Freemasonry@86 News - 10 February 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.

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

Saturday, 4 March - S.C. Installation of R.Dist.Comp. Richard Charles William Batchelor, P.G.Vice Chan., as Provincial Grand Summus for Hampshire, Isle of Wight and The Channel Islands

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

Friday, 10 March - Mark Mercury Lodge of M.M.M. No. 777 Centenary, Province of Hampshire & Isle of Wight

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

MBF £50K emergency grant to earthquake rescue efforts

The MBF has made an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the Türkiye/Syria earthquakes rescue efforts, in association with our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity. Find out more in the images below. And you can visit ShelterBox on their various media outlets:

https://shelterbox.org/

https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox

ShelterBox



£50,000 donated to ShelterBox

On Monday, 6 February 2023 a series of powerful earthquakes devastated southern Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and northern Syria. The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund were quick to act and by the close of business on Tuesday 7, had approved an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the rescue efforts in association with our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity. The charity is sending an emergency response team to carry out crucial assessments and establish how best their help can be deployed. Their international assessment team will arrive in Türkiye in a few days and will be liaising with contacts on the ground to establish how best to proceed.

The humanitarian need in Türkiye and Syria is immense and growing – it is the most devastating earthquake to hit the region in 100 years and could become the worst. The death toll is likely to rise significantly, and thousands of buildings have been destroyed in both countries leaving people homeless, with nowhere to sleep, in the middle of a bitter winter.

ShelterBox provides different combinations of emergency shelter aid and essential household items during its responses depending on what is needed. This could be sending tents and shelter kits, stoves, thermal blankets and clothing to keep people warm through the freezing winter nights. It could be cash to help people buy what they need to survive. Or it could solar lights that help people when there is no electricity. Getting aid into countries and on to where it's needed after a disaster of this scale presents huge challenges especially with damage to infrastructure and supply routes. That's why ShelterBox strategically pre-positions aid around the world, including in Syria. This donation of £50,000 from the Mark Benevolent Fund will allow ShelterBox to act quickly, adapting how they work to best support people affected by the earthquakes and allowing them to tailor aid packages to what is needed. There are currently no plans to set up a central fund from Mark Masons' Hall.

This is what the grant will be used for by the ShelterBox charity (information taken from the ShelterBox website):

SHELTERBOX TENT - £350

When disaster strikes, families need shelter to feel safe again. When they can't start rebuilding their homes immediately, durable tents can make them feel safe and protected. Depending on the weather and the place, the shelter needs of families differ. That's why we're committed to providing families with the best possible solutions that suit their needs. From padded tents that can safely accommodate a stove, to medium-sized tents that fit in small spaces and ones that can last years if needed, families can feel at home again.



SHELTER KITS - £60

We provide shelter kits which include a

We provide shelter kits which include a selection of hardwearing tools and materials that are customised to suit the needs of each community. The tools and materials we send provide the essentials families need to start rebuilding homes straight away, ranging from tough tarpaulin and timber to corrugated sheeting and even room dividers. The versatile tools we provide help with everything from clearing rubble to building shelters and even tending crops. Our tools can also be used to build furniture, cut firewood and make repairs.



BLANKETS - £7

Blankets, groundsheets and mattresses not only provide vital warmth, but comfort too when families are recovering from disaster. These simple items can be used in a variety of ways, from bedding to room dividers, and help turn a shelter into a home.



SOLAR LIGHTS - £11 Our solar lights can last up to 24 hours on just one charge on the lowest setting. They are lightweight and waterproof, making them easy to carry in any situation. Because they are so safe, cheap and easy to use, families use solar lights in different ways - for work, education, family activities, or simply moving around at night. They are more than just light - they can provide comfort and allow families to regain their livelihoods.



Find out more about the work of ShelterBox



2023 District Of Spain Annual Grand Assembly



The first weekend in February traditionally is our District Grand Assembly, but this year it was the first time we all came back together in Benidorm for three years due to the impacts of the pandemic.



For those making the event into a weekend, Friday evening we were treated to an educational talk from Bro. Mark Smith, who you may recognise from BBC's Antiques Roadshow and who is also a Mark Mason and a friend to our District. At the event 1000 Euros was raised for the Special Boat Service Association.

An informative talk was followed by the official start to the weekend with a drinks and canapés reception giving the opportunity for Brethren and their partners to meet old friends and make new ones.



The Grand Assembly commenced on Saturday with the District Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Barrie Mansell, welcoming over 250 attendees. These included M.W.Bro. Dominique Paquet who is the Grand Master of

Mark Master Masons in France; distinguished guests representing several Provinces, and many from our own District that had travelled far to attend.

The Dist.G.M. delivered his annual address, which concluded with a rapturous applause (<u>copy of which</u> <u>can be found via this link</u>).

A point we all look forward to at the Assembly is seeing those Brethren that have been promoted or received their first District rank. This year was no different as the Dist.G.M. and his team conferred the appointments with personal congratulations to each. (A list of 2023 appointments can be found here)



Concluding the day, Brethren attended a joyous Festive Board where they were treated to a plentiful 4 course meal.

Friends of the Mark



As part of the District Grand Assembly weekend, a day trip was organised for Friends of the Mark who are unable to attend the assembly. This year was a bumper attendance of over 70 partners and friends who were treated to a trip to the Turron Museum. Whilst there, they had time to browse in the factory shop, tasting the produce and having the opportunity to purchase any favourites.

The trip included a stop at restaurant, La Cova in El Campello, where a meal similar to the Festive Board at the assembly was enjoyed by all.

Royal Edward Preceptory No. 14



Last night there was a team visit to Royal Edward Preceptory No. 14 at Hyde.

The Provincial Prior and Provincial Sub-Prior attended with Provincial Officers and the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard to witness a Malta ceremony conducted by the Eminent Prior, Eminent Knight Mark Holmes (who by chance is the Grand Superintendent and High Prelate for District No 26 in the K.T.P.).

The candidate for the Malta, Knight Mark Keyworth, was also presented his K.T. Certificate by the Provincial Sub-Prior E.Kt. Peter Butler on the evening.

With thanks to E.Kt. Fraser Fowlie, P.Dep.Gt.Mar., Prov.Chan., Cheshire and North Wales





Historic R.C.C. evening for Dore Conclave No. 430 in the Division of Derbyshire



On Thursday, 2 February, Dore Conclave No. 430 performed a double Installation ceremony. The two Knights who became members of the Conclave are W.Kt. Steve Churm and W.Kt. Peter Commons. The ceremonies were carried out by the M.P.S. of the Conclave, P.Kt. Jim Key, ably assisted by his Officers. A highlight of the evening was the oration performed by P.Kt. Bob Morten, who gave a splendid rendition of the ritual – the two Candidates cannot have failed to be impressed.

The fortunes of Dore Conclave have waivered in recent years but, all credit to the members, they have pulled themselves up by their bootstraps and found two excellent new members. It is many years since any Conclave in Derbyshire has had a double Installation ceremony, as said by the Intendant- General, R.III.Kt. Alan Beckerton. He warmly congratulated the new members, and the Conclave as a whole, for their work in achieving this historic occasion. The work was witnessed by 27 Red Cross Masons and the festive board was a superb event showing Dore Masonic Hall off to its best. On to the next double Installation!

Pictured above – left to right – R.III.Kt. Alan Beckerton (Intendant-General); W.Kt. Steve Churm; P.Kt. Jim Key (M.P.S.); W.Kt. Peter Commons; III.Kt. Simon Gaskin (Deputy Intendant-General)

With thanks to R.III.Kt. Alan Beckerton, Intendant-General

Red Cross contribution to Kent Scouts Shackleton Expedition



In 2022 eight Scouts from Kent, together with two from Scotland, travelled to Antarctica to mark the centenary of Ernest Shackleton's trip there. The Craft Provinces of East & West Kent had already supported the Expedition and, having spoken with Alan Noake, who is the Assistant County Commissioner (Global Projects) for Kent, it was clear that further support was required to enable the Scouts to spread the legacy of their expedition, and the need for protecting the planet and especially Antarctica.

This led to Nick Alder, in one of his last acts as the outgoing Intendant-General for Kent, approving a donation of £300 to the Kent Scouts Shackleton Expedition project, and last week he formally presented the Division's cheque to Alan Noake at a most impressive presentation of the trip at Deal town hall (pictured above).

This was a project close to Nick's heart, being a Queen's Scout, and whilst not considered to be eligible for an application to the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund, the legacy of the expedition is being spread across not just the Scout Movement in Kent, but the Scouts who took part in the expedition have gone into many schools in Kent to share their experiences, and enthuse young children to work for the environment, and the donation will help their work.

With thanks to R.III.Kt. Nick Alder, K.C.C.

Grafton Council defies railway disruption



Grafton Council of Anointed Kings No. 16 shrugged off concerns about the railway strikes taking place the day before and after their February meeting, with a splendid turnout for the various meetings taking place.

It was, as always, a busy day for this very special Royal and Select Masters' Council, with ceremonies conferring the Excellent Master and Silver Trowel degrees, as well as the Installation of a new Master of the Council.

The highly prized Excellent Master degree may only be conferred by Grafton Council and always includes participation by senior members of the Order, who also invariably take part in the Silver Trowel (Installed Master) degree separately as part of the day's schedule.

Warwickshire was particularly well represented, with two candidates for the Excellent Master degree III.Comp's Neil Watkin and Richard Ainsworth. District Grand Master Peter Wellings was one of the presentation team members for the ceremony and was cheered on by Deputy District Grand Master Paul Harrison and past District Grand P.C.W. Geoff Lates.

Numbers at the splendid festive board following the busy schedule were slightly down due to concerns by some about getting home safely, but thankfully there have been no reports of anyone become stranded due to the rail strikes!

Pictured are Paul Harrison, Richard Ainsworth, Trevor Sharpe (Dist.G.M. for Kent), Vincent Driver (Dist.G.M. for London), Kessick Jones (Grand Master), Peter Wellings, Ian Alexander (Deputy Grand Master) and Geoff Lates.

With thanks to R.Ill.Comp. Peter Wellings, Dist.G.M. for Warwickshire

Derbyshire R.S.M. District meeting moves to a new venue



Saturday, 4 February marked the start of the 2023 District Royal and Select Masters meetings, when Derbyshire hosted their meeting at Burton-upon-Trent Masonic Hall at Winshill. It being a new venue, there was much to be done by the hardworking District Recorder, Ill.Comp. Steve Hardy and his team – and the Dist.G.D.C., Ill.Comp. Phil Ablott and his team were busy getting the movements correct in the new Temple.

However the great team at Burton, under Charlie Everett, the Steward, were on hand to ensure that all went smoothly. A total of 108 Companions were present in the Temple and 96 dined. Almost 40% of the District membership attended and so we can now say that we are back to normal following the pandemic and lockdowns. Long may that continue!

There was concern before the meeting that car parking may be a problem, but Companions John Webb and David Wyatt ensured that the parking was smoothly Stewarded.

The festive board was superb – thanks to the caterer, Alex – and much enjoyed by those present. The pork loin with black pudding was tasty and the starter of prawn and mango salad showed off Burton's cosmopolitan side!

A total of 14 other Dist.G.M.s attended and enjoyed the hospitality on offer. A further 37 distinguished guests attended to make the day perfect. It was great to meet up with good friends again.

R.III.Comp. Alan Beckerton, District Grand Master, invested his officers for 2023 and gave an address that was received with smiles (and some trepidation) – as is customary in Derbyshire! The Provincial Grand Master (soon to be Assistant Grand Master), R.W.Bro. Arthur Steven Varley, was presented with a cheque, or rather a promissory note, for £1000. This was a further donation from the R.S.M. to the Craft Festival 2025 in Derbyshire. Whilst accepting the note the Prov.G.M. asked if R.III.Comp. Beckerton had signed it – It was that sort of day!

With thanks to R.Ill.Comp. Alan Beckerton, Dist.G.M.

MetGL Cancer Screening Session



Tuesday 28th February 2023 Free for Masons! (Gt Queen St Entrance)

10:00am to 2:00pm

To Register follow link <u>https://chaps.mvpsatests.org.uk/events/</u> Find this event and click on Private then type the word Free when asked.



THE CHAPS/TACKLE/MASONIC PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Every year over 12,000 UK men die from Prostate Cancer (PCa) - more deaths now than from breast cancer - and 50,000 new cases present, half of whom have advanced, incurable PCa, Despite the availability of the simple screening blood test Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) for earlier detection, its use is still not encouraged due to outdated lears of over-diagnosis and over-treatment even though these problems have been eliminated from current UK practice.

Countries extensively using PSA have seen their PCa death rates fail consistently and in long-running clinical trials PSA has halved the PCa death rate! Consequently, in 2020 the European Commission has recommended the introduction of national PCa screening programmes. Despite having this same evidence, the UK National Sciencing Committee in October 2020 again opposed anatonal sciencing programme. Meanwhile, our PCa death rate continues to rise and languishes amongst the worst in the western world!

The status quo is unacceptable. Consequently, CHAPS and TACKLE (The National Federation of Prostate Cancer Support Groups) have commenced a programme of risk-based testing initiated by the Metropolitan Grad Lodge of London. Four Masonic Provinces and 5 screening charities have already joined the Project.

The Project is underpinned by a broad base of clinical specialists, the European Association of Urology, independent experts, a national laboratory, the national network of TAOUE, the screening charity GFCT, the Division of Population Health, Health Services Research & Primary Care at Manchester University and Imperial College, London.

The Project's objectives are to have PCa mortality and demonstrate the practicality of screening at scale. In addition, Individual PCa risk assessment will allow us to introduce advances in diagnostic MRI scanning and genetic testing for men at high risk of PCa.

Project Design

Recruitment is initially for 3 years to a PSA-based screening programme for men aged 40-80 with testing frequency based on an individual's risk: annually for men at high risk, biennially for intermediate risk and 3 yearly for men at low risk. Risk is determined by a man's initial PSA, his ethnicity and family history of PCa or breast and ovarian cancer.

Preliminary studies in 2020 for nearly 800 men at 8 events confirmed the clinical utility of the Project which we are now rolling out through an increasing number of contributing organisations across England and Wales.



Not seeing your news? Join us on Social Media

Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent a Masonic Club or Society linked to our Orders, please send us an invite to join or follow you.

We can be found at:

Facebook - Mark Secretariat - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk

Calendar of Annual Meetings

Grand Meetings Calendar 2023 - All Orders

Order	Meeting	Date	<u>To be held at</u>	Rehearcal. Time	Meeting. Starts	Meeting Einishes	Dining. Start	Approx Einish
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC28 SAZ	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
кт	Great Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B SA2	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Active & 1st	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B SA2	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B SAZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3.30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Promotions	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B SAZ	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3.30 PM	5:00 PM
КВНС	Grand Priory	Thursday, 14 September 2023	Mark Masons' Hail, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3.30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council -150 Celebration	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B SAZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B SAZ	11:30 AM	1.00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - Maita	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B SAZ	10:30 AM	12:30 FM	2:30 PM	3:30 FM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B SAZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2.00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

<u>Click Here</u> to download a PDF copy of the Calendar

Booking now for the West Yorkshire 2023 MBF Festival



<u>Click Here</u> 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 <u>Click Here</u> - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

For a Single Donation Form <u>Click Here</u> - 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 <u>Clicking Here</u>

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 <u>Clicking Here</u> and a simple transfer guide available by <u>Clicking Here</u>

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

<u>Click Here</u> 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 Find us here ///prefer.status.sharp