



South Wales Mark Provincial Grand Lodge supports the Environment

by : Roger Lewis

Last year, 2020, was the 150th anniversary of the South Wales Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. Unfortunately, the celebrations were put on hold due to the current pandemic and spread of Covid 19. However, it was decided to commemorate the occasion in a way that would benefit such a milestone in Mark Masonry in South Wales.

Readers would have been aware from previous editions of Mark my Words that a Provincial history book was written to celebrate this milestone in our journey in Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Masonry. Copies are still available.

As a further reminder of this journey, arrangements are now in place to have a tree planted in the arboretum in Bute Park, Cardiff. This will be a living legacy of the contribution that Mark Masonry has made to South Wales and will hopefully live for another 150 years providing shelter to wildlife and individuals who visit the park.

The tree selected is a Black Poplar, *populus nigra* and is a native British tree once traditionally used in pre-industrial times. It was a favourite timber for wagons and all forms of horse drawn vehicles and house building, due to its fire resistant properties. Along with hazel it was a firm favourite of the woodsman to coppice and pollard, thus extending its use to everyday items such as baskets etc. It is a tree which has multiple uses and was extremely important in the days before iron and steel.

Unfortunately, the black poplar is one of the most endangered trees in Britain, so much so that pollination is almost impossible in the wild population because of the wide and scanty distribution.

It is fitting that the Province should select such a tree and support such an endangered species in its anniversary celebrations.

WBro Norman Simons will be sadly missed

Sadly WBro Norman Simons passed away before he was able to receive his RAMGR. WBro Norman was a well-known and well respected Member of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Orders who had held many offices and worked tirelessly within the Province.

Norman, a Past Grand Standard Bearer in Mark Grand Lodge, had many Masonic achievements but it was for his distinguished work as the accomplished and reliable Secretary of South Wales Installed Mark Masters Lodge No.1201 that he earned the greatest admiration and it was one of his proudest achievements and joys.

He served the Lodge as Secretary for almost nine years - in an exemplary and dedicated manner. One of the most important features of his approach to those duties was the good humour, tact and courtesy that he displayed - and it figured strongly in everything that he did throughout life. He will be greatly missed.



Mark Grand Lodge Appointments and Promotions 2020

The Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to make the following appointments and promotions to Brethren within our Province in March 2020.

ACTING RANK

RWBro Neil H Matthews, PGJW appointed to Grand Senior Warden

RW Bro Ryan A Williams, PGJW re-appointed to Grand Secretary

WBro Alun H Thomas, PGStwd appointed to Grand Junior Deacon

PROMOTED

WBro Denis Tucker, PAGDC promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon

FIRST APPOINTMENT

WBro Brian Eveleigh appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

WBro Richard J Phillips appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

WBro John W Hatherley appointed to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer

WBro David Baldwin appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer

In addition, WBro John Ashmore, who is a Member of a fan Mark Lodge No.1088, has been appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies through the Province of Warwickshire.

ROYAL ARK MARINER GRAND RANK APPOINTMENTS 2020

Three members of the South Wales Province of Mark Master Masons received Grand Rank in the Royal Ark Mariner Degree.

WBro Brian Dowling

WBro Roy Hart

WBro Norman Simons*

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.

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



South Wales Mark Mason receives Grand Master's Special Award

At a specially convened Zoom meeting held on Tuesday, 15 December 2020 the Pro Grand Master, MWBro Raymond John Smith, was delighted to confer promotion in, or first appointment to, Mark Grand Rank upon eighteen recipients of the Grand Master's Special Award in recognition of their outstanding community service during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our Province was delighted to hear that one of the recipients was WBro Keri John Evans, PPrGSO of Trinity Mark Lodge No.1845. When South Wales Freemasonry, under the guidance of the Craft, set up a food relief operation called the Square Meals and Food-Bank Initiative, WBro Keri acted as the Northern Valleys Lead Co-ordinator and assisted by other Masons covered six valleys and seven Masonic centres.

One of Keri's roles was to supply all the Secretaries of the various Lodges with the information advertising the Square Meals service. This included price negotiation with caterers, menu variations and organisation of delivery drivers on a rolling two-week period, together with the banking and accounting for any monies collected. This covered deliveries on three days every week. Keri also covered deliveries himself when short of drivers.

Over the period, just short of 1200 meals were supplied to Freemasons and their families, to widows and also to any person, vouchsafed for by a Freemason, in need of a meal.

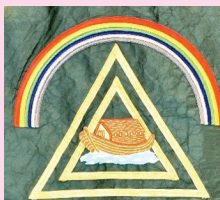
Despite falling at home in July and sustaining a hip injury,



which needed a period in hospital and pin and plate surgery, Keri showed his commitment by continuing to organise the work by mobile phone and emails.

WBro Keri Evans has set an example to us all in his work for the wider community during this period. The members of the Province are justly proud of his commitment to helping others in these dark times and extend their congratulations to him on this deserved appointment to the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer.

The Sailors' Hymn



by : Roger Lewis

Those of you who are Members of a Royal Ark Mariners' Lodge, and many who are not, will no doubt be familiar with the hymn 'Eternal Father Strong to Save.' which is often sung at the closing of a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge.

This famous hymn is known to all Mariners and is a favourite of both the Royal Navy and the United States Navy among others.

It is not surprising therefore that it is a favourite amongst the fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners as it has its origins in scripture as indeed has the ritual of the Royal Ark Mariners.

The words were written by William Whiting, who was Master at Winchester College Choristers' School, for the 1861 edition of the Anglican Hymn Book, Hymns Ancient and Modern. Each verse refers to a Member of the Trinity and is a prayer for those who are seafarers and always at the mercy of the Deep. It takes its inspiration from Psalm 107 v 23-30 and describes when the Israelites were at sea during a storm '*Some went down to the sea in ships and do business in great waters*'. The psalm goes on to describe how the waves were so high that they ascended to heaven and so low that they plumbed the depths. In verse 29 the Lord then '*maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still*'.

In essence, it is Divine intervention that calms the waves and it

is to this intervention that mariners look to in times of distress.

The hymn tune was written by The Revd Dr John Bacchus Dykes. He was a prolific Victorian hymn writer who was born in Yorkshire and went up to St Catharine's College Cambridge. The title of the tune 'Melita' is the ancient name for Malta and may refer to St Paul's shipwreck as outlined in the Acts of the Apostles.

After graduation, Dr Dykes took Holy Orders and returned to Yorkshire, serving in York Minister and Durham Cathedrals as well as holding livings in smaller parishes. He died at the young age of 52 years.

The next time you are in a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and you hear this closing ode, perhaps you will remember the contribution made by John Bacchus Dykes and William Whiting.





Principality Mark Lodge supports the South Wales Benevolent Fund

WBro Malcolm Morgan, the new Worshipful Master of Principality Mark Lodge presented a cheque to WBro Philip Davies Assistant Provincial Grand Master in support of the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund 2020 Appeal.



Principality Mark Installation WBro Michael Hopkins receiving his Red and Gold Collarette in recognition of his contributions to the 2020 Appeal.



WBro Terence Hogg of Principality Mark Lodge receiving his South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund Collarette

South Wales Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Appointments

by : Roger Lewis

In past years it has been the custom for the Provincial Grand Master to announce the appointment of the Provincial Wardens and Overseers at the March meeting of SWIMM Lodge. Sadly, due to the Covid -19 virus, it was not possible to do so this year. However, appointments and promotions in Provincial Grand Lodge have been made and the Province was pleased to announce the following Brethren to serve in 2020.

Provincial Grand Senior Warden

WBro William Wilson, PGJD, Dunraven Lodge No.950

Provincial Grand Junior Warden

WBro Michael J Lewis, PPrGSO, Ysgolion Lodge No.1487

Provincial Grand Master Overseer

WBro Henry A. Barnes, PPrGSwdB, Talbot Lodge No.179

Provincial Grand Senior Overseer

WBro David H Elliott, PPrGInspWks, Rhaeadr Gwy Lodge No.1318

Provincial Grand Junior Overseer

WBro Christopher D Peters, PPrGSD, Barry Lodge No.1043

Unfortunately all the Brethren appointed this year were unable to take up their duties, but we all nevertheless congratulate them on their success and look forward to the resumption of our fraternal gatherings. Keep safe and well.

150 Club Results

The mid-year draw of the 150 Club took place in December at the Mark Provincial Office in Bridgend. The draw was made by the Chairman and Secretary of the Bridgend Masonic Hall, W Bros Dyfrig Edwards and Phillip Aubrey respectively, in the presence of the Mark Provincial Treasurer, Registrar and Secretary.

The lucky winners were:

First Prize of £350 - VWBro Andrew J Morgan

Second Prize of £250 - VWBro Keri J Evans

Third Prize of £150 - WBro Haydn A Lewis

As usual, an equivalent sum of £750 was also donated to the 2020 Appeal. Congratulations go to the three winners and many thanks go to all those who are members of the 150 Club.

If you wish to join the 150 Club and participate in future draws, please download the application form from our website or contact the Provincial Office. It only costs £12 per year per number and there are two draws every year.

Martin A Jones
Provincial Grand Secretary



A Short History of Mark Tokens in the Mark Province of South Wales

by : *The late Alan Ford Thomas*

Mark Tokens – or Mark pennies, as they are sometimes called – play an important part in the ceremony of Advancement, representing the wages that were traditionally distributed to the workmen from the quarries.

The first Mark Tokens came to South Wales when Langley Mark Lodge was established here in 1859. Probably a standard token - or low value coin of the realm - was offered to Candidates on their Advancement in those early days.



It took over one hundred years before individualised Tokens were introduced in the Province. The first was introduced by our late and beloved VWBro Keith Tod Browning, Past Deputy ProvGM, who had an individual version cast for his Ysgolion Lodge. The exact date when they were first

struck is not known but it was probably sometime around 1980.

The Province was then some eighteen Mark Lodges strong and within four or so years WBro Gordon Stow, another true Mark Master Mason, commissioned Tokens for Llynfi Valley Mark Lodge. They bore an almost identical illustration to the ones produced for Ysgolion; the only difference being the name and number of the Lodge. Viewing the two tokens, it is obvious that they came from the same foundry. Gordon must have consulted Keith before making his purchase. The historical records of Llynfi Valley Mark Lodge state that their token arrived in 1995.



Barry Mark Lodge followed this example some years later, at the time when the Province was preparing for the 2004 Mark Benevolent Fund Festival. With banners and other commemorative items being produced in our Lodges then, a suitably designed bronze Token, with the De Barri family coat of arms on the reverse, was presented at Advancement Ceremonies in Barry. This was the first in native the Province to have insignia incorporated



in the design. Previous issues were identified by Lodge name and number only. Shortly afterwards, the Barry token was replicated in 'antique silver' with each Past Master receiving one after he Installed his successor.

With interest having been shown by Lodges, the Province took up a leading role in the supply of memorabilia, as a result lapel pins, ties and key rings etc., began to appear at meetings and functions. The image of our Provincial emblem displayed in one of the glass windows in Mark Masons Hall inspired the choice of reverse design of the first Provincial token. This being the coat of arms of Owain Glyndwr, the fifteenth century Prince of Wales, the last to be born in the Principality.



This reverse image displayed here is taken of the enamelled, gilt and red matching token issued at the same time. The antique silver image features a dragon passant, over a keystone with 'Marciwch Yn Dda', 'Mark Well', in tongue on the perimeter. These were well received and a further limited edition of seventy, in sterling silver, hall marked and with a certificate of authenticity were produced to order.

In the year following the 2004 Festival, Cynon Dare Mark Lodge celebrated its Silver Jubilee and, as a commemorative item, it also produced a hall-marked, limited edition, silver token with a certificate. On the obverse it depicted the mallet and chisel surrounded by a triangle and



bore the inscription, 'They received every man his wages' (which usually appears on Mark Tokens of Lodges under the Irish Constitution). This token has a further unique attribute in that it features the obverse design Keystone/Dragon, of the Provincial token as its reverse. It is unusual for obverse designs to be used on the owner's face of these items.

Langley, our oldest Lodge, was next to produce an antique silver Mark Token, to commemorate its sesquicentenary. This followed the basic pattern established for the 2004 Provincial issue, but with relevant names, numbers and inscriptions to identify.



When St Tydfil Mark Lodge celebrated its centenary in 2012, that Lodge also



commissioned a commemorative Token. This one was in bronze and it was unique in its design, having no coat of arms, but portrayed St Tydfil in her priestly vestments and holding a pastoral staff featured on the reverse. Unusual for South Wales, it also featured a standard keystone lettered HTWSSTKS on the obverse.

To commemorate the Province in celebrating its sesquicentenary in 2020, a new Token was struck. This one, enamelled and the first to appear in red and gold, replicated the 2004 Festival Token but with a 150-year reference (1870 – 2020) engraved upon it. It is an outstanding token and a collector's piece.



South Wales Installed Mark Masters Lodge maintained this trend of introducing variations. At their Installation Meeting in 2013, prior to the formal featured item of ceremonial of the day, the Master called on all the members to form a procession and proceed to the Senior Warden's wicket to receive their wages. With a full complement of the Provincial Executive present and leading the assembled file, all received an 'antique' silver keepsake. It is slightly larger than average, being 35mm in diameter. It bears the initials of the Lodge name, engraved in Masonic alphabet, and is dated and numbered using Roman numerals. It also features the Lodge insignia, a square superimposed in a keystone, as the obverse, and then a mallet and chisel within a triangle and the words 'Son of Man Mark well' on the perimeter making up the reverse. Two other symbols, a dragon and 2013 Master's Mark, completed the identification.





Mark Tokens Continued

In 2014 the Province brought its first Daylight Lodge into existence, Tremains, (named after an area in Bridgend). It was eagerly supported, and to commemorate the event, a Mark Token was struck and issued - at its second meeting, in early 2015 - to all the subscribing and Honorary Members. Again, this issue has no coat of arms on the reverse, the depiction of a stone near to a building, a church perhaps, taken from the translation of the celtic word 'tremains'. The obverse bears the words 'Son of Man mark well' encircling a keystone H.T.W.S.S.T.K.S.



A De Cymru Lodge Token was issued at the December 2018 meeting, held in Caerphilly, and in similar fashion to that of the SWIMM Lodge, all subscribing members present collected their wages at the Senior Warden's wicket. The Token is 35mm in diameter and is an antique silver disc with a dragon superimposed on a keystone, and bears the words De Cymru in the Masonic alphabet, with the Lodge number and the date in Roman numerals on the obverse. The reverse shows the Mallet and Chisel surrounded by a triangle with 'Son of Man Mark Well' and a small dragon on the perimeter. This one is destined to be presented to each Grand Officer when he joins the Lodge.



A Caerffili Token was produced in 2019 to commemorate the Lodge obtaining Golden Jubilee status (1968 – 2018). The token is 29mm in diameter. The design in the centre of the token copies design of the Lodge Banner, showing Caerphilly Castle and the Welsh words 'Y Garreg Wen' (The White Rock). The name of the Lodge is shown around the perimeter, with the dates 1968 – 2018. The reverse shows a Keystone with the letters HTWSSTKS with the triangle in the centre, and 'Son of Man Mark Well' on the perimeter. This token was distributed as wages to the Advancee on the celebration evening and to all who attended the Lodge at dinner on that occasion, which was 14 March 2019.



So ends this brief summary of Tokens in circulation in this Province - a slowly growing but established tradition. Hopefully, with anniversaries and the like awaiting all Lodges, the opportunity of continuing this Mark Masonic feature will be maintained 'till the end of time'. And as a possible and encouraging thought, designers could consider incorporating the newly emerged obverse design of dragon / keystone with 'Marciwch Yn Dda' used in the Provincial and Langley token as a standard feature on all future issues from our Province. A further unique feature, which I am sure is not likely to be used by any other Province or region.

With acknowledgements to VWBro Alan Ford Thomas, PGJO. Unfortunately, Alan passed away before this article was published in the Provincial History Book. His contribution to Mark Masonry in South Wales and to the Barry Mark and Royal Ark Mariners Lodges was considerable and he will be fondly remembered there and throughout the Province.

The Scouts and Freemasonry

Creating local connections

by : Alun Morton

The Scouts and Freemasonry share many features in common, from the same traditional values to similar future challenges.

Over the last few years the two organisations have supported each other in a number of ways and at all levels. This resource is designed to assist Members of both the Scouts and Freemasonry to engage and support each other locally.

Both the Scouts and Freemasonry share similar values. The principles within the Scout Promise also feature at the heart of Masonic teaching. Both organisations are concerned with helping Members to become better people and have remarkably similar moral codes. They are both open to people of all faiths and both encourage good citizenship and self-development. As membership organisations, they also face the same challenges; building better informed public awareness, attracting and retaining new members, focusing resources where they can have the biggest impact and operating in a manner that provides the best support to their membership. As local organisations found in or near to most communities, it makes sense that Scouting and Freemasonry co-operate and support each other where they can.

VWBro Tony Harvey PGJO, RAMGR. Masonic/Scouting liaison
And so

Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1995 (SCLoMMM)

The Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons is well into its third year since consecration. In that time, we have Advanced several new Members, but as with all Masonry the Covid 19 pandemic has curtailed our progression.



As part of our being, we aim to support Scouting across South Wales, e.g., we hosted the Mid Glamorgan Area Scout Council's AGM at Caerphilly Masonic Hall in September 2019, which was a resounding success with mostly non-Masons in attendance, adult Scout Leaders and some with a number of their young charges.

After their meeting many visited the Temple with great excitement and curiosity, many questions were asked, and much interest shown. There are several Scout Leaders who are Craft Masons and it is a fervent hope that we can persuade Members of the Craft to join Mark Masonry at SCLOMMM.

We Installed our second Worshipful Master, WBro Kenneth Martin Bonham in October 2019 in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R E Jones, WBro Philip W Davies, AProvGM and a colourful Provincial Team. VWBro Tony Harvey, PGJO, RAMGR. Masonic/Scouting liaison was also in attendance.

Due to Covid 19 we were unable to Install Ken's successor and so he has the immense privilege of being Master for a second year.

VWBro Tony Harvey presented our first and exclusive Scout Scarf, which was a resounding success. WBro Alun Morton went on to invest the RWPGM with his Scarf.

The Scarf is worn at our Festive Board. In the future we will examine the practice of wearing Scout Uniform to some of our meetings - for those so entitled. Since Covid hit we have had just one meeting, at Castleton Masonic Hall under the auspices of the Masonic Province of Monmouthshire. At this meeting we Advanced Bro David Kevyn Watson of the Edgar Rutter Lodge No.7195.

So, we are currently twenty-five in number. All bodes well for the future and we are open to new Advancees and Joining Members alike. We'd be particularly interested to hear from those who showed an initial interest but didn't follow it through. Contact Alun Morton on masonicmort@gmail.com WBro Alun Morton, PPrGSD, Primus Master and Lodge Secretary.





Tribute to a Fine Artist

by : Roger Lewis

Before the lockdown I visited Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery to see an exhibition of pen and ink drawings of local scenes by a well-known Merthyr artist who was also a Freemason.

That artist was Gwyther Barnes or WBro Gwyther Barnes PPrGSW of the St Tydfil, Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The exhibition was of a series of pen and wash drawings of scenes of Merthyr Tydfil, which Gwyther had captured over 50 years of observation. Many of these scenes and buildings are no longer standing and so not only are his paintings of artistic importance but they are also of social importance, as they depict scenes which he captured in a moment of time which will never be repeated.

Gwyther was born into a family tradition of Freemasonry. Both his father and uncle were Past Masters of St Tydfil Mark Lodge and it was perhaps inevitable that he would follow in their footsteps. The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro 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 was a local teacher and also a staunch supporter of the Royal British Legion, having served in the Royal Artillery. He recently was awarded his 40-year Certificate of continuous membership of St Tydfil Mark Lodge.

I knew Gwyther as an artist and an angler. Whenever I met him he invariably spoke of the time we were fishing on the River Usk and were met by a herd of cows and then it was everyman for himself.

Sadly, after this article was written, Gwyther passed away. He will always be remembered, not only as a talented artist but a fine person, who was always keen to help others. He will be sorely missed.

