the surrey keystone

Issue 87 - NOVEMBER 2026

50 Years in Mark and RAM



On Thursday the 8th of October Coulsdon Loyalty Lodge of MMM No 1268 celebrated a double presentation of a 50 year certificate in both Mark & RAM for W.Bro. James Martin Dunham, known to all as Martin.

Martin joined the Mark degree at Coulsdon Lodge on the 10th of June 1976 & then the RAM on the 11th of October 1976. He has remained an active member ever since, being the Worshipful Master of the Mark Lodge 4 times & doing a 'big' stint as Treasurer in both.

On reflecting how times have changed, when Martin joined the average price of a house was £12,000, a new Ford Cortina was £2026, a gallon (not litre) of petrol was 64 pence (14p a litre), a pint of beer was 33p, a packet of cigarettes was 38p & Southampton won the FA Cup.



Martin was presented with both certificates by R.W.Bro. John French, our Provincial Grand Master, who is also a member of both Lodges.







Good news is that Candidates for both lodges were read out, and they both welcomed a new member W.Bro. Bob Oddy, who will take on the mantle of Secretary/Scribe following the sad passing of Bob Breeze earlier in the year.

The Mark meeting was further enhanced with the installation of Steve Godsell as the new Worshipful Master. This was conducted by W.Bro. Phil Clare.

Thanks to Phil Clare

A busy afternoon at Weald of Surrey Lodge

The Installation meeting of the Weald of Surrey Royal Ark Mariner Lodge was held at Sutton on Thursday, the 8th of October 2026. The Lodge was honoured by a visit from W.Bro. Ken Mcintosh, the representative of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master.



The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Len Hillier, who welcomed everyone especially their Visiting Officer, W.Bro. Ken Mcintosh.

A ballot was taken for Bro. Jack Holland, who was Advanced into the Weald of Surrey Mark Lodge in January 2026. This proved in his favour and W.Bro. Len invited W.Bro. Chris Eley, an Honorary Member, to assume the Chair and Elevate Bro. Jack. This he was especially pleased to do as he had assisted in Bro. Jack's Advancement Ceremony earlier in the year.





Bro. Jack was Elevated to the Ancient and Honourable Degree of Royal Ark Mariner by W.Bro. Chris, assisted by the Officers of the Lodge and several visitors. W.Bro. Ken Mcintosh kindly offered to stand in as Junior Warden at the last minute.



The Working Tools were presented by W.Bro. Len Hillier. It was a most enjoyable ceremony.

Afterwards Bro. Jack was congratulated by W.Bros. Chris and Ken and welcomed into the Order and Weald of Surrey Royal Ark Mariner Lodge.

The next item on the agenda was to Install W.Bro. Alan Boniface as Worshipful Commander. This was done in a very personal way by W.Bro. Chris.







The Worshipful Commander appointed and invested his officers; the Lodge was closed and the temple rearranged for the Mark meeting that followed.







The Mark Lodge was opened by the Acting Worshipful Master, V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, **P.G.J.O.**, P.A.Prov.G.M., who welcomed W.Bro. Ken Mcintosh, P.Prov.G.Swd.B. W.Bro. Ken said how good it was to be visiting Weald of Surrey Lodge, especially as he knew everyone well.




After the regular business for the Lodge was completed, W.Bro. Ken was invited to present a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Jack Holland. This he did in a very informative way.





The Lodge was closed and, after photographs, we made our way to the Miller Bar for refreshments before sitting down to an enjoyable meal together at the Sutton Masonic Hall.



















The Installation Meeting of Richmond Mark Lodge

The installation meeting of Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons was held at Surbiton on Monday the 12th of October. The Lodge was honoured by a visit from V.W.Bro. Steve Berkshire, P.G.J.O., Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and several Provincial Officers of the year.



The Lodge was opened by the Acting Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Wayne Lucas, Prov.A.G.Ch.Stwd., who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

V.W.Bro. Chris Eley gave a tribute to W.Bro. Nick Butterworth, who passed away on the 13th of August.

The Lodge then received and welcomed V.W.Bro. Stephen J Berkshire, **P.G.J.O.,** Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and the Provincial Officers of the year. V.W.Bro. Steve was saluted with 5 under the direction of W.Bro. Andrew Carr, Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

V.W.Bro. Steve introduced the Officers who had accompanied him, thanking them for their support, spoke about some of the current Provincial initiatives, took the minutes and vacated the Chair as the Lodge had some work to do.



The main item of the afternoon was to install Bro. Tony Mullard as Worshipful Master for 2026/27. After thanking the Officers of the year on behalf of the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Wayne Lucas conducted the Ceremony of Installation with the assistance of W.Bro. John Fitzgerald,

W.Bro. David Goodfellow was invited to occupy the Senior Warden's Chair, V.W.Bro. Chris Eley to occupy the Junior Warden's Chair and W.Bro. Bill Preston to act as Inner Guard.



W.Bro. Wayne Lucas Installed Bro. Tony Mullard in a very sincere manner. The Working Tools were presented by Bro. Neil Jones Lumby in an excellent manner.

The Address to the Master, Wardens, and the Overseers was given by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley; and to the Brethren by V.W.Bro. Steve Berkshire. W.Bro. Tony Mullard was congratulated by our Assistant Provincial Grand Master who wished him a successful and enjoyable year as Master of Richmond Lodge.





After the regular business of the Lodge was completed, the Lodge was closed and, after the customary photographs, we all retired to the bar for refreshments.

The Brethren of Richmond Mark Lodge and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable meal together at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.






FIRE EXIT







A WONDERFUL DAY AT CHOBHAM GOLF CLUB!

What a wonderful day we enjoyed at Chobham Golf Club for our Surrey Mark Charity Golf Day on the 9th of October.

Our first challenge was successfully completed, with nearly all our golfers managing to stay dry, with the exception of the final four brave souls. The weather may have been reasonably kind, but the golf course itself proved to be a rather tougher opponent.



There was some superb scoring from our two worthy winners, Roy Rodgers and Alan Dickson. Neither score could be separated, so both were Champions on the day. They each accumulated an impressive haul of points – and should not be too surprised if their handicaps take a rather significant downward turn before our next golf event in May!



A special mention must also go to our winning team of four: Pat, Dickie, Feesey and Guzzy, captained by our own W.Bro. Mark Guzam. They all went home laden with bottles of Nuits-Saint-Georges as their well-deserved trophies for victory.

I have a sneaking suspicion, however, that these trophies may not spend too long gathering dust in the drinks cabinet. Indeed, I suspect their new owners will be keen to put them to good use rather sooner rather than later. After all, a winning team deserves to celebrate in style. Congratulations also go to our other prize winners, who produced some exceptional golf throughout the day:



Keith Feesey
Nearest the Pin



Nick Valente
Longest Drive



Jeff Gower
Nearest the Pin in Two on a Par 4

Following a long but thoroughly enjoyable day on the course, we were delighted to retreat to the comfort and luxury of the 19th Hole (a particular favourite of mine), where an excellent meal awaited us, followed by a few well-deserved beverages for those fortunate enough not to be driving.

In true Mark Mason fashion, "Good Fun Was Had by All!" The day was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some friendly competition, strengthen our friendships and raise money for charity in the company of fellow Mark Masons.

I must finish with a huge vote of thanks and congratulations to V.W.Bro. Steve Berkshire and Bro. Calvin Gower for organising such an enjoyable event. Their hard work and enthusiasm ensured that the day was a great success.

And a special double round of applause for Calvin, who, despite the challenges of a difficult par 5, managed to achieve his very first eagle. For the avoidance of doubt, this was the golfing variety of eagle — the one that goes on the scorecard rather than the one with wings.

We were also delighted to welcome the Provincial Grand Master of Dorset Mark Master Masons, R.W.Bro. Vic Pomeroy, accompanied by two members of his Executive, who made the journey to join us for an excellent lunch. Thank you, brethren, for your company. We shall, of course, look forward to returning the hospitality by supporting Dorset's own charity golf day in June!

A double bonus for the day was that, thanks to your support, we raised £1,000 for charity. This will be donated to CHERRY TREES, which provides home-from-home care for children with complex disabilities and a meaningful break for their families across Surrey, Hampshire and the surrounding areas.

We hope to see even more Surrey Mark golfers joining us next May for another day of friendly rivalry, good company and, hopefully, a little less rain!

Until then, keep practising, keep smiling and, above all…

KEEP IT ON THE FAIRWAY!

Mark Well!

Thanks to John French

Percy Lodge

Lucky to have studied Latin to A level, so that now, it helps with all this masonic wording. I visited Percy Lodge at Guildford which has a special interest for me which I will mention when I have described the Royal Ark Mariner meeting.





The drive was pleasant as are the surroundings and the centre. The meeting was quite short which I really enjoyed.

Royal Ark Mariner meetings often get left in the shadow of Mark but this was not the case.



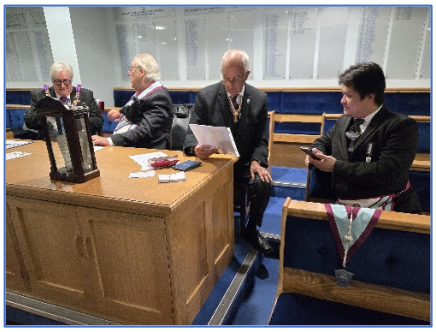
Yes, we had business to carry out such as welcoming our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. John French, who responded in his usual happy manner and, of course, minutes were approved and signed amid a very pleasant group of Mariners.

Our Provincial Grand Master then took time to present a certificate to Bro. Julien Tidmarsh. To me, this is probably the finest certificate that I have ever received. I was presented with my Mark Certificate in 2005. It is fine and is appropriate to Mark, well almost.



The Royal Ark Mariner Certificate which Bro. Julien received is larger and therefore more imposing and has much colour in the design. I received mine in 2014 and love it.

Our Provincial Grand Master took his time doing the necessary checks for surname spelling etc. and then continued to explain the appropriate parts of the certificate which we all know about but perhaps need to be reminded of. I must be honest and say that I reminisced a little especially when the brother next to me also commented on his certificate which he, too, found to be a splendid piece of our mutual masonic history. I do find anything R.A.M very pleasant. In fact, in St Andrews we have two standalone ceremonies, one for Mark in October and one for R.A.M. in November and at the Festive Board, for the latter, we have a triangular seating arrangement with Royal Ark Mariner fire when possible. It seems to give it the latter more standing.











I did notice that there was some picture taking before we started the Mark meeting. When I checked, it was for the Mark Keystone. What a pleasant surprise. In fact, we, of St Andrews 806, had taken it from Percy during the last season and here it was again.

There was only me this time, so I had to be contented with watching it being photographed. Watch this space. I am sure I will be writing about it in the future, when 806 may well be a contender in regaining that impressive piece of our Surrey Mark history. Lapis Anguli.



Charity and Almoner Reports were left to our following Mark Meeting. Tea and coffee were served with biscuits and then we retired back to the temple for our Mark Meeting. After the appropriate welcome to our Provincial Grand Master and minutes being accepted, we settled down to a very involving set of business items. The next part of the meeting was for me to be Tyler.

Percy Lodge had an Advancement. Out I went to prepare Bro. Ben Connolly for his advancement. This brother will be a credit to our Surrey Mark, and I look forward to watching him progress in this, the Friendly Order. Once again, the ceremony was carried out impeccably by W.Bro. Stuart Hogarth in partnership with R.W. Bro. John French. It always impresses me when listening to the deliveries by two very able Mark Master Masons. The very interesting act about this meeting is that Bro. Ben will receive from this lodge a special Mark Penny with his own mark thereon. That was not all, for this lodge is a vital part of Mark Surrey with good members. Something to remind him of a great ceremony with the correct degree of seriousness coupled with that characteristic "Friendly" touch delivered by all in volved in assisting Bro. Ben through his ceremony.



There was a further element o this meeting. We had the presentation of Mark Benevolent Fund certificates to Stuart Hogarth and Julien Tidmarsh with thanks for their support for the MBF.

Bro. Simon Reader was elected as Master for the incoming year and W.Bro. Tony Callister as Treasurer. Reports by the Treasurer, the Almoner and the Charity Steward were succinctly delivered. The meeting was then closed, followed of course by the stand in photographer to document a well spent and very enjoyable evening.

The food was great and the company too. And I won a box of chocolates.

Thanks to Michael Fenech

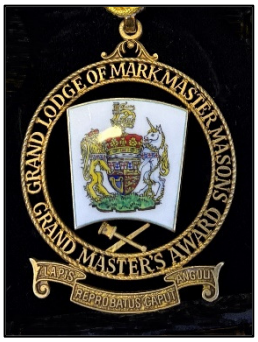
Lots to Celebrate at Rose Mark and RAM

There was plenty to celebrate at the Rose Mark and RAM Lodges in October, with new members, an installation, a prestigious Mark award and, of course, a successful raid for the much-coveted Travelling Keystone.

Following the previous meeting, when V.W.Bro. Eric Trodd became a joining member of both the Mark and RAM Lodges, Bro. Colin Beerling, Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the OSM, lived up to his promise and followed in Eric's footsteps by also becoming a joining member. It is always encouraging to see Brethren strengthening their Masonic connections and demonstrating their enthusiasm for our wonderful Orders.

The RAM Lodge saw W.Bro. Ian Neve installed as Worshipful Commander by W.Bro. Ian Bloodworth, who conducted the ceremony in excellent fashion, ably supported by his fellow members and visitors.





There was even more to celebrate when the Mark Lodge was opened, as R.W.Bro. David Ashbolt proudly displayed his new award, recently presented at Mark Grand Lodge. A particularly distinguished piece of Mark Masonic regalia, it is a fitting recognition of service and an award of which he can rightly be proud. Congratulations, David!



As if all that excitement were not enough, Percy Lodge No. 114 had assembled a raiding party with one mission in mind, to retrieve the beautiful Travelling Keystone and take it home.

And when we say home, we mean Percy Lodge, currently leading the Province in its passion for receiving and holding this treasured prize Clearly, the Keystone has found a very welcoming resting place.



However, the challenge remains open. Percy's next meeting is on the 2nd of December, their Installation Meeting, and any Lodge feeling brave enough to prise the Travelling Keystone away from its current custodians is warmly encouraged to assemble a raiding party and have a go.

Be warned, though, the Brethren of Percy are becoming rather attached to their prize, so any prospective raiders will need determination, good humour and, no doubt, a cunning plan.

The meeting was further enhanced by three visitors who had travelled all the way from Essex. Not content merely to make the journey, they were more than happy to lend a hand with the work in the Temple.

The day was rounded off with a thoroughly excellent Festive Board, featuring fine food, fine wine and, above all, wonderful company. New members, an excellent installation, a prestigious award, a successful Keystone raid and Brethren travelling considerable distances to enjoy our fellowship. What more could we ask for? Long may the Magic of the Mark continue!

Thanks to John French

The Installation Meeting of Kintore Mark Lodge

The Installation meeting of Kintore Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 333 was held on Monday the 16th of November at Croydon Masonic Hall.









The afternoon started with a short business meeting of Kintore Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners.

The Lodge was opened by the acting Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Bill Caughie, **R.A.M.G.R.**, P.A.Prov.G.M., who welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. John Massey. **R.A.M.G.R.**

After the business of the Lodge had been concluded, the Lodge was closed and the Temple rearranged for the Mark meeting that followed.





Kintore Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened by the acting Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Les Smith, **P.G.J.D**., Prov.G.D.C.









After a report on the door, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. John Massey. **P.G.J.D**., accompanied by several Provincial Officers of the year, entered in procession, and was welcomed by the Worshipful Master.

A tribute was given in memory of W.Bro. Alan Zimon, P.G.StB., who passed to the Grand Lodge Above on the 13th of July this year. The brethren stood to order in memory of W.Bro. Zimmo.

The Worshipful Master offered the Deputy Provincial Grand Master the gavel, which he accepted and took the Chair. He said how good it was to be visiting Kintore Lodge, introduced the Provincial team, spoke about the forthcoming events, took the minutes and vacated the Chair as the Lodge had work to do.

Brother Jim Brown was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year by W.Bro. Les Smith in fine manner. V.W.Bro Chris Eley gave the address to the Master; W.Bro. Les Smith to the Wardens; W.Bro. Terry Carpenter to the Overseers and W.Bro. John Massey to the Brethren.













The Officers for the year were then appointed and those present invested and, after the regular business of the Lodge have been concluded, the Lodge was closed and, after photographs, we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to an enjoyable meal together at Croydon Masonic Hall.













Never one to shy away from work, W.Bro. David Clark our Provincial Grand Secretary decided to set up a directory of Armed Forces and Service Lodges within the jurisdiction.

As the name implies, it encompasses Lodges who are made up from serving members of H.M. Forces and Veterans as well as serving and retired Blue Light workers. This directory will allow Lodges who fall under the remit to exchange Summonses and to enjoy inter-Lodge visiting.

If you are a veteran or blue light key worker and miss the banter and friendship and would like to visit or even join one of these superb Lodges, then contact David on provgsec@surreymarkmasons.com for further details.

One of the events planned for next year include a multiple Advancement at Surrey United Services Lodge, with one of the Candidates being a Chelsea Pensioner, a meeting not to be missed. If you are interested, then please contact us. Mark Well.