

A New Year's Message

From

The Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones

Dear Mark Brethren and Royal Ark Mariners,
Once more it is my great pleasure to take this opportunity to extend to you and your families very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019.

I continue to enjoy so much kindness, goodwill and support from the Brethren of the Province and I am extremely grateful to you all.

During a busy Masonic year I have attended many Provincial Meetings, including the Installation of RWBro David Powell as the Provincial Grand Master of our neighbouring Province of Monmouthshire. Also I have been fortunate enough to attend two District meetings abroad, in Spain and Italy, where I was made very welcome. A visit to Bucharest in March to attend the Consecration of the first Mark Lodge in Romania by the Deputy Grand Master, RWBro John Herbert Prizeman, saw Geraldine and I escaping the Welsh snow just to encounter deeper drifts in Bucharest. A second Romanian Mark Lodge Consecration by MWBro Raymond John Smith, Pro Grand Master, at Mark Masons Hall in London in June, allowed me to assist as Consecrating Senior Warden.

In the past year there have been some notable events within our Province. In January, a Mark Awareness evening at Ysgolion Mark Lodge, Pontyclun, for our Brethren in the Craft was a great success. In May I was privileged, in the presence of Brethren and their ladies, to dedicate a Lodge Honours Board and Banner for the South Wales Mark Provincial Stewards' Lodge. The investiture of VWBro Stanley William Jeffrey Clarke, PGMO as our new Deputy Provincial Grand Master at the annual Provincial meeting in June, following his retirement after twenty-five years as Provincial Grand Secretary, was a highpoint of the year. In September, our newest Lodge, the Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1995, was Consecrated at Caerphilly with WBro Alun Morton PPrGSwd as its Primus Master.

2018 marked the 150th anniversary of the Mark Benevolent Fund and a very successful sesquicentenary Festival in Lincoln raised £853,023 for our Charity, the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Your donations Brethren are being put to good use. In June, at Llandaff Cathedral, the President of the MBF, RWBro Dr John Wright, RD, PGSW, handed over three ambulances and a treatment centre to St John Cymru – Wales to serve the Mark Provinces of South Wales, North Wales, Dyfed and Monmouthshire. The new vehicles are just 4 of the 52 vehicles which have been secured thanks to a capital grant of over £3 million by the MBF to the St John Ambulance. In August, I was privileged to be present, together with a few hundred Mark Masons and Blood Bike riders, at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham at the dedication and handover of 25 of the 45 Blood Bikes, and cars donated to the National Association of Blood Bikes thanks to a grant of £300,000 by the MBF, for use in many Mark Provinces in England and Wales. All Mark Masons should feel proud that their charitable donations help in the rapid movement of blood, breast milk and donor organs for transplant around our Provinces.

I would like to express my grateful thanks to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Assistant Provincial Grand Master for the support they give me by representing me at all our Installation Meetings in the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees. I would also like to thank the many contributors of



both Mark and Mariner Lodges for producing their history for inclusion in a Provincial history book, which the past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro Dr Paul Calderwood PGSD, is presently busily editing. I here place on record my grateful thanks to him for the immense and important contribution he is making towards the Province's history.

Our 2020 Provincial Appeal is gaining impetus. A Sunday lunch at the Towers Hotel last July led to a significant contribution. I thank all those who attended. This was a very successful event and I am pleased to say will be repeated at the same venue on 30 June 2019

I look forward to this new year and to meeting with you all once more, and 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. Mark well.

T R Eirian Jones
Provincial Grand Master.



The Province has been informed of the appointment of the following Brethren to

Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank

WBro David F Court
WBro Jeffrey E Davies
WBro Philip W Davies
WBro John C Giddings
WBro Douglas J Morgan

The Investiture took place at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London on Tuesday 11 December 2018

I am sure you wish to extend to them your warmest congratulations on their appointments.

Cambria Extends Hospitality

by : Roger Lewis

At the last Installation Meeting of Cambria Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.823 held in Cardiff on 19 October 2018, the Provincial Representative, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip W Davies and his team were joined by representatives from the Province of Warwickshire, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Michael Saxon and the Provincial Grand Secretary, VWBro Gareth Hughes PGJO.

They both travelled from Bromsgrove in Worcestershire to witness WBro Alan Gardener, currently Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, install his successor eloquently and expertly into the Chair of Cambria Mark Lodge.

The evening was a resounding success and illustrated completely why the Mark Degree is referred to as the 'Friendly Degree'. There are a number of Mark Lodges in Cardiff and should any Brethren wish to know more about the Mark Degree, then further information can be obtained from the Provincial Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones whose details can be found in the current year book.



Barry Supports Mark Benevolent Fund

by : Roger Lewis

At recent meetings of the Barry Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1043 and Barry Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.1043, two important landmarks were reached - one by an individual and one by the Lodge itself.

VWBro Alan Ford Thomas was presented with his Grand Patron Diamond Award for his considerable contribution to the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Alan is a senior Past Master of Barry Lodge of Mark Master Masons and Barry Royal Ark Mariners' Lodge and has been a faithful member and supporter of these Lodges for many years. It is fitting that his contribution to the Mark Benevolent Fund has been recognised in this way.

Barry Lodge is an active supporter of the Mark Benevolent Fund and its Worshipful Master, WBro Brian Dowling was presented with the Certificate and Collaret in recognition of the Lodge's contribution to the Fund. The Lodge is now the proud owner of the Grand Patron Gold Award and the Collaret will be worn by Masters of the Lodge during their year of Office.

The pictures show the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip W Davies, presenting the Gold Patron Award on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund to WBro Brian Dowling, Master of Barry Lodge and to VWBro Alan Ford Thomas of Barry Royal Ark Mariners' Lodge.

The Mark Benevolent Fund has been in existence since 1868 and was instigated by the Revd Canon George Raymond Portal, Grand Master of the Lodge of Mark Master Masons at the time. He was an enlightened thinker who believed in the effective disbursement of aid to alleviate need as soon as possible. Over the years the Fund has supported many charities and



Photograph by Anthony Howell

individuals including Addenbrooke's Hospital, the RNLI and more recently Blood Bikes and St John's Ambulances in Wales. His Latin motto, "Bis dat qui cito dat", "payment rendered promptly is worth twice as much", holds good today.



Photograph by Anthony Howell

150th Anniversary 2020 Appeal Gala Dinner Launch *by : Roger Lewis*

Sunday 8 July 2018, at the Towers Hotel Swansea, proved an auspicious day in the long 150 years history of the South Wales Mark Province.

Over one hundred Mark Masons and their guests gathered to hear the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip W Davies announce that the culmination of the 2020 Appeal will be held at the Cardiff City Stadium on Saturday, 4 July 2020, in the form of a Grand Gala Dinner.

This brings to a close the initiative set up by the previous Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Paul Raymond Clement. It was his wish that the Mark Province of South Wales should raise one hundred and fifty thousand pounds by the time the 150th Anniversary of the Province would be celebrated.

The aim of this appeal was to raise money which would be used to support Brethren in need or difficulty in the South Wales Mark Province only. It was intended to run alongside the national Mark Benevolent Fund, which has a national and international remit.



The 2020 Appeal Fund draws its money via donations from Mark Brethren and Lodges in three ways. First, one may donate a small sum on a regular monthly basis, initially at the launch, which was two pounds. Secondly one could buy a ticket for the Provincial 150 Club at a cost of twelve pounds per year.

A draw is made twice yearly, at the Christmas and Summer Provincial Luncheons and on this occasion the winners were: First prize of £350 WBro Gareth Andrews PrAGChStwd; Second prize of £250 Bro Tyrone S Smith and the third prize of £150 to WBro Christopher Dando PPrGSD.

This is matched by an amount from the proceeds which is transferred to the Appeal Fund and on this occasion WBro Bryan Isaac, Provincial Charity Steward presented a cheque for £750 to the Assistant Grand Master WBro Philip W Davies for the 2020 Appeal.

The third way the 2020 Appeal secures income is by the individual charity donation envelopes, which can provide income on either a regular or irregular basis. All donations can be gift aided should the donor so decide.

The total amount raised at this lunch amounted to almost £2,000. It is not too late to contribute or become involved as either an individual, Lodge or Charity Steward. The Provincial Office will be providing details in due course, so remember to put Saturday 4 July 2020 in your diary - such an event only happens once every 150 years!

Grand Lodge Promotions and Appointments 2018 -19

At two ceremonies in London, held at Great Queen Street in June and September 2018, the following Brethren were honoured with first appointments and promotions and the Province extends its congratulations to all those Brethren.

Acting Rank

WBro Sir Paul M Williams, OBE, CStJ, PGSD, appointed Grand Senior Warden.

WBro Naunton Liles, PGSD, GOrg, appointed Grand Master Overseer.

VWBro Ryan Williams, PGJW, GSec, re-appointed to Grand Secretary.

RWBro Neil H Matthews, PGJW, re-appointed to Grand Inspector of Works.

WBro Lewis G Clement, appointed to Grand Steward (London).

Promoted

WBro James P Childs, PGSD; WBro Denis W Cotter, PGSD, promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseers.

WBro Philip W Davies, APMG, PAGDC; WBro Derek N Giddings;

WBro Gilbert A Howell, PGStB, Promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacons.



Appointed

WBro Howard L G Vaughan, PPrGJW, Brychan Mark Lodge No.1725, appointed Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

WBro Garry M Davies, PPrGJW, South Wales Mark Provincial Stewards Lodge No.1829; WBro Brian W Hithersay, PPrGSW, Principality Mark Lodge No.1057; WBro Merlyn Lloyd, PPrGSW, Sketty Hall Mark Lodge No.1685. Appointed Past Assistant Grand

Sword Bearers
WBro Michael H Williams, PPrGJW, Cowbridge Mark Lodge No.1573
Appointed Past Grand Standard Bearer.

The picture show some of the Brethren who received their promotions and Brethren of the Province who supported them on the day in London.

Are you In or are you Out? *by: Roger Lewis*

This event is held on an annual basis in September, and is designed to draw together, over a most enjoyable luncheon, the retiring Acting Officers and the incoming Acting Officers, together with

their ladies, of the South Wales Mark Province.

Our Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones is in attendance and welcomes his new team and thanks his outgoing team for the work they have completed for the Mark Province during their time in office.

He is ably supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro S W Jeffrey Clarke; the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip W Davies and the Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones.

The luncheon this year was held at the Manor Parc Country Hotel, Cardiff and as always proved to be a most successful event, with over a hundred in attendance.





Brodyr, Byddwch Barod *by : Roger Lewis*



"Look on the face of your Brother, walk in the light"

It's not often that a Provincial Grand Master has the opportunity to Consecrate a new Lodge of Mark Master Masons, but when the prospect was not only going to be the first in the Province, but also the first in Wales, then such a chance was not to be missed. The Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones was unstinting in his support and consequentially the seed was sown and preparations made by its Primus Master, WBro Alun Morton began.

This was not a case of merely forming another Mark Masons' Lodge. There were striking similarities between the Scouting Movement and the aims and aspirations of Mark Masonry in general and a Scouts' Lodge in particular. The parallels between Scouting and the Mark Benevolent Fund are uncannily in accord. Records show that a previous Provincial Grand Master, Lord Kensington of the South Wales Mark Province, was a good friend and colleague of Lord Baden Powell, the Founder of the Scouting Movement, both having been officers in the Boer War.

Scouting, as in Freemasonry, is an evolution and interaction of the past, the present and the future. It is solidly behind the principle that being a good citizen and helping those who are in need is worthwhile. It places great emphasis on enjoying yourself in the company of like-minded individuals.

It was against such a background that the Consecration of the new Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1995 took place at the Caerphilly Masonic Temple on Saturday 29 September 2018, in front of a packed assembly which included the Provincial Grand Masters of Dyfed, RWBro Gary Hicks and Monmouthshire, RWBro David Powell.

The Consecrating Officer, Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, was ably assisted by his Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro

SW Jeffrey Clarke, as Installing Officer, who in turn was assisted by the Assistant Grand Master, WBro Philip W Davies; Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones and the Grand Chaplain, VWBro Bruce D Harry.

The Consecration was carried out in a dignified, solemn manner by the Provincial Grand Master and the addresses were given by The Deputy Provincial Grand Master the Provincial Senior Warden, WBro Elfan Jones and the Provincial Junior Warden, WBro Brian Eveleigh. After the petitioners signified their approval, a fine oration was delivered by Bruce D Harry. Following the Consecration, the Primus Master, WBro Alun Morton, was proclaimed and the first officers of the Lodge were appointed and invested.

Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons is the first Scout Mark Lodge in Wales. There was a previous Craft Scouts' Lodge but surrendered its warrant several years ago, although there is another Craft Lodge dedicated to the principles and ideals of the Boys' Brigade.

The Scouts Cymru Lodge is well and truly open for business and will be based at the Caerphilly Masonic Hall, although there are plans to hold meetings at other suitable Masonic and Scout venues in South Wales. It is similarly intended to support other Scouting Lodges, both Craft and Mark, and to support the Kindred Lodges Association as well as visiting Gilwell, which is the centre of the Scout Movement.

Should anyone wish to become a member of this unique Welsh Lodge, further details can be provided by the Secretary, WBro Nicholas Gregory, PProvGStwd or WBro Alun Morton, PPrGStwd, the Worshipful Master.



Photograph by Anthony Howell



Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Masons, the first Scout Mark Lodge in Wales



Photographs by Anthony Howell