

Freemasonry@86 News - 10 March 2023



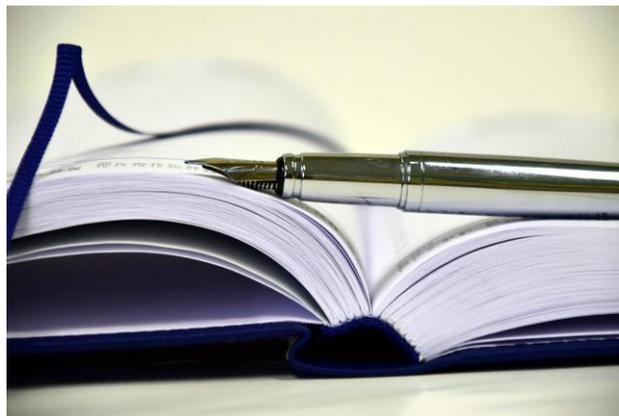
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

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**

Saturday, 22 April - R.C.C. Installation of Ill.Kt. Simon McCarthy, P.G.Pref., as Intendant-General for Surrey

Wednesday, 3 May - S.C. Conferral of 4th and 5th Grades, M.M.H.

Thursday, 4 May - S.C. Annual Convocation of Grand Senatus, M.M.H.

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

March Communication of Mark Grand Lodge



On Tuesday, Brethren of the Mark attended the March Communication of Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall, London.

The March meeting had only just been established as the time when we would celebrate the efforts of the worthy causes supported by the Mark Benevolent Fund when the Covid Pandemic hit.

So it was a great pleasure for to re-start this tradition and welcome representatives from those charities, worthy causes and community groups which the MBF has worked closely with in 2022.

The meeting was open by the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H. Prizeman, assisted by the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Francis C. Spencer and R.W.Bro. H. Keith Emmerson, P.Dep.G.M., acting as Assistant Grand Master.

M.W.Bro. HRH Prince Michael of Kent, *GCVO*, was proposed for re-election as Grand Master by W.Bro. Gary Parker, P.A.G.D.C.. The proposition was met with acclamation and the Grand Director of Ceremonies proceeded to Proclaim the Most Worshipful Grand Master in all his styles and titles as having been duly elected.

With the other regular business then completed, it was time to call-off Grand Lodge and to welcome, in a series of processions, our VIP members, guests and representatives from the charities and worthy causes.

- The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund, including the President, R.W.Bro. John Bell, P.G.J.W., carrying a cushion bearing the Portal jewel, reminding us of the ever present legend of the MBF's Founder, Reverend Canon George Raymond Portal "he gives twice who gives promptly"
- Representatives from this year's MBF Festival Province of West Yorkshire
- Charity representatives
- Members of the Secondary Emergency Services
- Representatives from the Healthcare and Hospice sectors
- Local Community and Youth sector workers and volunteers
- Disability Focus Group ambassadors
- Specialists in Humanitarian Aid

We were then shown a series of videos highlighting the work carried out by the MBF in conjunction with these various groups.

R.W.Bro. Jim Steggle, Prov.G.M. for West Yorkshire was then invited to talk about his Province's 2023 MBF Festival.

The focus then turned to the efforts of our Brethren in Romania assisting refugees from Ukraine.

R.W.Bro. Derek Thomas, P.Prov.G.M. for Monmouthshire, has been our lead coordinator with Romania, both in getting the Mark established out there masonically, and being the link between their Brethren and the MBF in regards to the humanitarian aid efforts.

R.W.Bro. Derek spoke about how things were progressing in Romania before introducing Diana Constantin-Tiglar who gave a heart-warming account of how her efforts, which began as simply attempting to help out where she could, have become a full-time mission to ensure that those who need help can get the assistance they require when they cross the border from Ukraine into Romania.



The Pro Grand Master then thanked all the representatives for their efforts, and for taking the time to join us at this very special meeting.

We then enjoyed a video of highlights from our charitable endeavours in 2022, accompanied by what has become the unofficial anthem of the MBF, 'Proud' by Heather Small, which you can view below.



Our guests then retired in procession and Grand Lodge was called-on.

The Pro Grand Master then addressed the meeting, giving greetings on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and noting that today's re-election signals the start of his 41st year as our Grand Master. He also highlighted the re-election R.W.Bro. John Howitt, P.G.S.W., as Grand Treasurer, and noted that this year we have again been able to keep annual dues at the same level as they were pre-Pandemic.

Greetings were extended to those Brethren who had made the journey from our Districts and Unattached Lodges overseas, and the heads of the other Orders.

He next spoke of the indissoluble links between Craft Masonry and our Companion Orders and introduced R.W.Bro. Jonathan Spence, P.G.S.W., Pro Grand Master of the Craft, and invited him to address the meeting.



R.W.Bro. Spence began by saying that he believed this was the first time a Pro Grand Master of the Craft had been invited to speak about the aims and objectives of the Craft at a Mark Grand Lodge meeting.

The theme of his address was the Craft and Royal Arch Strategy for Freemasonry saying "if we get it right in the Craft, we will get it right in the other Orders". And he highlighted the fact that he was initiated into Freemasonry in 1984 and advanced into the Mark the same year. The message was clear, that we need to work consistently and together. This way we can all help to ensure that Freemasonry thrives as a whole.

As part of this modern approach of close working, R.W.Bro. Spence shared with us that there was now a standing invitation to our Pro Grand Master and Grand Secretary to attend the conference for Craft Provincial and District Grand Masters and be part of the conversation and to hear first-hand the messages being promulgated by UGLE. He went on to announce that he was delighted that M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, Immediate Past Pro Grand Master of the Mark, had been offered and accepted the Rank of active Junior Grand Warden in the Craft from the investiture meeting in April this year.

He handed the meeting back to M.W.Bro. Prizeman who thanked R.W.Bro. Spence for his address and his support for the meeting and urged all present to take this message back to their Provinces, Lodges and Brethren. We are embarking on a new era of mutual respect and cooperation and he charged the Provincial and District Grand Masters with maintaining these essential aims.

In closing, M.W.Bro. Prizeman thanked the Grand Secretary; W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, P.G.S.D., Charities Manager at Mark Masons' Hall; and all of the staff on the fourth floor at M.M.H. for their work in putting together such an exceptional meeting. And also the G.D.C. and his team for delivering the usual high standard of ceremonial which cannot have failed to impress our visitors on this special occasion.

With no further business to transact, Grand Lodge was closed and Brethren retired to the Grand Connaught Rooms where they were able to join our special guests from the charities and worthy causes and learn more about their work over the meal that followed.

We expect this MBF Focus will now become a regular feature of the Mark March Communication so look out for news of next year's event and book early to avoid disappointment.

You can view a picture gallery from the day by [Clicking Here](#)

Photographs courtesy of V.W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, P.G.S.O., and V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, P.G.J.O.



News from Sketty



Sketty Masonic Hall saw a Royal Ark Mariner Installation last week. The new Commander is D. Gerald Rowbottom, who is the current Provincial Grand Master for the Craft, and Provincial Grand Superintendent for Royal Arch, in the Province of South Wales.

Seated L to R: W.Bro. Stephen C E Harries, Past A.Prov.G.M.; W.Bro. Alun H. Thomas, A.Prov.G.M.; R.W.Bro. T. R. Eirian Jones, Prov.G.M.; W.Bro. D. Gerald Rowbottom, Commander; R.W.Bro. Paul R. Clement, Past Prov.G.M.; V.W.Bro. Christopher M. L. Davies, G.D.C.; W.Bro. Dr Akram Baig, A.Prov.G.M. (Craft); W.Bro. Martin A. Jones, Prov.G.Sec.; Standing are the Provincial Team - 2nd from right, W.Bro. D. Martin Mogford, Snr holder of R.A.M.G.R. at Sketty Hall.

With thanks to W.Bro. Alun H. Thomas, A.Prov.G.M.

District of Hong Kong



Brethren in Hong Kong had lunch with the District Grand Master on 3 March 2023.

Pictured at the occasion were three distinguished Past District Grand Masters:

- R.W.Bro. Kenneth Tan, P.Dist.G.M. (1991 - 1996), third from the left standing
- R.W.Bro. Angus Stevenson-Hamilton, P.Dist.G.M. (2007 - 2015), first from the right sitting
- R.W.Bro. Herbert Tsoi, P.Dist.G.M. (2015 - 2020), fifth from the right standing

They joined the reigning Dist.G.M., R.W.Bro. Patrick Purnell-Edwards, second from the left sitting

The ladies had an enjoyable time with the Brethren.

With thanks to W.Bro. Ernest Lee, District Grand Secretary



Dozens line up to become Knights of Malta in the Province of Monmouth and South Wales



A further eleven Knight Templar Candidates were admitted to the Malta Degree at the Regular Meeting of St David's Priory No. 568, on 6 March 2023, at Narberth in the Province of Monmouth and South Wales.

It follows the recent admission of 17 Malta candidates at the Provincial meeting in Penarth and brings the total to 28 new Malta Knights for the province in less than four months. As the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Dr Paul R. Calderwood, said "It is a further welcome illustration of the way in which the United Orders have bounced back throughout Monmouth and South Wales since the end of the Lockdowns, reflecting the number of Companions who have become Knights Templar over the past year".

The meeting at Narberth was presided over by the Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Graham Newstead, and it was attended not only by the Provincial Prior but also by the Provincial Chancellor E.Kt. John Everett, plus a number of Great Officers and Provincial Officers - at a gathering of some 50 Knights of the Order. The Great Officers included E.Kt. Carl Davies (Provincial Marshal and Deputy Great Marshal), V.E.Kt. Harry Randell (soon to be promoted to Provincial Chancellor), E.Kt. Peter Gilbert (shortly to become Provincial 1st Constable) and E.Kt. James Ross (Provincial Grand Master in the Craft and Grand Superintendent of the Holy Royal Arch for the Province of West Wales).

The admission of the eleven new Knights, was followed by the Installation of

E.Kt. Jim Driscoll as the new Eminent Prior of St David's Priory. This Ceremony - and much of the preceding ceremony - was conducted by V.E.Kt. Harry Randell and with his usual expertise and flair.

After the Priory Officers had been invested, V.E.Kt. Colin Fielder and E.Kt. John Jones were elected Honorary Members of the Priory in recognition of their joint 55 years commitment and dedication to St David's Priory.

The After-proceedings were held in the Dining room of the Masonic Hall and those present were treated to the usual excellent repast for which the Narberth Masonic Hall is noted.

The St David's Preceptory meets three times a year at the Narberth Masonic Hall on the Second Monday of January, the first Monday in July and the third Monday of October.

With thanks to E.Kt. Chris Mugford, Prov.Swd.B.







Spanish Companions Installed Into Finchale Preceptory



At the regular meeting of Finchale Preceptory No. 222 in the Province of Durham on 8 March, three Spanish Companions were Installed into the Order.

Jose Juan Herrera Perez, Juan Andres Herrera Perdomo and John Henry Herrera Kok were already known to several Knights of the Preceptory as there are strong links with their Masonic activities in Tenerife.

The day started early with E.Kt. Malcolm Crone collecting the Companions from their hotel for a guided tour of Queen Street East Masonic Hall, the oldest working Masonic Temple in existence, before moving on to Penshaw Monument, built by the Masons of Sunderland and finally after a short interval to freshen up, being Installed into Finchale Preceptory.

The challenges of Installing three Companions were overcome by the excellent planning of the Preceptory Marshal, Bill Carlyon and a most enjoyable ceremony was conducted by several members of

the Preceptory. At the festive board the newly Installed Knights insisted on replying to their toast and they described how honoured they felt having taken part in a life-changing experience.

Over the next two days they have a packed schedule where they will join the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Richard Scott and E.Kt. Malcolm Crone for visits to the Durham Craft Provincial Museum, the Egyptian Lodge in Jarrow, a RA Chapter meeting in Teeside, a visit to Durham Cathedral and a Craft Lodge visit in Sunderland before returning to Tenerife on Saturday.

A great Knights Templar experience was had by all and we look forward to their return.

With thanks to R.E.Kt. Richard Scott, Provincial Prior for Durham







A favour returned

At the January meeting of the Pride of Surrey Council, two Right Illustrious Companions assisted as the Principal Conductor of the Work during the ceremony of Royal Master for four candidates. R.Ill.Comp. Mik Barnes took two Candidates round and R.Ill.Comp. David Blackburn, our District Grand Master took the other two round. Not only was this a special treat for the Candidates, and all those watching, but it was also unique in the annals of Surrey Cryptic Masonry, and maybe elsewhere.



Therefore, when Mik Barnes asked if I could assist his London Chapter with an Exaltation Ceremony, I was more than happy to help. The Earl of Zetland Chapter meets at Freemasons Hall and a number of the Companions are Surrey Masons, including the Second Principal, David Blackburn, District Grand Master for Surrey in the Royal and Select Masters; the Director of Ceremonies, Ian Clark, Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Surrey; the Scribe N, John French, District Grand Prefect for the Allied Masonic Degrees in Surrey; and the PZ, Louis Keats, Past Provincial Grand Summus in the Order of the Scarlet Cord in Surrey.



The Chapter had its first Candidate for several years, so it was a very special afternoon. The MEZ, Mik Barnes, and the Principal Sojourner, Mark Guzam, did an excellent job of ensuring the Candidate had a very good ceremony. I acted as 1st Assistant Sojourner and Director of Ceremonies.

Afterwards we dined at the Masala Zone in Covent Garden, an Indian Restaurant with a difference. The food was superb, as was the company.

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

Two cheques go a long way



On Friday 3rd of March, a special dinner was held at Tynemouth Golf Club attended by notable Masons from the Mark, Royal and Select Masters and Allied Masonic Degrees, which included the Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees, Thomas Firth Jackson; the Provincial Grand Master for Northumberland

of the Mark Master Masons, Raymond Walton; the District Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters for Northumberland, John Harvey; and the District Grand Prefect for the District of Northumberland and Durham in the Allied Masonic Degrees, Danny Guy.

Travelling the long distance from Surrey was Michael Whelan, a Trustee of the Mark Benevolent Fund, who was also joined on the evening by representatives from the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade and Northumberland Mountain Rescue.

Following a conversation between John Harvey and some of the volunteers of these organisations, he took it upon himself, along with Raymond Walton, to secure funding to enable them to continue their vital lifesaving services. John approached Thomas Firth Jackson for assistance and so the ball was set rolling and the Mark Benevolent Fund agreed to provide grants.

After a very enjoyable dinner, the main event of the evening took place and Michael Whelan presented, on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund, a cheque for £55,750 to the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade, and a cheque for £37,500 to the Northumberland Mountain Rescue Team. Both organisation's representatives were very grateful for the funding, which they informed all those present would be used to purchase new vehicles and equipment that would be put to use saving lives along the coast and in the hills and mountains of Northumberland and Tyneside.

Enjoying the evening were other notable Masons from the Companion Orders, including the Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters in the Mark (Richard Northey and Paul Hilditch); the Deputy District Grand Master, District Grand Principal Conductor of Work, and the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies (and District Grand Director of Ceremonies) of the Royal and Select Masters (John Tomlin, John Bruce, and Andrew Jennings); and the Deputy District Grand Prefect in the Allied Masonic Degrees, Tony Davies; along with several others representing the Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund and the Mark, Royal and Select and Allied degrees.

It goes to show that when worthy organisations are in need of support, and with determination to assist those organisations by a Mason, in this case John and Raymond, the Masonic family will step up and give it. The thanks of everyone associated with Northumberland Masons and those of the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade, and Northumberland Mountain Rescue, go to Michael Whelan and the Mark Benevolent Fund for their support of these worthy lifesaving teams.

With thanks to Ill.Comp. Andrew Jennings, Dep.G.D.C.

























And the giving keeps going in Northumberland and Durham A.M.D.



At the Annual General Meeting of the Allied Masonic Degrees of Northumberland & Durham, the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Danny Guy, welcomed the Grand Master, M.W.Bro Thomas Firth Jackson, and nine District Grand Prefects. A total of 14 Districts out of the 19 in the country were represented at the meeting with 115 brethren attending the festive board.



A presentation of £100.00 was made by Bro. John Deamer, chairman of the Durham Masonic Caravan Club, to the Allied Masonic Degree charity fund.

The District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Danny Guy, welcomed R.W.Bro John Paul Thompson, the Prov.G.M. for Durham Craft, to whom he presented a cheque for £500.00 towards the next Craft Festival. He also welcomed R.W.Bro David Nigel Hanson, the Prov.G.M. for Durham Mark, to whom he also presented a cheque for £500.00 towards his Current Festival.

Many photographs were taken on the day to record the presence of the M.W. Grand Master along with three active Grand Officers, nine District Grand Prefects, nine Heads of Orders (all members of this Allied District), three Prov.G.M.s representing the Craft and Mark degrees of Durham and the Mark degree of Northumberland. A group photo of the newly invested officers of this district, and many others taken to reflect the “buzz” of brethren enjoying the ambience of the festive board.

With thanks to Michael Graham

















A new Provincial Grand Summus for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, and The Channel Islands



On Saturday, 4 March 2023 at Brook House Masonic Hall in Botley in Hampshire the Grand Summus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord, Most Distinguished Companion Ian Stanley Currans, installed Right Distinguished Companion Richard Charles William Batchelor, V, P.G.V.Chan., as the Provincial Grand Summus of the Province of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, and the Channel Islands.

After a very good journey down to Hampshire the coffee and bacon butties were gratefully received, and thankfully applied.





We then made our way upstairs to the Temple where the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team were finishing their rehearsals.



While the rest of us were able to catch up with some old friends.





Meanwhile, the Grand Team were having their photographs taken with Provincial Grand Summus Designate, the Deputy Provincial Grand Summus Designate, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus Designate.



There were many Provincial Summi who came along to support the Provincial Grand Summus of the Province of Hampshire, Isle of Wight and The Channel Islands at his installation.



....including delegations from Surrey...



....and Kent.



The Presiding Officer opened Provincial Grand Senatus. The Installing Officer, M.Dist.Comp. Ian S. Currans, accompanied by the Assisting Officers of Grand Senatus, entered, assumed the Chair and appointed his Officers.



The Installing Officer was saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies. R.Dist.Comp. Phillip Purves. He then directed the Deputy Grand Recorder to call the Roll of Consistories in the

Province, following which he addressed the Companions assembled and announced that he has appointed R.Dist.Comp. Richard Charles William Batchelor, V, P.G.V.Chan., as the Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, and the Channel Islands. The Grand Director of Ceremonies announced that the Provincial Grand Summus designate was in attendance and requests to be admitted so that he may be installed. The Installing Officer directed the Grand Director of Ceremonies to form an escort and introduce the Provincial Grand Summus designate.



The Installing Officer addressed the Provincial Grand Summus designate and then directed the Deputy Grand Recorder to read the Patent of Appointment. After a prayer, the Provincial Grand Summus designate was obligated, invested and installed as Provincial Grand Summus. He was proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.





The Provincial Grand Summus addressed the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus designate and requested the Deputy Grand Recorder to read the Patent of Appointment. After a prayer, the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus designate was obligated, invested, and installed. He was proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Grand Summus addressed the Installing Officer thanking him and his team for making this a very special day, for himself and the Province of Hampshire, Isle of Wight and The Channel Islands. The Installing Officer, accompanied by Assisting Grand Officers, retired from the District Grand Council.



After the regular business of Provincial Grand Senatus had been completed the Provincial Grand Summus appointed and invested the Officers of Provincial Grand Senatus for the ensuing year.



The Provincial Grand Summus addressed Provincial Grand Senatus. He welcomed the many honoured guests and heads of Orders thanking them for their support. He said that his aim was to unite all four islands with an ever-increasing bond of fraternity. He congratulated everyone he appointed that day, as well as those who will receive Grand Rank at the meeting of Grand Senatus on 4 May. He closed by thanking the Director of Ceremonies and the Recorder and their teams for all the work they had put in to make the day such a success, as well as everyone for attending today.

Provincial Grand Senatus was closed in due form and the Provincial Grand Summus, the Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus and the Provincial Officers of the year, and honoured guests, retired from Provincial Grand Senatus.





After a most enjoyable morning we all made our way home to our Provinces wishing the Province of Hampshire, Isle of Wight and The Channel Islands every success in the future.

Article and photos by Dist.Comp. Chris Eley, Prov.G.Rec. (Surrey)



The 2023 Mark Charity Dinner Dance, Cha Di Da

Saturday. 28 October 2023 at the Reigate Manor Hotel, Reigate Hill, Surrey RH2 9PF.

Arrival is at 6:30 for 7:00 pm

Carriages at 12 midnight

Entertainment: Jason Allen (Michael Buble Tribute) followed by Jahson Nembhard (formerly of the Drifters)





Menu

Starter

- Wild mushroom soup (ve)
- Chicken liver pate, toasted brioche, chutney
- Prawn cocktail, Mary Rose sauce, lemon wedge and brown bread (v)

Main Course

- Coq au vin, crushed new potatoes, seasonal vegetables
- Roast sirloin of beef, roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables, red wine jus
- Baked salmon fillet, white wine cream sauce, new potatoes, fine green beans
- Mushroom risotto, rocket salad (ve) (v)

Dessert

- Seasonal fruit trifle
- Citrus cheesecake, berry compote Eton mess
- Cheese and biscuits
- Tea, coffee and chocolate mints to finish

Tickets for the event are £60 per person and include a three course meal. Bed & Breakfast at the Reigate Manor Hotel - double room £120.

[Click here](#) to download the pdf booking form.

Contact: W.Bro. Alan Brockwell: T: 01737 557997 | M: 07868 657276 | E: Brockers01@icloud.com

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

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	Dining Start	Annual Feast
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - United Lodge	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 3PL	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 3PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT	Great Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	FMH, 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 & 2nd	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	FMH, 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	FMH, 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 Proposition	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMH, 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 3PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - 150th Celebration	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	FMH, 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	FMH, 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	FMH, 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, 21 November 2023	FMH, 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	FMH, 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

23/10/2023

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

Booking now for the West Yorkshire 2023 MBF Festival



155th MBF Festival Banquet
Harrogate Conference Centre
Kings Road
Harrogate
HG1 5LA
Saturday, 1 July 2023
BOOK HERE
CLOSING DATE
30 APRIL 2023



[Click Here](#) to book

Additional support for earthquake rescue efforts



Further to last week's announcement that the MBF had made an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the Türkiye/Syria earthquakes rescue efforts, we have been inundated with requests to make it possible for Brethren, Lodges and Provinces to make donations to directly support the work of our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity.

It has been agreed that we will accept donations in to our MCF Relief Chest.

The donations will be channelled through our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity reg no. 1096479 and will also count towards MBF honorifics.

Donations for Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and Northern Syria should be sent using the following details:

MARK EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

MMM 185622

For Individual donations - Please add your **Surname** and the reference **Türkiye**

For Lodge donations – use the **Order** with **Lodge number** and the reference **Turkiye**

For Provincial donations – use the **Order** with **Province** and the reference **Turkiye**

To make a donation you can

- **use the QR Code below**
- [Click Here](#) to go to the donation page
- [Click Here](#) to download a Credit/Debit Card donation Form
- [Click Here](#) to download a Cheque/Chirty Voucher donation form



Please share with your Brethren and if you have any queries or concerns please contact the Charities Department at Mark Masons' Hall.

We thank you all for your generosity.

You can find out more by [Clicking Here](#) to read the latest ShelterBox update and there is additional info in the images below.

You can visit ShelterBox on their various media outlets:

<https://shelterbox.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>

[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 be 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 selection of hardware 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



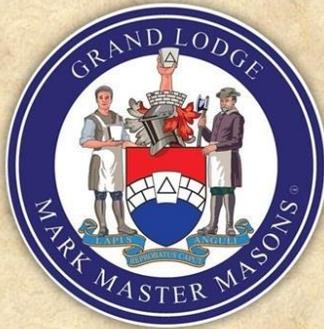
<https://shelterbox.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>



@ShelterBox



Mark Emergency Relief Fund

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](#).

Mark Emergency Relief Fund
MMM185622

To make a donation
scan with phone camera to open
or visit URL

<https://gtap.uk/mmm185622>



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](#)

Swift pins still available



For those who may not have been able to get their hands on one of the K.T. £20 for 2020 Appeal Swift Pins, there are still some available.

Provinces can order in bulk, or individuals can purchase single pins, by contacting Linda Read, Charities Finance Manager at M.M.H. at L.Read@mmh.org.uk

Pins are £20 each and funds raised will go to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

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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