

Freemasonry@86 News - 12 August 2022



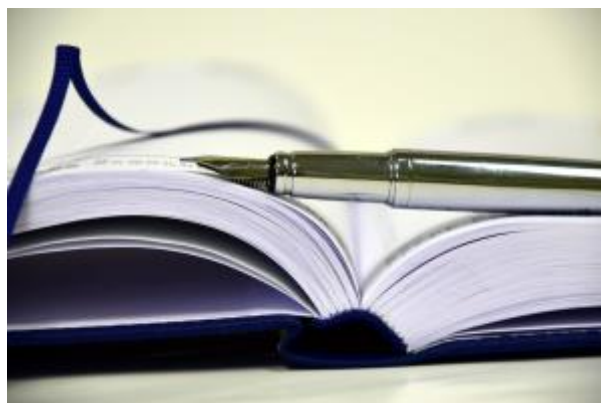
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Progressive Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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

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Progressive Orders Diary



Below are some upcoming dates of events for our Grand teams in their respective Orders.

You can find the calendar of the regular annual meetings of our Orders further down this newsletter.

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

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

Thursday, 8 September - K.B.H.C. Annual Meeting of Grand Priory, M.M.H.

Saturday, 10 September - K.T. Installation of V.E.Kt. Colin Dann, P.Gt.Reg., as Provincial Prior for Sussex

Saturday, 10 September - R.S.M. Installation of V.III.Comp. Geoffrey Frederick Spencer, P.G.Lect., as District Grand Master for East Anglia

Tuesday, 13 September - Mark Communication of Mark Grand Lodge. Celebrating Prince Michael of Kent's 40th Anniversary as Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the investiture of recipients of Promotions in Grand Rank, F.M.H.

At the Great Priory of Germany



Wherever the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., goes, he always enjoys a warm reception, whether it be on home soil or further afield.

As these photographs show, his recent visit to the annual meeting of the Great Priory of Germany was no exception.

In total, there were ten Grand Masters present, including the host. Our Grand Master was accompanied on the visit by the Very High & Right Eminent Great Seneschal, Andrew Rainbow, G.C.T., and the Great Marshal, R.E.Kt. Tim Wheeler, K.C.T., pictured below.

All have expressed how well they were looked after during their visit and what a wonderful welcome they received.





From our friends at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group



Sadly, many of you will have heard reports that last weekend Palestinians suffered what the BBC described as the most serious flare-up in the region since May 2021.

Dr Ahmad Ma'ali, CEO of SJEHG, has sent this report via the London Fundraising Officer, Naomi Booth, dated 8 August:

“As you may have heard on the news, there was a sudden escalation in the level of violence in Gaza over the weekend. This started on Friday with an air raid by the Israeli military and subsequent retaliations from factions from Gaza. Unfortunately, some 43 Gazans lost their lives with more than 300 injuries.”

I am pleased to report that a ceasefire was reached last night and until now this appears to be holding! All crossings to Gaza were closed for three days but will reopen today for humanitarian purposes.

The Gaza Hospital operated yesterday as part of an established government emergency plan and treated 12 patients, none of them were related to the conflict. The Hospital, our staff and their families are safe, and we have resumed normal work this morning.

I will keep you well informed of all developments.”

We'd like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind Regards,

Naomi

Naomi Booth

Fundraising Officer (London)



A barbecue at Bisley



In June the Brother Knights of St Michael at Bisley Preceptory hosted a splendid BBQ for family and friends of the Surrey Knights Templar Province at the British and Commonwealth Rifle Club, Bisley

A very brief meeting of the St Michael at Bisley Preceptory was held before the BBQ commenced, to deal with items of business. This was chaired by the Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Dr Miguel Godfrey.

After the Preceptory was closed, family and friends were invited into the Temple to hear a most interesting talk by Miguel about the history of the Order and the Provincial Priory of Surrey.



He then introduced our Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Pat Crossan, who talked about the support the Knights Templars give to the Eye Hospital at Jerusalem.



We then went outside where, in usual fashion, E.Kt. Jim Smith was cooking the BBQ.



E.Kt. Garry Lewis had organised the music for the BBQ – from the boot of his car.....



We had a great time eating and socialising with Brother Knights and friends.



At the end of the evening our Provincial Prior gave a big thank-you to the Brother Knights of St Michael at Bisley Preceptory for hosting an excellent afternoon and evening.

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



At the District Grand Council of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire



The District Grand Council of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, in the Order of Royal and Select Masters, held the Annual District Meeting on Thursday, 21 July at Sindlesham, Berkshire. Fortunately it was 15 degrees cooler than the high of 40 degrees two days beforehand.

It was a special occasion to mark the 25th Anniversary of the creation of the District from the former Division. The meeting was honoured with the presence of the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones, and the Deputy Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Ian Alexander, QC. Also present was the Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.III.Comp. Graham Seeman, who, as the Mark Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire, was on home turf (all pictured above).

A large retinue of District Grand Masters were in attendance, together with representatives of Districts from Devon & Cornwall to Northumberland.

It was particularly pleasing that a large number of Companions from the District of Oxon, Berks & Bucks were at the meeting. Senior amongst them was R.III.Comp. Charles Woodward, the founding District Grand Master of the District.

A superb history of the District had been prepared by the Deputy District Grand Master, V.III.Comp. Phillip Purves. V.III.Comp. Phillip gave a resumé of the past 25 years, including suitable background and context and much information about the development of the Councils and certain significant Companions. A printed copy of the history was available for all the Companions present and was very well-received.

The Grand Master kindly presented Silver Trowel certificates to 10 recent recipients and gave a brief outline of the Order. He also addressed all the Companions, commenting on the achievements of the past 25 years and giving great encouragement in his remarks for the next 25 years ahead for the District.

The District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Tim Hancock, welcomed the distinguished visitors from the Order and Heads of other Orders within the District. He thanked the outgoing District Officers for their service and had much pleasure in investing the incoming Officers. The District Grand Master also welcomed Companions new to the Order and presented them with a special memento of the occasion.

After a brief Address from the District Grand Master the meeting was closed and the Companions retired to enjoy an excellent festive board.



1 - The Dist.G.M., Dep.Dist.G.M., and Dist.G.P.C.W.



2 - The District Officers



3 - The District Officers, R.III.Comp.s and honoured guests

Warm at Weald



The Installation meeting of the Weald of Surrey Council No. 309 took place on one of the hottest July days on record. Present were R.III.Comp, David Blackburn, District Grand Master for Surrey, and the District Grand Masters of Middlesex, Kent and Essex.

Various items of Council business were conducted under the direction of the Thrice Illustrious Master, III.Comp, Peter Kipps, Deputy District Grand Master, ably assisted by the Director of Ceremonies, III.Comp. Simon McCarthy.



This included a ballot was taken for three joining members. This proved in their favour and the Companions were welcomed into the Council by III.Comp. Peter Kipps and congratulated by R.III.Comp. David Blackburn.



The next item on the agenda was to Install Ill.Comp. David Thompson, District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, as Thrice Illustrious Master. Ill.Comp. Chris Hatton was appointed and invested as Deputy Master and Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout was re-appointed and invested as Principal Conductor of the Work.



A Council of Select Masters was closed, and the Temple re-arranged for the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master. Ill.Comp. Bill Barr had the good fortune to be the Candidate (Solomon) for this ceremony.



The ceremony for four candidates, Ill.Comp. Bill Barr, Ill.Comp. Tim Ford, Ill.Comp. Jeff Penfold, and Ill.Comp. Daryl Palmer from Middlesex, was conducted in a faultless manner by Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout as King David.



III.Comp. John Norton-Doyle was Zadok, the Priest, and III.Comp. Gary Raggett was Nathan, the Prophet. The role of Benaiah was performed by III.Comp. Graham Rawlinson, and the Director of Ceremonies was III.Comp. Alan Boniface.



Our District Grand Master invited R.III.Comp. Christopher Lewis, District Grand Master for Middlesex to present his candidate, III.Comp. Daryl Palmer, with his Silver Trowel.



Our District Grand Master then presented Silver Towels to III.Comp. Bill Barr.



Ill.Comp. Tim Ford.



and Ill.Comp. Jeff Penfold.



Our District Grand Master then posed for a photograph with our colleagues from Middlesex, Kent, and Essex.



There was a good representation from the Mark Province of Middlesex. John Edwards and our reporter were Assistant Provincial Grand Masters for five years and used to meet up at all the Provincial Meetings. Steve Vanhinsbergh was the Provincial Grand Secretary and is now an Assistant Provincial Grand Master. And one of the Candidates, Daryl Palmer, is the Provincial Grand Secretary.



We then retired for refreshments. As the bar was so hot due to the heat wave, many went out onto the patio...





Before going into the lovely air-conditioned dining room for a most convivial meal together in the Nutfield Masonic Centre.

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



R.Wy.Bro. Maurice Bendig – A Celebration of 60 years in the O.S.M.



Thursday, 11 August 2022 was a double celebration for R.Wy.Bro. Maurice Bendig – this was his 89th birthday and also the day that he was presented with a very special certificate in recognition of his service to the Order of the Secret Monitor.

R.Wy.Bro. Maurice was Inducted into Bishop Blaize Conclave No. 48, then meeting at Bradford, on the 6 June 1962 and has enjoyed continuous and distinguished service to the Province of West Yorkshire, and the Order, for more than 60 years.

Maurice is a member of nine of West Yorkshire's thirteen Conclaves and as such he was regularly seen at meetings throughout the Province. He is also a member of the Supreme Rulers Conclave No. 123. However, in recent months his own health and that of his wife, Sheila, has deteriorated and Maurice has reluctantly accepted that his attendance at future meetings is unlikely.

Not wishing to let this auspicious occasion go unnoticed, on Thursday, 11 August 2022 the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. David C. Staniforth, together with the R.Wy.Bro. Stewart Carley, Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, and a close friend of Maurice, visited him at his new home in Connaught Court, York, to present him with his jubilee certificate, signed by the Grand Supreme Ruler, M.Wy.Bro. Andrew Christopher Sweeney, in recognition of a lifetime of service to the Order.

Seven years after his induction into Bishop Blaize Conclave, Maurice was Installed as Supreme Ruler in 1969. Over the years, Maurice progressed within the Order and on 24 March 1982, the then Grand Supreme Ruler, M.Wy.Bro. Lt Col. John Walter Chitty, *MBE*, Installed him as the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of Yorkshire, at the Masonic Hall, Spring Bank Place, Bradford.

He remained as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler until the Province was partitioned in 1994 and on 31 March 1995 at Castle Grove, Leeds, the M.Wy. Grand Supreme Ruler, Col. Geoffrey Seymour Hamilton Dicker, *CBE, TD, DL*, Invested and Installed him as the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the new Province of West Yorkshire. A day that Maurice joked that "he had gone from the most senior to the most junior Provincial presiding officer in the Order".

In 2010 Maurice became a founding member of the Scarlet Cord Conclave of West Yorkshire and is a member of the 5th Grade of the Order. He holds the rank of Past Grand Vice Chancellor and is therefore a Right Distinguished Companion.

He was also an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Craft and is by far our longest serving member. In 2008 his service was recognised with promotion to Grand Chancellor, and he remains the highest-ranking Secret Monitor in the Province.

Maurice was always an enthusiastic, helpful and encouraging 'brother' to everyone and the Province has been very lucky in having his guidance, expertise and friendship for so many years. We all wish him well in his retirement.

Pictured: R. Wy. Bro. Maurice Bendig is presented with his certificate by the Prov. G.S.R., R. Wy. Bro. David Staniforth, together with R. Wy. Bro. Stewart Carley, Marinda Aydinalp (Manager), and staff at Connaught Court.

With thanks to R. Wy. Bro. David Staniforth, Prov. G.S.R.

Surrey in the Swing



Having danced the night away at their 2022 MBF Festival, the Mark Brethren of Surrey are keen to take to the floor once more at this year's Cha Di Da, and they invite you to join them.

Full details can be found [Here](#)

MBF grant to 350 (Carshalton & Wallington) Squadron ATC, Royal Air Force Air Cadets



350 (Carshalton & Wallington) Squadron ATC, Royal Air Force Air Cadets are part of a national uniformed youth organisation sponsored and supported by the Royal Air Force. They are based in Beddington Park, next to Carew Manor. Their syllabus involves a wide range of activities which are both theory and practical based. Cadets are aged between 12 and 20 years of age and they are able to take part and enjoy a wide range of activities organised locally by Cadet Forces Adult Volunteers (Squadron staff) or part of the wider organisation. The Squadron staff are passionate in aiding the development of young people in the community, particularly in discipline, leadership, teamwork, communication, and pride.

On 20 June 2022 the Mark Provincial Grand Master for Surrey, R.W.Bro. Ian N. Clark, and a team of Surrey Mark Masons visited the 350 (*Carshalton & Wallington*) Squadron ATC, Royal Air Force Air Cadets, to present a cheque from the Mark Benevolent Fund of £18,500.



This cheque will give the opportunity for every member of the Squadron to visit an active, front line Air Force Base to experience life in a service and professional environment, learning how an active airfield operates.



Our Provincial Grand Master was invited to present several Duke of Edinburgh awards to some of the cadets, as well as some promotions.



Kevin Roswell, Warrant Officer in Charge, 350 Squadron ATC, Royal Air Force Air Cadets, said:

“Thank you for visiting 350 Squadron last week. It was an absolute pleasure to host you all. The grant presented to us is very kind and generous and it will go a long way to supporting our trip to Florennes Air Base in October. Thank you so much for your support, I have no doubt Camp Ambiorix 22 will be a life highlight for the cadets and staff and I look forward to sharing our experiences with you all.”

With thanks to V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, P.G.J.O.

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	Estimated Time	Provisional Start	Provisional Finish	Provisional Start	Provisional Finish
MARK	Grand Lodge	Sunday, 28 March 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, WC2R 0JZ	11.00 AM	1.00 PM	9.30 AM	1.30 PM	1.00 PM
WYM	Grand Council	Sunday, 28 April 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, WC2R 0JZ	10.00 AM	11.30 AM	9.30 AM	1.30 PM	1.30 PM
SC	Grand Saratoga	Thursday, 5 May 2022	Mark's Masonic Hall, London, WC2R 1LN	07.30 AM	11.30 AM	9.30 AM	1.30 PM	1.30 PM
KT	Grand Priory	Wednesday, 18 May 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, WC2R 0JZ	10.00 AM	11.30 AM	9.30 AM	1.30 PM	1.30 PM
MARK	Grand Order - Provincial Grand Lodge	Thursday, 7 June 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, WC2R 0JZ	10.00 AM	11.30 AM	9.30 AM	1.30 PM	1.30 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conference	Sunday, 3 July 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, WC2R 0JZ	09.00 AM	11.00 AM	8.00 AM	1.00 PM	1.00 PM
MARK	Grand Order - Provincial Grand Lodge	Sunday, 11 September 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, WC2R 0JZ	11.00 AM	1.00 PM	9.30 AM	1.30 PM	1.30 PM
WYM	Grand Priory	Thursday, 18 September 2022	Mark's Masonic Hall, London, WC2R 1LN	9.00 AM	1.00 PM	8.00 AM	1.00 PM	1.00 PM
WYM	Grand Council	Sunday, 25 October 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, WC2R 0JZ	11.00 AM	1.00 PM	9.30 AM	1.30 PM	1.30 PM
SCM	Grand Council	Thursday, 28 November 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, WC2R 0JZ	07.30 AM	11.30 AM	9.30 AM	1.30 PM	1.30 PM
KT	Grand Priory	Sunday, 11 December 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, WC2R 0JZ	10.00 AM	11.30 AM	9.30 AM	1.30 PM	1.30 PM
MARK	Annual Assembly	Monday, 12 December 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, WC2R 0JZ	10.00 AM	2.00 PM	9.30 AM	1.30 PM	1.30 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

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Booking now for the West Yorkshire 2023 MBF Festival



155th MBF Festival Banquet
 will be held at the
Harrogate Conference Centre
 Kings Rd
 Harrogate
 HG1 5LA
 Saturday, 1 July 2023



[Click Here](#) to book



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





MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

[2023 West Yorkshire](#)

[2024 Cheshire](#)

[2025 Oxfordshire](#)

[2026 Hampshire & IOW](#)

[2027 Warwickshire](#)

[2028 Somerset](#)

[2030 Essex](#)

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















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

In return for a qualifying donation of £100, each Steward will be entitled to:

- A distinctive Stewards' breast jewel, year bar and pocket jewel holder.
- Inclusion of their name in the Festival Stewards' Roll of Honour in the Festival booklet
- And for individuals making their first donation under the scheme, qualification as a Life Governor of the Mark Benevolent Fund – the first step on the ladder of honorifics.

Monies raised by the take-up of Festival Stewardships will, of course, be included in each respective Festival total.

Helping to Combat Covid



At the start of Lockdown the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W., shared the [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



All departments and teams at Mark Masons' Hall are available via email and telephone to help and support members and visitors.

Most communication for Masonic Administration should go via the Provincial Secretary, or equivalent, and they will know who to contact here at M.M.H. if they are unable to answer the query themselves.

[///prefer.status.sharp](http://prefer.status.sharp)