



A Message from our Provincial Grand Master

Brethren, we have talked about light at the end of the tunnel for some time but now, that light is shining brightly. I have decided, after consultation with the Heads of the Progressive Orders in Surrey that the suspension of Mark Masonry in the Province will be lifted on Monday 21st June 2021.

I am hopeful that by then a sufficient number of our members will feel confident in being able to return, without too many restrictions. Virtual Business Meetings (VBMs) can continue for a period after that date and I encourage you all to continue to keep in touch and support those in need. The Provincial Grand Secretary will issue guidance and remains available to assist Lodge Secretaries.



My thanks to those who joined the “Let’s Get Together” in March, it was very well attended by our members and served a useful purpose; if only to hear the Provincial Treasurer offering further assistance in respect of fees !

Our Annual meeting will now take place at Croydon Masonic Centre on **Saturday 11th September 2021** when we will have the pleasure to receive M.W. Bro Raymond Smith, the Pro Grand Master, and the Grand Secretary R.W. Bro. Ryan Williams.

I offer my sincere congratulations to those to be honoured by the M.W. Grand Master with Grand Rank, in recognition of your efforts for our Order, with the hope that you will take on additional responsibilities as a Grand Officer. I look forward to seeing you invested in September.

Once again I thank those members of the Province who have signed up to become **Festival Stewards of the Surrey 2022 MBF Festival**. Which will be the first Mark Lodge in the Province to have every member of the Lodge as a Festival Steward ?

The Annual Cricket Match between Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Middlesex will be hosted by Middlesex on **Sunday 18th July 2021**. W.Bro. Chris Hatton is the Team Manager and he is pencilling in the team names now. If you, your son, or your grandson is a cricketer please let Chris know (full time professionals excepted or should that be accepted). This is a fun event and all the proceeds will go to our Festival. Programmes are being printed and will be sent to Lodge Secretaries.

Ian N. Clark, Provincial Grand Master

A date for your diary

Can’t wait to meet up again? At Surbiton on Monday 21st June the first Surrey Mark and RAM meetings will take place at the **Richmond Mark and RAM Lodges**.

We plan to hold a well overdue installation in the RAM and we may have a team along in the Mark to celebrate the resumption of meetings.

154th MBF Annual Festival Stewardship



As Provincial Grand Master for Surrey I have the honour of presiding over the 154th MBF Festival, when the Province will host the Festival in July 2022 on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

We are fortunate that Surrey has been selected to be the first Province to have the new Festival Stewards. I now invite the members of the Province to become a Steward of the Festival and to wear the Jewel with pride.

Stewardship of the Mark Benevolent Fund Festival costs £100, this can be gift aided and donated to the Festival. That £100 will count towards your personal honorifics with the Mark Benevolent Fund.

You will be given

- A very distinctive Jewel
- A Breast pocket pad
- Year Bar
- Name added to the Steward’s Roll of Honour in the Festival Results Book

I think it is a superb and distinctive Jewel, the first of many, a collector’s item specially designed by V.W. Bro. Bob Tuthill for the MBF.

Stewardship of the Surrey MBF 2022 Festival is available now and an application form is available on the website <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/news-0446.html>

Another 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 further donation of £300 towards the 2022 MBF Festival. This brings their total donation to £800.



Present at the meeting was the District Grand Master, R.Ill.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.

Our Provincial Grand Charity Steward is in the Chair of the Council, our Provincial Grand Secretary is the Treasurer, and our Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master is the Recorder. This may have had something to do with the donation.....





Bonus Ball Update

Congratulations to the March Bonus Ball winners:

Ashwin Sumaria of Weald of Surrey Lodge, Stephen Dingvean of Woodgrange Lodge, David Bleming of Pleydell Bouverie Lodge, Colin Bryson of Cranleigh Centenary Lodge, Bond of Friendship Lodge; Phil Young of Croham Hurst Lodge; Colin Bryson of Cranleigh Centenary Lodge; Michael Fenech of St Andrews Lodge; Table Fellowship Lodge; Coulsdon Lodge; Ian Parsons of Camberley Lodge and Ian Parsons of Camberley Lodge (again); John Hardy of Bond of Friendship Lodge; Mark Donovan of Noel Lodge; Colin Bryson of Cranleigh Centenary Lodge and Jim Cranefield of H A Mann Lodge



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

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

Mike's Mark May Day Quiz

A reminder to book in for the next Festival Quiz taking place via Zoom on **Saturday 1st May at 7.30 p.m.**



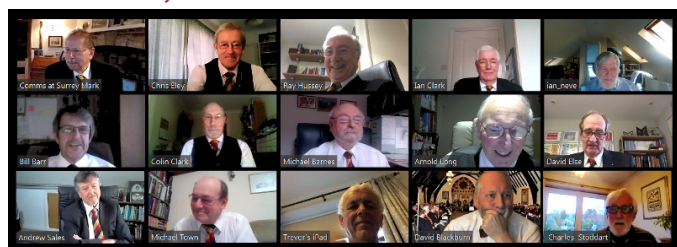
Last year the magnificent sum of £2,475 was raised for the Mark Benevolent Fund. **Entry is £10 per team.**

Wives, partners, children are all eligible to join in. Bring your own food and drink! In July we had 21 teams competing and everyone said

that it was a fun way of keeping in touch. **To book a place** go to: <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/festival-events-0025.html>

A Big Thank-You to Waverley Council

At a recent Virtual Business Meeting of the Waverley Council of Royal and Select Masters the Council approved a donation of **£1,000** towards the 2022 MBF Festival.



The Presiding Officer, Ill.Comp. Bill Barr, Thrice Illustrious Master, our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, declared the meeting open and welcomed all present.

Companion Ray Seeley, our Provincial Grand Treasurer, was elected Thrice Illustrious Master for the ensuing year and V.Ill.Comp. Ray Hussey, Past Provincial Grand Master, was elected as Treasurer.

A discussion took place regarding charitable donations. It was proposed that the sum of £1,000 be donated by the Council towards the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival. This was carried unanimously and Comp. Ian Clark, our Provincial Grand Master, thanked the Companions of Waverley Council for their very generous donation to the Festival.

Mark Grand Rank Appointments and Promotions

Congratulations to the Surrey Brethren who will receive appointment, re-appointment or promotion in Grand Rank in 2021. It is hoped that the investitures can take place at the meeting of Grand Lodge on the 14th September 2021.

RE-APPOINTMENT TO ACTIVE GRAND RANK

Christopher W Eley G.J.O. Richmond 808
Paul Wicking G.Stwd. Woodgrange 1111

APPOINTMENT TO PAST GRAND RANK

Kevin Woodward P.A.G.D.C. Weald of Surrey 1314
John Roberts P.G.St.B. Weyside 442
John Hardy P.G.St.B. Bond of Friendship 1576

PROMOTIONS IN GRAND RANK

David Blackburn P.G.S.O. Sanderstead 1742
Robert Tuthill P.G.S.O. § Loyalty 914
David Russell P.G.J.O. § Percy 114
John Coleman P.G.S.D. Percy 114
John Woodville P.G.J.D. Richmond 808

§ signifies not through Province of Surrey

Surrey Mark Virtual Balloon Race

The Easter Balloon Race departed from Istanbul, Turkey, at noon on the 4th April 2021.



451 of our balloons joined the race from Istanbul and were tracked on their journey south across Asia and Africa. The Balloon Race raised

over **£1,000** for our Festival. For a report and pictures see <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/news-0453.html>



Recipients of MBF grants

Within the last month three Surrey charities have been supported by grants from the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The Horsley, Bookham and Leatherhead Riding for the Disabled Group lost their home at the turn of the year and although they located a new one, much work was needed to be done to bring the facilities up to scratch. A charity application was made to the MBF and over £18,000 was immediately agreed to help with the conversion work.



The 1st Warlingham Scouts needed a ramp and some landscaping at their Scout hut to enable easy access for those who are disabled; £7,500 was sought and immediately granted.

The 1st Burstow Scout Group had a problem with fencing. To their credit, they felt able to erect one section themselves but needed another section to be professionally done, so made a two-part application, one for supply of fencing only and the other for supply and erect. They quickly received a grant for over £5,000, enabling them to make secure their hut and surrounding land.

And we have recently received an application to provide washing machines for a Women's Refuge, which is being currently considered.



let's get TOGETHER

We were unable to hold our 2021 Annual Meeting in March this year due to the continued suspension of Masonic activities. Our Provincial Grand Master didn't want to hold a Virtual Business Meeting for a second consecutive year and therefore has moved the Annual Meeting to Saturday 11th September 2021 when hopefully it should be safe for us all to meet at Croydon Masonic Hall.



We were all invited to join our Provincial Grand Master and members of the Provincial Executive for a Get Together using the Zoom video conferencing tool on Saturday 20th March 2021. RW.Bro. Ian Clark opened the **Let's Get Together** and welcomed everyone saying how good it was to see nearly 150 Mark Masons representing all the Lodges in Surrey.



In his introduction RW.Bro. Ian said that during the last year we have done so much to keep in touch and encouraging everyone to keep in touch with each other. We have had much success in doing so, and this Get Together was another way of keeping in touch and at the same time updating everyone on news of some of the exiting things coming up. This included proposals in respect of Annual Fees and charges by Provincial Grand Lodge, some details of Festival Stewardship, an update on where our donations to the MBF have been going in the last year, news of the Festival Banquet and the plans for it, together with an opportunity for you to put questions to the Executive.

The next item was to honour the names of those Brethren who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above since September 2020. W.Bro. Tim Ford, Provincial Grand Secretary, read the names of those Brethren, followed by a few moments of reflection to remember them.



W.Bro. Ray Seeley, Provincial Grand Treasurer, gave his report. The Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 are now on the website and will be put for formal approval when our Annual Meeting is held. His report for the year is also on the Provincial website. He gave some good news about a reduction in fees, both Mark and RAM, that Lodges will be paying on 1 September 2021, which means the charge will be £3 per head not £6. The charge to Lodges for yearbooks of £25 will not be made in 2021, and there will be no Provincial charges for those advanced, elevated or joining Lodges in the year from September 2021 to August 2022.

W.Bro. Bill Barr, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, spoke about charity and the Mark Benevolent Fund.

He said that charity is at the very heart of all we do as Masons. It plays a huge part in our activities and many of our activities exist almost purely to collect funds for charitable purposes. He spoke about the work of the MBF in supporting charities such as Hope for Tomorrow, a charity providing mobile chemotherapy units for cancer patients, saving them long and tiring journeys to hospitals. Re-equipping St John Ambulance with vehicles, twenty years after the last time we did the very same thing. Many of us were at Nutfield for a presentation to St John Ambulance when a newly provided vehicle stood next to a twenty-year old one donated by the Mark and still in use. Blood bikes provided by Mark Masons following the London Charity Walk, now travel all over the country with their life-saving cargo.

W.Bro. Bill said that charity is not a one-way street in that much of what we collect comes straight back to us with over £166,000 provided to smaller charities operating within the Provinces.





Closer to home, and all within the last month, we have had three Surrey charities supported by the MBF. The Horsley, Bookham and Leatherhead Riding for the Disabled Group, the 1st Warlingham Scouts and the 1st Burstow Scout group. Just last week we received an application to provide washing machines for a Women's Refuge, which is being considered at the moment.

We were encouraged to continue to give with a generous heart and also to keep an eye out for those charities close at hand who would benefit from a grant, as well as continuing to support our Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival.

The next item was congratulate those Provincial Grand Officers receiving an Appointment, Re-appointment, Promotion and Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

Our Provincial Grand Master was pleased to re-appoint W.Bro. John French as his Deputy Provincial Grand Master and W.Bro Richard Knox and W.Bro Bill Barr as his Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. The Active Provincial Grand Officers appointed last year were all



given the opportunity to continue in office. Newly appointed are W.Bro. Leslie Grout as Provincial Grand Chaplain, picking up the mantle from W.Bro. Louis Keats; and W.Bro. Michael Howarth as an Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

RW.Bro. Ian said that Louis has been our Provincial Grand Chaplain since 2016 and prior to that Deputy Provincial Grand Chaplain for four years; a total of 9 years of active Service to the Mark Province of Surrey in Chaplaincy. He thanked W.Bro. Louis for all that he has done in Surrey Mark since his first active appointment as Senior Deacon twenty years ago.

The Provincial Grand Secretary read out the 2021 Appointments to Active Rank, Promotions, First Appointments and those appointed to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

W.Bro. Bill Barr reported on the Surrey 2022 MBF Festival Event. He shared with us how the weekend will unfold and also how the preparations for it are progressing. Our MBF Festival will be celebrated on the first and the second of July 2022 at the Effingham and Cophorne Hotels near Gatwick with the Festival Banquet being held on the Saturday evening in the Millennium Suite.

The event will be staged over two days and from check-in on Friday 1st July to check-out on the Sunday, it is hoped that we, our partners, family and friends and our VIP Distinguished Guests will be well entertained and thoroughly enjoy the occasion. There will be a good quality buffet with dancing and entertainment including a casino in the Millennium Suite on the Friday evening. This should prove a relaxing and joyous evening and set the tone for a great weekend. On the Saturday morning trips to local places of interest have been arranged to showcase our Surrey County. There will also be foot-golf in the hotel grounds. This is set out like a traditional golf course and involves kicking a football into obviously bigger holes. There will also be traditional golf with perhaps a mini-tournament at a local course.



the leading Jersey Boys Tribute Bands.

On the Sunday morning, following breakfast, we will say farewell, having enjoyed the fellowship and company of our partners, Brethren and friends old and new. This event is a once in a Masonic lifetime for most of us, so everyone is encouraged to support our fund raising and make a booking for the Festival Weekend.

W.Bro John French, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, gave an update on our progress with the Surrey 2022 MBF Festival Fundraising. He said that so far as our contributions to our Festival are concerned we must congratulate the members of the Surrey Installed Masters Lodge on receiving the highest award, Grand Patron Diamond. Well done as this is a wonderful achievement. There are at least 9 lodges who have achieved Grand Patron Gold, with many more at Grand Patron level. Thank you all so much for what you have done and, more importantly, what you will continue to do.

Together we can make a difference and should anyone need any help please ask our Provincial Grand Charity Steward who will steer you in the right direction - having been moored up for quite some time now! Everyone was encouraged to do as much as we can to raise precious funds for the Surrey Mark Festival.

There followed a question and answer session after which our Provincial Grand Master thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

