



## The 2023 West Yorkshire MBF Festival



The Province of West Yorkshire led by its Provincial Grand Master and 155th MBF Festival President, R.W.Bro. James Steggles, hosted a magnificent weekend event in Harrogate culminating in the revelation of the festival result.

The 155th MBF Festival President, R.W.Bro. James Steggles hosted a magnificent weekend event in Harrogate culminating in the revelation of the festival result. Following the Festival Event this figure was revised upwards and now stands at £1,582,870, another record figure of fundraising for the Mark Benevolent Fund







The weekend started with a dinner dance which attracted over 300 guests which certainly put them in the mood for the main event on Saturday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2023.



**There was a rumour that Steve Jones bought a round of drinks at the bar. Here is a photo to prove it....**



The Festival Banquet hosted over 600 guests with representations from almost all Provinces across England and Wales, including many from Surrey.

Congratulations once again to everyone in the Province.



The baton has now been passed to the Province of Cheshire and the 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival will be hosted by R.W.Bro. Gary Horstman, Provincial Grand Master. The venue will be the Concorde Conference Centre, The Runway Visitor Park, Sunbank Lane, Altrincham, WA15 8XQ.





# Surrey Enthroned Commanders *and* Surrey Installed Mark Masters Lodges



Now that is a long title by anybody's reckoning. However, it is at a Surbiton which is a good centre to get to by rail or by car. So in June off went the St Andrews 806 team with me, Barrie Selway, and Jim Moyes. The latter had already had a journey up from Eastleigh and is to be congratulated for his efforts. We were not alone, when we got there Andy Carr and Allan Steele had already arrived. Well done St Andrews 806.



The turnout was excellent, not only for 806 but in general. Some fifty plus RAM and Mark men were in attendance, and we had air-conditioning!! There were visitors from Middlesex and other areas. There were also dedicated men of high rank who were happy to help out, as is the custom in our degree. Our Provincial Grand Master was in the chair for the Royal Ark Mariner meeting and soon set the tone for a relaxed group who carried out the business in hand.

Men were congratulated for their promotion to Provincial rank, as well as to Grand Rank. The Worshipful Commander thanked them for their time devoted to this beautiful degree, for their efforts in working in this degree, and for their enthusiasm.

When it came to the Installation ceremony, it was interesting to note that several members who were not Past Commanders left the room. They are a sign that this group

will grow as they progress in Royal Ark Mariners. The Worshipful Commander once again showed his skill in leading the ceremony of the Installation ceremony for W.Bro. Frank Lee.

The usual Lodge Committee and Lodge Accounts representatives were proposed, seconded, and confirmed with a Lodge Committee meeting arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> August of this year. The next regular meeting of this lodge will be once again in Surbiton on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2023. Come and join us for an enjoyable meeting, you will be made most welcome. It was pleasing to note that two members of 806 will be admitted to 1219 at the next meeting. Be there to welcome them and spend a pleasant day in good company.

I must mention the efficiency and speed with which our Warder/Tyler Chris Casselden set up the temple for the following Mark meeting. Thank you, kind sir. At the meeting were eight Past Master of the Lodge.





We did not have ceremony, and unfortunately our Worshipful Master was unable to attend. Yes you guessed it. R.W.Bro. John French, as the Immediate Past Master, stepped into the breach and led the meeting in his own inimitable and relaxed manner. As in the Royal Ark Mariners meeting, he welcomed everyone to the meeting, including several visitors from other Provinces. He also personally greeted several Joining Members.

W.Bro. Richard Knox very kindly took the position of Junior Warden, and the meeting began. Minutes were confirmed and James Hill was invested with his collar and jewel as our ADC. W.Bro. Tim Ford stated that he would do his best when the time came for him to be in the chair of the lodge. W.Bro. Jim Cranefield was "delighted" to be elected as our future Treasurer. But what were we to do when it came to the main event with no ceremony?

Step forward V.W.Bro. Chris Eley. I am still a new boy in Freemasonry, so I looked forward to his talk on The Mystic Tie with some apprehension. As a former teacher I have had enough of oral presentations, but I was proved seriously wrong. V.W.Bro. Chris presented a superb talk full of meaning and kept us all involved. His role as Provincial Orator in Craft was very evident. His delivery was sensitive. informing and very engaging.

Although our Almoner was unable to be present, our secretary was able to advise that all was well with members, one of whom was on the mend. The usual rule applies....if there is a concern please advise the Almoner and other appropriate members of the Lodge.



The Lodge was closed, and we retired to the bar for pre-dinner refreshments and an opportunity to catch up with some old friends.



Our Festive Board was very well attended and W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood kept us well supplied with alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.



As is the usual custom at Mark Festive Boards in Surrey, the members of the Allied Masonic Degrees joined our Worshipful Master, who happens to be the District Grand Prefect of Surrey AMD, in wearing their AMD napkins.

What a great afternoon and evening.

*Article by Michael Fenech*







# Another Candidate for Richmond Mark Lodge



In June, Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No 808, received yet another Candidate for Advancement.



After the regular business of the Lodge had been concluded the Lodge was closed and the Temple made ready for the Mark meeting.

The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Nick Butterworth who welcomed the members and guests present.

The afternoon started with a short business meeting of the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge. The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. John Fleetwood, R.A.M.G.R., who welcomed everyone, especially W.Bro. Mik Barnes, R.A.M.G.R., Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, a guest of W.Bro. Chris Eley.



A eulogy was given by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley in memory of W.Bro. Andrew 'Ducky' Duck who passed away suddenly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June. He read a very moving tribute from Ducky's old friend, W.Bro. James Walker, as he was not able to attend the meeting. The Brethren stood in memory of W.Bro. Andrew while Bro. Chaplain read a prayer.

A ballot was taken for Bro. James Agnew, a Candidate for Advancement. This proved in his favour and the Worshipful Master invited W.Bro. John Fitzgerald to conduct the Ceremony of Advancement, and V.W.Bro. Chris Eley to act as Senior Deacon.



The Ceremony of Advancement was conducted by W.Bro. John Fitzgerald and the Officers of the Lodge in an excellent manner.

W.Bro. Garth Blanchard explained the signs; W.Bro. James Hill presented the Working Tools; and V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, who had stood in as Junior Warden, concluded the Ceremony.







The next item was to elect the Worshipful Master and Treasurer for the ensuing year. Bro. Roger Tutton and W.Bro. Tim Ford being the only members nominated for these offices and no ballot called for the Worshipful Master declared the election in favour of the nominated Brethren.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion given at the last meeting V.W.Bro. Chris Eley proposed that the Lodge makes R.W.Bro. Ian N Clark, Past Provincial Grand Master, an Honorary Member of the Lodge. This was seconded by W.Bro. John Fleetwood and carried with acclaim.

The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren of Richmond Lodge and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable festive board at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.

Afterwards V.W.Bro. Chris, as his proposer, congratulated Bro. Jim on joining the Mark Degree, wishing him many happy years in our Order



# The Provincial Priory of Surrey

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey was held on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of July at the Croydon Masonic Centre in Oakfield Road, Croydon.



The Provincial Prior welcomed the Honoured Guests from other Provinces, as well as the Heads of Surrey Orders and their Executive. Here we have from the Mark Province of Surrey our Provincial Grand Master, John French, the Past Provincial Grand Master, Ray Hussey, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Tim Ford, and the Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Chris Eley.





# Surrey Royal Arch and Craft Annual Meetings



In June the Surrey Royal Arch Annual Convocation and Craft Annual Meetings were held at Freemason's Hall, Great Queen Street. Many Mark Brethren were present to see their Companions and Brethren received Provincial honours. The meetings were presided over by the Grand Superintendent and Provincial Grand Master, M.E.Comp./R.W.Bro. Ian Chandler.



There were also several Heads of Surrey Orders present to support the RA and Craft Provinces of Surrey. Here we have the Heads of Surrey Orders prior to the Royal Arch Convocation.....



.... and at the drinks reception between the meetings.

## Marvellous, Magical Malta!

This was my first visit to "Districts and Lodges Overseas" as it was for W. Bro. Barrie Selway. Do you know when a lodge group becomes a district? I didn't till I met W.Bro. Lawrence Porter. Like all the masons, he was a welcoming chap and very, very helpful. We met at 6/7 Marsamxett Street, Valletta. An interesting building which housed UGLE Lodges and lodges of SGLOM (*The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta*).



I will start at the beginning. Barrie and I decided to visit my island, I am half Maltese. Yes, I know the meaning of Fenech although I prefer the North African desert fox as my namesake!!! We decided to go the first week in May and stay for a week. We wanted the luxury of an in-house breakfast and a pleasant outlook. We chose, after much deliberation, the Hotel Preluna...what an amazing breakfast, lovely staff and a lovely clean hotel overlooking the Mediterranean ocean.

It was only a short 5 minute walk into Sliema proper and very reasonably priced. We found a sports bar a couple of hundred metres from the hotel and visited it on several occasions to watch UK footy! We caught the bus most days and we were both impressed when people stood up for us two old guys! We also travelled by ferry to Valletta and even Uber.





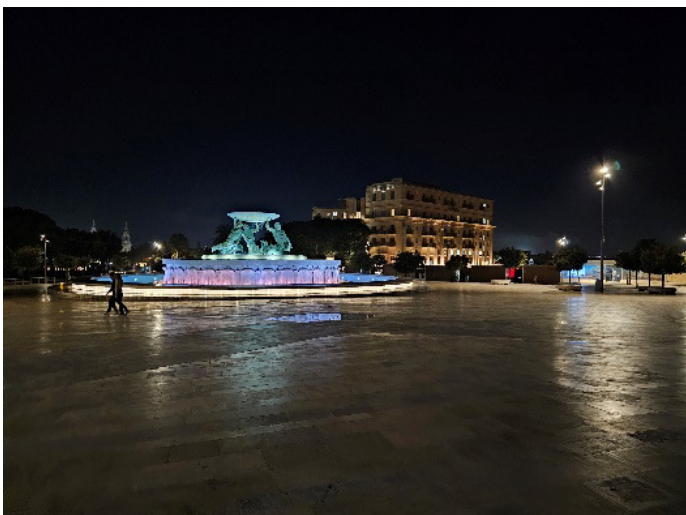


We went to visit Masonry in Malta which was an enlightening experience. De Rohan Craft Lodge 9670 was our first experience overseas and we had a thoroughly enjoyable meeting. We saw a very creditable Initiation of three Masons and were invited to take a part in the ceremony. This was followed by a Festive Board where the first toast of the evening was to the President of Malta, followed by our regular toasts.

The following day we were in the same building for a RAM



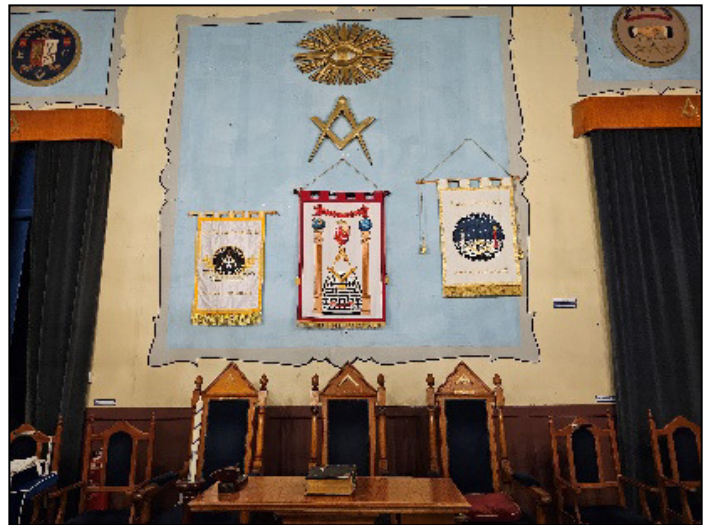
My one regret was that we had arranged to visit a SGLOM Lodge Fenici but the Lodge had to change its meeting times till the following week. Next Year perhaps! No, definitely.



We walked around Valletta...boy did we walk!! We even saw the firing of the Midday gun at Upper Barracka.

I have been visiting Malta since I was a little boy of seven years so know the place well. The weather was a balmy 20 degrees C and the weather only hit us with a shower once for few minutes. We did a little sightseeing, managing to go to Medina, the silent city, and take a guided tour in a Karrozzin, a horse drawn vehicle. Brilliant. Mosta and its dome were a must! Mellieha Bay was visited, and the beach walk enjoyed together with a refreshing pint or two.

No, we did not get the chance or have the time to visit the Cathedral, maybe next October!! Or Gozo, or Golden Bay, or Blue Lagoon or Popeye Village etc etc. So much to see, so little time. Maybe next October or May 2024. I introduced Barrie to some of my family. I have some 21 cousins, so we met the German family, only dining out one evening and eating Maltese food.



meeting of Lodge Sanct Elmo 1863 where we witnessed the Installation of a Commander. This was followed an hour later by the meeting of Broadly Lodge 1863 with the advancement of two men into the Mark Lodge. We also took a small part in both Lodge ceremonies. Very welcoming and very rewarding. It was late so caught an uber back into the main part of Valletta.



We were quite pleased to get home and relax after a successful visit to my favourite isle.

*Article and photos by Michael Fenech*



# Fratres Calami Aerariique

## The Surrey Mark Secretaries, Treasurers, and DCs Lodge.

Having said that, we so welcome all Mark men either as visitors or guests. Regularly, or perhaps one visit or two. Whatever the fancy takes you!



Now, as to the title which several of us discussed at our most recent meeting. As a former Latin student of not very high quality, I pointed out that there are two basic forms of Latin. There is Church Latin and then there is Latin. It came about from the pronunciation of our Lodge title. In Church Latin one pronounces the ....que as "kway"! Google prefers it to be silent, not pronounced.

I was feeling a little low as we drove to Surbiton for our July meeting but pleased at not having to drive to Redhill. We are a peripatetic lodge. Perhaps next time we can do Godalming or Guildford or even, dare I say, Farnham, we shall see! Over a third of those attending were from St Andrews which meets in Farnham.

Must get back to our meeting. Needless to say, it went down well. Our outgoing Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Richard Knox, gave a worthy display at the installation of our incoming Master, W.Bro. Paul Wicking. We were in the safe hands of two eminent Directors of Ceremonies. My mood lifted.

An excellent ceremony with the usual requirement for stand ins. There were several absentees due to holidays and a couple of medical appointments. We all expressed the hope that the latter would progress to better health.

The addresses by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, and W.Bros. David Lawrence, the perennial Jim Moyes, and Richard Knox were superbly delivered. It is so rewarding when one listens to guys who can deliver.

They were all kept a benevolent eye on by our Past Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Clark. It was so good to see him. Officers were duly installed, Auditors and committee members were agreed upon, and the Almoner and Charity Steward's reports were briefly touched upon. The absence of the latter two meant that our Secretary, W.Bro. David Clark, offered comments which he had gleaned from appropriate sources.



There were promotions to Grand Lodge Past Rank for V.W.Bro. Mik Barnes, and W.Bros. Richard Knox and Paul Wicking. There were also several Appointments and Promotions in Provincial Grand Lodge in March. All the Brethren were warmly congratulated.

Our newly Installed Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Paul Wicking closed the Lodge, and we all visited the bar for our sausages and tippie. It was so good to see friends and acquaintances in the relaxed atmosphere of that airy well decorated room. I was particularly happy to meet several people I had not seen for many months.





I did leave feeling so much better. I saw pals who were so pleased to greet me, others who were so pleasant in their welcoming to me ..... and I did not have to drive home thanks to W.Bro. Barrie Selway who provided our transport.

A truly enjoyable meeting with good people. Come and join us on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. You too will be made most welcome even if you are not a Secretary, DC, or Treasurer.

We talked about our cruises, the weather and generally had a good chat. Soon it was time to repair to the Festive Board. Now that was feast. A beautifully displayed chicken starter was followed by the largest pork chop I had ever seen.

Two absentee places resulted in two of these mighty meats being taken home in doggy bags by a couple of members. Dessert was so refreshing. The wine was served by Richard Knox, what a gentleman.

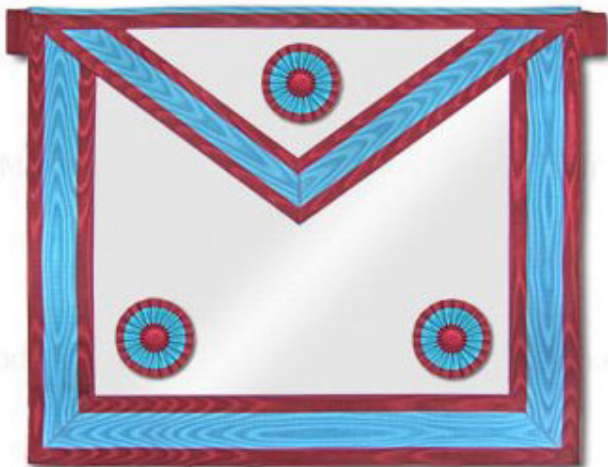


Article by Michael Fenech

# Have you any spare Regalia?

Our new Warden of Regalia, Alan Brockwell, has cleared out Steve Jones' garage and is appealing to all Surrey Mark men to consider donating any pre-loved regalia (*in good wearable condition*) that you may have to sell, on behalf of the Surrey Mark.

All profits will go to local Mark Charities.



If you have any items you can donate, please contact Alan on [brockers01@icloud.com](mailto:brockers01@icloud.com)