



Swimathon 2025

The Annual Provincial Swimathon was held at Guildford Spectrum on Sunday the 19th of January.



The swimmers were joined by two members of the Executive, W.Bro. Bill Barr and W.Bro. John Massey. Bro. James Sarson achieved the most lengths, sixty, whilst raising funds for Flint House, the police rehabilitation centre, where he received much treatment after a serious traffic accident.



W.Bro. Mike Neville, the Swimathon Czar was also in the pool, but most importantly, W.Bro. John Massey's granddaughter, Ellen (age 7) showed off her swimming ability and raised nearly £200. Bro John Swift's young daughters also took part and whizzed down several slides, as part of their Swimathon!



The cheerleaders were led by W.Bro. Alan Brockwell, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, and at the conclusion our Provincial Grand Master presented medals to all those involved. The event was enjoyed by all and raised over £2,500 for various local charities.



W.Bro. Mike said, "I am grateful to all the swimmers, supporters and sponsors. This is a fun family event which is in the traditions of the Mark Degree".

Article by Mike Neville and photos by Michael Fenech



Warlingham Lodge

I have the privilege of being an Escorting Officer this year and this time was at the above Lodge escorting W.Bro. John Massey. A new Lodge and a new executive member to be with. I am always pleased to do something different and although I have been to Nutfield quite a few times, it was my first visit since their refurbishment. A lot of hard work has gone into the centre with Robin Ilott being the Centre Manager. We wish him and all who work there all the best.



It was a very enjoyable afternoon. We met in the bar and spent the next forty-five minutes or so catching up with old friends and having a tea or coffee. A lovely way to come together and have time to relax and chew the cud.

We met in the large temple where Warlingham Lodge greeted their Official Visitor, and the meeting proceeded according to the agenda.

Minutes were accepted and signed, and the Treasurer's, Almoner's and Charity Steward's report were presented to the meeting. Our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Bill Barr, is the Chaplain of this lodge.



In the chair, in the Mark meeting, was W. Bro. Joe Conchero who welcomed W.Bro. John Massey with appropriate ceremony. The team took its place with one member forgetting a small part of his presentation. The Director of Ceremonies proclaimed W.Bro. Joe as the Worshipful Master for a further year and officers were appointed and invested.



Our Festive Board was set in in a smartly decorated room and was well attended. We were served efficiently and there was plenty to eat. We had correctly cooked moist chicken and an Eton Mess dessert and of course there was a raffle. I am not a gambler but was pleased to win two prizes.

One on behalf of Naresh, a Christmas Pudding, and one for the lady at home, an amaryllis.

W.Bro. Barrie also came away with a bottle of red. Not bad for trip to Redhill and an easy journey home.

So Enjoyable.



Article and photos by Michael Fenech



Percy Lodge



I always endeavour to tell it as it is! I am never too negative; it is not my style. On my best behaviour though at Percy. Last night I visited Guildford Masonic Centre, a smart venue with room for parking too, unlike my Lodge in Farnham. The big guns were there with the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master as a member of this old established Lodge and our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. John Massey, as the Official Visitor, and many other notables. So, what was my evening like? I was probably present at the one of the most memorable evenings in my Mark life so far.



My chauffeur and I arrived at a reasonable hour, parked easily and went up to the lounge area, already populated with good friends and some new ones whom I would meet throughout the length of the evening. An old acquaintance was there, one whom I had met through the good auspices of the Percy treasurer. Michael and I had a few words, and it was on with the meeting.

The Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Mark Guzam, opened the Lodge and welcomed everyone. We then proceeded with agendas items. Nothing new there then!

That was my first surprise of the evening. Two candidates for elevation, and they were led through one of the best run ceremonies I had ever seen in Royal Ark Mariners. I had seen the Worshipful Commander preparing himself for the evening events prior to the meeting and that paid off handsomely. He took the entire ceremony through its paces in a controlled and excellent manner.

The Senior Deacon placed his man appropriately and had the foresight to guide the Junior Deacon and his candidate. One could not fail but be impressed by W.Bro. Gary Raggett and his command of the ritual.

This part successfully concluded; it was interesting to note the positive response of the two candidates. Afterwards they both told me that they had thoroughly enjoyed this impressive ritual experience.



We were then onto the presentation of a lodge certificate to Bro. Douglas Lacey by our Provincial Grand Master.



W.Bro. Mark was proclaimed as Commander for a further year, W.Bro. Tony accepted the role of Treasurer and was keen to point out that the Guildford Masonic Centre was not increasing its fees, although there would need to be a small increase in subs.

To crown it all, the lodge celebrated the long service of W. Bro. Graham Beer who was made an Honorary Member in recognition of his services to the lodge over many years.

A fitting way to end a meaningful and packed meeting. So often Royal Ark Mariners meetings are a secondary event to Mark but not here at Percy Lodge. Several member and visitors availed themselves of a coffee or tea in the lounge area and the DC, W.Bro. Darren, busied himself with organising the layout for our next meeting.





W.Bro. John Massey was greeted in style; Right Worshipful Bro. John French was saluted appropriately too

W. Bro. Stuart Hogarth was proclaimed, and officers were thanked and the subsequent group appointed and invested. A good start to what was about to be something I had never seen in my relatively short term in Freemasonry. A presentation of Grand Lodge Certificates to nine brethren by our Provincial Grand Master.

He explained the significance of their certificates and congratulated each one individually in a very relaxed and excellent manner.

The meeting continued with two serious amounts of donations to The Surrey Carers and the Surrey Cancer Screening Vehicle.

The meeting concluded in a most appropriate manner with two members being given Honorary Member status and presentation of the Charity Steward's and Almoner's reports.



This meeting was ably guided by W. Bro. Clive Goode who acted as secretary as V.W.Bro. S. Berkshire was unable to be present for sudden family reasons.

Another very interesting meeting by Percy Lodge. And there was more. Very unexpectedly St Andrew's Lodge No 806 was presented with the Travelling Keystone at the Festive Board.



Yours truly thanked the Worshipful Master and we look forward to other lodges coming to St. Andrew's to take it away from us before the Provincial Meeting. *Article and photos by Michael Fenech*



Burns Night 2025



What a great night at Guilford Masonic Centre!



We got there early just in case parking was a tad tight, but we were fine and entered the bar to find many a friend on what turned out to be a superb evening.

It is a smart place to go to on a Saturday night out and the drinks, pre meal, were a good intro to a very pleasant evening. I must admit that my week had been quite busy, and I did have reservations. It is so easy to stay at home and watch the gogglebox but, spurred on by the occasion, out we went. We were well rewarded.

A good selection of alcohol-free drinks, including Guinness, was on offer and there were plenty of bar staff in situ to stave off any long queues. The room was soon well occupied with many a new face to me and several acquaintances.

This was a combined effort with the Mark and the Royal Order of Scotland combining, with the result that over a hundred ladies and gentlemen were in attendance with even one young lad celebrating his birthday.

Yes, we did sing! Ladies were wearing very attractive, tartan accoutrements and several gentlemen sported kilts or trews. Must get a decent dickie bow!!

The dining area was immaculately laid out and staff were very accommodating, so in we went.

The meal was preceded by the arrival of the haggis with all the ceremony that such a distinguished affair brings. Two pipers led the way with the Haggis held high and followed by a man waving two bottles of whisky.

It's a slightly different event to what we normally see at a masonic meeting but very effective. The Masonic, Scottish words were pronounced over the "item". It was threatened by the presenter, sliced open with appropriate wording and then escorted away by the entourage. There was a raucous wording given this year by Andy Harris as he attacked the haggis with, not the rather insignificant knife provided by the startled chef, but by Andy who had come prepared with a rather long, serious piece of steel.

Throughout, the piper played his music and then led the way to the kitchen for this Scottish fare to be served up to the assembled guests with traditional neeps and tatties. I wonder if our Yorkshire pudding should be so introduced. It was very entertaining and colourful. Not being a neeps man, I was relieved that the latter were melded in quite nicely with the tatties.

My partner enjoyed her haggis soaked in whisky (hers and mine) and dessert was a typical Scottish affair with oats added to it.



There was more to come. V.W.Bro. Bill Caughie, as is tradition, led the toasts including one to the lassies. His dry humour had the assembled gathering in tucks of laughter as he very bravely inserted a few non woke lady jokes, his wife being present too. We were treated to a fine response by Ena Hanks, in a more controlled and decisive manner. Both speakers poked a little fun at the opposite sex but both firmly acknowledged the need for the presence of “the other half”.

It was a fine way to end this celebration of that unusual figure, Robbie Burns. Now, there was a man. Oh, the raffle raised a significant amount for charity too.

Article and photos by Michael Fenech



Bond of Friendship had a Triple Triple - with a Haggis



Another great day was held at Bond of Friendship Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges at Croydon on Saturday the 18th of January.

The day began with a triple Elevation in the Mark Degree with the Commander, W.Bro. Mark Tatum, and Scribe, W.Bro. Mike Neville, sharing the ritual. A new member, Bro. Wayne Tibbs, gave an exemplary explanation of the Nine Steps.

After a quick change around, the Mark Lodge had a triple Advancement with W.Bro. Mike performing the ritual. More importantly, at his second only Mark meeting, Bro Nick Tamila stepped forward to deliver the Working Tools.

The guests included Bro Nick Burger, the Craft Provincial Grand Master, and his Deputy, W.Bro. Robbie Dobbie.

Following the meeting, a Burns Lunch was held with the haggis led in by the piper, Bro David Creamer, (now a candidate for the lodge!) with W.Bro. Robbie giving a most impressive address to the haggis, before brutally stabbing it!

Some had another triple - as whisky had been provided as gravy.

A fun day for all members and guests. The Master of the Mark, W.Bro. Kevin Morrell, thanked all for attending.



Article and photo by Mike Neville



The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly



The Annual Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Assembly was held on Saturday the 18th of January 2025 at Botley Masonic Centre in Hampshire under the Banner of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Commanders No 1687. Attending the meeting was the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H Prizeman, escorted by W.Bro. Adrian Cleightonhills.



The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Simon Lancaster, and the regular business of the Lodge was completed. While this was taking place the guests of the Province were enjoying tea and coffee in the dining room.

Among the honoured guests there were Provincial Grand Masters of other Provinces and many Heads of other Sussex Orders attending to support the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Hampshire and Isle of Wight.





The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Commanders Lodge was called off and the brethren were called to order to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Provincial Grand Master, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearer.

Annual Assembly was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master.

The Pro Grand Master, accompanied by R.W.Bro. Jonathan Whittaker entered and was welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master. The Pro Grand Master was saluted with eleven under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Grand Master welcomed the honoured guests from other Provinces, as well as other Orders within Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

He then had much pleasure in investing six Brethren with Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Rank, congratulating each recipient personally. He also had pleasure in presenting 40-year certificates to two brethren, as well as several MBF collarettes, thanking the recipients for their support.



The Provincial Grand Master addressed the Brethren. He thanked the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Commanders for once again hosting the Annual Assembly, and all the guests for their support.

He congratulated the brethren who received Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in December, as well as those he had appointed to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank today.

He then invited W.Bro. Ian Small, Assistant Provincial Grand Master to give an update on their MBF Festival and the fund-raising activities planned.

The Provincial Grand Master closed the Assembly of Provincial Royal Ark Mariners, and the Worshipful Commander called on the Installed Commanders Lodge.

The Officers of the Lodge presented an early Scottish working of the degree of Royal Ark Mariner. This most interesting presentation was well received and afterwards the Provincial Grand Master thanked everyone and complemented them on their work.



The Pro Grand Master retired from Annual Assembly, shortly followed by the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Commanders Lodge was closed and after refreshments we went into the dining room for a most enjoyable lunch.





The Provincial Grand Master proposed the toast to the M.W. Pro Grand Master thanking him for coming along and making this a very special meeting for the Brethren of Hampshire and Isle of Wight.



Around the Province

Another food delivery for the needy from Sutton Masonic Hall. Well done Nigel from Croydon Mark Lodge and Stuart from Comites Sigillorum Mark Lodge.



Tony, from Welcome Mark Lodge, and Chris celebrated Australia Day at Sutton Masonic Hall.



Provincial Grand Officers' Mess

A message from our Deputy Provincial Grand Master

Dear Brother,

A Happy New Year and all the best for 2025.

Our Annual Mark Meeting this year will be held at The Croydon Masonic Halls on Saturday 15th March. It is hoped that you will make every effort to attend to support our Provincial Grand Master, the Province, and all those Provincial Grand Officers who will receive Appointment, Promotion, or ProvRAMGR. Please find a booking form on the website: <https://www.surreycompanionorders.com/events-master>



Following soon after the Annual Meeting, the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, requests your presence at an Officers' Mess sponsored event at the Nutfield Masonic Centre on Friday the 28th of March. He sees this as a way welcoming the new Provincial Officers, thanking those who are outgoing and bringing the whole Province together for a Spring celebration. This celebration is not only confined to members of the Surrey Mark, however. It will be a relaxed affair and to that end he hopes that you will bring your wife or partner and friends both Masonic and non-masonic.

There is a three course (pre-chosen) menu, a live singer, a table magician and dancing. We will start at 7.00 p.m. and finish at 10.30 p.m., to keep the weekend free. A booking form can be found on the website <https://www.surreycompanionorders.com/events-master>, please return this to Michael Fenech, the Mess Secretary. If you have any questions, you may contact Michael Fenech on fenech42@btinternet.com

Kind Regards

Bill Barr

Deputy Provincial Grand Master

28th March 2025 at 7pm
Nutfield Masonic Centre, Nutfield, RH1 4ED.



*Surrey Mark Officers Mess
Social Evening*

Three course meal (menu to be chosen in advance)
Music and Entertainment for £38 pp

Mark Masons, Craft and non-masons and their Partners are welcome.

W. Bro. Micheal Fenech at fenech42@btinternet.com

SURREY MARK PROVINCIAL OFFICERS MESS.

A Thank you and Welcome Evening.

Friday 28th March 2025.

Nutfield Masonic Centre, Nutfield Rd, Redhill, RH1 4ED.

Menu for the Event on Friday 28th March 2025.
Meeting at 7.00pm for a 7.30 dining.

Prawn Cocktail **OR** Melon
Classic chicken Provençal with fried baby potatoes and garlic brown butter
OR Beef and Mushroom Pie
Apple Crumble **OR** Cheesecake **OR** Crème Brulee
Tea, Coffee, Mints

(Cheese & Biscuits are as follows at a small extra cost - Instead of dessert - £2.50 - As an extra course - £4.95)

Booking Form.

To returned by Wednesday 12th March 2025.

Dining Fee - £38.00 Per person (excluding wine)

Name: Contact number:
Lodge Name: No:

I will be attending the social evening Y/N and be bringing guests.
Name: Menu Selection:

I have made a direct transfer of funds to the Officers Mess account Y/N
£.....

Bank details should you wish to pay by transfer and set up Standing Order for future payments: Lloyds Bank - Sutton Branch. Account Name: **Surrey Mark Officers Mess.**
Sort code: **30 98 36** Account No: **00618422** Please quote your name as a reference and notify the Mess Secretary.

Or
I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to **Surrey Mark Officers Mess** to cover the dining costs.

Please send the completed form to The Mess Secretary:
Michael Fenech, Heather Cottage, Littleworth Road, The Sands, Farnham, Surrey. GU10 1JW. Mobile: 07801-009-889. email: fenech42@btinternet.com

If you are unable to attend, please email and let me know.
I am unable to attend this event.



The Surrey Mark

Charity Golf Day

Monday 2nd June 2025

**Chobham Golf Club, Chobham Road,
Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2TZ**

Office: 01276 855584

Pro Shop: 01276 855748



To raise funds for The Mark Benevolent Fund

RETURN COMPLETED FORM

By post to:

Nigel Graham: 2 John Ades Close, Ash, Aldershot, Hampshire GU12 6EL

By email to: n.graham123@btinternet.com M: 07976 546355

COST: Full Day - £70.00 | Meal Only - £30.00

Cheques made payable to:
Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund



Payment by Transfer: Please use your name as a reference.
Acc Name: Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund
Sort Code: 30-93-74 **Account No:** 02602788