



South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund Supports 'Away from it All'

by : Roger Lewis

For over twenty years, the Llandaff Diocese Mothers' Union has had a caravan in Trecco Bay Porthcawl. This has been entirely supported by members through fund raising and any sponsored events that they may hold. All this fund raising is done by members who give of their time freely and they need to work tirelessly in order for the project to succeed and continue.

They were delighted therefore to receive a cheque for £250 from the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund. The photograph shows Lowri Washington Jones, The 'Away from it All' coordinator and Christine Lewis, Mothers' Union Representative, receiving the cheque from WBro Roger Lewis on behalf of the Benevolent Fund.



The aim of the project is to provide a holiday for families who due to their circumstances are unable to provide a holiday for themselves, but are desperately in need of one. Recommendations from appropriate agencies are made for consideration. Family circumstances are many and varied and cover all aspects of either poverty or circumstances such as a child's or parent's health, all or any of which would prevent a family having a holiday. During the last holiday season 149, people enjoyed a holiday in the caravan. Apart from a holiday and essential requisites, a children's activity bag is provided for each child, which they can keep.

The Mothers' Union, although being a worldwide Organisation, is active in the South Wales Mark Province.

Other projects include: working with support workers to support young adults in the Cynon Valley who need temporary housing accommodation and in the Rhondda Valley, where support is given to clients with mental health issues and an outreach programme for students starting university.

Mothers' Union volunteers also support the children's play area at Parc Prison Bridgend and they were successful in obtaining a grant to purchase toys for the play area.

Overseas projects, coordinated by the Mothers' Union Movement include: parenting programmes, literacy and numeracy projects, relief funds, including raising awareness of childhood exploitation and violence against women and girls.

However, the opportunity became available, and the rest is history. Again, I was humbled by having our Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R E Jones at my Installation and was privileged to be Installed in a very fine Ceremony. I am told by those who know that it was first class. It was certainly the best I have seen!

A reMARKable Journey

WBro Simon Daniel reflects on his journey into Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Masonry

It was a great occasion to go into the Chair of Trinity Mark No.1845, all be it delayed by two years due to Covid. I joined Trinity with a number of friends who I had made in different Craft Lodges and Orders. This was the only occasion we all got to be Members together and work as one.

Becoming Master was something new and involved a very impressive Ceremony. I am looking forward to Installing my successor, who is a friend from Craft and a Past Principal of my Chapter.

Becoming Worshipful Commander of Caerffili RAM No.1348 was a bit of a surprise to happen this year.





Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank

It is with much pleasure to have been informed that the following Brethren from our Province were Appointed to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank:

**WBro Malcolm J Kidd – Cambria
RAM Lodge No.823**

**WBro Michael J.Lewis – Cambrensis
RAM Lodge No.1528**

**WBro Victor G Watkins, JP – Cynon Dare
RAM Lodge No.1590**

The Investiture took place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London on Monday, 12 December 2022. The Province extends its congratulations to these Brethren on their appointments.



A Special Evening at Sketty Hall Royal Ark Mariners

by : Roger Lewis

It was a great delight for the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones to be present at the Installation of the Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent of the Craft and Royal Arch Provinces of South Wales, RWBro D Gerald Rowbottom, when he was Installed in the Commander's Chair of Sketty Hall Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.1685 in Swansea recently.

As is the custom in South Wales Mark Province, the Provincial Grand Master was accompanied by his full Provincial Team, including the Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones RAMGR.



A most enjoyable evening ensued especially as it was also the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, David. In addition to the Provincial Team, the Provincial Grand Master was delighted to be in the company of RWBro Paul R Clement GMRAC, Past Provincial Grand Master, and Stephen C E Harries RAMGR, a Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, both in the Mark Province of South Wales.

Porthcawl Lodge of Mark Master Masons

At the Installation Ceremony of Porthcawl Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1377, Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones took the opportunity to present and congratulate WBro Kelvin Jones with his Certificate commemorating forty years membership of the Mark Degree.



150 Club Draw

The December draw of the 150 Club took place at the Mark Provincial Grand 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 - VWBro Alun Williams**
- Second Prize of £250 - Caerffili RAM Lodge No.1348**
- Third Prize of £150 - WBro Haydn A Lewis**

As usual, an equivalent sum of £750 was 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 a year per number and there are two draws every year.

Another Successful Luncheon at the Towers

by : Roger Lewis

The beginning of December is always the time of year when the Mark Province of South Wales holds its Christmas luncheon. This year, as it has been for a number of years, it was held at the Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine, Swansea.

Traditionally, the Vice President of the Mark Provincial Officers' Mess hosts the Christmas Luncheon and this year it was the turn of the Provincial Junior Warden of the year, WBro Roger Lewis and his wife Christine.

It was another well supported event and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Although the weather was damp, dismal and cold outside, the atmosphere inside was warm, welcoming and convivial. The luncheon was organised by WBro Peter Taylor, who in his usual fashion orchestrated another excellent event. Peter's unassuming and quiet approach belies his superb efficiency in making the event run so smoothly. The Provincial DC, WBro Richard Philips was instrumental in ensuring that everything ran to order on the day, again in his usual proficient way.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones addressed the Brethren and partners present and outlined how much he enjoyed such events as they are indicative of the fellowship amongst Mark Masons and further illustrates why it is known as the 'Friendly Degree'. The PGM was then presented with a cheque for £750 for the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund. This amount was from the South Wales Mark Provincial 150 Club, supported by south Wales Brethren. Donations are given twice yearly, after the draw, one at the Christmas event and one at the Provincial Meeting in Cardiff in June.

The Provincial Junior Warden responded appropriately, thanking the Provincial Grand Master for his diligent and conscientious leadership of the Province and wishing both he and his wife Geraldine, a happy and healthy 2023.



The afternoon was concluded with the usual raffle, with many prizes generously donated by the Brethren. The Provincial Grand Master's wife, Geraldine and the Provincial Junior Warden's wife, Christine, were presented with beautiful bouquets of flowers.





£50,000 Donated to ShelterBox Earthquake Charity

On Monday, 6 February 2023, a series of powerful earthquakes devastated southern Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and northern Syria. The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund were quick to act and by the close of business on Tuesday 7, had approved an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the rescue efforts, in association with our trusted partners at the ShelterBox Charity. The Charity is sending an emergency response team to carry out crucial assessments and establish how best their help can be deployed. Their international assessment team will arrive in Türkiye in a few days and will be liaising with contacts on the ground to establish how best to proceed.

The humanitarian need in Türkiye and Syria is immense and growing – it is the most devastating earthquake to hit the region in 100 years and could become the worst. The death toll is likely to rise significantly, and thousands of buildings have been destroyed in both countries, leaving people homeless, with nowhere to sleep, in the middle of a bitter winter.

ShelterBox provides different combinations of emergency shelter aid and essential household items during its responses, depending on what is needed. This could be sending tents and shelter kits, stoves, thermal blankets and clothing to keep people warm through the freezing winter nights. It could be cash to help people buy what they need to survive. Or it could be solar lights that help people when there is no electricity. Getting aid into countries and on to where it's needed after a disaster of this scale presents huge challenges, especially with damage to infrastructure and supply routes. That's why ShelterBox strategically pre-positions aid around the world, including in Syria. This donation of £50,000 from the Mark Benevolent Fund will allow ShelterBox to act quickly, adapting how they work to best support people affected by the earthquakes and allowing them to tailor aid packages to what is needed. There are currently no plans to set up a central fund from Mark Masons' Hall.

This is what the grant will be used for by the ShelterBox charity (information taken from the ShelterBox website):

ShelterBox Tent £350.00



When disaster strikes, families need shelter to feel safe again. When they can't start rebuilding their homes immediately, durable tents can make them feel safe and protected. Depending on the

weather and the place, the shelter needs of families differ. That's why we're committed to providing families with the best possible solutions that suit their needs.

From padded tents that can safely accommodate a stove, to medium-sized tents that fit in small spaces and ones that can last years if needed, families can feel at home again.

We provide shelter kits which include a selection of hardwearing tools and materials that are customised to suit the needs of each community.

Shelter Kits £11.00



The tools and materials we send provide the essentials families need to start rebuilding homes straight away, ranging from tough tarpaulin and timber to corrugated sheeting and even room dividers.

The versatile tools we provide help with everything from clearing rubble to building shelters and even tending crops. Our tools can also be used to build furniture, cut firewood and make repairs.

Blankets £7.00



Blankets, groundsheets and mattresses not only provide vital warmth, but comfort too when families are recovering from disaster.

These simple items can be used in a variety of ways, from bedding to room dividers, and help turn a shelter into a home.

Our solar lights can last up to 24 hours on just one charge on

the lowest setting. They are lightweight and waterproof, making them easy to carry in any situation. Because they are so safe, cheap and easy to use, families use solar lights in different ways – for work, education, family activities, or simply moving around at night.

They are more than just light – they can provide comfort and

Solar Lights £11.00



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ShelterBox

Find out more about the work of ShelterBox



<https://shelterbox.org/>



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A Very Special Evening

Son Installs father at South Wales Installed Mark Masters Lodge No.1201.

by : Roger Lewis

An Installation is always a special event in the Masonic calendar of any Lodge, but more so on this occasion when a son Installs his father into the Chair of such a prestigious Lodge of Installed Mark Masters.

It was therefore a delight that RWBro Ryan Andrew Williams PGJW, the Grand Secretary of the Mark Order of England and Wales, was to Install his father, VWBro Alun Williams PGJO into the Chair of the South Wales Installed Mark Masters' Lodge No.1201 in Bridgend at the end of March 2023.

Both Ryan and Alun are no strangers to the Temple at Bridgend, both being Members of Dunraven Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No.950. Ryan is a Past Secretary and Alun has been Chaplain; both having served the Lodge faithfully for many years.

This particularly poignant and moving Ceremony of Installation was undertaken impeccably by Ryan and it was extremely pleasing to see the support from the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro T R Eirian Jones who addressed the newly Installed Master.

The Provincial Grand Master was supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Philip W Davies, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Alun Howell Thomas and the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro Dr Paul Calderwood, the Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Stephen C E Harries, together with the Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro Martin A Jones and other Members of the full Provincial Team.

The Ceremony was concluded with the address to the Wardens by WBro Roger Lewis, Provincial Junior Warden; the address to the Overseers by WBro John Charles, Provincial Master Overseer and WBro Lyn Guttridge who addressed the Brethren.

This special night continued with a Festive Board that was enjoyed by all, further enhancing the distinctiveness of the occasion.

