



Congratulations

Congratulations to the Surrey Brethren who received promotion in Mark Grand Lodge on the 12th of September 2023 in the Grand Temple at Freemasons Hall.

V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and V.W.Bro. Noel Grout, received promotion to Past Grand Junior Warden, which means that they are now Right Worshipful Brethren.

W.Bro. Richard Knox, our Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and W.Bro. Ray Seeley, our Provincial Grand Treasurer, received promotion to Past Grand Junior Overseer, which means that they are now Very Worshipful Brethren; and W.Bros. Steve Jones and Paul Wicking received promotion to Past Grand Junior Deacon.



We congratulate these Brethren on their well-deserved promotion in Mark Grand Lodge.

Mark Grand Lodge



Tuesday's Communication of Mark Grand Lodge is, for many, the start of the new Masonic season. And what better way to kick it off than to hear the names of 117 Brethren read out, and to see those present invested with their new Grand Rank following their promotion.



As is our usual practice, we arranged to meet up at the Shakespeare's Head, a popular Wetherspoons pub in Holborn for refreshments before the meeting.



Congratulations also to W.Bro. Paul Fitzgerald who received promotion to Past Grand Senior Deacon through London.





The ground floor of the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, was full of recipients, supporters, and Provincial and District representatives, plus Brethren from across our own Constitution and those overseas.



Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager at Mark Masons' Hall, and his team were in the vestibule promoting the Mark Benevolent Fund.





The meeting was opened by the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman, assisted by R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson, A.G.M., and H. Keith Emmerson, P.Dep.G.M.



The business of Grand Lodge was dealt with in the usual fashion before W.Bro. Sebastian Jeremy Dunsandle Daly, Prov.G.D.C. (Cheshire), rose to give notice that at the next Communication of Grand Lodge, he would propose the re-election of HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO, as Grand Master.

The next item of business was to elect a Grand Treasurer. In his address later in the meeting, the Pro Grand Master would pay a tribute to R.W.Bro. John Norman George Howitt, P.G.S.W., G.Treas., who sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above earlier in the year.



For the time being he called upon the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan Andrew Williams, OStJ, P.G.J.W., who informed the meeting that there was already a process in place to identify a new Grand Treasurer and that there would be a proposition in March. He added that the finances of Grand Lodge were being overseen for present time.



Next came the investiture of those receiving Promotion in Grand Rank and the Brethren warmly applauded each recipient of their well-deserved recognition.

The Pro Grand Master then addressed the meeting, commenting how pleased he was that our Grand Master had agreed for his name to go forward for re-election to serve another term in office.

Reiterating the message of the Grand Secretary, the Pro Grand Master confirmed that a new Grand Treasurer will be elected in March and spoke warmly of R.W.Bro. John Norman George Howitt, P.G.S.W., G.Treas., commending his stewardship of Grand Lodge's funds.

There is currently some consideration being made of how to commemorate R.W.Bro. Howitt's

contribution to Grand Lodge.

The Pro Grand Master then drew the attention of Brethren to the Mark Benevolent Fund's quarter two review, published in last week's Newsletter, and congratulated the Mark Province of Dorset on becoming the first Grand Master's Keystone Fund Province. He then informed Brethren that the MBF would be giving £25k from the Mark Emergency Relief Fund to ShelterBox to assist with aid following the Morocco earthquake.



He then spoke of the indissoluble links between the Craft, Royal Arch, the Mark, and the other Companion Orders, and how we all depend on the Craft to provide us with new members. He urged every Mark Brother to share this message with Brethren and Companions of our Lodges and Chapters, and charged Provincial and District Grand Masters to work closely with their counterparts in the Craft and Royal Arch in building these essential aims, commenting that relations between our Grand Lodge and UGLE remain strong.

Next, the Pro Grand Master welcomed the Heads of other Orders in attendance,,,,,





..... and then visitors from our own Districts overseas and R.W.Bro. Dimitrios Kontesis, Past Deputy Grand Master of the Mark Grand Lodge of Greece.



This was followed by thanks to the Grand Secretary and the team at Mark Masons' Hall, and the G.D.C. and his team.

In closing, the Pro Grand Master expressed his hope that Brethren take home with them today's message of Masonic co-operation and wished all Brethren well, and a safe return home. With no other business to transact, Grand Lodge was closed, and the Brethren retired to dine, or make their way home.



Thank you to all those who came along to attend this meeting and support Grand Lodge, and congratulations to all those who received Promotion. Your attendance makes these meetings very special occasions.

Article by Dan Heath and photos by Chris Eley

After the customary Surrey group photograph.....



.... we retired for refreshments....



..... before going into the Grand Connaught Rooms to dine.

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





1st Warlingham Scout Group



The Agenda for this year's AGM of the 1st Warlingham Scout Group on the 15th of July included one far from routine item, the formal opening of the accessibility ramp and planting of a tree.



This was to be the culmination of a project, the seeds for which were planted in September 2020, when local resident Tony Wright was one of many Surrey Freemasons to receive an email from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey. Nothing unusual in that; prima facie, it was yet another Charity Appeal! However, this was a Charity Appeal with a difference.

Rather than the routine request for money, the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) was looking to give money away and the email was an invitation to nominate a worthy Surrey-based charity that might need funds for a particular piece of equipment or perhaps a larger project.

Whilst not formally involved with Warlingham Scouts, Tony had himself been an enthusiastic Scout in his youth and was firmly of the opinion that the local Group would not only be a very worthy, appropriate, and relevant recipient of MBF Grant Funding, but that any such Award would serve to develop and reinforce the undoubted links between Scouting and Freemasonry, two organisations which are founded on similar moral principles.

En passant, it is worth noting that while, contrary to popular belief, there is no conclusive evidence that the Founder of Scouting, Robert Baden-Powell, was a Freemason, photographs taken before the siege of Mafeking include a man identified as a Freemason who bears a superficial resemblance to Baden-Powell.

Nevertheless, whether he was a Freemason or not what is generally accepted is that Freemasonry formed the basis of the Boy Scout movement, with Baden-Powell having been inspired by Brother Rudyard Kipling's Masonic teachings,



Tony contacted the local Group's Chairman and Treasurer which led to the submission of an application for Grant-Funding to 'Construct an all-ability access ramp to the front of the Scout Hut in Mint Walk, and to update the hard landscaping to suit the new arrangements'. The development which, if implemented, would not only benefit the Scout Group, but also the wider community given the many activities that take place there. Freemasonry in the Community is an important Masonic focus.



In February 2021, after a nervous but inevitable period of form-filling and admin-exchanges, the good news came through that the application had been approved by the MBF, for £7,500. With an additional and invaluable contribution of £500, given by Warlingham Parish Council, work on the project commenced.

Lockdowns interrupted progress but nevertheless the successful completion of the project was formally recognised at the Group's AGM this year. A member of the Surrey Mark Provincial Executive, Bill Caughie, with Robin Bloore and Jeremy Pursehouse performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony and tree planting to 'Mark' the occasion, with fellow Surrey Mark Masons, David Clark, Alan Brockwell, David Lawrence, and Tony Wright looking on.

On a final note, the planting of the tree has an interesting, if somewhat contrived, Masonic analogy. Freemasonry has many 'branches' off its main 'Craft' trunk, of which 'Mark' Masonry is one!

Thanks to Tony Wright

Cha Di Da

2023

The 2023 Cha Di Da to be held at the Reigate Manor Hotel on Saturday the 28th of October is nearly full. Don't miss out – book now.



Surrey Mark Cha Di Da 2023

Double Room
£120
B & B (optional)

£60
pp

WINNER
Carriages
Midnight

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
t: 01737 557997 m: 07868 657276

See website for details - booking form - menu choices

