



A Message from our Assistant Provincial Grand Master

Welcome to the eighth edition of the Surrey Keystone.

Ask a Surrey Mark Mason what he misses most about Masonry at present and he will almost certainly answer something like 'Comradeship' or 'Companionship'. The chat as we don our regalia, the banter in the bar after the meeting and the festive board are all an integral part of our enjoyment of Masonry.

We are now once again on lockdown for four weeks and it seems we are constantly being told what we cannot do, but let us concentrate on what we can do.

First, we can congratulate Simon McCarthy on his mammoth cycle ride of 2022 miles. He has been out in all weathers and his enormous achievement may be the last big sponsorship event this year. Why not sponsor him through his JustGiving page – I have.



Secondly, we can all take on the role of Almoner. Lodge Almoners do a splendid job of keeping in touch with members, but a telephone call for a chat with a Brother will always be gratefully received. Emails are great, as are Zoom meetings, but a one-to-one telephone call cannot be bettered to keep ourselves and others in a positive frame of mind as we move into winter. This will also help greatly with retention of Mark Memberships.



Thirdly, we can move from retention to recruitment by being in touch with some of our Craft Brethren, as well as those in the Mark. As soon as we are able, we will be mounting a recruitment drive and being in touch now with our Craft Brethren will help immeasurably. Why not think of a couple of possible names and give the Brethren a call, mentioning the Mark and asking them if they would consider being Advanced into our ranks? Think of the elation of an Advancement Ceremony as soon as we are able to meet in numbers.

Lastly, the 2022 Festival is nearly upon us and if you have not already doing so, please consider regular giving. Forms are available and easily downloaded from the Provincial website for both regular and one-off donations. The Province is way behind where we hoped to be and those to whom we give are even more in need than ever.

Our wonderful Degree will thrive even more when we are once again allowed to meet in numbers if we have supported each other and our charities, through these challenging times.

Kind regards, Bill

Well done Simon

W.Bro. Simon McCarthy has been out on the roads of Surrey and Hampshire in support of the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival. His target was 2022 miles by the end of October.



Simon has successfully completed his 2022 miles. Our Provincial Grand Master was there at the finish line at Box Hill to congratulate Simon and celebrate with him his magnificent effort on behalf of our Festival.



We are pleased to announce that Simon has exceeded his target of raising £2,500 for our 2022 Festival – a fantastic achievement.

Simon would still welcome any donation, no matter how small, from individuals and Lodges.

It's easy to donate via Simon's JustGiving page by visiting:
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/simonmccarthyrideforlife

Bonus Ball Update

Congratulations to the September Bonus Ball winners:

Richard Wileman of Woodgrange Lodge, Anthony De Boeck of Pride of Surrey Lodge, Ian Clark of Rose Lodge, Richard Wileman of Woodgrange Lodge (**Again**), Anthony De Boeck of Pride of Surrey Lodge (**Again**), Ian Clark of Rose Lodge (**Again**), Ray Beadle of Bond of Friendship Lodge, Kevin Lockwood of Cranleigh Centenary Lodge, Alan Underhill of Lingfield Lodge, John Woodville of Richmond Lodge, Anthony DeBoeck of Pride of Surrey Lodge (**Yet Again**), and Paul Kerswell of Weald of Surrey Lodge.



To purchase a ball go to:

<http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/bonus-ball.html>

The Installation Meeting of Richmond Mark Lodge



In October the Installation meeting of the Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 808 took place at Surbiton under the new guidelines from Mark Masons Hall restricting meetings to no more than six.

VW.Bro. Chris Eley, G.J.O,

P.A.Prov.G.M., acted as Worshipful Master and opened the Lodge. After the Dispensation to elect officers was read by Bro. Secretary, W.Bro. Garth Blanchard, Prov.G.Stwd., was elected as Master and W.Bro. Tim Ford, P.G.J.D, Prov.G.Sec. was elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

W.Bro. Garth Blanchard was installed into the Chair of the Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons in an excellent manner by VW.Bro. Chris Eley. The Address to the Master was given by VW.Bro. Chris, after which the Worshipful Master was pleased to appoint and invest those Officers present.



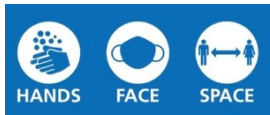
The Address to the Wardens was given by W.Bro. James Hill, Prov.G.Swd.B., and the Address to the Brethren was given by VW.Bro. Chris Eley.

After the customary photographs, the six members present retired to the bar for a drink and a socially distanced but most enjoyable meal together at Surbiton.

Changes to COVID-19 Restrictions

On the 31st October the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced a second national lockdown for England.

On the 2nd November the Grand Secretary announced that all face to face meetings are suspended from 12.01 a.m. on Thursday 5th November 2020 until further notice.



Units due to hold meetings during the lockdown should be encouraged to make use of the Virtual Business Meeting Scheme instead.

Virtual meetings for social get togethers and to transact Lodge administrative business have proved extremely useful for many Lodges. Please let us know what you are doing.

For the Fallen – a Poem by Laurence Binyon

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.



Get Togethers at Halfpenny Close

Due to the need for social distancing Jack Love, the Grand Superintendent of Surrey District 15 in the Order of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests and Order of Holy Wisdom, has been unable to hold his annual charity BBQ in his garden.

However, during the summer Jack and his wife Jenny have been holding a number of very successful socially distanced get togethers in their garden.

One Saturday in August Jack invited Ian & Sue Smith and John & Hazel French along to his garden. The following weekend Jack and Jenny invited Ray Hussey and Ann together with Andrew and Mary Sales to join them for a BBQ at their house. The next get together was a lovely wine and cheese afternoon at Halfpenny Close with Mik Barnes, Simon McCarthy and Denis Leigh.



To round off the series of socially distanced gatherings Jack's final invite was to Ian and Pat Clark and John and Hazel French.

A good use for your Mark handkerchief

In October Percy Lodge No.114 held their first meeting of the year and to adhere to the current Covid-19 guidelines only six members were in attendance at Guildford Masonic Centre.

W.Bro Chris Stanford opened the Mark Lodge during which Brother Stuart Hogarth showed fleetness of foot with his graceful movement around the Lodge during the opening while acting as Junior, Senior and Master Overseer.

The meeting dealt mainly with administrative issues, with the main item of note being the election of Bro Clive Goode as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year.



At the end of the meeting all present were given one of the new Mark handkerchiefs to recognise their first step back to a degree of normality.

The six members then retired to the dining room where they sat down to a most enjoyable meal provided by the new chef and his team. Assisted by a couple of bottles of wine, they spent an enjoyable evening going down memory lane recalling happier times when things were 'normal'.





Provincial Grand Officers Mess



Welcome to the Provincial Grand Officers Mess which is administered by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey. Membership is open to all Surrey Mark Provincial Grand Officers, active and past, who are also current subscribing members of a Mark Master Masons Lodge within the Province of Surrey.

The principal purpose of the Mess is to foster close friendly relations between Provincial Grand officers at all levels by informal social meetings and thus encouraging closer ties between them and the Lodges within the Province.

The Mess is supported by the Province at the highest level, our President and Chairman being the Provincial Grand Master and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master respectively!



The AGM is a short business meeting mainly to elect the Mess Officers for the ensuing year and approve the minutes of the previous AGM.

This is followed by an informal dinner with a guest speaker. It is usually held at the Surbiton Masonic Centre on the third Friday in May.



So why should I join?

Well, remember that becoming a Provincial Grand Officer is not an honour given out lightly nor is it given to all, so it is important to ensure you make the most of the opportunity by getting involved with as many of the Provincial activities open to you as possible.

The Provincial Grand Officers Mess provides a great environment for both integrating into the Provincial structure and learning more about it.

OK, so what about the meetings?

The intent of the meetings is to be informal. That means we do not wear regalia and dress is smart casual.

As everyone has a different interpretation of that phrase, designer jeans to white tie, then in true Masonic tradition, for the Mess this equates to Jacket of choice, an appropriate shirt, and the distinctive Mess Tie provided as part of the joining package. Colour coordination is not required with many of our members showing great imagination in their interpretation!

We have two meetings a year the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and an Open Social Evening although we are not limited to this.





There is also the ubiquitous raffle which raises money for Masonic Charities. This event is usually planned for the autumn months and has no fixed venue as we like to spread the benefit among the Surrey Masonic centres.



And it costs how much??

Well, as they say there are no free lunches in this world but all this can be yours for the princely sum of £5.00 per annum (yes that's right, no zeros or ones missing) plus a one off payment of £10.00 for the Mess Tie.

Although you can pay this by cheque or electronic transfer, the most convenient method is to set up a standing order full details for which will be supplied with the application form.



Tony Connor
Mess Secretary
Email: tony.connor4919@gmail.com Tel: 07786 993332

The Annual Open Evening is a social dinner open to mess members, their partners and guests. Guests are not required to be active masons as there is no Masonic content to the event.

The underlying intention being to introduce non-masons to the organisation and existing masons to the Mark degree. It takes the form of a dinner at a Masonic centre somewhere in the Province along with some form of entertainment.



I'm sold, so how do I join?

That's great!!! You just need to complete a membership application form available on the web site - or by contacting the mess secretary at tony.connor4919@gmail.com who will supply you with one. Once completed return the application along with the required remittance and you are on your way.



So that's it, get in your application and I look forward to welcoming you to this remarkable friendly, informative and entertaining organisation within the Surrey Mark Master Masons fraternity.

