



the surrey keystone

Issue 56 – NOVEMBER 2024

The 2024 Charity Dinner and Dance



So why did they close the slips road on the A3? Who cares? We had a lovely drive through the Surrey Hills to Reigate and its environs. No, we did not put the roof down. It is Autumn! The hotel staff were their usual professional selves and greeted us warmly whilst my pals were already ensconced just outside the bar area having a really good chinwag...and a few drinks.

We were quickly served at the bar, the wine flowed and so did the conversation. It was soon time to pop up to our immaculately laid out room and get changed. The choice of dress for the ladies is always a vexing question but I decide to join in, in that, although I do not wear a dress, I had a choice of jacket!!

Now what shall it be, the regulation dinner jacket, lovely waistcoat and bow tie or my burgundy jacket? I settled for the regulation dinner jacket not wishing to be outdone by R.W.Bro. Mik or any other such brother keen on his sartorial elegance.



Even though one of our pals was not sat with us for the dinner due to a mix up in the planning, we met up and all went well. I was very impressed by the efforts of serving staff to cater for our tastes but somewhat concerned at the very hard, just out of the fridge, butter!

The meal was lovely starting with ham hock terrine, then a choice of main course meat or fish with vegetables, all served quickly and with care. My dessert was very acceptable and there was wine to drink.

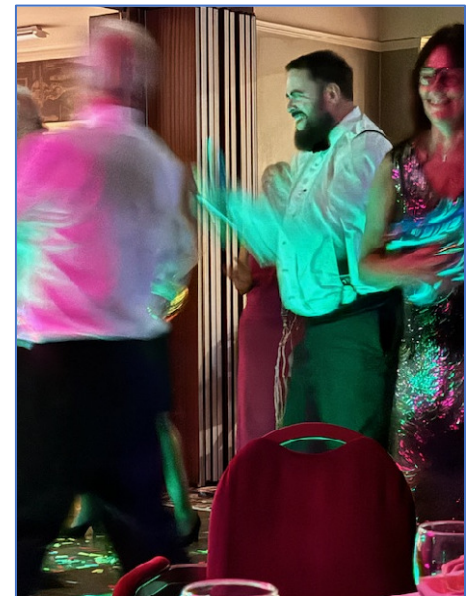
The host for the evening was Worshipful Brother Bill Caughie, Assistant Provincial Grand Master. His brief speech was apposite and he encouraged us all to enjoy the evening.



It was time for the entertainment I am not sure which part I enjoyed the most, the raffle or the two solo artists. The former was ably conducted by the irrepressible Alan and Wendy Brockwell and raised a five-figure sum for the ManVan appeal. That was so impressive and well deserving, for there were so many prizes and one very excited, young lady was much in evidence as she went up to collect several goodies for her table. Her exuberance made us all smile. It was very pleasing to know that we once gain succeeded in raising a very acceptable amount for such a worthwhile cause. It is good to be a Mark Mason.



And that was not all! We were well entertained by someone I had heard before. This irrepressible, Rod Stewart tribute act, guy was full of music enjoyed by our group and the very full dance floor. Two very happy ladies were keen to have a photo with this charming fellow.



After a brief interval, we were then treated to music `a la Michael Bubl  and Frank Sinatra, which also had a good number of guests up and moving. This was such a pleasant way to bring to an end a super night where we ate well, raised good funds and were superbly entertained.



St Andrews
806 are looking
forward to the
2025 Cha Di Da.

Our thanks to
all concerned.

*Thanks to
Michael Fenech*

Messages from Shelley and Nigel at the Sutton Masonic Hall



Thank you to Len and Jeff for your donation towards the Sutton Masonic Hall foodbank!

The money will go towards gifts for the children.



Shelley Sykes and Nigel Feltham recently did a fresh food shop and delivered it to the local woman's refuge. The refuge is full of woman and children and babies and has more people needing to stay there.

"We had another tour of the refuge, and we spoke about what else we can do to help! We asked them for a wish list of things that we might be able to help with, even just donation of time!

We will also be helping the family's here over Christmas with toys for the kids and food for Christmas.

Thank you for all your donations."

Shelley and Nigel at Sutton Masonic Hall

On the 28th of November Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons held an Emergency Meeting at Sutton Masonic Hall. This was to Advance two more candidates into the Order in time for their Centenary Celebration Meeting on the 31st of January 2025 where they will be honoured by the presence of the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H Prizeman, the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John V C French, members of the Provincial Executive Present and Pasts, and Provincial Officers of the year.

What made this meeting so special was not only was this the first time that the Lodge had met in Sutton in its 100 year history, the meeting being held 100 years and 24 days since its Consecration, but we were advancing two more candidates from Nonesuch Park Lodge, which meets in Sutton.

One of the candidates, David Giles, is the Worshipful Master of the Lodge and the other, Jamie Harbrow, was only Raised by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley eight days earlier. The two Deacons for the ceremony were his two brothers, Mark and John, who have only recently been Advanced into the Lodge.

The members of the Lodge donated their Alms collection to Shelley to support the good work that the Sutton Masonic Hall are doing in the community to ensure that disadvantaged children have as happy a Christmas as possible.





St Andrews Mark Lodge Centenary Celebrations



heng re kuai le! janmadin mubaarak! Feliz cumpleaños! eid milad saeid! Joyeux anniversaire! Šubha janmadina! Feliz Aniversário! dnem rozhdeniya! Saalgirah Mubarak!! Or as we would say "Happy 100th, St Andrew's Lodge 806". Yes, we made one hundred years of lodge meetings, and we are very proud.



They say quality is in the content and that was certainly true of those who attended. Our guest list was very meaningful in that we had our Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master and four of our six honorary members present. One of those we had not seen in a long time, two were quite frail but made a super effort to attend and one had restricted his Mark involvement for personal reasons.

There were also several Grand Officers who accompanied our guests. We were truly honoured by their presence, and we also had our senior Lodge member of some ninety plus years to help us through the ceremony.

The pre-meeting gathering met in the bar and there was much happy talk and a few reminiscences, especially from those who remembered some of our early millennium memories. Our attractive dining room had

been carefully and attractively decorated. The scene was set and our guests were welcomed with appropriate and genuine greetings.



Meeting time arrived and we all gathered in the temple where the atmosphere was more akin to a celebration than a regular Lodge meeting. Our Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master did take the gavel as is the custom and it was evident that not all of our small band of lodge members were present.

We were short some five or so men. One did not attend due to work for the borough council, and we were told that as a result of the work he and his team had put in, the beautiful town of Farnham had just within the last few hours been awarded the best city in Bloom for the third year running. Our congrats went to him and all involved. One was not well, one was double booked and another was being installed in another order.

We had a sombre start to the business of the day with a touching eulogy for W.Bro. R. White delivered by Worshipful Brother Chris Magee and it was observed with due solemnity as should be the case.

Our banner was then “unfurled” as is the custom in St Andrew’s and W.Bro. Frank Whittle was assisted in this task by W.Bro. John Ward, who was taking the place of the indisposed W.Bro. G. Farquhar. The Junior Warden delivered a description of the banner first displayed in March 1924 and renovated in 1989. There then followed a resume of the Lodge history, with particular attention given to the last twenty-five years. Artefacts from the original Consecration, together with examples of the fifty-, and seventy-five-year celebrations, and the minutes books from the last one hundred years were on display.

The scene was now set for the installation of our Centenary Worshipful Master Elect, W. Bro. Andrew Carr. This was carried out by R.W.Bro. John French ably assisted by his escorting officers in the delivery of the addresses. Officers were appointed and the new Treasurer presented the audited accounts on behalf of W.Bro. Barry Selway and these were adopted by the lodge. Our Almoner advised the Lodge that W.Bro. B Tout, who was elected as an Honorary Member at this gathering, had also been given a first promotion in the forthcoming Provincial Meeting.

There was further good news in that our secretary had received an application form from a member of St Andrew’s Craft Lodge which, at the formation of our Mark Lodge in 1924, had in fact provided some ten members at the formation of the Lodge. The secretary also advised that there were two possibly three members from St. Andrew’s who would most probably follow. This good news was further celebrated by the welcoming into the Lodge, a joining member in Bro. Paul Brennan-Benson. Photographs were taken by W.Bro. Andrew Banks at the end of all this super good news.



What an unforgettable experience and what a truly Mark evening, all rounded off of by our organist and his serious and humorous delivery of appropriate music.

Many of us smiled at his impromptu deliveries which contributed so much to such an important gathering of St Andrew’s Mark Lodge No 806.

Thanks to Michael Fenech and Andrew Banks

Fish & Chips Supper at Nutfield

On Tuesday the 3rd of September Crystal Palace, Warlingham and Lingfield Mark Lodge held an event at Nutfield to promote the Mark Degree. There was a talk on the Mark degree by W.Bro. Bill Barr, Deputy Provincial Grand Master followed by a Q&A session. This was followed by a Fish and Chip Supper.



W.Bro. Bill Barr is an easy and affable man to deal with. I have just taken on the secretary role in the group entitled The Provincial Officers Mess where he is the lead man.. Subs are a massive £5!!!! Yes, FIVE POUNDS. Are you a member?

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was giving a talk on the Mark Degree. The idea was to spread the word about our degree and gain members so that Lodges continue to be stable and maintain a good framework of continued existence. He did mention that there was only one lodge that met four times a year and that most met three times and had an appendant degree attached to them with the same number. Yes, the Royal Ark Mariners was described in sufficient detail and provoked some questions. Who met four times a year? St Andrews Lodge No 806 in Farnham.



There were about six or seven possible candidates plus their support network from the three lodges of Warlingham, Crystal Palace and Lingfield. A happy bunch of guys with a beautiful setting at Nutfield Masonic Centre where nothing seems to faze the staff. An extra meal required. No Problem!.



We were all soon gathered in the bar, and I was happy to order a non-alcoholic lager and lemonade. W.Bro. Bill ascertained that most were present and off we went to a room well laid out with Bill's lectern front and centre. He gave a brief but illuminating talk on the origins of The Mark Order, its support in that country on the other side of the wall and its modern status, with its own HQ and a vibrant gathering of brethren who wanted to enjoy a different aspect of freemasonry. The importance of the Overseers and their contribution to a fascinating ceremony of Advancement was mentioned as well as the title of The Friendly Degree for which we are well known.

His talk lasted about thirty minutes and was well received. Rather than having a public Q & A, W.Bro. Barr visited the four tables in turn engaging the members in appropriate conversation, ascertaining who were the prospective candidates and giving responses to those who required further information. It was a nicely informal meeting and as relaxed as a Mark group should be. My understanding is that at least four members were very interested. The evening must be a rewarding idea!



We were served a good quality fish and chip supper with liquid libation still available from the bar and, on my table, much interest shown in a brother from Ghana with whom we chatted at some length. Freemasonry in that country is under the jurisdiction of UGLE with the ceremonies being conducted in English as there are many different languages in Ghana. A brother whose father was Maltese also mentioned his belonging to a Maltese lodge and proudly displayed his apron.

As the end of the evening approached, we said our farewells and made our ways back to our respective areas of Surrey and I did not have any problem going up the M25 and on to the A3 to Farnham.

Where is the Travelling Keystone?

The Travelling Keystone is currently held by Percy Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Their next meeting is on Wednesday the 4th of December at Guildford, and this will be the last chance for someone to claim it before our Annual Meeting in March.

W.Bro. Stuart John Hogarth will be Proclaimed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, and they have 10 Grand Lodge Certificates to present as well as a possible double elevation in the RAM, so it will be a good couple of meetings.



Why not put together a raiding party from your Lodge to take home the Keystone.

Surrey Mark Masons' Burns Night Charity Dinner

At Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, Hitherbury Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4DR on Saturday 18th January 2024.



SUPPORTED BY THE
ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND

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. 02602788. 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



**Mark
Provincial
Swimathon
2025**

MARK PROVINCIAL SWIMATHON 2025

Chief Swimmer - WBro Bill Barr, DepProvGM

**Set your own target
Medals for children taking part
Raise funds for local charities
Supporters & cheerleaders welcome
Join the brethren for lunch afterwards**

**Sunday 19th January 10.30am
Guildford Spectrum Pool GUI IUP**

WBro Mike Neville mrmikeneville@aol.com or 07415 634613