

Freemasonry@86 News - 28 April 2023



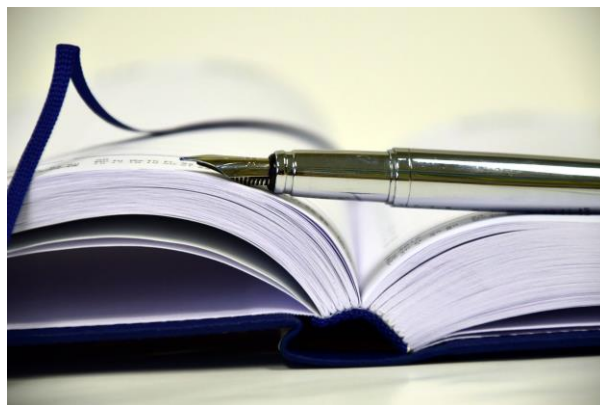
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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, 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.

Thursday, 11 May - K.T. Installation of E.Kt. Roger Langdon Smith, P.Gt.St.B.(B.), as Provincial Prior for Essex

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

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

Saturday, 24 June - Mark Installation of W.Bro. John David Sowerby, P.A.G.D.C., as Provincial Grand Master for Northampton, Huntingdon & Bedford

Saturday, 1 July - MBF Festival 2023 West Yorkshire - Harrogate

Saturday 1 July - R.C.C. Installation of V.III.Kt. Joseph Ebenezer Sudhakar, P.G.H.Alm., as Intendant-General for Cumbria

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

Under one banner



Thursday, 20 April, was an important milestone in the history of the Mark Provincial Grand Lodge of Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford. At the meeting of the Stuart Lodge of Mark Master Masons, the Provincial Banner was dedicated, marking another significant landmark in the drive to unite us into one happy Masonic family.

The ceremony took place at The Keep, the historic building which is the centre of Masonry in Bedford and was attended by over seventy Mark Masons from all parts of our Province. The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Robert Stokes, accompanied by the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, W.Bro. David Sowerby; W.Bro. David Snape, the Provincial Assistant Grand Master; and a bevy of Provincial Grand Officers, joined the Brethren of Stuart Lodge and their guests to be part of a wonderful evening.



1 - Members of the Provincial team and Stuart Lodge

The dedication of the Banner was conducted by V.W.Bro. Revd Alan Avery with his usual eloquence during which he referred to the traditional use of banners throughout history as a rallying point; a function which the new banner will fulfil for many years. The Banner was bright and contained emblems of the three Counties which make up the Province but all were united in one design (shown, top).

The Provincial Grand Master delivered a carefully composed address to the Brethren, marking the progress which the Province had made since it was constituted in November 2021. There had been bumps along the road but this event, perhaps the most important other than Provincial Grand Lodge Meetings, was a signpost to past and present progress in promoting the unity of our Province. He therefore requested that it was now appropriate that the only ties which should be worn at Mark Lodge and Provincial meetings by members of Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford Mark and Royal Ark Lodges should be the Provincial tie or a black tie. This will further unite us all and encourage us to look to the future and not to the past..



2 - Grand and Provincial Grand Officers

Another important event was the arrival of the Provincial Key Stone escorted by a record nine representatives from the Fitzwilliam Lodge of M.M.M. No. 477, based in Ellindon. The Keystone was originally a feature of the old Bedfordshire Mark Province and has been adopted by our new Province as a way of uniting and building relationships between the Lodges.



3 - Escorts to the travelling Keystone, from Fitzwilliam Lodge No. 477



4 - W.Bro. Tony Bloxsome, R.W.Bro. Robert Stokes, W.Bro. Simon Whitbread



5 - Great company



6 - Sharing experinces



7 - Happy faces



8 - Brotherly Love

The Meeting required a great deal of organisation and our thanks go to V.W.Bro. Geoff Stone, Secretary of Stuart Lodge; and W.Bro. Keith Hewitt, Provincial Grand Secretary; and all those who made the evening such a great success.

With thanks to W.Bro. David M. Snape, P.G.S.D., Assistant Provincial Grand Master



9 - Thirsty work

Under the hammer



Seventy anxious bidders attended the Beneventa Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1486 in Daventry to participate in the 'Auction of Promise' which was held for the benefit of charity on Saturday, 22 April. The Auction catalogue had over fifty items on offer which ranged from having a meal cooked, served, and cleared away, for six people; a chauffeur driven limousine to a place of interest; signed Formula 1 Racing print; Beryl Cook framed prints; and an extensive range of alcoholic beverages. All have been freely given to support the Lodge's charitable efforts.

The Auctioneer was W. Bro. Malcolm Payne, the Lodge Secretary, who had done much to organise the very successful evening.

Picture, top, the Auctioneer, with W. Bro. Robin Cusworth on his right; Mrs Jane Payne and W. Bro. David Sowerby on his left; with W. Bro. Graham Ballinger, our Barman for the evening

Each Lot was displayed by the 'Porter', W. Bro. Robin Hitchcock, with a brief description of what it was, and bidders were keen to win them. All of the lots were bought and W. Bro. Robin Hitchcock brought them to the winning bidder's table.



10 - A full set of Peter James' books featuring the Detective 'Grace' being displayed by W.Bro. Robin Hitchcock, the 'Porter'

Midway through the Auction, the bidders were treated to an excellent fish and chip supper and the odd libation.



11 - Pass the vinegar



12 - Can I have a slice?

One lucky bidder was W.Bro. David Sowerby, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who placed the winning bid and was able to take home a delicious fruit cake to the envy of W.Bro. David Snape, Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



13 - The team, L to R: W.Bro. John Starley and his partner Leslie who acted as bankers; Mrs and W.Bro. Robin Cutsforth who presided; W.Bro. Malcolm Payne, the auctioneer, and his wife Jane

The Beneventa Lodge should be congratulated for its initiative in organising this event, which raised £3,250 for charity. This sum will be divided with half being allocated to the Lodge Charity for donations to local causes and twenty five percent each to the British Heart Foundation and the RSPCA.

Congratulations to the organisers, the team, the bidders (without you it wouldn't happen), and the chip shop for such and excellent, enjoyable and charitable event.

With thanks to W.Bro. David M. Snape, P.G.S.D., Assistant Provincial Grand Master

A very special evening



An Installation is always a special event in the Masonic calendar of any Lodge but more so on this occasion when a son Installs his father into the Chair of a prestigious Installed Masters' Lodge.

It was then a delight that R.W.Bro. Ryan Andrew Williams, P.G.J.W., Grand Secretary of the Mark Order of England and Wales, was to Install his father V.W.Bro. Alun Williams, P.G.J.O., into the Chair of the South Wales Installed Mark Masters' Lodge No. 1201 in Bridgend at the end of March.

Both R.W.Bro. Ryan and V.W.Bro. Alun are no strangers to the Temple at Bridgend, both being members of Dunraven Lodge of Mark Master Masons. R.W.Bro. Ryan is a past Secretary and V.W.Bro. Alun has been Chaplain; both having served the |Lodge faithfully for many years.

This particularly poignant and moving ceremony of Installation was undertaken impeccably by R.W.Bro. Ryan and it was extremely pleasing to see the support from the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. T.R. Eirian Jones, who addressed the newly Installed Master. The Provincial Grand Master was supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Philip W. Davies; the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Alun Howell Thomas; the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Dr Paul Calderwood, and the Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Stephen Harries; together with the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Martin A. Jones, and other members of the full Provincial Team.

The ceremony was concluded with the address to the Wardens by W.Bro. Roger Lewis, Provincial Junior Warden; the address to the Overseers by W.Bro. John Charles, Provincial Master Overseer; and W.Bro. Lyn Guttridge, Immediate Past Master, who addressed the Brethren.

This special night continued with a festive board that was enjoyed by all, further enhancing the distinctiveness of the occasion.

Wit thanks to W.Bro. D. Roger Lewis, Prov.G.J.W., Secretary, South Wales Installed Mark Masters Lodge No. 1201

Pictured, top are, l-r, R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, P.G.J.W., Grand Secretary; V.W.Bro. Alun Williams, P.G.J.O.; and R.W.Bro. Eirian Jones, Provincial Grand Master for South Wales

Below, the South Wales Provincial Team



Recruitment continues to rise in Cheshire



On Monday, 25 April, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, John David Miller, accompanied by acting Provincial Officers, was pleased to attend De Tabley Lodge of M.M.M. No. 396, to witness the advancement of Chris Chapman Roberts into the mark degree.



Chris became the fourth Candidate advanced into De Tabley this season, and with another Candidate proposed for September, and two joining members lined up for November's installation the future looks bright for the Lodge.



14 - Chris enjoying the top table experience



On Friday, 21 April, Hyde Royal Ark Mariner Lodge elevated Brother Bill Emery in a fine style at Oaklands Masonic Hall.



The Lodge received assistance from Derek Scott, the Cheshire Cats support team lead, due to the unavailability of one of the members.

Bro. Bill, who is also integral in the formation of the soon to be consecrated Benjamin Addy Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, based in Dukinfield, thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony and companionship of the Brethren, and looks forward to progressing in the Lodge.



15 - Eaton Lodge advance Cheshire's 50th new Mark Mason this season

On Friday, 21 April, Cheshire Prov.G.M. Gary Horstman, accompanied by a strong provincial delegation attended Eaton Mark Lodge, to witness the advancement of Brother Paul Bent, in an excellent ceremony performed by the Lodge.



Brother Paul, who has always supported Mark charitable events, became the 50th new advancee in the Mark in Cheshire this season, and thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony, conducted with the travelling maul, which was then claimed by Sincerity Mark.



At the festive board, a bottle of Mark Gin was raffled, raising £135, which will of course go towards the 2024 Festival, and will be presented to the Pro Grand Master by the Lodge at the Sesquicentenary.

With thanks to W.Bro. Peter Langley Provincial Grand Junior Deacon, Provincial Communications Officer



Cumberland and Westmorland's R.A.M. Investiture



W. Bro Martin Birkett, Collin Lodge No 151 W. Bro Lee H. Dixon, St John's Lodge No 1037 W. Bro Christopher J. Gabbott, Bentinck Lodge No 726. W. Bro John Nott, Duddon Lodge No 1481.
W. Bro John Stuart, Cumberland No 60 W. Bro Richard K. Graham, St Herbert's Lodge No 452. W. Bro Peter Balderstone, Kent Dale No 195. W. Bro Philip L. Dixon, St John's Lodge No 1037.
Brethren missing: W. Bro Colin W. Doorbar, Derwent Valley Lodge No 282 – W. Bro Stuart M. Wilkinson, Inglewood Lodge No 462.
Back Row: W.Bro. Douglas G. Sanderson DPGM – Centre Front – R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride, PGM – W.Bro. Phillip Carruthers, APGM

The Provincial Grand Lodge Cumberland and Westmorland's eleventh annual Royal Ark Mariner Investiture was attended by 120 Royal Ark Mariners with 112 attending the festive board. The meeting was opened by members of Cumbria Lodge of Installed Commanders No. 1466 with W.Bro. Robert Carruthers in the Chair. R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride, accompanied by the team of Acting Provincial Officers, was then admitted.

Following the welcome to all present, R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride invited W.Bro. Keith Robert Beaumont, Intendent-General for Cumbria in the Masonic & Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, to address those present and enlighten us with an insight into the History and aims of the Order.

R.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride then spoke on the promotion of the "Magic of the Mark" which includes a leaflet and Video promotion and will hopefully enlighten Brethren about our beautiful Order.

With thanks to V W.Bro. David R. Robinson, R.A.M.G.R.







At the K.T. Provincial Priory of Durham



The Provincial Priory of Durham held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, 22 April, in a full room at Gateshead Masonic Hall.

E.Kt. Andrew Foster the Provincial Marshal announced the processions in to the Priory under an Arch of Steel provided by members of the Provincial Priors Bodyguard.

The Provincial Prior R.E.Kt. Richard Scott opened the Priory and gave everyone a warm welcome.

Those present included representatives from other Provinces including Cheshire, Derbyshire, East Anglia, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, London, Yorkshire North and East Ridings, Nottingham, Oxford Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, Surrey, West Yorkshire and Worcestershire.

In attendance were leaders from other Masonic Orders including the Assistant Grand Master of the Mark, Professor Denovan Wilson; the Provincial Grand Master of Durham for the Craft, John Thompson; along with him were two Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, John Watts and Andrew Foster; Order of the Scarlet Cord Provincial Summus Michael A. Jacques; and Deputy Grand Master of the Operatives, Bill Malcolm

There then followed a requiem to those knights who has passed to the Great Priory above during the last year.

After the investiture of the Officers and the Provincial Priors Bodyguard for the year the Provincial Prior gave his address.

In it he thanked all the outgoing Officers for their support over the past years and looked forward to the year coming with the new team.

He also gave an update on the 2025 festival reporting that a magnificent sum of £62,000 had already been donated, and read out a letter received from the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master Paul Raymond Clement thanking the Knights for their efforts raising a staggering figure.

On the 19 July 2025 a service will be held in Durham Cathedral to celebrate the achievement with more details to come on this.

The Provincial Prior completed his address by thanking all those present for attending.

Following the address, the Provincial Grand Master for Durham, John Thompson, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master John Watts, presented the Provincial Prior with a cheque from Durham Benevolence for £5,000, aptly in the shape of a sword, towards the 50th Appeal, which was gratefully received.



The festive board followed the meeting where good food and company was enjoyed by all those present.

With thanks to Kt. Robin Crosby, Provincial Communications Officer, Provincial Priory of Durham

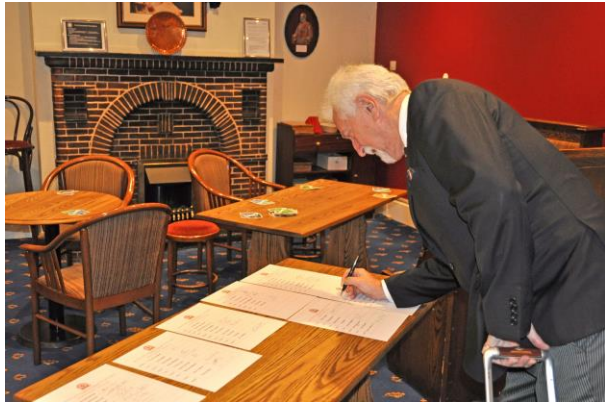


A new Intendant-General for Surrey



The Annual Meeting of the Divisional Conclave of Surrey took place on Saturday, 22 April at the Croydon and District Masonic Hall, Croydon, Surrey. At the meeting the Grand Sovereign, M.III.Kt. Graham Leslie Flight, installed Ill.Kt. Simon McCarthy as Intendant-General of the Division of Surrey.

We received a warm welcome on arrival.



From 9.30 am the Worthy Knights of the Division of Surrey and their guests started arriving for coffee and bacon butties.





There were many Heads of other Orders in Surrey attending to support the Division of Surrey.





As well as from Mark Masons' Hall.



The Grand Marshal and his team were busy rehearsing the ceremonial...



...and the Banner procession.





Meanwhile, the Grand Sentinel was preparing the cushions bearing the robe and sceptre of the office of Intendant-General.



There were many guests from other Divisions; and Orders in Surrey.





By 10.45 am everyone was seated in the Temple. The meeting was called to order to receive the Presiding Officer, R.III.Kt. Roy Leavers, Past Intendant-General for Surrey.



Divisional Conclave was opened in form by the Presiding Officer. The Installing Officer, accompanied by his Assisting Officers, entered in procession through an Arch of Steel formed by the Grand Sepulchre Guard, assumed the Chair and appointed his Officers.



The Installing Officer was saluted under the direction of the Grand Marshal, after which acknowledged the salutation and addressed the Worthy Knights on the purpose of the meeting, to install Ill.Kt. Simon McCarthy as Intendant-General of the Division of Surrey.

The Installing Officer directed that the Conclave Standards be ranged in the West and called upon the Grand Recorder to call the roll of Conclaves in the Division.





The Installing Officer directed the Grand Marshal to confirm that the Intendent-General Designate is in attendance.



The Grand Marshal and his escort retired in procession and re-entered the Lodge and introduced the Intendent-General-Designate.



The Installing Officer addressed the Intendant-General Designate on the nature of his duties and the qualifications for the Office, then directed the Grand Recorder to read the Patent of Appointment.

After the Grand High Prelate had offered a prayer, the Intendant-General Designate took his Obligation and was invested and installed in the Chair by the Installing Officer. R.III.Kt. Simon McCarthy was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Grand Marshal.

The Deputy Grand Marshal enquired of the Intendant-General if it is his pleasure to appoint a Deputy Intendant-General. The Intendant-General announced the appointment of Ill.Kt. Andrew George Sales, *JP*, P.G.St.B.(L.), as Deputy Intendant-General and requested the Deputy Grand Marshal to confirm that the Deputy Intendant-General designate was in attendance.



The Deputy Grand Marshal and his escort retired in procession and re-entered the Lodge and introduced the Deputy Intendant-General-Designate.



The Intendant-General-addressed the Deputy Intendant-General-Designate on the nature of his duties and the qualifications for the Office, then directed the Grand Recorder to read the Patent of Appointment.

After the Grand High Prelate had offered a prayer, the Deputy Intendant-General Designate took his Obligation and was invested and installed in the Chair by the Intendant-General. Ill.Kt. Andrew Sales was then proclaimed and saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Marshal.

The Intendant-General addressed the M.III. Grand Sovereign thanking him and his team for making this such a special day, not only for himself but all the Worthy Knights of the Division of Surrey. The M.III. Grand Sovereign said it was a delight to Install R.III.Kt. Simon and wished him, and the Worthy Knights of the Division of Surrey every success for the future. The M.III. Grand Sovereign and his Assisting Officers retired in procession.



The Grand Sepulchre Guard afterwards posed for a group photo.



The Intendant-General adjourned Divisional Conclave and the Deputy Intendant-General retired from Divisional Conclave.



Accompanied by Right Illustrious Knights and other Distinguished Guests.



After refreshments and a chance to meet up with old friends in the bar...





...we were called into lunch...





In proposing the toast to the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign the Intendant General thanked him again for making this a very special day and presented him with a token of appreciation.





In thanking R.Ill.Kt. Simon, the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign said that he had enjoyed his visit to Croydon and proposed the Toast to the Division of Surrey.



The Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign and his team then retired from the dining room.



Divisional Conclave was reconvened by the Intendant General, who welcomed the many representatives of other Divisions and other Masonic Orders in Surrey.



After approving the minutes of the previous meeting, those present remembered our Worthy Knights who had passed away since the last annual meeting. After the regular business of Divisional Conclave had been concluded the Intendant-General appointed and invested the Divisional Eusebius, Ill.Kt. Nigel Harding, P.G.Chamb. The Divisional Officers were then appointed and invested.

The R.III. Intendant-General appointed the Captain and the Deputy to the Captain of the Divisional Sepulchre Guard and received members of the Divisional Sepulchre Guard. The R.III. Intendant-General then welcomed those Worthy Knights who were installed in the Division since the last meeting.

The R.III. Intendant-General addressed Divisional Conclave.



In his Address he reiterated his welcome to our Guests, some of whom have travelled great distance to be with us. He wished he could have welcomed everyone individually, but time prevailed.

However, he was very grateful for their support. He was also very pleased to see so many Surrey Knights in attendance.

He said he had no immediate plans to interfere with our Division, but rather nurture it. R.III.Kt. Bob Hancock had worked very hard to maintain the stability of this Division during his tenure and he thanked him for all that he has done over the last 10 years.

He shared his vision for his future strategy. Three key points, Retention, Recruitment and Stability. If we can apply these fundamental principles our Intendant-General is certain that with our help we can drive our Division onwards and upwards. One initiative being to start a Conclave of Instruction, possibly at Surbiton, for those who need assistance with protocol and ritual.

He congratulated all those that had been promoted today, either with active rank, or past rank; as well as the three first appointments in Grand Rank, Robert Bromley to Past Grand Prefect, Hugh Everitt to Past Grand Prefect, and David Grimmer to Past Great Vice-Chamberlain. Also, Ray Johnson to Past Grand Prefect, Metropolitan Division and a promotion to Deputy Intendant-General, Andrew Sales, to Past Grand High Almoner. Well done and very well deserved!

He thanked the Divisional Recorder and his team of helpers, the stand in Divisional Marshall, and Deputy Marshall, and the Sepulchre Guard for their assistance. Finally, he thanked R.III.Kt. Roy Leavers for acting as the Presiding officer, and to us all for our support and attendance today.

The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form. The Intendant-General, the Deputy Intendant-General, Divisional Officers and Honoured Guests left the Temple in procession...



...greeting all our Honoured Guests as they retired from Divisional Conclave.



It was a long but very enjoyable day.

Article by Chris Eley and photos by Bob Tuthill and Chris Eley

Bert Farlow's fiftieth



On Thursday, 20 April, M.Ill.Kt. Graham Leslie Flight, G.C.C., paid a very welcome visit to Blackham Conclave No. 160 of the R.C.C. Sussex to present Ill.Kt. Herbert Charles (Bert) Farlow with his Fifty-Year Certificate and Jewel.

The Grand Sovereign gave a very informative and interesting resume of Bert's Military and Masonic Careers. This was crowned by bestowing the Rank of Past Grand Junior General to Bert as a Field Promotion.

With thanks to P.Kt. Tony Padley, Div.Sent.



16 - L-R R.Ill.Kt. Paul Rose, Int.-Gen.; Ill.Kt. Bert Farlow, P.G.J.G.; M.Ill.Kt. Graham Flight, G.C.C., Ill.Kt. Simon Langton, M.P.S.



17 - Members of the Divisional Team



18 - Members of the Divisional Sepulchre Guard

Not your usual day by the seaside!



A somewhat different day at Rhyl Masonic Hall in North Wales recently, for a daylight meeting of Dewi Sant Conclave No. 457.

The day had started bright and early with the Installation of the new and secundus President of St David Consistory No. 139 by the primus President, Paul Crudge, in the presence of Chris Welton, Provincial Grand Summus for the Scarlet Cord of Cheshire & North Wales, and Geoff Gill, Provincial Grand Summus for West Lancashire, who had received especial dispensation to cross two borders.

The new President, Mike Steggles, was then called away to attend to his other Masonic duties as Provincial Director of Ceremonies in the Craft Province of Cheshire.

As Mike is also the Supreme Ruler of Dewi Sant Conclave, his Chair was taken by a guest, the Provincial Grand Counsellor, Worthy Brother Derek Gaskell, who had received a little warning.

The Grand Guide, Right Worthy Brother Paul Crudge, was called back from his role as Director of Ceremonies to act as Secretary, whilst the invested Secretary acted as Treasurer.

Amongst other substitutes, the Provincial Grand Guide, John Owens, acted as Fourth Visiting Deacon. In fact, only Barrie Billinge, Conclave Counsellor and Andrew Thomas, Conclave Guide, occupied their correct Offices!

A ceremony of Induction for three Candidates was then conducted in an excellent manner by the acting Supreme Ruler.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Tony Stringer, presented and explained the Weapons of the Order, whilst Barrie Billinge, the Conclave Counsellor, delivered the welcome Address.

Certainly unique in the O.S.M. Province of Cheshire & North Wales, the Induction was of a Jewish, a Christian, and a Muslim Brother, each swearing their obligation on a separate and distinct VSL.

There then followed a seven-course lunch, enjoyed by all, and, possibly for some, a paddle in the sea.

Of further interest is that two of the Candidates were attracted to the Order via the Provincial website, showing that electronic promotion does work. Barrie Billinge is also the Provincial Webmaster, and updates the site on a regular basis.

Words & Picture by R.W.Bro. Tony Stringer, Prov.G.S.R.

Pictured, top, (L-R): Barrie Billinge, Counsellor; Tony Stringer, Prov.G.S.R.; Andy Clark, Inductee; David Hallows, Inductee; Stuart Jones, Inductee; Derek Gaskell, acting S.R.

Working together in West Yorkshire



Many thanks to West Riding Masonic Charities Ltd for its support to the West Yorkshire 2023 M.B.F. Festival. A magnificent £150,000 over the last 6 years on behalf of all the Craft and Holy Royal Arch Freemasons in the Province of Yorkshire West Riding - to match the 150 year existence of the West Yorkshire Mark Province.

Donations have been in instalments over the last 6 years, with the final £25,000 given at our Provincial Meeting last Saturday. Pictured above, V.W.Bro. James Newman, P.G.J.O., our Craft Provincial Grand Master, handing me a cheque representing the total donations made.

With thanks to R.W.Bro. Jim Steggles, Prov.G.M.



A happy first visit to Mark Masons' Hall



It's always good to hear from a satisfied customer but it doesn't always make the pages of Masonic magazines.

So we were delighted to read this review by Edward Compton, which was published in the latest edition of Metropolitan Grand Lodge's ['Arena' Magazine](#)...

My name is Edward Compton and I like to visit Lodges. In fact, I visit a lot of Lodges.

Thought everything happens at Freemasons Hall? Well, think again. It turns out there are Masonic Centres all over the place across our great City, and I'm visiting all of them: Masonic Centres, the old public houses where our predecessors met and places of yore with a bit of Masonic history. I am Bro Edward Compton, and I am 'The Visitor'. Part travelogue, part Through the Keyhole – I'll be showing you Freemasonry across all of London.



In this edition, I travelled to Mark Masons' Hall (MMH) to meet members of the Royal Leopold Lodge No 1669, otherwise known as the Communications Lodge, where the great and good of MetGL's Communications Team come together to communicate their ideas about getting Freemasons to communicate. Makes sense. I also visited my dear friends at Anglo Sierra Leone Lodge, a truly unique Lodge with great humour, warmth and a touch of rhythm.

So, it's late February, and I'm off to Mark Masons' Hall in St James' Street to meet the Brethren of the Royal Leopold Lodge. Where are we? SW1, South West London – slap bang next to St James Palace. Yes, next to a palace. As Grandad Potts said in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, this is a bit of P-O-S-H, posh. I even waxed my moustache and splashed on the Brut – you've got to look and smell the part. We're a three-minute walk from Green Park Station: if you want to take in the sights on your way to the venue, it is a stone's throw from The Mall and Buckingham Palace.



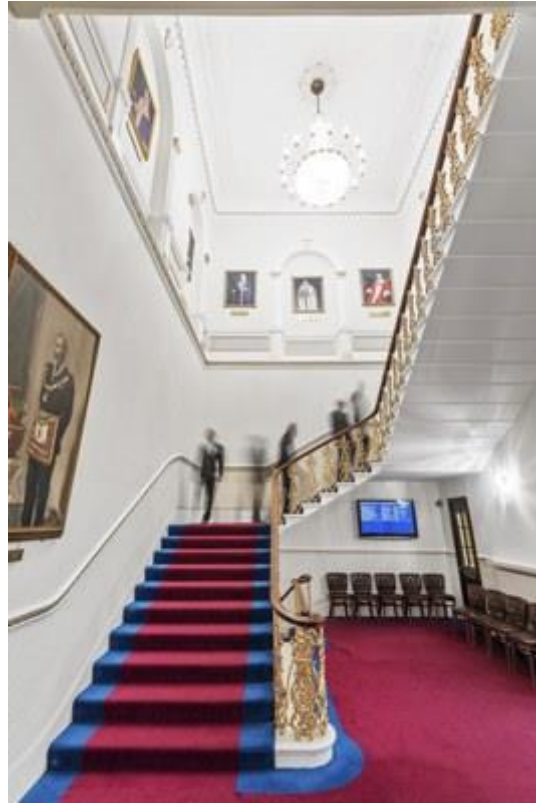
Built between 1862 and 1865 following a design by Sir James Thomas Knowles, Mark Masons' Hall is a Crown property, Grade II listed and described as "High Victorian". The property consists of seven levels which include a lower ground floor and a basement. The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales has occupied the building since the end of 1977, with Mark Masons' Hall formally opened in 1979.

Prior to then, the club was occupied by the Civil Service Club (1866-69), the Thatched House Club (1870 to 1949), the Union Club (1950 -1964) and the Constitutional Club (1964 – 1977).

Now, you would think Mark Masons' Hall is home exclusively to members of the Mark Order, right? But in actual fact, 10 Masonic Orders are currently administered from Mark Masons' Hall and meet in the splendour of this great building, including many Craft and Chapter Lodges.



Upon entering the building, I am met with a panelled entrance hall and an impressive sweeping free-standing staircase constructed from stone steps with an open well and cast iron ornamental balustrade. There are two large Masonic temples on the ground floor, one of which I found myself in for the ceremony. The rooms are beautifully decorated with stained glass and sparkling chandeliers and adorned with paintings of eminent Freemasons, their portraits staring down upon me like Ancient Greek demi-Gods. Which one is Zeus?



I'm looking for the apron with the most bling. On the first floor, there is a front dining room which overlooks St James's Street as well as St James's Palace. The rear areas on this floor are also used for dining and daytime meetings. On the second floor, there is a licensed bar at the front. The rear areas on this floor house two more Masonic temples. The third-floor houses three dining rooms and two further Masonic temples.

With a well-stocked bar at very reasonable prices, it's no surprise that this is a popular venue. The bar is like a gentleman's club from a bygone era: leather seats, high back upholstered armchairs, grand fireplaces and more chandeliers. The Trotter Brothers would have a field day here! This is the sort of place in literature where you might find a 'society of men'. I half expected Phileas Fogg to run in and say, "There you go, kind Sirs, it's been 80 days, and I'm back. Now, pay up!" I instantly wanted to take up cigar smoking, grow some mutton chops, read a broadsheet newspaper and tell my family to forward any calls for me to 'The Club' where the head barman could come up to me and say, "it's your fiancé on the telephone, Sir Edward." "Thank you, Simpkins, please tell Lady Amy I won't be home til late - I'm playing billiards in the parlour with Tarquin and Basil."



Back to the meeting of the Royal Leopold. I was lucky enough to be invited to see a Brother's third, who, coincidentally, I also saw initiated a couple of years previously, so I felt honoured to be there to see his journey progress. Royal Leopold always makes you feel very welcome, and the ceremony was excellent. I particularly enjoyed the graveside address, which is not always used in this ceremony but, in my opinion, adds a touch of poetry and pathos.

MMH is also a great venue in which to dine and offers great value for money at £45. Yes, you did read that right. Forty-five pounds, and the portions are really good – you even get seconds.



Almost fifty thousand meals are served here each year, and the venue has a growing reputation for high-quality food. For convenience - and because you're full-up - there is also a lift which takes you straight to the bar upstairs. Though if you want to be healthy, there is a stair option which I highly recommend, especially after the seconds and thirds of the excellent carvery!

If you have an opportunity to visit MMH, then do so. It's a historic Masonic landmark with atmosphere, great value for money and well worth your time.

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, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you

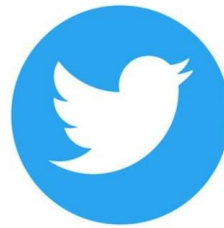
represent a Masonic Club or Society linked to our Orders, please send us an invite to join or follow you.

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	Dinner Starts	Annex Finishes
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 - London Lodges	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM
SC	Grand Seminars	Thursday, 4 May 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:00 PM
KT	Grand 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 - Improbable Actives List	Tuesday, 23 June 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	9:15 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 - Westlawn 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
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 14 September 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - 150 Celebrations	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	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

16/01/2023

[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 **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 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 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



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

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

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)