



An enjoyable afternoon at Surbiton



Runnymede AMD Council and Chertsey Abbey RSM Councils meet on the same day at Surbiton. This has proved to be a successful combination where candidates can join two Orders on the same day. The February meetings were going to be very busy with the Degree of The Grand Tilers of Solomon in the AMD and a Most Excellent Master and a Select Master Ceremony in the Royal and Select Masters.



Runnymede AMD Council was opened by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Mike Ellis, who welcomed all the visitors. W. Bro. Chris Eley acted as Senior Warden with Bro. Simon Triptree as the Junior Deacon.



A ballot was taken for Bro. John Cogger as a joining member. This proved in his favour and Bro. John was welcomed into the Council by the Worshipful Master.



The next item on the agenda was to Admit into the Degree of Masons Elect of Twenty-Seven and Created a Grand Tiler of Solomon Bro. Andy Croci.

W. Bro. Chris Eley acted as King Solomon, W. Bro. Derek Williams as Hiram King of Tyre, and their new member, Bro. John Cogger, as Hiram Abif.

V. W. Bro. Eric Trodd entrusted Bro. Andy with the secrets of the Degree and gave the Lecture.

Bro Andy was congratulated by V. W. Bro. Eric and W. Bro. Mike, the Master.





The Council was closed, and after photographs the Temple was rearranged for the meeting of Chertsey Abbey RSM Council.

The Council was opened by the Thrice Illustrious Master, Ill.Comp. Emmanuel Ogunseye-Babajide, who welcomed all the visitors, especially Ill.Comp. Chris Eley who acted as the Principal Conductor of the Work.

The first item on the agenda was to Receive and Acknowledge Comp. Simon Triptree as a Most Excellent Master. The Thrice Illustrious Master invited V.Ill.Comp. Michael Flint to conduct the ceremony. After the Ceremony Comp. Simon was congratulated by V.Ill.Comp. Michael and the Thrice Illustrious Master.



The next item on the agenda was to Choose as a Select Master, Brother John Cogger. This was conducted by the Thrice Illustrious Master assisted by his Officers.



After the ceremony, John was congratulated by the Thrice Illustrious Master and welcomed into the Council.

The Council was then closed, and the Companions of Runnymede and Chertsey Abbey Councils and their guests retired for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial festive board.





The District Grand Council of Kent



The 2025 Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Kent took place on Saturday the 15th of February 2025 at the Franklin Rooms, Gillingham, Kent.



Brethren of the District of Kent and their guests started arriving from 9 am where they received a warm welcome from the reception team before making their way into the lounge where tea and coffee were being served.



Representing Surrey were W.Bros. Paul Fitzgerald, Alan (Zimmo) Zimon, and Chris Eley on photographic duties.

There were many guests from other Districts, as well as the Past Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. Clive Robert Manuel; R.W.Bro. Noel Grout; and the Grand Master of the Royal and Select Masters, R.W.Bro. Kessick J Jones.

The Right Worshipful District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Brian Alan Ward, entered the Temple in procession attended by the Deputy District Grand Prefect and Officers of District Grand Council, and accompanied by distinguished guests.



District Grand Council was opened, and the District Grand Prefect was saluted. He then had much pleasure in welcoming all the guests and visitors from other Districts, as well as Heads of other Orders in Kent.

After the In Memoriam, the District Grand Secretary called the Roll of Councils of the District of Kent, and the District Grand Prefect received those Brethren admitted into the Order since the last meeting.

After the regular business of District Grand Council had been concluded, the District Grand Prefect had much pleasure in reappointing Worshipful Brother Geoffrey Edward Whale, **P.G.St.B.**, as Deputy District Grand Prefect thanking him for all he has done to support him and the District over the past year. The Provincial Officers of the year were appointed and invested.



The District Grand Prefect made a presentation to Archie Torrance, the President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, on behalf of the District. The President of the Mark Benevolent Fund thanked the District for their generous donation and had much pleasure in investing the District Grand Prefect with the Grand Master's Keystone Fund collarette saying that Kent was the first AMD District to achieve this award.



The District Grand Prefect then addressed District Grand Council. In his address he said he thanked the District Grand Secretary and the District Grand Director of Ceremonies and their teams for ensuring the day was such a success. He also thanked all the outgoing District Officers for their support during their year in office. He congratulated the newly appointed District Officers of the year and said he looked forward to their company in the months ahead.

He congratulated the four Brethren who were honoured with Grand Rank last year. He was delighted that they have been able to welcome nine new members to the Order since the last district meeting.

He reminded everyone that their Craft, Chapter and Mark lodges also need to attract new members and urged everyone to promote the Craft where they can and to encourage Craft Masons from their own Lodges to join both Chapter and the Mark.

Last year they published two issues of their very own Kent Gridiron Magazine. An idea that he said they stole shamelessly from the District of Surrey. He thanked everyone involved in its publication.

He closed by saying that he is very proud of what they have achieved together over the last 12 months and is confident that with their continued support and enthusiasm for the Order they will continue to go from strength to strength.



District Grand Council was then closed in due form and the District Grand Prefect retired in procession from District Grand Council accompanied by District Grand Officers and Honoured Guests, greeting everyone on their way out from the Temple.

After a few group photos with the recently appointed Officers, and members of the other Districts, we retired for refreshments.



The Brethren of the District Grand Council of Kent and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable lunch at the Franklin Rooms in Gillingham.



The Toast to the District Grand Prefect was given by the Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Geoff Whale. In his amusing toast he gave R.W.Bro. Brian a bag of Walkers crisps. As there was one bag for each time his football team had won a match, sadly there were some packets of crisps left in the bag....



However, he did present R.W.Bro. Brian with a green pin – because he is Perfect.



We then departed our several ways following a very successful morning.



Mark Benevolent Fund

Registered Charity No. 207610

Grand Master's Keystone Fund



At the Quarterly Communications in June 2023, the name and purpose of the '150th Anniversary Keystone Fund' was changed to The Grand Master's Keystone Fund to celebrate our Grand Master, M.W.Bro. H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, *G.C.V.O.* having given forty years of service to Mark Masonry.

Initially, the purpose of the new fund is to grant awards to individuals to offer encouragement and financial support with their educational, vocational, and sporting achievements.

The Grand Master's Keystone Fund is administered by the Mark Benevolent Fund Board of Trustees.

The current levels of qualifying contribution are:

	£100 + Cost of Jewel
Individual Member:	£50 - Metal
	£115 - Silver Gilt
Lodge:	£25 per subscribing Member + Cost of Jewel
Province/District/Inspectorate:	£10 per subscribing Membership + Cost of Jewel

Members wear a small breast jewel suspended from a ribbon.

Lodges, Provinces, Districts and Inspectorates have a larger jewel suspended from a collarette which is worn by the Master during his year of office.

The current cost of the Jewels are:

Metal Jewel: (Lodge)	£60
Silver Gilt Jewel: (Lodge)	£125

The levels of contributions and the Jewels are the same for all Orders, the only difference being the colour of the ribbon/collarette from which the Jewel is suspended:

Mark	Dark Blue & Crimson
Royal Ark Mariner	Rainbow
Royal & Select Masters:	Crimson
Red Cross of Constantine:	White
Order of the Secret Monitor:	Indian Yellow
Allied Masonic Degrees:	Thistle Green
Knights Templar:	Red & White
Order of the Scarlet Cord:	Red/White & Black
K.B.H.C.	Green & Red



A further advancement in Masonic knowledge from Mike Neville

The walls of Constantinople as built by Anthemius, who features in the Knights of Constantinople ceremony in the Allied Masonic Degrees.

The plaque states this is the place where the breach was made in 1453 and city fell to the Ottomans.



Flying the Flag in Spain



One of our members was spotted showing off his AMD napkin at the Grand Assembly of the Mark District of Spain in Benidorm.

Well done Mike



Flying the Flag at Surbiton



Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons celebrated their Centennial in style at Surbiton at the end of January.

As well as a visit from W.Bro. Bill Barr, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and his team, and a Banner Dedication by R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, Past Provincial Grand Master, the Lodge was honoured by the presence of the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H Prizeman, who presented the Lodge with their Centenary Warrant.

Over 80 Brethren dined after the meeting in the Elizabethan Suite where, as is the custom at Surrey Mark Lodges, the members of the Allied Masonic Degrees wore their AMD napkins.