

Mark Masons' Hall - Present and Past

by : Roger Lewis

During recent research into the history of Dunraven Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.950, which is one of the oldest Mark Lodges in the Mark Province of South Wales, a footnote was discovered in the minutes which referred to an Appeal from Mark Grand Lodge, which was referred to as the Keystone Appeal.

In the 1930s a further connection was discovered, that a letter was sent by the then Grand Secretary RWBro Major T G L Lumley Smith, who had been present at the Consecration of the Lodge at the Masonic Hall, Cardiff.

Little more was noted in the minutes other than every Lodge that contributed £5 per member would be entitled to receive a Keystone Jewel, a permanent jewel, which would be worn by every Master of the Lodge during his year in office.

The Jewel itself is worn on a ribbon, in the colours of Mark Grand Lodge and it shows two Mark Masons, a workman from the quarries and Junior Warden fixing a Keystone, with the inscription '*Lapis Reprobatus Caput Anguli*'. The stone that was rejected has become the headstone of the corner, beneath. It is similar in concept to a Hallstone Jewel worn by a Master of a Craft Lodge. The outbreak of the Second World War and other circumstances resulted in the project being postponed and eventually abandoned.



In the Provinces of South Wales and Dyfed, which was only one Province when this initiative was proposed, nine Lodges were awarded the Keystone Jewel. They were: Mansel, Five Arches and Loventium in the now Province of Dyfed. Stability, Arthur Lewis, Afan, Sir Frederick Alban, Ysgolion and Cambrensis in the Province of South Wales.

This now begs the question, why was the project abandoned? Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a definite answer. It would appear that the outbreak of the Second World War played a significant part in the project's demise, but few other details are

available. What facts are known is that it was to be built in Great Queen Street, close to the United Grand Lodge of England.

The present Mark Masons' Hall is located at 86 St James' Street and was opened in 1979 close to Duke Street which houses the headquarters of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, Rose Croix. Sources indicate that initially discussions were ongoing to accommodate the two Orders at St James's but this did not happen.

The present Mark Masons' Hall, of which there have been a number since its early days in Great Queen Street, is an impressive Grade 11 listed Victorian building, built in the middle half of the nineteenth century. It has an impressive frontage befitting its status in Freemasonry and houses a number of interesting artefacts, including an early Master's Chair and an ornate staircase adorned with portraits of Grand Masters both present and past.





A Golden Day in the Rhondda

by : Jeff Williams

The Arthur Lewis Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.585 celebrated a 'Golden Moment' in April 2021. The 13th day of that month was a very memorable day in the long and distinguished history of the Lodge - for on that day its most senior member,

RWBro Desmond Barnett celebrated a Golden Anniversary, having reached fifty years as a member of the Order.

What made it especially sweet was the fact that he was taken completely by surprise by the Members, who had arranged an ambush and had enticed him in to attending an online meeting for what he thought was a different purpose.

At the appropriate moment, the Presiding Officer, WBro William E Jenkins, invited the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, to address the meeting. The Provincial Grand Master then proceeded to highlight many of the qualities and achievements of RWBro Desmond Barnett. JP, saying:

"Brethren, I'm delighted to be with you this evening, via this digital zoom platform, and again thank the Lodge for electing me to Honorary Membership to mark my Advancement here in 1994. Tonight, I would like to take you back further, indeed back to the beginning of the digital age, widely seen as the year when the first microprocessor was developed in 1971.

It was a different world Brethren. Edward Heath was the Prime Minister, Muhammad Ali had become World Heavyweight Champion, and Sean Connery was starring as James Bond in Diamonds Are Forever. The average house price was £5,600 and a gallon of petrol cost 6s 8d, or 33p, as the country had gone decimal in February that year.

On Tuesday, 13 April 1971, the Arthur Lewis Lodge Advanced a Candidate who was to become such an important part of Mark Masonry in South Wales and tonight we congratulate and celebrate the 50th anniversary of RWBro Desmond Barnett, Past Provincial Grand Master, becoming a member of the Mark Order. Des, I congratulate you on behalf of the Province and extend our grateful thanks to you for all those years of dedicated service, which you gave as our Provincial Grand Master from 1996 to 2008. Also, as a rugby supporter, for your service as President of the WRU in 1987 for the inaugural year of the Rugby World Cup, and now being one of its longest serving members. We thank you and wish you well".

The Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Jeff Williams, then read aloud to the members the certificate that was subsequently presented to Des, confirming 50 years as a Member of the Honourable Degree of Mark Master Masons and as a Member of the Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge.

The Presiding Officer invited Des Barnett to respond and in his opening comments, he said that he was totally surprised, shocked and felt very humble after what had just transpired. He said that he had forgotten that this was the anniversary date of his being Advanced, 50 years ago, and he expressed his gratitude to all involved for this reminder - and he wished the Lodge and those present well for the future. A hearty round of applause, led by the ProvGM, then took place.

The next item of business was to elect VWBro Hywel Davies to Honorary Membership, which was the main reason why Des - as Proposer of the motion - had come along to the meeting.

Des. then described some of the great qualities of Hywel Davies and said that this proposal was in appreciation of his contribution to the Lodge, reminding all of the fact that whilst



being the Provincial Grand Master in the Craft for South Wales he had supported the Lodge to the very best traditions. He also pointed out that Hywel was one of only three Brethren who have been Master of the Lodge twice. The motion was seconded by

WBro William E Jenkins and approved with warm delight. It was a truly Golden day!

Editor's Note: Since that day, WBro Jeff Williams acting on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, visited Des at home. He presented him with framed signed Certificates from Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the Provincial Grand Lodge. Both of which he was very surprised and delighted to receive.





Grand Lodge Appointments and Promotions 2021

by : Roger Lewis

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

ACTING RANK

RWBro Neil H Matthews, GSW re-appointed to Grand Senior Warden
RWBro Ryan A Williams, PGJW re-appointed to Grand Secretary
WBro Alun H Thomas, GJD re-appointed to Grand Junior Deacon

PROMOTED

WBro Paul R Calderwood, PGSD, to Past Grand Senior Overseer
WBro Keith B Ferguson, PGJD, to Past Grand Junior Overseer
WBro D Neil Morgan, PGStB, to Past Grand Junior Deacon
WBro Alun M Thomas, PGStB, to Past Grand Junior Deacon



FIRST APPOINTMENT

WBro John T J Davies appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
WBro Peter R Gilbert appointed to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
WBro W Derek Williams appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer

Brethren receiving Active Ranks and First Appointments to Past Ranks will assume their new ranks from Tuesday, 8 June 2021.

All Brethren receiving Appointments, Re-Appointments and Promotions will hopefully be invested at the meeting of Grand Lodge to be held on Tuesday, 7 September 2021, subject to the current suspension being lifted.

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

Appointments to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank

The RW Provincial Grand Master has made the following Appointments to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank:

WBro Brian Eveleigh, Arthur Lewis RAM Lodge No.585
WBro John Daniel, St Tydfil RAM Lodge No.639
WBro Gwilym H Jones, Stability RAM Lodge No.758
WBro Alan Jones, St Illtyd RAM Lodge No.784
WBro Christopher D Peters, Barry RAM Lodge No.1043
WBro Robert Lawson-Ducket, Principality Lodge No.1057
WBro Royston J Davies, Neath RAM Lodge No.1125
WBro Ben Gait, South Wales Installed Commanders RAM Lodge No.1201
WBro Keri J Evans, Caerffili RAM Lodge No.1348
WBro Yaduvansh B Mather, Sir Fredrick Alban RAM Lodge No.1455
WBro Patrick J Quinn, Cambrensis RAM Lodge No.1528
WBro William J James, Llynfi Valley RAM Lodge No.1592
WBro P Gerald Davies, Sketty Hall RAM Lodge No.1685
WBro John T J Davies, Brychan RAM Lodge No.1725

Unfortunately, due to the current situation, their Investiture will now not take place at the Provincial Grand Assembly, which was to be held on Saturday, 24 April 2021, but they will assume their new rank from this date. I am sure you wish to join with me in extending our congratulations to these Brethren on their appointment.



Stability Mark Lodge comes out of lockdown

by : Philip Davies

Stability Lodge of Mark Master Masons met in Penarth Masonic Centre recently for an Installation.

This was the first Mark meeting in South Wales since lockdown in March 2020. The Installation Ceremony was carried out by a Past Master, WBro R Bruce James in a fine and dignified Ceremony to Install Bro Paul D Brown, Senior Warden as Worshipful Master.

The meeting was supported by a good number of Lodge Members, who were all keen to resume meetings. The Provincial Team attending comprised WBro Philip W Davies APGM, WBro William Wilson PrGSW, WBro David H Elliott PrGSO, WBro Alun H Thomas PrGDC and WBro Michael W Thomas PrGStwd.

The photograph shown right, to mark this historic event in the annals of the Lodge, was taken by Lodge Secretary WBro Kenwyn Ball, who had worked extremely hard to ensure that this meeting took place safely and in accordance with current

regulations.

The Festive Board, arranged by WBro Stephen Chapman at the Seashore Bar and Grill, Sully, gave the Brethren further opportunity to chat and discuss the last fourteen months. We look to the future when more meetings are able to be held and normal business is resumed.





Miskin Mill Scout Village

The Mark Benevolent Fund is delighted to support the Miskin Mill Scout Village, which is situated near Pontyclun and Llantrisant, just north of Cardiff.

The Scout Village is used by Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Brownies and Girl Guides from Mid and South Glamorgan in addition to other parts of the UK and some International units. They have indoor training and dining facilities, extensive camping and activity fields and a woodland area for nature study. Many local schools use it as a camping site for their outdoor educational activities. Activities include archery, laser tag, village trail, nature trail and orienteering, as well as major competitions and jamborees.

The mill, originally a water driven corn mill, has been in existence for approximately 400 years and the scouts have been using it as a camping and training facility since 1929.

Some of the buildings, which have been adapted over the years, are over 250 years old and the £20,000 contribution from the Mark Benevolent Fund has enabled essential updates

and renovations to be completed. For example, extensive electrical work has been carried out thus ensuring the venue is fit for purpose for another generation of youngsters who use the Scout Village.

The venue has now been adapted so that it is suitable for first time campers as well as training purposes.

The site comprises 'The Mill', with kitchen, dining and activity room facilities; 'The Cottage', with activity rooms and finally 'The Lodge', with sleeping accommodation for thirty-two. This area is centrally heated with toilet facilities. The whole complex is set in approximately three acres of flat, tree lined fields which are bounded to the South by the River Ely. Further access to about four acres of woodland, known as Mill Wood, is provided by a permanent footbridge across the River Ely.



Cambria Mark and RAM hold back-to-back Meetings

On Monday, 7 June 2021, Cambria Mark and Cambria Royal Ark Mariners' Lodges held a back-to-back meeting at Cardiff Masonic Hall. The Mark Lodge carried out a Proclamation and the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge an Installation. Pictured right are the Royal Ark Mariners who attended their Installation, supported by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip Davies and his Provincial Team.





Provincial Mark Annual Assembly held Virtually once again

by : Roger Lewis

If you were to look up the meaning of the word 'virtual' in a dictionary you would find that it means almost or nearly having the effect but not quite the form. It is implied in all but name and presence.

Thus was the format of the Annual Assembly of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Wales, for the second time in this its 151st year of existence.

The business was chaired by Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, in his usual exemplary and estimable style. This method of leadership has successfully guided and sustained the Province through the dark days of the pandemic and hopefully next year we will be able to enjoy an Annual Assembly, where we can gather and enjoy each other's company.

A notable omission to this year's proceedings was the absence of visiting Brethren from across the country. Annual assemblies are an occasion where friends and Brothers can meet and socialise and catch up on recent events.

This is such an important aspect of such a gathering and is one of the great regrets in holding a virtual meeting.

The meeting conducted the usual business of the day, with



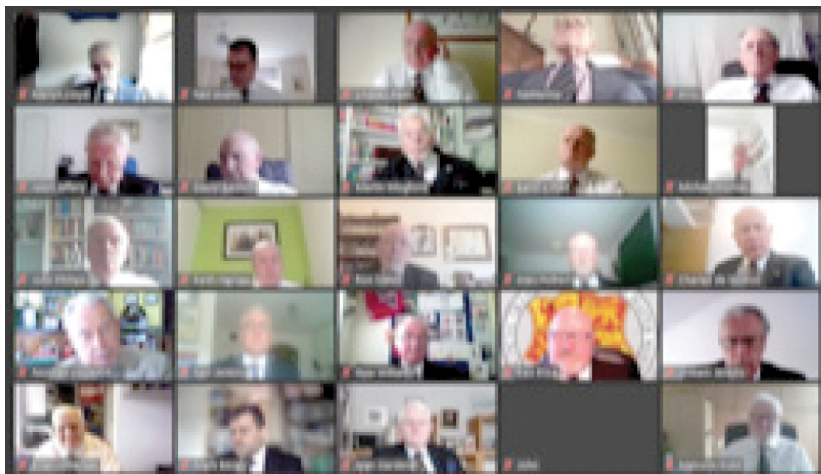
Photograph taken pre-Covid

the notable absence of the Provincial Grand Master personally investing recipients of Provincial Honours and congratulating those receiving Grand Honours. However, the Grand Secretary RWBro Ryan A Williams PGJW was invited to address Provincial Grand Lodge and did so with great aplomb.

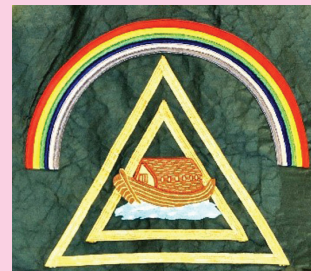
The Provincial Grand Master was able to reflect on the many positives of the year; the launch of the very successful Provincial History Book and the planting of a tree in Bute Park both to celebrate the 150th Anniversary. Other achievements included raising the magnificent sum of £234,835 for the 2020 Appeal and the setting up of the Alan Ford Thomas Memorial Award.

Without a doubt, however, is the tragedy that the virus and other factors have taken from us so many Brethren and family members during the last year. The Provincial Grand Master reflected empathetically on these sad moments, sympathising with those who had lost loved ones.

The meeting concluded with the Provincial Grand Master thanking his Provincial Team who supported him wholeheartedly throughout the past year and to look forward to better days, when we can all meet again and enjoy each other's company. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Dr Paul R Calderwood drew proceedings to a close by congratulating and thanking the Provincial Grand Master for all his hard work and wishing him health and happiness in the coming year.



Principality Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No.1057 Anniversary Year



If you are a Mark Master Mason and looking for your next step in your Masonic journey, then Royal Ark Mariner Lodges are the logical progression.

The Royal Ark Mariner ceremony is based on Noah and the Ark. It is a beautiful and colourful Degree.

We, as members of the Principality Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, extend a cordial invitation to all Mark Master Masons to consider joining this friendly wonderful Lodge and Degree.

The Principality Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, the third oldest in Cardiff, was consecrated on 31 October 1951, and this year is therefore celebrating its 70th Anniversary.

Join us in the celebrations by becoming a Member. We meet twice a year at Cardiff Masonic Hall. On the fourth Wednesday in October and Installation on first Wednesday in May.

For further details, contact:
Mark Provincial Office, Tel: 02920490555
Email: southwalesmark@outlook.com
Web Site: www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk



Anniversary Tree, Bute Park Location

Following the announcement that last year was the 150th Anniversary of the South Wales Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons (Y Dalaith No.75), there are the details and location of the 150th Anniversary Tree which was planted in the Bute Park Arboretum last Winter. Should Brethren wish to visit, the location is A7, which is close to the river.



WEST GATE ENTRANCE PORTHDY'R GORLLEWIN

Welcome to Bute Park & Arboretum: an extensive area of mature parkland that forms the 'green heart' of Cardiff. The site is managed by Cardiff Council and benefits from a major £3.5m restoration project supported by a £2.5m grant award from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2008.

Created over a Cardiff Green-Belt, our award-winning historic parkland is a unique urban woodland & arboretum offering a peaceful escape from the city centre in an area of 135 hectares of parkland and arboretum.

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Tystysgrif Coeden Goffa Parc Bute Bute Park Memorial Tree Certificate



Hoffai Parc Bute ddiolch i / Bute Park would like to thank
South Wales Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons

Am rodd garedig / For the kind donation of
Populus Nigra
Black Poplar

Rhif Tag Coeden / Tree Tag Number
Rhif Tag Dros Dro / Temporary Tag Number: 20/21_A7_1of1

A blannwyd yn / Planted in
Parc Bute Park 2020/21
Ardal Nod y Parc / Park Character Area: A7
<https://what3words.com/budget.tulip.sculpture>

Mae'r goeden hon er cof / The tree is being dedicated to
The South Wales Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons

Geiriau coffa / Words of dedication

To celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Foundation of the South Wales Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariners

