

# Freemasonry@86 News - 3 February 2023



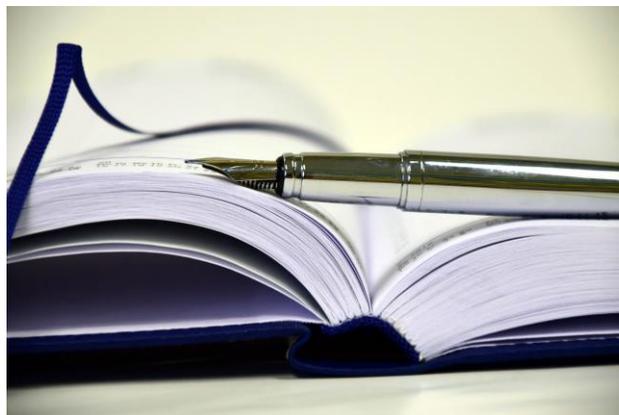
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

**Saturday, 11 February - R.C.C.** Installation of Ill.Kt. Trevor Fish, P.G.Pref., as Intendant-General for Northumberland

**Saturday, 18 February - A.M.D.** Installation of W.Bro. Brian Alan Ward, P.G.St.B., as District Grand Prefect for Kent

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

**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

## MBF 2022 Annual Review



Brethren, I am delighted to let you know that the Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Review for 2022 has been approved by the Board of Trustees and is now available to view and download from the MMH website. [Click here](#) to view the publication.

It has been another wonderful year at the MBF as we continue to assist those less fortunate than ourselves. In 2022 over one million pounds has helped improve the standard of living for many charities, families and individuals that apply to the fund for assistance. I am certain that the founder of your charity, M.W.Bro. Canon Portal would be most proud!

As ever keep a lookout for your fellow Brethren, charities and other worthy causes that may need a helping hand and contact your Provincial Grand Charity Steward or Provincial Grand Almoner for details on how to make an application.

I must thank my colleagues at Mark Masons' Hall for their exceptional work in 2022 and in particular I must mention Linda Read, our Charities Finance Manager and Millie Pilson of the Charities Finance Team for their dedication and hard work for the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Mark Well Brethren and I look forward to seeing you out in the Provinces in 2023.

W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, P.G.S.D., Charities Manager, Mark Masons' Hall



# Mark Benevolent Fund

## Annual Review 2022



### A Message from the President of the MBF

May I welcome you all to our 2022 MBF Annual Review I hope you all find it of interest. Activity has been brisk, even in the first few weeks of 2023 showing signs of another busy year.

There is of course one major problem we are facing at the moment which is the ongoing war in Ukraine. In March of 2022 the MBF joined forces with our Brethren in the District of Romania and immediately gave assistance in the form monetary aid to assist refugees fleeing across its borders seeking safety. We were also delighted to see so many of you wishing to help, in particular our Brethren in the Province of Cheshire. Our aid to them is continuing but is constantly reviewed by the Board of Trustees. We will, of course, keep a watchful eye on events connected with Ukraine and keep you updated in the weekly newsletter from Mark Masons' Hall.

As always we are facing constant challenges to our way of life. The cost of living problems are but one. Please seek the help of your Lodge Almoner if you are in any difficulty. Whether it is financial or you just need some advice and a chat, he will always be there for you.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*R.W.Bro. John Bell, P.G.J.W.  
President of the Mark Benevolent Fund*



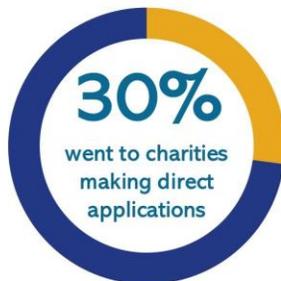
The Mark Benevolent Fund was founded in 1868 by the Reverend George Raymond Portal, *MA* Grand Master 1869-1873, (in 1881 Canon Portal). It is the official charity of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, the third largest branch of Freemasonry.

The disbursement of grants is overseen by its Board comprising of twelve Brethren who in turn form the two committees who review applications:

- The Petitions Committee assess applications from individual Mark Master Masons or their dependants who may be in distress.
- The Worthy Causes Committee looks at applications from registered charities and other worthwhile organisations.

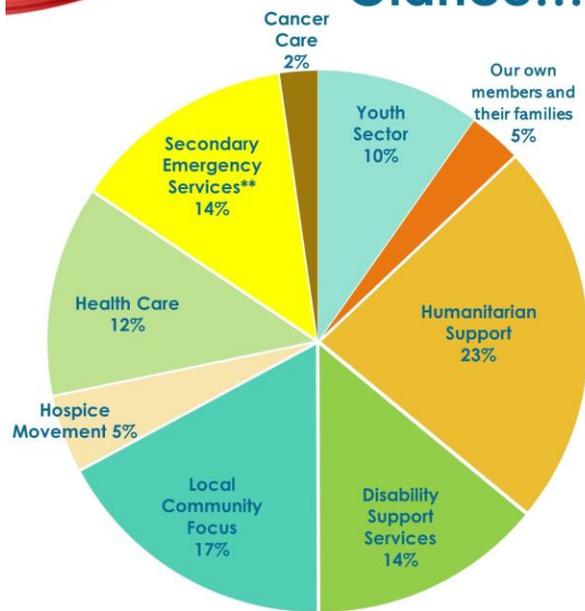


- £25,000 - Cancer Care
- £139,800 - Healthcare
- £160,780 - Disability Support Services
- £51,257 - Hospice Movement
- £148,186 - Secondary Emergency Services
- £190,451 - Local Community Focus
- £102,438 - Youth Sector
- £255,000 - Humanitarian Aid
- £35,388 - Our own members and their families





## At a Glance...



\*\*Covering Blood Bikes, RNLI, mountain rescue Independent lifeboats and mobile doctors

## Worthy Causes

### The Chairman of the MBF Worthy Causes Committee writes:

'This has been another busy year for the Committee with 60 cases covering a Nationwide spread of applications. After lengthy deliberation on all of those cases the Committee agreed to support around 50% of the applications.

The Committee really do put a lot of time into each case, looking into Charity Accounts and what the grant will be used for, we cannot of course grant every petition as we would soon run out of money but with due diligence applied on every case, I am confident that we make the right decisions.

I must thank the Committee, R.W.Bro's Alex McLaren, Kevin Hicks, Richard Olliver, and Roger Richardson, also W.Bro. Dr. Tapesh Pakrashi who gives us such valuable advice on applications that have a medical background. Their dedication to their roles and response times are really without equal, for example following the recent tragic events in Jersey, the loss of a fishing boat with the crew and the explosion that sadly cost many lives, we had a request from the Province of the Channel Islands for support for their appeal to help to relieve those in distress, as the Craft had offered £10,000 we decided it would be appropriate if the MBF matched that sum. Within a few hours of sending out the details, all of the Committee replied in favour.

Please remember Brethren that it is your money that we are approving for Worthy Causes so if you know of a Worthy Cause that is desperate for help please talk to your Provincial Almoner with a view to putting forward an application in conjunction with the Charity. I am confident that our hard working Charities Manager Darren Coleman-Heald would be delighted to assist and guide you through the necessary paperwork.

I look forward to meeting up with as many of you as possible as I travel the Country trying to tempt you to buy one of the current Stewards Jewels and hopefully at the same time raising the profile of our wonderful Mark Benevolent Fund.'

Sincerely and fraternally,

**R.W.Bro. David Ashbolt, P.Prov.G.M. (London)**  
*Deputy President of the Mark Benevolent Fund*



# £1,108,300

In 2022 the Mark Benevolent Fund made 30 Grants to local charities, Provinces, Districts and other worthy organisations and 20 grants to our own members and their families covering England and Wales



  
Province of the Channel Islands (Jersey)

Indicates location of a Worthy Causes Grant



District of Romania



to support those with Disabilities



**£26,669**

A vehicle was required to transport staff, volunteers, family, carers and all associated equipment to all areas of the Province to relieve the needs of those diagnosed with autism and those who are currently engaged in the medical diagnosis of autism. The purpose of the charity is to create safe sensory learning and stimulation through the organising of events, trips and social gatherings and provision of support and recreational activities.



**£5,750**

This national charity helps families and disabled young people under the age of 21 who have complex needs including scoliosis, spina bifida, brittle bone disease or any other bone condition. This grant is funding a sensory equipment project which is different every year. They supply hundreds of sensory educational packs with different themes such as the 'Solar System' and 'Under the Sea'. The theme of this year's pack is 'Musical Instruments from Around the World'. 50 sensory packs have been provided by your donations.



*Meet Myles, looking as 'Pleased as Punch' with his new musical pack*



### £33,400

Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby Club, based in south Wales, was set up in 1989 by Keith Jones and Paul Jenkins. It was established by people who loved the game and wanted to create meaningful sporting and rehabilitation opportunities for people with a disability. The club is run by volunteers, parents and ex-players.

Ospreys needed four new wheelchairs, replacement wheels and new innertubes for another 11 players. The wheels needed to be replaced due to the constant contact battering they have received on the pitch.



### £40,167

Disability Challengers provides play & leisure opportunities for disabled children and young people between the ages of 2 & 25. At the centre, based in Stoke Park in Guildford, their schemes give visitors a space of their own to have fun, meet friends and challenge their impairments through play. The MBF funded the car track for their new project.





**£30,000**

This charity is renovating a group of houses which will provide supported living for up to 21 autistic young adults in Bedfordshire. They have reached the fit-out stage and the for the kitchens and bathrooms of the first three properties which has been funded by the MBF.



**£24,794**

The Bike Experience is promoting the physical, mental health and wellbeing of disabled people who would otherwise be excluded by enabling them to enjoy the pleasures and benefits of riding a motorcycle by the provision of adapted and modified bikes. The MBF has funded a vehicle to enable them to transport the trailer carrying the specially adapted bikes to venues across the UK.



**to support our  
Secondary  
Emergency Services**



**£24,561**

The team needed help with replacing worn and outdated communications equipment, some of it being over 20 years old. There has been a growing failure rate and with most of the radios being analogue sets they are no longer compatible with modern digital systems. The MBF grant has allowed them to upgrade their essential equipment and provide a more reliable service.



**£11,573**

The Haverigg Inshore Rescue Team are independent of the RNLI and rely on public charitable support. The MBF has funded a new shallow water rescue vehicle in the form of a quad bike; that is because at the low water mark, the tide recedes several miles and the water is extremely shallow.



**£55,751**

The Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade provides a 24-hour, 365-day, multi-disciplinary, shore-based coastal rescue service. The rescue team is a declared facility to HM Coastguard and represents the Coastguard Rescue Service in the North Tyneside and Newcastle area. The brigade currently has twenty-three members and responds to an average of 120 callouts per year. The purchase of a second rescue vehicle and radio equipment has enabled them to operate more effectively.



**£11,005**

The MBF purchased a specialist defibrillator and associated accessories for Dr Leon Roberts who has been a doctor with the East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme for many years. Dr Roberts lives close to the Rutland and Leicestershire borders and in his role as a responder for EMICS covers a rural population of around one million.



**£37,500**

This charity's current Landrover is the real workhorse of the Team, acting as a blue light emergency response vehicle to transport first aid, communications and rescue equipment to an incident. It has superb off road and adverse weather capabilities and is highly useful in getting heavy equipment closer to the scene of an incident as well as being able to transport team members to the start of various missing person search sectors. The Landrover, now 15 years old, has 60,000 hard miles on the clock, and wear and tear is really starting to show. Repairs are becoming more frequent, and the time off the road is becoming an issue for our responsiveness. The MBF has made the replacement of the vehicle a reality.



**£18,801**

In August 2022 the Greater Manchester Blood Bikes charity had one of its bikes stolen while working in the region. It was later found badly damaged, leaving Greater Manchester Blood Bikes with only three bikes to cover over 500 square miles.

The bike was able to be repaired but had over 85,000 miles on the clock. It was already nearing the end of its working life and given its condition it was likely that the bike would be retired sooner than expected. The MBF stepped up to replace the bike and provide the volunteers with a more reliable and economical bike.



to support  
the Youth  
Sector



£9,460

Scouts  
Cornwall



The Cornwall County Scout Council needed support for the purchase of vital safety and security equipment. Every four years they hold the 'Kernow Jamboree', a week-long activity camp, which attracts over 1,000 young people and over 500 volunteer leaders and support teams.





**£5,450**

On a rainy day in summer (probably the only one!) representatives of the MBF and the Provinces of South Wales, Dyfed and Wiltshire met at the Beacon Beacons in Wales to present a cheque to the Youth Adventure Trust to purchase new tents and other camping equipment.

The Wiltshire based charity works with disadvantaged young people aged between 11 and 16 living in areas of social and economic deprivation in Swindon and the surrounding areas in Wiltshire. Each year they help up to 360 young people build resilience, develop confidence and learn skills that will last a lifetime. These funds paid for 15 new tents for the volunteers, staff and children to use at the camps that take place every summer.



**£87,528**

This award was made to The Rock Youth Project, Currock and Upperby in Carlisle, to rebuild their Club House. They were in desperate need of financial support so they could replace the dilapidated, vermin infested wooden huts that they operated from. The Rock Youth Project is a safe fun space in the community welcoming over 50 vulnerable young people five nights a week keeping them off the streets and out of trouble.



to support  
the Hospice  
Sector



£28,075

A new Children's Therapy Pod will provide a discrete and age-appropriate counselling and well-being space for children. The hospice will be able to deliver a range of therapeutic activities, increasing the mental health, psychological and emotional well-being of the children and their siblings. Situated in the Hospice grounds the building will be private and able to accommodate and be accessible for wheelchairs.



£7,080

The Merlin MS Centre is upgrading their older, larger minibus for something more economical and practical. The rising cost of fuel and a reduction in volunteers who are able to obtain a specific license for the larger vehicle have been a major factor in taking this decision. The changing dynamic of travel in the county also continues to change the way in which they run the service. Thankfully they will receive a significant trade-in discount on the purchase of the new vehicle.



St Peter & St James Hospice  
Hospice care in the heart of Sowerth

£16,102

The hospice needs to move the existing In-Patient Unit Nurse Station, which is out of sight of many of the bedrooms. It will create a new integrated unit closer to the main hub of all the bedrooms and nursing activity.



## Supporting Health Care Projects



£100,000

In 2020 the MBF pledged funding to the Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital charity to go towards the fitting out of counselling rooms in a new £1.5m neo natal bereavement centre called Woodland House.

The charity reached its fundraising goal early in 2022 and representatives of the MBF along with the Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire, R.W.Bro. Philip Wills and W.Bro. Nigel Clemson, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, joined the team in the ground-breaking ceremony.

The centre will open in the autumn of 2023. The MBF's pledge was made very early in the fundraising process and inspired other organisations to make their donations.





**£28,795**

This request was to help set up a new project at The Christie Hospital in Manchester called 'Blood Tests Closer to Home'. Patients at The Christie require a routine blood test before having Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapies (SACT) on consecutive days, meaning they have to visit The Christie twice during the week of treatment.

Over the past two years, The Christie has been testing the potential for the development of a local blood testing service to enable our patients to have routine blood tests closer to where they live.

**act Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust** **£100,000**

The Trust is purchasing a new surgical robot, costing £1.5 million, to transform complex surgeries and enable patients to recover from surgery within weeks. This new machine offers robotic surgery to six new areas of the hospital benefitting over 1,500 patients per year.



to support  
cancer care



**Lennox Children's Cancer Fund**

**£25,000**

The Lennox Children's Cancer Fund provides practical and financial support for children and their families experiencing the trauma and heartache of a childhood cancer diagnosis. These funds will strengthen their emotional support service by providing therapy 'Treasure Boxes' alongside professional counselling to a child with cancer and their family.



supporting  
Humanitarian  
Projects



*City of Goodness  
Orphanage*



**£10,000**

Following a recent successful trip to the Ukraine, Paul Stevenson and Michael Ross, local Cheshire Freemasons, delivered an ambulance full of medical and humanitarian aid to an orphanage in the City of Goodness, Chernivtsi. The orphanage survives on donations only and receives no state aid. It was in desperate need of a mini bus to transport the children to hospital appointments and if the time arrives to transport the children and parents to the border to safety.



**£10,000**

The MBF swiftly donated funds to the Jersey Bailiffs Appeal following two tragic events just before Christmas in 2022. On Thursday, 8 December 2022 a ferry collided with an 18 metre (59ft) fishing trawler off the north west coast of Jersey sadly all three crew of the fishing boat were lost.

Saturday, 10 December 2022 saw the explosion of a small block of flats in St Helier with the loss of ten lives. Residents were mostly of an upper age group. Those living in the immediate vicinity were displaced from their homes due to damage to their dwellings by the blast. The Bailiff of the Island, Sir Tim Le Cocq, set in motion an appeal to provide support for those affected by the two tragedies. The money received, which will be overseen by the Bailiff, will be used entirely to help those affected by both events.



**£10,000**

AMBULANCEAID.CO.UK is a non-profit making group of volunteers delivering ambulances and medical aid to the Ukraine. The funds bought a fully equipped ambulance to be driven initially to Poland and then on to the Ukraine. The volunteers filled the ambulance with medical supplies and other urgently needed equipment.





## £235,000

At the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge in March 2022, the Pro Grand Master announced that the Mark Benevolent Fund would be making an initial donation of £25,000 to the District of Romania who have been working proactively in many ways to provide support and relief to their neighbours in Ukraine. The District continues to work closely with the government to provide, amongst other things:

- special tents for more than 20 people
- electrical heating devices
- beds and blankets
- personal hygiene products
- emergency medical and small surgery kits
- antibiotics and other different medicines
- personal protective equipment
- food and water

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



to support  
projects in your  
Local Community



**£4,327**

The centre works with women who live or work in the London Borough of Sutton and focus on working with those who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. The programs that they provide help to support and empower women leading to increased confidence and self-esteem. It gives women the opportunity to make positive life decisions for themselves and their children. The MBF has helped the centre update their ageing white goods and replace a fence in their children's play area.



**£38,118**

This grant was for the purchase of an electric van. One of their vans is reaching the end of its useful life and they are looking for funding to replace it.

In line with the move to provide more eco-friendly means of transport the funding for an electric van will allow them to deliver to clients around the whole of Yorkshire.



**£46,090**

The Millom Network Centre in South Cumbria and acts as a supplier of furniture and household goods to those in need who don't have the funds to purchase them. It also acts as a foodbank and food distribution centre. Following a break-in at their premises their van was stolen and vandalised. The MBF was delighted to fund a replacement to enable them to continue their essential work.



**£1,916**

Stape Silver Band is a community brass band based in Pickering, North Yorkshire. Throughout the year we perform at a variety of venues in and around the local area. The band, formed in 1884, seek to cover the cost of updating the electrical installation in their practice rooms to comply with the standards required by their insurers.



# 20

## Grants to our own members and their families

'During 2022 the Petitions Committee has dealt with 21 applications and have dispensed a total of £35,388 in relief.

From the very nature of these Petitions the precise information must be kept confidential however I can report that assistance has varied from helping with daily living allowance to the purchase of new kitchen items, carpets, special chairs, redecorations, and essential car repairs amongst other things.

The Committee of six Trustees receive all applications via email and send their views to me as Chairman, I then collate those views and then send a decision to Darren, the Charities Manager who facilitates the payments.

In most cases the response time is very speedy which is in line with Canon Portals motto; "Bis dat qui cito dat" – "He gives twice who gives promptly", This is why it is essential that the application forms are completed correctly and contain all the information that the committee requires, so time is not wasted in asking for additional facts. I would also remind you that you should also initiate an application to the MBF at the same time as making an application to the MCF. Always seek out your Lodge Almoner for any help or advice you may need.'

Sincerely and fraternally,

R.W.Bro. Mike Whelan, Provincial Grand Master for Dorset  
*MBF Trustee and Chairman of the Petitions Committee*



## Who did we help?

- A grant was made to the widow of a Brother who now resides in a care home. She was in need of some funds to help with the necessities such as hair dressing, newspapers, new clothes, chiropody and manicures. All of these things are not generally paid for by care homes.
- The pandemic has caused severe hardship to one brother who ended up losing his job. A diagnosis of severe illness followed which stopped him from moving on with his life when restrictions were relaxed. His benefits did not cover his outgoings and the MBF stepped in with an emergency grant to give him some much needed peace of mind while he recovers.
- Another Brother and his family were suffering due to the sudden increase in the cost of living. Rent increases, benefit reductions and illness had all taken its toll leaving them struggling to find non-existent funds to cover the shortfall.
- W.Bro. K needed help. The rising cost of living and illnesses suffered by members of his immediate family had prevented him from returning to work having a knock-effect on finances. The MBF assisted with a grant that took the pressure off the family and helped them get back on their feet.
- Mrs M had been managing with a fridge-freezer that was well past its sell-by date and definitely not keeping food as cold as it should be. During a visit by our Visiting Brother, he also noticed that she struggled to get in and out of her armchair. He decided to ask the Petitions Committee if the MBF could help. As well as a daily living allowance the MBF replaced Mrs M's fridge-freezer and arranged for her to have a new recliner chair to make her life just that little bit more comfortable.
- V.W.Bro. P, having received help from the MBF on a previous occasion, asked his Provincial Grand Almoner for some assistance to replace a carpet that was becoming threadbare and dangerous. During his visit, the Provincial Grand Almoner found that the state of the flat was in a much worse state than V.W.Bro. P. had led him to believe. He applied immediately to the Petitions Committee for a capital grant to help with repairs and redecoration. Saving money where they could, Brethren from his Lodge also helped complete the work leaving him in a much more pleasant and relaxing environment.
- Four of our Masonic Widows received grants to help with the rigours of daily living. As the cost of living crisis continues to bite, every penny now makes a difference. Are you struggling to make ends meet? Speak to your Lodge Almoner for more details.
- W.Bro. M received an emergency grant to help with immediate family costs. This Brother had sadly lost his wife leaving him with young children to care for as well as holding down a full-time job. Members of the Province also rallied round to helping ease his burden. As this is an emergency grant the MBF Petitions Committee will review his case once the result of his MCF application is known to assess if further help can be offered.



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**



# 2022 Annual Review

Issued by  
Mark Benevolent Fund  
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## The MBF in London



Monday, 30 January saw a further celebration and recognition of London Mark Members' generosity towards the Mark Benevolent Fund, when the second of our special presentation and dinner evenings was held at Mark Masons' Hall. Fourteen Brethren were presented with 5 Vice-Patron and 9 Patron collarettes – which also qualified each of them to receive their Festival Steward's breast jewel. One of the newest recruits to Mark Masonry, Bro. Carl Fazakerley (who incidentally was Advanced into Loyalty Lodge No. 1989 only last June, on the eve of his birthday!) was amongst those presented with his Vice-Patron collarette. Here's a photo of him in his formal St John's Ambulance uniform as he is an active member of that organisation.



The presentations were all made by the evening's guest of honour, Mrs Linda Read, who is the MBF Charities Finance Manager. Linda was treated right royally for gracing the evening to carry out the ceremonials and in her own words she "... has never been bowed to by one man before – let alone 14!".



The photographs depict some of the highlights of the evening which ended with a superb dinner served up by 86 St James.

The whole proceedings were of course conducted under the watchful gaze of R.W. Bro. David Ashbolt, London's Past Prov.G.M. and Deputy President of the MBF. David says thanks to all who contributed, with a special vote of thanks to W.Bro. Martin Vidler for organising the evening and arranging for the photographs. If there is anyone out there who would like to join this ever-growing group of MBF Patrons/Vice-Patrons, please contact him on [vandavid474@btinternet.com](mailto:vandavid474@btinternet.com)

*Words by RW Bro Tom Quinn; photos by W Bro Martin Vidler*





## Brethren from the Ferrers & Lilford Mark Lodges of Northampton, Huntingdon & Bedford support their local Cransley Hospice

In mid-January, the Lilford (471) & Ferrers (1341) Lodges again joined forces when five Brethren each gave one day of their time to help the local Cransley Hospice in its annual Christmas Tree Recycle fund-raising project.

After the MBF's Capital Grant to our nation's hospices following the death of the late Duke of Edinburgh, HRH The Prince Philip, in 2021, the five Brethren decided to further support their local Hospice. They joined other volunteers over a 3-day period during which about 900 used Christmas trees were collected from homes and premises in the local area by van (each crewed by three volunteers) and were then loaded onto other vehicles to be taken away for recycling.

The Ferrers team (pictured below) made up our Friday shift and were blessed with perfect weather throughout the day



*1 - Bro's Roger Gunnett, Simon Harker & Trevor Brunt*

The Lilford team (pictured below) made up our Saturday shift - and are still drying out after a day of wind and rain!



*2 - Bro's Stuart Bottomley & Jeff Chambers*

All, however, were agreed that it was:

- great fun
- a delight to work with the other volunteers and Cransley Hospice staff
- a very worthwhile way to show our continuing support for the Hospice

In fact, all are looking forward to helping again next year.

The project raised a magnificent £12,000 for the Hospice.

*With thanks to W.Bro. David M Snape, P.G.S.D., Assistant Provincial Grand Master*

## **Ailwyn Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1871 Advancement and Banner Dedication**



Well! What a fully charged day it was, starting at 10 a.m. with the opening of Ailwyn Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1871 and the undertaking of quite a busy schedule of Lodge Business. At 11 a.m., The Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford, R.W.Bro. Robert Andrew Stokes, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. J David Sowerby were escorted into the Lodge attended by a numerous delegation of Grand and Provincial Officers to much acclaim. We then received a Eulogy for the late A.D.C. which was very eloquently delivered.

Next came the Advancement of Bro. James Milner, which was an excellent delivery of a sincerely felt ceremony by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. K R Burberry, who was assisted in this very memorable task by some great work from all those Officers who were taking part. This super piece of ritual was concluded and the W.M. handed the Chair over to the Provincial Grand Master who, with the assistance of the Grand and Provincial Grand Chaplain, V.W. Bro Tony Avery, led us all through the intricacies of the Banner Dedication. This banner was of a very striking design and the architect of which was the Secretary - very much Multi-tasking - W.Bro. David Cusworth.



This whole ceremony was again great to observe and a small token of the Lodge's thanks to the Prov.G.M. for all his support, love and friendship, was presented to him by the Worshipful Master.

On the Risings, the Prov.G.M. was delighted to announce that his successor as Prov.G.M. was to be W.Bro. J. David Sowerby; that W.Bro. David Snape would be taking on the role of Deputy Prov.G.M.; and that W.Bro. Christopher James had been appointed as Assistant Prov.G.M. This announcement was met with much applause. The Brethren were reminded that the Provincial Annual Meeting on 24 June would be when the Installation would be taking place.

The Prov.G.M. and his attending officers retired from the Lodge which was then closed in due form. A superb Festive Board followed when a lot of very happy Mark Masons who, having dined well, got home at a reasonable hour.(For once!!)

*With thanks to W.Bro. Chris James, P.G.S.D.*







## Essex Mark Podcast



The latest Essex Mark podcast features an interview with Les Bond before and after his Advancement into our Friendly Degree.

The Magic of the Mark at it's finest

<https://www.essexmark.co.uk/the-5-minute-mark.html>

## Explanation of the Royal Ark Mariner Tracing Board



At the next meeting of Bon Accord Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner on 16 February, for those Royal Ark Mariners who have never seen it, W.Bro. Paul Rowlands, R.A.M.G.R., will be presenting the Explanation of the Royal Ark Mariner Tracing Board

The meeting will be held at Mark Masons' Hall at 4 pm. Anyone wishing to attend may contact the Lodge Scribe, W.Bro. Nick Dodd, [n.dodd1@icloud.com](mailto:n.dodd1@icloud.com)

## Provincial Priory of Durham Annual Social



On Saturday, 28 January, the Provincial Priory of Durham held its very popular and always sold out annual social event in Darlington Masonic Hall.

A total of over 90 guests were present, including the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Richard Scott; Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt. John Watts; and Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Andrew Foster.

E.Kt. Andrew Foster announced the arrival of the Provincial Prior into the dining room to a rapturous round of applause from those present.

We were then treated to a sumptuous four course meal consisting of a starter of Stilton and Mushroom soup, followed by a main course of Roast Beef and Yorkshire Puddings, Crème Caramel for dessert, and followed by Cheese and Biscuits with Tea and Coffee.



The Provincial Marshal then called the guests attention to the Provincial Prior who proposed the Royal toast.

R.E.Kt Richard then announced that the raffle that evening had raised a magnificent total of £880 towards the 2025 Eye Hospital appeal.

He then went on to thank the Provincial Registrar, E.Kt. Stewart Bell, and Provincial Vice-Chancellor, E.Kt. Steve Allen, for their help in setting up the evening; and to watch out for Kt. Robin Crosby the roving reporter with his camera.

This was then followed by the entertainment for the evening which was from Elvis performer Anthony Grey who performed a magnificent set.



A fantastic evening was had by all those present.

*With thanks to Kt. Robin Crosby, Provincial Communications Officer, Provincial Priory of Durham*



## John F. Cleeves Preceptory No. 315 – 75th Anniversary Meeting



On Friday, 27 January 2023, the John F. Cleeves Preceptory No. 315 held its 75th Anniversary Meeting at the Halsey Masonic Hall, Cheshunt.

The Preceptory was consecrated on 31st January 1948 by the then Provincial Prior of Hertfordshire, R.E.Kt. John F. Cleeves, G.C.T., after whom the Preceptory was named.

The current Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Alastair White, led a large Provincial delegation to join the celebration of this significant milestone in the Preceptory's history, which included the Provincial Sub-Prior, V.E.Kt. Mike Beaty, and two Past Provincial Priors – R.E.Kt. John Hay, K.C.T., and R.E.Kt. Tony Lapsley, K.C.T.

After E.Kt. Cliff Garrett had been installed as Eminent Preceptor – his 4th stint in the chair of his Mother Preceptory – the Knights were treated to a very interesting talk from the Preceptory Registrar, V.E.Kt. David Sharman, about the fascinating life and Masonic Career of John F. Cleeves, which was very well received.

Following the talk, the R.E. Provincial Prior made a surprise presentation of the Past Preceptor's Collarette and Jewel that had belonged to R.E.Kt. Dr Alan Owen, G.C.T., who was Provincial Prior for Hertfordshire from 1982 – 1991 (when he was succeeded by R.E.Kt. John Hay), before becoming Provincial Prior for Monmouth and South Wales between 1992 – 2001.

The jewel had been recovered from R.E.Kt. Owen's Masonic effects by the current Provincial Prior for Monmouth and South Wales – R.E.Kt. Dr Paul Calderwood, *JP*, and passed to R.E.Kt. Alastair White for return to the Preceptory, of which R.E.Kt. Owen was Eminent Preceptor in 1974.

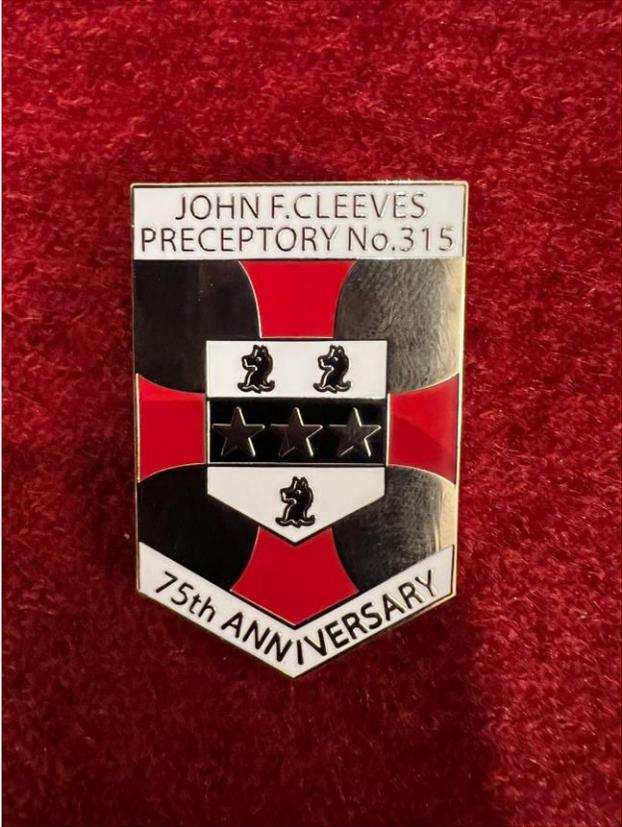
The jewel was carefully cleaned and restored by the Past Provincial Sub-Prior of Hertfordshire, V.E.Kt. Michael Stanforth, and was presented for the future use of the Immediate Past Preceptors of the Preceptory during their year of office.

To mark the 75th Anniversary, E.Kt. Pantelis 'Pins' Poullais commissioned the production of a special lapel badge, profits from the sale of which will be donated to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. These were worn with pride by all in attendance.

The evening was rounded off with an excellent Festive Board.

*R.E.Kt. Alastair White, Provincial Prior*









## Collective Marshals



At the conclusion of a previous article concerning the repurposing of Leamington Priors Preceptory into a Preceptory for Great and Provincial Marshals, all readers were invited to submit suggestions for the collective noun for a 'Mass gathering of Marshals.' The prize being a bottle of 'Marshals' Port.'

Many thanks to those of you who took part.

The winner of the competition is E.Kt. Fraser Fowlie. Congratulations!

Fraser's collective noun was an - 'argument.'

He added, as an aside, that the noun for the Marshal of the 'Marshals Preceptory' was a 'victim.' Well, he should know, he is that 'victim.'

Fraser has generously donated his bottle of port to be raffled in aid of charity. Thank you, Fraser.

*R.E.Kt. Roger E Dixon, Provincial Prior for Warwickshire*

## St John Eye Hospital Group Knights Templar Newsletter

We're delighted to share with you the latest St John Eye Hospital Group Knights Templar Newsletter. You can download a copy [Here](#)



 **St John of Jerusalem  
Eye Hospital Group** 

**Knights Templar  
Newsletter**

February 2023 | Issue #4 | St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Newsletter

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*Happy new year!*

Hello! This is Naomi, your Fundraising Officer here. I'd like to wish you all the best for 2023 as we kick start the new year!

We are so grateful for the support you have shown to us in 2022 – particularly those of you who have undertaken fundraising initiatives and supported us with donations.

I'm always keen to know what you are up to with your fundraising and answer any questions you may have; you can contact me on [naomi.booth@stjeh.org](mailto:naomi.booth@stjeh.org).

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*Inside This  
Newsletter*

- Hospital Update
- Fundraising Corner
- Events Calendar
- Challenge Events
- Ways to Support Us
- Merchandise

## Hospital Update - Summary of 2022

We are so grateful for the committed fundraising and generosity St John Eye Hospital has received from all of our dedicated supporters. You make a huge difference to the work we can do and the number of patients we can reach.

In 2022, we were delighted to celebrate our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing charitable eye care in the Holy Land, which initially began in 1882 to treat a prevalent and blinding corneal eye disease. 140 years later - the Hospital now operates across five different sites, treating more than 140,000 patients and performing over 6,500 surgeries per year. Our celebrations began in June with the launch of our new book about the Hospital's history: 'A Beacon of Hope: 140 years of Eye Care in the Holy Land, 1882-2022', written by Matthew Glozier, Ian Howie-Willis and John Pearn. This fascinating read is now available for purchase in paperback from our website or through sending a cheque to the office (RRP £36).



Photo taken at our UNRWA training.

Our highlights of 2022 include: the re-opening of our School of Nursing; achieving JCI Gold Accreditation for our Jerusalem Hospital; and forming a training partnership with the UNRWA. Establishing a second outreach team; the opening of Kufor Aquab Clinic; launching a neonatal retinopathy of prematurity screening initiative as well as the increase in the number of surgical sessions in Gaza by 50%, are all major clinical achievements this year.

We are proud to say that, in 2022, the number of outpatients seen at St John Eye Hospital Group reached **142,876**, compared to 134,000 in 2021 – an increase of 8,876 patients. Furthermore, the Group achieved a new record as we performed **6,916** major eye surgeries, compared to our 2021 record of 6,500 major surgeries. We are incredibly proud of the hard work of all our staff and thankful to our generous donors who enabled us to treat so many patients.



## Hospital Update Cont.

In 2022, we established a second outreach service in the West Bank: outfitted with a new, fully equipped mobile outreach van. The primary focus of the team is to screen patients from refugee camps and isolated communities, and we expect our outreach teams to treat 20,000 patients every year.

In total, 8,047 patients were treated by the two outreach teams, between January and October 2022, in addition to almost 5,000 patients seen at the Kufor Aqab outreach clinic. Our outreach work in Gaza has remained uninterrupted and continues to focus on treating patients with disabilities, women, and the elderly. In total, 5,157 patients were treated by the outreach team in Gaza in 2022.



Pictured above, is one of our outreach vans.



Each year, it costs approximately £10.9 million to run our services, and we could not fund this without the commitment and generosity of our donors.

With the uncertainties related to the political situation, as well as the downward trend in the number of referrals from the Palestinian Authority, the Hospital will continue to face challenges in the years to come.

Looking to the new year, we hope to continue our high standard of care, making a difference to the lives of thousands of patients.

We are incredibly grateful that you support our work, sharing our goal of providing essential eye-care to all people in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem.

## In 2022, the Knights Templar funded our new children's ward...

Between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, we received a staggering £228,400 from the Knights Templar which funded our new children's ward – the lead centre for paediatric ophthalmology in Jerusalem.

Thanks to the generous funding from the Knights Templar, we opened the doors of our new children's ward in 2022. We had the honor to receive the Grand Master, Paul Clement, and his wife, Molly as well as Ryan Williams and Linda Read, the Knights Templar's finance manager, during this special occasion.



Back in November, St John Staff celebrated successful cataract surgeries for three siblings from a small village called Hajjah near Qalqilya, in the West Bank. Jouri, Jawan and Rakan all received successful cataract surgery in both of their eyes. Our surgeon, Dr. Mohammad Daraghme, and many of the nursing and admin staff participated in this celebration with the three children and their mother in our new children's ward.

## Fundraising Corner

### Gift of Sight Fair 2022

Thank you to everyone who supported the Gift of Sight fair 2022 at Chelsea Old Town Hall. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Guild Fundraising Committee who worked so hard, volunteering their time and efforts, to organize such a fantastic event.



### Recipes Required!

Lyn Hunter, Hospitalier for Cheshire County Priory Group, is compiling a recipe book to sell in aid of St John Eye Hospital and is on the lookout for contributions. If you would like to be involved and contribute a recipe, please contact Lyn on [Lyn.Hunter@sja.org.uk](mailto:Lyn.Hunter@sja.org.uk).



## Events Calendar

### 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023: 'A Talk by General The Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL'

The Guild of St John would like to invite you to a talk by General The Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC, who sits in the Upper House as Government spokesman on Military Affairs.

St Wilfrid's Hall, The Brompton Oratory, London, SW7 2RP.

6:30pm – 9:00pm  
Tickets £35 inc. wine & canapes

Book online today here: <https://biletto.co.uk/e/talk-by-the-lord-dannatt-tickets-77742>

(Alternatively, you can send a cheque to the office noting that you'd like to book a ticket)



### 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023: Bishop's Waltham Garden Fair

Come and join the Bishop's Waltham Garden Fair for their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! The mature trees and flowering shrubs provide the perfect backdrop for this lovely family fair; featuring fashion, jewellery, and homeware stalls, as well as refreshments, gardening stalls and a Birds of Prey display from Falcon High. Over the past 20 years, the Bishop's Waltham Garden Fair has raised well over £220,000 to sponsor Houda Said, an orthoptic assistant. This event is organized by St John Hampshire.

Wintershill Hall, Durley SO32 2AL

Doors 10-4pm

Admission £5, Pre book on line £4.50

children under 14 free

Free parking

[www.bishops-waltham-garden-fair.org](http://www.bishops-waltham-garden-fair.org)



## 2023 Challenge Events

Want to do a sponsored physical event to fundraise for us? Maybe you'd like to raise £250 to correct a child's squint but don't know how? How about joining one of our challenge events?

This year, we are putting on four challenge events for you to choose from! These events are sponsored runs and take place throughout 2023. If you would like to get involved, you can sign up via our website here: <https://www.stjohnseyehospital.org/fundraise-for-us/>

Any questions, please contact: [info@stjohnseyehospital.org](mailto:info@stjohnseyehospital.org)

### April/June - Battersea Park 5Km/ 10Km

Entry fee: £15

Suggested Sponsorship: £100

Battersea Park is one of London's most picturesque parks and has been a favourite course for those wanting to run a PB as the course is totally flat. Starting and finishing at the Park's Bandstand, this course laps the park – making it easy to follow and great for any spectators to watch.

[Fundraise for Us - St John Eye Hospital](#)

#### How we'll support you:

- Training Plan
- Support emails and lots of running tips
- Dedicated member of staff to help with any queries
- St John Eye Hospital Running Vest
- Souvenir Certificate



### 21<sup>st</sup> May – Hackney Half Marathon

Entry fee: £35

Suggested Sponsorship: £300

Get immersed in London's East end with vibrant street art and an amazing atmosphere as you run Hackney Half Marathon. This course is reasonably flat and would be great for any first-timers or seasoned pros after a personal best!

[Run For Charity - Event Registration Page](#)



## 2023 Challenge Events



### 9<sup>th</sup> July – ASICS London 10K

Entry fee: £25

Suggested Sponsorship: £250

Join thousands of runners taking part in this atmospheric 10K fun run! You'll run past some of central London's top landmarks including, St James' Palace, Westminster Bridge and Big Ben to the sound of live bands, DJs and cheers.

This flat route is perfect for beginners as well as regular runners aiming for a PB! Whatever your ability, sign up to raise £250 which can pay for life-changing a cataract treatment for one person.

[Run For Charity - Event Registration Page](#)



### 8<sup>th</sup> October – Royal Parks Half Marathon

Entry fee: £35

Suggested Sponsorship: £300

Why not join us for one of the most scenic half marathons in London? The legendary Royal Parks Half Marathon takes participants on closed roads around four of the capital's Royal Parks – Hyde Park, Green Park, St James' Park and Kensington Gardens.

Sign up now to help us raise vital funds for our amazing charity!

[Run For Charity - Event Registration Page](#)



### Ways to support us...

If you would like to make a one-off donation or set up a direct debit, you can do so by visiting our website at: [www.stjohnseyehospital.org](http://www.stjohnseyehospital.org).

To stay in touch and keep up to date, you can subscribe to our Jerusalem Scene newsletter via our website or by calling the office on 0207 553 6963 or emailing [Info@stjohnseyehospital.org](mailto:Info@stjohnseyehospital.org).

If you would like to fundraise for us, please get in touch! We have many fundraising resources available to download from our website, including how-to guides, posters, and leaflets.

### Merchandise

We have a variety of merchandise available to buy through our website here:

[St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group Shop \(stjohnseyehospital.org\)](http://StJohnofJerusalemEyeHospitalGroupShop(stjohnseyehospital.org))

You can also send a cheque with a note of the items you'd like to purchase to our office address.



St John Eye Hospital  
Silk Tie  
£25



'A Beacon of Hope: 140  
years of eye care in the Holy  
Land: 1882-2022' Paperback  
£36



SJEHG Pen  
£5



Swift Tree Cards (pack  
of 5, blank inside)  
£5



Cream Tote Bag  
£3.50



'Treasures' by Tom Foakes  
£50



February 2023 | Issue #4 | St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group



## Essex Divisional Sepulchre Guard



On Saturday, 28 February 2023, the Essex Divisional Sepulchre Guard played their part in the Ceremony of the Appendant Orders at Saxon Hall, Southend on Sea Essex for 6 individual Candidates.

The Ceremony was carried out within the Divisional Enthroned Sovereigns' Conclave No. 511. The Divisional Sepulchre Guard participants are here pictured with their Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. John Railton Simons.

The Ceremony was a tremendous success and the Festive Board was a time of true Knightly Companionship both which will long remain in the minds of the many Knights and Candidates who attended.

*R.III.Kt. John Railton Simons, Intendant-General*

## All change at the Royal And Select Masters in Northumberland



Thursday night saw Wudcestre Council, which meets at Ashington Masonic Hall, play host to the Officers of the District Grand Council of Northumberland for a very historical meeting.

The assembled masses were treated to the Installation of, not only, a new Deputy District Grand Master, but also a new District Grand Principal Conductor of Works and District Grand Treasurer.

Presided over by the District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. John Harvey, and under the watchful eye of the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, Ill.Comp. Andrew Jennings, who just so happens to be a Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Order, V.III.Comp. John Tomlin was Installed as Deputy District Grand Master, and Ill.Comp. John Bruce was Installed as District Grand Principal Conductor of Works, with his place, as District Grand Treasurer, being filled by Ill.Comp. Sid Moor.

The evening was made all the more special with the presence of R.III.Comp. Norman Milburn, IX, Past District Grand Master for Cumberland & Westmorland; R.III.Comp. Michael Graham, District Grand Master for Durham; R.III.Comp. Neil Woodward, District Grand Master for North & East Yorkshire; V.III.Comp. Peter Magnay, Past Provincial Grand Master in the Craft and Mark and Past Grand Superintendent in the Royal Arch Chapter for Northumberland; Ill.Comp. Gordon Craigs, Past Provincial Grand Master in the Mark and Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft for Northumberland; V.III.Comp. Colin Hume, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler in the Order of the Secret Monitor for the Northumberland; Ill.Comp. David Roach, Intendant-General in the Red Cross of Constantine for North & East Yorkshire; Ill.Comp. John Warham, Provincial Grand Master in the Royal Order of Scotland for Northumbria; with Andrew Jennings also being kept in check by another Grand Director of Ceremonies in the guise of Ill.Comp. David Armstrong, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Mark, who also happens to be the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Craft for Northumberland.

Congratulations to John Tomlin and John Bruce on their, well-deserved preferments, and we wish the three Johns all the best for the future in their governing of the Order in Northumberland.

*With thanks to Comp. Nick Deakin, Dist.G.Rec.*

## Craft Provincial Grand Master joins Royal & Select Masters



On Wednesday, 25 January, the Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent

Grand Superintendent of the Province of Bedfordshire, Right Worshipful Brother Anthony P Henderson, joined the Royal & Select Masters Order at Dunstable.

The Charles Herbert Perram Council meets at Dunstable three times a year and is the only unit in the Order that meets in Bedfordshire.

On the evening there were 48 members of the Order in attendance to welcome the new Companion to the Order.

Companions had travelled from all over the District; which covers three Craft Masonic Provinces (Bedfordshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, and Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire).

To witness the ceremony, the District Grand Master, Deputy District Grand Master, and the District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work were present, escorted by the District Grand Director of Ceremonies. Also present was the Grand Standard Bearer, Ill.Comp. Jeff Chambers, and a Grand Manciple, Ill.Comp. Mark Constant.



There were six Heads of Orders attending along with four Past Heads, pictured above.

*(L to R Martin Wilson, Dist.G.M.; Graham Dearing, MEGS for Bucks; Julian Townsend, MEGS for Nottinghamshire; Barrie Hall, Past ProvGM for Northants & Hunts; Jim Field, Past GSupt, KTP for Essex; Nick Edwards, Inspector General Rose Croix for Beds & Herts; Paul Gower, PProvGM for Herts; Mike Jolley, P.Dist.G.M.; Mark Constant ProvGM for Northants & Hunts; and Tony Henderson, ProvGM/MEGS for Beds)*



There were also four members of the Craft/Royal Arch Executive from Bedfordshire in attendance

*(Above, L to R Bob Curson, DepGSupt; Martin Wilson, 2ndPrGPrin; Tony Henderson, ProvGM/MEGS; Clive Walsh, DepProvGM; and Tony Green, ProvGSec)*

Companion Tony Henderson undertook two of the four degrees in the evening,

Select Master and Royal Master. The perambulations in the Royal Master were undertaken by Ill.Comp. Nick Edwards, P.Dep.G.D.C., and the history in both degrees was shared amongst seven different companions.

After the formalities were over the Companions adjourned to the bar and being as it was Burns night, started the meal in traditional form with haggis.

*R.Ill.Comp. Martin Wilson, Dist.G.M.*



## A busy day for the Companion Orders in Surrey



Runnymede A.M.D. Council and Chertsey Abbey R.S.M. Council meet on the same day at Surbiton. This has proved to be a successful combination where candidates can join two Orders on the same day. The February meetings were going to be very busy with the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr followed by the Degree of Knights of Constantinople in Runnymede Council No 191

Followed by the Degree of Select Master and the Degree of Royal Master in Chertsey Abbey Council No. 254.



Present at both meetings were R.W.Bro. John French, District Grand Prefect for the District of Surrey in the Allied Masonic Degrees, and R.III.Comp. David Blackburn, District Grand Master for the Royal and Select Masters District of Surrey.



Runnymede A.M.D. Council was opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Emmanuel Ogunseye-Babajide, who welcomed all the visitors, especially the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French, who was saluted with seven under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies.



The next item on the agenda was to introduce, receive and admit to the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr Brothers Andy Croci and Edward Henson. This was conducted by the Worshipful Master assisted by his Officers. After the ceremony Brothers Andy and Edward were congratulated by the District Grand Prefect and welcomed into the Order and the District of Surrey.



R.W.Bro. John gave them information on the Order, as well as the special Surrey A.M.D. napkins to be worn at Surrey Mark festive boards to promote the Order.

The Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr was adjourned, and a Council of Knights of Constantinople was opened. The Worshipful Master invited W.Bro. Leslie Grout to conduct the ceremony. Brothers Graham Ellis, Andy Fox, Andy Croci, and Edward Henson were admitted to the Degree of Knights of Constantinople in an excellent manner by W.Bro. Leslie. Afterwards the four Brethren were congratulated by the District Grand Prefect who explained the other three Degrees that they will be taking at later meetings.



To end a very successful A.M.D. meeting the District Grand Prefect was invited to present a Grand Council Certificate to Brother Bernie Greenwood, which he did in his own special style.



The Council was closed and, after photographs, the Temple was rearranged for the meeting of Chertsey Abbey R.S.M. Council. The Council was opened by the Thrice Illustrious Master, Ill.Comp. Martin Dunham, who welcomed all the visitors, especially the District Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. David Blackburn, who was saluted with seven under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies.

The first main item on the agenda was to Choose as Select Masters, Brothers Andy Croci and Edward Henson. This was conducted by the Thrice Illustrious Master assisted by his Officers. After the ceremony,

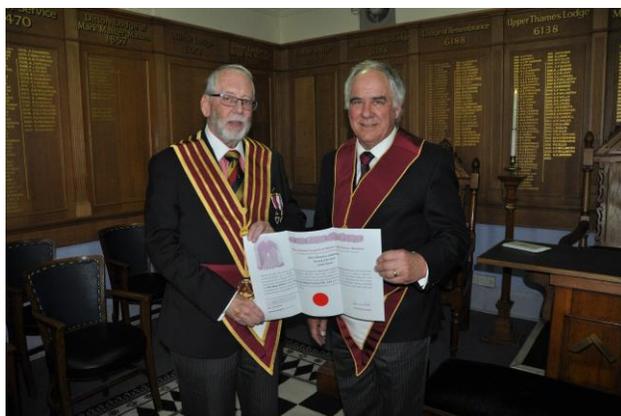
Brothers Andy and Edward were congratulated by the District Grand Master and welcomed into the Order, and the District of Surrey.



The Council of Select Masters was adjourned and the Thrice Illustrious Master invited V.III.Comp. Michael Flint to conduct the ceremony of Royal Master. A Council of Royal Masters was opened, and Companions Graham Ellis and Andy Fox were individually admitted, and the Ceremony conducted up to the point after perambulation. They were both then readmitted, and the ceremony continued. Having had plenty of practice at the Pride of Surrey Council meeting last month, two Right Illustrious Companions assisted as the Principal Conductor of the Work during the ceremonies. R.III.Comp. Mik Barnes took one Candidate round and R.III.Comp. David Blackburn took the other one round. This was a special treat for the Candidates, and all those watching. Afterwards the District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. David Blackburn, and R.III.Comp. Mik Barnes congratulated the two candidates.



To end a very successful afternoon the District Grand Master was invited to present a Grand Council Certificate to Companion Bernie Greenwood, congratulating him.



The Council was then closed, and the Companions of Runnymede and Chertsey Abbey Councils and their guests retired for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial festive board.

*Article and photos by Chris Eley*

## A special afternoon for Hill of Zion



Wednesday, 25 January 2023 was a rather special day for Hill of Zion Conclave and Consistory as two of the Brethren were due to take their Princes Degree in the Conclave and then immediately afterwards take their 1st Grade in the Consistory.

The afternoon started with a meeting of the Conclave, which was opened by the Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Donald McGarr. He welcomed the many guests and visitors, especially the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Surrey, R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Ian Bloodworth. Also present was the Provincial Grand Summus for Surrey in the Order of the Scarlet Cord, R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long; the Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson; and the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus, Dist.Comp. Simon McCarthy, who is also the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the O.S.M.

An In Memoriam to R.Wy.Bro. Laurie Young, Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, was given by Chris Eley, an old friend. After the regular business of the Conclave was completed, the main item on the agenda was to Receive and Admit as Princes of the Order, Brothers Lawson Ekpo, Adebayo Ajilogba, and George Etuk. The Ceremony was conducted by Wy.Bro. Robert Anderson, and R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling gave the explanation of the challenge.

Brothers Lawson, Adebayo, and George were congratulated by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.



The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler was then invited to present a Supreme Ruler Certificate to the Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Donald McGarr, which he did in his usual informative way.



Pursuant to notice of motion the members of the Conclave voted to make Ian Currans, Trevor Currans, and Mark Currans Honorary Members of the Hill of Zion Conclave in recognition of all they had done for the Conclave.

The Conclave was then closed and after the customary group photograph...



...the Temple was rearranged for the Scarlet Cord Consistory meeting.

The Hill of Zion Consistory was opened by the President, Dist.Comp. James Smith. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Dist.Comp. Ian Bloodworth, was admitted and informed Companion President that the Provincial Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, was without and demanded admission. The Provincial Grand Summus, accompanied by several Provincial Officers of the year, entered under an Arch of Steel, was welcomed by the President, and accepted the Chair.

He said how good it was to be making his first Official Visit to Hill of Zion Consistory and introduced the Provincial team. He then had much pleasure in presenting several 3rd Grade Certificates and a Preparation Certificates to several Companions.



After taking the minutes, the Provincial Grand Summus returned the Chair to Companion President as he and his team had some work to do.

A ballot was taken for Brothers Lawson Ekpo and George Etuk as Candidates for Admission. This proved in their favour and Brothers Lawson and George were conferred with the 1st Grade of the Order by the Primus of Ostiarrii, Em.Comp. Donald McGarr. They were then congratulated by the Provincial Grand Summus.



As in the Conclave meeting, the members of the Consistory voted to make Ian Currans, Trevor Currans, and Mark Currans Honorary Members of the Hill of Zion Consistory in recognition of all they had done for the Consistory.

The Provincial Grand Summus thanked the members of the Tzaddikim who had escorted his on his Official Visit.



The Consistory was then closed and after photographs...



...we retired to the bar for refreshments before sitting down to a most convivial meal at the Croydon Masonic Hall.

Article and photos by Chris Eley

## 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.mypsatests.org.uk/events/>  
Find this event and click on Private then type the word Free when asked.



METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGE OF LONDON

### 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 GPCF, 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 TACKLE

**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	Rehearsal Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Finishes	Dining Starts	Annual Dinner
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMR, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - Limited Capacity	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	FMR, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Active & 1st	Tuesday, 18 June 2023	FMR, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	FMR, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Promotions	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMR, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	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	FMR, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2023	FMR, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	FMR, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - Malta	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	FMR, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2023	FMR, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

23/10/2023

[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



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](#)

## 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

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