



## A Message from our Provincial Grand Master

Welcome to the second edition of the Surrey Keystone. By the time you read this we will have heard something from the Prime Minister about the road map for a staged exit from the current lock down.

My thoughts are with those who have suffered from the COVID 19 virus, and my prayers continue to be for those called to higher service and their families. If you hear of a member suffering from COVID 19 please let a member of the Provincial Executive know.

Remember amongst Mark Master Masons you will always find friends, and I invite you in a quiet moment to call someone in your own Lodge. It's good to talk, they will appreciate it and we can continue to support each other.

The Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) continues to provide support to members who may be facing difficulties; initial contact should be via your Lodge Almoner who can contact W.Bro. John Coleman, our Provincial Grand Almoner. Please don't suffer in silence.

The MBF recently announced its support for an initiative to provide 2,500 Face Shields per week to front line staff in England and Wales and in Surrey this is being coordinated by our Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro. Steve Jones. The MBF is funded by donations from its members and our Annual Festivals, and we are now just over 2 years away from our 2022 Festival.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find details of a new initiative to support our Festival – **the 70300 Text appeal**. Details are also available on the Provincial website.



A new **Surrey Mark Festival Polo Shirt** has been launched this week. I will be looking for the best genuine photographs of you wearing your polo shirts during the next two years.

My thanks to those undertaking sponsored events for 2022, some of which have had to be put on hold. Once again I thank those who are supporting the Festival by regular giving and those who responded to my recent letter.

My best wishes to you all. Keep safe.

### Did you know that?

There are 10,000 beaches in Australia – you could visit a different beach every day for 27 years and still not see them all.

The Rolex Watch Company is run by a non profitable charity trust and they donate 90% of their profit to the Trust – because the founder was an orphan.

## Photo Competition

**Who wants to win a year's entry in the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival Bonus Ball Game - worth £50.**

All you have to do is submit a photograph to

[comms@markmastermasons.org.uk](mailto:comms@markmastermasons.org.uk)

with a theme of **Social Distancing**.

The closing date for the competition is

30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The entries will be

judged by our Provincial

Photographers, Bob Tuthill and Chris Eley, and the winner will

be announced in the July issue of the **surrey keystone**.

***This competition is open to Surrey Mark Masons only.***



## Communications

The new Communications team headed by W.Bro.

Richard Knox, AProvGM, had their first meeting – by Zoom.

This committee will have the responsibility for all publications, communication channels, and general communications

A reminder that if anyone



has any newsworthy articles, preferably with a photo, they

should send it to [comms@markmastermasons.org.uk](mailto:comms@markmastermasons.org.uk)

**The Mark web site Publications page has been updated to include issues of the new surrey keystone.**

See <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/publications.html>

## The Burma Star Memorial Fund

On Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales hosted a reception for the Burma Star Memorial Fund at Clarence House, during which His Royal Highness met some of the last surviving Burma Star veterans.



Present at the reception was our oldest subscribing member, W.Bro. Roy Miller, of Croydon Mark Lodge No 198.

**When you go home tell them of us and say  
For your tomorrow we gave our today**



## Surrey 2022 MBF Festival Polo Shirts

NOW AVAILABLE

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey is delighted to announce the immediate availability of the Surrey 2022 MBF Festival Polo Shirt, with all proceeds going to the Surrey 2022 MBF Festival Fund.

Order your very own **Surrey 2022 Polo Shirt**, and maybe to also order one as gift for a friend. Available Sizes: Large, Extra Large, XXL. Cost £20 including delivery.

See <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/festival-news-0032.html> for an order form.

## Bonus Ball Update

**Congratulations to the April Bonus Ball winners:**

Gary Raggett of Collingwood Lodge, Terry Carpenter of Kintore Lodge, David Blackburn of Sanderstead Lodge, Michael Banbury of H.A. Mann Lodge, Alan Boniface of the Mark Stewards Lodge, Jim Cranefield of H.A.Mann Lodge, Steve Jones of Noel Lodge and Bernie Greenwood of Curfew 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 will be in with a chance of winning the £30.00 per week prize money. We are running two games at the moment and if we can get a few more players we could run a third game – lets try. To purchase a ball, or for any other queries, please contact the co-ordinator, W.Bro. John Fitzgerald. See <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/bonus-ball.html> for more information.



## Festival Events

**Sadly the 2020 Nijmegen Walk that W.Bro. Nigel Feltham was due to participate in to raise funds for our Festival has been cancelled.**

For a long time, the organisers had hoped the measures would have had effect in time for the **International Four Day Marches Nijmegen** to take place safely. This would have been a wonderful way to conclude a difficult few months for both the Netherlands and the rest of the world.

**Nigel will be taking part in this walk in 2021, from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the**

**23<sup>rd</sup> July, and hopes that Lodges and individuals will continue to sponsor him to raise funds for our 2022 MBF Festival.**



## Text Donations to the 2022 Festival

**You can make a donation by text to the Festival Relief Chest easily in less than 2 minutes.**

1. Send a text message with the specified short code to **70300** with a message **SURREYMARK2022**
2. You will receive a confirmation text containing a link to an online form. "Thank you for your £5 donation to the Surrey Mark Festival. Please visit <https://vir2.me/chest> for it to be allocated to you & any Gift Aid claimed



3. To ensure your donation is allocated to you and the Lodge, fill in Gift Aid status, mobile number, title, first name, last name, lodge number, find address and submit.

For more details and a list of frequently asked questions: <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/text-donation-service.html>

## Famous Mark Masons

Thanks to W.Bro. Mike Neville for writing some articles for the Mark web site to keep us entertained during these times. If you want a good read about famous Mark Masons go to <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/news-0371.html> to read about who identified Jack the Ripper - and <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/news-0376.html> to read about the real Sherlock Holmes.

## Suspension of Masonic Activity in 1939

If you want to read about the last time there was a suspension of Masonic meetings, and what life was like as a Mason during World War Two go to <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/news-0375.html>

## IN THE TIME OF QUIET

No one's told the daffodils  
about the pause to Spring  
And no one's told the birds to roost  
and asked them not to sing

No one's asked the lazy bee  
to cease his bumbling round  
And no one's stopped the bright green shoots  
emerging through the ground

No one's told the sap to rest, deep within the wood  
And stop the sleepy trees from waking, wreathed about in bud  
No one's told the sky to douse its brightest shades of blue  
And stop the scudding clouds from puffing headlong into view

No one's asked the lambs to still the springs beneath their feet,  
To stop their rapid rush and quell each joyful bleat  
No one's told the stream to halt its gurgle or its flow  
And warned the playful breezes, not to gust and blow

No one's asked the raindrops not to fall upon the earth  
And fail to quench the soil in the season of rebirth  
No one's locked the sun down, or dimmed the shimmer of the moon  
And even in the darkest night, the stars are still immune

Remember what you value, remember who is dear  
Close the doors to danger and keep your family near  
In the quiet all around us take the time to sit and stare  
And wonder at the glory unfurling everywhere

Look towards the future, after the ordeal  
And keep faith in Mother Nature's power and will to heal

*Poem by Philippa Atkin*

