

Freemasonry@86 News - 14 July 2023



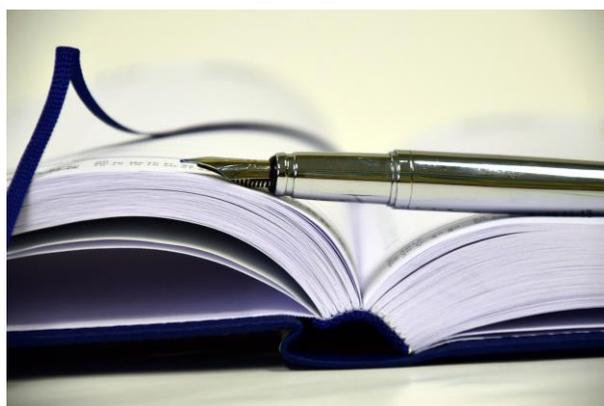
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

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

Cheshire Mark on their bikes



On a sunny Friday, 7 July, 14 Mark Men from Cheshire met at Middlewich Masonic Hall, some with their wives and family, ready to see them on their way for their journey to London. Nothing unusual about a trip to London, until you know that it was by bicycle and, to make it even harder, alongside the canal network from Middlewich to Mark Masons' Hall.

The ride was the brainchild of W.Bro. John Miller, the A.Prov.G.M. of Cheshire, whose ability to come up with great ideas and to raise money for charity, in this case the MBF, is renowned in the Province of Cheshire.

As well as the Prov.G.M., Gary Horstman; the A.Prov.G.M., John Miller; the Prov.G.D.C.; and the Dep.Prov.G.D.C.; we had the Festival Chairman, Steve Simpson; a Prov.G.Stwd., Russell Dodd; and other members of the Province.

Also, and most necessary was our support team, led by Mike Ross, Prov.G.Stwd., and Steve Roberts, P.Prov.G.S.W., who were assisted by one of our Prov.A.G.D.C.s, Peter Kellett and Mark Master Mason Bro. Simon Wall.

We also invited a non-Mason to join us on the ride who was not sure if Masonry was for him but, halfway through the ride, he decided that he must join the Craft and quickly.

Added to this list was Phil Atkin, A.Prov.G.M. from Lincolnshire, who had travel for 2.5 hours to join us for the first two days of the ride, showing the support the Provinces give to each other. Over the length of the ride we also had Bob Sagoo, the A.Prov.G.M. from Staffordshire and Shropshire ride

with us for a day, and Ruth Wells the partner of our Dep.G.M., Frank Spencer, joined us for the last three days, all raising money for the Cheshire 2024 Festival from their own Provinces.



1 - Gary Horstman, Frank Spencer, Ruth Wells & John Miller

Despite a forecast of rain and strong wind the event was blessed with long periods of sunshine and only a few showers along the way, making the arduous journey more pleasant. However, the fact that growth on both sides of the canal path had not been cut and the overhanging trees were too low to ride under in places, made our progress difficult to say the least.

Phil Atkin found out just how hard it was when on day one, barely an hour into the ride, he took a tumble into the canal. Fortunately, Cheshire members were on hand to rescue him, proving that our health and safety plan did work.

The end of each day saw us arrive at hotels in different Provinces and at each stop over we were meet by members of the Province, a welcome sight at the end of some very long days. So we must thank, Kevin Spenser, Bob Sagoo, David Trimble, Frank Spencer, and Darren Coleman-Heald for their support for the event.

With all the riders completing the event and with over£18,000.00 being raised we all made our way home, by train this time, with a warm glow of success in being able to support the MBF to carry on its work supporting worthy causes.

With thanks to R.W.Bro. Gary Horstman, Prov.G.M.

You can find all the photographs from the ride on the Province's Facebook page [Here](#)



Video and photo's of the team arriving at their final destination, Mark Masons' Hall



<https://sway.office.com/kDD9wAN7wp9BbDkv#content=L3qTweTq4mcaqw>









First ever North Wales Order of Merit award



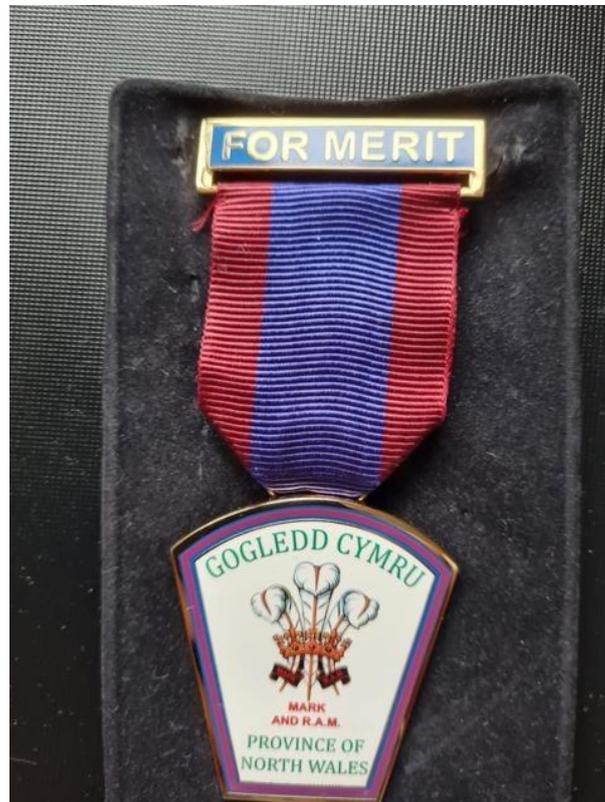
At his recent Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting, R.W.Bro. John Stanley Evans, Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of North Wales, was delighted to award the first ever North Wales Order of Merit for Outstanding Service to the Province to V.W.Bro. Phillip George Orton, P.G.J.O.

A dedicated member of the Province, V.W.Bro. Phil has devoted many years to Provincial matters, in particular his promotion of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

His knowledge and enthusiasm for the MBF is second to none and he is called upon again and again to provide talks and explain how the fund operates and works.

A member of many Lodges both in the Province and further afield the Provincial Grand Master praised him for his tireless work and thanked him for his contribution to his Province.

With thanks to W.Bro. Colin Lemin, Prov.G.Sec.



The K.T. Provincial Priory of Surrey



The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey was held on Saturday, 8 July at the Croydon Masonic Centre in Oakfield Road, Croydon.



E.Kt. Jon Laws and the team made everyone feel welcome on arrival.



The Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Tim Ford, and his team were busy rehearsing in the Temple.





While the rest of us were enjoying coffee and bacon butties downstairs.





The Brother Knights of the Province of Kent were there in force to support the Province of Surrey.



It was so good to see E.Kt. Keith Waller with us. Keith was our Cross Bearer for many years until ill health meant he had to hand over the role to someone else. I have known Keith for many years, since my initiation into Masonry, and he has been a good friend to me, and a very supportive Mason all that time.



Familiar faces in the Delegation of Knights of Malta.



Prior to the meeting (*excuse the pun*) our Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Pat Crossan, made sure he individually welcomed all our guests and Brother Knights of the Province.



The Brother Knights were called to Order by the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Tim Ford, P.Gt.A.-de-C.



To receive the Provincial Prelate, E.Kt. Len Moreton, preceded by the Provincial Cross Bearer and Provincial Almoner.



Then followed the Delegation of Knights of Malta.



Right Eminent Knights and other Distinguished Guests, then entered the Temple in procession.



We were all delighted that our Past Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Michael Banbury, K.C.T., was able to be with us. I had the pleasure and privilege, as his Provincial Marshal for several years, to escort him into the Temple to rapturous applause.



The Provincial Prior then entered the Temple preceded by the Provincial Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Banner Bearer.





Provincial Priory was opened and the Provincial Prior was saluted.

The Provincial Prior welcomed the Honoured Guests from other Provinces, as well as the Heads of Surrey Orders and their Executive. Here we have from the Mark Province of Surrey the Provincial Grand Master, John French, the Past Provincial Grand Master, Ray Hussey, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Tim Ford, and the Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Chris Eley.



After the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded, the Provincial Prior re-appointed V.E.Kt. Peter Brown as Provincial Sub Prior, thanking him for all his support over the years.



He then appointed and invested his Provincial Officers. The Provincial Prior then received the Commander, Deputy Commander, and Registrar of his Bodyguard. He thanked the members of the

Bodyguard for supporting him on his Official Visits. Here we see the members of the Bodyguard with the Provincial Sword Bearer and the Provincial Banner Bearer.



E.Kt. Steve Jones, Provincial Warden of Regalia, presented the Provincial Prior with a cheque for £1,419 as a donation towards the Provincial Benevolent Fund from the sales of new and pre-loved regalia over the past year.

The Provincial Prior addressed Provincial Priory. In his Address he greeted all those attending with warmth and a hearty welcome and said how pleased he was to see so many Brother Knights, and guests from other Provinces and Orders attending. He spoke about the need to look after others, both within and without our Order, as one of the Precepts of our Order. He congratulated all those Knights he had appointed or promoted this day wishing them a happy year to enjoy their honour. R.E.Kt. Pat ended by thanking all those who worked so hard and contributed to the success of the meeting.

Provincial Priory was closed in due form and the R.E. Provincial Prior retired in procession.





Greeting his Honoured Guests as they retired from the Temple.



We then retired to the bar where we were joined by Arnold Long, the Provincial Grand Summus of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey in the Order of the Scarlet Cord.



A few drinks in the bar gave us the opportunity to catch up with some old friends.





During the meeting the Provincial Prior made donations to several charities including the St John at Jerusalem Eye Hospital and the Royal Marsden Hospital. Here we have E.Kt. Michael Petryszyn receiving his cheque from our Provincial Prior.



We then retired to the dining room to enjoy a lovely meal together with our guests.



A big thank you to Gary Billington of the Croydon and District Masonic Halls for kindly putting up a rolling slide show of all our activities over the past year to keep our guests amused while in the bars.



Article by V.E.Kt. Chris Eley, P.Gt.Reg., and photographs by V.E.Kt. Chris Eley and Kt. Andrew Banks

Lindisfarne Preceptory Centenary



On Saturday, 24 June 2023, Lindisfarne Preceptory No. 226, meeting in Berwick upon Tweed, Province of

Northumberland, was honoured to receive the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master and the Officers of Great Priory on the occasion of its Centenary celebration.

The Grand Master was welcomed into the Preceptory by the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Kevin Stannard, and greeted by the members of the Preceptory and their many guests, including Knights from our own and neighbouring Provinces and Fraters from South East Scotland, just north of the border.

After the reading of the Warrant of Constitution, E.Kt. Christopher Benneworth, the Preceptory Chaplain, delivered a well-researched account of the history of the Preceptory; and the Provincial Prelate, Kt. Revd Leslie Dinning, delivered a thought provoking Oration after which he led the Knights in thanks for the past and prayers for the future of Lindisfarne.

Not having been able to secure the services of an organist for the ceremony, the Knights were delighted when the Grand Master offered his services in that capacity, playing the organ during the singing of the hymns to the delight – and improved musicality! – of everyone present.

In presenting the Centenary Warrant to the Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Bob Smith (pictured above), the Grand Master congratulated all the Knights of the Preceptory on its anniversary and exhorted them to continue the work to ensure the success of the Preceptory over the next one hundred years.

The Eminent Preceptor and Knights of the Preceptory afterwards hosted the Grand Master and their many distinguished guests at a Banquet held in “The Black and Gold”, the function suite in the grounds of Berwick Rangers Football Club.

With thanks to Kt. Nick Deakin



2 - E.Kt. Bill Bewick, Prov.Sub-Prior - R.E. Frater Robert Alexander, Dist.G.Prior, S.E. Scotland - M.E. & S. Grand Master - R.E. Frater Alex Sharp, K.C.T. - R.E.Kt. Kevin Stannard, Prov.Prior - R.E.Kt. Alan Hume, K.C.T.



Meanwhile, in Germany...



Inaugural visit to Germany for Northumberland's Provincial Prior's Bodyguard

Pilgrims Preceptory No. 5 played host to seven members of one the best Provincial Prior's Bodyguards under the English Constitution on Saturday, 8 July, in Herford, commanded by Brother Knight Scotty Hunter.



In addition, the Provincial Marshal and Deputy Marshal formed part of the visiting English delegation that helped create a sense of energy, style and elegance on the day.



3 - Northumberland's Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Steve Ranson, being greeted by V.E.Kt. Paul Donnelly, Preceptor of Pilgrims No. 5

Meeting at 10:30 am, the Knightly delegation waited for the right moment to be formally announced and processed in to the Temple to be greeted by Very Eminent Knight Paul Donnelly, something that has never been seen in Pilgrims No. 5.

Shortly after, the Provincial Bodyguard demonstrated its excellent foot and sword drill by forming an honour guard and arch of steel to receive the Most Eminent Grand Master, Roddy McKenzie, G.C.T., led in by two of his senior Knights, Right Eminent Knights Joseph Maison, G.C.T., and Shiny McKinnon, G.C.T.

During the ceremony, several of the Provincial Bodyguard helped by being active contributors during the ceremony of installing two new Knights into the Order (Knights Larry Painter and Craig Timms).



Following a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable ceremony, the Grand Master was presented a labelled bottle of Provincial Bodyguard Port to mark the occasion, by Knight Scotty Hunter, the Commander.



Shortly after, the Grand Master departed at an appropriate moment, again with the full honours and distinction under an Arch of Steel provided superbly by our new friends from Northumberland.



The day paid witness to several firsts, the first time Pilgrims No. 5 have had a visiting delegation from England, the first time the Preceptory has welcomed the Grand Master under a full arch of steel, and the first time the Preceptory has hosted a contingent from an English Provincial Prior's Bodyguard. The meeting over, the home team paid host with an impromptu BBQ held in Vlotho by kind invitation of Loni, R.E.Kt. Shiny's beloved partner, after which, all re-mustered in Herford's Stadt to soak up the ambience and sip cool beers under the parasols with temperatures reaching 35C.

The visit was deemed to have been such a huge success, plans are already being hatched to do similar next year and for members of Pilgrims No. 5 to pay a visit to Northumberland in May 2024.



4 - Back, l-r: Kt's Wayne Nuttall and Paul Baker; Middle, l-r: E.Kt. Steve Ranson, E.Kt. Kevin Mouzon-Wilson, Kt. Dave Nuttall; Front l-r: Kt. Paul McKay, Kt. Scott Hunter, Kt's Paul Johnson & Craig Lilley

And, in Sussex...



Yet another momentous occasion in the history of Knight Templar in Sussex, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the first Malta meeting of The De Warenne Preceptory No. 126 of Knights Templar.

Consecrated on 18 January 1873 as the De Warenne Encampment (the second K.T. unit consecrated in Sussex), it was probably the last unit to be Warranted in this style before changing from an Encampment to a Preceptory.



The Preceptory's second meeting was a Malta meeting held on the 11th July 1873 with eight candidates to be made Knights of Malta and that is what was being celebrated in such fine style with four new Knights being received into the Order of Malta in a great ceremony and produced by a combination of De Warrene No. 126 and Thornton No. 208, which both meet at Brighton Masonic Centre (the HQ of Sussex Masonry), on subsequent days and have over the years formed a very strong bond.

In its sesquicentennial year the members of the Preceptory elected the Past Provincial Prior R.E.Kt. Toby Pratt, K.C.T., as the Eminent Preceptor/ Eminent Prior.



The Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Colin Dann, accompanied by his Bodyguard and Provincial Officers, were also in attendance to mark this unique occasion in the history of both the Preceptory and the Province.

Yet another milestone for K.T. masonry in Sussex with much more to follow in September.

With thanks to E.Kt. Tan Rusby, Prov.Sub-Prior; photo's courtesy of Knight Tony Padley





A cryptic trip to Southend



On Thursday, 6 July a delegation from Surrey drove round the M25 to Southend-on-Sea to attend the Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Essex. The meeting was held at the Saxon Hall, which is a lovely Masonic Centre in the middle of an industrial estate.

There to check us in with a big smile was V.III.Comp. Brian Hithersay the District Grand Recorder, and Deputy District Grand Master Designate.



We received a very warm welcome from the District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Bob Potts and the Companions of Essex.



We all met up in the bar for coffee and a chat before getting ready for the meeting.





There were many guests present, including many Right Illustrious Companions from other Districts.



And Heads of other Orders in Essex.



Present at the meeting was R.III.Comp. John Jacobson, Past District Grand Master of Essex, who was warmly welcomed by R.III.Comp. Bob Potts.



The Companions gathered in the Temple to receive a briefing from the District Grand Director of Ceremonies Designate, Ill.Comp Michael West.



The meeting was then called to order to receive the Heads of other Orders in Essex.



Followed by the Right Illustrious Companions.



The Companions were again 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 and the District Grand Master was saluted. 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 V.III.Comp. Brian William Hithersay, P.G.Lect., as Deputy District Grand Master, and Ill.Comp. Donald Christopher Smith, P.G.Cond.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 thanked all the guests for attending to support the District and thanked them for their hospitality when he and his team visited their Districts. He said that after four years as District Grand Master it was time to make changes to the District Team, which gives others an opportunity to take on key roles.

He thanked all his Officers for their support over the past year. Nine candidates had joined the Order over the past year and a similar number are in the pipeline to join. The District is in good heart.

He then announced a £400 donation to the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Essex, Terry Sheern, for his Wing Walk in support of the Mark 2030 MBF Festival.



District Grand Council was closed in due form and the Right Illustrious District Grand Master retired in procession.



Greeting the Right Illustrious Companions, and Honoured Guests on their way out.



The delegation from Surrey had a most enjoyable afternoon.



The Provincial team returned to the Temple for some group photographs.



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.



The Companions on the Recorder's table thanked V.III.Comp. Brian Hithersay for continuing with the tradition of providing port at their table.



With thanks to Ill.Comp. Chris Eley, P.G.Swd.B.

Postcards from Kuala Lumpur



<https://sway.office.com/kDD9wAN7wp9BbDkv#content=enX8fkqKoZlkdM>

The video above is a collection of shots from a very successful visit by the Grand Master of our Royal and Select Masters, M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones, IX, to the Grand Council of South East Asia. This 'Daughter' Grand Council had kindly extended the invitation to our Grand Master so that he could be the Consecrating Officer of a new Council, The Kessick John Jones Council, named in his honour.

He was accompanied on the trip by R.III.Comp. Paul Norman, IX, G.P.C.W., acting as G.D.C., and R.III.Comp. John Prizeman, P.G.Chan., who, of course, is our Pro Grand Master in the Mark and who was along for the visit as the team had also been invited to attend the meeting the following day of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of South East Asia.

Though separated by thousands of miles of land and water, the bonds shared by Companions and Brethren of these Orders are strong and it was easy for representatives from all parties to slip into easy and relaxed conviviality.

We look forward to welcoming the team from the Grand Council of South East Asia to the English Grand Council's 150th Anniversary celebration in London on 3 October.

The Order of the Secret Monitor Province of Cheshire and North Wales



The O.S.M. Province of Cheshire and North Wales held the Annual Provincial Grand Conclave meeting on Wednesday, 21 June, 2023.

The meeting was also a celebration of the first year in charge by Right Worthy Brother Tony Stringer the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, and his Deputy, Worthy Brother Paul Burton (pictured above).

It was a very well attended meeting with many other Provinces represented, including eight visiting Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers, Deputies and other Distinguished Guests.

These were all warmly welcomed by the Prov.G.S.R. and members of the Province.



5 - A sextet of Prov.G.S.R.s enjoying each other's company.

Following the opening, the assembly reflected upon those members lost during the year, led by R.Wy.Bro. Tony Stringer who gave a touching recollection of R.Wy.Bro. James McKeeman, who was Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler between 2003 and 2008.

The Prov.G.S.R. then introduced the visitors to the Province, including R.Wy.Bro. Mike le Conte, who had travelled from the Channel Islands, W.Bro. Martyn Greene, Dep.Prov.G.S.R. from East Scotland, and Gavin McNab representing West Scotland.

He also made special mention of Wy.Bro. David Williams, Deputy Grand Superintendent from the Royal Arch Chapter; Gary Horstman, Provincial Grand Master for the Mark and Royal Ark Mariners; Bob Jordan, Deputy Provincial Grand Summus for the Scarlet Cord; and Brian Williams, Deputy District Grand Prefect for Cheshire & North Wales Allied Degrees.



6 - Provincial Team for 2023/2024

After re-appointing his Deputy, Wy.Bro. Paul Burton, and the appointment and investing the new Provincial Offices for the year ahead, R.Wy.Bro. Tony Stringer addressed the meeting.

In typical fashion it was both amusing and informative.

Not only did it cover the 17 new members who had joined the Order during the year, it also reflected upon the number of meetings held, making special reference to the high attendance by John Owens, Provincial Grand Guide, who had attended 38 of the 47 meetings; Derek Gaskell, Provincial Grand Chancellor, 37 meetings; and Trevor Simcock, Provincial Grand Visitor, 34 meetings.

The Prov.G.S.R. then thanked everyone for supporting the Provincial Benevolent Fund, enabling a donation to the two Charities for the year, supported by Matched Funding from the Grand Benevolent Fund; St Luke's Hospice in Winsford, nominated by Vale of Weaver Conclave, and Wild Elements CIC, nominated by Carreg yr Wyddfa Conclave.

He then announced that this year the Provincial Benevolent Fund would be raising funds to support Claire House Children's Hospice, nominated by Shield of David Conclave, and DORIS, a project led by Vale of Clwyd MIND, nominated by Dewi Sant Conclave.

R.Wy.Bro. Stringer also thanked his Provincial team not only for the support that they had given him, but also to support given to the Conclaves throughout the Province during the year.

A particular mention was given to the new Commander of the Arch of Steel, Bro Philip Rose and his Deputy, David Ginger, for increasing the membership of the Arch and developing their swordsmanship.



7 - Prov.G.S.R. with his Arch of Steel

Earning a final and special thanks was the Provincial Grand Recorder, Wy. Bro. Alan Harrison, for the sterling work throughout out the year and especially for the smooth turning of the Provincial Grand Conclave.

At the closing of the meeting the Welsh and National Anthem were sung.

Then everyone retired for a very enjoyable lunch.



8 - A couple of Pasties allowed out for the day, whilst the Provincial Grand Chaplain blesses the wine, and the Provincial Grand Treasurer counts his money!

Responding to the Toast to his health, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler looked forward to the year ahead, and referred to the responsibilities of the senior members of the Provincial team.



9 - The Prov.G.S.R. driving the Province forward with a passion!

Wy. Bro. Jim Tang, Provincial Grand Chancellor, will continue to develop his Support Squad, aiming to assist Conclaves to deliver planned and excellent ceremonies when one or more Officers are known to be absent.

Wy.Bro. Derek Gaskell, Provincial Grand Counsellor, will co-ordinate the support for Conclaves for recruitment, including Friendship Meetings and the Prov.G.S.R.s Craft Lodge talk.

Wy.Bro. John Owens, Provincial Grand Guide, will provide a talk on the role of Visiting Deacons, particularly in regard to maintaining contact with absent Brethren.



10 - Sword waving over for the day, the Arch of Steel partake of a glass.

The sunshine and warmth of the day continued into the afternoon, matching the camaraderie of the meeting and proved a fitting ending to the Masonic year.

With thanks to Wy.Bro. Derek Gaskell, P.Dep.G.St.B., Prov.G.Coun., for the words, and Bro. Philip Rose, Commander, Provincial Arch of Steel, for the pictures

Charities round up



It's Incredible! The MBF helps a charity help charities!



Two branches of the Mark Benevolent Fund came together this week at the 'Incredible Design Company' – a charity based near Lewes in Sussex.

The charity supports severely disabled 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 Incredible Design Company needed new specialised printing equipment to continue their work and to allow more people access the facilities. The Mark Benevolent Fund was asked by the Sussex MBF to help make up the difference in the project cost. The Sussex MBF awarded £4,000 and the balance was supported nationally by the Mark Benevolent Fund raising the total needed of £16,950. A great example of the MBF working together for local charities and communities.



Many of the people who work here are former residents or attendees of the nearby 'Chailey Heritage Foundation', a charity that has been supported by the MBF in the past. However, once they reach the age of 21 this support cannot be continued at the foundation and this is where the Incredible Design Company steps in.

Word is already spreading of the work of the firm and the Province of Warwickshire has already placed an order for their 2027 MBF Festival merchandise. What a wonderful way to help a charity help other charities.

Please take a look at their website and view their catalogues <https://i-d-c.org.uk/> or give them a call on 01825 724376 and have a chat with Dan or Matt. They are more than happy to discuss your requirements. Just because it is not in the catalogue doesn't mean they can't do it for you – *'If you can think it – they can print it!'*

Having seen the quality of their work I can highly recommend them to everyone so please get in touch.

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













Mark Benevolent Fund



PROVINCE OF SUSSEX

THE INCREDIBLE DESIGN CO

**Working with
the Sussex MBF
who awarded
£4,000 for a
new printer.**

£16,950



Ryan A. Williams
Ryan A. Williams, OStJ
Honorary Secretary

@MarkMasonsHall
#Freemasonry

Bristol Province of Mark Master Masons



Bristol Baby Bank Network

The Province has been supporting the Bristol Baby Bank Network since the Installation of our Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Stephen Rawlings, who reinvigorated our support of 'local' charities. The Province has donated in excess of £4000 over the last five years and continues to include this Charity as one to be considered each month. The support of our Brethren has enabled the Province to maintain its donations to this worthy charity.

I wish to thank them for their generous donations.

We have received this very nice note from CEO Becky Gilbert:

Dear Brian,

I hope this email finds you well. I hope that you can please pass this email on to all of your colleagues who have supported us over the years, along with our gratitude. Without support from people such as yourselves, we would not be in the position of growth that we are currently in.

We have been incredibly busy here at [Baby Bank Network Bristol](#) over the last year or so, and I wanted to send you some important updates about the charity, what we have achieved with your support, and to share some of our plans for the future.

Baby Bank Network Bristol is 8 years old, and in that time we have helped over 8000 families! What an incredible journey we have been on since a group of mums first got together in 2015 and decided

to do something to relieve poverty in families with young children, by redistributing pre-loved baby and children items to families in need across Bristol and the surrounding area.

By April 2023 we had redistributed over 27,500 items, partnering with over 400 different referral partners to achieve this. We could not have got this far without your support, and we would like to say a huge thank you for believing in our work and supporting us on our journey so far.

In the last year we have seen a rapid increase in demand for our services, and now support on average 160 families per month with essential items for their babies and children. Towards the end of 2022 we received 76 referrals in our busiest week ever.

Between April 2022 and May 2023, Baby Bank Network Bristol helped 1,586 families by redistributing 5,477 items.

We know that the support we provide has a positive impact, with 97% of families who responded to our latest survey agreeing or strongly agreeing that they were less stressed about providing for their baby due to this support.

To find out more about the impact we have made with your support, please read our [2022-23 Impact Report](#) which is available to download on our website and is attached to this email.

Having survived the Covid-19 pandemic, we are currently in a period of rapid growth. In the last year we have doubled our staff team from two to four: Office Manager, Service Manager, Fundraising and Communications Coordinator and now [our first CEO](#), supported by an army of fantastic volunteers. I was delighted to be appointed as Baby Bank Network's first CEO in May 2023, and have been tasked with navigating this period of growth, the increase in demand for our services, and driving forward the charity's expansion to ensure that Bristol's most vulnerable families are supported in their time of need.

Recently, we made our first steps into the community by opening [our first charity shop in Sparks Bristol](#), selling pre-loved maternity wear, children's clothes, books and toys. Profits are put back into running our core referral service. We have also launched a [new website](#), including a new system for donating pre-loved items which has had a significant impact on reducing admin.

We have achieved a huge amount together, but we also know that there are more families we could be helping. [One in five children](#) (17,500) in Bristol live in income deprived families. We are reaching a fraction of these families, and we expect the increase in referrals to our service to continue to grow. We are developing plans for community hubs so that we can begin to work in the communities that we support to supplement our core referral model. We are also looking to move to a larger warehouse, re-open our delivery service and migrate to using a new CRM over the coming year.

Thank you so much for helping make all this possible, without your support we could not have come this far. We very much hope to work more with you to achieve our aims in the future, and reach more families in Bristol who are experiencing poverty or crisis.

If you would like any further information (via e-mail or face-to-face), or would like to find out other ways to support our work, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Becky Gilbert

With thanks to W.Bro. Brian Hamley, P.G.St.B., Prov.G.Ch.Stwd.

"The Bloods Nearer to Home Project" - The Christie Local Phlebotomy Service Update

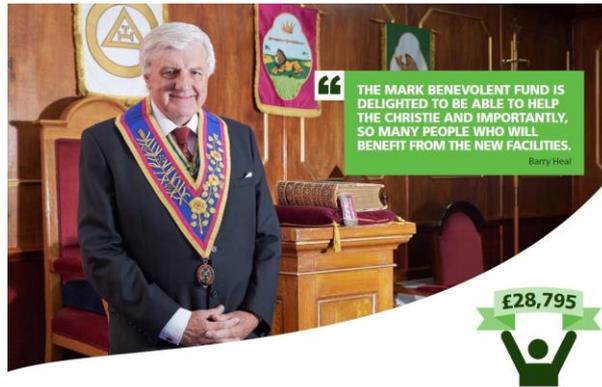


W.Bro. Barry Heal, P.Dep.G.Swd.B., sent us this update on the Mark Benevolent Fund grant to The Christie Hospital in Leeds. Patients at The Christie required routine blood tests before having Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapies (SACT) on consecutive days. This meant they had to visit The Christie twice during the week of treatment. The Bloods Nearer to Home Project was set up to reduce the amount of travelling needed and centralise these tests.

‘Just to let you know that this project is now fully functional in 11 locations in Manchester and Lancashire.

Yesterday, I went to St Anne's Hospice at Little Hulton to witness the siting of the "pop-up" banner in the foyer of the clinic. The same banner is also situated in all locations. I met with Sister Amanda Conners and Hazel Rushton, Trust and Foundations Development Manager, The Christie Charity who were delighted with the way the project had been managed.’

Our thanks to W.Bro. Barry for bringing the project to the attention of the MBF.



Woodland House Update



Below is an update from the Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital on the progress of the building of Woodland House. The MBF awarded £100,000 for the provision of two counselling rooms at the new neonatal bereavement centre:

In hospitals across the country, the current model of bereavement care for baby loss is not meeting the critical needs of women and their families. With your support, Birmingham Women's Hospital is undertaking an ambitious capital project to transform the bereavement experience for women and

families experiencing baby loss in the West Midlands. Woodland House will be the first neonatal bereavement centre of its kind in the UK, setting a new standard of care.

Construction on Woodland House began early this year and is well underway. Our contractor, Building Services Now (BSN) has been making great progress, with the foundation now laid and the frame of the corridor connecting Woodland House to our Delivery Suite starting to rise. With construction on schedule, our plan to open Woodland House to patients and families in Autumn 2023 is still on track. To follow the progress of construction, please visit [Woodland House Build Progress \(bwh.org.uk\)](https://www.bwh.org.uk), where updated photos of Woodland House will be posted on a regular basis.



11 - Woodland House design and photo of the construction site on 15 May 2023.

Over the past several months, the project team and our patient families have continued to work together to finalise the design for the interiors of Woodland House. They are also working with Martineau Gardens, a local charity that manages therapeutic garden spaces, to co-design the outside spaces. These spaces will be a core element of Woodland House and will be designed to honour loss and nurture the soul. These spaces will be at the front of the building, in the Reflective Garden at the centre of Woodland House, and in the private gardens of our two Family Rooms. We are also working to develop a partnership with a local prison with a woodworking training programme to see if they can create bespoke pieces of outdoor furniture for Woodland House, including benches, chairs, bird houses and a variety of planters. Our plans to include a green roof and other green elements within the project are also still on track.

Donor Recognition

We remain incredibly grateful for your gift to Woodland House. As one of our major donors, you are instrumental in making this vision a reality and we are pleased to be able to honour your significant contribution in two ways.

As a leading donor, the MBF name will be incorporated into the fabric of the building. We will commission special engraved panels to be placed vertically within the siding by the entrance to Woodland House. The panels will be designed to blend in with the look and feel of the house, providing an elegant entry without infringing on the overall tone and sentiment of the house. An artistic rendering to give you an idea of what this will look like has been included here.



The MBF name will also be included with all of our £10k+ donors on a special feature located in one of the gardens at Woodland House. Once the design of this feature has been finalised we will write again and include another update on the progress of the build.

We look forward to keeping you posted on our progress and to writing again in the near future with another update and an invitation to official opening of Woodland House.

Farewell duties in Northumberland O.S.M.



On Thursday, 6 July Right Worthy Brother Colin Hume, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor for Northumberland, carried out his last official duty before the Province is merged with the Province of Durham to form a New North East Province.

Accompanied by his Deputy, Worthy Brother Reece Valentine, and his Provincial Grand Recorder, Worthy Brother Paddy Watters, he attended the Great North Air Ambulance headquarters at Progress House, Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees to present a cheque for £2000.00. This was £1000.00 from the Province, which was matched funded by the OSM Benevolent fund in London.

We were given a tour of the building by Ben Hunt, the community fundraiser and a guided tour of the helicopter and all of its equipment, by John Kirton, a helicopter paramedic. He gave us a very

descriptive account of the type of operations they have to carry out while attending accidents all over the North of England, South Scotland and now the Isle of Man.

At present they are using the Air Cumbria helicopter. As they now have to cross the Irish Sea to cover the Isle of Man, the ambulance has to be able to float and theirs is away for 12 months awaiting the flotation equipment being fitted to enable it to do so.

The GNAA is almost entirely funded by charity, we were thanked for the very kind donation and invited back at any time. We were only too pleased to be able to help in a small way.

Pictured top l-r: Wy.Bro. Reece Valentine, Paramedic John Kirton, R.Wy.Bro. Colin Hume, Wy.Bro. Paddy Watters.



On Tuesday, 4 July we attended Scarborough Court, the Masonic Home in Northumberland, where we were met by the Home Manager, Sam Buxton.

After coffee and a good chat about the Home and its needs, R.Wy.Bro. Colin presented Sam with a cheque for £1000.00, The proceeds of a raffle for a four and a half litre bottle of Chivas Regal Whisky. This was very well received and we were assured that it would be put to good use for the benefit of the residents.

Thank you to all of the members of the OSM in Northumberland for making these presentations possible.

Pictured below, l-r: Wy.Bro. Reece Valentine, Home Manager Sam Buxton, R.Wy.Bro. Colin Hume, Stacey Hunter, Wy.Bro. Paddy Watters

With thanks to Wy.Bro. Reece Valentine, P.A.G.D.C.



Join us on Social Media

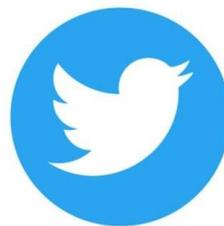
Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent 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	Dispersal Starts	Meeting Ends
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - Imperial Society	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	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Activities	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Activities	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 14 September 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - 150 Celebration	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - visit	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

06/06/2023

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

MBF Festival Cheshire 2024






156th MBF Festival Banquet
will be held at the
Concorde Conference Centre
Wilmslow Old Rd, Altrincham
WA15 8XQ
Saturday, 6 July 2023

[BOOK HERE](#)



Stewardship Jewels

The new-look MBF Stewardship Jewels have now been designed for the following Festivals:

[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.

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



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



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)