

Freemasonry@86 News - 4 November 2022



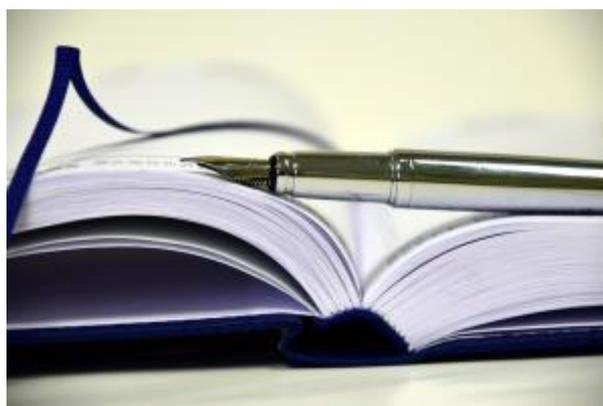
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

Tuesday, 8 November - Mark Joppa Lodge of M.M.M. No. 11 Sesquicentenary, Province of Cheshire

Wednesday, 9 November Mark Wike Lodge of M.M.M. No. 142 Sesquicentenary, Province of East Lancashire

Thursday, 10 November - O.S.M. Grand Conclave, Freemasons' Hall, London

Tuesday, 15 November - Malta Great priory of Malta, Freemasons' Hall, London

Wednesday, 16 November - R.C.C. Installation of Ill.Kt. David John Green, P.G.Chamb., as Intendant-General for Kent

Thursday, 17 November - R.A.M. Keystone Lodge of R.A.M. No. 109 Centenary, Province of Monmouthshire

Monday, 21 November - Mark Vessey Lodge of M.M.M. No. 757 Centenary, Province of Warwickshire

Wednesday, 23 November - S.C. Consecration of Monmouthshire Consistory

Monday 28, November - Mark Installation of W.Bro. David Nigel Hanson, P.G.S.D., as Provincial Grand Master for Durham

Wednesday, 30 November - Mark Steanforde Lodge of M.M.M. No. 752 Centenary, Province of Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford

Saturday, 3 December - R.C.C. RCC Installation of Ill.Kt. Nicholas St. John Middleton White, P.G.St.B.(C.), as Intendant-General for Devon and Cornwall

Monday, 12 December - R.A.M. Grand Assembly, Freemasons' Hall, London

New Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Staffordshire & Shropshire



On 19 October 2022, R.W.Bro. Michael Heenan retired as Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire & Shropshire, having served the Province for 6 years. On the following day R.W.Bro. Kevin Spencer was Installed as the sixteenth Provincial Grand Master.

The Installation ceremony took place at The County Showground, Stafford, with M.W.Bro. John Prizeman, Pro Grand Master, officiating as the Installing Master. He was ably assisted by a team of Grand Officers with R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, Prov.G.M. of Surrey and R.W. Bro. Bob Clancey, Prov.G.M. of North & East Yorkshire, acting as the Grand Wardens.



The new Provincial Grand Master is well known to many having previously served the Province as Assistant and Deputy Prov.G.M. He was pleased to appoint W.Bro. Dennis Hill, P.A.G.D.C., as Deputy Prov.G.M. (below, left) and W.Bro. Harjinder (Bob) Sagoo, P.A.G.D.C., as Assistant Prov.G.M. (below, right).



Following the Installation, lunch was held where some 200 Brethren enjoyed a most convivial occasion where it was evident that the 'Magic of the Mark' was alive and well. After the meal the Brethren returned to the Temple to undertake the business of the Province. A sincere thanks goes to all those who were able to travel to Stafford and support the meeting.

Pictured below is the new Provincial team for 2022 / 2023.

With thanks to W.Bro. Selwyn J. Burton P.A.G.D.C., Provincial Grand Secretary



Middlesex makes its Mark



The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Middlesex took place on Wednesday 26 October 2022 at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street. This was because their usual venue, the Royal Masonic School for Girls, was undertaking building work.

We received a very warm welcome on our arrival from the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Edward R. Garty (above).

There were honoured guests from many Provinces: Essex, Dorset and Hampshire and Isle of Wight...



...from Surrey...



...from Kent.



... and other Provinces.



It was also good to see so many newly Advanced Brethren present.



Just after 10.20 the Brethren were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Worshipful Brethren...



The meeting was called to order by W.Bro. Raghu Nandan, the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master; and the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Edward R Garty, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearer...



...and accompanied by a lone piper.



Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master and the Brethren stood in silence as a mark of respect for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Provincial Grand Master was pleased to receive the Banner Lodge, Exedra Lodge of Mark Master Masons.



The Provincial Travelling Keystone was then paraded into Provincial Grand Lodge and presented to the Provincial Grand Master.



Following which he received a delegation of Royal Ark Mariners.



Those present remembered the Brethren who had passed to the Grand Lodge above since the last Annual Meeting. The Provincial Grand Master then individually welcomed the many representatives of other Provinces and Masonic Orders, thanking them for their support for Middlesex Mark.



After the regular business before Provincial Grand Lodge had been concluded the Provincial Grand Master welcomed many newly Advanced Brethren thanking them for their support for Provincial Grand Lodge and wishing them many happy years to enjoy their Mark Masonry.

The Provincial Grand Master had much pleasure in re-appointing V.W.Bro. Steven M Vanhinsbergh, P.G.J.O., as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and W.Bro. Peter J Hyde, P.G.S.D., and V.W.Bro. John D Billett, P.G.J.O., as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.



The Provincial Grand Master addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. In his Address he encouraged everyone to focus on recruitment and retention, thanking the team who had put together the excellent presentation in the lobby of the Grand Temple, as well as the recruitment packs that will be on everyone's place at the luncheon.

The Provincial Grand Master closed by congratulating those Brethren who received appointment or promotion in Grand Lodge in June and September; as well as all those he appointed or promoted that day. The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form.

The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.





The Provincial Grand Master greeted everyone on their way out of the Temple, thanking them for their support for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Master Masons of Middlesex.



The Brethren of the Mark Province of Middlesex and their guests then retired for refreshments.





After refreshments the Brethren of the Province of Middlesex and their guests sat down to a most enjoyable meal in the vestibule at Freemasons Hall.



In the reply to his toast the Provincial Grand Master thanked everyone for attending to make this a special day for the Mark Province of Middlesex, reminding everyone that Freemasons Hall used to be in the old County of Middlesex.....

Article by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, P.G.J.O., and photos by V.W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, P.G.S.O. and Chris Eley



Canon Portal Memorial Lecture



On Wednesday 26th October 2022 Benevolent TI Mark Lodge, in Cheshire, hosted The Second Canon Portal Memorial Lecture, in Stockport.

Right Worshipful Brother Gary Raymond Horstman, Provincial Grand Master of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire was delighted to be accompanied by his team pictured here.

The lecture entitled 'The first Royal Mark Mason' is an account of the life and masonic career of Prince Leopold and was delivered by Worshipful Brother Dr Rod Taylor, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire (Brighouse Lodge No 753)

This was a very important occasion for the Province of Cheshire and The lecture was extremely well received by all those present.

Pictured here are the Lodge Members, including The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for the Craft Province of Cheshire, David Victor; The Provincial Active Offices and Grand Officers.

George Portal was Grand Master from 1869-1873 and the driving force behind the formation of the Mark Benevolent Fund, in 1868.



Happy 100th to Wyre Lodge of Mark Master Masons. No. 754



Here we go again to what promises to be yet another very Special Meeting, not so lucky getting up the M60 on ramp today, the new technological marvel they had introduced to somehow keep all the vehicles moving along, traffic lights, were still not working. I ask you traffic lights on a motorway. Twenty minutes later had reached the M61, after a couple of miles I suddenly thought this feels familiar of course it was, as only the day before I had made the same trip to a Royal Ark Mariner meeting in Blackpool. You may think is it really worth it, well yes it is, we all believe in "The Magic of the Mark" see all the smiling faces, the genuine pleased to see you handshakes given by members from all over the Province and beyond, including tonight two very special guests our own Prov.G.M., R.W.Bro. Keith Alan Beardmore and R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer, Dep.G.M.

The meeting commenced on time at 5.45pm and following quite a lot of housekeeping the Prov.G.M., R.W.Bro. Keith Alan Beardmore entered the Lodge accompanied by Acting Grand and Provincial Grand Officers. The W.M., W.Bro. Tom Egan offered the gavel to Keith who said that on this occasion he would accept it for a short time. The Prov.G.M. asked the Provincial D.C. W.Bro. Arthur Robinson to present W.Bro. Jeff Smith and W.Bro. Dennis Smith to the pedestal where he had much pleasure in promoting both of them to the high office of P.Pr.G.S.W.s. Keith then had much pleasure in presenting W.Bro. Brian Burgess Dicks, Prov.G.J.O., with the special Royal Ark Mariner Ambassador Jewel for his unstinting work in promoting the Degree.

Following on from those surprises the Provincial D.C. W.Bro. Arthur Robinson, G.J.D., took on the role of Dep.G D.C. to accompany the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer, into the meeting. He was well received by all present and invited to occupy the W.M. seat, which he said he would do for only a short time as he didn't want to deny the pleasure and effort that the W.M. had put into this special meeting. A short introduction regarding the History of the Lodge was then given by the W.M., before asking our Provincial Grand Secretary W.Bro. Mike Pinckard, G.Stwd. if he would read out the original Warrant, it wasn't even written on paper or card as we know it today but he did an incredible job which we all listened to, with great interest. He was then presented with the Centenary Warrant which again he read out in fine style for all present to appreciate what this special evening was all about, the warrant was presented to the Dep.G.M. who in turn passed it to the W.M. who had re taken up his seat of office, for safekeeping and displaying on the wall of the Lodge.



The W.M. then asked the Dep.G.M. if he would honour the Lodge by presenting a special token to the members which had been produced to mark the occasion. All the members lined up and received the excellent tokens from the Dep.G.M. ably assisted by our P.G.M. and the W.M. Special Jewels had also been ordered by Jimmy but the supplier had failed to supply them in time, to say he was disappointed is an understatement but it was beyond his control and they will of course be presented at a future meeting.



The W.M. thanked W.Bro. Mike Pinckard, G.Stwd., Prov.G.Sec., for reading out the warrants in such fine style.



Next W.Bro. Jimmy Rogers, P.G.J.D., Secretary of the Lodge, read out a more detailed History of the Lodge and also pointed to the small booklets which had been prepared for the occasion. All the visitors present had received a copy of the booklet along with the special token, a really nice gesture and a keepsake. This amazing Lodge received the Benevolent Gold Award which was presented to

the W.M. and W.Bro. Jimmy Rogers, P.G.J.D., received the amazing Mark Benevolent Fund Diamond Award.

It was now time for the R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer, DepG.M., to retire from the meeting. He thanked all for their attendance, the Lodge rose as one as he was escorted by the Prov.G.D.C., W.Bro. Arthur Robinson, G.J.D. The Prov.G.M. called on the Provincial Grand Secretary Mike one more time and asked if he would read out the Provincial Centenary Warrant, before presenting it to the W.M. and that was it, what a great meeting. I'm pretty sure that all who were present will remember it with a warm glow for many years to come.



Everyone made their way to the dining room for the Festive Board, which I must say was immaculate complete with place cards, the history booklets and one of the special Centenary tokens. Once glasses were charged and we took up our allotted seats an excellent meal was served up by the friendly and efficient Hall Staff. The usual Toasts and some excellent responses were given including one from the R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer, who was found during the evening to be very approachable just like our own R.W.Bro. Keith Alan Beardmore.



As always it seemed to be over too soon, we all had a great evening in this the “Magic Mark Degree”, we said our goodbyes with a smile and exchanged the genuine handshakes we are used to, special thanks go to the Lodge Secretary W.Bro. Jimmy Rogers, who works tirelessly for the Wyre Mark Lodge and all who assisted him in organising such a memorable evening.



Out into the chilled night air for the journey back to Manchester, the question now is which part of the motorway system will be closed tonight, made it to the M6 then I heard “ping” what’s that I enquired? Oh, it means the petrol’s about to run out, I said great, get off at the next junction and we will hunt for some, luckily not too far and there it was a shining light in the dark, a 24-hour garage.



Here's looking forward to my next Mark or Royal Ark Mariner meeting to meet up with friends I know and those I have yet to meet. Mark Well The date for your diary of the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting is 27th April 2023 at The Winter Gardens, Blackpool. The date for your diary of the Provincial RAM Assembly is 19th September 2023 at The Savoy Hotel, Blackpool.

With thanks to W.Bro. Austin Fletcher, P.G.J.D.















Old Lodge – New Name

The Mark Lodge No. 350 was Consecrated in Poplar on 16 February 1885 as Temperance in the East Lodge and was temperate. By 1903, despite the efforts of the few remaining members and several changes of venue, the Lodge was failing and returned their Warrant. It was picked up by a group of Mark Masons, revived and eventually met in Mark Masons' Hall which was, in those days in Great Queen Street.

During the following four years 40 candidates were advanced and in the next four years there were 47 candidates. In January 1923, 25 brethren were Advanced 15 of whom gave their profession as "Vaudeville Artist". The others were also connected with the entertainment business. These brethren then went on to become founders of the Vaudeville Lodge No. 801 which still me ets.

In April 1904 it was proposed that the M.W. Grand Master be petitioned to allow the Lodge to change the name to Emblematic “as the name it now bears is unsuitable to its present position”. This was granted and the summons for the meeting on 19 April 1905 was the first to bear the new name. The Lodge retained that name until 2022.



V. W. Bro. Steve Vanhinsbergh, P.G.S.O., Dep. Prov. G.M.

By 2017 the Lodge was again failing having lost several members by death or resignation and in October 2019 there were only seven members. At this point, V.W. Bro. Steve Vanhinsburgh, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, had a conversation with the Secretary, W. Bro. Doug Black, P.G.S.D., P. Prov. G.S.W., both of whom had retired from the police service, and suggested that the Emblematic might become a Lodge for emergency services personnel. This was discussed in open Lodge and the members agreed to the venture. As a result four members joined. There will be a further Joining Member in January 2023 and a candidate for Advancement with several others in the pipeline.

The Lodge again petitioned the M.W. Grand Master to allow the Lodge’s name to become “Emblems of Service”. The petition was granted and on Thursday 27th October 2022 the Emblems of Service Lodge of Mark Masters No. 350 met for the first time under that name.

As the Secretary put it – “If your company car has or had a blue light on top, even if it was a bright red 20 ton truck or a bright yellow van, you will be made welcome to join us”.

The Lodge meets at Mark Masons’ Hall in January, April and October. There is a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge moored to the Mark Lodge which meets on the same days and immediately before it. If you would like to visit us or, even better, join us, please contact the Secretary, W. Bro. Doug Black, e -mail doug_black@btopenworld.com.

With thanks to Douglas D Black, Secretary/Scribe

Back in the Chair



On Monday, 31 October, R.W.Bro David Tremaine, P.Prov.G.M. was Installed as Worshipful Master of the Buckinghamshire Installed Mark Masters Lodge at Aylesbury, by W.Bro Paul Savage, P.G.Stwd, Prov.G.D.C., in the presence of R.W.Bro. Keith Bristow Prov.G.M., R.W.Bro. Peter Harborne, P.Prov.G.M., and many other distinguished Brethren.

52 years a Mark Master Mason!



Monday, 10 October 2022, and a wonderful meeting was held to celebrate Worshipful Brother John D McRiners 52 years in this splendid Order. Present was the Provincial Grand Master for West Yorkshire, Right Worshipful Brother James Steggles. He was there of course to present W.Bro. John with both his Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge certificates, and to go through John's life.

R.W.Bro. Jim first of all set the scene as to life in the 1970's when John joined the Mark. Ted Heath took over from Harold Wilson as Prime Minister, Richard Nixon was the President of the United States. The Vietnam war was ongoing, a failed Apollo 13 mission, oil was beginning to flow out of the North Sea, the docks strike was on and, finally, which brought smiles and laughter around the room – page 3 girls came about.

Next was a 'this is your life' style talk between W.Bro. John and R.W.Bro. Jim. Although, Jim had a very easy and relaxed interview as once John got talking there was no stopping him, talking about his family, work and Masonic life. It was clear from the start that he was ever so proud of both his son and daughter and what they had achieved. His work life was fascinating, working initially as both a woodwork teacher and metalwork teacher, going on to be head of technology. A more supportive

and encouraging teacher you could not possibly find as others were to later testify. But woe betide those pupils who crossed him, his clogs were legendary!

John still has a passion for outdoor pursuits and is a highly qualified instructor and leader in both mountaineering and canoeing. He loved playing Rugby Union and was a formidable prop forward. He tells us his opposite number could tell you some fascinating stories about Saturday afternoons. Especially after John and his front row partners had enjoyed a few pints and a curry the night before the game...

His Masonic career started in Scotland where he became a member of Craft, Chapter and Mark all in one night. St. John Lodge of M.M.M. No. 272 was his Mark Lodge. Both his father and uncle gave him lots and lots of support and really got his interest in Freemasonry, although John never actually lived in Scotland. Petrol was obviously much cheaper in those days. His Mark and Royal Ark Mariner career was of course in West Yorkshire, being a member of Brighouse Lodge of M.M.M.s No. 753 which he joined in 1986, Caldene No. 501 and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges Hipperholme No. 715 and Carl Whitehead No. 110. He was appointed Prov.G.M.O. in 1998, Prov.G.J.W. in 2002 and holds both Prov.R.A.M.G.R. and R.A.M.G.R.

A great meeting and a super festive board where the stories continued far too many to mention here.

Many congratulations Worshipful Brother John David McRiner. You have indeed marked well.

With thanks to W.Bro. Andrew Johnson, P.Prov.G.S.W., Communications Manager.



K.T. Provincial Priory of Durham's Church Service



On Sunday, 30 October, the Provincial Priory of Durham held its Annual Church Service at St Luke 's Church Ferryhill commencing at 11:30am.

Those present were invited to gather for refreshments prior to the service in the church hall, served by members of the church.

The Provincial Prior's Bodyguard greeted everyone on entry into the church as well as handing out the orders of service.

At 11:30 a.m. the service began and the Provincial Prelate, Kt. The Reverend John P L Walley, welcomed everyone, followed by those present giving a rousing rendition of the Templar's Hymn, accompanied by the Provincial Organist, E.Kt. Philip Watson.



Then followed wonderful prayers, readings given by the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Richard Scott, and the Provincial Sub Prior, E.Kt. John Watts, Hymns, and address given by the Provincial Prelate and a recommitment to the work of our Orders.



Following the service those present retired to Ferryhill Masonic Hall for a wonderful 3 course lunch.

The Provincial Prior thanked all everyone for coming and gave special mention to the widows and those involved in the organisation of the day E.Kt.s Stewart Bell, Steve Allen and Gary Quinn.



A final thank you and congratulations went to the Provincial Prelate the Reverend John Walley for conducting his first service since taking on the role from his predecessor the Reverend Paul Patterson.

With thank to Kt. Robin Crosby, Provincial Communications Officer



Grand Sovereign's visit to Germany



On 29 October the Grand Sovereign, accompanied by the Grand Marshal, Very Illustrious Knight Paul Norman, were guests at the Grand Imperial Conclave of Germany Annual Assembly in Berlin.

We were entertained on the evening of the 28th to a Grand Sovereign's Reception and Buffet dinner and lunch after the meeting at the Lodge House of the Grand National Motherlodge "The 3 World Globes".

It was a small meeting following a change of date but still attended by four visiting Grand Sovereign's and presided over by the Grand Sovereign of Germany Most Illustrious Knight Markus Winter, G.C.C.

In the picture from left to right are the Grand Sovereigns of France, England, Germany, Greece and Italy.

This was the last in the post Covid catching up process for Grand Conclave visits until next year and follows a busy time for the Grand Team both at home and abroad.

The diary has now settled down to some sort of new normality but still with two Intendants-General to install this year, in Kent and Devon & Cornwall Divisions.

Last weekend the Grand Master of the Royal and Select Masters, M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones was pleased to make an overdue visit to Jersey to confirm the appointment of Very Illustrious Companion Kenneth Michael Rondel as the Grand Inspector for the Channel Islands, having been unable to appoint and invest him in person at the time due to the Covid pandemic.

The meeting was greatly enjoyed by all in attendance, with not only the confirmation of the Very Illustrious Grand Inspector taking place, but La Hougie Bie Council also welcomed two new Candidates into the Order, Mark Bingle and Rupert Hague-Holmes, who were chosen and honoured as select and royal masters at the meeting.

30 members of the Order were in attendance, including two who had made the trip over from Guernsey, to witness the degrees and confirmation, and had the pleasure of watch Ill.Comp. Colin Goss give an excellent performance of the soliloquy in the Royal Master.

The Grand Master was pleased with the way the evening proceeded and the opportunity to confirm Very Illustrious Companion Kenneth Rondel as the Grand Inspector, and thought this would be enhanced by the new members of the Council taking part in the confirmation of the Grand Inspector; they duly acted as cushion bearers, rounding off a night that will remain in their memories for many years.

All in attendance agreed that it had been a wonderful evening and were overjoyed that the Grand Master had taken the time to visit Jersey making it a special night, with the Grand Inspector being particularly delighted to welcome him back the Inspectorate once again.

With thanks to Ill.Comp. Andrew Jennings, Dep.G.D.C.



The Dynamic Duo Lead The Way



Very Distinguished Companion Wally Edwards, Deputy Provincial Grand Summus and Distinguished Companion Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, are claiming a record of completing six Scarlet Cord ceremonies in seven days.

The journey started on Wednesday, 19 October at Cheshire View Consistory 12TI when Tony as Consistory Director of Ceremonies accompanied by Wally as acting Lecturer, brought one candidate into the Second Grade, Companion Andy Tong,



And Prepared two candidates for Presidency, Companions Richard Sutton and John Owens.



Monday 24 October saw the pair in action at Wrexham, Red Castle Consistory 48TI, when Tony as acting Consistory Director of Ceremonies once again aided by Wally as acting Lecturer and Consistory Assistant Director of Ceremonies, conducted a Second Grade for three candidates and a Third Grade for three candidates.

Finally, on Wednesday 26 October, the pair arrived at Macclesfield for Mercia Consistory 72. Due to the late absence of the Consistory President, Wally stood in as acting President and



Tony stood in as Consistory Director of Ceremonies. Between them they conducted a First Grade Ceremony for one new candidate, Companion Tim Knowles, and an installation ceremony for a new president, Distinguished Companion John Green.



Provincial Grand Summus, Christopher Welton, stated that he felt that this performance of three Consistories and six Ceremonies between the two of them in seven days was certainly a record in the Province of Cheshire and North Wales.

Could this be a record throughout the Order?

With thanks to Tony Stringer

Nottinghamshire Mason receives High Honour in the Order of the Scarlet Cord



Very Distinguished Companion Alan Sears, Past Grand Lecturer (and Deputy Intendant-General Red Cross of Constantine (Notts)) is pictured with the Grand Summus, M. Dist. Comp. Ian Currans; the Deputy Grand Summus, R. Dist. Comp. Francis Spencer; and the Assistant Grand Summus, R. Dist. Comp. Howard Markham when he received his 6th Grade in the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord at Mark Masons' Hall, London.

This is the highest award in the order and the ceremony is only performed every two years. There were only five candidates. Alan was accompanied by the Aaron Shoemaker and Kevin Sample (Grand Master of America and his colleague), Graham Hutchinson (West Yorks) and Jonathan Roberts (MMH).

Those taking part included four Grand Masters, and several of the Companions who assisted in the Tours of Duty to Delhi, Chennai, Singapore and Washington DC. when the order was being spread abroad. Alan was the Grand Organist. The current Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord is based on an earlier Order, The Royal Order of Knights of the Scarlet Cord, developed in the British Isles in 1889, which was itself derived from 18th Century documents from the Amsterdam Masonic archives.

The rituals and ceremonies were rewritten and enriched by His Honour Judge Fredrick Adolphus Philbrick, KC, and were performed as appendant grades to the Order of the Secret Monitor. The rituals of the Order are taken from Old Testament times, commencing at the period of Joshua, the fall of Jericho and the story of Rahab. The main purpose was to raise considerable sums of money for

the Secret Monitor Benevolent Fund, which still plays a significant role in Masonic welfare provision today. The Order ceased working in 1929.

A paper on the original Order written and delivered in 2001 by Peter Glyn Williams, the then Grand Supreme Ruler of the Secret Monitor, stimulated interest in the long-forgotten rituals. In 2006 a Secret Monitor Conclave was Consecrated with the sole purpose of reviving the old Order and conferring updated versions of the original sixgrades, some of which only remained in fragmented form. A huge appetite for the grades among Secret Monitors led to the Order being inaugurated as a separate Sovereign body in a magnificent ceremony in the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall on 21 July 2010.

With thanks to Paul Hancock.

Meanwhile, Companions from Surrey are well Prepared



On Thursday, 27 October 2022, at the South West Surrey Masonic Centre, Guildford, an Emergency Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey was held to conduct the Preparation Ceremony for the Office of President for three Companions of the Third Grade; Companions Wally Maynard of Surrey Consistory No. 4 TI; Donald McGarr of Hill of Zion Consistory No. 52 TI; and David Blackburn, the District Grand Master of the Royal and Select Masters District of Surrey, Warlingham Consistory No. 134. The Ceremony was conducted by the Provincial Grand Summus, R. Dist. Comp. Arnold Long, assisted by his Provincial Officers.

Provincial Grand Senatus was opened in the First Grade of the Order by the Provincial Grand Summus, who welcomed everyone to Guildford and thanked them for attending to support the Province. The Consistory was then adjourned in the First Grade and the Provincial Grand Summus gave a short preamble as to why an Emergency meeting and its purpose, and briefly welcomed the guests. The Consistory was opened in the Third Grade and the Companion Director of Ceremonies, presented the Candidates.

The Provincial Grand Summus and his officers then proceeded to put the questions to the Candidates. The Provincial Grand Summus designated the Candidates as Eminent Companions saying that the patent which they will receive will be signed by the Most Distinguished Grand Summus and qualify them to be installed as a President of a Consistory.



The Consistory was closed in the Third Grade and resumed in the First Grade of the Order. The Provincial Grand Summus then presented Em.Comp.s Wally Maynard and David Blackburn with their 3rd Grade Certificates.



Following which Provincial Grand Senatus was closed in due form and the customary photos taken.



After a short break for tea, a meeting of Guildford Consistory No 53 was held. This was the first Executive Visit by our Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson, since his installation. The Deputy Provincial Grand Summus entered under an Arch of Steel and was welcomed by the President, on behalf of all the Companions of the Consistory.

Em.Comp. Derek Williamson was Installed as President in an excellent manner by Dist.Comp. Barrie Selway, assisted by the Officers of the Consistory, and the Officers were appointed and invested.



The Deputy Provincial Grand Summus congratulated Dist.Comp. Derek, and wished him an enjoyable year as President of Guildford Consistory.



He also thanked the members of the Tzaddikim, some of whom acted as his Arch of Steel at the last minute.



After the Consistory was closed, the Companions of Guildford Consistory and their guests sat down to a most convivial meal at the South West Surrey Masonic Centre.

With thanks to Dist.Comp. Chris Eley, Prov.G.Rec., Surrey.

And, a trio of firsts at No. 7 (TI)



Post Covid recovery continues in the Province of Durham and Northumberland. At the regular meeting of Keys of Jericho Consistory No. 7 (TI) on Thursday, 3 November, three O.S.M. Princes were received into the first grade of Ostiarius of the Scarlet Cord in an impressive ceremony delivered from memory to a very high standard by Em.Comp. Robin F. Knight, Primus of Ostiarii.

Despite many of our members, our Provincial Grand Summus, and regular visitors, being absent due to a clash with a celebratory “Denny’s Dinner” elsewhere in the Province to mark the promotion of R.W.Bro. Prof Denovan K. Wilson as Assistant Grand Master, we still had 26 present to witness this momentous occasion and celebrate afterwards with a 4 course dinner in Dunston Masonic Hall, of paté, braised steak, big bowl trifle and cheese board at a cost of £10 including a raffle ticket.

Pictured l-r back row are the Candidates Comp.s Paul McKie, Denis Niblett and Danny McDermott,

Front row l-r Em.Comp. Ian Dixon, Primus of Lectores; Dist.Comp. John J Stevenson, President; Em.Comp. Robin F Knight, Primus of Ostiarii; and V.Dist.Comp. Gary D Taylor, Deputy Provincial Grand Summus.

With thanks to Dist.Comp. John D. Watts, Prov.G.Rec.

Squire Novices at Mark Masons Hall



A meeting of the Anglo Saxon Prefecture in the Grand Priory of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City was held at Mark Masons' Hall on Thursday, 27 October 2022.

The Prefecture was opened in the Fifth Degree of the Order by the Regional Grand Prefect, R.Revd.Kt. David Jordan, K.B.H.C., who welcomed all the Distinguished Guests. After the Muster Roll of Lodges and of Prefecture Officers had been called the main item on the agenda was to promote seven Fourth Degree members to Squire Novice. This was done in a very personal manner by our Regional Grand Prefect, assisted by the Mareschal, Revd.Kt. Kelvin Gane, and the Deputy Mareschal, Revd.Kt. Chris Eley. The representative Candidate was Bro. Alan Baverstock.

Afterwards the new Squire Novices posed for a photograph with our Regional Grand Prefect, R.Revd.Kt. David Jordan; and other distinguished Knights.



In his address the Regional Grand Prefect thanked R.Revd.Kt. Kessick Jones, President of the Grand Master's Council, Grand Master of the Order of Royal and Select Masters (below), for attending and supporting the Prefecture by acting as Senior.

After the remaining business was completed, the Prefecture was closed, and we retired to the dining room for a most enjoyable meal together.

With thanks to Revd.Kt. Chris Eley



Hope House Children's Hospice awarded £45,000 by the MBF for Aqua Pool Improvements



Provincial Grand Master's for North Wales, R.W.Bro. John Evans and Cheshire, R.W.Bro. Gary Horstman, joined forces this week to officially open the refurbished Aqua Pool at the Hope House Children's Hospice in Oswestry this week. The dedication of the pool was hosted by Andy Goldsmith, Chief Executive, Vanessa Baldry, Trusts Manager and Steve Henly, Trustee. This opening has certainly been a long time coming as all works stalled in 2020 just as the Mark Benevolent Fund awarded £45,000 to upgrade the hoist and fit new sensory and audio equipment. Vanessa said, 'We are absolutely thrilled. In fact, when we heard the news, our physiotherapist jumped up and down for about 5 minutes! They have been longing to get the pool updated to make it a better experience for the children'.

Hope House is currently providing care for 280 terminally ill children from North Wales, Cheshire and Shropshire as well as supporting a further 300 siblings and 244 adult family members.

Find out more about them here www.hopehouse.org.uk

Also joining the celebrations were W.Bro. Philip Edwards, P.G.J.D., Deputy Provincial Grand Master for North Wales, W.Bro. Colin Lemin, P.Prov.G.S.W., Provincial Grand Secretary for North Wales and W.Bro. Michael Pugh, JP, P.A.G.D.C., Provincial Grand Charity Steward for North Wales.





**Mark
Benevolent Fund**



NORTH WALES CHESHIRE

HOPE HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICES

**Hoist system,
sensory & audio
equipment for the
aqua therapy pool**

£45,000

hopehouse ty gobaith
children's hospices



Ryan A. Williams
Honorary Secretary

**@HHTGhospices
@MarkMasonsHall
#Freemasonry**

Cheshire Mark's Christmas toy appeal

It's great to see that the Mark led Cheshire Toy appeal, which also has the support from the Craft and Royal Arch, has inspired some great early donations, with various activities and donations having already been made in support of our Local Children across the Province, who may have nothing on Christmas Day.

One of the very first to help was Connor Ross, the son of well-known Mason Mike Ross, who, on hearing about the initiative, immediately decided to have a sponsored head shave, via just Giving, and raised over £1,000.00 to start the appeal.



In recognition of his selfless efforts, the Provincial Grand Master was pleased to send him a letter of commendation, which was gratefully received.

We have also seen donations from a number of Lodges and individuals across the Province, including from the Stamford Mark Lodge, the Installed Commanders R.A.M. Lodge, and also, pictured below, the members of Ashton and District Lodge TI, meeting in Dukinfield, all of the members seen here donating suitable toys to the appeal.



We have also seen some great support from those big-Hearted Bikers, the Cheshire Widows Sons Motorcycle Association, with the Cheshire Chapter donating gifts and toys to the value of £350.00 across our 7 local appeal groups, who ensure that any donations go to help those children in the location of the Lodge, so our members are donating to and supporting directly their own local communities, and again we offer them our thanks on behalf of the local children for their support.



The initiative, whilst Mark led, is really about supporting our local children, who, in these harsh times, may have nothing this Christmas. And we are sure that on their behalf we'd welcome any support that you may be inclined to provide, including a suitable new toy (please unwrapped as we need to know what it is to donate it appropriately, or a financial donation which would go towards buying suitable high street gift vouchers which, for older Children who can be hard to buy for, would be very welcome.

If you can support this initiative, and help our local children in need this Christmas, please speak to one of our Charity Stewards on how to do so, or follow the link on the images below, which feature on the business cards we are circulating around our Lodges.

With thanks to W.Bro. Peter Langley, Prov.G.Stwd., Provincial Communications Officer





Flying the flag for the Companion Orders



At St Andrew's craft lodge No 6217 in Stanley, Co Durham Rt Ill Bro Selwyn Smith Beattie celebrated his 60th anniversary as a Freemason on 1st November 2022.

The commemorative Certificate was presented by craft ProvGM John Paul Thompson and at the festive board which followed Selwyn received a gift of a special whisky and glasses.

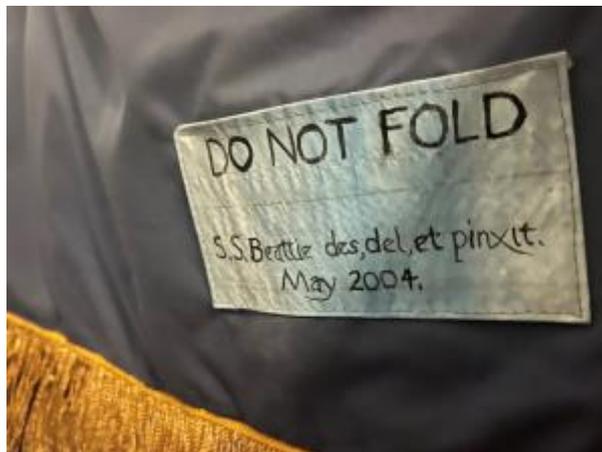
As well as holding UGLE Grand Rank for 30 of his 60 years service Selwyn holds Grand Rank in the Royal Arch Chapter and most of the M.M.H. Companion Orders including Mark, R.A.M., K.T., K.M., R.C.C., O.S.M., S.C., A.M.D. and K.B.H.C. with the highest in Royal and Select Masters as the first District Grand Master of Durham for 14 years from 1997 to 2011 and became a member of the Ninth Arch in 2016.

In the unavoidable absence of the current District Grand Master Michael Graham the Royal and Select Masters were represented by the District Principal Conductor of the Work, Bryan Kennedy; Red Cross of Constantine and Scarlet Cord represented by the Deputy Intendant-General and Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, Gary D Taylor, while Knights Templar by the Provincial Sub Prior John D Watts, also present as craft A.Prov.G.M. for the NW Durham area.

Selwyn is a skilled banner maker with his handiwork not only evident in his Mother Lodge but on many other unit and Provincial banners throughout the region.

In his response to a generous toast at the festive board Selwyn thanked everyone for the support he's received and that he is looking forward to receiving his 60th certificate presentation from Mark Masonry in only 6 years time and thereafter, the many other Companion Orders which have given him so much pleasure.

With thanks to John D Watts.





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 Summons for confirmation.

Order	Meetings	Date	To be held at	Refreshment Time	Refreshment Start	Meeting Finish	Meeting Start	Meeting End
MARK	Grand Lodge	Sunday, 28 March 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1A 1JQ	11.00 AM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM
MMH	Grand Council	Sunday, 28 April 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1A 1JQ	12.00 PM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM
SE	Grand Saratoga	Thursday, 5 May 2022	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW4 6PL	10.00 AM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	4.30 PM
CT	Grand Priory	Wednesday, 14 May 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1A 1JQ	10.00 AM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM
MARK	Grand Council	Monday, 7 June 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1A 1JQ	10.00 AM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM
SCC	Grand Council	Monday, 5 July 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1A 1JQ	10.00 AM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM
MARK	Grand Council	Sunday, 11 September 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1A 1JQ	12.00 PM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM
MMH	Grand Priory	Thursday, 18 September 2022	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW4 6PL	1.00 PM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM
MMH	Grand Council	Sunday, 24 October 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1A 1JQ	11.00 AM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM
MMH	Grand Council	Thursday, 27 November 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1A 1JQ	10.00 AM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM
CT	Grand Priory	Sunday, 11 December 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1A 1JQ	10.00 AM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM
MMH	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1A 1JQ	11.00 AM	1.00 PM	3.00 PM	9.00 AM	5.00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

Booking now for the West Yorkshire 2023 MBF Festival



155th MBF Festival Banquet
will be held at the
Harrogate Conference Centre
Kings Rd
Harrogate
HG1 5LA
Saturday, 1 July 2023



[Click Here](#) to book



Mark Emergency Relief Fund

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



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.

And, we are delighted to announce that we are taking pre-orders for the 2029 Festival Stewardship Jewel for Durham which will be available for delivery shortly.

The form is available to download [Here](#)

















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.

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.

Published by the Communications Team at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL

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