



A Christmas Message from our Provincial Grand Master



Brethren all

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas and prepare to welcome a healthy and joyful 2026, I extend to you all my warmest fraternal greetings.

The closing of the year invites us to pause and reflect upon the good fortune, opportunities, and shared experiences that 2025 has brought. Whether through moments of celebration, personal achievements, or the simple privilege of fellowship, we have much to be thankful for. Let us hold these blessings close as we look ahead with optimism.

In doing so, we are also reminded of one of our most valued duties within our beloved Order—the importance of serving a friend or Brother in their time of need. The gift of giving, whether through a caring gesture, a listening ear, or a moment of tender kindness, remains one of the most powerful expressions of our Masonic values. These acts of compassion are never insignificant; they enrich the lives of others and strengthen the bonds that unite us as Mark Master Masons.

As we enter the New Year, may we continue to spread a message of hope, comfort, and goodwill to all. Let us remain mindful of those who may be facing challenges or loneliness and extend to them the warmth of our friendship and support. In doing so, we uphold the true spirit of our Order and help ensure that no Brother walks his path alone.

Brethren, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas filled with peace, warmth, and happiness. May 2026 bring you good health, joy, and every opportunity to flourish in your Masonic journey and in your daily lives.

With fraternal regards and sincere good wishes for the year ahead, mark well.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

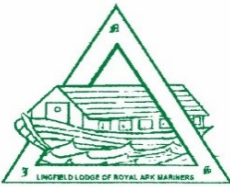


R.W.Bro. John Vaughan Christopher French
Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey

A Double Advancement at Lingfield Lodge



Friday the 21st of November was a busy day for the Brethren of Lingfield Lodge with a short business meeting in the RAM and a double Advancement in the Mark. Plus, they received their Visiting Officer, W.Bro. Alan Whiddett, Prov.R.A.M.G.R.



The Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Christopher Da-Silva Skinner, Prov.R.A.M.G.R, who welcomed everyone, especially their Visiting Officer, hoping that everyone has an enjoyable afternoon.



W.Bro. Alan was saluted with three under the Direction of the Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Michael Flynn, Prov.R.A.M.G.R.



After the business had been concluded the Lodge was closed and the Temple re-arranged for the Mark meeting.



The Lingfield Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Christopher Da-Silva Skinner, who again welcomed everyone, especially their Visiting Officer. W.Bro. Alan Whiddett, Prov.G.Insp.Wks., was saluted with three under the Direction of the Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Michael Flynn, Prov.G.St.B., and responded accordingly.

The main item on the agenda was to ballot for Brothers Kenneth Mark Cottingham and Vivek Das. The ballot proved in their favour and the Worshipful Master invited W.Bro. Mike Flynn to conduct the first part of the Ceremony. V.W.Bro. Chris Eley acted as Senior Deacon and W.Bro. Bob Soper as Junior Deacon.

The ceremony of Advancement was conducted in an excellent manner by W.Bro. Mike, who invited W.Bro. John Beer to take the Chair and conduct the second half of the Ceremony.



Afterwards Brothers Mark and Vivek congratulated by the Worshipful Master and the Visiting Officer, who wished them many happy years in our Order.



The Lodge was closed and after refreshments in the bar the Brethren of Lingfield Lodge and their guests sat down to an enjoyable meal together at the Nutfield Masonic Centre.



A special meeting of Ditton RAM Lodge



Wednesday the 27th of November was another very special day for the Spevack family. Not only was Adam's son, Oscar, being Elevated into the Degree of Royal Ark Mariner with Bro. Michael Holohan, but our Assistant Provincial Grand Master and other senior Brethren were there to enjoy the ceremony.



The afternoon started with the Royal Ark Mariner meeting. The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Adam Spevack, Oscar's father, who welcomed everyone, especially the guests, hoping they would enjoy the afternoon. W.Bro Gary Raggett acted as Senior Warden and W.Bro. Chris Eley and Ian Doy as Junior Warden.



A ballot was taken as Candidates for Elevation: Bro. Oscar Jonathan Spevack and Bro. Michael Gerald Holohan, both Advanced in Ditton Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 1857.

The ballot proved in their favour and Bro. Oscar was introduced, perambulated and obligated. He was sat down while Bro. Michael was introduced, perambulated and obligated, following which both candidates took the ceremony together.

The candidates were then welcomed into the Lodge by the Worshipful Commander, and into the Order by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



The Lodge was closed and the Temple re-arranged for the Mark meeting to follow.



The Mark Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Stephen Nicklin who welcomed everyone.





The main item on the agenda was to present Grand Lodge Certificates to Bros. Oscar Jonathan Spevack, Michael Gerald Holohan, Alberto Jordan Cespedes-Sharp, and Timothy James Collins.



The Worshipful Master invited V.W.Bro. Chris Eley to present the Certificates, which he was especially pleased to do as he had assisted in their Advancement ceremonies.

The Lodge was closed and we retired for refreshments before sitting down to an enjoyable meal at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.



Bond of Friendship

Remembrance Themed Meeting



The Bond of Friendship's Mark meeting on Saturday the 22nd of November was another very special meeting. The Lodge welcomed W.Bro. John Massey, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and the Provincial Officers of the year, after which W.Bro. Mike Neville took the Chair and Installed W.Bro. Ian Holloway as Master.



The Lodge was then treated to some excellent ritual by the newer brethren, including the Address to the Master by Bro. Tom Sprawson; the Address to the Wardens by Bro. Wayne Tibbs; and the Lecture on the Mark Degree by Bro. Neil Jones-Lumby.



The Lodge was then called off for a Remembrance Service led by Bro. Revd David Gilmore, with W.Bro. Neville highlighting the service of Croydon Masons, including their 104 year-old member, W.Bro. Harry Winter. and others in WW1 and WW2.

Cadet Matthew Florea of SE London Army Cadets, aged 15, played the bugle calls. A very poignant moment for the forty Mark Masons present.



This lovely meeting was followed with a Festive Board enhanced by a performance by the ACF Corps of Drums with tunes such as Men of Harlech, and a drumming display and a war time sing-along with W.Bro. Bob Soper on the piano.

The next meeting is on Saturday the 17th of January and will be a Burns themed music evening with a piper and haggis.

Thanks to Mike Neville and Norman Jones

The Curfew Lodge

Well, what a superb evening! No bell here telling us to take care and hunker down. This very welcoming group of members have had it tough over the past couple of years, the usual difficulties in terms of numbers. Now things are on the up and long may that happen.

I go along as a guest Tyler, and, as is often the case, there were three St Andrews members in the car. We are aware of the need for support and return the support whenever we can. One of us has joined this excellent group, W.Bro. David Warren is now Senior Warden, and one was a guest.

Royal Ark Mariners had their business meeting. Bro. John Cogger and I received our jewels from David Warren, also of 806, and a very healthy account was presented for the approval of the members. Then we moved on to the Mark Meeting after a short interval. I do like the refreshments.



The Curfew Mark meeting was then opened! It had everything that should take place at a meeting. I have to say, we were very impressed by the delivering of ritual by W.Bro. Cogger. I have seen him progress through the various offices and know that he had put a lot of effort in to preparing for the Advancement of a candidate. He and his team excelled themselves.



Brother David Stevenson came out of the ceremony with a smile which said that he had gained something really special from this team of dedicated brethren. At his thankyou speech at the festive board, he made the point that he found the entire experience something that he would remember for a long time to come. Now, that is the hallmark of a very good Mark meeting.



However, there was more! Our 806 man W.Bro. David Warren is elected as the next Master of this Lodge. Congratulations David. I was proposed as Guest Tyler. Now if only we could find a role for Barrie Selway!! Mind you, the latter is a "fit any office" man as we all know.

There was a donation of several hundred pounds being made for the local Hospice, thanking them for the way they had looked after a member's wife in her final years.

We concluded this excellent meeting with reports from the Almoner and the Charity Steward before concluding this meeting of a happy band of Mark men.

I must make a final comment on the Festive board which was excellent and I won a raffle prize!

An excellent evening and I look forward to the next one on the 3rd of March 2026. Do come and join us if you have the time in your busy diary. I am sure you will have an enjoyable evening.

Thanks to Michael Fenech




Our Past Provincial Grand Master goes into the Chair of the London Mark Stewards Lodge

Our Past Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Clark was installed as Worshipful Master of the London Mark Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge of Mark Master Masons Tuesday the 18th of November.

There to support him were many Surrey Mark brethren R.W.Bros. Ray Hussey and Mik Barnes; V.W.Bros, David Blackburn, Richard Baker and Richard Knox; and W.Bro. Terry Carpenter. Also present as members of the Lodge were W.Bros. Antonios Antoniou and Paul Fitzgerald.

The Installing Master was V.W.Bro. John Ellis, P.G.J.O., P.A.Prov.G.M. The address to the Master was given by R.W.Bro. Tom Quinn, Prov.G.M.

**Mark
Provincial
Swimathon
2026**

MARK PROVINCIAL SWIMATHON 2026

Chief Swimmer - VWBro 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 18th January 10.30am
Guildford Spectrum Pool GU1 1UP

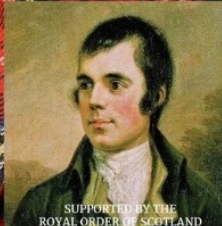
WBro Mike Neville mrmikeneville@aol.com or 07415 634613

Surrey Mark Masons'
**Burns Night
 Charity Dinner**

At Surbiton Masonic Hall, 6 The Crescent, Surbiton,
 Surrey, KT6 4BN on Saturday 24th January 2026.

Pipers, Procession
 Address to the Haggis,
 plus Burns Toasts

Dining: 6.30pm for 7pm
 Dress Code:
 Highland Dinner Jacket
 or Lounge Suit
 Ladies - Post Frock
 (anything in the Scottish
 theme appreciated)



SUPPORTED BY THE
 ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND

MENU

Haggis, Tatties and Neeps, with a nip.
 Glenmore Sorbet

Roast Rib of Grassfed Scottish Beef, Traditional Yorkshire Pudding,
 Duck Fat Roasted Potatoes,
 French Beans and Carrots with a Rich Madera Jus
 Scottish Raspberry Cheesecake
 Fairtrade Filter Coffee or Tea and a macaroon

Cost: £55 per person.
Open to the Ladies, Friends and Family, Non Masons.
Please support our raffle and bring along prizes.

BACs payments to: Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund,
 Sort Code: 30-93-74 Acc No. 02602788. 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

Details of both events can be found on the Companion Orders web site – Mark Events page: [Companion Orders of Surrey - Events](#)

