



## A Message for the New Year

*“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come” Alfred Lord Tennyson*

Dear Brethren,

When you read this message hopefully the darker days of winter will have passed and we can all look forward to brighter days and the sweeping hosts of daffodils which always herald the beginning of Spring. It has always been my belief that you should enjoy your Masonry because without enjoyment there is no fun, without fun there is no happiness and enjoyment is at the heart of Mark Masonry.

I look forward to 2023 with much anticipation. Although Covid has not entirely gone away and we should still be vigilant, medical advances have allowed us to operate more or less normally and we have enjoyed a much safer and happier year.

What of the future? No Masonic Order can exist in isolation and Mark Masonry is no exception. The success of Craft Masonry directly impinges on the success of Mark Masonry and to this end I would ask that you consider inviting suitable Candidates to reflect on becoming Members of a Craft Lodge. Without the success of this Masonic Pathway other Orders will not flourish and expand as we would hope.

With new Pro Grand Masters appointed in 2022, in the Craft and the Mark, and both being favourable to closer ties between the two Orders, this is a good time to launch ‘The Magic of the Mark’ with the view of encouraging Craft Brethren to join us in our Order.

2021 was the 150th Anniversary of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners being taken under the wing of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. To mark this, I requested that each Mark Lodge appoint a Royal Ark Mariner representative, similar to the Royal Arch representative in the Craft. The role of this representative is to increase awareness of the ‘Mariners’ among Mark Masons as each Mariner Lodge is moored to a Mark Lodge.



Once again I wish you all a happy 2023 so keep safe and as we all look forward to the future always remember that “among Mark Master Masons you will ever find friends”.

I look forward greatly to being in your welcoming and convivial company during the coming year.

May the Great Overseer and Supreme Commander of the Universe bless you and keep you and your families safe and in his care.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Eirian, Provincial Grand Master.

## Good turnout at St Tydfil’s Lodge Merthyr

Brethren of St Tydfil’s Lodge No.639 of Mark Master Masons were delighted to welcome the Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones and his full Provincial Team at the Province’s first Installation of the Masonic year.

It was WBro Paul Kelvin Smith’s first South Wales Province Mark Installation that he was able to attend after receiving his well-deserved promotion as acting Grand Senior Deacon. As Brethren know Paul is also the Inspector General of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Ancient and Accepted Rite or Rose Croix.



*The photograph shows the Provincial Grand Master, with WBro Paul supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Philip Davies, RWBro Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Past Provincial Grand Master in the Craft Province of South Wales. WBro Stephen Harries, Past Assistant Grand Master in South Wales Mark Province, also in the Craft Province of South Wales.*



## A Milestone for Barry Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners

*by : Roger Lewis*

**A**t the recent Installation Ceremony of Barry Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No.1043, WBro Shaun Cuddihy was Installed as Commander for the second time. At the conclusion of the meeting WBro Alun Howell Thomas, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones, was delighted to present the Lodge their 50th Anniversary Certificate.

The Lodge was actually Consecrated on Monday, 23 November 1970 by RWBro Wilfrid B Porter, Provincial Grand Master. He also acted as the Installing Officer since the Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Roy Hughes was the Commander Designate.

It was a well-supported Consecration attended by fifty Brethren including the Provincial Grand Masters of Gloucestershire, and Hereford and Worcester. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Monmouthshire also attended.

The cost of the meal at the Festive Board then was 27s.6p which is £1.38 in today's money. The Lodge had a good start with six Candidates being elevated in its first two meetings.



Although the Lodge was Consecrated in 1970, Covid delayed the presentation of the 50 year warrant until the installation meeting this year.

Shaun Cuddihy had just been Installed as Commander for the second time and Alun Thomas was on duty. A fuller history of the Lodge can be found in the Provincial History Book.

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*In the photograph below, Brethren from left to right are: Bro Philip D Rice, WBro David J Goodall, Bro Andrew Hollo-Tas, WBro Martin A Jones, Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Alun Howell Thomas, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Shaun Cuddihy, WCommander, WBro John K Pillinger, IPC, WBro Allun D Jones and Bro Gareth M Duddridge, ProvGStwd.*





## Ins and Outs Meet again

by : Roger Lewis

The South Wales Province of Mark Master Masons traditionally starts the year by holding its 'Ins and Outs' luncheon at a local venue. This year it was held at the Bridgend Masonic Hall. The 'Ins and Outs' are the retiring and newly appointed acting Provincial Officers of the year who meet and enjoy each other's company together with their wives and partners. It is always a very happy and convivial event and gives Brethren and partners a chance to reminisce and also to look forward to the coming year.

This year the 'Ins and Outs' included the retiring Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Brother Dr Paul Richard Calderwood and the new Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Philip William Davies. A new 'In' was WBro Alun Howell Thomas who is the recently appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master having been promoted from Provincial Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones was this year delighted to be in the company of RWBro Paul Raymond Clement, Past Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of South Wales and now the Grand Master of the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta and its Provinces Overseas - The Knights Templar.

Rt Eminent Knight Dr Paul R Calderwood the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master is also the Provincial Prior of the



The above photograph shows from left to right: Dr Paul R Calderwood, Paul R Clement, The Provincial Grand Master Thomas Richard Eirian Jones and Dr Vivian Thomas.

Knights Templar Province of Monmouth and South Wales.

Also in attendance was the Provincial Senior Warden VW Brother Dr Vivian Thomas who had recently been Appointed as Grand Master of The Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales. The Brethren wish Dr Viv many congratulations on this esteemed appointment.

No Provincial Luncheon would be complete without a raffle and there were numerous prizes generously donated by the Brethren. This was efficiently organised by the Provincial Grand Charity Steward and the Assistant Provincial Charity Steward WBros Gareth Andrews and David Elliott. All proceeds from the raffle were donated to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund

Another successful luncheon over, the Brethren can now look forward to another new and fulfilling Masonic year



## Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank

It is with much pleasure that the Province has been informed of the appointment of the following Brethren to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank:

**WBro Malcolm J Kidd**

Cambria R A M Lodge No.823

**WBro Michael J Lewis**

Cambrensis R A M Lodge No.1528

**WBro Victor G Watkins, JP**

Cynon Dare R A M Lodge No.1590

The Investiture will take place at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London on Monday, 12 December 2022. We are sure that you wish to join us in extending our congratulations to these Brethren on their appointments.





## South Wales Mark Brethren Support Mark Benevolent Fund

by : Roger Lewis

**A**s part of the 150-year Anniversary of the South Wales Province of Mark Master Masons, a plan was put in place to raise £150,000 for the South Wales Mark Benevolent fund. When this fund was closed it had raised many thousands of pounds in excess of the original target. This was due to the generosity of Members of the Province. The Province now wishes Brethren who subscribed to this appeal to switch their future donations to the Mark Benevolent Fund administered by Mark Masons' Hall. The South Wales fund will still support those in need and will still receive donations from Installations and the Provincial 150 club.

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 bogged 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. £20,000 plus a £1,000 Provincial contribution for the rewiring of the Scout premises based on the River Ely at Miskin Mill, Pontyclun, South Wales.



Also in April 2021, the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund announced a Major Capital Grant of £1,286,000 to hospices to commemorate the significant contribution made to the Crown and the nation by HRH, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. The following South Wales hospices received a grant as part of this initiative: Tŷ Hafan, City Hospice, The Bracken Trust, Marie Curie – Penarth, Tŷ Olwen Hospice, Morryston Hospital, Cwm Taf Specialist Palliative Care Services, St David's Hospice Care, Brecon, - Ystrad Mynach Hospital, Y Bwthyn Hospice, Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Pontyclun , Y Bwthyn Newydd, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

The Mark Benevolent Fund, in 2021, has provided financial support for Breast Cancer Services, Disability and Elderly Support Services, Secondary Emergency Services and the Youth Sector. It has also supported individuals for example enabling and supporting those with complex needs to achieve lasting recovery and a more fulfilling life.



The Chairman of the MBF Worthy Causes Committee writes: It has been yet another busy year for the MBF Worthy Causes Committee with 59 petitions covering a nationwide spread of applications. After lengthy deliberation on all of the petitions the Committee agreed to support 37 of them and in all cases those decisions were unanimous. I am very lucky to be Chairman of a Committee having members who not only respond in good time but carry out due diligence to the highest degree and for this I thank them whole heartily.

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## Neath Royal Ark Mariners Celebrate 40 Years

by : Richard Phillips

A special evening took place at the Neath Masonic Centre on 22 September 2022.

Following Neath Royal Ark Mariners' Lodge, No. 1125 opening in due form and being 'called off', partners and guests were invited to join Members of the Lodge for a short and interesting history of its formation and development. This was delivered by WBro Martin Mogford who was one of the Founder Members and is still a Member of the lodge.

The meeting was attended by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirion Jones, together with WBro Alun H Thomas, Assistant Provincial Grand Master and Past Provincial Grand Master RWBro Paul. R. Clement.

The Provincial Officers, of whom there were many, together with Members and guests enjoyed a hearty meal in the newly decorated surroundings of the Masonic Centre.



## Mark Benevolent Fund *Continued*

Please remember Brethren that we can only support these petitions because of your generosity and you should all be proud of our Mark Benevolent Fund as well of yourselves. If you know of a suitable organisation that is in need of help and you think it should be supported, talk to your Provincial Grand Charity Steward with a view to putting together an application in conjunction with the charity. Our hardworking Charities Manager Darren Coleman-Heald will, I am sure, also be delighted to help and guide you through the process

RWBro David Ashbolt, PProvGM (London) Deputy President of the Mark Benevolent Fund reports: The Chairman of the MBF Petitions Committee stated: *"During 2021, I am pleased to be able to report that we made 19 individual grants to a total of £34,845, to provide financial support to Members, their families and dependents who had fallen upon difficult times. Regrettably, continuing implications from the Covid 19 pandemic, together with the reported suggestion that everyday living costs will most probably increase as we progress through 2022, is likely to cause further financial hardship to some of our Members. May I, therefore, again remind all lodge Almoners and Provincial Almoners that the MBF is here to consider support to any with a Mark connection that might need our assistance.*



*To those Provinces that have not previously submitted an application please consider doing so. We are here to assist you with any suitable application needing support".*

RWBro H Keith Emmerson, Past Deputy Grand Master MBF Trustee and Chairman of the Petitions Committee.

Many Mark Master Masons, their dependants, other family members and friends have ultimately benefitted from much needed relief and peace of mind that these grants have provided.

Issued by Mark Benevolent Fund Registered Charity No.20761 [markmasonshall.org/mbf-home/mark-benevolent-fund](http://markmasonshall.org/mbf-home/mark-benevolent-fund).

Photographs show WBro Peter Jones of Ysgolion Lodge of Mark Master Masons receiving his MBF Patron award from the Provincial Grand Master RWBrother T R Eirian Jones and Brethren from Cambria Mark Lodge were fortunate to be presented together at Provincial Grand Lodge in June 2022 with their Grand Patron Gold Charity Collarettes by the Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Provincial Grand Master with newly Installed WBro Nicholas Cocco and Brethren of St Iltyd's Mark Lodge with their MBF Patron Collarettes.



*Members of Principality Mark Lodge with their MBF Collarettes*

## Principality goes International

by : Roger Lewis

**A**t the recent Installation of Principality Lodge of Mark Masons held at the Masonic Hall, Cardiff, Members and guests were delighted to welcome two very special visitors from France.

They were WBro Thierry Guy Max Savatier who is the Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Languedoc and Roussillon.

He was accompanied by Christian Uhmann who is the Past Grand Director of Ceremonies of the French Grand Lodge. Christian is also a Member of The Lodge of Harmony Craft Lodge.

These two distinguished French Mark Masons were welcomed to Cardiff by our Provincial Grand Master RWBro TR Eirian Jones who was accompanied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Philip W Davies, the Provincial Grand Secretary WBro Martin A Jones and the rest of the Provincial Installation Team.

The Installation was to Invest Bro Wayne Dyer as Master which was undertaken by WBro Terence Hogg in an exemplary style.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Provincial Grand Master was delighted to award a number of the Members of the Principality Mark Lodge with their Mark Benevolent Fund Collarettes.



During the Festive Board the Provincial Grand Master presented both Thierry Savatier and Christian Uhmann with a copy of the recently published Provincial History Book, 'The Mark of the Red Dragon', which outlined the 150 years of Mark Masonry in south Wales and a bottle of Penderyn whisky.

They reciprocated by presenting French Mark Grand Lodge breast medals as a token of their appreciation of the warm Mark welcome they had received from the Members of the Lodge.



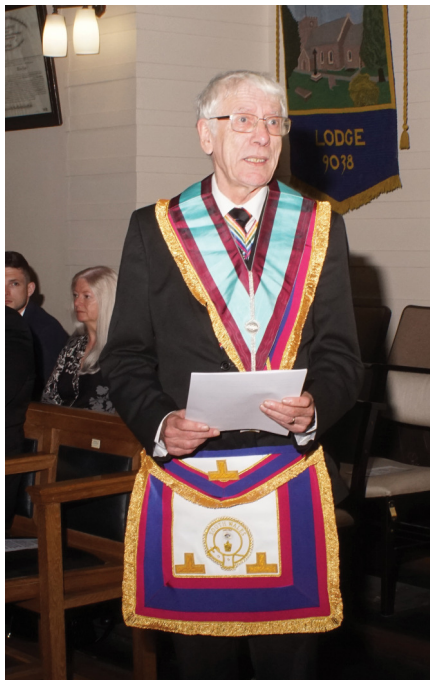
## Centenary Celebrations at Stability

by : Roger Lewis

When the 6th Lord Kensington Consecrated the Stability Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.758 on 29 June 1922, the World was a very different place. Robert George Windsor- Clive the 1st Earl of Plymouth was the Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan and David Lloyd George, who brought in National Insurance, was replaced as Prime Minister by Andrew Bonar Law.

This is not the first time that Stability Mark Lodge has held a meeting to celebrate its Consecration. On the occasion of its Golden Jubilee WBro Lt Col John Brynmor Davies gave an address outlining the history of the Lodge's first fifty years. His full address may be found in the splendid Provincial History Book, 'The Mark of the Red Dragon'.

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## Stability Centenary *continued*

Another red letter evening was held on 28 October 2022 to celebrate the Centenary of the Lodge. It was fitting that our Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones, was in attendance and the Lodge was particularly pleased that The Pro Grand Master MWBro John Prizeman, together with the Mark Grand Director of Ceremonies VWBro Christopher Davies, a south Wales Mark Mason, accompanied him.

The Provincial Grand Master was supported by his Deputy WBro Philip W Davies, Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones and many other Members of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge.

Such was the occasion that wives and partners accompanied the Brethren and the Lodge was then 'called off' by the WMaster WBro Edward Boyle to allow them to enter the Temple and hear the Lodge Treasurer WBro Christopher Pratt give a most interesting account of the History of the Lodge.

The Pro Grand Master was delighted to present the Lodge with their Centenary Warrant and congratulated the Lodge and the Brethren on such a fine achievement.

The evening, which included entertainment by the Tenovus Choir, concluded with an enjoyable Festive Board and raised over £900 for several charities.

