



A Christmas Message from our Provincial Grand Master

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Surrey Keystone. This has been a tumultuous year and we currently find ourselves in an area of high alert. After much heart searching and in consultation with the heads of other Progressive Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall I have decided to retain the suspension of Mark Masonry in Surrey.

Many of our centres are closed and therefore some Lodges would be prevented from meeting. Also, we must maintain the rule of 6 and there can be no Festive Board. In most of Surrey the infection rate is above 100. The scientists are concerned that after Christmas the infection cases will rise and we could then have a yo-yo effect, with meetings allowed one week but not the following week, and so on. The health of all our members is paramount. The matter will be reviewed in the New Year when it is hoped that we will return to Tier 1 throughout Surrey. In the meantime, we are fortunate in being able to hold **Virtual Business Meetings (VBM)** to conduct administrative business and **I encourage all Lodges to use this opportunity.**

As we move towards the end of the year, it is a time to reflect, to look to the future and to continue to build our beautiful Order in Surrey. We have made progress in key areas, in particular in communicating, and this Newsletter is one example. Twelve months ago very few of us had heard of ZOOM and none of us had used it for attending Lodge meetings. Hopefully we have improved the communication within our own Lodges, not relying entirely on the Almoner or Secretary. I am a member of many WhatsApp groups, Facebook groups, Facetime, Messenger, etc., it's good to talk. We can all come through this stronger.



Everyone is encouraged to look within their Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters for Brethren that they think would enjoy our Order. Tell them of the lessons that our Order teaches and the warm welcome that awaits all new members. How many times have I heard members say "I wish I had joined earlier". Now is the time to be thinking about those Craft Masons in your Lodge that enjoy their Freemasonry and may consider the Mark degree. The future is bright; there are vaccines on the horizon, with light at the end of the tunnel. Together we can make 2021 a good year.

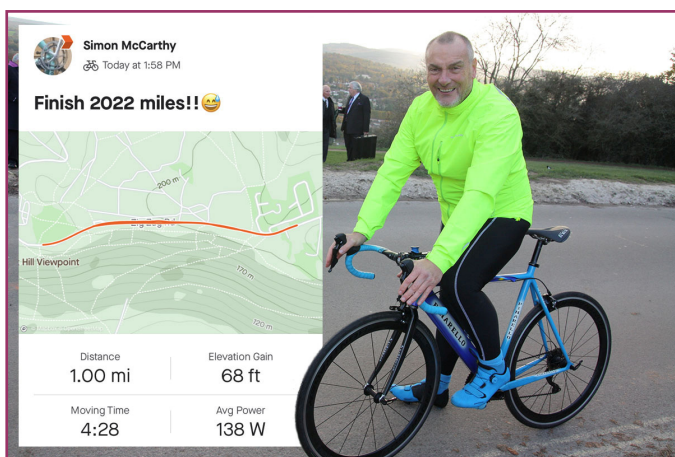
We are 570 days from our Festival finale at the Copthone Hotel in July 2021. What can your Lodge do for the Festival next year? Could it be a BBQ, a lunch, a Mystery Walk, Car Rally? Next summer will bring endless possibilities and we want to hear about them. Alan Brockwell is the Provincial Events Manager and can provide you with advice, let's keep him busy. Whatever you decide, make it fun. After the success of the last Quiz we have a bumper **Christmas Quiz** on **Saturday 19th December 2020**. It is worth entering just in the hope of winning one of Jerry Gangadeen's special Christmas Rum Cakes. Teams will come in all shapes and sizes, what can your Lodge do?

In conclusion, I wish you and all your families a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in 2021.



Simon Smashes his Target

As reported in Issue 8, Simon McCarthy has successfully completed his 2022 mile bike ride to raise funds for our 2022 Festival.



We are delighted to announce that Simon has broken his target of raising £2,500 for our Festival and in fact so far has raised over £3,500 through his JustGiving page and from direct donations from individuals and Lodges.

Simon would like to say:

'Dear Brothers, the journey has at last ended, although I'm still riding. There were indeed some tough rides but the support I have received from all of you has been overwhelming, and has driven me on and on until I completed my target.

The weather turned in October so I couldn't get out as much as I wanted. I had one week to complete 110 miles and with only 2 days left I had 70 miles to go!! The weather didn't change so I had no choice but to ride in the pouring rain - both days.

The last Mile was completed at the top of Box Hill, very well supported by our Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Executive. Heads of Other Orders in Surrey who supported me were also present. I feel very humble to have received such support from everybody.

A special thanks must go W.Bro. John French who was the instigator of my ride; and VW.Bro. Chris Eley, for all his encouragement and editorials.

One Big Thank-You to All of You !!!'

TOTAL TIME	170 hrs
TOTAL DISTANCE	2,022 mi
TOTAL ELEVATION GAIN	108,360 ft



Surrey Mark Zoom Quiz

Following on from the success of the last Festival Quiz held in July, our Quizmaster, W.Bro. Mike Neville, is organising another Quiz with the assistance of our Chief Zoomer, W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood.



This will take place via Zoom on **Saturday 19th December at 7.30 p.m.** Last year the magnificent sum of £1,100 was raised for the Mark Benevolent Fund. **Entry is £15 per team**

There will be a Christmas Hamper for the winning team and a prize draw at the end of every round.

The prize draw at the end of the last round will be a 12 inch Christmas Rum Cake specially made by our Master Baker, VW.Bro. Jerry Gangadeen.

Wives, partners, children are all eligible to join in. Bring your own food and drink! In July we had 21 teams competing and everyone said that it was a fun way of keeping in touch.

To book a place go to:

<http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/festival-events-0022.html>



VW.Bro George Edward (Ted) Melber

It is with sadness that we announce that V.W.Bro Ted Melber, P.G.J.O. P.A.Prov.G.M, passed away on November 30th with his wife Vidy and family around him.



Ted was initiated into Freemasonry in 1973 and was exalted into the Holy Royal Arch in 1981. He held the rank of PJGD in the Craft and PProvGSN in the Royal Arch.

Although a member of a number of Orders in Freemasonry, it was the Mark Degree that was one of Ted's favourites. He was advanced into Noel Mark Lodge No 505 in 1979 and became Master in

1988. Sadly he resigned in 2020 due to ill health but retained his membership of the Surrey Installed Mark Masters Lodge No 1219 where he was Master in 1988.

Ted was elevated into the Noel Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in 1980 and was Worshipful Commander in 1990. He joined the Surrey Enthroned Commanders Lodge in 2000 and was Worshipful Commander in 2003.

In the Mark Province of Surrey VW.Bro. Ted was an Assistant Provincial Grand Master from 2000 to 2004. He held the rank of Past Grand Junior Overseer in the Mark and was the holder of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

Ted was a very kind and convivial man who will be sorely missed by many of us in Surrey.

What have you been up to during lockdown?

Here is what Mark Tatum of Bond of Friendship Lodge has been doing to help his local community during lockdown. It all started with his wife, Alison, wanting some flower planters for the garden. Alison settled for planters made from pallets.

A quick trip to the local industrial estate for the pallets, tools and saws at the ready and in no time two lovely planters done.

Mark and Alison live at New Addington and overlook a green with about twenty trees. With a few pallets left he thought of making a box around the trees, filling them with soil and plant flowers in them. More pallets needed so back to the industrial estate. Plants and flowers were kindly donated by the local flower stall and the soil came from the local recycling centre, or dump as most know them.



Within days the locals were on the green with their children adding plants, lights, little statues and watering.

Everyone suddenly started talking. The flowerbeds are still going strong and the locals on the Green even know each others names.

Bonus Ball Update

Congratulations to the November Bonus Ball winners:



Anthony DeBoeck, Pride of Surrey Lodge; Paul Kerswell, Weald of Surrey Lodge; John Woodville, Richmond Lodge; Michael Saint, Stoneleigh Lodge; Richard Knox, Welcome Lodge; Chris Eley, Richmond Lodge; Steve Jones, Noel Lodge; Trevor Sadler, Pleydell

Bouverie Lodge; Ian Clark, Rose Lodge; Warlingham Mark Lodge; Collingwood RAM Lodge; Miguel Godfrey of Welcome Lodge. To purchase a ball go to: <https://surrey-mark-bonus-ball-online.square.site/>

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For more information see

<http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/news-0391.html>