

Freemasonry@86 News - 22 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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Our last edition of 2022



This will be the last edition of Freemasonry@86 News in 2022. We're taking a short break and will return on Friday, 13 January 2023.

Thank you for your support over the last twelve months, whether contributing stories, sharing the Newsletter with others, or just enjoying your membership of our Orders and encouraging Masonic friends to explore these Companion Orders to widen their Masonic experience.

From all of us at Mark Masons' Hall, we wish you a peaceful and relaxing Christmas, and a prosperous new year.

We look forward to seeing you in 2023.

A Royal and Select Christmas message



The Grand Master of the Royal and Select Masters, Most Illustrious Companion Kessick John Jones, was pleased to share this Christmas message with the Companions of his Order:

Winston Churchill once said, “Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection”, and as we approach the run-up to the Festive Season, we ought to reflect on the events of a year that is almost at an end.

This past year has been a difficult one. The war raging in the Ukraine currently sees no end, climate change is apparently producing disasters across the world and the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the longest reigning Monarch in British history, that brought nations together in mourning. We have seen a revolving door at No. 10 Downing Street, watched prices spiral upwards leaving so many facing difficulties that will affect their lives and livelihoods. And then, although the spectre of Covid has been receding, there have been the challenges faced by the NHS that are still seemingly escalating. All of this may have affected some of our Companions in various ways.

Sweeping the negatives under the carpet and ignoring the messages all around us does not make them go away. Or lessen. What we need to do is to work together to try and bring about calmness and improvement. And when it comes to working together, one of the great benefits of our membership of Freemasonry in general and our Order in particular, is that there are always other Companions who are there, ready to listen and offer support when needed. A hand that reaches out is a hand to hold on to. This is so relevant when after two years of lockdowns and restrictions, some Companions may be having second thoughts about resuming their Cryptic activities. If this is so, reassure them, and help to regenerate their interest.

It is nearly Christmas, a time to bring family, friends and memories together, while at the same time creating new ones.

In the new year of 2023, we have much to look forward to. As well as the Coronation of King Charles III, it is our Sesquicentenary Year where we celebrate 150 years of our existence as a Grand Council.

The programme of events will be somewhat different than normal. The Grand Council Meeting on the third Tuesday in April (18th), normally held at Freemasons' Hall, will now be held at Mark Masons' Hall. This meeting will be a shorter business meeting to deal with Constitutional matters, the election of the Grand Master, and the formal announcement of Appointments and Promotions, all of which will become effective from that date. Later in the year on Tuesday 3rd October, the gala celebratory meeting will be held at Freemasons' Hall, when our 150th birthday will really be celebrated in style, and all recipients of Appointments and Promotions gazetted in April will be invested. The Celebration Committee, chaired by the Deputy Grand Master have been working hard throughout this year to ensure that a good time will be had by all.

I look forward to seeing you all again in 2023.

May the Supreme Master of the Universe have you and your loved ones in His Holy Keeping during this Christmastide and during the year ahead.

Kessick

A promise fulfilled



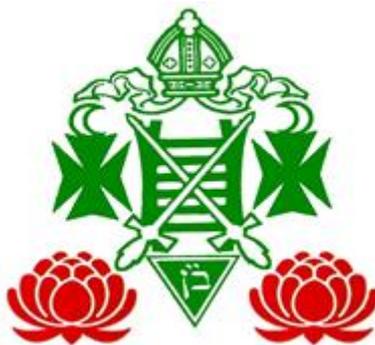
On Monday, 5 December the R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride, Prov.G.M. for Cumberland and Westmorland, and a full team of Provincial Officers attended Duddon Mark Lodge No. 1481, in Millom, for the Advancement of Bro. Roderick Bosanko.

Rod has recently held high offices in the Craft and Royal Arch Province, He was Prov.J.G.W. in 2017 and Prov.G.S.N. in 2020 and 2021. He is now the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals. When he was representing the ME Grand Superintendent at a Chapter Installation in 2021, he met up with R.W.Bro. Keith Hodgson, the Mark Prov.G.M. at the time, who promised to take the full team when Rod was ready to take this step into the Mark. Keith retired from office in September and Barry was delighted to fulfill the promise.

The ceremony of Advancement was carried out in excellent fashion by the Worshipful Master of Duddon Lodge, Bro. David Gandy and his officers. Rehearsals certainly pay off.

With thanks to V.W.Bro. David R. Robinson, P.G.J.O., Provincial Grand Registrar

Waratah A.M.D. on a roll



Waratah Council of the Allied MAsonic Degrees No. 168, meeting in Blacktown, NSW, Australia, had been badly affected through Covid-19 as had most other Masonic bodies throughout the world.

However, after re-starting fully in March 2022, Waratah had a record year, unprecedented in the annals of Allied Masonry in Australia

A total of ten new Candidates were balloted for, of whom nine were admitted into the Order during the year.

The tenth Candidate was unfortunately struck ill by Covid on the day of his admission, which has now been unavoidably deferred to 2023.

Our nine new Allied Masons are (in alphabetical order): Brothers Nass Aoun, William Cheung, Roy Chikwem, John Davison, Ravi Gnanadickam, Anthony Miles, Robert Ritchie, Parminder Singh and Sotirios Tesseris.

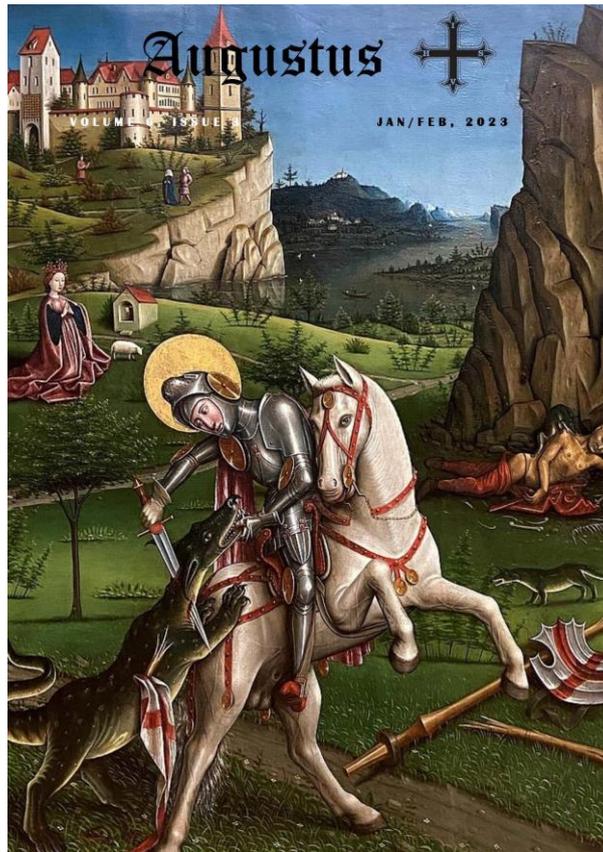
Under the able leadership of the Master, W.Bro. Brian Kramer, and his team of Officers and Past Masters, the Council worked four of the five degrees, namely St Lawrence the Martyr, Knights of Constantinople, Grand Tilers of Solomon and the Red Cross of Babylon. He wanted to work the Grand High Priest degree also during his year but the many Candidates, who naturally took priority, upset those lofty plans. We are not complaining.

Nineteen members including Grand and District Officers attended the special Christmas Dinner following our November meeting, honoured afterwards by the usual toasts and the particular fire, customary in this Council, in a hearty manner.

The new year augurs well for Waratah; more news will surely follow.

With thanks to W.Bro. Amit Sen, P.G.St.B., Secretary

The latest edition of Augustus



For those needing their fix of Red Cross of Constantine Masonry over the festive season, we're pleased to be able to share with you the latest edition of Augustus, kindly sent to us by the editor, V.III.Kt. Grant Macleod, Intendant-General for the Division of Strathclyde in the Scottish Constitution.

You can download a copy [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

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.

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.

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

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