



Grand Lodge



On Tuesday the 10th of June Mark Brethren from around the world filled the Grand Temple in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, to capacity for the June 2025 Communication and Annual Investiture meeting.

As is now the usual custom, the Surrey Mark Brethren met up in the Shakespeare's Head in Kingsway for refreshments before the meeting.





Presiding was M.W.Bro. John Prizeman, Pro Grand Master, who entered in procession to great applause and took his chair in the East.



After the initial items of Grand Lodge business had been conducted, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.W.Bro. Chris Davies, calling the Brethren to order, Proclaimed in all his styles and titles the Grand Master for the ensuing year before to offer the customary salute. The Grand Secretary announced the re-appointments of M.W.Bro. John Prizeman, Pro Grand Master; R.W.Bro. Francis Spencer, Deputy Grand Master; and R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan Wilson, Assistant Grand Master, before they were individually proclaimed and saluted.

Following this, over 200 Brethren were announced as being recipients of Active Grand Rank or first appointment to Past Grand Rank, and those present were each invested by the Pro Grand Master, with a warm, fraternal handshake and some kind words of personal congratulations.

These included R.W.Bro. Peter Rubie-Todd who was appointed as Grand Junior Warden; R.W. Bro. Ian Clark to President of the Mark Benevolent Fund; W.Bro. John Fitzgerald to Grand Steward; W.Bro. Constantine Trizis to Grand Steward (through London); W.Bro Martin Baker to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; W.Bro Frank Lee to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; and W.Bro Levon Agulian to Past Grand Standard Bearer (though London).





The Pro Grand Master then delivered an Address to the assembled Brethren. There being no other business to conduct, the Pro Grand Master closed Grand Lodge and retired in procession to welcome the many visitors from overseas and other distinguished guests at a drinks reception before moving through to the Grand Connaught Rooms to dine.





The four dining rooms were also filled to capacity with over 1,030 Brethren dining. As the afternoon progressed, it fell to W.Bro. Prof. Mark Sharp, President of the 2024/2025 Board of Mark Grand Stewards, to propose the Toast to the Grand Master. He paid tribute to the Grand Master's dedication to service and the betterment of humanity, his charitable work and Grand Presidency of the Mark Benevolent Fund, and his leadership and inspiration through Freemasonry.

The Pro Grand Master then responded, thanking W.Bro. Sharp for his kind words, and the Board of Grand Stewards for their patronage of the Grand Festival Dinner, before moving on to propose the Toast to the Board of Grand Stewards 2024/2025.

Lastly, W.Bro. Martin Johnson, Treasurer of the Board of Grand Stewards had the honour of replying. He thanked the Pro Grand Master, expressing how much it had meant to him and his fellow Board members to serve the Grand Master and Grand Lodge as Grand Stewards of the year, and wished the newly appointed Grand Stewards the same enjoyment and success in their year.

With the speeches finished and dinner plates cleared, the Pro Grand Master retired from the dining room to appreciative applause and the Mark Brethren made their way home, some stopping for further refreshment along the way, and with many commenting on what a thoroughly enjoyable day it had been.

Our congratulations to all those who received preferment in Grand Rank and our thanks to everyone who came to support the meeting. If you weren't able to join us this year, we hope to see you next year.



Provincial Grand Officers Mess

The Surrey Mark Provincial Officers' Mess Evening was held at Nutfield on Friday the 28th of March 2025.



Ah well, here goes thought I, as I drove my lovely Anne and Barrie to Nutfield. It was a slightly slow journey especially at the M25 interchange and it gave me an opportunity to think about what was ahead for me that evening.



We had a no show the previous year but this evening promised to be extra special. We had some seventy-four guests booked for the Right Worshipful Master to greet.

He had expressed a wish to say thanks to those who had supported the executive over the past year, and he also wanted to congratulate those who had been asked to accompany the executive over the next masonic season. He got his wish in a stunning setting, beautifully prepared by Robin Illott and his staff.



Me, I was nervous. I had only ever prepared a festive board for my bijou, St Andrews Lodge No 806. Would it all go well? Would every one receive what they had ordered several weeks ago? Would Ray get his meat cut? Would the food be of an acceptable standard? What about the vegans? Had I ordered enough cheese boards?

There was nothing to worry about! People arrived in good time, and we gathered in the bar. There was a very pleasant atmosphere with good conversation and of course our very own Mark camaraderie. There were lots of familiar faces, many tales to tell and the drink was quickly served. Time passed quite quickly and I was pleased to put faces to names I had only seen on a spreadsheet. There were a gathering of Clarks and a swarm of Smiths. An OBE was there and a lady who had been honoured with an

MBE. Sadly, I was too busy to find out the details. I did meet George, a prestidigitator of high skill legerdemain and a mason to boot. He was a very jolly and happy person who, even in the overcrowded confines of the bar area, brought many a smile and gasps of unbelief as he worked the tables. Then we had to go into the dining area for our dining experience.

This was such a pretty place, beautifully laid out and immaculately presented. I must thank my better half at this point for the lit floral decorations. They looked even more attractive when the lights were dimmed! We were then treated to a very good and very reasonably priced four course meal which also took into consideration the requirements of those with particular dietary needs. Well done, Nutfield.

I enjoyed a breast of chicken, and my partner thoroughly enjoyed her beef and ale pie. The cheesecake was my dessert preference, but a cheeseboard was available for a small extra price. The whole dining experience was enhanced by George and his sleight of hand bringing many a smile to a lovely meal. Afterwards, we had a singer who regaled us with the tunes of yesteryear. I did ask myself how I managed to remember those words after all this time. He had a lovely voice and brought back many a happy memory.

Our Provincial Grand Master delivered a genuine set of words and thanked all those who had helped or were about to help in supporting the executive. Then followed the raffle and hand went up when a BMW was raised as a prize.....a kiddy car!!

Nevertheless, with the help of Bernie and Paulo and a lot of green raffle tickets, we galloped through some twenty prizes and is so doing raised several hundred pounds, thanks to the generosity of a very well-meaning bunch of Mark men, their wives and partners and many, many friends. Others took to the bar while a few of us managed the dance floor.

What a lovely evening! What a relief!

Thanks to Michael Fenech

Comites Sigillorum Lodge



Our Provincial Grand Master invited us to the men of seals (a loose translate of their Lodge name) in Croydon. I quite enjoy Latin which I took at A Level. Not my favourite place but at least we got a lift in a fascinating vehicle on a fine day in May.

I have to say that I was very impressed by the Lodge setting as I was due to give a presentation on the life of George Portal, founder of the Mark Benevolent Fund. It was the first time I had entered a lodge to find it all laid out for a presentation. I had no need for my projector or screen as both had been set up with me only having to plug in the HDMI lead into my laptop, and it all worked! My thanks to the staff at the Croydon centre.



We started with a Royal Ark Mariners business meeting presided over by W.Bro. George Rodger and soon progressed to the Mark meeting. Our Provincial Grand Master was in the chair and he greeted all guests in his usual, very friendly manner, making me feel more at ease, well sort of! I had not presented the life of this founder of the Mark Benevolent Fund for a few years, and I was hoping that it would be well received especially bearing in mind that R.W.Bro. John French was the Worshipful Master.



There was some dozen or so brethren in attendance and we were accorded the usual Mark friendly greeting. The friendly atmosphere in the Lodge did give me some confidence and I embarked on the life of this very amazing man. Briefly, George Portal, friend of the fourth Earl Carnarvon, was a descendant of the equerry to Louis the XIV, the Sun King. His family had fled persecution in France and settled just outside Basingstoke where they founded a printing company.

They eventually produced bank notes for the Bank of England and although the business is no longer in existence, it can be still visited.

There are many connections which have been carefully preserved by the current owners, Diageo, for the visitor to view. And you can enjoy a drink of Blue Sapphire if you so wish. I have visited twice.

The end line is that now, after discussion with the Mark Benevolent Board, through our very own R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, and supported by Hampshire Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Deacon, an agreement has been reached that the resting place of Rev G. Portal will be maintained in All Saints Church at Burghclere well into the future.

So that was it. I presented the life of George Portal, received warm congratulations from our Provincial Grand Master and the Lodge members were very encouraging at the end of the presentation.

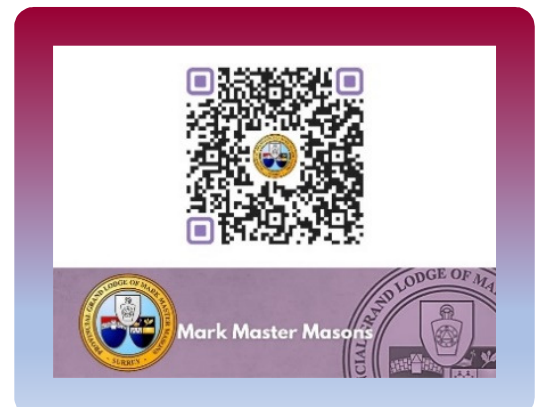
Off to the Festive board we went, and I was given my favourite melon for starter, enjoyed a well-seasoned, beautifully prepared chicken and all the trimmings and managed to be the recipient of a rather appetising piece of cheesecake. A good red wine was served with our food and my company consisted of a very interesting set of members. One who had been born in Singapore, one possessed an American passport and opposite me sat a brother with Caribbean heritage. And, of course, my very good friend, W.Bro. Barrie Selway.



The journey home was typical of a visit to Croydon. I always seem to visit and leave Croydon by a different way and this was no exception. I was assured that the most appropriate route had been chosen!

Thanks to Michael Fenech

**Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark
Master Masons of Surrey web site:
www.SurreyMark.com**



Richmond Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners

The installation meeting of the Richmond Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 808 was held at Surbiton on Monday the 7th of April.



The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W. Bro. Roger Tutton, who welcomed everyone, especially our visitors.

The Worshipful Commander invited W. Bro. Chris Eley to act as Senior Warden, W. Bro. Andrew Banks to act as Junior Warden and W. Bro. Mike Ellis to act as Guardian.



Bro. Roger Tutton installed Bro. Nick Butterworth as Worshipful Commander for the ensuing year in a most sincere manner, with the assistance of W. Bro. Garth Blanchard.

After the Worshipful Commander had appointed his Officers and invested those present the Address to the Worshipful Commander was given by W. Bro. Chris Eley.

A Grand Lodge Certificate was presented to Bro. James Agnew by W. Bro. Chris Eley in a very personal manner.





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



Suitably refreshed we made our way into the Crescent Room for a most enjoyable Royal Ark Mariner festive board. Richmond Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners is one of only a few RAM Lodges that hold a separate RAM installation meeting so the new Commander, as well as any candidates, can fully enjoy and appreciate this beautiful degree.



Nigel's Nijmegen Walk

W.Bro. Nigel Feltham of Croydon Mark Lodge will be taking part in the famous Nijmegen Walk from the 15th to the 18th of July to raise funds for the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance.



The International Four Day Marches Nijmegen, or in Dutch, *Internationale Vierdaagse Afstandsmarsen Nijmegen*, is the largest multiple day marching event in the world. It is organised every year in Nijmegen, Netherlands in mid-July as a means of promoting sport and exercise. Participants walk 19 miles, 25 miles, or 31 miles daily, depending on their age and gender and, on completion, receive a royally approved medal, Vierdaagsekrans.

The participants are mostly civilians, but there are also a few thousand military participants. The military participants' distance is 40 km, in uniform, carrying at least 10 kg (22 lb) marching weight for men aged 18–49; for women, the weight is optional.



Nigel says, *"This will be my 10th Nijmegen March and each year I do it for charity."*

The last two years I walked for the Prostate Project as they were raising funds for a 'Man Van' - a mobile Unit to do PSA testing.

Last year I raised funds for it to be kitted out and become operational.

You can support Nigel by giving directly using his justgiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/nigel-feltham-5>



The Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS), saves lives when every second counts.

They are a team of skilled, sector-leading experts responding to over 3,300 incidents annually across Kent, Surrey, and Sussex. And they can reach any location within 30 minutes.

Their helicopters are flying emergency rooms. Whether it's on the road, beach, or park, they get there, fast bringing specialised doctors, paramedics and treatment to those who need it most.



MARK MASTER MASONS INTER PROVINCE CRICKET MATCH

Surrey-Sussex-Kent-Middlesex

10am
Start



ON SITE

BEER TENT

- CHARITY
RAFFLE

- STALLS

SUNDAY
13th JULY

The Warr
Croydon
Haye
Bro
K

A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT!

ENTRY BY PROGRAMME Contact:

W.Bro. David Lawrence David@backtolife.co.uk

Bond of Friendship Lodge & Allied 64

The First Mark & Allied

Ladies Night

22nd August 2025



Glenmore House, The Crescent, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4BN

(Lots of Free Parking at rear)

7pm for 7.30pm

Bucks Fizz (on arrival)

3 Course Meal

Ladies Gift

Raffle

Disco & Dancing until Midnight

£65 pp

Dress: Men Black tie, Ladies Ball Gown / Cocktail Dress

RWBro John French, PGM will be in attendance



Surrey Mark Cha Di Da 2025

Double Room
£129

B & B (optional)

£63
pp



DINNER

Arrival
6.30pm
for 7pm

Carriages
Midnight

Dance Party

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER
Reigate Manor Hotel - Reigate Hill

Dancing: Ricky Zalex (West End Stage Singer) + Alan Lovell (Swinging Blue Jeans)

3 Course Meal • Charity Raffle • Party Surprises

Contact: W.Bro Alan Brockwell - e: brockers01@icloud.com

t: 01737 557997 m: 07868 657276

See website for details - booking form - menu choices