

Freemasonry@86 News - 16 December 2022



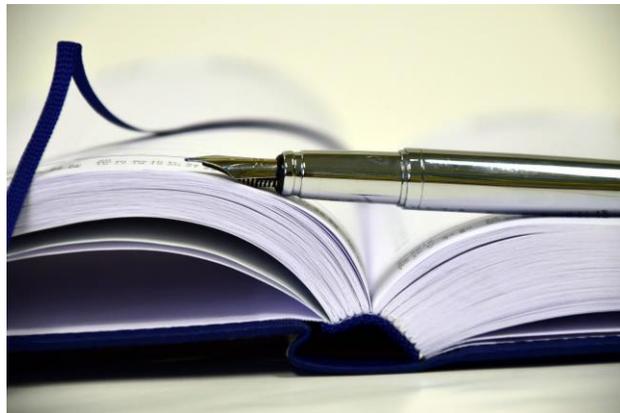
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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Companion 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.

Monday, 19 December - Mark The Carnarvon Lodge of M.M.M. No. 119 Sesquicentenary, Province of Somerset

Social Media Guidelines



With a new Pro Grand Master this year in both the Craft and the Mark, we are continuing our close working relationship with our Brethren at Freemasons' Hall.

While we enjoy and encourage our members' enthusiasm for our Orders, it's important that we are mindful where and how we share our passion for Freemasonry.

Please ensure that any posts on social media about the Companion Orders are either restricted to groups, pages and websites that are open to all Orders or, if destined for Craft specific areas, are posted via a moderator to ensure they are a welcome additions to the news feed.

The Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariner



On Monday, Royal Ark Mariner Brethren braved snow and travel disruption to navigate a course to Freemasons' Hall and share in what for many is an end of season get together at the Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity.

The meeting was presided over by the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Prizeman; The Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Frank Spencer; and the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Prof Denovan Wilson.

After the business of the meeting had been carried there were three 'Honoris Causa'* appointments to the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council, R.W.Bro. Justice Rubin, District Grand Master for Singapore; R.W.Bro. Derek Thomas, Past Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire; and W.Bro. Jonathan Whitaker, R.A.M.G.R., a long-time member of the Management Board at Mark Masons' Hall.

* **honoris causa** adverb/a,ŋərəs 'kɑʊsə/, /a,ŋərəs'kɑʊzə/ (from Latin) (especially of a degree) given to a person as a sign of honor and respect

There followed 113 appointments to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank and it was pleasing to see so many still able to attend to receive this very special honour.



The Pro Grand Master then addressed the Annual Assembly, congratulating recipients on their appointments to Grand Rank, noting that they had been awarded in recognition of faithful and distinguished service, and their enthusiasm and devotion to the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity.

He spoke too of the journey of Freemasonry and how that journey can be enhanced when taken with a Companion, linking this with the new styling of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall as the 'Companion Orders'.

Following this, the Pro Grand Master was pleased to welcome visitors from Overseas and Heads of other Orders.

He also mentioned, that as Lodges in the R.A.M. have a Commander instead of a Master, perhaps he should be titled Pro Grand Commander, playfully asking the Grand Secretary to include this as an agenda item for the next meeting of the Royal Ark Council. Only three words were necessary from the Grand Secretary, "Absolutely not, Sir" came the reply.

Returning to present matters, the Pro Grand Master reiterated the special nature of this Degree, and how the aprons worn by Brethren of all Ranks within it are so similar, not increasing too much in ornateness as you progress, reminding us of the equality of the Fraternity.

There were thanks to the Grand Secretary and the team at Mark Masons' Hall; and to the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team, for the first class ceremonial on display.

He then wished everyone a safe journey home and a happy and peaceful Christmas and new year, finishing with "may the Fraternity continue to flourish".

The only other business from the Grand Secretary was to echo the Pro Grand Master's wishes for Christmas and the new year and to thank Brethren for their support over the last 12 months.

The Grand Assembly was then closed in ample form and Brethren retired, some to dine, while others took advantage of the early finish and made their ways straight home.

Thank you to all those who were able to attend and make this, even on a very cold day, another warm and convivial meeting of this Ancient and Honorable Fraternity.



You can view a photo gallery of the day [Here](#)

With thanks to W.Bro. Chris Eley, R.A.M.G.R.

The Grand Master's visit to Romania



During the Annual Assembly of the Royal Ark Mariner, the Pro Grand Master also commented on the success of the visit by the Grand Master and a large contingent of Mark Grand Officers to Romania.

R.W.Bro. Derek Thomas gave us this report:

"The Constitution of the District Grand Lodge of Romania took place at "Le Chateau" in Bucharest on Saturday, 12 November in the presence of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent.

The Consecrating Officer on this historic occasion being Most Worshipful Brother John Prizeman, Pro Grand Master, which was quite fitting as he had consecrated the first Lodge of Mark Master Masons in Romania, the Alexandru Vaida Voevod Lodge No. 1988, on 3 March 2018 in his capacity as Deputy Grand Master.

The District of Romania comprises 17 Mark Lodges with a membership of 680 Brethren; a remarkable achievement as the first Brethren were only advanced into the Order on 12 November 2016, not forgetting that 18 months were lost due to the Covid pandemic.

R.W.Bro. Cristian Mihutoiu, now the District Grand Master, together with four colleagues, were advanced into The Mark Internet Lodge at its first regular meeting in Castleton, near Newport in

Monmouthshire by the Primus Master, W.Bro. Roy Morris. Indeed, the Mark Internet Lodge was to continue to play a key role in the introduction and the development of the Order in Romania by travelling to Bucharest and advancing no fewer than 185 brethren in five ceremonies prior to the consecration of the first Lodge. The Officers and Brethren of the Lodge and the Province of Monmouthshire generally continued to play an active part in the Consecration of all the Mark lodges in Romania including The Prince Michael of Kent Lodge of Installed Mark Master Masons No. 2044 which was consecrated on Friday, 11 November, the day before the Constitution of the District.



The Prince Michael of Kent Lodge, which comprises, in the main, Brethren from Romania and the United Kingdom who had played an active part in the introduction of the Order, is intended to further the development of Mark Masonry in Romania and strengthen the Masonic links between the countries. The Lodge meets twice a year with the election meeting being held at Mark Masons' Hall on the second Saturday in May and the installation meeting in Romania on the third Saturday in October, and membership is open to any suitably qualified Brother."

The Pro Grand Master also spoke of how the Grand Master touched the hearts of many when he took time out of the Masonic itinerary to visit a refugee centre for those seeking safety and solace from the troubles in Ukraine.

The Grand Master took time and trouble to visit every group at the gathering and spoke to many in their own language, expressing great interest in their experiences and sympathy for their present situation.



You can view a gallery of photographs from the trip [Here](#)

With thanks to W.Bro. Paul Rowlands, P.A.G.D.C.

And we have received this slideshow of how the District of Romania and the Mark Emergency Relief Fund have been supporting the Ukrainians who have made it across the border.



<https://sway.office.com/Z3G2qJlqCT4AcGqz#content=qSwu4yzM8Kk8KX>

The Masonic family working together in Cumberland and Westmorland



Gardiner Lodge No. 738, special guests at the Installation on Tuesday, 6 December. The Master Elect was W. Bro. Nick Wilson who, in October was appointed Provincial Grand Secretary in the Craft Province of Cumberland and Westmorland. Amongst others, the guests were W. Bro. William Bewley P.A.G.D.C. Craft Provincial Grand Master, and W.Bro. Keith R. Beaumont, P.G.S.D, Craft Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

W.Bro. Bill Bewley, acted as Junior Warden during the Installation meeting at Gardiner Mark Lodge No. 738 in Cumberland and Westmorland. He presented a certificate to the Mark Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride, in recognition of the £5000 donated to The Cumberland and Westmorland MCF 2027 Festival by The Mark Master Masons at their recent Sesquicentenary Celebrations. W.Bro. Beaumont acted as the Inner Guard.

This shows the close relationship and the mutual defence and support we have between the Masonic Orders in Cumberland and Westmorland.

Pictured top are: W.Bro. William John Bewley (Craft Prov.G.M.); R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride, Mark Prov.G.M.; W.Bro. Nigel Thomason, P.Prov.G.Swd.B., (Craft Prov.S.G.W.)

and below: W.Bro. William John Bewley, P.A.G.D.C.; R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride, Prov.G.M.; W.Bro. John J. Edgar Installing Master; W.Bro. Nicholas Blake. Wilson, W.M.; W.Bro. Keith Robert Beaumont, P.G.S.D.;

With thanks to V.W.Bro. David R. Robinson, P.G.J.O., and W.Bro. Ken Archer, P.G.Swd.B.



Berkshire and Oxfordshire Installed Commanders' Lodge



At the Installation meeting of Berkshire and Oxfordshire Installed Commanders' Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, No. 1330 which took place on Wednesday, 7 December, W.Bro. Pat Leonard had the honour and pleasure of Installing the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire, R.W.Bro. Richard Olliver, G.M.R.A.C., as the new Worshipful Commander.

Also present at the meeting were current Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Graham Seeman; Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Mike Sanders, R.A.M.G.R. and Past Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Peter Sands.

At the end of the meeting the Worshipful Commander surprised both the current and past Prov.G.M.s by presenting a cheque for the Berkshire Mark Benevolent Association (BeMBA) to R.W.Bro. Seeman and one for the Berkshire Craft 2023 Festival to R.W.Bro. Sands in his capacity as Dep.P.G.M. of the Craft and Festival Chairman.

Pictured (l to r) are: W.Bro. Mike Sanders, R.A.M.G.R., Dep.P.G.M.; R.W.Bro. Graham Seeman, Prov.G.M.; R.W.Bro. Richard Olliver, G.M.R.A.C., P.Prov.G.M., Worshipful Commander; W.Bro. Pat Leonard, R.A.M.G.R.; R.W.Bro. Peter Sands, P.Prov.G.M. and W. Bro Mike Hennessey, Prov.R.A.M.G.R. the lodge Junior Warden. The Lodge Senior Warden W.Bro. Huw Hopkin R.A.M.G.R., was busy taking the photograph!

With thanks to R.W.Bro. Graham Seeman

Fifty for "Vossie"



Gabriel De Vos Rabie, affectionately known as Vossie by his fellow Masons in South Africa was presented with a Mark 50 Year Certificate of service and a year Mark 50-year lapel pin by R.W.Bro. Pieter van Den

Berg, the District Grand Master of the District of South Africa Western Division on Tuesday, 29 November 2022, at a Regular Meeting of Drakenstein Mark Lodge No. 1120.

Gabriel De Vos Rabie, is a Lewis and was Initiated into Freemasonry on 20 February 1969 in Worcester Masonic Lodge No. 1603 and advanced into the Mark degree in Drakenstein Mark Lodge No. 1120 on 28 November 1972. He was Installed into the chair of Drakenstein Mark Lodge on 30 May 2006, and again served as Master of Worcester lodge No. 1120 during the years of 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Gabriel De Vos Rabie obtained the rank of Past District Grand Senior Warden on 1 July 1989 and was given the Grand Rank of Past Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies on 20 June 2016.

The Apron of Past Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies that De Vos Rabie is wearing belonged to his Father, who also attained the same Grand Rank. When the voting was to take place Brother D de Vos Rabie informed the Worshipful Master that "Brother Ebbe Rabie Vossie's cousin was absent as he had attempted some Operative masonry and a wooden beam had fallen on his head nearly rendering him lifeless, but by the grace of the G.O.O.T.U. he was making a speedy recovery."

At his advancement his father communicated the Signs and secrets to him

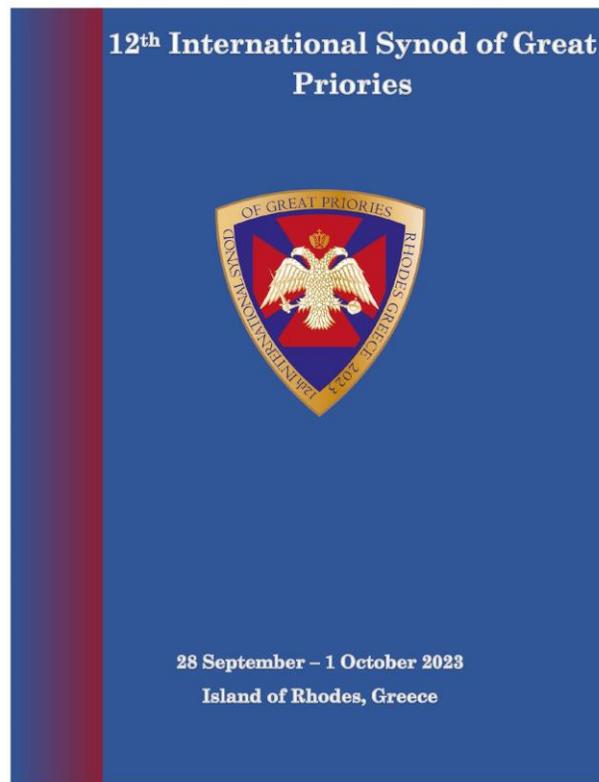
We congratulate Worshipful Brother Gabriel "Vossie" Rabie on achieving this milestone in his masonic career.

Pictured above, Worshipful Brother Vossie Rabe with the District Grand Master, Pieter Van den Berg presenting the 50-year certificate.

Below, the 50-year Mark lapel pin of a white stone.



K.T. 12th International Synod



The 12th International Synod of Great Priors will take place at the medieval city of the island of Rhodes.

Any Knight that belongs to a regular Great Priory / Grand Lodge can participate. Every Knight must register individually by the Synod's site. All the necessary information and the registration form can be found at the following link: <https://greatprioryofgreece.gr/synod2023>

Though the Synod's brochure can be downloaded by the Synod's site, you can also find a copy [Here](#) for your information.

We look forward to seeing you in Rhodes.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order,

R.E.Kt. Anastasios Albanis, K.C.T., Great Vice-Chancellor, Great Priory of Greece

Welsh Templars usher in Christmas with a feast of song



In “The Land of Song”, the Knights Templar launched the Christmas Season last week with their traditional Carol Service in the Province of Monmouth and South Wales.

Held for the first time in Carmarthen – which claims to be The Oldest Town in Wales – it seemed very appropriate to start off the music with “Once in Royal David’s City” – a song that had distant echoes of Saint David the patron saint of Wales.

Led by The Great Prelate of the United Orders, R.E.Kt. Revd Malcolm Lane, the service of nine lessons and carols was attended by over seventy smiling brethren and family members.



The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, and his wife Molly - who live not far away in Swansea – attended and provided unexpected extra help at the organ after it was announced that the car bringing the Provincial Organist, to the happy event had broken down. For him, E.Kt. Terry Price, (on what was a very cold icy day) it was much more a case of “In the bleak mid-winter” regrettably.

The Great Marshal, R.E.Kt. Tim Wheeler, and his wife Mo, travelled from Sussex to support the event once again – and they must have had the longest journey of all.

The beautifully warm venue chosen for the event this year was the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel – which also received a nod in the singing of “The Holly and the Ivy”.

Held after a short meeting of the Owain Glyndwr Preceptory of Installed Preceptors, the Carol Service was organised principally by their Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Nigel Williams, and the Preceptory Registrar, E.Kt Tony Jones. It thus enabled all the Knights to attend in full regalia and to provide an arch of steel at the end of the Carol Service - which was especially enjoyed by the ladies and children.

After the Preceptory meeting and the Carol Service, all adjourned to the bar where local farm workers praised the singing of “While Shepherds watched their flocks by night” - even though these local shepherds looked too smartly dressed and spruce to have come in fresh from performing an overnight vigil.

Throughout all the proceedings the brethren enjoying the guidance and organisational skills of the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Carl Davies who is also a Deputy Great Marshal.



The Scripture readings were delivered by the Grand Master, followed by the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Dr. Paul Calderwood, the Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt Richard Phillips, Provincial Chancellor, E.Kt. John Everett, Past Provincial Vice-Chancellor, E.Kt. Alun H Thomas, , the Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Nigel Williams, Preceptory Treasurer, E.Kt. Dr Stephen Howlett, the Preceptory Registrar, E.Kt. Anthony D Jones, and the Great Prelate, E.Kt. Revd. Malcolm Lane.

“God rest ye merry gentleman” seemed to catch the mood of the moment well, as all settled down afterwards for a hot carvery lunch and Christmas pudding.

In addition, over £400 was raised at the event for the Eye Hospital of St John in Jerusalem. It was undoubtedly a great day but not a “Silent Night”!







A new Intendant-General for Devon and Cornwall



On a sunny winter's morning on 3 December 2022, the south Devon holiday town of Torquay awaited the arrival of nearly one hundred Knights from all parts of the country who were looking forward to the Annual Divisional Meeting of the Devon & Cornwall Division of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Installation of its new Intendant General, R.Ill.Kt. Nicholas St. John Middleton White and his Deputy Intendant General Ill.Kt. John Redman.

A breakfast of nibbles from sandwiches to pasties awaited the Knights on arrival and they were soon renewing old friendships and making new ones. The meeting then took on an even more important tone when the Grand Sovereign, M.III.Kt. Graham Flight and his team of twelve Grand Officers and thirteen Grand Sepulchre Guards arrived.

At 10:30 R.III. & Em.Kt. Peter Hawken opened the Conclave and the Grand Sovereign was then admitted. With the assistance of the Grand Marshal he placed the Officers of Grand Imperial Conclave in their appointed seats and proceeded with the installation of R.III.Kt. Nicholas St. John Middleton White as Intendant General of the Division of Devon and Cornwall and III.Kt. John Redman as Deputy Intendant General of Devon and Cornwall.

At the end of the installation ceremony M.III.Kt. Graham Flight was pleased to accept a cheque for the Grand Sovereign's Children Fund for £1,600 from Em.Kt. Michael O'Meara of St. Brannock Conclave No.342 who raised the money by a Sky Dive on Thursday, 14 July at Dunkeswell Airport.



The Grand Party then retired and the Intendant General proceeded in a very competent manner with the remaining business of the Divisional Meeting.

The worthy Knights then retired to the nearby Anchorage Hotel for a most enjoyable and convivial lunch.

A great day in the Division of Devon & Cornwall!

You can view a full gallery of photographs from the day [Here](#)

With thanks to V.III.Kt. Alan Cockman, P.G.H.Alm., Divisional Recorder



R.C.C. Division of North and East Yorkshire



Saturday, 10 December saw the Divisional Meeting for the Red Cross of Constantine in North and East Yorkshire. Due to the inclement weather several guests who had been due to attend called off at short notice.

Despite that we had a very enjoyable meeting at which a new Deputy Intendant-General was appointed and invested by the Intendant General. Pictured above are R.III.Kt. David Roach, I-G (L) with P.KT. Willie Grey, Dep.Int.-Gen. to the right.

Below with the Intendant-General are (L to R) V.III.Kt. Chris Ansell, P.G.H.Chan.; V.III.Kt. Geoff Nicholson, G.H.Alm., Div.Recorder; W.Kt. Malvin Sharpless, Div.St.B.(C.); R.III.Kt. David Roach, I-G; P.Kt. Willie Grey, Dep.Int.-Gen.; P.Kt. John Towler, Div.St.B.(L.); P.Kt. Robbie Burnett, Div.Marshal; and P.Kt. Robert Thompson, Div.Swd.B.

Lunch was once again an enjoyable affair, see third picture, L to R Graham Williams, I-G for West Lancs; Ralph Hitchin, I-G for Notts; Steve Roberts, I-G for Lincs; Alan Beckerton, I-G for Derbys; all being welcomed by David Roach, and Robin Knight I-G for Durham.

With thanks to V.III.Kt., Geoff Nicholson, G.H.Alm., Divisional Recorder



A special evening for Surrey Red Cross



On Monday, 12 December, Notfelle Conclave No. 449 had two ceremonies to perform, an Installation of a new Knight and the enthronement of a Most Puissant Sovereign.

Right Illustrious Knight, Bob Hancock, has been asking me for quite some time to join the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and my reply has always been that I was too busy – but one day? Well, that day came, as I wanted to join the Order while Bob was the Intendant-General, so I thought I had better act fast before he stood down in April.

Looking at possible Conclaves to join, I chose Sutton as it is just down the road from where I live, and Notfelle as there are many old friends among its members. The Conclave arranged for me to be Installed as a new Knight on their Installation date, which made it a busy afternoon, and an early start time, for their Officers. Unfortunately, this date clashed with the Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly so after taking photographs at Great Queen Street I had to dash back to Sutton for the meeting.

The Conclave was being honoured by the presence of the Intendant-General, Right Illustrious Knight Bob Hancock; the Deputy Intendant-General, Illustrious Knight Andrew Sales, and several Divisional Officers of the year.

The Conclave was opened by the acting Most Puissant Sovereign, Ill.Kt. David Blackburn, who welcomed the Intendant-General for the Division of Surrey and his Deputy. David is the District Grand Master in the Royal and Select Masters, District of Surrey.

After the regular business of the Conclave had been conducted, a ballot was taken for me to be Installed in the Order. It seems the ballot proved in my favour as I was let into the Conclave and experienced an excellent ceremony by Ill.Kt. David Blackburn assisted by his Officers. R.Ill.Kt. Bob Hancock Admitted, Received, and Constituted me a Knight Companion of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine. The Eminent Viceroy, E.Kt. Peter Kipps, invested me with the purple sash and jewel of the Order. To end the ceremony the Intendant-General gave the Oration, in his usual excellent manner. The whole of the Royal and Select Masters District Executive were at the meeting assisting with the ceremony.

The next item on the agenda was to Enthronem Em.Kt. Peter Kipps as Most Puissant Sovereign. We were requested to leave at that point, so we made our way to the bar – which was a little warmer than the Temple.

A College of Priests-Mason was opened and W.Kt. Steve Rowlands was Consecrated as Viceroy. The College of Priests-Mason was closed, and a Senate of Princes-Mason opened. E.Kt. Peter Kipps was Enthroned as Most Puissant Sovereign. We were re-admitted, and the Officers of the Conclave were appointed and invested.

The Conclave was closed and, after photographs, we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal at the Sutton Masonic Hall.

Article and photos by W.Kt. Chris Eley



The Surrey O.S.M. Christmas Party



The Surrey O.S.M. Christmas Party, was held at the Reigate Manor Hotel on Saturday, 10 December. It was another huge success with everyone enjoying the party atmosphere.

The party, once again organised by Alan and Wendy Brockwell, included a lovely three course meal with dancing after the meal to Tashara Forrest. The Dining Room was decorated in a festive manner with Christmas Crackers on the tables and Santa Sacks on every chair.



There were over 140 guests consisting of Surrey Masons, their friends and families, including several Heads of other Orders in Surrey.



At 6.30 pm the guests started gathering for a few drinks in the bar before moving into the dining room.

After the meal the party started. Alan and Wendy distributed party poppers and balloons to all the tables which were soon blown up and let off.



We were entertained by Tashara Forrest who got us all up dancing.



We had a competition to see who was the best air guitarist.





Next was the Grand Raffle. There was a table full of prizes with the top prize being a Chromebook.



The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler presented Alan and Wendy Brockwell with a gift each to thank them for arranging such a successful evening.



Our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Colin Beerling and his wife Ann thanked everyone for coming along to support the OSM Christmas Party,



As well as having a most enjoyable evening together the Christmas Party raised £1400 for charity.



Everyone agreed it was a most enjoyable Christmas Party.

Article and photos by Wy.Bro. Chris Eley

Cheshire Freemasons Christmas Toy Appeal

Provincial Grand Lodge Of Mark
Master Masons Of Cheshire
Keystone Province
150th Anniversary Keystone Province
"Magic of the Mark"

Some Children
WILL GO
Without
This Christmas

Cheshire Mark Masons
ARE COLLECTING GIFTS AND DONATIONS TO GIVE
TO LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS
IF YOU WISH TO PLEDGE A DONATION OR GIVE
PLEASE SCAN THE BELOW QR CODE

LOCAL DROP OFF POINT

HALL: _____
DATE: _____

DONATE ONLINE
SCAN HERE

www.cheshiremarkmasons.co.uk
CheshireMarkMasterMasons CheshireMarkMasterMasons
Mark Benevolent Fund registered charity no.207610



Last September, it was realised that many families would struggle financially this winter and may not be able to provide their children with a present at Christmas. It was decided that in Cheshire we should try to provide what help we could to ensure that all children would have a gift to open on Christmas Day.

The initiative was led by the Mark degree, with Stuart Jones acting as coordinator, but it swiftly attracted support from all Cheshire Freemasons, with generous donations also coming from the Craft and Royal Arch.

The concept was quite simple - collecting suitable toys and financial donations and passing them onto local children's and family support charities across the province in time for them to be distributed to where they were needed most, in time for Christmas day.

To facilitate this a team leader was appointed to each group of lodges across the province, and he and his small team, which comprised members from the Mark, Craft and Royal Arch, selected and coordinated with suitable local charities. The unwrapped toys were collected, and High Street shopping vouchers were purchased with the money donated, and these were then then presented to local charities.

In Cheshire we are fortunate that the respective Leaders are working closely together in supporting not only each other but such worthwhile community organisations.

Although it is difficult to put an exact figure or value on the support given it easily surpassed £12,000, with over a thousand gifts donated to local children who otherwise may have had nothing to open on Christmas Day.

Thank you for your generous support, and we send you all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.



















1 - For Older Children We sent Gift Vouchers



Essex Mark Times latest edition

MARK Times

Edition 9
Christmas 2022

The Newsletter for the Mark Province of Essex, incorporating the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners



Welcome to the Christmas 2022 edition of the Mark Times, which I trust you will find interesting and informative. I also send a special welcome to our new members who may not have received this publication before.

This year has been another busy year for our Province, following the launch of our 2030 MBF Festival we have seen many and varied fund-raising events taking place. They range from Race Nights, an evening with Mark Smith, to the many different dining functions that have been held. I give a big and heartfelt "thank you" to all those who have given up their time to help organise, arrange, manage, and attend events. For the contributions of each and every one of you, it has been magnificent! Thank you all.

Next year will be no different as we continue our efforts to make our Festival 2030 one we can all be proud of. I'm sure we will raise a substantial amount of money for the Mark Benevolent Fund, which, as you know, does so much good for those needing our help.

As well as our fund-raising activities, the Province also undertook several Ceremonial Duties as well as other events which included, the Reponement of the Isthmian Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner, the dedication of a Banner for both the Lodge of Love and Remembrance and the Naze Tower Lodge as well as a Banner and Bible dedication for Southern Star Lodge of Mark Master Masons. There was a wonderful celebration at the Constantine Lodge of Mark Masters to mark their 150th anniversary and at the Potters Clay Lodge of Mark Master Masons on their 50th anniversary. Finally, there were three very successful Awareness events bringing in around 50 new Advancements as well as the launch of our new monthly LOI held at Chelmsford.

Looking ahead to 2023 we will be consecrating the new Southern Star Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner and dedicating a new Banner for Aurelius Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner.

I will also be undertaking my 'Wing Walk Challenge' in May and our AGM will be held at Felsted School on 1 June. We also are going to release further videos highlighting our themed Lodges as well as publishing some podcasts, so, keep an eye out for the information and don't forget to share it with your Craft colleagues.

As we approach the holiday season and if you, or anyone buying presents for you, run out of ideas

please remember our website shop for stocking fillers; we have Shopping Trolley/Golf Ball Markers, Rory the Lion Festival Mascots, Festival Tokens, Napkins, Regalia and lots more.

Lastly, looking at our membership figures for this year I am pleased to say our numbers continue to grow despite the setback caused by Covid-19. Despite some resignations "from largely older members" from multiple memberships, our membership across all Lodges has increased by around 30 and members by the same amount. Brethren I thank you all for your continued support of our wonderful Degree, your Lodges and our Province, you should be very proud of your achievements.

If you celebrate Christmas, please have a very happy one. For those who don't, please have a happy holiday period and I wish everyone a very successful, peaceful, and healthy New Year.

Thank you



**The Mark Benevolent Fund
Grand Patron**

Brethren All,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that, due to your continued generosity, the Province of Essex have reached and have been awarded with MBF Grand Patron Gold status. This is a wonderful achievement and one you should all be very proud of.

Becoming a Grand Patron Gold Province means that every Mark Lodge has also achieved at least the MBF Grand Patron Gold Level as well.

Your individual MBF status should be proudly displayed on your Lodge Summons as well as the Provincial Gold status.

With just over 7 years now before our 2030 MBF Festival, it leaves us enough time to set the challenge of aiming to become a Diamond Award Province as well.

Thank you all once again for your generosity and please remember when you are giving your money, it goes to helping the lives of others.



You can download a copy of the latest edition of Essex Mark Times by [Clicking Here](#)

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

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



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](#)

[2029 Durham](#)

[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.

The 2029 Festival Stewardship Jewel for Durham is now in stock and available for delivery.

















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.

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