

Freemasonry@86 News - 13 May 2022



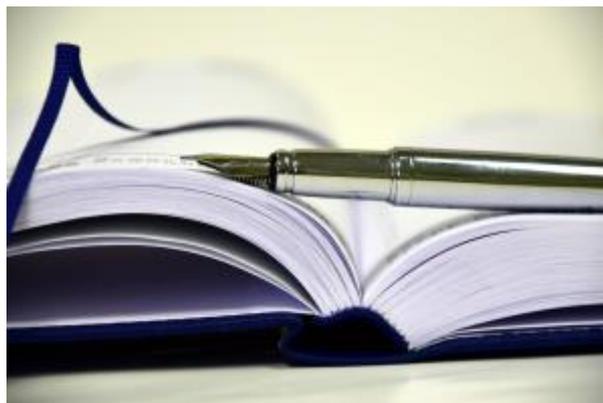
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Progressive Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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, 14 May - K.T. Installation of E.Kt. Peter Burrows, P.Gt.Her., as Provincial Prior for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire

Tuesday, 17 May - S.C. Installation of V. Dist. Comp. Julian James Greenwall, V, P.G.Lect., as Provincial Grand Summus for London

Wednesday, 18 May - K.T. Annual Chapter of Great Priory, Freemasons' Hall London

Saturday, 21 May - O.S.M. Installation of Wy. Bro. Michael Bryan Le Conte, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Channel Islands

Wednesday, 25 May - S.C. Consecration of Tennyson Down Consistory No. 141, Province of Hampshire, Isle of Wight and The Channel Islands

Thursday, 26 May - Mark Whitwell Lodge of M.M.M. No. 151 Sesquicentenary, Province of Cumberland & Westmorland

Saturday, 28 May - K.T. Confirmation in Office of R.E.Kt. Richard Francis Micklefield as Provincial Prior for Dorset and Wiltshire

Saturday, 28 May - A.M.D. Installation of W. Bro. Brian Butterfield, P.G.St.B., as District Grand Prefect for Yorkshire

Monday, 30 May - Mark Anglebury Lodge of M.M.M. No. 763 Centenary, Province of Dorset

Tuesday, 31 May - Mark Installation of W. Bro. Brian Percival Gargett, P.G.J.D., as Provincial Grand Master for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire

Tuesday, 7 June - Mark Annual Investiture Meeting, Freemasons' Hall, London

Tuesday, 14 June - Mark Dover & Cinque Ports Lodge of M.M.M. Centenary, Province of Kent

Thursday, 16 June - Mark Installation of W. Bro. Stephen Lee, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire

Monday, 20 June - Mark Stony Gate Lodge of M.M.M. No. 751 Centenary, Province of Leicestershire and Rutland

Thursday, 23 June - Mark Installation of W. Bro. Keith David Bristow, P.G.S.D., as Provincial Grand Master for Buckinghamshire

Saturday, 2 July - Mark M.B.F. Festival hosted by the Mark Province of Surrey at Brighton

Tuesday, 5 July - R.C.C. Annual Assembly of Grand Imperial Conclave, Freemasons' Hall London

More chains than Alcatraz at the handover of the new “Kingfisher Mark” to the Medway Kingfisher Trust



The Kingfisher Medway Trust are the proud owners of a new boat – the 'Kingfisher Mark' – to support their work in providing river trips for adults and children who suffer from mental and physical disabilities, together with their carers. The purchase of the boat, which will take a maximum of 12 Passengers on trips along the River Medway from her berth at Wateringbury, was funded by the Mark Benevolent Fund, after being sponsored by the Mark Province of Kent.

The official handover of the boat, by the Deputy President of the Board of Trustees – R.W.Bro. David Ashbolt – was accomplished in brilliant sunshine, at the Medway Marina, where she is berthed. He was accompanied by his colleague R.W.Bro. Kevin Hicks, together with most of the Executive of the Mark Province of Kent and their wives.

The official naming of the boat was carried out by W.Bro. Peter Dowling who won the competition, run by the Mark Province of Kent to name her, together with his wife, Karen.

After a small party to celebrate the start of a new partnership, volunteers from the Trust very kindly took some members of the handover team on a short trip up the Medway, before they start their season in earnest.

With thanks to W.Bro. Trevor Sharpe, P.A.G.D.C., A.Prov.G.M. (Kent)

I guess it's not often that Dean Martin (or Mario Lanza if you prefer) is quoted at the "launch" of a boat but I think a line from the song – Memories are made of this – is entirely appropriate for this occasion.

Kingfisher Mark will, over the course of its lifetime with the trust, be instrumental in providing happy memories for her passengers, skippers and crew. She will carry people of all ages and of many of life's disadvantages but will enable them to take away memories of a happy day on the river. On one of the first trips this season we had a passenger who had been a navigation officer on HMS Rodney, which had taken part in Operation Pedestal, the relief convoy to the island of Malta in 1942. He was in his late 90s and was delighted to take a short spell at the wheel. We will carry young children from Special Schools, some of whom will arrive in complex electric wheelchairs and never utter a word during the trip. "Oh, they've had a wonderful day," their carers/teachers will say when they disembark, "You might not be able to see but we know from experience when they are happy and they are happy today."

These and many other examples I could give, make the work of the Kingfisher Medway Trust so valuable and rewarding, so I would like to pay tribute to you, the Mark Masons, for your incredible generosity in providing the funds to enable us to purchase, build and operate this fantastic new boat. I will also take this opportunity to thank the team from the trust who put many hours into the design and build process.

Behind Dean Martin there is a small backing group gently chanting "You can't beat the memories you gave a me" and over the coming years, for our passengers the memories they take away from a trip on Kingfisher Mark will be very hard to beat.

Thank You.







'Life-saving' mobile cancer unit helps more than 1,000 people in first year



Amara, the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital's (NNUH's) mobile cancer unit is celebrating its first anniversary.

More than a thousand people have seen stressful hospital trips for cancer treatment eliminated in the past year by a mobile cancer care unit.

Nestled inside a Mercedes Antos lorry, 'Amara' tours the county four days a week delivering life-saving cancer treatments to up four patients at a time, preventing patients with long round-trips to the hospital from visiting for their chemotherapy.



Pictured above is R.W.Bro. John Gillo, Prov.G.M. for Gloucestershire & Herefordshire, whose wife Amara gave her name to the unit after she died from ovarian cancer in 2019.

Since its launch a year ago, the unit has treated more than 1,000 people on its visits to supermarket car parks in Fakenham, Attleborough, Beccles and Dereham.

It is run as a partnership between Hope for Tomorrow and the NNUH hospital charity, with staff from the hospital's Weybourne suite driven around the county by former firefighter Jack Russell.



Also pictured are NNUH chief executive Sam Higginson (right) with John Gillo and Emma Bowles from Hope for Tomorrow.

Mr Russell said: "It fills me with a great deal of pride to help so many people - we get to know the patients and they get to know me.

"After I retired as a firefighter I worked as a black cab driver for a while and I couldn't stand working on my own - now I love being part of a team again and knowing that I am making a difference."



Ruth Lightening, deputy sister of the Weybourne Day Unit, who works on Amara, said: "It is so amazing to hear all the great feedback we have had from patients about how much of a difference it has made.

"Patients have told me how stressful they'd find driving in - how they'd lose a whole day coming to hospital and the worry that it caused.



Tina Seymour, chief executive for Hope for Tomorrow, said: "We are really proud to have been able to provide a Mobile Cancer Care Unit to NNUH and to enable their amazing team to take their cancer care into the heart of their communities. We look forward to working with them for many years to continue this incredible service."

The unit was donated by the Mark Master Masons of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. Speaking at the event, R.W.Bro. John said: "Amara would have been delighted to know something named after her has made such a difference."



Ann Leigh, from Swanton Novers, near Holt, was treated for around nine months on the unit in Fakenham and described it as "a real life-saver".

Previously, she was required to make a 50-mile round trip to receive her treatment at the hospital, a trip she grew to dread.

She said: "When you are already weakened by the treatment it made things even more difficult - I would lose sleep the night before worrying about having to make the journey.

"Fakenham though was so much easier and having the unit took away so much of the hassle and anxiety.

"The staff were always really lovely and I got to know the driver really well too."

The 77-year-old is now able to receive her treatment in Cromer, but said she remains eternally grateful to the impact the mobile unit had for her.

She added: "Suddenly, instead of my treatment being an ordeal it had become 'no big deal' at all. I felt like I was just popping down the road, as if I were just going down the shops."

Credits: Sonya Duncan, and Hope for Tomorrow

Further Aid for Ukraine



R.W.Bro. Derek Thomas, P.Prov.G.M. for Monmouthshire, sent us this report from a recent visit to Romania:

During my recent visit I took the opportunity to visit Ukrainian refugee centres supported by the MBF in Timisoara and Bucharest.

In Timisoara it has been set up in a building belonging to the Ukrainian church and is therefore able to benefit from help from Ukrainian nationals living in the area, particularly in terms of accommodation, work and clothing etc. We have been able to supply specific items that they have requested such as laptops for the children's education and aids to learn the Romanian language. In other words our aid has been targeted to meet their immediate needs. Whilst there I was fortunate to meet the Ukrainian Consul to Romania who was on a fact finding trip and in turn providing

assistance with identity documentation and tracing lost family members. He was fully aware of the assistance being provided by the MBF and wished to express his thanks in person.

I have included a couple of photographs, but have more.

In Bucharest the MBF is basically the main means of support for the centre that I visited, again I have many photographs that I can pass on. They will show not only the refugee ladies and children but the key personnel running and managing the centre. It is a hotel, closed due to Covid, which the owner opened and took in refugees for 2 weeks providing accommodation and food without any assistance. When it came to the attention of some Mark brethren VW Bro Cristian and his team immediately stepped in to assist.

It is difficult to put into words how much, not only the refugees but the local help appreciate what the MBF are doing. For myself, I would describe my brief visit as both heart wrenching and heart warming, if not life changing.

The Inspectorate team are doing a superb job in managing our funds and supporting the small band of locals in this humanitarian effort.

I have deliberately underplayed the details, that can and should be provided locally but I understand that they are in the process of putting together a video illustrating how the MBF is being received.

I'm sure that similar efforts will be seen in Brasov, Dorohoi and Iasi and I'm sure that all Mark Master Masons would be proud of our accomplishments to date.









While with the Ambulance Aid team...



Last week we included the beginning of the intrepid journey being undertaken by W.Bro. Mike Ross of Neston Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1445 and his Brother from the Craft, Paul Stevenson.

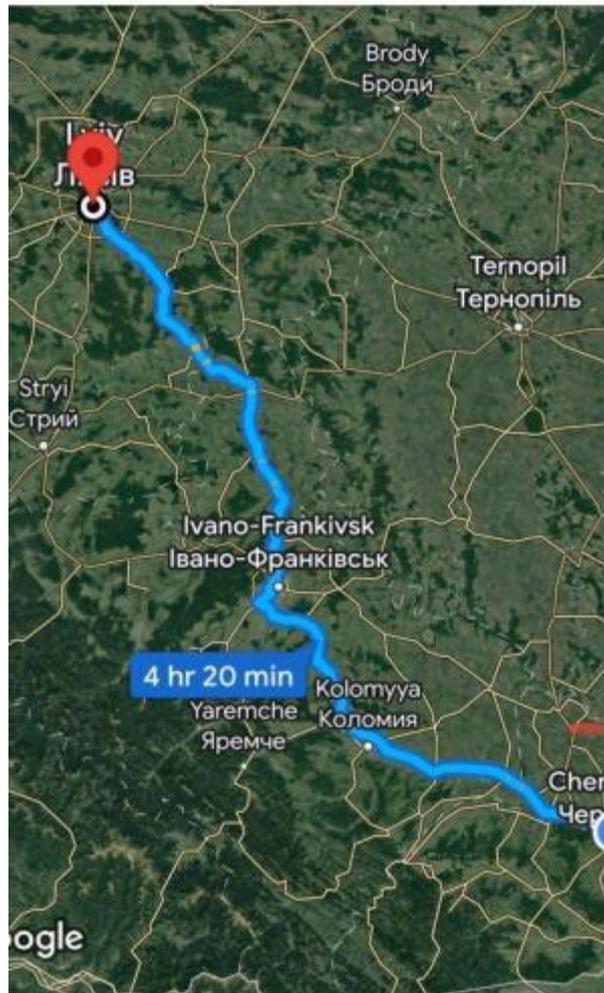
This week they arrived at their destination with the Ambulance, funded by a £10,000 grant from the M.B.F. via the Mark Province of Cheshire.

We're pleased to report the team are safely on their way back home now having completed their mission. We have some more photographs and video footage below.

The drive received coverage on the BBC News website [Here](#)

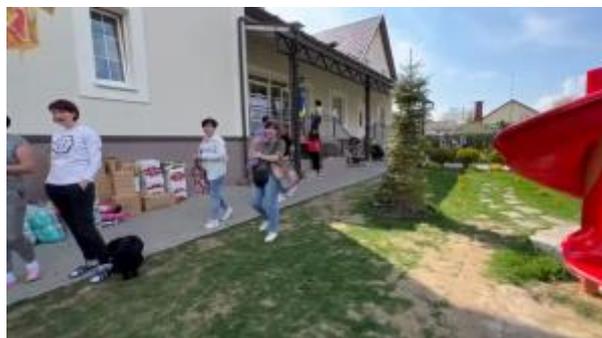
And there's a touching write up, focussing on Mike and Paul, in the Liverpool Echo [Here](#)

Usually as busy as it gets at this destination



4 hr 20 min (273 km)

Best route now, avoids road closure on H09



<https://sway.office.com/QeCnGe12Qb31xPFa#content=iaVSpYAg4DUOsO>



<https://sway.office.com/QeCnGe12Qb31xPFa#content=OyFvqDAAs4Vkmc>



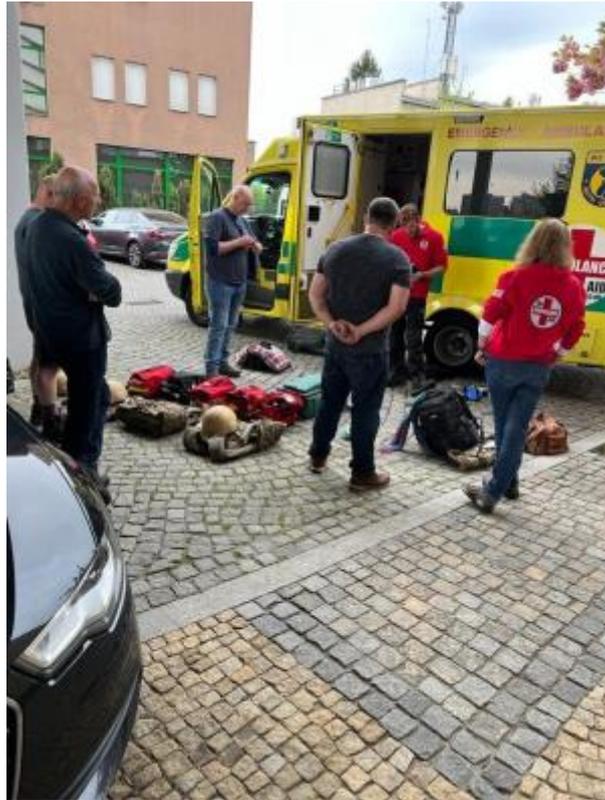


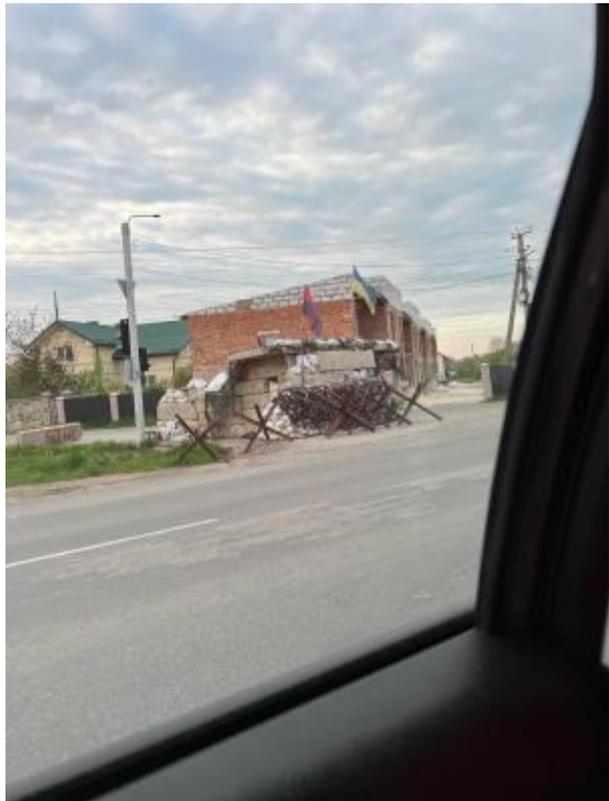












Marking fifty years at University



University of London Lodge No. 1389 held its 50th anniversary meeting on Wednesday, 4 May.

They were honoured to receive the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Tom Quinn, and a delegation of his team. The Prov.G.M. delivered a talk on 1972, the year of the Lodge's Consecration, and presented the Master with a collarette as recognition for achieving Grand Patron Gold Status. During the preceding Royal Ark Mariner meeting, two Brethren were elevated, making it an evening both of reflection and ensuring continuity. A four course festive board concluded an excellent evening.

With thanks to Bro. Daniel Valentine, S.W.

An honour conferred



On Thursday, 21 April, R.E.Kt. David Philips, Provincial Prior for Staffordshire and Shropshire, was invited to the Order of St John Investiture at Clerkenwell, where he was presented with a 'Vote of Thanks' Certificate to mark efforts he had initiated to raise funds and support the local St John District of Staffordshire, Shropshire and Wolverhampton, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

David was the only such recipient on the day and came to realise, from the many comments made to him, the great honour that the award represents.

Unexpectedly, David enjoyed the company of R.E.Kt. Jonathan Whitaker, K.C.T., Great Prior of Malta, who was there in his capacity as an Officer of St John, and who encouraged David to share this news with the rest of us.

This award is an excellent recognition of the work David has put in to supporting the Order of St John, and also reflects the strong bond between our Order of Knights Templar and the St John organisation.

Our congratulations to you, David, on this very well-deserved accolade.

Set for a Pilgrimage



E.Kt. Roderick Barker of Sussex Preceptory and Southdown Priory No. 125 is preparing to make a solo Pilgrimage in aid of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. This is the primary charity of the United Orders (KT and Malta) and the only provider of eye care for many needy individuals in the Holy Land.

The Pilgrimage will be from the great shrine of St James at Santiago di Compostela, Spain, to that of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal. This is a distance in excess of five hundred kilometres. Rod has previously completed several Caminos (pilgrimages to Santiago di Compostela) in the past, but in is now in his mid-Sixties and is intending to walk for a grand total of twenty-seven days! This is no mean feat.

Rod is a member of the Knights of the Vision Beautiful Charity Challenge Team, although it should be noted he is doing this challenge solo. He is hoping to raise around a pound per kilometre covered, so roughly £500. If you would like to donate via Rod's appeal page please visit: JustGiving.com/Rod-Pilgrim

More details will be provided in due course about the whole team Pilgrimage Relay in September, but if you would like to join the Team and take part in challenges for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital please email: knights.of.the.vision@gmail.com

Trio make it a double meeting in South Wales and Monmouthshire



R. Dist. Comp. Howard Markham, Assistant Grand Summus, was in attendance at the Provincial meetings of Scarlet Cord and Order of the Secret Monitor held at Bridgend for the Province of South Wales and Monmouthshire on Saturday, 7 May.

He is pictured along with Keith Ferguson and Allun Jones, Head and Deputy in both Orders, after a very successful and enjoyable pair of meetings with well over 100 members and guests in attendance.

This was the first time that the two Orders had met on the same day in the Province, and was welcomed as a way of demonstrating the indissoluble link between the two Orders.

Across Social Media

On [Twitter](https://twitter.com/statuses/1523331549546127360) - Celebrating 25 Years of the Mark District of Spain
[http://twitter.com/statuses/1523331549546127360](https://twitter.com/statuses/1523331549546127360)

And, Hope for Tomorrow at Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital
[http://twitter.com/statuses/1523747029209559040](https://twitter.com/statuses/1523747029209559040)

On [Facebook](#) - Oxfordshire Mark get ready for the off

Embed://<iframe

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height="649" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frame border="0"



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 individual.

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](#)

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: As a result of the current pandemic and supply issues, there may be delays to the despatch of orders. For enquiries about your order please email Regalia@mmh.org.uk





MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

[2022 Surrey](#)

[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.





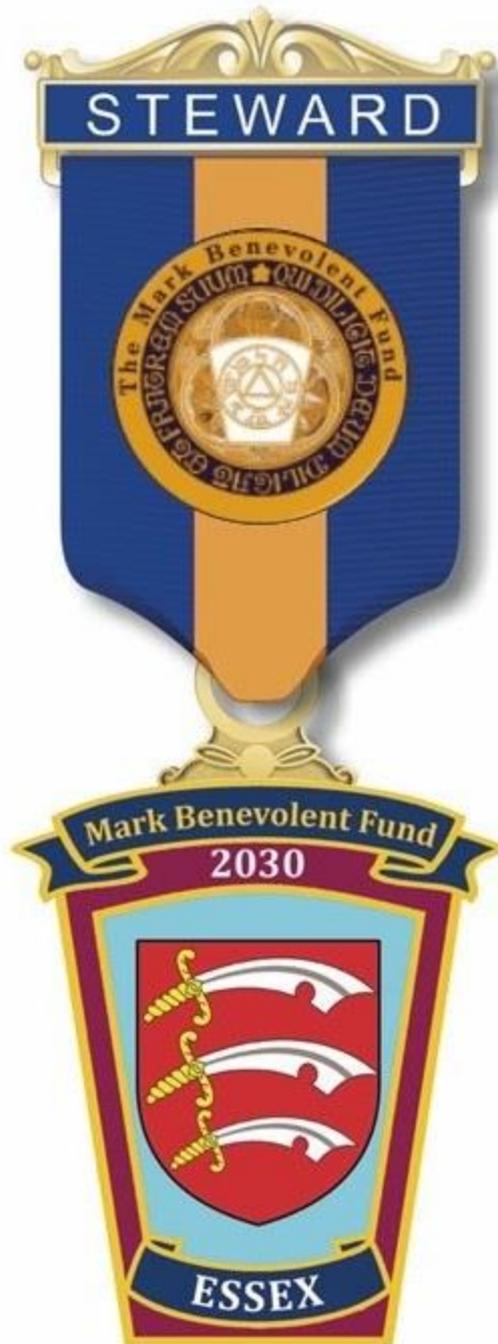












We reported recently that the new style MBF Festival Stewardship is aimed principally, but not exclusively, at members of each host Festival Province.

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 [COVID Symptom Study](#) 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



We're pleased to have now fully re-opened Mark Masons' Hall, with the Admin teams, Catering staff and Bar facilities operating business as usual.

All departments and teams 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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