



# the surrey keystone

Issue 68 - AUGUST 2025

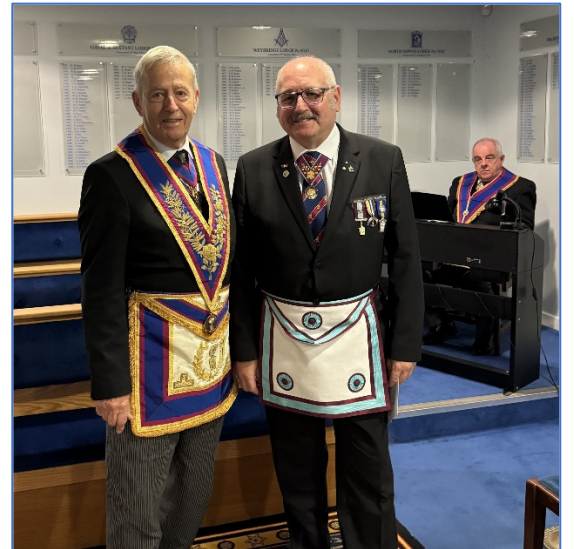
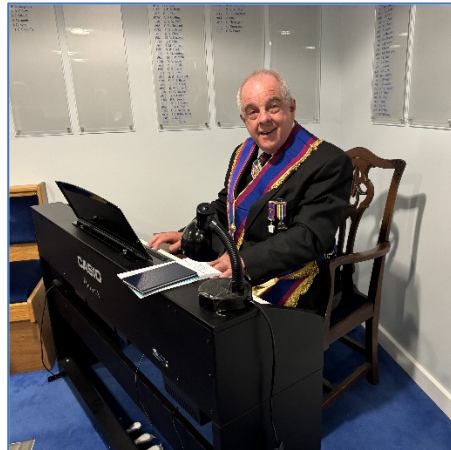
## Loyalty Lodge of Mark Master Masons The Almoners Lodge



Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of July was a truly special and rare event in the life of our Province, the Reponement of Loyalty Lodge No. 914, which took place at the Guildford Masonic Centre. This distinguished ceremony, led by our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, marked the renewal and rededication of Loyalty Lodge, with a heartfelt emphasis on the Almoner's role, a symbol of our enduring commitment to compassion, care, and brotherly support.



While most of us were having coffee in the lounge and catching up with old friends the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team were busy rehearsing in the Temple.



The RW Provincial Grand Master opened a Lodge of Mark Master Masons to formally bring the Loyalty Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.914 out of Abyeance.

A Dispensation was read by the Provincial Grand Secretary for the Installation of the Worshipful Master Designate and the appointment and investiture of the Senior and Junior Wardens Designate.

The RW Provincial Grand Master installed W.Bro. John Coleman, Worshipful Master Designate, as Worshipful Master of the Loyalty Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.914.

V.W.Bro. David Blackburn was invested as Senior Warden and W.Bro. Garth Blanchard was invested as Junior Warden. A ballot was taken for Joining Members and Honorary Members of the Lodge. The Officers for the year 2025/26 were then appointed and invested.

V.W.Bro. David Blackburn was declared Worshipful Master for the ensuing year and W.Bro. Barrie Selway was declared Treasurer.



The Lodge was closed and the Brethren of Loyalty Lodge of Mark Master Masons and their guests retired for refreshments before sitting down to an enjoyable meal together at the South West Surrey Masonic Centre.



# The Role of the Lodge Almoner

*“One of the most important offices in the Lodge”*

## 👉 The Heart of the Lodge

An Almoner’s duty is more than a title.

It’s about:

- Staying in touch with every Brother.
- Checking in on their wellbeing.
- Offering comfort, support, and connection.
- Reminding them that their presence matters.



## Your Guiding Principles as Almoners

### **A** is for Awareness

Stay aware of every Brother’s situation, both in joy and in difficulty. Stay vigilant. Be aware of who is present—and who is missing. Notice changes. Reach out when something feels off. It would be helpful to be aware of the Craft Charity and the MBF and what they can do and what they deliver

### **L** is for Listening

Be a Brother who hears, not just one who speaks.

Offer a quiet space where someone can be truly heard. Lend a sympathetic ear to those who may need to talk or simply be heard. Please remember not only to listen and hear but also understand.

### **M** is for Mentorship

Encourage newer members. Guide and support newer members, encouraging participation and growth. Help them find their place, their voice, their purpose.

## O is for Outreach

If a Brother is absent, check in. Let them know: *"You are missed. You are valued."* Reach out to absent Brethren with compassion and care, reminding them they are missed.

## N is for Nurture

Foster a spirit of unity. Strengthen bonds of friendship and brotherly love. Foster a sense of belonging, unity, and brotherly love within the lodge.

## E is for Empathy

Step into another's shoes. Feel what they feel, and respond with warmth. Understand and share the feelings of others, offering genuine support.

## R is for Respect

Honour the dignity of every Brother—  
Whether present, absent, struggling, or thriving.

## S is for Service

True leadership is service.  
Be the hand that helps and the heart that heals.

## Lead by Example

- Set a kind and caring tone in your Lodge
- Support and guide fellow Almoners in their duties
- Uphold the values of compassion and community.

Confidentiality is also a key quality and remember you will always have the support of the Provincial Grand Almoner who will help with any confidential matters.

By offering help, support, and assistance, we build a stronger, more compassionate Brotherhood.

**Set a good example** to other lodge almoners and be a beacon of care and connection.

And always remember:

**We are all almoners** — each of us has the power to care for our Brethren.

## A Gentle Reminder

"We are all Almoners."

Whether appointed or not, each of us shares in the responsibility to care for, support, and uplift our Brethren.

## Final Words of Encouragement

- Let your actions speak of love.
- Let your care build trust.
- Let your service inspire others.

## As Almoners, you are the heart of the Lodge.

Keep it beating strong—with kindness, compassion, and brotherly love. Treat each Brother with dignity, regardless of circumstances or time away.

In Freemasonry the Almoner's Heart refers to the jewel worn by the Lodge Almoner, which is a representation of a script purse with a heart on it. This symbol signifies the Almoner's role in caring for the needy members of the Lodge and their families, with a focus on providing support and assistance. The Almoner's heart jewel is a visual reminder of the Almoner's charitable duties and their commitment to the well-being of the Lodge's members.



# Fratres Calami Aerariique

## The Surrey Mark Secretaries, Treasurers, and DCs Lodge.



The Installation meeting of the Fratres Calami Aerariique Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1704 was held at Surbiton on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2025.



The Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood, **P.G.St.B.**, opened the Lodge and welcomed the members and guests. A Dispensation was read by the Secretary for a change of meeting location, and the minutes were approved

W.Bro. Michael Prentive, **P.G.St.B.** was presented to W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood by the Director of Ceremonies. W.Bro. Michael recited his Obligation; a Board of Installed Masters was opened; and W.Bro. Bernie installed W.Bro. Michael into the Chair of Fratres Calami Aerariique Lodge of Mark Master Masons in a very sincere and personal manner.

The Address to the Master was given by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley; to the Wardens by W.Bro. Paul Wicking; to the Overseers by W.Bro. David Lawrence; and to the Brethren by R.W.Bro. Ian Clark. The Officers of the Lodge were then appointed and invested.

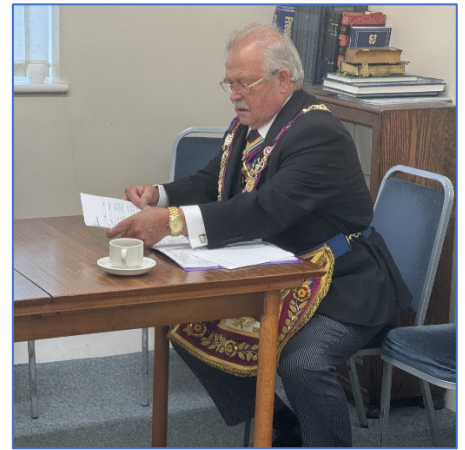
After the regular business of the Lodge had been concluded the Lodge was closed and we all retired to the bar for some refreshments before going into the dining room for a most convivial meal.





## The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Mark Promotions Meeting

The Promotions meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and Isle of Wight was held on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2025 at Botley Masonic Centre in Hampshire under the Banner of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Masters No 1687. I have never seen the Temple so full, with over 150 Brethren attending the meeting.



The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master 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 guests was our Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H Prizeman; the Provincial Grand Master of Surrey, R.W.Bro. John French; and many Heads of other 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 Mark Masters 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. Provincial Grand Lodge 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, W.Bro. Adrian Cleightonhills, Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

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 several Brethren with Provincial Grand Rank, congratulating each recipient personally.

He also had much pleasure in presenting several MBF collarettes, including one Grand Patron Diamond collarette, thanking the recipients for their support for the MBF.



The Pro Grand Master addressed the Brethren. In his address, he said it was very encouraging to see so many Brethren filling the Masonic Hall, and he was pleased to come in with R.W.Bro. Jonathan Whittaker the Provincial Grand Master of the Craft.

He congratulated all those who received promotion in Provincial Grand Rank today. He said that the theme of the year is inheritance, and that we've all done well to embrace this.

We have recovered from the pandemic years and are working well with our colleagues in the Craft, reminding everyone that, "We are all in it together".

He ended by wishing everyone every success for their 2026 festival before retiring from Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master addressed the Brethren. He thanked the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Installed Mark Masters Lodge for Hosting the meeting.

He said that the attendance was truly remarkable and thanked the R.W. Brethren, Guests and Heads of Orders and their representatives for attending to give great support to the Meeting. He congratulated those Brethren who he had promoted this year.

The Membership of the Mark in this Province is increasing slightly, and he reminded the Brethren that their recruitment comes from the Craft, including the Royal Arch. He said that they are so fortunate to have such a wonderful relationship with the Craft, Royal Arch, and the Companions Orders, and long may it continue.

Their fund raising for the 2026 MBF Festival is gathering speed and he outlined the various Fund raising events that had taken place, and those planned in the future. He congratulated those Brethren who received Grand Rank in June, as well as those receiving promotion in September, and closed by thanking all those whose hard work has ensured a very successful and enjoyable day.



Provincial Grand Lodge was closed and the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers retired in procession.



The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Installed Mark Masters 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.

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**

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See website for details - booking form - menu choices