

Freemasonry@86 News - 9 June 2023



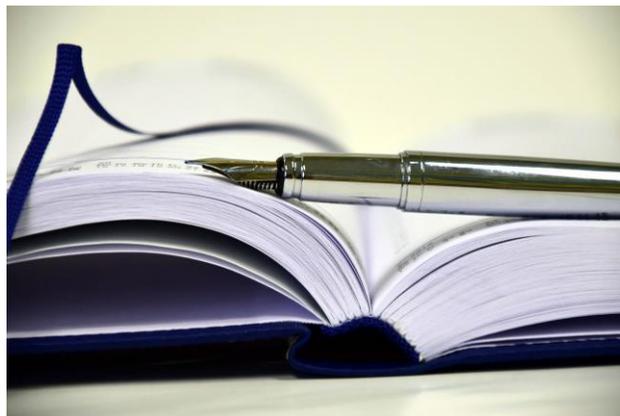
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

Tuesday, 13 June - Mark Grand Lodge June Investiture meeting, Freemasons' Hall - [Click Here](#) for more info

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, 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

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

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

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire Sesquicentenary Celebration



Up to 1872, there had been no Provincial Grand Mark Lodge for the Province of Cheshire.

The Consecration of the Stamford Mark Lodge No. 148 in March 1872, brought the number of Mark Lodges in Cheshire at the time, to four, the other three being Ashton District at Dukinfield, Benevolent No. 67 (now Benevolent TI) at Stockport, and Fidelity Mark No.31 at Birkenhead.

With the addition of North Wales, it was deemed desirable by several eminent Mark Master Masons, that a Provincial Grand Lodge should be established for the area of Cheshire and North Wales.



On 5 April 1873, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire and North Wales was Instituted and Consecrated under the command of The first Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. The Hon. Wilbraham Egerton (later Earl Egerton of Tatton).



W. Bro Newhouse was appointed as the first Provincial Grand Secretary (and indeed, he held the same position in Craft).



The combined Province separated in 1880 and The Province of Cheshire as we know it today, was born. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Cheshire celebrated their Sesquicentenary in fine Style, at the Chester Crowne Plaza Hotel, on the 2nd and 3rd of June 2023.



1 - The Romanian contingent the night before, with our Prov.G.M.



2 - Getting the party started the night before



3 - It will be ok on the day



4 - Preparations are well underway at the Chester Crowne Plaza Hotel



5 - A warm welcome and a chance to purchase an array of Festive merchandise



6 - including a Festive Tie



7 - Preparations are going well



8 - Waiting to be received



The meeting attracted some 210 attendees, including ladies, non-Mark Masons, and family, who, while Provincial Grand Mark was called off, were admitted, enjoying the landmark celebration in the Province's history.



However, breaking a little from tradition, and one of the highlights of the celebration, was a precis of the early history of the Province, performed by the Cheshire Demonstration team, with various members enacting the roles of the first eight Provincial Grand Masters, much to the “distress” of the Historian, and in a light hearted manner explained their roles in the development of our Province, from humble beginnings to the present day, which was well received by those present.

The Pro Grand Master was pleased to address the meeting, and to also receive donations to the Mark Benevolent Fund, whilst also awarding honorific collarettes and ladies' brooches as appropriate, and was quite staggered when the total sum donated on the day from our Lodges and Brethren was announced at £116,254.00.

Whilst not everyone was able to stay for the evening meal, the 156 who had booked in to do so easily filled the Hall and enjoyed not only the occasion and an excellent meal amongst friends, but the replies to the toasts to the Pro Grand Master, and our Provincial Grand Master, with the celebrations continuing, for some into the next morning.

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

Essex Mark's Provincial Grand Lodge meeting finds new home



So, this year's meeting was a tale of new beginnings! With the loss of our "regular" venue at the Felsted School, Essex Mark was looking forward to the first of those new beginnings in the new venue at the New Hall School, an historic and spectacular venue just outside Chelmsford.



The second "new beginning" was the announcement made by our Prov.G.M., R.W.Bro. Terence Sheern, of his intended retirement.



The full report on the meeting can be found by [Clicking Here](#)



We have released the latest edition of our highly popular "Mark Times" to coincide with our annual meeting.

It can be found by [Clicking Here](#) along with previous editions.

With thanks to W.Bro. David Todd, P.Prov.G.Stwd.

MARK Times

Edition 10
Spring 2023

The Newsletter for the Mark Province of Essex, incorporating
the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners



Brethren all, welcome to the latest edition of the Essex Mark Times and I hope that once again you will find it informative and interesting. Since the last publication the Province has once again kept us all busy, and as we move through the year continues to keep us that way as we plan for further events.

If you are reading this whilst waiting for the Annual Meeting to start, can I once again thank you for your support. I do hope you find our new venue to your liking and whilst sitting there take a moment to think of the history which this building is steeped in. 'New Hall' has occupied the magnificent Tudor Palace of Beaulieu since 1799. The estate was acquired by King Henry VIII in 1517, at which time the building was greatly enlarged and enhanced. Henry VIII's Royal Arms can be seen in the Chapel at 'New Hall'. After Henry, 'New Hall' became home to Mary Tudor, before being granted to the Earl of Sussex by Elizabeth I. Oliver Cromwell later procured the estate, for five shillings!

I am also sure your presence at the meeting will enhance the day for those receiving honours and appointments and appreciate your attendance to make it a special day for them. I hope the earlier start time was more convenient for you. For those of you unable to attend I hope you will be able to next year, especially when the new railway behind the school will be open.

I am very pleased and proud to inform you that as the result of the three awareness events held so far our membership continues to grow with approx. 20 new members per event. A fourth event is planned to take place at Orsett on 4 October this year so please try and support that event if you can.

As you know our MBF Festival 2030 draws another year closer and the Festival team are planning ahead to introduce more new events for you to consider. You don't need me to tell you how important the MBF is and how it supports charities and other organisations who have members or look after those less fortunate than ourselves. For those who haven't read the quarterly MBF review or watched the videos available on line a few examples of how your generous donations have been spent in 2022 are as follows:-

- £237,000 supporting Ukraine refugees
- £40,000 to foodbanks
- £30,000 supporting Autism
- £11,000 Volunteer emergency doctors
- £10,000 scouting movement
- £50,000 to Hospices
- £25,000 to Lennox Children's Cancer treatment (Essex based and supported).

These donations and the many others are paid for by your individual donations and monies raised via the Provincial MBF Festivals so please try and support ours, as every penny raised makes a difference. Please consider a monthly standing order, or the purchase of a Festival Jewel to help the Province raise an amount we will be proud of.

Make sure you keep up to date with events near you via the website, the dedicated Festival 2030 website and the Provincial Facebook group.

Can I once again thank the Active Provincial Officers for their wonderful support they give on my visits to your Lodges, I really do believe their attendance adds so much to the meetings they attend.

Thank you for reading this edition and please remember without you there is no Province and we always welcome ideas for the future.

Stay in Touch

Website: www.essexmark.co.uk
www.mbfestivalessessex2030.co.uk

Email: essexmarkcomms@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/essexmarkandram

Twitter: www.twitter.com/PGLEssexMark

Instagram: www.instagram.com/pglessexmark

The Mark Times is compiled by W.Bro. Phil Hind

East Sussex Mark Lodge of M.M.M. No. 166 Sesquicentenary Celebrations



M.W.Bro. John H. Prizeman, Pro Grand Master, attended the 150th celebrations of the Lodge at the St. Leonards Masonic Centre, East Sussex, escorted by V.W.Bro. Peter Rubie-Todd.

R.W.Bro. Roger F. Richardson, the Prov.G.M. for Sussex, and a team of Provincial Officers, were also in attendance to support this important milestone for a Mark Lodge in Sussex.

The Lodge was Consecrated on 20 May 1973 at the Swan Hotel, High Street, Hastings. The Lodge was formed following a petition from the Royal Sussex Lodge No. 75.

Subsequently, the East Sussex Mark Lodge became the “mother” of the following Lodges, Eastbourne, Bexhill, Abbey, Hailsham, Heffle and Wellington. All these Lodges were represented at the meeting.

The original Warrant was read by W.Bro. M. Woodward of Royal Sussex Lodge No. 75, then followed the presentation by the Pro Grand Master of the new Sesquicentenary Warrant to W.Bro. K.Huggett the W.M. of the Lodge.

A history, prepared by the Secretary, W.Bro. A. Bousfield, was read by W.Bro. C. Dann.

The Pro Grand Master, assisted by the Provincial Grand Master, then presented sesquicentenary jewels to the members of the Lodge.

Then followed a splendid festive board to complete a memorable occasion.

With thanks to W.Bro. Colin Dann, P.G.S.D.



Likewise, St Peter & St Paul Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 163 makes its 150th



In 1873 St Peter & St Paul Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 163 was the second Lodge in Buckinghamshire to be consecrated. And Tuesday, 6 June 2023 saw the Lodge host not only the Provincial Team, headed by R.W.Bro. Keith David Bristow, and around 20 Provincial Officers, but also the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer. The Lodge was led by W.Bro. Ian Alexander in an exemplary manner.

Taking the Chair, R.W.Bro. Keith Bristow thanked the Lodge for allowing him to sit in the Master's place, and proceeded to outline this especial meeting.

The Deputy Grand Master was then received into the Temple and explained in more detail the background and the differences of Victorian times and today.

The Consecration Warrant was read by the Lodge Secretary in a very clear manner; the Deputy Grand Master making comment that these are not easy documents to read. The Dep.G.M. then proceeded to present the Sesquicentenary Warrant the W.Bro. Ian Alexander as the current Master of the Lodge.

The Provincial Chaplain gave an Oration regarding the historical detail of the Lodge, its members, and saying how important the history was for any Lodge.

It is evident from the photographs taken on the night that the whole event went well, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings, as well as the Festive Board. It was clear it was not just the "Fizz" that was bubbling, but the enjoyment of all those in attendance bubbled up to the surface, making this an event which will be long remembered for all the right reasons by all present.











Whitley Lodge of M.M.M. No. 788 Centenary



Wednesday, 31 May was a tremendous day for Whitley Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 788 as they celebrated 100 years of continuous working.

Whitley Lodge of M.M.M. was Consecrated on 15 May 1923 at the Masonic Hall in Whitley Bay by the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland, Colonel Charles Warren Napier-Clavering, assisted by his team of Officers. It was one of the first Lodges to be Consecrated after the formation of the new Mark Province of Northumberland in 1920. Sadly, almost nothing is known about the 20 Founders as the early minute books of the Lodge have been lost for many years.



For the Centenary Meeting, the Lodge welcomed the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Raymond Arthur Walton, along with a full Provincial team. The Lodge was also greatly honoured by the presence of the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Professor Denovan Keith Wilson who was accompanied by his Director of Ceremonies V.W. Bro. John Vause, P.G.J.O., After the Assistant Grand Master assumed the Master's Chair he went on to present the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Bob Weatherston, Prov.G.J.O. with the Centenary Warrant of the Lodge.

This was followed by the Oration, Service of Thanksgiving and Benediction, which was delivered in his usual exemplary manner by our Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro. Gareth Davies.

The Assistant Grand Master then took the opportunity to present to the Lodge its Grand Patron Diamond Collarette in recognition of the many donations made by the Lodge to the Mark Benevolent Fund. He also thanked the Brethren for their support saying how important their efforts were and how many worthy causes were helped by such contributions.

After the Lodge was closed, everyone was treated to a wonderful meal followed by a very convivial evening. It is worth noting that during the Festive Board a raffle was conducted which enabled the Lodge to present a cheque to the Provincial Grand Master for the Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund for the magnificent sum of £350! Another tremendous achievement. The Assistant Grand Master, in his reply to his toast, said how much he had enjoyed the evening and I'm sure that everyone who attended this memorable occasion had a wonderful time.

Congratulations go to Whitley Lodge of M.M.M. No. 788 for over 100 years of Mark Masonry. We hope that the Lodge continues for many years in order to maintain and uphold the traditions and standards laid down over a century ago by the Founders.

Many thanks go to W.Bro. Ian Brown, P.Prov.G.S.W., for putting together and delivering the History of the Lodge during the ceremony and to everyone else who worked so hard to make it such a memorable occasion for us all and the same thanks to the catering staff at Whitley Bay Masonic Hall for the marvellous food and service.

Another evening of the 'Magic of the Mark'.

With thanks to V.W.Bro. Richard Northey, P.G.J.O., Dep.Prov.G.M.



In Monmouthshire



R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, Grand Secretary, gave a talk at the annual Provincial meeting at the Holiday Inn, Newport, on Tuesday, 6 June. Later, the Prov.G.M., R.W.Bro. David Powell, presented a £3000 pound cheque to R.W.Bro. Richard Davies Prov.G.M. of the Craft Degree of the Province of Monmouthshire towards their festival.

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



Mark Benevolent Fund donates £130,000 to ShelterBox to aid in Turkiye & Syria Earthquakes emergency disaster response



In response to the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria in February this year The Mark Benevolent Fund kindly donated £130,000 to aid in ShelterBox's response. Their generous donation provided vital shelter and emergency aid to those in desperate need.

On 1 June, ShelterBox's CEO, Sanj Srikanthan met with Kevin Hicks, Trustee of MBF to give thanks.

Sanj Srikanthan says "We are so thankful for the generous donation from MBF. The money donated significantly helped and enabled us to make a fast response in Türkiye and Syria. We were able to provide emergency shelter, tents, winter clothes, solar lamps amongst other emergency aid items quickly to those in need. We're so thankful to all who donated to our emergency appeal".

The Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) is the official charity of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, the third largest branch of Freemasonry.

With thanks to W.Bro. Darren W. Coleman-Heald, P.G.S.D., Charities Manager at M.M.H.



A new Ark



One of several highlights of the Lincolnshire Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Assembly, recently held at Skegness Masonic Hall, was the presentation of a hand crafted model of the Ark to the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Stephen Hallberg, by Bro. Bill Isherwood.

Bill is a member of St Wilfrid's Lodge of R.A.M. No. 209 in the Mark Province of Lincolnshire and made the model as a gesture of thanks to the Prov.G.M. following his 3 year tenure as the Provincial Grand Tyler / Warder.

The model was gratefully accepted with thanks by the Prov.G.M. who advised that it would be handed into the care of the Ark Lodge of R.A.M. No. 1910 and put on display each year, at future meetings of the Assembly.

With thanks to W.Bro. Stephen Roberts, P.G.J.D., Dep.Prov.G.M.



New Provincial Prior for Essex Knights Templar



With the retirement of R.E.Kt. Anthony John Helliar, K.C.T., after 10 years of loyal and unstinting service as the Provincial Prior for Essex, at the Provincial Priory meeting on 11 May at Saxon Hall Southend, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., with the Officers of Great Priory, was in attendance to Install the new Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Roger Langdon Smith.

Over 200 Knights attended the ceremony, from both the Province of Essex and from other Provinces around the country.

Those who attended witnessed an excellent ceremony performed by the Grand Master and his Great Priory team, after which 180 sat down to luncheon where a cheque was presented to the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master for £2500 to be donated to the Jerusalem Eye Hospital which is the principal charity of the Knights Templar Order.



Following the Provincial K.T. Installation meeting at Saxon Hall, the newly installed Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Roger Langdon Smith, attended the Essex Bodyguard Preceptory No. 562 at Howard Hall Braintree on 16 May, where he took the Chair to Install the new Sub-Prior, E.Kt. Mark Oliver Harrison, who had been unavoidably absent from the Provincial Installation Ceremony at Southend.

As a unique occasion in the history of the Province, the meeting was opened up to guests, who together with the members present, showed their wholehearted support and thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony of Installation as well as an excellent demonstration of Silent Drill by members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard.

In the company of the Deputy Great Vice-Chancellor, E.Kt. Dan Heath who read the Patent and the Proclamation, it was a truly memorable event.



In addition to this most important Installation, the Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Graham Elvidge, welcomed 11 members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard as joining members to the Preceptory.

It was a very happy and successful evening in the history of the Province of Essex.

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



The Provincial Priory of Dorset and Wiltshire



The Provincial Priory of Dorset & Wiltshire held its Provincial meeting at Portland Masonic Hall, 1 Victoria Square, Portland, on Saturday, 3 June 2023.

The Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Richard F. Micklefield, together with his Sub-Prior, E.Kt. Maurice E. Lound, welcomed many visiting Provincial Priors, their Sub-Priors, and their supporting Provincial Officers on this fine day.

The Chapter meeting was full with many Great Officers, Provincial Officers, and Knights of the Province. It was also supported by many Heads of Orders within Dorset and Wiltshire.

The Provincial Prior re-appointed his Sub-Prior, then he appointed or re-appointed the Officers of the Province and thanked them in anticipation for their support and commitment for the coming season. He also thanked the outgoing Officers for the support they had given him over the last season.

At the festive board, all enjoyed an excellent meal and went on their way home with full bellies and a smile on their faces.

With thanks to E.Kt. Brian Amos, P.Dep.Gt.Swd.B., Prov.Vice-Chan.

Fforest Preceptory Proclaims the Eminent Preceptor for the forthcoming year and Installs yet another new Knight



At the Meeting of the Fforest Preceptory No. 582, at the Treharris Masonic Hall on Friday, 2 June 2023, the Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. William (Bill) Thomas, Installed a new Knight, Michael Andrew Brown, of the Sure and Steadfast Chapter No. 8991, into the Preceptory.

The Installation Ceremony - which was attended by Eminent Knight Carl Douglas Davies, P.G.Dep.Mar., the Provincial Marshal of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales, and a number of Great Officers, Provincial Officers and Brother Knights – was carried out by the Eminent Preceptor with the assistance of the Preceptory Marshal, E.Kt. Viv Jones, P.Pr.B.B.; the Chaplain, E.Kt. Keri Evans, P.Pr.2nd.Con.; and the Provincial Marshal who expertly explained the Symbols of the Order.



Following the Installation Ceremony of the new Knight, the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Carl Davies, Proclaimed the present Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Bill Thomas, as the Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year.

In the subsequent meeting of the Fforest Priory of Malta, the present Eminent Prior was also proclaimed as Eminent Prior for the forthcoming year.

With thanks to E.Kt. Chris Mugford, Prov.Comms, P.Pr.Swd.B.





Ranged under their Banner



Monday, 15 May 2023, The Essex Masters Council of Royal and Select Masters No. 211 carried out the dedication ceremony of their new Council Banner at Saxon Hall Masonic Centre, Southend on Sea. In introducing the new banner to the members, the District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Robert Potts, gave a short talk on the Council, informing them that the Council was Consecrated on 27 January 1998 at Upminster Masonic Hall by the then Grand Master, Most Illustrious Companion Colonel Robert Keith Hind. Among the Consecrating Officers were the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, III.Comp. Michael George Spencer. The first Treasurer was III.Comp. Dennis Baum; III.Comp. Raymond Fretton was the first Recorder, and III.Comp. Raymond Clare was the first Assist Director of Ceremonies and all four of these members are currently active members of the Council today.

On the day of the consecration there were 23 full members, today there are 82.

With thanks to R.III.Comp. John Jacobson, P.Dist.G.M.

Thames Division Annual Meeting, 3rd June 2023



Saturday, 3 June saw the Thames Division holding its annual meeting at Cardinal House. Again, as is traditional for this meeting the weather was fine. In addition to the members of the Division attending, the Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. Alan Baverstock, was pleased to welcome 11 Intendants-General, 5 Deputy Intendants-General and, in total, 24 distinguished representatives from other Divisions. A total of 61 Knights were seated in the Temple, an increase of some 40% on last year's numbers.

Representatives from all Conclaves in the Division were in the Temple to witness the appointment/re-appointment of the Divisional Officers for the year.

The day began very early for those involved in setting up the Temple, followed by a rehearsals firstly of the Divisional Sepulchre Guard and then by the Divisional Officers involved in the processions. A fantastic team effort by all those involved resulted in a meeting the Division can justly be proud of and was enjoyed by all those attending.



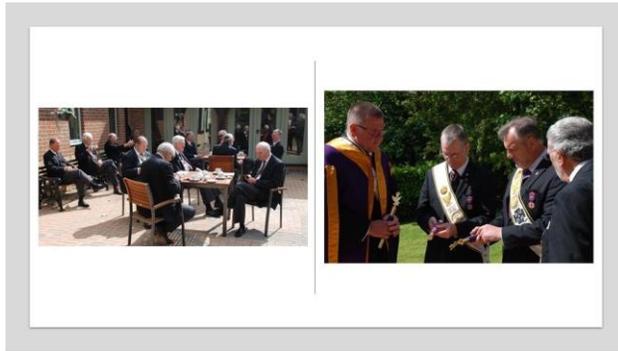
Attendees at the Annual Thames Division Meeting.



9 - From organised chaos to ready to welcome guests



10 - The Sepulchre Guard at work and at play



11 - Switching off the phones before the meeting and switching on the IG's Batons (who knew they were battery powered?)



12 - Some of our honoured guests



13 - Taking advantage of the lovely weather between the meeting and the Festive Board



14 - Some of our Divisional Knights



15 - The Intendant-General is welcomed into lunch



Surrey Showstopper



Surrey Mark Cha Di Da 2023

Double Room
£120
B & B (optional)

£60
pp

Arrival
6.30pm
for 7pm

DINNER Carriages
Midnight

Dance Party

SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER
Reigate Manor Hotel - Reigate Hill

Dancing : Jason Allen (Michael Buble) & Jahson Nembhard (formerly of the Drifters)

3 Course Meal • Charity Raffle • Party Surprises

Contact: W.Bro Alan Brockwell - e: brockers01@icloud.com
t: 01737 557997 m: 07868 657276

See website for details - booking form - menu choices

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	Rehearsal Time	Meeting Start	Meeting Finish	Dinner Start	Annual Dinner
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	PMH, 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 Synodus	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	Grand Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Involution Active & Lit	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	PMH, 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	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Involution Inauguration	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	PMH, 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, 8 October 2023	PMH, 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	PMH, 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	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT Malta	Grand Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	PMH, 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	PMH, 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

06/09/2023

[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



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](#)



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 hardware 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](#).

Mark Emergency Relief Fund
MMM185622

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

<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](#)

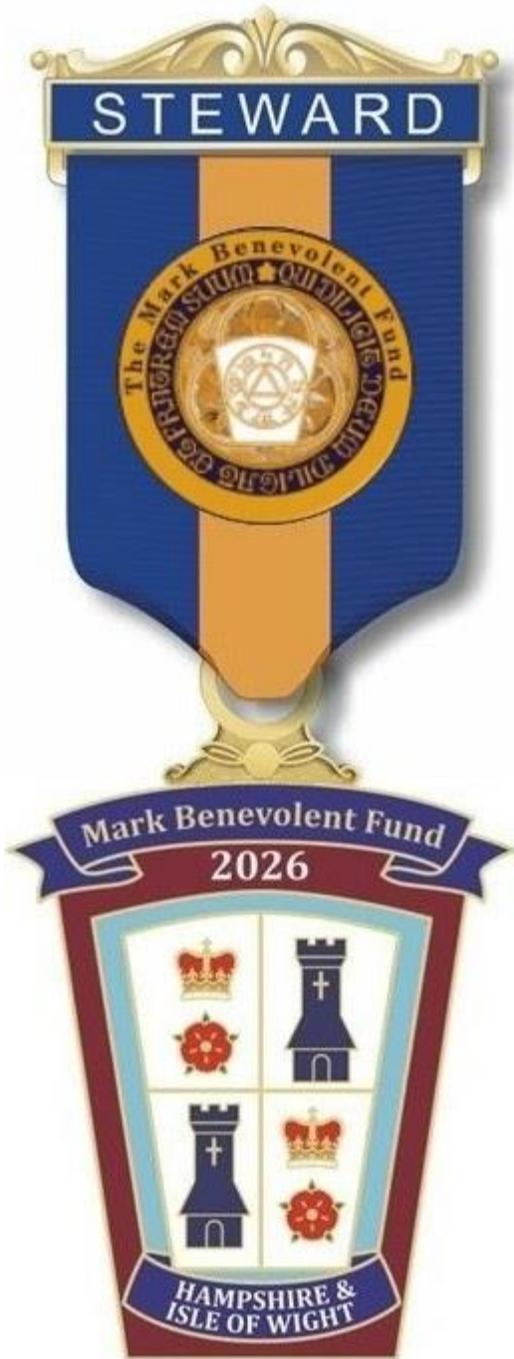
We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.

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)