

## 2020 Appeal Gala Dinner at Cardiff City Football Stadium

*The Provincial Grand Master  
RWBro Thomas Richard  
Eirian Jones writes;*

At the Annual Mark Provincial Meeting in June 2012 my predecessor, RWBro Paul R Clement, announced that in 2020 the Province will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary and stated that “we should work towards marking this event”. He then launched the 2020 Appeal to celebrate the Anniversary, the proceeds of the Appeal to be directed to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund. The forthcoming Gala Dinner in July will be a fitting climax to eight years of contributions to the 2020 Appeal and I thank you for your support.

At the Gala Dinner the Brethren of the Province and their partners, together with invited guests, including the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, MWBro Raymond J Smith, will gather to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our Mark Province of South Wales at the Cardiff City Football Stadium on Saturday 4 July 2020.

A Gala Dinner pack, which is available from the Mark Provincial Office has been circulated to all Lodge Secretaries. It contains all the information you will need regarding the



*Photograph by Anthony Howell*

format and organisation of the evening dinner menu, costs and the nature of the evening’s entertainment provided by the Bogart Orchestra, with guest artist Jeff Hooper. A raffle with high value prizes will be held during the evening. Information regarding hotels offering concessionary rates for overnight stay is also provided.

The 2020 Appeal Committee and I look forward to the company of as many Brethren and their partners as possible at this enjoyable and memorable event in the history of our Province.”

The final date for Booking is Sunday, 31 May 2020  
Further details can be obtained from:  
Mark Provincial Office, Bridgend Masonic Hall, Coychurch Rd, Bridgend, CF31 2AP  
Tel: 029 2049 0555.e-mail: provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk  
Provincial Web Site: www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk

## Mark 150 Club Winners

*More success at  
the 2020 Appeal  
Bi-Annual Draw*



*by : Roger Lewis*

At the Christmas luncheon held at the Towers Hotel in Swansea last December the following contributors to the 150 Club were delighted when their names were drawn out of the hat by the Provincial Grand Charity Steward WBro Bryan Isaac:

- 1st prize (£350) – Alan F Thomas
- 2nd prize (£250) – Martin A Jones
- 3rd prize (£150) – Mrs Val Thomas

There is still time to be a member of the 150 Club and hopefully to have a pleasant surprise if your name is drawn out at the next luncheon.

Further details are available from the Provincial Grand Secretary  
M A Jones  
Bridgend Masonic Hall  
Coychurch Road  
Bridgend CF31 2AP  
Tel: 02920 490555  
provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk

**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**

### Provincial Junior Warden hosts Officers Mess

by : Roger Lewis

Another very successful 'Officers Mess' was held at the Towers Hotel Jersey Marine, Swansea on the traditional date of the first Sunday in December, which was, on this occasion, hosted by the Vice-President, Provincial Junior Warden, WBro John T J Davies and his wife Cheryl.

The aim of the Mess is to further the aims of Mark Masonry, which consist of fraternity and charity at a Provincial level. It draws together those past and present Members of the Province who have been, or are active Provincial Officers.

The Patron of the Mess is the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones. On this occasion not only did we have in Attendance the Provincial Grand Master but also the previous Patron and Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Paul Raymond Clement and his wife Molly.

The Mess Dinner Dance held in May is hosted by the Provincial Senior Warden who is the President. The Provincial Junior Warden who is the Vice-President, hosts the December Christmas Lunch.

Apart from being a most enjoyable event, there is a serious side to the proceedings when the Provincial Charity Steward, WBro Bryan Isaac presents proceeds of the Provincial Charity 150 Club in the form of a cheque to the Provincial Grand Master.

The prizes are then drawn and the three lucky winners receive their not insubstantial prizes. This has been noted in an accompanying article in this edition of Mark My Words.

Pictures on the right show the Vice-President presenting flowers to the Provincial Grand Master's wife Geraldine and the President presenting flowers to the Vice-President's wife Cheryl. Other pictures show the Provincial Charity Steward presenting the 150 Club cheque to The Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Master with his predecessor, RWBro Paul Raymond Clement.



## Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Masons SCLoMMM No.1995

by : Alun Morton

The Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons is well into its second year since Consecration. In that time, we have . . .

Advanced two new Members, we have another in waiting for our February 2020 Meeting and a couple more in readiness for future meetings.

We hosted the Mid Glamorgan Area Scout Council's AGM in September 2019, which was a resounding success with mostly non-Masons in attendance together with a number of their young charges.

After the meeting many visited the Temple with great excitement and curiosity. Many questions were asked and much interest shown.



We installed our second Worshipful Master, WBro Kenneth Martin Bonham in October in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R E Jones, Assistant Provincial Grand Master WBro Philip W Davies

and a colourful Provincial team. VWBro Tony Harvey, PGJO, RAMGR, the Masonic Scouting Liaison Officer, was also in attendance and presented our first and exclusive Scout Scarf, which was a resounding success. The Scarf is worn at our Festive Board. In the future we will examine the practice of wearing uniform to some of our meetings - for those that are entitled.

We are currently twenty-five in number and are open to new

Scouting is not just for Boys

it's for Mark Masons too

The Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons (SCLoMMM) is well in to its second year and is successfully Advancing new and recruiting Joining Members. If you're interested why not contact the Provincial Office on [provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons](mailto:provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons) and/or the Primus Master and Lodge Secretary WBro Alun Morton on [masonicmort@gmail.com](mailto:masonicmort@gmail.com) for more information

Advances and Joining Members alike. We'd be particularly interested to hear from those who showed an interest when we formed initially, but didn't follow it through to Consecration. Contact the Lodge Secretary WBro Alun Morton on [masonicmort@gmail.com](mailto:masonicmort@gmail.com) and/or South Wales Mark Provincial Office on [provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk](mailto:provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk)

## Grand Evening at Stability Mark Lodge No.758

by : Roger Lewis

WBro Keith Barrington Jones and his good lady Yvonne decided to hold a ladies social evening at the Masonic Hall in Penarth, to mark the Christmas season and to enjoy the company of the Members of the Lodge and their ladies.

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by one and all, including the excellent dining provided by the Masonic Hall caterers, complemented by dancing to guest artist Leighton Rafferty.



## South Wales Royal Ark Mariners receive Grand Rank

by : Roger Lewis

**A**t the last meeting of the Royal Ark Mariners' Investiture at Freemasons' Hall in December, three Members of the South Wales Province of Mark Master Masons received Grand Rank in the Royal Ark Mariner Degree. The Province extends its sincerest congratulations on their richly deserved promotions, which is a recognition of all the hard work they do for the Province.



The picture left shows Brethren, from left to right, WBros Bryan Isaac, Martin A Jones, Alun H Thomas and from the Province of Monmouthshire WBro Louis Mahendra. The picture above shows Brethren who supported them in London.

## Mark Benevolent Awards at Dinas Llandaf Lodge of Mark Master Masons



This picture shows WBro Philip Davies having presented Sir Paul Williams with his Gold Award Collarette and WBro Vaughan Watkins with his Vice-Patron Collarette.

SOUTH WALES PROVINCIAL  
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# New Honours Board for Arthur Lewis Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No.585

by : Jeff Williams

**O**n Friday, 8 November 2019 on a cold and damp night in Pontypridd, the Members of the Arthur Lewis Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners were delighted to receive their new Honours Board. How did it all start?

On 12 February prior, the Warder Bro Vincent Barker, was outside the Temple discharging his duties. During the Ceremony he contemplated on why Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge had an Honours Board but not the Royal Ark Mariners Lodge?

Following the Ceremony, he tackled the Scribe and inquired why this anomaly existed. He replied that the cost of such a board to the Lodge was not financially viable. Vince was then informed that The Mark Board was presented previously by a Brother of the Lodge. He again challenged the Scribe to find out the cost of a board for the Mariners' Lodge.

Over the next couple of weeks, a local supplier for a board and someone to do the artwork and lettering were located and the cost established. Prior to placing the order, permission was sought from the Pontypridd Masonic Hall Board of Directors, who readily gave their assent. Vince immediately requested the Scribe to go ahead and proceed with the order.

Thus, the keel for the new board was laid down. During the summer months, the framework was constructed, draft layouts considered and the final design details and wording forwarded to the sign writer.

With the project under way, the Provincial Grand Secretary was informed and asked to liaise with RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, Provincial Grand Master, to request his presence to dedicate the board on its completion. His agreement was confirmed and it was planned to include this at the Lodge Installation Meeting where this rare Ceremony would take place.

On the evening of 8 November, Worshipful Commander WBro R Alan Jones opened the Lodge, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies WBro Alun H Thomas was admitted and announced that RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones the Provincial Grand Master was in attendance and demanded admittance.

Following salutations, the Provincial Grand Master, requested that he retain the gavel for the purpose of dedicating the Honours Board. Placing the Provincial Wardens, Deacons, Guardian and Warder in their respective positions, he requested the Provincial Director of Ceremonies to escort the Worshipful Commander and his Wardens from the Temple to form an Escort Party for the Honours Board ready for the Dedication Ceremony.

WBro R Alan Jones and Bro Vincent Barker re-entered the Temple bearing the Honours Board between them escorted by the Senior Warden Bro R Gwyn Morgan and the Junior Warden Bro Arnold Hutchings.

The Dedication of the Board took place in a very inspiring and meaningful manner with much solemnity, prayers and zeal culminating in the Provincial Grand Master soliciting Alan Jones to accept it on behalf of the Lodge.

Following the Dedication, Alan Jones resumed control of the Lodge and proceeded to Install Gwyn Morgan, Senior Warden and Commander Elect as the Worshipful Commander in a consummate manner.

This article would be incomplete if it did not convey the



unquestionable fact that the Brethren of the Lodge will be eternally grateful to Vincent Barker for his far sightedness and generosity in funding the Honours Board.

The Board is now on display in its rightful place on the wall adjacent to the Mark Honours Board, at the entrance to the Temple in Pontypridd.

## Cyfrinfa Marc Dewi Sant Rhuf.1914 Dewi Sant Mark Lodge No.1914

**O**eddet ti'n gwybod y galli di ymuno â Chyfrinfa Marc sy'n gweithredu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg?

Mae Cyfrinfa Dewi Sant yn Gyfrinfa gyfeillgar iawn ac yr ydym yn croesawu pawb sydd â diddordeb mewn arfer gradd y Marc trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae croeso mawr fel ei gilydd i ddysgwyr ac i'r rhai sy'n rhugl eu Cymraeg.

Os oes diddordeb gennyf mewn ymuno, naill fel Ymgeisydd neu Aelod Ymunol, neu ymweld fel gwestai dan Reol 3, a wnei di gysylltu â'r Ysgrifennydd ar: [elfan@btinternet.com](mailto:elfan@btinternet.com)

Did you know that you can join a Mark Mason's Lodge which operates in the Welsh language?

Dewi Sant is a very friendly Lodge and we welcome all who are interested in pursuing the Mark degree through the medium of Welsh. Learners and fluent Welsh speakers are equally welcome.

If you are interested in becoming an Advancee, a Joining Member or visit as a Rule 3 guest, please contact the Secretary on: [elfan@btinternet.com](mailto:elfan@btinternet.com)



# The Mark of the Dragon

## A comprehensive history of the Mark Province of South Wales

**A**n important book is being published this year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Wales – which is the oldest Mark Provincial Grand Lodge in Wales and one of the oldest in Britain.

This is the first time that a book has been published which brings together in a single volume a detailed description of the birth and development of every Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge that has ever existed within the Province of South Wales.

Make sure that you obtain your copy of this fascinating hardback publication, which features some 340 pages and over 200 illustrations, as a valuable source of information and a souvenir of this historic occasion.

Like all good stories, the early history of the Mark Province of South Wales reveals a number of interesting if not - at first sight - puzzling situations which are explained in the book. The first of those puzzles is that, although, in 2020, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Wales, the Mark Degree was being practised in this part of Britain long before that date.

Although the Mark Degree was being conferred in Wales in Craft Lodges from the early 1800s, it was not until 1859 that the first Mark Lodge was Consecrated in the Principality. However, that particular Lodge, based in Cardiff, was initially not part

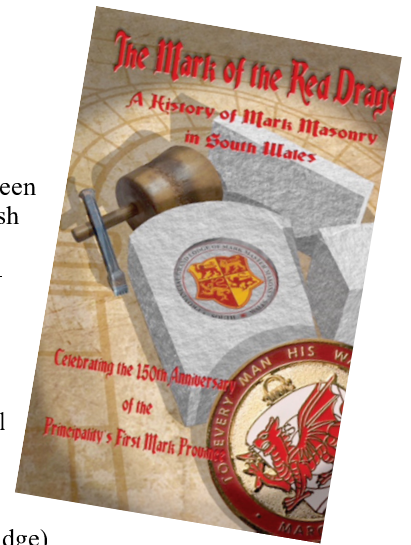
of the Mark Grand Lodge for England and Wales, having been Consecrated under the Scottish Constitution.

The second - at first sight - puzzling fact is the fact that South Wales had a Provincial Grand Master, appointed in 1857, before it had any Mark Lodges, let alone a Provincial Grand Lodge. Things changed in 1870 when the Province came into existence (albeit with just one Mark Lodge).

The next fifty years were difficult ones, but the Province overcame those challenges and today it numbers thirty-three Mark and twenty-three RAM Lodges and it continues to grow. In addition, along the way, the Province gave birth to nine Mark and five RAM Lodges which later formed the nucleus of what is now the neighbouring Mark Province of Dyfed.

To find out more about these fascinating stories make sure you place your order for this important commemorative publication today.

Further details are available from WBro M A Jones, Provincial Grand Secretary, Bridgend Masonic Hall, Coychurch Road, Bridgend. CF31 2AP Tel 02920490555  
[provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk](mailto:provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk)



## The Promise made to Noah - The Degree of the Royal Ark Mariner

by : Roger Lewis

**O**f all the Masonic Degrees that a Freemason may join, there are few so beautiful and personally instructive as that of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree. The world today seems to be full of turmoil with misfortune and tragedy befalling many in our society. This Degree bids the Candidate to reflect on how he can play an integral role in society, both local and further afield and help those in need.

This underlying philosophy is analogous to the story of Noah and the Deluge. Here Noah strives against seemingly insurmountable odds to save his family and others by building an Ark, much to the ridicule and derision of his contemporaries. The dangers of the flood to those who scorn become apparent in the story and Noah and his family are successful in escaping the flood.

The fact that Noah himself faces extreme difficulties in both his personal life and his relationship with God and often disagrees and argues with both God and his family, further links Noah with today's Society. Noah, however, with the strength of his family and personal conviction succeeds. This is at the centre of the Mariner Degree, where the difficulties and dangers of the flood are metaphors for the dangers and tribulations of daily life which may be faced.

The emblem of this Degree is the dove and the rainbow and each member wears a multi coloured ribbon against a silver rainbow above a dove with a leaf in its mouth. This reminds us

that the rainbow in the sky after rain is a permanent reminder of God's Covenant with Noah never to repeat the Deluge.

Although this Degree is administered by Mark Masons' Hall and every prospective Candidate must be a Mark Mason, there is no connection with any other Masonic Degree and its full title is 'The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners.'



To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Mark Province of South Wales the Provincial Grand Master would like to see the current membership increase. At present only fifty five per cent of Mark Masons in this Province are also Members of the 'Mariners'.

To this end, each Mark Lodge will appoint a Royal Ark Mariner Representative, who will expand and strengthen the link between the Mark Lodge and its allied Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and hopefully increase its membership.

Should you wish further information, visit the Provincial website: [www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk](http://www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk) or email: [southwalesmark@outlook.com](mailto:southwalesmark@outlook.com) or contact your Mark Lodge Representative.