

South Wales Mark Masons support the Homeless

by: The Wallich Charity

The charity arm of the South Wales Province of Mark Master Masons includes administering the Alan Ford Thomas Trust. This is a Trust that was set up to donate a £1000.00 every year to worthy causes. Past beneficiaries have included for example the Brecon Mountain Rescue Service.

This year the Trust was delighted to announce that this year's recipient will be the Wallich Charity which supports the homeless across south Wales. The Wallich operates a number of initiatives to help individuals cope with the stresses and difficulties of homelessness. Their mission includes:

Getting People off the streets

Their Rough Sleepers Intervention Teams (RSIT) help homeless people on the streets by providing outreach in the form of hot food, advice, referrals and pathways out of homelessness. Their drop in services are a safe place to use facilities such as washing, emergency provisions, Wi-Fi and signposting.

Keeping People off the streets

Their support includes hostels and accommodation for people with specific issues such as substance use or poor mental health. They also provide support to help keep people in their homes when they are at risk of homelessness or poor wellbeing.

Creating Opportunities

The learning and employment projects are a range of services to encourage the people they support to use their current skills or gain new ones in order to get back into volunteering, education or employment. They provide training courses, volunteering opportunities and practical workshops to support people to become work-ready.

The Vision of Wallich

A Wales where people stand together to provide hope, support and solutions to end homelessness. They are tireless in their commitment to achieving this vision alongside the staff, the partner agencies, and most importantly the people we support. The challenges facing such an organisation can sometimes feel overwhelming but with support a difference can be made to those in difficulties.

The accompanying images illustrate how effective support and intervention can be to help individuals who are experiencing difficulties.



They include; Geraint, who completed Wrexham Football Club's 'Fit Dragons' during our Engagement and Wellbeing project 'Our Choir With No Name'.

Our Steps to Progress graduates, after taking part in a structured wellbeing, skills, and development programme delivered over 15 weeks.

People with lived experience taking part in our Working in Sustainable Employment project, a programme designed to help with their next steps towards employment.

A cooking session at our Sir Julian Hodge hostel in Cardiff. Jeff, one of our Street Fleet vans, which provide hot drinks and food to rough sleepers across Wales. An arts and crafts session taking place in one of our projects.

The Wallich has offices in Swansea, Cardiff and Bridgend and should you wish to support their work, further information can be found on their website [The Wallich | Welsh Homelessness and rough sleeping Charity](https://www.thewallich.org.uk/). Acknowledgements: The Wallich.



PastProv Grand Master completes Forty Years

Desmond Barnet was born in Treherbert in the Rhondda Valley and amongst his many accomplishments he was an outstanding athlete in his early years. He represented Wales in athletics in his teenage years and became the 200-yard Welsh record holder. Sadly, this promising career in athletics was cruelly cut short by an injury he sustained whilst he was an officer in The Royal Artillery.

After active participation ended his love of sport he continued in an administrative role when he became, for many years, secretary and treasurer of Treherbert Rugby Football Club. This involvement with local rugby presented him with the opportunity to become the Mid District Representative in the Rhondda Valley. Thus opening the door to becoming the youngest ever member of the Welsh Rugby Union Committee.

His proudest hour in Welsh Rugby came when in his presidential year the Welsh Rugby Union team reached the semi-final of the first Rugby World Cup in New Zealand. He returned home to receive the accolades and cheers of his hometown by being awarded Rhondda Sportsman of the Year.



Due to ill health RWBro Des was presented with his Certificate at home by the Provincial Senior Warden WBro Jeffrey Williams.



Afan Mark Dedicate their new Banner

by: T R E Jones

The Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones and his team were delighted to be invited to the Afan Lodge No.1088 of Mark Master Masons to dedicate their new Banner.

During the dedication the Provincial Grand Master gave an in depth talk outlining the importance of Banners in general and with particular reference to the Afan Banner.

He went on to say that Lodge Banners vary in size and shape and no two Banners are exactly the same, this striking and beautiful Banner is unique to this Lodge.

At the head of the Banner is a scroll bearing the name of this important Lodge, 'Afan Lodge of Mark Master Masons', embroidered in the appropriate Mark colour of crimson, a colour which is universally regarded as the emblem of Faith and Fortitude.

Towards the bottom of the Banner is another scroll in gold, the colour of Prosperity and Success, bearing the date of the Lodge's Consecration on Midsummer Day, 21 June 1947.

The main colour is blue, another easily recognised Mark colour which is regarded as a representation of Trust and Loyalty. In the centre of the Banner is an Oval containing Y Ddraig Goch, the Red Dragon, a symbol of Wales, and also the number of the Lodge.

This Oval supports the keystone, the symbol of Mark Masonry. On the keystone are inscribed the initials H T W S S T K S, initials that are especially significant to all Mark Men.

This oval is embraced by two sprigs of hyssop leaves, an emblem of Purity, an emblem which is found embroidered on the collars of Grand Officers

At the foot of the Banner are further Mark symbols; the Square and Oblong Ashlars, prepared stones for the building of King Solomon's Temple, and in the centre the Mallet and Chisel on which all Master Masons are Advanced into the Mark Order.

The Banner is completed by a border of Celtic knots symbolising Strength, Unity and Family links. Prov GM Eirian said "I again congratulate the Lodge in acquiring such a beautiful Banner with appropriate colours and designs which represents the Loyalty, Unity and Brotherhood that links the Lodges in our Province".

"May the Afan Lodge, and its members, long continue to 'Mark Well' and I wish the Lodge continued success in the future".





Grand Master's Keystone Fund



At the December 2025 meeting of De Cymru Lodge No.1606, the Mark Grand Officers Lodge, RWBro Paul R Clement was delighted to present the Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones with a Certificate and Collarette certifying that the South Wales Mark Province has now qualified as a Grand Master's Keystone Fund Province and that the Provincial Grand Master is entitled to wear the distinctive Collarette, Jewel and Button of the Keystone Fund.

The Grand Master's Keystone Fund was launched to celebrate our Grand Master, MWBro HRH, Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO, having given forty years of service to Mark Masonry. Initially, the purpose of the new fund is to grant awards to individuals to offer encouragement and financial support with their educational, vocational, and sporting achievements.

Individuals, Lodges and Provinces can contribute to the fund and be entitled to wear the distinctive Collarette. Further details are obtainable from Mark Masons Hall The Grand Master's Keystone Fund.



Province Supports Grand Team

Five members of the Province: WBro David Elliott, Grand Steward, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, VWBro Martin Jones, Grand Overseer, Provincial Grand Secretary, RWBro Christopher M L Davies, Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro Mark P Nicholls, Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and WBro Philip D Rice, Grand Inner Guard and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, were delighted to be able to be part of the Grand Team which attended the Installation of the Province of Warwickshire's new Provincial Grand Master, Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Assistant Provincial Grand Master. WBro Ian D Belsham who is also a member of our Province was also present.



Forty Years a Mark Mason

At the last meeting of St Iltyd's Mark Lodge No784, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master was delighted to present WBro Peter Jones with a Certificate recognising his forty years as a Member of the Mark Order.

*Photograph shows:
Peter and members of the St Iltyd Mark Lodge.*



Mark Men at the Towers

Members of the Province once again enjoyed a convivial luncheon at the Towers Hotel in Swansea to support the Provincial Junior Warden of the year, WBro Robert Andrews who was supported by the Provincial Senior Warden WBro Jeffrey Williams.



This is a most enjoyable annual event, also attended by wives and partners, it is always held before Christmas and as such has a very festive feel to the whole occasion.

Photographs show the Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones receiving a cheque from WBro David Elliot, Provincial Charity Steward, from the 150 Club for the South Wales Mark Charity Fund, The Wardens with the Provincial Grand Master, and the Provincial Junior Warden presenting a bouquet to the Provincial Grand Master's wife Geraldine.

Mark Grand Officer Celebrates Platinum Wedding Anniversary

Last September, Mark Grand Officer Malcom Grant PGStB and his wife Margaret celebrated one of the rarest of wedding anniversaries – their seventieth after marrying in Christ Church, Radyr on 18 September 1954.

Malcolm enjoyed a long career on the railways starting in 1946 and retiring in 1987.

Although now both in their nineties Margaret still enjoys helping at the local charity shop 'Bobarth' in Cardiff.

Malcolm is a Member of Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge No.585, in Pontypridd and is a Past Master.

The Province extend their warmest congratulations to Malcolm and Margaret on their Platinum Anniversary.



Photograph show Malcom and Margaret with a celebratory cake at the Mark Luncheon at the Towers.



Historic Evening at St Johns Royal Ark Mariners

The Election meeting at St John's Lodge No.28, of Royal Ark Mariners on 20 November 2024, took on a special ambience when it included the Centenary Celebration of this the oldest Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in the Province of South Wales.

To commemorate this historic event, Provincial Grand Master RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones and his team were invited to be present as was the Assistant Grand Master RWBro Francis Charles Spencer and his team.

The Assistant Grand Master was accompanied by the Grand Director of Ceremonies RWBro Christopher M L Davies, who is a Member of the Lodge and his deputy WBro Mark P Nicholls.

The Provincial Grand Master was accompanied by his Deputy WBro Philip William Davies, soon to become the Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of South Wales. Also in attendance was the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, WBro Alun Howell Thomas. Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Dr Paul R Calderwood and the Provincial Grand Secretary WBro Martin A Jones.

Non-Masonic guests, including ladies, and Freemasons not yet Elevated to the Degree of Royal Ark Mariner were also invited to attend to witness this special event.

To provide the Lodge with a lasting reminder and mark the importance of the evening, the Assistant Grand Master presented the Centenary Warrant to the acting Commander WBro Robert G Payne.



WBro Ralph Jeffrey informed the meeting that the Lodge was Formed from Langley Mark Lodge No.28 and the Warrant was issued by the Grand Master, The Rt Hon Earl Percy MP, on 19 September 1874.

It is the oldest Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in Wales. It took its name from the nearby Church of St John the Baptist, which is a Grade I listed parish church in Cardiff and is the only medieval building in the city centre other than Cardiff Castle. The church was built in 1180 as a Chapel of Ease for the larger St Mary's Church founded by Benedictine monks from Tewkesbury Abbey. St John's was sacked during the rebellion of Owain Glyndwr in 1404 and rebuilt around 1490.



150 Club Results

The latest draw of the 150 Club took place at the Mess Sunday Lunch in the Towers and the winners were:

- First Prize £350 - WBro Alun H Thomas, APGM**
- Second Prize £250 - Scouts Cymru Lodge of MMM**
- Third Prize £150 - VWBro Dr Viv Thomas**

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.





Llynfi Valley RAM Lodge Installation

by :Tal Harries

November 2024 saw the Installation Ceremony of Llynfi Valley Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.1592, held at Maesteg Masonic Temple.

David Williams was Installed by retiring Commander Michael Winn, Assistant Provincial Grand Master Alun Thomas and his

team were also in attendance.

At the same meeting Bro Peter Hamley was Elevated into the Lodge and David J Williams (Dai Chem) became a Joining Member. The Lodge now have Commander David Williams (Dai Magic) as well as the aforementioned (Dai Chem).



Royal Ark Mariners Out and about

WBro Allun D Jones was Installed by WBro Michael J Lewis at the South Wales Installed Commanders Royal Ark Mariner Lodge. (Right)

Brethren of the Province at the Royal Ark Mariner Grand Lodge Meeting at Freemasons hall. (Below)





Afan RAM Lodge Annual Burns Night

by : Rob Alder

Afan RAM Lodge No.1088 held its annual Burns Night Meeting where the ladies joined the Brethren for the Festive Board of haggis, neaps, and tatties (other meals were available). Once again WBro Robert Gray piped the haggis into the dining room and gave the address.

The night was made even more special by the attendance of the PGM, RWBro T R Eirian Jones, the DepPGM, WBro Philip W Davies, and the Asst PGM WBro Alun H Thomas.

With the impending retirement of the PGM, the WCommander of Afan RAM Lodge, WBro Ken Price and the WM of Afan Mark Lodge, WBro Rowland Johnson made a Presentation to the PGM as a thank you for his loyal service to both orders.



WBro Denis Cotter Celebrates Forty Years in Mark Masonry

At the December meeting of De Cymru Lodge No.1606, the Mark Grand Officers Lodge, the Provincial Grand Master RWBro T R E Jones was delighted to present WBro Denis Cotter with his Certificate commemorating 40 years in Mark Masonry.



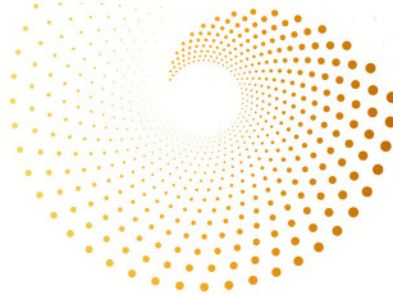


Please Note

Applications for assistance from the Craft (via the M.C.F.) or from other local Mark or Craft Charities should be treated separately and made in addition to your application to the M.B.F.



Mark Benevolent Fund



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Your Charity
Your Money
Your Generosity
Your Family



The following are examples of what help we can offer.

It is not a definitive list and each case will be considered entirely on its own merits:

- 🏠 Daily living costs when caused by a change of circumstances, although in most cases we would prefer to help with specific or unexpected capital expenditure
- 🏠 Household repairs or replacements, including boilers and white goods, required for a dignified standard of living and acceptable quality of life
- 🏠 Household arrears (utilities, mortgage, Council tax etc.) when caused by a change of circumstances
- 🏠 Transport requirements for hospital visits relating to a chronic or ongoing medical condition
- 🏠 Mobility aids and equipment required to improve daily quality of life
- 🏠 Respite care to give much needed breaks for carers



Who should you approach to start the process?

If you think the Mark Benevolent Fund may be able to help, first speak to your Lodge Almoner, or directly to the Mark Provincial Grand Almoner if you prefer, who will be able to advise you accordingly.

If the Provincial Grand Almoner considers that your circumstances qualify for submission to the M.B.F. he will discuss it with you, document all the information required, and make the submission on your behalf. All information will be treated with complete confidentiality.

We are Here for you!

General exceptions may apply when the claimant is considered to have sufficient capital savings to pay for the required need themselves, although each case will be considered individually and entirely on its merits.

