

# Freemasonry@86 News - 31 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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**No Freemasonry@86 News next week**



We will be taking a break from the Freemasonry@86 News next week for the Easter long-weekend. But we'll be back on Friday, 14 April, so keep sending in your stories.

## 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.

**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, 26 April - Mark** Tregenna Lodge No. 787 of M.M.M. Centenary, Province of Cornwall

**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.

**Wednesday, 17 May - K.T.** Annual Chapter of Great Priory, Freemasons' Hall

**Saturday, 13 May - Mark** Installation of W.Bro. Peter Furness, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall

**Saturday, 13 May - O.S.M.** Installation of Wy.Bro. Dennis Andrew Freshwater, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Warwickshire

**Tuesday, 5 September - S.C.** Consecration of King Arthur Consistory No. 143, Province of Somerset and Dorset

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

## Warwickshire Installed Mark Masters Lodge



Last weekend the Warwickshire Installed Mark Masters Lodge No. 1400 had its Ladies Festival at the Highcliff Hotel Bournemouth. W.Bro. Howard Smith, P.A.G.D.C., is the current Master

It was a fantastic weekend. On Saturday morning there was a kite flying session on the beach with the Gala dinner on the Saturday evening to which the Dorset Prov.G.M., R.W.Bro. Michael Whelan and his wife were invited

Raffles were held over the weekend and the W.M., accompanied by the Prov.G.M., R.W.Bro. Phil Wills, and the Festival Organiser W.Bro. Paul Rowlands, P.A.G.D.C., had the pleasure to present two cheques. The first for £250 to the Warwickshire Craft Easter Egg Smiles initiative (which was soon matched by donations from Bedford Mark Lodge No. 115 and Charterhouse Lodge No. 5690 (Craft)) together with a cheque for £1500 to the Warwickshire MBF 2027 Festival.

A wonderful weekend was had by all.

*With thanks to W.Bro. Paul Rowlands, P.A.G.D.C., Prov.G.M.O. (Worcs)*



## Mark Diamond celebrations for W.Bro. David Tait



Congratulations from everyone at Northumberland Freemasons to W.Bro. David Tait of Hartford Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 546, which meets at Bedlington Masonic Hall, on completing sixty years of service to Mark Masonry.

David was born in Choppington, Northumberland and comes from an interesting background as his late mother, who was originally from Italy, along with his father, started a business in Choppington in 1927, opening a café cum ice cream parlour known in those days as “Temperance Bars”. They sold mainly confectionary but later included more groceries. They made their own ice cream in a small factory behind the shop, with everyone in the area saying that the best ice cream ever was made by David.

His father’s plan was to expand the business so that there five shops, one for each of his children. However, the children did not share the same idea and it did not work out that way. They therefore ended up with four shops, one each at Choppington, Bedlington, Ashington and North Seaton.

David attended Morpeth Grammar School then did his National Service in the RAF. After this he then worked in his father’s business and when his father died at a relatively young age he, along with other members of his family, took over running the shops until he himself retired. Although he has one son he did not join the business and it finally closed in the 1990s.

David’s father was a Freemason who was a member of all of the Lodges in Bedlington and, although he did not actually propose him into a Lodge, was instrumental in him joining. David was initiated into Eadwine Lodge No. 4398 in September 1961 becoming Master in 1973. His first appointment in Provincial Grand Lodge was to Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon and was then given a field promotion, to Past Provincial Grand Registrar, on the same evening that he was presented with his Craft 60 year certificate by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian Craigs, at the Centenary Meeting of Eadwine Lodge in October 2022. He also had a brother called Stan who was in the Craft and the Mark but never went through the chair.

David was advanced into Hartford Lodge of Mark Master Masons on 9 January 1962, was installed as Master of the Lodge in 1976 and then appointed as Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 1980.

In November 2016 the then Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Richard Northey, presented David with his 50 years of membership certificate and also on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master at the time, R.W.Bro. Gordon Craigs, appointed him Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden as a field promotion.

Tuesday, 14 March 2023 became a very memorable evening for Hartford Lodge when it was honoured by the presence of the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Raymond Walton who was in attendance to present David with his certificate commemorating 60 years of Membership of the Mark Degree.

After Ray had presented the certificate to David he thanked him for his many years of loyal and dedicated service to Hartford Lodge and the Mark Degree and he hoped that he would have many more years to enjoy the companionship and friendship of the Order.

This marvellous evening was finally rounded off by an excellent meal in the very enjoyable company of friends.

*With thanks to Bro Nick Deakin*



## William of Normandy Preceptory



The William of Normandy Preceptory No. 488 in the Province of Sussex met at Battle Masonic Hall recently to Instal Cullen Sage as a new Knight, in the presence of R.E.Kt Colin Dann Provincial Prior, a team of Provincial Officers, and the Prior's Bodyguard.

The ceremony was carried out by the acting Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Jim Grant, ably assisted by Knights McCarthy and Carter who delivered the Charge and explanation of the Symbols respectively.

*With thanks to R.E.Kt. Colin Dann, Provincial Prior for Sussex*



## R.S.M. District Grand Council of Surrey Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Surrey took place on Saturday, 23 March at the Croydon and District Masonic Hall, Surrey. District Grand Council was honoured by the presence of the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones.

From 9.30 a.m. the Companions of the District and their guests started arriving for coffee and bacon butties.





While the Director of Ceremonies and the District Recorder were busy ensuring the Temple was set up ready for the meeting.



Assisted by the ever-willing Tooting Boys, who are always ready to help out during the day.



It was good to see so many Companions from other Districts who came along to support the District of Surrey...





...and, of course, our Grand Master.



There were also many heads of other Orders in Surrey attending to support R.III.Comp. David Blackburn, our District Grand Master.



Once everyone was seated in the Temple, the Companions were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Illustrious Companions and past members of the District Executive.





The meeting was called to order by Ill.Comp, Stephen Hall, P.G.Capt.Gd., the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, to receive the District Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. David Blackburn.



District Grand Council was opened in due form by the District Grand Master, who was saluted under the direction of the District Grand Director of Ceremonies.



District Grand Council received the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick J Jones, escorted by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.III.Comp. Graham Seaman. The Grand Master was welcomed to the District of Surrey by the District Grand Master and saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.



After the regular business of District Grand Council had been concluded the District Grand Master announced the appointment of Ill.Comp. David Thompson, P.G.Cond.C., as Deputy District Grand Master.



Thompson was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the District Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The District Grand Master announced the appointment of Ill.Comp. Simon McCarthy, P.G.Swd.B., as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.



The District Grand Director of Ceremonies and appointed Companions retired in procession, re-entered the Council and introduced the District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work Designate.



The District Grand Master called upon the District Recorder to read the Patent of Appointment and then addressed the District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work Designate on the Nature of his duties and the qualifications for the office.

After the District Grand Chaplain had offered a prayer the District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work Designate took his Obligation and was invested and installed in the Chair by the District Grand Master. Ill.Comp. Simon McCarthy was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy District Grand Director of Ceremonies. A total of 25 appointments and promotions in District Grand Rank were announced.

The District Grand Master invited the Grand Master to address District Grand Council. The Grand Master said that he was delighted to be in Surrey once again, a beautiful, wooded County with nine Councils. He

described the many things that Croydon was famous for over the years and said that it was good to see so many Districts represented today.



He reminded everyone that the meeting of Grand Council on 18 April will be a short business meeting at Mark Masons' Hall and they are working hard on the 150th Anniversary Meeting which will take place at Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday, 3 October. The Grand Master congratulated those who would be receiving appointment or promotion in Grand Rank on 18 April, as well as those who received District Grand Rank today.

He thanked all the Surrey Companions who have looked after their Companions during Covid and encouraged everyone to continue to look for Brethren and Companions who can come into our Order. The Grand Master invited R.III.Comp. Arnold Long, Past District Grand Master, newly appointed Custodian of the Ninth Arch, to retire with him in procession.



In his Address to District Grand Council, R.III.Comp. David Blackburn said how wonderful it was to see so many Cryptic Masons at Croydon. He thanked everyone, Surrey members and visitors alike. Companions of Pride of Surrey Council had turned out in force to support our District Grand Master...





...as had many members of the Mark Provincial Executive, present and past.



He congratulated the District Grand Officers, appointed or re-appointed, and hoped that they enjoy their office, and he encouraged them to come along on any of the visits with the District Team. He said that the mainstay of our operations are the District Recorder and his Assistant, and our District Grand Director of Ceremonies. and he gave grateful thanks for their help and support.

He asked us to note that he had included some of our newer members in the ceremonial and thanked them for their participation. He highlighted the 150th anniversary, something we are all looking forward to, which he hopes everyone will want to support. He said that the District has already answered the call by sending a £150 contribution towards a new Ark of the Covenant for Grand Council where the names of contributing Districts will be displayed on its pedestal.

Congratulations were also given to recipients of Grand Rank and those promoted at Grand Council next month. While the new rank is applicable then, they will be formally invested at the 150th celebration meeting. Most notable of which is his predecessor, R.III.Comp Arnold Long, appointed Custodian of the Ninth Arch. Promotions are to Ill.Comp. John Bryant to Past Grand Lecturer; Ill.Comp. Simon McCarthy to Past Grand Conductor of the Council; first appointments to Ill.Comp. Bill Caughie as Grand Sword Bearer, and Ill.Comp. Hugh Everitt as Past Grand Standard Bearer.

R.III.Comp. David ended by saying that he can speak at length, but in view of the busy agenda we will be relieved to know that these words will be his last. He knows that we enjoy our Cryptic Masonry, but it is very important that we encourage others to join in that enjoyment, so he asked us please do our best to introduce others to the joys of Cryptic Masonry. He thanked everyone for supporting the meeting in such good numbers and asked that the Supreme Master of the Universe bless and aid us all.

The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form. The District Grand Master, the Deputy District Grand Master, the District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and District Officers then left the Temple in procession.



The members of the District Executive greeted all our Honoured Guests as they retired from District Grand Council.



After refreshments in the bar where we had time to catch up with old friends.





We were called into lunch.



There was a most convivial atmosphere in the dining room.





Especially at the Recorders' table.



In proposing the toast to the Grand Master our District Grand Master presented him with a small token of our appreciation.



In thanking R.III.Comp. David for his kind gesture the Grand Master said that has been a delight to visit Surrey again and wished everyone well.



After lunch we all made our way home – wishing the new Surrey team all the best for the future.



*Article and photos by Chris Eley*

## East and West in Unison at Timothy John Lewis Council



*1 - Brethren start to gather early*

Every year, Timothy John Lewis Council No. 190 (an A.M.D. Council for District Officers from both East and West Lancashire) meet in March at Chorley Masonic Hall to perform the Grand High Priest ceremony. So, on Wednesday 22 March 2023, Allied Masons converged on Chorley to be part of this spectacular Degree, properly described as 'A Convention of the Holy Order of Grand High Priest'.

Seats in the Council were at a premium for Observers, in fact there were rumours that ticket touts were operating on Cunliffe Street which fronts the Masonic Hall. It really was a superb attendance, and this helped to build the tension. The W.M., David Redhead, opened the Council in the Saint Lawrence Degree in the Lodge Room upstairs at 11 a.m. on the dot, the downstairs room having been set up as a 'Tabernacle' for the Grand High Priest Ceremony. The gavel of the Council was proffered to the District Grand Prefect for West Lancashire, R.W.Bro. Paul Snape, who on this occasion wisely returned it to the W.M. as much work remained to be done. Salutations were given to the Dist.G.Pref., and subsequently to R.W.Bro. Mervyn Frank Wilson, Dist.G.Pref. for East Lancashire, and other Right Worshipful Brethren.

The D.C., having a feeling that a very important Brother had been left outside the Council, sought leave to retire and investigate. Sure enough, waiting patiently outside the door was one Thomas Firth Jackson, Grand Master of this Order, a Past Dist.G.Pref. for West Lancashire, member of this Council and resident of this Parish. Admission was quickly demanded for this extremely popular Mason, and, with perhaps a little trepidation, the W.M. announced that he would be delighted, and honoured to receive him. Such was the Grand Master's eagerness to enter the Council, he couldn't wait to be announced by the D.C.,

and strode into the Council while the formalities were being completed. He was being offered the gavel as the D.C. stumbled and fumbled to catch up with the pace of events (we can't get the staff you see). The Grand Master returned the gavel, was seated and subsequently saluted with Eleven.

The W.M. then had a sad duty to inform Brethren of the recent deaths of V.W.Bro. Brian Fairhurst and W.Bro. Eric Croasdale. A prayer was given by the Lodge Chaplain and Brethren stood to order in memory of departed merit. The business of the Council was then conducted and congratulations were offered to W.Bro. Edwin Schofield who was declared W.M. for the ensuing year, together with V.W.Bro. Geoffrey Catterall who was declared Treasurer. Both thanked the assembled Brethren for the honour bestowed. The Council was subsequently closed in the Saint Lawrence degree, and Brethren retired to attend the main event in the downstairs Lodge Room.



*2 - From L to R M.W.Bro. Tom Jackson, Grand Master, W.Bro.s Maurice Evans, Marc Goldsworthy, Barry Tomlinson and R.W.Bro. Paul Snape, Dist.G.Pref.*

A grand total of 19 Candidates assembled outside the Tabernacle, as other qualified Brethren tried to find a good seat to view the ceremony. It is a good job that 19 seats had been reserved for the Candidates, otherwise it would have made life difficult. Obviously, I can't provide any details of the ceremonial, but a few general things spring to mind. The first is that a wonderful team effort, led by the Most Excellent President, Marc Goldsworthy, ensured that the Candidates were invested in excellent form. The second is that I would advise the M.E.P. to audition for one of Corporal Jones' "Whirling Dervishes" roles. I don't know about the representative Candidate, but Marc put the fear of the Great Disposer in me as he rushed forward to challenge him! Thirdly, R.W.Dist.G.Pref., if we carry on with G.H.P. Candidate numbers at this level, can we dip into the slush funds to buy a larger (self-erecting?) tent please? It was a trifle full in there on this occasion. In fact, I'm sure that a few of the Candidates were invested twice in the organised chaos.





*3 - Principal Officers and Candidates*

I jest (honest...), it was a wonderful ceremony which ultimately gave way to a Festive Board, buzzing with friendly chatter. Typical 'healthy' Lancashire fayre consisting of Egg Mayonnaise followed by a large portion of Lasagne and plenty chips (no barm cakes unfortunately) was consumed with much gusto by the Brethren.



*4 - Let the Feasting Begin*

The usual formalities followed, and, after the Loyal Toast, subsequent toasts were immaculately honoured with Allied Masonic Fire as is the tradition at T.J.L. Council. A final toast to our guests was given, and the D.C. had been mischievously encouraged by one of our leaders to then place his hands on

an unsuspecting visitor's shoulders, which started to twitch with nervous anticipation just before the D.C. announced that "Our visitors will be pleased to know that we don't call for a response to the last toast". A dastardly deed which brought a bit of naughty merriment to the end of the proceedings. Sorry Mike, we won't do it again...or perhaps...anyway, watch this space!

A good time was had by all. If you are a current or past District Officer, why not seek membership of T.J.L., you won't regret it, I'm sure that our Dist.G.Pref. and Deputy would be pleased to propose and second you.

*Words by the Wigan Warrior - Photographs by the Lancashire Logger*



## Scarlet Cord Cheshire and North Wales

Four Candidates from Cheshire and North Wales were admitted to the Third Grade on Monday, 27 March 2023, by Red Castle Consistory No 48 TI, at Maesgwyn Masonic Hall, Wrexham. Aided by and in the presence of the Provincial Team and The Provincial Tzaddikim.



In the presence of R.Dist.Comp. J. Christopher Welton, V. Provincial Grand Summus, and Dist.Comp. Robert Jordan, TD, III, Assistant Provincial Grand Summus.

Lectors: Companion Peter John Langley, Companion Mark Booth, Companion Cameron Chalmers, a member of Mercia Consistory and the Provincial Tzaddikim, and Companion Geoffrey Baillie, also a member of Mercia Consistory, were

Admitted to the Third Grade to become Fellows



R.Dist.Comp. J. Christopher Welton, V., Provincial Grand Summus for Cheshire and North Wales, and Distinguished Companion Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of The Order of the Secret Monitor for the Province for Cheshire and North Wales.

Pictured with Officers of Red Castle Consistory No 48 TI: President: Dist.Comp. David James Aitken Loughlin, III; Em.Comp. George Rodney James Stokes, III, Primus of Lectores; Dist.Comp.

Geoffrey K. Glover, V, Dep.G.Ep., Primus of Ostiarii; Dist.Comp. Michael J.

Butterworth, V, P.A.G.D.C., Episcopus, congratulating Companions: Peter Langley, Mark Booth, Cameron Chalmers, and Geoffrey Baillie, being Admitted to the Third Grade and becoming Fellows.

## MBF wheels out a big donation for Newcastle Wheelchair Rugby



Recently the Mark Province of Northumberland presented an application to the Mark Benevolent Fund for financial support for Newcastle Wheelchair Rugby.

I am delighted to be able to inform you that on Friday, 24 March, Darren Coleman-Heald, the Charities Manager at Mark Masons' Hall, was in touch with us to confirm that the petition had been approved and is to be supported with a grant of £35,798.28 which is the total sum that was applied for.

This is to purchase eight junior specialist rugby wheelchairs and will benefit disabled under 16s, four small junior wheelchairs for ages 8 – 13 years old and four larger wheelchairs for age group 13 – 17 years old and is inclusive of the maintenance costs needed to keep the chairs in good working condition

Darren informed us that the MBF receive many applications for support for sports wheelchair assistance but the detail in our excellent application went a long way in securing this grant. So well done to all who were involved in putting together and supporting the application.

Many thanks also to the Trustees of the MBF for supporting this application and for the impact this will have on improving the lives of disabled young people.

Another fantastic example of the ['Magic of the Mark'](#).



## Sebastian's Action Trust presentation event



R.W.Bro. John Bell and his wife Mary joined W.Bro. Nigel Wilkinson, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, and W.Bro. Malcolm Lloyd, Provincial Grand Almoner, from the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, in a visit to 'The Bluebells', a respite centre in North Waltham, Hampshire, run by Sebastian's Action Trust based in Berkshire.



Laura Weaving, House Manager, and Ruth Paley, Trust and Foundations Manager, welcomed them to the centre which provides emotional and practical support to very sick children and their families. In addition, they provide free respite breaks at this fully accessible respite home to families across the UK. The home has been providing breaks since 2011 and they were awarded with a grant of £2,920 to replace beds and bedding at the centre.



Sebastian's Action Trust





## 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	Dining Starts	Annual Dinner
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - Limited Capacity	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	Thursday, 4 May 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT	Great Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Active & 1st	Tuesday, 18 June 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Promotions	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 14 September 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - 150 Celebration	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - Malta	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

23102023

[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 **Turkiye**

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

**Mark Emergency Relief Fund  
MMM185622**

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

**<https://gtap.uk/mmm185622>**



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 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](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

Find us here [///prefer.status.sharp](http://prefer.status.sharp)