



THE SUTTON MASONIC HALL FOOD BANK

THE STORY SO FAR



The Food Bank at Sutton started in December 2020, when we decided as a Centre to back a Surrey Provincial run project called The Reverse Advent Calendar Challenge- Community Engagement.

This Project was of course during the Pandemic, but it proved so successful, with so much enthusiasm and generosity that in early February 21 we as a Board of Governors at Sutton decided to do it all again. The support since, whether it be from a Masonic Unit or an individual, has been fantastic and quite honestly overwhelming.

During February and March we collect Easter Eggs for Children’s Charities, distributing over 500 to local Hospital A&E children’s departments and hospital wards; Sutton Young Carers; The Royal Marsden-The Oak Centre; St Raphaels; Sutton, Croydon and Epsom Home-Start; the Leatherhead Community Fridge; and the Shooting Star Children’s Hospice at Guildford. We have done this three times now and will do it again in 2024.



During the rest of the year we carry on with the food bank collections, delivering supplies every other month, or when it is needed. At Christmas, we put together and deliver hampers for the Sutton Carers. They nominate 15-20 very needy families, and we do the rest delivering hampers to their doors in time for Christmas.

We support the Sutton Women’s Centre, where our own Shelley Sykes has become an Ambassador. Along with the usual food bank donations we also supply them with fresh food (*meat and dairy products*) which we buy on the day of delivery. We have also delivered to the Farnham Women’s Centre three hamper size boxes of food. which was very well received as they had nothing on their shelves.

In September 23 we expanded the Food Bank and formed a committee to do so. If you would like to help or donate in any way, please contact either myself, or Shelley at the centre.

So there it is – The Sutton Masonic Hall Food Bank is an ongoing project and while the donations, support and food supplies come in, we promise to keep it going.

I would like to thank all the Units and individuals who have donated and who have helped with the boxing up and distribution- without whom none of this would have happened....THANK YOU!!

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP OTHERS.

Nigel Feltham

Chairman



Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Surrey



A meeting of the Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Surrey No 1726 was held at The Surbiton Masonic Hall on Monday the 24th of February. Present were two Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, several Honorary members, including our Past Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey; Past Masters, and several honoured guests of the Lodge.



The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Jeff Penfold, P.Prov.G.S.O., who welcomed everyone, especially our Past Provincial Grand Master and our honoured guests. W.Bro.

David Thompson was elected as Worshipful Master, and V.W.Bro. Richard Knox was elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The main item on the agenda was to receive a talk from Bro. Ken Martin of Woodgrange Lodge of MMM entitled 'Myths of The Great War'. This most interesting and informative talk was well received by everyone present. Bro. Ken was afterwards presented with a donation towards the Sutton Food Bank supported by the team at Sutton Masonic Hall.

Bro. Ken thanked the Worshipful Master and the Brethren of the Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Surrey for their kind donation.



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 Surbiton Masonic Hall.



What's better than a Burns Night



The answer is what you would expect - two Burns Nights! I had the pleasure of two Haggis meals, one at my Hampshire Craft evening in Aldershot, and now this one. Which was the better? My dear friend, Barrie, did say at the Aldershot one, that tonight's at Guildford would surpass the previous night's affair but I think they were about equal. The Aldershot one was on a smaller scale and only involved my mother lodge. Tonight's was a bigger do with the Royal Order of Scotland and Surrey Mark Masons joining together.



The setting was Guildford Masonic Centre. The parking was well ordered, and the venue was soon full of friends and new faces. Smart, casual, and well attended with nearly one hundred brethren and guests in attendance.





The call was made at about seven in the evening and we all proceeded to our respective tables. Our mood was enhanced by the arrival of the Bagpiper and the Haggis..... and the chap at the back waving bottles of Whisky.



This is always a fine affair and was appropriately welcomed with the continuous clapping of our attendees. We met a few new faces and stood for the Selkirk Grace. "Some hae meat and canna eat,....." which set the tone for the evening.



I am a poor eater of food relying on the basics only, so I met the challenge of "La Panse du Brébis Farcie", the haggis, with some interest! It was fine and not dry and tasteless. My partner suggested that it was even better when doused with the provided whisky, so she had mine as well.





We were honoured with the presence of a good friend of the Farnham Mafia, St Andrews 806, in the form of Ray Seeley. His easy manner and the occasional comment from his lady wife together with Barrie, members of his family and David, accompanied by Lesley, his wife, made for a very pleasant get together. And the meal was of the usual high standard associated with the Guildford Masonic Centre. The main course was meat or fish followed by a Scottish dessert resembling an

Eton Mess but given a more “in theme” name.... Cranachan.

The evening proceeded with a speech by Charles Stoddart, the Provincial Grand Master of South East Counties in the Order of The Royal Order of Scotland, and then as is the custom, a perceptive delivery by our Provincial Grand Master, John French.



Both visited all our tables spending much time with guests and adding to the atmosphere of the evening in a way typical of both these energetic and welcoming leaders.

We were treated to a fine, very amusing toast to the Lassies by Bill Caughie, and even more robust response from the chosen Lassie, Jo Lawrence. Great humour and fine delivery.



The Raffle happened towards the end of the meal as is customary. It raised a significant amount of money which was

gratefully received and will be faithfully applied. My partner, Anne, won a HAGGIS.

What a lovely evening. They even served non-alcoholic beer, so I was able to drink and drive.

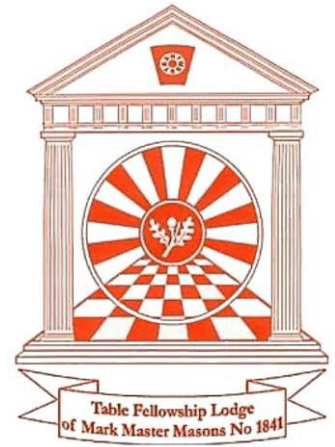
Yes, it was as good as the previous evening’s entertainment and took place in a very attractive and cosy venue. As Douglas MacArthur sort of said... “I came through and we shall return!”

Article by Michael Fenech



The French Connection

The Table Fellowship RAM & Mark Lodges meeting on the 1st of February was honoured by the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, however, not officially on this occasion, but as an Honorary Member.



He was immediately put to work! delivering the explanation of the nine steps in the RAM and the address to the Brethren during VW Bro. David Willmott's installation. He was warmly thanked for his excellent delivery of both pieces of ritual.

The Worshipful Master and Worshipful Commander reminded the Provincial Grand Master and the members that attendance at the Lodge of Instruction strengthens friendships and importantly improves ritual!



Lady luck continues to favour our Provincial Grand Master, who again won yet another amazing prize in the raffle, is it a fix?? The Charity Steward is keeping shtum!

Article and photos by Naresh Bhatt

Sutton Surrey Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners



Sutton Surrey is the only Royal Ark Mariner lodge in Surrey with a different name to the Mark lodge to which it is moored. In 1892, the Crystal Palace Mark Lodge No. 450 was consecrated and met at the hotel of the same name in south London. In 1919, with a change of location, the name was changed to Sutton Surrey lodge. This RAM lodge was founded in 1929 and took that title. In 1990, the Mark lodge returned to its original name. In 2016, both lodges subsequently left Sutton to meet at Nutfield.



At the meeting of the Lodge on the 7th of February 2024 the Brethren were honoured by the presence of our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French.

They were also joined by W.Bro. Chris Eley who had much pleasure in presenting W.Bro. Mike Neville, the Lodge Scribe, with a 50-year Anniversary Jewel obtained by W.Bro. Bert Pullin of Woodgrange Mark Lodge.



W.Bro. Mike Neville then gave a most interesting and informative talk entitled **The First Flood Legend and the link to Nutfield.**

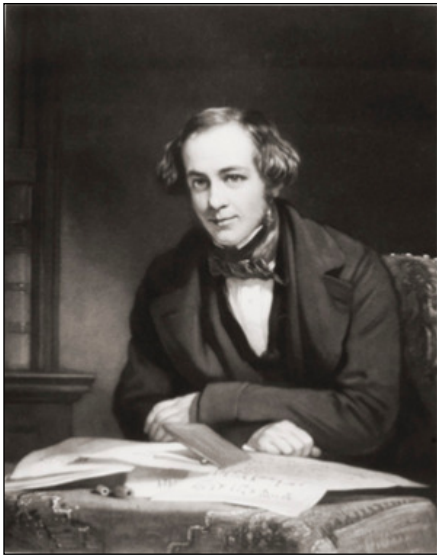


In 1872, the world was stunned when an Assyrian tablet created in the 7th century BC, related a much earlier flood legend. The story is very similar to that told of Noah in the Book of Genesis.

In the Sumerian account, King Ut-napishtim was tasked by the god Enki to abandon his worldly possessions and create a giant ship to be called Preserver of Life. On this version of the Ark, the king took his family and animals, as the flood would destroy all other life.

When the rain ceased, he sent out birds (a dove, raven, and swallow), and also like Noah, when the boat was on dry land, he sent forth the animals and made a sacrifice in thanksgiving for his safe deliverance.

The tablet was found at the site of the ancient Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, near the modern city of Mosul in northern Iraq. The man in charge of the expedition which found the tablet and who organised the translation at the British Museum was Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson. He was originally an officer in the Army of the East India Company, achieving high rank (Major-General) and was initiated into Freemasonry in Perseverance Lodge No 546, when serving as a major in Bombay in 1840.



Rawlinson was sent to Persia to assist the ruling Shah's army and there learnt to decipher the cuneiform script used in ancient Babylon and Assyria. Indeed, he is known as the Father of Assyriology, or the study of the Assyria Empire. Rawlinson's first experience of such translation was dangling from a ladder of an inscription from the time of Darius the Great (Allied Masons should note such!). Also note the lack of "elf and safety" in Victorian times.

Rawlinson returned to England and became a trustee of the British Museum in 1876, where he tasked George Smith to translate the tablet, which was identified as part of the Gilgamesh Epic. Smith was so excited by finding such a close story to the Biblical flood account, he began to strip off his clothes and run around the museum almost naked.

The tablet is now on display in Room 55 (part of the Mike Neville Museum Tour!).

General Rawlinson continued with Masonry and was a member of Royal Somerset Lodge No. 973 in Frome, where he was the MP.

Most importantly for Surrey Masons, in 1858, he joined Surrey Lodge No. 416, which then met at a tavern in Reigate, where he was also the MP for a short time.

Hence, the connection of the original Flood Legend to Nutfield, where Surrey Lodge now meets. Rawlinson died in 1895 and was buried in Surrey at the Brookwood Cemetery.



Crystal Palace Lodge of Mark Master Masons



The Crystal Palace Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Ivan Larkin, who welcomed everyone, especially our Provincial Grand Master.

The first item on the agenda was to install W.Bro. Ray Beadle as Worshipful Master. After his installation W.Bro. Ray was congratulated by the Provincial Grand Master who wished him a successful year as Master.

Ray's induction took 10 minutes - is this a record, even for Crystal Palace Lodge?



The next item was to ballot for Bro. Barry Horne, a member of Bond of Friendship Mark Lodge, as a Joining Member.

This proved successful and Bro Barry was welcomed into the Lodge - and immediately got a job...

Bro. Secretary thanked W.Bro. Norman Jones for his efforts in recruiting new members for the Crystal Palace Lodge.





The next item was to ballot for Bro. Peter Long of Royal Albert Edward Lodge as a Candidate for Advancement. This proved in his favour and the Worshipful Master and V.W.Bro. Chris Eley as Master Overseer.

An excellent ceremony followed, and Bro. Peter was Advanced to the Honourable Degree of a Mark Master Mason by W.Bro. Mike Neville and the Officers of the Lodge.

Afterwards Bro. Peter was congratulated by our Provincial Grand Master and welcomed into the Order.



V/W.Bro. Chris Eley again had much pleasure in presenting the Lodge with a unique Sutton Surrey Mark Lodge breast jewel, also obtained by W.Bro. Bert Pullin of Woodgrange Mark Lodge. Co-incidentally W.Bro. Ray had just bought a similar jewel off eBay.

After a successful and enjoyable afternoon, the Lodge was closed and the Brethren of Crystal Palace Lodge and their guests retired to a most convivial Festive Board.



St Andrews 806



A Winter's Tale/Fail!!! I seriously hope not? Rarely does 806 take its foot off the pedal but we were hard pressed. Let me not just apologise but rather explain.

At the last meeting we had but twelve members who were struggling to carry out our RAM Installation, a very important part of any Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge's calendar of events. We had no Director of Ceremonies due to work commitments and no Assistant Director of Ceremonies due to civic duties. There was still a problem. Our Secretary is brand new to post and was one of those unable to attend this, his first meeting. We were also missing other important Officers. Moral was somewhat low, but we got through it. Time to take stock!



This first meeting of the new year in both Mark and RAM took place with a team of fifteen members. We had two agendas which were purely business. Our Official Visitor was there as usual to encourage us.



Officers missing from previous meetings were invested. The Almoner gave his report, and the Charity Steward brought us up to date on important issues. Time was spent in Mark in discussing several issues which were raised including our lack of numbers.

It was suggested that, at the next meeting, we would each endeavour to bring a guest. It further transpired that one of our members will join Royal Ark Mariners. We have a ceremony! Things are looking up.

There was possibly further good news in that two members would continue to speak to members in their respective Craft Lodges. Some of their Craft members had expressed an interest.

We undertook sponsoring one of our members who had volunteered to take part in the Swimathon at Guildford Sports Centre with his grandson. We agreed that the proceeds from our raffle would be granted to the grandson.

Three members were congratulated who had been awarded promotions. The importance of attendance at the forthcoming Provincial Meeting in Croydon was emphasized. The atmosphere had improved, and the future looked a little brighter than in the November 2023 meeting. We were reminded that in the future if we had no candidates we would do a ceremony practice and the possibility of LOI's was mentioned. The secretary would look at the next meeting and next year's calendar to ensure that we had work of a worthwhile nature to look forward to.



The current get together of half a dozen members was mentioned. They go to a local restaurant usually once a month and members will be encouraged to join in, they so wish. One member has put together some twenty-five possible places of interest that we could enjoy on a day out in the finer weather. The atmosphere was very positive. We were so involved we were somewhat late for our Festive board.

That was a good meal served including bread rolls, cheese platter and tea or coffee. The bar was open and served very good ale at very good prices. Not just ale of course.

We departed at just after nine in the evening, feeling slightly more satisfied with our efforts to get things moving on a more acceptable platform.

Why not come along on Thursday March 28th. We have a candidate in Royal Ark Mariners. You will be very welcome.

Article by Michael Fenech

Percy's Double, Double.

A grand day out in Guildford led Barrie and me to believe that we were about to watch a very rare event. No A3 - M25 interchange to fight through. Pity we were to miss the Rugby Internationals where England and Wales lost and my footy team, Southampton, was to suffer the same fate. Thank goodness the marathon sitting more than made up for our woes.

This was a one-off opportunity for me. The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, had found out that neither of his two predecessors could remember being involved in such a 2 X 2 ceremony. Organisation, therefore, was the key to the smooth running of the next few hours.



We gathered in the bar and had tea and coffee made available by the very courteous staff. In fact, it must be said that the thanks to Clive Goode and David, the centre supremo, we were well looked after. I had not booked in till very late, thinking that someone else had done it for me. That was not a problem and two meals for myself and my oppo were provided without any fuss. I had paid so that was one less concern too.

And so to the meeting! The candidates were in attendance, the organisers were ready, and Barrie was asked to be Tyler by the Provincial Grand Master, a member of Percy Lodge.



It being a Mark event, the tone was set and a friendly atmosphere soon pervaded the entire proceedings from beginning to end. As you, my reader, are well aware, the first part of the ceremony is a fairly serious event and it passed off well. The organist certainly added to the proceedings.

My goodness, the Inner Guard, John Riddell, the two Deacons, Rod Green and David Poole, and the Master, Stuart Hogarth had prepared well for this for they were to present it more than once. Part one was accomplished with ease of attitude and good effort on the part of the deacons and WM.

As a Mark Man, you will be aware that the second part of the ceremonies, of which there were two, was a more relaxed part of the total. The atmosphere was serious but there smiles and mild laughter. The Overseers, too, added their own smidgen of humour which in no way detracted from the examination of the work presented to them. We were relaxing into the world of Mark. I have always felt that in Craft our ceremonies, by their very nature, result in the candidate coming away with perhaps a slightly serious and puzzled expression. In Mark, my experience over several years, was that the new Mark Master Mason was invariably smiling at the end of his journey, and the social element is good too.

The Swimathon, (well done, Barrie and grandson and others,) had already taken part and the Cha Di Da has already been put to us. Then there is cricket, a Hog Roast etc. etc.

After the superb ceremony, our new made brothers were well and truly congratulated. They were smiling of course, and all claimed to have enjoyed the past couple of hours.



I had been asked to respond to the toast to the visitors, Barrie gave the Tyler's Toast, and the event was closed with a final word of appreciation from our Right Worshipful Grand Master. The bar was still open and several members repaired into the seating area as myself, the excellent Tyler and Ray Seeley made our way home via Milford. It was a long day. It was very, very enjoyable, and unique. We had all made new acquaintances. That is Mark. Thank you Percy Lodge No 114 for your excellent ceremony, for your superb welcome, and thanks to the kitchen and bar staff for being accommodating, friendly and efficient. Finally, thanks to the four newly advanced brethren for, without you, I would have had a very ordinary Saturday.

Then came the Festive Board. I had even asked, at my late request, for a different starter and there it was laid at my place. The pork and roasties were lovely and we were spared the dessert and offered a comprehensive cheese board. That suited me fine with weight to lose! Toasts were proposed and once again our newly advanced brethren were right royally welcomed into this fine lodge.



Article by Michael Fenech

The Swimathon Spans the Generations!



The Annual Provincial Swimathon was held at Guildford Spectrum on Sunday the 11th of February. Leading from the front were the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Bill Barr, and the Past Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Clark.

There were, in addition to brethren, family and friends taking part, including Jo Lawrence, the wife of W.Bro. David Lawrence, and Ellen Massey (aged 6) with her granddad, W.Bro. John Massey.

Spanning the generations were W.Bro. Barrie Selway (aged 87) and his six-year-old great-grandson. Barrie, the oldest swimmer, managed an impressive thirty lengths.



Of course, the Neville girls - Jenny (27), Abigail (12) and Isabel (9) were there with W.Bro. Mike Neville, the event organiser. The Provincial Treasurer, V.W.Bro. Ray Seeley, busily counted the donations and cheered on his grandson, Charlie, who managed eight lengths.

Every swimmer set their own targets and they were cheered on by an impressive group of Mark Masons, including W.Bro. Bill Caugie, A.Prov.G.M., W.Bro. Alan Brockwell, our Charity Steward, and the Bond of Friendship supporters - W.Bros. Ray Beadle and Norman Jones; and a potential Mark Mason, Bro. Bernie Searle.

At the conclusion, W.Bro. Bill Barr presented medals and thanked Mike and all the participants. R.W.Bro. Ian also gave Bill an award, as he had swum 40 lengths - a personal best!

Over £4,000 has been raised, with money still coming in. AND as this is one of the few Masonic events where more calories are burnt off than consumed, several of the brethren and their families headed off for a Sunday lunch.

A lovely day out - come and join us in 2025. Contact W.Bro. Mike Neville for information -

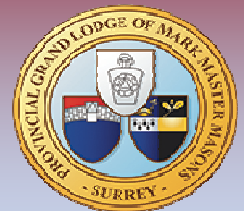
mrmikeneville@aol.com

Article by Mike Neville

The 2024 Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge

Last chance to book in

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey will be held on Saturday the 16th 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.

Surrey Mark Cho Di Da 2024

Double Room
£120

B & B (optional)

£62
pp



DINNER

Arrival
6.30pm
for 7pm

Carriages
Midnight

Dance Party

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER
Reigate Manor Hotel - Reigate Hill

Dancing: Jason Allen (Michael Buble) Paul Hobbs (Rod Stewart) Tribute Acts

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