



The 2023 Surrey Mark Cha Di Da

The 2023 Surrey Mark Cha Di Da was held at the Reigate Manor hotel on Saturday the 28th of October. Thanks again to Alan and Wendy Brockwell for their organisation of the event, and for all their little touches that made sure it was another successful evening in the Surrey Mark calendar.

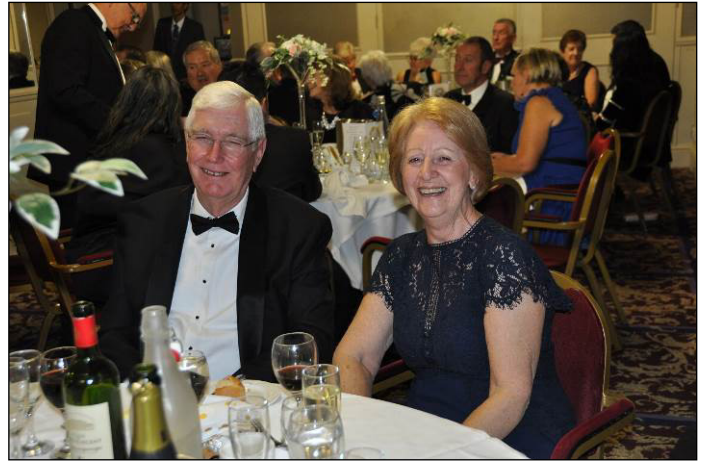


This year's Dinner Dance, which was a sell-out, included a lovely three course meal with Prosecco, and dancing after the meal to Jason Allen and Jahson Nembhard, formerly of the Drifters.



There were over 140 guests consisting of Surrey Mark Masons, their friends, and families, including our two Past Provincial Grand Masters, and Heads of the other Orders in Surrey.

From 6.00 pm the guests started gathering for a few drinks in the bar before moving into the dining room.



Our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Bill Barr, welcomed everyone on behalf of our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, who sent everyone his very best wishes for a most enjoyable evening, and who is looking forward to being with us all soon.









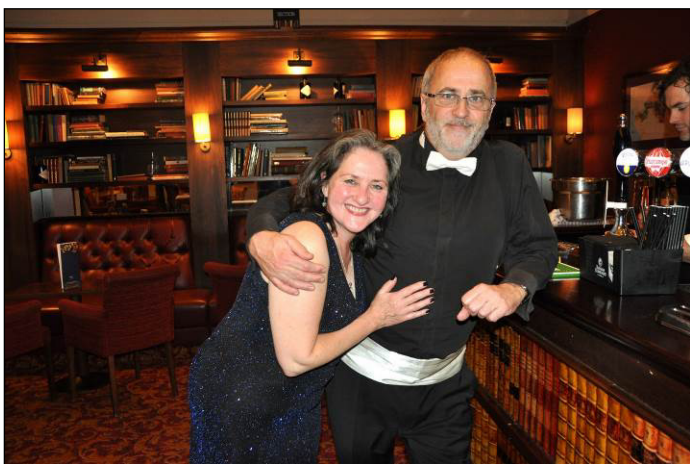
After the meal we were entertained by Jason Allen, a Michael Bubl  tribute singer, who got most of us up dancing.....



.... while others were in the bar watching the Rugby Finals....



Next was the Grand Charity Raffle which raised the magnificent sum of £2,000 towards worthy causes.



After dinner we were entertained by Jahson Nembhard, formerly of the Drifters.....



..... and then the party started. Alan and Wendy distributed party poppers and balloons to all the tables which were soon being blown up and let off.



We had a competition to see who the best air guitarist was. The contestants were so good the judges could not decide the final winner, so the trophy was shared.





Our Deputy Provincial Grand Master thanked everyone for coming along to support our annual Cha Di Da and gave special thanks to Alan and Wendy Brockwell for their organisation of this Dinner Dance Party.



We are all looking forward to the next event at the Reigate Manor Hotel, the **OSM Christmas Party**, where our hosts will be, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Colin Beerling and Anne.



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Dinner & Dance Party
CHRISTMAS
Night Dancing to
Midnight

Saturday 9th December 2023

Reigate Manor Hotel - 6.30pm for 7pm dining

Live Music - Alan Lovell
(of the Swinging Blue Jeans)

Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly

The Most Worshipful The Grand Master has been pleased to honour the following Surrey Royal Ark Mariners with Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank this year:

W Bro David Clark – Kintore 333

W Bro Mick Clay – Woodgrange 1111

W Bro Mark Guzam – Percy 114

Our Surrey Mariners are to be invested at the Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners to be held this year on Monday the 11th of December 2023 at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street.

Please join us all in congratulating our fellow Mariner Brethren on their preferment.



The Reponement of the Warrant of Woodstock Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners



On the 29th of June 2016 at Surbiton the meeting of Woodstock Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 1569 was closed by the then Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Richard Baker, R.A.M.G.R., after the members of the Lodge had decided to surrender the Warrant deeming the Lodge no longer viable.



Eight and a bit years later on Thursday the 21st September, a Provincial Team consisting of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro, Bill Barr, R.A.M.G.R.; Kevin Woodward, Provincial Grand Senior Warden; Bernie Greenwood, acting Provincial Grand Junior Warden; David Clark, Provincial Grand Secretary; Paul Wicking, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies; and Les Smith, acting Provincial Grand Guardian; accompanied by a delegation of Provincial Grand Officers reassembled at Surbiton to repon the Lodge on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master.

The Lodge being formally reponed, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master then installed the Commander designate, W.Bro. Paul Haycock, in an excellent manner and presented him with the Lodge Warrant. The Commander then invested the Senior Warden designate, and Junior Warden designate.

The Commander and Wardens balloted on the joining members to the Lodge and continued in the election of the Treasurer and Investiture of the Lodge Officers. The general agenda items of voting on By-laws, Auditors etc was conducted and the meeting closed. A very convivial Festive Board followed.

Thanks to David Clark



60 Years in Mark and RAM



On Monday the 16th of October at Hiram Mark Lodge in Guildford, W.Bro. John Shorto, P.G.St.B., R.A.M.G.R. was presented with two 60 Year Certificates by W.Bro. Bill Caughie, Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



W.Bro. John was Advanced in the Amity Lodge of Mark Master Masons No: 132 in the Mark Province of Dorset on the 11th day of May 1961 and admitted to the degree of Royal Ark Mariners No: 132 on 28th day of November 1961.

He joined both the Percy Lodge of Mark Masters Masons No: 114

and the Percy Royal Ark Mariners No: 114 in March 1963. He was Worshipful Master in 1972 and Worshipful Commander in 1969.

Subsequently, later in 1963 he resigned from the Amity Lodges and joined Hiram Lodge of Mark Masters Masons No: 13 and the Hiram Royal Ark Mariner Lodge No: 13 in 1994, and was their Worshipful Master in 1997.

W.Bro. Bill congratulated W.Bro. John on this major milestone in his Masonic career and wished him many more happy years in Mark Masonry.

Bond of Friendship Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners

For the last two years, Bond of Friendship Lodge No. 1576 have held a separate Royal Ark Mariner meeting, to allow members to focus on this beautiful degree. The Commander, W.Bro. Tony Rastall, is a great supporter of this extra meeting, which will also enable his successors to enjoy their time "in the chair".

On Saturday the 9th of September at Croydon, Bro. Wayne Tibbs was Elevated to the Degree of Royal Ark Mariner. W.Bro. Mike Neville gave a detailed explanation of the Tracing Board.

To add to this rarely heard ritual, R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, **G.M.R.A.C.**, our Past Provincial Grand Master, was saluted as a member of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council.

Following their time on the Ark, the members enjoyed an excellent Festive Board, where Royal Ark Mariner fire was performed with great enthusiasm.

The photo shows W.Bro. Mike Neville, Bro. Wayne Tibbs, W.Bro. Tony Rastall and R.W.Bro. Ian Clark



MBF Funding of a Children's Racetrack

Challengers

Challengers provides play & leisure opportunities for disabled children and young people between the ages of 2 & 18 years old, in Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire. Their schemes give people a space of their own, to meet friends and challenge their impairments through play. Challengers operate a non-exclusion policy which means that any child can attend Challengers regardless of the severity of their impairment.

Based in Guildford, the charity has had an amazing accessible play park in Stoke Park, Guildford, for 25 years, but sadly it had reached the end of its life and had been condemned. They launched a campaign to raise £250,000 to build a new, state of the art, fully wheelchair accessible play scheme.



Towards the end of 2022 Challengers approached the MBF for funding for a children's racetrack in that outdoor play area. The M.B.F. was pleased to provide support in the sum of £40,000 which enabled the charity to commence work, with further assistance provided by donors including the Surrey County and Guildford Council.

The new playground which features specialist equipment to facilitate disabled children by creating a versatile and diverse space with something for everyone, was opened by the Chair of the County Council.

R.W. Bro. Ian Clark as a Past Provincial Grand Master for Surrey and a Trustee of the M.B.F. was invited to the launch, on a warm October evening. On behalf of the charity, the Chief Executive, Ms. Gen Dearman thanked the Mark Masons for their generous donation.



A White Table evening at Percy Mark Lodge

The Worshipful Master of Percy Lodge No 114, W.Bro. Clive Goode thought it would be a good idea to hold a White Table social event and then set about inviting brethren from some local Craft Lodges to attend as guests of the Lodge. He wanted to ensure that it was not only an interesting evening but also, in typical Mark fashion, an enjoyable social event and we are pleased to say that nine Craft Masons accepted our invitation.

On the 4th of November at Guildford, after a short business meeting in the RAM and the Mark, our Craft guests were invited into the Lodge where they received a very informative presentation on the Mark Degree by W.Bro. Mark Guzam, which was delivered not only with the correct amount of detailed information, but also some added humour so as to ensure our guests took on board the special enjoyment we all share in this wonderful order.



Brothers David Beaver, Noah Short and Nick Hammond (Astolat Lodge No.5848), Bob Cooper (Weybridge Lodge No. 6787), Clive Cripps (Sir Francis Burdett Lodge No. 1503), Craig Fennell (Castle Lodge No. 6657), Steve Knight (Old Strodians No. 7803), George Yorobe (Sit Perpetuum No. 5725) and Ben Mitchell (Castle Lodge No. 6657) were all thanked for their attendance.

This was clearly a successful event as I am pleased to confirm that from a cold start we have four completed application forms, and a further five very interested potential candidates.

The festive board, which was presided over by Worshipful Brother Clive Goode continued in the same vein as our presentation with further conversations about the Mark Degree which was equally enjoyed by one and all.

Our Provincial Grand Master was so appreciative that the proceeds from our

raffle will go towards the Prostate project battle bus in Guildford - helping to get guys tested in the Community. "Prevention is better than Cure".

Our guests all departed having not only enjoyed the evening immensely but also happy to have made more friends and learnt a bit more the Magic of the Mark Degree.



Article and picture by W Bro Nigel Graham

Sutton Surrey Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners



At the meeting of Sutton Surrey Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 450 held on the 27th September Bro. Paul Haxell was installed as Worshipful Commander by W.Bro. Mick Clay assisted by R.W.Bro Ian Clark (an Honorary Member).

The Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Ray Beadle, opened the lodge and greeted W.Bro. Mick Clay, the Official Visitor. R.W.Bro. Ian Clark was saluted with seven as a member of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council.

The Worshipful Commander invited W.Bro. Mick Clay to perform the first part of the Installation, then R.W.Bro. Ian Clark installed the new Commander and W.Bro. Mick Clay delivered the Address to the Commander. W.Bro. Haxell then appointed and installed his officers.



R.W.Bro. Ian Clark was pleased to report that the Lodge's Official Visitor, W.Bro. Mick Clay, will receive Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank at the Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariner to be held at Freemasons Hall in December. The Worshipful Commander asked that it be recorded that the Lodge was extremely grateful for the support provided by R.W.Bro. Clark and W.Bro. Mick Clay during the Installation ceremony.

Thanks to Ray Beadle and Mick Clay



St Andrew's 806



St Andrew's 806 is sometimes called The Farnham Mafia! But we are lovely really! We faced a series of hurdles in our efforts to overcome the natural disappointments that befall several Mark Lodges when they hold a meeting. We had two officers absent due to commitments to a Waverley Council Meeting, two officers absent due to Prostate and TIA problems and one brother who was going to step into the Master's chair as a result of one of the previous brother's indispositions. Not a good beginning to our new season.



However, we are a Surrey Mark lodge and some of the above happen to many a lodge in one form or another.



And then in walked W. Bro. Trevor Sadler. Well, that is the Junior Warden's chair occupied. Brethren were moved around, and others volunteered who had only just joined our Lodge. We proceeded with only W. Bro. Trevor Sadler being a guest in an officer's role.



We had a visit from our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Bill Barr, which was a blessing in disguise in more ways than one. The lodge had a well filled look and we moved forward through the agenda, welcoming two new joining members and relishing the arrival of our latest new member who had joined us at our March meeting. He took the role of Senior Deacon and will be well cosseted in whatever role he eventually he occupies. That care of new chaps into our lodge will of course be extended to the other members who joined us.

The presence of W. Bro. Bill Barr was a relaxing element in proceedings. He is a very busy man due to the absence through illness of our Provincial Grand Master. Yet, his constant reassurance and encouragement were positive elements in a situation that could have been very disappointing. We are grateful to his presence accompanied by his visiting officers, W. Bros. Tony Callister, with chain - our congratulations, Len Hillier, and David Warren; under the direction of W. Bro. Nigel Feltham.

We proceeded through our agenda items, our main concern being not only the normal items such as the audited accounts but also our charity commitments soon. We shall not only concentrate on the continuing support of our local hospice, but we shall explore how we can support other worthwhile ventures in need of financial support such as Brightwell's Day Centre. We finished feeling more upbeat than when we had started the evening!

The feel-good feeling continued into the Festive Board where we dined at very reasonable cost on tender beef and very good dessert followed by a cheeseboard, which seems to be disappearing in other centres due to cost. Our camaraderie is in good form with our new member, our new joining members, and the willingness of our guests to help out wherever they were needed. Our absent Charity steward had also sent us news of a possible couple more new members. Now that is what I call a future to look forward to.

Do come and visit us and see if we are still so positive looking on 23rd of November.

Warning, we have a Royal Ark Mariners Installation meeting, and we may be short of a couple of helpers.

Article and photos by Michael Fenech



My journey to Mark Masonry by Robert Smyth



As someone new to Freemasonry I had not heard of the Mark Master Mason's degree in my early days. I was Initiated into the Castle Keep Lodge No: 6446 in December 2019 and shortly afterwards Covid struck. So very little happened during the next two years.



In February 2022 I was eventually Raised as a Master Mason and from then on, my Masonic career took-off. I was Exalted into Castle Keep Chapter No; 6446 in September 2022 and then started to hear about the Mark Degree.

My interest was noticed by several Mark Masons, and I soon had John French, Ray Seeley, Des Franklin and David Else encouraging me to join. David Else proposed me at the April meeting of Pleydell Bouverie Mark Lodge No: 955 in April of this year.

My Advancement Ceremony was held on Tuesday the 24th of October at the Godalming Masonic Hall, and what a marvellous experience it was! I was not sure what to expect, but the whole story line was incredible, and the ritual was extremely well presented. The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Malcolm Stephens, was virtually word perfect, and Colin Campbell as the Master Overseer performed so convincingly that I really believed that I had produced the wrong stone!

As soon as I had worked out the plot of the ceremony, I was able to enjoy the warmth of the Lodge and its members, a feeling which continued throughout the Festive Board. So, did I make the right decision to join Mark? Absolutely! And will I be suggesting it to my Brethren in Craft and Chapter? Definitely!

I now fully understand why Mark Masonry is known as 'The Friendly Degree'.

Well done Phil Young



At a recent meeting of Commemoration Royal Ark Mariner Lodge which meets at Mumbai Square in the City of London W.Bro. Phil Young, the Worshipful Commander carried out an excellent and meaningful elevation ceremony and became the worthy recipient of the Olive Branch Pin award.



The Award was instituted by the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of London to award any Commander who gives an excellent rendition of the Ceremony of Elevation.

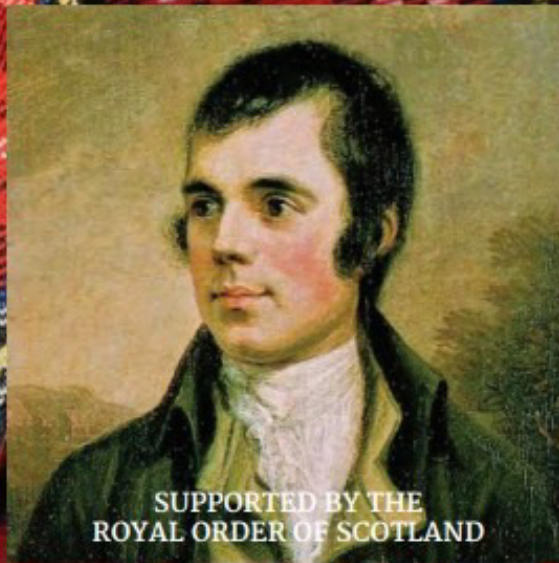
W.Bro. Phil is also the Worshipful Commander of Cranleigh Centenary Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, as well as a Past Master of Croham Hurst Mark Lodge.

Photos by Howard Markham



Surrey Mark Masons' Burns Night Charity Dinner

At Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, Hitherbury Close,
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4DR on Saturday 27th January 2024.



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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: £39 per person.

Open to the Ladies, Friends and Family, Non Masons.

BACs payments to: Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund.
Sort Code: 30-93-74 Acc No. 68234860. Use "BURNS" followed by Surname as reference.

Cheques payable to: Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund,
send to: John Coleman
29 Glaziers Lane,
Guildford, Surrey GU3 2DE.

Further details from: john.t.coleman@btinternet.com Tel: 07879408187

www.surreymarkmasons.com