

# Freemasonry@86 News - 17 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.

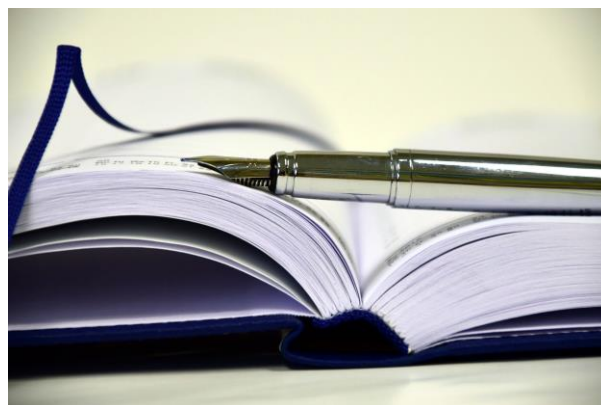
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**We are aware that Sway is running very slowly today, 17 March 2023, and taking a long time to load pictures and video links. This is a Microsoft fault and we hope they will resolve it in the coming hours.**

## 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, 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

## Support for Türkiye and Syria continues



Following the decision to accept donations to the Mark Emergency Relief Fund for Shelterbox via the MCF Relief Chest, the response from our members has been overwhelming. So far over £80,000 has been received into the account with more still to come.

Linda Read, Charities Finance Manager at Mark Masons' Hall, has sent £80,000 direct to ShelterBox for their immediate use.

W.Bro. Darren W. Coleman-Heald, P.G.S.D., Charities Manager contacted Lucy Holden at last night to let her know what to expect. To say she was speechless would be an understatement. We will be working together to coordinate an event to thank everyone who has taken the time to donate.

You can view a video below sharing information about how ShelterBox are distributing aid, supported by your kind and generous donations.

Embed://<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/i1oKruB22Yc" title="YouTube video player" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture; web-share" allowfullscreen></iframe>

## Durham Mark's Provincial Grand Wardens Dinner



Ferryhill Mark Lodge hosted the 11th annual Wardens Dinner. This special occasion helps celebrate all the acting Wardens who have been appointed to the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Durham.

The event was instigated by the Provincial Grand Master, Peter Croft, in 2011 when he asked the retiring Junior Warden, John Dodds, to take on the task. The first was held in 2012 and John has organised them ever since with the help of John Nye. The event in 2020 was the moment many will remember when our previous Provincial Grand Master, Denny Wilson, called a halt to activities due to Covid. The 2021 Wardens Dinner was also a casualty of the Covid pandemic.

The event is held on the March meeting of the Ferryhill Mark Lodge and the Provincial Grand Master and his deputation are welcomed to the Lodge. Thereafter, all the current and past Wardens who are able to attend are announced and welcomed into the Lodge. There were 28 Wardens attending, covering the years from 1997 to the present day.

The Provincial Grand Master, David Hanson then had the pleasure of investing 21 Brethren with their Durham 2029 Festival Jewels. He thanked them for their overwhelming support and joked, "I hope we don't run out!". The Worshipful Master, David Thompson, then presented a £500 cheque on behalf of the Lodge to go towards the 2029 Festival. To the delight of the Festival Team, John Dodds made a presentation of £1000 to the Festival from the Durham Mark Social Committee Fund.



After the formalities, everyone retired to the dining room for the Wardens Dinner, after collecting drinks of course! The event is a sell-out, as has been the case for a few years.

It was also wonderful to see three newly advanced Mark Masons attend the Wardens Dinner. They were from the recently amalgamated Darlington Steadfast Lodge and were brought by Don Marshall. In the picture (l to r) are Don Marshall, Ian McMillan, David Hanson, Corey Irons and Paul Harrison.



John Hargate, Senior Warden in 2007 gave a very entertaining response to the Visitor's Toast. He thanked the Masonic equivalent of Ant & Dec, John Dodds and John Nye, for organising the event. He welcomed the initiative for all Masonic Orders to work more closely and how this can only lead to greater enjoyment.



The Provincial Grand Master and the Festival Team were in for another treat when Graham Wharton presented yet another cheque. This was the proceeds from the sale of the home-made jams, chutneys and honey he has sold at Lodges around the Province. He presented a cheque for £300 which represents the surplus from 600 jars sold in Mark or Mariner Lodges.



A fantastic evening and one the Provincial Grand Master refers to as 'the jewel in the crown'.





## Mercury reaches 100



On Friday, 10 March 2023, at Brook House Masonic Hall in Botley, Hampshire, Mercury Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 777 celebrated their 100th Anniversary. Present was the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H. Prizeman, and many honoured guests and Heads of Orders.

After a very good journey down to Hampshire we stopped off at a café in Botley for coffee and bacon butties before going along to the Masonic Hall.

It was good to meet up with many old friends over coffee before the meeting.





Meanwhile, R.W.Bro. David Ashbolt was busy signing everyone up for Festival jewels.



Mercury Lodge of Mark Master Masons was opened by R.W.Bro. Ray Hussey, Past Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Surrey, seen here with some of his Surrey colleagues.



After the minutes had been approved, the Lodge was pleased to receive the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. George Deacon, accompanied by several Provincial Officers.





The Provincial Grand Master took the Chair and was saluted under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies. The Lodge was then very pleased to receive the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. John H. Prizeman, attended by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Adrian Cleightonhills, a member of Mercury Mark Lodge, accompanied by the acting Grand Sword Bearer, and the Grand Standard Bearer.



The Provincial Grand Master warmly welcomed the Pro Grand Master. The Pro Grand Master said how good it was to be in his own Province again and was saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. This was followed by a rousing fanfare from the Organist, W.Bro. Trevor Gulliver.



The next item on the agenda was to install W.Bro. Colin Upton as Worshipful Master. This was done by the Provincial Grand Master in a very sincere manner. After the Officers of the year had been appointed and invested, the Address to the Master was given by V.W.Bro. Brian Ridler, the Address to the Wardens by W.Bro. Tony Green, to the Overseers by W.Bro. Ian Small, and to the Brethren by W.Bro. Simon Lancaster.

The Pro Grand Master then had much pleasure in presenting the Lodge with its Centenary Warrant, giving a brief summary of how the fortunes of the Lodge were turned around by making this the Executive Lodge of the Province and inviting Heads of other Orders in Hampshire and Isle of Wight to become members.

The Secretary read the original Warrant of the Lodge, and the Pro Grand Master requested that the Centenary Warrant be read, and then had much pleasure in presenting it to the Worshipful Master.



The Pro Grand Master then said he had a surprise for someone in the room and requested that W.Bro. Trevor Gulliver be presented to him.



The Pro Grand Master said how much W.Bro. Trevor has supported Freemasonry over the years in many Orders, particularly the Knights Templar - where he was Provincial Prior of the Provincial Priory of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and holds the Rank of Knight Commander of the Temple. W.Bro. Trevor Gulliver joined Mark Masonry quite late but has been a strong supporter of our Order over the years.



The Pro Grand Master said that he had been instructed by the Grand Master to award a field appointment of Past Grand Standard Bearer to W.Bro. Trevor Gulliver. The Pro Grand Master had much pleasure investing him with the collar and jewel of his office.





The Lodge then received a synopsis of the history of the Lodge by W.Bro. Anthony Miller.



*Mercury Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 777 was consecrated on Monday the 12th of February 1923 at the Tumble-Down Hotel in Farnborough in an upstairs function room complete with open fireplace. Of the 16 founders, eight came from Percy Lodge of Mark Masters No. 114, and seven from Aldershot Military Lodge of Mark Masters No. 54. Thus, the Province of Surrey provided 50% of the Founders.*

*The Lodge was primarily for members of the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) in Farnborough. After a period of growth, the nineties were a difficult period for the Lodge with poor attendance. In 2002 the Provincial Grand Master made an official visit to the Lodge and outlined a proposal that he would take over the Lodge, turn it into an Executive Lodge and thus retain the notable Masonic number 777 on the Provincial Register.*

*In 2005 the Lodge moved to Botley, ending 77 years as a Farnborough Lodge. R.W.Bro. Nigel Buckingham's foresight in taking over the Lodge as his Executive Unit in 2004 saved Mercury Mark Lodge from oblivion. In its new format it has comfortably achieved its objective of extending the Mark Degree to senior members of Hampshire and Isle of Wight not already in the Order and has attracted a wealth of talent and experience from neighbouring Provinces.*

Following the talk from W.Bro. Anthony the Pro Grand Master retired from the Lodge. The Lodge was closed in due form and, after a photo call with several Heads of Orders and members of the Provincial/District Executive of other Orders in Hampshire and Isle of Wight...



... we were treated to a champagne reception.



We then went into the dining room where we enjoyed a most convivial lunch together.



In proposing the Toast to the Pro Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Master thanked M.W.Bro. John for coming along to support Mercury Lodge and his own Province.



In his reply, the Pro Grand Master said what a delight it was to attend and talked about the success of the recent meeting of Mark Grand Lodge and the MBF Charities presentations. He also spoke of the indissoluble links between Craft Masonry and our Companion Orders and how R.W.Bro. Jonathan Spence, P.G.S.W., Pro Grand Master of the Craft, had been invited to address the meeting. 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 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.



After a most enjoyable morning we all made our way home, wishing Mercury Lodge of Mark Master Masons every success in the future,

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

## Warwickshire Mark's support for the Craft



On a snowy cold Saturday morning, 11 March, members of the Companion Orders showed their support for the Warwickshire Craft 2023 Festival appeal. Not the usual raffle, tombola or prize draw, but a challenge – riding the Velocity 2 zip wire at Penrhyn quarry, Bethesda.

The Mark men completed their work in the quarries and made their way to the top of the hill, where the work was inspected – the overseers were unsure so decided to send the workmen back to the quarry by the quickest possible route – a 1.5 kilometre Zip wire.



*1 - The Overseers loading Warwickshire Mark Prov.G.M, R.W.Bro. Philip Wills*



*2 - No going back now!*



R.W.Bro. Philip said 'It was an exhilarating experience, travelling in excess of 100 mph, great to support the craft in such an exciting way'.

The team, pictured below, right to left are: W.Bro. Howard Smith, Prov.G.D.C.; R.W.Bro. Philip Wills, Prov.G.M.; W.Bro. David Clarke, who was also representing the Royal and Select Masters; and W.Bro. Andrew Armbrister, Dep.Prov.G.M.

Overall the event raised a magnificent sum in excess of £13000, all going to the Warwickshire Craft M.B.F. Festival fund.



## 50 Year celebration for V.W.Bro. Graham Smith

On Wednesday, 8 March 2023, a rare occurrence took place at The United Masonic Centre in Sheerness, when the Provincial Grand Master presented V.W.Bro. Graham Smith, P.G.J.O., with a Certificate marking his 50 years as a member of Adams Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.6.





V.W.Bro. Graham was Advanced in Adams Lodge on 10th January 1973, just days after the UK joined “The Common Market” and when Little Jimmy Osmond was at No.1 with Long Haired Lover From Liverpool!

A distinguished Freemason, Graham is member of more than 10 Degrees and Orders most of which are administered from Mark Masons’ Hall, holding Grand Rank or equivalent in most. Here are just some of the highlights in our Orders.

#### The Degree of Mark Master Mason

- 1973 Adams Lodge of Mark Master Masons – Advanced
- 1991 Adams Lodge of Mark Master Masons – W.M.
- 1991 Grand Steward
- 1992 Kent Mark Stewards’ Lodge – Founder
- 1996 P.G.J.D.
- 2004 P.G.J.O.
- 2005 P.Prov.G.S.W.

#### Ancient & Honorable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner

- 1974 Adams Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners – Elevated
- 1981 Lodge of Harmony Royal Ark Mariners – Founder

- 1983 Adams Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners – W.Cdr.
- 1987 Prov.R.A.M.G.R.
- 1992 Kent Installed Commanders – Founder
- 1994 R.A.M.G.R.

As you can imagine, for such an important event, there was a bumper local and Provincial attendance to help Graham celebrate in style.

*With thanks to W.Bro. Robin Evans, P.A.G.D.C.*



## Consecrating The Dedham Vale



Nestled along the banks of the River Stour, in the heart of Constable Country and on the border of Suffolk and Essex, lies the area of outstanding natural beauty known as Dedham Vale. What better name then, for a Council which has been conceived as a place where Brethren from the Districts of East Anglia and Essex can meet and share their passion for, and enjoyment of, Allied Freemasonry.

Although the Council will meet at Clare, due to reasons of space with over 60 Brethren attending, Ashlar House in Bury St Edmunds was chosen as the venue.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Thomas Firth Jackson, was in attendance as Coinsecrating Officer, accompanied by a full team of Grand Officers which included the Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Bailey, and the the President of the Executive Committee, R.W.Bro. Jon Roberts.



Following the Consecration, the Grand Master handed the gavel of authority to R.W.Bro. Jeffrey Keer, Dist.G.Pref. for East Anglia, so that he could Install W.Bro. Chris Sampson as the primus Master of The Dedham Vale Council No. 284.

The Officers were then appointed and the Brethren retired to enjoy each other's company over refreshment before lunch was served.



During the Toasts, the Worshipful Master presented the Grand Master with a large framed print of Constable's "Dedham Vale" (pictured top), as well as a smaller print of the famous "Willy Lott's House", as well as a bottle of local Gin.



The Grand Master joked that although the move of meeting to Bury St Edmunds had robbed him and the Deputy Grand Secretary of the opportunity to go "on tramp" and explore some of the famously quaint and inviting hostelrys around Clare, he had been delighted to attend and preside over the Consecration and was extremely pleased to see it so well supported by the Founders and visiting Brethren, including several District Grand Prefects.



*With thanks to W.Bro. Bob Tuthill, P.G.St.B., for the photographs.*







## A new banner for Agri Libertas Lodge of S.M.S.A. No. 21



On 10 March 2023, in Plymouth, Brethren and visitors of Agri Libertas Lodge of Scottish Masters of St Andrew No. 21 enjoyed the spectacle of a Banner Dedication, presided over by the Most Eminent

and Reverend Grand Master, Dr Vivian Thomas, *JP*, G.C.H.C. The dedication of the banner was followed by an Oration from the Grand Prelate V.Revd.Kt. Steven Hawkins, K.B.H.C.

Pictured above, from left to right, are: Revd.Kt. Terry Sloan, K.B.H.C., Junior Warden; R.Revd.Kt. Adrian T. Jones, K.B.H.C., Regional Grand Prefect; M.E. & Revd.Kt. Dr Vivian Thomas, *JP*, G.C.H.C., Grand Master; Revd.Kt. Edwin F.J. Purkis, K.B.H.C., W.D.M.; and Revd.Kt. Peter Hawken, *MBE*, K.B.H.C., Senior Warden.

It was a great day where everyone enjoyed this unique occasion.

*With thanks to Revd.Kt. Allan Seager, K.B.H.C., Secretary*

## 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 Starts	Meeting Finishes	Dinner Starts	Approx. Ends
<b>MARK</b>	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
<b>RSM</b>	Grand Council - Central District	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
<b>SC</b>	Grand Sematus	Thursday, 4 May 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:25 PM
<b>KT</b>	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
<b>MARK</b>	Grand Lodge - Institution Active & List	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
<b>RCC</b>	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
<b>MARK</b>	Grand Lodge - Institution Foundations	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
<b>KBHC</b>	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
<b>RSM</b>	Grand Council -150 Graduation	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
<b>AMD</b>	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
<b>OSM</b>	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
<b>KT</b>	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
<b>RAM</b>	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

20/02/2023

[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  
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 **Türkiye**

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



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](#)



## £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 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



<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](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](mailto:L.Read@mmh.org.uk)

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

## 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](mailto:Brockers01@icloud.com)

## 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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