

A Christmas Message from our Provincial Grand Master



Welcome to the 21st edition of the Surrey Keystone

In relation to the MBF 2022 Festival we have now broken 200-day barrier, as there are now only 199 days to our Festival finale on 2nd July 2022. This means that there are fewer than 135 days for us to gather funds to be included in our final total. This will allow the MBF to collate the income and prepare the booklet for final distribution.

There are only 53 Mark Lodge meetings before the end of April. I ask everyone to look at the MBF honorific level of their Lodges to see whether you have reached a level of which you can be proud.

My thanks to those Lodges and individuals who have worked so hard to make this Festival a success. Can your Lodge do any more - remembering that the next Festival will be in 2057? Please don't leave it too late.....

This newsletter carries information of many forthcoming events for us to get involved and support, continuing the theme of having fun, in this – the Magic of the Mark.

As we approach the end of the year, I thank you all for the support that you have given to our Order in 2021, as we look forward to what will be a historic year in the history of this wonderful Province.

On behalf of myself, and every member of the Provincial Executive, I wish you, your families and loved ones a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Jan N Clark, Provincial Grand Master.



The Travelling Keystone

The Travelling Keystone is on the move again. Welcome Mark Lodge claimed the Travelling Keystone from our Provincial Grand Master at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in September.



W.Bro. Richard Knox, our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, reluctantly handed over the Keystone to W.Bro. David Lawrence of Weald of Surrey Mark Lodge.

The next meeting of Weald of Surrey Mark Lodge is on

Thursday the 13th of January 2022 at Sutton so all you Mark Lodges had better start thinking about getting your Raiding Parties together.

A Raiding Party of five members of Weald of Surrey Mark Lodge descended on Welcome Mark Lodge on Thursday the 18th of November and demanded that the Travelling Keystone be handed over to them.





News from the MBF

A £4,000 Donation to St Catherine's Hospice

The Surrey Mark recently donated £4,000 to St Catherine's Hospice in honour of Prince Philip. St. Catherine's provides expert hospice care for people in West Sussex and East Surrey when life comes full circle. They help everyone face death informed, supported and pain free, pioneering standards in end-of-life care through collaboration, research and training, reaching even more people facing death and bereavement.



Suzanne Davis, Fundraiser at St Catherine's said, "We're so grateful to the Surrey Mark Province of Surrey for their incredible £4,000 donation from their Mark Benevolent Fund in honour of Prince Philip.



"The support of people like the Surrey Province has never been more vital. As a result of the pandemic, we've been unable to run our usual fundraising events for most of this year and our shops were closed for a long period of time, although we're delighted to say they are now open and are welcoming customers to browse for a bargain or get ahead with some Christmas shopping. The pandemic has been challenging for St Catherine's - we've had a drop of around £1.5 million in income and we're reliant on the support and fundraising efforts of people in our local community to make sure we can be here for years to come. Every penny raised and every donation makes a big difference.

"Despite the challenges of the last year and a half our expert teams have continued to provide care and support for terminally ill people when it's most needed. Our wonderful volunteers helped us start a new volunteer Telephone Buddy service, where once a week people under our care who can't currently visit the hospice, receive a friendly phone call from a volunteer.

Our nurses are on the end of the phone day or night, and for some people have been the first person they've heard from in quite some time. We've continued to be a vital link for people but it's only

thanks to our supporters that we can be there to offer some human interaction and tell someone that everything will be alright. This has helped make sure local people don't feel alone and frightened when facing terminal illness."

Suzanne wanted to share some of the stories of appreciation we've heard from the people you've helped us care for during the pandemic.

"We supported a very elderly lady who was discharged from hospital but became very ill at home. Her family really struggled to work out how they were going to keep her at home, where she wanted to be. We worked with the district nursing team, who provided someone to sit with the lady at night, and together we made sure the family were well supported. This meant the lady could stay at home, where she died peacefully a week later. Her family were so relieved they had achieved her final wish.

"Then there was an elderly man who was discharged from hospital to a care home when they could no longer treat his illness. A few calls to the GP and support from our team, and we were able to ensure he had a peaceful and dignified death.

"Often we receive calls from distressed relatives looking after somebody who is very poorly at home. Just a few reassuring words can relieve their anxiety, help them to feel heard and remind them that they are not alone. During the pandemic we've also looked after many young mothers who were having to home school their children and really struggling. Because of the generosity of our community we could make a big difference to their wellbeing and the wellbeing of their families, and provide the support that they needed to give them the strength to carry on.

"On behalf of everyone at St Catherine's, I'd like to say a big thank you once again to the Surrey Mark Province of Surrey."

A big thank-you from Princess Alice Hospice

It was a pleasure to welcome John French, Deputy Provincial Grand Master; John Coleman, Provincial Almoner; Steve Jones, Provincial Charity Steward; David Lawrence, Charity Liaison Officer; and Bob Tuthill, Provincial Photographer to Princess Alice Hospice on Tuesday 28th September 2021.



It was a sunny autumn day, enabling us to sit outside on the terrace beside our canteen and enjoy the beautiful surrounding Hospice gardens, which we are so lucky to have, and which are so well tended by our team of volunteer gardeners.

Indeed, the Hospice is lucky enough to benefit from the support of around 1,200 volunteer roles on a regular basis, from the people who staff our coffee shop and reception on site; to many of the people working in our network of shops; to those in the community offering time to keep a patient company for an hour or two.

Of course, these volunteers help supplement the wonderful and entirely necessary financial support of our community: 76% of the £10.1million it costs us to provide our services comes from the generosity of individuals and organisations, with only 24% of our funding coming from NHS sources. As such, the £4,000 that we received from the Mark Benevolent Fund was absolutely fantastic and so helpful for us to continue offering our vital support to those who need it most.

By way of some examples, that amount of money could:

- cover the cost of almost 50 visits by Princess Alice Nurses to patients in their own homes *or*
- pay for a new bed to go in our Inpatient Unit (IPU) *or*
- allow 224 children to attend a session of Dovetail, our children's bereavement group *or*
- provide virtually three full days of a patient's care in the IPU *or*
- enable just under 34 days of physiotherapy services in our Wellbeing Centre

So, as you can see, your wonderful generosity will have amazing repercussions and we would like to say an enormous thank you on behalf of the staff and the patients and their loved ones, for whom this money will make a genuine difference.

Tim Iredale, Princess Alice Hospice





News from around the Province

A Double Installation at Lingfield Lodge

On Friday the 19th of November 2021 Lingfield Lodge No 1419 held a double installation ceremony. This was to install the Commander and Master, who were both unable to be installed earlier in the year due to the suspension of Masonic activity. The Lodges were also honoured with the presence of our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. John French and a team of Provincial Grand Officers.



The Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Christopher Da-Silva Skinner, who welcomed the Deputy Provincial Grand Master who said how good it was to be with everyone again after such a long time.

The main item on the agenda was to install Bro. Wally Maynard as Worshipful Commander. This was done by the Worshipful Commander, very ably assisted by W.Bro. Tim Ford, our Provincial Grand Secretary. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master congratulated W.Bro. Wally and wished him a successful year.

After the Officers were appointed and invested, the Lodge was closed, and the Temple was re-arranged for the Mark meeting.

The Mark Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Wally Maynard, and V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, G.J.O., who acted as Junior Warden, was saluted with five under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Michael Flynn. The Deputy Provincial Grand

Master entered in procession with the Provincial team, was welcomed by the Worshipful Master and presented with the gavel. He said how pleased he was to be visiting Lingfield Lodge and how much he was looking forward to the meeting.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master spoke about the various ongoing initiatives, especially events in support of the 2022 Festival. He then had much pleasure in presenting a Patron Certificate to W.Bro. David Planner thanking him for his support for the MBF. He then introduced the Provincial team, took the minutes, and vacated the Chair.

Next on the agenda was the installation of W.Bro. John Raymond Beer as Worshipful Master. This was done in a very personal manner by W.Bro. Wally Maynard, very ably assisted by W.Bro. Bob Soper, our Provincial Grand Organist, the Lodge Secretary.

V.W.Bro. Chris Eley gave the Addresses to the Master, W.Bro. Michael Flynn to the Wardens, W.Bro. Tim Ford to the Overseers, and W.Bro. John French to the Brethren.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master wished the new Worshipful Master a most enjoyable year, his first in a Surrey Chair, and said how pleased he was to hear they have a candidate for their next meeting.

After the Officers were appointed and invested, W.Bro. Wally Maynard presented the Deputy Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £600 towards the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master thanked the Brethren of Lingfield Mark Lodge for their generous donation.



W.Bro. Des Franklin, one of the Group Charity Representatives, gave a very informative presentation on the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival. Des had with him the Provincial suitcase full of goodies to sell in the bar on behalf of the 2022 Festival.

After the Lodge was closed the Brethren of Lingfield Lodge and their guests lined up for a photograph and then retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal at the Nutfield Masonic Centre.

As is the usual custom, the Members of the Allied Masonic Degrees wore their AMD napkins at the Festive Board to promote the Order, especially as our Deputy Provincial Grand Master is the District Grand Prefect of the District Grand Council of Surrey in the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees..

The Installation Meeting of Warlingham Lodge

On Monday 6th December 2021 at the Nutfield Masonic Centre, Warlingham RAM and Mark Lodges held their Installation ceremonies. This was due to the need to conduct installations at the first meeting after the suspension of Masonic activity had been lifted.



The Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Paul S Greenfield, who welcomed the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Bill Barr, to his Mother Lodge. W.Bro. Bill thanked the Worshipful Commander on behalf of all the visitors. After the Dispensation had been read, W.Bro. Paul Greenfield was Proclaimed as Worshipful Commander for a further year.

After the Officers had been appointed and invested the Worshipful Commander had much pleasure in presenting a cheque for £400 to the Assistant Provincial Grand Master on behalf for the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival. W.Bro. Bill thanked the Worshipful Commander and the brethren of Warlingham RAM Lodge for their kind donation.

The Lodge was then closed, and the Temple re-arranged for the Mark Lodge meeting. The Mark Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. David Cawte. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master was admitted and took the Chair. He introduced the Provincial Team and spoke about the 2022 Festival. After the Dispensation had been read, Bro. Stephen M R Butcher was installed as Worshipful Master by W.Bro. David Cawte, ably assisted by W.Bro. Bill Barr.



The Address to the Worshipful Master was given by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, to the Wardens by W.Bro. David Wills, to the Overseers by W.Bro. Peter Unwin, and to the Brethren by W.Bro. Terry Carpenter.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master congratulated W.Bro. Steve and wished him a successful and enjoyable year.



The Worshipful Master and the Charity Steward had much pleasure in presenting a cheque for £400 to the Assistant Provincial Grand Master on behalf for the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival. W.Bro. Bill thanked the Worshipful Master and the brethren of Warlingham Mark Lodge for their kind donation. After the Lodge was closed and the customary photos taken, we sat down to a most convivial meal together. As is the custom at Mark Festive Boards, the members of the Allied Masonic Degrees all wore their AMD napkins.



A Double Elevation for Noel Royal Ark Mariner Lodge



On the 15th of November 2121 at Surbiton Masonic Halls Noel Royal Ark Mariner Lodge conducted a double Elevation.

15 Brethren saw a fantastic ceremony conducted by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Ray Seeley, with support from the Acting Senior Deacon, W.Bro. Steve Jones, along with W.Bro. Roy Baker who gave the explanation of the signs. The two new members of Noel Royal Ark Mariner Lodge are Brother Tony Friend and Brother Keith Mitchell.

L to R – W.Bro. Peter Kipps, Bro. Tony, Worshipful Commander. W.Bro. Ray Seeley, W.Bro. Roy Baker, Bro. Keith and W Bro Steve Jones.

Article and photo by Andy Fox

Percy Lodge - definitely above normal!

Percy Lodge No. 114 met in Guildford, Thursday 1st December. A host of gold braid was on display but even more importantly a host of Mark Master Masons proudly displaying their roundels of intended progression.



We had a thought-provoking comment from our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Richard Knox, and his much-used word was heavily repeated over the course of the evening. What a super enjoyable event with a proclamation reminding us that we are still in the throes of Covid and an elevation rarely seen by the writer of this article since his own elevation many years ago.

There was a carvery of Christmas Fayre, an enthusiastic raffle, and words of the highest quality from invited members. Needless to say, our Provincial Grand Charity Steward gave a flawless display to encourage those present to be more than generous for our Festival.

We were rightly reminded that the Founder of The Mark Benevolent Fund, George Raymond Portal was a member of this lodge. I am not surprised that the members gathered in this very elegant centre are proud members of Percy Lodge.

Article and photos by Michael Fenech



The refreshment of Woodstock Mark Lodge

Are you interested in Beer, Wine and Spirits? Don't worry, David Lawrence will probably know the answer?



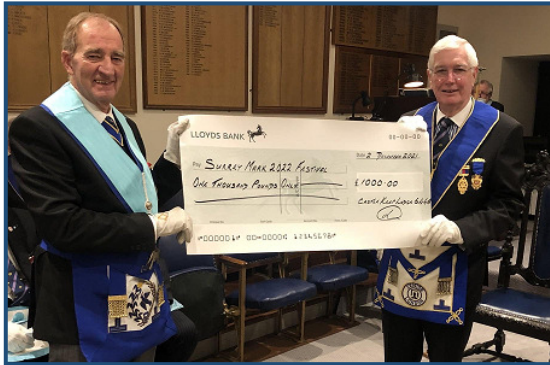
The reason for the question is that plans are in place to revive Woodstock Lodge as the Grape and Grain Lodge. The lodge will meet twice a year, suggested dates so far are 2nd Thursday in February and June, one being an original date of Woodstock.

The Lodge meeting will serve to have speakers such as Sommeliers, Distillers and Brewers come and further educate us on our favourite tippie. We will also arrange visits to Vineyards, Distilleries and Breweries to see how this tasty treat is made and also a sample their wares. Don't worry this will almost certainly be a coach trip.

Interested? –Contact David Lawrence on david@backtolife.co.uk for more information.

Other News

A big thank-you to Castle Keep Craft Lodge



The December meeting of Castle Keep Craft Lodge No 6446 at Godalming was as joyful as ever, even without the usual singing of carols.

The Lodge make annual donations to local charities and this year the donations were more than usual due to last year's lockdown. The photo shows W.Bro. David Else presenting £1,000 to R.W. Bro. Ian Clark, our Provincial Grand Master, towards the Surrey 2022 Festival in aid of the Mark Benevolent Fund. Ian responded in kind by handing out Mark 2022 calendars to all Castle Keep members. Hopefully, other Mark men will be able to encourage their Craft Lodges to dig deep and support this great cause.

The Lodge also made donations to TLC and two other local charities. Health & safety note - masks were worn but removed for photo!

Article by David Else

Another Generous Donation from the District Grand Council of Surrey in the Allied Masonic Degrees

After a gap of two years the 2021 Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Surrey took place on Saturday 4th December at Croydon Masonic Hall.



Our Provincial Grand Master was presented with a cheque for £2022 towards the Surrey Mark MBF 2022 Festival. He thanked the District Grand Prefect and the members of District Grand Council for their generous donation.



District Grand Council was honoured with the presence of the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel, and his Escorting Officer, W.Bro. Matthew Hampson, Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John V C French (*our Deputy Provincial Grand Master*) opened the meeting of District Grand Council and welcomed all the guests and visitors.



At the meeting the District Grand Prefect announced that he had much pleasure in re-appointing W.Bro. Robert Gregory (Bob) Tuthill (*our webmaster*) as his Deputy District Grand Prefect.

After refreshments the Brethren of the District Grand Council of Surrey and their guests sat down to a splendid lunch at the Croydon Masonic Halls.

Festival Family Swimathon

The annual Swimathon was held at Guildford Spectrum on Sunday 5th December 2021. Mike Neville, together with his three daughters, Jenny, Abigail and Isabel; Ray Seeley and his granddaughter, Florence; and John Swift, with his young children, all took part.



They were supported by our Provincial Grand Master, our Provincial Grand Charity Steward, our Provincial Grand Almoner and, in true Masonic style, a numerous retinue!

The cheerleaders were led by W.Bro. Norman Jones and W.Bro. Ray Beadle. W.Bro. Ivan Larkin; Mrs Jo Lawrence, W.Bro. David Lawrence's wife; and Mrs Kath Keats swam at their local pools to further boost the event.

At the end, the Provincial Grand Master presented medals to all the children who had taken part. I think our Provincial Grand Charity Steward would have liked a medal for all his hard work....



The Provincial Grand Master thanked those taking part, together with those who had generously supported the MBF and this fund raiser for our Festival. The event raised over £3,400, a great total for a fun day out.

Article by Mike Neville

A Visit to the Middlesex Installed Commanders Lodge

As the Worshipful Commander of the Surrey Enthroned Commanders Lodge, I was invited to the Installation meeting of the Middlesex Installed Commanders Lodge held on Monday 29th November 2021 at the Harrow District Masonic Centre. This was a very special meeting as my old friend W.Bro. John Edwards was being installed as the Worshipful Commander.

The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Barry Williams, R.A.M.G.R. and after the regular business of the Lodge had been concluded the dispensation was read, W.Bro. John M Edwards, R.A.M.G.R., was installed as Worshipful Commander in a very sincere manner. Afterwards he was congratulated by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Eddie Garty, and the members of the Provincial Executive present and past.

There were several Surrey Mark Masons present who also congratulated John.



W.Bro. John then gave a short talk entitled 'The Great Escape and what happened afterwards'. This most interesting talk taught us that, unlike John during his time as a motorcycle policeman, no-one rode a Triumph motorcycle during the escape.

After the Lodge was closed, we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to an excellent meal at the Harrow District Masonic Centre.



Christmas Day Balloon Race

Join the family fun in our exciting charity fundraising event to enjoy at home.



Launching from Santa's Village, Lapland at 12pm on Christmas Day, 25th December 2021, this eco friendly computer game uses real time weather updates to affect the course of your balloon.

Balloons are just £3 each and can be personalised and decorated by changing shape, colours and patterns. They can be customised to aid winning. Follow your balloon's progress on Google maps 24/7 over the 7 days of the race.

They make an ideal gift to send to those family and friends you may be missing at this difficult time, especially children and grandchildren who will be thrilled taking part.

Great exclusive prizes for Surrey Mark 2022 Festival supporters for furthest distance travelled at the end:

Plus a chance to also win the national prizes which comprise:

Win

- £30 Amazon gift voucher
- £20 Amazon gift voucher
- 5 x £10 book tokens

- £500 cash
- Apple iPad
- 10 x £10 book tokens

Get Started

1. Click here for more information and to go to the race website.
<https://ecoracing.co/user/page?id=1947>
2. Choose to buy a virtual balloon - you will need to register first time to pay.
3. Your purchase or activation code will be confirmed by email.
4. You are now ready to name, decorate and customise your balloon and follow its progress.



Tip – Choosing the right materials and configuration will make a difference to the flight and remember balloons can burst! It's as real as you can get.

W.Bro. John Hardy's 122 Mile Walk



Sponsor W.Bro. John Hardy as he completes a series of walks in London, Surrey, and Seaford from December 2021 to February 2022 in support of our 2022 Mark MBF Festival.

This will culminate in a walk from Mark Masons Hall in London to Croydon Masonic Centre

Sponsorship and gift aid forms will be on the web site.





Super Prize Draw Raffle

Support the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival with our Super Prize Draw Raffle featuring great prizes. Tickets are £1 each (£5 for a book of 5) and are available from Steve Jones, the Provincial Charity Representatives, Lodge Secretaries and Charity Stewards, and other Brethren.

The fabulous prizes are:



First Prize

Two Night Stay at a 4 Star Copthorne Hotel with Dinner and Breakfast for two in any UK hotel outside London subject to availability. *Exclusions apply.*



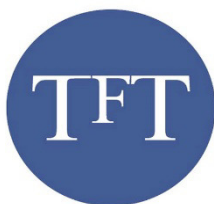
Second Prize

A Rehoboam of Chivas Regal 12-year old whisky (4.5 litres or six bottles), with pouring cradle and boxed.



Third Prize

Two tickets to the England v India One Day Cricket International at the Oval on 12th July 2022.



Fourth Prize

Three course lunch for two with house wine at The French Table, Surbiton.

The Prize Draw will take place at the Annual Meeting at Croydon on Saturday the 19th of March 2022.