

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF BERKSHIRE
Minutes of the Annual Communication held at the Berkshire Masonic Centre,
Mole Road, Sindlesham on Thursday 8th September 2023

There were present: the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Graham David Seeman. and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Michael Frederick Sanders, P.G.J.O. They were accompanied by 8 Provincial Grand Masters, 3 Past Provincial Grand Masters, 8 Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, 11 Provincial Grand Secretaries and 35 other Honoured Guests. All the Mark Lodges in the Province were represented, together with guests, making a total of 160 Brethren.

The Past Provincial Grand Masters of Berkshire and the other Right Worshipful Brethren, followed by the Provincial Grand Master and the active Provincial Officers of the year entered the Temple in procession at 4.00pm. Provincial Grand Lodge was then opened.

The Provincial Grand Master was saluted with seven and he expressed his thanks.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was saluted with five by the Brethren of the Province and he also returned thanks.

The visiting Provincial Grand Masters and other R.W. Brethren were saluted with seven. R.W.Bro. Ian Clark Provincial Grand Master for Surrey, thanked the Brethren on their behalf.

The Provincial Grand Master individually welcomed the Honoured Guests who were greeted with acclaim by the Brethren.

Following a proposition by the Provincial Grand Senior Warden, W.Bro. Bob Watson, seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden, W.Bro. Dick Haydon, the circulated minutes of the Annual Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Berkshire, held on Thursday 9th September 2021, were accepted and confirmed.

The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that, with the exception of two brethren who had tendered acceptable apologies, all Provincial Officers were present. The Provincial Grand Secretary called the Roll of Mark Lodges in the Province; all were found to be well represented.

The Provincial Grand Secretary's Report, having been circulated, was adopted on a proposition of the Provincial Grand Master Overseer, W.Bro. Raymond Head and seconded by the acting Provincial Grand Senior Overseer, W.Bro. David Wiltcher.

The Provincial Grand Almoner, W.Bro Hugh E.Ranscombe P.G.A.D.C. submitted his Annual Report, which having been circulated was approved after a proposition from the Provincial Grand Senior Warden, W.Bro Bob Watson and seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden W.Bro Dick Haydon.

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro. Jim Dance, P.Prov.G.J.O.. submitted his Annual Report and Accounts which, having been circulated, were approved after a proposition by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Michael Sanders, P.G.J.O. and seconded by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, V.W.Bro. Digby Woods, P.G.J.O.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain then read the Obituary Roll while the Brethren stood to order in memory of those departed. The Provincial Grand Chaplain offered prayer after which the hymn "The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended" was sung.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer, W.Bro. Jim Payen, P.G.J.D., submitted the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021 which, having been circulated, were proposed for adoption by the Provincial Grand Senior Warden, seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden and adopted.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer in accordance with the notice of motion proposed that annual dues be increased to £4.50 (Mark) £3.50 (RAM) Registration fee £10.00 (Mark) £6.00 (RAM) Fee of Honour £40.00 (Mark & RAM) from September 2022. This was seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden, and adopted

The Provincial Grand Master, having received only one nomination, declared W.Bro. James E. Payen, P.G.J.D., elected as Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Examiners for the year were elected in the persons of W.Bro's. John Kirkpatrick, and David Arnold Prov.G.J.O., having been proposed by W.Bro. Huw Hopkin, P.G.J.D., the Provincial Grand Secretary and seconded by W.Bro. Elwyn Hopkin, Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary.

The Provincial Grand Master announced the re-appointment of V.W.Bro. Michael Frederick Sanders, P.G.J.O., as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and expressed his thanks and appreciation of his services in the past year.

The Provincial Grand Master then appointed and invested his Officers who were subsequently saluted with three. The newly appointed Provincial Grand Senior Warden, W.Bro. Phillip Batten thanked the Brethren.

The Provincial Grand Master then made a presentation to the newly advanced Brethren of the year who were in attendance.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed the Brethren; a copy of his address is attached to these minutes.

Invitations were received from Linden Acre Lodge of MMM No. 1568 and Old Rectory Lodge of MMM No.1398 to hold the annual meeting on Thursday 14th September 2023 under their banners. These were gratefully accepted.

The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that apologies had been received from Brethren of the Province and invited guests from other Provinces, all of whom sent their good wishes for a successful meeting.

The Alms were then collected during which the hymn, "Jerusalem" was sung. The Provincial Grand Master announced that the proceeds from the Alms collection would be donated to the Berkshire Mark Benevolent Association (BeMBA).

The Provincial Grand Master closed Provincial Grand Lodge at 5.45 pm.

The National Anthem was sung.

The Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brethren, honoured guests and Provincial Grand Officers retired from the Temple.

Signed _____

Dated _____

R.W.Bro Graham D.Seeman.
Provincial Grand Master

Signed _____

Dated _____

W.Bro. A.Huw Hopkin P.G.J.D.
Provincial Grand Secretary

During the Festive Board the sad news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was received. R.W.Bro Graham Seeman Provincial Grand Master conveyed to the brethren 'The Queen is Dead...Long live the King'