# Freemasonry@86 News - 5 August 2022



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

This bulletin is emailed to all Rulers in the Provinces, Districts & Divisions and their Secretariats, as well as subscribers.

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# **Progressive 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, 6 August - Mark Sesquicentenary of the Mark Province of Cumberland and Westmorland

**Saturday 20 August - A.M.D.** Installation of W.Bro. Steven Graeme Barratt, P.G.J.D., as District Grand Prefect for East Midlands

**Thursday, 1 September - Mark** St Giles Lodge of M.M.M. No. 760 Centenary, Province of North Wales



## Fifty Year certificates for Worshipful Brother David Steel

Tuesday, 19 July 2022 and a wonderful afternoon at Hoyle Court, Baildon to present W.Bro. David Seel with his certificates and celebrate him being a Mark Mason for over fifty years. The weather was superb but, perhaps a little too hot for 'us British'. There is nothing we are better at than moaning and talking about the weather, it's either too hot or too cold!

The temperature however in the dining room was perfect with the air conditioning working hard to keep everyone cool. No mushroom soup, Roast Beef and Apple Pie with Custard but a delectation of a cold starter, a fabulous Salad, and Ice Cream to finish. The only hot thing being the coffee and of

course the kind words spoken about David. Worshipful Brother Sam Cariss presented David with his Grand Lodge certificate and Right Worshipful Brother James Steggles the Provincial Grand Master with his Provincial certificate.



Jim gave the background to David's life in Mark Masonry and spoke about not only his affection for David but the fond memories he had of White Rose Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1067. David had joined a special club there being only about twenty-five in the fifty-year certificate club.

He became a member of the order back in 1971 joining Carnarvon Lodge No.119. He joined White Rose in 1984 and was Secretary for 12 years. He had served both the Province and White Rose well over those years. David could not wait to respond and thanked the Order for all the help they had given him over the years. Mark Masonry really is the friendly degree and he had received many calls just to check in and say hello. He mentioned the wonderful work The Cleeves and Whitehead Trust did and the fact they had provided him with several weeks respite care at Connaught Court in York. His only complaint was that there seemed to be more women in there than men. He recalled one afternoon chasing a particular Lady around the gardens but when he actually caught up with her, he had forgotten why he had actually been chasing her!

The Worshipful Master W.Bro. Alan Griffin also spoke about David saying that he was a ubiquitous Mason, describing him as a pivotal member, a lynch pin and that he had steered them through some rough waters, but they were now in calm water again. He had very fond memories of David and would always hold David dear to his heart. A fabulous afternoon with Brethren returning to the heat and very warm cars.

With thanks to W.Bro. Andrew Johnson, P.Prov.G.S.W., Communications Manager, West Yorkshire





# Help and Compassion for Female Abuse Charity in South Africa (Western Division)



In 2019 the Widows sons Motorcycle Chapter 'Hiram' asked the Mark District Grand Lodge of South Africa Western Division Executive Council for a donation for a charity called 'Sisters Incorporated', a Gender violence sanctuary for women and children based in Cape Town. Sisters Incorporated is a private welfare organisation, founded in 1959. It was originally established as a refuge for single, pregnant women at a time when tremendous stigma was attached to being unmarried and pregnant.

The Mark Degree members are very active in the Widows sons throughout South Africa and a decision was made to support this cause donating R3,000 ( $\pm$ 150) towards the purchase of welcome packages consisted of toiletries and underwear that are handed to the ladies and children upon arrival.

The Mark executive then sent representatives to visit the Sisters Incorporated property to identify the needs of the residents. Various items were identified namely the children's play area, the Pantry where perishables are kept and the fridge that is broken.

In 2020 the Covid Pandemic caused a lockdown that prevented any masonic activities and when the situation eased in November a Spit Braai was held that was supported by more than 70 members of all four constitutions operating in South Africa and the Widows Sons Chapter. The amount raised was R15,000 (£750) and the 80% going to the charity. Lockdown again prevented any further masonic business but in November of 2021 we held another Spit Braai and raised R20,000 (£1,000) which we then used to undertake the repairs that we identified. Altogether almost R28,000 (£1,400) was donated to our charity paying for the children's play area, air conditioning and the new fridge.

Find out more here <u>https://sisters.org.za/</u>

With thanks to W.Bro. Winston Schultz, South Africa (Western Division)





# **Essex Provincial Grand Master reaches for the skies**



The Mark Provincial Grand Master for Essex, Right Worshipful Brother Terence D. Sheern, believes in setting an example and has signed himself up to take part in a daring wing walk on top of a Boeing Stearman WW2 biplane, travelling at speeds of up to 135 miles per hour.

The event will take place at Damyns Airfield, Upminster on Sunday, 21 May 2023, in aid of MBF Essex Festival 2030. Timings to be confirmed.

If you would like to sponsor the Provincial Grand Master please <u>Click Here</u>



# Warwickshire's Knight Templar is Queen's Baton Bearer

It's always the quiet ones who surprise you. Those people who 'hide their light under a bushel.'

E.Kt. Geoff James, of Temple Balsall Preceptory, is one such person. Quiet and unassuming. A great supporter, not only of K.T., but athletics too. For the latter he had the honour of carrying the Queen's Commonwealth Games Baton through Sutton Coldfield, his home town. At the end of his relay section he was congratulated by ClIr Janet Cairns, Mayor of the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield.

A richly deserved honour. But why?



A member of Birchfield Harriers (who meet and train at The Alexandra Stadium where the Commonwealth Games are now being held) he has served the sport of athletics for 68 years as a regional level athlete and coach. He coached Mary Stewart to a Commonwealth Games gold medal in the 1500 metres event at the 1978 Commonwealth Games.

Geoff was an endurance coach for the British Athletics team in international matches back in the late 1970's and as recently as 2015. After the turn of the millennium, he became the Midlands area coach mentor. He's worked with athletes from all backgrounds and from countries as diverse as Italy to South Africa. He's supported athletes from low-income backgrounds and coached disability athletes, most notably, John Wassell, who represented Team GB in 1969.

Geoff is a man who is truly athlete centred, who inspires other to achieve their best. For this and too many other reasons to list here, he was awarded by England Athletics the 2019 'Volunteers' Award for Services to Athletics or Running.

Well done Geoff, the Knights of Warwickshire are proud of you !!

With thanks to R.E.Kt. Roger E. Dixon, Prov.Prior



## London A.M.D. new members meet for dinner



On a hot and steamy evening a number of new members to the AMD District of London gathered at Tutton's restaurant in Covent Garden for the District's Annual New Members Dinner. The evening was hosted by the District Grand Prefect, R. W. Bro. Colin Woodcock along with members of his executive, the Deputy District Grand Prefect W. Bro. Steven Warwick and the District Grand Secretary W. Bro. Scott Cargill. We were also honoured with the attendance of the now legendary "Two Soups" Sam!

As per the ethos of the District it was a very inclusive evening with Colin engaging all those new members to get their initial views on the order and what prompted them to join the order. This provided some interesting feedback for Colin and his team. Scott gave an overview of the Councils within the District and there was very much an emphasis on visiting other Councils and encouraging brethren to take the opportunity to take Degrees where and when they could.

The District's Council of Improvement was discussed and all those present were encouraged to come along.

A great evening with good food, drinks and excellent company. The evening concluded with a toast to our next merry meeting.



# Supera Moras Conclave No. 49 Celebrates its Centenary in fine style

It is not very often that a centenary takes place in The Order of the Secret Monitor so it's a moment to cherish and celebrate when it does. That is exactly what took place at Rochdale Mas onic Hall on Saturday, 30 July when Supera Moras (The Internet Conclave) to give its full title, held a meeting to celebrate 100 years of continuous working.



The Consecration took place at Bolton Masonic Hall on Saturday, 5 February 1921. Supera Moras is Latin for 'overcoming delays or difficulty' and the motto adopted by the Town of Bolton. In the early days the conclave thrived on the back of the desire for men to join freemasonry after the First World War, and the membership continued to ebb and flow but in May 2000 it was decided that the conclave would pursue a different direction.

The conclave became 'The Internet Conclave' attracting members from around the country and latterly from around the world and meeting at different venues. This has proved successful venture and the conclave thrives today with a strong and growing membership. It has formed a bond with Ribble Valley Scarlet Cord Consistory with the two units meeting on the same day allowing brethren to enjoy a full day of masonry in both orders.

So it was no surprise that this meeting was well attended with a total of 85 brethren in attendance with the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler, Andrew Christopher Sweeny in attendance. He was joined by Christian Givvons the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and Stephen Holcroft his Deputy, who are both members of the Conclave.



Heads of many other Provinces along with their deputies made up a full complement of distinguished visitors who were processed into the lodge room under the canopy of swords provided by the East Lancashire Arch of Steel.

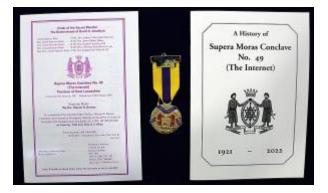


With the Conclave Supreme Ruler Wy.Bro. Wayne Barnes and his officers in place the conclave was opened. The Grand Director of Ceremonies, Christopher M. Davies, introduced the Grand Supreme Ruler to the Conclave.

Wayne welcomed Andrew Sweeney and of course offered him the gavel which on this occasion was accepted. Salutations followed to which Andrew responded with thanks and proceeded to commence the celebratory meeting. He remarked that it is impressive to see a Conclave remaining strong after 100 years and it was a very rare occasion indeed.

Andrew delivered a brief history of the conclave following which the Conclave Chaplain, V.Wy.Bro. John Beard, gave a wonderful oration.

Andrew invited the members of Supera Moras present to form up in the East and were personally congratulated and presented with a Centenary Jewel. An empty chair was in place in the East with a Grand Sash, Jewel and a roll of honour for the founders who are no longer present with the message 'lest we forget'.





Finally The Provincial Arch of Steel commanded by Wy.Bro. Shaun Higson were summoned to the East for inspection by Andrew and Chris Givvons . Before the Grand Supreme Ruler retired, Chris Givvons presented a cheque from the Province of East Lancashire for £1000, in favour of the O.S.M. benevolent fund to Andrew. He went on to thank Andrew for his support today and the terrific boost it had given to the order in East Lancashire.

With the Supreme Ruler Wayne Barnes restored to his rightful place he too had a presentation to make: £500 presented to the Arch of Steel from the Conclave which was received with thanks by Chris Givvons. Wayne thanked everyone for attending and supporting his Conclave for this very special meeting before closing and retiring.

The celebrations continued at a superb festive board where the brethren enjoyed a celebratory drink and a meal together. The Grand Supreme Ruler responded to a toast in his favour, thanking every one for a warm welcome and a further reminder of what a special achievement today's meeting had been celebrating, he went on to propose a toast to the Conclave, following which Chris Givvons presented him with a nice bottle of champagne.



Supreme Ruler Wayne Barnes responded to that toast with warm thanks and appreciation of the support of all the Brethren.



Chris Givvons then presented the G.D.C. Chris Davies with a stone decanter containing sarsaparilla as a memento and thanks for his work at the meeting and festive board.

The Grand Supreme ruler retired to rapturous acclamation! Here's to another 100 years Supera Moras!

More can be found about Supera Moras (The Internet) Conclave No. 49 on their website Here

Or, you can visit the East Lancashire Website Here



West Yorkshire O.S.M. Donation to the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (South Yorkshire) Ltd.



On Friday, 29 July the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of West Yorkshire, R.Wy.Bro. David Staniforth was joined by Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager at Mark Masons Hall, and the Past Provincial Grand Almoner Wy.Bro. Peter Firth at the South Yorkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Catcliffe, Rotherham.

This is a small autonomous, self-help, self-funding charity founded in 1985. The primary aim of the centre is to provide Oxygen Therapy for people living with Multiple Sclerosis and other life debilitating conditions. They provide access to a range of beneficial, non-intrusive, drug free and complimentary therapies in order to support patients, their families, and carers.

The Centre currently provides help and support for over 200 individuals, and do not receive any Government or NHS funding. In order to maintain their services, they need to raise in excess of £110K each year.

As a result of an application from Wy.Bro. Peter Firth it was agreed to donate £1,000 from the West Yorkshire OSM Benevolent Fund for the purchase of equipment required for the provision of pressurised Oxygen Therapy (Masks and Silicon Breathing Lines). The application gained 'Match Funding' from the Grand Conclave OSM Fund of Benevolence and a cheque for £2,000 was presented to the Centre manager – Julia Conlan-Greaves.



Specialised Oxygen Therapy consists of breathing medical oxygen through individual face masks within a pressure-controlled Hyperbolic Chamber. This is the most effective way to improve oxygen absorption and is widely used to help improve symptoms in many neurological conditions, head and spinal cord injuries and assisting in the healing of wounds and repair of muscle and tissue damage following cancer treatments.

After the presentation Julia said, "You have no idea how much this means to us at the centre – therapy is costly, and every penny will be used for the purchase of equipment so that we can provide support for more people who are vulnerable and really in need."

Following her treatment one of the centres users commented *"The treatment I get here is marvellous – it's made a massive difference to my life - without this I am convinced I would still be in my wheelchair"*.

Images show the Pressurised Oxygen Therapy chamber in use and, top, Centre Manager, Julia Conlan-Greaves pictured with R.Wy.Bro. David Staniforth, Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager at Mark Masons' Hall, and Wy.Bro. Peter Firth



# Supporting the Craft and Royal Arch on Yorkshire



There was a fantastic turnout in the Craft Province of Yorkshire North & East Ridings by the Heads of Orders and their Executive that are administered from Mark Masons' Hall, supporting the Investiture at York University on 30 July of RW Bro David Chambers as Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent of the Craft/Chapter Province of Yorkshire North & East Ridings.

The names are listed below, from left to right:

W Bro Stephen Priestley, Deputy Grand Master Mason of The Operatives

W Bro David Jennings, P.A. Prov.G.M. of the Mark

W Bro Brian Butterfield, District Grand Prefect, A.M.D.

W Bro Chris Barker, Provincial Grand Summus, Scarlet Cord

W Bro Clive Copley, Dep.Dist.G.Pref, AMD

W Bro David Roach, Intendent-General, Red Cross of Constantine and Regional Chancellor K.B.H.C. W Bro Tom Spinks, District Recorder R.S.M. and A.M.D. W Bro Neil Woodward, District Grand Master, R.S.M. W Bro Bob Clancey, Prov.G.M., Mark W Bro Glyn Goddard, Grand Recorder K.T.P., and 3rd Grand Master Mason, The Operatives RW Bro David Chambers, Prov GM, Craft W Bro Geoff Mankin, Dist.G.P.C.W., R.S.M. W Bro Denis Stubley, Asst Prov GM, Craft W Bro David Spivey, Dep.Dist.G.M., R.S.M. W Bro Stan Thompson, District Recorder, A&AR W Bro Phil Ellenor, Prov.G.S.R., O.S.M., and Chief Adept SRIA W Bro Geoff Nicholson, Prov.G.Sec., Mark, and Divisional Recorder, Red Cross of Constantine W Bro Malvin Sharpless, Prov.G.Rec., O.S.M. W Bro Bill Glanville, ProvGSec, Craft W Bro Eric Brown, Prov.G.M., Royal Order of Scotland W Bro Alan Armbrister, Asst Prov GM, Craft W Bro Steve Cox, DepProvGDC, Craft, and Deputy Prov.G.S.R., O.S.M.

# Not seeing your news? 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. 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 <u>communications@mmh.org.uk</u>

# **Calendar of Annual Meetings**

#### Grand Meetings Calendar 2022 - All Orders

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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 <u>Click Here</u> - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

For a Single Donation Form <u>Click Here</u> - 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 <u>Clicking Here</u>

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 <u>Clicking Here</u> and a simple transfer guide available by <u>Clicking Here</u>

# V.W.Bro. Cristian Mihutoiu, Grand Inspector for Romania has sent us details of the humanitarian activities he and his Brethren are developing for the Ukrainian refugees. 1) ACCOMMODATION

For both refugees coming from the North by car and on foot, and those coming from the South by ferry, there are requirements for short term accommodation places for at least 3-4 days, after which some of them are travelling to other European countries while others are being hosted by Romanian families. For this purpose we are cooperating with the Government to supply the following facilities:

- special tents for more than 20 people
- electrical heating devices
- beds and blankets
- personal hygiene products

On the other hand, there are many small hotel owners which offer their facilities for the refugees asking in return for the payment for the utilities (gas, water, electricity).

## 2) MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- emergency kits
- small surgery kits
- antibiotics and other different medicines
- disinfecting solvents
- cleaning sets
- medical face masks

## 3) FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES

- sandwiches
- warm food freshly prepared
- still water
- disposable plates and cups

## 4) TRANSPORTATION FROM THE BORDER TO DIFFERENT CITIES AND AIRPORT

Many Ukrainian refugees are leaving Romania after 3-4 days spent at the border, through the major airports, especially Bucharest. So they need free transportation.

## 5) SPECIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE FOR CHILDREN AND MOTHERS

Small children and mothers are very shocked and need specialised psychological assistance to recover.

## 6) CLOTHES SUPPLIES

Collecting and storing clothes for adults and children and distributing to the refugees as well as specialised articles for children.

Additionally we face the problem with those refugees who are asking to stay in Romania and need integration, long term accommodation and integration in our society. Many of them speak only Ukrainian or Russian.

Please also note that in the first wave of refugees arriving in the past 10 days, most of them have some financial resources. But the second wave, starting next week, will be those with very poor resources and who will require better care and support.

As of Wednesday, more than 250,000 refugees crossed the Romanian border and we are expecting up to 1 million in the next 30 days or less.

We are developing different support programs including in cooperation with other important organisations such as our National Craft Grand Lodge and international charity organisations such as LIONS Romania.

This is a brief presentation of our activities in support of the Ukrainian refugees who are facing a dramatic situation at the Romanian borders.

We are living in difficult times which require us, more than ever, and out of compassion and unity, to help those in difficult situations. Brotherhood and friendship must prevail.

Fraternal regards,

Cristian.

# The Shop@86

## Click Here to visit the Shop@86 website

Please note: The Shop@86 is closed for the summer recess and will re-open on Monday, 22 August.



# **MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels**

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

2023 West Yorkshire

2024 Cheshire

2025 Oxfordshire

2026 Hampshire & IOW

2027 Warwickshire

2028 Somerset

2030 Essex

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















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.

# Helping to Combat Covid



At the start of Lockdown the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W., shared the <u>COVID Symptom Study</u> app.

As local lockdowns and UK cases increase, with over 4 million users, this app is a useful source of information regarding the situation in your area, as well as being a portal through which people of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID, support the NHS, help scientific research and help get us out of lockdown safely.

# 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.

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