



A Message from the Provincial Grand Master

Brethren, it is now four weeks since the cessation of all Masonic activity and the postponement of our Annual Meeting. During this time my overriding concern has been, and will continue to be, for the health and welfare of you all and I have been working with my Executive for that purpose. I hope that you are all keeping well and complying with the Government guidelines and instructions.

We have introduced enhanced contact arrangements for every Lodge to ensure that the vulnerable and isolated receive the support they may require and that we all keep in touch with each other.

At the Annual Meeting I would have invested W Bro John French as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and W Bro Bill Barr as my Assistant Provincial Grand Master, together with appointments and promotions in Provincial Grand Lodge. To each and everyone I offer you my hearty congratulations.

Those appointments take place with immediate effect and I sincerely hope to be able to personally invest and to congratulate those Brethren later in the year when the lock down has ended and it is safe to do so. I have written personally to them all to that effect.

Now some more good news, the MW Grand Master has appointed and promoted a number of our Brethren to Grand Rank and, having spoken to them all individually, I offer them all my congratulations and thank them for their contributions to their Lodges, to the Province and to our wonderful Order. Their names are all shown below.

Brethren, keep safe and well, and keep in touch with each other by phone, email, ZOOM, Twitter, WhatsApp and whatever forms of communication are used in your own Lodges. Please look at the Provincial website and pass back any news and information. May the Great Overseer keep you and your families safe and well.

Mark Grand Rank Appointments and Promotions

FIRST APPOINTMENTS TO GRAND RANK

Active Rank

Paul A Wicking GStwd Woodgrange 1111

Past Rank

Simon McCarthy	PAGDC §	Welcome 1237
David G S Lawrence	PAGDC	Weald of Surrey 1314
Philip C Clare	PAGSwdB §	Loyalty 914
Barrie S Selway	PGStB	St Andrews 806
Harry Smith	PGStB §	Ditton 1857

PROMOTIONS IN GRAND RANK

Active Rank

Christopher W Eley GJO Richmond 808

Past Rank

William R Barr	PGJD	Warlingham 1321
Peter S Unwin	PGJD	Warlingham 1321
Adrian Q Kidney	PGJD	Collingwood 1669
Tim Ford	PGJD	Oak Tree 1839

OTHER APPOINTMENTS IN GRAND LODGE

David F Ashbolt DepPresMBF § Rose 534

§ signifies not through Province of Surrey

Congratulations to Kevin Woodward

Congratulations to W.Bro. Kevin Woodward on his recent successful climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in support of the 2022 MBF Festival. This was a 70 kilometre four day climb to 8,000 feet, the same height as the Everest base camp.

Kevin says that as he approached Kilimanjaro airport it was somewhat surreal to see the top of Mount Kilimanjaro popping up through the clouds, reinforcing the scale of the challenge that awaited him.

They had decided to undertake the Lemosho route, a route described as the most scenic, the quietest and offering a high rate of success based on its great acclimatisation profile. They began their trek in shorts and a T shirt, enjoying a very comfortable 24°C. Kevin arrived at the summit wearing 6 layers of tops and 3 pairs of gloves!



This climb was by far the hardest thing that Kevin had ever done. As well as being physically challenging, there was also the mental challenge of coping with minimal wash facilities, no shower or hair wash and a chemical toilet. The support of so many Surrey Mark Master Masons made a huge difference.

Knowing that so many Mark and RAM Lodges, as well as individual Mark Master Masons, had contributed to the sponsorship provided ample motivation for this challenge, and drove him on to reach the summit. He felt incredibly proud to reach the summit and even more proud to wear his Provincial Mark collar at the top.

Kevin would like to say to all his friends and Surrey Mark Masons "Asante Sana", or thank you very much.

To read the full article and see the photos of the climb visit <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/festival-news-0031.html>



Well done to our Masonic Halls

The Nutfield Centre, in partnership with Alltime Catering, have been working on a project to produce wholesome frozen meals at cost to help Freemasons and their families during this period of social distancing where the elderly and vulnerable may find it difficult to go shopping on a daily basis.

Meals are made in their commercial kitchen and are fully frozen ready for collection in foil containers which can go into the oven. Each £5.00 meal will serve two people.

There is a clear protocol for collection and payment of the meals given at the point of placing the order. Orders can be made by email to centremanager@nutfield-lodge.co.uk or by telephone on 01737 773780. Orders placed can be collected and paid for at an allotted time the following morning. Maybe a representative of a Masonic unit could collect on behalf of their members, and then deliver them? The feedback to date has been extremely positive



Croydon Masonic Hall have been providing food parcels to those Brethren and their families who could not get out to buy their own food and supplies.

The team at CDMH have access to several suppliers for meat, bread, vegetables etc. They deliver it directly and maintain social distance. Payment is by cheque - the cost is known before the order is placed. CDMH charge the cost price for the goods plus a £5.00 charge to cover delivery costs. Note that this only applies to the Croydon area.

The offer is there if Masons would like CDMH to get food organised for them. For more information contact the hall by email at info@cdmhplc.co.uk or by telephone on 020 8688 2005.

At this difficult time let's not forget how important our Masonic Halls are to us Masons. We should all be thinking of ways we can support them through this, and look forward to the day when we can all meet again.

Staying in Touch

Many Mark Lodges have been very creative in setting up ways to stay in touch with each other. Some Lodges have WhatsApp groups where members can share stories, photos and videos. This helps to ensure our members, especially those who may live alone or are self isolating, to feel they are not alone and that others are thinking of them.

Our Provincial Grand Treasurer, W.Bro. Ray Seeley, is a member of a couple of Lodge WhatsApp groups and it was so nice at 9 o'clock one evening to get a message from Ray toasting the health of all of us 'Absent Brethren'.

Other Lodges have set up weekly Zoom get togethers, and we hear of Lodges who are holding committee meetings and even virtual LOIs on Zoom. We could not see any books out....

Festival Events Updates

A reminder to check the web site for details of our Festival Events that have had to be postponed or rescheduled:

<http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/festival-events-index.html>

The Curry Lunch is postponed - refunds available from Stuart de Fraine Ford, the Charity Golf Day is postponed, the Inter Province Cricket Match is cancelled, the Festival Cruise has been rescheduled to May 2021, and the Provincial Grand Officers Mess AGM is to be held as an on-line meeting on a date to be announced.

Communications

This Newsletter is part of a new communications initiative headed up by W.Bro. Richard Knox, Assistant Provincial Grand Master. If anyone has any articles about any activity by your Lodge during the lockdown, or planned activity once we can meet again, send an email to comms@markmastermasons.org.uk

Remember also our other communication channels:

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/SurreyMMM>,

Facebook Chat Group: <https://facebook.com/groups/SurreyMMM>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SurreyMMM>

We have been sending you communications through the Lodge Secretaries and we hope you have been receiving them. In future we will be e-mailing you directly; please add comms@markmastermasons.org.uk to your safe senders list.

The Old Black Shoes



The old black shoes are looking glum
As I pass the lobby door,
"What's wrong with you?" they seem to say,
"We're going out no more.

We've taken not a single step,
Not third or even first,
And ne'er a sign we've seen you give,
Has Masonry been cursed?"

"It has", I said, "by virus vile,
We have to stay at home
Until such time the plague has passed,
Then once more we can roam.

The Masons' Halls are empty,
Regalia put away,
Gavels now stay silent,
DCs hold no sway.

Volumes of the Sacred Law
On pedestals redundant,
Now Brother Jim contacts his friends
By social posts abundant.

No handshake, word or secret sign,
No friendly Festive Board
No Tyler's song to say Goodnight,
No organ's well-loved chord.

"Black shoes," I said, "do not despair,
Our Chain is firm and strong
Our flag of love remains unfurled
We'll sing again our song.

And though our Brethren may have passed
To Grandeur Lodge Above,
We'll look upon their memories
With everlasting Love;

And in their name, we'll offer help
And soothe the burdened heart;
We'll comfort those who are distressed,
Thus Masons play their part.

And when this crisis is resolved
We'll sing the old refrain,
Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part,
Happy to Meet Again