

Freemasonry@86 News - 15 July 2022



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

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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, 16 July - S.C. Installation of V.Dist.Comp. Jonathan Peter Wallis, P.G.Reg., as Provincial Grand Summus for Middlesex

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

Mark Masons of Cheshire support Ukraine



AFTER
2500 K
DRIVE
THE TEAM
OF
CHESHIRE
MARK
MASONS
FINALLY
ARRIVED

When the end is only the beginning?

In May 2022 Mike Ross, supported by Paul Stevenson, decide that they needed to do something to support the people of Ukraine who had suffered so terrible over many months.

They decided that the best way forward was to purchase and deliver an ambulance to Ukraine to assist the already depleted health service there.

The fund raising started and as soon as Gary Horstman heard that Mark Masons were involved, he approaches the Mark Benevolent Fund to ask if there was any way that they could support to idea.

To our great surprise they immediately donated £10,000.00 which covered to cost of the ambulance, this meant that all other monies raised by Mike Ross and Paul could be used to purchase medical supplies which were in very short supply in the Ukraine.

Once the ambulance was purchased, they then set about organising the route into Ukraine together with all the necessary paperwork and permissions.

In May, Mike and Paul set off on their journey travelling across France into Germany and Poland and then into Ukraine where they dropped of the medical supplies and the ambulance.

However, Mike surprised us all by telling us that not only had he managed to get the medical supplies, but he had also filled any spare space with TLC bears and food for a local orphanage who his contact in Ukraine had told him about, so, "on the way" he dropped into the orphanage and delighted the children with the gifts of bears, food and sweets.

Mike and Paul then returned back to Poland to fly home.

This should have been the end of story, but not with Mike Ross & Paul Stevenson, immediately on their return they started to think about those poor people in the orphanage, which consisted of not only orphans but mothers & children who through no fault of their own have been forced to flee their homes with little more than the cloths on their backs to the relative safety of the orphanage.

While at the orphanage he was told they had no form of transport and that they had rely on local volunteers for their transport needs this was at best hit & miss and posed great difficulties when arranging hospital appointments.

So, Mike and Paul decided they would change this and buy them a vehicle, they started to raise money and once again told Gary Horstman what they were doing.

When the Mark Benevolent Fund team found out what was happening, they immediately supported us by donating another £10,000.00.

Mike and Paul were then able to move forward and buy a 16-seater minibus, they also arranged for a transit van to be purchased by Eddy Sharp to help the orphanage move goods as well as children.

Not happy to stop at this Mike then called round local Charities and friends and was able to fill both vans with must needed medical supplies together with food and beds for the orphanage, a total of £30,000,00 in goods plus the two vehicles were then taken over the continent to Ukraine.

This time Gary Horstman Joined Mike and Paul on the trip and they were further supported by Eddy Sharp and Kelly Derkatsch who drove the transit van.

Having left England, the route this time took us through Holland into Germany, Poland and into Ukraine, on arriving at our hotel in Krakow we spoke to a couple of people in reception, only to find that they were Masons from Las Vegas, she was a lady mason, and he was a member of several Lodges in the USA, what a small world.

Having entered Ukraine we headed for our 1st drop which was in Lviv to deliver the medical supplies.

The following day we left Lviv and headed for Orphanage in Chernivtsi, were we delivered the mini-bus, transit van and all the aid, on arrival we were greeted by the volunteers, mothers and children, the children were delighted when they received the letters from the children in the UK and reciprocated by giving us letters to take back.

The orphanage they arranged to transport 4 of us to the Romanian border and to transport Kelly Derkatsch to the train station as she was returning to Lviv to volunteer as a first responder medic.

There was one problem with this trip, having left both vehicles at the orphanage we had no way to get 5 people out of Ukraine, however as we know, masonry is universal, so after some phone calls from Gary via Mark Grand Lodge we were put in touch with the Provincial Grand Secretary of Romania, who in true masonic fashion organised for Mark Men to collect us from the Romanian side of the Ukraine border.

A member of staff at the orphanage then offered to drive us all to the border, where we crossed on foot taking only one hour instead of the three hours it took for us to get into Ukraine.

After crossing on foot, we were meet by Sabin Murariu, Alex Anti and wife Catalina, who had travelled 100 kilometres to help us, not only had they booked us into a hotel, but they stayed with us a paid for our evening meal, drinks, and our hotel rooms, what a generous gesture.

However, our trip was not yet at an end, we then had to travel by train to the airport, after a delay of an hour and a half we finally arrived back in the UK six days after leaving the UK.

We met so many fantastic people on the way and made so many friends as well, but more importantly we made a small difference to the lives of those in Ukraine who were in need.

My thanks go to all those who helped us on the way and to the members of the Mark who by their support of the Mark Benevolent Fund made it all possible, the Magic of The Mark is alive and well in every Mark Masons heart.

A big "Thanks" to:

Sarah Bentley Aintree Hospital trust for medical donations

Neo Community Humanitarian Aid donations

The children of St Werburgh's School who made letters of support many written in Ukrainian & English as well as food donations

J Mitchell trading as Grosvenor Properties for a £1000 donation

Cheshire Development's Ltd for a £1000 donation

Barry J Fogg Electrical Services Ltd for a £1000 donation

Ultra-Service Agency for a £1000 donation

Jason Holland local businessman for a £1000 donation

Numerous donations given on just giving by friends, family and Cheshire brethren and their Lodges

A new Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Hertfordshire



On Tuesday, 12 July, a team of Grand Officers, headed by R.W.Bro. John H. Prizeman, Deputy Grand Master, arrived at The Royal Masonic School for Girls in Rickmansworth for the Installation of the new Mark Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire, R.W.Bro. James Dominic Harrison.



It was an untypically warm day but, fortunately, the rooms allocated for the meeting and dining were roomy and airy and the ceremony went off without a hitch.

Having been Installed himself, R.W.Bro. Jim Installed his Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Mark Saunders, P.G.J.D., (below, left), and his Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Raymond Hoyte, P.G.St.B., (below, right).



Following the Installation meeting the Brethren were treated to a very welcome light lunch of cold meats and salads before returning to the meeting room for the afternoon's meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Thank you to all involved in the planning, arranging and execution of a very enjoyable meeting.

Pictures courtesy of W.Bro. Clive Goodrum, Prov.Dep.G.Sec.



The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey



In July the Provincial Priory of Surrey Annual Meeting was held under the Banner of the St George at Stoneleigh Preceptory No 364.

A team of volunteers gathered at Oakfield Road early that morning to man the desks and finalise the preparations for the Annual Meeting.



As the Knights of the Province and guests were arriving and checking-in coffee and bacon butties were available in the bar.



In the meantime, rehearsals were going on in the Temple for the processions and the parading of the Banners.



Just after 11.40 am the Provincial Marshal, E.Kt. Tim Ford, assisted by the Provincial Deputy Marshal, briefed the Brother Knights in the Temple.



The Knights were called to order to receive the Provincial Prelate accompanied by the Processional Cross and the Provincial Almoner,



Followed by a deputation from the Order of the Knights of Malta, and distinguished guests from other Provinces.



Finally, the meeting was called to order by E.Kt. Tim Ford, the Provincial Marshal, to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Patrick Crossan, and the Provincial Sub Prior, E.Kt. Peter Brown, led by the Provincial Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Banner Bearer.

After a brief welcome to all those present, the banners of the Preceptories were paraded into the Temple.



The Provincial Prior opened a Chapter of the Provincial Priory of Surrey at 11.00 am. He was then proclaimed by the Provincial 1st Herald, E.Kt. Ian Keen and saluted by all those present.

A requiem led by the Provincial Prelate, E.Kt. Rev. Leonard Moreton, was conducted in memory of the Brother Knights from the Province of Surrey who have passed to the Holy City during the past 12 months.

The Provincial Prior warmly welcomed the many distinguished guests from other Provinces, together with representatives of many of the other Masonic Orders in Surrey. He personally thanked R.E.Kt. Trevor Gulliver, K.C.T. for kindly playing the organ at our Provincial Meeting.



The Roll of Officers of Provincial Priory was called by the Provincial Registrar. The Provincial Vice-Chancellor presented the Minutes of last year's annual meeting and his report of the Province during the preceding year. Both were accepted and approved and E.Kt. Miguel was thanked for all his efforts during the year. The accounts for the year to 31st August 2021 were presented and approved.

The Provincial Prior- proposed donations to charity including £1,000 to the St John Eye Hospital; £500 to the Prostate Cancer Project; £500 to Smile; £500 to Shannon Court; and £500 to Switches.



K.Kt. Steve Jones, Provincial Warden of Regalia, was conducted to the Provincial Prior and presented him with a cheque for £1,242 from sales of regalia. In recognition for all Steve's fund raising over several years the Provincial Prior made a field appointment of E.Kt. Steve Jones to Past Provincial Registrar.

The Provincial Prior announced that he was pleased to re-appoint E.Kt. Peter Brown as the Provincial Sub Prior. He was then proclaimed by the Provincial 2nd Herald, E.Kt. Robin Tomson and saluted by the Knights of Surrey.

The Provincial Vice-Chancellor then called out the names of those Knights who the Provincial Prior had appointed to hold Provincial Office in the coming year. Each Knight was conducted to the Provincial Prior who invested him with the authority of that Office.

The Provincial Prior re-appointed E.Kt. Alan Carroll as Commander and E.Kt. Charles Hoad as Deputy Commander of the Bodyguard. Under the direction of the Deputy Commander, the Bodyguard formed up for inspection by the Provincial Prior who thanked all members for their unstinting service during the past year.



The Provincial Prior then addressed Provincial Priory. This was followed by thanks to the Knights of St George at Stoneleigh Preceptory for all their hard work as Banner Preceptory for this year's meeting and the Provincial Prior gladly accepted the offer of St John at Stoneleigh Preceptory to perform the same task next year.

After the regular business of the Priory had been completed the Right Eminent Provincial Prior closed the Chapter of Provincial Priory and the National Anthem was sung. The Right Eminent Provincial Prior, accompanied by the Provincial Sub-Prior, Right Eminent Knights, Very Eminent Knights and other Distinguished Guests of the Province retired in procession under the direction of the Provincial Marshal.



After the meeting the Provincial Prior received his guests in the Temple adjacent to the dining room.



The Knights of the Province of Surrey and their guests then sat down to a most convivial luncheon in the Croydon Masonic Hall.



We were pleased to welcome at lunch the Provincial Grand Summus of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey, R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long (*my boss*).



The toast to the Provincial Prior was given by the Provincial Sub Prior E.Kt. Peter Brown. In his response the Provincial Prior said how pleased he was to be back at Croydon after two years of Virtual Business Meetings and thanked everyone for attending and making this a very special meeting.



The Provincial Prior then retired from the festive board thanking everyone personally on their way out.

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



Much going on in Monmouth and South Wales



Four new Members for the Castell Nedd Preceptory No. 577

At the Meeting of the Castell Nedd Preceptory No. 577 at the Neath Masonic Hall on Monday, 11 July 2022, the Eminent Preceptor David L. Matthews welcomed four Members into the Preceptory. The first to be warmly welcomed by the Members present was re-joining Member E.Kt. Keith J. McCormack, who was Eminent Preceptor of the Preceptory in 2014/15.

E.Kt. David L. Matthews then expertly led his team of Officers in Installing three new Knights into the Preceptory. In this, he was very ably assisted by the Marshal E.Kt. Peter Gilbert P.Gt.A. -de-C., who showed his vast experience, ability and preparation in conducting an excellent Ceremony for the Candidates, who were distinctly impressed by the proceedings.

The three new Knights: Steven Lovett, Richard Jones and Meirion Davies, are all Members of Lodges and Chapters which meet at the Neath Masonic Hall, and are to be followed in the near future by other Candidates from those units.

The Castell Nedd Preceptory No. 577 meets twice a year at the Neath Masonic Hall on the fourth Monday of January and the second Monday of July.







Fforest Preceptory upholds tradition again.

At the Meeting of the Fforest Preceptory No.582 at the Treharris Masonic Hall on Monday, 4 July 2022, the new Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. William (Bill) Thomas was Installed with an eye to local traditions.

Since its Consecration in 1993, the Fforest Preceptory has upheld the tradition that to qualify to become the Eminent Preceptor, a Brother Knight has to serve all of the Offices leading to the “Chair” and must have a 100% attendance as both First and Second Constable. E.Kt Bill, having taken a significant number of years to attain this, as is usual in the Preceptory, was thus qualified to be Installed.

The Installation Ceremony was attended by Right Eminent Knight Dr Paul Calderwood, the Provincial Prior of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales (whose “Mother” Preceptory in the Province is the Fforest Preceptory), and a large number of Great Priory Officers, Provincial Officers and Brother Knights, carried out in a fine manner by E.Kt. Vivian Norris assisted by the Preceptory Marshal E.Kt. Vivian Jones and the Preceptory Deputy Marshal E.Kt. Chris Mugford.

The Fforest Preceptory No. 582 meets 3 times a year at the Treharris Masonic Hall on the third Monday of February, the first Friday in June and the fourth Monday of October.

If you are in the Monmouthshire and South Wales area and are interested in joining the United Religious, Military and Masonic Order, contact E.Kt. Nigel Williams at newilliams@btinternet.com or go to the Provincial KT website: www.kt-msw.org where there is further information about Knights Templar in South Wales including our recent Provincial Newsletters.

Prospective Candidates wishing to join Knights Templar must be a Master Mason, a Royal Arch Mason, and profess the Christian Trinitarian faith.

With thanks to E.Kt. Chris Mugford, P.Swd.B., Province of Monmouth and South Wales





R.SM. District of Essex Annual Meeting



Thursday, 7 of July saw the Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Essex held at Saxon Hall. Attending the meeting was Most Companion Kessick J Jones, Grand Master.



And the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Essex, Terry Sheern.



Everyone met up in the bar for coffee and a chat before getting ready for the meeting. The meeting was very well supported by other Districts with many District Grand Masters attending, along with their Companions, plus Heads of Other Orders in Essex.



The meeting was called to order by the District Grand Director of Ceremonies and the District Grand Master entered in procession.



The meeting was opened by the District Grand Master and R.III.Comp. Michael Spencer, O.S.C.M., Past Grand Conductor of the Council, was admitted and welcomed into District Grand Council by the District Grand Master.



The Most Illustrious Grand Master, Kessick John Jones, escorted by V.III.Comp. Graham Seeman, Grand Director of Ceremonies, entered and was warmly welcomed by the District Grand Master.



After the regular business of District Grand Council had been concluded, the District Grand Master had much pleasure in re-appointing as Deputy District Grand Master, III.Comp. Colin Innes. As III.Comp. Gordon Spindler was unable to be invested in 2020 he was presented, obligated, invested and proclaimed as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.



After the District Grand Master had invested his Officers he had much pleasure in presenting Silver Trowel Certificates to several Companions of the District.

The Grand Master addressed District Grand Council saying how good it was to be in Southend again. He spoke about the Province of Essex and how they should have been celebrating their Silver

Anniversary two years ago. He spoke about what was happening 25 years ago, both in the Country and the District of Essex. He congratulated those who had received Grand Rank at the Grand Council meeting in April.

The District Grand Master then addressed District Grand Council. He said how delighted he was to be back at Saxon Hall and thanked everyone for their warm welcome. He thanked everyone for attending and supporting the District Grand Council of Essex, especially the Grand Master. He congratulated those he had appointed and invested saying he was looking forward to the future. He thanked the District Grand Recorder and the District Grand Director of Ceremonies and their teams for all they had done to make the meeting such a success.

The Grand Master then retired from District Grand Council. District Grand Council was closed and the District Grand Master, attended by the Deputy District Grand Master, the District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, and distinguished guests, retired in procession.

We then made our way to the bar for refreshments.



Before going into the dining room for a most enjoyable lunch together.



It was a very convivial lunch with good food and good company.



After the meal the District Grand Master proposed the Toast to the Grand Master. The Grand Master thanked the District Grand Master and the Companions for their kind hospitality and wished the District well for the future.



Our thanks to R.III.Comp. Bob Potts; Ill.Comp. Brian Hithersay, the District Grand Recorder; and everyone in Essex for their kind hospitality.

With thanks to Ill.Comp. Chris Eley, P.G.Swd.B.



A visit to Wyvern

Saturday, 25 June and my second trip to Kings Heath in Birmingham in the same week. I was very happy that the District Grand P.C.W. for Surrey, David Thompson, volunteered to be the driver for this journey, seen here with R.III.Comp. Bob Potts. District Grand Master for Essex.



The first meeting of Wyvern District since before the lockdown was presided over by the District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Ken Downes, who welcomed the guests and local distinguished Companions including R.III.Comp. Frank Spencer, the newly installed Assistant Grand Master of the Mark, seen here with R.III.Comp. Alan Beckerton, District Grand Master of Derbyshire.



The meeting was conducted very efficiently and finished ahead of the planned time. During the meeting the side doors were open to allow fresh air to circulate, but the aroma of Fish and Chips permeated the Temple and whetted our appetites for Lunch.

An excellent day out and the traffic was not too unkind.

With thanks to R.III.Comp. David Blackburn, Dist.G.M. for Surrey



Pictured above: R.III.Comp. Ken Downes. District Grand Master of Wyvern with his Director of Ceremonies, Ill.Comp. Peter Milner



Saturday, 2 July was a special day for R.III.Comp. Steve Bradford as he became the District Grand Master of the North Midlands in the Order of Royal and Select Masters. However, towards the end of the meeting, the Grand Master, Most Illustrious Companion Kessick John Jones, called upon his D.C. to escort Ill.Comp. Ernest William Tryner to him. Ernest was somewhat taken aback and, when

he realised what was going on, uttered the words 'I shouldn't be here.' He was then addressed by the Grand Master who promoted Ernest to Past Grand Lecturer, making him Very Illustrious Companion, and the whole assembly applauded the occasion. Ernest had been a member of the Derbyshire Council No. 111, meeting at Littleover, since June 1992. He had become its T.I.M. in October 2002 (at the age of 77 – just when many Masons are thinking of reducing their Masonic commitments!) and had received his first Grand Rank in the Order in 2008. He was promoted to Past Grand Conductor of the Council in 2016.

V.III.Comp. Ernest was a WWII veteran, joining the army a few days before D Day. One story that he related some years ago was that, when he had gone to Freemasons Hall at Great Queen Street, the entourage in procession swept past him and his colleagues who were waiting to receive their Grand Chapter appointments, and Ernest turned to his neighbour and said 'that's the second time that fellow's walked past without acknowledging me'. His colleague then asked him when the first time had occurred. Ernest said, 'Nijmegen Bridge 1945'. The man in question was Colonel Sir Alan Adair.

Ernest has been a regular contributor to ceremonies in the Order of Royal and Select Masters and indeed had explained the signs and secrets in the Most Excellent Master degree in late June this year, a few days before the North Midlands meeting. The delivery was performed in a remarkable way for a man of 96!

Ernest expressed his thanks for the promotion, commenting that he didn't deserve it – but the Grand Master said, 'Yes you do!'

With thanks to R.III.Comp. Alan Beckerton, District Grand Master for Derbyshire

Photographed are: V.III.Comp. Ernest William Tryner (with R.III.Comp. Alan Beckerton) sporting his new regalia when he visited Alfreton Council No. 138 on Friday, 8 July

Maximum sunshine and attendance at the Surrey A.M.D. annual hog roast



What a glorious day for our Hog Roast annual event we were full to capacity with over 120 in attendance. A beautiful day which was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all.

The raffle raised £920.00 thanks to the efforts and arm twisting by Allan and Wendy Brockwell. Wendy has also built up some enthusiastic little helpers to distribute the wonderful prizes donated by the attendees with a huge thanks to Ray and Jenny Beadle for donating some very special prizes.

It was Kevin Brennans first time at the helm organising this event, taking over from John Coleman and with a full house Kevin it will have to be more of the same next year on the 9th July 2023 - *thank you very much.*

We should never doubt our PDGP Rt W Bro Raymond Hussey who takes full responsibility and ensures that the sun will shine and he certainly kept his promise this year, an amazing day with not a cloud in the sky - good luck next year!

W Bro Ian Smith and W Bro Bob Hancock both looked very dapper in their Sunny attire and were rewarded for their efforts taking joint first place in the best dressed Caribbean kids - no favouritism shown, just look at the pictures.

The staff at Guildford Masonic Centre were fantastic and ensured everybody was well looked after - you are all amazing and thank you again for your tireless efforts.

Thanks also to the whole membership of the District of Surrey for supporting the Surrey Mark Festival by donating £13,194.00 – *well done one and all.*



Herbert Barrington Slater Council No. 234 share a gazebo with eight Candidates



Herbert Barrington Slater Council No. 234 held their July meeting at Salford Masonic Hall and this turned out to be a very busy meeting.

Not only did the Council receive not one but two District Grand Prefects, Mervyn Wilson the head of East Lancashire also brought along 12 of his District Officers as part of a team visit.

West Lancashire's Dist.G.Pref. Paul Snape was also among the distinguished guests who had all come to see the Council host a convention of the Grand High Priest.

It's not every day that an Allied Council will work this ceremony, so it was no surprise to have 34 Allied masons attending, eight of which would later be received as Grand High Priests.

The meeting was opened by Master Craig Wood who was then delighted to receive Mervyn and his team along with Paul Snape who processed in the room in fine style.

Mervyn introduced his team who were given a very warm Welcome.

The Council business was conducted smoothly by Craig who declared his successor Nigel Bramley-Hawarth as his successor to be installed in December.

The lodge room next door had been prepared for the Grand High Priest Ceremony and the necessary tent erected. There was a little overcrowding during the ceremony but all eight Candidates were received in a spectacular ceremony lead by Mark Goldsworthy, the District Grand Chaplin.

Mervyn congratulated Mark and, Steve Graham who had been the representative Candidate, for what was a truly brilliant display of Allied Masonic ritual.

Following the meeting the members, visitors and Candidates shared a drink and reflected on the proceedings in the bar, followed by a superb meal at the festive board.

Brethren had travelled from other Districts in particular West Lancashire: Mervyn mentioned the special friendship that we share with our neighbours when he responded to a toast at the festive board.

Every one enjoyed the day and the Candidates are able to tick this most sought after degree off the list!

With thanks to W.Bro. A.M. Shields. Dist.G.S.W. and HBS Secretary.

Pictured top are Mervyn and Deputy Peter Hegarty with the District Deputation

Below:

- *The Candidates for the ceremony with Master Craig Wood*
- *Master Craig with Mervyn (left) and Paul Snape Dist. G. Pref. for West Lancs (right)*
- *The Brethren enjoy the festive board*



O.S.M. Province of Devonshire's Annual Meeting



On Saturday, 2 July at the Mount Edgecumbe, Masonic Hall, Plymouth, the 16th Annual Meeting of the O.S.M. Province of Devonshire was held. This was the first face-to-face meeting of the Province since 2019.

The meeting was opened at 11am and was attended by a goodly number of Brethren from Devonshire as well as 10 visiting Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers, Five Deputies, and several Representatives from other Provinces and Orders.

An excellent meeting was held and all enjoyed a splendid Festive Board afterward.

Although an enjoyable time was had, it was tinged with a little sadness, as this was to be the last Provincial Meeting at which Rt. Wy. Bro. Trevor Cooper would be appearing as Prov. G.S.R. for Somerset. Rt. Wy. Bro. Cooper has been a wonderful supporter to Devonshire and has an open invitation to join us at any time. Congratulations were also offered to his successor Wy. Bro. Julian Frost, his Deputy who will succeed him.

With thanks to Wy. Bro. Roger B. Smith, P.G.Swd.B., Provincial Grand Recorder, Devonshire



Kent O.S.M. and the Association for the Blind



The charity Kent Association for the Blind received £2,000 as part of the Match Funding Project. The Funds were presented by R.Wy.Bro. Kevin Johnson, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Kent.

The charity has recently launched its new mobile site vehicle that travels to three sight centres in Maidstone, Canterbury and Bromley supporting almost 13,000 blind or visually impaired residents. The funds paid for a demonstration model of new smart glasses by Ox sight and are designed specifically for central vision loss and are proven to help with macular conditions.

Smart glasses can enhance the remaining sight for individuals with peripheral vision loss. They are fitted with a camera streaming a live feed into two HD video displays, projecting high-contrast and defined images to your usable area of vision. This can potentially increase your field of view to 68 degrees horizontally.





A personal reflection upon the first two weeks as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Cheshire & North Wales



Having spent two years as Provincial Grand Visitor, two years as Provincial Grand Guide, followed by one year as Provincial Grand Counsellor then five years as Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, I didn't expect much to change, but I was wrong!

When I was appointed Deputy, one of my new colleagues said to me that it was the best job in Freemasonry; the Deputy got all of the fun whilst the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler had all of the pressure.

I approached my new position with apprehension.

The members of the Province that I spoke to all said they would support me, but I was taking over a Province not really in the best of health. We were just coming out of the worst two years we had all ever faced, and whilst the pandemic hadn't affected the membership as much as we had originally feared, the consequences were now starting to bite, with losses, both permanent and medical, plus an underlying fear for some members with a reluctance to return.

At my Investiture, I announced that my immediate target was to consolidate what we had, to make sure that our fourteen Conclaves built on what remained and grew in strength in the coming months.

My focus was happy gatherings, based on the concept that if we enjoyed our meetings, that enjoyment would spread into our other Masonic activities, up to a point where our Masonic colleagues would begin to question the source of our developing enjoyment in Freemasonry, eventually leading to increased membership.

And so it began.

Day one, the day following my Investiture, was a morning meeting of Carreg yr Wyddfa Conclave No 633 in Bangor. Just the third meeting of the Conclave in the far western boundary of the Province. My lift, from a Right Worthy Brother, collected me at 8:30 in his electric vehicle, having calculated that it would cost less than £2 to take us there and back. We arrived in plenty of time to hear the first challenge of the day, the Supreme Ruler had been struck down with a bad chest infection, which prevented attendance.



My new Deputy, in his first appearance, volunteered to take the Chair, and delivered a wonderful Induction ceremony. Of course, unable to sit quiet on the side-lines, I explained the Weapons of the Order to our newest member, and presented him with a tie of the Order. The absolute delight was our newest member was born in 1997, making him just under 25, and undoubtedly lowering the average age of the Province quite significantly.

I was delighted to be accompanied by 17 other members of the Province who were not hung-over after our meeting 24 hours previous. Our newest Conclave continues to grow local strength, thereby assuring its future.

Day two, Conclave two, another trip to Wales to visit Maen Achwyfan Conclave No 514, our second-newest Conclave, to welcome the Grand Visitor.



Another Induction, and one this time I wasn't involved in. However, delighted that the Grand Visitor offered to deliver the Address to the Candidate, in an excellent manner.

Another well-attended meeting with 18 other members.

This job is starting to grow on me. I'm having fun.

Next comes a weekend off. Chance to catch up on some correspondence and reflect on the last 3 days.

Monday brings a diversion. A Provincial Team Visit in the Scarlet Cord to Mercia Consistory No 72 in Macclesfield. I am the Provincial Director of Ceremonies, and also acted as the Consistory Director of Ceremonies for one First Grade and four Second Grades. Another highly enjoyable evening, and with it being a team visit, lots of members of my Province present as well.

Tuesday, is it only day three? Back to work properly this time as it's my mother Conclave, Norton Priory Conclave No 226 meeting in Runcorn, where I am Secretary.

We were scheduled to have two candidates for Induction, but one tested positive for COVID on Sunday, so just the one.

Another excellent ceremony; another visitor from outside of the Province and a prospective joiner, another well-attended meeting with 18 members from across the Province.

The best part of the evening was when, as Secretary, I reported on various communication, and expressed concern about how difficult it was to perform as Secretary and Prov.G.S.R., and received a volunteer to take on the role of Secretary from the Installation.

I'm really having fun now!

Five days break. No Masonic meetings, just time to catch up on correspondence and work, and reflect on the journey to date. One week in the job. Three Conclave meetings. Three new members. Perhaps it is working.

The following Monday brings another morning trip to Wales, this time to visit Dewi Sant Conclave No 457 for an Installation.

I had delegated the Commission to my Deputy, and I was only really going to support him and because it was another Conclave I wanted to visit in my new capacity. Plus, our new Hall Manager at Runcorn wanted to travel to other Masonic Halls to see how they operate. This represented an ideal opportunity to visit Elwy Hall, as Dewi Sant were inviting Ladies to Lunch.



My now Provincial Chauffeur collected me 9:00 and we had a good journey into Wales, leaving in the rain and arriving in the sun.

I had been in contact with the Secretary the previous evening, who was decrying the absence of the Director of Ceremonies due to COVID. I offered, as I wouldn't have him or the Conclave struggle on such an important occasion. He apologised the following day, as he'd felt guilty allowing me to do it, but I'm all for getting stuck in and enjoying myself.

An excellent and well-attended ceremony, witnessed by 19 members of the Province, with many being involved in the ceremony. The Festive Board luncheon was boosted by 14 ladies and three future candidates, and a highly delightful 8 course menu was enjoyed by all, especially the liquid courses! Having left home at 9:00 am, I felt that returning home just before 7:00 pm, a ten-hour meeting represented a rather long though enjoyable day. I'm just glad I wasn't driving.



Meeting five, a trip to the Provincial 'home' at Chester, for a meeting of Christleton Conclave No 504.

This would be a difficult one. At their previous meeting they had put forward a notice of Motion to suspend their warrant due to falling membership and attendance. I had been at that meeting and expressed a desire that between us we could address the situation. My predecessor had closed his reign by the consecration of a new Conclave, and I didn't want to start mine by closing one. I had worked with them to try to address the situation, but the item still needed to appear on the summons.

The meeting started well, with the Supreme Ruler and Counsellor stuck in a traffic jam on the M56 car park, resulting from a three-car pileup. Fortunately, a 'willing' volunteer in the shape of our Provincial Grand Recorder stepped forward and offered to take the Chair in what he thought would be the interim. As it turns out, it was for the entirety of the Princes Ceremony, and what an excellent job he did.

The Conclave had offered to host two Princes ceremonies on behalf of Carreg yr Wyddfa Conclave, and between the officers of the two Conclaves and visitors a wonderful ceremony was performed, a fact endorsed by the candidates standing during the greetings to thank everyone who partook, stating how much they had enjoyed the ceremony.

The Supreme Ruler arrived just before the end of the ceremony, and was invited to take his seat once it was concluded.

He was then able to conduct the business, including dealing with the agenda motion, which was withdrawn due to applications received from five joining members and two candidates. An absolutely wonderful result. Enthusiasm for the Conclave's future was clearly demonstrated by the attendance of 27 Brethren from across the Province.

So, two weeks in. Five Conclaves attended, each with a well-above average attendance. Now sitting on the 'side-lines', delivered the Weapons three times and the Lecture once. Three new members. One new Supreme Ruler, with a further three new members to bring in. One saved Conclave, enhanced by five joining members and two new members for their next meeting.

It all seems to be going rather well!

The Order of the Secret Monitor is a wonderful Order, and the members of the Province of Cheshire and North Wales are gathering around to ensure that each meeting is a happy and joyous occasion.

We seem to be achieving my early target, and I am riding on a wave of euphoria.

Sadly, we now have a domestic break until September, when I look forward to it all starting over again. I will, of course, be visiting other Provinces in the interim.

With thanks to Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Cheshire & North Wales

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	Published Time	Summons Start	Summons Finish	Summons Start	Summons Finish
MMRC	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 8 March 2022	MMRC Great Street Street, London, W12 1AF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MMRC	Grand Council	Tuesday, 29 April 2022	MMRC Great Street Street, London, W12 1AF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
SC	Grand Secretary	Thursday, 1 May 2022	Mark Masons' Hall London, W8 1LN	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
ET	Grand Priority	Wednesday, 19 May 2022	MMRC Great Street Street, London, W12 1AF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MMRC	Summons members (with 8 1/2)	Tuesday, 7 June 2022	MMRC Great Street Street, London, W12 1AF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
BCC	Summons Grand Council	Tuesday, 5 July 2022	MMRC Great Street Street, London, W12 1AF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MMRC	Summons members (with 8 1/2)	Tuesday, 13 September 2022	MMRC Great Street Street, London, W12 1AF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MMRC	Summons members (with 8 1/2)	Thursday, 15 September 2022	Mark Masons' Hall London, W8 1LN	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MMRC	Grand Council	Tuesday, 20 October 2022	MMRC Great Street Street, London, W12 1AF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MMRC	Grand Council	Thursday, 19 November 2022	MMRC Great Street Street, London, W12 1AF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
ET	Summons members (with 8 1/2)	Tuesday, 20 November 2022	MMRC Great Street Street, London, W12 1AF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MMRC	Summons members (with 8 1/2)	Thursday, 22 November 2022	MMRC Great Street Street, London, W12 1AF	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM

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](#).



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:

[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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