



Centenary Celebrations in Cardiff

On Tuesday, 18 November 2025, Brethren, guests and distinguished visitors gathered at the Masonic Temple, Guildford Crescent, Cardiff, to celebrate the Centenary Meeting of Cambria Mark Lodge No.823, one hundred years to the month since the Lodge was consecrated on that auspicious day in 1925.

The Lodge was opened under the direction of Worshipful Master, WBro James A Forbes Keir, who conducted the initial business of the Lodge before formally receiving the Provincial Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Master RWBro Philip William Davies, accompanied by a full escort of Active Provincial Officers and Grand Officers entered the Lodge. This escort also included the Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Alun H Thomas PGJD and Assistant Provincial Grand Master VWBro Martin A Jones PGJO as well as the Provincial Grand Master and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master from the Province of Warwickshire. The Provincial Grand Master was warmly welcomed and assumed the Chair to conduct the ceremonial part of the evening.

The Lodge was then 'called off' to admit Craft Brethren, non-Mark Masons and non-Masons for the presentation section of the meeting, ensuring that friends, family and honoured guests could share in this historic occasion and gain some insight into the 'Magic of the Mark'

A brief, but engaging, history of the Lodge was delivered by WBro Phillip L C Morgan, drawing from the detailed archival research compiled for the occasion. Cambria Mark Lodge was founded in 1925 by thirty-seven petitioners from Lodges across South Wales, thus becoming the 13th Mark Lodge in the Province. Its Warrant was granted on 12 October 1925 and the Lodge was Consecrated just four weeks later.

The history highlighted early leadership. Its first Master, WBro Frank Pearson Skeffington Cresswell and notable figures such as VWBro Edgar Rutter and WBro Peter W Clec.

The Lodge has enjoyed, during its long history, enduring links with the wider Province and has a long-standing reputation for warmth and fellowship. The Lodge has also been commended by the Province for its continuing contribution to the life of Mark Masonry in South Wales across its hundred years.

Having proved one hundred years of continuous working, the Provincial Grand Master announced that the Most Worshipful Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, had been pleased to grant a Centenary Warrant to the Lodge. The original Warrant was read by WBro Gareth Snook, after which the Centenary Warrant itself was formally read by the Provincial Grand Secretary, VWBro Jeffrey D Williams and presented to the Worshipful Master.

The Provincial Grand Master emphasised the significance of the milestone and expressed the Province's congratulations to the Lodge on achieving this historic landmark. Following the presentation, the Provincial Grand Master, assisted by the Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, presented Centenary Jewels to the Brethren of the Lodge. Each member was personally introduced by the Worshipful Master before receiving his Jewel from the Provincial Grand Master and congratulations from the Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.

A particularly touching moment arrived when the Provincial Grand Master accepted Honorary Membership of the Lodge, accompanied by the presentation of a Centenary Jewel on behalf of the Brethren.

The Worshipful Master expressed heartfelt thanks to the Provincial Grand Master not only for presiding over the central portion of the meeting, but also for his ongoing support and guidance throughout the year. The Provincial Grand Master responded by congratulating the Lodge on reaching its Centenary and praised the spirit of unity, friendship and commitment that had sustained Cambria Lodge for the past one hundred years.



Grand Officers support the Grand Master's Keystone Fund

by : Roger Lewis

At the December meetings of both the De Cymru Mark Grand Officers Lodge and De Cymru Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, the Provincial Grand Master of South Wales, RWBro Philip W Davies, was delighted to present both WBro Dr Paul R Calderwood, the new Worshipful Commander of De Cymru Royal Ark Mariners and VWBro Lyn Guttridge, Worshipful Master of De Cymru Mark Lodge, with their Certificates and Collarettes indicating that their Lodges have both supported the Grand Master's Keystone Fund. The Grand Officers present wholeheartedly supported this initiative from Mark Masons' Hall.

With The Grand Master's Keystone Fund being incorporated into the Mark Benevolent Fund, this further qualified both Lodges for Mark Benevolent Fund honorifics and their Vice Patrons Collarettes.



The purpose of the Keystone Fund is to grant awards to individuals to offer encouragement and financial support with their educational, vocational and sporting achievements.

At Dinner the Provincial Grand Master further added the importance of supporting the Mark Benevolent Fund and Grand Master's Keystone Fund, indicating that it would be great to see more Lodges taking up this initiative, as this helps the Province of South

Wales on its journey to 2041, when South Wales will hold a Mark Benevolent Fund Festival.



Caerffili Lodges Support Keystone Fund

by : Roger Lewis

At two recent meetings of both the Caerffili Mark and Caerffili Royal Ark Mariner Lodges the Provincial Grand Master of south Wales, RWBro Philip W Davies, was delighted to present both Lodges with their Certificates and Collarettes indicating that they have both supported the Grand Master's Keystone Fund.

Both Lodges were delighted to be able to support the fund, the purpose of which, is to grant bursaries, encouraging and financially supporting individuals with their educational, vocational and performance studies.

The Grand Master's Keystone Fund will be administered by the Mark Benevolent Fund (M.B.F.) Board of Trustees





South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund

by : Roger Lewis

At the South Wales Mark Provincial Grand Lodge Officers Mess, the draw for the December 150 Club was made.

1st £350 WBro Haydn A Lewis
Rhaeadr Gwy Mark Lodge No.1318.

2nd £250 WBro David J Davies
Brychan Mark Lodge No.1725.

3rd £150 WBro Simon K S Daniel
Trinity Mark Lodge No.1845.

The South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund (Registered Charity No.254319) has been in existence since 1967 and thanks to the 2020 Appeal, is now in a stronger position than it has been for many years to support Brethren of the Province and their families in conjunction with the Masonic Charitable Foundation and the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The fund continues to be supported by contributions made by Lodges at Installation meetings, donations made by the Provincial Officers Mess, the 150 Club and any continuing 2020 Appeal standing orders.

The best way for Brethren to continue to support the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund is by becoming a member of the 150 Club. This can be done by completing an application form available from your Lodge Charity Steward and returning it to the Provincial Office.

The 150 Club holds two prize draws every year each with three prizes currently of £350, £250 and £150 and it makes a contribution of £1,500 annually to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.

When you become a member of the 150 Club, for as little as £12 per annum, payable by Standing Order, you will be allocated a number. If your number is drawn you will win a prize of up to £500.

- You can purchase as many numbers as you like if you want to increase your chances of claiming a prize.
- Membership can be either individual or corporate.
- Individuals just need to decide how many numbers they require then complete the Standing Order form and return it to the address indicated.

• For corporate (Lodge) membership, the members need to agree how many numbers the Lodge should purchase and the Treasurer should complete the Standing Order form and return it to the address indicated.

All proceeds from the 150 Club will go to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund to aid Brethren and their dependants of this Province.

The Promise made to Noah - Degree of the Royal Ark Mariner

by : Roger Lewis

Of all the Masonic Degrees that a Freemason may join there are few so beautiful and personally instructive as that of the Royal Ark Mariner Degree. The world today seems to be full of turmoil with misfortune and tragedy befalling many in our society. This Degree bids the Candidate to reflect on how he can play an integral role in society both local and further afield and help those in need.

This underlying philosophy is analogous to the story of Noah and the Deluge. Here Noah strives against seemingly insurmountable odds to save his family and others by building an Ark, much to the ridicule and derision of his contemporaries. The dangers of the flood to those who scorn become apparent in the story and Noah and his family are successful in escaping the flood.

The fact that Noah himself faced extreme difficulties in both his personal life and his relationship with God. He often disagrees and argues with both God and his family, further links Noah with today's society. Noah however, with the strength of his family and personal conviction succeeds.

This is at the centre of the Mariner Degree where the difficulties and dangers of the flood are metaphors for the dangers and tribulations of daily life which may be faced. The emblem of this degree is the dove and the rainbow and each member wears a multi coloured ribbon against a silver rainbow above a dove with a leaf in its mouth.

This reminds us that the rainbow in the sky after rain is a permanent reminder of God's Covenant with Noah never to repeat the Deluge.

Although this degree is administered by Mark Masons' Hall and every prospective Candidate must be a Mark Mason there is no connection with any other Masonic Degree and its full title is The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners.

The Provincial Grand Master would like to see the current membership increase. At present not all Mark Masons are members of the 'Mariners'.

To this end each Mark Lodge appointed a Royal Ark Mariner Representative who will expand and strengthen the link between the Mark Lodge and its allied Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and hopefully increase its membership.

Should you wish further information, visit the Provincial website:

www.southwalesmarkmastermasons.co.uk or email: southwalesmark@outlook.com or contact your Mark Lodge Representative.





New Master Installed in Exemplary Manner

by : Philip N Osborne

On Wednesday, 22 October 2025, the Installation took place of a new Master of the Talbot Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No.179 of Swansea. The Ceremony was expertly presided over and led by the Installing Master and now Immediate Past Master, WBro Simon J Robins.

Installed into the Chair was Master Elect, Bro Philip N Osborne. The Ceremony was a credit to Mark Master Masons. Simon carried out his role as Installing Master in an exemplary manner and was aided and abetted by his Officers, who each carried out their individual duties to a high standard.

The Ceremony was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Alun Howell Thomas and his team of Provincial Officers. A plethora of Grand Officers were also in attendance, adding to the occasion. They not only enhanced the Ceremony but also graced the evening with their presence at the Festive Board.

Talbot Mark Lodge is now growing in strength with new members. These Brethren, although only recently joining the Lodge, are particularly keen to perform any role that is asked of and allocated to them.

We are sure that under the guidance of WBro Philip Osborne, the Lodge will continue to flourish. He will be well supported by the senior members of the Lodge, as well as the younger members, in securing the continued growth and future of this very fine Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Well done to each and every Brother and to the Provincial Team led by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who all participated in an excellent Installation. It was a credit to Mark Master Masonry.



There was further celebration on the night as 101 years old WBro Richard Pelzer, a D Day Veteran and a Past Master of Talbot Mark Lodge No.179 was elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge for his years of dedicated service, including memorable performances as Junior Overseer in recent years had led the Brethren of the Lodge to call for his Honorary Membership as a token of the affection and respect held for him.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master personally congratulated Richard and drank his good health. This special event added to what was a most memorable experience for all those in attendance.





Appointments to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank

The Province has been informed of the Appointment of the following Brethren to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank:

WBro Keri J Evans: Caerffilli RAM Lodge No.1348

WBro Nicholas Marsh: Arthur Lewis RAM Lodge No.585

WBro Anthony W Seymour: Dunraven RAM Lodge No.950.

The Investiture took place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London on Monday, 8 December 2025.

I am sure you wish to join with Brethren of the Province in extending our congratulations to these Brethren on their Appointments.



Mark Benevolent Fund Supports Welsh Team

With the financial assistance of the Mark Benevolent Fund the Welsh 5's Wheelchair Rugby Squad were able to participate in the Indonesian Tournament, the first of its kind. Despite staunch opposition, the Welsh team were victorious, beating a powerful Singaporean team in the final.

As part of our continued charitable activities and outreach programme, members of our squad visited the Balinese International School and coached a taster session for students.

Joined by Australian Paralympic stars, the Welsh led by their outstanding and highly experienced captain, Lee 'Taff' Thomas, versed the children in the beauty of the sport and engaged with a Q & A session at the end. Needless to say the students were highly impressed by the Welsh team's ability, professionalism and fancy kit!

The Welsh Team have been invited back in 2026 to defend their title and look forward to meeting up with everyone involved in the event again.

