

## Full Steam Ahead for SWIMM

by : Roger Lewis

It's always a great pleasure when one is able to resume an enjoyable activity greatly missed in a period of inactivity or adjournment. Such was the case when the South Wales Installed Mark Masters Lodge No.1201 resumed its meetings after so much interruption caused by the pandemic.

The 31 of March is always the Installation Meeting and the present Worshipful Master, VWBro Dr Paul R Calderwood PSGO Deputy Provincial Grand Master, had served in that role for a period of three years. The Master in waiting, WBro Lyn J Guttridge PGSD, was delighted when the green light was given to allow him to be Installed in the Chair of this prestigious Lodge.

A very good attendance of Members and visitors experienced VWBro Paul expertly Install his successor into the Chair. He was supported by Provincial Officers and Officers of the Lodge, who flawlessly delivered their parts of the Ceremony, providing Members and visitors alike with a second to none Installation Ceremony.

It is a tradition in this Lodge that the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones announces the Provincial Wardens and Overseers for the coming year. However, on this occasion he first announced the recipients of Mark Grand Rank and was delighted to congratulate two Members present on their appointments; WBros Michael J Lewis on his Appointment to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and Gareth Andrews on his Appointment as a Grand Steward.

The Provincial Grand Master then announced the incoming Provincial Overseers. The Master Overseer, WBros John Charles, the Senior Overseer, Clive Thomas and the Junior Overseer, Gary Hurst. He then similarly announced the incoming Provincial Wardens with WBros Dr Viv Thomas Appointed Senior Warden and Roger Lewis Appointed Junior Warden. The Provincial Grand Master then congratulated the new Provincial Wardens and Overseers, wishing them all a successful and enjoyable year.

The Lodge has a tradition of supporting those less fortunate or those who find themselves in situations where help is urgently needed.



At the Installation Festive Board, the Worshipful Master was delighted to be able to present to the Provincial Grand Master with a substantial donation to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.

Furthermore, the Brethren present were also able to donate a generous amount to the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal.

The Lodge looks forward to more settled times and many more enjoyable meetings.

## Another Success for Dunraven

The Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones was delighted to present Bro Glyn Watts Jones with his Certificate celebrating his forty years as a Royal Ark Mariner of the Dunraven RAM Lodge No.950.

Glyn has been a stalwart supporter of both the Dunraven Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. The picture shows him being presented with his Certificate accompanied by WBro Jeffrey Henshaw, who had just been proclaimed as Worshipful Commander of the Lodge.



## Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem

by : Roger Lewis

If you were to stand on the Mount of Olives with the morning light streaming over your shoulder you would immediately see why Jerusalem is called by many the Golden City. The colours of the stones and buildings have a golden hue and the Dome of the Rock stands out glinting brightly in the morning sun.

However, the Jerusalem of Biblical Times, as were other cities of the Levant, was quite small. It was surrounded by a fortified wall, much strengthened during the Crusades and little remains of those times.

A walk around the old city will reveal to the inquisitive and observant eye remains of the past, which can be quite revealing. The Bible tells us that King David was a man of blood, after what he did to Uriah the Hittite and having an adulterous affair with his wife Bathsheba, was not deemed worthy of building the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. That task then fell to their son Solomon.

Not only does nothing remain of King Solomon's Temple but also, there is no firm archaeological evidence of its existence. How then do we know how it was constructed and what it looked like?

To find the answer to that question we have to look in The Old Testament, the First Book of Kings and the Second Book of Chronicles. The measurement of the Temple was done in royal cubits a bit bigger than the standard cubit which was about 52 cms long.

The cubit was the standard measurement in ancient times and there were various civilisations e.g. Egyptian, Babylonian and Hebrew who used it. Interestingly Noah's Ark, was 300 cubits long.

Scholars have used Biblical sources and evidence from other excavations to formulate a reconstruction of Solomon's Temple. The Temple consisted of three main rectangular rooms. There was a twin pillared portico at the entrance of the Temple called the Ulam, which led into a painted main hall the Hekhal. It is likely that the walls would have been painted with brightly coloured images of cherubim and roofed with cedar. The furniture would have included a golden altar of incense, the table of the shewbread and a seven-branched lampstand (the menorah). The shewbread, also called the 'Bread of the Presence' were twelve loaves of unleavened bread made from semolina, that stood for the 12 tribes of Israel.



They were a symbolic acknowledgement that God was the resource of Israel's life and nourishment and also served as Israel's act of thanksgiving to God. The lamps of the menorah were lit daily from fresh, consecrated olive oil and burned from evening until morning, according to Exodus 27:21.

Beyond the Hekhal was a smaller room, the Debir or Holy of Holies in which would have been the Rock on which Abraham made his covenant with the Lord and the Ark of the Covenant guarded by two Cherubim. The Ark was an important emblem of God's physical presence, exemplified by the Shekinah. In the Bible, the presence of God is often accompanied by a cloud.

At the very back of the Temple were the storage chambers used by the priests. The courtyard of the Temple was also an equally important area in which ritual washings were performed.

It is thought there were ten Mekhonots, carved water carts on wheels with basins engraved with lions and oxen. There was also one Yam which was bigger than the Mekhonots and was a basin used for ritual washing. How did it all end?

Chapter 25 in the Second Book of Kings describes how Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard of the King of Babylon "came to Jerusalem. He burned the House of the Lord, the King's House, and all the houses of Jerusalem, every great house he burned down".

The story of the new temple is related in the prophetic books of Haggai and Zechariah and Ezra also depicts the beginning of the restoration of the Temple, although on completion the prophet Haggai is less than impressed; "who is among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing?"

*To be continued*



*A Menorah*



*Golden Altar of Incense*





## Principality celebrates a very Special Occasion

**O**n the 20 of September 1961 WBro Robert Ramsey Harry PGJD was Advanced in the Principality Lodge No.1057 of Mark Master Masons and has remained a member to this day. Sixty years' service in the Order is a fine achievement.

To mark such an auspicious occasion, the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones was delighted to present Robert Harry with a framed greeting from the Grand Master His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, offering his congratulations on such a fine achievement.

Provincial Grand Lodge also recognised this fine accomplishment and the Provincial Grand Master presented Robert with a framed certificate, signed by the Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones, celebrating his sixty years as a Member of the Mark Province of South Wales.

The Provincial Grand Master then proceeded to present two Members of the Lodge with their Mark Benevolent Fund Awards; Grand Patron to WBro Brian Hithersay and Patron to WBro David Allen.



### South Wales Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons

The December draw of the 150 Club took place at the Mark Provincial Officers' Mess Sunday Lunch which was held at the Towers Hotel and Spa in Jersey Marine, Swansea.

*The lucky winners were:*

- First Prize of £350 - W Bro Dr Viv Thomas**
- Second Prize of £250 - Talbot Mark Lodge No.179**
- Third Prize of £150 - Bro Tyrone S Smith**

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/yr per number and there are two draws every year.



## Mark Masons return to the Towers Hotel

by : Roger Lewis

After a period of two years it was a great delight to be able to return to the Towers Hotel and Restaurant, Jersey Marine, Swansea for the Provincial Officers' Mess Christmas Luncheon.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones welcomed the Brethren, their wives and partners and said how much he had missed their company and how delightful it was to see them all again in more settled times.

As is the custom, it was hosted by the acting Provincial Junior Warden WBro Michael Lewis and his wife Margery. Michael then addressed the Brethren, stating that it was a great delight to be able to be in their company, especially as he had been Provincial Junior Warden for two years due to the pandemic, although the first year was abruptly curtailed due to the virus.



This was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and allowed Brethren to meet and greet many of their friends and acquaintances, many of whom they had not seen for some considerable time.

This particular event had an added bonus as the 150th Anniversary of the South Wales Mark Province Grand Raffle was drawn. This raffle would have taken place at the Celebration Ball, which was due to be held at the City of Cardiff Football Stadium. Unfortunately, this had been cancelled due to the pandemic.

However, thanks to the sterling work of our Provincial Grand Secretary WBro Martin A Jones and his team, everything was in place and the draw was then scheduled to take place at the earliest opportunity. The Mess Christmas Luncheon at the Towers Hotel was expertly organised by WBro Peter E Taylor. There was an impressive grand draw with equally impressive prizes.

If you like flowers, a prize covering that was flowers for your home all the year round. If you liked afternoon tea, a Fortnum and Mason Tea Adventure Hamper was just right.

If you were partial to a small gin, the limited edition Silent Pool Citrus Gin Box and Cocktail Set had that covered.

For those who like the outdoor life there was a luxury picnic hamper and champagne to be won and also joint membership of the National Trust. Music lovers were catered for by a beautiful hand crafted guitar. For those who appreciate a more leisurely time there was an overnight spa package at the Towers, Sunday lunch at the Nant Ddu Lodge or a two night stay at the Cwrt Bledyddyn Hotel and Spa at Usk.

For the whisky devotees there was a Penderyn Distillery Hamper and for the champagne aficionados six bottles of Laurent Perrier La Cuvee Brut with two exquisite Vera Wang Wedgwood silver plated love knot toasting flutes. If all this was too much, then you could relax on your award winning Emma Mattress clutching your £250 John Lewis Gift Card, after attending your cookery course at the Llanerch Vineyard.

Every Mark Mason in the Province was entered in the draw congratulations to all the winners. To complete the afternoon, the biannual Provincial 200 Club draw took place with half the prize, £750, being donated to South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.





## Langley Mark Lodge Congratulates Long Standing Member

**V**WBro Ralph Jeffery was delighted to travel 'over the bridge' recently to present WBro Len Farr with his 40 Year continuous membership Certificate of the Mark Order. Len now lives in Bristol and until recently came to every Lodge meeting.

Throughout his long period of membership Len has been a great supporter of Langley Mark Lodge No.28. He was also a member of St John Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No.28. He was 95 years old in December 2021 and although he no longer drives, he still came to all Lodge meetings and also to Emerald Lodge and Emerald Royal Arch Chapter.

Ralph and Len have been friends ever since he joined Freemasonry, Ralph having Invested Len as Master of Emerald Craft Lodge No.5907 in 1978.

"It was a great privilege and honour to present him with his Certificate on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master", says Ralph.



## Royal Ark Mariners Grand Rank Investiture

**A** number of Brethren attended Great Queen Street in London recently to support and congratulate the three recipients of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. The photograph (right) shows the three recipients - left to right WBros Christopher M L Davies, Allun D Jones and Paul S Cage.

The photograph below shows the South Wales Brethren who also attended. The Province extends its congratulations to all three Brethren and trust that they will enjoy their new Ranks for many years to come.



*Poor quality original Photograph*



## A Very Senior Master

**W**Bro Don Lewis recently achieved the distinction of becoming the most senior Worshipful Master of the South Wales Mark Province - by virtue of his age. At 92 years of age, he was Installed as Worshipful

Master of Talbot Mark Lodge No.179 in Swansea in an excellent Ceremony, which was conducted by his predecessor, WBro Norman England.

At the same meeting, WBro Paul Davies was presented by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro Dr Paul Calderwood, with a Certificate to recognise his service of more than 40 years as a Mark Master Mason and WBro Tony Strachan was invested with a Grand Patron Gold Award Collarette, in recognition of his support of the Mark Benevolent Fund.



The evening was further distinguished when the new Worshipful Master appointed WBro Henry A Barnes, Provincial Grand Master Overseer, as the first Royal Ark Mariner Representative in the long history of Talbot Mark Lodge.

## Cwm Rhondda Dedicates a new Lodge Banner

*by : Philip Hanney*

**T**he Cwm Rhondda Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No.1812, is a relatively young Lodge in terms of Mark Masonry, having received its Warrant on 1 March 2001. Nonetheless, after 21 years, the proud membership of 'Valley Boys' thought it was high time that the Lodge had a Banner and so the Lodge Master Overseer, Bro Robert Green, was tasked with designing a Banner that would represent the coal mining heritage of their home.

The finished Banner exceeded all expectations and Worshipful Master, WBro David Williams, was pleased to invite the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, to dedicate the new Banner at a Ceremony held at the RAFA Pub in Treorchy on 22 November 2021.

With the support of a large team of Provincial Officers, the Provincial Grand Master expertly performed a wonderful Banner Dedication Ceremony, which for most attendees was the first time they had witnessed such a spectacle.



The Banner displays the heraldic shield of the Rhondda Valleys. The shield is a heraldic map of the Rhondda, with the white wavy 'pall' depicting the confluence of the Rhondda Fach and Rhondda Fawr rivers. The indented edge of the 'chief' or upper third of the shield represents the mountainous nature of the valley. The shield's field is coloured green, representing the lush vegetation of the Rhondda Valleys, whilst the chief is coloured black symbolising the coal-mining industry that once fuelled the steam ships of the Royal Navy. On the black chief are placed gold symbols: acorns to represent the growth of new industries and a balanced scale to represent a balanced development.

The Cwm Rhondda Lodge of Mark Master Masons meet at the RAFA Pub in Treorchy. The Members 'keep a welcome in the hillside' and would be pleased to welcome any Brother that would like to experience a first class Ceremony and a warm Rhondda Valley welcome. Attendance can be arranged by contacting the Lodge Secretary, WBro Alan Jones, at [ajmj10@talktalk.net](mailto:ajmj10@talktalk.net)







# Birthday Celebrations at Principality Royal Ark Mariners

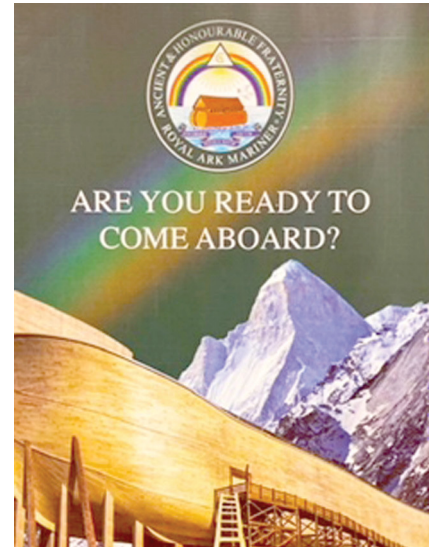
**Y**ear 2021 was a special one for the Principality Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.1057, Cardiff. It was a great delight that the Lodge was able to celebrate not only its 70th birthday but to hold an Installation as well. It was initially thought that these events would have to be cancelled due to the pandemic, but fortunately they were all able to go ahead.

1951 seems a long time ago, it is after all over seventy years, and the incoming Worshipful Commander, WBro D Roger Lewis in his speech during the Festive Board mentioned that not only was the Principality Royal Ark Mariner Lodge formed in 1951, a number of other institutions were also - and indeed are still in existence. Two that spring to mind are the Archers on Radio 4 and the Abbey Works, Port Talbot, later British Steel, now TATA.



Lodge Members were delighted to welcome the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones and his full Provincial Team to the Installation together with the Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip W Davies.

It was a most enjoyable, well supported evening and the Lodge looks forward to a successful future, especially with a number of new Members joining.



# Mark Provincial Grand Lodge Celebrates Continuous Membership of the Order



**T**he Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones has been delighted recently to award a number of Brethren with their Certificates of Continuous Membership of the Mark Order.

The images show two Brethren, WBros John Anthony and Peter Grace, receiving their Certificates from the Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Secretary respectively.

Both Brethren have been stalwart supporters of the Mark Order over the years and the Province congratulates them both and wishes them many more years of Mark Masonry.







## A Special Evening at Cambrensis Royal Ark Mariners

by : Paul Calderwood

Celebration was the order of the day at Cambrensis Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.1528, Cardiff in March when the Brethren saluted WBro Lindsay Rees for more than forty years' Membership of the Lodge.

At the same meeting WBro Adrian Paul Cope was Proclaimed as Worshipful Commander for a further term of office. The evening also saw the Lodge grow in size with the admission of a Joining Member and a Re-Joining Member, namely Bro David Leon Woolf and Bro Ian McIlquham respectively. It had even more cause for delight – for WBro Malcolm Bignell was elected as an Honorary Member.

In presenting a Long Service Certificate to WBro Lindsay Rees, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Dr Paul Calderwood, said: “Bro Lindsey Rees was Advanced in the Mark Degree on 3 June 1981 in Cambrensis Mark Lodge, starting an association with that Lodge which has flourished for over 40 years.

To celebrate this remarkable achievement the Provincial Grand Master awarded him with a Long Service Certificate, which was presented by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip Davies, last year.

But going back to 1981 - less than 5 months after becoming a Mark Master Mason - Lindsay's enthusiasm for Mark Masonry stimulated him to go one step further and he was Elevated into the Royal Ark Mariner Degree on 14 October 1981.

Today it is my privilege and pleasure to pay tribute to that long period of service and to acknowledge it with a Certificate for his great commitment to Royal Ark Mariner Masonry.

I am so pleased that I was selected to make this presentation because I have known and admired Lindsay's service to Freemasonry in many Orders for quite a long time.

Our friendship began nine years ago, significantly when I attended a meeting of Cambrensis Mark Lodge when he was in the Chair as Worshipful Master.

It was the largest meeting in the history of Cambrensis Mark Lodge - for on that auspicious occasion more than 136 visitors were in attendance to see among other things the Provincial Grand Master (who was then RW Bro Paul Raymond Clement) invest as his Deputy WBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones - as well as a new AProvGM whose surname was Calderwood.

It was a great occasion for several reasons, not least of which was the fact that Lindsay had finally reached the Chair of Adoniram – a mere 31 years after entering the Order.

You might wonder why it had taken him so long to reach the Chair and there was a very good and important reason for that. It was because throughout most of that time he had been travelling the oceans of the world as the Captain of Super-tanker ships and it was only after retirement that it became possible for him to go in to the Chair.

It is hardly surprising therefore that – as a real Master Mariner - he decided to become a Masonic Royal Ark Mariner and thank goodness that Captain Lindsay Rees started out on his voyage through the much calmer waters of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Freemasonry, when the rest of the world was in a quite turbulent state.

He was Elevated at the first Regular Meeting of this Royal Ark Mariner Lodge – which is one of his many distinctions. In fact, at that first meeting of Cambrensis RAM Lodge, a total of seven Candidates were Elevated and two Brethren were admitted as Joining Members. What a great start for a new Lodge!

In addition to the Craft and Royal Arch, he is also a very active Member of a number of other Masonic Orders, including the Red Cross of Constantine, Royal & Select Masters, SRIA and very importantly the Knights Templar and Knight Templar Priests.”

WBro Alun Howell Thomas, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, was then invited to read aloud the Certificate which has been issued and signed by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, detailing some of Lindsay's achievements as a Royal Ark Mariner, highlighting his appointment to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in 2019 and his membership of the South Wales Installed Commanders Lodge.







## Grand Officers' Lodges return to Labour

**O**n Wednesday, 1 December 2021 the first face to face meeting of De Cymru Grand Officers Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges since December 2019 took place in Caerphilly.

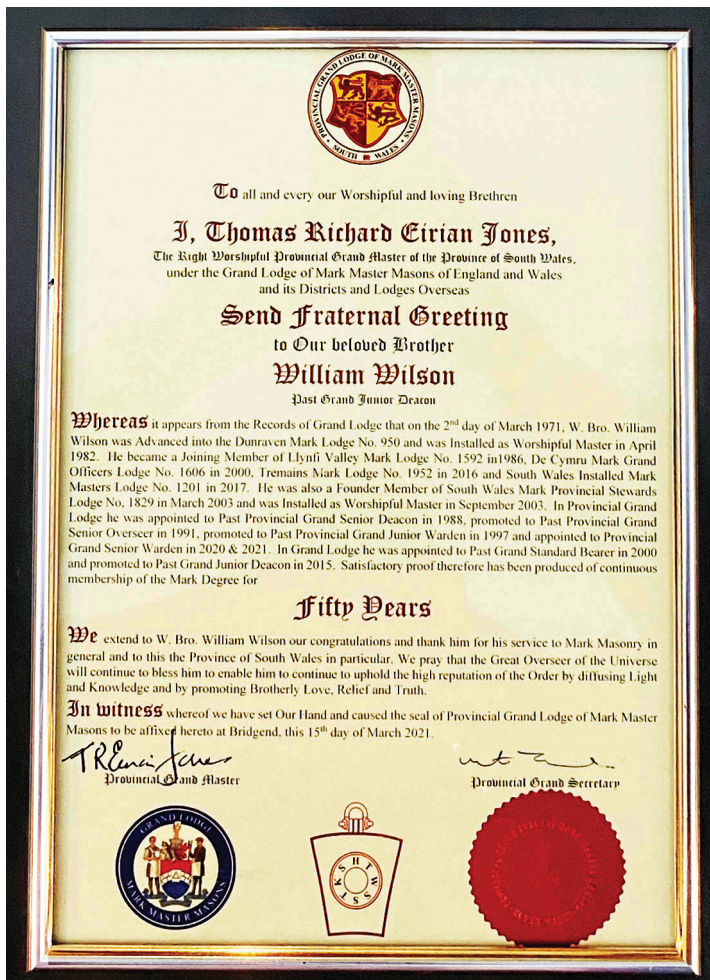
The meeting was well supported for the two Installation Meetings which were scheduled that morning. In the first Installation, the Royal Ark Mariners present witnessed the Grand Secretary, RWBro Ryan Williams PGJW, being invited to occupy the Chair of Commander.

RWBro Ryan Williams was then able to conduct a rarely seen Ceremony in Masonry when he Installed his own father, WBro Alun Williams RAMGR.

The De Cymru Mark Lodge was then opened and the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones took the Chair and expertly Installed VWBro John O'Leary into the Master's Chair.

At the conclusion of the Mark meeting the Grand Secretary, Ryan A Williams, invited WBro William (Bill) Wilson to join him. Bill was presented with his Certificate of long service, 50 years in Mark Masonry and a lapel badge. He then surprised Bill with a letter from the MW Grand Master informing him that, with immediate effect, he was promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer, thus giving him the title of Very Worshipful Brother. This announcement was met with rapturous applause and congratulations from all present and for once VWBro Bill was lost for words.

Bill is the senior past Master in Dunraven Lodge No.950 and has been Secretary and Treasurer in a number of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges during his fifty years in the Order.



He is currently the Provincial Senior Warden and we look forward to seeing him continue to discharge his duties in his new Regalia.

The morning was concluded with the Provincial Grand Master RWBro TR Eirian Jones presenting Provincial Senior Warden VWBro Bill Wilson and the Provincial Junior Warden, WBro Michael Lewis with their President and Vice President Provincial Officers' Mess Collarettes.





## A very special day for Langley Mark Lodge

A very special occasion for Langley Mark Lodge No.28 when Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones was delighted to attend the oldest Mark Lodge in the Province to award Mark Benevolent Fund Collarettes to four of its Members and also to celebrate its 150 years in existence.

The Lodge was presented with a framed Certificate celebrating this special achievement. The image shows the Provincial Grand Master presenting the Certificate to the Worshipful Master and VWBro Ralph Jeffreys.

WBro Robert Payne's contribution was recognised by the Vice Patron Collarette and WBros David Woolf, Merlyn Priddle and Derek Williams were awarded Patron Collarettes.

The Provincial Grand Master was then delighted to present RWBro Gareth Jones, formerly the Provincial Grand Master of the Craft, South Wales Province, with his Grand Patron Mark Benevolent Fund Collarette.



The Provincial Grand Master then presented a cheque to RWBro Gareth Jones OBE from the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund in support of the 2021 South Wales Craft Festival.





**Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1995**  
are holding their 9th June 2022 meeting outdoors at

**Miskin Mill Scout Village**  
Hensol Rd, Miskin, Pontyclun CF72 8JJ











Why Not .....  
Join us at this important historic event? the first meeting of a Mark Masonic Lodge of the South Wales Province on Scout Premises!!

Mark Masonic members and Mark visitors welcome.

Enjoy a Mark Masonic Lodge meeting with a difference, followed by a festive board of traditional rustic fayre. Lodge open at 6.30pm.

Follow that with presentations, and perhaps a trial of craft skill based activity such as Archery, Marksmanship, Pioneering, Campfire Cooking, Conclude with a traditional Campfire Sing-a-Long.



To book in, contact W Bro Alun Morton PPrGJO, Lodge Secretary