

Freemasonry@86 News - 21 April 2023



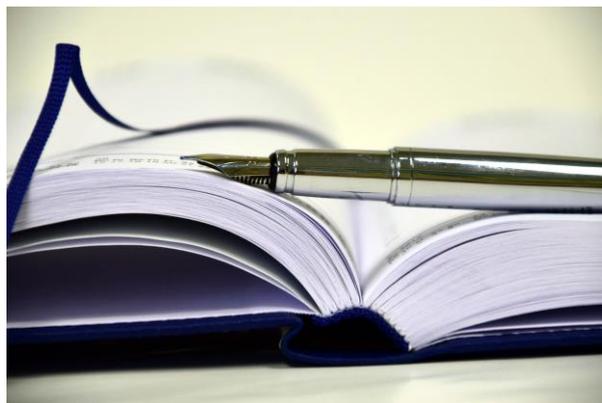
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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, 22 April - R.C.C. Installation of Ill.Kt. Simon McCarthy, P.G.Pref., as Intendant-General for Surrey

Wednesday, 26 April - Mark Tregenna Lodge No. 787 of M.M.M. Centenary, Province of Cornwall

Wednesday, 3 May - S.C. Conferral of 4th and 5th Grades, M.M.H.

Thursday, 4 May - S.C. Annual Convocation of Grand Senatus, M.M.H.

Thursday, 11 May - K.T. Installation of E.Kt. Roger Langdon Smith, P.Gt.St.B.(B.), as Provincial Prior for Essex

Saturday, 13 May - Mark Installation of W.Bro. Peter Furness, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall

Saturday, 13 May - O.S.M. Installation of Wy.Bro. Dennis Andrew Freshwater, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Warwickshire

Wednesday, 17 May - K.T. Annual Chapter of Great Priory, Freemasons' Hall

Saturday, 24 June - Mark Installation of W.Bro. John David Sowerby, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Master for Northampton, Huntingdon & Bedford

Saturday, 1 July - MBF Festival 2023 West Yorkshire - Harrogate

Saturday 1 July - R.C.C. Installation of V.Ill.Kt. Joseph Ebenezer Sudhakar, P.G.H.Alm., as Intendant-General for Cumbria

Tuesday, 5 September - S.C. Consecration of King Arthur Consistory No. 143, Province of Somerset and Dorset

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

Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters



On Tuesday, in a change to the regular calendar of meetings, brought about by the Sesquicentenary (150th Anniversary) celebrations of the forming of Grand Council, to be held on Tuesday, 3 October, a 'business only' meeting of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters was held at Mark Masons' Hall.

The attendees were mainly the Rulers of the Order, District Grand Masters, other Right Illustrious Companions, and active Grand Officers of the last year. With the addition of several other hardy Companions who had made the journey into London especially, there was a pleasant, relaxed, Cryptic cordiality to the meeting and after-proceedings.

The main item of business was the re-election of our Grand Master. This was proposed by R.III.Comp. His Hon. Ian D.G. Alexander, KC, Deputy Grand Master, in his usual eloquent manner as follows:

"The Annual Election of a Grand Master in Masonic Orders goes back to the original Craft Book of Constitutions of 1723 and probably before that. As you will all appreciate, the beginning of the 18th Century was known as the period of enlightenment, and really, the beginning of the democratic election of rulers/leaders in many areas of modern society. Freemasons were very active in this concept of Democratic Elections. The proposition I am about to make is the most important item in today's Agenda. Each and every one of you is entitled to say, 'Yay' or 'Nay', it is not just a mere formality.

Our current Grand Master has been regularly elected as such every year since 2016. He has been in active office in our Order since he was made an Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2002. I doubt there is any other member of our Order who has such an intimate and detailed knowledge of it and its membership. He has gone here, there, and everywhere on behalf of us all. His care of the Order, and us, its members, has been unparalleled.

Those of you who read his Christmas message this year will have observed his realism and understanding of the real world we live in. Yet despite its many troubles, his message was that we need to work together to try to bring about calmness and improvement. As he said, there is always a Companion ready to listen and support another when needed. He used a phrase which struck a chord with me, "A hand that reaches out is a hand to hold on to".

Companions a Grand Master with thoughts and ideas like those will always have my support, so I am proud to propose that Most Illustrious Companion Kessick John Jones be re-elected as our Grand Master for the ensuing year."

This proposal was seconded by R.III.Comp. Paul A. Norman, G.P.C.W., and met with acclamation by the Companions present.

Following his Proclamation by the G.D.C., the Grand Master then announced that he was reappointing R.III.Comp. Alexander as Dep.G.M., and R.III.Comp. Norman as G.P.C.W. The reappointments were greeted with applause from the Companions and both were similarly proclaimed by the Dep.G.D.C.s

The Grand Master moved the business along in swift but dignified fashion before arriving at the point where he was able to address the meeting:

"Following what has been described and has now been executed as a 'business meeting', you would expect to receive from me now a business-like address.

Who was it that said, "Be brief, be sincere, be seated." (Franklin D. Roosevelt) - I will do my best.

Although this is not always as easy as it sounds; as Mark Twain once said, "I would have written a shorter letter, but I did not have the time!"

Business, more than any other occupation, is a continual dealing with the future, it is a continual calculation and an instructive exercise in foresight. And now we must have the foresight to look to the future, to a happy journey through the rest of the year culminating in our 150th Anniversary on 3 October.

We must of course safeguard what we have achieved, but look forward to doing more, to move further, to grow and develop. We have lost time due to the pandemic, but we must not lose momentum. There is no rush, a measured approach shall be the way. There is also no panic, as our losses due to Covid were nothing like that which was originally feared and now there are encouraging indications that positive growth is not far off. We knew that we would be back eventually, although some took longer than others. But due to the strength, resilience, dedication, and commitment, of our Companions, we are now really back where we belong, and we, that is Grand Council, have waited for this moment to welcome you back with open arms.

I congratulate all those whose promotions and appointments were gazetted in the eagerly awaited letters that were sent out last month, and I look forward to investing as many of you as possible with proper pomp and circumstance at Freemasons' Hall during our Birthday Party in October. Those preferments take effect from today and all recipients can now start wearing their new kit."



The Grand Master then welcomed the Heads of the Companion Orders and other distinguished guests, before continuing:

"Companions, I cannot let this meeting end without drawing attention once again to the great debt of gratitude we owe to those who organise and direct Cryptic Masonry on occasions such as this. And I offer my sincere gratitude to: -

To the outgoing Grand Council Officers, who although not being too overworked during the year have demonstrated total diligence and commitment.

To my District Grand Masters and Grand Inspectors for their unstinting industry and endeavour throughout last year and which I happily anticipate continuing with abundance into the next. It is also wonderful to see a goodly collection of Past District Grand Masters present continuing to support our Order to the full.

To the Grand Recorder and his staff for his, and their consistent and courteous commitment during the year, and for all the administrative arrangements made for today.

To the G.D.C. and his Team of Deputies, Assistants and Manciples for their heavy share of the labours and for an impeccable display of ceremonial that is the envy of many.

To my Executive, for all they have done and will continue doing, for their ever-ready supply of unsolicited and unbiased counsel and advice, even when completely unnecessary and not asked for!

I especially wish to mention the members of the Celebrations Committee, for their previous hard work, and for what they are planning for our Sesquicentenary event, at which I hope as many members of our Order as possible will attend and join with us in those celebrations.

In conclusion, I say to you all whether you are here in person today or will read this address later, we must all work together at all appropriate levels of service for the development, and growth of our Order. I will resist the temptation of banging the recruitment drum too much. You know the format, look after your Craft, Royal Arch and Mark Units and they will provide the next generation of our members.

Our late and much revered, Queen Elizabeth II once said, "I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm, and their inspiration to work together".

So, Companions shall we do just that!

Finally, Companions,

Be of one mind, live in Peace, and may the Supreme Master of the Universe, delight to dwell amongst you and Bless you for evermore."

There being no further business, Grand Council was closed and the Companions retired to refreshment.



The emphasis was clear, this year our focus is on the Sesquicentenary celebration on 3 October. A special agenda is being drawn up and will include:

- the formal investiture of this year's active Grand Officers
- a brief history of the Order and Grand Council
- a specially written lecture relating to the Ark of the Covenant
- some other, very special, one off occurrences which will be announced in due course.

The meeting on Tuesday, 3 October will commence at 12.30, and be followed by a celebratory drinks reception and dinner, concluding at 5 p.m.

You can view a full gallery of photographs from this week's meeting [Here](#)

Photographs courtesy of Ill.Comp. Chris Eley, P.G.Swd.B.

At this meeting, various changes to the Constitutions and Regulations were approved, some of these are reflected in the Toast List., a new 'Word' version of which can be found on KoL, or download a PDF version [here](#).



MBF Quarter 1 Review



Mark Benevolent Fund

Q1 Review January - March 2023

We are again pleased to share with you the latest Mark Benevolent Fund quarterly review, which highlights the donations made to the worthy causes being supported.

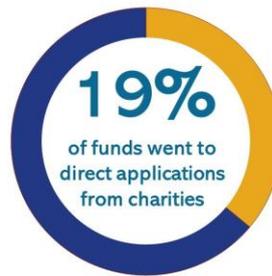
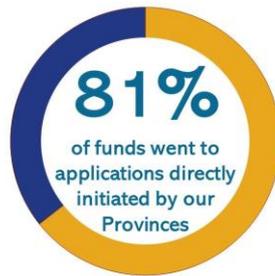
Without your generosity it wouldn't be possible to keep this work going. Thank you for all you do to support the MBF.

You can download a copy of the review [Here](#)

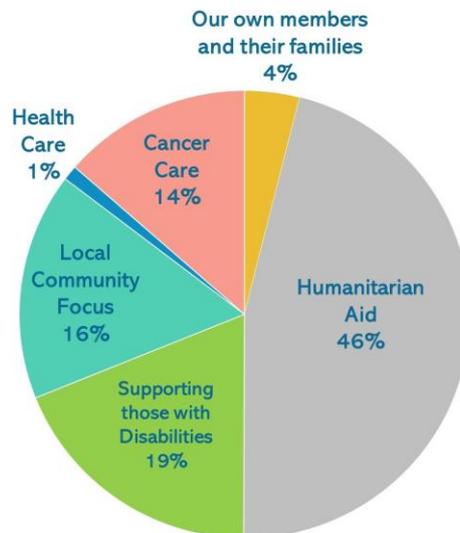


Fund Activity Summary

£51,136 - Supporting those with Disabilities
 £2,920 - Healthcare Services
 £44,573 - Local Community
 £10,720 - Individuals
 £125,000 - Humanitarian Aid
 £36,807 - Cancer Care




At a Glance...





£271,156



In the first quarter of 2023 the Mark Benevolent Fund made 13 Grants to our own members, local charities and other worthy causes across England, Wales, Türkiye and our District in Romania.



£42,702

Food waste globally is a huge problem in the UK. Almost 13 million tonnes is estimated to be sent to landfill annually and of that 40% is domestic waste. It is likely that 400,000 tonnes could be diverted and consumed.

At Mid Surrey Community Fridges they are saving 6½ tonnes of supermarket and large producers' food from landfill every week. That means around 1,600 people will benefit from the food network every week. This organisation's main transport van was over eight years old and had passed its point of economic repair. The Mark Benevolent Fund stepped up to make sure they are able to continue their vital work.



£1,871

Sweetpea Smallholdings are a community interest company based in Exeter with a focus on bringing volunteers together from different communities and backgrounds to complete projects that benefits their wider community. The funding has been used to purchase disabled friendly tools and equipment.



£2,920

The President of the MBF, R.W.Bro. John Bell and his wife Mary joined W.Bro. Nigel Wilkinson - Provincial Grand Charity Steward and W.Bro. Malcolm Lloyd – Provincial Grand Almoner from the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, in a visit to 'The Bluebells', a respite centre in North Waltham, Hampshire run by Sebastian's Action Trust based in Berkshire.

Laura Weaving, House Manager and Ruth Paley, Trust and Foundations Manager welcomed them to the centre which provides emotional and practical support to very sick children and their families. In addition, they provide free respite breaks at this fully accessible respite home to families across the UK. The home has been providing breaks since 2011 and they were awarded with a grant of £2,920 to replace beds and bedding at the centre.



£2,387

The Ménière's Society is the only registered charity in the UK dedicated solely to supporting people affected by inner ear (vestibular) disorders. The charity needed support to purchase three new laptops for the office team as the existing laptops had reached the end of their lifespan. The vast majority of work is computer based and the office team use their laptops for both administrative purposes and also to answer important helpline calls.



£12,950

The Chailey Heritage Enterprise Centre (CHEC) supports severely disabled adults with a way of taking part in work. The printing enterprise provides adults with a way of playing an active part within the community, developing skills and combating isolation. They provide a service to those adults who are unable to access traditional employment, but who still wish to take part in work at a level and pace suitable to each individual. The funds for new printing equipment will allow them to continue their work and give more people the opportunity to use it. The MBF has joined forces with the Sussex Mark Benevolent Fund who donated £4,000 to the total project cost of £16,950. A wonderful contribution.



£35,799

Newcastle Wheelchair Rugby Club was set up in 2019 and is currently in the Championship of the Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby 5s national competition competing at the North East Barbarians. They finished fourth in the league in 2022 and in 2023 are striving to be promoted into the premiership.

The club offers wheelchair sport to people who are unable to play the running game and it is invaluable to the players physical and mental health. The aim of the charity is to get a junior wheelchair team off the ground and fund will buy eight junior specialist rugby wheelchairs to offer the facilities to the under 16's.



£75,000

The Mark Benevolent Fund continues to support Ukrainian refugees through our District in Romania. It is thanks to the enduring generosity of Mark Master Masons and their families that we are able to continue making these donations.



£50,000

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. Following the announcement Brethren had donated a further £80,000 to the Mark Emergency Relief Fund for the use of ShelterBox.



£36,807

The charity's van is the lifeline and needed to transport volunteers and equipment to all important fund raising events. Sadly, it is also at the end of its life. The battery has to be disconnected and the rattles and squeaks concern all who drive it. The funds have allowed the Children with Cancer Fund to purchase a new reliable all purpose vehicle. The garage has even offered to do all of the servicing and MOTs for free. What a wonderful gesture.



4

Grants totalling
£10,720 were
made to
Individuals

**Who
did we
help?**

- A grant was made to a Brother and his family who were left in rather distressing circumstances after their home was destroyed by fire. Made homeless by the event, the family were put up in temporary accommodation with just the clothes they stood up in. In addition to this, their grief was compounded as they had also lost beloved family pets. The emergency grant was made swiftly MBF along with donations from his Lodges and friends.
- Cost of living increases have led to one Brother struggling to make ends meet through no fault of his own. He leads a very frugal lifestyle while trying to cut back where he can. After his rent was increased he was left struggling to find non-existent funds to cover the shortfall. Finally he admitted to himself that he needed some help and the MBF was able to assist.






BOOKINGS CLOSE 30 APRIL

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



BOOK HERE





Q1 Review

January – March 2023

Issued by
Mark Benevolent Fund
Registered Charity No. 207610
The Charities Office
Mark Masons' Hall
86 St James's Street
LONDON
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And, don't forget...

THE LAST DAY TO BOOK FOR THE WEST YORKSHIRE FINALE IS THE 30TH APRIL
book now to avoid disappointment



www.mbf2023westyorks.org



Mark Benevolent Fund
The West Yorkshire Festival 2023

A visit to Pompey



The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Hampshire and Isle of Wight took place on Saturday, 15 April at The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

We received a very warm welcome on our arrival from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight team, led by R.W.Bro. George Deacon, the Provincial Grand Master.



There were representatives from several Mark Provinces...





...as well as other Orders in Hampshire and Isle of Wight.



We were all invited to a reception...



...while the Provincial Director of Ceremonies and his team were rehearsing the processions...



...before being called in for luncheon.



Where the Hampshire and Isle of Wight members and their guests enjoyed a most convivial lunch together.



We then made our way upstairs to get changed for the meeting.



By 2.15 pm everyone was seated in the Temple. The Brethren were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Worshipful Brethren and past members of the Provincial Executive.



Brethren were then called to order to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Provincial Grand Master, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearer.



Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master who then received a deputation of the holders of Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank, and also Worshipful Masters and Commanders of the Province.



The Provincial Grand Master individually welcomed the many representatives of other Provinces and Masonic Orders, thanking them for their support for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Mark Province.

After the business of Provincial Grand Lodge had been concluded, W.Bro. Anthony James Green was re-appointed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and W.Bro. Ian James Small was re-appointed as Assistant Provincial Grand Master. A total of 84 appointments and promotions in Provincial Grand Rank were announced.

The Provincial Grand Master addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. He said how pleased he was to be with everyone this year as, sadly, he was not able to attend last year's meeting. He thanked V.W.Bro. Brian Ridler, P.G.M.O., for standing in at the last minute and doing an excellent job.

The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form. The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.





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

You can view a full gallery of photographs [here](#)

V.W.Bro. James T. Hardman celebrates 50 years as a Mark Mason.



On Wednesday, 12 April, V.W.Bro. James (Jim) Hardman celebrated his 50th anniversary of being advanced into Mark Masonry at Deeside Mark Lodge No. 795, in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire, R.W.Bro. Gary Horstman; accompanied by most of the Provincial team, and a strong delegation of Grand officers, including the Past Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Benjamin

Addy, and Past Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Brian Ogden, together with a large number of well-wishers, pictured here with the other members of Deeside Mark Lodge.



Indeed, with over 70 Mark Masons booked in to attend, the Lodge had to meet at Manor road Wallasey, as their usual meeting place (the Grange in Hoylake) was unable to accommodate the numbers attending!



During the meeting, those present were treated to a resume of V.W.Bro. Jim's illustrious career, which was very well received, in which he had in that time introduced some 73 members to the Mark degree, giving him the unofficial title of the "Provincial Recruitment Sergeant", and the celebrations went on well into the night, as is only fitting for such a respected member of our Order.

With thanks to W.Bro. Peter Langley, Prov.G.J.D., Cheshire



A room with a view



On Monday this week, W.Bro. Gary Allen, Dep.G.D.C., was pleased to visit Royal Clarence Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1967, in his capacity as Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of East Anglia.

Here he witnessed a double advancement ceremony as Brothers Alan Dorkins and John Drage became Mark Master Masons. Long-time friends Alan and John quite literally took their first steps in Freemasonry together, as they were Initiated, Passed and Raised, all as double ceremonies (in their Craft Lodge, Audley, No. 7281, which meets at Saffron Walden, Essex). They also plan to be exalted into the Royal Arch in a double ceremony later this autumn.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the ceremony was undertaken by a scratch team of officers and Brethren covering offices for the first time for an Advancement. They were expertly led by V.W.Bro. Allan Lean, P.G.J.O., acting as Worshipful Master, and visitor V.W.Bro. Trevor Clarke, P.G.J.O., entrusted the Candidates with the secrets of the Degree and the conclusion of the ceremony.

Royal Clarence Lodge meets at Clare Masonic Hall in Suffolk. The small, unassuming, red-brick building holds a secret of its own. The Temple boasts a wonderful plaster ceiling which was carefully preserved when removed from its former home in the old Cambridge Masonic Hall, affording attendees a superb view during the ceremony.

Pictured top are (l to r) Allan Lean, Alan Dorkins, John Drage and Gary Allen.





A Lucky 13 at Cloughton Mark



On Monday, 17 April, the Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire, R.W.Bro. Gary Horstman, accompanied by a number of Provincial Officers attended Cloughton Mark Lodge No. 703 to witness another double advancement, that of brothers Phil McKeown, and David Burgess-Joyce, into the Mark degree.



What was particularly impressive was the number of Brother Mark Masons present, including 13 from Claughton Mark alone, supported by a further 4 visiting Mark Masons, taking all the major offices in what was an excellent double ceremony.



The evening was rounded off with a great festive board , where a bottle of Cheshire MBF gin was raffled for the 2024 Festival, raising £130.00 for that worthy cause.

With thanks to W.Bro. Peter Langley, Prov.G.J.D., Cheshire



Plus, a double elevation in Northumberland



Fern Avenue Masonic Hall recently played host to an historic occasion when Tristram Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 346 Elevated father and son, John and Richard Freeman into their ranks.

The Lodge's Excellent Commander, David Bibby, undertook all of the Commander's work, with the evening topped off with a very pleasant festive board.

Richard has been a member of Tristram Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 346 since 2021. He was initiated into Freemasonry when he joined Novocastrian Lodge No. 3361, which meets at Fern Avenue Masonic Hall, in 2003; was the first joining member of Argent Lodge No. 9824, which meets at Cramlington Masonic Hall, in 2007; and was the first Master Mason to take the Chair in Argent Lodge in 2011.

He is also a member of the Duke of Connaught Lodge No. 3892, which meets at Wallsend Masonic Hall, and is a founding member of the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Northumberland No. 9981. In addition, he is a Past First Principal of Neptune Royal Arch Chapter No. 2908 and a Companion of Duke of Connaught Royal Arch Chapter No. 3892. He has also recently joined Royal Kent Council 'A', which meets at Throckley Masonic Hall, in the Royal and Select Master.

John, also a member of Tristram Mark, was Initiated into Duke of Connaught Lodge in 1982 and occupied the Master's Chair in 1988, and 2018 for the Lodge's Centenary year, welcoming a very special visit from the then Assistant Grand Master, Sir David Hugh Wootton.

John has also been Master in Wylam Lodge No. 6922, which meets at Wylam Masonic Hall; Argent Lodge No. 9824; and was the last Master of Agricola Lodge No. 6343. The highlight of John's Masonic career was Installing Richard as Master in 2011. He is also a Past First Principal of Neptune Royal Arch Chapter and Duke of Connaught Royal Arch Chapter.

Both John and Richard had a fantastic night which was made all the more special as they were Elevated into the Order together, highly recommending both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariners to any Brother.

With thanks to Bro. Nick Deakin, Provincial Grand Communications Officer, Northumberland Freemasons

Changes in Durham K.T



On Friday, 14 April the Provincial Prior along with a full deputation of Officers, made their last formal visit of the year to Mount Grace Priory No. 118 for its Malta Meeting at Raby Road, Hartlepool Masonic Hall.

Before the Priory business of the evening could commence a special meeting of the Provincial Priory of Durham was opened to Install a new Provincial Sub-Prior and Vice-Chancellor.

E.Kt. John Watts thanked the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Richard Scott, for the honour of being appointed Sub-Prior and for agreeing to allow him to stand down to focus on other Masonic duties.

The Provincial Mareschal, E.Kt. Andrew Foster, escorted the Sub-Prior nominate, E.Kt. Stephen Allen, in to the Preceptory under an Arch of Steel provided by six members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard, led by the Commander, E.Kt. Martin Rankin. The Provincial Prior then proceeded to

appoint and invest E.Kt. Stephen as Provincial Sub-Prior, with the assistance of the Provincial Team, and E.Kt. Paul Paterson deputising as Provincial Prelate.



1 - E.Kt. John Watts hands over the baton to E.Kt. Stephen Allen

R.E.Kt Richard then invested E.Kt. Kevin Gleghorn as Provincial Vice-Chancellor, and then closed Provincial Priory.

Mount Grace Priory was opened by their Eminent Prior, E.Kt. Mark Davies.

Then followed a ceremony of Kt. Ian Richardson being Installed as a new Knight of Malta, which was conducted ably by the Knights of the Priory.

After the Provincial Prior and the deputation exited in procession, the Priory was closed, and the members retired.

At the festive board, in the response to his toast, the Provincial Prior gave his thanks to E.Kt John Watts for his work and the same to the outgoing Provincial Officers. He then thanked two retiring members of his Bodyguard, Knights Robin Crosby and Michael Gilmore, the latter having served for nine years.



A sumptuous festive board was enjoyed by all, with new friendships made and old ones renewed.
With thanks to Kt. Robin Crosby, Provincial Communications Officer, Provincial Priory of Durham





TV A.M.D.



CBC News Barbados recently showed this heartwarming coverage from highlighting the good work being done by the A.M.D. District of South & East Caribbean. Well done to R.W.Bro. Richard Mayers and his team.

A visit to Zeist



On 4 February, the Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor, M.Wy.Bro. Andrew Christopher Sweeney, was delighted to be present at a meeting of Fidelitas Conclave No. 494 at Hotel Oud London, Zeist in the Netherlands. During the meeting R.Wy.Bro. Peter Gerard Kok was formally invested by the Grand Supreme Ruler as Past Grand Guide; R.Wy.Bro. Peter Kok, due to his health situation, having not been able to attend Grand Conclave in November.

M.Wy.Bro. Sweeney was most willing to visit this Conclave and invest Peter with this high distinction in person. The minutes of the meeting record the joyous character of the occasion. And the Recorder of the Conclave was keen to express the great and sincere thanks to the M.Wy.G.S.R., and the G.D.C., V.Wy.Bro. Ray Ellis, for their companionship, reflecting the feelings of the Brethren of Fidelitas Conclave.

With thanks to Wy.Bro. Marco van der Linden, O.G.R., Recorder Fidelitas Conclave, No. 494 (Unattached)

Wild Elements CIC, Bangor



One of the many delights of being Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler is being allowed to visit well-deserving charities to present some additional funds collected from our members over the year, and supplemented by the O.S.M. Benevolent Fund.

This year, one such charity is Wild Elements CIC, situated under Menai Bridge, next door to Bangor University Treborrh Botanical Gardens in Bangor.

Originally, I had misheard, and told everyone it was a naturists programme. Fortunately, on the day of presentation, it was raining, so everyone was well wrapped up.

On arrival, we were treated to coffee and a talk by Tom Cockbill and Tansy Swerdlow on the idea behind Wild Elements. The concept is to connect people, especially young children, with nature, and to encourage schoolchildren to get outside.

This can be performed at the Wild Elements site in Bangor, or on-site at any school. Since its inception in 2013, the project has grown to work with many schools throughout the Wales area, particularly encouraging and developing STEM education among the young.

Their current development is a nine-school chemistry project. During 2019 they delivered 69 STEM educational projects to 2535 children and young people.

Wild Elements attracts no formal funding, so needs to generate their own income through grants and other fund-raising activities. One particular revenue stream is via a shop.

Pictured, top: Martin Wynne Jones, Supreme Ruler, Carreg yr Wyddfya Conclave No 633; Tansy Swerdlow, Manager; Tom Cockbill, Director; Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, OSM C&NW.



During lockdown, Tom took advantage of quieter times and with the help of some volunteers built an outdoor classroom 'on a hill' (see above). The classroom is constructed entirely of wood, sits on a small hill, and the underneath serves as an external wood store, all recovered and reclaimed from various sources that would otherwise have gone to landfill.



2 - The Wild Woodwork Joinery Club

The classroom is developing as a woodworking workshop, and funding from the Order of the Secret Monitor will contribute to the purchase of new woodworking tools, so the woodworking club can expand their output and generate more funding.

One example, as shown on the right of the photograph above, is a rocking kangaroo, reclaimed from a skip and refurbished by members of the club, and will be on sale at a local event for £125.

Martin Wynne Jones, Manager of Bangor Masonic Hall, delighted with what he saw, will be in contact with the project in the future with a view to further development of the perimeter of the Bangor Hall.

Wild Elements CIC has developed into a valuable resource for all communities within North Wales and beyond, and is surely a project that is going places, with or without clothes, and the Order of the Secret Monitor, Cheshire and North Wales, is delighted to be part of that development.

With thanks to Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Cheshire & North Wales.

Visit www.wildelements.org.uk to find out more



3 - Tom Cockbill and Tony Stringer in the Classroom on the Hill.

East Lancashire O.S.M. make a generous donation to Charity



The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for East Lancashire, R.Wy.Bro. Christian A. Givvons, has this year chosen a charity which is close to his heart, 'SPOONS' Neonatal Family Support, which is a registered charity set up to offer support to families who have children on the neonatal intensive care unit at the Royal Oldham Hospital. It was founded back in 2015 by Kirsten Mitchell who had one of her own children on the unit. Its aim is to provide peer support to parents who have children on the neonatal unit and since it was founded it has continued to grow from strength to strength.

From the Provincial charity account, Christian pledged £500 and applied to the OSMBF for match funding and was delighted to hear back from them that the application had been accepted, and he was able to offer a cheque for £1000.

For more information on the excellent work carried out by SPOONS please follow the link <https://spoons.org.uk/meet-the-team/>

Pictured above during the presentation of the cheque are (l to R) Stephen Holcroft, Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler; Christian Givvons; Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler; Gareth Mitchell, husband of Kirsten and an active volunteer for the charity; and Paul Joynson, Provincial Grand Recorder.

With thanks to Wy.Bro. Paul Joynson, P.G.Sted., Prov.G.Rec.

The Scarlet Cord Province of Cheshire and North Wales



The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Cheshire and North Wales was held at Freemasons' Hall, Plough Lane, Christleton, Chester, on Saturday, 15 April.

Our Provincial Grand Summus, Chris Welton, was supported by Summi from around England and Wales.



And of his Provincial team.



Many congratulations to Dist.Comp. John Thomson, IV, (*below, left*) on his promotion to Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, which is richly deserved.

He and the Prov.G.S. are joined in the photograph by Dist.Comp. Robert Jordan, TD, III, Assistant Provincial Grand Summus. And also by members of the Provincial Tzaddikim.

Also, thanks and best wishes to V.Dist.Comp. Wally Edwards, our Immediate Past Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, for his valued contribution to the Scarlet Cord Province of Cheshire and North Wales.







4 - The Provincial Tzaddikim, led by Dist. Comp. Geoff. Glover Deputy Grand Episcopus





With thanks to Comp. Peter Langley

Join us on Social Media

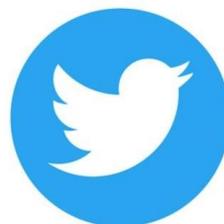
Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent a Masonic Club or Society linked to our Orders, please send us an invite to join or follow you.

We can be found at:

Facebook - [Mark Secretariat](#) - This is the contact account for the [Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page](#)

Twitter - [@MarkMasonsHall](#)

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk



Calendar of Annual Meetings

Grand Meetings Calendar 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 Starts	Meeting Ends
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMBI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - Central Europe	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM
SC	Grand Sematus	Thursday, 4 May 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:00 PM
KT	Great Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	FMBI, 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	FMBI, 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	FMBI, 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	FMBI, 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	FMBI, 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	FMBI, 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	FMBI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - vau	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	FMBI, 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	FMBI, 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

06/03/2023

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

Booking now for the West Yorkshire 2023 MBF Festival

155th MBF Festival Banquet
Harrogate Conference Centre
Kings Road
Harrogate
HG1 5LA
Saturday, 1 July 2023
BOOK HERE
CLOSING DATE
30 APRIL 2023

[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 **Turkiye**

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

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

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



Mark Emergency Relief Fund

At the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday, the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, announced that the Mark Benevolent Fund would be donating £25,000 to the Mark Inspectorate of Romania who have been working proactively in many ways to provide support and relief to their neighbours in Ukraine.

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

We have set up a Relief Chest with the M.C.F. under the name of the **Mark Emergency Relief Fund** and you can now make donations in a variety of ways.

We know that there is enormous support for this already. To make the administration of donations as smooth as possible, enabling funds to be transferred efficiently to where they are needed most, we ask that you note the following advice regarding donations:

For individual donations of less than £100 - please make arrangements with your Mark Lodge for these to be collected centrally and then for the Lodge to make one consolidated donation into the Fund. These consolidated donations will count toward the Lodge's M.B.F. honorifics, rather than each individuals.

Donations of £100 or more may be made by individuals directly into the fund and will count towards the Brother's M.B.F. Honorifics

In all correspondence please ensure you are donating to:

Mark Emergency Relief Fund

Relief Chest No.: **MMM185622**

The quickest and easiest way to donate is by scanning the QR code below or following this [Link](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](#)

Swift pins still available



For those who may not have been able to get their hands on one of the K.T. £20 for 2020 Appeal Swift Pins, there are still some available.

Provinces can order in bulk, or individuals can purchase single pins, by contacting Linda Read, Charities Finance Manager at M.M.H. at L.Read@mmh.org.uk

Pins are £20 each and funds raised will go to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

The 2023 Mark Charity Dinner Dance, Cha Di Da

Saturday. 28 October 2023 at the Reigate Manor Hotel, Reigate Hill, Surrey RH2 9PF.

Arrival is at 6:30 for 7:00 pm

Carriages at 12 midnight

Entertainment: Jason Allen (Michael Buble Tribute) followed by Jahson Nembhard (formerly of the Drifters)



Menu

Starter

- Wild mushroom soup (ve)
- Chicken liver pate, toasted brioche, chutney
- Prawn cocktail, Mary Rose sauce, lemon wedge and brown bread (v)

Main Course

- Coq au vin, crushed new potatoes, seasonal vegetables
- Roast sirloin of beef, roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables, red wine jus
- Baked salmon fillet, white wine cream sauce, new potatoes, fine green beans
- Mushroom risotto, rocket salad (ve) (v)

Dessert

- Seasonal fruit trifle
- Citrus cheesecake, berry compote Eton mess
- Cheese and biscuits
- Tea, coffee and chocolate mints to finish

Tickets for the event are £60 per person and include a three course meal. Bed & Breakfast at the Reigate Manor Hotel - double room £120.

[Click here](#) to download the pdf booking form.

Contact: W.Bro. Alan Brockwell: T: 01737 557997 | M: 07868 657276 | E: Brockers01@icloud.com

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](#)

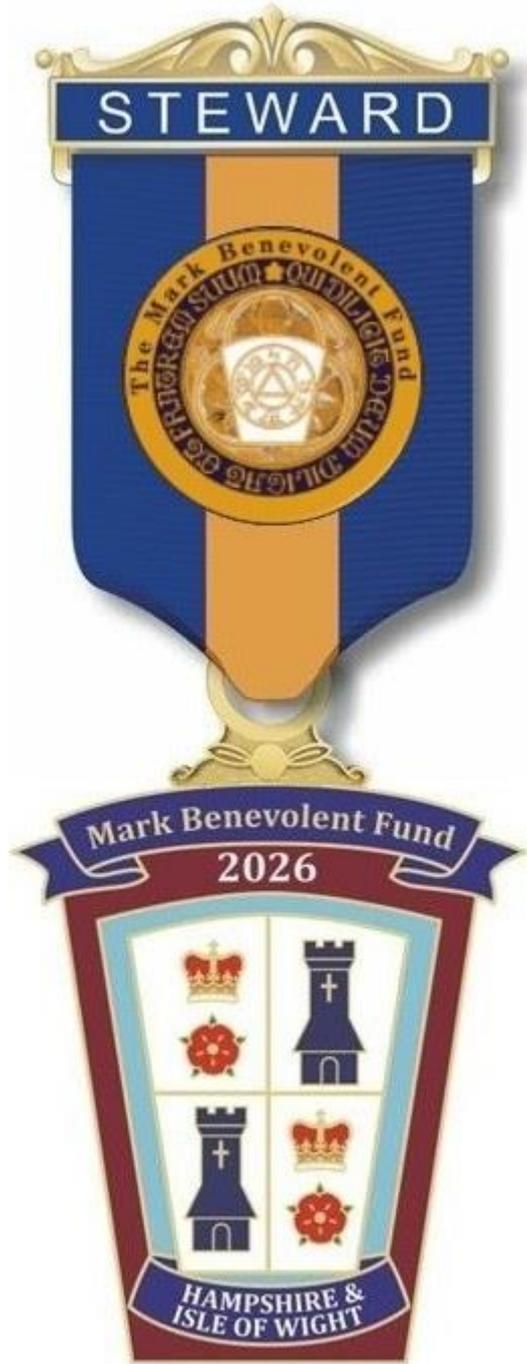
We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.

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





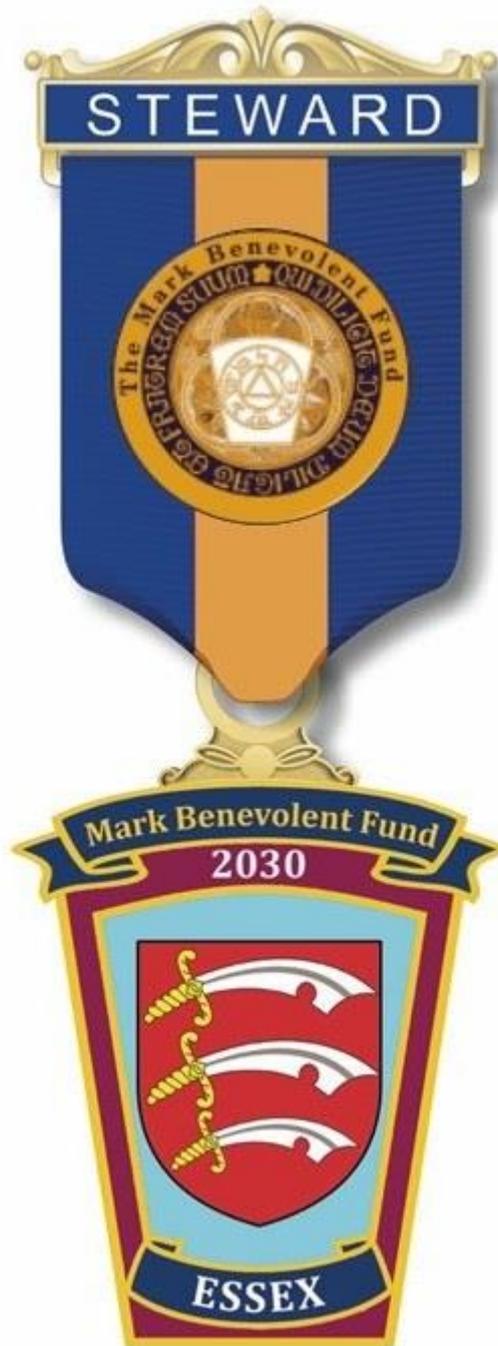












We reported recently that the new style MBF Festival Stewardship is aimed principally, but not exclusively, at members of each host Festival Province.

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)