

New Year's Message - RWBro T R Eirian Jones

Dear Mark Brethren and Royal Ark Mariners,
It is with very great pleasure that I take this opportunity to extend to you and your families my very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2020, a special and historic year for our Province, it being our 150th Anniversary.

On 9 February 1870 Theodore Mansel Talbot, the tenth Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of South Wales, was appointed as Provincial Grand Master of the newly constituted Mark Province of South Wales. At that time there was only one Mark Masons' Lodge in south Wales, that being Langley Lodge No.28, in Cardiff. Today, 150 years later, we are the Province with the eighth largest membership and have 33 Mark and 23 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.

Once again the past year has been a busy Masonic year with its highs and lows. In February I attended a meeting of the Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge No.585 to present the Lodge with a Mark Benevolent Fund Grand Patron Diamond Award Collarette and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my Advancement into the Order. Two days later I was privileged to present another Grand Patron Diamond Award Collarette to St Illtyd Mark Lodge No. 784. Six other Lodges were awarded MBF Grand Patron Gold Award Collarettes during the year and I continue to be delighted that Brethren of our Province recognise the excellent work carried out by the MBF and readily contribute to the fund.

In March the Caerffili Mark Lodge No.1348 celebrated its 50th Anniversary and in September the Brychan Mark Lodge No.1725 celebrated its 25th Anniversary. I congratulate both Lodges on reaching their Masonic milestones. There were personal milestones reached also with VWBro John O'Leary celebrating a 50 years membership in the Order and both WBro Gwyther Barnes and WBro Edward Bolton celebrating 40 years memberships.

Unfortunately this year we have suffered the loss of several distinguished Brethren. Amongst them were our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro Tony Moore, and VWBro Alan Rosser Thomas. The Province will greatly miss the presence of such outstanding Masonic characters.

At the last Installation Meeting within the Province in June, I suffered a fall which in effect immobilized me for close on three months. It meant that I could not attend the highly successful 151st Mark Benevolent Fund Festival in Brighton, hosted by Sussex Province, which raised £1,357,663 for our charity, the Mark Benevolent Fund. It also prevented a visit to Romania, where I was due to Consecrate another Mark Lodge in this rapidly expanding area. Here I must thank the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip Davies, and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro Alun Thomas, for the part they played in that Ceremony.

We now look forward to our 150th Anniversary year. In April we intend to launch our history of the South Wales Province, to which many Brethren have contributed Lodge histories, and which our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Dr Paul Calderwood, has spent many days editing. I thank all the contributors for their assistance and again express my grateful thanks to Dr Paul Calderwood for the immense and important contribution he is making in recording the Province's history.

In July the Brethren of the Province and their partners will gather at the Cardiff City Football Stadium, in the presence of the Pro Grand Master, MWBro Raymond J Smith, for a Gala Dinner to celebrate our Anniversary.

I thank the members of the 2020 Appeal Committee for their



Photograph by Anthony Howell

tireless efforts to ensure the success of this event

Again this year I would like to express my grateful thanks to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Assistant Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial team, for the support they give me by representing me at Installation Meetings in the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees. I could not wish for better.

In conclusion, I thank all the Brethren of the Province for their kindness, goodwill and support, especially during my convalescence over the summer. It was much appreciated and I am extremely grateful to you all.

I look forward to this important year with great anticipation, to meeting with you all once more, and to promote our friendly Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees throughout South Wales.

I finish as always with the message: Enjoy your Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Masonry and Mark well. With the warmest and most fraternal regards and best wishes for the year ahead.

T R Eirian Jones.

**SOUTH WALES PROVINCIAL
MARK MASTER MASONS**



**2020 APPEAL
GALA DINNER**

**Entertainment * Raffle Prizes * £65.00 per person
Ticket Price included Raffle Ticket
Dress - Black Tie - Carriages 11.30pm**

Gwyther Barnes Celebrates Forty years

by : Roger Lewis & David Baldwin

Ernest Thomas Gwyther Barnes was born on 11 July 1931, and is the third member of the Barnes family to serve St Tydfil Mark Masons' Lodge as Worshipful Master.

Gwyther was born in Merthyr Tydfil and his father, WBro Ernest George James Barnes, was also a Member of St Tydfil Mark Lodge and was Worshipful Master in 1949.

His father was a very well-known and respected business man who for many years owned a shop, which was then Merthyr's only sports shop in the town's Castle Street.

The family tradition was maintained as Gwyther's uncle, WBro William Thomas George Barnes, was also Installed in St Tydfil's Mark Chair in 1961. At that Ceremony he appointed Brothers Kenneth Adams-Morgan, who later became Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, as Senior Warden and Bro Caradoc Price, a well-known local undertaker as Junior Warden.

Gwyther was closely associated with leading Merthyr Freemasons and so it was not a surprise that he became closely involved with the fraternity. On 16 November 1978 he was proposed for membership of St Tydfil Lodge of Mark Master Masons by his father WBro E G J Barnes and seconded by WBro H L Collins.

He was Advanced by WBro Alexander Starritt, assisted by Bro Thomas Leishman Wilson, the Senior Warden and Bro Kenneth Bibby the Junior Warden. His father invested him with the Badge and Jewel and explained their meanings. He had a thorough introduction to Mark Masonry. In September 1979, his father presented him with his Grand Lodge Certificate from Mark Masons' Hall.

Gwyther served every office within St Tydfil Mark Lodge eventually attaining the Chair of Adoniram on 24 September 1992, when he was installed by WBro Dr Arun Chakrabarti. WBro Ken Adams-Morgan occupied the Senior Warden's Chair and WBro D Gerald Williams the Junior Warden's Chair for the Installation. The Ceremony was witnessed by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Keith Tod Browning. Unfortunately, the Ceremony was tinged with sadness as the progressing Junior Warden Bro Edwin Bedford passed away before the installation.

During his year in office he led a team of prominent Merthyr Freemasons, including Bros Gwilym Evans, Marcel Pulman, Dr Arthur Jones, Dr Anil Phadke, Ken Probert, Roger Budden, Bryan Geake, Roy Jenkins, Gwyn Rowlands, Mansell Williams, Des Preece, Robert Cushen, Chris Sharp, Brian Langley, and Dai Rumble. They assisted him during his year as Master to Advance:

On 19 November 1992 - Bro Richard Pendry

On 18 March 1993 - Bro Joseph Gill

On 20 May 1993 - Bro Ian Williams.

At the same Ceremony he presented Mark Grand Lodge Certificates to Joseph Gill, Richard Pendry and Bro Gordon D Evans. On 23

September 1993 he Installed WBro Gwilym Glanville Evans, his successor, into the Chair of Adoniram, assisted by Kenneth Adams-Morgan as Senior Warden and WBro Harvey Clive Bevan as Junior Warden, WBro D Gerald Williams acted as Inner Guard.

The Ceremony was witnessed by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Desmond Barnett, who congratulated Gwyther, the Installing Master, on a very impressive Ceremony. Kenneth Adams-Morgan remarked on the excellent contribution given by Gwyther during the year when he presented him with a Past Master's Jewel.



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The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones recognised the contribution and hard work unstintingly given by Gwyther to St Tydfil Lodge of Mark Master Masons and to the Province of South Wales by appointing him to the Office of Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden.

Gwyther is the second senior subscribing Past Master of St Tydfil Lodge of Mark Master Masons. He regularly attends Lodge and participates in any office requested at the shortest of notices in the Ceremonies.

He is a very respected Freemason, well known throughout the Province and well-liked by all Brethren. He is well read, a great raconteur and possessor of many obscure but true Masonic facts. He is a family man, happily married to Jean for over 60 years; they have one daughter Jane. He was by profession a teacher, educated at Cyfarthfa Grammar School, and later attended University in Cardiff, where he gained a teaching degree.

He taught in Gellifaelog Secondary Modern School for 30 years, thus playing a major part in the education of a great number of children, often being supported by his dry yet witty sense of humour borne out by those who were lucky to be his colleagues.

After Gellifaelog School closed, as a result of the Education Act which brought in the comprehensive system, he taught in Pen y Dre High School until his retirement in 1985.

As a teacher he became very well-known and much respected throughout his very successful career. He has been instrumental in the education of many of the Brethren in the Merthyr area, and also their children. He has led by example and his trust in Freemasonry has encouraged Brethren to always do their best in their lives and Masonic careers.

Outside Freemasonry he served in the Royal Artillery, proudly serving his country and surviving his service unscathed. He has served as President of the Merthyr Tydfil Branch of the Royal British Legion. As a very active and enthusiastic senior member, he was Fund Raising Organiser of the British Legion Poppy Appeal. He has held virtually every Office in the Branch and continues to be very proactive in recruiting Merthyr Masons for service in the Branch.

NOTABLE MASONIC EVENTS

7 October 1954 - Initiated into Loyal Cambrian Lodge. Worshipful Master in January 1984.

17 February 1977 - 'Exalted' into David Rees Lewis Chapter. 1st Principal in October 1990.

February 2017 - Awarded a 40 year Long Service Certificate.

16 November 1978 - Advanced into St Tydfil Mark Lodge. Worshipful Master September 1992.

21 March 2019 - Awarded a 40 year Long Service Certificate.



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Double Honours for Stability Mark Lodge No.78

by : Ken Ball

New Worshipful Master WBro Keith B Jones, as well as achieving the Chair in Stability Mark Lodge, was delighted to receive a Diamond Award Collarette for Stability's contribution to the Mark Benevolent Fund. As well as Members' contributions, the performance royalties from "We'll keep a welcome in the hillsides" are fed into the Lodge Charity account on a regular basis. Historically, this has taken place since the rightful owner of the music, bequeathed



the money raised from the song's performance to Stability Lodge's charity fund.

Attending the Installation and presenting the award, was Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Phil Davies. He was accompanied by a distinguished Provincial Team who helped to make the night a joyous occasion for all who attended



Mark Grand Lodge Appointments

Photographs below show Brethren promoted in Mark Grand Rank receiving their promotions at the meeting of Grand Lodge, held on Tuesday, 10 September 2019

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
- WBro Allun D Jones, PPrGJW appointed to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
- WBro Michael Davison, PPrGJW appointed to Past Grand

Standard Bearer
 WBro David C N Franklin appointed to Grand Standard Bearer
 WBro Neil M Evans appointed to Grand Steward
 Pictured below are newly appointed Brethren attending their first Meeting of De Cymru Mark Grand Officers' Lodge.



From left to right: WBros Dr Anthony J Strachan, Peter Frost, Gwilym H Jones and Elfan W Jones



Happy recipients!



From left to right: WBros Allun Jones, Richard Edwards, Neil Charles, Neil Evans, Michael Davison and David Franklin

In for One and Out for Another

by : Roger Lewis

At the beginning of the Masonic Year in September, Provincial Mark Lodge holds a Sunday lunch, when the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro T R Eirian Jones has the opportunity to thank those Acting Officers who have served the Province over the last year and to welcome the incoming Acting Officers.

This is always a most convivial event and the acting Officers are accompanied by their wives and partners. This year they all enjoyed a very agreeable lunch at the Radyr Golf Club in Cardiff.

This year was no exception and the highlight of the afternoon



was when the Provincial Grand Master took great delight in presenting his acting Senior and Junior Wardens for the coming year with their Collars of Office.

This year Mark Provincial Senior Warden will be WBro Denis Tucker of Ysgolion Lodge of Mark Master Masons. Denis is a very experienced Mark Mason who had previously held the Office of Provincial Director of Ceremonies. This was a position he held for a number of years and carried

out his duties with aplomb and assurance.

The new Provincial Junior Warden will be WBro John Theophilus Jenkins Davies of Cyfrinfa Marc Dewi Sant, the first Mark Lodge ever to hold its Ceremonies in the Welsh Language. John was for many years the Provincial Charity Steward in the South Wales Craft Province and prior to this appointment had been the Provincial Junior and Master Overseer.

The Provincial Grand Master congratulated the two Provincial Wardens on their appointments, stating he was looking forward to working with them both over the coming year.

The proceedings concluded with a raffle with many fine prizes, the proceeds of which will be donated to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.



News from Port Talbot Town Cricket Club

by : Roger Lewis

The last edition of 'Mark my Words' reported that South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund had financially supported the Disabled section of the local cricket team in replacing the paving and access to the club, thus enabling it to be wheelchair friendly and suitable for disabled cricketers.

Below are photographs of the completed work. They illustrate how much easier it will be for the cricketers to access both the ground and the pavilion. The photograph also shows



new benches and tables which will be used during matches.

The whole area is now wheelchair friendly and will make a significant difference to the cricketers. We all wish the club every success in its support of the Disabled Cricketers and the Mark Benevolent Fund of South Wales was delighted to have helped such a worthy cause.

Mark Province moves to Bridgend

After many years in Newport Road, Cardiff, the Provincial Office of the Province of Mark Master Masons of South Wales has moved to its new headquarters in Bridgend. The Provincial Office now joins four Mark Lodges: Dunraven, No.950, South Wales Installed Mark Masters, No.1201, Tremains Mark Lodge, No.1952 and Cyfrinfa Marc Dewi Sant Rhif.1914. There are also three Royal Ark Mariner Lodges based in Bridgend; Dunraven, South Wales Installed Commanders and Tremains.

The new office is situated at the Masonic Hall in Coychurch Road, Bridgend CF31 2AP and is easily accessed from all parts of the Province. This is an ideal location, as most of the Executive live in different regions within the Province, and will find it much easier to travel to Bridgend, thus avoiding the busy Cardiff traffic. Similarly, access for individual Brethren will also be much more convenient.

All enquiries: WBro Martin Jones; Tel 02920 490555

Email provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk

Mark Masons meet at the Towers Hotel

by : Roger Lewis

As the Masonic season was drawing to a close in June, Mark Masons of the Province met at the Towers Hotel, Swansea to support the South Wales Mark Benevolent Appeal, which is culminating with the 150th Anniversary of the Province in 2020.

This was yet another highly successful event which was enjoyed by Brethren and their partners. Provincial Charity Steward WBro Bryan Isaac presented a cheque to WBro Dr Paul Calderwood, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, from the Provincial 150 Club in support of the Provincial Benevolent Appeal.

This Appeal was started some six years ago by RWBro Paul

Raymond Clement, Past Provincial Grand Master. The aim was to build up a fund by 2020 of £150,000 which would be distributed to those Brethren and their dependents of the Province who were in need.

Bryan Isaac was confident that this target will be met and was most grateful to all Brethren who willingly support the Province in this venture, either by regular donations or membership of the 150 club. The club distributes its prizes on two occasions each year. Further details are available from the Provincial website, www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk. Lucky winners on this occasion were WBro Brian Dowling of Barry Mark Lodge No.1043 and RWBro Neil Matthews and WBro Lewis Jones both of Sir Frederick Alban Mark Lodge No.1455.

By the time this edition of Y Dalaith has been published, Brethren of the Province will once again have been at the Towers Hotel in December 2019 for a Christmas luncheon, hosted by the Provincial Junior Warden WBro John T J Davies and his wife Cheryl.



Mark and Craft join forces to support Cardiff Homeless

WBro Roger Lewis was delighted when two Lodges, of which he is a Member, very generously agreed to offer financial support to the Paradise Run, an organisation which supports the Cardiff Homeless.

The two Lodges, South Wales Installed Mark Masters located in Bridgend and Llanfair Craft Lodge which meets in Cardiff, both agreed to donate money to the Paradise Run.

The Paradise Run is a volunteer organisation which supports the Cardiff Homeless by providing food and clothing on a nightly basis throughout the year. This is organised on a rota basis by members of various churches throughout Cardiff.

All food is provided on a voluntary basis with Members providing sandwiches etc they have prepared.

Those members of the community who are unable to distribute the food themselves help by making the sandwiches, cakes or anything else that is needed.

The money donated is used to make and provide hot drinks, coffee, tea and soup etc which is distributed in the evenings. The fund needs to be constantly replenished and this is done purely by donations from individuals or groups. The donations from SWIMM and Llanfair are, although not of great amounts, never the less quite significant.

These amounts enable the Group to provide a considerable quantity of hot drink to vulnerable people on cold winter's evenings. The tragedy of the whole situation is that many of the homeless are under forty years of age and unless they can be helped their outlook is not that positive. This sad situation is not confined to Cardiff and is a widespread social problem throughout the United Kingdom.



South Wales helps draw new blood in Transylvania

by : Philip Davies and David Elliott

As the summer recess was just about to start, things were about to get hotter during July in Romania. WBro Philip Davies PGJD Assistant Provincial Grand Master and WBro David Elliott PPrGInspWks, both founder members of the Mark Internet Lodge No. 1975, in the Province of Monmouthshire, noted that the Lodge was scheduled another visit to Romania.

On this occasion the visit was to the beautiful and charming old world city of Sibiu, for an Advancement Ceremony of 25 Brethren. This event took place on the morning of Saturday 13 July and was followed, in the afternoon, by the Consecration of the 6th Romanian Mark Lodge. This Lodge was to be named the Mihai Cristea Lodge No.2011.

With all plans prepared and flights booked WBro Alun H Thomas PGStwd,PrGDC and WBro Kenneth Gough PPrGJW also indicated they wished to make the journey and support the meetings - it was full steam ahead.

It soon became known to RWBro Derek Thomas, Past ProvGM of Monmouthshire, that South Wales were again eager to support the weekend away and an invitation was offered for Consecrating and Installing Officers. The Consecrating DC was WBro Alun H Thomas; the Tyler, WBro David H Elliott and the Installing Officer, WBro Philip W Davies.

With a full weekend of excitement ahead and the usual warm Romanian hospitality, Friday evening of 12 July at the hotel, started with a welcome dinner. This was the time to renew old friendships and establish new ones with a wonderful meal and some liquid refreshments.

Saturday started when Brethren were transported by coach from the hotel to the local Masonic Centre. The Advancement Ceremony was led by the Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of the Mark Internet Lodge. This was followed by a light lunch before the Consecration and Installation Ceremony. The whole day passed with nothing but excitement and happiness for all concerned. The words 'We have Marked Well' were very suitable for this very successful occasion.

On returning to the hotel the evening was set for a celebration Gala Dinner and we were all treated to some superb Romanian hospitality. We were entertained by a traditional Romanian dance troupe accompanied by music and song. To finish off the evening, Brethren were introduced to some local wine tasting and accompanying information.

The weekend was completed by a Sunday sightseeing day trip around the city of Sibiu and into the mountains of Transylvania before the evening flight back to the UK. A good weekend was had by one and all.



Notes for your South Wales Mark Diary

by : Roger Lewis

Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Wales will meet at Cardiff Masonic Hall on Wednesday, 3 June 2020 under the Banner of the Langley Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.28. This is particularly appropriate as Langley Lodge was the first Lodge to be consecrated in this Province and 2020 will be the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the South Wales Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Sesquicentenary 150th Anniversary Dinner

An Anniversary Gala Dinner celebrating the 150 years of the South Wales Province of Mark Master Masons will be held at Cardiff City Football Stadium on 4 July 2020.

The Gala Dinner will feature a raffle with a number of impressive prizes of significant value and each Lodge is invited to contribute to this raffle to ensure its success. The commitment of Lodges to this event will be suitably recognized in the Gala Dinner brochure which will accompany the evening.

Individual Members, as well as Lodges can further support this event by securing advertising in the brochure and further information will be made available to individuals and Lodges shortly.

To further commemorate this auspicious event, a book will be published outlining the history of the Province and will contain a considerable amount of information, much of which has never been published before. This will be an opportunity for all Mark Masons to gain an insight into the fascinating history of one of the oldest Mark Provinces in the Constitution.

The Gala Dinner will also be the culmination of the South Wales Benevolent Fund Appeal, when the final total raised will be revealed. The target is £150,000 and Brethren and Lodges still have time to contribute to this appeal to ensure its success and long term future in supporting those in our Province who may have fallen upon difficult times.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip W Davies, PGJD RAMGR, who is Chairman of the Gala Dinner Committee will be pleased to respond to any further information regarding this event and can be contacted through the Provincial Office or for ticket enquiries contact Peter Taylor 07514 416548

