



A recruiting campaign in Spain

The Grand Assembly weekend of the District of Spain Mark was held on Friday the 6th and Saturday the 7th of February 2026 at the Gran Hotel Bali, La Cala, Playa Poniente (Benidorm), Alicante, Spain.



The weekend's activities started on **Friday the 6th of February** with an illustrated and informative talk by W.Bro. Mike Neville who is a retired Detective Chief Inspector from New Scotland Yard. Mike has unparalleled expertise in using imagery, such as CCTV, to catch criminals.

He founded the world's first Super Recogniser unit, revolutionising offender identification, and now assists law enforcement agencies in locating their own Super Recognisers.

Following W.Bro. Mike Neville; the District Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Barrie Roy Mansell, invited all Mark men and their families and friends who attended the District weekend to a welcome drinks reception within the Gran Bali Hotel. This was an informal get together and was a great chance to catch up with old friends, as well as make new ones.



Saturday the 7th of February the Grand Assembly of the Mark District of Spain's meeting was held in the Crystal Auditorium of the Gran Bali Hotel.



After the meeting there was a Festive Board held in the Gran Hotel Bali. a three-chocolate dessert and coffee.

Mike Neville and his team from Bond of Friendship being the Super Recruiters that thy are lost no time in signing up several Mark Masons for the Allied Masonic Degrees. Looks like multiple ceremonies at the next meeting of Surrey 64.....

VARIETY IS THE GREAT ATTRACTION OF THE ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES

An Introduction to the Allied Masonic Degrees

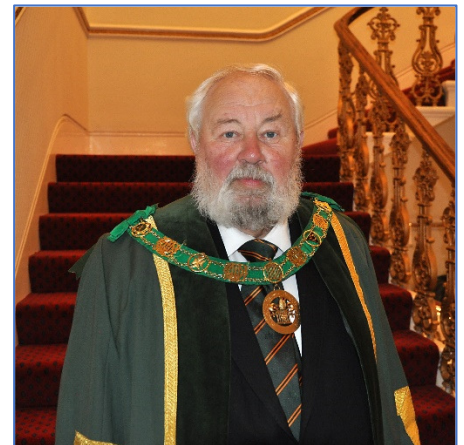
London District Meeting



On Saturday the 15th of November, V.W.Bro. Scott Cargill, P.G.Reg., was installed as the new District Grand Prefect for London, in succession to R.W. Bro. Colin Woodcock, MBE, who last month was made Deputy Grand Master.



The installation was conducted by M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson and his team of Grand Officers in front of an audience consisting of 1 Deputy Grand Master, 2 Past Deputy Grand Masters, 1 President of the Executive Committee, 11 District Grand Prefects and approximately 140 other brethren from across the country and London. It was certainly a packed Grand Temple at Mark Masons' Hall!



Following the installation, R.W.Bro. Scott Cargill then proceeded to invest his Deputy, W.Bro. Peter Warner, P.G.J.D., an Allied Mason known to many brethren up and down the country.

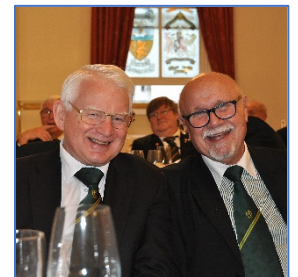


Once the formal business of the investitures was completed, the Grand Master then proceeded to bestow a Field First Appointment of **P.G.St.B.** to W.Bro. David Ashbolt for his sterling work selling charity breast jewels, which was a complete surprise for David!

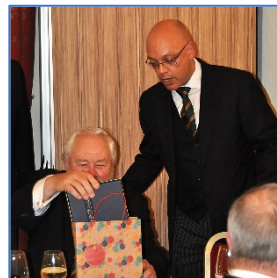
The Grand team then retired for canapes and drinks while R.W.Bro. Scott Cargill concluded the rest of his District meeting in a record 25 minutes.



After the meeting there was time for pre-luncheon drinks before 110 brethren sat down to dine.



The new District Grand Prefect presented the Grand Master; the Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.W.Bro. Glyn Goddard; and the Assistant Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Michael Caseman-Jones, with gifts and in his response to the toast by the Grand Master Scott paid tribute to Colin Woodcock for his 15 years of service to London Allied Masonry. Following the meal, the brethren either retired to the bar or headed home - and judging by the smiles on everyone's faces the day had been thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Thanks to Richard Criddle and Bob Tuthill

Christmas Fun at Surrey Council



Surrey Council had an excellent meeting at Croydon on 15th December. The Council had the pleasure of a visit by the District Grand Prefect who was there to witness Bro Alan Whiddett, a well-known Mark Man joining the Order. The Master, W.Bro. George Rodger, introduced Alan to the Order in an excellent manner.

Following the St Lawrence Ceremony, next was the Red Cross of Babylon for nine candidates, with V.W.Bro. Eric Trodd and W.Bro. Mike Neville taking the lead roles. More importantly, several of the newer brethren, including Bros. Tony Rastall, Bob Oddy and Jonathan Kelly delivered some excellent ritual.

More good work was to follow, with the Council voting to give £500 to sponsor the Mark Swimathon and provide funds for the Masonic Fishing charity, which helps local teenagers. A further £100 donation was later agreed for the Friends of James Terry Court, to provide entertainment for the elderly residents of the care home.



After a full and interesting meeting, the brethren retired to the Festive Board, where they were entertained by Bro. Wayne Tibbs in his triple Santa outfit and W.Bro. Norman Jones dressed as an elf (in tights!).

And given the Christmas theme, the dinner was rounded off with carols, enhanced by W.Bro. Bob Soper tickling the ivories.

Why not come along to our next fun event on Monday 16th February? For more information contact the Secretary via mrmikeneville@aol.com



Thanks to Mike Neville

West Midlands District Meeting

It was a 5am start for the Deputy District Grand Prefect on Saturday the 31st of January to attend the first District meeting of the new year at the West Midlands Annual Allied Meeting.

Making his way to Guildford, he picked up the Senior Warden W.Bro Mick Mello and travelled onward to meet up with the District Grand Prefect at his home in Hampshire where they met up with W.Bro Tony Green the District Grand Prefect for Southern Counties and the all travelled up to Burton on Trent together for the West Midlands District Meeting, being a crisp clear morning they made very good time and covered the rest of the journey in a little over 2.5 hours, despite arriving at a flooded river Trent, they still arrived in time for the customary coffee and bacon rolls.



Our District Grand Prefect was warmly welcomed by the District Grand Prefect of the West Midlands R.W.Bro. Joe McCollum and his deputy, V.W.Bro. Barry Jones, and the meeting was very well supported, as being held in the middle of the country it attracted a lot of Districts from both the North and the South, with 140 in attendance.

The District meeting of the Grand Council of West Midlands was very well presided over by R.W.Bro. Joe McCollum and his team, especially the stand in Director of Ceremonies W.Bro Kerry Parkes, the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, who was undertaking the ceremonial as the Director of Ceremonies was undergoing an operation that very day. The District Grand Meeting was well represented by the 11 Councils in the West Midlands.



Our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French was delighted to catch up with other District Grand Prefects, and the photo shows him with the ten visiting District Grand Prefects who attended from around the country.

Likewise, the Deputy District Grand Prefect Bob Tuthill enjoyed sharing information with his fellow Deputies and we all enjoyed a very tasty festive board after the meeting in a most convivial atmosphere.

Also at the meeting were the R.W.Bro. Francis Spencer, Deputy Grand Summus of the Order of the Scarlet Cord; and M.W.Bro. Andrew Sweeney, the Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

Nothing now remained but to bid our farewells to a very hospitable West Midlands and make the long trip back South.

Thanks to Bob Tuthill

Southern Counties District Meeting

A large gathering of Allied Masonic Masons attended the 2026 Annual Meeting of the District of Southern Counties at the Botley Masonic Centre, on Saturday, 7th February 2026.



The meeting was presided over by the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Anthony Green, with six other District Grand Prefects being present, along with various Head of Orders from within the District, all of whom were given a warm welcome to the meeting.

Surrey was well represented with R.W.Bro. John French, our District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Mick Mello, W.Bro. Trevor Sadler, W.Bro. Ray Seeley, W.Bro. Dr Miguel Godfrey and W.Bro. Denis Leigh, plus 5 other Surrey Allied members at the meeting.



Prior to in-memoriam section of the agenda, the District Grand Prefect give a short tribute to the sad passing of the Pro Grand Master of the Mark Degree, M.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman, who was a Hampshire and Isle of Wight Mason

He had strong masonic ties to this area and was extremely well known to the brethren.

A period of reflection and silence was held for all brethren of the District, who had sadly passed to the Grand Council above since the last District Annual Meeting.



Following the introduction of the distinguished guests and visitors, the meeting arrived at the main business of the day, which was to Install a new Deputy District Grand Prefect, to succeed V.W.Bro. Laurie Brookes, **P.G.Reg.**, who had held that office for the past four years.

The District Grand Prefect appointed W.Bro. Mark Gannaway, **Dep.G.D.C.**, to become the new Deputy District Grand Prefect, who was duly obligated, invested and installed.

The District Grand Prefect then appointed and invested his active officers for the year and those honoured with first appointments and promotions to past rank within District Grand Council.

In his address, the District Grand Prefect covered various aspects of the District regarding the pleasing overall increase in numbers, recruitment and promoting the Order in general. He also gave congratulations to those brethren of the District honoured at last year's meeting of Grand Council with appointments.





The District Grand Prefect, guests and brethren then retired from the meeting to enjoy a drink and a sumptuous luncheon, before heading home, with joyful hearts, following another happy, merry meeting. *Thanks to Bob Tuthill*