



New Pro Grand Master takes Office

On Tuesday, 9 June 2026, Mark Brethren from around the world filled the Grand Temple in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London to capacity for the June 2026 Communication and Annual Investiture meeting.

Presiding was MWBro Raymond Smith, Past Pro Grand Master, who entered in procession to great applause and took his Chair in the East. After the initial items of Grand Lodge business had been conducted, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, RWBro Christopher Davies rose and called out two Deputies, two Grand Standard Bearers, Grand Sword Bearer and exited Grand Lodge. Calling the Brethren to Order, the Grand Master entered to a thunderous applause and ascended the Dais and took charge of the meeting.

He was then Proclaimed in all his styles and titles as Grand Master for the ensuing year before offering the customary Salutation. The Grand Master spoke warmly about the late MWBro John Prizeman before announcing the Appointment of RWBro Paul Raymond Clement as Pro Grand Master. He then proceeded to invite MWBro Raymond Smith to act as Installing Officer, which he proceeded to undertake.

The GDC formed an escort and exited Grand Lodge, to re-enter in procession with the Pro Grand Master Designate. RWBro Clement was then Obligated, Invested, Proclaimed and congratulated by the Grand Master. The Grand Secretary then announced the re-Appointment of RWBro Prof Denovan Wilson, Deputy Grand Master and RWBro Peter Williams, Assistant Grand Master, before they were individually Proclaimed and saluted. At this point the Grand Master took his leave from Grand Lodge to further acclaim and MWBro Paul Clement assumed the Chair.

Paul Clement is well known to many of us, not only through his work in the Mark but in many other Orders of Freemasonry. His distinguished Masonic journey has many high points. To give you a flavour of these, here are some of the key moments.

Paul was Initiated into Freemasonry in Corinthian Lodge No.4917, South Wales, in December 1978 and subsequently Exalted into Corinthian Chapter in November 1980. He received his first Craft Grand Rank as Deputy Grand Organist in 1993 aged just 35. He now holds the Rank of Past Grand Sword Bearer in the Craft and Grand Superintendent in and over South Wales in the Royal Arch.

His Mark journey began in 1983, being Advanced into Neath Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1125 and was later Elevated into Neath Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in 1984. His first Mark Grand Rank came in 1989 as Assistant Grand Organist, followed by Appointment to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in 1995. He served as Provincial Grand Master for South Wales from 2008 to 2016 and is a member of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council (Honoris Causa).

Paul is a member of, and holder of senior Grand Rank in, all the Companion Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, plus several further afield. Most notably, having been Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor from 2014 to 2017, a role he relinquished upon Appointment as Grand Master of the Great Priory of Knights Templar in May 2017, a position he still holds.

In addition, Paul is a Sovereign Grand Inspector General 33rd Degree in the Antient and Accepted Rite, Knight Commander of the Priestly Orders in the Order of Knight Templar Priests, Adept of Christian Rosencreutz in the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia and Provincial Grand Master for London and the Metropolitan Counties in the Royal Order of Scotland

With such a weighty Masonic CV behind him we will have a very skilled and knowledgeable Pro Grand Master, who brings together many of the important strands of Freemasonry and one who will no doubt use that breadth of experience to help lead Mark Masonry into the next generation of our existence.

I'm sure you join with me in sending Paul our warmest congratulations on this thoroughly well-deserved Appointment and wish him every success and happiness in the role.



Images and words by courtesy of Mark Masons' Hall

South Wales supports the Mark Benevolent Fund

by : Roger Lewis

The Mark Benevolent Fund has carved out a reputation for compassion and selfless concern for the well-being of others, giving an average of over £206,000 each year for the last one hundred and fifty years to individuals in need and worthy causes which benefit the wider community.

It is this outward looking aspect of the work of the Fund that Brethren of Mark Lodges in South Wales support year in year out in the satisfaction that they are helping those whose needs are greatest and facing many trials and tribulations in their everyday lives. The MBF enables organisations and individuals to achieve their goals and aims much quicker than they would have otherwise. Recent initiatives have included:

Medical and healthcare: Provision of scanners, diagnostic equipment, mobile chemotherapy units and support for hospitals targeting diseases such as prostate cancer.

Specialist charities: Support for organizations like RNLI, St John's Ambulance, Hope for Tomorrow Cancer Charity, Blood Bikes, Ty Hafan and Maggies.

South Wales Mark Men and their Lodges also support the Grand Master's Keystone Appeal.

At the Quarterly Communications in June 2023, the name and purpose

of the '150th Anniversary Keystone Fund' was changed to 'The Grand Master's Keystone Fund' to celebrate our Grand Master, MWBro HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO, forty years of service to Mark Masonry.



The purpose of the fund 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 (MBF Board of Trustees).

Another successful Lunch at the Towers

by : Roger Lewis

Traditionally, one of the Provincial Wardens of the Mark Provincial Officers' Mess hosts the Summer Luncheon and this year it was the turn of the Provincial Senior Warden of the year, WBro Neil Morgan.

It was another well supported event, lovely Swansea weather and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The luncheon, as always, 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 Director of Ceremonies, WBro Philip Rice, was instrumental in ensuring that everything ran to order on the day, again in his usual proficient way.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro Philip William Davies, addressed the Brethren and partners present and outlined how much he enjoyed such events as they are indicative of the fellowship amongst Mark Masons. He further illustrated why it is known as the 'Friendly Degree'. The Provincial Grand Master was then presented with a cheque by WBro David Elliot for £750 for the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.

This grant 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 in the summer. The afternoon was concluded with the usual raffle, of which there were many prizes generously donated by the Brethren.





New Worshipful Master Installed in Neath Mark Lodge

by : Chris Mugford

Bro Meurig Leyshon was Installed as Worshipful Master in Neath Mark Lodge No.1125 in the oldest purpose-built Masonic Temple in Wales.

The Installation Meeting of the Lodge, at the Neath Masonic Hall, Queen Street, Neath was held on 8 April 2026 in the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Alun H Thomas, PGJD and WBros D Neil Morgan, PGJD, ProvGSW, Brian G. Lloyd ProvGSO, Clive E Thomas, MBE, ProvGJW, Alexander J Burke ProvAGDC and Bro D Lewis Morgan, ProvGSTwd along with a plethora of Grand Officers.

The purpose of the meeting was to Install Senior Warden and Master Elect, Bro Meurig Leyshon as Worshipful Master. The meeting was opened with the domestic business firstly completed. The Installation Ceremony was carried out by the Worshipful Master WBro Christopher E Mugford, assisted by the Immediate Past Master, WBro Keith Hoyle, who also presented the Working Tools of a Mark Master Mason.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master delivered the Address to the new Worshipful Master in his usual superb mellifluous style.

The Wardens were Appointed, Invested and Addressed in an excellent manner by Bro D Neil Morgan, the Overseers were Appointed and Invested and addressed superbly by Brian G Lloyd. On completion of Appointments and Investments the Address to the Brethren was delivered in fine fashion by WBro Philip J Reynolds, ProvGInspWks. The new Worshipful Master, then took complete control of his Lodge and completed the meeting.

The very convivial Festive Board was held in the dining hall where attendees were treated to an excellent repast for which the hall is noted.

The Neath Mark Lodge meets on the Second Wednesday in February, April, October and December at the Neath Masonic Hall, Queen Street, Neath. Candidates and those wishing to attend the meetings should contact the Secretary WBro Howard J Lines on howard.lines@virginmedia.com



Bro Haydn John Evans Advanced into Maesteg Mark Masons

by : Tal Harries

An excellent turnout on 4 March 2026, at Maesteg Master Masons where Brother Haydn John Evans was Advanced into the Lodge.

A wonderful Ceremony carried out by Worshipful Master John Williams and his Officers was enhanced by the presence of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, WBro Alun Thomas who assisted during the Ceremony and offered a concise explanation of the Grand Lodge Certificate to Brother Gwynfi Jones which was Presented by the Worshipful Master.

WBro Stephen Thomas did an excellent job of conducting Brother John during the Ceremony.

Afterwards all were joined at the Festive Board by wives and partners, everyone enjoying a superb dinner, prepared by Cayenne Caterers.





New Worshipful Commander Installed at St Tydfil Lodge

by : Chris Mugford

The 78th Regular Meeting of the St Tydfil Lodge, of Royal Ark Mariners No.639, was held on Tuesday, 12 May 2026 at the Merthyr Tydfil Masonic Hall, in the presence of WBro Martin Alan Jones RAMGR, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Wales of the Degree of Royal Ark Mariners, WBros Geraint Morgan Davies PrRAMGR, Neil Martin Evans PrRAMGR, John Daniel PrRAMGR, Neil Davies PrRAMGR, Dennis J Irish PrRAMGR, Dr Robert P Owens PrRAMGR, Chris Mugford PrRAMGR and members and guests.

The purpose of the Meeting was to Install Bro Dr Michael John Maguire as the new Commander of St Tydfil Lodge which was carried out in superlative fashion by the Immediate Past Commander Dr Robert P Owens, who was 'standing in' for WBro Kevin Raymond Jones, the Commander of the Lodge, who was unavoidably detained on Masonic business elsewhere.

Officers of the Lodge were then Appointed and an excellent Ceremony having been concluded, the new Commander was congratulated by Martin Alan Jones, who also congratulated Dr Robert P Owens on the high standard of the Ceremony.

The Lodge having been closed, the attendees retired to the large dining hall of the Merthyr Tydfil Masonic Hall where a convivial Festive Board was held, where they were treated to an excellent repast.

The St Tydfil Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners meets at the Merthyr Tydfil Masonic Hall, Park Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil on the Second Tuesday in January, March, May and September.

Those wishing to attend, or wish to find out more about the Degree of Royal Ark Mariners, should contact the Scribe, WBro Neil Davies PrRAMGR, on neil.davies@cappgemini.com

An Auspicious night at Langley Mark Lodge



An auspicious night at Langley Mark Lodge No.28. At the last meeting of the Lodge, the oldest in the Province, VWBro Ralph Jeffrey was presented with a Certificate to celebrate his sixty years of continuous membership of Mark Masonry, by the Provincial Grand Master RWBro Philip William Davies.

The Provincial Grand Master told the members and guests that Ralph had been a faithful servant of Langley Lodge and had been its Secretary for thirty years. His journey in Mark Masonry had started in 1966 and during the intervening years had received many Appointments and Promotions culminating in a Mark Grand Lodge Promotion to Past Grand Junior Overseer in 2016.

At the Festive Board the Lodge presented Ralph with a Glass Gavel as a token of their gratitude for all he had done for the Lodge.





Appointments to Royal Ark Mariner Prov Grand Rank and Grand Rank

by : Roger Lewis

It was with much pleasure that the Province had been informed of the Appointment of the following Brethren to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank:

- WBro Keri J Evans: Caerffili 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 me in extending our congratulations to these Brethren on their Appointments.

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

- WBro Robert Geoffrey Payne, Langley RAM Lodge No.28.
- WBro Simon John Robins, Talbot RAM Lodge No.179.
- WBro Roger Bruce James, Stability, RAM Lodge No.758.
- WBro Norman Richard Hosking, Cambria RAM Lodge No.823.
- WBro Adrian Paul Cope, Principality & Cambrensis RAM Lodge No.1057.
- WBro Clive William Walton Hughes, Principality & Cambrensis RAM Lodge No.1057.
- WBro David Roger Lewis, Principality & Cambrensis RAM Lodge No.1057.
- WBro Brian Gerald Lloyd, Afan RAM Lodge No.1088.
- WBro David John Rees, Afan RAM Lodge No.1088.
- WBro Ieuan Rowland Lewis Jones, Sir Fredrick Alban RAM Lodge No.1455.
- WBro Robert Cyril Murphy, Cynon Dare RAM Lodge No.1590.
- WBro Martyn Paul Wake, Llynfi Valley RAM Lodge No.1592.
- WBro David Michael Davies, Sketty Hall RAM Lodge No.1685.
- WBro Kenneth William Miller, Tremains RAM Lodge No.1952.

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, 25 April, 2026. I am sure you extend our congratulations to these Brethren on their Appointments.



150 Club Winners

- 1st prize £350** - WBro David S Griffiths
(Formerly of Cowbridge Mark Lodge No.1573)
- 2nd prize £250** - WBro D Neil Morgan, ProvGSW
(Cwm Rhondda Mark Lodge No.1812)
- 3rd prize £150** - Cowbridge Mark Lodge No.1573
A further £750 was donated to the South Wales Mark Benevolent Fund.



Image shows WBro David Elliot presenting a cheque for £750 to the Provincial Grand Master.



Out and about *The Peregrinations of a Provincial Grand Master*

by : Roger Lewis

The Provincial Grand Master RWBro Philip William Davies and his team of officers regularly visit other Provinces and fly the flag for the Brethren of South Wales. The Mark Degree is known as the 'friendly degree' and such fraternal visits cements the bond between Mark Brethren the length and breadth of the country.



Oxfordshire PGMs



Cornwall PGMs



Oxfordshire



Essex



Somerset PGMs



Hereford Gloucester



Somerset

Grand Lodge Appointments and Promotions 2026



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

- RWBro Christopher M L Davies re-appointed to Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- WBro Stephen C E Harries Appointed to Grand Sword Bearer.
- WBro Nigel Piercy Appointed to Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- WBro Geraint M Davies Appointed to Grand Steward.

Promoted

- WBro James R Bevan Promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer.
- WBro Stephen C E Harries Promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer.
- WBro Alun H Thomas Promoted to Past Grand Junior Overseer.

First Appointment

- WBro William E Jenkins Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- WBro Robert G Payne Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- WBro Gary Hurst Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer.

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

Brethren who received Active Ranks and First Appointments to Past Ranks were Invested at the meeting of Grand Lodge held on Tuesday, 9 June 2026.

Brethren receiving Promotions will be Invested at a meeting of Grand Lodge to be held on Tuesday, 8 September 2026. Both meetings will take place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London.

Installation at Powys

At the Installation of Rhaeadr Gwy Mark Lodge, No.1318, WM WBro Howard Lines was presented with a Diamond MBF Collarette and was also Invested with his Grand Master's Keystone Fund Breast Jewel.

The other image shows the Installation of Lewis Morgan who is a Provincial Grand Steward at Brychan Mark Lodge, No.1725, Brecon.





Bro Chris Hart Advanced in Llynfi Valley Mark Lodge

by : Tal Harries

On 1 April 2026, at a meeting of Llynfi Valley Mark Lodge No.1592, Brother Chris Hart was Advanced into the Lodge by Worshipful Master John Williams and his Officers. The Lodge was fortunate to be attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Alun Thomas and a plethora of distinguished visitors.

During the Ceremony the Deputy Provincial Grand Master took the role of Senior Deacon and conducted Chris around the Temple in a very professional manner and with other visitors taking the Officers Chairs, it ensured Chris had been given a wonderful introduction to the Lodge.

WBros. Alan Hulbert stood in as Senior Overseer, Alan Price as Junior Overseer and VWBro James Childs Master Overseer. WBro Tony Seymour explained the signs, Steve Howlett the tools and the Address by James Childs. An excellent Ceremony enjoyed by members and many visitors.

During the second rising the Deputy Provincial Grand Master surprised James Childs, who, the previous evening had been Installed as Worshipful Master of the South Wales Installed Mark Master's Lodge, by presenting him with a Plaque to recognise the fact that all the Officers for his year of office were present for the Installation. A great achievement.

The Brethren were later joined by wives and partners for an excellent Festive Board. An evening thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.



Llynfi Valley Elections

by : Tal Harries

On Saturday, 18 April 2026, Llynfi Valley Royal Ark Mariners No.1592, held their Election meeting when the Senior Warden was Proclaimed Worshipful Commander Elect and Worshipful Brother Steve Howlett was Elected as Treasurer. We were honoured by the attendance of Deputy Provincial Grand Master WBro Alun Thomas.

Brother Gwynfi Jones was Elevated into the Lodge by Worshipful Commander David J Williams and his officers.

Worshipful Brother James Childs conducted Gwynfi in an exemplary manner. Worshipful Brother Brian Dowling explained the tools, Worshipful Brother Steve Howlett the Signs and Worshipful Brother Lynn Gutteridge the Steps.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Ceremony which was complimented by wives and partners joining the Brethren at a very enjoyable Festive Board.

