

## VWBro John O'Leary Celebrates 50 years in Mark

by : Robert Adams and Roger Lewis

Very Worshipful Brother John was born in Surrey and after the Blitz, moved to his mother's home at Treherbert in the Rhondda Valley. He was educated at Pentre Grammar School, after which he secured employment as a clerk with British Rail, before being called up for National Service. He served with the Welsh Guards before being demobbed in 1954.

After his period in the Army he joined The Glamorgan Constabulary, which was later to become South Wales Police. John retired in 1985 having attained the rank of Inspector he served in Port Talbot, where he met his wife Glenys and later Bridgend, where he now lives.

On retirement John worked for the Sue Ryder Foundation as an area organiser, looking after their interests from Cwmbran to Haverfordwest. In retirement he devotes his time to his family, his Church, St Mary Nolton, where he has been both Warden and Deputy Church Warden and Freemasonry. John has three children, two boys and one girl, eleven grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

John was Advanced into Afan Lodge of Mark Master Masons on 20 January 1969 becoming its Worshipful Master in 1980. He received Provincial Honours as PPrGSwdB and received Grand Rank PAGStdB



Photographs by Antony Howell

in 1997. Promotion followed in 2004 as PGJD and in 2015 to PGJO.

In Royal Ark Mariners he was Elevated in Dunraven RAM Lodge No.950 in 1969 and later became Founder Junior Warden of Afan RAM Lodge in 1978, becoming its Commander in 1980. He received Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in 1993. He was also a Founder and Commander of Middlesex St David's RAM Lodge No.1063.

In the Craft he is PPrSGW and in The Holy Royal Arch PPrGSN. In the Ancient and Accepted Rite he holds the rank of 32° and is a Founder Member of both Abaty Margam and Neath Rose Croix Chapters. John obtained Grand Rank in Royal and Select Masters and now holds the rank of PG Conductor of the Council.

The ladies joined the Brethren at the Festive Board where VWBro John was presented with a whisky glass engraved with his Mark together with a bottle of whisky. The Worshipful Master then presented his wife Glenys with a bouquet of flowers.

## Owzat for a Result

by : Roger Lewis

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward, WBro Bryan Isaac is a lifelong supporter of Neath Rugby Football Club. However, as a sportsman he casts his eye in the summer towards a more genteel game. This game is famous for its cucumber sandwiches, lazy, hazy summer

afternoons with the hopefully frequent sound of leather on willow.

It was not a surprise when he received a request for financial support from the Port Talbot Town Cricket Club. The Club has a number of players who play disability cricket and not only have they represented their own club, Port Talbot, but have also represented their country by playing for the Welsh Disabled Cricket Team.

The problem they were facing was



that the area in front of their club house, due to the ravages of time and constant use, had become unsuitable for wheelchair users. A full restoration was required in order to make the area wheelchair friendly, by providing a ramp and eight wheelchair friendly accessible benches thus enabling the disabled cricketers easy access to the Club House.

The South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund was more than happy to assist and although they were not expected to meet the whole cost, £500.00 was raised to provide the building materials to enable the ramp to be completed in time for the 2019 season. This was matched by a local builder and two of his workforce, who provided their labour free of charge.

The Club, one of the few in Wales to promote disability cricket, provides this amenity free of charge, with senior members of the Club supporting the disabled section by covering fixture costs.

## Barry Mason completes 50 years

by : Roger Lewis

A very highly regarded, well known and respected Barry Freemason has reached the milestone of fifty years in Mark Masonry. WBro Alvern Myron Murray Hart a Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden of the South Wales Mark Province was Advanced into the Barry Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1043 on 4 March 1968. He subsequently became a Joining Member of Cowbridge Mark Lodge No.1573 and became its Master in February 1993.

In Provincial Grand Lodge he was promoted to Provincial Grand Senior Deacon in 1996 and promoted to Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden in 2000. He was further promoted to Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden in 2012.

WBro 'Al' was presented with two certificates, one from Mark Grand Lodge and one from Provincial Grand Lodge, at a meeting in Bridgend earlier in the year. These certificates from the Mark Order will accompany his other certificates marking his completion of 50 years in both the Craft and the Holy Royal Arch where he is a Grand Officer in both.



Photographs by Anthony Howell

## Colourful Evening at Barry Mark

by : Roger Lewis

The Brethren of Barry Mark Lodge of Mark Master Masons celebrated the Installation of their new Master WBro Gareth Duddridge in a very special way with some Brethren wearing traditional Celtic dress.



Gareth wore a St David's tartan and WBro David Goodall and Brothers Ian McDonald and Duncan Reid were wearing Scottish tartans.

The Brethren were joined by the Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones and his accompanying Provincial Team and observed the Installing Master WBro Brian Dowling conduct an excellent ceremony of Installation.

The Provincial Grand Master was delighted to present some of the Brethren with their 2020 Appeal Collarettes at the Festive Board.



## Mark Provincial Grand Lodge of South Wales

### Wardens and Overseers

2019 - 2020

The picture on the right shows from left to right; Junior Overseer WBro Peter E Taylor, Tremains No.1952; Senior Warden WBro Denis Tucker, Ysgolion No.1487; Junior Warden WBro John T J Davies, Dewi Sant No.1914; Master Overseer WBro Nicholas Marsh, Arthur Lewis No.585; Senior Overseer WBro Keri J Evans, Trinity No.1845



Photographs by Anthony Howell

## Caerffili Mark Lodge breaks Half Century

by : Terrance Scarfe and Roger Lewis

**O**n Thursday 14 March 2019 the Caerffili Mark Lodge No.1348 celebrated its 50th Anniversary. A full Lodge witnessed the Assistant Provincial Grand Master WBro Philip William Davies taking the Senior Deacon's wand and escorting the Candidate, Bro Lewis Witts through a faultless Advancement Ceremony. This was conducted by the WM, WBro Terence George ap-Hywel and his Officers.

On completion, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master was again proffered the gavel and occupied the Chair of King Solomon, informing the Lodge that he had been directed by the Provincial Grand Master to discharge the evening's business on his behalf.

He further informed the assembled Brethren that the Lodge was to be presented with a Jubilee Warrant from the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and a Jubilee Certificate from the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Wales. These citations were both read by the Provincial Grand Secretary WBro Martin Jones and then presented to the Worshipful Master by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master WBro Philip W Davies.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master then outlined the purpose of the Mark Benevolent Fund and its excellent work and presented Bro Ian Markey with a Vice Patron's Collarette in recognition of his personal contributions. The Worshipful Master was presented with a Grand Patron Gold Award Collarette, in recognition of the Caerffili Mark Lodge's contribution to the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The Brethren assembled showed their appreciation by rapturous applause.

All those who attended the Meeting were presented with an especially commissioned Mark Token commemorating 50 years of Mark Masonry in Caerffili.

The date of the Warrant was 27 August 1968 and Consecration was on 14 November 1968. A very lively and enjoyable Festive Board followed and a dignified and poignant response to a toast to the Founders of Caerffili Mark Lodge was made by WBro Paul Kelvin-Smith PAGDC, the son of one of the Founders and first Senior Warden, Bro Cyril Kelvin-Smith. We all look forward to the next 50 years.



Photographs by Anthony Howell

## Province of South Wales Mark Master Masons Appointment to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank

**T**he Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones extends the congratulations of the Province to the following Brethren on their appointment to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

WBros Neil F Charles, St Johns No.28 • R Michael Coombes, Abertawe No.179 • Dr.Anthony J Strachan, Abertawe No.179 • T Lynn Williams, Arthur Lewis No.585,

- John Francis, St Iltyd No.784 • David C N Franklin, Cambria No.823 • Anthony C Painter, Afan No.1088 • Brian Warlow, Neath No.1125 • Wynford J D Davies Neath No.1125
- Michael Davison, Caerffili No.1348 • Clive M Herbert, Porthcawl No.1377 • Lisndsey Rees, Cambrensis No.1528
- S Gwyn Evans, Llynfi Valley, No.1592
- Phillip J Morris, Sketty Hall No.1685



Photographs by Anthony Howell

## Mark Provincial Grand Lodge looks towards 150th Anniversary

by : Roger Lewis

**A**t the 2019 Annual Provincial Meeting of the South Wales Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, the Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones stood and welcomed the massed assembly of Mark Masons, some of whom had travelled a considerable distance to be present and support the Provincial Grand Master and the Province.

He particularly drew attention to the representatives of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree, who paraded into the temple resplendent in their rainbow regalia. The Mariner Degree is uniquely dovetailed into the Mark Degree and each Mariner Lodge is moored to a Mark Lodge. This Degree offers a Mark Mason distinctive understanding of not only the Mark Degree but also other aspects of Masonry and every Mark Mason is encouraged to become a member and to wear the distinctive rainbow ribbon and dove insignia breast Jewel. However, to become a Mark Mason you need to be a member of the Craft



and the Provincial Grand Master outlined the importance of encouraging suitable individuals to become members of the Craft and thus start their journey into Mark Masonry.

The meeting consisted of the usual business that one has come to expect at a Provincial gathering. It also included the appointment of Provincial Officers, both active and past which, as ever, was a most affable and enjoyable event. This is an occasion when the Provincial Grand Master is able to thank and encourage all those receiving appointments in recognition of their hard work and support to the Province.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed the Brethren and the initial theme of his message was one of appreciation of those who supported him and the Province throughout the past year.

The Provincial Executive were foremost in his praise,

particularly his Deputy, WBro Dr Paul Calderwood and Assistant WBro Philip Davies, both of whom he was delighted to reappoint. Grateful thanks were also expressed to WBro Martin Jones, Provincial Grand Secretary, who had completed his first year as Secretary and whose steadfast hand had successfully guided the Province, culminating in a most buoyant and enjoyable Provincial Meeting.

The Provincial Grand Master then outlined the various events and occasions throughout the year which the Brethren had enjoyed and supported. These included a Masonic trip to Italy, Provincial lunches and dances and the formation of a new Mark Scouts Lodge in Caerphilly. On a more serious note, he mentioned the donation to Ty Hafan in order for them to purchase cuddle blankets. Other events of note included the St John's Ambulance presentation at Llandaff Cathedral and the support of a Blood Bike to aid in the speedy distribution of much needed medical aid.

He was delighted that lodges were supporting the Mark Benevolent Fund and during the year he was able to present to a number of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges' Grand Patron Awards in recognition of their ongoing support. The Lodges honoured included: Stability, Arthur Lewis and St Illtyd who achieved the Diamond Grand Patron Award; Caerffili, St Tydfil, Langley, Porthcawl, South Wales Installed Mark Masters and Cynon Dare who achieved the Gold Patron Award; St Illtyd RAM and Dunraven RAM who achieved the Grand Patron Award; Porthcawl RAM and Sketty Hall Mark Lodge who achieved the Patron Award and Cwm Rhondda Mark Lodge who were awarded Vice Patron recognition.

A particularly pleasing moment during the meeting was when RWBro Eirian Jones presented WBro Arnold Williams with his Grand Patron Diamond Collarette for his support of the Mark Benevolent Fund.



The Provincial Grand Master closed his address by encouraging the Brethren to look to the future and the 150th Anniversary of the Province, which promises to be a spectacular event.

At this point the Deputy Provincial Grand Master rose to his feet and on behalf of the Brethren present thanked the Provincial Grand Master for his exceptional and assiduous leadership of the Province. Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in due form and both national anthems were sung with passion.



## Caerphilly's 'Eddie' Bolton celebrates 40 Years

by : Roger Lewis

**1**979 was a good year for WBro Edward 'Eddie' George Bolton. It was the year that he was Advanced into Caerffili Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Eddie was Caerphilly born and bred, so it was not surprising that he should join the Mark Lodge in his home town. This was the start of a most enjoyable journey in the Mark Degree, which ultimately concluded with promotion to Grand Rank.

this resulted in him becoming a member of a number of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges throughout the Province.

The list includes Neath, both Mark and Mariner, becoming secretary in Neath; Llynfi Valley in Maesteg, where he was also secretary; Rhaeadr Gwy in Llandrindod Wells and of course Caerffili, where it all started and where he attained the Chair in both Royal Ark Mariner and Mark Degrees. Provincial honours soon followed. In 1997, when RWBro Desmond Barnett was Provincial Grand Master, Eddie was appointed Provincial Steward. He fondly recalls his time as Steward accompanying the late VWBro Anthony Moore, another Caerphilly Mason, to various events around the Province.

Progression followed as Overseer, Junior Warden and Senior Warden, followed by Grand Rank in the form of PASTB and then PGJD. This resulted in membership of De Cymru Lodges of both Mark and Royal Ark Mariner and of course SWIMM and SWIC, the Installed Mark Master and Commander Lodges.

Eddie has a great love of rugby, following the Welsh teams to New Zealand and

Australia, having played as a young man as well as being a member of Roath Harriers running club in Cardiff. Apart from his love of GWR engines and railway memorabilia, he also enjoys travelling and had visited every Eastern Bloc country before the collapse of the Soviet Union. He even drove from Caerphilly to Split when it was part of Yugoslavia.

Eddie's business interests stem from his involvement with his family's soft drinks business and he eventually worked for Canada Dry in the Midlands and Wales and the Marches. He eventually ended his career as UK Head of Training. Eddie now lives in Cardiff with his wife Wendy, enjoying his retirement and Masonry.



*Photographs by Antony Howell*

After joining Caerffili Mark Lodge, Eddie was persuaded to join Neath Mark Lodge by his good friend WBro Martin Mogford and

## Mark Benevolent Fund Gold Patron Awards



**WBro Lynn Guttridge – Porthcawl Mark Lodge**



**VWBro Ralph A Jeffrey – Langley Mark Lodge**



**WBro Dr Paul R Calderwood, Deputy Provincial Grand Master South Wales Installed Mark Masters Lodge**



*Photographs by Antony Howell*

## Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons



### Promotions and Appointments

The Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to make the following appointments and promotions to Brethren within our Province:

#### ACTING RANK

RWBro Ryan A Williams, PGJW re-appointed to Grand Secretary.  
RWBro Neil H Matthews, PGJW re-appointed to Grand Inspector of Works.  
WBro David C N Franklin appointed to Grand Standard Bearer  
WBro Neil M Evans appointed to Grand Steward.

#### PROMOTIONS

WBro Peter Frost, PGSwdB promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer.  
WBro Gwilym H Jones, PGIG promoted to Past Grand Senior Deacon.  
WBro Bryan J Isaac, PAGSwdB promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon.  
WBro Elfan W Jones, PGOrg promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon.  
WBro Dr Anthony J Strachan, PAGSwdB promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon.

#### FIRST APPOINTMENTS

WBro Neil F Charles, PPrGJW appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.  
WBro Richard O W Edwards, PPrGJW appointed to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer.



Pictured above, left to right; WBros D C N Franklin, A Jones, R O W Edwards, M Davidson, N M Evans



WBro Allun D Jones, PPrGJW appointed to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer.

WBro Michael Davison, PPrGJW appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

Brethren receiving Active Ranks and First Appointments to Past Ranks were invested at the meeting of Grand Lodge held on Tuesday, 11 June 2019.

Brethren receiving Promotions will be invested at the Meeting of Grand Lodge to be held on Tuesday, 10 September 2019. Both meetings will take place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

We offer our congratulations to all these Brethren and hope that they will enjoy their new Offices for many years to come.



## A Note for Your Diary

by : Roger Lewis

Next year will be one of the most important in the entire history of the Mark Province of South Wales. The Province will be celebrating its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, which will culminate in a gala celebration dinner on 4 July 2020, at Cardiff City Football Club Stadium. Further details will shortly be available from the Provincial Office, but needless to say it will be an event not to be missed.

The Province has been preparing for this event for a number of years and to celebrate such an auspicious occasion a book on the history of the Province is in preparation. The

book, which is being edited by our Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Dr Paul Calderwood, contains information on the Province and its Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, almost all of which has never been published before.

In its preparations for this event, the Province has not forgotten its benevolence to those less fortunate than ourselves. To this end, Lodges and individuals have been contributing to a Sesquicentenary Fund, the target of which is £150,000, which will be used to support local Brethren and their families in times of need. The Provincial Charity Steward, WBro Bryan Isaac is confident that this target will be achieved.



## Mark Benevolent Fund Grand Parade

The Mark Benevolent Fund has carved out a reputation for disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others, giving an average of over £206,000 each year for the last one hundred and fifty years to individuals in need and worthy causes, which benefit the wider community.

It is this outward looking aspect of the work of the Fund that we particularly paid homage to, at a special meeting of Mark Grand Lodge, with representatives in attendance from charitable organisations that have benefited from grants to worthy causes in 2018. We have been delighted to work closely with each of the charities represented by providing funding for transport, medical equipment, buildings, furniture and many other items to complete or progress projects in a wide range of areas.

The support provided to these organisations by the Mark Benevolent Fund has enabled each of them to achieve their goals more quickly than might otherwise have been the case.



The partnerships we have forged with over fifty charitable organisations in 2018 will endure and underline the Mark Benevolent Fund's commitment to practise charity in its broadest sense. *WBro Darren Coleman-Heald, PAGDC, Charities Manager, Mark Masons' Hall.*

