

Richmond Mark Lodge Getting ready for their Centennial Celebrations



Thursday the 10th of October was another busy day for Richmond Mark Lodge in the lead up to their Centenary celebrations.

The afternoon started off with an Advancement Ceremony for three candidates. The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Roger Tutton, who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

R.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, **P.G.J.W.**, P.Dep.Prov.G.M., a guest of the Lodge, was saluted with seven under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies.

After the Dispensation for change of date was read by the Secretary, the business of advancing the candidates started with the ballot. The Lodge also balloted for a joining member, the father of one of the two candidates Advanced at the last meeting.



The ballot proved in favour of the Candidates: Steve Traynor, Neil Jones-Lumby and Omar Gabr. The acting

Deacons were V.W.Bro. Chris Eley and Bro. Na'el Clarke.

An interesting part of the Ceremony was when the three candidates' work was being examined by the Overseers. The three candidates went round together, and each one's work was rejected by one of the Overseers.

The ceremony was conducted by the Worshipful Master, assisted by W.Bro. Garth Blanchard, our Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary. As one would expect, R.W.Bro.

Mik Barnes also assisted in the Ceremony by presenting the Working Tools to the Candidates.

The Lodge was then called off for a break before we received our Provincial Grand Master and his team.

A short while later the Lodge was called on again and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Les Smith, **P.G.Stwd.**, entered and announced that R.W.Bro. John V C French, was outside the door of the Lodge and he demanded admission.

The R.W. Provincial Grand Master entered, accompanied by several Provincial Officers of the year, was welcomed by the Worshipful Master and accepted the gavel. He was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and responded appropriately.





Our Provincial Grand Master said how good it was to be visiting Richmond Lodge on the occasion of the installation of their Centenary Master. He introduced the Provincial Officers who had accompanied him, thanking them for their support, and then took the minutes.



Instead of vacating the Chair he said that he would like to induct W.Bro. John Fleetwood, **P.G.J.D.**, P.Prov.G.Chap., as Master on this special day.

The Installing Officer invited R.W.Bro. Mik Barnes to occupy the Senior Warden's Chair, V.W.Bro. Chris Eley to occupy the Junior Warden's Chair and W.Bro. Mike Ellis, to act as Inner Guard. He then inducted W.Bro. John Fleetwood into the Chair of Richmond Lodge in a very personal manner.

The Address to the Master was given by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley; to the Wardens and Overseers by R.W.Bro. Mik Barnes; and to the Brethren by R.W.Bro. John French.

It was good to see so many Richmond Mark Master Masons in the line up to salute our new Worshipful Master.



To end a very enjoyable installation our R.W. Provincial Grand Master said he had much pleasure in making a Field Appointment to W.Bro. John Fleetwood to Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden. This took W.Bro. John completely by surprise, and for once he was speechless...

The next item was to present to the Lodge a magnificent 130-year-old Bible, kindly donated by W.Bro. John Fleetwood, P.Prov.G.S.W. The Bible was paraded into the Lodge by one of its newest members, Bro. Jim Agnew, escorted by the Director of Ceremonies. V.W.Bro. Chris Eley gave an Oration, and the Bible was presented to the Worshipful Master, who accepted it on behalf of the Lodge.



Our Provincial Grand Master then presented Bro. Jim Agnew with a MBF collarette thanking him for his support for the Mark Benevolent Fund.



After the regular business of the Lodge was completed, the Lodge was closed and, after the customary photographs, we all retired to the bar for refreshments.

The Brethren of Richmond Mark Lodge and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable meal together at the Surbiton Masonic Hall. As is the custom at Mark Festive Boards the Brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees all wore their AMD napkins with their R.W. District Grand Prefect.

The next time we meet we will be celebrating our Centennial where we will be honoured by the presence of the Pro. Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H Prizeman, who will present the Lodge with its Centenary Warrant, following which our R.W. Provincial Grand Master and his team will Dedicate our new Lodge Banner.





Weyside Lodge



Small but very well executed would be my first thought in that the number of officers was apparently low. I say “apparently” because there were several men who were unavoidably absent. However, in true Mark fashion, guests took two or three offices and performed them with good grace. I will add more to that impression later on in this comment.

For the time being, I shall continue with the first meeting of the day which was the Royal Ark Mariner one with my good friend in the chair, Barrie Selway.

There was the usual business at the beginning which sadly resulted in two Eulogies. Then came the main event, the Elevation of Bro Edwin, a submariner of senior age and a delight to chat with.

Malta was one of our topics as a result of his Royal Navy connections. We hit it off well and he was looking forward to the ceremony, which was given by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Barrie Selway, in his usual quiet and sincere manner. As you well know, it is an interesting one to behold as it is not performed too often, in such a fluent manner and with sincerity.



I was able to be a bystander and enjoy the proceedings, which I usually try and follow with the help of my green book and, being a former English teacher, appreciate the wording. “I also engage to defend the character of a Brother” did appeal to my sense of loyalty and there were parts of the ceremony which are of great meaning. Bro Edwin was very pleased with the ceremony, sitting down slightly relieved when it was concluded with slight humour. The Worshipful Commander feigned surprise as he was declared Commander again for the following year and that raised the tone. It was a fine meeting.

Our next meeting was the Mark where I found myself being asked to be Inner Guard. I did accept and must admit that part of the previous meeting was spent in ascertaining what was required of me. One or two other visitors were encouragingly pressganged into accepting roles, one of whom was another acquaintance that I had met in Malta. He was the Junior Overseer for the meeting and accomplished his role with clarity.

Not being an accomplished ritualist and never having been an Inner Guard for some fifteen years, I had my blue book at the ready. We completed a somewhat lengthy ceremony for Bro Peter Woods with the Junior Warden, a visitor from Hants

and Isle of Wight, giving an exemplary performance. As the meeting progressed, we were given the information that this small lodge, which had just gained two members had two, possible three more in the pipeline.

A well-deserved bonus for Weyside Lodge and a sign that, possibly, Mark Surrey was once again beginning to pick up in terms of numbers. I do know that my lodge too, was looking at a couple of possible Candidates.

This new Weyside man, a keen shootist at Bisley, was seriously praised for his attention to ritual at the festive board by his proposer, which is another encouraging sign for Weyside.

Altogether another excellent gathering which was complimented by a good Festive Board. The entrée, a cheese salad, was quickly served, followed by a main course of pork accompanied by a varied selection of vegetables and complimented by fruit salad.

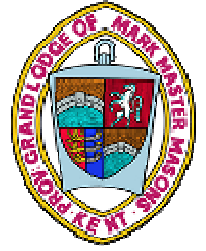
The toasts were relaxingly delivered, and the two new boys were quick to praise their ceremony participants.

The Mark brother did stress that he was very aware of the efforts given by the members in providing him with an enjoyable and unforgettable ceremony, delivered with sincerity and humour.



Thanks to Michael Fenech

Kent Mark Annual Meeting



The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Kent took place on Saturday the 21st of September 2024 at Oakley House, Bromley, Kent.



We received a very warm welcome on our arrival with tea/coffee and biscuits. There were honoured guests from many Provinces, and other Masonic Orders in Kent.

By 10.45 everyone was seated in the Temple. Just after 10.50 pm the Brethren were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Worshipful Brethren and past members of the Provincial Executive.



The meeting was called to order by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Peter David Williams, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearers.

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master who was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.



Those present remembered the Brethren who had passed to the Grand Lodge above since the last annual meeting. The Provincial Grand Master then individually welcomed the many representatives of other Provinces and Masonic Orders, thanking them for their support for Kent Mark.



After the regular business before Provincial Grand Lodge had been concluded the Provincial Grand Master had much pleasure in re-appointing W.Bro. Martyn Summers, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and W.Bro. Stephen Hyland, and V.W.Bro. Gregory Dunham as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.

The Officers for the ensuing year were then appointed, invested, and saluted, following which the Provincial Grand Master addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. In his Address he said how heartening it was to see so many attending Provincial Grand Lodge, and he congratulated all those he had appointed or promoted that day. He was especially pleased to receive many newly advanced brethren who he welcomed personally and presented them with a special pin.



He invited V.W.Bro. Fred Brown, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, to present MBF Certificates to several Brethren, who he thanked for their support. The Provincial Grand Master was also pleased to announce several charity donations.

He thanked the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and the Provincial Grand Secretary and their teams for all their hard work in ensuring the day was a success and closed by reminding everyone that we are all members of the Craft whom we should give our fullest support.

The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form. The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession, greeting their honoured guests as they left.





The Brethren of the Mark Province of Kent and their guests then retired to the bar. The weather was so nice most of us went outside to enjoy the sunshine.



After refreshments, the Brethren of the Province of Kent and their guests dined together in peace and harmony, where the customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured.



We all agreed that it was a most enjoyable day out in the Garden of England, especially as V.W.Bro. Fred Brown, an old friend, was the Steward at our table.

Surrey Enthroned Commanders and Installed Mark Masters Lodge Meetings



The meetings of the Surrey Enthroned Commanders Lodge No 1219 and the Surrey Installed Masters Lodge No 1219 took place at Surbiton on Thursday the 26th of September 2024.

The afternoon started with coffee and biscuits in the bar where we had a chance to catch up with old friends, and guests from other Provinces.

First was the meeting of the Surrey Enthroned Commanders Lodge. The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Paul Haycock, **R.A.M.G.R.**, who welcomed the present and past members of the Executive and our honoured guests.

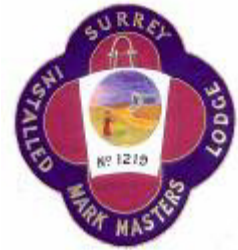




W.Bro. Mik Barnes was elected Worshipful Commander and W.Bro. David Barden was elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Worshipful Commander then invited W.Bro. Chris Eley to give a most informative talk entitled The Mystic Tie.

The Lodge was then closed, and the Temple re-arranged for the Mark meeting.



A Lodge of Mark Master Masons was then opened by the acting Worshipful Master, R.W.Bro. John French, Provincial Grand Master, who welcomed the many guests and visitors, which included members of the Provincial Executive present and past, and guests from other Provinces.





A ballot was taken for several Joining Members of the Lodge, which proved in their favour. They were welcomed into the Lodge by the Worshipful Master.

The Lodge Banner was then paraded, and the Junior Warden, W.Bro. Mike Prentice, explained the history of the Banner.

V.W.Bro. Ray Seeley, **P.G.J.O.**, Provincial Grand Treasurer, was installed in the Chair of the Lodge by R.W.Bro. John French in a very sincere manner. The Worshipful Master then appointed and invested his Officers.



W.Bro. Peter Kipps then presented the Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £500 as a donation from the Brothers in Law Luncheon Club, which was gratefully received.



After the regular business of the Lodge had been completed the Lodge was closed and our R.W. Provincial Grand Master and the newly installed Worshipful Master retired in procession.

After the customary photographs we retired to the bar for refreshment before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.



All Installed Masters are encouraged to join the Surrey Installed Mark Masters Lodge No 1219. Likewise, all Installed Commanders are encouraged to join the Surrey Enthroned Commanders Lodge No 1219. Both Lodges meet on the same day at the Surbiton Masonic Centre.

Joining these Lodges will not only afford you an enjoyable means of increasing your Masonic knowledge but also give you the opportunity of meeting other installed Masters and Commanders from all parts of the Province. You will hear many eminent speakers giving addresses and answering questions on matters of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner interest and, from time to time, you will witness demonstrations and presentations of particular workings of these and related ceremonies.

The Lodges meet twice a year, on the 3rd Wednesday in June and the 4th Thursday in September.



Photos by Michael Fenech and Chris Eley



Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Surrey

The journey to Croydon was achieved with very little difficulty, a mere one hour and twenty minutes. No, I do not know the code for entry but was soon admitted after ringing the doorbell. This is Mark so I was soon amongst acquaintances and friends with plenty of time for a drink at the bar where it was pleasing to note that I could purchase a non-alcoholic lager on draught.



Brethren were soon arriving, and the lodge was prepared by our usual Tyler, the irrepressible Chris Casselden. I even had the temerity to approach Richard the Shylock and was amiably cleared in terms of subs rendered and meal paid for.



The lodge was opened in due form by W. Bro. Jeffrey Penfold who was swift in passing the baton...er gavel, to our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, who was in fine fettle considering the difficult personal times he has had. All the main men were introduced and saluted with gusto by assembled brethren.



Our Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Paul Wicking, did a fine job in guiding everyone through their paces, even the slightly surprised steward who later on in the meeting found himself in the Junior Overseer's seat!

Five new members were presented to the Provincial Grand Master and Worshipful Master and welcomed into the lodge. The auditors for the forthcoming year were W.Bros. David Barden and Ray Beadle. Then came the parading of the banner and I appreciated its explanation by W.Bro. David Barden. It is good to remind ourselves a little of the history of this relatively young lodge which was consecrated in 1994.



We then arrived at the main event, the Installation of W.Bro. David Thompson. Our Provincial Grand Master carried out this element and his confident and skilful installation of the Master Elect was carried out with sincerity and in a relaxed manner typical of the man himself. He also presented the Working Tools and the Warrant of the Lodge.

The addresses to the Wardens and Overseers were accomplished by W.Bros. David Willmott and Terry Carpenter. V.W.Bro. Bill Caughie described the Keystone Jewel and W.Bro. Les Smith gave the address to the Worshipful Master. Newly appointed officers were put in post.

The Worshipful Master invited V.W.Bro. Chris Eley to present a talk on the History and Meaning of the Apron. We were shown a multitude of aprons from many different orders and from other Lodges overseas, eloquently explained by W.Bro. Chris and displayed by the newly Installed Worshipful Master in stylish form! The Almoner report was given by W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood and the newly appointed Chairity Steward presented a competent account of his

business. Alms were collected, the lodge was closed.

We repaired to the bar, and eventually into the dining room. I enjoyed my pate, the main course and even had a choice of dessert although this was because of one forgetting what one had ordered several weeks ago.



Altogether a very enjoyable afternoon and evening in Croydon slightly marred by a road closure on the way home and what looked like a serious accident on the main road to the A3.

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

Congratulations

Brethren, I am delighted to announce that the Most Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to Appoint the following Surrey Brethren to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners.



W.Bro. John Carl Fitzgerald

W.Bro. Raymond Leslie Beadle

W.Bro. Colin John Clark

Surrey Mark Masons through other Provinces

W.Bro. Paul Stephen Hollebone (Sussex)

My personal congratulations go to all of them, and we look forward to seeing them being invested in December.

R.W. Bro. John VC French

Provincial Grand Master



Mark Stewards on Tour



Messages from Shelley and Nigel at the Sutton Masonic Hall

Thank you to all the members of Weald of Surrey Mark who donated Money to Sutton Masonic Hall foodbank!

We are grateful for all of the support!



Today Nigel Feltham and I delivered a fresh food shop to Sutton Women's Centre!

It really does make a difference to so many!

Thank you everyone who have helped and donated!





The High Sheriff of Surrey and the Mayor of Guildford joined in a launch event for the 'Man Van' – a new mobile PSA blood testing clinic that will be travelling all over Surrey helping to save and prolong the lives of countless men. The event took place at the beginning of September on Guildford High Street.

September was a momentous month for the Prostate Project. The public launch of the 'Man Van' was of course a highlight, including a five-figure donation that they were handed on the day of the launch.

"Everyone at the Prostate Project is grateful for a donation of £10,000 from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey, and to John French and Bill Barr, for visiting us for the launch and bringing the cheque with them."



Guildford based charity the Prostate Project plans to visit workplaces, sporting and social events, concerts and gala days across the region, with the van offering men over 45 the chance to check their PSA levels, using a simple blood test which helps detect prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer kills more than 14,000 men each year in the UK but diagnosed early enough it is one of the most treatable of all cancers. But early-stage prostate cancer is often symptomless, which is why getting tested is so important.



The Prostate Project raised more than £200,000 to buy and equip the specially adapted vehicle, and they will be working with other charities to make sure that as many men as possible 'Get Tested'.

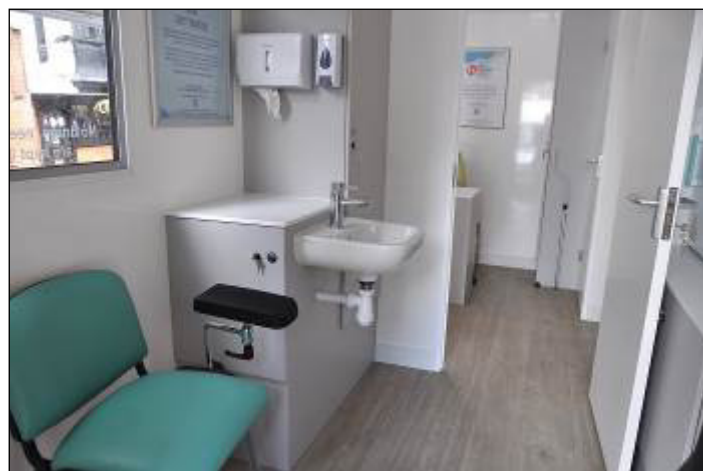
The Prostate Project has raised more than £11 million in the past 25 years, money that has helped to build the world-renowned Stokes Centre for Urology at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, and fund ground-breaking research at the University of Surrey.

Stephen Langley, Professor of Urology at the Royal Surrey, has been one of the major driving forces behind this project and he is delighted that the vehicle is now on the road.

He said: *"This wonderful Man Van superbly complements our world-class Stokes Centre for Urology and will help us detect prostate cancer in men before it causes any symptoms."*

"Our regional NHS targeted screening programme, working closely with local GP surgeries, has tested the PSA of 22,000 men over the past 12 months and shown the importance of early detection of prostate cancer at a stage when it is at its most curable."

"I believe our Man Van will help improve both the awareness of prostate cancer and our ability to test for the disease and so improve men's chance of beating it."





Province of Surrey Annual Service of Thanksgiving



The Annual Service of Thanksgiving was held on Sunday the 22nd of September at Guildford Cathedral. For the first time, all the Heads of the Companion Orders in Surrey were invited to attend in their regalia. It was an impressive sight to see most of the Surrey Orders represented.



RW.Bro. Nick Burger, Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent followed the processions into the Cathedral, which included the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons, Bro. Carol Cole; the Very Worshipful Bro. Orli-Anne Zucker, the Grand Secretary of the Order of Women's Freemasonry; and Very Worshipful Bro. Pat Gill, Grand Inspector for Surrey and Sussex.

The Officiating Officer was W.Bro. Chris Eley, Provincial Grand Chaplain, our Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



In 1937 The Mark Masons of Surrey donated an Alms Dish in gold, emblematic of Beneficence and Charity, for use in the Cathedral when services commenced there.

Open Evening for Progressive Orders Beyond the Craft

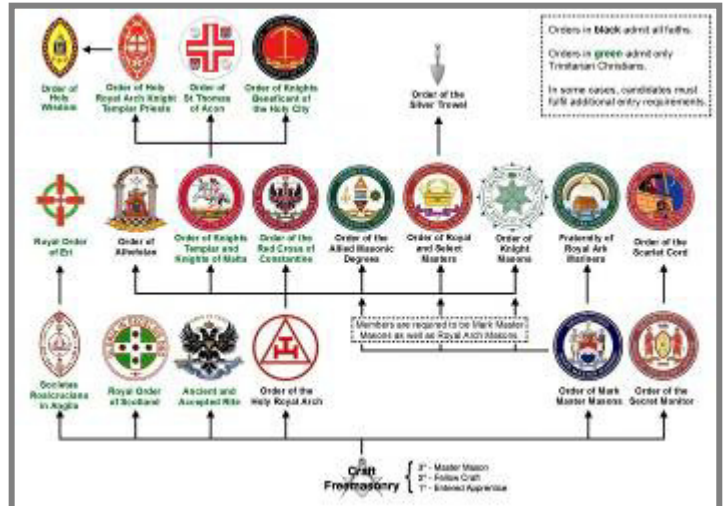
On Friday the 29th of November Sutton Masonic Hall are hosting an Open Evening for Progressive Orders Beyond the Craft!

This is a free event open to all Masons. It is an informal event showcasing what the Companion Orders in Freemasonry have to offer.

In the large dining room will be information on these orders and an opportunity to speak to people and ask questions! A presentation of all the Orders will be given in Temple 1 at 7.00 pm.

The centre will be open from 5.00 pm.

Please contact Shelley on masonichall.suttonsurrey@hotmail.co.uk for further information.



Progressive Orders
Beyond the Craft
Fri 29th Nov 24