

17 Days to go



Brethren, I hope that you and your families enjoyed the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Last month one of our members, W.Bro. Harry Winter, celebrated his 100th birthday and I felt sure that you would wish to join me in congratulating him on this wonderful achievement.

He invited many friends and family to a birthday party lunch at Croydon Masonic Centre.

He didn't want any birthday presents but asked that donations be given to the new Children's Ward at the Croydon University Hospital. On your behalf I presented Harry with a cheque for £1000 from the Mark Master Masons of Surrey for his chosen charity.



In 17 days' time we will reach the finale of our Festival.

You will have to wait another 35 years before Surrey host the next MBF Festival.

On 2nd July the Grand Secretary will announce the final sum raised during our Festival. Whatever the result, I wish to thank those members and those Lodges who have worked hard in our endeavours to reach a total that we as a Province can be proud of. I also thank those members and their families who have booked for the final Banquet, it will be a night to be remembered.

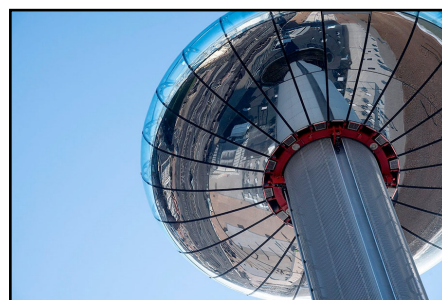
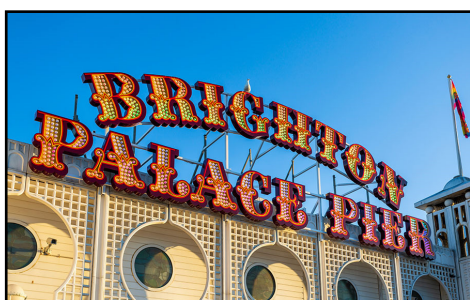
I draw your attention to the " Magic of the Mark " link released at the Investiture Meeting of Mark Grand Lodge last week. video:

<https://bit.ly/MagicOfTheMark>

Please take a few minutes to watch it and show it to Craft Masons who you think would be interested in taking the fourth regular step in Freemasonry.

Keep safe and Mark Well.

Ian.



A Magic Mark Investiture Meeting



The Mark Annual Investiture Meeting took place on Tuesday the 7th of June 2022.

It was good to see V.W.Bro. Peter Rubie-Todd back at Mark Grand Lodge. Peter is seen here with V.W.Bro. Bob Tuhill who was on photographic duties with V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, seen here with V.W.Bro. Roy Bedford, G.M.O. a well-respected Surrey Mark Man.



It was heart-warming to see the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall so full on for the Investiture Meeting, the first since 2019.

Most Worshipful Brother Raymond John Smith, Pro Grand Master was presiding and opened the meeting, welcoming Brethren who had travelled from far and wide to attend and support their friends receiving Active Grand Rank or first appointment to Past Grand Rank.



Although the reading of the names of some of those Grand Officers who the Great Overseer of the Universe has called to higher service is always a sad occasion, this year was especially poignant following the loss of our Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison, to whom the Pro Grand Master paid a personal and warm tribute before indicating that the Assistant Grand Master's Chair had been left empty as a sign of respect.



Following this, over 300 recipients of Grand Rank were appointed and invested including from Surrey, W.Bro. Les Smith as Grand Steward; W.Bro. Mick Clay as **P.A.G.Swd.B**; and W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood as **P.G.Std.B**.



A few more items of admin were then dealt with before the Pro Grand Master addressed the Brethren. In his speech he reminded Brethren that our Grand Master, Prince Michael of Kent, will not only celebrate his eightieth birthday in July of this year, but is also celebrating 40 years as our Grand Master. We hope to welcome the Grand Master at the September meeting.



It was then time to close Grand Lodge and retire for refreshments.

We then went along to the Grand Connaught Rooms for dinner where over 800 Brethren enjoyed a most convivial meal together before retiring to the pub for more refreshments together to end a most enjoyable day.

After most of the administrative business had been carried out it was time to Proclaim the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother HRH Prince Michael of Kent, *GCVO*.

The Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, and the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman, were then re-appointed and proclaimed. Then came the appointment, obligation, investiture, installation and proclamation of the new Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer.

Frank is another well-known face, being the outgoing Grand Director of Ceremonies of this Order and Deputy Grand Summus of the Scarlet Cord.



Following the return to Mark Masonry the time is now right to turn our attention to welcoming more Brethren into our wonderful and friendly Degree. The Pro Grand Master announced a new initiative entitled “**The Magic of The Mark**” which was being launched that afternoon. <https://bit.ly/MagicOfTheMark>





MBF Donations

Cheque Presentation to the RDA towards a brand new riding facility for the Disabled

The RW Provincial Grand Master Ian Clark, accompanied by David Lawrence, John Coleman, Steve Jones and Bob Tuthill, paid a visit to Badgers Farm in Effingham to present a cheque for £18,506 to Sheri Johnson of the Riding for Disabled Association, a local charity that provides therapeutic riding sessions for children and adults with disabilities.



Sheri Johnson said how delighted the centre was to receive such a generous donation and stated that Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead Riding for the Disabled was thrilled to finally begin riding sessions in their new facility at Badgers Farm.

Thanks to the generous support of local individuals, trusts and foundations, including the Mark Benevolent Fund, HBL RDA welcomed back riders and volunteers to a fantastic new facility, including a 30x60 indoor arena, classroom, viewing area and fully accessible toilets.



We are so thrilled to be riding again and so appreciate the generosity of the Mark Benevolent Fund for their significant donation, helping to make our dream of a new centre a reality – Sheri Johnson

Surrey Mark present a MBF cheque to I Choose Freedom

On Tuesday the 31st May 2022, The Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. John French accompanied by W.Bro. David Lawrence, W.Bro Alastair Richardson and W.Bro Bob Tuthill visited a refuge centre in Redhill to present a cheque for £5,430 to the charity CEO Charlotte Kneer.



Charlotte gave us a tour of the refuge and explained that I Choose Freedom is a small, independent charity dedicated to changing the lives of adults and children fleeing life threatening domestic abuse. Founded in 1984, they have provided thousands of women and children with advocacy, accommodation and ultimately freedom. They are currently supporting thirty women and sixty children in their refuges and are in the process of opening new refuge spaces for any adult that needs them.

She stated how exceptionally fortunate they are to have been supported by Masons.

Recently we were delighted to be awarded a grant from the Mark Province of Surrey which enabled us to purchase two new commercial washing machines for one of our refuges. We have been pleasantly surprised by the earnest interest in our projects and have felt really supported by Masons. Thank you from all of the survivors using our services and the I Choose Freedom team.



For more information about I Choose Freedom go to www.ichoosefreedom.co.uk.

Photos of both cheque presentations by Bob Tuthill

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey web site: <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/>

Other News

Surrey Mark Provincial Grand Officers Mess Annual Meeting.

Surbiton, a very pleasant place to visit on a Friday afternoon. An uncomplicated drive for those members coming from the far-flung northern parts of Surrey.



The starting point was the bar area with coffee tea, drinks, and mini sausages. Lovely! At 6:30 the AGM of the Mess was declared open. W.Bro. John French welcomed us all to the meeting and the business of the meeting was conducted in a well-ordered manner following the usual format. It was disappointing that so many of our members were unable to attend for various reasons. Several suggestions were made, and some will be acted upon in time for the next meeting on the 17th of September 2022. After the Meeting was declared closed, we enjoyed a sumptuous meal that we have come to expect at Surbiton.

A talk by W. Bro. Kevin Woodward then followed. He had altered it from its original version which some of us had seen at a previous Mark meeting. If you were unable to attend, you missed a fascinating story of mind over matter and the huge support needed for the ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro.

An amazing adventure to hear about and obviously of great meaning to those taking part. Energy, planning, and pure determination were some of the key elements which enabled the successful participants to reach the summit of this beautiful mountain. Not everyone succeeded and some were assisted in the final moments of this epic journey. Fascinating to watch the visual presentation and to hear at first hand the ascent of a lifetime!



That wasn't all. Our Provincial Grand Master rounded off this very pleasant evening with presentations to several of those present.

V.W.Bro. David Willmott received a Grand Patron Diamond Award, as did W.Bro. Richard Knox.

W.Bro. David Clark received a Grand Patron award, and our hard-working secretary, W.Bro. Tony Connor, together with W.Bro. Jim Moyes from my Lodge, St Andrew's, received Patron award.

W.Bro. Miguel Godfrey received Grand Patron Gold on behalf of Welcome Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No.1237.

Our Provincial Grand Master was so thankful to the aforementioned, and all who had gone the extra mile (*or more up Mt. Kilimanjaro*) to support the Festival.

Easy to find. Easy to Park. A lovely building and exceptionally pleasant and very helpful staff. The food was good and the companionship up to the usually high standard of friendship associated with the Friendly Degree. Looking forward to the next meeting on Saturday 17th of September 2022. Maybe we shall see you there.

Article and photos by Michael Fenech

Surrey Mark Charity Golf Day



The Surrey Mark Charity Golf day held at the Woldingham Golf Club on Monday the 16th July was another great success.

The weather was kind - no rain and a glint of sunshine in the afternoon. It was a good turnout with 76 golfers playing very well and, more importantly, enjoying what turned out to be a lovely day with a splendid meal in the afternoon.



Our Provincial Grand Master led from the front teeing off first on the first hole so as to set the pace and there were some high scores with a single winning score of 45 points and a best team score of 132 points.



For the 3rd year running, the winners trophies were donated by W Bro Mark Guzam, thank you again Mark.....truly appreciated.



An excellent raffle as well as some beautiful auction items which were very generously donated will ensure that an estimated £5,000 has been raised.

Next year we will be playing again at Woldingham Golf Club on the 15th of May 2023, please put this date in your diary and come and join us.

Article by John French – photos by Bob Tuthill and Chris Eley



A 70th Birthday Treat



I can honestly say it was an amazing experience, especially as my Wife and family were present. The weather was fantastic, and I met a 100 year old lady who actually built Spitfires in the Second World War.



For many years I have had a “Bucket List”, of things I would like to do on significant Birthday. Well, I consider my 70th Birthday as being significant!

The “Bucket List”, is now getting shorter and was recently reduced on 18th May, 2022, as I took a “One Hour”, flight in a Spitfire TE308, built in 1944, from Biggin Hill to Dover and back, with me taking the controls on the return leg from Dover to Brands Hatch, when the pilot took over to land back at Biggin Hill.



The whole day was brilliant from putting on an oversized flight suit to landing back at Biggin Hill, the home of the Spitfire!

It was very well organised and the attention to detail and Health & Safety was second to none.

What will be my next adventure?

Article and photos from Steve Jarvis of Weald of Surrey Lodge of Mark Master Masons

The 2022 Inter Provincial Mark Cricket Tournament

Sunday 17th July 10:00 to 16:30

The Warren, Croydon Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 7AL

Entry £5 on the day or by Programme

For more information contact Bill Caughie: bill@caughie.com

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