



A Christmas Message from our Provincial Grand Master



Brethren all

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, I extend my warmest wishes for a peaceful and blessed holiday season. May this time be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments with your families and loved ones.



This year, as we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, let us also remember the enduring bonds of Freemasonry. Our fraternity offers us a unique opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals, to support one another, and to make a positive impact on our communities.

As we gather together in our Lodges, let us celebrate our shared values of friendship, charity, and brotherly love. Let us also renew our commitment to the principles of Freemasonry and to living up to the high standards of our Craft.

May the spirit of Christmas inspire us all to be better men and better Masons.

With fraternal greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

R.W.Bro. John Vaughan Christopher French

Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey.

Merry Christmas



A Christmas Message from Nigel on behalf of everyone at Sutton Masonic Hall



Hi everyone

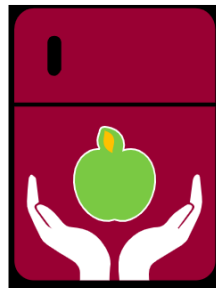
Another year at the Sutton Masonic Hall Food Bank, and what a year it has been. We've grown from strength to strength helping charities like the Women Centre at Sutton, the Women's Refuge, Sutton



Homestart, Epsom Homestart, the Leatherhead Community Fridge, the Women's One Stop Shop, and the Male One Stop Shop, and the Sutton Pantry.



We finished delivering hampers to the Sutton Carers. They nominated 16 families, and we delivered 16 hampers to those families. A big shout out to Stuart as one of those families live on the 11th floor of a block of flats in Croydon, and he had to go up



the stairs as the lift was not working - so well done Stuart.



This year we included toys. Last year a couple of mums mentioned that they were really pleased with the cuddly toys they received. If they hadn't received those toys their children would have had nothing. It's something we all take for granted that we can buy toys for our children. Thanks to your generosity they will have lots of toys on the day.



One of the highlights this year were the Easter Eggs. We sent out 1500 eggs to various local hospitals and children's charities. Again, thank you very much for that. 1500 was a lot of eggs to shift, but they were well received.



Also in the summer, Sutton Carers asked us to sponsor one of the children to go on an Adventure Holiday. I asked how many children were going. They replied, 8 children and 3 leaders. I said we will sponsor them all. I put it to the Food Bank Committee, and they said they would do that. I also asked for donations from several Masonic units here in Sutton and within 24 hours we had raised £1200, which paid for all of the equipment. This meant that the children had a wonderful time in the summer. Again, thanks to all those who contributed. It's very much appreciated.

We are now moving into our sixth year and I am very proud of everybody who works tirelessly on the committee. If you would like to donate to the food bank, we have a bank account. Shelley has the bank details, or we can accept cash, and we will shop on your behalf.

Thank you very much to all Lodges, Chapters, and individuals, for keeping this project going. Without your support, it wouldn't be there.

We wish you a Peaceful Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year.
God bless and thank you all.

Nigel



An Orders beyond the Craft evening in Surrey

A very interesting and informative workshop entitled 'Orders beyond the Craft' was held at the Sutton Masonic Hall on the 29th of November 2024.

Many of the Orders beyond the Craft had their stands in the main dining room, where the representatives of each Order were available to answer questions.

We then went up to the main Temple where Chris Hatton introduced the evening, which was arranged to give everyone a brief insight into the ceremonies and regalia of many well-known Orders, as well as some lesser-known Orders in Freemasonry.

Behind the scenes Simon Polkinghorne was busy getting all the regalia ready for the next team to go into out the Temple.

Here we see Chris wearing a Mark Master Mason's apron, Steve a Master's apron, Dave a Provincial Officer's dress apron and Ken a Grand Officer's undress apron.

In conclusion Chris Hatton thanked Simon for all his hard work putting the evening together, the team of 'models' Dave Harrison, Ken Macintosh, Steve Rush, and Chris Eley; and

especially Shelley and her staff at Sutton Masonic Hall for the wonderful support and encouragement they had provided.



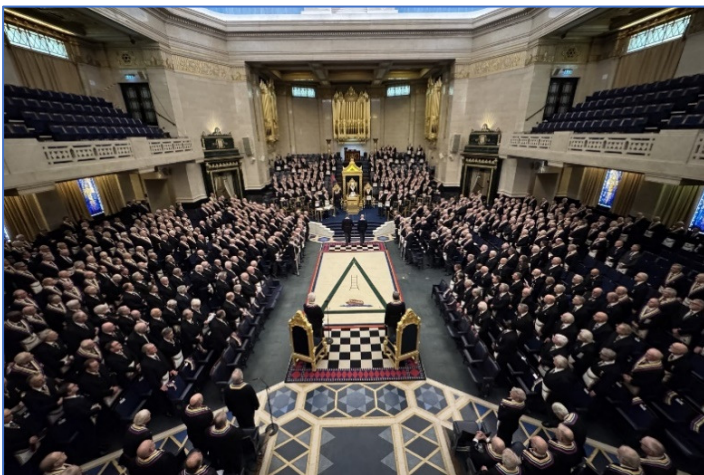
Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners was held at Freemason's Hall on Monday the 9th of December 2024 with M.W.Bro. John H Prizeman, Pro Grand Master, presiding.



In keeping with tradition, the Surrey Brethren met up at the Shakespeare's Head in Holborn for refreshments before the meeting.

There is always a festive feel to December's Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly and Monday was no exception. The full Grand Temple at Freemasons Hall looked spectacular with the Brethren resplendent in their rainbow trimmed regalia.



Following the opening business, the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master invested 117 Brethren to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

We are delighted that the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master was 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
 - W.Bro. Paul Stephen Hollebone (*through Sussex*)
- Our personal congratulations go to all of them.





The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master then addressed the meeting, welcoming everyone and speaking of new beginnings and how important it is to see an appointment such as Grand Rank in this Order as the start of a new passage in one's Masonic journey.

Lastly, the Pro Grand Master welcomed the many Brethren visiting from foreign constitutions and Districts overseas, before thanking the Grand Secretary and

M.M.H. staff, and the G.D.C. and his team, for their efforts in arranging the day's meeting.

He closed by wishing everyone a happy Christmas and New Year, wishing us the very best in our endeavours to further the traditions of this beautiful Order in 2025.



The Brethren then retired for refreshments.



Many took the opportunity to join the dining in the Grand Connaught Rooms, where they were pleased to drink the health of the Pro Grand Master, and enjoy the response to his toast.



The Surrey Brethren had a most enjoyable meal together with the recipients of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners – John, Colin, and Ray.





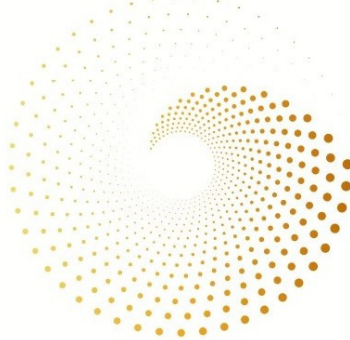
Mark Benevolent Fund

Please Note

Applications for assistance from the Craft (via the M.C.F.) or from other local Mark or Craft Charities should be treated separately and made in addition to your application to the M.B.F.



Mark Benevolent Fund



Click on the icons below to follow us on social media



86 St James's Street | London SW1A 1PL

+44 (0)20 7839 5274

markmasonshall.org



The following are examples of what help we can offer.

It is not a definitive list and each case will be considered entirely on its own merits:

- Daily living costs when caused by a change of circumstances, although in most cases we would prefer to help with specific or unexpected capital expenditure
- Household repairs or replacements, including boilers and white goods, required for a dignified standard of living and acceptable quality of life
- Household arrears (utilities, mortgage, Council tax etc.) when caused by a change of circumstances
- Transport requirements for hospital visits relating to a chronic or ongoing medical condition
- Mobility aids and equipment required to improve daily quality of life
- Respite care to give much needed breaks for carers



“ We are Here for you! ”

General exceptions may apply when the claimant is considered to have sufficient capital savings to pay for the required need themselves, although each case will be considered individually and entirely on its merits.

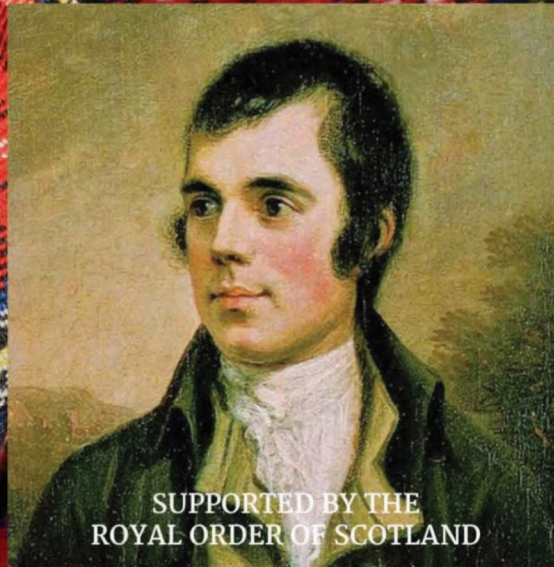
Who should you approach to start the process?

If you think the Mark Benevolent Fund may be able to help, first speak to your Lodge Almoner, or directly to the Mark Provincial Grand Almoner if you prefer, who will be able to advise you accordingly. If the Provincial Grand Almoner considers that your circumstances qualify for submission to the M.B.F. he will discuss it with you, document all the information required, and make the submission on your behalf. All information will be treated with complete confidentiality.



Surrey Mark Masons' Burns Night Charity Dinner

At Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, Hitherbury Close,
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4DR on Saturday 18th January 2025.



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. 68234860. 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