



A Christmas Message from our Provincial Grand Master



Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Surrey Keystone which contains so much information regarding what has been happening in the Province, together with news about the future.

The climax of the last year must be the success of the 2022 Mark Benevolent Fund Festival in Brighton, where the Grand Secretary announced that the Festival had raised **£1,022,000**. My message to you all is **“THANK YOU”** and **“BE PROUD”**. Despite the adversity of the last few years and the challenges with the proposed venue, we triumphed with a magnificent sum raised and a successful final event.

In September I was delighted to repone the Warrant of Woodstock Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1569 as the Woodstock Grape and Grain Lodge. We can look forward to many enjoyable future meetings.

I was Installed as Provincial Grand Master of this wonderful Province in 2014 and I decided that the MBF Festival year would be my final year. **I shall therefore retire from office on the 17th of March 2023.**

I have been proud and honoured to serve the Province as our Provincial Grand Master. I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Provincial Executive who have provided such sound advice and assistance during my tenure. I also thank the Provincial Officers and my Official Representatives who have supported me and the Province, in visiting Lodges, other Provinces, on various committees and projects, but most importantly, in the day-to-day roles and offices so necessary for the running of a successful Province.

I am pleased to inform you that the Grand Master has invited V.W.Bro. John Vaughan Christopher French to be my successor. He will be Installed as the eighteenth Provincial Grand Master at Croydon District Masonic Hall on the morning of the 18th of

March 2023. I am confident that you will give him the fullest support as he leads the Province forward.

In conclusion, I wish you and your families a safe and Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mark Well.

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Yet another busy afternoon for Croydon Mark Lodge



In November, the members of our 'Upside Down' Lodge were honoured by the presence of our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. John V C French, P.G.J.O., and several Provincial Officers of the year. As they had a full agenda of an Advancement Ceremony and an Installation Ceremony, the meeting was split in two with the Advancement, a break for dinner, and then John's Official Visit and the Installation of a new Worshipful Master.

The Lodge was opened by the Acting Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Tim Ford, and after a period of quiet reflection in respect of the late Queen Elizabeth II, V.W.Bro. John French and the other visitors were warmly welcomed. After the regular business of the Lodge had been completed a ballot was taken for Brother Michael John Banks as a Candidate for Advancement.



This proved in his favour and Bro. Michael Banks was Advanced to the honourable degree of Mark Master Mason by the Worshipful Master, assisted by his Officers. I had the pleasure of acting as Senior Deacon for the Ceremony, and W.Bro. Phil Young of Croham Hurst Mark Lodge acted as Junior Deacon. Bro. John thoroughly enjoyed his ceremony and participated with gusto.



Brother Banks was afterwards welcomed into the Lodge by the Worshipful Master, and into the Order and the Province of Surrey by the Very Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master.



The Lodge was called-off and we retired for a most convivial festive board.



As is the usual custom at Mark festive boards the members of the Allied Masonic Degrees all wore their AMD napkins.



We then reconvened in the Temple and the Lodge was called-on.

The Very Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master was received into the Lodge, again welcomed by the Worshipful Master and offered the gavel. He introduced the Provincial Officers that had attended to support his visit, thanking them for their support. He spoke about the current initiatives, took the minutes, and vacated the Chair, as the Master had work to do.



Brother Bob Russell was then installed into the Chair of Croydon Mark Lodge No 198 in a most sincere manner by W.Bro. Tim Ford. The Address to the Master was given by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, to the Wardens by W.Bro. Garth Blanchard, to the Overseers by W.Bro. Tim Ford, and to the Brethren by V.W.Bro. John French.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was then invited to present Grand Lodge Certificates to Brothers Michael Spicer and Barrie McKenna, which he did in a very informative way.

After the remaining business had been completed the Lodge was closed, and after the customary photographs were taken, we made our way home and reflected on what a very special afternoon we had.



Middlesex makes its Mark



The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Middlesex took place on Wednesday the 26th of October 2022 at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street. This was because their usual venue, the Royal Masonic School for Girls, was undertaking building work.

We received a very warm welcome on our arrival from the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Edward R Garty. There were honoured guests from many Provinces: Essex, Dorset and Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, and other Provinces.



Just after 10.20 the Brethren were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Worshipful Brethren.



The meeting was called to order to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master; and the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Edward R Garty.



Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master and the Brethren stood in silence as a mark of respect for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Provincial Travelling Keystone was then paraded into Provincial Grand Lodge and presented to the Provincial Grand Master, following which he received a delegation of Royal Ark Mariners.





The Provincial Grand Master had much pleasure in re-appointing V.W.Bro. Steven M Vanhinsbergh, **P.G.J.O.**, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and W.Bro. Peter J Hyde, **P.G.S.D.**, and V.W.Bro. John D Billett, **P.G.J.O.**, as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.



The Provincial Grand Master closed by congratulating those Brethren who received appointment or promotion in Grand Lodge in June and September; as well as all those he appointed or promoted that day. The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form.



Those present remembered the Brethren who had passed to the Grand Lodge above since the last Annual Meeting. The Provincial Grand Master then individually welcomed the many representatives of other Provinces and Masonic Orders, thanking them for their support for Middlesex Mark.

After the regular business before Provincial Grand Lodge had been concluded the Provincial Grand Master welcomed many newly Advanced Brethren thanking them for their support for Provincial Grand Lodge and wishing them many happy years to enjoy their Mark Masonry.



The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.

The Brethren of the Mark Province of Middlesex and their guests then retired for refreshments. After refreshments the Brethren of the Province of Middlesex and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable meal in the vestibule at Freemasons Hall.

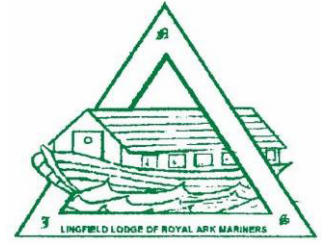
In the reply to his toast the Provincial Grand Master thanked everyone for attending to make this a special day for the Mark Province of Middlesex, reminding everyone that Freemasons Hall used to be in the old County of Middlesex.

A Candidate for Lingfield Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners

In November, with a little help from some friends, Lingfield Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners Elevated a Candidate who was Advanced into the Mark Lodge earlier in the year.

The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Wally Maynard, who welcomed everyone, especially those Brethren who had come along to assist the Lodge with the Elevation Ceremony that afternoon, Worshipful Brothers Tim Ford and Chris Eley. W.Bro. Chris Eley, **R.A.M.G.R.**, P.A.Prov.G.M., was saluted with 5 under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Michael Flynn. W.Bro. Chris responded accordingly.

After the Lodge had been opened, the Brethren stood in silent tribute to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Brethren then stood to order in respect of departed merit for R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison, Assistant Grand Master, and W.Bro. The Revd. David Lionel Allonby, *O.B.E.*, **R.A.M.G.R.**



After the regular business of the Lodge had been concluded a ballot was taken for Brother Michael Gary Mills, a member of Lingfield Lodge of Mark Master Masons. This proved in his favour.

The Worshipful Commander invited W.Bro. Tim Ford, **R.A.M.G.R.**, to conduct the Ceremony of Elevation and W.Bro. Chris Eley to act as Senior Warden.

Brother Michael had a most impressive ceremony by W.Bro. Tim and the Officers of the Lodge. The Working Tools were presented by W.Bro. Chris George, **R.A.M.G.R.**

Brother Michael was congratulated and welcomed into the Lodge by Worshipful Brothers Tim Ford and Wally Maynard; and into the Order and the Province of Surrey, on behalf of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, by Worshipful Brother Chris Eley.

Pursuant to the Notice of Motion given at the last meeting Brother Secretary proposed that W.Bro. Chris Eley be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge in recognition of his support for the Fraternity in general and Lingfield Lodge in particular. This was carried unanimously, and W.Bro. Chris thanked the Brethren of Lingfield Royal Ark Mariner Lodge for the honour conferred.



The Lodge was then closed, and the furniture re-arranged for the Mark meeting.



A Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. John R Beer, P.Prov.A.G.D.C. (Lon), and the Brethren stood in silent tribute to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. V.W.Bro. Chris Eley said a few words in memory of R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison, Assistant Grand Master, a man of the people and a gentle giant who was sorely missed by all.

W.Bro. Chris George gave a eulogy for The Revd. David Lionel Allonby, *O.B.E.*, **P.G.S.D.**, who was advanced into Lingfield Lodge in 1982 and was made an Honorary Member of the Lodge in 2018. The Brethren then stood to order in respect of departed merit.

The Worshipful Master welcomed everyone, especially their Official Visitor, W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood, **P.G.St.B.**, Prov.G.J.W. W.Bro. Bernie thanked the Worshipful Master and the Brethren for their warm welcome on his first visit to Lingfield Lodge. W.Bro. Bernie was saluted as the Representative of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, with 3 under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Michael Flynn, Prov.G.St.B. W.Bro. Bernie responded accordingly.



V.W.Bro. Chris Eley was invited to present a Grand Lodge Certificate to Brother Michael Mills, which he did in his own special way by also explaining where the Mark Degree sits in pure ancient Freemasonry and the importance of this degree in the Solomonic legend. V.W.Bro. Chris was especially pleased to present Bro. Michael with his Certificate as he had assisted in his Advancement earlier in the year.

W.Bro. John Beer was then declared Master Elect for the ensuing year, and W.Bro. Wally Maynard was declared Treasurer.

Pursuant to the Notice of Motion given at the last meeting Brother Secretary proposed that V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, **P.G.J.O.**, P.A.Prov.G.M., be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge in recognition of his support for the Fraternity in general and Lingfield Lodge in particular. This was again carried unanimously and V.W.Bro. Chris thanked the Brethren of Lingfield Lodge of Mark Master Masons for the honour conferred.



The Lodge was then closed and, after the usual photographs, the Brethren of Lingfield Lodge and their guests retired for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal at the Nutfield Masonic Centre.

The Installation Meeting of St Andrews Mark Lodge

The first meeting of the new season was well attended with a solid representation of our members and a visit by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Bill Barr. He had his retinue under the capable direction of his Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Nigel Graham.



The meeting was opened in due form with the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Robert Rance greeting us all and our guests. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master was duly saluted once he had paraded in to spontaneous applause. He did take the gavel for a brief moment and took the opportunity to thank St Andrews 806 for their support for the 2022 Surrey Mark MBF Festival. He presented the Worshipful Master with a certificate to that effect.



W.Bro. Bob Rance then gave way to W.Bro. David Warren who installed W.Bro. Clifford Foster into the chair of Adoniram with due ceremony. Addresses were delivered by W.Bro. Jim Moyes, W.Bro. Michael Fenech and W.Bro. Bill Barr. A new team of officers was duly formed and welcomed by our new Worshipful Master, and they received their collars and jewels with appropriate supportive comment from our Worshipful Master.

The Worshipful Master was congratulated by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master who wished him a most enjoyable year in the Chair of St. Andrews Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 806.



The explanation of the Loving Cup was provided by W.Bro. Michael Fenech, and we all took it in turns to toast and salute our brother to our left in silence and with due reverence.

The Tyler's toast was rendered by the Worshipful Master. The evening closed in good harmony in typical Mark Mason style.

Article by Michael Fenech and photos by Andrew Banks and Michael Fenech

Our organist assisted in the closing of the meeting with the National Anthem and the closing ode. We then repaired to the dining room for our Festive board, a substantial meal enjoyed by all and made even more positive with a raffle producing a significant sum for worthy causes.



With a little help from their friends

In November I was invited by E.Comp. Mik Barnes, our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Past Provincial Grand Summus in the Order of the Scarlet Cord, Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler in the Order of the Secret Monitor, to assist at the Installation Convocation of Earl of Zetland Chapter held at Freemasons Hall. I acted as M.E.Z. as E.Comp. Louis Keats, Past Provincial Grand Summus in the Scarlet Cord Province of Surrey, was unable to attend due to a family commitment in Darlington.

As well as Mik Barnes, Second Principal, there were many Heads of Surrey Progressive Orders present. There were David Blackburn, District Grand Master of the Royal and Select Master, our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master; Third Principal; Ian Clark, our Provincial Grand Master;

and among the guests were Nigel Thomson, Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, and Simon McCarthy, Assistant Provincial Grand Summus in the Order of the Scarlet Cord in the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey.



After opening the Chapter and the regular business of the Chapter was concluded, E.Comp. Mik Barnes was presented to me by E.Comp. Ian Clark, following which I inducted him into the First Principal's Chair. Mik then inducted David Blackburn into the Second Principal's and David, who had all the work to do, installed Companion Jeffrey Sandat into the Third Principal's Chair in an excellent manner. The Officers were then appointed and invested.

The Chapter was closed, and we retired over the road to The Hercules Pillars for refreshments and a most convivial Festive Board. In the Toast to the Principals, I said that It was a very special meeting for me as I have known Mik for many years, so therefore it was a pleasure and a privilege to induct him into the First Principal's Chair of his Chapter.



Congratulations to David Barden

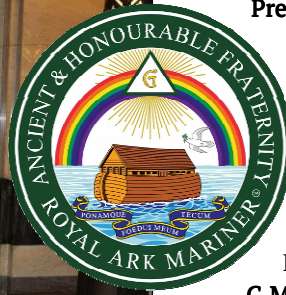
In November, W.Bro. David Barden, a member of several Mark Lodges in Surrey, and our 2022 Festival Treasurer, was, along with 13 other Squire Novices, commissioned as a Knight Beneficent of the Holy City at an Emergency Meeting of the Prefectory of St. George of London No.1.

The ceremony was conducted in a very personal manner by the Reverend Grand Master, Dr Vivian Thomas, G.C.H.C., and his team.



Congratulations to my old friend David Barden on becoming a Knight Beneficent of the Holy City.

Congratulations



Congratulations to W.Bros. Simon McCarthy, Michael Prentice and Kevin Woodward who received Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank from the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Prizeman, at the Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner at Freemasons' Hall on Monday the 12th of December.

There to support our Brethren was our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian N Clark, G.M.R.A.C., along with many Surrey Brethren.

A full report will be in the next issue of the Surrey Keystone.

What do you call a group of Grand Stewards?



At a recent meeting of Kintore Lodge of Mark Master Masons there were six Mark Grand Stewards present and past attending.

They are seen here with the recently appointed Grand Steward in the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees.

He's the one wearing the AMD napkin



Happy Birthday to our Deputy Provincial Grand Master



At a recent festive board at the AMD District of London Annual Meeting R.W.Bro. John French, District Grand Prefect of the District of Surrey in the Allied Masonic Degrees, was congratulated on reaching his 66th birthday and presented with a birthday cake and candle.

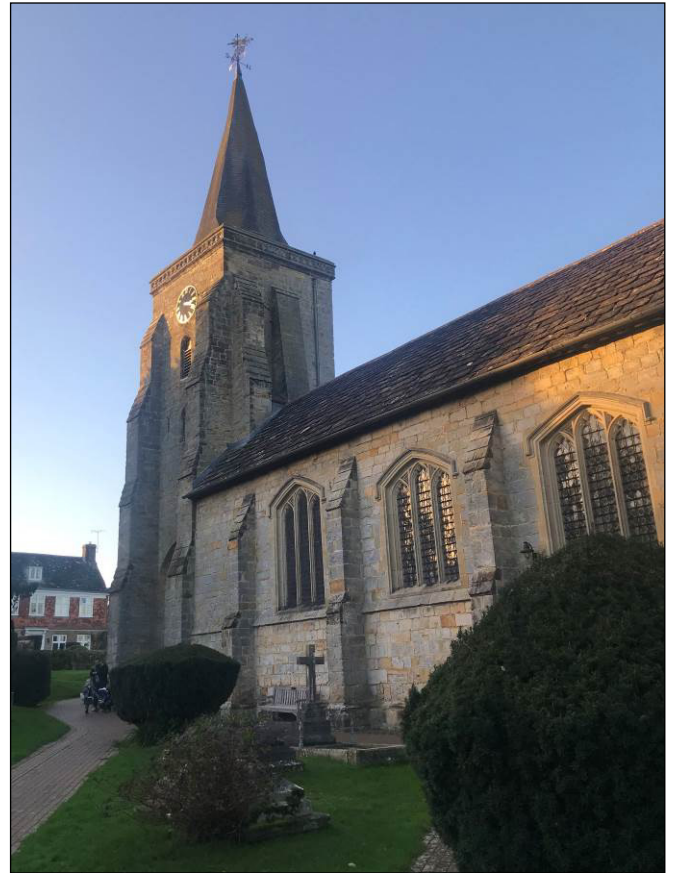
It was difficult to share the sugary delight with everyone so needless to say John polished it off himself!



A Memorial Service for The Reverend David Lionel Allonby, *OBE. JP.*



A Memorial Service for Reverend David Allonby was held at The Church of St Peter and Paul in Lingfield on Friday 25th November 2022. Present were representatives of the Masonic Orders in Surrey.



David, who passed away on the 6th of July 2022, was a man who lived life to the full. He stood as a Labour Candidate Member of Parliament on two occasions and was on numerous committees nationally and locally. At the service Reverend Ian Whitley read out a letter of condolence to David's family from Sir Kier Starmer.

David was a RN Chaplain and afterwards became Chaplain at St George's Chapel, Biggin Hill.

He was initiated into Godstone Lodge in 1980, Passed and Raised in 1981, and was Exalted into East Surrey Chapter in 1983. David was Provincial Grand Chaplain in the Craft Province of Surrey from 1993 to 2015 and Third Provincial Grand Principal in the Holy Royal Arch Province of Surrey from 1996 to 2001.

David was a member of many Progressive Orders and held senior rank in most of them, mainly in a Chaplain or equivalent role. He was probably best known as the Provincial Prelate in the Provincial Priory of Surrey in the Order of the Knights Templar, an office he held for many years.

David was Advanced into Lingfield Lodge of Mark Master Masons in 1982 and was Worshipful Master in 1990 and 1994.

He was Elevated into Lingfield Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in 1983 and was Worshipful Commander in 1987, 1993 and 1994. In recognition of his service to the Lodge and to Freemasonry in general David was made an Honorary Member of Lingfield Lodge of Mark Master Masons and Lingfield Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in 2018.

David was our Provincial Grand Chaplain from 1991 for five years until appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 1996. He was Past Assistant Grand Chaplain for several years before being promoted to Past Grand Senior Overseer in 2006. Very Worshipful Brother David Allonby served the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey, and the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, with distinction and will be sorely missed by many of us.

Another Candidate for Croham Hurst Mark Lodge

In November Croham Hurst Mark Lodge met at the Croham Hirst Golf Club in South Croydon to Advance another Candidate.

I thought I would go along to support them and have a nice relaxing afternoon - was I wrong... As soon as I had entered the Golf Club I was pounced upon by Gary Chandler, the Director of Ceremonies, to act as Master Overseer. I didn't really mind as Terry Carpenter is the Senior Deacon and I would never pass up an opportunity to examine his work.... Our Provincial Grand Master acted as Junior Warden and did a good job with his axe....



The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Des Franklin, who welcomed everyone. We then stood for a few moments in memory of our late Queen Elizabeth II.

A ballot was taken for Bro. Peter Douglas Parker of Mole Lodge, which proved in his favour.

Brother Peter was advanced to the honourable degree of a Mark Master Mason in a very sincere manner by the Worshipful Master, assisted by W.Bro. Phil Young who presented the Working Tools; and gave the Address after Advancement in an excellent manner.

Brother Peter was congratulated and welcomed into the Lodge by the Worshipful Master, and into the Order and the Province of Surrey by our Provincial Grand Master.

After the Lodge was closed and the usual photographs taken the Lodge room was re-arranged for the meeting of Croham Hurst Craft Lodge that followed.

The Installation Meeting of St Andrew's Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners



Never have I been so proud as the other night. I was completing my stint as Commander of this small but richly endowed Lodge. Ritual at my advanced age is not something I take to easily. Yet here we were with Brother Michael Barnes about to follow me into the chair of this Lodge that had been in existence for almost a hundred years. A Keystone Lodge. A Patron Gold of the Mark Benevolent Fund. The ceremony had to be of a very good standard.



Firstly, our secretary and I set up the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and prepared also for the Mark Lodge meeting which was to follow on immediately after the Installation. He and I then repaired to a boutique hostelry in Farnham and had coffee. What a very pleasant way to start our day.

We opened on time and all posts were filled by our members. We had one guest. There was only one thing to do. I had asked our very supportive Treasurer to undertake the touching ceremony of installing Bro. Michael into the chair of Commander of the Lodge.

W.Bro. Barrie Selway is well known in Province for his excellent grasp of ritual, and he carried out the service in such a way that our Worshipful Commander Elect was installed in a worthy and dignified manner. What a very impressive and meaningful ceremony. I did ask myself why Royal Ark Mariners in Farnham only met on the same night as our Mark Lodge but that is another point for discussion. I am aware that a few Royal Ark Mariners meet independently.

Worshipful Commander Michael then appointed his officers with genuine aplomb. All posts, save two, were completed and we were so pleased to see W.Bro. Gerry Phillips in attendance. He had arranged his often-made visits to Spain in such a way that he was able to fulfil the role of Junior Warden. It was so good to see him. Our Director of Ceremonies, working in Manchester at the moment, had driven down from the cold north and set aside much time to guide us through the interesting elements of the ritual. Our Assistant Director of Ceremonies, heavily committed in civic life saw to the correct lay out of the lodge and beavered away brilliantly in the background in support of our DC. True teamwork. It was such a worthwhile evening.

It did not stop there. A minor thing but very important was the Toasts to be proposed according to Grand Lodge. In hand. The hard working secretary had an up to the minute Toast List and our Festive Board was a credit to our Caterers. Toasts were proposed but no fire as we had Mark Master Masons who had not yet joined. Later in this

relaxed meeting, we were advised that two of them would be joining our Royal Ark Mariners Lodge.

As an aside, in our Mark Lodge meeting, it was announced that we very possibly have a Candidate for Advancement in the wings, and two more craftsmen who had expressed substantial interest in joining St. Andrew's.

Yet more good news, W.Bro. Brian Tout has been awarded Prov.R.A.M.G.R.

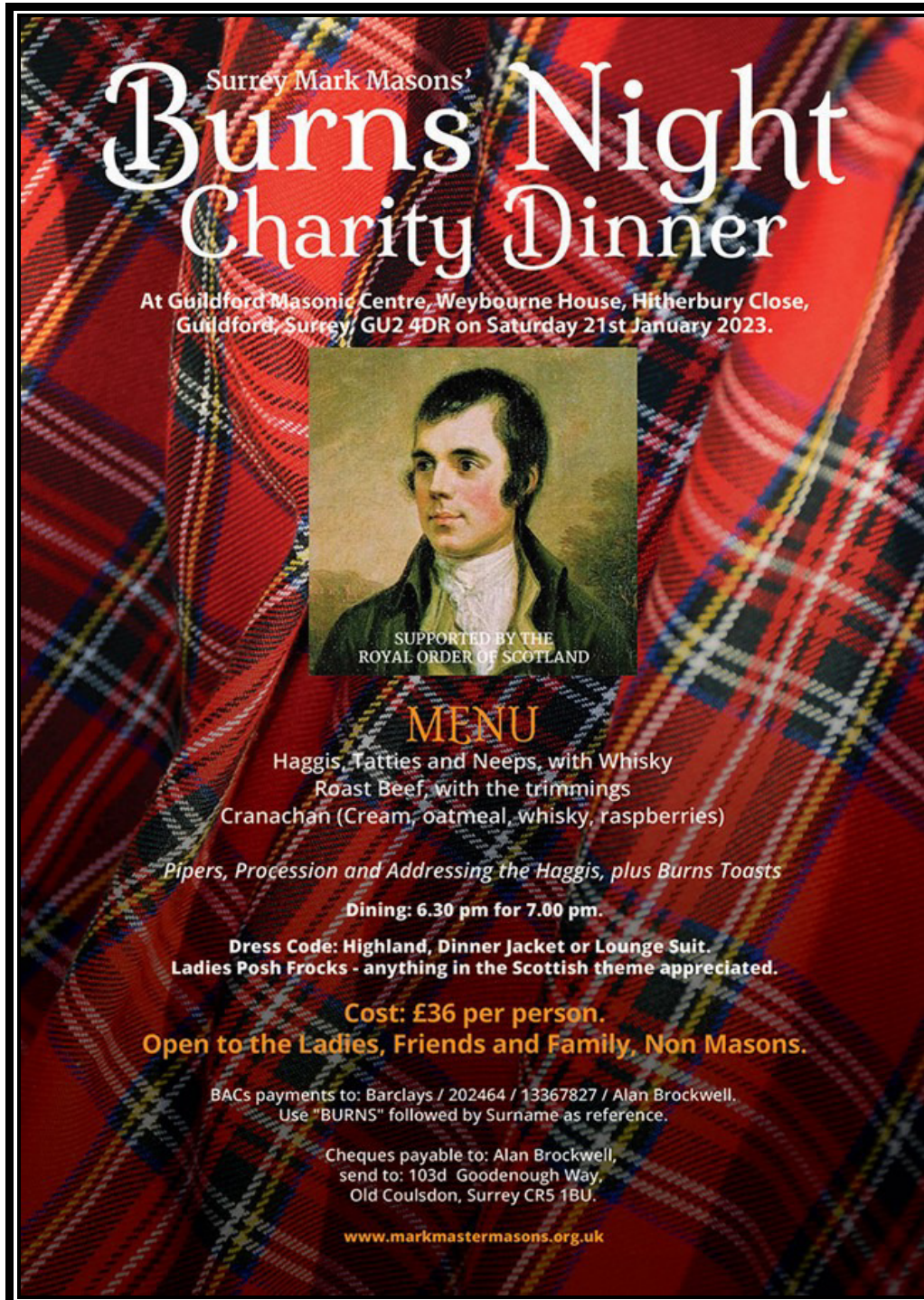
Finally, the day came to an end, and we all went home feeling content with our lodge meetings, as it should be in Mark and R.A.M. Come and visit us we need more than just one visitor.

Thanks to Michael Fenech



Burns Night 2023

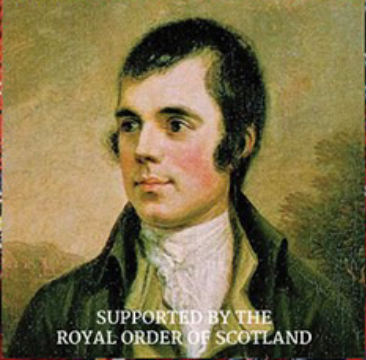
The Surrey Mark Masons 2023 Burns Night Charity Dinner will be held at the Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, on Saturday 21st January 2022. There are a few places left, so book now to ensure you don't miss out.



Surrey Mark Masons'

Burns Night Charity Dinner

At Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, Hitherbury Close,
Guildford, Surrey, GU2 4DR on Saturday 21st January 2023.



SUPPORTED BY THE
ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND

MENU

Haggis, Tatties and Neeps, with Whisky
Roast Beef, with the trimmings
Cranachan (Cream, oatmeal, whisky, raspberries)

Pipers, Procession and Addressing the Haggis, plus Burns Toasts

Dining: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.

**Dress Code: Highland, Dinner Jacket or Lounge Suit.
Ladies Posh Frocks - anything in the Scottish theme appreciated.**

**Cost: £36 per person.
Open to the Ladies, Friends and Family, Non Masons.**

BACs payments to: Barclays / 202464 / 13367827 / Alan Brockwell.
Use "BURNS" followed by Surname as reference.

Cheques payable to: Alan Brockwell,
send to: 103d Goodenough Way,
Old Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 1BU.

www.markmastermasons.org.uk

Last year the event was a sell out with 125 Brethren, their wives, family and friends, thoroughly enjoying the traditional Scottish fare and atmosphere. Diners came from far and wide across the Southern part of England, with many wearing the Kilt.

The Burns Night is a Joint event by the Provincial Grand Lodge of the South Eastern Counties of the Royal Order of Scotland, and the Mark Province of Surrey. Last year the Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland, Charles Stoddart, gave the Address to the Haggis.