

# Freemasonry@86 News - 8 September 2023



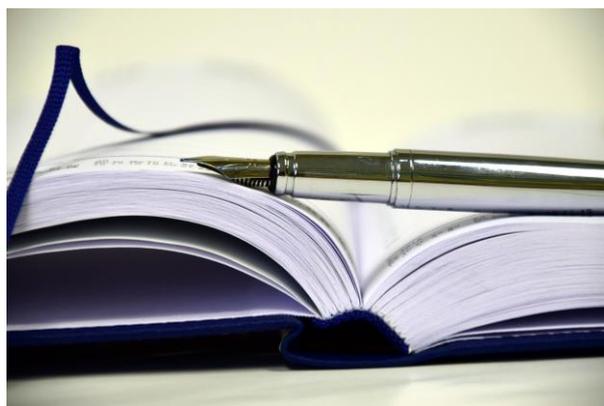
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

**Tuesday, 12 September - Mark** Communication of Mark Grand Lodge and Investiture of recipients of promotion in Grand Rank, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for meeting details

**Thursday, 14 September - K.B.H.C.** Annual meeting of Grand Priory, M.M.H., London [Click Here](#) for meeting details

**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

**Thursday, 9 November - O.S.M.** Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave, Freemasons' Hall, London

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

**Tuesday, 21 November - K.T.** Chapter of Great Priory of Malta, Freemasons' Hall, London

**Monday, 11 December - R.A.M.** Annual Assembly, Freemasons' Hall, London

## MBF Q2 Review



# Mark Benevolent Fund

## Q2 Review April – June 2023

We are very pleased to share with you the MBF Q2 review which details the money we have been able to donate this quarter thanks to your outstanding efforts raising funds and your generosity when making donations.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

You can download a copy by [Clicking Here](#)

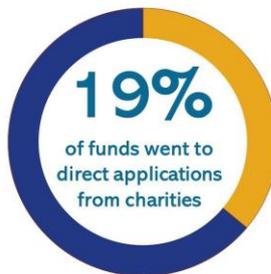
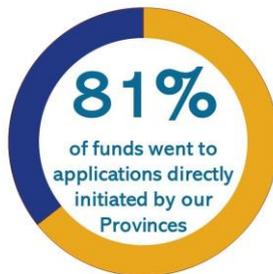


# Mark Benevolent Fund

## Q2 Review April – June 2023

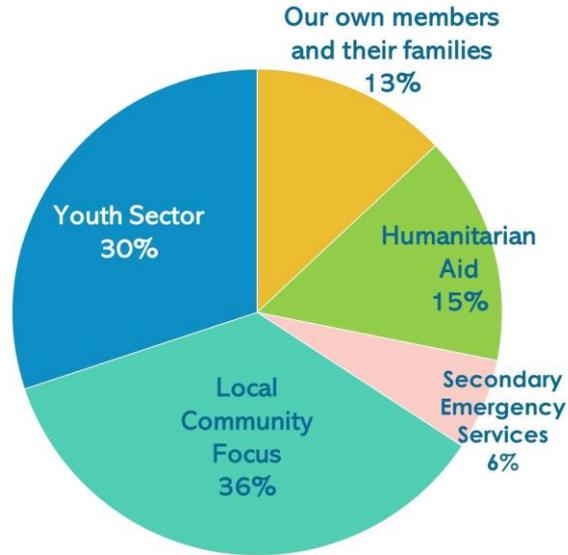


- £46,945 - Local Community
- £17,100 - Individuals
- £20,000 - Humanitarian Aid
  - £8,000 - Secondary Emergency Services
- £39,636 - Youth Sector





## At a Glance...



# £131,681



The second quarter of 2023 saw the Mark Benevolent Fund make 15 grants to our own members, local charities and other worthy causes across England, Wales, and our District in Romania.





**£39,636**

This scout group based in Wallington has over 80 members and the group needed to upgrade its ailing 18 year old minibus and trailer. The youngsters will benefit from new modern and reliable transport that complies with the current ULEZ legislation. They will be safe in the knowledge that the minibus will get them where they need to be with the minimum of fuss.



**£45,582**

The Canterbury Umbrella Centre is an important social support centre for adults with mental health and learning difficulties, and giving help and support to those who feel isolated in the community. Urgent repair were needed to facilities at the centre and funds have been made available to completely refurbish the kitchen and toilets.



**£1,363**

The Normandy Community Therapy Garden is a horticulture and education charity, working to have a positive and significant impact on the lives of people facing challenges in life. Whether by giving a sense of purpose to children with special needs or by reducing the isolation of a young person living with autism or someone older living with dementia. The Therapy Garden changes lives for the better by creating a safe place to enjoy the power of gardening and to connect with nature. They have a 'Field to Fork' ethos where members can grow fruit and vegetables on a 2-acre site and then cooked in the centre building to produce delicious meals and treats for them to enjoy. Funds have been made available for new kitchen equipment to give a better experience for its patrons.



**£8,000**

The Province of Hertfordshire have been working hard since last November to raise funds for a specially designed vehicle with four-wheel drive so most outdoor locations can be reached. 'The Community Support Unit' will contain facilities essential to enable rapid and safe response to an emergency. As well as being just right for the job, it means they will be able to 'retire' a number of older and less suitable ambulances from their fleet. This fully equipped Support Unit costs £65,000 and the Province raised a magnificent £57,000 for the project. The Trustees of the MBF were happy to make up the difference.



**£20,000**

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



**Down on the farm with the Sweetpea Small Holdings Charity**

Nestled in the rolling hills of Devon just outside of Exeter sits a sleepy parish that is home to the Sweetpea Small Holdings charity and its new site at Winkleigh Farm. A grant from the MBF of £1,871 has enabled the charity to begin work at the farm site giving more space for producing fruit and vegetables that will be donated to foodbanks across the area. The founder of the charity, Mike Baker, said they grant would be invaluable to such a small organisation. The funds have already enabled them to purchase a poly tunnel to help protect vulnerable plants and to construct raised beds to help give disabled volunteers better access. They have eleven volunteers at the moment with a huge bank just waiting to visit the site and help out once the site is confirmed as safe for disabled access.

During the growing season in 2022 the charity was astounded to have produced over 1.5 tonnes of produce, all going to local good causes, hence the need for expansion. Another example of a small charity doing great things in their community.

Mike Baker was joined by the Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire, R.W.Bro. David Purdie, W.Bro. Chris Elliott, P.A.G.D.C., Provincial Grand Secretary, Mark Masons' Hall's Charities Manager & Gordon the Donkey!



### The MBF Supporting Prostate Cancer UK

Mark Masons' Hall's Charities Manager, W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, P.G.S.D., joined Jade Dyer at the Prostate Cancer UK offices with the President of the MBF, R.W.Bro. Archie Torrance, P.Prov.G.M., (Kent) and his wife, Maggie. Earlier in the year W.Bro. Darren was gifted £500 by the Lincolnshire Mark Masons after delivering a presentation at their Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly in Skegness. The only request was to donate it to his choice of charity. With so many friends and colleagues going through the terrible experience of this sometimes-aggressive cancer there was really only one choice.

It was encouraging to hear of the work of the charity and the strides they have made in recent years, but also to know first-hand of the obstacles that they encounter on a regular basis. Such a worthwhile and necessary charity to support. W.Bro. Darren's thanks to the Brethren of the Lincolnshire Province and their Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Steve Hallberg for their very kind gesture.



- If you need assistance with medical costs your first port of call must be to the Masonic Charitable Foundation to check if they will be able to help you. Contact your Craft Lodge Almoner for further help or contact the MCF direct either online or by phone.

<https://mcf.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

- You must contact the MCF before engaging with any consultants or undergoing any private examinations.
- It is very rare that the MCF will take on any retrospective applications for assistance so always check with them first.



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**



## Q2 Review April – June 2023

Issued by  
Mark Benevolent Fund  
Registered Charity No. 207610  
The Charities Office  
Mark Masons' Hall  
86 St James's Street  
LONDON  
SW1A 1PL  
[www.markmasonshall.org](http://www.markmasonshall.org)  
[d.coleman@mmh.org.uk](mailto:d.coleman@mmh.org.uk)  
020 7747 1187

## Durham Knights Templar and Mark Master Masons meet together



On Thursday, 31 August, Durham Preceptory of Installed Preceptors met in the Durham Masonic Hall, Old Elvet for a quite unique occasion.

The Preceptory, having grown significantly over recent years, is now seen as a venue hosting high quality lecturers who are leading lights in Masonry to those in positions of influence and governing authority.

The August meeting was a new step in Durham as the Preceptory welcomed R.W.Bro. David Nigel Hanson, Provincial Grand Master of Mark Master Masons, supported by a delegation of Grand and Provincial Officers in their full Mark regalia.



Several of those in the Mark contingent were, of course, well known to the Knights present, one being the Durham Mark 2029 Festival Director, John Watts, who is the Past Provincial Sub-Prior and R.W.Bro. Frank Rankin, Past Grand Junior Warden and a Past Provincial Deputy Grand Master of the Mark, both known across our Province as highly supportive and leading Knights of our Order.



The Provincial Prior, who entered the Preceptory under an Arch of Steel, took the Chair and welcomed the M.M.M. guests. The baton was then returned to the Eminent Preceptor, David Colin Williamson so the business of the evening could be resumed. The Lecture Master, E.Kt. Richard H Tucker, *MBE*, Past Sub-Prior, then introduced the lecturer for the evening - Kt Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager at Mark Masons' Hall.



For many in the room, his talk and enlightenment on the subject of the Benevolent and other funds managed by Mark Masons' Hall through himself and the Charities team proved to be most interesting and very informative, not forgetting our own Charitable cause - The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, which our Provincial Prior, Richard Scott, will visit shortly. Explaining the forthcoming launch of the Grand Master's Keystone fund enabled Darren to show the Knights present the jewel which can be purchased and worn by Knights of the Order.

However, for one member, the evening had a special significance, as Kt. Darren Coleman-Heald requested R.W.Bro. Frank Rankin, P.G.J.W., be presented to him in order to receive his Grand Patron Gold Collarette and Jewel.



The evening concluded with an excellent four course meal in the panelled dining room of Old Elvet.

*With thanks to R.E.Kt. Richard Scott, Prov.Prior*









## Discovering Templar treasure on the Web



At a special event at The Cardiff & County Club in Cardiff, the new website for the Knight Templar Province of Monmouth and South Wales was launched and went live on Friday, 1 September.

It contains many new features which the members of the Province will find helpful and it will undertake a number of self-updating functions too, which will make the management of the site far easier and thus provide a greater benefit to the members. For example, as each featured Preceptory meeting occurs, details of the next one will take its place on the website automatically. The site also provides “How to get there” maps and advice for each of the venues across this very wide province.

At the launch event, the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Dr Paul Calderwood began by paying a powerful tribute to the splendid work which had been undertaken by the previous webmaster, E.Kt. Dr Tony Strachan, saying:

“Tony’s retirement is a great regret, not least because he created the old website - absolutely from scratch - and he has maintained it so well for the past seven years. We are all extremely grateful to him for all that he has achieved in that long term of office.

“His retirement, however, prompted us to think that the time may have come to give the website a fresh look and it was a great stroke of good fortune for the Knights of the Province when E.Kt. James Forbes Keir and Kt. Andrew Newson offered their services.

“James is a professional in the field of website development and Andrew’s background is in technical systems design and management. They have really burned the midnight oil (literally) in order to create a wonderful new facility for us all – and for the benefit of those who are not yet members of KT but who want to know more about our internationally respected and admired Order”.

Founded in 1866, The Cardiff & County Club is a hub for businessmen and others throughout South Wales and, like our oldest KT Preceptory, it recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. Being situated just yards from the studios of Website Express, in Museum Place - where so much of the work was undertaken to create the new website by James and Andrew - it seemed a most appropriate place for the launch.

As the Provincial Prior pointed out: “This is a real Templar Treasure and I have no doubt that all the Knights of the Province will join with me in saying how very grateful we are to James and Andrew for their hard work and generous support of the Order by creating this new facility. One of the great benefits is that the Knight Templar website address remains unchanged although the look and feel of it is very different.”

Website Express was born in 2008, when a group of young IT professionals came together to start delivering better web services, for companies in Wales and the south-west of England. For more information, please go to [www.website-express.co.uk](http://www.website-express.co.uk)

*With thanks to R.E.Kt. Dr Paul Calderwood, Prov.Prior*



## Twelve O'clock High



On Friday 25th August inst. The Commanding Officer (CO) AAC Air Commodore, Paul D. Fitzgerald, welcomed 101 Ladies and Gentlemen to the 'Sovereigns Room' at the RAF Club for the annual 'Twelve O'clock High' Banquet, held on behalf of the Red Cross of Constantine (RCC) to raise funds for the Grand Sovereigns 'Care For Children Fund'

The CO was delighted to note the record attendance for this event, which included the Guest of Honour, R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams *OStJ*; GCC; Grand Recorder of the Red Cross of Constantine (and Grand Secretary of M.M.M. of England & Wales)



Among the many attendees from RCC were the Intendants-General of Middlesex, R.III.Kt. Denis Leigh; Metropolitan, R.III.Kt. Stuart Graves, and Surrey, R.III.Kt. Simon McCarthy. Along with from Surrey, the Past Int.-Gen., R.III.Kt. Bob Hancock. Plus, current Deputy Int.s-Gen. from, Surrey, Andrew Sales; Metropolitan, III.Kt. Eric Hampson, and Hants & IoW, Lt Cdr. III.Kt. Kevin Todd, *MBE*, *RN*

Other Orders were represented by R.W.Bro. Jon Whitaker, Prov.G.M. of Hants & IoW (*UGLE*)

R.W.Bro. David Ashbolt, P.Prov.G.M. (London M.M.M.); R.W.Bro. John French Prov.G.M. (Surrey M.M.M.); V.W.Bro. John Ellis, A.Prov.G.M. (London M.M.M.); W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald (Charities Manager, M.M.H.); M.III.Bro. Brig. Peter Sharpe, *REME*, 33 Degree (St Peters Group London RC); R.W.Bro. Dr. Miguel Godfrey (DMM South Eastern Counties, plus, Vice-Chancellor, Surrey KT) and III.Kt. Chris Cradock Chancellor (Surrey KT)

Among those present from the UK's Senior Service (the Navy) was Lt. Cdr. Pat Drummy, *RN*; and from the Army, Major Gill Sharpe *RGBW*. Plus, Brid Hancock, *BEM*, and Judy Oakes, *OBE*.

Lt. Cdr. Kevin Todd, *MBE RN*, gave Grace before the Banquet. After an excellent meal there were two auctions (one unexpected) the first was for the 'Jerry 'Gangerdeen Cake' very kindly donated by the Master Baker who due to a previously arranged commitment could not attend in person to present it the highest bidder. This was the Middlesex Int.-Gen. Denis Dixon Leigh!! In fact, there was some serious inter-Divisional bidding between the Divisions of Middlesex, Metropolitan, and Surrey. Indeed, at one stage it looked like the latter would win the race. But not to be outbid by a neighbouring Division, Denis rode to the rescue to save the honour of Middlesex (given that the inaugural Banquet back in 2016 was held on behalf of Middlesex R.C.C. So they are kind of expected to lead the way....well that's what some folks say!!)



The second Auction arose from the Raffle where the Surrey Int.-Gen. Simon, won a bottle of Vintage Port and kindly put it up for auction, with the amount raised (£80) being added to the grand total along with the first auction and the proceeds of the Raffle. Which combined with other individual donations rounded up, came to £1500 (a record amount raised for this event)

On the issue of individual donations, a Mention in Despatches' must be made for two friends who could not attend the Banquet, Gary Collins of Middlesex R.C.C., and Kayan Dave of the Old Alleynian Lodge (Dulwich College Old Boys) who both made a significant donation to the event. Plus, Keith Hawes and Chris Nixon who were present, but in addition to purchasing Raffle tickets, also made a separate significant private donation. While the CO in keeping with tradition, rounded up the combined total collected to the nearest hundred.

Following the fund raising, the CO proposed the first Toast which was to the Commanders-In-Chief. President Joseph R. Biden (USA) and King Charles 111 (UK). Squadron Leader, Dr. Anton Smith RAF, then proposed the Toast to the Royal Air Force Club. After a brief response the CO proposed the Toast to the 'Masonic & Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine' following which he invited the Middlesex I.-G., R.III.Kt. Denis Leigh to respond. In doing so he expressed his thanks to the Organizer, Host and CO, Air Cdr. Paul Fitzgerald, and all the attendees for their support. The I.-G. also explained the good work that the 'Care For Children Fund' does for the young.



Following this, the CO called all present to attention to stand while 'Piper' Paul Burgess, played 'The Lament' to remember 'The Fallen' and all those who have served in the past, or are, currently serving, and placing themselves 'In Harm's Way' this was followed by 'Piper Paul playing 'Auld Lang Syne' where everyone joined in, with the words which just about managed to be heard along with the rousing sound of the Bagpipes superbly played by 'Piper' Paul!

The CO gave 'The Last Salute' and expressed his appreciation to all those who attended. He further noted that the next AAC-AFA Charity event held on behalf of a masonic charity, will be the annual 'Top Gun' Dinner in the RAF Club during the evening of Friday 8 December 2023. This is a black-tie function, and the 'Notification' for it will be sent out shortly.

A final 'Mention in Despatches' to Dr. Miguel Godfrey, who was the Overseer of the Auction & the Raffle. Plus, those who assisted him, and with Stewarding duties elsewhere during the event. Namely, Gary Raggett (who as usual, did a superb job on the front desk checking people in as they arrived) plus in alphabetical order, Zain Areeb-Uddin; Baren Charitra; James Sarson (who also acted as DC) and Gurdeep Virdee. Outstanding work was done by all of them, so they all get a special AAC/TGC 'Merit' award as well....how good is that!!



*Article - Air Cdr. Paul D. Fitzgerald AAC; AOG (USAF) AAC (USA) SFA (USSF)*

*Photographs - James Sarson*



## Augustus 7.1

**ST GEORGE  
CONCLAVE  
NO. 79**

Masonic Hall  
7 Brown Street,  
Port Glasgow,  
PA14 5BP

*3rd Tuesday  
every month  
except December from  
September to April*

**MPS/RRP**  
Andrew Piggott

**RECORDER:**  
Thomas Trotter  
16 Falkmouth Drive,  
GOURLOCK,  
PA19 1HW

**Tel (Home):**  
01475 710334

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07810 018159

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# Augustus



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1      SEP/OCT, 2022

Front cover—see P.10 for St. Giles Conclave 150th Anniversary.

Nearly back into the swing of things and conclaves returning to work. Hopefully another exciting year for Conclave Masonry with Glasgow celebrating 150th years in February.

Can you please note that Mike McGregor's new email is:  
[gicseot@outlook.com](mailto:gicseot@outlook.com)

**FUTURE  
ASSEMBLIES**

September  
RCC

October  
KHS

November  
RCC

January  
KHS

February  
RCC

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| 11 | Knight of the Holy Sepulchre  |

A set of old conclave jewels below show the two standard jewels albeit with the eagle. However, what is the third jewel? Was the Jerusalem cross a jewel for the Knight of St. John? I would be interested to hear from any knight who can shed light on this?



Last month I had the honour of presenting a talk in St. Margaret's Conclave No.21 in Keltly. With over 30 knights in attendance including 7 from the Division of Strathclyde for which I do thank them, we had an excellent night with an most interesting Q&A session. However, more importantly, we had a great spread with conclaves cakes made by the Em. Kt. Stephen Campbell Treasurer's wife.

We're very pleased to have received the latest edition of Augustus from the R.C.C. Scottish Constitution's St George Conclave No. 79 courtesy of the Editor, V.III.Kt. Grant Macleod, Intendant-General for the Division of Strathclyde.

You can download a copy by [Clicking Here](#)

## District Grand Council of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight took place on Saturday, 26 August at the Botley Masonic Centre, Hampshire.

District Grand Council was honoured by the presence of the Grand Master. M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones, IX.



Companions of the District and their guests started arriving for coffee and bacon butties.





While the lovely Temple was being set up ready for the meeting.



It was good to see so many Companions from other Districts who came along to support the District of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight.



The Companions were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Illustrious Companions



And past members of the District Executive.



The meeting was called to order to receive the District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Frank Jeremy Shaw and the District Officers of the year.





District Grand Council was opened in due form by the District Grand Master, who was saluted under the direction of the District Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Following a report by the District Grand Tyler...



District Grand Council received the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick J Jones, IX, escorted by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.III.Comp. Graham Seaman.



The Grand Master was welcomed to the District of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight by the District Grand Master and saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Grand Master responded accordingly saying that his salutation of 99 was the most of any Masonic Order.

Also present at the meeting was the newly appointed Grand Councillor of the Kennels, R.III.Comp. Rufus, wearing his Chain of Office.



The Grand Master was pleased to receive the Companions who had been appointed to, or promoted in, Grand Rank in April. In a change to the regular calendar of meetings, brought about by the Sesquicentenary celebrations of the forming of Grand Council to be held on Tuesday, 3 October, a 'business only' meeting of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters was held at Mark Masons' Hall. The Grand Master said he was looking forward to formally investing them in October.



After the regular business of District Grand Council had been concluded, the District Grand Master announced the re-appointment of Ill.Comp. Robert James Brown, P.A.G.D.C., as Deputy District Grand Master; and Ill.Comp. Simon Paul Lancaster, P.G.Man., as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.



The District Grand Master then appointed and invested his Officers for the ensuing year.

The District Grand Master invited the Grand Master to address District Grand Council. The Grand Master said that he was delighted to be in Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight once again, a unique District covering three Counties. He said that he was attending the meeting as the Deputy Grand Master, R.III.Comp. His Honour Ian Douglas Alexander, KC., who was due to attend, has been unwell. He was pleased to announce that the Deputy Grand Master was thankfully on the mend and he sends his best wishes to everyone.

The Grand Master hopes that as many Companions as possible will be able to attend the 150th anniversary in October, and described what is being planned for this special event – one that none of us will see again. After speaking about recruitment and the need to seek out new members to grow and enhance our Order, he thanked the District Grand Master and the Companions of the District of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight for their kind hospitality.

In his address the District Grand Master said what a pleasure it was to see the Temple so full and reminded the Companions that it is vital to look for and encourage Freemasons to join our Order. He congratulated Carnarvon Council No 5 who will be celebrating their 150th anniversary this year.

He thanked the 2022 District Officers for their support over the year and congratulated those he had appointed or promoted today. He thanked his District Recorder, V.III.Comp. Ron Bentley, who has done a sterling job for many years, and his team; and the District Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team, for all their hard work in preparing for and running today's meeting.

The Grand Master then retired from District Grand Council, along with Rufus and Ill.Comp. Mark Bajona.



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



The members of the District Executive greeted all their Honoured Guests as they retired from District Grand Council.





After refreshments in the bar where we had time to catch up with old friends...



We were called into lunch.



There was a most convivial atmosphere in the dining room.



In proposing the toast to the Grand Master the District Grand Master presented him, and his Grand Director of Ceremonies, with a small token of their appreciation.



In thanking R.III.Comp. Jeremy for his kind gesture the Grand Master said that it has been a delight to visit Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight again, and wished everyone well.



To end a most enjoyable day the District Grand Master had pleasure in presenting R.III.Comp. George Deacon, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, with a donation of £1,000 toward his 2026 Mark MBF Festival.



After lunch we all made our way home – wishing the Companions of Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight all the best for the future.

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

## Greene Team takes the Title



You can't live in Scotland for very long without being aware of the almost pathological rivalry between the blue team and the green team.

And on Saturday, 26 August at Musselburgh it was (as usual!) the green team that made it to the top- as Martyn Greene was installed as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for East Scotland by Most Worthy Brother Andrew Sweeney, the Grand Supreme Ruler.

Martyn is a very familiar and popular figure, not only throughout Scotland but England as well, so Brethren travelled great distances to Musselburgh to support him on this special occasion, despite train strikes south of the border, flight delays and inflated hotel prices because of the Edinburgh Fringe.

But none of that seemed to matter as a great gathering of Secret Monitors was treated to a beautiful installation by the Grand Supreme Ruler and the warmest of welcomes and wonderful hospitality from the East Scotland brethren.

Special mention was made of the outgoing (in both senses of the word!) Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Morgan McDonald, for a memorable term of office full of enthusiasm, dedication and friendship.

Martyn has big shoes to fill, but we know that the Grand Supreme Ruler's confidence will not be misplaced. There will be many trophies to come for this Greene team.

*With thanks to R.Wy.Bro. Ian Currans, G.Chan.*

## Consecration of Wiivnhou Consistory No. 146



On Wednesday, 30 August 2023, the Grand Summus, Most Distinguished Companion Ian Stanley Currans, VI, returned to Saxon Hall, Southend on Sea, Essex, with a full team to consecrate another Scarlet Cord Consistory in Essex.



The Wiivnhou Consistory No. 146 is the second Consistory to be Consecrated in Essex this Summer, the first being Charlemagne Consistory No. 145 on 28 July. This brings the total number of Consistories in the Province of Essex to seven and will create a Scarlet Cord presence in the North of the County.



The ceremony was conducted in a highly professional and efficient manner by the Grand Summus and the Oration by the Grand Episcopus, R.Dist.Comp. Charles J Aspinell, VI, gave a detailed insight into the historic details (*post 1066*) which led to the choice of the Consistory's name. After the meeting, many companions commented on the Oration and copies are available from the Consistory Recorder, Dist.Comp. Colin Nash. ([colinnash351@gmail.com](mailto:colinnash351@gmail.com))

At the luncheon after the meeting, the usual toasts were observed and during his response to the toast to the Consistory the Primus President, R.Dist.Comp. Ray Fretten, VI, noted that he was in his 90th year and becoming President would be his **70th** chair; this was much to the genuine astonishment of all present.

Should we be contacting the Guinness Book of Records?

I doubt anyone could beat that!



Words by Em.Comp. Paul Fell, P.Prov.G.Std.B. - Photo's by Dist.Comp. Bob Tuthill, Prov.G.Reg. (Surrey)







## Charities round up



**Congratulations to the Mark Province of Dorset who has become the first 'Grand Master's Keystone Province'.**



The Grand Master's Keystone Fund was created to celebrate H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, G.C.V.O. having given forty years of service to Mark Masonry.

The Fund is administered by the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund and its purpose is to grant awards to individuals, offering encouragement and financial support with their educational, vocational, and sporting achievements.

We hope the Provincial Grand Master will wear this very special Jewel with Pride and take every opportunity to impart the good work of the Mark Benevolent Fund knowing that every member of the Province of Dorset is supporting the Grand President of the Fund, H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO, Grand Master.



## MBF and the Mark Province of Northumberland



On Tuesday, 22 August the Mark Province of Northumberland was delighted to welcome W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager of Mark Masons' Hall. He was in the region representing the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund to present cheques, so generously given by the Fund, to two local charities and to see the equipment which the grants have provided for the organisations.

A strong contingent from the Province, consisting of the Prov.G.M., R.W.Bro. Ray Walton; Dep.Prov.G.M., V.W. Bro Richard Northey; along with W.Bro.s. Jeff Ormston, Prov.G.Ch.Stwd.; Dennis Beecroft, Prov.G.Alm.; Norman Reeve, Prov.G.Treas.; John Park, Acting Prov.G.Sec.; Brian Hagelburg, Acting Prov.A.G.Sec.; along with Bro. John Murray, Prov.Dep.G.Sec.; welcomed W.Bro. Darren and accompanied him for the presentations.

The first cheque of £55,751 was presented to the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade at their Watch House in Tynemouth. The Brigade is a voluntary shore based coastal search and rescue service founded in 1864, and is a Declared Facility to HM Coastguard for Rope Rescue, Water Rescue as well as Coastal Search and Rescue and has advanced first aid capabilities. The money has been used to purchase a brand new, fully equipped rescue vehicle to assist in the very important and valuable work done by the volunteers of the Brigade.



The photos show what a fantastic piece of equipment this is. All of the Brigade members were extremely grateful for the grant and said how valuable the vehicle was going to be in helping to save lives in the area.

The second cheque of £35,799 was presented to the North East Barbarians at Blyth Sports Centre. This is a local charity promoting Wheelchair Sport in the North East of England. This time the money was used to provide eight junior wheelchairs for under 16's with permanent disabilities to enable them to play rugby.



The wheelchairs were again, very gratefully received and have already been put into action. The photos show what tremendous pieces of equipment they are. The wheelchairs are definitely being well used, enabling these young people to have the opportunity to exercise, have fun and enjoy the companionship of others in the same situation.

Another wonderful afternoon of the 'Magic of the Mark'.











## Work on Woodland House reaches new heights with 'Topping Out' ceremony



**£100,000**

In 2020 the MBF pledged funding to the Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital charity to go towards the fitting out of counselling rooms in a new £1.5m neo natal bereavement centre called Woodland House.

The charity reached its fundraising goal early in 2022 and representatives of the MBF along with the Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire, R.W.Bro. Philip Wills and W.Bro. Nigel Clemson, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, joined the team in the ground-breaking ceremony.

The centre will open in the autumn of 2023. The MBF's pledge was made very early in the fundraising process and inspired other organisations to make their donations.



### Work On Woodland House Reaches New Heights With Topping Out Ceremony

Work on our purpose-built bereavement centre, Woodland House, reached a new height yesterday (1 Aug 2023) as we held a private 'topping out' event to celebrate the completion of the roof's construction.

This latest development, a centuries-old tradition, marked a major milestone in the build of our standalone baby and pregnancy loss bereavement centre, the first of its kind in a UK hospital setting.

Funded entirely by charitable donations, Woodland House is a much-needed new space, which will support over 2,000 grieving mums and dads every year who may have lost a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death at our hospital.

Key representatives from our Women's Hospital including Daljit Athwal, our chief nursing and midwifery officer, Rachel Carter, our director of midwifery, and Alison Rea, our senior bereavement midwife, were joined by our charity CEO, Mark Brider, members of our estates team and Woodland House's contractor, Building Services Now, to mark the final stage of construction.

With this exciting milestone reached and the exterior structure of Woodland House now complete, work has turned to the installation of the windows and ensuring the building is watertight ahead of completion later this year.

When open, Woodland House will feature separate and private access from the hospital. It will boast bespoke counselling rooms, a private garden, a large communal lounge area for support groups, and a family room with its own private access and garden. It will also have a private and sensitive viewing

room for families returning to see their baby, offering families the opportunity to spend time with their loved ones in comfort and serenity.

Fundraising for Woodland House continues so internally we can create a home away from home space for families experiencing the heartbreak of pregnancy and baby loss at our hospital.

The MBF contributed £100,000 to the project for counselling rooms.

## Charity News from around the Province of Northampton, Huntingdon & Bedford

It was in 2019 that the Ferrers and Lilford Mark & RAM Lodges held their first joint fun event – a Charity luncheon in support of the Mark Benevolent Fund – which proved a great success.

Sadly, plans to hold a similar event last year, after COVID restrictions were finally lifted, had to be shelved as many people were still very wary about socialising once again.

However, on Sunday 30th July 2023 the brainchild idea of W.Bro Roger Gunnet (Worshipful Commander of the Ferrers Lodge of RAM No 1341) was finally realised when a second joint Ferrers/Lilford Mark & RAM event, this time a Fun Day out in the open air, took place at Roger's fields on the outskirts of the lovely Holcot Village in deepest rural Northamptonshire.

Roger is not only a farmer but is also a brilliant guitarist who plays in a local "boy band" who call themselves "HOBBO" (the "Holcot Old Boys"). The five-strong band are well-known both locally and much further afield. Their membership comprises W.Bro Steve Clarges (Ferrers Lodges of MMM/RAM); Paul Higham (Lead Vocals); James Bonsor (Keyboard); Gary Elliot (Percussion) + W.Bro Roger, collective age of >150 years.

When Roger put forward his idea, the Charity Stewards of the Ferrers and Lilford Lodges (W.Bros Simon Harker & Jeff Chambers respectively) together with W.Bro Stuart Botomley (Lilford Lodge) and W.Bro Roger himself, formed another "Boy band" in the form of a working Committee to take Roger's idea forward and nurture it to fruition.

It was finally agreed that the event would consist of:

- A voluntary social/charity fundraising walk in the late morning/early afternoon 11:00am – 14:30hrs (on the walking track around nearby Pitsford Reservoir - approx. 8 miles in total; to be followed by
- An outdoor "bring-your-own" picnic in the afternoon, to be held in Roger's nearby field, at which free, locally brewed, real ale would be available and live music would be laid on by Roger and his musician friends.

The Charity Walk was to be held in support of the local Lakelands & Cransley Hospices and also to help those taking part to work up a worthy appetite for the afternoon's picnic and festivities!

A total of 13 intrepid individuals (both Masons & non-Masons) took part in the Charity Walk, including Ms Louise Gurney (*Community Fundraising and Events Development Manager, Cransley Hospice*). Sadly, Mrs Sue Hall (Fundraising Manager, Lakelands Hospice, Corby) was unable to join us due to ill health.

It was a beautiful sunny, breezy morning and ideal for the walk which helped to forge new friendships.



*The "First Eleven"*



*Late arrivals – W. Bro Mark Prigmore and his wife Melissa.*

The two St John Ambulance First Aiders, Elaine and Rosalind, arrived and stayed to the end of the event – although, thankfully, their services were not required as the event went without incident!

In the meantime, whilst the walkers were busy, Roger and his friends set up the covered trailer and beer tent with barrels of free beer, together with the Cransley Hospice's gazebo.



*1 - Louise & Sarah – Cransley Hospice*

The walkers returned to Roger's fields in the afternoon where the splendid turnout of picnickers was arriving to set out their pitches for the entertainment. By about 3pm a light rain had started - as had the band! And, boy, can they play – and, later, boy, did it rain!



*2 - and, boy, did they play...*

By this time a large number of picnickers were settled on their pitches and, shortly after, when the band started to perform Creedence Clearwater Revival's iconic "***Have You Ever Seen the Rain***" (from the album "Pendulum") the heavens began to open. However, no-one was worried about getting wet and the fun continued - everybody was having fun and enjoying themselves and the music was superb.



*3 - Have you ever seen the rain?*

Later, Bro Ray Beck took the stage and, with his electric mandolin accompaniment, gave a superb performance of old and new numbers – some with his own hilarious lyrics - before the band took the stage again.

And so, the fun connued and almost everyone showed true Corinthian spirit and stayed right to the end - despite the rain.

By about 6pm the picnic and entertainment were over as everyone started to pack away and prepare to leave. Roger and his friends were played out and then had to start packing away their gear.

Roger, on looking round his fields was truly amazed to see that not a single piece of liter had been le behind. That, in itself, was a wonderful way of everyone saying, **“Thank you, Roger and your friends, for the use of your fields, the superb beer, the wonderful entertainment and for giving us all a truly outstanding day”**.

Both the Ferrers and Lilford Lodges would like to thank all of those who supported the event and made it so successful, including:

- Louise and Sarah of the Cransley Hospice
- Elaine & Rosalind of the St John Ambulance.
- Any Occasion Equipment Hire who supplied the excellent portable toilet which had been delivered to the field on the Thursday before the event.

Finally, and what is more, in true Masonic fashion, we pride ourselves on also using such occasions to try and help others in our communitues who are less fortunate than ourselves. When all sponsorship monies for the Charity Walk have been collected in, we expect to have raised more than £1500\* to be shared between our two Hospices (\* which includes monies collected at the event itself).

Another wonderful achievement – thank you and very well done, everyone.

And I'll leave the last words to Roger himself:

***“My thanks go to the band and Bro Ray Beck for all their support and hard work on the day. It was a great team effort with much fun, both in the organisation of the event itself and also on the day - there was a lot of work put in by a lot of people to make it the success it was. I thoroughly enjoyed it, despite the weather, and I know the band and Bro Ray did too. It was lovely for us to see the great turnout on the day.***

***We had a lot of great feedback afterwards and it was clear that everyone had a great time. We were so pleased to run it as a charity event in support of the two Hospices as well as to entertain everyone with our beloved music.***

***I would like to thank W.Bros Simon Harker (Ferrers Lodge Charity Steward), Stuart Bottomley (Lilford Lodge Secretary) and W.Bro Jeff Chambers (the Provincial Charity Steward) for their amazing commitment to making it a success: there was a great deal of hard work put in by everyone involved.”***

Thanks to:

W.Bro Jeff Chambers, Prov.G.Ch.Stwd., Charity Steward Lilfield Mark Lodge

## Care in the Caribbean

R.W.Bro. Richard Mayers, District Grand Prefect for South and East Caribbean A.M.D., has been keeping busy as he continues to help supply food to the Slow Food Kitchen and the Soup Project.

Donations include sweet potatoes 75 lbs, butternut squash 50 lbs, carrots 50 lbs and cooking bananas 100 lbs The volunteers prepared 130 soups for the needy on Monday.

Without the volunteers to help prepare the stuff this soup project will die.

















Meanwhile, Richard also hosted Chef Adrian Cumberbatch from Cook Caribbean and his summer camp kids at Edgumbe Plantation for a tour. They came at 9.30am and left at 1.15pm. He treated them to roast breadfruit and lunch.

This is the third year his camp came to Edgumbe Plantation where they do field tours of a tractor spraying, one moulding up a field for sweet potatoes, one fertilising for sugarcane and one covering cane plants.

Richard is keen to help the children which he sees as future of Barbados.







<https://sway.office.com/owEBkQwfHwqdXOVr#content=YStRL4VA5ib1kM>



<https://sway.office.com/owEBkQwfHwgdX0Vr#content=pWxPcwivV4ZNES>



<https://sway.office.com/owEBkQwfHwqdX0Vr#content=tdAUiEesKqr9Jc>

## Join us on Social Media

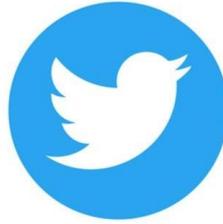
Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent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



## Calendar of Annual Meetings

### Grand Meetings Calendar 2023 - All Orders

Please note *all* timings are approximate. Refer to the Summons for confirmation.

| Order        | Meeting                                 | Date                        | To be held at                                | Rehearsal Time | Meeting Starts | Meeting Ends | Dinner Starts | Approx. Ends |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| MARK         | Grand Lodge                             | Tuesday, 7 March 2023       | F.M.H., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ | 12:00 AM       | 2:00 PM        | 3:00 PM      | 3:30 PM       | 5:00 PM      |
| RSM          | Grand Council -<br>Imperial Conclave    | Tuesday, 18 April 2023      | Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL          | 11:00 AM       | 12:30 PM       | 2:00 PM      | 2:30 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       | 3:00 PM      |
| KT           | Great Priory                            | Wednesday, 17 May 2023      | F.M.H., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ | 10:30 AM       | 12:30 PM       | 2:30 PM      | 3:30 PM       | 5:00 PM      |
| MARK         | Grand Lodge -<br>Investiture Activities | Tuesday, 23 June 2023       | F.M.H., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ | 10:30 AM       | 1:00 PM        | 3:15 PM      | 4:15 PM       | 5:45 PM      |
| RCC          | Grand Imperial Conclave                 | Tuesday, 4 July 2023        | F.M.H., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ | 10:30 AM       | 12:30 PM       | 2:30 PM      | 3:30 PM       | 5:00 PM      |
| MARK         | Grand Lodge -<br>Investiture Functions  | Tuesday, 12 September 2023  | F.M.H., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ | 12:00 PM       | 2:00 PM        | 3:00 PM      | 3:30 PM       | 5:00 PM      |
| KBHC         | Grand Priory                            | Thursday, 14 September 2023 | Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL          | 1:00 PM        | 2:00 PM        | 3:00 PM      | 3:30 PM       | 5:00 PM      |
| RSM          | Grand Council -150<br>Grandians         | Tuesday, 3 October 2023     | F.M.H., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ | 10:30 AM       | 12:30 PM       | 2:00 PM      | 3:00 PM       | 5:00 PM      |
| AMD          | Grand Council                           | Tuesday, 24 October 2023    | F.M.H., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ | 11:30 AM       | 1:00 PM        | 2:15 PM      | 3:00 PM       | 4:30 PM      |
| OSM          | Grand Conclave                          | Thursday, 9 November 2023   | F.M.H., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ | 10:30 AM       | 12:30 PM       | 2:00 PM      | 2:45 PM       | 4:15 PM      |
| KT -<br>Maha | Great Priory of Malta                   | Tuesday, 21 November 2023   | F.M.H., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ | 10:30 AM       | 12:30 PM       | 2:30 PM      | 3:30 PM       | 5:00 PM      |
| RAM          | Annual Assembly                         | Monday, 11 December 2023    | F.M.H., Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ | 10:30 AM       | 12:30 PM       | 2:00 PM      | 3:00 PM       | 5:00 PM      |

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

06/09/2023

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

## MBF Festival Cheshire 2024



The image displays two sets of Stewardship Jewels. The top set is a circular gold ring with a central emblem. The bottom set is a shield-shaped pendant with a blue and gold border, featuring a central emblem and the text 'STEWARDSHIP JEWELS' and 'MARK BENEVOLENT FUND'. To the right, a purple and red shield-shaped logo for the 'MARK BENEVOLENT FUND CHESHIRE 2024' is shown. The logo features a central emblem with a cross and a crown.

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.

## Additional support for earthquake rescue efforts



Further to last week's announcement that the MBF had made an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the Türkiye/Syria earthquakes rescue efforts, we have been inundated with requests to make it possible for Brethren, Lodges and Provinces to make donations to directly support the work of our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity.

It has been agreed that we will accept donations in to our MCF Relief Chest.

The donations will be channelled through our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity reg no. 1096479 and will also count towards MBF honorifics.

Donations for Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and Northern Syria should be sent using the following details:

MARK EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

MMM 185622

For Individual donations - Please add your **Surname** and the reference **Turkiye**

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

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

To make a donation you can

- **use the QR Code below**
- [Click Here](#) to go to the donation page
- [Click Here](#) to download a Credit/Debit Card donation Form
- [Click Here](#) to download a Cheque/Chirty Voucher donation form

**Mark Emergency Relief Fund**  
**MMM185622**

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

**<https://gtap.uk/mmm185622>**



Please share with your Brethren and if you have any queries or concerns please contact the Charities Department at Mark Masons' Hall.

We thank you all for your generosity.

You can find out more by [Clicking Here](#) to read the latest ShelterBox update and there is additional info in the images below.

You can visit ShelterBox on their various media outlets:

<https://shelterbox.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>

[ShelterBox](#)



## £50,000 donated to ShelterBox

On Monday, 6 February 2023 a series of powerful earthquakes devastated southern Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and northern Syria. The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund were quick to act and by the close of business on Tuesday 7, had approved an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the rescue efforts in association with our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity. The charity is sending an emergency response team to carry out crucial assessments and establish how best their help can be deployed. Their international assessment team will arrive in Türkiye in a few days and will be liaising with contacts on the ground to establish how best to proceed.

The humanitarian need in Türkiye and Syria is immense and growing – it is the most devastating earthquake to hit the region in 100 years and could become the worst. The death toll is likely to rise significantly, and thousands of buildings have been destroyed in both countries leaving people homeless, with nowhere to sleep, in the middle of a bitter winter.

ShelterBox provides different combinations of emergency shelter aid and essential household items during its responses depending on what is needed. This could be sending tents and shelter kits, stoves, thermal blankets and clothing to keep people warm through the freezing winter nights. It could be cash to help people buy what they need to survive. Or it could solar lights that help people when there is no electricity. Getting aid into countries and on to where it's needed after a disaster of this scale presents huge challenges especially with damage to infrastructure and supply routes. That's why ShelterBox strategically pre-positions aid around the world, including in Syria.

This donation of £50,000 from the Mark Benevolent Fund will allow ShelterBox to act quickly, adapting how they work to best support people affected by the earthquakes and allowing them to tailor aid packages to what is needed. There are currently no plans to set up a central fund from Mark Masons' Hall.

This is what the grant will be used for by the ShelterBox charity (information taken from the ShelterBox website):

### SHELTERBOX TENT - £350

When disaster strikes, families need shelter to feel safe again. When they can't start rebuilding their homes immediately, durable tents can make them feel safe and protected.

Depending on the weather and the place, the shelter needs of families differ. That's why we're committed to providing families with the best possible solutions that suit their needs.

From padded tents that can safely accommodate a stove, to medium-sized tents that fit in small spaces and ones that can last years if needed, families can feel at home again.



### SHELTER KITS - £60

We provide shelter kits which include a selection of hardwearing tools and materials that are customised to suit the needs of each community.

The tools and materials we send provide the essentials families need to start rebuilding homes straight away, ranging from tough tarpaulin and timber to corrugated sheeting and even room dividers.

The versatile tools we provide help with everything from clearing rubble to building shelters and even tending crops. Our tools can also be used to build furniture, cut firewood and make repairs.



#### BLANKETS - £7

Blankets, groundsheets and mattresses not only provide vital warmth, but comfort too when families are recovering from disaster. These simple items can be used in a variety of ways, from bedding to room dividers, and help turn a shelter into a home.



#### SOLAR LIGHTS - £11

Our solar lights can last up to 24 hours on just one charge on the lowest setting. They are lightweight and waterproof, making them easy to carry in any situation. Because they are so safe, cheap and easy to use, families use solar lights in different ways – for work, education, family activities, or simply moving around at night. They are more than just light – they can provide comfort and allow families to regain their livelihoods.



Find out more about the work of ShelterBox



<https://shelterbox.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>



@ShelterBox



## Mark Emergency Relief Fund

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

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

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

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

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

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

In all correspondence please ensure you are donating to:

**Mark Emergency Relief Fund**

Relief Chest No.: **MMM185622**

The quickest and easiest way to donate is by scanning the QR code below or following this [Link](https://gtap.uk/mmm185622).



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

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

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

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

## Swift pins still available



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

Provinces can order in bulk, or individuals can purchase single pins, by contacting Linda Read, 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 - but please note the Shop is closed until the end of August for the annual stock take and no orders will be taken during this period.



## 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)