

# Freemasonry@86 News - 24 February 2023



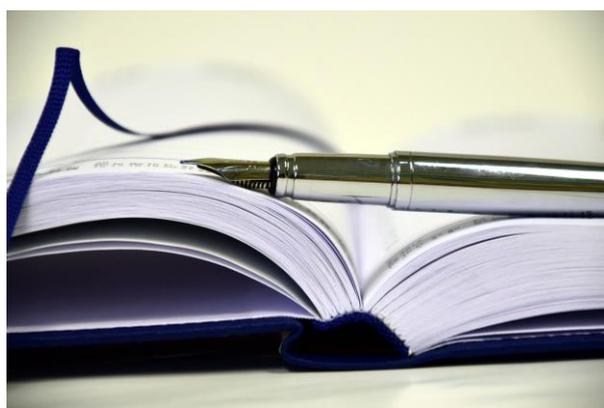
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

**Wednesday, 1 March - S.C.** Consecration of Ian Stanley Currans Consistory No. 100, Province of West Lancashire

**Saturday, 4 March - S.C.** Installation of R.Dist.Comp. Richard Charles William Batchelor, P.G.Vice Chan., as Provincial Grand Summus for Hampshire, Isle of Wight and The Channel Islands

**Tuesday, 7 March - Mark** Communication of Mark Grand Lodge, Freemasons' Hall

**Friday, 10 March - Mark** Mercury Lodge of M.M.M. No. 777 Centenary, Province of Hampshire & Isle of Wight

**Wednesday, 15 March - A.M.D.** Consecration of The Dedham Vale Council No. 284, Province of East Anglia

**Saturday, 18 March - Mark** Installation of V.W.Bro. John Vaughan Christopher French, P.G.J.O., as Provincial Grand Master for Surrey

**Monday, 20 March - O.S.M.** Installation of Wy.Bro. William George McColl, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Suffolk

**Saturday 25 March - O.S.M. & S.C.** Installation of Wy.Bro./V.Dist.Comp. Allun David Jones, P.A.G.D.C./P.G.Reg., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and Provincial Grand Summus for South Wales and Monmouthshire

**Tuesday, 18 April - R.S.M.** Annual Assembly of Grand Council (Business Meeting Only) **Mark Masons' Hall**

**Tuesday, 3 October - R.S.M.** Celebratory meeting of the Sesquicentenary of Grand Council, Freemasons' Hall

## One year on, the Mark Benevolent Fund continues its humanitarian aid to Romania



Friday, 24 February 2023. It has been exactly a year since the invasion of Russian forces into Ukraine causing the death of many thousands and the displacement of many millions of people. The Mark Benevolent Fund continues to provide financial support for Ukrainian Refugees in several parts of Romania, the foremost being Bucharest, Dorohoi and Timisoara. Here, we highlight the work being undertaken in Magurele, a suburb of Bucharest by a small group called 'Priority for Humanity', founded and led by Diana Constantine-Tiglar.

The group was founded when the crisis in Ukraine unfolded and homeless refugees, the vast majority being women and children, sought refuge in Romania and Bucharest in particular. They often arrived with no documentation and only the clothes on their backs.

'Priority for Humanity' provides a wide range of humanitarian aid including accommodation, medical support - especially for babies and young children, basic food and hygiene products, assistance in obtaining registration with local doctors, IT support in order to obtain residence permits, online language courses and even support identifying available jobs.

The Mark Benevolent Fund is the main financial benefactor providing food and hygiene products currently for 75 adults, mainly women, and 101 children. They are fortunate to have W.Bro. Liviu Adam, District Grand Charity Steward for the Mark District of Romania on hand who has worked tirelessly supporting Diana from the very beginning.

Pictures show Diana with basic food supplies & food parcels and Violette Yankovskaya, a Ukrainian refugee from Mykolaiv who has been assisting Diana.

*With thanks to R.W.Bro. Derek Thomas, P.Prov.G.M. (Monmouthshire) for providing the text and pictures*









## A new Master on the Isle of Man



On Wednesday, 22 February, at Freemasons Hall, Douglas, Isle of Man, the outgoing Master, W.Bro. Martyn Killey, Dep.Prov.G.M. Installed his successor, W.Bro. Colin Lias, Prov.G.D.C., as Master of Peveril Mark Lodge No. 323. W.Bro. Lias is currently the Commander of Peveril R.A.M. No. 323 so, with a busy year ahead, he was pleased to have appointed nine Mark Master Masons into offices so the Lodge is looking strong with good progression by those who are yet to reach the chair. W.Bro. Colin Lias moved to The Isle of Man seven years ago and was Bristol's Prov.G.D.C. and is also a member of The Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies Lodge 1813 in the Province of Worcestershire. The highlight of the Festive Board was the efforts of V.W.Bro. Capt. Ed Mullan who

managed to persuade the Brethren to dig deep for the Earthquake appeal, raising more than £600 which for a small Province was remarkable.

*With thanks to W.Bro. Colin Lias*



## Centurion Lodge of Mark Master Masons



*1 - David Garston, Steve Bull and the Prov.G.M. Steve is holding a framed copy of the welcome letter from the Prov.G.M and has a replica Roman coin included*

Centurion Lodge No. 1804, like some other Lodges was struggling with membership, after discussion they contacted Province to ask for assistance in saving the Lodge.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. John Finlay was tasked with the role and hatched a plan to save the Lodge. It involved changing the meeting place and dates and re-purposing the Lodge as a brunch Lodge.

So, on Saturday the 4th of February, the Lodge held its first meeting in its new venue at Fraternity Hall, Leigh on Sea. The new membership of the Lodge is comprised of some of the existing membership, supplemented by new members from the North as well as the South of the Province making it a unique Lodge in one way.

The Lodge members assembled at 0800hrs to set up for the first meeting in its new home, and to cross the T's and dot the I's as it was due to welcome the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Terence D. Sheern accompanied by his Active Provincial Officers..

The Lodge was opened in due form by V.W.Bro. David Garston, who was the Primus Master back in the year 2000. The Prov.G.M entered with his retinue of Provincial Grand Officers and was welcomed to great acclaim by all present. The Prov.G.M. took the chair and introduced his accompanying Provincial Grand Officers as his usual custom.

The main work of the day was to Advance Bro. Steve Bull. The Ceremony was carried out in an exemplary manner by David, he was assisted by another Founding member of the Lodge, W.Bro. Terry Birdseye who gave a faultless explanation of the Signs and Secrets of the Degree.

Steve was in very safe hands, as the Dep.P.G.M. John Finlay. normally the Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge acted as Senior Deacon, he was ably assisted by W.Bro. Peter Maloney who managed to smile all day!! Steve was very nervous but really enjoyed the Ceremony and is looking forward to taking an active part in the Lodge. The Lodge also welcomed two Joining members, with a further 5 in the pipeline as well as two candidates for Advancement.

The Lodge donated £200 towards the forthcoming Wing Walk by the Provincial Grand Master.



*2 - Members of the Lodge with the Prov.G.M, Active Officers and Visitors*

Once the meeting was closed, 46 Brethren retired to the Festive Board full English "Brunch". This was, some believe the main reason for the Prov.G.M's visit as he is very keen on fried bread.



The Festive Board was a very lively and friendly event with the raffle raising £250.

The Brethren parted company before midday with all looking forward to their next meeting in April.

The Lodge has a couple of unique selling points, firstly it is the only Saturday brunch Lodge in the Province. Secondly, the Lodge name "Centurion" is taken as the theme of the lodge, with some aspects of the ancient Roman Centurion to be woven into the procedural workings and festive board.

The Lodge meets on Saturday mornings in January, April, and July, ideal for those who struggle to attend weekday meetings and the early start allows members to be home early to attend to family weekend life.

If you would like more information on this unique Lodge, please contact their Secretary by email: [centsec1804@gmail.com](mailto:centsec1804@gmail.com).

Mark Well.





*3 - The Prov.G.M. pulling rank and first in line for breakfast*



*4 - The staff from Fraternity Hall who served a superb breakfast*



*5 - The "winnings" from the raffle.. Honest!!*



*6 - The Prov.G.M. in deep conversation with David Garston*

## Later in February...



The Middlesex Armed Forces Lodge held their Installation meeting at the Union Jack Club, London on Friday, 17 February 2023.

The Master Elect was R.W.Bro. Terence D. Sheern, Provincial Grand Master for Essex.

70 Mark Master Masons attended the meeting which included the Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother John Herbert Prizeman, and a large number of Provincial Grand Masters. Seventeen members of the Province of Essex attended in support of the Prov.G.M. who was installed in an exemplary manner by W.Bro. Kenneth Fickling.

M.W.Bro. John Prizeman gave the Address to the Master, W.Bro. John Daley, the Address to the Wardens, V.W.Bro. Steve Vanhinsbergh, the Address to the Overseers and R.W.Bro. Eddie Garty the address to the Brethren, all in a commendable manner.

Following the meeting, and the obligatory recess at the bar, the Brethren enjoyed an excellent Festive Board, of Ham Hock Terrine, followed by Braised Beef Featherblade Steak in Red Wine Jus, and rounded off with Cheese & Biscuits with Port supplied courtesy of the newly installed Master. The Prov.G.M. for Essex, (as the Worshipful Master) proposed the toast to the Prov.G.M. for Middlesex, after which, the Prov.G.M. for Middlesex proposed the toast to the Worshipful Master, who is the Prov.G.M. for Essex, (Nepotism? Never). This was a convenient point for R.W.Bro. Eddie Garty to mention that, despite his deficiency in map reading when serving in the Parachute Regiment, his service was recognised by shiny things dangling from ribbons, while there was an oversight in that his good friend R.W.Bro. Terry Sheern had served in the "Cod Wars" which had preserved the British tradition of Fish and Chips, in that the powers that be had been remiss in issuing a dangly thing to the Naval personnel involved in that dispute. To redress the omission, R.W.Bro. Garty had procured "The Cod War Medal" which he had great pleasure to pin on the chest of the Worshipful Master.

In his response, R.W.Bro. Terry Sheern acknowledged that the three RAF members present had shown great fortitude in “roughing it” by persevering with the Chenin Blanc and Shiraz wines served with the meal instead of the accompaniment that they were accustomed. To make amends he presented each brother with an individual bottle of their traditional beverage, Babycham.

*With thanks to W.Bro. Ray McKerron P.A.G.Swd.B., Secretary - Essex Armed Forces Lodge*



## **An Eventful Week in the Mark Province of Cheshire**



It has been an eventful and interesting week for the Provincial Leaders , who between them visited three Mark and one R.A.M. Lodge, and witnessed four advancements in the process.

Fine dining in an unusual setting at Sandbach Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

On Thursday, 9 February, A.Prov.G.M. John Miller, accompanied by a number of the Provincial Team, were pleased to attend Sandbach Mark, and to support one of our Festival Ambassadors and Provincial Deputy G.D.C., Seb Daly, who was giving a talk on the work of, and how to support the MBF, and the 2024 Festival in particular.



However, as the Masonic Hall is used by groups in the community, and as numbers allowed, the decision was taken to dine in the Worshipful Master, Robert Shaw's nearby home, allowing the Hall to benefit from the group booking.

This led to a very cosy and enjoyable festive board, with a lot of open discussion on the festival Events and Membership, the main topic of the A.ProvG.M.s reply.



Although the dining experience was a one off, it certainly helped make for a very enjoyable evening for the visiting Brethren.

The week started on Saturday, 11 February, when the Provincial Grand Master Gary Horstman attended St Hilary Mark Lodge, to witness the advancement by the Worshipful Master of his son-in-law Daniel Wardle.



On Tuesday 14th our Provincial Grand Master travelled to the Mark Province of East Lancashire, to assist with the donation of a much-needed Blood Bike, the monies for which were donated in full by the MBF charity, whom of course we are supporting in our 2024 Festival.

The Blood bikes assist the NHS in transporting blood and other urgent medical supplies between hospitals and places where they are urgently needed, and the new fully kitted bike, which replaced one stolen late last year, was presented at Helmsley House Masonic Hall in Salford.



On Wednesday 15th, the Provincial Grand Master Gary Horstman, accompanied by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master John Miller, and a number of the Provincial team, attended the Cestrian R.A.M. Lodge at Christleton, a short meeting which immediately preceded the Earl of Chester Mark Lodge, who advanced Carl Wild, before continuing with the installation of John Hibbert as Master for the second year.



With no visits planned for the Leaders on the Thursday, you might have thought they would have a night off, but with so much going on in the Province at the moment to plan organise and arrange, it was an opportunity for a video meeting, to discuss the forthcoming AGM, Sesquicentenary, Festival events and of course Festival Banquet, all of which are progressing in line with expectations.

Friday the 17th saw the Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters, again accompanied by some of the Provincial team with the travelling Maul attend the Neston Mark, to witness the double advancement of Gary Cowling, and Jason Holland, and re-joining member Andy Knox, after which meeting the

Travelling Maul, which is certainly getting about the Province, was claimed by Claughton Mark, who will be working their third consecutive double advancement this season on 20th March, after which it has been arranged that it will be claimed by Eaton Mark, who are working their third advancement of the season in April.



A total of five advancements took place in Cheshire this week alone, which is indicative of what we are seeing across the province, with a healthy number of new members being asked to join and attracted to our order. With the initiatives in respect to the Magic of the Mark promoting awareness and the Open-Door events giving a more personal introduction to what we are about, and Adoniram nuggets being presented in Royal Arch Chapters, hopefully this will continue to be the trend going forward.

The Week Ended with achieving 7,000 Followers on our Facebook Page.

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

## KT visit to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital



7 - The Tree of Hope – Muristan Clinic and Peace Garden

Following a chance conversation in the bar at Mark Masons' Hall in December, the Provincial Prior for Hertfordshire, R.E.Kt. Alastair White (*pictured above, right*) was invited to join E.Kt. Revd. Niall Johnston, Deputy Great Almoner and Provincial Prelate of London, and E.Kt. Vernon King, Provincial Vice-Chancellor of London on a visit to The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital to gain some first-hand experience of the incredible work that is carried out there, and to develop some fundraising ideas for the future.

The visit took place between 15th and 18th February, with us staying at the Pilgrim's Guest House at St George's Cathedral, which we used as a base.

The first evening was spent in the company of the Dean of St George's College, Very Revd. Canon Richard Sewell, who was able to provide a detailed insight into his ministry and work in the Holy City, and some of the experiences of the Palestinian Christian Community who live there.

**Day 2** started early, with visits to Temple Mount, the Dome of the Rock, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Western Wall whilst en-route to visit the Muristan Clinic and Peace Garden. This is located on the site of the first Hospital built by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem and is also the location of the Tree of Hope sculpture, which is described thus:

*"The gnarled old olive tree symbolizes Jerusalem. Its age, its beauty, its suffering, but also its new growth. It is venerated by all the three great monotheistic religions, and the olive branch is a sign of peace. The Swift is a bird that migrates from Sub-Saharan Africa, through the Holy Land to Europe and Asia. It comes with a sense of purpose to Jerusalem, resting here and representing renewal, rebirth, and hope. It symbolizes the dynamic movement of people throughout the ages. Together, the*

*Olive Tree and the Swift tell the story of Jerusalem over thousands of years and on into the future – most important of all, they represent HOPE.”*

Here we met with the Hospital Facilities Manager, Ahmad Awadallah, *OStJ*, who kindly took time out of his busy schedule to first show us around the site, and then acted as our escort and our driver us for the rest of the day.

Whilst at the Muristan Clinic we were also able to sit in on an ophthalmic clinic being run by Marlene, a Nurse Practitioner, who was very pleased to talk to us in detail about her role in providing walk-in and emergency eye care at the clinic.



8 - Marlene briefing R.E.Kt. White

It was then time to head to the main Eye Hospital Building, where we were warmly welcomed by the CEO, Dr Ahmad Ma’ali *CStJ* before meeting with the outgoing Communications Manager, Lubna Sabeab and her successor, Olivia Odeh, together with the Director of Development and Grants, David Dahdal to discuss future fund raising ideas. The meeting took place in the impressive Board Room, which also doubles up as a Chapel when required, and provided much food for thought.



9 - Hospital Dining Room staff

After lunch in the Hospital Dining room, we then took the opportunity to visit the Mount of Olives, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Chapel of St Helena, and the Jaffa Gate.

**Day 3** began with a formal meeting with the CEO Dr Ahmad Ma'ali *CStJ*, who provided a fascinating insight into some of the unique strategic and operational challenges faced by the Eye Hospital and their dedicated staff in delivering their services, and the reliance of the SJEHG upon the charitable donations which it receives from all over the world, but in particular from the Knights Templar.

The Head of the Infection Control Department, Nasrallah Khalilieh, then took us on a guided tour of the Hospital, including the Pediatric Unit that was recently refurbished thanks to donations received from Great Priory. We also heard about the work that is being done in developing genetic screening processes to try and minimize the risk of hereditary eye disease being passed between generations.

At this point, we were privileged to join the Theatre Team, under the direction of the Theatre Manager, Jamil Abu Hani. After donning surgical scrubs, we were given a highly informative briefing on the procedures and surgical techniques that are carried out at the hospital, after which we entered the operating theatres and watched two separate and successful cataract operations, the speed and efficiency of which was truly remarkable.



10 - Pre-theatre briefing

After watching these operations, we learned that the Theatre Team were standing by to receive a 16-year-old boy, who had suffered severe eye trauma in Jericho, and whose condition was rapidly changing from sight-threatening to life-threatening. We could only imagine the frustrations of the staff whilst they endured a wait of over four and a half hours before a permit was eventually issued by the authorities allowing the boy to enter Jerusalem in order to receive treatment. Even then, he had to be accompanied by his uncle instead of his father, who was refused access.

A further reminder of the unique environment in which this dedicated team of professionals work to provide eye care “to the people of the Holy Land irrespective of race, creed, social class or ability to pay” came in the form of the health and safety notices on display that, amongst other scenarios, give detailed instruction on what to do in the event of a rocket attack, violent actions/war, biochemical/nuclear situation, and explosion/bomb threat.

After walking the Via Dolorosa, Day 3 finished with a visit to the Western Wall at sundown and the start of Shabbat.

In conversation with numerous members of staff throughout our visits, it became abundantly clear that the team at the Eye Hospital think of themselves very much as an extended family – many of the staff that we met had worked at the hospital for decades and could not envisage themselves

working anywhere else. Their dedication to providing the highest possible standard of treatment to all who needed it was truly humbling to see, and a reminder, if one was needed, of the positive impact and huge benefit of the donations made by Brother Knights in support of this truly remarkable institution.



11 - Entrance to the Muristan Clinic and Peace Garden



12 - Emergency Actions



13 - Refurbished Pediatric Ward



14 - Recognition of Great Priory Donations



15 - Mission Statement



16 - R.E.Kt White and E.Kt. King meeting with the Communications Team



17 - Meeting with the CEO, Ahmad Ma'ali, CStJ



18 - Cataract Surgery in progress



19 - Pointing out Hertfordshire on the map

## Sussex K.T. - 2023



Sussex Provincial Priory are celebrating their Sesquicentenary anniversary in 2023.

On 11 February they held their Annual Malta AGM at East Brighton Masonic Centre at Peacehaven.

The Province was honoured with the presence of V.E.Kt. Steven Warwick, Great Sub-Prior of Malta, who was escorted by R.E.Kt. Tim Wheeler, Great Mareschal.

E.Kt. Tan Rusby, Provincial Sub-Prior, carried out the ceremony for Knights Corfield and Norris and was ably assisted by E.Kt's Clive-Matthews, Nassau-Kennedy and Carter. The Provincial Bodyguard explained the history of the Banners. The ceremony was orchestrated by the Deputy Mareschal, E.Kt. Charlie Sharrod.



After the meeting the members and guests retired for a happy and successful festive board.

The Province is looking forward to further celebrations during 2023.

*With thanks to R.E.Kt. Colin Dann, Prov.Prior*



## St Werburgh Preceptory No. 605



Due to circumstances in the absence of a candidate and the Eminent Preceptor being unavoidably detained elsewhere, the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Alan Pierce and the Provincial Chancellor, E.Kt. Fraser Fowlie, Past Deputy Great Marshal, presented a lecture on the making of a Knight in olden days, delivered in the form of a catechism.

The Eminent Preceptor for the evening E.Kt. Nick Fry is to play the role of God in the forthcoming Chester Mystery Plays to be held in Chester Cathedral during the summer (he has also played a couple of Roman Emperors in his time as well).

Pictured above are The Provincial Prior with E.Kt. Nick Fry (Eminent Knight in the Chair) and the Provincial Chancellor.

*With thanks to E.Kt. Fraser Fowlie*

## A new District Grand Prefect for Kent



On Saturday, 18 February 2023 at Gillingham the Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees, M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson, installed W.Bro. Brian Alan Ward, P.G.St.B., as the District Grand Prefect of the District of Kent.



After a very good journey round the M25 the coffee and bacon butties were gratefully received, and thankfully applied.





We then made our way upstairs to the Temple where the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team were finishing their rehearsals.



While the rest of us were able to catch up with some old friends.





The Grand Team were having their photographs taken with the District Grand Prefect Designate and the Deputy District Grand Prefect Designate.





The Brethren of the District of Kent and all visiting Brethren were seated in the Temple by 11 a.m. to receive the Presiding Officer, R.W.Bro. Clive Robert Manual, Past Deputy Grand Master, who opened District Grand Council. I had the pleasure of acting as District Grand Inner Guard - at the last minute.



The Installing Officer, M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson, accompanied by the Assisting Officers of Grand Council, entered, assumed the Chair and appointed his Officers.



The Installing Officer was saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies. He then directed the Grand Secretary to call the Roll of Councils in the District, following which he addressed the Brethren assembled and announced that he had appointed W.Bro. Brian Alan Ward, P.G.St.B., as the District Grand Prefect for Kent

The Grand Director of Ceremonies announced that the District Grand Prefect designate was in attendance. The Installing Officer directed the Grand Director of Ceremonies to form an escort and introduce the District Grand Prefect designate. The District Grand Prefect designate, and his escort, entered in procession.



The Installing Officer addressed the District Grand Prefect designate and then directed the Grand Secretary to read the Patent of Appointment. After a prayer, the District Grand Prefect designate was obligated, invested and installed as the District Grand Prefect for Kent.



The Installing Officer invested and installed the District Grand Prefect, who was proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies enquired of the District Grand Prefect whom he would appoint as Deputy District Grand Prefect. The District Grand Prefect announced that he was

appointing W.Bro. Geoffrey Edward Whale, P.G.St.B., as Deputy District Grand Prefect of the District of Kent and requested the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies to form an escort and introduce the Deputy District Grand Prefect designate.

The Deputy District Grand Prefect designate and his escort entered in procession. The District Grand Prefect addressed the Deputy District Grand Prefect designate and requested the Grand Secretary to read the Patent of Appointment. After a prayer, the Deputy District Grand Prefect designate was obligated, invested, and installed. He was proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The District Grand Prefect addressed the Installing Officer thanking him and his team for making this a very special day, for himself and the District of Kent. The Installing Officer, accompanied by Assisting Grand Officers, retired from the District Grand Council.



After the regular business of District Grand Council had been completed the District Grand Prefect appointed and invested the Officers of District Grand Council for the ensuing year.



The District Grand Prefect addressed District Grand Council. He thanked the Director of Ceremonies and the Secretary and their teams for all the work they had put in to make the day such a success, as well as everyone for attending today. He and his Deputy are looking forward to visiting each Council in the District, and he said that he will be inviting everyone to a social event at his house in Folkestone in the summer. He encouraged everyone to take every opportunity to promote our wonderful Order to others.

District Grand Council was closed in due form and the District Grand Prefect, the Deputy District Grand Prefect, District Officers of the year, and honoured guests, retired from District Grand Council.



After a quick group photo...



... we retired for refreshments...



...before making our way into the dining room for lunch.



R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey, Past District Grand Prefect of Surrey, said that the Merlot was one of the best he had tasted – praise indeed.



After a most enjoyable lunch the District Grand Prefect proposed the toast to the Grand Master thanking him and his team for a very special day.



He then had much pleasure in presenting him with a Gable Endies scarf, from Montrose Football Club.



And a bottle of Nadar Gin from the Arbikie Highland Estate, telling him to ignore the words 'Experimental Batch' on the label.



The Grand Master replied by thanking the District Grand Prefect for his kind gifts.



He then presented the District Grand Prefect with his dummy as the newest District Grand Prefect in the Order.



After a most enjoyable morning we all made our way home to our Districts wishing the District Grand Council of Kent every success in the future.



*Article and photos by W.Bro. Chris Eley, Dist.G.S.W. (Surrey), plus these two extras from R.W.Bro. Jon Roberts, P.G.J.W., Pres.E.C.*





## London A.M.D. Spring Social



### **Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, Tuesday, 11 April, 2023 at 11 a.m.**

You, your partner and friends are warmly invited to the Spring Social Lunch. We will be holding our Spring Lunch on Tuesday, 11 April.

This year we will be having a guided tour of the beautiful Southwark Cathedral at London Bridge. There has been a Christian presence on the site since the 7th century and it was mentioned in the Domesday book. It became a priory in 1106, then a Parish church in the 16th century, and was established as a Cathedral in 1905.

It sits proudly on the south bank of the Thames at London Bridge amongst the busy hub-bub of modern day London Bridge and sits along side the equally famous Borough market.

The guided tour will start promptly at 11am.

After the 60 minute tour, we will head for a 3-course lunch in a private dining room in the nearby Boot and Flogger, Red Cross Way.

**Optional guided tour £8 per person (no concessions) Dinner £60 per person (3 courses + wine)**

[Click here to book your tickets](#)



## Your invitation to the District Spring Social Lunch

### A Donation to the Sutton Women's Centre



In February the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Surrey, Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling, together with Shelley Sykes from the Sutton Masonic Hall, went along to The Woman's Centre in Sutton to present a cheque for £1,200 to support the work they do in the community.

In 1982 a group of local women started meeting at the Roundshaw Centre in Wallington and formed a committee with the aim of identifying and progressing the needs of local women. In December 1983, the Greater London Council awarded a grant to the committee towards the creation of a women's centre. They were then registered as a charity.

After a long search for a suitable property, contracts were exchanged on a house in Palmerston Road, Sutton and on 1st of May 1985 Sutton Women's Centre opened its doors for the first time. Over the years many thousands of women have come through their front door.

Their aims are:

- To support and empower women to increase their confidence and self-esteem, to enable them to make positive life decisions for themselves and their children.
- To provide advice to local women to ensure that they are able to access appropriate services, support and increase communication between women.

- To provide inclusive educational and learning opportunities to improve the life chances of local women and their children, increase their career related skills and enable women to develop the tools they need to be active citizens.
- To provide information to women that respects their individual needs and improves their life chances, reduces isolation and increases communication between women.
- To champion the needs of local women to local partners and collaborate to find solutions. They said that the donations made have been able to help a mum and her little girl who had to leave a domestic abuse home and the money helped buy a bed, a cooker, and a fridge. It also helped with getting new flooring in the centre as well as getting the garden ready for the summer.



In her letter of thanks Liz McGarry, Centre Manager said:

*Dear Colin*

*We were delighted to meet with you and Shelley yesterday and wish to thank you for your donation to the centre for £1,200 and for arranging to match fund the initial sum of £600.00.*

*Can you please thank the Hill of Zion Conclave on our behalf for their donation of £100.00. We really appreciate your donations, and we will use them to further our support for local women.*

*Yours sincerely Liz McGarry Centre Manager*

*With thanks to Wy.Bro. Chris Eley*

## **Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord Province of Cheshire and North Wales embraces Social Media**

Back in October last year we appointed Peter Langley to our Executive Committee with a remit for Social Media. Peter then drafted up a proposal which was approved by the Executive Members.

Three months on, we did not expect such interest.



## Scarlet Cord Province of Cheshire and North Wales

1.1K likes • 1.1K followers

Facebook page is going well, with 1,100 followers and likes. These are evenly spread across London, North West, Cheshire and North Wales.

On Twitter the response has been the same.



Edit profile

## Cheshire and North Wales Scarlet Cord

@CheshireWales

Candidates for The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord must be Master Masons and belong to The Order of the Secret Monitor.

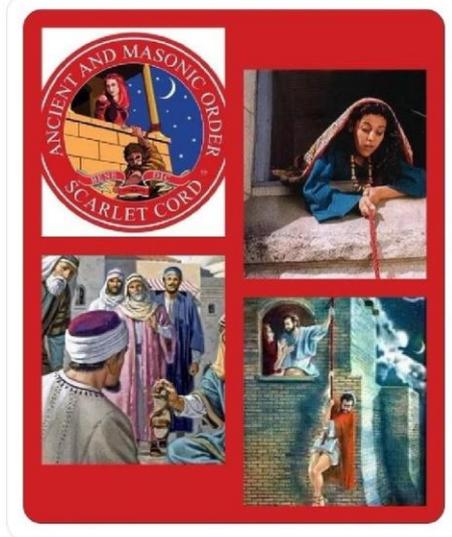
📍 Cheshire and North Wales

🌐 [scarletcordcheshirenwales.org.uk](https://scarletcordcheshirenwales.org.uk)

📅 Joined October 2022

716 Following 390 Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes



Also on Instagram.



**271** Posts   **157** Followers   **125** Following

Cheshire and North Wales Scarlet Cord  
Candidates for The Ancient and Masonic Order of  
the Scarlet Cord must be Master Masons and The  
Order of the Secret Monitor.  
[scarletcordcheshirenwales.org.uk/](http://scarletcordcheshirenwales.org.uk/)

At this month's Executive Meeting we all appreciated Peter's work on behalf of the Province.

*With thank to R.Dist.Comp. J. Christopher Welton, Provincial Grand Summus*

# MetGL Cancer Screening Session



Next MetGL Screening Session.....

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Free for Masons!**

(Gt Queen St Entrance)

**10:00am to 2:00pm**

To Register follow link <https://chaps.mvpsatests.org.uk/events/>  
Find this event and click on Private then type the word Free when asked.



## THE CHAPS/TACKLE/MASONIC PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Every year over 12,000 UK men die from Prostate Cancer (PCa) - more deaths now than from breast cancer - and 50,000 new cases present, half of whom have advanced, incurable PCa. Despite the availability of the simple screening blood test Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) for earlier detection, its use is still not encouraged due to outdated fears of over-diagnosis and over-treatment even though these problems have been eliminated from current UK practice.

Countries extensively using PSA have seen their PCa death rates fall consistently and in long-running clinical trials PSA has halved the PCa death rate! Consequently, in 2020 the European Commission has recommended the introduction of national PCa screening programmes. Despite having this same evidence, the UK National Screening Committee in October 2020 again opposed a national screening programme. Meanwhile, our PCa death rate continues to rise and languishes amongst the worst in the western world!

The status quo is unacceptable. Consequently, CHAPS and TACKLE (The National Federation of Prostate Cancer Support Groups) have commenced a programme of risk-based testing initiated by the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London. Four Masonic Provinces and 5 screening charities have already joined the Project.

The Project is underpinned by a broad base of clinical specialists, the European Association of Urology, independent experts, a national laboratory, the national network of TACKLE, the screening charity GFACT, the Division of Population Health, Health Services Research & Primary Care at Manchester University and Imperial College, London.

The Project's objectives are to halve PCa mortality and demonstrate the practicality of screening at scale. In addition, individual PCa risk assessment will allow us to introduce advances in diagnostic MRI scanning and genetic testing for men at high risk of PCa.

### Project Design

Recruitment is initially for 3 years to a PSA-based screening programme for men aged 40-80 with testing frequency based on an individual's risk: annually for men at high risk, biennially for intermediate risk and 3 yearly for men at low risk. Risk is determined by a man's initial PSA, his ethnicity and family history of PCa or breast and ovarian cancer.

Preliminary studies in 2020 for nearly 800 men at 8 events confirmed the clinical utility of the Project which we are now rolling out through an increasing number of contributing organisations across England and Wales.

### Programme Advantages

- Reduce PCa deaths by 50% at 20 years' follow-up.
- Reduce late presentation with complications and metastases.
- Provide rapid access to NHS MRI scanning.
- Reduce both over-diagnosis and under-diagnosis.
- Facilitate research opportunities for men at risk (imaging and genetics).
- Improve quality of life after curative treatment versus long-term palliation and death.
- Early diagnosis enabling minimally invasive treatments with reduced side effects.
- Screening and curative treatment is far cheaper than late-stage palliation.

The national scope of this Demonstration Project will provide the most cost-effective confirmation that organised screening is the fastest way to reduce our unacceptable PCa death rate, avoid outdated harms of screening and correct the inequity of screening provision for UK men.

**Chris Booth FRCS, FRSA**  
Clinical Director, CHAPS Charity

**Ken Mastris**  
Chairman, TAC:LL

**Frank Tiller & David Swain**  
Metropolitan Grand Lodge

June 2021

To see the full Project Protocol or for further information:  
phone 01206 321253 or email [chris.booth@chaps.uk.com](mailto:chris.booth@chaps.uk.com)



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## 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](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)

## Calendar of Annual Meetings

### Grand Meetings Calendar 2023 - All Orders

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

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Refreshment Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Ends	Roll Call	Assess. Ends
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	Thursday, 4 May 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT	Great Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Activities	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Activities	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 14 September 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - 150 Celebration	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - visit	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

26/12/2023

[Click Here](#) to download a PDF copy of the Calendar

## Booking now for the West Yorkshire 2023 MBF Festival



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



**[BOOK HERE](#)**



[Click Here](#) to book

## Additional support for earthquake rescue efforts



Further to last week's announcement that the MBF had made an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the Türkiye/Syria earthquakes rescue efforts, we have been inundated with requests to make it possible for Brethren, Lodges and Provinces to make donations to directly support the work of our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity.

It has been agreed that we will accept donations in to our MCF Relief Chest.

The donations will be channelled through our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity reg no. 1096479 and will also count towards MBF honorifics.

Donations for Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and Northern Syria should be sent using the following details:

MARK EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

MMM 185622

For Individual donations - Please add your **Surname** and the reference **Türkiye**

For Lodge donations – use the **Order** with **Lodge number** and the reference **Türkiye**

For Provincial donations – use the **Order** with **Province** and the reference **Türkiye**

To make a donation you can

- **use the QR Code below**
- [Click Here](#) to go to the donation page
- [Click Here](#) to download a Credit/Debit Card donation Form
- [Click Here](#) to download a Cheque/Chirty Voucher donation form

**Mark Emergency Relief Fund**  
**MMM185622**

**To make a donation**  
scan with phone camera to open  
or visit URL

**<https://gtap.uk/mmm185622>**



Please share with your Brethren and if you have any queries or concerns please contact the Charities Department at Mark Masons' Hall.

We thank you all for your generosity.

You can find out more by [Clicking Here](#) to read the latest ShelterBox update and there is additional info in the images below.

You can visit ShelterBox on their various media outlets:

<https://shelterbox.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>

[ShelterBox](#)



## £50,000 donated to ShelterBox

On Monday, 6 February 2023 a series of powerful earthquakes devastated southern Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and northern Syria. The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund were quick to act and by the close of business on Tuesday 7, had approved an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the rescue efforts in association with our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity. The charity is sending an emergency response team to carry out crucial assessments and establish how best their help can be deployed. Their international assessment team will arrive in Türkiye in a few days and will be liaising with contacts on the ground to establish how best to proceed.

The humanitarian need in Türkiye and Syria is immense and growing – it is the most devastating earthquake to hit the region in 100 years and could become the worst. The death toll is likely to rise significantly, and thousands of buildings have been destroyed in both countries leaving people homeless, with nowhere to sleep, in the middle of a bitter winter.

ShelterBox provides different combinations of emergency shelter aid and essential household items during its responses depending on what is needed. This could be sending tents and shelter kits, stoves, thermal blankets and clothing to keep people warm through the freezing winter nights. It could be cash to help people buy what they need to survive. Or it could solar lights that help people when there is no electricity. Getting aid into countries and on to where it's needed after a disaster of this scale presents huge challenges especially with damage to infrastructure and supply routes. That's why ShelterBox strategically pre-positions aid around the world, including in Syria.

This donation of £50,000 from the Mark Benevolent Fund will allow ShelterBox to act quickly, adapting how they work to best support people affected by the earthquakes and allowing them to tailor aid packages to what is needed. There are currently no plans to set up a central fund from Mark Masons' Hall.

This is what the grant will be used for by the ShelterBox charity (information taken from the ShelterBox website):

### SHELTERBOX TENT - £350

When disaster strikes, families need shelter to feel safe again. When they can't start rebuilding their homes immediately, durable tents can make them feel safe and protected.

Depending on the weather and the place, the shelter needs of families differ. That's why we're committed to providing families with the best possible solutions that suit their needs.

From padded tents that can safely accommodate a stove, to medium-sized tents that fit in small spaces and ones that can last years if needed, families can feel at home again.



### SHELTER KITS - £60

We provide shelter kits which include a selection of hardwearing tools and materials that are customised to suit the needs of each community.

The tools and materials we send provide the essentials families need to start rebuilding homes straight away, ranging from tough tarpaulin and timber to corrugated sheeting and even room dividers.

The versatile tools we provide help with everything from clearing rubble to building shelters and even tending crops. Our tools can also be used to build furniture, cut firewood and make repairs.



#### BLANKETS - £7

Blankets, groundsheets and mattresses not only provide vital warmth, but comfort too when families are recovering from disaster. These simple items can be used in a variety of ways, from bedding to room dividers, and help turn a shelter into a home.



#### SOLAR LIGHTS - £11

Our solar lights can last up to 24 hours on just one charge on the lowest setting. They are lightweight and waterproof, making them easy to carry in any situation. Because they are so safe, cheap and easy to use, families use solar lights in different ways – for work, education, family activities, or simply moving around at night. They are more than just light – they can provide comfort and allow families to regain their livelihoods.



Find out more about the work of ShelterBox



<https://shelterbox.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>



@ShelterBox



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](https://gtap.uk/mmm185622).



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](#)

## Social Media Guidelines



**With our relatively new Pro Grand Masters 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 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](#)

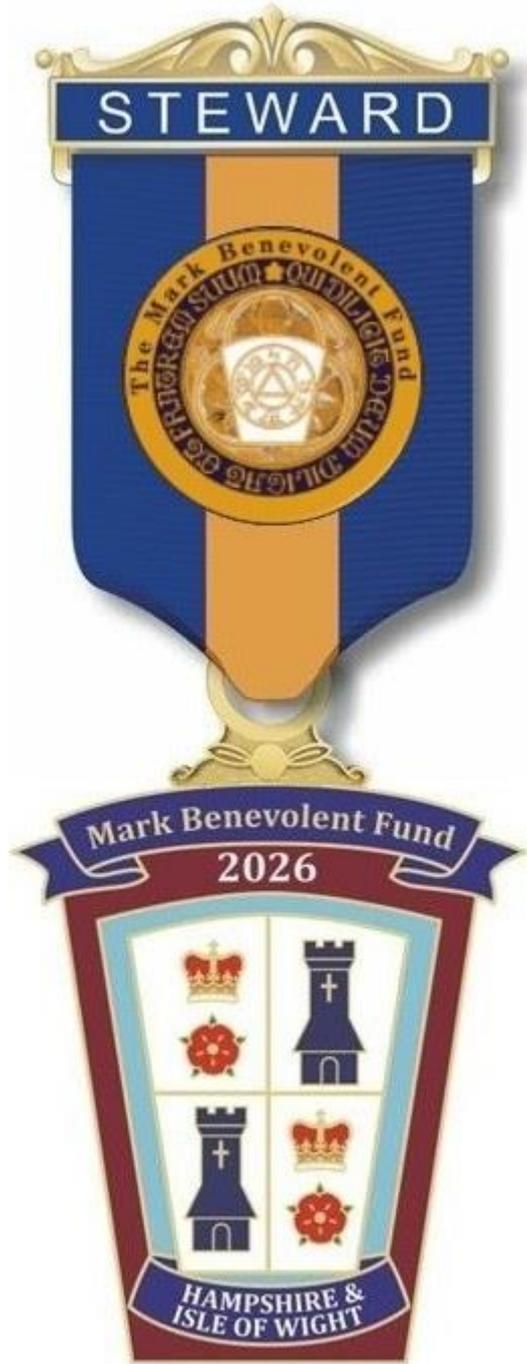
We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.

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

Find us here [///prefer.status.sharp](http://prefer.status.sharp)