



Mark Provincial Meeting resumes in person

by Roger Lewis

It was a pleasure to see the delight on our Provincial Grand Master's face when he was able to open Provincial Grand Lodge in person. This was the first time in two years that he was able to stand before an assembly of Brethren gathered for this Provincial highlight of the year.

This was the fifth time he has presided over the meeting although it should have been the seventh if it had not been for the pandemic. It was a great pleasure to welcome all Brethren and guests many of whom had travelled a great distance, the furthest being Belgium! In Masonry there is nothing like a face to face meeting to cement the bonds of fraternity and such was the importance of resuming such a meeting.

However, the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, was at pains to remember and reflect on those who are no longer with us and those who had suffered greatly throughout the awful pandemic we had all recently endured.

The Provincial Grand Master gave a brief resumé of events during the period of the pandemic and outlined the importance of the Mark Benevolent Fund and how Brethren of the Province are able to support the Fund by contributing to the honorific scheme which Mark Masons' Hall operates. He was delighted to award a number of Brethren with their Collarettes for their support of the Fund. WBros David Franklin, Malcolm Kidd, Nigel Piercy, Gareth Snook, David Elliott, Robert Andrews and Gareth Andrews all achieved Grand Patron status and WBro Neil Morgan and VW Bro Jim Childs, Grand Patron Diamond awards. Since the pandemic ended and meetings were able to resume, sixty-two MBF Collarettes were awarded to Brethren from our Province in recognition of their contributions to the Fund.

An important part of the meeting was to appoint the new Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, but before this was done the Provincial Grand Master paid tribute to the outgoing Deputy Provincial Grand Master VWBro Dr Paul Richard Calderwood. Dr Paul Calderwood had served the Provincial Executive for nine



years as both Assistant and Deputy Provincial Grand Master. His contribution and dedication has been without measure. In addition to his unstinting dedication to the office of Deputy, he has contributed a lasting legacy to the Province in editing and contributing to the Provincial History book, copies still available, should anyone wish to purchase one. All this work has been conducted in a quiet demeanour which belies his outstanding abilities of which there are many.





The Provincial Grand Master was delighted to present him with his past Deputy Collarette which was accompanied by rapturous applause from all present.

Next the Provincial Grand Master appointed his new Deputy, WBro Philip William Davies PGJD, who was previously his Assistant. The Provincial Grand Master was delighted to promote him to be his Deputy. Philip is a Mark Mason who continually leads from the front and is extremely proficient in the knowledge and ritual of both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees. He is a tireless worker for the Province, individual Lodges and Brethren. He is always available to help and assist whenever needed. He will make an invaluable contribution to the Province as its new Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The new Assistant Provincial Grand Master is WBro Alun Howell Thomas GJD. Alun is well known to the Brethren of the Province and beyond and is finally giving up his Wand to become the Assistant Provincial Grand Master. He has honed his expertise as a Director of Ceremonies, has held the position of Provincial Director of Ceremonies for a number of years and has been Director of Ceremonies in a number of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. Alun has also enjoyed active Grand Rank at Mark Masons' Hall and so is well versed in the procedures and requirements of an Executive Officer. The Province is extremely fortunate to have three such talented Mark Masons to lead the Brethren

The other member of the Executive who plays a vital and pivotal role in the day to day running of the Province is our extremely hard working Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones. The Provincial Grand Master thanked the Provincial Secretary and his dedicated team for the hard work they undertake on a day to day basis to ensure the smooth running of the Province.

Another important Appointment made at the meeting was the Appointment of WBro Neil Martin Evans as the new Provincial Advancement Officer. The Provincial Grand Master drew upon his extensive experience in academia to introduce the meeting to the Three Rs, not reading writing and arithmetic, but Recruitment, Retention and Reinvigoration. The Provincial Grand Master outlined the importance of not only supporting the current membership but to encourage new Brethren to join our fine Order. This initiative will stand alongside the recent implementation of the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge representative to encourage Mark Members to join the Mariner Order. Royal Ark Mariner Lodges are an integral part of the Mark Order as each is 'moored' to a Mark Lodge and their procession into Provincial Grand Lodge at the beginning of the meeting in their splendid regalia further cements that bond.

The Provincial Grand Master ended his address to enthusiastic applause thanking all for their commitment and support and looking towards a brighter future.

The Festive Boards at a Provincial meeting are always very convivial gatherings. Many acquaintances were renewed as this was the first one for two years and the Provincial Grand Master was delighted to present Dr Paul Calderwood with an engraved plaque



as a thank you for his support and service to the Province. Dr Paul then responded by presenting the Provincial Grand Master with a substantial cheque for the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund. This was the profit from the sale of the Provincial History Book which he had edited.

The next pleasant duty was the Induction of the President and Vice President of the South Wales Mark Officers' Mess. The Provincial Senior Warden of the year is the President and the Junior Warden the Vice President. The Provincial Grand Master then presented WBro Dr Viv Thomas with his President's Collarette and WBro Roger Lewis with the Vice President's Collarette congratulating them on their appointments and wishing them a happy and fulfilling year.





A Mark Man Through and Through

by : Roger Lewis

If you were to think of what kind of person a Mark Man is then you need go no further than VWBro Dr Paul Richard Calderwood. Not only is his understanding of the Mark Degree second to none, but his committed contribution to the Mark Order in general and the Province in particular, is without measure. His contribution is also a lasting one as he edited and contributed to the very fine book, 'The Mark of the Red Dragon', which is a history of Mark Masonry in South Wales on the celebration of the Province's 150th year Anniversary.

All things come to pass and Dr Paul finally hung up his chain of office as Deputy Provincial Grand Master at the recent Provincial Assembly of Mark Master Masons at Cardiff. He had served as an Executive Officer for more than nine years. During this time, he presided expertly over many Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Installations. He is one of the very few Freemasons who has achieved Executive status in The Craft, The Holy Royal Arch, Mark and Knights Templar; a curriculum vitae, which in Masonic terms, is second to none.

He was Initiated into Freemasonry in London in 1974 and later rose to the rank of Assistant Metropolitan Grand Master in the Craft and Assistant Metropolitan Grand Superintendent in the Royal Arch. He is currently a Grand Officer in more than a dozen Masonic Orders, and as such has acquired much knowledge and understanding of Freemasonry over the past 50 years.

The study of Freemasonry was not his original discipline as he initially studied European History at the University of Leicester and graduated with a BA Honours Degree. Forty years later, after retirement from business, he enrolled as a mature, or as he says an over-ripe student, at University of London and was subsequently awarded a PhD in 2011 for a thesis on the history of Freemasonry in the 20th century. DrPaul's achievements are considerable. The Quatuor Coronati Lodge No.2076, the premier Lodge of Masonic research, awarded him the Norman B Spencer Prize in 2010.

He was also Appointed by the United Grand Lodge of England as the Prestonian Lecturer for 2013. He is also the author and contributor to over a dozen books on Freemasonry and his articles have appeared in a range of international journals. He is currently the Provincial Prior of the Knight Templar Province of Monmouth and South Wales and as Lockdown

curtailed all Masonic activities he wrote a book on Freemasonry. His expertise will not be lost to the Province on his retirement or as the Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones reminded him at the Provincial Assembly. 'I know where you live'



A Happy return to the Chair

by : Roger Lewis

Founder of the Lodge and a Provincial Grand Officer, WBro Hugh Rosser Williams, was Installed as the new Worshipful Master of Brychan Mark Lodge No.1725 in May this year – an office which he first filled 19 years ago.

Hugh was Installed as Master in a fine manner by a Grand Officer, WBro John Theophilus Jenkins Davies, at what was a well-attended meeting. Indeed, there were no less than seven Grand Officers present.

He is very active, not only in Mark Masonry, but also in other parts of Freemasonry throughout mid and south Wales. Hugh is a stalwart supporter of Lodges far and wide - a ubiquitous visitor and supporter, not least as a welcome Organist.

At the meeting in Brecon, he announced the appointment of WBro Richard Ackroyd as the Lodge's first Royal Ark Mariner Representative and on behalf of the Members, he also presented a cheque for £100 to the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The Toast to the Province was delivered extremely well by Bro Lewis Morgan, Junior Deacon, and it was responded to by VWBro Dr Paul Calderwood, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who especially thanked the Members of the Province for the wonderful support which he had received during his period of almost ten years as a Member of the Mark Executive.





New Commander for Swansea

by : Roger Lewis

Bro I R Lewis Jones was Installed as the new Worshipful Commander of Sir Frederick Alban Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.1455 on 3 May 2022 at Swansea.

As his predecessor, WBro John Barnes, was moving home at the time to live in Cornwall, WBro Richard Fry undertook the Ceremony of Installing the new Commander.

The photograph shows (left to right), WBro Paul Bunyan, Provincial Steward on duty, Richard Fry, Installing Commander, Lewis Jones, new Worshipful Commander, WBro Dr Paul Calderwood, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and WBro Alun H Thomas, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.



Mark Grand Lodge Appointments and Promotions 2022

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

ACTING RANK

RWBro Ryan A Williams, PGJW re-appointed to Grand Secretary.
WBro Christopher M L Davies appointed to Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.
WBro Paul Kelvin-Smith, PAGDC appointed to Grand Senior Deacon.
WBro Gareth Andrews appointed to Grand Steward.

PROMOTED

WBro Dr Vivian Thomas, JP, PAGChap promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer.
WBro Alun Williams, PGSD promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer.
WBro Neil M Evans, PGStwd promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon.

FIRST APPOINTMENT

WBro Michael J Lewis appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.
WBro Terence J Scarfe appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.
WBro Robert C Adams appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

Brethren receiving Active Ranks and First Appointments to Past Ranks will be Invested at the Meeting of Grand Lodge to be held on Tuesday, 7 June 2022. Brethren receiving Promotions will be Invested at the Meeting of Grand Lodge to be held on Tuesday, 13 September 2022. Both meetings will take place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

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



Rhaeadr Gwy Lodge moves to new home

by : Roger Lewis

At the recent Installation of Rhaeadr Gwy Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1318, held at their new venue, the Cae Beris Hotel in Builth Wells, the Lodge was delighted to invite the outgoing Deputy Provincial Grand Master VWBro Dr Paul Richard Calderwood and his wife, together with other Members of the Executive who are also Members of the Lodge. Rhaeadr Gwy has by tradition always met in a Mid Wales Hotel and the Cae Beris was their seventh. Their first was the Elan Valley Hotel. Meetings of this unique Lodge are always accompanied by ladies dining and this first meeting at Cae Beris was no exception with the hotel serving an excellent meal.

Should anyone wish to join Rhaeadr Gwy further details may be obtained from the Mark Provincial Office in Bridgend.



Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Appointments 2022

by : Roger Lewis

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

WBro Christopher E Mugford, St John RAM Lodge No.28
 WBro Neil Davies, St Tydfil RAM Lodge No.639
 WBro Phillip L C Morgan, Cambria RAM Lodge No.823
 WBro Roger F Richmond, Cambria RAM Lodge No.823
 WBro Richard J Phillips, Dunraven Lodge No.950
 WBro Vaughan R Watkin, Dunraven RAM Lodge No.950
 WBro Martin Pearson, Principality RAM Lodge No.1057
 WBro Roland A Johnson, Afan RAM Lodge No.1088
 WBro Geraint M Davies, Caerffili RAM Lodge No.1348
 WBro Andrew Morgan, Porthcawl RAM Lodge No.1377

WBro Stephen Waters, Cynon Dare RAM Lodge No.1590
 WBro Simon J Francis, Sketty Hall RAM Lodge No.1685
 WBro Clive E Thomas, Brychan RAM Lodge No.1725
 WBro Alan R Hulbert, Tremains RAM Lodge No.1952
 Their Investiture took place at the Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Assembly during the meeting of the South Wales Installed Commanders Lodge No. 201 in Bridgend on Saturday, 23 April 2022.
 I am sure you wish to extend our congratulations to these Brethren on their appointments.



Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge recognise Achievement

by : Roger Lewis

WBro Tony Wynne, past Master of Arthur Lewis Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.585, was recently recognised for his fifty-year membership of the Mark Order by the Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones who was delighted to present him with his Certificate.

However, perhaps not everyone knows that Tony was a Champion boxer in his younger days and has contributed immensely to his local community over the years

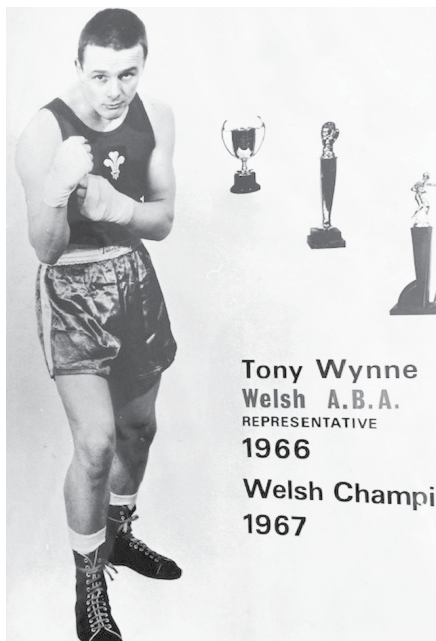
He joined the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association as a 13-year-old, and competed on and off up until the age of 32 years. He represented Wales on seventeen occasions at International level, was Captain of the Welsh Senior team and became a Welsh Senior Featherweight Champion. He also won Sea Cadet championships at 13-14 and 15 years of age.

Having completed his apprenticeship as a motor mechanic, he started up his own motor trade business in 1960, where, in 1964, he expanded to a larger premises opening a petrol station and taking on a dealership for Austin/Morris Cars. He employed a staff of fourteen and retired in 1999 as a Rover Dealer. He carried on his membership of the WABA, of which he is still very active, holding the position of President. During his time in business, he sat for ten years as a school Governor for two schools in his locality and was a Founder Member of the Rhondda Sports Advisory committee.



He retired from active boxing in 1969, and started his career as a referee/judge the same year. He is still very much involved, as the OIC (Official in Charge). He qualified as an EABA official in 1984 and went on to qualify as an AIBA (International) official in 1988, acting as a referee or Judge at the highest level of tournaments all over the World. For this service he has been made a Life Member of the Referee and Judges Association of Wales and of the WABA.

In 1989 he suffered a heart attack after completing a ten-mile charity fun run.



In 1998 Tony broke his back following a bad riding accident, and in November 2015, suffered a mini stroke (TI A). Despite these problems, he has not stopped carrying on his sporting career. In 1990 he was voted by the Rhondda Group of Boys Clubs Committee, as the Rhondda Valleys Sports Personality.

Besides officiating at the highest level, (two Commonwealth Games) he travels many miles every week to attend boxing in all parts of the country. To enable him to carry on doing this he has to keep fit so attends the Gym two to three times a week.

Tony also organizes charity boxing dinner show events, which have raised thousands of pounds for numerous charities. All his services are on a voluntary basis and this year he celebrates 65years, as a Member of the WABA, and is the present Chairman of the Welsh Referee and Judges.

During recent years he has taken coaching courses with the Welsh FA, and coached soccer with Aberdare Grass Hoppers AFC, and became their Welfare Child Protection Officer for the club. He also drew up a policy on their behalf, but has now taken a back seat. This was also on a voluntary basis.

A few years ago, Tony won two Awards for his services as a volunteer, one with the WCVA and the other with Interlink based at Pontypridd. He was also a runner up in the Community Champion Awards organized by the Western Mail.

He is now in his eighties but still carries on a full and rewarding life. *(Acknowledgment to Rhiannon Wynne)*



Another First for Scouts Cymru

by : Alun Morton

Pictures by : David J Weston

WBro Alun Morton, Founder and Primus Master writes; on 9 June 2022 the Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1995 (SCLoMMM), held its first Regular Meeting on Scout Premises; the Miskin Mill Scout Village being the chosen venue.

The only inclement thing about the evening was the weather, and this curtailed some of our intended activities but nonetheless it was a cracking event. Members and visitors hailed from as far afield as the West Country and West Wales.

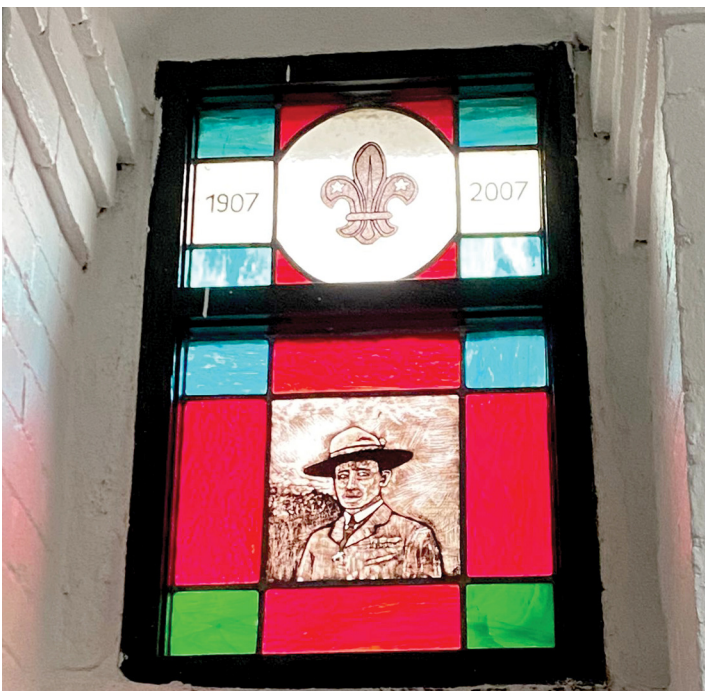
The 'Temple' was set up in the 'Old Cottage' and a business meeting was held; being Election Night, WBro Nick Gregory was Elected as Master Elect and WBro Howard Mallett as the Treasurer for the ensuing year.

WBro John Charles gave an informative and enlightening talk on the Miskin Scout Village, from its early days circa 1927 to current times. He covered much of the development of the site over that period and discussed future plans and ambitions. More recently, how the £20k donation from the Mark Benevolent Fund enabled much needed electrical and safety works to be completed across the site.

During the Risings the Secretary reported applications for membership from two Advancers and two Joining Members, while other Members mentioned several other potential Candidates - Covid recovery at last!!

On conclusion of the meeting, Brethren were treated to a tour of the site of some eight acres of fields and woodlands and a 'rustic' 'Scouty' Festive Board, prepared in the 'Old Mill', was enjoyed by all, during which discussions and reminiscences of old Scouting and camping days took place.

All in all, a very enjoyable atmospheric Mark Masonic/Scouty time was enjoyed by all.





An Excellent Evening at Neath

by : Christopher Mugford



There was yet another excellent evening of Celebration at the Neath Mark Lodge No.1125 on Wednesday, 13 April 2022 when WBro Keith McCormack expertly Installed his successor WBro Desmond Burgess as Worshipful Master in the presence of RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, the Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Wales, who was supported by a large number of Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Officers, together with Members of the Lodge and visitors.

The Provincial Grand Master congratulated the new Worshipful Master on his succession and praised the high standards of the Installing Master in carrying out the Ceremony.

The Provincial Grand Master then firstly surprised all present by requesting the Director of Ceremonies to call forward WBro John L Morris, who was 'standing in' as Senior Warden, and presented him with his 40 year Certificate of Membership of the Mark Degree, which was met with a large and well earned round of applause from all of the Brethren.

The Provincial Grand Master then requested the Director of Ceremonies to call forward WBro William R McE Walker and Bro Chris Mugford and presented them with their Collarettes and Jewels as Patrons of the Mark Benevolent Fund. The evening was completed with an excellent meal and superb speeches.

Picture shows WBro John L Morris receiving his 40 year Certificate for the Neath Mark Lodge No.1125 where he was advanced on 8 of February 1982.

Taking to the High Seas

WBro Malcolm Kidd was Installed as Worshipful Commander of Brychan Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.1725 at Brecon Masonic Hall in May 2022.

The Ceremony was conducted by his predecessor, WBro Richard Ackroyd and it was a delightful occasion.

There was a much larger attendance than usual - owing to the popularity of Malcolm and partly because it was the final Installation Meeting to be attended by WBro Dr Paul Calderwood in his capacity as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Dr Paul received a standing ovation during the dinner and, as a beautiful souvenir of his nine years in the Mark Executive, he was presented with a pair of cut glass whisky tumblers engraved with a kind message from the Members of the Brychan Mark and RAM Lodges.



150 Club - The Draw -



The June draw of the 150 Club took place at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting held on 1 June 2022 in Cardiff Masonic Hall.

The lucky winners were:

First Prize of £350 - WBro Brian E Dowling
Second Prize of £250 - WBro Dr Viv Thomas
Third Prize of £150 - WBro Alun H Thomas

As usual, an equivalent sum of £750 was also donated to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund. Congratulation 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.