

South Wales Mark Welcomes new Provincial Grand Master

by : Roger Lewis

The 4 June 2025 marked another milestone in the history of the Mark Province of South Wales when a new Provincial Grand Master RWBro Philip William Davies was Installed as the 16th Provincial Grand Master of the Province of South Wales.

The new Provincial Grand Master writes:

"The Mark Province in South Wales is the same geographical Province as our Craft and Chapter and is the third largest Masonic Order in English Freemasonry. We have thirty-two Mark Lodges and twenty-two Royal Ark Mariners Lodges in our Province and we enjoy excellent working relations with the Craft and Royal Arch".

"Just as in olden times, the Mark should be viewed as an essential step in a Freemason's progression. Membership of the Mark Degree is open to all Craft Brethren who have been Master Masons for at least four weeks. Full details of the Mark and the Royal Ark Mariner Degrees are available in leaflet format and on the Provincial website. In addition, you can scan a QR Code or using a search engine the 'Magic of the Mark'. The Mark Degree is commonly known as 'the friendly degree'.

I was delighted to welcome the Pro Grand Master Most Worshipful Brother John Herbert Prizeman to our Annual Provincial Meeting, for my Installation as the 16th Provincial Grand Master. He was elated with the warm Welsh welcome he received and we were equally pleased that he could visit our Province again".



Photograph by Anthony Howell

"He has also again outlined the continuing bond between the Craft and the Mark and I would urge you all to support your Craft Lodges as they are the lifeblood of all our companion orders.

Charity being the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart, the Mark Benevolent Fund at both National and Provincial level continues to remind us that not all is well in the world.

"Suffering and tragedy have visited many over the past year and it is gratifying to know that we can play our part through the Mark Benevolent Fund by supporting those in need. This is only possible through the generosity of the Brethren and I again thank you all for your support of the Benevolent Funds at both local and national levels.

"I wish health and happiness to you and all your families and I look forward greatly to being in your welcoming company during the years ahead always remembering that amongst 'Mark Master Masons you will always find friends. May the Great Overseer and Supreme Commander of the Universe bless and keep you and your families safe and in his care."



Photograph by Anthony Howell



New WMaster Installed at Stability Mark Lodge



by : Chris Mugford

At a Meeting of Stability Mark Lodge No.758 at the Penarth Masonic Hall on 15 May 2025, WBro Benjamin Thomas Gray was Installed in the Chair of Adoniram in the presence of WBro Philip William Davies, PGJD, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Master Designate, WBro Alun Howell Thomas, PGJD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Deputy Provincial Grand Master - Designate and VWBro Martin Alan Jones, GJO, Provincial Grand Secretary, Assistant Provincial Grand Master-Designate, RWBro Sir Paul Michael Williams, OBE KStJ DL along with a host of Grand Lodge Officers, Provincial Grand Lodge Officers, visiting Worshipful Masters and Members of the Lodge.

The Installation was excellently performed by WBro Mark Cuddihy assisted by the Immediate Past Master WBro Shaun Cuddihy and Officers of the Lodge. The new Worshipful Master then proceeded to appoint a full array of Officers including nine Stewards, before closing the Lodge.

An excellent Festive Board followed in the spacious Penarth dining Hall. This was the last event in Penarth before the Installation of WBro Philip William Davies as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He will be Installed as Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South Wales on Wednesday, 4 June 2025 by Most Worshipful Brother John Herbert Prizeman, Pro Grand Master at Cardiff Masonic Hall, Guildford Street, Cardiff.

Stability Mark Lodge meets at the Penarth Masonic Hall, Stanwell Road, Penarth on the Second Monday in February, October and December, and the third Thursday in May for its Installation. Those wishing to join or attend the Lodge should contact the Secretary: WBro Kenwyn Ball at: stabilitymarksecretary@gmail.com



† Desmond Barnett JP 1933 - 2025

Provincial Grand Master 1996-2008

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for South Wales offers sincere condolence to Elaine, Des' wife, their daughters and family.

RWBro Desmond (Des) Barnett JP, sadly passed to The Grand Lodge Above on 9 June 2025 aged 91 years. He 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.

Desmond was Appointed Provincial Grand Master in 1996 and held the office until 2008. He was Advanced in the Arthur Lewis Mark Lodge No.585 and became its Worshipful Master in 1982. He was Worshipful Commander of the Arthur Lewis Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in 1989 and subsequently became a Joining Member of the South Wales Installed Mark Masters Lodge No.1201, becoming its Master in 1997 and similarly becoming Master of the De Cymru Mark Grand Officers Lodge No.1606 in 1997. Grand Rank recognition came in 1992 as AGDC. In 1995 as RAMGR and in 1995 as PGJD.

In the Craft Des was Appointed as PAGDC in 1997, which was followed in 2004 by Appointment as Junior Grand Deacon. In Holy Royal Arch he was Appointed in 1996 to the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer. He also held Grand Rank in many other Companion Orders.

After the end of active participation, his love of sport continued in an administrative role when he became, for many years, Treasurer, Trainer (because of his medical background) and President of the 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 home town by being awarded Rhondda Sports-person of the Year.

During his term as Provincial Grand Master, the Province grew from 26 to 29 Mark Lodges. He was the Consecrating Officer at the creation of the Cwm Rhondda Mark Lodge No.1812 in 2001, South Wales Mark Provincial Stewards Lodge No.1829 in 2003 and Trinity Mark Lodge No.1845 in 2004.

The number of RAM Lodges rose from 17 to 21. Consecrations carried out during his period of office included: Brychan RAM Lodge No.1725 in 1998, Llynfi Valley RAM Lodge No.1592 in 1998, De Cymru RAM Lodge No.1606 in 2003 and Cynon Dare RAM Lodge No.1590 in 2003.

He was also an Honorary Member of many Mark Lodges within our Province and without. He most certainly made his mark in the MARK with 52 years of membership.

RWBro Desmond was a good friend to us all. His leadership was as expected from a true Freemason and as we honour his memory, his leadership in our Order and Freemasonry is something we will never forget. Our thoughts and prayers are with Elaine and the family. He will indeed be greatly missed by many. Lived respected and died regretted. Let light perpetually shine on him and may he rest in peace and rise in glory.





A Cup of Coffee with a South Wales AProvGM 200 Miles from home!

by: Mark Howell

Imagine the scene, sitting in a cafe in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, having a coffee with some Brethren, bit nervous as acting Junior Deacon in an Advancement in the Mark. Present will be the Pro Grand Master plus his entourage of Grand DC, Sword and Standard Bearers. Also present will be the PGM, Deputy and Assistant PGMs and the whole Provincial team! To fill up the remaining spaces, will be a Very Worshipful Brother and Officers of Mark Grand Lodge.

In walks an unknown Brother, orders a coffee and asks to join us. We all look at this stranger and he introduces himself and explains he is the Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Mark.

Everyone nods and greets him sagely. However, all you see is your Assistant Provincial Grand Master for South Wales, 200 miles from home!

I have lived in Cambridgeshire for the last 27 years, but my mother Lodge is Ewenny No.8485, in Bridgend. I attend all meetings and have attained the Chair on three occasions, seven years apart, which is just enough time to forget the ritual and have to relearn it again!

WBro Christopher Davies, a memorable Freemason with his upright posture, smooth head and no nonsense look. This betrays a ready smile and a warm personality and a modest demeanour.

Under the watchful eyes of Christopher, the Ceremony went smoothly and the Candidate was Advanced into the Mark Degree. The Candidate, a close friend of the Pro Grand Master, smiled throughout and seemed to enjoy himself, which is always the best indication of how everyone has done.



At the Festive Board, the Grand Director of Ceremonies took control and that familiar accent rung out in a Cambridgeshire town Lodge room, which made me feel homesick.

The Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Lodge all said what a wonderful time they had and how the Pro Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Master, said lovely comments to them all.

However, will remember the dedication of the Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Mark Degree, travelling 200 miles to take charge and put everyone at ease, at what was the most nerve wracking Advancement, the Ailwyn Lodge of Mark Master Mason No.1871 has, thus far, undertaken.

Excellent Ceremony for Bro Nigel

On Saturday, 12 April Bro Nigel Picket was Elevated into Llynfi Valley Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners. No.1592. An excellent Ceremony, conducted by Worshipful Commander David Williams and his Officers ensured Nigel had a great welcome into the Lodge. The Tools were explained by WBro Vincell Haskins and the Signs by WBro Steve Howlett then the Nine Steps by WBro Lyn Guttridge who also very eloquently explained the Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro Peter Hamley before the Worshipful Commander presented the Certificate to Peter.

An excellent Festive Board followed where the members were joined by wives and partners, making it an excellent end to the day.





Brychan Lodges Mark PGM's Retirement

by : Roger Lewis

RWBro Thomas Richard Eirian Jones' last official engagement as Provincial Grand Master was at the Brychan Royal Ark Mariner Installation held at the Masonic Centre in Brecon.

A considerable number of Brethren attended the event, with everyone extending their best wishes to the Provincial Grand Master after so many years of devoted service to the Province.

To mark the occasion RWBro Paul R Clement was delighted to present the Provincial Grand Master with a framed print of the Brecon Beacons, Bannau Brycheiniog.

Eirian responded appropriately thanking the Brethren for their gift and good wishes.



Mark Grand Lodge Appointments and Promotions 2025

by : Roger Lewis

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

ACTING RANK

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

WBro Mark P Nicholls re-Appointed to Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

WBro Paul C Bunyan Appointed to Assistant Grand Sword Bearer.

PROMOTIONS

WBro Gareth Jones, OBE Promoted to Past Grand Senior Overseer.

WBro D Martin Mogford Promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer.

WBro Jeffrey D Williams Promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer.

WBro Gareth Andrews Promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon

WBro Garry M Davies Promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon

WBro Anthony W Seymour Promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon.



FIRST APPOINTMENTS

WBro D Robert Andrews Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

WBro Peter E Taylor Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

In addition, WBro Lewis G Clement, son of our Past Provincial Grand Master RWBro Paul R Clement, has been Appointed to Deputy Grand Registrar.

Brethren receiving Active Ranks and First Appointments to Past Ranks were Invested at the meeting of Grand Lodge held on Tuesday, 10 June 2025.

Brethren receiving Promotions will be Invested at the meeting of Grand Lodge to be held on Tuesday, 9 September 2025. Both meetings will take place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

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

Appointments to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank



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

WBro H Merlyn Priddle, Saint John RAM Lodge No.28.

WBro R Gwyn Morgan, Arthur Lewis RAM Lodge No.585.

WBro Christopher D Davies, St Tydfil RAM Lodge No.639.

WBro John E Charles, St Iltyd RAM Lodge No.784.

WBro Jan Deenik, Dunraven RAM Lodge No 950.

WBro Andrew Thomas, Principality & Cambrensis RAM.Lodge No.1057.

WBro Keith Hoyle, Neath RAM Lodge No.1125.

WBro Vincell J J Haskins, Caerffili RAM Lodge No.1348.

WBro R Alan Dicks, Porthcawl RAM Lodge No.1377.

WBro Jonathan K. Barnes, Sir Frederick Alban RAM Lodge No.1455.

WBro Clifford J Perry, Cynon Dare RAM Lodge No.1590.

WBro J Stuart Hancock, Sketty Hall RAM Lodge No.1685.

WBro Denys P Jones, Sketty Hall RAM Lodge No.1685.

WBro Richard J Ackroyd, Brychan RAM Lodge No.1725.

Their Investiture took place at the Provincial Grand Assembly which was held during the meeting of the South Wales Installed Commanders Lodge No.1201 in Bridgend on Saturday, 26 April 2025. The Province extended congratulations to these Brethren on their Appointments.

Stability RAM Lodge Installation Meeting

Stability Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No.0758 held their Installation Meeting on 19 February 2025. WBro Alun Morton is a well known Freemason across and beyond the Province of South Wales; a past Master of Caerffili Mark Lodge No.1348, Founder and Primus Master of Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1995 and a member of South Wales Mark Masters Lodge No.1201.

Alun was Elevated into Stability Royal Ark Mariner Lodge on 18 November 2018, shortly afterwards and following the premature demise of the well respected Founder and Scribe WBro David Waite, because of his many years experience as the Secretary of his Craft Lodge, he was invited to become the Lodge Scribe and quickly got to grips with the task.

It's impossible to progress through the Offices whilst a Lodge Scribe and so, after seven years in the job the opportunity arose for Alun to become the Senior Warden and so prepare to become Worshipful Commander in 2025.



WBro Alun with the Installing Commander WBro George Taplin.



WBro Alun, with Senior and Junior Wardens: Bros Michael Cotter and Stephen Attwell.

Alun was very ably Installed on 19 February 2025 by the current Commander WBro Stephen J Attwell, supported and assisted by Officers of the Lodge and in the presence of WBro Philip William Davies, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Master Designate and an illustrious array of visiting Brethren.

Following the Ceremony and thanking the Lodge and all involved, Alun could only say, "WOW!!! I've been Installed in the Chair of several Orders, this has to be the most interesting and thrilling of them all. I only hope I can compete with that of my predecessor".

Scouts Cymru Lodge on the Road Again

by: Alan Morton

A small contingent comprising WBros Alun Morton, Nick Gregory and Mike Thomas attended the Kindred Lodge Association's (KLA) Spring Festival hosted by The Scouts Cymru Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1907 at Long Eaton, Nottingham on 12 April 2025.

Following a three hour journey, an excellent welcome was afforded us. Nick drove the bus and Mike and I thank him for that. Mike brought the mints and I slept in the back.

This the first time a KLA Festival has been hosted by a Scout Mark Lodge and the organisers were keen that all seven Scouting Mark Lodges were represented. There were in fact more than fifty Mark Masons in attendance from the length and breadth of the UK. We met several old and new friends.

The day began with a KLA committee meeting of which details will follow, a break for lunch and the Lodge opened at 2.00pm. An interesting meeting followed covering Investitures of Officers not present at the installation meeting, presentation of awards and other business.

At 3.00pm we were treated to a lecture by VWBro Tony Harvey on the seven Scouting Mark Lodges and their progress to date, I must say that Scouts Cymru MMM 1995 figured extremely well in the line up and were in fact commended for our work. If it was the Oscars we may have had the one for 'Best Performance' or 'Lodge of the Year' but we settled for a round of applause.

The day was concluded with the usual Festive Board and I'm sure we all took something from the experience.



South Wales Installed Mark Masters Support 'Maggie's' at Velindre

At the Installation Meeting of the South Wales Installed Mark Masters, SWIMM, it was unanimously agreed that the proceeds of the raffle would be donated to the Cancer Support Centre, Maggie's, at Velindre Hospital.

When the Trustees of the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund heard of this initiative they very generously agreed to top up the Installation raffle to £500

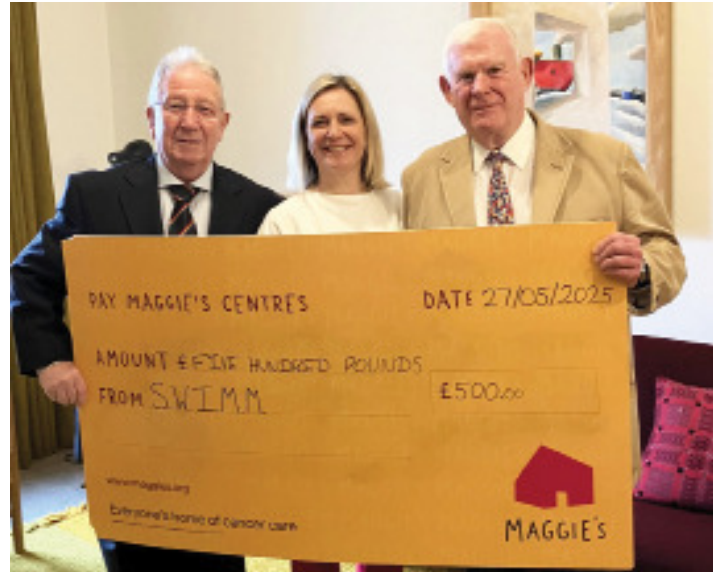
Go Maggie's is a charity that provides free expert care and support in centres across the UK and online. Their cancer support specialists, psychologists and benefit advisors are here for you and everyone you love. In every centre, you'll find a bright and welcoming space full of the kind of support that people facing cancer need and deserve. The Centre in Cardiff is such a place whether it be for being together or just being alone for a moment and meeting people who can help and support. All our cancer support specialists have expert knowledge about cancer and treatment, and many are NHS trained.

Our motto is: The kettle's already on – just come in. Welcome to Maggie's. Whatever kind of cancer and whatever stage you're at – we're here for you.

When Maggie was 47, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and five years later, in May 1993, she was told that it had returned and was given three months to live. After hearing this, Maggie and her husband Charles were moved to a windowless corridor where they were left to process the news. While sitting in the corridor they discussed the need for somewhere 'better' for people with cancer to go, outside of but nearby to the hospital.

Maggie joined an advanced chemotherapy trial and lived for another 18 months. During that time, she worked closely with her medical team, which included oncology nurse, Laura Lee, now Maggie's Chief Executive, to develop a new approach to cancer care.

Maggie believed it was important for people with cancer to be informed participants in their medical treatment and researched cancer centres across the world to find ways in which people could live better with cancer. She envisaged for the first centre a welcoming and positive space in which people with cancer and their family and friends, could meet other people in similar circumstances and receive support including advice on their treatment, how to manage stress and get psychological support.



Maggie was determined that people should not "lose the joy of living in the fear of dying" and the day before she died in July 1995, she sat in her garden, face to the sun and said: "Aren't we lucky?"

Who Was Maggie?

'Maggie Keswick Jencks' (1941-1995) was a writer, gardener and designer. With her father, she founded the Holywood Trust (South-West Scotland) and the Keswick Foundation (Hong Kong). Her book on Chinese Gardens is widely regarded as a classic on the subject and she was commissioned for many garden and interior design projects during her lifetime.

The following year, in November 1996, the first Maggie's Centre opened opposite the hospital where she was treated: the Western General in Edinburgh."

Maggie's, Cardiff, The Chris McGuigan Building, Velindre Cancer Centre Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff .CF14 2TQ
By courtesy of Maggie's Cancer Centres.

Marking Forty Years

At the June 2025 meeting of De Cymru Mark Lodge the Provincial Grand Master RWBro Philip W Davies was delighted to present a pleasantly surprised WBro James Bevan with his Certificate celebrating forty years as a Mark Mason.





Out and About

The Provincial Grand Master RWB T R Eirian Jones, his Deputy now RWBro Philip W Davies and their hard working team of Officers not only represent the Province locally but are often to be seen in other Provinces and events.



Recently they have supported Brethren who have been Promoted and Appointed to Grand Rank in London and have attended the Mark Provincial Grand Lodge meetings in Bristol, Cornwall, Leicestershire and Rutland, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.



In Cornwall, RWBro Philip Davies, who at that time was Provincial Grant Master Designate was delighted to support the Mark Benevolent Fund Blood Bike initiative. This is an organisation whose members transport blood, platelets, human donor milk, instruments and many clinical products across the country. This essential work is carried out by unpaid volunteers for the NHS free of charge.



The Mark Benevolent Fund has donated many bikes to this worthwhile of causes.



The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Master Designate, Philip W Davies, was delighted to be present when St Tydfil's Mark Lodge in Merthyr Tydfil, one of the oldest Mark Lodges in the Province, hosted an event to introduce the Mark Order to interested Brethren. This event expertly organised by WBro Neil Martin Evans proved a great success.



The Provincial Warden's Towers Luncheon took place recently at Swansea and was well supported. The Provincial Grand Master was delighted to welcome the Provincial Grand Warden VWBro Jeffrey Williams, who hosted the event together with his wife, Brethren and guests.

