

Freemasonry@86 News - 17 June 2022



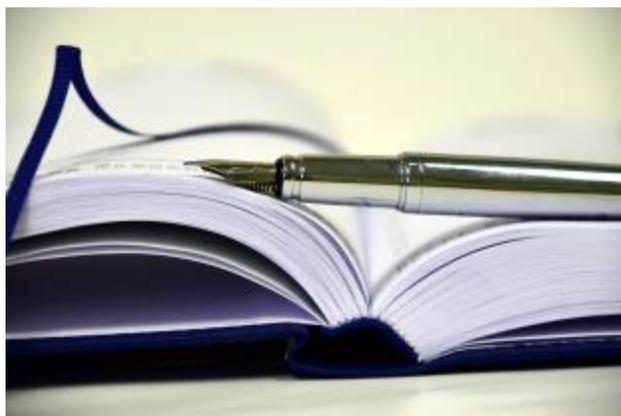
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Progressive Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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.

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

Wednesday, 29 June - AMD Consecration of Spire Council No. 283, District of East Midlands

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

Tuesday, 12 July - Mark Installation of W.Bro. James Dominic Harrison as Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire

Saturday, 30 July - O.S.M. Supera Moras Conclave No. 49 Centenary, Province of East Lancashire

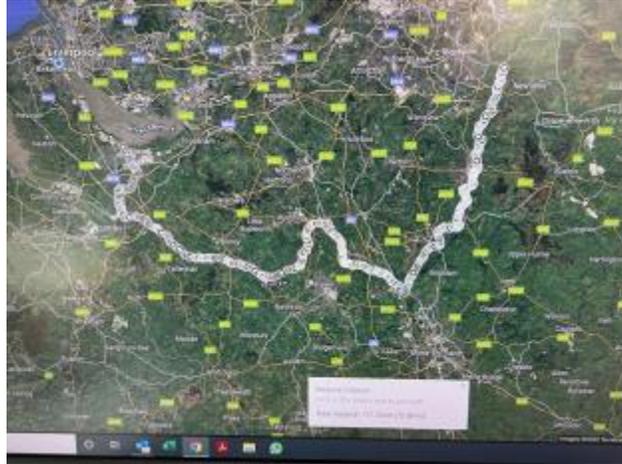
East to West Kayak and Canoe Challenge 9 - 12 June



A Team of 20 Cheshire Mark Masons embarked on a 78-mile paddle by Kayak and Canoe, across the Province from Marple in the East to Ellesmere Port in the West, following the Canal Network, in relay with a support team, to raise monies for their 2024 Festival, in support of the MBF.

The Challenge, which was led by Prov.G.M. Gary Horstman, took four gruelling days to complete, entailed “camping” in two Masonic Halls en route at Congleton and Middlewich, and adjacent to the Organiser, A.Prov.G.M. John Miller’s narrowboat on the third evening, with the team suitably hydrated and fed on each evening.

The event, which was well supported by Mark Masons from across the Province, was enjoyed by all, and many new friendships were formed within the team, who so far have managed to raise over £13,000.00 for the Mark Benevolent Fund, and even gaining a few new candidates for advancement.





















Hertfordshire Mark Masons continue their series of interviews



Question Mark ?



RW Bro. Keith Emerson, Past Deputy Grand Master
interviews

RW Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W, Grand Secretary

KE – Firstly, may I thank you, Grand Secretary, for having agreed to take part in this virtual interview. Whilst many across our Province will know you, I am sure they would like to know just a little more about you.

Q – So let me start by asking you how did you first become aware of Freemasonry and at what age?

A – My father has been a Freemason for well over 40 years and I recall the night of his initiation as he got ready at home. There was an air of anticipation tinged with nervousness in the house as he prepared to go off to the meeting. What I didn't know was that his co-initiate was the Deputy Headmaster of the school I was attending.

I was in my early teens then and over the following few years, I was increasingly exposed to Freemasonry accompanying my parents to Ladies Nights and other social events.

As my teenage years were coming to an end, my father told me more about Freemasonry and its aims but was quite clear that if I wanted to join it had to be my decision. I thought long and hard about it and I remember thinking that if I was to become a Freemason it made better sense to start young so I nailed my colours to the mast and told my father I was up for it.

He was a member of two Craft Lodges back then – one, his mother Lodge, which had a membership of very advanced ages – and the other, in which he was a joining member, consisted of many of his old school friends and had a much lower average age among its members. I decided to join the latter and was initiated just after my 21st birthday in January 1988.

Q – What attracted you to it to make you want to become a member?

A – Since my father joined the fraternity, I got to know many freemasons and the history, formality and camaraderie certainly piqued my interest. It seemed to me to be different but in a good way and that has since proved to be the case.

Q – What did your friends and family think of you joining?

A – I don't think my decision to become a Freemason came as any surprise to my immediate or extended family particularly after my initiation when I became very actively involved in the activities of my mother Lodge. My friends, on the other hand, were quite surprised. None of them had apparently any connection with Freemasonry or had much understanding of what it was about so their view was very much 'he's joined the funny handshake brigade' and that was that. It certainly wasn't seen as anything negative by my friends who were curious to learn more about the Craft and in later years a couple of them did join.

Q – Do you have any other interests outside of Freemasonry?

A – Being Grand Secretary is more like a way of life, a vocation, rather than a job and it certainly isn't 9 to 5, but that's what makes it so incredibly interesting and fulfilling. It does mean, however, that I get little free time to do other things.

When I am able to devote some time to other things, I like to spend time with my family in Wales which includes a very active 8-year-old godson. I also like to spend time with my father indulging in a passion we have both shared for more years than either of us would care to remember – vintage cars.

Before I moved to London, most weekends in the spring and summer were spent on the open road with any one of the three pre-war cars we have or attending various shows around South Wales.

My more sedate interests include a strong interest in antiques, particularly clocks, watches and silver. For the last few years, I've been learning calligraphy, so Sunday mornings often see me in Covent Garden attending a class. I have a very eclectic taste in music too with a particular love for opera as well as early 20th century music ranging from the Inkspots to Flanders & Swann.

Q – What attracted you to the Mark Degree?

A – After joining the Craft, my father became a Mark Master Mason and clearly enjoyed the experience. As I got more used to being a Freemason, I enquired of him about the Mark Degree and what it had to offer. It sounded very interesting particularly the fact that it was less formal than the Craft – remember, that back then you only spoke to a Craft Grand Officer if he spoke first!

So, I joined the same Mark Lodge as my father and have enjoyed over 30 years in an Order which is perhaps my favourite, for many different reasons.

Q – As I know you are a member of many other Orders, when did you join, how soon and in what order?

A – To the surprise of some, I didn't join the Royal Arch until after I was advanced into the Mark. I can't remember it happening in that way for a particular reason, it just did. So, I was initiated in January 1988, advanced in March 1990, elevated into the Royal Ark Mariner in January 1991 and Exalted into the Holy Royal Arch in November of that year.

Again, and for no apparent reason, other than perhaps the Orders had good recruiting sergeants in South Wales, I went on to join the Knights Templar, Rose Croix and Knight Templar Priests during the 1990s. Then after the turn of the millennium, I joined the Order of the Secret Monitor, Royal & Select Masters, Allied Masonic Degrees and Scarlet Cord.

That was about it until after I started at Mark Masons' Hall in 2015 when I added the Red Cross of Constantine and Knights Beneficent of the Holy City to my masonic CV.

Q – I am also aware that you have held high office in some of these Orders. Of all the offices you have held which has given you the most pleasure?

A – I would have to say that being Grand Secretary (or equivalent) in the MMH Orders has been the most satisfying of all the offices I have held. I have travelled to places I would not otherwise have visited; met so many wonderful people; and been at the centre of a decision-making process that impacts on thousands of our members throughout the world.

Having said that, I did relish my time as a Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Mark. Prior to being appointed to that office, I had been a Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies for 8 years so ritual and ceremonial was in my blood. And I have to say that the experience of being a D.C. has stood me in good stead in my current role. To be able to look at things with a D.C.'s perspective is often a great help – although I fear the Grand Director of Ceremonies might admit to being fed up of me interfering from time to time!

Q – If not too spurious a question, what has been the highlight of your masonic progression?

A – To be honest, there have been several and they have all been special for very different reasons. For example, being appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies in the OSM really blew me away but was my first step on the ‘Grand Lodge’ stage which is very different to anything you experience at a Provincial level. My appointment as Grand Secretary, of course, but also being appointed a Knight Commander in the KT, Red Cross of Constantine and KBHC are treasured moments.

Q – Do you see age being a barrier to holding high office?

A – No I don’t. What’s more important is the individual’s ability to discharge the duties of any office to which they are appointed. People are at the heart of what we do so if you hold high office you must be able to connect with those you serve.

Q – When you were appointed Grand Secretary, how did you see this role and did you have any specific objects and aims in mind?

A – That’s a very good question and certainly when I was asked to succeed to the office in 2017, I didn’t really have a strategy in mind. However, soon after getting behind the Grand Secretary’s desk for the first time, I quickly became aware of the importance of being accessible; of communicating clearly; of being innovative where possible; and of fostering good relations with other Orders. These have been my driving principles in the last five years.

Q – As Grand Secretary, or equivalent, for all Orders administered from MMH, how are you able to combine both ceremonial advice and administrative matters to everyone’s satisfaction?

A – I wouldn’t be telling the truth if I said it is easy. One of the challenges of the role is that you are not just constantly juggling multiple issues at any one time but issues from multiple Orders too. That makes it interesting and challenging.

As I mentioned earlier, my background has provided me with the skills and experience to combine providing ceremonial advice with administrative guidance, not forgetting that I have an amazing team around me providing whatever support I need to deliver on the needs of our members.

Without wishing to sound blasé, it’s just what I do and what the team does every day.

Q – What has Freemasonry given you?

A – The best friends I could have wished for. Let me give you an example. A Brother from back home in Wales who was a Warden in the Craft at the same time as me, and who I’ve known of over thirty years, rings me every week (he’s now 90 year’s old) just to check I’m ok.

But more than that, it has given me confidence, a great deal of pride and a certain knowledge that being a Freemason is the best step any man can take.

Q – Would you encourage others to become a Freemason?

A – Absolutely. But what’s most important is that each individual becomes a Freemason because they want to and not because they feel cajoled or pressured into it. Some will take the step and find it’s not for them, but the majority will find it all that it purports to be.

KE –Can I thank you Ryan for having agreed to participate in this interview and the frankness of your answers. On behalf of everyone I wish you continued success and enjoyment in your role as Grand Secretary.

Following on from this comprehensive and very informative interview, and in response to two additional questions, the Grand Secretary shared his thoughts on the Covid crisis, and the future of Freemasonry in general, and the Mark degree in particular.

Q – With the Covid-19 pandemic Freemasonry has had to endure a very difficult period. What advice would you give to see us through this still uncertain period?

A – Looking back, we have learned some very important lessons during the pandemic – lessons which will stand us in good stead as we continue the journey back to normality. But the time for looking back is over, it's now time to look forward and build for a better future.

Communication is undoubtedly a key focus and will remain so. If we keep in touch, we retain interest and, hopefully, reduce the risk of losing members. We have to innovate, and the Virtual Business Meetings scheme has shown us what benefits can be derived from thinking outside the box.

I often use a phrase to encapsulate where we are and what we should be doing now and it is this – 'It's not about what we have lost, it's about what we do with what we have left'. Yes, we must recruit but not by forgetting about those who are members now. Yes, we should make use of new technology but not all our members are IT savvy so we have to retain some of our traditional ways of staying in touch. Above all, we mustn't forget that we are a people organisation and whatever our strategies may be in the future, people must be at the heart of it.

Q – Following on from the last question, what overall challenges do you see ahead for Freemasonry generally and, in particular, the Mark Degree?

A – Society is a different place now to what it was just two years ago and I'm sure if anyone of us thinks back to when we joined the Craft, it's a whole lot different now to then. So, we have to adapt and innovate. Supporting the Craft is essential as without a healthy Craft, we will have an even smaller pool to fish in to recruit for any of the progressive Orders.

We must educate too. Educate our existing members about what each of our Orders has to offer. I have long been convinced that many in the Mark (and other Orders too) need to better understand what the Order is about, its aims and principles, and what it offers them. In the Mark, for example, I am sure there is much more we can do to ensure our members know more about the work of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

And we must give some thought to how we can make our Orders more attractive particularly when it comes to the cost. In this regard, we need to take a longer term view – the continuing income stream from a candidate is more important than the initial income from joining and registration so we have some work to do to come up with a new model.

With thanks to W.Bro. Clive Goodrum, Prov. Dep. G. Sec., Hertfordshire

Happy to meet again in Hong Kong



The District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Hong Kong held its 92nd Annual Communication on 6 June 2022 after the resumption of masonic activities on 2 May 2022.

More than 60 brethren attended the meeting including distinguished visitors. Pictured with them, standing to the right of R.W. Bro. Patrick Purnell-Edwards, District Grand Master at the centre of the back row are:

W.Bro. Edward Wen, P.A.G.D.C. of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Mason of South East Asia

M.E.Comp. David Russell, Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Chapter of the Far East (Scottish Constitution)

M.E.Comp. Calvin Chau, District Grand King of the District Grand Chapter of the Far East (Irish Constitution)

and Bro. Martin Thomas, Past District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of the Far East (Scottish Constitution)

And below, R.W. Bro. Patrick Purnell-Edwards and his deputy W.Bro. Dr. Buddy Wong invited the brethren for drinks and small chow after the meeting.

With thanks to W.Bro. Ernest Lee, P.Dist.G.S.O., District Grand Secretary



Marking one of our own



The Mark Provincial/District Grand Masters and Inspectors recently combined to make donations in memory of our late Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison, to one of his favourite charities – the Rainbow Children’s Hospice in Leicestershire.

Here is R.W.Bro. Phillip Mann, Prov.G.M. for Leicestershire and Rutland, receiving the presentation cheque for £1,000 which he in turn will hand over to representatives of the Hospice in due course.

With thanks to R.W. Bro. Thomas Quinn, Provincial Grand Master for London

Northanhymbre Preceptory No. 590 makes a generous donation to Templar charities



At their meeting on 9th June, the Knights of Northanhymbre Preceptory No. 590, which meets at Shiremoor Masonic Temple, surprised the Right Eminent Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Kevin Stannard, with a series of very generous donations to the Provincial Templar Order and the charities they support.

Totalling £700, they made a series of presentations to support the Church Service at Hexham Abbey and The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, as well as to the Provincial Priory and its Relief Chest, where monies help to support non-masonic charities in addition to the Eye Hospital.

Accepting the cheque, the Right Eminent Provincial Prior thanked all the Knights of the Preceptory for their kindness and assured them their generosity would be well applied to the support of those less fortunate than ourselves.

The presentation completed an excellent evening, which saw two new Knights installed as members of Northanhymbre Preceptory in a very well conducted ceremony in which the Provincial Prior was honoured to have been invited to play a role.

The photographs show the Eminent Preceptor of Northanhymbre, Eminent Knight Ian Maxwell, presenting the cheque to the Provincial Prior, and with the new Knights of the Preceptory, Knight Graham Watson (left) and Knight Shaun Warren (right), both Companions of Vandaleur Royal Arch Chapter No. 3586 meeting at Shiremoor Masonic Hall.

With thank to Kt. Nick Deakin, Prov.Bgd.



Across Social Media

On [Twitter](#) - The man behind the Mason, V.W.Bro. David Purdie, P.G.J.O, Dep.Prov.G.M., Devonshire Mark

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1536055937353633793>

The Premier Conclave of Improvement 123 hosted Virtually by the Province of Sussex

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1535898418920431616>

And, taking to the railway with East Lancashire

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1535558309486465029>

On [Facebook](#) - [East Lancashire](#) enjoy their day out at Grand Lodge



Practicing for perfection for the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting of [North Wales](#)



And, [Somerset Mark](#) launch their 2028 MBF Festival



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 communications@mmh.org.uk

Calendar of Annual Meetings

Grand Meetings Calendar 2022 - All Orders

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

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Forward Time	Meeting Start	Meeting End	Event Start	Event End
00000	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 8 March 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00001	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 15 March 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00002	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 22 March 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00003	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 29 March 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00004	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 5 April 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00005	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 12 April 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00006	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 19 April 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00007	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 26 April 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00008	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 3 May 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00009	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 10 May 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00010	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 17 May 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00011	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 24 May 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00012	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 31 May 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00013	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 7 June 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00014	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 14 June 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00015	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 21 June 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00016	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 28 June 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00017	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 5 July 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00018	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 12 July 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00019	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 19 July 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00020	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 26 July 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00021	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 2 August 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00022	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 9 August 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00023	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 16 August 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00024	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 23 August 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00025	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 30 August 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00026	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 6 September 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00027	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 13 September 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00028	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 20 September 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00029	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 27 September 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00030	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 4 October 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00031	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 11 October 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00032	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 18 October 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00033	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 25 October 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00034	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 1 November 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00035	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 8 November 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00036	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 15 November 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00037	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 22 November 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00038	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 29 November 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00039	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 6 December 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00040	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 13 December 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00041	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 20 December 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30
00042	Grand Chapter	Tuesday, 27 December 2022	Mark Grand Lodge, London, W1C 8JG	13:30	14:00	18:00	18:00	18:30

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time



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](#)

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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