



## Congratulations



Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 was a special day in the history of the Craft and Royal Arch Masonry in Surrey with the installation of a new Grand Superintendent in and over the Royal Arch Province of Surrey, and the installation of a new Provincial Grand Master for Surrey.

Companions of the Royal Arch Province of Surrey and other Provinces assembled in the Grand Temple to receive a briefing from E.Comp. Tim Ford, **PGStB**, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, one of our Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.



Provincial Grand Chapter was opened by ME.Comp. Sir David Hugh Wootton, Past Second Grand Principal, assisted by Officers of Supreme Grand Chapter. The Grand Superintendent Designate, E.Comp. Nicholas John Burger, was Introduced, Obligated, Invested, and placed in the Chair. The Grand Superintendent Appointed, Obligated and Invested E.Comp. Mark John Watkins, **PAGDC**, as Second Provincial Grand Principal, E.Comp. Richard John Wileman, **PAGSoj**, as Third Provincial Grand Principal, and E.Comp. Kevin Todd, MBE, **PGSwdB**, as Deputy Grand Superintendent.

After the appointment of the Provincial Grand Officers was confirmed, and the By-Laws of the Province confirmed, the Grand Superintendent addressed the meeting before closing Provincial Grand Chapter. After refreshments we sat down to a most enjoyable lunch in the Grand Connaught Rooms.

At 4 pm we were again assembled in the Grand Temple for the Installation of W.Bro. Nicholas John Burger, as Provincial Grand Master for Surrey. V.W.Bro. Mike Harding, **PGSwdB**, Deputy Provincial Grand Master opened Provincial Grand Lodge in due form.

The R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Sir David Hugh Wootton, and the visiting Officers of Grand Lodge Present and Past were received. The Provincial Grand Master Designate was Introduced, Obligated, Invested, and conducted to a Chair on the right of the R.W. Deputy Grand Master.



The R.W. Provincial Grand Master Appointed, Obligated and Invested V.W.Bro. Mike Harding, **PGSwdB**, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master following which the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters reaffirmed their Obligation, and other Provincial Officers were confirmed.

The Provincial Grand Master addressed the meeting and Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form, ending a most successful day.

As well as many Provincial Grand Masters, Grand Superintendents, and their Executives from other Provinces, there were many Heads of the Companion Orders present to support the Craft and Royal Arch Provinces of Surrey.

**Congratulations also to our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Bill Caughie, who will be installed as the District Grand Master of the Royal and Select Masters, District of Surrey.**

Bill, who is currently the Grand Sword Bearer, will be the fourth District Grand Master since the District was Constituted in 1994, having formerly been part of Middlesex and Surrey. His installation will take place at Croydon on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2024.



R.Ill.Comp. David Blackburn, District Grand Master of the Royal and Select Masters, District of Surrey, and our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, will retire at midnight on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.





# My Elevation into Royal Ark Mariners A Candidate's View.



On Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2024 I arrived in due time at Glenmore House, Surbiton, to Tyle at 4.30 pm, my case with my Mark Mason apron and, my newly aquired Royal Ark Mariners apron and jewel gripped firmly in my hand. Nervous? Yes, I was.



I was to join another Order in front of Brethren I already knew in Mark, and my Mother Craft Lodge, Table Fellowship No. 8989. But it was like going back a few years to when I was initiated, not knowing what to expect, but looking forward to the new experience. I could have looked up the ceremony and 'spoilt' it for myself, but that's not my way, or the Mason's Way. Trust the Brethen to look after you, trust in their experience and trust that they are Masons.

The Regular meeting was in the Thomas Turner Temple, one I am familiar with, and the Warder, Chris Casselden, was there to prepare me and guide me, ensuring I was 'dressed' properly in my Mark Master Mason's apron, and then ... his knock on the door to indicate the candidate is ready; the Guardian opening the door and an exchange of words. "Wait while I report to the Worshipful Commander", is the response.

The Deacons appear and an exchange of proper grip and words and then ... 'hoodwinked', I did not expect that. But no worries or hesitation, I was guided by W.Bro. Richard Knox as Senior Deacon, an honour for me. The ceremony I won't describe, suffice to say that the steps I took did not match my visual memory of the layout of Thomas Turner Temple and, once the hoodwinked was removed, I was able to see why.

My obligation, taken by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Mike Prentice, done and I was invested with my RAM apron by W.Bro. Eugene Regan. An explanation of the ceremony was made and I was finally a member of Table Fellowship Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 1841 ... with a big smile on my face.

A very enjoyable experience and one I would recommend, all the more added to by an attending visitor, R.W.Bro. John French, our Provincial Grand Master. As he would say, we keeping bumping into each other in the Province, whether at an Allied Masonic Degrees meeting, or at Croydon, and always with a welcome smile of greeting. And it is that that makes the difference, the welcome you get, the handshake and the instant friendship.

I am a relatively new Mason, of just 7 years and have enjoyed each and every moment in Freemasonry, as a candidate, a visitor, or a guest. An Initiation, Passing and Raising; an Exhaltation, Advancement or Elevation, either to witness or take part, each time I enjoy the differences, and similarities, the history, the 'Story of Freemasonry', told at each point and, of course, the Brotherhood, meeting new Brethen, and learning their stories.

*Article by Bob Oddy*

## Surrey Mark Masons visit Spain



Surrey Mark brethren again attended the District Meeting of Spain, held in Benidorm, in early February. After arriving the group spent time exploring the local tapas bars, before retiring for the night.



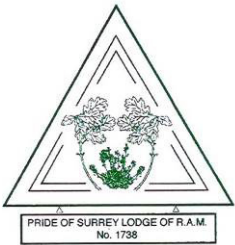
Saturday morning saw the District meeting take place with over 300 Mark Master Masons attending, not only from Spain, but from many English Provinces as well.

The meeting is conducted both in Spanish and English, and included the Investiture of District Officers as well as first appointments and promotions.

The meeting was

followed by an excellent festive board accompanied by some excellent local wine. As ever, a very warm welcome was extended to all with the members of the District of Spain always delighted to receive visitors from the United Kingdom.





# Pride of Surrey RAM and Mark Lodges



On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of January the Pride of Surrey Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners Elevated a Candidate into the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity.

The Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Chris Wates, Prov.R.A.M.G.R., who welcomed everyone, and thanked W.Bro. Chris Eley, a visitor, for acting as Junior Warden for the meeting.



The main item on the agenda was to Elevate Bro. Nael Clarke of the Pride of Surrey Mark Lodge. A ballot proved in Bro. Nael's favour, and he was Elevated to the Honourable Degree of Royal Ark Mariner in an excellent manner by the Worshipful Commander and his Officers.



Bro. Nael was Congratulated by W.Bro. Chris and welcomed into the Order and the Province of Surrey.

The Lodge was then closed and after photographs.....



... the Temple was rearranged for the Mark meeting that followed.

As unfortunately the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Ron Scarlet, was unable to attend V.W.Bro. Chris Eley offered to act as Worshipful Master for the meeting.



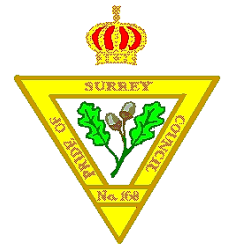
V.W.Bro. Chris opened the Lodge and after the regular business of the Lodge had been transacted, he had much pleasure in presenting a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Nael Clark.

This was especially pleasing for Chris as Bro. Nael had been Chosen as a Select Master in the Pride of Surrey Council of Royal and Select Masters eight days earlier.



The District Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. David Blackburn was on a private visit to the Council and assisted with Nael's ceremony. Also Chosen as Select Masters on that day were two Brethren of Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons, W.Bros. Wayne Lucas and Roger Tutton.

Chris was therefore able to explain where the Mark Man and Mark Master Degrees sit in the Solomonic legion before the Degree of Excellent Master.





# Richmond RAM and Mark Lodges



**Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2024 was a special day for Richmond Lodge as they Advanced two brothers together to the Honourable Degree of a Mark Master Mason.**

Both candidates were Raised by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley in Nonesuch Park Lodge, John only nine days before his Advancement.

Here we have V.W.Bro. Chris, with Mark and John Harbrow, and their Proposer, Bro. Jim Agnew who was recently Advanced into Richmond Mark Lodge. Bro. Jim has some more Candidates to come into the Lodge, after V.W.Bro. Chris has Raised them....



The afternoon started with the RAM Lodge, which was opened in due form by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. John Fleetwood, R.A.M.G.R., who welcomed our Official Visitor, W.Bro. John Rollason.

The next item was to elect the Worshipful Commander and Treasurer for the ensuing year. Bro. Roger Tutton and W.Bro. John Fitzgerald being the only members nominated for these offices and no one having called for a ballot the Worshipful Commander declared the election in favour of the nominated Brethren. The Lodge was then closed, and the Temple rearranged for the Mark meeting.



The Mark Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Roger Tutton, who welcomed everyone, especially our Official Visitor, W.Bro. John Rollason, P.Prov.G.J.D., who was saluted with three under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies. W.Bro. John responded saying that this was one of his first Official Visits and he was looking forward to the ceremony later.



A ballot was taken for Brothers Mark and James Harbrow as Candidates for Advancement. This proved in their favour and the Worshipful Master conducted the first part of the Ceremony and then invited W.Bro. Tim Ford to conduct the remainder of the Ceremony.

Brothers Mark and John Harbrow were Advanced to the Honourable Degree of a Mark Mason in an excellent and enjoyable manner by W.Bros. Roger Tutton and Tim Ford, ably assisted by the Officers of the Lodge. The Working Tools were presented by Bro. Andrew Banks in a fine manner.



Afterwards Brothers Mark and John were congratulated by the Worshipful Master and welcomed into the Lodge. W.Bro. John Rollason also congratulated them and welcomed them into the Order and the Province of Surrey.

W.Bro. John Rollason was invited to present a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Warren Penn, which he did in an excellent manner.

**Man Van**  
A free men's health check



In the Charity Report W.Bro. Tim Ford proposed that we make three donations out of our Relief Chest: £250 to the charity appeal to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; £250 to the Mark Swimathon; and £250 to the Prostate Project Charity, our Provincial Grand Master's chosen charity to promote prostate cancer screening.



The Centennial Anniversary meeting of Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons will be held on Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2025 where we will be presented with our Centennial Warrant and will be conducting a Banner Dedication Ceremony.



After a very successful and enjoyable meeting, the Lodge was closed and, after refreshments, the Brethren of Richmond Lodge and their guests sat down to a most convivial meal at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.



# The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly



The Annual Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Assembly was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at Botley Masonic Centre in Hampshire. This followed the meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Commanders.

While this was taking place the guests of the Province were enjoying tea and coffee in the dining room. Among the guests was the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Prizeman, seen here with our Provincial Grand Master, and R.W.Bro. George Deacon, Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight. The Pro Grand Master was making an unofficial visit to his home Province. The Surrey delegation were made very welcome by R.W.Bro. George and his team.

The Provincial Grand Master greeted the Pro Grand Master, and several Heads of Orders including the Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, R.W.Bro. Jonathan Charles Whittaker.



The Provincial Grand Master then assembled with his team and the Director Of Ceremonies formed the processions into the Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly. The meeting was called to order to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Provincial Grand Master, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearer.

Annual Assembly was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master. The Pro Grand Master entered and was welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master.

The Pro Grand Master was saluted with eleven under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Grand Master welcomed the honoured guests from other Provinces as well as other Orders within Hampshire and Isle of Wight.





He then had much pleasure in investing Brethren with Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Rank, congratulating each recipient personally.

The Provincial Grand Master addressed the Brethren. He thanked the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Commanders for hosting the Annual Assembly saying this is the 21<sup>st</sup> year the meeting has been held under their banner.

He congratulated the brethren who received Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in December, as well as those he had appointed to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank today.

The Provincial Grand Master said that they had two years to go for their Festival and thanked everyone for their magnificent support. He then had much pleasure in presenting several MBF collarettes.



The Pro Grand Master then retired from Annual Assembly and, after some administrative matters, the meeting was called to order and closed in due form. The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests

and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession. Afterwards the Provincial Grand Master returned to the Temple for some photographs with his Officers.



After refreshments we went into the dining room for a most enjoyable lunch. A raffle was held with the proceeds going towards the 2026 Hampshire and Isle of Wight MBF Festival.

# Which Lodge will take home the Travelling Keystone next month?



The Travelling Keystone is currently held by Stoneleigh Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 995. Their next meeting is being held on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March at Sutton. This will be an Installation meeting and they will be receiving our Provincial Grand Master and several Provincial Officers of the year.



Unless your Lodge has a meeting between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> of March your Worshipful Master, or other designated Brother, will have the pleasure of parading the keystone into Provincial Grand Lodge at Croydon.



Why not get a team together from your Lodge and form a Raiding Party to steal the Keystone off Stoneleigh Mark Lodge? W.Bro. Des and his team have had it for too long....

## The 2024 Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge – have you booked in?

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey will be held on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 at the Croydon Masonic Hall.

The meeting will commence at 11.00 a.m. and will be followed by lunch at 1.00 p.m.

*Brethren should be seated by 10.45.*

