

Freemasonry@86 News - 23 September 2022



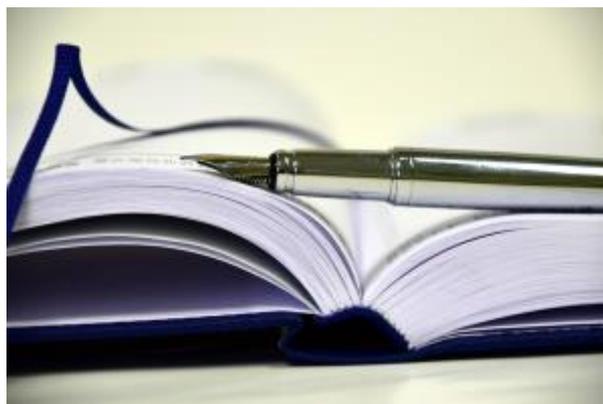
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Progressive Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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Progressive Orders Diary



Below are some upcoming dates of events for our Grand teams in their respective Orders.

You can find the calendar of the regular annual meetings of our Orders further down this newsletter.

Saturday, 24 September - K.T. Family Service at Wells Cathedral - see further down for booking instructions

Monday, 26 September - K.T. Installation of E.Kt. Paul Jeffrey Davis, P.Gt.St.B.(B.), as Provincial Prior for Somerset

Wednesday, 28 September - R.A.M. Great Ouse Lodge of R.A.M. No. 607 Centenary, Province of Northampton, Huntingdon & Bedford

Thursday, 29 September - Mark Remigius Lodge of M.M.M. No. 117 Sesquicentenary, Province of Lincolnshire

Friday, 30 September - Mark Perseverance Lodge of M.M.M. No. 723 Centenary, Province of Sussex

Friday, 30 September & Saturday, 1 October - S.C. visit to Toulouse

Saturday, 1 October - Mark Installation of V.W.Bro. David Charles Purdie, P.G.J.O., as Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire

Monday, 3 October - R.C.C. Installation of Ill.Kt. Alan Curley, P.G.Chamb., as Intendant-General for Dorset & Wiltshire

Tuesday, 4 October - Mark Hackworth Lodge of M.M.M. No. 761 Centenary, Province of Durham

Tuesday, 4 October - K.T. The New Temple Preceptory No. 117 Sesquicentenary, Province of London

Wednesday, 5 October - Mark Quantock Lodge of M.M.M. No. 749 Centenary, Province of Somerset

Thursday, 6 October - Mark The Furness Lodge of M.M.M. No. 36 Sesquicentenary, Province of West Lancashire

Friday, 7 October - A.M.D. Stayley Council No. 41 Centenary, District of Cheshire and North Wales

Wednesday, 12 October - Mark Rose and Thistle Lodge No. 158 Sesquicentenary, Province of West Lancashire

Wednesday, 12 October - S.C. Installation of Dist.Comp. Graham Holden, V, P.G.Swd.B., as Provincial Grand Summus for Midland Counties

Saturday, 15 October - S.C. Installation of Dist.Comp. Drs Andries Johannes Van Der Burgh, IV, P.G.Her., as Provincial Grand Summus for Sussex

Congratulations to R.Dist.Comp. Michael Barnes, Past Provincial Grand Summus for Surrey



On Wednesday 21 of September at a meeting of Burdett-Coutts Lodge our Past Provincial Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Michael F. Barnes was presented with a Certificate celebrating 50 years in Freemasonry. His Certificate was presented in a very personal manner by the Grand Summus, M.Dist.Comp. Ian S Currans.

Ian said that he was delighted to have been invited to make the presentation, principally of course because of a very long-standing friendship with Mik, but also because it was in Burdett-Coutts Lodge. His own mother Lodge is Abbey Lodge Westminster 2030, consecrated in 1884, the first Master being William Burdett-Coutts, husband of the Baroness. She addressed the brethren before the Consecration at the Westminster Town Hall and gifted all the regalia and furnishings. Inspired by the Burdett-Coutts toast to the Baroness, they now observe a similar custom at every festive board.

Michael Frederick Barnes was born in Brighton in 1939, 4 days after the UK had declared war on Germany. One might say an inauspicious start. There were wartime evacuations to Bristol and Nottingham, but generally Mik lived in Brighton until the age of 19 and received his early education there. After a few years with a Brighton electrical engineering firm, he joined the UK Atomic Energy Authority in 1960 and worked as a physicist. He then got a job with the Central Electricity Generating Board from 1967 until 1990 and then the National Grid Company until very early retirement in 1992, aged 53 years.

Another 7 years and he will have been retired longer than he went to work. Mik's 25 years in the electricity supply industry were spent on information technology, operational research and project management. During his working life, he gained both a BSc degree and an MSc degree. Mik has been active in shooting, enjoys TV documentaries, cryptic crosswords, fine dining and driving very fast. But all this pales into insignificance when compared to his abiding passion - Freemasonry.

Mik was initiated into Burdett-Coutts Lodge on 15 March 1972, aged 32. MW.Comp. Ian said he always thinks it gives some perspective to just how long 50 years since initiation is by looking at the world back then. In the UK, Edward Heath was Prime Minister. The US was still embroiled in the Vietnam War under Richard Nixon and the Watergate scandal was just beginning. Russia's leader was Leonid Brezhnev, Swedish supergroup Abba was formed and, on 15 March 1972 itself, the film "The Godfather" had its premiere in New York. That's really quite appropriate as when Ian Clark phoned to invite Ian to do the presentation, he did feel it was an "*offer he couldn't refuse.*"

Mik reached the chair of the Lodge in 1979, was Treasurer from 1984-1991, DC from 91-99, L of I Preceptor from 1982 until 1997, and Master again in 2013 and 2018 for the sesquicentenary year.

Mik has been a member of 5 other Craft Lodges, Worshipful Master of 4 including the prestigious Jubilee Masters and North Surrey Masters. He achieved LGR and Surrey Provincial ranks, Grand Rank as PAGDC in 1996 and was promoted to PJGD in 2005.

Mik was exalted into the Royal Arch in Earl of Zetland Chapter in 1974, and MEZ for the first time in 1981. He has been a member of 7 Royal Arch Chapters, First Principal of all of them, including London First Principals and North Surrey First Principals. He received LGCR, SLGCR, was Grand Standard Bearer in 1995, promoted to PAGSoJ in 2003, and a long serving Craft and RA VGO.

Mik is, or has been, a member of 14 progressive Orders, spread over London, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire with high ranks in them all. Three require special mention: Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Province of Surrey, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Surrey in the O.S.M. and, probably his crowning masonic achievement, Provincial Grand Summus for Surrey in Scarlet Cord.

To close Ian said, *“never think that merely having been a Freemason for 50 years is the cause of much celebration as it's mostly a question of luck. Luck in having been proposed early enough, luck in having lived long enough, and luck in having made enough money to pay subscriptions over those 50 years. The real cause for celebration is the sheer volume of commitment that the recipient has put in during that time. There can be few people that have contributed as much as Michael Frederick Bames”.*

V.W.Bro.Ian read the certificate and afterwards the Brethren gave Mik a standing ovation.

There to see our Past Provincial Grand Summus receive his Certificate were a number of Surrey Scarlet Cord Companions, who were delighted to share this special day with Mik.

After a few photos we all went along to the Doubletree Hilton in Southampton Row for a most convivial festive board together.

With thanks to Chris Eley, Prov.G.Rec., Surrey S.C.



A grand day out at the Provincial Priory of Northumberland



Saturday, 17 September saw the, much anticipated, return of the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Northumberland, held at Byker Masonic Hall, under the banner of Northanhymbre Preceptory No. 590, which meets at Shiremoor Masonic Hall. This was the first meeting that members from other Provinces had been able to attend, after the pandemic, and they returned in their droves.

A well-attended meeting witnessed all the usual pomp and pageantry with all of the Provinces' Preceptories well supported, which was more than apparent when the Preceptory banners were paraded round the meeting and presented to the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Kevin Stannard.

The day concluded with a very convivial festive board enjoyed by all present.

Congratulations to all those Knights of the Order who received their well-deserved first Appointments and Promotions from everyone at the Provincial Priory of Northumberland. We hope you have a very productive and enjoyable year in Office.

With thank to Kt. Nick Deakin









The Grand Sovereign in Greece



Over the weekend of 9 and 10 September Most Illustrious Knight Graham Leslie Flight, G.C.C., Grand Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine, visited Athens for the fortieth anniversary celebrations of the Grand Imperial Conclave of Greece accompanied by Very Illustrious Knight Liam Bird as escorting Marshal.

The celebration began with an informal supper on the roof of the hotel with the Acropolis at night as the backdrop.



On Saturday morning we were taken to the Byzantine Museum in Athens and given a guided tour by Dr Niki Tsironi a professor Byzantinologist and lecturer at Harvard University, delightfully all in English, followed by lunch in the Courtyard.

The meeting followed at 5pm with the usual business and our Grand Sovereign was given the rank of “Knight of the Byzantine Empire” or KBE, an Order created and given exclusively within the Grand Imperial Conclave for Greece.

Non Masons and Ladies were admitted following the formal business and a further talk was given by Dr Tsironi entitled “From Constantine the Great to Modern Greece”, relating many links from Greek and Roman history to our Order.

There were in all six Grand Sovereigns present to mark this very special occasion in the history of the Order in Greece with many other visiting dignitaries.

The visit was completed by a Gala Dinner with the ladies and guests and a musical and operatic presentation.

A very early rise (3.30am UK time) for the return after a very successful event.

Pictured below are the six Grand Sovereigns. From left to right: France, England, Greece, Germany, Finland and Cyprus.



No Newsletter next week



There will be no Newsletter next week as we will be in Toulouse for a busy few days for the Scarlet Cord but will be back with all the news on Friday, 7 October

Not seeing your news? Join us on Social Media

Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent a Masonic Club or Society linked to our Orders, please send us an invite to join or follow you.

We can be found at:

Facebook - [Mark Secretariat](#) - This is the contact account for the [Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page](#)

Twitter - [@MarkMasonsHall](#)

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk

Calendar of Annual Meetings

Grand Meetings Calendar 2022 - All Orders

Please note all timings are approximate. Refer to the Surrogate for confirmation.

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Submittal Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Ends	Online Start	Meeting Ends
MMHC	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 8 March 2022	MMHC Grand Lodge, London, WC2A 0LH	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MMM	Grand Council	Tuesday, 22 April 2022	MMM Grand Council, London, WC2E 0JF	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
SC	Grand Sanctuary	Thursday, 5 May 2022	MMHC Masonic Hall, London, WC2A 0LH	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
KT	Grand Priory	Wednesday, 18 May 2022	MMHC Grand Council, London, WC2E 0JF	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MMHC	Grand Lodge	Thursday, 2 June 2022	MMHC Grand Council, London, WC2E 0JF	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
RCC	Grand Council	Thursday, 3 June 2022	MMHC Grand Council, London, WC2E 0JF	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MMHC	Grand Lodge	Thursday, 11 September 2022	MMHC Grand Council, London, WC2E 0JF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MMHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 18 September 2022	MMHC Masonic Hall, London, WC2A 0LH	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MMHC	Grand Council	Thursday, 24 October 2022	MMHC Grand Council, London, WC2E 0JF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MMHC	Grand Council	Thursday, 10 November 2022	MMHC Grand Council, London, WC2E 0JF	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
KT	Grand Priory	Thursday, 11 November 2022	MMHC Grand Council, London, WC2E 0JF	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MMM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2022	MMM Grand Council, London, WC2E 0JF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

MMHC

Booking now for the West Yorkshire 2023 MBF Festival



[Click Here](#) to book



At the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday, the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, announced that the Mark Benevolent Fund would be donating £25,000 to the Mark Inspectorate of Romania who have been working proactively in many ways to provide support and relief to their neighbours in Ukraine.

This tremendous endeavour has touched Freemasons across the Constitution and many of our Brethren are keen to add their own support by making a donation.

We have set up a Relief Chest with the M.C.F. under the name of the **Mark Emergency Relief Fund** and you can now make donations in a variety of ways.

We know that there is enormous support for this already. To make the administration of donations as smooth as possible, enabling funds to be transferred efficiently to where they are needed most, we ask that you note the following advice regarding donations:

For individual donations of less than £100 - please make arrangements with your Mark Lodge for these to be collected centrally and then for the Lodge to make one consolidated donation into the Fund. These consolidated donations will count toward the Lodge's M.B.F. honorifics, rather than each individuals.

Donations of £100 or more may be made by individuals directly into the fund and will count towards the Brother's M.B.F. Honorifics

In all correspondence please ensure you are donating to:

Mark Emergency Relief Fund

Relief Chest No.: **MMM185622**

The quickest and easiest way to donate is by scanning the QR code below or following this [Link](#).



For a Credit Card Donation Form [Click Here](#) - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

For a Single Donation Form [Click Here](#) - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

If you would like more information about the ways in which you can donate using the digital options above, you can read the Digital Donations Guide by [Clicking Here](#)

And if you, or your Lodge, already hold a Relief Chest from which you would like to donate funds, there is a further, specific guide available by [Clicking Here](#) and a simple transfer guide available by [Clicking Here](#)

The Shop@86

[Click Here](#) to visit the Shop@86 website

Please note: The Shop@86 is closed for the summer recess and will re-open on Monday, 22 August.



MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

The new-look MBF Stewardship Jewels have now been designed for the following Festivals:

[2023 West Yorkshire](#)

[2024 Cheshire](#)

[2025 Oxfordshire](#)

[2026 Hampshire & IOW](#)

[2027 Warwickshire](#)

[2028 Somerset](#)

[2030 Essex](#)

We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.



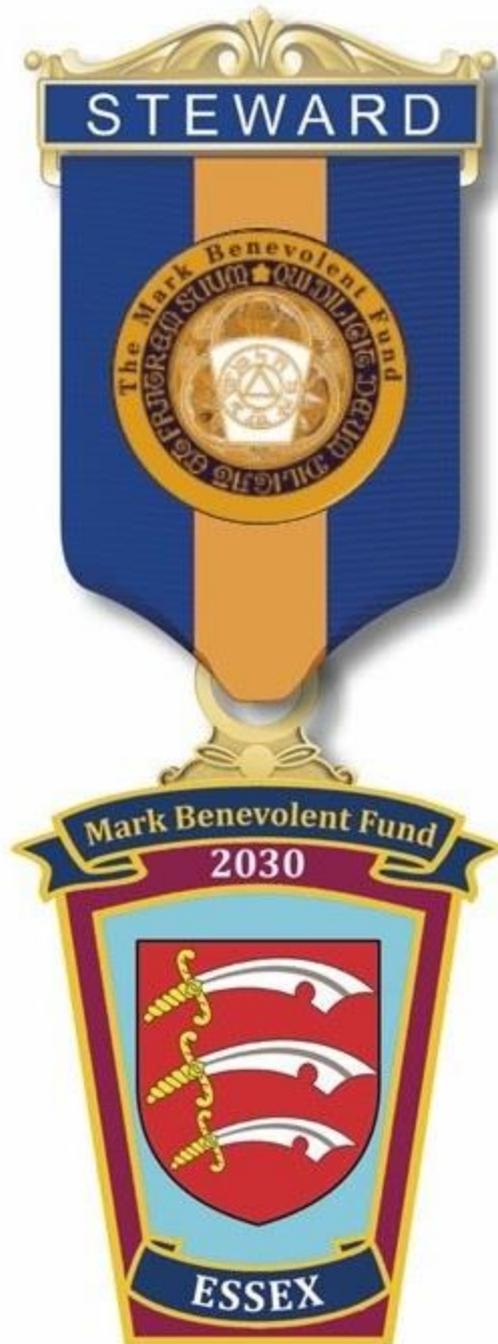












We reported recently that the new style MBF Festival Stewardship is aimed principally, but not exclusively, at members of each host Festival Province.

In return for a qualifying donation of £100, each Steward will be entitled to:

- A distinctive Stewards' breast jewel, year bar and pocket jewel holder.
- Inclusion of their name in the Festival Stewards' Roll of Honour in the Festival booklet
- And for individuals making their first donation under the scheme, qualification as a Life Governor of the Mark Benevolent Fund – the first step on the ladder of honorifics.

Monies raised by the take-up of Festival Stewardships will, of course, be included in each respective Festival total.

Helping to Combat Covid



At the start of Lockdown the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W., shared the [COVID Symptom Study](#) app.

As local lockdowns and UK cases increase, with over 4 million users, this app is a useful source of information regarding the situation in your area, as well as being a portal through which people of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID, support the NHS, help scientific research and help get us out of lockdown safely.

Admin Departments @86



All departments and teams at Mark Masons' Hall are available via email and telephone to help and support members and visitors.

Most communication for Masonic Administration should go via the Provincial Secretary, or equivalent, and they will know who to contact here at M.M.H. if they are unable to answer the query themselves.

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