

# Freemasonry@86 News 15 September 2023



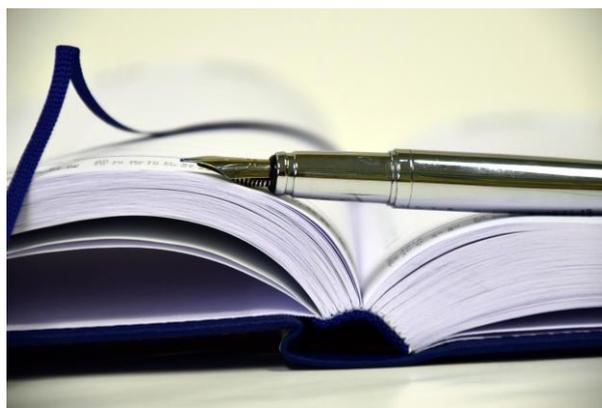
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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## Companion Orders Diary



**Below are some upcoming dates of events for our Grand teams in their respective Orders.**

You can find the calendar of the regular annual meetings of our Orders further down this newsletter.

**Saturday, 16 September - Mark** Installation of W.Bro. Victor Harold Pomeroy, P.G.S.D., as Provincial Grand Master for Dorset

**Saturday, 16 September - O.S.M.** Installation of V.Wy.Bro. John Charles Bicknell, P.G.V., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for West Lancashire

**Tuesday, 3 October - R.S.M.** Celebratory meeting of the Sesquicentenary of Grand Council, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

**Saturday, 7 October - O.S.M.** Installation of Wy.Bro. Paul Frederick Fell, P.G.Swd.B., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Essex

**Monday, 16 October - O.S.M./S.C.** Consecrations of Sagittarii Britanniae Conclave No. 634 & Invictus Consistory No. 149 Province of Staffordshire & Shropshire/Midland Counties

**Tuesday, 24 October - A.M.D.** Annual Meeting of Grand Council, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

**Saturday, 28 October - Mark** Installation of V.W.Bro. John Trevor Bolton, P.G.J.O., as Provincial Grand Master for West Yorkshire

**Thursday, 9 November - O.S.M.** Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

**Thursday, 16 November - S.C.** Installation of Dist.Comp. Terence Douglas Sheern, Prov.G.Reg., as Prov.G.S. for Essex

**Saturday, 18 November - A.M.D.** Installation of W.Bro. Lawrence James Hinde, P.G.S.D., as District Grand Prefect for Cumberland and Westmorland

**Tuesday, 21 November - K.T.** Chapter of Great Priory of Malta, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

**Monday, 11 December - R.A.M.** Annual Assembly, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

## September Communication of Mark Grand Lodge



Tuesday's Communication of Mark Grand Lodge is, for many, the start of the new Masonic season. And what better way to kick it off than to hear the names of 117 Brethren read out, and to see those present invested with their new Grand Rank following their promotion.

The ground floor of the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, was full with recipients, supporters, and Provincial and District representatives, plus Brethren from across our own Constitution and those overseas.



The meeting was opened by the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Herbert Prizeman, flanked by R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson, A.G.M., and H. Keith Emmerson, P.Dep.G.M.

The Pro Grand Master then addressed the meeting, commenting how pleased he was that our Grand Master had agreed for his name to go forward for re-election to serve another term in office.

Reiterating the message of the Grand Secretary, the Pro Grand Master confirmed that a new Grand Treasurer will be elected in March and spoke warmly of R.W.Bro. John Norman George Howitt, P.G.S.W., G.Treas., commending his stewardship of Grand Lodge's funds. There is currently some consideration being made of how to commemorate R.W.Bro. Howitt's contribution to Grand Lodge.

The Pro Grand Master then drew the attention of Brethren to the Mark Benevolent Fund's quarter two review, published in last week's Newsletter and available [Here](#) and congratulated the Mark Province of Dorset on becoming the first Grand Master's Keystone Fund Province. He then informed Brethren that the MBF would be giving £25K from the Mark Emergency Relief Fund to ShelterBox to assist with aid following the Morocco earthquake.

He then spoke of the indissoluble links between the Craft, Royal Arch, the Mark and the other Companion Orders, and how we all depend on the Craft to provide us with new members. He urged every Mark Brother to share this message with Brethren and Companions of our Lodges and Chapters and charged Provincial and District Grand Masters to work closely with their counterparts in the Craft and Royal Arch in building these essential aims, commenting that relations between our Grand Lodge and UGLE remain strong.

Next, the Pro Grand Master welcomed the Heads of other Orders in attendance.



The business of Grand Lodge was dealt with in the usual fashion before W.Bro. Sebastian Jeremy Dunsandle Daly, Prov.G.D.C. (Cheshire), rose to give notice that at the next Communication of Grand Lodge, he would propose the re-election of HRH Prince Michael of Kent, *GCVO*, as Grand Master.

The next item of business was to elect a Grand Treasurer. In his address later in the meeting, the Pro Grand Master would pay a tribute to R.W.Bro. John Norman George Howitt, P.G.S.W., G.Treas., who sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above earlier in the year. For the time being he called upon the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan Andrew Williams, *OStJ*, P.G.J.W., who informed the meeting that there was already a process in place to identify a new Grand Treasurer and that there would be a proposition in March. He added that the finances of Grand Lodge were being overseen for present time.

Next came the investiture of those receiving Promotion in Grand Rank and the Brethren warmly applauded each recipient of their well-deserved recognition.

And visitors from our own Districts overseas and R.W.Bro. Dimitrios Kontesis, Past Deputy Grand Master of the Mark Grand Lodge of Greece.



This was followed by thanks to the Grand Secretary and the team at Mark Masons' Hall.



And the G.D.C. and his team.

In closing, the Pro Grand Master expressed his hope that Brethren take home with them today's message of Masonic co-operation and wished all Brethren well, and a safe return home.

With no other business to transact, Grand Lodge was closed and the Brethren retired to dine, or make their ways homes.

Thank you to all those who came along to attend this meeting and support Grand Lodge, and congratulations to all those who received Promotion. Your attendance make these meetings very special occasions.



You can view a full gallery of photographs of the meeting, courtesy of V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, P.G.J.O., by [Clicking Here](#)

## Father advances son as Brother



At the recent meeting of St Laurence Lodge of M.M.M. No. 893, after being installed as W.M., W.Bro. Roger Bennett, P.A.G.D.C then Advanced his son Paul into this wonderful degree.

The lodge was particularly honoured by the attendance of the R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer, Dep.G.M. (pictured below, left, a Past Master of the Lodge), R.W.Bro. Eric John Rymer, Prov.G.M. (second from right) and the presiding officer, W.Bro. Paul Alan Yarnell, Dep.Prov.G.M. (below, right)

*With thanks to W.Bro. Dave Hughes, Prov.G.Sec., Worcestershire*

## A special day for Sussex Knights



In September, the Provincial Priory of Sussex celebrated their Sesquicentennial (*150 years*) Anniversary at their Annual Meeting held at the Sussex Masonic Centre in Brighton.

The Provincial Priory of Sussex was established on 7 March 1873, following the consecration of the second Preceptory in Sussex, De Warenne Preceptory No 126. Five weeks earlier, the first Preceptory had been consecrated in Eastbourne and that Preceptory's distinction as the first in the county was proclaimed in its chosen name, Sussex Preceptory No 125, and it has the further distinction of a separate name in the Order of Malta - The Southdown Priory.

The day started with the 150th Anniversary of the De Warenne Preceptory No 126, consecrated in 1873, which took its name from William De Warenne. There to celebrate this special day was the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., seen here with the Provincial Prior for Sussex, R.E.Kt. Colin Dann.



We received a warm knightly welcome from the Sussex Knights.



Before the meeting we met up for coffee and croissants, which gave us a chance to catch up with old friends.



Including many Right Eminent Knights who had travelled to Brighton to support the Province of Sussex on their special day.



And many Heads of other Orders in Sussex.



The day started with a meeting of the De Warenne Preceptory No 126. The preceptory was opened by the Eminent Preceptor, R.E.Kt. Toby Pratt, K.C.T., the Past Provincial Prior for Sussex, who welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this special meeting of the Preceptory.

The Brother Knights were called to order to receive the Right Eminent Provincial Prior for Sussex.



The Grand Marshal, R.E.Kt. Tim Wheeler, G.C.T., was admitted and briefed the Knights present on the ceremonial, and wished the Knights of the De Warenne Preceptory a most enjoyable day.



The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., entered in procession accompanied by a delegation of Officers of Great Priory and was offered the baton. As it was the hottest day of the year our Grand Master gave permission for the Brother Knights to remove their hats and gloves.





The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master addressed the Knights and directed that the Sesquicentenary Warrant be read. E.Kt. Dries van der Burgh gave a brief history of the Preceptory. The Great Prelate gave an Oration and a prayer was offered. The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master had much pleasure in presenting the Sesquicentenary Warrant to the Eminent Preceptor of the De Warenne Preceptory.



He then had much pleasure in presenting a 50 Year Certificate to E.Kt. Bert Farlow.



Following which he made a field appointment to E.Kt. Bert of Past Great Registrar, meaning that Bert was now Very Eminent Knight. This was received with acclaim by the Knights assembled.



The Grand Master retired from the Preceptory.



After the Preceptory was closed the Knights of the De Warenne Preceptory gathered for a group photograph with the Grand Master and the Provincial Prior for Sussex.



Then followed the meeting of the Provincial Priory of Sussex. The R.E. Knights and Distinguished Guests entered in procession under an Arch of Steel.



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



Provincial Priory was opened in due form and the Provincial Prior was saluted under direction of the Provincial Marshal. The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master entered in procession and was saluted under the direction of the Great Marshal.



During the meeting, the Preceptory Banners were paraded into Provincial Priory by the Preceptory Banner Bearers.



After the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded, the Provincial Prior re-appointed E.Kt. Tan Rusby, P.Gt.A-de-C., as Provincial Sub-Prior, thanking him for all his support.



He then appointed and invested his Provincial Officers. Thanking his 2022 Officers for all their support over the past year.



We then received a history of the Provincial Priory of Sussex followed by an address by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, who was pleased to present a Sesquicentenary Warrant to the Provincial Prior of Sussex.



In his address, the Provincial Prior thanked the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master for attending the meeting and making this a day to remember for the Brother Knights of the Province of Sussex.



After the collection of Alms the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master retired from Provincial Priory. Provincial Priory was closed in due form and the Provincial Prior retired in procession. The Surrey delegation then returned for a group photo.



After a few drinks in the bar.



We were called in to lunch.



The Brother Knights of the Province of Sussex and their guests enjoyed a most convivial meal together.



In proposing the Toast to the Grand Master, the Provincial Prior again thanked him for attending his Annual Meeting of their Sesquicentenary celebrations.



The Grand Master thanked the Provincial Prior and the Knights of the Provincial Priory on behalf of his team, thanking everyone for their hospitality.



The Provincial Prior then presented the Grand Master and Great Marshal a small gift as a thank-you for their support today.



The Toast to the Provincial Prior was given by the Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt. Tan Rusby. In his reply the Provincial Prior thanked E.Kt. Tan and all the Knights of the Province of Sussex for all their support over his first year as Provincial Prior.



To end a very special day the Provincial Prior had much pleasure in presenting V.W.Bro. Chris Moore, P.G.M.O., with a donation towards the Sussex 2028 Craft Festival.



We all wish the Provincial Priory of Sussex all the best for the future.

*With thanks to V.E.Kt. Chris Eley, P.G.Reg.*

## St Helier Preceptory No. 280



Thursday, 7 September 2023, the Knights of St Helier Preceptory gathered to install a new Eminent Preceptor. However, the Preceptor Elect was also the Provincial Grand Master (Craft) of Jersey so the event was already shaping up to be a special event.

But the Preceptory was further honoured to receive a formal visit by the M.E. & S. Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T. who was attended by the Great Marshal, R.E.Kt. Tim Wheeler., G.C.T.

Moreover, a number of guests from St George of Guernsey Preceptory had also travelled from Guernsey to support the evening.



St Helier Preceptory No. 280 is an Unattached Preceptory having been established since 1936 in Jersey. During the meeting the Grand Master conferred Overseas Great Rank on E.Kt. Ian C. Crosby.



Moreover the Grand Master was kept busy throughout the evening presenting Great Priory Certificates in both the Preceptory and the Priory of Malta, where he gave an explanation of the development of the newer certificates.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all, even though the temperature was in excess of 28°C, with no air conditioning and full regalia being worn.

*With thanks to V.E.Kt. Kenneth Rondel, P.G.Reg., Registrar, St Helier Preceptory No. 280*



## **Congratulations to the Provincial Priory of Hampshire and Isle of Wight**

In September, the Provincial Priory of Hampshire and Isle of Wight celebrated their Dodransbicentennial (175 years) Anniversary at their Annual Meeting held at the Brook House Masonic Centre, Botley, Hampshire.

The Province was created in 1848 but did not include the Isle of Wight at that time. Vectis Preceptory No. 237 was warranted in March 1925, being of 'free standing' and it was not until 1945 that they were united. To celebrate the 'union', the Annual Provincial meeting was held in Ryde in 1946. This 'moveable feast' was again scheduled for the Island in 1965. The Minute Book sadly records that "the meeting was held under exceptional difficulty due to the dense fog in the Solent". Strangely there has never been an Annual Provincial Meeting called on the island since, despite the great

improvement in radar systems in the ensuing years! Annual meetings came to a more settled existence in Bournemouth for many years but more recently have taken place at Botley.

We received a warm knightly welcome from the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard



And the Provincial Prior for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, R.E.Kt. Charles Jonathan Aspinell, *RD*.



Before the meeting we met up for coffee and biscuits which gave us a chance to catch up with old friends.



Including many Right Eminent Knights who had travelled to Botley to support the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight on their- special day.



It was good to see R.E.Kt. Trevor Gulliver, K.C.T., Past Provincial Prior for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, doing a splendid job as usual on the organ. R.E.Kt. Trevor was appointed Provincial Organist – a good choice.



Also attending were many Heads of Orders in Hampshire and Isle of Wight including Jonathan C. Whitaker, *JP*, K.C.M., Great Prior of Malta, the Provincial Grand Master in the Craft; and Steven Groeger, Intendant-General for the Red Cross of Constantine.



Provincial Priory was honoured by the presence of the Very High and Right Eminent Knight, Malcom Slater, who is recovering well, and was delighted to be able to attend this special meeting of his mother Province.



The Brother Knights were called to order to receive the Right Eminent Knights.





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



The Great Prior of Malta, R.E.Kt. Jonathan C. Whitaker, *JP*, K.C.M., entered in procession.



Provincial Priory was opened in due form and the Provincial Prior was saluted under direction of the Provincial Marshal.

The Very High and Right Eminent Knight, Malcolm Earnest Slater, *OStJ*, G.C.T., entered in procession with his escort.



During the meeting the Preceptory Banners were paraded into Provincial Priory by the Preceptory Banner Bearers.



After the regular business of Provincial Priory had been concluded, the Provincial Prior re-appointed E.Kt. Julian Mitchell, P.Gt.Her., as Provincial Sub-Prior, thanking him for all his support. He then appointed and invested his Provincial Officers. On appointing V.E.Kt. Jeff Southwick, P.G.Reg., as Chancellor the Provincial Prior paid tribute to the many years of faithful service, first as Provincial

Deputy Marshal and then Provincial Marshal. 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.

The Provincial Prior addressed Provincial Priory. In his Address he said that we meet today at Botley on the closest date to the very first Provincial Meeting of the Province of Hampshire and they have spent this last year celebrating our 175th Anniversary Year in fine style. He was delighted that the Brother Knights have embraced this important milestone and engaged in all the events they put on the Provincial calendar last year.

The Provincial Prior wanted to mark the year with a bumper donation to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group and he invited Right Eminent Knight David Coombes to present a donation to the Past Great Senechal, Very High & Right Eminent Knight Malcolm Slater, *OStJ*, G.C.T., of over £20,000. He also said that he has arranged for this year's collection to support the 2027 Festival of our Craft Province for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The Provincial Prior was thanked by R.E.Kt. Jonathan C. Whitaker, Provincial Grand Master for the Craft Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight.



The Provincial Prior said that numbers have continued to hold up and they have a good number of new Candidates waiting to join. He again thanked all the Visitors and Heads of Orders for supporting this meeting, saying he has had the pleasure of attending their meetings and their hospitality, and trusts they have enjoyed the day thus far and he looks forward to their company at lunch. He particularly thanked the Past Great Seneschal and Great Prior of Malta for their support today and making this anniversary so special. Also, the two Past Provincial Priors, both of whom are always engaged in promoting our Order. Finally, he thanked the staff of Brook House for making everyone welcome and working hard for their enjoyment and comfort.

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



Greeting his honoured guests as they retired from the Temple.



The Surrey delegation then returned for a group photo.



As did the Sussex team, who will be holding their Sesquicentennial anniversary meeting in Brighton next Saturday in the presence of the Grand Master.



After a few drinks in the bar...





...and outside in the sunshine...



...we were called in to lunch.



The Brother Knights of the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight and their guests enjoyed a most convivial meal together.





We all wish the Provincial Priory of Hampshire and Isle of Wight all the best for the future.

*With thanks to V.E.Kt. Chris Eley, P.G.Reg.*

## **A busy 24 hours for members of the Red Cross in Kent**



Last Sunday saw the restoration of the Divisional Annual Church Service which was cancelled last year due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and was this year held at the East Malling Church of St. James the Great under the direction of the Divisional High Prelate, the Rev Howard Pashley, who is known in many of the Masonic Orders within Kent.



1 - Rev. Howard Pashley contemplating where he left his cup!

The afternoon was enhanced by the wonderful Organ playing by the resident Organist as well as the local choir and was attended by many knights of the Order together with their Ladies.

The lessons were read by the Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. David Green and a Past Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. Peter Williams, who is currently the Prov.G.M. of the Kent Mark.



2 - The Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. David Green with, on his right, his predecessor, R.III.Kt. Nick Alder, and left, the previous Int.Gen., R.III.Kt. Peter Williams – Prov.G.M. of the Kent Mark

The thought-provoking sermon by the Rev Howard Pashley based upon the Israelites being confronted with the challenge of snakes during their escape from Egypt under Moses, challenged the

knights of the Red Cross to stand firm in their Christian beliefs to overcome all difficulties and dangers.

After the ceremony, the assembled congregation enjoyed tea & coffee provided by the ladies of the church, whilst those requiring something a little bit stronger repaired to the King & Queen public house opposite.



3 - The Divisional Marshal wearing a very natty jacket, together with the Divisional Warden of Regalia wondering where he can get one!

Less than 24 hours later the Division was back on duty to undertake the Appendant Orders for 5 new knights who had recently joined the Order.



4 - Candidates prior to the meeting

The meeting was held under the auspices of Sacer Comitatus Conclave No. 501, which only members of a Divisional Sepulchre Guard are eligible to join, at Tovil Masonic centre in Maidstone.

This was a big night for the Intendent-General and Divisional Marshal as it was their first time in charge of installing Knights of the Red Cross into the Holy Order of St. John the Evangelist and of the Noble & Invincible Order of the Holy Sepulchre and overseeing the ceremony, which lasts for almost 2 hours and requires a considerable team of knights from the Division, including members of the Divisional Sepulchre Guard to ensure that it is properly carried out and, to add to the intricacies of the evening, it was the first time that this location had been used.



5 - The Divisional Team who were involved in putting on the ceremony

Despite a few “Opening Night” nerves, the ceremony went wonderfully well and everyone who played a part carried out their duties impeccably, before the Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. David Green undertook the accolade for the 5 new knights.

Each of them will have their own memories of the evening, but each has vowed to come along to the next Appendant Orders so that they can sit back and just watch the incredible experience they had just enjoyed – who knows in a few years’ time, some of them may be undertaking roles on the evening themselves.



6 - The candidates after they had been installed, with the Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. David Green

The meeting was followed by a most enjoyable Festive Board with some of the finest catering that any of the Masonic Centres in Kent can provide, and concluded, after all the normal toasts, with a toast by the acting Most Puissant Sovereign to the new knights who encouraged them to get fully involved in the Order and the Division, and then asked all the assembled knights to rise and give them a very warm welcome into the Orders of St. John the Evangelist and of the Noble and Invincible Order of the Holy Sepulchre, which was done with much enthusiasm and gusto.



7 - The top table at the Festive Board clearly enjoying themselves



8 - The candidates at the top of the table tucking into a splendid Festive Board with other knights of the Division



9 - Members of the Conclave wearing their distinctive napkins – not wearing one means a fine which is why the Treasurer is looking happy!



10 - Members of the Divisional Sepulchre Guard finally being able to sit down and relax after taking part in the ceremony

With thanks to R.III.Kt. Nick Alder, K.C.C.

## And another busy 24 hours for members of the Red Cross Metropolitan Division



On Saturday, 9 September at M.M.H. the Grand Sepulchre Guard Conclave No. 379 conducted the Appendant Orders ceremony on behalf of the Metropolitan Division.

The Grand Sovereign, M.III.Kt. Graham Leslie Flight, G.C.C., was in attendance accompanied by the Grand Marshal, plus eight candidates and we witnessed an excellent ceremony. Pictured above is the Grand Sovereign together with all the candidates.

Below, the Grand Sovereign; the Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. Stuart Graves; the Dep.Int.-Gen., V.III.Kt. Eric Hampson, P.G.H.Alm.; together with four candidates from the Metropolitan Conclave No. 533;

two of whom had only joined the order the previous day when the Intendant-General was also present with a delegation of his Divisional Officers and the Red Cross ceremony was conducted by Eric Hampson as acting MP.S.

The two new Knights who were installed on the Friday and took their Appendant Orders on the Saturday were Antony Charalambous Karageorghis and Christopher Huxtable. And the other two members of Metropolitan Conclave were Barry Fredrick Laws and Gary Charles Carter.

*With thanks to R.III.Kt. Stuart Graves, Intendant-General*



## Saving the Hedgehogs of Guernsey



Each year the Province of the Channel Islands O.S.M. chooses two charities to support and in the past year one of those charities was the Guernsey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA).

Manager, Steve Byrne, said "It was lovely to show R.Wy.Bro Mike Le Conte and Wy.Bro. Gareth Callan around the GSPCA and we are so grateful for the amazing donation of £1000 from the O.S.M. Province of the Channel Islands for new hedgehog facilities".

The GSPCA helps over 3000 wild animals every year and many more domestic and those in need.

The animal the GSPCA helps more than any is the humble hedgehog, in fact over 700 in a year.

The Province of the Channel Islands, when they look to support a charity, contact them to see what they really need and with so many hedgehogs the GSPCA has been upgrading the hedgehog facilities with specialist cages.

Steve Byrne, manager of GSPCA, is pictured here with 4 cuddly beings (2 hedgehogs and R.Wy.Bro. Mike Le Conte, Prov.G.S.R. and Wy.Bro. Gareth Callan, Dep.Prov.G.S.R.).

*With thanks to V.Wy.Bro. Chris Base, G.V., Prov.G.Rec.*

## Charities round up



## More Challenges for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital



Having recently completed their Monopoly Board Challenge around London, the Knights (and Dames) of the Vision Beautiful hit the target to purchase their third piece of vital medical equipment

for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. Thanks to many generous donations, to date their fundraising has specifically purchased:

- a specialist surgeon's theatre chair for lengthy surgeries, especially vitreoretinal surgery sessions;
- a portable auto-refractometer to scan the eyes of patients not able to sit in a chair in the hospitals or clinics; and
- an autorefractor-keratometer, a scanner for measuring the degree of refractive error in the eye.

All of these items have already helped the staff and patients. Thank you to all of the donors to date that have enabled the amazing work of the Hospital in its several sites to continue. Without charitable support thousands of people every year would face a very difficult life, unimaginable to many of us in the UK.







The Team's new target is £25,000 to purchase a large Steam Autoclave. This will sterilise medical equipment for a variety of eye surgeries and procedures in the West Bank. There will be a more detailed update on the new target and its purpose soon, but we can reveal it is part of an exciting new endeavour to alleviate suffering on the part of vulnerable patients in the area.

To donate via their appeal for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, to save the sight of vulnerable patients and change their lives for the better (always ensuring it is without detriment to yourself or connections), please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Vision-Beautiful>

Alternatively, please see below for some specific challenges members of the Team are currently undertaking:

Some of you may know one of the newer Team Members, Robyn Murdo-Smith, a Kent Knight, from the Knights Templar Bazaar, via which he has sold various items to raise money for the Eye Hospital.



Robyn's current specific challenge is to complete his Kent Coast Circum Kayak challenge, from Erith to Rye, both of which are slightly beyond the actual county boundaries. So far he has paddled from Erith to Gravesend, from Palm Bay Margate to Minnis Bay, from Minnis Bay to Tankerton and from Tankerton to Graveney. Before the end of this season he will complete legs around the Isle of Grain and Sheppey and push on to St Margaret's Bay. Next year he will continue on to Rye.

Thus far he has experienced sharing the Thames with large commercial vessels producing large waves as they pass, the troubled waters under Dartford Crossing and some weird waters where the currents bounce off river sides. When the going gets tough Robyn just thinks about the work done by staff at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and that makes it all worthwhile.

If you would like to support the appeal via Robyn's page, please visit:

[justgiving.com/fundraising/RMSpage](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RMSpage).

Meanwhile, in West Yorkshire, Mark Christensen completed his own similar rowing challenge via numerous hours on his rowing machine. He has also been engaging in strenuous open water swimming, which in Yorkshire is an amazing feat in itself.

To support the appeal via Mark, please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/markseyehospital>



Last Sunday the Team Captain and his own Captain, Seema, undertook the Bacchus Run at Denbies Winery on the outskirts of Dorking, Surrey. Seema completed the 10km and Angus the Half-Marathon, which was through their vineyard and over the Surrey Hills. In spite of the heat they both made it through the challenge, including that of Denbies giving out wine on the way around!







Their next challenge will be on Sunday 1st October when they will do the Great Scottish Run 10km run together, with the Captain then going straight on to do the Half-Marathon immediately afterwards! He is also working on a plan to run the 1908 Olympic Marathon route in reverse - this was the Marathon that led to the specific 26.2 mile distance...

To support the appeal via their page please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/angus-rhodes>

As ever, if you would like to take part in this or future challenges, and help raise charitable funds, please contact their Captain via: [Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com](mailto:Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com)

You can also follow their events on Twitter: @KnightsVision

Instagram: @KnightsOfTheVision

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Knights-of-the-Vision-Beautiful](https://www.facebook.com/Knights-of-the-Vision-Beautiful)

## Join us on Social Media

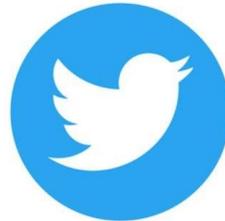
Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent 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](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)



## A once-in-a-generation celebration of Cryptic Freemasonry



The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters will celebrate its Sesquicentenary (150th Anniversary) at a special meeting to be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Tuesday, 3 October 2023 and all Royal and Select Companions are welcome to attend.

The annual business of Grand Council was transacted at a scaled down meeting in April, leaving the way clear for this extraordinary Assembly of Grand Council to be a true celebration of Cryptic Freemasonry.

A dedicated agenda will include:

- The Investiture of the recipients of appointment to, and promotion in, Grand Rank, as well as the recipients of celebratory Grand Ranks
- A delve into the history of the Order and the origins of our Grand Council

- The Dedication of a new, specially commissioned Ark of the Covenant
- A new lecture of interest to Companions
- Other surprise elements and a welcome to visiting Distinguished Companions from Sovereign Grand Councils across the world

Each Companion attending the meeting will receive a commemorative gift pack containing:

- The newly published history of the Order (r.r.p. circa £20)
- The special celebratory lapel pin (r.r.p. circa £6.50)
- A brochure for the meeting
- A branded document folder in which to carry these items

The meeting opens at 12:30 p.m. and will run until 2 p.m.

The meeting will be followed by a Gala Dinner in the Grand Connaught Rooms which will include a free drinks reception and musical entertainment.

To ensure you receive your commemorative gift pack when you attend, please do book in to register, for either the meeting, or the meeting and dinner, by [Clicking Here](#)

The Most Illustrious Grand Master looks forward to welcoming you to this memorable milestone meeting for our Order.



## 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 Active & 1st	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 Grandsons	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 - vau	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






**156<sup>th</sup> MBF Festival Banquet**  
will be held at the  
**Concorde Conference Centre**  
Wilmslow Old Rd, Altrincham  
WA15 8XQ  
Saturday, 6 July 2024

**[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](#)

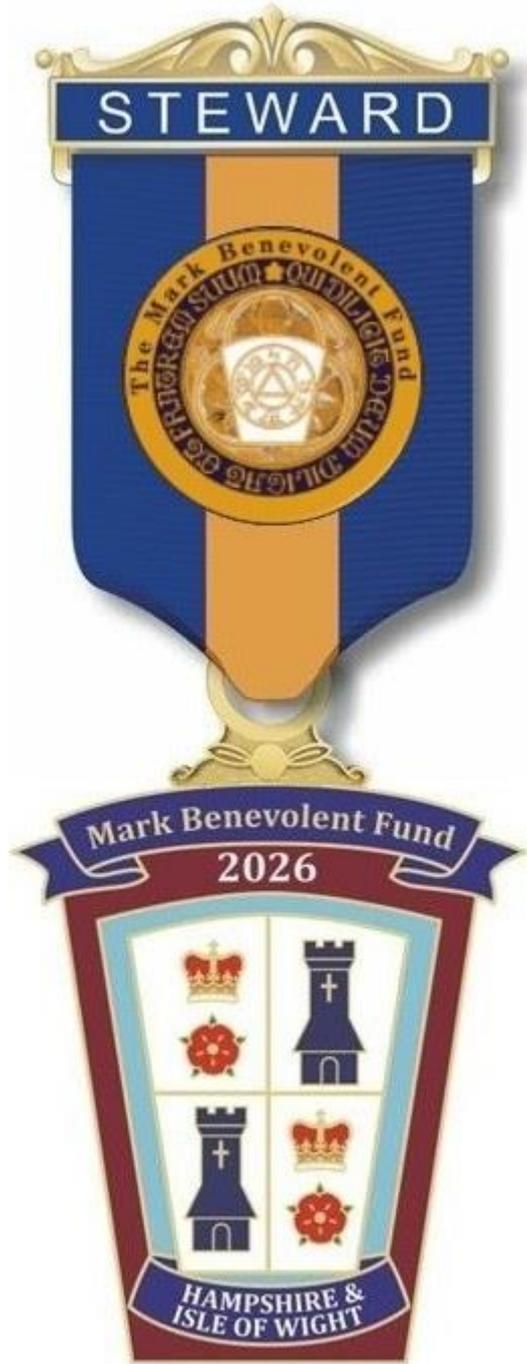
[2030 Essex](#)

[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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

In all correspondence please ensure you are donating to:

**Mark Emergency Relief Fund**

Relief Chest No.: **MMM185622**

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



For a Credit Card Donation Form [Click Here](#) - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

For a Single Donation Form [Click Here](#) - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

If you would like more information about the ways in which you can donate using the digital options above, you can read the Digital Donations Guide by [Clicking Here](#)

And if you, or your Lodge, already hold a Relief Chest from which you would like to donate funds, there is a further, specific guide available by [Clicking Here](#) and a simple transfer guide available by [Clicking Here](#)

## 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](mailto:L.Read@mmh.org.uk) and Finance Assistant, Millie Pilson, [M.Pilson@mmh.org.uk](mailto: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

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