

£1,002,022

It has been a great honour and privilege for Surrey to host the 154th Mark Benevolent Fund Festival, and only the fourth time that Surrey has had that opportunity. The previous occasions were in 1936, 1953 and in 1987.

In 1936 the Festival President was R.W.Bro. Col. The Hon. Stuart Pleydell-Bouverie, DSO, OBE, TD, when the sum raised was £8,651 11s 3d. I am delighted that the sum announced exceeds the sum of the three previous Festivals.

The sum of £1,002,022 announced by the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, is the culmination of fundraising over six years. At the outset, my vision was that the fundraising should be fun and I used the analogy of an empty bath gradually filling from a dripping tap over the next six years.

The loss of opportunity for face-to-face meetings did not deter the most ardent. I am so grateful to the members who signed regular giving pledges at the outset, to those who accepted and created challenges to raise funds, from climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, to cycling 2022 miles, taking part in the Nijmegen Walk, walking 220 miles, marathons, and half marathons.

There were so many other differing approaches to fundraising, from fine dining, curry lunches, our Annual Cha Di Da (Charity Dinner Dance), the Burns Night, the weekly Bonus Ball, the Grand Draws, the Balloon races, Annual Golf Days, Inter Province Cricket days, the new and second-hand regalia sales, to sales from the travelling Provincial suitcase of the polo shirts, badges, coffee mugs, pens, napkins, ties and face masks, to the Quiz Nights. The list is endless but the opportunities to participate and enjoy were open to all.



***R.W.Bro. Ian Nelson Clark
Provincial Grand Master for Surrey
Festival President***

During parts of 2019 to 2021, we were often times unable to meet in person due to COVID but ways were found to overcome this. The support from other Provinces has been outstanding, and that of the other progressive Orders of Freemasonry in Surrey and has clearly demonstrated the close bond that all the Orders enjoy. I am most grateful.

I am delighted to be able to thank Brethren from across the globe who have become Stewards of this 154th M.B.F. Festival. Brethren, your donations have made a big impact.

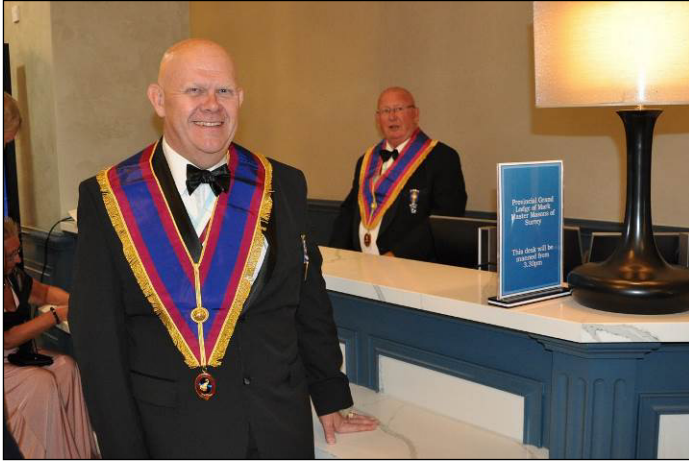
To everyone who has contributed, including the wives and families of our Brethren, thank you. Your support has been immense and will provide funding going forward for worthy charities and our own Brethren and their families in need of support.



The One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Festival

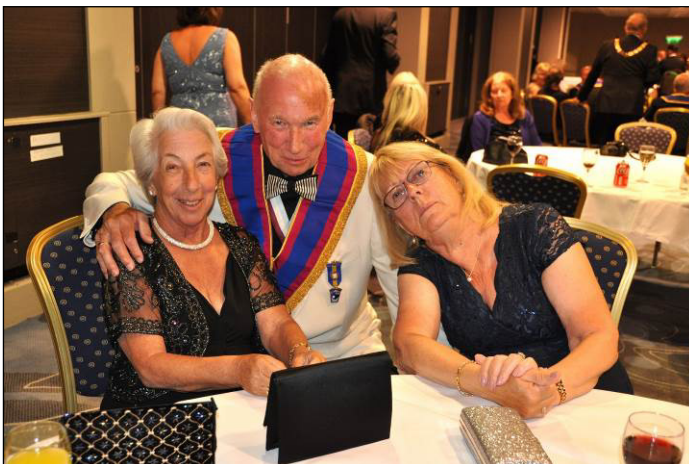
The Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival was held at the Hilton Metropole Hotel on the Brighton seafront.

On arrival we were warmly greeted by our Festival Stewards and given our Festival pack with the Festival Souvenir Brochure.



We made our way to the Oxford Gallery Balcony for complimentary drinks where we met friends and entertained our guests prior to the Festival Banquet.

In attendance was the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman, and the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer, along with many Provincial Grand Masters and their Executives.



After all the hard work of so many Surrey Mark Masons over the past few years it was a great opportunity for us all to get together and celebrate the culmination of our Festival.



At 7:30pm we were called to dinner in the Oxford Room.



The dinner was followed by a few short speeches before the festival result was announced.

The Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, was announcing that the sum of £999,847 had been raised towards the Festival when the Deputy Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Dan Heath rushed over with an update. This additional sum of money brought the Festival total to the magnificent sum of **£1,002,022**.

At 10:00pm the party moved up a gear with entertainment from and dancing to the West End Jerseys to end a most successful and enjoyable Festival Banquet.

Photos by Bob Tuthill and Chris Eley



Other News

Surrey Enthroned Commanders and Installed Mark Masters

In June the Installation meeting of the Surrey Enthroned Commanders Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 1219 was held at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.



After a short break for tea a Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. John French, **PGSD**, **PAProvGM**, who welcomed all the honoured guests and visitors.

In Memoriams were given to R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison by R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, and to V.W.Bro. Brian Berry by W.Bro. Garry Raggett. The Worshipful Master then welcomed the members of the Executive and our honoured guests.

Several joining members were successfully balloted for and were welcomed into the Lodge by the Worshipful Master. W.Bro. Paul Haycock was elected as the Worshipful Master and W.Bro. Jim Cranefield was elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The meeting was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Chris Eley, **R.A.M.G.R.** Who welcomed everyone, especially our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, **G.M.R.A.C.** The Brethren stood to order in memory of W.Bro. Brian Berry, **R.A.M.G.R.**, and R.W. Bro. Stephen Davidson.

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W.Bro. John French, **R.A.M.G.R.**, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, was declared as Worshipful Commander for the ensuing year, and W.Bro. Chris Eley then installed W.Bro. John as Worshipful Commander of the Lodge in a most sincere manner.



We then received a most interesting and enjoyable talk from W.Bro. David Awcock, **P.G.J.D.**, **P.Prov.G.J.W.** (Essex), about W.Bro. Norman Therodore (Taff) Davies who was a member of Percy Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 114

Taff's family asked that his memorabilia be sent to auction and, knowing the connection Taff had with Percy Lodge of Mark Master Masons, to donate the money raised to the Lodge for them to present to the Surrey Province's 2022 Festival appeal in Taff's memory.

W.Bro. David said that he had the great honour of attending the May 4th meeting of Percy Lodge and was permitted to relate Taff's story to the Brethren gathered, following which a cheque was presented to W.Bro. John French.



Taff's story and share stories and memories that were awakened in those present and know that the money raised in his memory will benefit those less fortunate. The warmth of the welcome I received made the whole experience a truly memorable one, and for that I thank the Lodge members and guests, and I am sure Taff would have approved". [Click here to read the talk on Taff.](#)



After the Lodge was closed the Brethren of the Surrey Installed Mark Masters Lodge and their guests retired to the bar for refreshments

before sitting down sat down to a splendid meal in the Elizabethan Suite at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.



Here we see some of the members of the Allied Masonic Degrees wearing their AMD napkins.



The Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey was held at Freemasons Hall on Wednesday the 22nd of June.

It was good to be back at Great Queen Street after a gap of three years. Among the many Brethren and Honoured Guests attending was our Provincial Grand Master, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and our Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



There were many Heads of Surrey Orders attending to support the Craft Province of Surrey.

It was a very enjoyable meeting and a most convivial festive board afterwards.



Another Candidate for Richmond Lodge



In June, Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 808 welcomed another candidate into our Order.

The afternoon started off with a short Royal Ark Mariners meeting where the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. James Walker, welcomed all the members and guests.

The Brethren stood to Order to remember our Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison. After the regular business of the Lodge had been conducted the Lodge was closed and the Temple re-arranged for the Mark meeting.

A Lodge of Mark Master Masons was then opened by the Acting Worshipful Master, V.W.Bro. Jerry Gangadeen, P.G.M.O.

An Obituary to R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison, Assistant Grand Master, was given by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley. The two Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, V.W.Bro. Jerry Gangadeen (London) and V.W.Bro. Chris Eley (Surrey) were then saluted with five under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. James Hill.

Having been previously successfully balloted for, Brother David Michael Smith was admitted and advanced to the Honourable Degree of Mark Master Mason by W.Bro. Tim Ford, assisted by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, who acted as Senior Deacon. The Junior Deacon was Bro. Allan Steel – due to Covid this was the first ceremony he had seen since his own Advancement.

The Worshipful Master thanked all those who assisted with the Ceremony. Present were two of David's fellow Met Grand Stewards, W.Bros. Geoff Waddoups and James Walker, who congratulated him on joining the Order.



After the Lodge was closed, everyone stayed behind for the customary group photograph.



The Brethren of Richmond Lodge and their guests then sat down to a most enjoyable festive board at the Surbiton Masonic Hall. After the meal we were all treated to a slice of rum cake baked by our Master Baker, VW.Bro. Jerry Gangadeen.