



## A Message from our Provincial Grand Master

Welcome to Issue 6 of the Surrey Keystone which I hope you are finding to be a useful addition to our Surrey Mark Communications.

September normally marks the start of the Masonic season and Lodge meetings. For some that is the case, for others the time is not yet right. We must all make our own decisions, please be sure that there must be no pressure on anyone to resume Lodge meetings.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find my Address to Provincial Grand Lodge. If you were able to be present, I thank you. To those who were unable to be there, this will provide you with a brief update and I hope you will find a few minutes to read it.

The one exiting piece of news is that to encourage new members as we resume our meetings, the Province will pay the Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge dues for one year for any new member or any Joining member. There has never been a better year in which to join the Mark in Surrey.

If you were unable to be present at the Virtual Business Meeting and missed the opportunity to make a donation to Charity, the links are still open.

By clicking this link you can donate <https://surrey-mark-bonus-ball-online.square.site/surrey-2022-mbf-festival>, or you can text **SURREYMARK2022** to **70300** to make a donation of £5.

I would like to hear what you or your Lodge has been doing during the lock down and since March. In this edition we have a report of the charitable donations of St Andrews Lodge and I feel sure that there are more, please let the Communications team know. This may be individually or from a Lodge.

In Issue 4 in July, I asked for photographs of Surrey taken throughout the four seasons to be used in 2022. I think that our summer has gone and I thank you for the photographs submitted, please keep them rolling in during autumn and winter.

To prevent our ritual becoming rusty there are continuing Lodges of Instruction, including ZOOM - LOI's. W. Bro Bill Barr will be pleased to assist you.

Brethren, keep safe and well. Best wishes, Ian.

## Half Way There!

**1340 Miles to be exact – up to August 2020 . W.Bro. Simon McCarthy is out on the roads of Surrey and Hampshire in support of the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival. His target is 2020 miles by October 2020.**



Over the last few months, we have been following Simon's bike ride via his Strava app. Simon has raised £420 so far towards his target of £2,500. He would welcome any donation, no matter how small, from individuals and Lodges.

*It's easy to donate via Simon's [JustGiving page by clicking here](#)*

## A Special VJ Day for W.Bro. Roy Miller

**The Prince of Wales led a two-minute silence at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, as part of a service of remembrance.**

Veterans of the Burma campaign, their families, and other guests sat on chairs spaced out on the grass between the trees.

Present was Roy Miller, a Burma Star veteran, and a member of Croydon Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.



After speeches from descendants of those who fought, the roar of aircraft engines could be heard overhead. A Lancaster, Hurricane and three Spitfires from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flew over in formation and in tribute.

Those who could stand were invited to do so for a two minute silence. The Prince of Wales then laid a wreath at the Burma Railway Memorial.



Veteran Roy Miller, 96, joined the Royal Navy at the age of 15 and served in the gunnery division onboard the aircraft carrier HMS Indomitable in the Far East.

Prior to VJ Day on being interviewed at home by Sky News, Roy said: "*People often ask if I celebrated when it all ended, but it wasn't joy at all. It was relief. It was an end. It was a feeling of relief that the whole thing was coming to an end and we weren't going to be shot at any more.*"



### Did you know that?

Taiwan is the first country in the world to offer free wifi connectivity to its citizens and all foreign tourists.

Psychology says the people who love black have the most colourful minds

This issue of the **surrey keystone** is a 4 page edition to report on the Virtual Business Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge which took place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## Bonus Ball Update

### Congratulations to the August Bonus Ball winners:



Mike Millership of Northern Heights Lodge, Bill Preston of Richmond Lodge, Croydon Mark Lodge, Ian Parsons of Camberley Lodge, Table Fellowship Mark Lodge, Coulsdon Mark Lodge, Welcome Mark Lodge, Paul Roots of Percy Lodge, Chris Da-Silva-Skinner of Lingfield Lodge, David Ashbolt, Rose Lodge, Oak Tree Mark Lodge, and Peter Russell of Pride of Surrey Lodge. To purchase a ball see: <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/bonus-ball.html>

### Liam's Bellboat

This is the tale of two brothers, Bro. George Campbell, who runs the 2<sup>nd</sup> Crystal Palace Scout Group and his brother Liam.

On March the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020, the Campbell family heard the devastating news that Liam had Non-Curative Cell Cancer and was given 3 months to live without palliative treatment.

However due to treatment at the Royal Marsden Liam has been given a few months of extra time, of which he intended to make the most of by raising money for disabled children.



Liam's aim was to raise £5,000 to buy a Bell Boat. This is a twin canoe which allows disabled children with suitably trained adults to experience the joys of canoeing. Here is where George comes in; his Scout Group has access to a lake and trained personnel for such a boat.

Liam planned a 5km walk to raise the money. The fund was growing quickly, so Liam upped the challenge to £6,000.

On Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> August Liam, along with friends and family, completed 5 laps around South Norwood Lake, the equivalent of 5 km, an enormous feat for someone so ill.

As a result of Liam's efforts the Fund stands at a little over £6,000, the boat has been ordered and George hopes to launch it in early October, which we are all hoping Liam will make.



Why is this in the Surrey Keystone you may ask? The Surrey Mark Province, along with quite a few individual Masons, on hearing of Liam's task generously donated to the fund. Also, Bro. George, who is not yet a Mark Mason, and Liam, who is not a Mason, have both played cricket for Surrey Mark in the past.



Here is Bro. George after having his head shaved to raise funds.

Bro. George was due to be Advanced into HA Mann Lodge 1197 before the Suspension of all Masonic Activities. This of course will be sorted as soon as we are able.

*Article by Simon Polkinghorne*

### The Covid-19 efforts of St Andrews Lodge

The Brethren of St Andrews Mark Lodge just missed their last meeting of the season by only a week or two. Did that mean that they were to stop till October? No!

The Almoner and Secretary undertook to contact members regularly to make sure they were all well and healthy. They meet once a fortnight on Zoom with over half the membership taking part. There have been many smiles and much banter only cut short by lack of time or impending football on TV. Spirits are in high in St Andrews 806.

They then started looking for where they could make a difference. Some bright spark had the idea that as they had missed a meeting where they would have paid for a meal plus a charity column and a raffle, they could make a personal donation with the sum being given to a local charity. The members were very generous and raised quite a considerable amount.

They gave a donation to the local parish church, The Church of the Good Shepherd, in The Sands,. The chapel serves as a meeting place for the more senior people of the village and helps maintain the village atmosphere.

The cheque was presented by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Brian Tout.



They also made a sizeable donation to the Farnham Food Bank as they wanted the money to go to the local residents in need. The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice has looked after members who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above and the relatives of our members and so also received part of their charitable giving.



As several of the members of the Lodge have family members of a young age they wanted to donate to a suitable charity. They chose Shooting Star Children's Hospice and sent them a donation.

The new season will soon be upon us. St Andrews Lodge will keep ZOOMING and preparing for our set of new, albeit different, meetings. Keep smiling Surrey Mark Masons and come and visit us if you can find your way to Farnham. The Fourth Thursday in October is their first meeting - but not too many of you at the moment!!!

*Article by Michael Fenech*





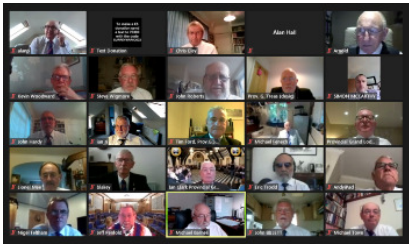
# the surrey keystone

## Virtual Business Meeting

### A Special Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge

Due to the suspension of Masonic activity the March 2020 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey had to be suspended.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the Province held a Virtual Business Meeting using the Zoom video conferencing tool.



Attending the meeting was the Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro. Ian N Clark, G.M.R.A.C., the members of the Provincial Executive, and a good number of Surrey Brethren.

By 7.00 p.m. over 100 Brethren had joined the meeting. The Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro. Ian N Clark, declared the meeting open and welcomed all present.

The Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Tim Ford, read the Permission to hold a Provincial Virtual Business Meeting.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved by the Brethren.



W.Bro. Ray Seeley was declared duly elected Treasurer. The Provincial Grand Treasurer presented the Provincial Accounts for the year ending 31st August 2019 which were approved by the Brethren.

The Provincial Grand Master had much pleasure in announcing that the Lodge judged to have best supported the Provincial Benevolent Fund during the past financial year was Crystal Palace Lodge No.450 who will be the recipient of the embroidered Scrip Purse.

The next item was to confirm Provincial Appointments and Promotions. The Provincial Grand Master asked the Provincial Grand Secretary to read the names of the Brethren appointed to and promoted in Provincial Grand Rank; following which the Provincial Grand Master congratulated those who received appointment or promotion in the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey.



The Provincial Grand Master addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. Following the Provincial Grand Master's Address the Provincial Grand Secretary reported that that he had received

apologies from a number of Brethren of the Province, all of whom wished the Provincial Grand Master a most successful day and their best wishes for the future.

The Provincial Grand Master thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

### The Provincial Grand Master's Address to Provincial Grand Lodge

Brethren it is now my pleasure to address Provincial Grand Lodge for the seventh time.

I have said already that this is for us all an unprecedented



time, a Masonic Order banned from holding meetings. We are now able to hold meetings and I have been to three; two Mark Installations and one Royal Ark Mariner Installation.

I am acutely aware that for some the time is not right and each of us must make our own decisions. The Masonic Centres that are open have done their utmost to ensure the safety of our

members and the safety of the staff at the centres. They are pleased to see us return and the members attending the meetings, personally I have been pleased to be back meeting in a safe environment. I cannot be clearer in saying however that there is no pressure on anyone or any Lodge to return to actual meetings.

It is my pleasure to see so many Mark Brethren attending this Virtual ZOOM Annual Meeting. I thank you all for your support.

During the last year, prior to March, we have held many regular social events and my hope is that they can resume in some form soon. I was particularly pleased to see Croham Hurst Lodge get into full swing last year and I thank the members for their support. The Lodge has had two Advancements and has another candidate waiting. The Craft Lodge and the Golf Club have made us extremely welcome and I look forward to the future.

It is inevitable that there will be some change each year in every Province and this year is no exception. VW.Bro. Richard Baker has served in an active capacity in the Province for 20 years continuously, in various offices. Richard, I enjoyed working with you as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and when I became Provincial Grand Master I was pleased that you accepted my invitation to become one of my Assistants and then two years later the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Your energy, zeal and commitment to the Order are an example to us all. I thank you most sincerely for the support and advice that you have given me through thick and thin over the last six years. We have had some fun times together and have travelled the width and breadth of the country together visiting other Provinces. I will always be grateful to you.

In 2015 W.Bro. David Else accepted my invitation to chair the Festival Committee dedicated to raising funds for the MBF and our Festival in 2022. It was a tall order; we knew it would be a challenge given the somewhat unexpected circumstances.

Your energy and commitment were unquestionable and I thank you. You felt that with just over two years to the Festival a fresh pair of eyes, someone with new ideas should see us through to the Festival finale. I thank you and your wife Jenny for the hard work you have put into the Festival.

In March I appointed W.Bro. John Massey to take on this role and he has had a baptism of fire. John, I thank you and your team for all that you are doing.

In July at Nutfield we held the countdown to the Festival and on the same evening handed over the keys of a support vehicle to St John Ambulance. They bought along the Ambulance that had been presented to them by the MBF nearly twenty years previously and which is still in regular use today, your money well spent.

The Festival is now less than two years away, to be precise it is **661 days** away. You have heard me say, but it is worth repeating “this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for all of us, as any Province only has the privilege of hosting an MBF Festival approximately every 35 years”. At the launch I asked you to consider a drip drip approach to giving, by continuous giving, with the expectation that “mighty oaks from small acorns grow”. It is now time to turn the tap from a drip to a gentle flow. Overall we need to increase the amounts that are being given, as lack of meetings and Installation meetings has impacted on our giving.

A fun way of donating is through the Bonus Ball, we currently have three games running each week and I thank W.Bro. John Fitzgerald for the hard work he has put into this successful fundraiser, together with the members and Lodges who have signed up. In the last year we had a Clay Pigeon Shoot, a Golf Day, a Curry Lunch, a Family BBQ, together with our show piece Annual Dinner Dance- the Cha Di Da, which for 2020 was postponed and will hopefully be held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021. W.Bro. Alan Brockwell would be pleased to hear from you if you would like to join the party. My thanks to all the organisers of these events.

The swimathon is on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020. More swimmers would be welcomed, particularly from the South of the Province. I thank W.Bro. Mike Neville for organising this event and always ensuring that we have lots of sponsorship. From personal experience I can tell you that your sponsorship means so much, pounding up and down the pool as the arms and legs begin to tire and being aware of the need to earn that sponsorship.

Once again I raise my hat to W.Bro. Kevin Woodward on his magnificent achievement, not only reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro but on the magnificent sum that he raised for the Mark Benevolent Fund. I look forward to thanking him personally on behalf of the MBF. Similarly to W.Bro. Simon McCarthy who is now over half way to cycling 2020 miles on the roads of Surrey and Hampshire, and would appreciate your sponsorship.

I mentioned in the last copy of the Surrey Keystone that in more than one Lodge members had made donations which were the equivalent of the cost of a Festive Board and a donation to the Charity Box to charity. I appreciate that this isn't possible for everyone and for every Lodge but I ask you to consider it. The Mark Benevolent needs the funds we raise to continue to support our Brethren and their families who find themselves in distressed circumstances.

My ambition at the end of this Festival was for every Lodge to reach Grand Patron Gold patronage of the Mark Benevolent Fund. The Surrey Installed Mark Masters Lodge has exceeded that and is a Diamond Patron Lodge, my congratulations to the Charity Steward and all the members of the Lodge. There are 8 Lodges who have achieved Grand Patron Gold patronage of the MBF. My thanks to them all.

The end of Festival dinner will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022, at Effingham. Brethren let us ensure that we reach a total of which we are all proud.

On the recruitment front my challenge to the Master of every Lodge has been to find a candidate for your Lodge during your year. Because we are living in difficult times, I am now able to announce that the Province will pay the Mark Registration fees and the Provincial dues for every new member of a Mark Lodge.

Brethren, there has never been a better time to become a Mark Master Mason in Surrey or for anyone to join another Lodge in the Province. This will be for a period of twelve months and I am looking for every Lodge to recruit two new members. Please look to your Craft and Royal Arch friends, talk to them about your enjoyment of this beautiful degree, and give them a copy of the tri fold leaflet.

We have also produced a booklet – **The Progressive Orders in Freemasonry in Surrey** which is available and should be presented to every newly Exalted Companion in the Holy Royal Arch when he receives his Grand Chapter Certificate. I hope these initiatives will help us all recruit suitable Mark Master Masons.

Brethren, lockdown brought its challenges to us all. In March, around the scheduled time for our Annual meeting the Provincial Executive got together to discuss our strategy when all Masonic meetings ceased. We put our priorities on the welfare of our members and communication with the membership and developed several tactics to deal with this. I have been particularly pleased with our success on both fronts.

W.Bro Richard Knox and his Communication team have been working hard to improve our different means of communication. We have produced a monthly newsletter, the Surrey Keystone, to keep everyone up to date with activity in the Province, a Facebook page and Twitter account. If you have not yet signed up to these please join us in the fun.

Today would have been the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge at which those Brethren being promoted in Grand Rank would have been invested at Freemasons Hall and many of us would have been there to congratulate them.

This year has been a particularly successful one for the Province. Sadly our congratulations today are, as they were for the first appointments in June, from a distance.

However I am sure that you would join me in offering congratulations to VW.Bro. Chris Eley who was promoted to the active rank of Grand Junior Overseer in June; W.Bro. Paul Wicking who became a Grand Steward; W.Bros. Bill Barr, Peter Unwin, Adrian Kidney and Tim Ford to Past Grand Junior Deacon; W.Bros. Simon McCarthy and David Lawrence to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; W.Bro. Phil Clare to Past Assistant Grand Sword Bearer; and W.Bros. Barrie Selway and Harry Smith to Past Grand Standard Bearers.

Last December the MW Grand Master appointed to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank W.Bros. Frank Lee, Leslie Grout, Richard White and Paul Wicking. We were able to congratulate and celebrate with them and, on your behalf; I congratulate them again and thank them for their contribution to the Royal Ark Mariner Degree.

Brethren, throughout the year I have received tremendous support from my Deputies, my Assistants, the Provincial Grand Secretary, all members of the Secretariat, and all of the Active officers of the year. I thank you all for your support to me, the Executive and the Lodges. To my representatives in making their visits to the Lodges and whose work is essential to the well running of the Province, my thanks to you all.

Brethren it is my hope that our Annual meeting in 2021 will be held at Croydon Masonic Hall, until then may the GOOTU keep you safe and well.

***RW.Bro. Ian N Clark, G.M.R.A.C., Provincial Grand Master***