

Freemasonry@86 News - 8 December 2022



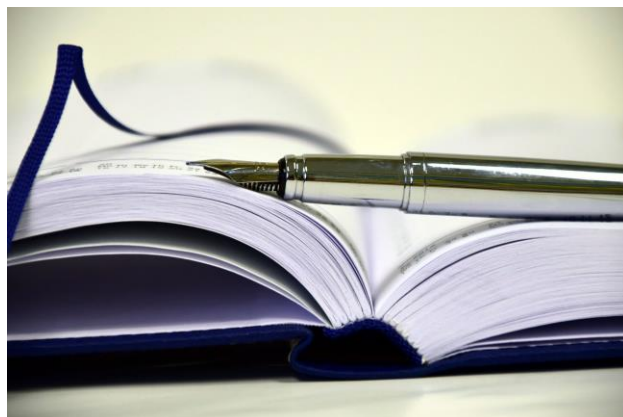
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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Companion Orders Diary



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

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

Monday, 12 December - R.A.M. Grand Assembly, Freemasons' Hall, London

Monday, 19 December - Mark The Carnarvon Lodge of M.M.M. No. 119 Sesquicentenary, Province of Somerset

Social Media Guidelines



With a new Pro Grand Master this year in both the Craft and the Mark, we are continuing our close working relationship with our Brethren at Freemasons' Hall.

While we enjoy and encourage our members' enthusiasm for our Orders, it's important that we are mindful where and how we share our passion for Freemasonry.

Please ensure that any posts on social media about the Companion Orders are either restricted to groups, pages and websites that are open to all Orders or, if destined for Craft specific areas, are posted via a moderator to ensure they are a welcome additions to the news feed.

Happy 60th Anniversary W.Bro. William Kerr



Forty brethren gathered in Kendal on Friday, 2 December 2022, to celebrate W. Bro. William Kerr's diamond jubilee as a Mark Man.

R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride, Mark Provincial Grand Master for Cumberland & Westmorland, together with a full team of Provincial Officers, travelled to Kendal to make the presentation.

Bill was initiated in Union and Crown Lodge No. 103 under the Scottish Constitution in Glasgow on 6 September 1962. He received his 1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees followed very quickly by his Mark, all within the space of eight weeks. In that Lodge, Bill progressed to the Rank of Senior Warden or, as they say in the Scottish Constitution, Right Worshipful Senior Warden.

Moving south with his work as a Civil Servant, Bill joined Bede Lodge No. 605 in 1979 in Sunderland. He became Worshipful Master of that Lodge and was appointed Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in the Province of Durham.

Another move with his work brought Bill to Kendal, where he joined Kent Dale Lodge No. 195, becoming W.M. in 2002, and held the office of Treasurer for 15 years. Over the years Bill has held the office of Treasurer in almost every Lodge of which he has been a member, including 10 years as District Grand Treasurer in the District of Cumberland and Westmorland in the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees, taken all together he has been a treasurer for 120 years. Bill was promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden in 2019.

Following a lively dialogue with the Prov.G.M. on the floor of the Lodge, Bill was presented with his Golden Jubilee certificate commemorating 60 dedicated years as a Mark Man.

With thanks to V.W.Bro. David R. Robinson, P.G.J.O., Provincial Grand Registrar



Hands across the Mersey



On Thursday, 1 December, Cheshire Prov.G.M., Gary Horstman, accompanied by A.Prov.G.M., John Miller, ventured across the River Mersey to Garston Masonic Hall, where they were welcomed by the West Lancashire Prov.G.M., Keith Beardmore; the Dep.Prov.G.M., Geoff Lee, and A.Prov.G.M., Giles Berkley, to witness the advancement of Colin Porter, who despite being a Cheshire mason, lives in Liverpool, and elected to join the local Coronation Mark Lodge.

Our Cheshire Brethren were made most welcome, and witnessed a superb ceremony, which included Past Prov.G.M. Peter Connolly (West Lancashire), act as the Senior Deacon to assist his good friend Colin around the lodge.

R.W.Bro. Beardmore, in his reply to his toast, made a point of welcoming the Cheshire Brethren, and looked forward to a closer working relationship, and to visiting a Cheshire Lodge, soon.





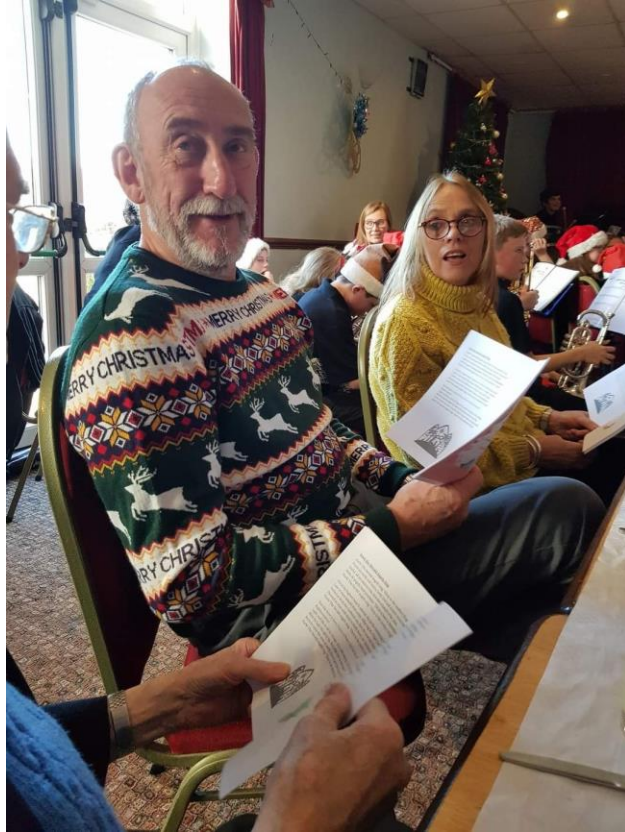
This meeting was swiftly followed by the annual Cheshire Mark Christmas Lunch, which was held at Whitby on 3 December, and was well supported, raising £627.00 for the MBF 2024 festival. The ladies Christmas jumper competition was won by Gail Webb, whilst the men's was won by DPGM Austin Bamber.















Tables Turned On Provincial Communications Manager



On St Andrew's Day the Mark Province of Kent's Provincial Communications Manager, Robin Evans, took another step in his Masonic journey by becoming Worshipful Commander of Wigmore's St Peter's Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners.

Robin is usually the interviewer and wordsmith behind the stories that you read on the Kent Mark & R.A.M. website, but as he couldn't really write a story about himself fellow marketing professional and Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Trevor Sharpe recently took much pleasure, possibly a little too much, in turning the tables on Robin.

TS: Robin, you had been a Mark Master Mason for approaching 15 years before your Elevation as a Royal Ark Mariner, what was the ultimate attraction?

RE: I guess that there were two main reasons. Firstly, as a result of my roles within the Province I was spending an increasing amount of time in the company of positive and passionate members of what they continually told me was a beautiful degree.

Secondly, as you also know from our work together on the Provincial Membership Committee, I'm a bit of a nerd when it comes to statistics. In Kent around 60% of Mark Masons progress to become Royal Ark

Mariners – yet the Degrees have no ceremonial connection. Whereas the “transfer rate” from the Craft to the Royal Arch – rightly considered the completion of a Freemason’s journey in Pure Antient Masonry – is circa 40%. My curiosity got the better of me and I had to find out why.

TS: What have you enjoyed most about your time in the Order?

RE: Quite simply the extended camaraderie. Although I have been a regular visitor to the Howard Hall over my two decades in Freemasonry, this is the first time that I have become a member of a unit there. Add this to the allegory and uniqueness of the Order (all my others are Solomonic) and it’s a winner all round.

TS: What would you say to any Brother contemplating becoming a Royal Ark Mariner?

RE: Whilst being ever mindful of those two important lessons we were all taught at our Initiation, namely “without detriment to ourselves or connexions” and “[Masonry] requires a perfect freedom of inclination in every Candidate for its mysteries”, I would recommend joining.

Despite being worked under the banner of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Royal Ark Masonry has no connection with the Mark Degree, except that to join one must be a subscribing Mark Master Mason. Yet in spite of standing alone and being entirely unrelated to any other Masonic Degree, it is an inspiring, and indeed beautiful, Degree with its own unique moral story.

TS: And what would you say to those who dismiss it?

RE: Never say never. It is no secret that when I was considering which path to take after joining Chapter and Mark, I discounted R.A.M. in favour of Royal & Select, because R.A.M. didn’t fit in with the other Solomonic Degrees. At the time when the R.A.M. Degree is set, the Sacred Writings were not in existence. However, without giving too much away, during the ceremony important analogies are drawn between the dangers of the flood and the dangers of life and how we should strive to reach the “Ark”, the haven of rest, just as Noah and his family did.

TS: Should you have been Elevated sooner?

RE: Although hindsight is a perfect science, probably not. As I mentioned in my previous answer the time has to be right, otherwise we can bring undue pressures upon ourselves and these can easily take away the enjoyment.

TS: You’ve now spent some time studying the Degree, what have you found that particularly appeals to you?

RE: Whilst the experience is most definitely Masonic, there are some special moments, not least in the Inner Workings of the Installation.

TS: Apart from that what else have you enjoyed most about your time in the Order?

RE: The opportunity to develop myself further. Freemasonry is a continual journey and being a Royal Ark Mariner has certainly helped me to grow.

TS: You live in Whitstable and your Mother Craft and Mark Lodges meet in Faversham, what was behind your decision to join the Royal Ark Mariner degree in Wigmore?

RE: I am a member of two Craft Lodges, my Mother Mark Lodge, Kent Installed Mark Masters, the Royal Arch and Royal & Select Masters so finding the right balance was important to me and my family. I carried out my research via the "Red Book" and discovered that St Peter's meet only 3 times a year and on a fifth Wednesday, meaning that diary clashes were minimal. They also meet separate to their moored Mark Lodge, so the slightly later start time is more convenient to me. By simply not turning right at Brenley Corner, it only takes 10 minutes longer to get from Whitstable to the Howard Hall than it does to the Old Grammar School in Faversham. There were also a number of Masons in St Peter's whom I already knew, so it was a natural fit.

TS: So, bearing in mind that the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons took possession of the rights to the Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner on 10 June 1884 for just £25. What do you think of your investment, so far?

RE: In one of my previous answers I conveniently omitted the phrase about Masonry being free! I know that I have spent more than Morton Edwards received for surrendering his authority in 1884, but thankfully nowhere near the figure adjusted for inflation over the past 138 years. That said, as a marketer I would agree that the 'return on investment' has been beneficial for all parties involved.

New & Old Come Together For Triple Celebration



Last Saturday saw the Provincial Prior of Northumberland's Bodyguard hold their annual Christmas curry night.

With Right Eminent Knight Kevin Stannard, the Provincial Prior, and Eminent Knight Ray Walton, the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark in attendance, past and present members of the group, numbering more than 20, came together in the private dining room of Latif Indian Restaurant in Newcastle, to celebrate another successful year, during which a large contingent had attended numerous Provincial

visits and Installations, playing catch up from the fall out of the pandemic. This was in addition to being on duty at the successful Annual General Meeting of the Provincial Priory, annual Malta meeting, both held at Byker Masonic Hall, and the annual Church Service, held at the historic and atmospheric Hexham Abbey in Hexham.

The assembled Knights also had cause to celebrate the retirement of the Commander of the Provincial Priors Bodyguard, Eminent Knight Chris Allen, who was presented with a specially commissioned bottle of Provincial Prior's Bodyguard Port and a wrist watch, by his successor Knight Scott Hunter, and the birthday of the new Registrar of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard, Eminent Knight Ian Matthews, who celebrated his 73rd birthday.

A very convivial evening was had by all and all are geared up for the new tranche of visits ahead.

With thanks to Nick Deakin









The K.T. Provincial Priory of London sponsors the Gift of Sight Fair



Once per year, in November or December, the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group holds a fundraising Gift of Sight Fair. They hire the Old Town Hall in Chelsea at their own expense and invite different companies to apply for stalls in order to sell various wares. Whilst a percentage of all sales go to the Eye Hospital to fund its vital sight-saving work, the initial cost of hiring the venue can obviously reduce this substantially.

Members of the Provincial Priory of London, following the return of the latest Pilgrimage to the Holy Land just last week, where they were once again able to see first hand the tremendous benefit that the Eye Hospital provides, are very proud to continue both the relationship with the Guild of St John and the support of the St John Eye Hospital. Working with the Guild of St John, this year we sponsored the Gift

of Sight Fair to alleviate some of the costs that are incurred thereby enabling the funds raised to go directly to the needs of the Eye Hospital.

The Eye Hospital CEO, Dr Ahmad Ma'ali, was in attendance at the Fair and expressed his gratitude to the Provincial Vice-Chancellor, E.Kt. Vernon King (pictured here together).



Banners from the London Province of Knights Templars advertising our principles were put up in a prominent position overlooking the Fair.



In addition to the ordinary tickets, VIP tickets may be purchased, which this year included access to a special lounge, a glass of wine (mulled or otherwise), a hot drink and a goodly amount of excellent food.

Next year's date has already been booked to be held on Tuesday, 21 November, so please save the date. This is of course the same date as the Great Priory of Malta, but the Fair is open all day and into the evening so there is plenty of time to come to London and attend both.

One more St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Charity Challenge for 2022



The Knights of the Vision Beautiful Charity Challenge Team, aware that some Knights could not make the dates and locations for the three day Relay Pilgrimage in September, have decided to complete an additional challenge before the end of 2022.

This time it will be a virtual relay with individuals completing their hour plus stints wherever they may be in order to raise vital funds for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital's excellent sight-saving work. The challenge is to have at least one Team Member in motion at every moment for Twenty-Four Hours.



A goodly percentage of the work of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital goes to saving the sight of future of children. 40% of the patients in the Hebron site last year, for example, were children. Thus the Children's Ward in Jerusalem, recently opened by the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, is especially close to all our hearts.



At time of writing, the Knights of the Vision Beautiful have now raised nearly £28,000 for the Eye Hospital (including gift aid) via the efforts of Knights plus their wives. The 2023 challenges are currently being planned.

If you would like to participate in their final challenge of 2022, or in the future, please feel free to contact their Captain, E.Kt. Angus Rhodes, via: Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com

To support their excellent efforts please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Vision-Beautiful>

And some more good news for the Team



1 - Angus Rhodes and Jamie Ingham-Clark at the Provincial Priory of London in September

In the meantime, there has been some great news for both the Team and the Eye Hospital supporters in that E.Kt. Jamie Ingham-Clark, of the Provincial Priory of London, Trustee of the Eye Hospital, along with the two founding Anguses of the Team, E.Kts. Cameron and Rhodes, have all been appointed Great Priory Officers in KT and Malta.



And all three have been privileged to become Scottish Masters of St Andrew at recent meetings of three different Lodges in London and Kent. All of them have commented on what a fascinating and uplifting Ceremony this is.



Information provided by the "Knights of the Vision Beautiful".





Holy Sepulchre Preceptory No. 174



On Monday, 21 November, Holy Sepulchre Preceptory No. 174, meeting in St.Leonards-on-Sea in the Province of Sussex, carried out something of an unusual double ceremony, as they Installed as Knights of the Order father John Tanner and his son Marcus.

This was in the presence of R.E.Kt. Colin Dann, Provincial Prior, who is also a member of the Preceptory.

The ceremony was carried out by Past Preceptors following the sad loss of the current Preceptor David Barnes during his year of office. Senior Officers of the Province were also in attendance.

We wish both father and son a happy future together in their Knights Templar Freemasonry.

With thanks to R.E.Kt. Colin Dann, Prov.Prior.



North Midlands R.S.M. AGM



On Saturday, R.III.Comp. Steve Bradford was pleased to preside over the annual meeting of his District Grand Council of the North Midlands. He was assisted by his Deputy District Grand Master, Ray Stokes, and District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Jon Lish, pictured above.

They were also pleased to welcome Past District Grand Master, John Clements



As well as several other Right Illustrious Companions: Michael Graham, Jeremy Shaw, Dr Alan Beckerton, Doug Sanderson, Neil Woodward, Fraser Mcpherson, Martin Wilson, Ken Downes and John Harvey



Annual Meeting of the A.M.D. District Grand Council of Surrey



The 2022 Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Surrey took place on Saturday, 3 December at Croydon Masonic Hall.

Brethren of the District of Surrey and their guests started arriving from 9 am where tea, coffee and bacon butties were being served.



District Grand Council were honoured with the presence of the Past Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel, seen here with the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John V C French.



W.Bro. Derek Williamson, Dist.G.J.W. designate, was busy selling the Surrey AMD napkins...



... with some success. The napkins are worn by Surrey AMD Brethren at Surrey Mark festive boards, to promote our wonderful Order.



Our Deputy District Grand Prefect, W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, our webmaster, was looking at the new District Facebook page set up by Brother Andrew Banks.



Joining us at the meeting were W.Bro. Bob Hancock, newly appointed Grand Standard Bearer, the Intendant General of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine Division of Surrey; and W.Bro. Ian Clark newly appointed Grand Steward, the Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey.



The Right Worshipful Brethren, the Past District Grand Prefect, the Past Deputy Grand Prefect, and the District Grand Prefect entered in procession into District Grand Council...



... to music from our District Grand Organist, Bro, Bob Soper, who has recently joined our Order.



The District Grand Prefect opened District Grand Council and welcomed all the guests and visitors, especially the Past Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel.

After the regular business of the Council had been concluded, the District Grand Prefect announced that he had much pleasure in re-appointing W.Bro. Robert Gregory (Bob) Tuthill as his Deputy District Grand Prefect. The District Grand Prefect appointed and invested the District Grand Officers of the year, and those promoted in Past District Grand Rank.

He then addressed District Grand Council. In his address he said that it was nice to see so many Brethren present and thanked everyone for their support, especially our Past Deputy Grand Master who is always most welcome in Surrey, and whose company we enjoy immensely. He said that visiting is an important part of all Freemasonry, especially during these difficult times, and thanked our guests for the generous hospitality which he and his team receive around the country when they visit other Districts.

The District Grand Prefect was proud to say that the Surrey AMD donated £13k towards the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival, which from 9 Councils was very generous especially when you consider that we also contributed personally to the festival through our own Mark Lodges. The Surrey Mark Festival raised a staggering £1,002,022.

The District Grand Prefect congratulated all the Officers whom he had been pleased to appoint or promote with District Grand Rank, hoping they will all enjoy their year in Office, and if possible be able to support all of the Official Visits this coming year. He also congratulated the Brethren who received Appointment or Promotion in Grand Rank at the Annual Meeting of Grand Council at Great Queen Street. He thanked the District Recorder and the District Grand Director of Ceremonies and their teams for ensuring today's meeting was a success, and finished by wishing everyone and their loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

District Grand Council was then closed in due form and the District Grand Prefect retired in procession accompanied by his Deputy, District Grand Officers and Honoured Guests retired from District Grand Council.



Greeting everyone on their way out from the Temple.





After refreshments in the bar...



... the Brethren of the District Grand Council of Surrey and their guests sat down to a splendid lunch at the Croydon Masonic Halls.



The Toast to the District Grand Prefect was given by R.W.Bro. Clive Manuel, Past Deputy Grand Master. He said how well R.W.Bro. John had led the District since his installation six years ago and thanked him for all his hard work in support of our Order.



He then invited the Deputy District Grand Prefect to present a gift to the District Grand Prefect, a keen Chelsea supporter.



Article and photos by Chris Eley, Dist.G.S.W.

A busy afternoon in Surrey

On Tuesday, 30 November, Warlingham Conclave No 134 meeting at Nutfield conducted two Grade Ceremonies for Companions of the Order. Present, as members of the Consistory, were our Provincial Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long; our Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson; and our Assistant Provincial Grand Summus, Dist.Comp. Simon McCarthy, President.

The Consistory was opened by the President, Dist.Comp. Simon McCarthy, who welcomed the Provincial Grand Summus and our guests. The first item on the agenda was to promote to the Third Grade of the Order, Companion Steve Harvey. The ceremony was conducted in an excellent manner by Companion President and the Officers of the Consistory, ably assisted by Dist.Comp. Ian Bloodworth, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, who acted as our Director of Ceremonies for the afternoon. Companion Steve was congratulated by our Provincial Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, then took his place as Third Lecturer for the next ceremony.



The next item on the agenda was to promote to the Second Grade of the Order, Companions Robert Short and Steve Jones of Warlingham Consistory No 134, and Companions Alan Boniface, Jeffrey Flint, Allan Thompson and Robert Woolloff of Surrey Consistory No. 4 TI. The representative candidate was Companion Robert Short.

The ceremony was again conducted in an excellent manner, this time by the Primus of Lectores, Em.Comp. Bob Tuthill, and the Officers of the Consistory. Companions, Robert, Steve, Alan, Jeff, Allan and Bob were warmly congratulated by Companion President and R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long.



The Consistory was then closed, and the furniture re-arranged for the Warlingham O.S.M. Conclave No. 291 meeting that followed. At that meeting the Conclave was honoured with an Executive Visit from the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Ian Bloodworth, accompanied by his Escorting Officer, Wy.Bro. Steve Jones, and several Provincial Grand Officers.



The main item on the agenda was for Wy.Bro. Chris Eley to induct as Supreme Ruler his old friend, Wy.Bro. David Blackburn, the District Grand Master of the District Grand Council of Surrey in the Order of Royal and Select Masters. This was done in a very sincere manner by Wy.Bro. Chris, assisted by R.Wy.Bro. Mik Barnes, Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.

With thanks to Dist.Comp. Chris Eley, Prov.G.Rec.



Worcestershire O.S.M. supporting local charities



Wy.Bro. Mike Saxon, Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Secret Monitor Province of Worcestershire, was joined by Brethren and wives in presenting charitable donations to two local causes during the crisp, sunny morning of 7th December.

Their first visit was to the Wyre Forest Emergency Service Hub in Kidderminster – the home of the Wyre Forest Base of the Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA). SARA is a volunteer search and rescue charity, with Lifeboat and Rescue Stations along the length of the River Severn. Their volunteers perform rescues on the Usk, Ebbw and Wye rivers as well as the Severn, and from the cliffs and other areas of difficult terrain, and conduct missing person searches in support of the Police.

The volunteers on hand were keen to show us the vehicles, lifeboats, and kit they use when searching for missing people in the often-flooded Severn catchment area. All the kit requires a lot of training, and Wy.Bro. Mike was pleased to present SARA with a cheque for £1,000 to assist with training one of their volunteers to become a Trainer himself. This money represented £500 from local O.S.M. Conclaves; match-funded by the OSM Benevolent Fund.



A short drive took us on to the Stourport Riding Centre, where the High Riders were holding their Christmas demonstration for parents and families. The High Riders, affiliated to the Riding for the Disabled Association, facilitate youngsters of varying ages and with a range of disabilities, to gain hugely from learning to ride and care for ponies. With the help of many volunteers, the young people build up their trust and self-confidence whilst developing improved motor-skills and balance, communication, and a major sense of achievement.



Wy.Bro. Mike was pleased to present the High Riders with a cheque for £300, donated by local O.S.M. Conclaves, whilst the different age groups showed off their new-found riding skills.



But the star of the show arrived in his own carriage!



With thanks to V.Wy Bro Gareth Hughes P.G.V., P.Dep.Prov.G.S.R.

Tynemouth Sea Scouts signal the change thanks to Northumberland Freemasons



A local Scout group has recently been able to increase the services they provide to young people thanks to a generous grant from Northumberland Freemasons.

The newly formed Tynemouth Sea Scout Group, which meets at Tynemouth Sailing Club within The Haven at Tynemouth, actively engages and supports young people, in the area, in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society throughout their lives. They currently run three sections in the form of Beavers, Cub Scouts and Sea Scouts, with a membership of sixty members and eight voluntary leaders and, although admitting the maximum intake in relation to the maximum permitted adult to young person ratio, still have an “all sections” waiting list of almost fifty young boys and girls.

Northumberland Freemasons, through the Richard Henry Holmes Masonic Benevolent Fund and the Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund, donated £3000 to cover the cost of training four adult volunteers in canoeing and sailing, in addition to 2 personalised banners which were on display at the recent Remembrance Day Parade in North Shields.

Don Charlton, *MBE*, Chairmen of the Tynemouth Sea Scout Group, explained “On behalf of the Leaders and Members of Tynemouth Sea Scout Group, I wish to place on record our appreciation to Northumberland Freemasons and Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund for their most generous grants which have enabled our Group to purchase personally printed sectional flags for our Scout and Cub Scout Sections. Both these Flags will be proudly displayed and carried at the official North Tyneside Remembrance Parade along Hawkey`s Lane on Sunday, 13 November 2022. Additionally, a sizeable proportion of the donation will also allow us to cover the costs of specialist water activity training for up to four of our sectional Leaders”

Speaking ahead of the Parade, Sea Scout Leader, Richard Eyles said “Our young members have been putting in a lot of effort into rehearsing for their very first parade and are both excited and proud to be the very first representatives of our recently formed Group to Parade in Public – This makes me even more proud to belong to the Brotherhood”

W.Bro. Jeff Ormston, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward for both Northumberland Freemasons Craft and Mark Master Masons, explained “Thanks to the combined efforts of both the Richard Henry Holmes Masonic Benevolent Fund and the Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund the Sea Scouts group, based at Tynemouth, were able to purchase flags which were used for the first time at the Remembrance Day Parade in North Shields. We are extremely pleased to have been able to assist with this great cause.”

With thanks to Nick Deakin

Great support by Heads of Orders at a special Installation at Portland Lodge



Last Friday evening saw the Installation of one of the current Assistant Provincial Grand Masters in the Craft, and Past Provincial Grand Master in the Mark, W.Bro. Gordon Craigs, into the Masters Chair of Portland Lodge No. 6170, which meets at the Ashington Masonic Centre.

This special occasion was witnessed by four other Heads of Order, who had been tempted to attend, in the form of Ian Craigs, the Provincial Grand Master in the Craft Province of Northumberland; Ray Walton, the Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Province of Northumberland; Stephen Read, the Inspector General of the Rose Croix in the District of Northumberland; and John Warham, the Provincial Grand Master for the Royal Order of Scotland in the Province of Northumbria.



The ailing Portland Lodge was recently reinvigorated when several members of the Ashington and Bedlington Meals on Wheels Initiative joined their number, bolstering them and effectively saving it from certain closure. During the Covid pandemic the initiative delivered Sunday lunches to both Freemasons and their dependents, ensuring they received a good home cooked meal, in addition to enabling the volunteers to check that they were otherwise OK. This was all made possible by generous donations from both the Mark Benevolent Fund and the Richard Henry Holmes Masonic Benevolent Fund.

Another highlight of the evening was when W.Bro. Sid Fisher was elected as an Honorary Member of the Lodge to mark almost 60 years of his membership. Regrettably, Sid is unable to now attend the Lodge meetings due to advancing years, and ill health, and it was felt that this was a fitting tribute to mark his many years of devoted service.

The Lodge was consecrated in 1945 by the then Provincial Grand Master, Sir Cecil A Cochrane, and was born out of the length of waiting times for Candidates in their respective Lodges, and the protracted time that a junior officer would have to wait to be given the opportunity to advance. In the early stages it was thought to be a Lodge for the 'Upper Crust' but nothing could be further from the truth, with 2 grocers, a plumber, a licensed victualler, an electrician, a storekeeper, a colliery datal hand and a schoolteacher being amongst the first 12 Initiates.

Portland Lodge is now a thriving Lodge which has changed the night of meeting to a Friday and enables members to enjoy the fine dining which is one of the trademarks of the Ashington Building on what is for many not a "school night".

With thanks to Nick Deakin.



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	Rehearsal Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Finishes	Drinking Starts	Approx. Finish
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 8 March 2022	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council	Tuesday, 19 April 2022	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	Thursday, 5 May 2022	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT	Great Priory	Wednesday, 18 May 2022	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Active & SS	Tuesday, 7 June 2022	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:30 PM	6:00 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 5 July 2022	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:45 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Propositions	Tuesday, 13 September 2022	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:30 PM
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 8 September 2022	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	3:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 25 October 2022	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:30 AM	1:15 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 10 November 2022	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT ^{Malta}	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 15 November 2022	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 12 December 2022	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

20/01/2022

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](#)

The Shop@86

[Click Here](#) to visit the Shop@86 website



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.

And, we are delighted to announce that we are taking pre-orders for the 2029 Festival Stewardship Jewel for Durham which will be available for delivery shortly.

The form is available to download [Here](#)

















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.

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.

Published by the Communications Team at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL

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