



## A Message for the New Year

Dear Brethren,  
“As we stand at the gate of the year: may God give us a light that we may tread safely into the unknown.”  
A misquote I know but very much heartfelt.  
May I wish you and your families ‘Health and Happiness’ as we once again venture into a New Year. Every New Year is an unknown, but I earnestly hope that 2022 will bring to us all a return to normality and a happier and safer time.  
We have all passed through two years during which every day was dominated by Covid 19. That is history; the New Year is a mystery which will unfold. I cannot do better than to wish you and your families all that you would wish for during 2022. Our Masonic Meetings resumed last September. Many of our Brethren were apprehensive of returning and were rightly concerned. As this year progresses, hopefully we will all come again to enjoy our meetings even more and the pandemic will become a thing of the past. So let us look forward to, and make it a resolution to enjoy, the year 2022.  
Once again I wish you all a much happier 2022 so keep safe and as we “hope for brighter prospects” this year, always remember that “among Mark Master Masons you will ever find friends”.



I look forward greatly to being in your friendly company during the coming year. May the Great Overseer and Supreme Commander of the Universe bless and keep you and your families safe and in his care.  
Sincerely and fraternally,  
Eirian, Provincial Grand Master

## Alan Ford Thomas Memorial Award

by : Roger Lewis

The late VWBro Alan Ford Thomas was a very well-known and respected Mark Mason both in his home town of Barry and in the Province of South Wales. Throughout his life he supported the Mark Benevolent Fund and it was his wish that on his passing he would like his legacy to take the form of an Annual Award, helping those in the Mark Province of South Wales who would benefit most from such an award.

One of Alan’s great delights when he was alive was to spend many satisfying hours on the coast of the Bristol Channel, in particular at Nell’s Point on Barry Island.

Here he would survey the grand vistas of the Channel, dour and grey in winter and blue and sparkling in summer. Whatever the weather VWBro Alan soaked in the atmosphere of the hazy Somerset coastline to the south. To the east the seascape was punctuated by Sully Bay and Sully Island and to the west as far down to Rhoose Point and the Aberthaw Power Station and facing him Flatholm and Steepholm rising out of the channel, like some mythological creatures of the depths.



The first ‘Alan Ford Thomas Award’ was presented recently to the National Coast Watch Station situated at Nell’s Point on Barry Island. The role of the station is to be the eyes and



ears of the coast, which will assist shipping entering the Bristol Channel ports and craft using the Severn Estuary particularly in poor visibility. They are manned by highly trained volunteers skilled in all aspects of marine coastal safety. This is particularly important as the tidal surges in the Bristol Channel are amongst the most dangerous in the world.

There are currently 57 National Coastwatch Institution stations in the UK manned by over 2,600 volunteers. These skilled eyes and ears stretch from Fleetwood in the north west through Wales, the south and east of England up to Hornsea in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The picture shows the Station Commander, Nick Rodgers receiving the award from WBros Martin Jones, Jim Bevan and John Hatherley, Trustees of the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.

The ‘Alan Ford Thomas Memorial Award’ will be an annual award which will benefit different deserving organisations in the Mark Province of South Wales for many years to come.



## Successful Night at Abertawe Royal Ark Mariners Lodge

by : Paul Calderwood

The Doctors, just like the animals it seems, “went into the Ark two by two”. Hurrah! Our photo shows the newly Installed Worshipful Commander of Abertawe Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No.179, WBro Simon Robins, who is flanked by the Installing Commander, WBro Dr Tony Strachan (left), and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Dr Paul Calderwood(right).

WBro Dr Strachan Installed Simon in September at a very happy first meeting since the resumption of Masonic activities and Dr Calderwood later delivered the Address to the Worshipful Commander.



This the 75th Anniversary year for the Lodge and it is considering marking the event by the production of an Honours Board. It is undoubtedly a very happy Lodge.

## Mark Benevolent Fund supports South Wales Hospices

by : Roger Lewis

Last April, the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund approved a Major Capital Grant of £1.25 million to support hospices in England & Wales. Every Mark Lodge in England & Wales was invited to nominate a local hospice to receive a £1,000 donation in memory of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh.

As a result of this request all grants in the South Wales Mark Province have been approved. In certain circumstances some Lodges had a hospice nominated for them by the Provincial Office, and all those have been approved also.

Nationwide, the nominations culminated in over 230 organisations, being identified as covering the running and support of 271 hospices. The Hospice movement has suffered greatly during the pandemic and it is important you are aware of how much this grant may mean to them, whether it is £1,000 or £10,000. Formal presentations will be arranged subject to current restrictions and further details will be made available as conditions allow.

The hospices that have received support are: Marie Curie Penarth, Y Bwthyn Newydd, at the Princess of Wales and Royal Glamorgan Hospitals, Ty Olwen, Morryston, St David's Hospice, Brecon, City Hospice, Cardiff, Ty Hafan, Vale of Glamorgan, Cwm Taf Specialist Palliative Care Services and The Bracken Trust.

The Mark Benevolent Fund was created in 1868, when the Grand Master of The Mark Order, the Revd George Raymond Portal felt that the current system of charitable support at the time lacked speed and was dogged down by bureaucracy and formality, which delayed the disbursement to those in need.

His remedy was both progressive and radical and his guiding principle, “Bis dat qui cito pro”, (he who gives promptly gives twice), was adopted and is still the underlying belief of the Mark Benevolent Fund today. He felt that those in need required immediate assistance and there should be no delay in helping those in difficulties.



Over the years many millions of pounds have been disbursed to both individuals and organisations alike. West Wales RNLi received £1.6 million support for their new lifeboat aptly named Mark Mason. Cancer research and treatment has benefitted considerably from the Fund. Addenbrooks Hospital received over £2 million for prostate cancer support and mobile chemotherapy units throughout the United Kingdom have been purchased.

In the South Wales Province in recent times, support has been in the form of Cuddle Blankets for Ty Hafan, Blood Bikes for NHS Trusts and vehicles for St Johns Ambulance. In June 2018 the President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, the official charity of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, RWBro Dr John Wright, RD, PGSW, handed over three ambulances and a treatment centre to HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, GCVO, GCStJ, Commandant-in-Chief, St John Cymru – Wales.

Following the Annual Investiture Service, The Archbishop of Wales, The Most Reverend John Davies dedicated this gift on the Cathedral Green overlooking the cathedral.

The South Wales Mark Province has its own Benevolent Fund, but such is the need overall that support for the Mark Benevolent Fund is essential if it is to continue to help those in times of hardship.

Further information about the Mark Benevolent Fund is available from the Provincial Office:  
[www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk](http://www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk)  
or Mark Masons' Hall in London:  
[markmasonshall.org/mbf-home/mark-benevolent-fund](http://markmasonshall.org/mbf-home/mark-benevolent-fund)



## Presentation of 40 year Continuous Service Certificates

by : Roger Lewis

The Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones was recently delighted to congratulate two Brethren with their forty years' continuous service to the Mark Order. They were WBro Fred Fox of the Ysgolion Lodge of Mark Master Masons in Pontyclun and WBro Lyndsey Rees of the Cambrensis Mark Lodge in Cardiff.

Both Brethren were presented with their Certificates and Lapel Badges by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip W Davies and Provincial Grand Secretary WBro Martin A Jones on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master.

The photographs show WBro Fred Fox and WBro Lyndsey Rees receiving their awards. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master was also delighted to award five members of Ysgolion with their Mark Benevolent Fund Collarettes. WBro Alan Hulbert, Vice Patron, WBros Denis Tucker and Andrew Thomas, Patrons and WBros Neil Charles and Ralph Powell, Grand Patrons. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master was accompanied by the Assistant Provincial Grand Charity Steward, WBro Gareth Andrews.

WBro Lyndsey's award evening was also enhanced when a newly Advanced Brother entered the Mark Order. The Province congratulated Bro Dimitrios John Poulakis also known as MIM and wishes him a long and successful journey as a Mark Mason.



### WBro Fred Fox, PGJD RAMGR

The above article was written to celebrate WBro Fred Fox's forty years in Mark Masonry, which was actually forty-one years when he received his certificate due to pandemic restriction delays. Unfortunately, shortly after it was written the sad news was received that WBro Fred had passed away.

Fred was one of life's true gentlemen, polite in demeanour and always helpful to those who were starting out on their Masonic journey. His contribution to the Mark Province of South Wales was considerable and he will be missed greatly.

He was an active Member of a number of Mark Lodges, South Wales Installed Masters No. 1201, Ysgolion No. 1487 and Dinas Llandaf No. 1942 and held the Grand Rank of Past Grand Junior Deacon. Similarly, he was supportive of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree, being a member of St Johns No. 28, South Wales Installed Commanders No 1201 and De Cymru No. 1606, in which he enjoyed Grand Rank. Fred was a great supporter of the schools' network of Lodges, Ysgolion being an example.

Fred always enjoyed his holidays in France and frequently drove to his French destinations enjoying the drive as much as the stay. His pleasant smile, wicked sense of humour and affable nature will be greatly missed at both Lodge and Mark functions, which he always supported generously.

**Requiescat in Pace**



© All and every our Worshipful and loving Brethren

**J. Thomas Richard Eirian Jones,**  
The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of the Province of South Wales,  
 under the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales  
 and its Districts and Lodges Overseas

Send Fraternal Greeting  
 to Our beloved Brother  
**Eric Lindsay Rees**  
Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer

Whereas it appears from the Records of Grand Lodge that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 1981, W. Bro. Eric Lindsay Rees was Advanced into the Cambrensis Mark Lodge No. 1528 and was Installed as Worshipful Master in April 2012. He became a Joining Member of the South Wales Installed Mark Masters Lodge No. 1201 in 2017. In Provincial Grand Lodge he was appointed to Past Provincial Grand Senior Deacon in 2014 and promoted to Past Provincial Grand Junior Overseer in 2020. Satisfactory proof therefore is been produced of continuous membership of the Mark Degree for

**Forty Years**

We extend to W. Bro. Eric Lindsay Rees our congratulations and thank him for his service to Mark Masonry in general and to this Province of South Wales in particular. We pray that the Great Overseer of the Universe will continue to bless him to enable him to continue to uphold the high reputation of the rite by diffusing Light and Knowledge and by promoting Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

In witness whereof we have set Our Hand and caused the seal of Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons to be affixed hereat at Bridgend, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021.

*[Signature]*  
 Provincial Grand Master

*[Signature]*  
 Provincial Grand Secretary








## Neath Mark Lodge Resume Meetings

Words and Picture by : Roger Gale

**N**eath Mark Lodge No. 1125 resumed its meetings in the Neath Masonic Hall in mid October, Pandemic restrictions now permitting although with a few precautionary limitations still in place to protect those who could still be vulnerable. The Lodge was able to 'Proclaim' WBro Keith McCormack as the ongoing Master, in the presence of RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, Provincial Grand Master, and his team of Provincial Officers.

That business being concluded successfully, and before the Lodge was closed, the Provincial Grand Master announced a number of pleasant duties he wished to carry out, and duly proceeded to present WBro David Newton with a framed Certificate that recognised his remarkable forty years within the ranks of Mark Masonry. That acclaimed achievement was followed by the presentation of a Forty Year Certificate to WBro Martin Mogford, for services in both Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees. He and our ProvGM enjoyed a long and cordial connection in Freemasonry.

Those presentations concluded and applauded by all present, RWBro Eirian continued to present 'Collarettes' to a trio of worthy recipients, marking their generosity toward the 2020 Mark Benevolent Fund Appeal. WBro Mark Nicholls - the



outgoing Charity Steward and WBro Peter R Gilbert, received a Grand Patron award. That element of the evening culminated in the final presentation of a Grand Patron Gold Collarette to WBro Brian Warlow, who is to take over as Lodge Charity Steward in due course.

Pictured here, following the presentation; ProvGM and his Provincial team, WBros Mark Nicholls rear left, Peter R Gilbert and David Newton together in front of Mark, and Martin Mogford and Brian Warlow right in the front row, between the ProvGM and Provincial Grand Deacon.

## Grand Lodge Appointments and Promotions 2021

**T**he 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 promoted to Past Grand Senior Overseer  
WBro Keith B Ferguson, PGJD promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer  
WBro D Neil Morgan, PGStB promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon  
WBro Alun M Thomas, PGStB promoted 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.

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





## South Wales and The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners



“My heart leaps up  
when I behold, a rainbow  
in the sky” *William Wordsworth*

This year has been distinguished by another 150th anniversary - that of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree coming under the protection of the Mark Degree. The precise origins of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree are unknown. The Degree is over two hundred years old and celebrates the providence and mercy of God. As its name suggests, it has a nautical flavour as it deals with the circumstances leading up to the Great Flood and the steps taken by Noah to build the Ark, by which mankind was preserved from perishing in the ‘Universal Deluge’.

Once it came under the stable guidance of Mark Grand Lodge in 1871, the Mariner Degree made steady, if not sensational, progress. Between 1871 and 1879 twenty Lodges received Warrants and in the following ten years twenty-seven others followed. By 1968 there were four hundred and sixty-four active Lodges in England and Wales.

The first Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in the Province of South Wales was St John’s Lodge Cardiff, No.28 whose Warrant is dated 29 April 1874. In the late 1930s some Brethren, feeling that the Degree was being treated as a poor relation of the Mark, suggested that some form of recognition should be awarded to Past Commanders who had given valuable service to the Mariner Degree, but at that time nothing came of it and soon the Second World War brought a halt to any ideas of change.

After the centenary of Mark Grand Lodge in 1956, that feeling of greater recognition steadily gained strength, especially in the Provinces. There seemed little to interest Brethren once they had passed the Commander’s Chair and it was felt that Mark Brethren in general did not seem over-keen to become Royal Ark Mariners.

In 1967 this movement had impressed the Grand Master’s Royal Ark Council to such an extent that serious thought was given to it. It was not easy to know how best to meet this desire for more recognition: The Royal Ark Mariners had no Grand Lodge, so that any question of graded Grand Ranks was impracticable. However, this was remedied and at that first meeting in December 1968, seven Brethren from the Province were honoured with this new Grand Rank

In accordance with regulation 7(ii) of the Regulations for the Government of the Degree of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners; a Provincial Grand Master is empowered to confer annually, Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank on two Past Commanders, for every complete three Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.

The first recipients of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank initially had their honours conferred at the Provincial Meeting of South Wales Mark Masons. However, it was felt that a separate occasion was fitting. Honours are now conferred at Mark Grand Lodge in London and Provincial Royal Ark Mariners Grand Rank at the South Wales Installed Commanders Lodge at Bridgend.



Although still tied to the Mark, Royal Ark Mariners have come of age in their own right as the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners. The ritual of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree captures the hearts of its Members as one of the jewels of Masonic Ritual.

The above photograph shows the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones, with WBro Philip W Davies, Assistant Provincial Grand Master and WBro Martin A Jones Provincial Grand Secretary with the newly commissioned Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Banner.

Most Lodges of Mark Master Masons have a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge ‘moored’ to them. Should any Brother wish to become a Royal Ark Mariner any Mark Mason wearing the distinctive Rainbow and Dove Jewel would be able to assist.

**With acknowledgements to RWBro T R Eirian Jones.**

## You have to be in it to Win it! 150 Club Results

The June draw of the 150 Club took place at the Mark Provincial Office in Bridgend. The draw was made by the Chairman and Treasurer of the Bridgend Masonic Hall Trust, WBros Dyfrig Edwards and Peter Davies respectively, in the presence of the Mark Provincial Registrar, Secretary and Deputy Secretary.

### The Lucky Winners

First Prize of £350 - WBro Andrew E J Hopkins

Second Prize of £250 - RWBro Ryan A Williams, GSec.

Third Prize of £150 - RWBro T R Eirian Jones, ProvGM.

As usual, an equivalent sum of £750 was also donated to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund. 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 for one number and there are two draws every year. Brethren can purchase as many numbers as they wish and draws are made in June and December.