

# Freemasonry@86 News - 26 May 2023



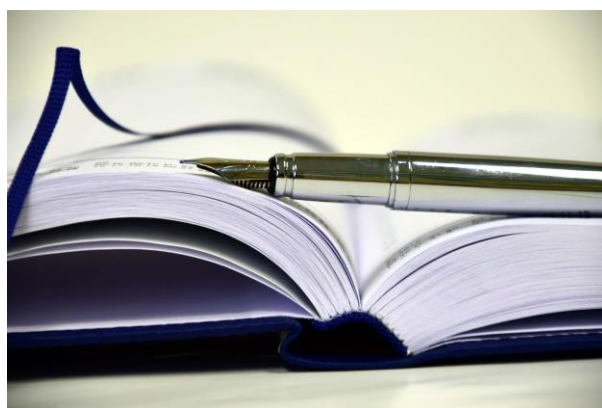
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

**Tuesday, 13 June - Mark Grand Lodge June Investiture meeting, Freemasons' Hall - [Click Here](#) for more info**

**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, 4 July - R.C.C.** Grand Imperial Conclave, Freemasons' Hall - [Click Here](#) for more info

**Saturday, 8 July - R.S.M.** Installation of Ill.Comp. Gary Michael Peard, P.G.Swd.B., as District Grand Master for Devon & Cornwall

**Thursday, 13 July - S.C.** Consecration of Vale of Pickering Consistory No. 144, Province of North and East Yorkshire

**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

## A handful of certificates at Ernest Hines



Ernest Hines Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1166, meeting in Wroxham, Norfolk, in the Mark Province of East Anglia, had a bumper attendance at their Installation meeting, with numbers swelled not only by the Prov.G.M., Dep.Prov.G.M. and A.Prov.G.M., but escorting Active Provincial Grand Officers plus many Grand Officers giving further support.

Following the Installation of David Ball as Worshipful Master and the usual lodge business, the Prov.G.M. made a special presentation to Robin Watkeys, who received his certificate to celebrate sixty years since his Advancement.



Robin started his Mark Masonry in his native Wales, moving to Norfolk with work and joining Walpole Mark in 2006. Subsequently joining Yare Valley and now Ernest Hines Mark, Robin and Prov.G.M. David Boswell chatted in open Lodge for a few minutes about the last 60 years, before presenting Robin with the certificate, which was read aloud by Provincial Secretary, Mike Staff.



If that wasn't enough, Dep.Prov.G.M. Gary Allen presented four recent Ernest Hines Advancers with their Grand Lodge Certificates, namely Paul Nicholls, Craig Battison, Mike McGillivray and Jason Delf.

*With thanks to W.Bro. Richard Pryor, P.A.G.D.C.*

## A busy afternoon for Prince of Wales Lodge



In May I was invited along by Bro. Bradley Collins to Mark Masons' Hall to attend the Installation Meeting of the Prince of Wales Mark Lodge No 4. Present, on a private visit, was the Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province of London, R.W.Bro. Tom Quinn.

The afternoon began with a short business meeting of the Royal Ark Mariner Lodge.

The Lodge of Mark Master Masons was then opened by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Constantine Trizis, who welcomed all the visitors, especially the Provincial Grand Master.

The first item on the agenda was to Advance Bro. Austin Greenville Burn, a member of Mulberry Lodge No. 9834. This was done in an excellent manner by the Worshipful Master, assisted by his Officers. Bro. Austin was then congratulated by the Provincial Grand Master, welcomed into the Order, and the Province of London. Bro. Austin also received a personal invitation to attend the Provincial meeting at Great Queen Street on Thursday, 13 July.



The next item on the agenda was to Install Bro. Bradley Collins as the Worshipful Master of the Prince of Wales Lodge. This was done in a very sincere manner by the Worshipful Master. After W.Bro. Brad had been installed as master the Provincial Grand Master congratulated him and wished him a most successful and enjoyable year.



The Provincial Grand Master was then invited to present Mark Grand Lodge Certificates to two Brethren. This he did in his own very informative manner.





After the Lodge was closed everyone got together for a group photo with their new Worshipful Master.



As well as Brad's colleagues from the Red Cross Division of Surrey, some of his personal guests.



We then retired for refreshments.



V.W.Bro. Jerry Gangadeen had made one of his special rum cakes for the occasion.



The Lodge, and the Mark Province of London, was thanked for its very generous donation towards the Air Ambulance Appeal by Bro. Stratton Richey, who gave a very informative talk on the work of the Air Ambulance.



In replying to his Toast, the Provincial Grand Master said a few words of encouragement saying how good it was to see the Lodge growing in numbers and how much he had enjoyed the afternoon.



The Worshipful Master ended by thanking everyone for attending and helping to make this a very special day.



*With thanks to V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, P.G.J.O.*

## Hampshire & Isle of Wight K.T. Provincial Sponsored Walk



On an overcast April Sunday morning, a gallant group of Knights from the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight did not think it derogatory to their dignity to exchange the sword for the umbrella!

This was a sponsored event to walk one mile around Totton FC ground in full regalia to raise money for the Eye Hospital Group in Jerusalem.

Lead by the Provincial Banner Bearer, the Provincial Prior, Provincial Sub-Prior, and several heads of Orders, the valiant Knights completed their allotted task in just over 30 minutes.

The event was the idea of our Past Provincial Prior, David Coombes, to be part of the Province's 175th anniversary celebrations and raised more than £14,000.

The event was well supported by family and friends who spurred the Knights on with cheers and even a Mexican wave as we passed by.

We didn't break any speed records however we would probably be a contender for the "Most prosthetic hips and knees on a football field at any one time".

*With thanks to E.Kt. Martin Colley, Provincial Registrar*



## Second ever R.C.C. 50 Year Celebrant in Kent



The Intendant-General for Kent, R.III.Kt. David Green, travelled down to Broadstairs last week to make a special presentation to Ill.Kt. John Morris, Past Grand Standard Bearer Constantine, Past Divisional Junior General, who was one of the first Candidates of Ebbsfleet Conclave in November 1972, some seven months after its Consecration.

Ill.Kt. John first became Sovereign in 1983, and was one of the first to be Sovereign who had not been a Founder of the Conclave, and once again took the chair in 2008 to help the Conclave out. Ill.Kt. John is only the second individual in Kent's history to have enjoyed 50 years in this wonderful Christian Order and, along with R.III.Kt. John Bonomy, K.C.C., (who celebrated 50 years in December 2019), is probably one of the few knights in the Division to have served under all 6 Intendants-General since the Division was reconstituted in 1965. Ill.Kt. John celebrated his 50 years on 16 November last year, and therefore shared an important day with the Intendant-General, as that was the same day that he was installed as Intendant-General for Kent, and R.III.Kt. David referred to the fact that on the day that John celebrated his 50 years saying, technically, there had been two Intendant-General in post with R.III.Kt. Nick Alder, K.C.C., departing that morning from that role after over 11 years, before he (David) was Installed by the Grand Sovereign.

Sadly John's health is such that since December last year, he has been residing in a specialist unit of the Royal British Legion's Maurice House home in Broadstairs, which is fortunately less than 2 miles from his home in St. Peter's, and he is visited daily by his wife and family. After having visited Ill.Kt. John, the Intendant-General and Nick visited John's wife, Christine, who was at home with one of their children, Kate, and R.III.Kt. Nick presented them with a resumé of the speech that he had made at the Conclave's meeting in February to honour Ill.Kt. John's 50 years in the Red Cross, and how, for over the last 35 years, John had held many positions of responsibility. In the Conclave, including

having been Recorder for over 15 years, as well as Treasurer and Almoner. And, as a consequence of this, R.III.Kt. Nick had given a Notice of Motion at that meeting to make III.Kt. John an honorary member of the Conclave in light of his past services to the Conclave and the Order. III.Kt. John had been a Justice of the Peace for the Thanet area, and the resumé indicated that R.III.Kt. Nick had appeared in front of him a couple of times, but before anyone is concerned, this was in III.Kt. John's other capacity as Chairman of the General Tax Commissioners for Thanet, and R.III.Kt. Nick was representing his clients – in fact, as a result of a hearing heard by III.Kt. John, a change in the National Tax Structure occurred, and whilst there are not many people aware of how it came about, those in the know are aware of John's role in that change!

The pictures show III.Kt. John (right) with R.III.Kt. David Green (centre) and R.III.Kt. Nick Alder, K.C.C. (left), at Maurice House presenting John with his 50 years certificate, and his Jewel, which is personalised to him, and is a very fine piece of craftsmanship.

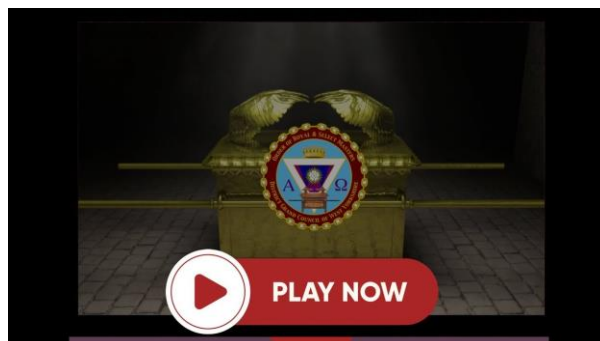


The presentation was watched by other residents of the home as well as many of the nursing and care staff who look after John on a daily basis, and the plan is for the certificate to be framed and put on the wall of his room in the special unit. III.Kt. John was overcome by the memories it brought back to him, and expressed his gratitude to the Intendant-General for visiting and making the presentation.

*With thanks to R.III.Kt. Nick Alder, K.C.C., Recorder – Ebbsfleet Conclave No. 271*



## West Yorkshire launch Royal And Select Masters information video



The R.S.M. District of West Yorkshire has produced this video introduction to the Order to heighten its appeal to other Masons. Click the centre arrow above to play.

The video was created by Ill.Comp. Jason Cunningham, Dist.A.G.Rec., who also created the successful and popular Magic of the Mark video.

The video is on the District's revamped website, which can be found [Here](#) and is accompanied by a widget image and QR code, shown below.

NEW VIDEO



An Introduction to The  
Order of  
Royal and Select Masters



## East Midlands District Annual Meeting





On Saturday, 20 May at Freemasons' Hall, The Griggs Centre, Sheaf Close Northampton, the East Midlands District Royal & Select Masters held its Annual meeting with 135 Companions present.

The meeting was attended by the Grand Master, Most Illustrious Companion Kessick John Jones, IX, escorted by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, Very Illustrious Companion Graham Seeman, P.Pres.E.C.

At the meeting were twelve Right Illustrious Companions travelling from all over the Country.

Also present was Right Illustrious Companion Michael Herbert, Past Deputy Grand Master; and Right Illustrious Companion Michael Jolley, Custodian of the Ninth Arch, Past District Grand Master.



1 - The Right Illustrious Companions ready to be processed into the Council room

After the usual business of the meeting had been conducted the District Grand Master, Right Illustrious Companion Martin Wilson, then re-appointed Illustrious Companion Ian Knox as his Deputy, and then appointed Illustrious Companion Ian Johnson, previously the District Recorder, to be his Principal Conductor of the Work.

Silver Trowel certificates were then presented to six Companions and the Grand Master accompanied the District Grand Master to congratulate the recipients.

The Grand Master went on to congratulate those Companions of the District who were appointed or promoted in Grand Council in April but not yet invested due to the meeting being a shorter, business type meeting, due to the Anniversary meeting being held later this year in October.

Prior to the District Grand Master delivering his address to the Companions the Grand Master spoke to all the Companions present.

Following the addresses, the Grand Master retired inviting the Heads of Orders present, three Craft ProvGM's, an Inspector General Rose Croix and the Prefect for the K.B.H.C., to accompany him, plus the Past Deputy Grand Master. (There was also a Grand Superintendent, Royal Arch, present but he was required in the outgoing District procession.)

Following the close of the meeting all retired to the bar for liquid refreshment followed by lunch.

The District Grand Master during his toast the Grand Master presented him with a bottle of locally distilled Gin, a porkpie from Melton Mowbray and two pieces of cheese, one being a piece of Stilton, all being produced within the District.

*Pictured, top, l to r - Ill.Comp. Norman Pope, outgoing Dist.G.P.C.W.; Ill.Comp. Ian Knox Dep.Dist.G.M.; R.Ill.Comp. Martin Wilson, Dist.G.M.*

*Below, l to r - V.Ill. Comp. Graham Seeman, G.D.C.; Ill.Comp. Ian Knox, Dep.Dist.G.M.; R.Ill.Comp. Martin Wilson, Dist.G.M.; M.Ill.Comp. Kessick John Jones, IX, Grand Master; Ill.Comp Ian Johnson, new Dist.G.P.C.W.*



*With thanks to R.Ill.Comp. Martin Wilson, with additional photographs below from Ill.Comp. Brian Terry, P.A.G.D.C.*













## Busy in Barbados



It has been a busy couple of weeks in Barbados.

In Albion Lodge of M.M.M. No. 212, W.Bro. Achirri Darren Adams Installed his blood Brother, Andre Lyden Adams, as Worshipful Master. It's a first for Albion Mark Lodge to have one Brother Install another true Brother as W.M. (above).

W.Bro. Martyn Thomas Field was Installed as Worshipful Commander Noah of Albion Lodge of R.A.M. (below).





In Valley Council A.M.D. No. 229 there was the Installation of a new Master, W.Bro. Kevin Walters, pictured with the District Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Richard Mayers and the Council Officers (above).

And in St.George Council R.S.M. No. 279 they Installed their new Thrice Illustrious Master, Ill.Comp. Barry Lee Crawford, pictured with the District Grand Master, R.Ill.Comp. Llewellyn Gill and the Council Officers (below).



*With thanks to R.W.Bro. Richard Mayers, Dist.G.M., A.M.D.*

## A new Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Warwickshire



On Saturday, 13 May, the O.S.M. Grand Conclave team were present at Arnold House, Rugby, for the Installation of Dennis Andrew Freshwater as Right Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler for Warwickshire.

Following rehearsals under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.Wy.Bro. Ray Ellis (pictured below with Arch of Steel Registrar, Wy.Bro. Andy Tong, G.Stwd.)



... the meeting was opened by R.Wy.Bro. Merrill Elliott, a Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Warwickshire.



*2 - Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers present and past*

Most Worthy Brother Andrew Christopher Sweeney, Grand Supreme Ruler, then entered in procession, accompanied by the Grand Conclave Officers, and took the Chair to carry out the Installation of the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.



Following his Installation, R.Wy.Bro. Freshwater was pleased to re-appoint Wy.Bro. Neil Watkin, P.A.G.D.C., as Dep.Prov.G.S.R.





The Grand Supreme Ruler and his team then retired, allowing the new Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler to preside over the appointment and investiture of his Provincial Officers and other Provincial business.

Speaking in response to his toast at the after proceedings, and in proposing the toast to the Prov.G.S.R., the Grand Supreme Ruler gave a potted history of O.S.M. Freemasonry in the Province of Warwickshire (his own Mother Province) and paid tribute to the eight Past Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers. The new Prov.G.S.R. was then able to set out some of his plans for the future development of O.S.M. Freemasonry in the Province, building on the success of his predecessors.



*3 - The Grand Conclave team en masse*



4 - The Provincial Rulers joined by V.Wy.Bro. Cliff Bull, P.G.V., a Past District Grand Prefect for the A.M.D. in West Midlands





## Cheshire & North Wales Prov.G.S.R. receives further Honours in the Order of the Scarlet Cord



Many of our Cheshire & North Wales members may be unaware that, as well as being our hardworking Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Tony Stringer is also the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies for the Order of the Scarlet Cord in Cheshire and North Wales.

Already a holder of the Fourth of the Six Grades in the Order, Tony was awarded the Fifth Grade in a special Ceremony in London on 3rd May.

The Fifth and Sixth Grades are a special honour, being conferred at the personal discretion of the Grand Summus of the Order.

In addition, at the Grand Senatus on 4th May, Tony received a promotion to the rank of Past Grand Herald - a double of Honours in 24 hours!

In the picture he is receiving congratulations from the Cheshire & North Wales Provincial Grand Summus, Right Distinguished Companion John Christopher Welton.

Hearty Congratulations also from your Cheshire & North Wales Brethren of the O.S.M., Sir!

*With thanks to Comp. Peter Langley, Prov. Tzaddikim*

## Children With Cancer Fund (Polegate) – driving for success!



The relationship between all of the charities administered from MMH was highlighted earlier this year when Charities Manager, W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, P.G.S.D., joined R.III.Kt. Paul Rose, Intendant-General for Sussex, to present £2,500 from the 'Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund' to the 'Children with Cancer Fund' based near Eastbourne.



The charity had an old van used to transport the team and equipment to fundraising events. After a trip back to the station in the van it was clearly evident that a more reliable vehicle was in need. The van was already second hand when it was donated by a local builder's merchant. The charity's founder, Chris Downton, had to unplug the battery every night to avoid it discharging due to an electrical fault and frankly it was too expensive to repair. Darren worked with Chris to determine a



way forward and eventually he was in a position to put forward an application to the MBF for a new vehicle.



A grant for £36,807 was made to buy the new vehicle. Guests at the presentation included R.W.Bro. Roger Richardson, MBF Trustee and Provincial Grand Master for Sussex, with his wife, Jackie; The Mayor of Eastbourne; Councillors from the Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council and representatives from the Red Cross of Constantine Division of Surrey.

The whole charity team were absolutely blown away with the news and this shows the close relationship between all charities administered from Mark Masons' Hall. Without a visit on behalf of the Red Cross of Constantine, this small charity that does enormous good in the local community, would probably never have become aware of resources such as the MBF.

*With thanks to W.Bro. Darren W. Coleman-Heald, P.G.S.D., Charities Manager*





## A 'Brilliant' donation



King Charles the Martyr Lodge of M.M.M. No. 267 and Kent MBF have been working together to assist Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets.

The £700 donation, which will assist TS Brilliant who are trying to raise over £300,000\* to refurbish and expand their hall, which was purchased in 1948, is made up of £500 from King Charles the Martyr Lodge and £200 of match-funding from the KMBF.

\*At the conclusion of the Second World War, the Unit was rewarded for its efforts with a gift of £1,000 from the Admiralty. With other generous donations the Unit Management Committee was able to purchase the church school building in Albion Road in 1948, which had been used as an ARP (Air Raid Precautions) Station until early 1945. The Unit still meets in this building today.

The aim of this project is to create a fit for purpose establishment for the Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets, suitable for the next 50 years. This project is necessary to overcome years of under investment and lack of maintenance.

#### **Objectives:**

- to provide accessible and inclusive facilities, including welfare facilities;
- to update life expired mechanical and electrical services;
- to provide CAT6 data cabling to new and existing classrooms;
- to provide three extra classrooms;
- to increase cadet and volunteer numbers by 50%;
- to extend the galley to serve as a teaching space;
- to reduce the carbon footprint and heating bills through better insulation;
- to create a rent-able space for public groups to hire to support unit sustainability;
- to provide a space for District and Area(Southern/London) to provide support for MAST and MACT

In 1998 the unit was awarded the Canada Trophy as the Best Overall Unit in the country, beating four hundred other units for this prestigious title and remains in the top three for the Southern District today.

Some of the current cadets had parents and grandparents as members of the Unit. An estimated 3,500 cadets have passed through Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets Corps in its 88 year history.

The Unit has affiliations with our local MP, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Kent County Council, Wiesbaden Town Council, Tunbridge Wells Royal British Legion, Paddock Wood Royal Naval Association, the Chatham Naval Officers Association, the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, the Tunbridge Wells Friendship and Twinning Association, Wiesbaden Red Heralds Band, Holmesdale Lodge No 874 and King Charles the Martyr Lodges of Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariner No 267.

*Pictured above are (r-l) Lt (SCC) Matt Vanns, Commanding Officer of TS Brilliant; Phil Bussingham, Worshipful Master of King Charles the Martyr Lodge; Unit Members & Junior Cadets; and Les Chapman, KMBF Trustee, King Charles the Martyr Lodge Charity Steward and Vice President of Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets.*

*With thanks to W.Bro. Les Chapman, P.G.St.B.*



## Maidstone Scouts benefit from convenient MBF grant of £13,860



Opened in 1965, the [Hamlet Wood Scout Campsite](#) in East Farliegh, just outside Maidstone has been providing camping, outdoor activities and training facilities to members of the Scout and Guide movements and other Voluntary Youth Organisations for over 50 years.

Situated in 27 acres of woodland, the campsite and training facilities are only open to members of the Scout and Guide Associations and other Voluntary Youth Organisations and is run cooperatively by the three Maidstone Scout Districts.

In early 2021, it was originally planned to simply change the fuel for heating and hot water system in the toilet and shower block from multiple gas cylinders to a central gas tank. Following a review of requirements, the project was expanded to total refurbishment and after a successful fundraising campaign, including a donation of £13,860 from [the Mark Benevolent Fund](#) (MBF), and other Mark and Masonic units from both West and East Kent Craft Provinces, it was successfully completed earlier this year at a total cost of £35,000.

The works, apart from specialist services, were carried out by volunteers from the local Scouting communities meaning that Hamlet Wood can begin its second half-century of providing many different facilities and activities such as pioneering, abseiling, canoeing and hiking with confidence.

*Pictured below, L-R: W.Bro. Peter Hayler – Provincial Grand Almoner; W.Bro. Mark Costello – A.Prov.G.M., East Kent and Secretary of Robinson Lodge of Mark Master Masons; W.Bro. Phil Clare – Provincial Grand Charity Steward; R.W.Bro. David Ashbolt – Deputy President of the MBF; Bro. Arthur Roberts – Charity Steward of Robinson Lodge of Mark Master Masons; R.W.Bro. Roger Richardson – Prov.G.M. for Sussex and MBF Trustee.*

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



## Mayor Barker



W.Bro. Gerry Barker, P.G.S.D., and a very well known Mark Master Mason and Royal Ark Mariner in West Yorkshire, was invested as the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Bradford on 23 May, together with the Lady Mayoress, his wife Mrs Jean Barker. We wish them both a healthy and very successful year in office.

Gerry is also a Past Deputy Provincial Grand Prefect in the Allied Masonic Degrees, a Past Deputy District Grand Master in Royal and Select Masters, and Deputy Master Mason in the Operatives.

*With thanks to R.W.Bro. Jim Steggles, Prov.G.M. for West Yorkshire*

## Surrey Showstoppers

**LIVE! MUSIC**

**£30<sup>pp</sup>**  
INCLUDING  
HOT FOOD

Jason  
Nembhard  
from the Drifters

**SATURDAY**  
**3rd JUNE**  
2023

**6.30pm for 7.00pm**  
• **UNTIL MIDNIGHT** •  
DRESS CODE:  
LOUNGE SUIT/JACKET & TIE.  
SMART CASUAL.

- FRIENDS
- WIVES/PARTNERS
- NON MASONS
- **ALL WELCOME** •

RAFFLE PRIZES WELCOME !!

Booking Forms to:  
Alan Brockwell  
e: [brockers01@icloud.com](mailto:brockers01@icloud.com)  
Tel: 07868657276  
Cheques to:  
103D Goodenough Way  
Old Coulsdon,  
Surrey CR5 1BU

Bank Details:  
Alan Brockwell  
Barclays Bank  
Sort Code: 20-24-64  
Account No: 13367827  
REF: Nutfield + Surname

**NUTFIELD MASONIC CENTRE**  
**NUTFIELD ROAD REDHILL RH1 4ED**

**Surrey Mark. Chn. Di. Da 2023**

**Double Room**  
**£120**  
B & B (optional)

**£60<sup>pp</sup>**

Arrival  
6.30pm  
for 7pm

**DINNER** Carriages  
Midnight

**Dance Party**

**SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER**  
**Reigate Manor Hotel - Reigate Hill**

Dancing : Jason Allen (Michael Buble) & Jahson Nembhard (formerly of the Drifters)

**3 Course Meal • Charity Raffle • Party Surprises**

Contact: W.Bro Alan Brockwell - e: [brockers01@icloud.com](mailto:brockers01@icloud.com)  
t: 01737 557997 m: 07868 657276

See website for details - booking form - menu choices

## Join us on Social Media

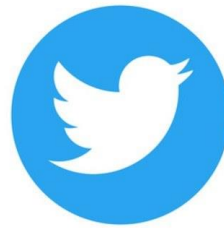
Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent 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](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	Event Start	Event Finish
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 - Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	3:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	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	Great Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Act 1818	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Proclamations	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 PM	3:00 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, 9 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

16/09/2023

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



## 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

**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



## 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, M.M.H. Charities Finance Manager at [L.Read@mmh.org.uk](mailto:L.Read@mmh.org.uk) and Finance Assistant, Millie Pilson, [M.Pilson@mmh.org.uk](mailto:M.Pilson@mmh.org.uk)

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

## Social Media Guidelines



With our relatively new Pro Grand Masters in both the Craft and the Mark, we are continuing our close working relationship with our Brethren at Freemasons' Hall.

While we enjoy and encourage our members' enthusiasm for our Orders, it's important that we are mindful where and how we share our passion for Freemasonry.

Please ensure that any posts on social media about the Companion Orders are either restricted to groups, pages and websites that are open to all Orders or, if destined for Craft specific areas, are posted via a moderator to ensure they are a welcome additions to the news feed.

## The Shop@86

[Click Here](#) to visit the Shop@86 website



## MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

The new-look MBF Stewardship Jewels have now been designed for the following Festivals:

[2023 West Yorkshire](#)

[2024 Cheshire](#)

[2025 Oxfordshire](#)

[2026 Hampshire & IOW](#)

[2027 Warwickshire](#)

[2028 Somerset](#)

[2029 Durham](#)

[2030 Essex](#)

We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.

The 2029 Festival Stewardship Jewel for Durham is now in stock and available for delivery.





















We reported recently that the new style MBF Festival Stewardship is aimed principally, but not exclusively, at members of each host Festival Province.

In return for a qualifying donation of £100, each Steward will be entitled to:

- A distinctive Stewards' breast jewel, year bar and pocket jewel holder.
- Inclusion of their name in the Festival Stewards' Roll of Honour in the Festival booklet
- And for individuals making their first donation under the scheme, qualification as a Life Governor of the Mark Benevolent Fund – the first step on the ladder of honorifics.



Monies raised by the take-up of Festival Stewardships will, of course, be included in each respective Festival total.

## Admin Departments @86



All departments and teams at Mark Masons' Hall are available via email and telephone to help and support members and visitors.

Most communication for Masonic Administration should go via the Provincial Secretary, or equivalent, and they will know who to contact here at M.M.H. if they are unable to answer the query themselves.

Published by the Communications Team at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL

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