

Freemasonry@86 News - 29 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.

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

Saturday, 6 August - Mark Sesquicentenary of the Mark Province of Cumberland and Westmorland

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

MBF Quarter 2 Review



Mark Benevolent Fund

Q2 Review
April – June 2022

In the second quarter of 2022 the Mark Benevolent Fund made 17 grants to individuals, local charities and other worthy cause across England and the Inspectorate of Romania. Here's how they did it.

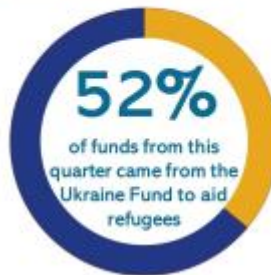
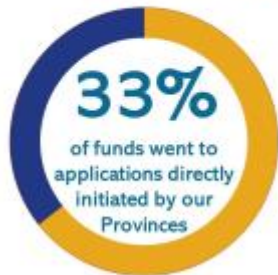
You can download a copy of the review [Here](#)



Fund Activity Summary



£12,830 - Supporting those with Disabilities
£70,000 - Humanitarian Aid
£14,910 - Youth Sector
£9,000 - Our own members and their families



At a Glance...

Humanitarian Aid
66%



Our own members and their families
8%

Supporting those with Disabilities
12%

Youth Sector
14%



£106,740

In the second quarter of 2022 the Mark Benevolent Fund made 17 Grants to individuals, local charities and other worthy cause across England and the Inspectorate of Romania.



● Indicates location of a Worthy Causes Grant



£9,460

The Cornwall County Scout Council needed support for the purchase of vital safety and security equipment. Every four years they hold the 'Kernow Jamboree', a week-long activity camp, which usually attracts in excess of 1,000 young people and over 500 volunteer leaders and support teams.



£10,000

AMBULANCEAID.CO.UK is a non-profit making group of volunteers delivering ambulances and medical aid to the Ukraine. The funds bought a fully equipped ambulance to be driven initially to Poland and then on to the Ukraine. The volunteers filled the ambulance with medical supplies and other urgently needed equipment.





STRONGBONES
CHILDREN'S CHARITABLE TRUST

£5,750

This National charity helps families and disabled young people under the age of 21 who have complex needs including scoliosis, spina bifida, brittle bone disease or any other bone condition. This grant is funding a Sensory equipment project which is different every year. They supply hundreds of sensory educational packs each time with a different theme, ranging from the 'solar system' to 'under the sea'. The theme of this year's pack is 'Musical Instruments from Around the World'. 50 packs have now been provided by your donations.



Meet Myles, looking as 'Pleased as Punch' with his new musical pack



£5,450

This charity works with disadvantaged young people aged between 11 and 16 living in areas of social and economic deprivation in Swindon and surrounding Wiltshire. Each year they help up to 360 young people build resilience, develop confidence and learn skills that will last a lifetime. These funds will provide the organisation with 15 new tents for volunteers, staff and children to use at the camps taking place this summer holiday.



**Merlin
MS Centre**



£7,080

The Merlin MS Centre is upgrading their older, larger minibus for something more economical and practical. The rising cost of fuel and a reduction in volunteers who are able to obtain a specific license for the larger vehicle have been a major factor in taking this decision. The changing dynamic of travel in the county also continues to change the way in which they run the service. Thankfully they will receive a significant trade-in discount on the purchase of the new vehicle.



£75,000

At the March Communication of Mark Grand Lodge, the Pro Grand Master announced that the Mark Benevolent Fund would be providing financial support to the Inspectorate of Romania to help fund its relief work for Ukrainian refugees. The Inspectorate has been working closely with government agencies to provide, among other things:

- special tents for more than 20 people
- electrical heating devices
- beds and blankets
- personal hygiene products
- emergency medical and small surgery kits
- antibiotics and other different medicines
- PPE
- food and water



This tremendous endeavour has touched Freemasons across the Constitution and many of our Brethren have been keen to add their own support by making a donation.



- W.Bro. K needed help. The rising cost of living and illnesses suffered by members of his immediate family had prevented him from returning to work which had a knock-effect on finances. The MBF assisted with a grant that took the pressure off the family and helped them get back on their feet.
- Mrs M had been managing with a fridge-freezer that was well past its sell-by date and definitely not keeping food as cold as it should be. During a visit by our Visiting Brother, he also noticed that she struggled to get in and out of her armchair. He decided to ask the Petitions Committee if the MBF could help. As well as a daily living allowance the MBF replaced Mrs M's fridge-freezer and arranged for her to have a new recliner chair to make her life just that little bit more comfortable.
- V.W.Bro. P, having received help from the MBF on a previous occasion, asked his Provincial Grand Almoner for some help to replace a carpet that was becoming threadbare and dangerous. During his visit, the Provincial Grand Almoner found that the state of the flat was in a much worse state than V.W.Bro. P. had led him to believe. He applied immediately to the Petitions Committee for a capital grant to help with repairs and redecoration. Saving money where they could, Brethren from his Lodge also helped complete the work leaving him in a much more pleasant and relaxing environment.



A fantastic evening was had by all as the Grand Secretary announced the final total of the 2022 MBF Festival hosted by Surrey in Brighton.

R.W.Bro. Ian N. Clark, Provincial Grand Master and Festival President, paid tribute to the enormous efforts made by the Festivals fund-raising and support teams, not just limited to Mark Brethren but also their spouses, partners and families.

Download your copy of the Festival Booklet [Click Here](#)



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

[BOOK HERE](#)



Q2 Review April – June 2022

Issued by
Mark Benevolent Fund
Registered Charity No. 207610
The Charities Office
Mark Masons' Hall
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2022 Mark Inter Provincial Cricket Tournament



On Sunday, 17 July the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey hosted the annual Mark Inter Provincial Cricket Tournament between Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex at The Warren, the Metropolitan Police Sports Club in Hayes, Bromley.

The yearly competition and family day brings together teams and supporters from the Mark Provinces of Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex, with each taking it in turns to host the day.



The day saw four entertaining matches. In the first, Middlesex batted first and set Sussex a target of 82 which Sussex overcame by reaching 83.



In the second match Surrey set Kent a target of 62. Surrey played well under with the support of Kirstin, the goddaughter of W. Bro. David Lawrence, who played some enthusiastic cricket.



But despite the best efforts of the team, we came fourth.

During the break for lunch, three retired Metropolitan police officers, along with one from Surrey, were reminiscing about the good old days before mobile phones when they had to check in at the police box.



While others were taking a more leisurely approach to lunch on one of the hottest days of the year.



A big thank you to Bill Caughie who was the scorekeeper for the day, as well as chairing the cricket committee, and David and Jo Lawrence who organised the raffle.



Thanks also to Chris Hatton who put the Surrey team together and umpired some of the matches, seen here with his son Tom who has played for Surrey in these tournaments since he was 11.



As well as Ivory Flour Cakes who raised a few hundred pounds by auctioning two of their delicious cakes.



Before the Sussex vs Kent final; Middlesex took on Surrey in the 3rd and 4th place play-off. Middlesex set Surrey a target of 84 and, in a closer game than the score belies, Surrey scored 69 in reply. Despite some mean bowling from Simon McCarthy.



In the final, for the Norman Todd Cup the Sussex XI batted first and set Kent a challenging target of 77. Kent replied with an admirable 79 meaning that they were the winners of the Norman Todd cup for 2022.

While the winners of the Champagne Moment and the player of the tournament were being decided....



..... the raffle was drawn. Among the winners were Mary who won £100 and Jo who won £50. These were presented by R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, the Provincial Grand Master of Surrey.



R.W.Bro. Ian then presented the Trophy to Kent congratulating them on some entertaining cricket.



The Bill Balderston Memorial Trophy for the day's 'Champagne Moment' went to Nelson Azul of Middlesex, whose daughter Priscilla made the two cakes that were auctioned.



Finally, the 'Player of the Tournament' was won by Ian Payton of Kent who hit 25 off 7 balls, including a monstrous 6 off his last ball.



Thanks must go to R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of Surrey, and his team for organising a most enjoyable day.



And the teams who came along to ensure a good day's cricket. Middlesex.



Sussex



And of course, the winners, Kent.



Likewise, thanks are extended to the players, umpires, and to everyone who attended, for their continued support of this annual event.

Article by Chris Eley

Feeling the heat in Cheshire and North Wales



Probably the hottest meeting of the year?... the Preceptory of St George No. 318, the Province of Cheshire and North Wales Bodyguard Preceptory, met in temperatures heading towards 36 degrees at Maesgwyn Hall, Wrexham on Monday, 18 July.

E.Kt. Peter Butler, P.Dep.Gt.Swd.B., Provincial Sub-Prior, was Installed into the Chair by E.Kt. Fraser Fowlie, P.Dep.Gt.Mar., Provincial Chancellor.

A relaxed festive board followed on with jackets being discarded for the sake of comfort. Overall, it was an enjoyable and comfortable meeting - despite the heatwave.

With thanks to R.E.Kt. Alan Pierce, Prov.Prior for Cheshire and North Wales



A court of Intendants-General



On Saturday, Intendants-General of the Red Cross of Constantine from across the country gathered at Cole Court in Twickenham for the Annual Divisional Meeting of Middlesex, presided over by R.III.Kt. Dennis Leigh, Intendant-General.

R.III.Kt. Denis opened the Middlesex Divisional Meeting and welcomed no fewer than ten visiting Intendants-General.



1 - The visiting Is-G prepare to make their entrance

During the early part of the Meeting nine Members of the Division took a position on the floor to form a cross such that the central altar was in effect the transept. With this layout the Deputy Intendant-General, Ill.Kt. Silverio Ostrowski gave a Requiem for two Illustrious Knights that the Division lost in the past year, viz Ill.Kt. Brian L. Berry and V.Ill.Kt. Peter E. Ribi.



2 - Ill.Kt. Silverio Ostrowski

The rest of the Meeting went forward with efficiency and decorum. The full Meeting took circa 95 minutes which allowed a good period for socialising in and around the Bar prior to dining. The Luncheon consisted of a summer salad Menu which was appreciated by all. A harmonious and convivial conversational 'buzz' was heard throughout the Lunch with outbursts of laughter being heard intermittently.

Ill.Kt. Silverio Ostrowski proposed a wonderful warm and complimentary Toast to R.Ill.Kt. Denis. Denis was very emotional and kept his reply very short. Following the Luncheon all left with memories of a lovely day and further strengthened bonds which tied us all together even more. Farewells were happy, full of laughter and expressed sincere friendships until the next gathering.

While some of the Is-Genjoyed the sun, the photographer was quick to take the opportunity of photographing the (right) illustrious gathering, but not before they had formed themselves into a well defined pose, mainly to hide the pints on the table behind them.

Below, left to right are:

Nick Alder - Kent

Paul Rose - Sussex

Bob Hancock - Surrey

Dennis Leigh - Middlesex

Alan Baverstock - Thames

Matthew Burt - Dorset & Wiltshire

Robin Knight - Durham

With thanks to Ill.Kt. Silverio L. Ostrowski and R.Ill.Kt. Alan Baverstock



The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey



The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey was held at the Surbiton Masonic Hall on Thursday, 21 July. We were honoured by the presence of the Grand Summus, Most Distinguished Companion Ian Stanley Currans, escorted by Dist.Comp. Geoffrey Kear, and accompanied by the Assistant Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Howard S. Markham.

Companions from across the Province, and the UK, arrived, signed-in and made their way to the downstairs bar for tea and coffee. On duty was our photographer, Em.Comp. Bob Tuthill, seen here with our Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson.



At the same time, in the George Cowan Temple our Provincial Grand Summus was having a last look at his detailed agenda....



The Tzaddikim were busy rehearsing....



And the Escort for the installation of the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus were also rehearsing their roles with the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus Designate, Dist.Comp. Simon McCarthy



Just after 11.00 a.m. the visiting Right Distinguished Companions entered the Temple in Procession....



Followed by our two Past Provincial Grand Summi, Right Distinguished Companions Michael F. Barnes and Louis M. Keats.



The Companions were then called to Order to receive the Right Distinguished Provincial Grand Summus who entered the Temple in procession through an Arch of Steel, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Officers of the Year.



Provincial Grand Senatus was opened in due form and the Provincial Grand Summus was saluted with seven under direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Designate, Dist.Comp Ian Bloodworth. The other Right Distinguished Companions were then saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, Dist.Comp. Geoffrey Kear was admitted and advised the Right Distinguished Provincial Grand Summus that the Grand Summus, Most Distinguished Companion Ian Stanley Currans accompanied by the Assistant Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Howard S Markham, was outside the door of Provincial Grand Senatus.



The Most Distinguished Companion was received and welcomed by the Provincial Grand Summus. He was then saluted with eleven under the direction of the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Grand Summus welcomed the many honoured guests of the Province and other Distinguished Companions.

Following various items of Provincial business, the Provincial Grand Summus reappointed Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson as Deputy Provincial Grand Summus thanking him for all his support over the past year. The Deputy Provincial Grand Summus was saluted with five and Dist.Comp. Nigel thanked the Companions for their salutation.

The Provincial Grand Summus was pleased to announce that he was appointing Dist.Comp. Simon McCarthy as Assistant Provincial Grand Summus.



The Assistant Provincial Grand Summus Designate entered in procession, took his Obligation, and was invested by the Provincial Grand Summus. The Assistant Provincial Grand Summus was saluted with five and Dist Comp Simon thanked the Companions for their salutation.



A total of 24 appointments and promotions to Provincial Grand Rank were made.

The Prov.G.S. was pleased to appoint the Captain, Deputy Captain and Members of the Tzaddikim. He then inspected his personal Tzaddikim.



The Provincial Grand Summus welcomed nine Companions who had been admitted to the Order since the last Annual Meeting. The Companions were presented to the Provincial Grand Summus who warmly welcomed them into the Order and the Province and presented them with a lapel pin and a drinks voucher.

The Provincial Grand Summus addressed Provincial Grand Senatus. He thanked Dist.Comp. Kevin Johnson for attending and playing the organ for us.



The Grand Summus and the Assistant Grand Summus then retired from Provincial Grand Senatus.



Provincial Grand Senatus was closed in due form and the Right Distinguished Provincial Grand Summus retired in procession accompanied by Right Distinguished Companions, and Honoured Guests.





After a few drinks in the bar, where the new Companions spent their drinks vouchers...



The Companions of the Province of Surrey and their guests enjoyed an excellent and convivial Festive Board in the Elizabethan Suite at Surbiton Masonic Hall.



In his reply to his toast the Grand Summus thanked the Provincial Grand Summus and the Companions of Surrey for their kind hospitality and said how well the Surrey team had performed at the special meeting at Mark Masons Hall to confer 3 Grades on several Brethren from France, Greece and Paraguay. He said he felt especially proud being a Surrey Scarlet Cord Companion himself, and a member of the Hill of Zion Consistory.



After our guests had departed, the past Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies could be seen congratulating the new Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies on an excellent job.



While a couple of us said goodbye to Marianna on her last day at Glenmore House thanking her and her team for looking after so well.

With thanks to Dist.Comp. Chris Eley, Prov.G.Rec., and Em.Comp. Bob Tuthill, Prov.G.Reg.



Founder of the Mark Benevolent Fund Takes to the Waves in Sea Palling, Norfolk



Volunteers at the Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat station were handed the keys for their brand-new inshore lifeboat this week. The application for funding was initiated by our friends of the Order of the Scarlet Cord in East Anglia. The boat has been named 'Canon Portal' after the founder of the MBF and former Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons from 1869-1872.

Amongst those joining the celebrations was Provincial Grand Summus for the Scarlet Cord in East Anglia, R. Dist. Comp. Keith McCully and Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the Mark in East Anglia, W. Bro. Gary Allen who as you can see is very handy with a bottle of fizz!

We wish 'Canon Portal' many happy years of service saving lives and making rescues along the coast and if you are in the area, please pay them a visit.

Find out more [Here](#)







And in Devonshire...

DEFIBRILLATOR DONATION

Last week the Devon Mark Charity Association (DMCA) presented a cheque for a defibrillator to Devon Disability Collective (DDC), based on Exeter's Marsh Barton Trading Estate, which will be accessible to all businesses on the estate to use in an emergency. The donation was the result of an email to the DMCA from DDC as the first aiders from a recent St John's top-up course were keen to have a defibrillator at the mobility showroom and factory.

Jon Boyles, one of DDC's first aiders said: "Defibrillators are so important as they substantially increase the person's chance of survival. If someone suffers from a cardiac arrest, their chance of survival decreases by 10 per cent for each minute that passes without defibrillation."

The DMCA agreed to donate the funds to purchase and install a defibrillator as it would not only benefit the DDC staff but the wider estate workers.



The DMCA was founded in 1922 to raise money from its members, and co-ordinate those donations to charities on behalf of its members. The association consists of all Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariner Masons in Devon, together with their associated Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.

This appeared in the Express and Echo [Exeter's local paper] in Devonshire this week on the presentation of the Defibrillator paid for from the DMCA 2022 Centenary Project. Overall the amount raised in four years is about £115,000, most of which has been distributed to causes within Devon.

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	Refreshment Time	Refreshment Start	Meeting Time	Meeting Start	Meeting End
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 8 March 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1R 4JG	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MM	Grand Council	Tuesday, 22 April 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1R 4JG	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM
SC	Grand Sabbath	Thursday, 5 May 2022	Mark's Masonic Hall, London, W1R 4JG	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	4:30 PM
KT	Grand Prayer	Wednesday, 18 May 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1R 4JG	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MARK	Grand Order of the Eastern Star	Thursday, 2 June 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1R 4JG	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
ICC	Grand Imperial Conference	Thursday, 1 July 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1R 4JG	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MARK	Grand Order of the Eastern Star	Thursday, 11 September 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1R 4JG	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MM	Grand Council	Thursday, 18 September 2022	Mark's Masonic Hall, London, W1R 4JG	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MM	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1R 4JG	11:00 AM	1:30 PM	3:30 PM	1:00 PM	4:00 PM
MM	Grand Council	Thursday, 10 November 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1R 4JG	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
KT	Grand Prayer	Monday, 14 November 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1R 4JG	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM
MM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2022	Mark's Great Queen Street, London, W1R 4JG	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	1:00 PM	3:00 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: 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)