

Freemasonry@86 News - 30 June 2023



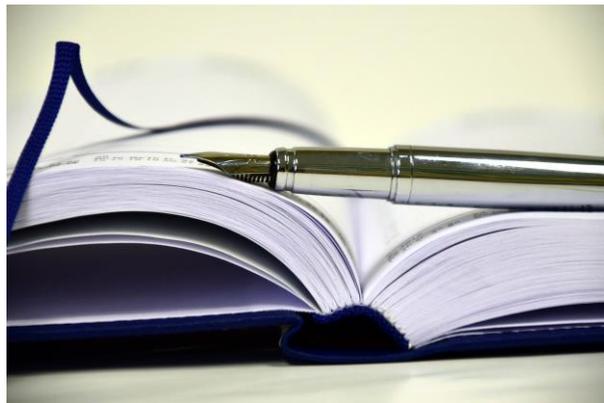
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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, 1 July - MBF Festival 2023 West Yorkshire - Harrogate

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

Tuesday, 4 July - R.C.C. Grand Imperial Conclave, Freemasons' Hall - [Click Here](#) for more info

Saturday, 8 July - R.S.M. Installation of Ill.Comp. Gary Michael Peard, P.G.Swd.B., as District Grand Master for Devon & Cornwall

Thursday, 13 July - S.C. Consecration of Vale of Pickering Consistory No. 144, Province of North and East Yorkshire

Monday, 24 July - O.S.M. Installation of Wy.Bro. Stuart Robert Offord, P.G.St.B., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Norfolk

Tuesday, 25 July - O.S.M. Amalgamation of the Provinces of Durham and Northumberland into the North-East Province, and Installation of Wy.Bro. John David Watts, P.G.Swd.B., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler

Friday, 28 July - S.C. Consecration of Charlemagne Consistory No. 145, Province of Essex

Wednesday, 30 August - S.C. Consecration of Wiivnhou Consistory No. 146, Province of Essex

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

Tuesday, 12 September - Mark Communication of Mark Grand Lodge and Investiture of recipients of promotions in Grand Rank, Freemasons' Hall, London

Thursday, 14 September - K.B.H.C. Annual meeting of Grand Priory, M.M.H., London

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

The Grand Master's Lodge of Instruction Festival - Eastleigh Football Club, Hampshire and Isle of Wight

The football fans have never seen a carpet like this before. The team were busy converting the function room into a Temple to allow the GMLofl to conduct the Ceremonies of Elevation and Advancement for two very special candidates, on behalf of Mercury Mark and R.A.M. Lodges.





Many brethren attended the meeting from near and far. All looking forward to a great day out.





R.W.Bro. George J Deacon, Festival President welcomes one of the Candidates for the day, Dave Perkis, who is our Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Craft.



The Festival President received great support from Past and Future Presidents of the Festival and from our Deputy Grand Master who until very recently was the Chairman of the GMLofI.



We were treated to an absolutely fantastic Ceremony of Elevation. The Candidate for the meeting being R.W.Bro. John Edgcumbe, seen here with the whole team.



On to the Mark ceremony, which again was of the very highest standard. The members of the GMLofI delivered a perfect ceremony which was enjoyed by all present.



This year's Active Grand Officers were afforded the great privilege to escort the Deputy Grand Master.



The team can be very proud of their achievements and if anyone gets the chance to see them perform it is highly recommended.





At the end of the meeting, congratulations for hosting a great day went to our Provincial Grand Master and Festival President. The Brethren retired for a sumptuous three course meal and classic Mark and R.A.M. Festive board.

With thanks to W.Bro. Simon Lancaster, G.S.D., and V.W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, P.G.S.O.

You can view a full photo gallery by [Clicking Here](#)

A new Prov.G.M. for N, H & B



On a very warm Saturday, the 24th June 2023, exactly six years to the day and date after the Installation of Right Worshipful Brother Bob Stokes, as Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Northampton & Huntingdon (now succeeded by Northampton, Huntingdon & Bedford), another Provincial Installation meeting was opened in form by the Presiding Officer R.W.Bro. George Bonham, P.Prov.G.M., who then handed the Chair and the meeting over to the Grand Lodge Team, to Install the Province's second Provincial Grand Master for the newest Mark Province in England and Wales, Worshipful Brother J. David Sowerby.

The meeting was a rare double affair with the Deputy Grand Master Francis Charles Spencer first Installing the new Provincial Grand Master with all the expertise and sincerity we have come to expect from a Brother of such high station.



Right Worshipful Brother J. David Sowerby then Installed his Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Worshipful Brother David Snape, and the newest member of the executive team, Worshipful Brother Christopher James, as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Three very active and approachable Brethren who are very committed to the wellbeing of the Mark Degree, the Province and more importantly the Brethren who are its members.



The second part of the day was the Annual General Meeting of the Province. After all the reports from the Officers were given the investiture of those Brethren of active and past rank ensued. I am sure that bigger smiles could not be found throughout the Province as the Provincial Grand Master placed the collars on the Brethren's shoulders. Congratulations from friends, fellow Lodge members and total strangers followed, such is the brotherly love in our wonderful degree.



The festive board was next and 198, plus two St John Ambulance personnel in attendance, sat down to a wonderful meal which everyone enjoyed. The Brethren swapped tales and told stories to their fellow diners which I am sure were all true! Speeches were made, gifts were given, handshakes exchanged, and promises to attend each other's Mark Lodges. Roll on next June, and our next Annual Meeting.

All in all a wonderful day which everyone in attendance will remember fondly and be able to say with those well quoted words '*I know, because I was there!*'.

With thanks to W.Bro. Chris James, P.G.S.D., A.Prov.G.M.



Buckinghamshire Mark



How time does fly! It is a year ago that Bucks had a new Provincial Grand Master Installed by a great team from Grand Lodge, and now R.W.Bro. Keith David Bristow has run his second meeting as the Prov.G.M.

Everyone that attended has made comment on how well the whole Provincial Team worked so well under R.W.Bro. Keith to create such a pleasing meeting which ran so smoothly. It was noticeable that the attendees enjoyed themselves living up to the reputation of the Mark degree as an enjoyable degree with its special Magic.

The Main Temple Sindlesham (thank you Berkshire), was nicely packed but so you were not crammed too closely; for, as is usual when Buckinghamshire Mark uses Sindlesham for its yearly Provincial Meeting, the weather was extremely warm.

The Proceedings were opened in due form and R.W.Bro. Keith looked comfy in the chair of Adoniram as he asked the Prov.G.Sec. to read the Dispensation to meet outside of our Province. Our Guests from all over England & Wales were greeted with our usual very warm Bucks applause. There was a good number of representatives of the Craft Degree, the Royal Arch, Royal and Select Masters, the Allied Masonic Degrees, and Rose Croix in attendance as well as a large number from Berkshire supporting its neighbouring Province of Buckinghamshire so well. The meeting proceeded along the normal lines, and whilst it is sad to hear of those who have been taken to higher service in the Grand

Lodge there were only four names read by the Dep.Prov.G.M. The meeting proceeded with continued happiness as R.W.Bro Keith re-appointed W.Bro. Peter Robert Cole as Dep.Prov.G.M.



The Provincial Grand Master came onto the floor of the Temple with his Deputy to appoint W.Bro. Peter Dennis Moody as his Senior Warden and W.Bro. Philip Barton as his Junior Warden.



In addition, there were eleven more active appointments and some 13 re-appointments. A first appointment to P.Prov.G.Reg. was made to the Prov.G.M. of Buckinghamshire Craft, John Clark. There were another nine appointment to Past Rank and three to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

With thanks to W.Bro. Nigel Beaven, P.Prov.G.J.W., Prov.G.Reg.



1 - Dep.Prov.G.M. (Bucks Craft) Neil Robertson; W.Bro. Peter Cole, Dep.Prov.G.M. (Bucks Mark); & W.Bro. Peter Moody, new Prov.G.S.W. of Bucks Mark



2 - A number of senior guests in festive mood

A family affair in Tredegar



W.Bro. Andrew Davies, W.M for Ashlar Lodge No. 158 in Tredegar advanced Bro. Ieuan Jones, with his father Bro. Gareth Jones (M.O.) and his grandfather, Bro. Robert Jones (advanced in March).

Welcome to the Mark family Bro. leauan.

With thanks to W.Bro. Kevin Kelly, P.Prov.G.S.W.

Ready to serve

R.W.Bro. Terence D. Sheern
Provincial Grand Master for Essex

FAREWELL TOUR



The Essex Armed Forces Lodge
of
Mark Master Masons No.2016

INSTALLATION MEETING

Friday 29th September 2023

All members of the Mark Master Mason Degree
are invited to the Installation of
R.W.Bro. Eddie Garty, Prov.G.M. of Middlesex



at
St. Giles Masonic Hall
5, St. Johns Green, Colchester,
Essex. CO2 7EZ
17.00 Hrs

*This unique meeting for the **order** and the **constitution**
will result in two serving Provincial Grand Masters being
in the chairs of two Armed Forces Lodges concurrently
Middlesex No.1999 and Essex No.2016*

£40
Traditional Scottish Burns Fare

For further information contact: W.Bro. Ray McKerron
email: essexaf2016@gmail.com | Tel: 07786 453 533

BOOKING

FORM



Essex Armed Forces Lodge No. 2106, will be Installing R.W.Bro. Eddie Garty, Prov.G.M. for Middlesex, whilst the Prov.G.M. for Essex, R.W.Bro. Terry Sheern, is the Master in Middlesex Armed Forces Lodge.

The meeting will take place in Colchester on Friday, 29 September.

If you would like further details please contact their Secretary W.Bro. Ray McKerron
essexmarkcomms@gmail.com

To book please use the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/212561543061043>

Early booking is advised.

Provincial Priory of Hertfordshire Meeting

Two 50-Year Certificates, an early 100th Birthday Celebration, and the launch of the Provincial Centenary Appeal

On Thursday, 22 June 2023, the Province of Hertfordshire was honoured to welcome the Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal, Andrew Christopher Rainbow, G.C.T., to the Annual Meeting of Provincial Priory, held at the Metropolitan Sports Club, Bushey.

The Great Seneschal was in attendance to present two 50 Years' Service Certificates, to the Past Provincial Prior for Hertfordshire, R.E.Kt. Peter Fotheringham, K.C.T., and to the Past District Grand Master (Royal and Select Masters) for Hertfordshire, E.Kt. Peter Baikie, P.Gt.St.B.(B.).

As E.Kt. Baikie was unable to be present at the meeting, the Great Seneschal, accompanied by the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Alastair White, and the Provincial Sub-Prior, V.E.Kt. Michael Beaty, P.Gt.Reg., visited him at home before the Provincial Meeting to make the presentation.



3 - E.Kt. Baikie with the Great Seneschal

E.Kt. Baikie was Installed as a Knight of the Order on 19 December 1972, in the Hatfield Preceptory No. 424, meeting at the Masonic Centre, The Rose Walk, Radlett.

Having returned to Bushey, during the meeting itself, the Great Seneschal presented the second certificate to R.E.Kt. Fotheringham, K.C.T., who was Installed as a Knight of the Order on 24 March 1972, in the John F. Cleeves Preceptory No. 315, meeting at the Halsey Masonic Hall, Cheshunt.

R.E.Kt. Fotheringham served as the Provincial Prior for Hertfordshire between 1998 and 2004 before being made a K.C.T. in 2006.



4 - R.E.Kt. Fotheringham with the Great Seneschal & the Provincial Prior

The awards were greeted with warm applause, and both Knights were absolutely delighted to receive their certificates in person from the Great Seneschal.

During his address to the assembled Knights, the Provincial Prior informed those present that on 21 November 2023, another Past Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. John Hay, K.C.T., would be celebrating his 100th birthday.

Taking the opportunity to offer early and hearty congratulations to R.E.Kt. Hay on this landmark achievement, the Provincial Prior then presented him with a hamper and a card as well as the best wishes of the Province and all those present.

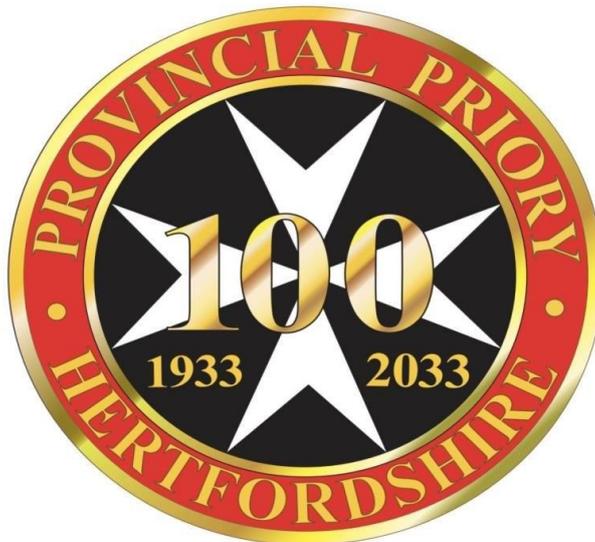
The Provincial Prior also used his address to announce the launch of the Provincial Priory of Hertfordshire Centenary Appeal, in aid of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. He explained that the target of the appeal is to raise £100k over the next ten years, to coincide with the centenary of the re-constitution of the Province of Hertfordshire in 2033.

Following discussions held in February between the Provincial Prior and the CEO of the Eye Hospital, Dr Ahmad Ma'ali Ph.D., the decision was made that the money raised would be used on an annual basis to sponsor Maysoun Daban, a Theatre Nurse at the Gaza Hospital, rather than saving it up to purchase a one-off "big-ticket" item in ten years' time.



5 - Maysoun Daban at work

Knights of the Province were encouraged to commit to donate the sum of £500 over the next ten years, and those doing so will receive a lapel badge and certificate acknowledging their commitment to the appeal. The badge features the logo of the appeal, designed by Hertfordshire Knight E. Kt. Denis Gibney, and one will be proudly worn by Maysoun whilst she is at work. The certificate was designed by E.Kt. Vernon King, the Provincial Vice-Chancellor of London.



The appeal was kick-started with a hefty donation of £2000 from the Province followed by a further donation of £1000 from the Preceptory of Jacques de Molay, No. 670. The Provincial Prior was also delighted to be able to present the very first lapel badge and certificate to the Provincial Sub-Prior, V.E.Kt. Mike Beaty.

At the Festive Board that followed the meeting, the Provincial Prior was very pleased to introduce Mr Paul Hackwood, a Trustee of the St John Eye Hospital Group and Chair of the Fundraising Committee, whom he had met whilst visiting the Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.



6 - Mr Paul Hackwood with the Great Seneschal & the Provincial Prior

After the meal, Paul gave a very informative talk to a captive audience about the vital work of the Eye Hospital, and how the funds raised by the Centenary Appeal will be put to excellent use. By way of example, he detailed the case study of Sanna, a three-year-old child who would have been blind by the age of seven had it not been for a successful diagnosis, intervention, and treatment by Maysoun and her colleagues at the Eye Hospital.

Further information on donating to the Centenary Appeal can be obtained from the Provincial Website www.ktherts.com

With thanks to E.Kt. Rhys Madoc, P.Gt.W. of R., Prov.Vice-Chan.



7 - "Sanna"

The R.S.M. District Grand Council of London



On Thursday, 22 June a delegation from Surrey attended the Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of London held at Mark Masons' Hall.

We received a very warm welcome from R.III.Comp. Vincent John Driver, District Grand Master, and the London Companions.



Before the meeting we were able to relax with a coffee and catch up with old friends.



Present at the meeting were several District Grand Masters, seen here with the District Grand Master.



As well as our Deputy Grand Master, Right Illustrious Companion His Honour Ian Douglas Gavin Alexander, KC, IX, seen here with his Escorting Officer.



The Companions were called to Order to receive the District Grand Master who entered the Temple in procession, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Officers of the Year.



District Grand Council was opened in due form and the District Grand Master was saluted. District Grand Council then received the Deputy Grand Master.



The District Grand Master welcomed the honoured guests of the District and other Distinguished Companions. After the regular business of District Grand Council had been concluded, the District Grand Master was pleased to appoint, obligate, invest, and Install Ill.Comp. Ben Dykes, P.G.Cond.C., as Deputy District Grand Master.





And Ill.Comp. David Green, P.A.G.D.C., as Principal Conductor of the Work.



The District Grand Master then appointed and invested his Officers.



The District Grand Master addressed District Grand Council. He said how delighted he was to see so many Companions in the Temple and congratulated all those who had received District Grand Rank that day. He thanked all the guests for attending to support the District and thanked them for their hospitality when he and his team visited their Districts. The District is doing very well, with new members joining the Order and he reminded the Companions of the need to support the Craft, Royal Arch and Mark.

The Deputy Grand Master was invited to address District Grand Council. He thanked everyone for all they did during Covid. He congratulated all those who received Grand Rank at Grand Council and reminded the Companions of our 150th Anniversary on 3 October, encouraging everyone to attend this once in a lifetime event. The Deputy Grand Master then retired from District Grand Council.



District Grand Council was closed in due form and the Right Illustrious District Grand Master retired in procession accompanied by Right Illustrious Companions, and Honoured Guests.



The delegation from Surrey had a most enjoyable afternoon.



We were then invited to a drinks reception where we had another opportunity to catch up with old friends.



The Companions of the Province of London and their guests retired to enjoy a convivial meal together.

Article and photos by Ill.Comp. Chris Eley, P.G.Swd.B.





Allied Freemasonry in Cumberland and Westmorland



The District Grand Prefect for Cumberland and Westmorland, R.W.Bro. Joseph Edward Crosby, presented a cheque at the Festive Board of VHP Roberts Council No. 258 to the value of £500 to Mr. Ian Oglanby, a representative of 'A Gift Well Spent'.

This a charity set up in 2014 and run by volunteers for parents and families of disabled and vulnerable children and adults to provide them with safe spaces. The money was raised at an 'Allied Curry Night' held by the District.

Mr. John Crouch, a local celebrity chef, was head chef at the event. He distributes aid from the Wigton Food Pantry (foodbank) and received £200.

£500 was also given to Scottish Children's Hospices via a suggestion from Rose and Thistle Council of Dalston, Carlisle which has many Scottish members and presented earlier in the week by one of their members in Glasgow. Freemasonry has no Borders.

With thanks to W.Bro. Ken Archer P.Dist.G.Stwd.



The Annual Meeting of the O.S.M. Provincial Grand Conclave of Surrey



The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Surrey was held at Surbiton Masonic on Saturday 20th May 2023.

After several Right Worthy Brethren entered the Conclave and took their seats the Acting Director of Ceremonies, Wy.Bro. Ian Clark, called the Brethren to Order to receive the R.Wy. Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and members of the Provincial Escort.

The Meeting was then opened by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling, who was then saluted under the direction of the Acting Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Memoriam to Departed Brethren was given by the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Wy.Bro. Ian Bloodworth. He then gave a short prayer and afterwards called for a minute's silence which was followed by the Hymn – Immortal Invisible which was sung.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then welcomed the Honoured Guests.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then presented Bro. Arthur Forder and Bro. John Waggott, who were inducted into the Order during the past 12 months, with the Bow and Arrow pin badge.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, re appointed the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler before appointing the Provincial Officers for 2023/24. Promotion in the Arch of Steel was given to Bro. Robert Short as Commander and Bro. David Harrison as his Deputy. Two new members were also invested into the Arch of Steel: Bro. Bob Woolloff, and Bro. Alan Thompson, both of Surbiton Conclave. ***Sadly, Bro. Bob Woolloff passed away suddenly on the 15th of June 2023. He will be sorely missed by us all as a wonderful man and Mason.***



The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then gave his address but, unlike in previous years, instead of talking about the achievements of the Order over the past twelve months spoke about his plan for the next twelve months, one of which was to get back to our original date of the fourth Saturday in the month of May as the change of dates over the past three years was no doubt having an effect on our numbers for the Provincial meetings.

He also went on to speak about utilising the Provincial Grand Visitors and their duties in the Province, along with membership figures and promotional cards which have been handed out to all Conclaves in the Province.

He went on to congratulate Wy.Bro. Barrie Selway, and Wy.Bro. Steve Harvey who both received the Grand Rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer. He also thanked the Brethren of the Province for their fund-raising efforts in which we were able to donate £1,300 to the Sutton Women's Centre.

After the meeting the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler greeted all our honoured guests on their way out of the temple.



After refreshments in the bar the members of the Province, their visitors, and guests sat down to enjoy a most convivial luncheon at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.

Article by Wy.Bro. Ian Bloodworth, P.A.G.D.C., photos by Bro. David Harrison





It's Academical in Hamilton



Wherever you travel in O.S.M. guise in Scotland, the same friendliness characteristic of the Order of the Secret Monitor awaits you- North, East or West, its academic.

This was certainly the case at Hamilton on Saturday, at the Annual Convocation of the Province of West Scotland.

We were warmly greeted by Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, David McMorris, who presided over a splendid meeting much enjoyed by the many members of the Province and their guests. The smooth running of the morning's work was due in large part to retiring Provincial Recorder Gavin McNab (who was installed as Deputy) and Director of Ceremonies Alex Brown.

One of the highlights for me was a really informative and comprehensive report from Provincial Guide Cameron Fraser. And there was humour too- OSM stalwart George Walker (who can't play a note) was invested as Provincial Organist!

The meeting was followed by a free-flowing drinks reception and tasty lunch, at which a presentation (a bottle of single malt-what else?) was made to the retiring Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Robert Stanfield.

As I've said to several people, the wonderful friendliness and companionship of the O.S.M. has made the transition from England to Scotland seamless. I'm very grateful.

Ian Currans, Grand Summus of the Scarlet Cord

Join us on Social Media

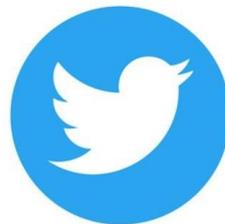
Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent 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	Behavioural Time	Meeting Starts	Medical Enthus	Business Start	Annual Ensh
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMH, 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	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	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	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Inverlura Actus 8:30	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	FMH, 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	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Inverlura Conclaves	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMH, 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 Celebrations	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	FMH, 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	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - vasa	Grand Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	FMH, 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	FMH, 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

06/03/2023

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

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 be 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

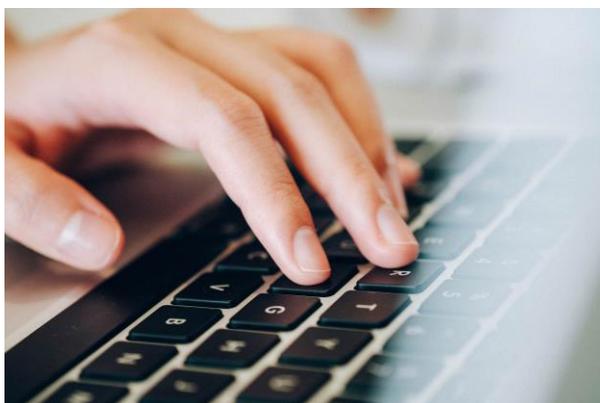


For those who may not have been able to get their hands on one of the K.T. £20 for 2020 Appeal Swift Pins, there are still some available.

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

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

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](#)

[2031 Northumberland](#)

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.



















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)