand Master MWBro Raymond J Smith accompanied by RWBro Ryan A Williams PGJW Grand Secretary, RWBro Francis C Spencer, Grand Director of Ceremonies and WBro David J Boswell, Grand Sword Bearer and WBro Roger Richmond, PGStB as Grand Standard Bearer. All entered the Temple in procession and were warmly welcomed by the assembled Brethren.

The Provincial Grand Master extended warm fraternal greetings to all the distinguished guests, thanking them for their attendance and support and hoping that they would enjoy their time in the company of the Brethren of the Province of South Wales. The Provincial Grand Master further extended an especially warm welcome to VWBro David R Powell PGJO, currently Deputy Provincial Grand Master of our neighbouring Province of Monmouthshire who, the following day, was to be invested as its Provincial Grand Master. RWBro John Platts, the Provincial Grand Master of Bristol, suitably responded on behalf of the Right Worshipful Brethren in attendance.

This meeting also included the appointment of VWBro S W Jeff Clarke PGMO as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He entered the Temple in procession with his son Bro Nicolas and WBro Robert Payne as Cushion Bearers. The other members of the escort also had personal connections with the new Deputy. He was appointed, obligated and invested as Deputy Provincial Grand Master by the Provincial Grand Master. This was undertaken in a most sincere fashion in the presence of the Pro Grand Master. VWBro Jeffery Clarke then took his place as Deputy, at the right hand of the Provincial Grand Master. VWBro Jeffery Clarke is well known in the Province as he was the Provincial Secretary for 25 years, prior to which he served as Assistant Provincial Grand Master for three years, serving five Provincial Grand Masters.

He is an experienced Masonic Veteran and among his many accomplishments as Provincial Secretary was overseeing the introduction of a computerised data system for the Province. He also served on the Committee responsible for the separation of the Province and the creation of the Province of Dyfed in 1989. He was also the organising Secretary of the 2004 Mark Benevolent Fund Festival held in Cardiff. On his appointment as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, he was appointed as the new Appeal Chairman for the South Wales 2020 Appeal. This appointment was received most warmly by the Brethren.

The Provincial Grand Master then reappointed and proclaimed WBro Philip William Davies PAGDC as Assistant Provincial Grand Master which again was very warmly received.

The Provincial Grand Master then appointed and invested his Provincial Officers. All officers were cordially acknowledged as they accepted their Provincial roles. The appointment of the new Provincial Secretary WBro Martin A Jones, previously Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary was also richly acclaimed.

WBro Martin was Advanced in the Barry Mark Lodge No. 1043 on 7 October 1991 and received his first Provincial appointment as Provincial Junior Overseer in 2007. Promotion followed in Provincial Lodge as Grand Almoner, Deputy Grand Secretary and finally Grand Secretary in June 2018. Grand Lodge recognised his achievements by appointing him as Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer, before he was promoted to the acting rank of Grand Junior Deacon in 2016.

*Continued on next page*





# Mark My Words The News Letter for the Mark Mason

WBro Martin Jones was Elevated in Barry Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No.1043 in 2004 becoming its Commander in 2010 and was appointed to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Rank in 2016.

Martin is well known in the Province, not only as a founder member of a number of Mark and RAM Lodges, but as a conscientious supporter of all that happens in the Province. The Brethren of the Province look forward to working with our new Provincial Secretary and wish him every success in the future.

Before the Pro Grand Master retired, he was delighted to present the following Brethren with Mark Benevolent Fund Collarets;

Grand Patron Diamond Award: VWBro Alan F Thomas, PGJO (Apology received)

Grand Patron Gold Award: RWBro T R Eirian Jones Provincial Grand Master, VWBro S W Jeffrey Clarke, PGMO, DepProvGM WBro Dr Paul R Calderwood, PGSD, PDepProvGM WBro Arnold Williams, PAGSwdB.

Grand Patron: WBro Dr Anthony J Strachan, PAGSwdB, ProvGReg WBro John K Pillinger, PPrGSO

Patron: WBro Alun H Thomas, PGStwd, ProvGDC.

The Pro Grand Master thanked the Brethren for their support of the Mark Benevolent Fund and outlined the important work that it does both nationally and internationally.

The Provincial Grand Master informed the Assembly that although today was a celebration of all that has happened in the Province during the last year, there was a tinge of sadness to the day. It was the retirement of our Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Dr Paul Richard Calderwood JP. Paul is a Freemason of great eminence and his contribution as Deputy Provincial Master is inestimable. A past Prestonian Lecturer, he was a winner of the Quatuor Coronati's Norman B Spencer prize and also Lodge Secretary of that Lodge. He is an internationally renowned academic researcher in all things Masonic and the Province is delighted that he is the editor and compiler of the forthcoming publication outlining the history of the South Wales Province.

Paul is currently the Provincial Prior of the Order of Knights Templar of South Wales and Monmouthshire. The Provincial Grand Master presented him with his Past Deputy Provincial Master's Collaret as recognition of his unstinting contribution as Deputy in the Province.

The meeting concluded with National Anthems and the Provincial Grand Master processed out of the Temple accompanied by his Officers and to the appreciative applause of all present.

During the Festive Board, the Provincial Grand Master invested WBro Elfan Walter Jones PGOrg, Provincial Senior Warden as President of the Provincial Officers' Mess and WBro Brian Eveleigh PPrGMO, Provincial Junior Warden as Vice President of the Mess.



## A very special day - Father Advances Son at Caerphilly

by Roger Lewis

It is always a special occasion when father and son take part in any event together. It was no different on this occasion when VWBro S W Jeffrey Clarke PGMO, Deputy Provincial Grand Master Advanced his son Nicolas into the Mark Degree at Caerphilly Lodge No.1348 of Mark Master Masons, on 10 May 2018.

This particularly moving and poignant ceremony of Advancement undertaken by Jeffrey Clarke was only made possible by the kind invitation of the Brethren and current Worshipful Master of Caerphilly Mark Lodge, WBro Michael Thomas. This was indeed a ceremony that Bro Nicolas will remember for a long time.

In addition to his father Advancing him, other Members of the Mark Executive of the Province of South Wales took part in the ceremony.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones explained the signs of the Degree and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip William Davies PAGDC proclaimed the Congratulatory Address. Other members of the Lodge took part in the ceremony and WBro Terence Scarfe, a Past Master of the Lodge, presented the Tools of the Degree.

This special night continued with a Festive Board that was enjoyed by all, further enhancing the distinctiveness of the occasion.



# Brychan Royal Ark Mariner Lodge upholds Family Tradition

by : Roger Lewis

At the Installation meeting of the Brychan Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners there was great joy but also an element of sadness, as this was the final meeting when the current executive of the Mark Province of South Wales would be together in an official capacity.

The highlight of the evening was when WBro Gareth Andrews Installed his elder blood brother Robert into the Commander's Chair of the Lodge.

This style of event has become somewhat of a tradition with these two brothers as they progressed through their Masonic journeys. Both are Past Masters of their Craft Lodge, Universities No.5461 in Cardiff and both are Past Masters of their Mark Lodge, Rhaeadr Gwy No.1318 in Llandrindod Wells, where Robert Installed his younger brother as Master in 2011.

Between them they support eleven Mark Lodges and two Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, all in the Province of South Wales. Robert is currently Provincial Grand Junior Overseer and Gareth, Provincial Assistant Grand Charity Steward.

As noted above, there was a tinge of sadness in this meeting, as it was the last occasion when WBro Dr Paul Calderwood would represent the Province and Executive as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.



Dr Paul Calderwood has been a faithful, dedicated and talented representative of the Province, both as Assistant Provincial Grand Master and then as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. It is fitting that this last gathering of the Executive officers took place at his own Lodge in Brecon.

## The Beast from the East delays Royal Ark Mariner Installation

by : John Davies

After a false start with the untimely arrival of the snow on 1 March and the resultant postponement of the meeting, WBro John Davies was Installed into the Chair of Dunraven Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No.950 at Bridgend on Thursday 15 March. The next fall of snow came on the evening of 17 March!

It was a memorable occasion, as he was Installed in the Chair by his good friend WBro Richard Phillips, in a wonderful ceremony in the presence of WBro Dr Paul Richard Calderwood PGSD, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master. John was Elevated into Dunraven Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners on 6 November 2007, Junior Deacon in January 2009, Assistant Scribe in January 2010 and Scribe from January 2012 until 2016, Junior Warden in 2016 and Senior Warden in 2017.

It was in April 2012 that John Installed Richard Phillips into the Chair of Dunraven Mark Lodge No.950, so it was fitting



that he stepped back into the progression behind Richard after 4 years as Scribe in the Dunraven Royal Ark Mariner Lodge.

John wishes to thank everyone who was able to be present, and for the good wishes received from those who were unable to attend on the second occasion.

## Full Marks for Talbot Lodge

Full attendance of Officers to be invested at an Installation Meeting is a rare event in any Masonic Order. That elusive goal is often prevented from happening by a wide range of factors, including ill health, family matters and professional duties.

So, when it happened at the last Talbot Mark Lodge Installation Meeting, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Dr Paul Calderwood, said that he would come back at the first opportunity and be delighted to present the Lodge with an Award to acknowledge their achievement.

At the end of March, therefore, he returned with a specially created keystone inscribed with words to note the event. It read:

2017 - The Officers Installation Award - 100%  
Presented to Talbot Mark Lodge No 179  
By WBro Dr PR Calderwood

As the Deputy Provincial Grand Master pointed out: "The 100 per cent turnout of officers for investiture was a great compliment to the Lodge and especially to the new Worshipful Master, WBro Paul Bunyan, and it gave me great pleasure to acknowledge it in this unusual way".

This beautiful and unique keystone was created from Welsh slate by WBro James Lloyd of Rhayader, a highly experienced monumental Freemason. It will be displayed with pride on numerous



occasions in the future – but especially at Election and Installation Meetings, as a reminder for Members and guests of this important goal and achievement.