



## A Message from our Provincial Grand Master

**ZOOM – It is now eleven months since the first instructions came from Mark Masons Hall to restrict attendance at, and later to suspend, our meetings.**

We have been fortunate that we have been permitted to hold Virtual Business Meetings using the ZOOM platform and these are being used by more and more Lodges to conduct Administrative Business.



Accounts are being approved, Elections are taking place and we are readying ourselves for the day when we can meet again.

In this edition you will find some reports of meetings, together with photographs. There is one common denominator; that is V.W.Bro. Chris Eley who has attended and reported on so many. Please let us hear about your Lodge.

I encourage all Lodges to hold Virtual Business Meetings to carry out the important business that can be discharged. I have visited many VBM's over the last year and they fulfil a very useful purpose.



We should not forget those who may not have the facilities to join such meetings. Some of our Brethren may be lonely, some are unwell and I ask everyone to think of one member that they could call each week.

Many Almoners are doing sterling work alongside our Provincial Almoner caring for others. I am most grateful to them, but we need to continue to remember our Brethren. Remember – ***“Among Mark Master Masons you will ever find Friends.”***

I am conscious that in March last year we postponed our Annual meeting at short notice, and when it became obvious that we were unlikely to meet again in 2020 we held our Annual Meeting by ZOOM. I have decided that this year it is most unlikely that we will be permitted to hold a physical Annual Meeting in March and I have therefore postponed the **Annual Meeting to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. However on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 we will hold a Provincial Get together and further details on that will be sent out soon.

**2022 Festival** – next week we will reach the **500 days Milestone** before our Festival finale at the Copthorne Hotel, Effingham Park in July 2022. The Event Planning team are now working hard to bring together an event that we can all be proud of, in a lovely setting, with good food and superb entertainment. Tickets will be restricted and further details will be released in the coming months.

With snow on the ground around much of the Province, now is an opportunity to take some winter scene photographs for consideration for inclusion in our 2022 Festival Calendar. So get out your Brownie, your Nikon, Olympus, Canon, iPhone, or whatever camera you use and get your photographs.

The fund raising team are most grateful to those Lodges who continue to make contributions at their Virtual Business Meetings and Lodge get-togethers. I remain thankful to those of you who took up my challenge of the Drip Drip approach to donating, together with those who have made substantial donations.

We are privileged that the Mark Benevolent Fund has chosen Surrey for the re-launch of the MBF Festival Stewardship, this is an exciting opportunity and I will give more details at the Provincial ZOOM Get together in March.

Next month we will have news on the charities who made application for funds to assist them during these difficult times. There is light at the end of the tunnel; we will meet again. In the meantime keep safe and Mark Well.

*Ian N Clark, Provincial Grand Master.*

## Bonus Ball Update

### Congratulations to the January Bonus Ball winners:

Seth Barakzai of Croham Hurst Lodge; David Coombes of Weald of Surrey Lodge; Paul Kerswell of Weald of Surrey Lodge; Tim Ford of Provincial Mark Stewards Lodge; Ray Seeley of Noel Lodge; Arnold Long of Coulsdon Lodge; Alastair Richardson of Manor of Bensham Lodge; Len Hillier of Weald of Surrey Lodge; Alan Brockwell of Manor of Bensham Lodge; David Grimmer of Cranleigh Lodge; Colin Clark of Cranleigh Lodge; John Coleman of Percy Lodge; Roy Hickey of Rose Lodge; Mik Barnes of Rose Lodge; David Planner of Lingfield Lodge; and James Hill of Richmond Lodge.

Don't miss out on having fun and supporting your Mark 2022 Festival at the same time. The Surrey Mark 2022 Festival Bonus Ball Game costs only £10.00 to enter for 10 Games and you and three others will be in with a chance of winning the £30.00 per week prize money.



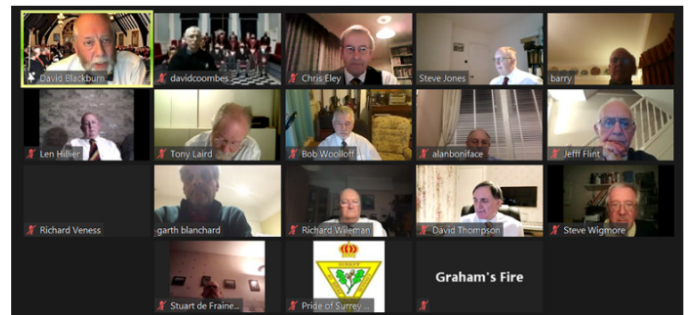
**It's easy to purchase a ball – just click on:**

<https://surrey-mark-bonus-ball-online.square.site/>

## A Big Thank-You to Pride of Surrey Council

**At a recent Virtual Business Meeting of the Pride of Surrey Council of Royal and Select Masters the Council approved a donation of £300 towards the 2022 MBF Festival.**

**This brought their total donation to £500.**



Present at the meeting was the District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. David Blackburn, our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who thanked the Council on behalf of the Mark Province of Surrey for their very generous donation.

The fact that our Provincial Grand Charity Steward is in the Chair of the Council, our Provincial Grand Secretary is the Treasurer, and our Editor is the Recorder had nothing to do with the donation.....





### Surrey Mark Virtual Balloon Race

A virtual Balloon Race that is fun for all the family. 100% eco-friendly, no litter, not gambling, lots of fun, Google balloon tracking. Open to everyone to enter.



Join the Easter race from Jerusalem Old City. Race starts at 12 pm on the 4th April 2021. Balloons cost £3 each.

Buy balloons for your children and grandchildren. Go to <https://ecoracing.co/user/page/1253>

### Surrey Mark Auction

We are delighted to advise everyone that the winning bid for the Basket of Delights was made by W.Bro. Jim Turner, a member of Manor of Bensham Lodge No.1167.

His bid of £175 was a very generous one, and well over the cost of a hamper. Jim said:



*"During the past 12 months I have not had the opportunity to support the Festival through donations at meetings or attending fundraising events, so I am happy to be able to support it in this way."*



Our 2022 Festival Events Manager, Alan Brockwell met with Jim at a car park in Uckfield to deliver the hamper.

Jim and Mary have kindly donated the Basket of Delights to an Old Peoples' Home in their locality, where it was very thankfully received, and will be faithfully applied.

Congratulations to Jim on being the successful bidder, and grateful thanks from our RW Provincial Grand Master to all who took part in the auction.

### A Big Thank-You to Lovekyn Chantry Chapter

At a recent Zoom get together of the Lovekyn Chantry Chapter the Companions agreed to donate the sum of £250 towards the 2022 MBF Festival - the first individual donation from a Surrey Chapter.



The fact that our Provincial Grand Secretary is the First Principal, our Editor is the Scribe E, and most Companions are members of Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons had nothing to do with the donation.....

### The Masonic Deck of Cards

One evening a Lodge Mentor retired with a young Brother who could not witness a ceremony in a higher degree.

The Mentor produced a pack of playing cards and said to the younger Brother, "Did you know that you can learn a great deal about Freemasonry from these?"

"No, indeed," said the young Brother. "What can they teach me?"

"They are useful for improving your memory," said the Mentor. "Look here, now."

The **ACE** reminds me of the Great Architect of the Universe.

The **TWO** reminds me of the two great pillars at the entrance of King Solomon's Temple.

The **THREE** reminds me of the 3 who rule the Lodge; the WM, the SW and the JW.

The **FOUR** reminds me of our progression in the Craft; Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, and Worshipful Master.

The **FIVE** reminds me of the 5 Noble Orders of Architecture; Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite.

The **SIX** reminds me of the 6 principles of our order; Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth, Faith, Hope, and Charity.

The **SEVEN** reminds me of the 7 liberal arts and sciences; Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric, Arithmetic, Music, Geometry, and Astronomy.

The **EIGHT** reminds me that we have members from all faiths. Muslims believe that there are 8 paradises, signifying God's mercy. In Buddhism 8 is a lucky number.

The **NINE** reminds me of the working tools. Three for each of the three degrees.

The **TEN** reminds me of the 10 Commandments on which our order is based. **TEN** was also the Pythagorean symbol of perfection or completeness.

The **JACK** reminds me of the word we share in the Fellow Craft Degree.

The **QUEEN** reminds me of the widow who bore the famous son and, also our Sovereign.

The **KING** reminds me of King Solomon the principal figure of our order.

There are **TWELVE** face cards which remind me of the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 signs of the Zodiac.

There are **TWO COLOURS** which remind me of Night and Day. Good and Evil.

There are **FOUR SUITS** which remind me of Prudence, Temperance, Fortitude and Justice.

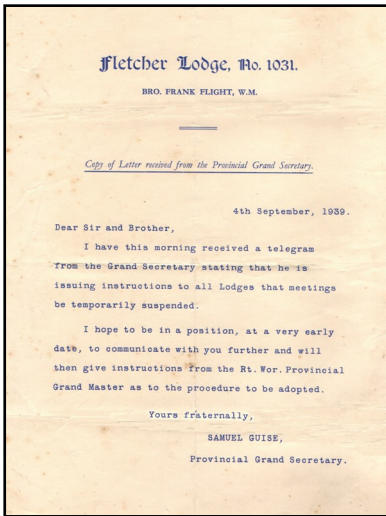
"I am most grateful," said the young Brother. "I will never forget all that you have said. But tell me, there are two cards which you haven't yet explained."

"Oh, those," said the Mentor. "Those are the two **JOKERS** who Proposed and Seconded you after telling you that there would be only four meetings a year!"



# Business as usual during lockdown – or nearly

The last time we had a Suspension of all Masonic Activity was on the 4th September 1939, the day after the Second World War was declared. A letter was issued by the Grand Secretary at Freemasons' Hall to all Lodges and Chapters as follows: *"Having regard to the emergency orders of His Majesty's Government, I am to inform you that until further notice all Masonic meetings are to be suspended. It is hoped that this may only be a temporary measure. Further instructions will be issued at an early date"*.



Unlike today, that order was lifted a month later on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October and, in addition, Grand Lodge empowered lodges to meet as early in the day as possible, if necessary to cancel any regular meetings, to alter dates up to seven days before or after the regular date without needing to obtain a dispensation, and instructed that after-proceedings should be kept as brief as possible.

At that time, and during the six long years that followed, there existed among the brethren an almost perverse obsession that meetings should be held at all costs. This was not a matter of blind adherence to practice or a cussedness born of pique. Its significance lay in the fact that Freemasonry itself was threatened, both as a way of life and as a set of values proved and rooted in the past. Today we are waging a different war, but the determination to hold meetings and get through this together is still there.

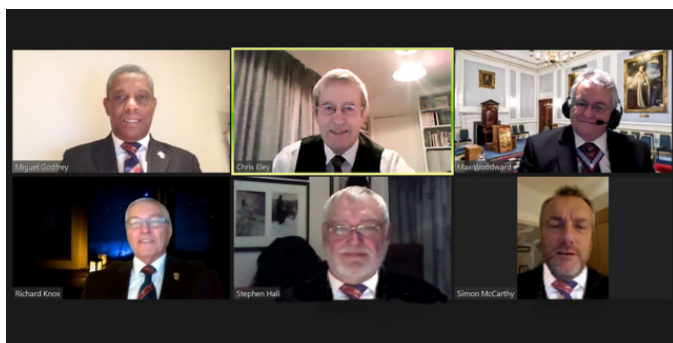
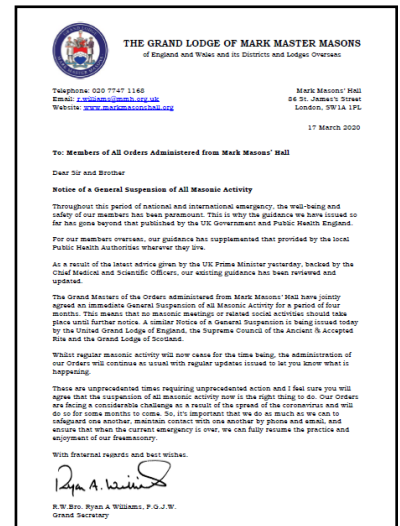
On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 a letter was issued by Grand Secretary of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall to all Masonic Units as follows: *"The*

*Grand Masters of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall have jointly agreed an immediate General Suspension of all Masonic Activity for a period of four months. This means that no Masonic meetings or related social activities should take place until further notice"*. A similar Notice of a General Suspension was issued by the United Grand Lodge of England, the Supreme Council of the Ancient & Accepted Rite and the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

This suspension was lifted on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and the first meeting of any Order in Surrey was the installation meeting of the Fratres Calami Aerariique Lodge on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 3 days after suspension was lifted. To ensure compliance with government guidelines, and instructions from Mark Masons Hall, the meeting was held in the Wheeler Temple at Croydon which is large enough to ensure that social distancing rules could be observed.

Since then a number of meetings were held under the Rule of Six with Brethren wearing face coverings; until a new lockdown was imposed across England and all face to face meetings were suspended from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 until further notice. Units due to hold meetings during the lockdown were encouraged to make use of the Virtual Business Meeting Scheme instead.

This scheme has been taken up by many Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in Surrey. This not only enables Lodge administrative business to be conducted but, importantly, gives an opportunity for Lodge members to get together on their regular meeting date.



On the 21<sup>st</sup> January **Welcome RAM and Mark Lodges** held their second Virtual Business Meeting (VBM). The Presiding Officers were W.Bro. Stephen Hall, **R.A.M.G.R.**, in the Royal Ark Mariner and W.Bro. Max Woodward in the Mark.

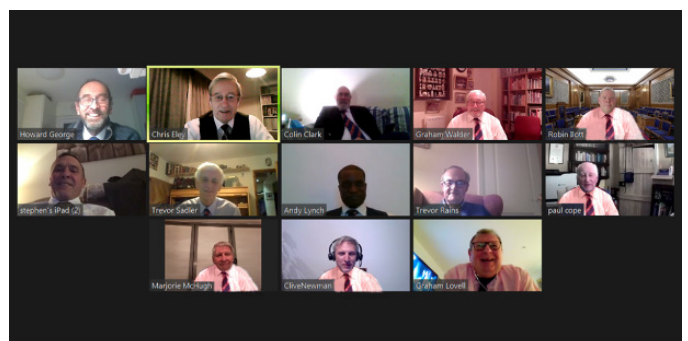
W.Bro Simon McCarthy was declared as Worshipful Commander and W.Bro. Richard Knox, **P.G.S.D.**, as Treasurer.

W.Bro. Richard Knox, our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, advised the Brethren that a donation is being made towards the 2022 MBF Festival which will qualify the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge as a Patron of the MBF. A great effort from a small Lodge.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting of **Pleydell Bouverie RAM and Mark Lodges**. The Presiding Officer in both the Royal Ark Mariner and the Mark meetings was W.Bro. Andy Lynch.

In the Royal Ark Mariner meeting a ballot was taken for a candidate for elevation. This proved in his favour and the ceremony will be conducted as soon as we can all meet again.

In the Mark meeting Bro. Robin Illott was declared Master Elect for the ensuing year. There was also a successful ballot for a joining member, the same Brother who will be elevated into the Royal Ark Mariner degree.



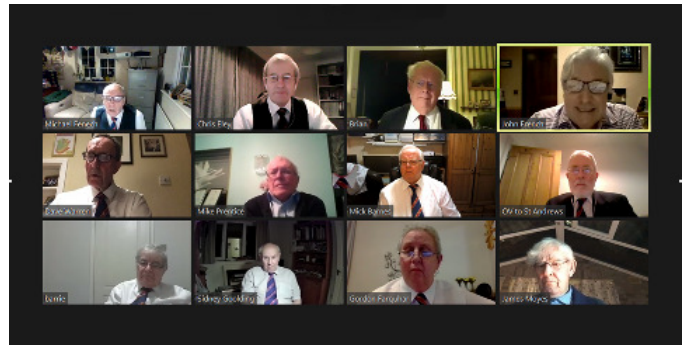


The Editor then virtually went all the way to Farnham on the 28<sup>th</sup> to visit **St Andrew's Mark Lodge**.

The Presiding Officer, W.Bro. David Warren, P.Prov.A.G.St.B. declared the meeting open and the Secretary, W.Bro. Michael Fenech, Prov.G.S.D., read the Letter of Permission and the Dispensation.

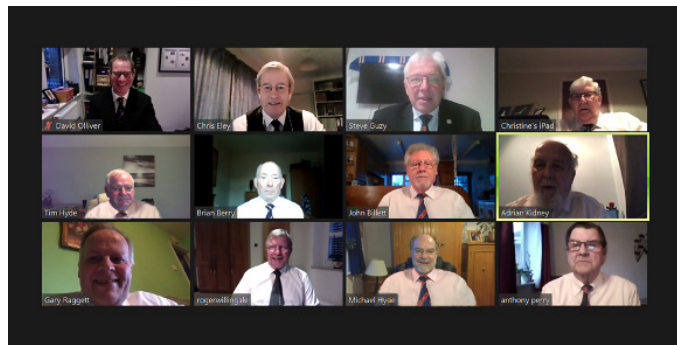
Present at the meeting was our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. John French, **P.G.J.D.**, and the Lodge's Official Visitor, W.Bro. Ray Seeley, P.G.S.D., Provincial Grand Treasurer.

The next day was rather busy as there was the **Collingwood RAM and Mark Lodge** meetings followed by the Editor's own Lodge meetings, **Richmond RAM and Mark**.



The Presiding Officers in **Collingwood Lodge** were W.Bro. Roger Willingale, Prov.R.A.M.G.R, in the Royal Ark Mariner and W.Bro. Adrian Kidney, **P.G.J.D.**, in the Mark. The Secretary, W.Bro. Steve Guzy, Prov.A.G.Char.Stwd., read the Letters of Permission and the Dispensations.

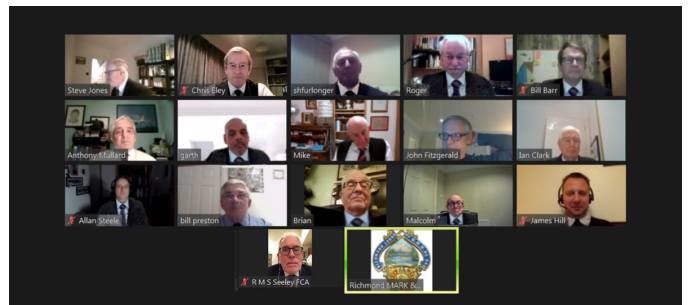
In the Royal Ark Mariner the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Brett Willingale, and the Treasurer, W.Bro. Gary Raggett, Prov.R.A.M.G.R., were elected to remain in office for a further year. Congratulations to the Scribe/Secretary, W.Bro. Steve Guzy, who will receive Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank on the 20<sup>th</sup> March.



In the Mark the members voted to donate £200 to the Pond Meadow School and £500 to the 2022 MBF Festival in the name of the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge. In closing everyone said how successful the meeting had been; and the Secretary said how much being together again helped to build up their spirits and give everyone the energy to move forward.

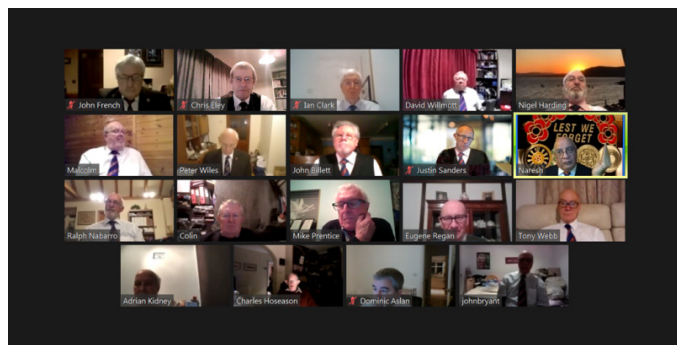
In **Richmond Lodge** the Presiding Officer for both meetings was W.Bro. Garth Blanchard, Prov.G.Stwd. Attending the meeting was the Lodge's Official Visitor, W.Bro. Ray Seeley, **P.G.S.D.**, Provincial Grand Treasurer. The Lodge was also honoured by the presence of our Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro. Ian Clark; Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Bill Barr, **P.G.J.D.**; and our Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro. Steve Jones, **P.G.Stwd.**

In the Royal Ark Mariner Bro. Wayne Lucas was declared Worshipful Commander, and W.Bro. Tim Ford, **R.A.M.G.R.**, was declared Treasurer. In the Mark W.Bro. Steve Jones gave one of his entertaining charity updates. We had 13 members and 4 guests, which made for a most convivial and enjoyable meeting.



On the 4<sup>th</sup> February **Table Fellowship Mark Lodge** held their Virtual Business Meetings. The Presiding Officers were W.Bro. Adrian Kidney, **R.A.M.G.R.** in the Royal Ark Mariner and W.Bro. Ralph Nabarro in the Mark. The Scribe/Secretary, Naresh Bhatt, read the Letters of Permission and the Dispensations.

The Lodges were honoured by the presence of our Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro. Ian Clark, and W.Bro. John French, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master said how pleased he was to be with everyone and to see so many present.



And finally, on the 5<sup>th</sup> February **Weyside Mark and RAM Lodges** held their Virtual Business Meetings. The Presiding Officers were W.Bro. Mark Winchester in the Mark and W.Bro. Keith McLean (Mac) in the Royal Ark Mariner. The Scribe/Secretary, Richard Collinson, Prov.G.S.O., read the Letters of Permission and the Dispensations.

In the Mark the members agreed to a £100 donation to the 2022 Festival in recognition of Simon McCarthy's 2022 mile bike ride.

It is hoped that as many Lodges as possible will take advantage of the opportunity to hold Virtual Business Meetings. It's easy to do, just request a Letter of Permission and a Dispensation from our Provincial Grand Secretary on [provsec@markmastermasons.org.uk](mailto:provsec@markmastermasons.org.uk) who will be happy to provide you with any guidance or assistance you may require. **Please remember that the dress code for a Virtual Business Meeting is collar and tie.**

