



A Message from our Provincial Grand Master



Welcome to the thirty sixth edition of the Surrey Keystone, which will be my last as your Provincial Grand Master.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading the monthly copies, which started when the dreaded COVID 19 hit this country and we needed to find additional ways of communicating with the membership. My thanks to V.W.Bro. Chris Eley for the tremendous effort he has put into its production, together with members of the Communications team and others who have supported him.

In this edition you will find information about visits around the Province and beyond. For me, the highlight of the last month was the March meeting of Mark Grand Lodge, where representatives of some of the charities that have been supported by the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) paraded into the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall. We heard from many charities the benefits they have derived from the donations they received. One of these was Disability Challengers, a Centre based in Stoke Park, Guildford, who received £40,167 to provide a car track for the disabled children and young people up to the age of 25. Work is ongoing on their new project, and we will no doubt hear more as the project develops. Another was the Suttons Women's Centre, a

Centre for women who have experienced domestic or sexual violence who received £4,327 from the MBF to update ageing white goods. Four of the representatives shared one of the Surrey tables at the Festive Board. These monies came in part from the money donated to our MBF Festival last year.

At that meeting of Mark Grand Lodge we experienced a first in so much as M.W.Bro. Jonathan Spence, Pro Grand Master of UGLE, accepted the invitation of the Mark Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Prizeman, to address Mark Grand Lodge. The theme of his address was the Craft and Royal Arch Strategy for Freemasonry, saying "*if we get it right in the Craft, we will get it right in the other Orders*". He told us that he had been Initiated into Freemasonry in 1984 and Advanced into the Mark the same year. The message was clear, that we need to work consistently and together, to ensure that Freemasonry thrives as a whole. He then extended a standing Invitation for our Pro. Grand Master and Grand Secretary to attend conferences arranged for Craft Provincial and District Grand Masters. We are embarking on a new era of mutual respect and cooperation. Let us not forget that we are all Craft Freemasons.

This coming Saturday will see me retire from office after nine years as your Provincial Grand Master, and V.W.Bro. John French will be Installed as the seventeenth Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Surrey. It has been an honour and privilege to serve the Province as your Provincial Grand Master for the last nine years.

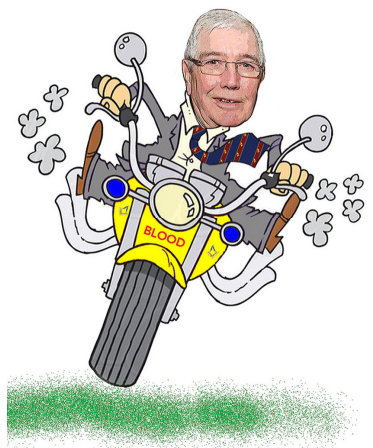
I thank all the members of my Executive who have supported me, together with the Wardens and various Officers. I could not have asked for more from my teams, thank you one and all.

In thanking all the members of the Province, let us continue to tell our friends in the Craft and the Royal Arch how much we enjoy "**The Magic of the Mark.**" I wish John and his team every success as we move into a new era in Surrey Mark, and I begin a year of Purdah.

Stay safe and Mark Well.

Jan.

Provincial Grand Master.





Royal Ark Mariner and Mark meetings at Farnham.



A bijou group of happy fellows met up last week to enjoy each other's company, do the business and partake of an excellent Festive Board. I have to admit it was rather touch and go with several being unable to attend. Two had to visit the hospital, one had much civic work, one was on a cruise, and one is just getting back on his feet after a nasty fall. These five are regular attenders and as a result, we co-opted our Visiting Officer, W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood and our guest Bro. Andrew Banks. As is usual in Mark and RAM they were only too happy to assist in being acting officers and added to the evening with their accustomed good humour and appropriate comments. All good men.



I noticed, at my visit the previous evening to a normally well attended Craft Lodge, that they only had ten officers in post. So, our twelve plus visitors were a credit to St. Andrews. The business at our Royal Ark Mariner meeting was swiftly carried out under the smiling direction of Worshipful Commander, Michael J. Barnes. Certain elements such as the reports from the almoner and charity steward were left to the Mark meeting.

There was ample time to reset the room for our Mark meeting and W.Bro. Cliff Foster was in fine fettle. Business comprised of a useful addition in that we have a candidate for Advancement at our March meeting.

This doctor was duly balloted for, and the result was received with much enthusiasm. Further good news was given by the almoner who then mentioned that he had recently forwarded an application form to a man wanting to join and his advancement could well take place in the new season.

The good thing about this candidate is that he is the grandson of our senior member who has held the post of Chaplain for many a year and recently received his fifty-year Certificate from Right Worshipful Bro. Ian Clark.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing Right Worshipful Brother Ian Nelson Clark all the best over the coming years. We look forward to the appointment of V.W.Bro J.V.C. French and offer him our full support.

Needless to say, our secretary brought to the attention of those present the forthcoming Provincial Meeting in Croydon on March the 18th. It will be something very different.



There was discussion on the usual topics and a suggestion was made and accepted that our Charity Column should comprise of paper donations to assist in making our accounts a little more stable. Every little helps and what we receive will be faithfully applied.

To that end, under any other business, our treasurer proposed that we donate £200 to the final Swimathon of our very able Provincial Grand Master in support of Sutton Foodbank and Swishes. It was unanimously approved.

A Good note to end on!

Thanks to Michael Fenech



Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Surrey

A meeting of the Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Surrey No 1726 was held at The Masonic Hall, Guildford, on Monday the 27th of February. Present were several Honorary members, including our Provincial Grand Master and Past Provincial Grand Master, and nine honoured guests.



The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Bill Barr, P.G.J.D., A.Prov.G.M., who welcomed everyone, especially our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, and our honoured guests.

W.Bro. Jeff Penfold was elected as Worshipful Master, and W.Bro. Gary Raggett was elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year.



The main item on the agenda was to receive a talk from W.Bro. Stephen Terry from Sussex entitled Memories of Queen Elizabeth II. This most interesting and informative talk was well received by everyone present. W.Bro. Stephen was afterwards presented with a cheque for his chosen charity, The Spinal Injuries Association. W.Bro. Stephen thanked the Worshipful Master and the Brethren of **the** Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Surrey for their kind donation.

The Charity Steward, W.Bro. Mick Clay, in his presentation proposed that a sum of £600 be donated to the Swimathon, which is raising funds for Sutton Foodbank and Swishes.

It was good to see so many Past Masters of the Lodge at the meeting.



The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren of **the** Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Surrey and their guests sat down to a most convivial meal at the Guildford Masonic Hall.



The Installation Meeting of Croham Hurst Lodge of Mark Master Masons

In March 2023 the Brethren-of Croham Hurst Lodge of Mark Master Masons were honoured by the presence of W.Bro. Bill Barr, P.G.J.D., Assistant Provincial Grand Master, escorted by W.Bro. Michael Howarth, Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. Also present was our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, G.J.O., Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



As the Lodge meets in the lounge of Croham Hurst Golf Club in South Croydon the first thing we must do is set the room up as a Temple and put blinds on the windows and doors. The furniture then must be brought along from the safe and sacred repository.

Once this was done, a Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Des Franklin. The Escorting Officer, W.Bro. Michael Howarth, was admitted and advised the Worshipful Master that W.Bro. Bill Barr, Assistant Provincial Grand Master was in the ante room and respectfully requested admission to the Lodge. The Worshipful Assistant Provincial Grand Master was welcomed by the Worshipful Master, presented with the gavel and took the Chair.

He said that it was a great pleasure to be visiting Croham Hurst Lodge again and was looking forward to

the meeting and the festive board afterwards. He then said he had a pleasant duty to perform and had much pleasure in presenting W.Bro. Des with a Grand Patron Gold MBF collaret and *certificate on behalf of the Lodge thanking the members of Croham Hurst Lodge of Mark Master Masons for their support for the 2022 MBF Festival.*

He introduced the Provincial Officers who had accompanied him, took the minutes, and handed back the gavel to the Worshipful Master.

The first item on the agenda was to present a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Peter Parker. This was presented by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, who was especially pleased to do this as he had acted as Master Overseer at Bro. Peter's Advancement.



The main item on the agenda was to Install W.Bro. Simon McCarthy as Worshipful Master. This was done in a very sincere manner by W.Bro. Des Franklin assisted by R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, who presented the Working Tools. The Address to the Master was given by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, to the Wardens by R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, to the Overseers by W.Bro. Terry Carpenter, and to the Brethren by W.Bro. Bill Barr.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master congratulated W.Bro. Simon and wished him an enjoyable and successful year. During the charity report a proposition was made to donate the sum of £50 towards the Swimathon.



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



We then pitched in to move the Lodge furniture back into the safe and sacred repository before retiring to the Nineteenth Hole for refreshments.



Afterwards we sat down to a most convivial meal at the Croham Hurst Golf Club.



If any golfers would like to visit this unique Lodge please contact the Secretary, W.Bro. David Clark on 07730 703110 or email secretarycroham1050@btinternet.com

March Communication of Mark Grand Lodge



On Tuesday, Brethren of the Mark attended the March Communication of Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall, London. It was a great pleasure to welcome representatives from those charities, worthy causes and community groups which the MBF has worked closely with in 2022.



Prior to the meeting the representatives of the charities met for tea and cakes at an informal get together in Freemasons Hall.



The meeting was open by the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H. Prizeman, assisted by the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Francis C. Spencer and R.W.Bro. H. Keith Emmerson, P.Dep.G.M., acting as Assistant Grand Master.



M.W.Bro. HRH Prince Michael of Kent, *GCVO*, was proposed for re-election as Grand Master by W.Bro. Gary Parker, P.A.G.D.C. The proposition was met with acclamation and the Grand Director of Ceremonies proceeded to Proclaim the Most Worshipful Grand Master in all his styles and titles as having been duly elected.

With the other regular business then completed, it was time to call-off Grand Lodge and to welcome, in a series of processions, our VIP members, guests and representatives from the charities and worthy causes. The Trustees of the Mark



Benevolent Fund, including the President, R.W.Bro. John Bell, P.G.J.W., carrying a cushion bearing the Portal jewel, reminding us of the ever-present legend of the MBF's Founder, Reverend Canon George Raymond Portal "he gives twice who gives promptly".



Representatives from this year's MBF Festival Province

- Representatives from this year's MBF Festival Province of West Yorkshire
- Charity representatives
- Members of the Secondary Emergency Services
- Representatives from the Healthcare and Hospice sectors
- Local Community and Youth sector workers and volunteers
- Disability Focus Group ambassadors
- Specialists in Humanitarian Aid



We were then shown a series of videos highlighting the work carried out by the MBF in conjunction with these various groups. R.W.Bro. Jim Steggles, Prov.G.M. for West Yorkshire was then invited to talk about his Province's 2023 MBF Festival.



The focus then turned to the efforts of our Brethren in Romania assisting refugees from Ukraine. R.W.Bro. Derek Thomas, P.Prov.G.M. for Monmouthshire, has been our lead coordinator with Romania, both in getting the Mark established out there Masonically, and being the link between their Brethren and the MBF in regard to the humanitarian aid efforts.

R.W.Bro. Derek spoke about how things were progressing in Romania before introducing

Diana Constantin-Tiglar who gave a heart-warming account of how her efforts, which began as simply attempting to help out where she could, have become a full-time mission to ensure that those who need help can get the assistance they require when they cross the border from Ukraine into Romania.

The Pro Grand Master then thanked all the representatives for their efforts, and for taking the time to join us at this very special meeting.

We then enjoyed a video of highlights from our charitable endeavours in 2022, accompanied by what has become the unofficial anthem of the MBF, 'Proud' by Heather Small.

Our guests then retired in procession and Grand Lodge was called-on.





The Pro Grand Master then addressed the meeting, giving greetings on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and noting that today's re-election signals the start of his 41st year as our Grand Master. He also highlighted the re-election R.W.Bro. John Howitt, P.G.S.W., as Grand Treasurer, and noted that this year we have again been able to keep annual dues at the same level as they were pre-Pandemic.



The theme of his address was the Craft and Royal Arch Strategy for Freemasonry saying "if we get it right in the Craft, we will get it right in the other Orders". And he highlighted the fact that he was initiated into Freemasonry in 1984 and advanced into the Mark the same year. The message was clear, that we need to work consistently and together. This way we can all help to ensure that Freemasonry thrives as a whole.

As part of this modern approach of close working, R.W.Bro. Spence shared with us that there was now a standing invitation to our Pro Grand Master and Grand Secretary to attend the conference for Craft Provincial and District Grand Masters and be part of the conversation and to hear first-hand the messages being promulgated by UGLE. He went on to announce that he was delighted that M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, Immediate Past Pro Grand Master of the Mark, had been offered and accepted the Rank of active Junior Grand Warden in the Craft from the investiture meeting in April this year

He handed the meeting back to M.W.Bro. Prizeman who thanked R.W.Bro. Spence for his address and his support for the meeting and urged all present to take this message back to their Provinces, Lodges and Brethren. We are embarking on a new era of mutual respect and cooperation, and he charged the Provincial and District Grand Masters with maintaining these essential aims.

Greetings were extended to those Brethren who had made the journey from our Districts and Unattached Lodges overseas, and the heads of the other Orders.

He next spoke of the indissoluble links between Craft Masonry and our Companion Orders and introduced R.W.Bro. Jonathan Spence, P.G.S.W., Pro Grand Master of the Craft, and invited him to address the meeting. R.W.Bro. Spence began by saying that he believed this was the first time a Pro Grand Master of the Craft had been invited to speak about the aims and objectives of the Craft at a Mark Grand Lodge meeting.



In closing, M.W.Bro. Prizeman thanked the Grand Secretary; W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, P.G.S.D., Charities Manager at Mark Masons' Hall; and all of the staff on the fourth floor at M.M.H. for their work in putting together such an exceptional meeting. And also the G.D.C. and his team for delivering the usual high standard of ceremonial which cannot have failed to impress our visitors on this special occasion. With no further business to transact, Grand Lodge was closed, and the Surrey Brethren gathered for the customary photograph under the stained glass Memorial Window.



The Brethren retired to the Grand Connaught Rooms where they were able to join our special guests from the charities and worthy causes and learn more about their work over the meal that followed.



On the Surrey table were representatives from Disability Challengers, and the Sutton Women's Centre who are also supported by Shelley Sykes from Sutton Masonic Hall and W.Bro. Nigel Feltham of Croydon Mark Lodge.



The last meetings of Sanderstead Lodge



On Thursday the 9th of March 2023 Sanderstead Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and Sanderstead Lodge of Mark Master Masons met for the last time. Present was W.Bro. Richard Knox, P.G.S.D., Assistant Provincial Grand Master, escorted by W.Bro. Nigel Feltham, Prov.A.G.D.C., and Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, Levon H Agulian, who welcomed the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and visitors.



After the administrative matters relating to the closure of the Lodge the Assistant Provincial Grand Master was invited to occupy the Chair. He requested W.Bro. Mick Clay to take the Chair of Senior Warden and W.Bro. Tony Wright to take the Chair of Junior Warden. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master then received the



Warrant of the Lodge from the Worshipful Commander. He then closed the Lodge for the last time.

After a short break, Sanderstead Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened by the Worshipful Master, Levon H Agulian, P.Prov.G.S.W., who again welcomed the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and visitors.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master had much pleasure in presenting the Worshipful Master with a MBF Grand Patron Gold Award thanking the members of Sanderstead Lodge for their support for the 2022 MBF Festival.



After the administrative matters relating to the closure of the Lodge the Secretary, V.W.Bro. David Blackburn, P.G.J.O., P.Dep.Prov.G.M., gave a brief summary of the History of the Lodge.



The Assistant Provincial Grand Master was invited to occupy the Chair. He again requested W.Bro. Mick Clay to take the Chair of Senior Warden and W.Bro. Tony Wright to take the Chair of Junior Warden.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master then received the Warrant of the Lodge from the Worshipful Master and closed the Lodge for the last time.





Sanderstead Mark Lodge Members and the Provincial Team at the final meeting of the Lodge on the 9th of March 2023



Sanderstead Lodge - A Brief History

By V.W.Bro. David Blackburn, Lodge Secretary.

Sanderstead Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 1742 was founded on 20th April 1995 and the attached Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, soon followed on 16th February 1996.

The Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges took their name from Sanderstead Craft Lodge No 4133, founded in 1920 and the Royal Arch Chapter of the same name founded 1943. A few of the members, past and present of the Craft and Royal Arch units have shared memberships with the Mark and RAM Lodges. Sadly, the Craft Lodge closed a few years ago.

Sanderstead is an area to the south of Croydon it is a medieval-founded church parish, until abolition in 1965 it had a civil parish council.

The Grade I listed All Saints' Church, Sanderstead, the parish church, was built from about 1230, though substantial alterations have been carried out in later centuries. It includes several monuments, including a poem attributed to John Dryden, the first Poet Laureate.

The Church features on the front of the Mark Lodge Summonses, the early members of the Craft Lodge of the same name no doubt had strong links to the area.

In 1958–60 the Sanderstead Archaeological Group excavated in the vicinity of Sanderstead pond and revealed the presence of man as far back as the Mesolithic Period nearly 12,000 years ago, as well as pottery fragments dated between 100 AD and 1300 AD and a bronze belt from the end of the Saxon era.

An Anglo-Saxon reference to Sanderstead can be found in the will, dated 871, of Alfred, an ealdorman. The village lay within the Anglo-Saxon administrative division of Wallington hundred. It later appears to have been given to St Peter's Abbey, Winchester by Æthelflæd, the wife of Edgar the Peaceful and mother of Edward the Martyr. This history should interest members of the Order of Athelstan.

The village was granted to Sir John Gresham by Henry VIII following the Dissolution of the Monasteries. One infamous resident was Ruth Ellis (1926–1955), the last woman to be executed in the England, who lived on Sanderstead Hill.

The Consecration of Sanderstead Lodge of Mark Master Masons took place in the afternoon of the 20th of April 1995 at 4pm. The Consecrating Officer was R. W. Bro. Leslie Austin, Provincial Grand Master, assisted by V. W. Bro. Lt. Col. Harry Malthouse, P. G. S. O., Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and W. Bro. David Rea, G. J. D., Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Assisting also were Provincial Wardens, W. Bros. S. P. Johnson and D. C. Allen. Provincial Chaplain, R. A. Miller, Provincial Secretary, J. L. Ruston, Provincial Director of Ceremonies D. W. Burford, Organist R. W. Lambert and Inner Guard R. L. Munday.

When Sanderstead Mark Lodge was founded there were twenty founders. One of the Founders was V. W. Bro. Malcolm Kear, PGMO who had been Provincial Grand Secretary and at the time of the consecration was an Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Malcolm was also a member of Caterham Valley Lodge, which later closed. Caterham Valley was a Lodge that used the 1926 variant in ritual. The others were Stoneleigh, H. A. Mann and Lingfield. The variants' main feature was that the Candidate stood to one side and watched the Deacons present their stones before he got the chance to do so. It was a bit 'marmite' in that some liked this and others not.

The Lodge abandoned the 1926 variant on 23rd May 2013 after a successful proposition in Lodge by W. Bro. Tony Mays seconded by W. Bro. Derek Lawrence.

What must be unique in any Mark Lodge is that the first two brethren to be advanced, Richard Baker and David Blackburn both went on to become Deputy Provincial Grand Masters in the Province.

The Lodge was very industrious and successful when it came to Charity, W. Bro. Levon Agulian led by example. The Mark Lodge achieved Patron status with the MBF in 2016 and Grand Patron in 2018 during efforts to support the 2022 Mark Festival and lastly Grand Patron Gold Status. The Royal Ark Mariner Lodge achieved Grand Patron status in 2021.



Comites Sigillorum Lodge



At the RAM meeting of Comites Sigillorum Lodge on the 7th February W.Bro. Keith Wadkin was Proclaimed Commander for a second year and his new officers were invested, after which W.Bro. Ian Keen elevated Bro. Tony Bailey on behalf of the Lodge.



At the Mark meeting V.W.Bro. John French was Proclaimed as Worshipful Master for a second year and his new officers were invested. After which the Worshipful Master Advanced Richard Powis, who was able to use his late father's Mark.

At their next meeting on the 9th of May our Worshipful Master will be carrying out his first Advancement as our new Provincial Grand Master.
Thanks to Ray Beadle

Evening All



In February, W.Bro. Mike Ellis of Richmond Mark Lodge invited some of us along to Upper Thames Lodge for a very special meeting.

Mike's grandson, Jack Critchley, a serving Policeman working for the Metropolitan Police was being initiated. Mike was Senior Deacon for the ceremony and Mike's son, Lee Ellis, Jack's father, was the Junior Deacon. After Jack had retired to restore himself to his personal comforts, we were all given Policeman's helmets to put on as a surprise to Bro. Jack.



The Installation Meeting of Coulsdon Royal Ark Mariner Lodge

On Thursday the 9th of March in the Temple at Croydon adjacent to where the Sanderstead Lodge meetings were being held, Coulsdon Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 1268 held their Installation meeting.

The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Tamba John. Their Official Visitor, W.Bro. Kevin Woodward, was welcomed by the Worshipful Commander.



W.Bro. Les Smith was elected as Commander Elect and installed in the Chair of Coulsdon Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners by W.Bro. Tamba John, following which the Worshipful Master appointed and invested his Officers.

The Lodge was then closed, and the Temple re-arranged for a short Mark business meeting. The Immediate Past Master, W.Bro. Tamba John, opened the meeting and welcomed the Lodge's Official Visitor, W.Bro. Kevin Woodward.

The Lodge stood in memory of two departed Brethren, W.Bro. Barry Starmer, P.Prov.G.St.B., and W.Bro. Raymond Crowle, P.Prov.G.J.W.

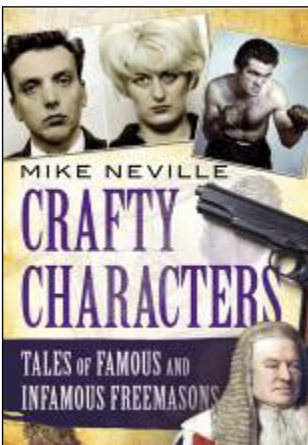
After a short business meeting the Lodge was closed and the Brethren of Coulsdon Lodge sat down to an enjoyable meal together.



Mike Neville's new book is out soon

Many Freemasons have made the world a better place when others have been villainous criminals. Members of the Craft have developed forensic science, solved famous crimes and invented all manner of things. Several members of the royal family have been members of the Craft and the declining interest in the organisation from younger royals is also discussed. Masons have been very active in the criminal justice system – both as 'goodies' and 'baddies'.

It was a Mason who formed the Special Branch to fight terrorism and another who brought the Moors Murders to an end. In some cases, such as the Cleveland Street Scandal, Masons found themselves on both sides of the law. The medical profession is also well-represented in lodges.



Happily, it was a member of the Craft who rescued the Elephant Man and a Masonic doctor was the first to identify an occupational cancer. On the other side of the coin, there have been evil Masonic doctors who committed murder and other heinous crimes.

One Masonic surgeon may have committed regicide with the 'mercy killing' of a king. In addition, there are stories of weird and wonderful Masons – celebrities, film makers, soldiers, explorers, world-famous businessmen, politicians, forgers and scoundrels. It's all in the book:

- Masons involved in murder, treason, conspiracy and scandal.
- Jack the Ripper and Freemasons: the full facts revealed for the first time.
- Are Masons involved in conspiracies to control the world or are they just ordinary members of society?
- Tales of famous and infamous Masons: police officers, judges, celebrities, film-makers, soldiers, explorers, world-famous businessmen, politicians, forgers, scoundrels and murderers.
- **Crafty Characters** covers the lives of weird, wonderful, and wicked Masons over the last 300 years.

100 Not Out



Meanwhile, R.W.Bro. David Ashbolt was busy signing everyone up for Festival jewels....



After the minutes had been approved, the Lodge was pleased to receive the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Deacon, accompanied by several Provincial Officers of the year.

The Provincial Grand Master took the Chair and was saluted with seven under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies. The Lodge was then very pleased to receive the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H Prizeman, attended by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Adrian Cleightonhills, a member of Mercury Mark Lodge.



On Friday the 10th of March 2023 at Brook House Masonic Hall in Botley in Hampshire Mercury Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 777 celebrated their 100th Anniversary.

Present was the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H Prizeman and many honoured guests and Head of Orders.

After a very good journey down to Hampshire we stopped off at a café in Botley for coffee and bacon butties before going along to the Masonic Hall.

It was good to meet up with many old friends over coffee before the meeting.



Mercury Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened by R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey, Past Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey, seen here with some of his Surrey colleagues.



The Provincial Grand Master warmly welcomed the Pro Grand Master. The Pro Grand Master said how good it was to be in his own Province again and was saluted with eleven under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. This was followed by a rousing fanfare from the Organist, W.Bro. Trevor Gulliver.

The next item on the agenda was to install W.Bro. Colin Upton as Worshipful Master. This was done by the Provincial Grand Master in a very sincere manner. After the Officers of the year had been appointed and invested, the Address to the Master was given by V.W.Bro. Brian Ridler, the Address to the Warden by W.Bro. Tony Green, to the Overseers by W.Bro. Ian Small, and to the Brethren by W.Bro. Simon Lancaster.

The Pro Grand Master then had much pleasure in presenting the Lodge with its Centenary Warrant giving a brief summary of how the fortunes of the Lodge were turned around by making this the Executive Lodge of the Province and inviting Heads of other Orders in Hampshire and Isle of Wight to become members.

The Secretary read the original Warrant of the Lodge, and then the Pro Grand Master requested that the Centenary Warrant be read, and then had much pleasure in presenting it to the Worshipful Master.

The Pro Grand Master then said he had a surprise for someone in the room and requested that W.Bro. Trevor Gulliver be presented to him.



The Pro Grand Master said how much W.Bro. Trevor has supported Freemasonry over the year in many Orders, particularly the Knights Templars where he was Provincial Prior of the Provincial Priory of Hampshire and Isle of Wight and holds the Rank of Knight Commander of the Temple.



The Pro Grand Master said that he had been instructed by the Grand Master to award a field appointment of Past Grand Standard Bearer to W.Bro. Trevor Gulliver. The Pro Grand Master had much pleasure investing him with the collar and jewel of his office.



The Lodge then received a synopsis of the history of the Lodge by W.Bro. Anthony Miller.

Following the talk from W.Bro. Anthony the Pro Grand Master retired from the Lodge. The Lodge was closed in due form, and we were treated to a champagne reception. We then went into the dining room where we enjoyed a most convivial lunch together.



In proposing the Toast to the Pro Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Master thanked M.W.Bro. John Prizeman for coming along to support Mercury Lodge and his own Province. In his reply, the Pro Grand Master said what a delight it was to attend and talked about the success of the recent meeting of Mark Grand Lodge MBF Charities presentations. He also spoke of the indissoluble links between Craft Masonry and our Companion Orders and how R.W.Bro. Jonathan Spence, P.G.S.W., Pro Grand Master of the Craft, had been invited to address the meeting. This was the first time a Pro Grand Master of the Craft had been invited to speak about the aims and objectives of the Craft at a Mark Grand Lodge meeting. The message was clear, that we need to work consistently and together. This way we can all help to ensure that Freemasonry thrives as a whole. After a most enjoyable morning we all made our way home, wishing Mercury Lodge of Mark Master Masons every success in the future,



Surrey Mark Swimathon

The Swimathon took place at the Guildford Spectrum leisure complex. It was a well-supported venue with a packed car park. There were hockey and rugby events taking place on the other side of the road. Inside the centre there were crowds of families all enjoying the facilities, not only the swimming pools but the ice rink as well. What a great atmosphere.

The Swimathon man was at his best, but where was Steve Jones? He was there in our audience of some twenty or so supporters - but NO Jones in Speedos....



There were several families there with their children.



Mike Neville and his family were very well represented with him swimming with his daughters. He also distributed medals to the youngsters who took part which was a very nice touch.



Nigel Feltham, the Food Bank organiser for his area was thrilled with the amount that was being raised, as was Carol Lewis who has dedicated much time in creating Swishes packs which are distributed to local hospitals.



After the swim, we all met in the café and carved a good little corner for ourselves to wait for the medal presentation. We all sat down and had a good old chinwag, reminiscing about the past Mark year, etc, etc.



Our Provincial Grand Master took time to speak to each youngster individually, thanking them for their efforts and hoping they liked their reward. The children were a little shy but thrilled with their medals.

Thanks to Michael Fenech



The 2023 Mark Charity Dinner Dance, Cha Di Da

Saturday 28th October 2023

at
the Reigate Manor Hotel, Reigate Hill, Surrey RH2 9PF.

Arrival is at 6:30 for 7:00 pm | Carriages at 12 midnight.



Entertainment: Jason Allen (Michael Buble Tribute) followed by Jahson Nembhard (formerly of the Drifters)

Menu

Starter

Wild mushroom soup (ve)
Chicken liver pate, toasted brioche, chutney
Prawn cocktail, Mary Rose sauce, lemon wedge and brown bread (v)

Main Course

Coq au vin, crushed new potatoes, seasonal vegetables
Roast sirloin of beef, roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables, red wine jus
Baked salmon fillet, white wine cream sauce, new potatoes, fine green beans
Mushroom risotto, rocket salad (ve) (v)

Dessert

Seasonal fruit trifle
Citrus cheesecake, berry compote Eton mess
Cheese and biscuits
Tea, coffee and chocolate mints to finish

Tickets for the event are £60 per person and include a three-course meal.

Bed & Breakfast at the Reigate Manor Hotel - double room £120

[Click here](#) to download the pdf booking form.

Contact: W.Bro. Alan Brockwell: T: 01737 557997 | M: 07868 657276 | E: Brockers01@icloud.com

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Surrey

On 2023

Double Room
£120

B & B (optional)

£60
pp



DINNER

Arrival
6.30pm
for 7pm

Carriages
Midnight

Dance Party

SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER
Reigate Manor Hotel - Reigate Hill

Dancing : Jason Allen (Michael Buble) & Jahson Nembhard (formerly of the Drifters)

3 Course Meal • Charity Raffle • Party Surprises

Contact: W.Bro Alan Brockwell - e: brockers01@icloud.com

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See website for details - booking form - menu choices