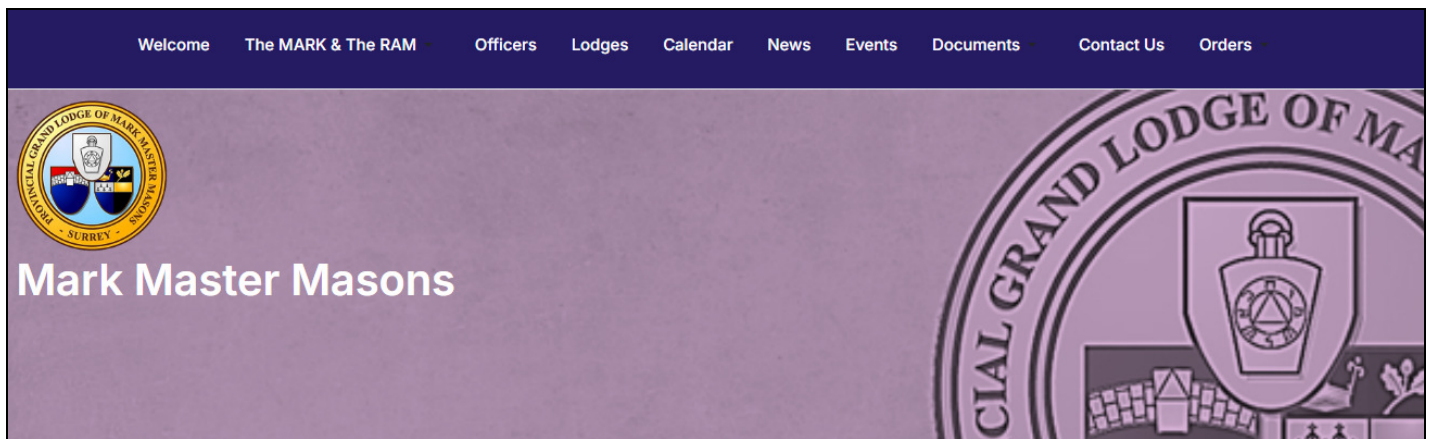




The new Surrey Companion Orders Web Site

We are pleased to announce that on the 1st of September a new web site for all the Companion Orders in Surrey was launched. This has been the result of a considerable amount of hard work and burning of the midnight oil by Tim Ford, supported by others with a specific responsibility for each Order.

It is modelled on the MMH website with some enhancements and personalisation. The main web page is www.surreycompanionorders.com from which all Surrey Companion Orders, including the Surrey Mark web pages, can be accessed.



You can also access the Surrey Mark website directly by using [https:// www.SurreyMark.com](https://www.SurreyMark.com)

Please look at the new website which has a lot of information about our Order in general, the Provincial Officers, details of Lodges in the Province, issues of the Surrey Keystone, our Provincial newsletter, and other information.



Meet the Provincial Executive of Surrey MARK



Provincial Grand Master
R.W. Bro. John V.C. French



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



Assistant Provincial Grand Master
V.W. Bro. William A. Caughie,
P.G.J.O.



Assistant Provincial Grand Master
W. Bro. John R. Massey, P.G.J.D.

If you have any items of interest, news, or upcoming events, please submit full details to Chris Eley cw.eley@talktalk.net who is our website content manager.



Introducing our new Assistant Provincial Grand Master

On Monday the 16th of September at Noel Lodge of Mark Master Masons W.Bro. John Raymond Massey, *O.B.E.*, P.G.J.D., was installed as Assistant Provincial Grand Master by our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John V C French.

John was born and raised in Southampton as the youngest of three brothers. He has always had a keen interest in technology from an early age and graduated from Portsmouth University with a BSc in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and subsequently qualified as a Chartered Engineer albeit he has now retired so as become a full time Mason!

Being an entrepreneur, John founded his first business at the age of 26, pioneering development and manufacture of computer graphic systems. He was honoured with an OBE in 1986 for his services to industry and made an honorary Fellow of Portsmouth University. In 1989 he was the founder and CEO of a software technology company specialising in geospatial intelligence and retired in 2020.

Married to Janice, John lives near the village of Wisborough Green in West Sussex. He is a devoted family man, with four children, five grandchildren and two dogs which keep them both busy.

Both John and Janice actively support the RDA (*Riding for the Disabled Association*). He is chairman and trustee of an RDA carriage driving charity. Also being a keen cruising sailor, he likes to spend time, when he can, with family and friends on his boat which he keeps in Spain.

Masonically John was were initiated into Addlestone Lodge No 5222 in 1983 (*40 years ago*) and Exalted in Chertsey Abbey Chapter No 2120 three years later. He has since held various active Provincial ranks in Surrey.

John was Advanced in Weyside Mark and Elevated in Weyside RAM in 1997. He served as Dep.Prov.G.Sec. for five years and was given Mark Grand Rank in 2010.

John is an enthusiastic Mason who has always been very passionate about the Mark Degree. He is also a member of several Companion Orders including Royal and Select Masters, Rose Croix and the Allied Masonic Degrees. We all wish John every success in his new role and look forward to him visiting our Lodge in the near future.



★ News from the M.B.F ★



We are very pleased to announce that the M.B.F. Board of Trustees have approved another major capital grant to Blood Bikes - England & Wales.

This takes our grant-giving in 2024 to over £3.6M.



Major Grant Initiative

**Blood Bike Groups
England & Wales**

£750,000

The Investiture of W.Bro. John Raymond Massey P.G.J.D. as Assistant Provincial Grand Master

What an impressive title and so appropriate for W.Bro. John Massey. He is a gentleman whom I first met several Cha Di Da's ago. My partner and I had the pleasure of his company together with his lady wife at this event. And here I am again, being a spectator at his investiture.

For Barrie and me, together with Andy Carr and Michael Prentice of St Andrews 806, it was going to be a long day, but the M25 and A3 behaved well, and we arrived at the Surbiton Masonic Centre in good time to partake of a small libation prior to the big event. Andy Carr was the Escorting Officer for the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Good for him. Michael Prentice is a Curfew Lodge member as well as a member of St Andrews. Good for him.

There was a good deal of practising, and it proved to be the correct way to deal with such a prestigious affair. I must say Barrie and I were so impressed by the outcome. It was a polished set of meetings with everyone word perfect. The meetings were performed with accuracy and relaxed precision.



The Noel Royal Ark Mariner meeting was a business meeting and passed successfully.



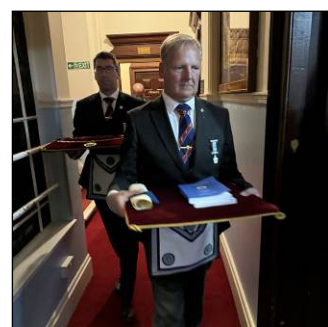
It was then to the meat of the affair, the Noel Mark meeting.



After the Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Steve Potts, the Lodge was ready to receive the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Soon we were marching in. As an active officer, I paraded in with the others and stood in the appropriate manner to receive W.Bro. Bill Barr, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

W.Bro. Barr made it clear that Noel Lodge was first and foremost the main player. W.Bro. Roy Baker was Installed as Worshipful Master; officers were given their collars and jewels and the remainder of appropriate business for Noel Lodge was dealt with.

In the meantime, the rest of the Provincial Team were getting ready in an adjacent room.



There was a knock at the door and soon we had the Provincial Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Les Smith, saying that our Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master was demanding admission to the temple.

The latter said that the Province was indebted to Noel Lodge for allowing the Investiture of W.Bro. John Massey.

The newly installed Worshipful Master invited the Provincial Grand Master to take the gavel, and it all started.

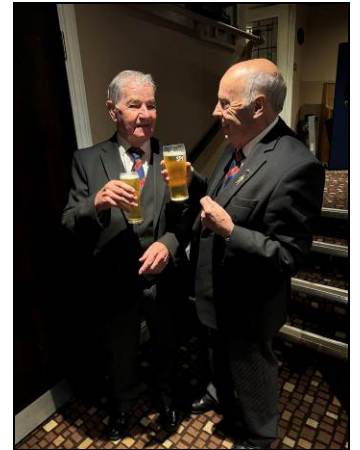
The ceremony for W.Bro. John Massey took place. Our Provincial Grand Master proceeded to invest W.Bro. John with dignity and sincerity. The younger members of Weyside Lodge, W.Bro. John Massey's Lodge, played their part. They took centre stage by carrying his Chain of Office announcing the authority for the Provincial Assistant Grand Master to accept his new position, with another young member carrying the and the Patent and Book of Constitutions.

The new Assistant Provincial Grand Master was congratulated by his immediate superiors and others and took his place with them. The Lodge then addressed the remaining items of the agenda, Almoner and Charity reports were delivered and Alms were collected.

The Lodge was then closed, and we all processed out with the Provincial Grand Master and his Executive.



We then repaired to the bar for a break in proceedings before going into the dining room for a fine meal. Yes, the traditional Surbiton sausages were on hand and eagerly devoured.



Some sixty-five brethren sat down for a superbly presented meal of Scotch egg followed by lamb and a tasty dessert. Once again we also benefited from a palate clearing sorbet. The festive board is always well presented and swiftly served.

This was a very interesting event followed by a well-supported dinner at which several hundred pounds were raised for charity. The speeches were to the point and succinctly delivered. It was a privilege to be there. We wish W.Bro. John Massey all the best in his new role.

Article by Michael Fenech and photos by Michael Fenech and Chris Eley



Congratulations Ron

I have known W.Bro. Ron Scarlett for many years. We met at his Sword of Trowel Craft Lodge and then in Honeywood Chapter, where I am an Honorary Member. I assisted in the ceremony when Ron was Advanced into Pride of Surrey Mark Lodge in 2016, as well as at his Installation as Master in 2023. I also assisted in his Elevation in 2016.



You can therefore imagine how disappointed I was not to be there at his Installation as Commander of the Pride of Surrey RAM Lodge at Croydon this month due to another Masonic commitment.

However, that Masonic commitment was at Croydon in the Temple adjacent to where the Pride of Surrey RAM meeting was being held.

I therefore took the opportunity to pop next door after the meeting to congratulate Ron on reaching the Chair of the Royal Ark Mariners.





September Communication of Mark Grand Lodge



It was a great pleasure to be back at Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday the 10th for the September Communication of Mark Grand Lodge which is, for many, the start of the new Masonic season.

As is now the usual custom the Surrey Brethren met up at The Shakespeare for refreshments before going along to Freemasons Hall. There to greet everyone and keep out all Intruders and Cowans was our Past Grand Steward, Les Smith.



The highlight of the meeting is the announcement of the 95 Brethren receiving promotion, and to see those present invested with their new Grand Rank.

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





The meeting was opened by the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman, flanked by R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer, Deputy Grand Master, and R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson, Assistant Grand Master.

With items of business of Grand Lodge having been transacted, the President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, R.W.Bro. Archie Torrance, rose to give a precis of Grants made by the MBF since June and then formally announced the launch of the latest Major Capital Grants scheme, re-establishing our partnership with blood bike organisations across the UK. Details of which will be, or have been, circulated by your Province or District and on our social media channels.

The President of the General Board, R.W.Bro. Bill Divall, then rose to give notice that at the March Communication, he will propose the re-election of our Grand Master, HRH

Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO. The recipients of promotion were then invested.

Following which, the Pro Grand Master addressed the meeting, extending the personal greetings from our Grand Master, along with his best wishes for a happy meeting.

The Pro Grand Master then paid a warm tribute to R.W.Bro. Michael Edward Herbert, P.Dep.G.M., whose funeral had taken place in Leicester the day before, in a church filled to capacity with family, friends and Brethren all wishing to pay their respects to such a well-known, well-respected, and well-loved Brother. He recalled the recent visit paid by many of our Orders' Rulers to Leicester to celebrate Michael's 60 Years in Mark Masonry earlier this year, and touched upon his extraordinary recollection for people's names, and his superb ability to deliver ritual.

Our Pro Grand Master then thanked the President and Trustees of the MBF for their hard work with the grants and petitions that have been received, and thanked R.W.Bro. David Ashbolt for his efforts on behalf of the Grand Master's Keystone Fund.

He then emphasised the indissoluble links with the Craft, reminding Brethren that by continuing our Craft memberships we help ensure a bright future for Freemasonry across all Orders.

Next came the traditional welcome to the many Brethren from Foreign Constitutions, Brethren from Overseas, and heads of other Orders.

In rounding off his address, the Pro Grand Master then thanked the staff at Mark Masons' Hall for their efforts in administering to the Order and in preparing for the day's meeting. And the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team for the ceremonial arrangements of the day.

The Grand Secretary then rose to highlight some items of other business. He reiterated his thanks, given at an earlier forum of Provincial and District Grand Masters, to those Provincial and District Grand Masters, their Secretaries and Executive teams for their support and hard work on behalf of the Mark. He also extended that thanks to the administration and ceremonial teams within the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges who help promulgate the message of Grand Lodge and do so much for the good health of the Order.

He then informed Brethren that the 2024/25 Board of Mark Grand Stewards had met that morning to elect their executive, in the persons of W.Bro. Mark Sharp – President; W.Bro. Martin Johnson - Treasurer; W.Bro. Stewart Nardi – Secretary, and asked them to stand to be recognised, commenting on the importance and high-profile of the role of the Grand Stewards.

The Grand Secretary then added his personal thanks to the team at MMH for their support and highlighted one team member particularly, Ms Katherine Kopsis, Private Secretary to the Grand Secretary, who will retire in December after 37 years on the staff at MMH, beginning work some seven Grand Secretaries ago. This was met with a spontaneous round of applause in appreciation.

After a few housekeeping notes, Grand Lodge was closed in ample for and the Brethren departed to refreshment. 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 for everyone.

Article by Dan Heath and photos by Chris Eley







Shannon Court Garden Party



What could be better than a picnic, good weather, super musical memories and the always present good friends! That sums up our afternoon at Shannon Court, a Freemasons Care Home on the leafy, Surrey and Hants borders.



I have been a few times and find it thought provoking, enjoyable and always better than staying at home watching television.

We were carefully shown where to park with a welcome by the stewards and a wish for an enjoyable afternoon. Masonic men know how to react even when on duty. They make us visitors feel welcome and set a good base for a relaxing afternoon.

We were greeted by the entrance ticket men but did not have an entry set of tickets. No problem. Bernie Greenwood had invited us and were given a couple of tickets which we were told were free anyway. A donation was gratefully received..... We know it would be used appropriately.



There were a couple of stalls as normal and they offered good value items. For us it was time for a Pimm's.

The Surrey Provincial Grand Master was in attendance and gave a brief but interesting welcome to us all. We managed to get a couple of front row seats and soon it was time for the music to begin. We were serenaded by the Satin Dollz.



These three gifted singers knew their words and their routines to a tee. You could hear the older people singing along and certainly The White Cliffs of Dover caused a few misty eyes.

Someone I knew had sung that very song with Vera Lynn when she invited him to join her table at a British Legion event at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green. Many a good sing along tunes were enjoyed by us all. During the interval, several guests wandered over to a genuine Willys Jeep owned and shown here on display by Richard Graham.



Country Club in Frimley Green. Many a good sing along tunes were enjoyed by us all. During the interval, several guests wandered over to a genuine Willys Jeep owned and shown here on display by Richard Graham.

The performers mixed with their admiring audience much to delight of those around. The girls were soon back on stage in different attire and their show continued with more 1950's music. They were so talented.



We took the opportunity to mingle with those we knew, meeting many a Mark Mason and had a fine picnic provided by the centre. Altogether a lovely afternoon.



It was very apparent that Surrey Masons had put a degree of effort into arranging and organising the event. The residents enjoyed their afternoon outside in the fresh air and were sympathetically cared for by staff.

Some took the opportunity of an electric bicycle ride in a tandem or was that a tricycle. Such a good atmosphere.



Robin Illott concluded the afternoon and invited our Provincial Grand Master to say a few words. The latter thanked our performers and the audience who had attended.



All enjoyed the sunny afternoon, even man's/woman's best friends. I shall be there next year. Will you?

Thanks to Michael Fenech



A Successful Meeting of Collingwood Lodge



On Friday the 20th of September our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, visited Collingwood Lodge in Guildford.



The afternoon started off with a short business meeting of the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge where W.Bro. Gary Raggett was elected as Worshipful Commander for the ensuing year.



The Mark Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Bill Brodie, P.Prov.G.Stwd., following which the Lodge was pleased to receive our Provincial Grand Master. He said how good it was to visit Collingwood Lodge again, introduced his team, and took the minutes. W.Bro. Bill Brodie was Proclaimed Worshipful Master for a further year.

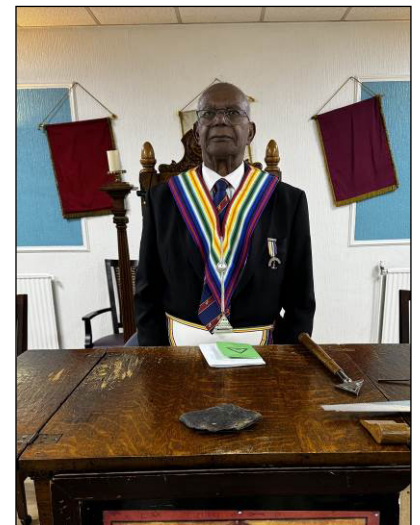
After the Officers had been appointed and invested the Lodge was closed and the members of Collingwood Lodge and their guests retired for refreshments. It was a small but very happy meeting and festive board.

Pride of Surrey RAM Installation

The Installation meeting of the Pride of Surrey Lodge No 1738 was held at Croydon on Monday the 9th of September. The afternoon started with a short Mark business meeting where W.Bro. Ron Scarlett was Proclaimed Worshipful Master for 2024-25 and the Lodge was closed.



A Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Chris Wates, Prov.R.A.M.G.R.,



After taking the minutes, W.Bro. Chris Installed Bro. Ron Scarlett as Worshipful Commander in a most sincere manner. The regular business of the Lodge being completed, W.Bro. Ron Scarlett, the Worshipful Commander, closed the Lodge and the members of the Pride of Surrey Lodge retired for refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal together.