



Mark Provincial Grand Lodge meet in Cardiff

by : Roger Lewis

The Annual Meeting of Mark Provincial Grand Lodge was blessed with another fine sunny day as visitors from as far as the Isle of Wight attended. This is the Provincial Grand Master's sixth Meeting. It should have been eight but Covid intervened cancelling two meetings.

The Provincial Grand Master welcomed all and opened his address by stressing how important it was to enjoy yourself at meetings and events. He thanked his outgoing Officers for all their hard work and welcomed the incoming Officers, encouraging them to enjoy their duties to the full.

The past year has seen many enjoyable events. The Banner Dedication at Scouts Cymru Mark Lodge No.1995 was enhanced when their Worshipful Master, WBro Nicholas Gregory received a MBF Collarette on behalf of the Lodge. There were also several Forty-Year Certificates presented and a number of social events which is an indication that Mark Masonry is returning to the way things were before the pandemic.

The Provincial Grand Master went on to say that the trend is positive with numbers increasing but one must not be complacent and Brethren should always look to encourage new members to join the 'Friendly Degree'.

He placed further emphasis on the importance of Craft Masonry which is the bedrock of all other Orders. Without a strong and successful Craft there would be no Mark, or other Orders, so it is important to support your Craft Masonry and encourage others to do likewise. The Craft is the trunk and the other Orders are its branches. Without a strong trunk the branches will wither.

One of the best introductions one can give to Mark Masonry, indeed all Freemasonry, is to provide the Candidate with a rich experience. Ritual is the hallmark of a good Ceremony and to that end the Province has a ritual support team which any Lodge can call upon for advice. Its aim is for all Candidates to have the best introduction to their Mark Masonic journey. Also do not forget the Members you already have, enquire after their welfare, encourage them to return and support them when they return to their respective Lodges.

The Provincial Grand Master concluded his address by congratulating those who had been Appointed to Grand Rank in both Mark and Royal Ark Mariners. He thanked all who had contributed to the success of the day; Provincial Stewards and Cardiff Masonic Hall whose work would continue after the meeting had finished.

Sincere thanks were expressed to the hard working Provincial Mark Executive, Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Philip W Davies and Assistant Provincial Grand Master WBro Alun H Thomas.

The Provincial Grand Master's final remarks and grateful thanks were directed at the extremely hard working Provincial Grand Secretary WBro Martin A Jones and his team whose quiet and efficient year-long work ensures the smooth running of the Province.

At this point he was delighted to announce that the 2023 Alan Ford Thomas Memorial Award would be awarded to the Brecon Mountain Rescue Team to enable them to continue their worthwhile work.

The Grand Secretary, RWBro Ryan A Williams PGJW, then addressed the assembly and updated them on developments at Mark Grand Lodge. He stated that the negative impact of the Covid pandemic had passed and there was a more positive trend with both stability and confidence returning to both meetings at Grand Lodge and meetings in general. The Grand Secretary emphasised the importance of Brethren feeling they belonged and that the Order was supportive of them. He outlined the significant contribution the Mark Benevolent Fund makes to those in need and although large donations are made it was important to recognise the contribution and large impact the lesser grants can make to smaller organisations.

Finally, he reiterated the point made by the Provincial Grand Master that the cooperation between Craft and Mark is for the benefit of all in creating an encouraging atmosphere which will support a positive forward trend. A strong Craft results in a strengthening of the other Orders.

At the post meeting lunch, the Provincial Grand Master was delighted to present WBro Howard L G Vaughn the incoming Provincial Senior Warden with his President's Mess Collarette and WBro Peter E Taylor, the incoming Provincial Junior Warden with his Vice President's Collarette. He wished them both an enjoyable year and looked forward to working with them.





SW Mark Brethren support Mark Benevolent Fund

by : Roger Lewis

As 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 then 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 cit o dat", 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.

Locally the Mark Benevolent Fund has recently supported the Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby Team and this contribution has helped the team move forward and provide further support to its members. The South Wales Mark Order at Provincial and Lodge level has supported The Wallich, a south Wales Charity which supports those members of society in need of a home and other assistance and the Brecon Mountain Rescue Team who do such sterling work in the Brecon Beacons.

Images show Brethren at two Mark Lodges, Barry Mark Lodge, No.1043, WBro Chris Peters and Brychan Mark Lodge, No.1725, WBros Howard Vaughn and Haydn Lewis receiving their Mark Benevolent Fund Collarettes.

Pictured also are the Worshipful Masters of Cynon Dare Mark Lodge, WBro Gareth Andrews, WMaster of Brychan Mark Lodge WBro Huw R Morgan and WBro Charles de Winton of the South Wales Mark Provincial Stewards Lodge No.1829, presenting cheques to the Provincial Grand Master in support of the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.





Forty Years as a Mark Mason

The Mark Provincial Office was delighted to recognise forty years Membership of two Mark Men recently. The Provincial Grand Master was pleased to award WBro Clifford John Perry PPrGJD a Past Master of Cynon Dare Mark Lodge, No.1590 with his Certificate. Brother Perry was advanced into the Cynon Dare Mark Lodge on 17 May 1983 and was Installed as Worshipful Master in May 2022.

Another Mark Man who celebrated forty years as a Mark Man is WBro Kenneth Leslie Jones PPrGJW of the Barry Mark Lodge No.1043. Brother Jones was Advanced into Barry Mark Lodge on 7 February 1983 and was Installed as Master in April 1992.

Following a move to Oxfordshire he became a Joining Member of Abbey Mark Lodge No.225 in 1999 and was Installed as Master in 1996. He also joined Menatschim Mark Lodge No.1838 in 2005 and subsequently re-joined Barry Mark Lodge in 2022.

Photographs show the Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones presenting Clifford Perry with his Certificate and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Alun Howell Thomas presenting Kenneth Jones with his Forty-year Certificate.



Mark Grand Rank Appointments and Promotions

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.

VWBro Christopher M L Davies re-Appointed to Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Promoted

WBro Lyn J Guttridge, PGSD Promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer.

WBro Ronald Slater, PAGSwdB Promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon.

First Appointment

WBro Alan R Hulbert Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

WBro Henry A Barnes Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer.

WBro Michael J Hulton Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer.

WBro Alan F Wismann Appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer.

In addition, the following Brethren, who are also members of Lodges in this Province, have received the following Honours through the Province of Monmouthshire:

WBro Norman Davies, PAGDC Promoted to Grand Junior Deacon.

WBro Andrew E J Hopkins Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Brethren receiving Active Ranks and First Appointments to Past Ranks will be Invested at the Meeting of Grand Lodge to be held on Tuesday, 13 June 2023.

Brethren receiving Promotions will be Invested at the Meeting of Grand Lodge to be held on Tuesday, 12 September 2023. 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.



A brief history of Scouts Cymru Lodge No.1995 *On the occasion of their Banner Dedication*

by : Alun Morton

We'd first like to welcome the RW Provincial Grand Master and the Banner Dedication Team to our meeting today and of course our visitors. This is an event we've been looking forward to for quite a while, and I'd like to tell you a bit about us ...

Following several years of discussion with the Provincial Executive of the Province of South Wales Mark Master Masons and the Scout Association's Commissioner for Wales and others, the Lodge was finally Founded and Consecrated on 29 September 2018.

There are about fifty or so Scout 'themed' Lodges across the UK. All members of the Kindred Lodge Association (KLA), most of them are Craft or blue Lodges, six or more of them being Mark Lodges, of which we are one, and a few RAM and HRA Lodges. To find out more about them and the Kindred Lodge Association visit their web site at www.kla.org.uk

Being the youngest Mark Lodge in the Province of South Wales, we were Consecrated just in time for inclusion in the acclaimed Provincial History Book of Mark Masonry in South Wales, 'The Mark of the Dragon'. See us on page 233 to learn even more.

Our aims are very basic; they are to support Masonic and Scouting Charities, to celebrate our experiences in Scouting whether as boys, leaders, administrators or supporters, to reminisce and have a jolly good time. It is not a prerequisite to have been a Uniformed Member of Scouting or any other youth movement to be a Member but it probably helps to enjoy, understand and appreciate our culture and values. Many of our Members are still active Scouters and volunteers.

Mark Masons are always welcome to join us at any of our meetings, we try to introduce a friendly Scouting atmosphere so synonymous with both Scouting and Mark Masonry. In October we hold our Installation Meeting here at Caerphilly, in February we meet at a host Masonic Temple within the Province of South Wales; we've met at Castleton, Penarth and Blackwood Masonic Temples.

For our June Meeting we like to meet at Scout premises where formal dress is relaxed for Scout Uniform or Lodge Polo Shirt (no denims). We aim to introduce an outdoor and/or adventurous activity or skill. In 2022 we held our first such meeting at The Miskin Scout Village where we were treated to a grand tour of the facilities, we're in the planning stage of our 2023 Meeting.

Our Lodge meetings consist of the traditional Mark Masonic business elements, a Ceremony, followed by a meal of traditional Scouting fayre at which we don our Lodge Scout Neckerchief (or Necker) of choice and sing along to camp fire songs and tell a few yarns.

If you'd like to suggest a Temple or facility willing to host us, then please contact the Lodge Secretary. If you've enjoyed today's Meeting and would like to visit again, or better still become a Member, contact the Lodge Secretary.



A Message from the Organising Secretary and Primus Master WBro Alun Morton PPrGLO

"It is my immense pleasure and delight to welcome you all here to the Caerphilly Temple on the occasion of the Dedication of our new Banner, after all, what are Scouts if we don't have flags and banners.

It's been almost five years since our Foundation and Consecration and in that time we, like everyone else, had to navigate our way through the Covid Pandemic and all the trials that brought. I'm pleased and delighted to say "Yma o Hyd", in spite of it all we're still here. We've had Advancements, Joiners and Resignations, membership has fluctuated but remains firmly in the low twenties. We are achieving many of our fundamental objectives of meeting in different Temples across the Province and on Scout premises whilst maintaining our home here in Caerphilly and supporting both Scouting and Masonic Charities, as funds permit.

I thank all who have supported us in our endeavours. I must give special thanks to the RW Provincial Grand Master, who has been supportive and encouraging throughout. Also to the Banner Dedication team for their sterling performance today. To the visitors my thanks for making this such a special occasion and to the members, I say "Byddwch Yn Barod", enjoy our creation, seek out new members and ensure SCLoMMM Lodge of MMM No.1995 thrives and excels long in to the future.

Many thanks to everyone who made this happen, enjoy the day and have a safe journey home.



Another great day at the Towers Hotel

It was the turn this time for President, VWBro Dr Viv Thomas PGJO, to host the Mark Grand Officers' Provincial Mess Luncheon at the Towers Hotel in Swansea.

The weather was fine and warm and a large attendance ensured a most enjoyable afternoon. The sunshine outside matched the atmosphere inside.

It was a fun afternoon and after the President welcomed everyone to the proceedings the Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R Eirian Jones expressed his great pleasure at being able to attend and thanking all who gave their support. He also expressed his delight in welcoming RWBro Paul R Clement who was his predecessor, and his wife Mollie.

The enjoyment of the afternoon had a serious side as the proceeds from the 'Heads and Tails' event raised a substantial amount of money for the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund. The first prize of a special cake was won eventually by WBro Paul Bunyan and a further highlight of the afternoon was the raffle.

Such was the generosity of those who attended that almost everyone won a prize. Proceeds went to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.

The afternoon was concluded with presentations of bouquets of flowers to the Provincial Grand Master's wife by the President and a presentation of flowers to the President's wife by the Vice President, the Provincial Junior Warden WBro Roger Lewis.

The President then thanked WBro Peter Taylor for his hard work in organising such a fine luncheon on behalf of all those present.





Talfyn Harries Elevated into Royal Ark Mariners

On Saturday morning, 15 April 2023, Bro Talfyn Harries was Elevated into Llynfi Royal Ark Mariners No.1592. Worshipful Commander Michael Winn conducted the Ceremony and was very ably assisted by Dr Stephen Howlett PrRAMGR who demonstrated the Signs, Vincell Haskins Past Commander explained the Working Tools, Grand Officers Martin Mogford who did the explanation of the Badge and Lyn Gutteridge who explained the Steps. The photograph (right) shows Talfyn being welcomed into the Lodge by Worshipful Commander Mike.



St John's RAM Lodge No.28 Proclaims WCommander and Elevates a Candidate

by : Chris Mugford

At the Regular Meeting of the St John's Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.28, the Oldest Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in the Province, held on 19 April 2023 at the Cardiff Masonic Hall, the present Worshipful Commander, WBro Robert G Payne, an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft Province of South Wales, was Proclaimed as Worshipful Commander for the ensuing year 2023/24. The Proclamation was made by VWBro Chris M L Davies, Grand DC, also an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft, who was 'standing in' as Director of Ceremonies.

In addition, a Ceremony of Elevation was held for a Candidate, Bro Mark J Law. The Worshipful Commander was assisted in carrying out the Ceremony by WBro Ralph A Jeffrey RAMGR, Senior Past Commander of the Lodge, who presented the Working Tools. WBro Dennis Tucker, an ever-present Visitor to the Lodge, gave an explanation of the Steps. Last but not least, the Chaplain, WBro Chris Mugford.

The Meeting was followed by a memorable Festive Board and the usual excellent repast of the Cardiff Masonic Hall.

St Johns Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners meets at the Cardiff Masonic Hall on the third Wednesday in April and November.

Mark Master Masons who wish to find out more about the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners, can find details on the Provincial Website:

www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk

Or contact the Provincial Secretary at:

provincialoffice@southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk

