



£1,898,775

M.B.F. Festival 2026

On Saturday the 18th of July, over 500 guests gathered at the Old Thorns Hotel as the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight celebrated the grand finale of its seven-year charitable campaign, raising an extraordinary £1,898,775 for the Mark Benevolent Fund (M.B.F.).



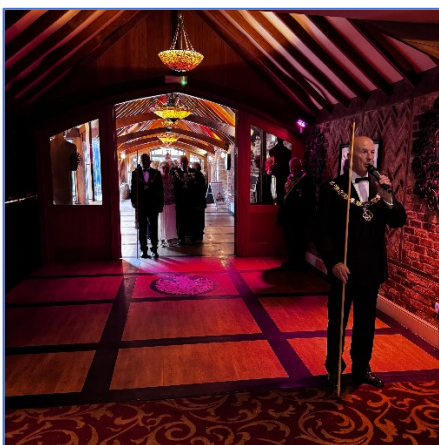
The milestone sum reflects seven years of dedicated fundraising, driven by the unwavering generosity and commitment of Brethren, their families, and local supporters across the Province.

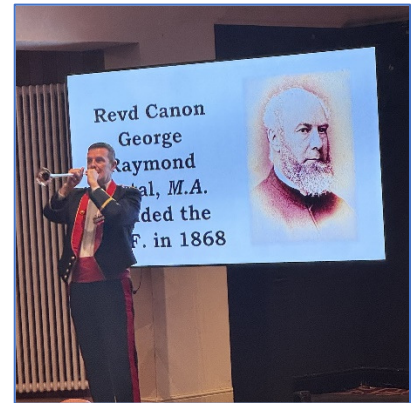






The evening commenced with a formal Guard of Honour presented by the Craft Provincial Grand Stewards of Hampshire and Isle of Wight to welcome distinguished guests. In a key announcement highlighting the tangible impact of the campaign, it was revealed that a portion of the proceeds amounting £311,107, will directly fund a new vessel for the Hamble Lifeboat station, to be named 'The John Prizeman' in honour of our much-loved and highly respected late Pro Grand Master.





Special recognition was awarded to Right Worshipful Brother George Deacon, Provincial Grand Master and Festival President, alongside his executive committee, for guiding the ambitious campaign to such a triumphant conclusion.



During the evening, R.W.Bro. Deacon was presented with a historic 1934 Festival Jewel once worn by King George VI during his tenure as a Provincial Grand Master.

Reintroduced to the M.B.F. Festival for the first time in 90 years, the jewel is now established as a tradition to be worn by the active Festival President.

At the conclusion of the Festive Board, R.W.Bro. Deacon formally passed the historic jewel to R.W.Bro. Andrew Armbrister, Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Warwickshire, which enters the final year of its own campaign culminating in July 2027.



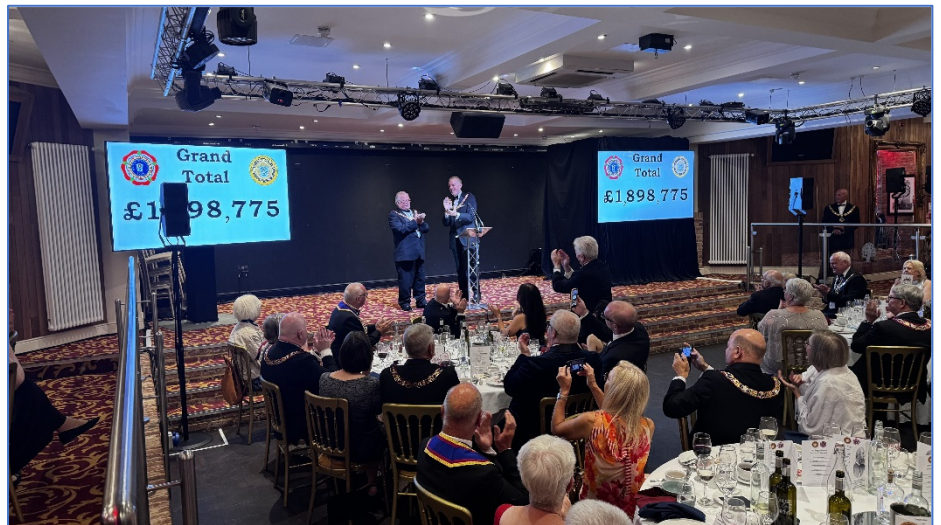
During the evening, two special presentations were made in recognition of outstanding dedication and service. Linda Read, our Charities Finance Manager, was honoured for her exceptional commitment to Mark Masons' Hall, celebrating 22 years of dedicated service.

The P.Prov.G.M. for London, David Ashbolt, was also recognised for his unwavering dedication and invaluable support in fundraising for the Province of Hampshire & Isle of Wight, as well as his significant contributions to Festival fundraising across all other Provinces.

Reflecting on the achievement, R.W.Bro. George Deacon said:

"After years of planning and fundraising, celebrating at Old Thorns was a magnificent experience. With fantastic weather, exceptional turnout, and an unforgettable finale, I could not have wished for a better outcome. To see our community unite to raise such an extraordinary total for vital causes is something we can all be immensely proud of."

"I am particularly deeply moved by the decision to fund the new Hamble lifeboat, 'The John Prizeman,' honouring someone who meant so much to us all."



The £1.89 million raised will enable the Mark Benevolent Fund to continue delivering high-impact grants to worthy causes and local communities nationwide for years to come.



A wonderful moment at their 2026 M.B.F. Festival, as the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight were delighted to welcome Geraldine Rogers, Grand Master in the Order of the Women Freemasons, as one of their guests.

M.W.Bro. Geraldine is pictured alongside Ian Small, Festival Committee Chairman, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. This occasion was a fitting celebration of fellowship, commitment, and shared values.



The President of the MBF

I am delighted to welcome so many of you here this evening to the 158th Mark Benevolent Fund Festival being hosted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Their last festival was in 1990, when the sum raised was £357,143.

I know how much effort goes into the organisation and delivery of a successful Mark Benevolent Fund Festival such as this.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I thank the Provincial Grand Master and Festival President, R.W.Bro. George Deacon, together with his Festival Committee for their fundraising efforts over several years.

The funds you have raised will help the Mark Benevolent Fund to continue to support our Brethren and families in need during these financially challenging times, together with other worthy causes providing support in our communities.

Thank you.

R.W.Bro. Ian Nelson Clark, P.Prov.G.M. (Surrey), President of the Mark Benevolent Fund



Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Hampshire & Isle of Wight



It has been a great honour and privilege for Hampshire and Isle of Wight to lead the 158th Mark Benevolent Fund Festival. We are delighted to welcome you today to Old Thorns Hotel and Resort, nestled in this beautiful part of the Hampshire countryside.

I hope you have been able to enjoy the tours, spa, pool, golf and entertainment arranged for you this weekend. This is a time to celebrate the hard work and dedication you have given over many years, including throughout the challenges of the COVID lockdowns.

Over the years, we have enjoyed a wide variety of fundraising and social events, creating lasting memories and close friendships for all involved. These have included a sponsored cycle ride across Spain; lottery draws; camping weekends; Wardens launching their wife from the Spinnaker Tower or swimming for miles; cream teas; ceremony draws; garden parties and many other memorable occasions.

I would like to thank the members of the Festival Committee, together with their wives, for all their hard work, and all the

Lodges and Brethren of the Province for donating so readily to our Festival.

I would also like to thank all the Mark Provinces and Districts throughout the Constitution for their outstanding contributions, together with the Craft, Royal Arch and all the other Companion Orders who have given so generously. My thanks also go to all the Brethren from across the country who have become Stewards of the 158th M.B.F. Festival. Reflecting on the achievement, R.W.Bro. George Deacon said: "After years of planning and fundraising, celebrating at Old Thorns was a magnificent experience. With fantastic weather, exceptional turnout, and an unforgettable finale, I could not have wished for a better outcome. To see our community unite to raise such an extraordinary total for vital causes is something we can all be immensely proud of.

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R.W.Bro. George Deacon, Prov.G.M. Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Northern Heights Lodge

Northern Heights Lodge of MMM meeting was held at Croydon at the end of July. The Lodge membership is made up of past or present members of the civilian or armed services, and the Lodge is soon to be renamed the Surrey United Services Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 989. There were many visitors from surrounding Provinces.

The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master R.W.Bro Ian Clark, President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, our Past Provincial Grand Master, who welcomed everyone, especially our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, and called upon us to salute him with seven under his direction.



The ballot proved in his favour and the Worshipful Master invited R.W.Bro. John French to assume the chair and advance Bro. Ben. This he did in fine fashion assisted by the Officers of the Lodge, including a visitor, V.W.Bro Chris Eley, P.G.J.O., who acted as senior Deacon at the last minute.

Bro. Ben was congratulated by the Worshipful Master and welcomed into the Lodge. He was also congratulated by our Provincial Grand Master who welcomed him into the Order, and the Province of Surrey.



R.W.Bro John thanked the Worshipful Master and the brethren for their kind salutation and wished everyone an enjoyable meeting. The Worshipful Master then welcomed W.Bro. John Rollason, P.Prov.G.M.O., their official visitor.

After the regular business of the lodge had been completed the main item on the agenda was to ballot for Bro. Benjamin Charles Leonard of Sir Francis Drake Lodge No 6053, a serving police officer.



W.Bro. Paul Fitzgerald was declared as Master Elect and W.Bro. Tony Raatall as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The large was closed and, after photographs, we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most enjoyable meal together at the Croydon Masonic Hall





Another Wonderful Surrey Mark Charity Golf Day

Yes, another wonderful Surrey Mark Charity Golf Day, expertly organised by our APGM, V.W.Bro. Stephen Berkshire, was held at the excellent Banstead Golf Club.

Following a long spell of dry weather, the course proved both firm and challenging. The sunshine was glorious throughout the day, and accurate drives were rewarded with impressive extra distance thanks to the fast-running fairways. The greens were equally impressive—quick, true and in outstanding condition—providing a real test for golfers of every ability.

The scorecards ranged from respectable to average, with the occasional “work in progress”, but in true Mark fashion, good fun was had by all, with plenty of laughter and fellowship enjoyed throughout the day.

Congratulations to Kevin Roberts, who won the Nearest the Pin competition. Any closer and he might have been expected to buy the drinks for everyone!

The Longest Drive competition was won by Neil Connolly whose magnificent drive travelled considerably further than I go for my holidays!

Order of Merit

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1st Place | Dash Ganeson - 40 points. |
| 2nd Place | Chris Churchman - 40 points, came 2 nd on countback. |
| 3rd Place | Luke Connolly - 39 points who also won the longest drive. |
| 4th Place | Kevin Thatcher - 38 points. |



Kevin Roberts - winner of Nearest the Pin.



Luke Connolly - Winner of Longest drive and third position



Les Thatcher - 4th Position 38 points
another respectable round of golf



Dash Ganeson - Our winner and champion of the day
scoring 40 points



Chris Churchman - Runner up scoring an impressive
40 points came in 2nd after a count back



Our **ProvGM** congratulating our **AProvGM** on hosting a wonderful
and successful Surrey Mark Golf day – more of the same in **October**

Congratulations to all our prize winners for producing some excellent scores on what was a demanding course. A special mention in dispatches must go to our Provincial Grand Master, whose determined performance helped keep the rest of the field in good spirits by claiming the coveted Wooden Spoon! Ever gracious in defeat, he attempted to blame the weather and even suggested that scorecards containing “blobs” should somehow earn points. Nice try—but with not a cloud in the sky, I don’t think anyone was convinced! Thanks to the generosity of everyone who took part, we also raised **£805.50** for the Surrey Mark Benevolent Fund, helping us continue to support worthy causes throughout Surrey. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Looking Ahead

Our next Surrey Mark Charity Golf Day will be held at **Chobham Golf Club on Friday the 9th of October**. Whether you’re a seasoned golfer, an enthusiastic beginner, or somewhere delightfully in between, we’d love to see you there. Please put the date in your diary—we look forward to another wonderful day of golf, friendship and fundraising. **Details are on the web site.**

Well done Nigel



Well, that's it for another year, Medal 11 NIJMEGEN 2026 - you've been wonderful-

Thank you, Nicola Feltham, for your support and getting me fit every day and ready to walk; and to Dean Stewart for the Comms. To my friends, supporters and sponsors, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The Nijmegen walk is done, but I'm still overwhelmed by the generosity shown by every single one of you who donated, whether before I set off, cheered me on with a donation mid-walk, or added your support after I'd crossed the finish line. Walking those miles was tough, but knowing I had so much support behind me made every step feel worth it.



Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance does extraordinary work, being there in someone's darkest moment, often when seconds matter most. Because of your kindness, that vital service can keep flying and keep saving lives.

To everyone who gave, shared, messaged words of encouragement, or simply believed in what I was doing, thank you. This wouldn't have meant nearly as much without you alongside me.

With heartfelt gratitude, no Blisters - yet again.

Thanks to Nigel Feltham, Croydon Lodge of Mark Master Masons



The just-giving page is still going - please, if you haven't donated and would like to. Please help to help others. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/nigel-feltham>



Bond of Friendship Mark No. 1576
&
Surrey Council No. 64 AMD



Annual Ladies' Night Save The Date!

Fri 14th August 2026

A wonderful night is promised at Glenmore
House, Surbiton
Great Food
Music & Dancing
A Unique Mark & Allied Event

**In presence of the Provincial Grand Master
& District Grand Prefect**

For more information contact:
WBro Tony Rastell:

tony@rastalls.co.uk

Bond of Friendship & AMD64

SUMMER BBQ

BRING YOUR OWN DRINK

SATURDAY 29th AUGUST 2026
FROM 2PM TO 6PM
71 Courtney Crescent
Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4NA
To book your place please contact
Wayne Tibbs at wayneuk44@aol.com
Tickets £20 pp all profit going to charity

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF
MARK MASTER MASONS
of Surrey

CHARITY GOLF DAY

IN AID OF THE
SURREY MARK BENEVOLENT FUND

A fantastic day of golf, great company
and friendly competition - all in
support of a worthy cause.

FRIDAY
9th OCTOBER 2026

CHOBHAM GOLF CLUB
Chobham Road, Knaphill
Woking, Surrey GU21 2TZ

 TEA/COFFEE & BACON ROLLS From 11:00hrs. 1st tee from 12:00hrs	 ONE COURSE MEAL After play with prizes	 NON MASONS Will be made most welcome as guests	 PRIZES For winners and various competitions
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COST FOR THE DAY
£73.00 or (meal only - £23.00)

TO BOOK
Please email Calvin Gower c/o
ProvGM@surreymarkmasons.com
Confirming your name, handicap,
lodge number and details of any guests

TO CONFIRM YOUR BOOKING
Payment by BACS must be made to:
Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of
Surrey Benevolent Fund
Sort code: 30-93-74 | Account No: 02602788

PLEASE USE YOUR NAME AS THE REFERENCE
"i.e. C GOWER GOLF"

THE CHARITY DAY IS IN AID OF THE SURREY MARK BENEVOLENT FUND

The Provincial Grand Lodge of
Mark Master Masons of Surrey
requests the pleasure of your company at the

Surrey Mark Charity Ball

Saturday 24th October 2026

ARRIVAL 6:30pm	DINNER 7:00pm	CARRIAGES Midnight
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Wotton House Hotel & Country Estate
Guildford Road, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6HS

Drinks reception • Three-course dinner • Entertainment • Dancing

PRICE £89 per person	DRESS CODE Black Tie Lounge suit alternative welcome	PRESENTED BY Surrey Mark Benevolent Fund
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Family, friends & guests all warmly welcome

An evening of fine dining, entertainment and dancing at Wotton House