

## PGM Announces Retirement



Following the first Mark meeting of the year at Risca, which was to celebrate the refurbishment of the Temple at Risca Masonic Hall, the PGM, RW Bro. Derek Thomas, announced his retirement.

This surprise news came following the Advancement of Bro. Wilfred Chivers by the PGM himself, who was ably assisted by the team that carried out multiple Advancements whilst at Bucharest in July 2017.

He explained that this meeting, the first of the year, was the appropriate one at which to make his announcement. The Maius Lodge of MMM is his Mother Lodge and he recalled that his first involvement with masonry was at the age of 11, helping to lay tables in the Risca Masonic Hall.

An impressive array of distinguished brethren were at the meeting, including the PGM of Craft in Monmouthshire, RW Bro. Richard Davies. He gave much praise for RW Bro Derek, when responding to the Visitors Toast and talked of his pleasure of the close relationships that had been developed within the principal masonic groups within our Province.

### The New PGM

Following his announcement the PGM was pleased to confirm that his recommendation had been agreed by Grand Lodge, and that his successor will be the Deputy PGM, VW David Powell.

Whilst there was a general disappointment that RW Bro. Derek was standing down, all were very pleased that VW Bro David was to take over.

VW Bro David spoke about the continuation of the policies that RW Bro Derek and he have formulated during the last 4 years. These have proved to be very successful in promoting the Mark, not only within Monmouthshire, but also, via The Mark Internet Lodge, to other areas of the world including Romania.

He finished by expressing his pleasure to receive such a promotion, but that will happen in June, and in the meantime there was still much to do under the leadership of RW Bro Derek.