

# Freemasonry@86 News - 27 January 2023



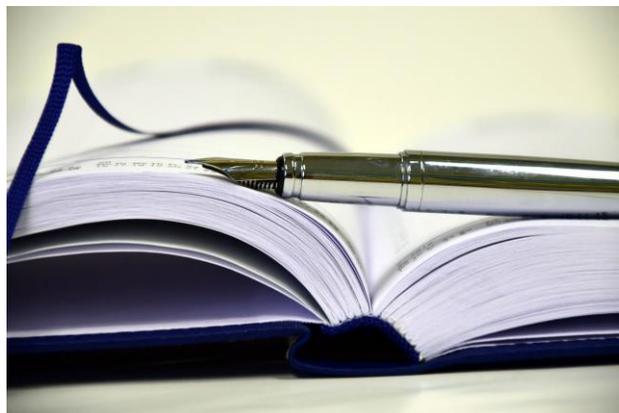
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

**Thursday, 2 February - K.T.** Sussex Preceptory and Southdown Priory No. 125 Sesquicentenary, Province of Sussex

**Saturday, 11 February - R.C.C.** Installation of Ill.Kt. Trevor Fish, P.G.Pref., as Intendant-General for Northumberland

**Saturday, 18 February - A.M.D.** Installation of W.Bro. Brian Alan Ward, P.G.St.B., as District Grand Prefect for Kent

**Wednesday, 1 March - S.C.** Consecration of Ian Stanley Currans Consistory No. 100, Province of West Lancashire

**Tuesday, 7 March - Mark** Communication of Mark Grand Lodge, Freemasons' Hall

**Wednesday, 15 March - A.M.D.** Consecration of The Dedham Vale Council No. 284, Province of East Anglia

**Saturday, 18 March - Mark** Installation of V.W.Bro. John Vaughan Christopher French, P.G.J.O., as Provincial Grand Master for Surrey

**Monday, 20 March - O.S.M.** Installation of Wy.Bro. William George McColl, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Suffolk

**Saturday 25 March - O.S.M. & S.C.** Installation of Wy.Bro./V.Dist.Comp. Allun David Jones, P.A.G.D.C./P.G.Reg., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and Provincial Grand Summus for South Wales and Monmouthshire

**Tuesday, 18 April - R.S.M.** Annual Assembly of Grand Council (Business Meeting Only) **Mark Masons' Hall**

**Tuesday, 3 October - R.S.M.** Celebratory meeting of the Sesquicentenary of Grand Council, Freemasons' Hall

## The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly



The Annual Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Assembly was held on 21 January 2023 at Botley Masonic Centre in Hampshire. This followed the Installation meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Commanders, where the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Deacon, installed W.Bro. Mark Denton as Worshipful Commander.

While this was taking place the guests of the Province were enjoying tea and coffee in the dining room.

Among the guests was our Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John Prizeman, seen here with R.W.Bro. Ian Clark, Provincial Grand Master for Surrey, and R.W.Bro. Roger Richardson, Provincial Grand Master for Sussex.



Our Pro Grand Master was making an unofficial visit to his home Province.



After the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Commanders Lodge was closed, the Provincial Grand Master retired in procession and greeted the Pro Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, R.W.Bro. Jonathan Charles Whittaker, and the M.E. Grand Superintendent, E.Comp. Stephen Allum.



He was then seen chatting to R.W.Bro. Malcolm Slater, Past Grand Junior Warden.



The Provincial Grand Master then assembled with his team and the Director of Ceremonies formed the processions into the Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly.



The meeting was called to order to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Provincial Grand Master, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearer.



Annual Assembly was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master. The Pro Grand Master, accompanied by R.W.Bro. Jonathan Whittaker, and R.W.Bro. Malcolm Slater, entered and was welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master. The Pro Grand Master was saluted with eleven under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.



The Provincial Grand Master welcomed the honoured guests from other Provinces as well as other Orders within Hampshire and Isle of Wight. He then had much pleasure in investing nineteen Brethren with Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Rank, congratulating each recipient personally.

The Annual Assembly was then called off and R.W.Bro. Jonathan Whittaker rose to say he had a surprise for someone in the meeting. R.W.Bro. Malcolm Slater has achieved 60 years in Freemasonry and R.W.Bro. Jonathan thought it would be nice to present him with his Certificate at the Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly, in a full Temple. He thanked R.W.Bro. George for allowing him to do this. At that point R.W.Bro. Malcolm received a standing ovation from everyone present.



R.W.Bro. Malcolm Ernest Slater was initiated into Freemasonry in his old school lodge, Richard Taunton No. 7059, in January 1963. He later went on, in 1973, to become the Worshipful Master of Homlea Lodge No. 8151, of which he was a founder. He distinguished himself in the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, first as a Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, then as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, followed by Provincial Assistant Grand Master, and he holds the rank of Past Senior Grand Deacon.



In the Companion Orders, Malcolm continued his Masonic journey, in the Royal Arch, he holds the rank of Past Grand Sojourner; in the Mark, Past Grand Junior Warden; in the Ancient and Accepted Rite, 32nd Degree; Order of The Red Cross of Constantine, Past Grand Junior General; Order of Royal and Select Masters, Past Grand Chancellor; and Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees, Past Senior Grand Warden.



In the Order of the Secret Monitor he was Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Hants and IoW for ten years and holds the rank of Grand Chancellor. In K.B.H.C. he is a Past Grand Almoner; and in K.T.P., Past 7th Pillar, Knight of Holy Wisdom and Holder of the Grand High Priest's Certificate of Merit. One of his greatest honours in the Order of the Knight Templar was to serve for twelve years, and under three Grand Masters, as the Very High and Right Eminent Great Seneschal. He was also Provincial Grand Master for the Southern Counties of England in the Royal Order of Scotland.



R.W.Bro. Jonathan invited the Pro Grand Master to join him for a photo with R.W.Bro. Malcolm.



The Provincial Grand Master 'called on' Annual Assembly and addressed the Brethren. He thanked the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Commanders for hosting the Annual Assembly saying this is the twentieth year the meeting has been held under their banner. He congratulated the four Brethren who received Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in December, as well as those he had appointed to Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank today.

The Provincial Grand Master said that they had three years to go for their Festival and thanked everyone for their magnificent support. He then had much pleasure in presenting several MBF collarettes. There were three 'Diamond Geezers', one Grand Patron Gold and one Grand Patron.

The Pro Grand Master then retired from Annual Assembly and, after some administrative matters, the meeting was called to order and closed in due form. The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.



The Provincial Grand Master returned to the Temple for some photographs...





After refreshments we went into the dining room for a most enjoyable lunch.



A raffle was held with the proceeds going towards the 2026 Hampshire and Isle of Wight MBF Festival. Would you believe the first prize went to R.W.Bro. Malcolm Slater.



The Provincial Grand Master proposed the toast to the M.W. Pro Grand Master, thanking him for coming along and making this a very special meeting for the Brethren of Hampshire and Isle of Wight.



To end a most enjoyable morning the Worshipful Commander of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lodge of Installed Commanders, W.Bro. Mark Denton, presented the Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £300 towards 2026 Hampshire and Isle of Wight MBF Festival.

*Article and photos by V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, P.G.J.O.*

## Durham MBF Festival 2029



On Saturday, 21 January 2023, the Durham 2029 Festival launch event marked the official beginning of 6 years of fundraising on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund. This will be the fourth time Durham has played host since the Province was formed just over 100 years ago.

The event was held at 'The FED' in Dunston. The evening was a mix of gala dinner, short speeches and excellent entertainment. Guest of honour was David Ashbolt, the Deputy President of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Also in attendance was the Assistant Grand Master, our own Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson.

Our members, their partners and friends from across the Province assembled for the special occasion. On arrival, they were greeted by members of St John Ambulance Service with the ambulance donated by the Mark Benevolent Fund for the Durham Province. They were also able to view one of the many Blood Bikes which was also funded by the MBF. Some guests even getting a 'feel' for the bike and sitting atop it.





After the meal, Enter CIC introduced themselves and provided the first segment of the evening's entertainment. These young adults performed a number of songs and routines from '50s rock 'n' roll to West-End musicals.



It was then time for the Provincial Grand Master, David Hanson to welcome everyone and officially launch the Durham 2029 Festival.



“Our Festival is in support of the Mark Benevolent Fund. For over 150 years, the MBF has been helping those in need and it itself has been ably supported by Mark Master Masons across the country. It is now our turn ...the Province of Durham...to lead the charge in raising funds for the MBF.

But let us not forget that it isn't just about handing over a sum of money; it is about the joy that will be brought to the downtrodden and the relief that will be given to the needy. Hence, our festival slogan: 'Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference'.

The Durham 2029 Festival is for everyone and will be a success with your help and enthusiasm. We hope that you as Mark Masons, your friends and families can participate, enjoy, and organise many events that will occur over the next six years.

Let's make that difference."

David introduced the Festival Team and welcomed them to take the stage.



After the introductions, he made reference to Winston Churchill who said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”. It was now time to introduce the Festival Chairman, John Watts to make his address who gave a heartfelt talk on why we do what we do, and how the MBF helps many across the country, including people in our own Province. A full transcript of John's address can be found [HERE](#).



After his build up, John then introduced the Deputy President of the MBF, David Ashbolt. David thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and further explained how the MBF provides assistance. He spoke with great passion about the MBF and also the Festival Jewels and MBF Honorifics. In closing, he wished the Province of Durham and its members, families and friends every success with the Durham 2029 Festival.



The evening was then handed over to performer Chris Tame who got the dancing started before a disco rounded out the successful evening.



The Mark Benevolent Fund is a registered charity (no. 207610) and came into existence in 1868. It was founded on the suggestion of the Reverend George Raymond Portal, Grand Master of the Mark. He felt that for charity to be effective, it had to be disbursed swiftly and without the bureaucratic formalities of other Masonic charities. To him it was wrong for there to be any delay in providing assistance to those in need. It was his own Latin tag “Bis dat qui cito dat” – he gives twice who gives promptly – became, and still is, the principal guideline of the M.B.F.

You can read more on the history and work of the MBF [HERE](#) or follow the link below. There is also information on the Durham Mark Benevolent Fund [HERE](#)

The Durham 2029 Festival website can be found [HERE](#)

With thanks to David Battensby, Provincial Grand Registrar







Happy 50th to V.W.Bro. Mike Newth



Amongst some very illustrious Guests it was my pleasure to attend the Adur Lodge No. 386 and present V.W.Bro. Mike Newth, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master (Sussex) with his 50 Year Certificate.

Mike was Advanced in Adur Mark Lodge in 1972 and is undoubtedly one of the most stalwart Members of our Sussex Mark – a Founder of three Lodges and Chairman of the SMBF for many years to mention just a couple of his achievements. Mike has always been there throughout my Mark career and it was my honour and great privilege to present him with his Certificate.

*With thanks to V.W.Bro. Chris Farrow, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Sussex*



## Another busy week in the Province of Cheshire

On Monday, 16 January, Claughton R.A.M. Lodge No. 705 continued with the work of the previous meeting, with another double elevation ceremony, in the presence of the A.Prov.G.M., who is a member of the Lodge.



Immediately afterwards, they held an Installation at the Mark Lodge No. 705 meeting, when Bro. Mike Niblock was installed in fine manner by last minute stand in, installing Master, Rob Millington.



Also on Monday, 16 January Our Provincial Grand Master attended a Royal Arch Meeting at Christleton to support the Grand Superintendent who was in attendance at the meeting.



At the venue was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic Order of Athelstan Colin Lewis, who, on behalf of the order presented a cheque for £250.00 as a donation towards our Mark 2024

Festival, a great gesture from one of Companion Orders which again shows the support all the Companion Orders give to each other.



Back in May 2 other Companion Orders presented cheques.



On Saturday, 28 May 2022 at the Annual General Meeting of the order of Royal & Select Masters, the Head of the order Bryan Hughes decided to have a collection in support of the Mark 2024 Festival, a

fantastic amount of £500.00 was donated by the companions present and a cheque was presented to Gary Horstman our Prov.G.M. on the day.

Once again brethren, this shows what can be achieved when the orders work together and that the members of each order will come together to support each other. We as Mark Men should continue to support the other Orders as they have supported us.



#### Cheshire Mark Degree and Cheshire and North Wales Allied Degree Worked Together

As the Cheshire Mark Degree enters the last two years of its 2024 Festival the Allied Degree stepped up to support us by presenting us with a cheque for £750.00, the leader in Cheshire and North Wales, Peter Talbot supported by his Deputy David Wright presented the cheque at a meeting of Joppa R.A.M.

Gary Horstman, the head of Mark Masons in Cheshire, accepted the cheque with grateful thanks for the support shown between the two Degree's, also present was Austin Bamber, the Deputy in the R.A.M. degree.

Brethren this shows how close all the degrees have worked together, not only to ensure that our Festival will be a success but also to ensure the future of our orders, by working together we can share good ideas and assist each other.

#### Wardens' Mess



On Monday, 23 January, the Cheshire Mark Wardens mess was held, at Rowton Hall Hotel nr Chester, when the Current and Past Wardens of the Province welcomed the Wardens Designate, W.Bro. Colin Lewis (S.W.) and W.Bro. Peter Crompton (J.W.), into the fold.

The Event was supported by the Provincial Leadership, who are de facto members whilst in office, and they welcomed the special guest speaker, the Provincial Grand Master from North and East Yorkshire R.W.Bro. Bob Clancy, who regaled them with stories of his sporting career in Rugby League



## Superb Ceremony by the “stand-in” Eminent Preceptor at the Castell Nedd Preceptory No. 577



At the Meeting of the Castell Nedd Preceptory No. 577 at the Neath Masonic Hall on Monday, 23 January 2023, the Eminent Preceptor “in the Chair” was the Preceptory Marshal, E. Kt. Peter Gilbert, who (having been given only a couple of hours’ notice) displayed his expert talents and depth of knowledge by conducting two faultless Ceremonies of Installation of the new Eminent Preceptor and Prior, Eminent Knight Ian J. Greenhill.

The Installation Ceremonies were attended by Right Eminent Knight Dr Paul Calderwood, the Provincial Prior of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales, together with: Eminent Knight Richard Phillips, the Provincial Sub-Prior; Eminent Knight John Everett, the Provincial Chancellor; Eminent Knight Nigel Williams, the Provincial Vice-Chancellor; and a large number of Great Priory Officers, Provincial Officers and Brother Knights. The Provincial Marshal, Eminent Knight Carl Davies, in addition to his own duties, undertook the duties of the Preceptory Marshal who was otherwise engaged.



In the latter, domestic part of the Ceremonies, two new members of the Preceptory, Knights Richard D Jones and Meirion A Woods, were presented with their Certificates in both the Temple and Malta meetings. The explanations of the Certificates were given by the Sub-Prior and Provincial Prior respectively.

In the convivial after-proceedings, the Provincial Prior strongly congratulated Eminent Knight Peter Gilbert on conducting two outstanding Ceremonies and also - for the second time this week - broke with the normal tradition of only announcing Provincial Appointments at the yearly Provincial Meeting, by announcing that Peter is to be appointed as the Provincial 1st Constable for the forthcoming year. This news was received with a standing ovation by the Knights present. The other Provincial Appointment announced was that of Eminent Knight Steven Avo who will be appointed Provincial Chamberlain.

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

*With thanks to E.Kt. Chris Mugford, Provincial Sword Bearer, Province of Monmouth and South Wales*







## The Office of Compline



The original Templars Code made a reference to the attendance of Templar Knights when the Office of Compline was said by a Priest. In those days the Grand Master would call sunset which is when the service began. The Office of Compline on Zoom is standardised at 7pm GMT

The ancient Office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium).

It is a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without announcements, conversations or noise.

After the service the Knights would return in silence to their quarters and go to sleep, in the modern Zoom version participants leave when they choose by logging off in silence. If there was to be an address, or business to be done, it had to happen first, before the start of the service.

In January 2021 the Provincial Priory of Kent's Reverend Knight Les Fraser (2022 appointed Provincial Almoner) hosted the Office of Compline on Zoom. It proved popular amongst Kent Knights and news of this unique event soon spread far and wide. Les decided to repeat the service every fortnight.

Sunday 29 January 2023 marks the second anniversary of Compline on Zoom, the service lasts for approximately 15 minutes with Knights from England, Wales, Scotland, Jordan and Cyprus coming together to pray together and we would love to see you there as well.

All Brother Knights are welcome to attend the above Office of Compline when, immediately before the service starts, the Great Prelate, R.E.Kt. Malcolm Lane, will thank Les for his dedication and commitment and present a small token and mention a donation on behalf of the Congregation of the Office of Compline on Zoom and Templars Prayer Group to St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

Here is the link to the Zoom page:

Knight Templars Compline

Date: 29 January 2023. Time: 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8172345704...>

Meeting ID: 817 234 5704

Passcode: 1eAacY

All are welcome

The Reverend Les Fraser

Les.fraser1@gmail.com

## A Special Burns Night for W.Bro. Peter Bidmead



Against the backdrop of the Burns Night meeting of Blackwater Lodge No. 1977, W.Bro. Peter Bidmead celebrated the amazing achievement of reaching 70 years in Craft Masonry.

This special occasion was marked by a joint meeting of Blackwater Lodge and Pyfleet Lodge No. 8913, of which W.Bro. Peter was a founding member.

In the presence of the Craft Provincial Grand Master for Essex, R.W.Bro. Paul William Tarrant, a 70-year certificate was presented by W.Bro. Rob Eels.

Together, the 2 Lodges presented W.Bro. Peter with an antique glass, while W.Bro. Anthony John Helliar – the Provincial Prior of Essex K.T. – gifted him a bottle of his favourite tippie to put in it.

A true gentleman, W.Bro. Peter also celebrates his 100th birthday in January and continues to be active as a dedicated and much-admired Freemason in Essex.

W.Bro. Peter was heartily congratulated by all those in attendance and his health and achievements were toasted at the Burns Night Festive Board which followed.

W.Bro. Peter has also recently been congratulated and received a presentation certificate for his 62 years' service and membership of Knights Templar in Essex.

Pictured above are the representatives of the Knight Templar Province of Essex who were in attendance.

Left to right:

W.Bro. Chris M Smith, (Prov.Vice-Chan.); W.Bro. Chris Partner; W.Bro. Paul Humphreys; W.Bro. Anthony John Helliar (Prov.Prior); W. Bro Peter Bidmead; R.W.Bro. Paul William Tarrant (K.C.T. and a Past Great Vice-Chancellor at M.M.H.); W.Bro. Rob Eels; and W.Bro. Brian Wright.

*With thank to E.Kt. Chris Smith, Prov.Vice-Chan.*

## 40th Celebrations at Wudcestre



Monday saw a special event held at the Wudcestre Priory of Malta which meets at the Ashington Masonic Centre.

The Priory was honoured by the presence of both the Right Eminent Provincial Prior, Kevin Stannard, and the Provincial Sub-Prior and Prior of Malta, Bill Bewick, to celebrate 40 years of service to the Order of Eminent Knight Clive Warham, Past Great Aide-de-Camp.

Whilst a born and bred Ashington lad, Clive has lived in Middlesbrough for many years in connection with his work as a school teacher.

His Masonic career is very impressive commencing with his initiation into Ashington Lodge No. 2868 in 1977, becoming Master in 1988. He was promoted in Provincial Grand Lodge to Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 1996 and received subsequent promotion to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 2010. He joined Viking Lodge No. 7934, which meets at Morpeth Masonic Hall, in 2006 and was Master in 2008 and is also a member of Beamish Temple Lodge No. 9815, in the Province of Durham, where he is the Organist.

He was Exalted into Ashington Royal Arch Chapter No. 2868 in 1978, becoming Z in 1993. He was promoted in Provincial Grand Chapter, in 1997, as Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, receiving promotion, in 2022 to Past Provincial Grand Sojourner. He is also a member of Indaba Royal Arch Chapter, in the Province of Durham, where he was Z in 2017.

Clive joined the Knights Templar in 1982 when he was Installed into Erimus Preceptory No. 187, in the Province of Yorkshire North & East Ridings, where he was Eminent Preceptor in 1993 and is currently the Organist. Clive was a Founder Member of Wudcestre Preceptory No. 537 in 1985 and is one of only three remaining founders. He was promoted to Provincial Sword Bearer in 1991 and promoted to Provincial Herald in 1994. He achieved Grand Rank, becoming Past Great Aide-de-Camp in 2016.

In presenting Clive with his Certificate and commemorative tie marking his 40 years in the Order, the Provincial Prior referred to the many other Orders of which Clive was a member, achieving Grand Rank in them all.

Clive is a talented musician, and it was nice that he was able to play the organ during the ceremony to further enhance the evening.

Following the ceremony, all present were then able to enjoy a Scottish themed Festive Board, as Burns Night followed later in the week.

*With thanks to Kt. Nick Deakin*



## First Scarlet Cord team visit of 2023 in Durham and Northumberland



On Monday, 23 January a Provincial team of active Officers attended Shiney Row Masonic Hall for the regular meeting of Peter Glyn Williams Consistory No. 102. The team witnessed two Princes of Finchale Conclave No. 77 become Companions Ostiarius of the Scarlet Cord.

In the absence of the Consistory Recorder, Em.Comp. Graham Bainbridge, Primus of Ostiarii, acted as Recorder and our Prov.G.Summus acted as Primus of Ostiarii in which role he delivered the majority of the First Grade ceremony to a very high standard.

Attendance befitted a Consistory named in honour of the O.S.M. Grand Supreme Ruler at the time when it was decided to revive the Order of the Scarlet Cord.

They included 2 Past Provincial Grand Summii; 2 O.S.M. Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers, 1 Dep.Prov.G.S.R., 1 K.T. Provincial Prior and his Sub-Prior, 1 R.C.C. Deputy Intendant General, 1 Head of The Operatives and an R.S.M. Dist.G.P.C.W. nominate.

The addition of this evening's 2 candidates brings membership of the largest Province in England and Wales to 170.

Photographed above, with the Provincial Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Michael Jacques, are the Candidates: (L) Comp. David Fuller and (R) Comp. Kenneth Webster.

At dinner the top table (below, L-R) are: V.Dist.Comp. Gary D Taylor, Dep.Prov.G.S.; R.Dist.Comp. Michael A Jacques, Prov.G.S.; Dist.Comp. Richard Vipond, Primus of Lectores; Dist.Comp. John B Finlay, President; Em.Comp. Graham Bainbridge, Primus Ostiarii; and Dist.Comp. Morgan McDonald, A.Prov.G.S.

*With thanks to Dist.Comp. John D Watts, Provincial Grand Recorder, Durham & Northumberland*



## Intendant-General for Sussex presents £2,500 to children with cancer fund charity



On Wednesday 25th January 2023, the Intendant-General of the Red Cross of Constantine in Sussex, R.III.Kt. Paul Rose, attended the Children With Cancer Fund charity HQ, in Willingdon, West Sussex and presented £2,500 from the **Grand Sovereign's Care For Children Fund** on behalf of the Division of Sussex.

R.III.Kt. Paul, accompanied by Ill.Kt. John Challis, Divisional Recorder, Ill.Kt. Steve Davis, Divisional Treasurer and members of Rose of St. Mary Conclave No 274, being the Conclave who proposed this charity. They were met by the Chairman and Founder, Chris Downton, who accepted the cheque on behalf of the charity. In addition, Kt. Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager at Mark Masons' Hall, travelled from London to give support to the Sussex members, for which we are most grateful.

This registered charity is based throughout the UK. Their aim is to support children up to the age of 18 by granting them wishes which can be practical, medical, or just plain fun! They are made to individuals and families. They also support local hospitals and community nurses who assist in the care of their charges. They were formed in 1998 having developed into a large group of volunteer families and friends to enable the children and families of children with cancer to have a quality of life that we would like for ourselves. All the money donated to this charity goes towards supporting the families and individuals and there is much more to read on their website: [www.childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk](http://www.childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk)

R.III.Kt. Paul said he was extremely pleased to make the presentation £2,500 from the Grand Sovereigns Care for Children Fund knowing it will be well used and will benefit those using the service. He added that, during his visit, he had been reminded that although there are many children who are suffering from emotional distress, this charity places a strong emphasis on a good quality of life for those children suffering from this terrible disease and returns a lot of fun into their lives. Children need fun, it's what childhood is all about and it is available in abundance at this Charity.

@markmasonhall

@CWCFPolegate

#GSCFCF



## 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](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)

## Calendar of Annual Meetings

### Grand Meetings Calendar 2023 - All Orders

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

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Rehearsal Time	Meeting Start	Meeting Finish	Consec. Start	Assoc. Finish
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	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 - limited capacity	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	Thursday, 4 May 2023	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, 17 May 2023	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 - Invitations Active & 1st	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	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 - Invitations Promotions	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 14 September 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - 150 Celebrations	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - 1st	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	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, 11 December 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

21/10/2023

[Click Here](#) to download a PDF copy of the Calendar

## Booking now for the West Yorkshire 2023 MBF Festival



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

**BOOK HERE**



[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](#)

## Social Media Guidelines



With our relatively new Pro Grand Masters 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.

## 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](#)

[2029 Durham](#)

[2030 Essex](#)

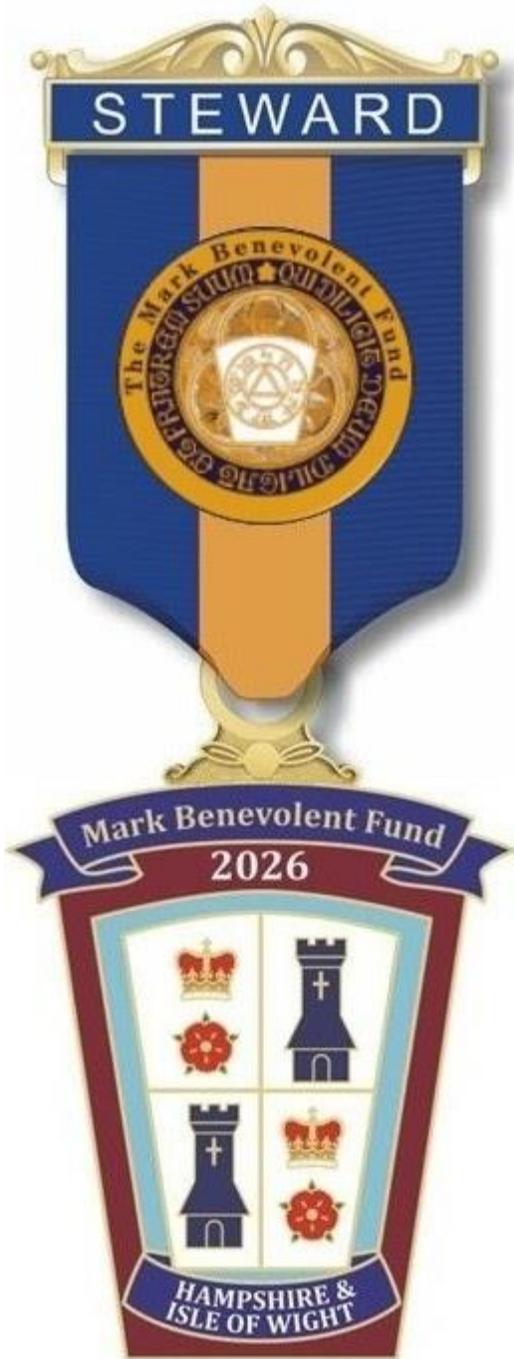
We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.

The 2029 Festival Stewardship Jewel for Durham is now in stock and available for delivery.

















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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