



Provincial Grand Master's Address to Provincial Grand Lodge



Brethren all, it is now my honour to address you for my 1st time as Provincial Grand Master. It is so nice to see have seen so many people here today and I thank you all for your support. It was especially nice to have our M.W.Pro Grand Masters here earlier with the Grand Team for our Annual Provincial meeting and, of course, my installation - a day which I and hopefully you will always cherish.

An important part of all Freemasonry is visiting which continues to be the case especially during these difficult times; so thank you again to our many guests, whether travelling from near or far it is very much appreciated by us all that you have given up your precious time to support our Provincial meeting even though the rail strike tried its best to make attending more difficult.

Brethren, as Masons our generosity and support to all worthwhile causes is well documented and something that I am very proud to be a part of. On that note I would like to thank you all again for supporting the Surrey Mark Festival helping us raise the princely sum of £1,002,022. This was

highlighted at 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. 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. Another was the Sutton 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. We also enjoyed the company of some of recipients on our table at the festive board and they were so appreciative, so thank you again brethren for your generosity.

M.W.Bro. Jonathan Spence, Pro Grand Master of UGLE, accepted the invitation of the Mark Pro Grand Master, to address Mark Grand Lodge. He spoke passionately about his desire and for the need for us to work consistently and together, to ensure that Freemasonry thrives as a whole. We should always remember that our Masonic journey starts from becoming a Craft Master Mason leading us to the Royal Arch and the Mark degree. Brethren let's keep the pond that we fish from full of happy and enthusiastic Craft Master Masons.

M.W.Bro. Jonathan Spence 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 brethren that we are all Craft Freemasons.

As well as generosity, we are also well known and admired for our Brotherly Love and can I ask that we all continue to make a huge effort to stay in close contact with one another regularly. I can tell you from my own experience that an unexpected phone call received can bring the recipient so much joy!

Brethren I believe that we are all Almoners and as there could be difficult times ahead for some of our members let's be as supportive as we can and staying in contact with each other is the very first thing we should do. If someone has not attended a meeting just call them so as to ensure they are fit and well and remind them how much we are looking forward to seeing them at our next meeting. Please let our Provincial Grand Almoner know if you are aware of any member experiencing difficulties for one reason or another, and remember Brethren "It's good to talk" and long may that continue!

I congratulate all the Officers receiving first appointments, promotions, and indeed active appointments. I hope that Active Officers appointed today will be able to support the Official Visits this coming year, and I can ensure you that it is not only appreciated by myself, my Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters but also all of the Lodges we are visiting who also gratefully appreciate and enjoy our company. If any of our members would also like to attend, I can also assure you that you will be made most welcome.

I congratulate and thank those lodges that have recruited new members – please keep up the good work! To those who have not managed to recruit in the last year please let me know how we can help you in any way to reverse this trend.

Brethren, Provincial Meetings do not just happen, and a lot of people have worked extremely hard to put everything together today for our enjoyment. and I offer my sincere thanks to all of them. In particular, the Provincial Grand Secretaries David Clark and Tim Ford; the Stewards Lodge ably harnessed by Bernie Greenwood; and of course, our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team, and the many others who also do so much behind the scenes.

Our past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Richard Knox, is retiring today and I thank him for his hard work and wise council, and hope he fills the vacant diary dates with many happy holidays!

Thank you all for the kind attention you have given to my address – drive safely and Mark Well.

John V C French
Provincial Grand Master
18th March 2023

A big thank-you to our Provincial Grand Master

R.W.Bro. Ian N Clark, our Provincial Grand Master, retired from office after nine years of leading our Province. R.W.Bro. Ian has said that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Province as our Provincial Grand Master, and I am sure he is looking forward to a well-deserved rest.

His last visit to a Mark Lodge as Provincial Grand Master took place on the 16th of March to Pride of Surrey Lodge meeting at Sutton. There were 28 Provincial Officers of the year attending to say farewell and thanks to our Provincial Grand Master.

The Mark Lodge was opened by W.Bro. Peter Kipps who welcomed all the visitors and guests. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Paul Wicking, **P.G.Stwd.**, was admitted and advised the Worshipful Master that R.W.Bro. Ian Clark was demanding admission for the last time. The Provincial Grand Master entered the Temple to rapturous applause from everyone in the Temple, including the Provincial escort. He was quite moved by this and took the Chair.

He said how delighted he was to be with everyone and thanked all the Brethren for turning out in such numbers for his last visit. Here is our Provincial Grand Master with all the Provincial Grand Officers.



The Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Master Designate, V.W.Bro. John French, then presented a cheque to the Provincial Grand Master from all the Brethren of the Mark Province of Surrey thanking him for the way he has led the Province over the past nine years. R.W.Bro. Ian's face was a picture when he saw the amount raised - **£2,500**.

He thanked everyone for their support for the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival which, despite all the challenges over the years, raised the magnificent sum of **£1,002,022**. He described some of the ways in which the money has been spent, including a donation to the Sutton Women's Centre, a charity supported by Shelley and the team at Sutton Masonic Hall.





The Provincial Grand Master congratulated W.Bro. Ron and wished him an enjoyable year in the chair of Pride of Surrey Mark Lodge.

It was good to see how many of the present, past, and future, Provincial Executive turned up to say thanks to our Provincial Grand Master, and to wish him well for the future.

The Lodge was then closed, and after the customary group photograph, we all retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal at the Sutton Masonic Hall.

R.W.Bro. Ian thanked all the members of his Executive who had supported him, together with the Wardens and various Officers. He said that he could not have asked for more from his teams and thanked them one and all. It was a magnificent turnout for R.W.Bro. Ian's last visit as our Provincial Grand Master.

The main item on the agenda was to install Bro. Roland Sylvester (Ron) Scarlett as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The ceremony was conducted in a most sincere manner by the Worshipful Master. The Address to the Master was given by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, P.G.J.O., P.A.Prov.G.M.

It was a very special moment for V.W.Bro. Chris as he had seen Ron Initiated, Passed and Raised in the Craft, assisting with the ceremonies, he Exalted Ron into the Holy Royal Arch, and assisted in Ron's Advancement into the Mark.

The Address to the Brethren for the very last time as our Provincial Grand Master was given by R.W.Bro. Ian Clark



As he rides off into the sunset, R.W.Bro. Ian wishes John and his team every success as we move into a new era in Surrey Mark Masonry, and he begins his year of Purdah.

A new Provincial Grand Master for Surrey Mark

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey took place on Saturday 18th of March at the Croydon and District Masonic Hall, Croydon, Surrey. At the meeting the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H Prizeman installed V.W.Bro. John V C French as the eighteenth Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey,



From 9.30 am the Brethren of the Province and their guests started arriving for coffee and bacon butties.

Once again, our Provincial Grand Stewards did a splendid job of ensuring everyone was able to park in the Stanton Road car park.



While the two Assistant Provincial Grand Masters designate were busy rehearsing their Obligation.....



There were many guests from Kent...



....Middlesex,



....Sussex, and beyond



....as well as many Brethren from Surrey Mark Lodges.



By 10.45 am everyone was seated in the Temple.

Just after 10.50 am the Brethren were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Worshipful Brethren and past members of the Provincial Executive.



At 11.00 am Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in form by the Presiding Officer.



The Installing officer was saluted with eleven under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies, after which he addressed the brethren on the purpose of the meeting, to install V.W.Bro. John French as the Provincial Grand Master for Surrey.



The Grand Director of Ceremonies and appointed Brethren retired in procession and re-entered the Lodge and introduced the Provincial Grand Master Designate.

The Installing Officer called upon the Grand Secretary to read the Patent of Appointment from the Grand Master and then addressed the Provincial Grand Master Designate on the Nature of his duties and the qualifications for the office. After the Grand Chaplain had offered a prayer the Provincial Grand Master Designate took his Obligation and was invested and installed in the Chair by the M.W.Pro. Grand Master. R.W.Bro. John French was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The meeting was called to order by W.Bro. Paul Wicking, P.G.Stwd., the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, to receive the Presiding Officer, R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey, Past Provincial Grand Master.



The Installing Officer, accompanied by his Assisting Officers, entered in procession assumed the chair and appointed his officers.



The Grand Director of Ceremonies and appointed Brethren retired in procession and re-entered the Lodge and introduced the Provincial Grand Master Designate.



The Installing Officer called upon the Grand Secretary to read the Patent of Appointment from the Grand Master and then addressed the Provincial Grand Master Designate on the Nature of his duties and the qualifications for the office.



The Provincial Grand Master called upon the Grand Secretary to read the Patent of Appointment and then addressed the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate on the Nature of his duties and the qualifications for the office.

After the Grand Chaplain had offered a prayer the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate took his Obligation and was invested and installed in the Chair by the Provincial Grand Master. W.Bro. Bill Barr was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Grand Master announced the appointment of W.Bro. William Raymond Barr, P.G.J.D., as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and appointed Brethren retired in procession and re-entered the Lodge and introduced the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Designate.



W.Bro. Bill Barr was then proclaimed and saluted under the

The Provincial Grand Master announced the appointment of W.Bro. Timothy Ford, P.G.J.D. and W.Bro. William A Caughie, P.G.J.D., as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.



The Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and appointed Brethren retired in procession and re-entered the Lodge and introduced the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters Designate.

The Provincial Grand Master called upon the Grand Secretary to read the Patent of Appointment and then addressed the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters Designate on the Nature of their duties and the qualifications for the office.



After the Grand Chaplain had offered a prayer the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters Designate took their Obligation and were invested and installed in the Chair by the Provincial Grand Master. W.Bro. Tim Ford and W.Bro. Bill Caughie were then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.W.Bro. Peter Rubie-Todd.

The Provincial Grand Master addressed the M.W. Pro Grand Master thanking him and his team for making this such a special day, not only for himself but all the Brethren of the Mark Province of Surrey.

The Pro Grand Master said it was a delight to install R.W.Bro. John and wished him, and the Brethren of the Mark Province of Surrey every success for the future. The Pro Grand Master and his Assisting Officers then retired in procession.

The Provincial Grand Master declared Provincial Grand Lodge called off and, accompanied by the Executive, R.W. Brethren, and other Distinguished Guests, retired from Provincial Grand Lodge.



It was good to see the Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of Surrey, Ian Chandler, at our meeting. Ian is seen here with John Prizeman, Pro Grand Master; Pat Crossan, Provincial Prior of the Provincial Priory of Surrey in the order of Knights Templar; and Richard Wileman, Inspector General of the Rose Croix District of Surrey, and Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Craft.



We were called into lunch which due to the large numbers dining had to be in two dining rooms at the Croydon Masonic Hall with a video link to the main dining room. There was a most convivial atmosphere in both rooms.



The Pro Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Master took wine with all the Brethren in the Naughty Boys Room.



Some of the members of the Allied Masonic Degrees remembered to wear their AMD napkins.



In thanking R.W.Bro. John for his kind gesture the Pro Grand Master said that was more than he had received from his predecessor, R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey.

In proposing the toast to the Pro Grand Master our Provincial Grand Master presented M.W.Bro. John with a Surrey AMD napkin.



The Pro Grand Master said how good it was to see Ian Chandler at the meeting and spoke about 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 recent meeting of Mark Grand Lodge.



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. The Pro Grand Master and his team then retired from the dining room.



Provincial Grand Lodge was called on by the Provincial Grand Master who welcomed the many representatives of other Provinces and other Masonic Orders in Surrey.

Before approving the minutes of the previous meeting, which were available on the Provincial web site, those present



remembered our members who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above since the last annual meeting.

The Travelling Keystone was introduced in 2016 to encourage visiting and promote the exchange of good will within the Province.

Its journey started in Bond of Friendship Lodge and the passport shows that it has been to many Lodges within the Province.

R.W.Bro. John said that the Lodge who would be taking the Keystone home this afternoon was Rose Mark Lodge. He invited the Brethren of Rose Lodge to stand while he congratulated them.

A total of 67 appointments and promotions in Provincial Grand Rank were announced; as well as 11 Brethren receiving Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. The Brethren of the Province of Surrey below the rank of Provincial Grand Officer were called to order to salute the newly appointed and invested Provincial Grand Officers with three.



The Provincial Grand Master addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. He thanked all the guests and members for attending and helping to make this a very special day.

He asked the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to present W.Bro. Nigel Feltham and W.Bro. Garry Lewis to him so he could present a cheque of £2,000 to each of them as a donation to their charities.

He thanked W.Bro. Nigel for all the good work he is doing, along with Shelley Sykes at Sutton Masonic Hall, to support the Sutton Food Bank.

He then asked W.Bro. Garry to pass on our thanks to his wife Carol who has dedicated much time in creating Swishes packs which are distributed to local hospitals.



The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form. The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.

The members of the Provincial Executive greeted all our Honoured Guests as they retired from Provincial Grand Lodge.

It was a long but truly memorable day.





The new Executive Team

R.W.Bro. John Vaughan Christopher French Provincial Grand Master

By Michael F Barnes, P.G.M.O., P.Dep.Prov.G.M. and Jack Love, P.A.G.D.C., P.Prov.G.J.W.

John is an amazing fellow; industrious, energetic, enterprising, jovial and great company. We can hardly do justice to his many qualities, attributes and ventures in this brief profile, but we will endeavour to give a flavour of his many ventures and exploits, including his Masonic ones.



John was born in Aldershot in 1956, the second eldest in a family of four sisters and a brother. He also went to school in Aldershot and then on to Salesian College in Farnborough. Even before he left school, he began his amazing entrepreneurial career by renting a market stall in Aldershot.

After leaving school he began by working for a retailer in Woking. By the time he was twenty he owned two shops specialising in carpets and furniture. From there he went on to build up a chain of retail shops which he eventually sold in order to give full commitment to his major project – a construction company building hotels in the Caribbean and UK.

He met his wife Hazel in a pub (where else?) in Runfold in 1980. Being a very attractive lady, she had a number of suitors at the time, but John won the fair lady's heart (must have been his charm!) and they were married in Aldershot in 1982. They now have two children - Sarah who is married to Calvin Gower (just joined Weybridge Lodge 6787) and sooner than later will be a Mark Master Mason! His son John is married to Dr Molly Brennan. He has twin granddaughters, Francesca and Harriet and two grandsons Henry and William. His grandchildren give him so much joy and definitely keep him on his toes!

He now resides at his 70-acre farm in Hampshire, described as a non-profit making small holding with sheep, cattle, pigs and chickens. On the entertainment front, John tells us that football has formed a major part of his life – as a player, a sponsor, and a spectator.



Since the late 1960s he has been an avid supporter of Chelsea FC, through good times and bad. He is also a keen golfer – nowadays more on the social side of the game rather than the competitive. He is a keen supporter and contributor to a number of local charities as well as Masonic ones.

John was initiated into Freemasonry in Weybridge Lodge No 6787 in 1991 and was Master in 1998. He was appointed PProvGStB in 2005 and promoted to PProvSGD in 2014. In addition to the Mark, John is also a member of at least ten other Masonic Orders, including the Royal Arch in which was exalted in 1994 in the Castle Keep Chapter No 6446. He made little progress in the Royal Arch until he joined Mik Barnes's London Chapter, Earl of Zetland No 1364, in 2013 and was MEZ in 2016 and again in 2017.

John is a member and Past Master of Craft, Royal Arch, Mark, RAM, OSM, Rose Croix, Red Cross, Royal & Select Masters, Knight Templar, Knight Templar Priests, Scarlet Cord and Operatives.

John was advanced into Mark Masonry in Percy Lodge No 114 on 6 October 1993, was first installed as WM in 1996 and received Provincial honours as PProvGStB in 2002, ProvAGDC in 2006, ProvGSD in 2010 and ProvGSW in 2013. Grand Rank came in 2015 with an appointment as Grand Steward. He was elected President of the Board of Grand Stewards and had the honour of proposing the toast to the Grand Master at the Annual Investiture Banquet in June 2016.

He was elevated in Percy RAM Lodge on 5 October 1994, became Commander in 1998, received ProvRAMGR in 2003 and RAMGR in 2013. At the Annual Meeting of the Mark Province of Surrey on 21 March 2016 Assistant Provincial Grand Master and DepProvGM. In 2017 John was appointed as the District Grand Prefect for the Allied Masonic Degree in Surrey.

John enjoys all of his free masonry immensely and currently holds high ranks in all of the orders to which he is a member, thankfully he is now retired and pretty much a full time Mason!



W.Bro. Bill Barr, P.G.J.D., Deputy Provincial Grand Master

Bill was born in Croydon about half a mile from this Masonic Centre. He went to school at Winterbourne Infants and Junior School in Norbury and then to Dulwich College in South London achieving three A levels in English, French and German.

He was Armourer in the CCF (Combined Cadet Force), took Ordinary Seaman and Able Seaman Exams and was a member of the Shooting team. He has a BA (Hons) in Art History with Humanities at the Open University



Bill went into family business, which had four clothing factories in South London. Antiques were also a family business and Bill took an active role standing regularly at the Olympia Antiques Fair and National and International Antique Fairs. He and Barbara still rent space in an Arundel Antiques Centre. Bill is married to Barbara, with a daughter, Natasha; son, Jack; and grand- daughter, Ellie; now reading Sport and Exercise Science at Colchester University.

Bill was Initiated into Freemasonry in 1981 and was Secretary of a Craft Lodge for nearly twenty years and a similar time as Scribe E in his Chapter. He was Advanced into the Mark in 2000 and has served in the active ranks of Provincial Steward, Senior Deacon, Senior Overseer and Senior Warden. Bill was Appointed to Grand Inner Guard in the Mark Degree in 2017 and fulfilled that active office at home and abroad for many Provincial and District Grand Masters' Installations. Bill is a member of six Mark Lodges in Surrey, a member of the RAM, holding RAM Grand Rank, Royal and Select Masters, AMD, Red Cross and OSM

Bill has had an Estate Agents business with two Offices and more recently a B&B and Holiday Cottage business in the Cotswolds with Barbara. He travelled down for Surrey Masonic meetings throughout the twelve years he lived in Gloucestershire.

Bill has been a Toastmaster for over thirty years and is a Past President of the TMCFF – Toastmasters and Masters of Ceremonies Federation. He held a Slipper's Licence with the National Coursing Club for twenty years, only hanging up his Slips when hunting with hounds was banned. He bred Whippets for over twenty years, breeding many coursing champions. He now likes to go away for brief breaks with Barbara in his VW Camper and walk his lurcher, Millie over the Pulborough Brooks



W.Bro. Bill Caughie, P.G.J.D., Assistant Provincial Grand Master

Bill was born and educated in Glasgow where he joined the Civil Service on leaving school. In 1982 after spending several years in IT as a systems analyst he totally changed career path by moving to London and transferring to the Post Office Investigation Department. He relocated to Manchester before returning to London where he retired in 2003 as Royal Mail Head of Corporate Security. Bill then set up his own management consultancy company from which he became the Chief Operating Officer of the Information Security Forum. This was probably the most enjoyable time of his working life as he travelled the world chairing various IT Security forums.

It was while working in Manchester that Bill became interested in Freemasonry and was Initiated into Duke of Athol Lodge No.210 in 1989. In 1996 Bill returned to London to finish his career. He moved to Surrey where he joined Coulsdon Lodge No.4547. He was Exalted into St Margaret's Chapter No.1872 in 2000 and was appointed PPGSoj in 2019.

Bill was appointed Provincial Grand Charity Steward to run the 2008 Festival for the RMBI. Bill received Grand Rank as PAGDC in 2016 before being appointed as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master shortly afterwards. This was followed by a promotion to PSGD.

Bill was Advanced into County Palatine Mark Lodge, East Lancashire in 1994. He is a member of Kintore Mark Lodge No 333, Crystal Palace Mark Lodge No 450, Surrey Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No 1726, and Surrey Installed Mark Masters Lodge No 1219.

He was Appointed Provincial Grand Junior Warden 2007 and subsequently Appointed as a Mark Grand Steward 2009. He was Promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon in 2012. In Royal Ark Mariners he was Elevated into Kintore RAM Lodge in 1996, Appointed to Provincial RAM Grand Rank in 2005, and to RAM Grand Rank in 2009.



Bill is 30th Degree in Rose Croix and is shortly to be appointed to Active Grand Sword Bearer in Royal & Select Masters. As part of his community voluntary work, Bill is Treasurer of Surrey Crimestoppers, attending Police, County and Community events to raise awareness of Crimestoppers.

Bill is married to Sharon who gives great support to his Masonic activities. He is a great sports enthusiast with his first love being football. After playing in the Scottish Amateur League, he qualified as a Class 1 referee in Manchester and quickly progressed through the leagues, reaching the then Northern Premier League. Unfortunately, a serious back injury brought his refereeing career to a premature end. Bill's main enjoyment during the last 20 years has been travelling. There have been many highlights of places visited, including Japan, South America, and spending Christmas Day in Antarctica. Bill has many wonderful memories from his time as a Freemason with a commitment to ensuring that our very special fraternity continues to offer that brotherly love, and more especially, the enjoyment that makes us proud to be Freemasons.



W.Bro. Tim Ford, P.G.J.D., Assistant Provincial Grand Master

Tim was born and brought up in Peru, in South America, as his parents were working there as missionaries for some 25 years, before returning to the UK in 1981.



Although Tim had been a very keen sportsman, scout, and Officer Cadet in the Peruvian Army, he did not pursue those interests any further when he arrived in the UK at the age of 18. The shock of this English “new world” was more than enough to keep him occupied for the rest of the 80’s, although he continued to play football and volleyball at amateur club level. He now keeps fit at the gym every day.

His family settled in Wimbledon and Tim went on to complete a degree in Mechanical & Production Engineering at South Thames Polytech, via an apprenticeship at a small engineering

company in South Wimbledon, finishing his studies while at Liberty of London Prints in the mid 80’s as Sales, Operations and Production Manager.

Because of his manufacturing industry experience, he then joined a Private Family Investment Bank as an Account Director, but returned to Industry as a Group Credit Manager for Cookson Alpha Fry and in 1991 fell in with that emerging industry called “computers and computer software”.

In the early ‘90s he joined a leading American Software house and remained there for 15 years, running various business operations for them, after which, he and his family took a two year sabbatical in San Diego, USA, where he ran a Software Company just to keep busy, returning in early 2010 so that the children could continue their studies in the UK, and so that Tim could start a new Software and Services Company, eventually growing that business to more than 150 staff. After 6 years with HSO, Tim joined Harness International as a Senior Partner in their Business Consulting Division in April 2016, to advise and assist Business Leaders with their technology and business transformation projects.

Tim and Louise met at their church youth-group in 1981, started going out in 1982 and married in 1989 and have since enjoyed life with Caitlin (29) who has settled in Brisbane, Australia, and Ben (26) who lives in Teddington and works for Oracle Software – so it’s nice and peaceful at home...!

Tim had studied our Masonic Fraternity “from the outside” for many years and finally in October 2000 was initiated into Woodstock Lodge No.7948 in Guildford. Some 30 days after being Raised, in December 2001, he was Exalted into Sinai Chapter No.3164 in Sussex (*just to be different*) and then 60 days later Installed into KT at Agincourt Preceptory No.517 in April 2002. In May 2004 Tim was Perfected into the Ancient & Accepted Rite (*known as the Rose Croix*) at Lily of Kasauli No.200, and then in September 2005 he was Advanced into Oak Tree Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.1839. He also joined Richmond Lodge No.808 of MMM and RAM in January 2006 – ostensibly so that he could become a Founder of Oak Tree RAM Lodge No.1839 some years later – but has very much enjoyed the friendly life at R808, being its Worshipful Commander in 2009 and Worshipful Master in 2012.

Tim is also a member of the Royal and Select Masters, the Allied Masonic Degrees, the Knights Templar Priests, the Royal Order of Scotland, the S.R.I.A., K.B.H.C. and finally, the Commemorative Order of St Thomas of Acon.

Tim was Worshipful Master of Woodstock Lodge No.7948 in 2005 for two successive years and was then promoted to the active ranks of Provincial Grand Steward, Provincial Assistant Director of Ceremonies and Provincial Senior Grand Deacon. He has been a Craft SOV and Group Coordinator since 2018 and holds the current rank of Past Provincial Grand Registrar. He currently belongs to four Craft Lodges.

In the Royal Arch, Tim was installed as MEZ at Sinai Chapter in 2009 and, after joining five other Chapters in Surrey, has been MEZ thirteen times so far – clearly he enjoys his Royal Arch Masonry. Tim was also appointed a Provincial Grand Steward in the Royal Arch, followed by an appointment to Provincial Grand Standard Bearer, then Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and is now the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies for the Royal Arch in Surrey. Tim received his Supreme Grand Chapter Rank of Active Grand Standard Bearer in April 2022.

In KT, and having joined three Preceptories and been Eminent Preceptor three times, Tim currently holds the Great Priory Grand Rank of Past Great Aide-De-Camp and is the Provincial Marshal of the Provincial Priory of Surrey.

Tim is a member of three Rose Croix Chapters and was promoted to the 31st Degree in 2021. Tim has been through the Chair of his Pride of Surrey Council of Royal and Select Masters and holds the rank of District Grand Lecturer.

Tim is a member of seven Mark and RAM Lodges and was appointed Provincial Grand Steward in 2011, while still Junior Warden of R808. He went on to be one of our Provincial Grand Senior Deacons in 2013 and Provincial Grand Registrar in 2014, then Provincial Grand Secretary since 2017 – the job he has been doing so well for the last 6 years. Tim was appointed to the Mark Grand Rank of Grand Steward in 2017, and then promoted to Past Grand Junior Deacon in 2020. He has held Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank since 2015.



An Advancement at St Andrews Mark in Farnham

So, England did beat Italy 1-2. My team of St Helens (supported since 1965!!!) did beat my hometown team at Rugby League. Equally up there, we at St Andrews 806 did a 1 -2. We had one advancement and two joining members all at the same gathering.



Our friendly degree assistance came from many areas. Our Treasurer, Barrie Selway stepped in and carried out the whole ceremony with his usual aplomb and Ray Seeley came in to perform the lengthy role of Senior Deacon.

He was immaculate in his performance and needed no prompts. The Master Overseer was another guest in Clive Newman and scolded his subordinates appropriately when they endeavoured to sidestep their roles. John Massey was duly reprimanded!! Our VO hurried back from work in Bristol and, as JW, duly waved his axe. No blood was spilt and the most important character in the Mark production, Garfield St. Aubrun Gibson completed his journey with all limbs intact and a big smile on his face.



I do feel that he was helped by the presence of our organist who has a keen sense of humour, is extremely capable and certainly adds theatre to the Ceremony of Advancement.

I did say 1 - 2 at the beginning. Well, I have mentioned Garfield. We also had two visiting members who were mentioned at the meeting. They were recorded as future joining members and may well help us in the next ceremony in their different ways. Both are good ritualists, and one expressed a desire to step in to the shoes of our secretary who will retire this season. We shall not sit on our laurels but continue to seek out new men for our welcoming lodge.



We finished on time and as usual we were served an excellent Festive Board with all the trimmings. The bar was open, and nobody rushed away at the end. Goodbyes were proffered and we retired in due form to ruminate on the last few hours of a difficult season.

Our former Provincial Grand Master will be missed but we look forward to a visit from newly installed R.W.Bro. John French and wish both our Honorary Members all the best for the future.

This was a meeting of hope for the future, and we will do our best to keep St Andrew's Lodge of Mark Master Masons flying our flag. We are 100 years old next year.

Why not come along and visit us, take part in our ceremonies and enjoy our company! You will be most welcome. We meet on the fourth Thursdays of October (Inst. Mark), November (Inst. R A M), January and March. Our Installation should be very interesting.



Thanks to Michael Fenech



Congratulations



Mark Grand Rank Appointments and Promotions – 2023

We have great pleasure in confirming that The Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to Appoint and Promote the following Surrey Mark Members as Officers of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas.

The First Appointments (Active and Past Rank) will take effect from the Annual Investiture in June 2023 and the Promotions to Past Rank, will take effect at the meeting of Grand Lodge in September 2023.

APPOINTMENTS TO GRAND RANK

(Mark Grand Rank Investiture June 2023)

Appointment to Active Rank

David Peter Barden	G.S.D. §	Redhill 1285
Anthony John Callister	G.Stwd.	Percy 114

§ signifies not through Province of Surrey

Past Rank

Steven Christopher Cann	P.A.G.St.B.	Hiram 13
-------------------------	-------------	----------

PROMOTIONS IN GRAND RANK

(Mark Grand Rank Investiture September 2023)

Past Rank

Michael Frederick Barnes	P.G.J.W.	Rose 534
Noel Alfred Brian Grout	P.G.J.W. §	Frederick Wheeler 1407
Richard John Knox	P.G.J.O.	Welcome 1237
Raymond Michael Scott Seeley	P.G.J.O.	Noel 505
Paul Danbury Fitzgerald	P.G.S.D. §	Redhill 1285
Stephen Richard Jones	P.G.J.D.	Noel 505
Paul Andrew Wicking	P.G.J.D.	Woodgrange 1111

§ signifies not through Province of Surrey

OTHER APPOINTMENTS IN GRAND LODGE

(Mark Grand Rank Investiture June 2023)

Archibald Ian Torrance	Pres.M.B.F. §	Knightsbridge 1878
------------------------	---------------	--------------------

§ signifies not through Province of Surrey

We give our heartiest of congratulations to those deserving Surrey Brethren who have been so honoured.