



## A New Year Message from our Provincial Grand Master



**Welcome to the New Year edition of the Surrey Keystone which contains so much information regarding what has been happening in the Province, together with news about the future.**

I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy, safe, and prosperous new year.

Previously, I looked back 2022 and it is now time for us all to look forward to the coming year, which will be a historic one for the Province.

Before that, I wish to pay tribute to the work undertaken over many years by W.Bro. Richard Knox who is retiring as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master at the Annual meeting in March. Richard has held active office continuously for the last 14 years, as the Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, Director of Ceremonies and, for the last four years, as my Assistant Provincial Grand Master. I have valued his immense and untiring contribution to the Province during that time, and his wise counsel and support for me and the Province.

Despite the personal challenges of recent years his tenacity and determination have been immense, most recently in relation to the Festival. I wish Richard good health to enjoy some time to rest and spend more time with his wife, Elaine, and thank him for his contribution to the Province.

One of the things that I have noticed since we have got back to regular attendance at meetings is that not having practiced or witnessed some aspects of ritual during our enforced absences, some ritual is not so good as it was. Parts of the ritual that I thought I knew well I need to rehearse and go over and it may well be that in reading this you think similarly.

We have therefore re-instated Lodges of Improvement throughout the Province to provide everyone with an opportunity to practice and rehearse ritual amongst Brethren who are of similar mind. Let us all try to make our ceremonies good for the candidate and our Installations memorable for the incumbent.

Unfortunately, I am not allowed to attend the Installation of John French as our Provincial Grand Master on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 (*I have a year of Purdah*), but I encourage you to put the date in your diary and support John and his new Executive as we move into a new era. I wish John and his team good health to enjoy success in the years to come.

Mark Well.

*Ian*

### Stop Press

**V.W.Bro. John V.C. French, P.G.J.O., Provincial Grand Master *Designate***, is delighted to advise that he has invited **W.Bro. William R. Barr, P.G.J.D. A.Prov.G.M.**, to lead his new Executive Team as **Deputy Provincial Grand Master**.

**W.Bro. Richard J. Knox, P.G.S.D., A.Prov.G.M.**, has expressed his desire to retire as our Assistant Provincial Grand Master at the March Annual Meeting, as result, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master *Designate* has invited **W. Bro. Tim Ford, P.G.J.D., Prov.G.Sec.**, and **W.Bro. William A. Caughie, P.G.J.D., P.Prov.G.J.W.**, to join his new Executive Team as **Assistant Provincial Grand Masters**.

# The Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariner

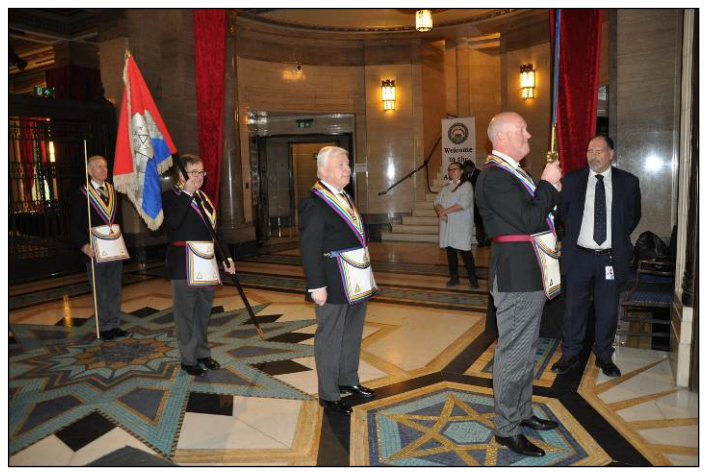
On Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, Royal Ark Mariner Brethren braved snow and travel disruption to navigate a course to Freemasons' Hall and share in what for many is an end of season get together at the Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity.



We all gathered at the Shakespeare for refreshments before making our way over to Freemasons Hall.



The meeting was presided over by the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Prizeman; the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Frank Spencer; and the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan Wilson.



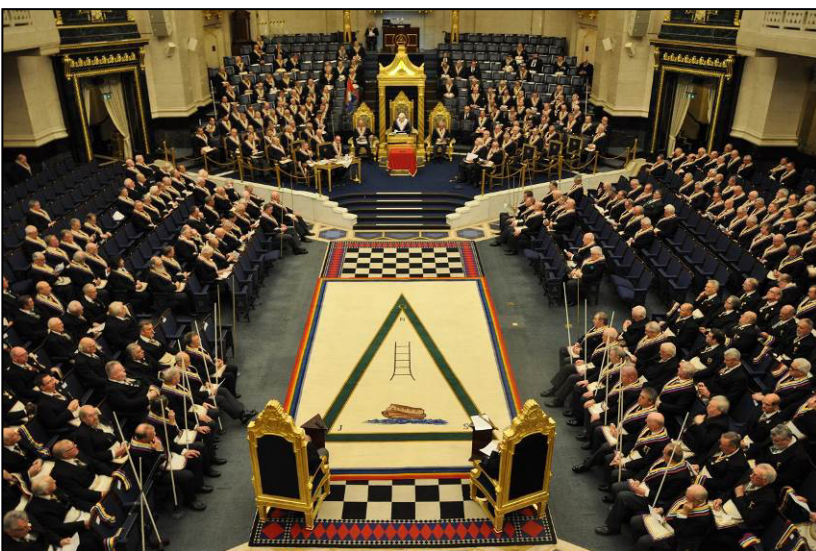
After the business of the meeting had been carried there were three 'Honoris Causa' appointments to the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council, R.W.Bro. Justice Rubin, District Grand Master for Singapore; R.W.Bro. Derek Thomas, Past Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire; and W.Bro. Jonathan Whitaker, R.A.M.G.R., a long-time member of the Management Board at Mark Masons' Hall.



There followed 113 appointments to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank, including from Surrey, Worshipful Brothers Simon McCarthy, Michael Prentice, and Kevin Woodward.,



The Pro Grand Master then addressed the Annual Assembly, congratulating recipients on their appointments to Grand Rank, noting that they had been awarded in recognition of faithful and distinguished service, and their enthusiasm and devotion to the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity.



He spoke too of the journey of Freemasonry and how that journey can be enhanced when taken with a Companion, linking this with the new styling of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall as the 'Companion Orders'. Following this, the Pro Grand Master was pleased to welcome visitors from Overseas and Heads of other Orders.

There were thanks to the Grand Secretary and the team at Mark Masons' Hall; and to the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team, for the first-class ceremonial on display.

He then wished everyone a safe journey home and a happy and peaceful Christmas and new year, finishing with "may the Fraternity continue to flourish".

The Grand Assembly was then closed in ample form and Brethren retired, some to dine, while others took advantage of the early finish and made their ways straight home.

# A Visit to Curfew Lodge

It is a 60-mile round trip for me to Curfew Lodge - or even longer when I get lost! Or should I blame the sat nav? The reason for going? I have friends there and I am learning a new skill...that of being their Tyler. I am not the best ritualist but saw an opportunity to do something different and be of assistance rather than just sitting on my hands. I do enjoy a challenge.



Needless to say, the ballot was unanimously in favour of this fine Mark Mason. This Lodge had quite a few members who were unable to attend. It still needs support on occasions such as this although I am sure that it is starting to revive. Mark is in the different position to Craft in that we have to wait for several years as members of the Craft settle in to Freemasonry before we can invite them to join the Friendly Degree.



Then, after the Mark meeting it was off to the Festive Board. A good meal followed by the Toasts. The raffle raised a sizeable amount and then it was my turn. I gave the Tyler's toast with the help of my crib sheet. I do know it and yet standing up in front of folk, my mind refuses to help. I claim it is full up, a poor excuse. I find it one of the more moving, thought-provoking part of our ritual. Another sign that we do not just think of ourselves. I wished everyone the compliments of the season and we all set off for our homes.

Come and visit us. We meet on the fourth Tuesday in February (Installation), third Thursday in May and first Tuesday in December. You know you will be made welcome.

*Thanks to Michael Fenech*

It was a fine day, and the journey was comfortable. W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood was there to greet me and I was soon at "work" helping to set out the Temple for a Royal Ark Mariners meeting to be followed by a Mark Masters Meeting. As with St Andrew's meetings, there is often one where there is no ceremony just once a year.

It was somewhat cold at first, but we soon warmed up to the various administrative tasks in hand. I met our Official Visitor, W.Bro. Michael Clay, a lively chap who made me feel welcome. I was allowed to stay in the temple during the meeting rather than just stand outside alone...except when it came to balloting for a joining member, W.Bro. Gary Raggett. I kept him company outside the lodge whilst voting took place. We admired the new lift.



Back to the meeting. There was a Grand Lodge Certificate to be presented but time dictated that we should do it at the next meeting. Bro Jones was to be the next Master and W.Bro. Michael Prentice was to be the Treasurer. He was applauded in the meeting for his promotion to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank, and a fine man to boot.





## Fine Dining at Knightsbridge Lodge of Mark Master Masons

In December 2022 the Knightsbridge Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1878 held their installation meeting at Surbiton Masonic Hall. Present as members of the Lodge were the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the two Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, along with V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Richard Wileman, who welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes and accounts were approved. The Master Elect, W.Bro. Raymond R Johnson, was presented to the Installing Master, by the Director of Ceremonies, V.W.Bro. Chris Eley.

After a Board of Installed Masters was declared, W.Bro. Ray recited his Obligation, was invested with the Collar and Jewel of his Office and placed in the Chair of the Knightsbridge Lodge of Mark Master Masons. W.Bro. Ray then appointed and invested his Officers.



The Lodge was closed in due form, and everyone retired to the bar. The Brethren of Knightsbridge Lodge and their guests were then called into the dining room to be treated to a sumptuous 6 course meal specially prepared by W.Bro. Robbie Dobbie and his team at Glenmore House.

# An Orders beyond the Craft evening in Surrey



A very interesting and informative workshop entitled 'Orders beyond the Craft' was held at the Sutton Masonic Hall on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

Many of the Orders beyond the Craft had their stands in the main dining room, where the representatives of each Order were available to answer questions. It was good to see several Heads of Surrey Orders there showing their support, including our District Executive.

We then went up to the main Temple where Chris Hatton introduced the evening, which was arranged to give everyone a brief insight into the ceremonies and regalia of many well-known Orders, as well as some lesser-known Orders in Freemasonry.

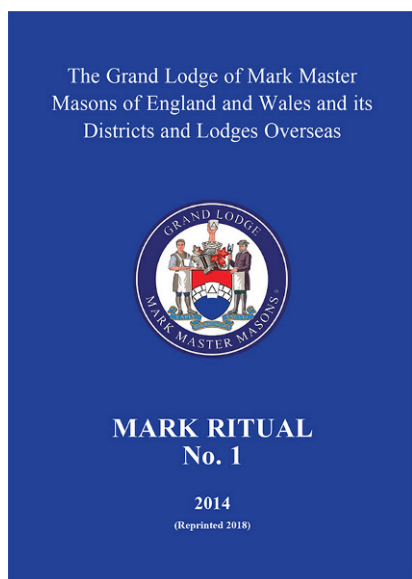
Behind the scenes Simon Polkinghorne was busy getting all the regalia ready for the next team to go into out the Temple.

In conclusion Chris thanked Simon for all his hard work putting the evening together, the team of 'models' Dave Harrison, Alan Hall, Ken Macintosh, Steve Rush and Chris Eley; and especially Shelley and her staff for the wonderful support and encouragement they had provided.

Afterwards we all gathered in the bar for some well-earned refreshments, continuing our conversations about the many Orders in Freemasonry.

## Why not support the William Howes Class of Instruction this year?

If you are able to get to Nutfield you may be interested in attending the William Howes Class of Instruction which meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm.



If you are already proficient in the ritual and feel you will not benefit from attending an LOI, then perhaps you could lend your support to those who are not so fortunate. The Preceptor and Secretary always require assistance and the less experienced Brethren really appreciate the help from "older and wiser" Past Masters.

Do your Lodge have a ceremony to perform in the coming weeks/months? Why not take advantage of the William Howes Class of Instruction and encourage your members to attend and rehearse the ceremony they are going to perform. Make sure your candidate has the best possible experience.

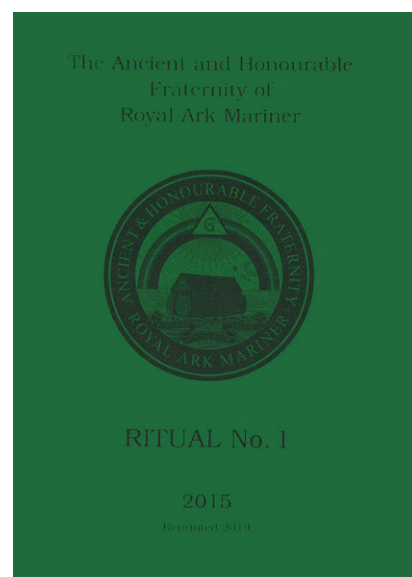
Members of William Howes COI may even be prepared to assist with your ceremonies if you are short of officers, but you can't expect them to support you if you do not support them.

The next meetings will be held on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 & Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**. If you can attend any of the above dates, please let Chris George know [chrisceorge@btopenworld.com](mailto:chrisceorge@btopenworld.com) and let him know if you would like to practise a particular office or piece of ritual. I'm sure he will

be able to accommodate you.

If Nutfield is too far for you then maybe look at joining the Percy Class of Instruction which is held at Guildford on the last Friday of the month.

This is ideal for Lodges that meet in Guildford, Godalming or Farnham. For more information, email the Preceptor, John French, on [john@hotelsint.com](mailto:john@hotelsint.com)





# Key dates for your diary



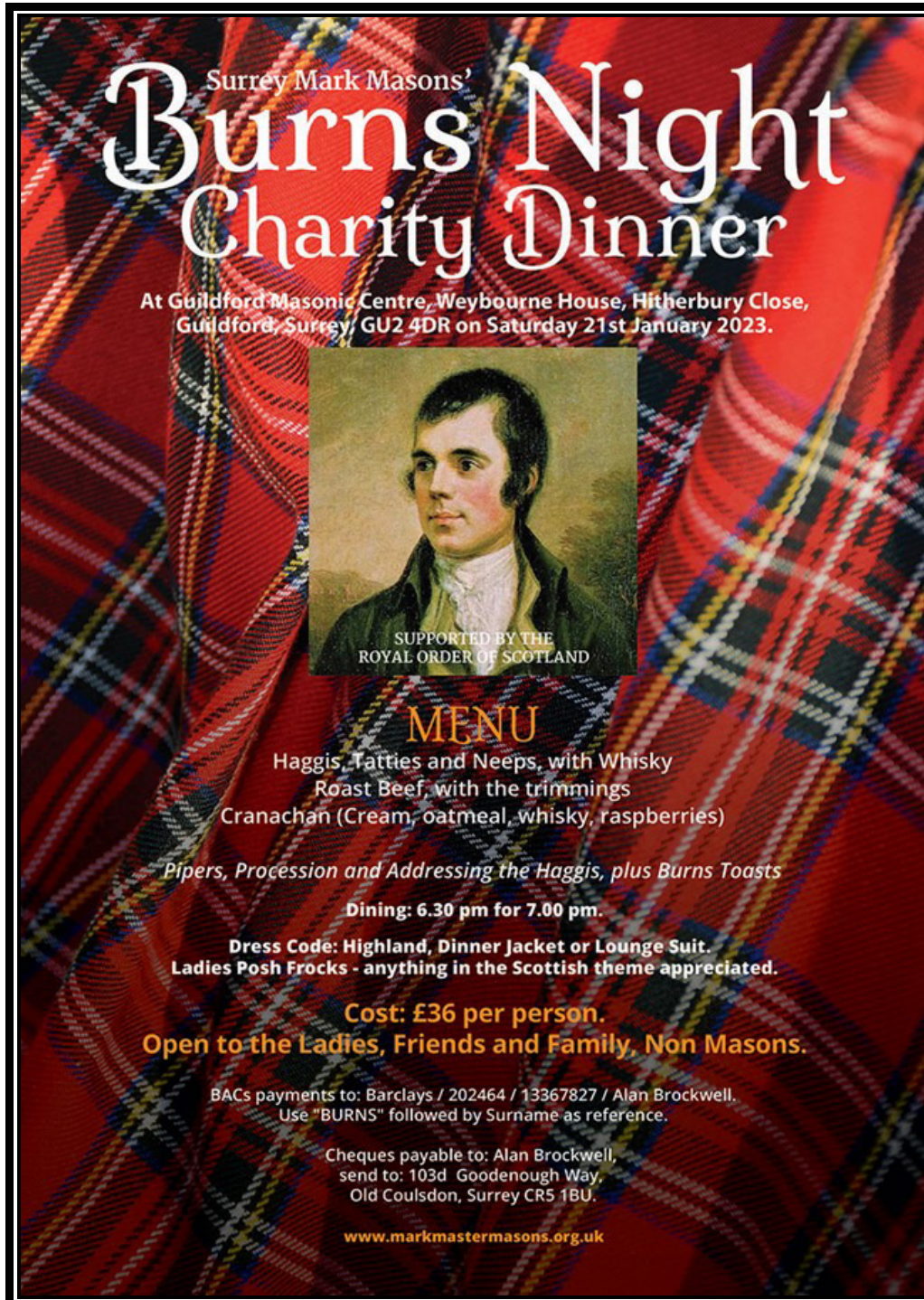
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	Burns Night Supper	Guildford	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Mark Grand Lodge	Great Queen Street	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Swimathon	Guildford Spectrum Centre	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Provincial Grand Lodge Installation of a new Provincial Grand Master	Croydon	
Tuesday 13 <sup>h</sup> June 2023	Mark Grand Lodge	Great Queen Street	
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Mark Grand Lodge	Great Queen Street	

## Executive Visits to Lodges in 2023

Thursday 2 February 2023	Table Fellowship 1841	V.W.Bro. John French	Surbiton
Tuesday 7 February 2023	Comites Sigillorum 1352	V.W.Bro. John French	Croydon
Thursday 9 February 2023	Crystal Palace 450	V.W.Bro. John French	Nutfield
Thursday 9 February 2023	Woodstock Grape & Grain 1569	W.Bro. Richard Knox	Surbiton
Monday 13 February 2023	Hiram 13	R.W.Bro. Ian Clark	Guildford
Saturday 18 February 2023	Rose 534	R.W.Bro. Ian Clark	Surbiton
Friday 24 February 2023	H A Mann 1197	W.Bro. William Barr	Sutton
Tuesday 28 February 2023	Curfew 1411	R.W.Bro. Ian Clark	Chertsey
Tuesday 28 February 2023	Camberley 1131	W.Bro. William Barr	Camberley
Thursday 2 March 2023	Croham Hurst 1050	W.Bro. William Barr	Croham Hurst Golf Club
Thursday 9 March 2023	Sanderstead 1742	W.Bro. Richard Knox	Croydon
Friday 10 March 2023	Stoneleigh 995	W.Bro. William Barr	Sutton
Thursday 16 March 2023	Pride of Surrey 1738	R.W.Bro. Ian Clark	Sutton

# Burns Night 2023

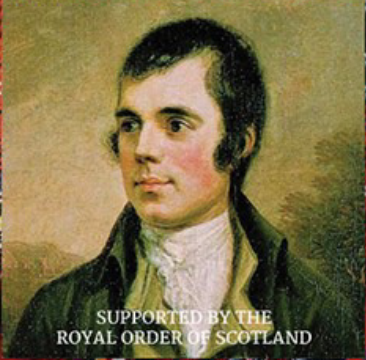
The Surrey Mark Masons 2023 Burns Night Charity Dinner will be held at the Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. There are a few places left, so book now to ensure you don't miss out.



Surrey Mark Masons'

# Burns Night Charity Dinner

At Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, Hitherbury Close,  
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4DR on Saturday 21st January 2023.



SUPPORTED BY THE  
ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND

## MENU

Haggis, Tatties and Neeps, with Whisky  
Roast Beef, with the trimmings  
Cranachan (Cream, oatmeal, whisky, raspberries)

*Pipers, Procession and Addressing the Haggis, plus Burns Toasts*

**Dining: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.**

**Dress Code: Highland, Dinner Jacket or Lounge Suit.  
Ladies Posh Frocks - anything in the Scottish theme appreciated.**

**Cost: £36 per person.  
Open to the Ladies, Friends and Family, Non Masons.**

BACs payments to: Barclays / 202464 / 13367827 / Alan Brockwell.  
Use "BURNS" followed by Surname as reference.

Cheques payable to: Alan Brockwell,  
send to: 103d Goodenough Way,  
Old Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 1BU.

[www.markmastermasons.org.uk](http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk)

Last year the event was a sell out with 125 Brethren, their wives, family and friends, thoroughly enjoying the traditional Scottish fare and atmosphere. Diners came from far and wide across the Southern part of England, with many wearing the Kilt.

The Burns Night is a Joint event by the Provincial Grand Lodge of the South Eastern Counties of the Royal Order of Scotland, and the Mark Province of Surrey. Last year the Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland, Charles Stoddart, gave the Address to the Haggis.