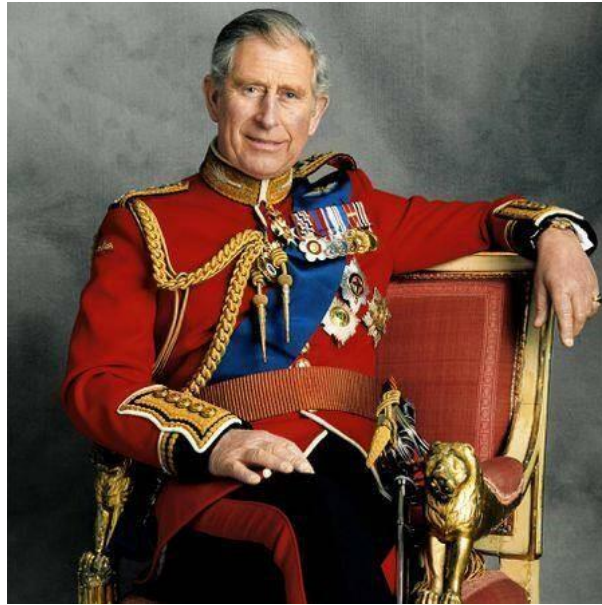




Freemasonry@86 News - 5 May 2023





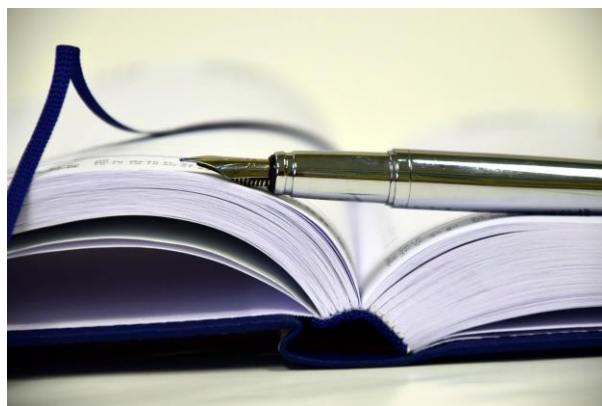
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

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

Tuesday, 13 June - Mark Grand Lodge June Investiture meeting, 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

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

As London prepares for the Coronation...















Views from around Mark Masons' Hall and St James's Street, with thanks to Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager.

Scarlet Cord Grand Senatus plus 4th and 5th Grade Conferrals



It's been a busy week in the Scarlet Cord with the Most Distinguished Grand Summus and his team engaged in Wednesday's conferrals of the 4th and 5th Grades, followed on Thursday by the Annual Convocation of Grand Senatus, all held at Mark Masons' Hall.

First up was the 5th Grade Conferral with 35 Candidates in attendance to receive the Grade in recognition of their continuing devoted service to the Order.

A buffet lunch was served before the Conferral team returned to the Grand Temple to receive a further 69 Candidates ready to be admitted to the 4th Grade, another award of merit for service to the Order.



The two ceremonies successfully completed, the Grand Summus and his Officers quickly had to turn their attentions to Thursday's meeting of Grand Senatus.

This saw the Grand Temple filled to capacity with representatives from across the Constitution worldwide.

Following the initial items of business, the Deputy Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Francis Charles Spencer, proposed the re-election of Ian Stanley Currans as Grand Summus. This was seconded by the President of the Executive Committee, R.Dist.Comp. Trevor Currans. The proposition was confirmed with acclamation from the Companions present and the Grand Summus was duly Proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, Phillip Purves.

The Grand Summus then announced he would be re-appointing first, R.Dist.Comp. Francis Charles Spencer as Deputy Grand Summus, and then R.Dist.Comp. Howard Saul Markham as Assistant Grand Summus.



These re-appointments having been announced and Proclaimed, it was time to appoint and invest the other active Grand Officers of the year, followed by those receiving Promotion in, or appointment to, Grand Rank.

After the last recipient had been invested the Grand Recorder announced that this completed the appointment and investiture of the Officers. But the Grand Summus had a surprise in store as he turned to the newly appointed Grand Episcopus, R.Dist.Comp. Charles Aspinell. The Grand Summus explained to the Companions that though it was unconventional for a Past Assistant Grand Summus to be appointed to a lower active Grand Rank, R.Dist.Comp. Charles had been very pleased to accept the offer and was looking forward to fulfilling the considerable duties required. In recognition of this typical willingness to serve, the Grand Summus was delighted to confer on R.Dist.Comp. Charles the Rank of Past Deputy Grand Summus. This was greeted with warm applause from all present.

Following further items of business, the Grand Summus took the opportunity to address Grand Senatus.

He highlighted the growth of the Order, now at its largest membership number ever, and the importance of our Companions also continuing their activity in the Order of the Secret Monitor as our recruiting ground.

He went on to greet all the Provincial and District Grand Summi he had the pleasure of appointing since the last Convocation, and the Grand Inspector for the Inspectorate of France, where the team had enjoyed their visit last October.

The Scarlet Cord has seen considerable growth in the last twelve months and there are already a number of Consecrations planned in the next six months, as well as a return visit to France.

The heads of other Orders were then welcomed, as were visitors from overseas.

Finally, there were thank you's to the Grand Recorder and the Secretariat at MMH, the G.D.C. and his ceremonial team, and, most importantly, all those who make the Order work, whether at Consistory, Provincial/District, or Grand level.

M.Dist.Comp. Ian expressed his gratitude to everyone in these categories for helping keep the Order strong and vibrant.

There being no further business, Grand Senatus was closed and Companions retired to refreshment where, after three very successful meetings, the Grand Summus and his team were finally able to relax and reflect on a job well done.

You can find a gallery of photographs from Grand Senatus [Here](#), and from the 4th grade Conferral [Here](#), courtesy of Dist.Comp., Chris Eley.



In a corner of the Cheshire Universe, not so far away...



On what has become known in pop culture as “International Star Wars Day” (May the fourth), Mark Provincial Grand Master Gary Horstman, together with a small battalion of Provincial “stormtroopers” attended the Stayley Mark in Hyde, to witness the Installation of the Craft Provincial Grand Master, David Dyson into the chair of Stayley Mark Lodge.

The Ceremony was well conducted, and R.W.Bro. Gary congratulated W.Bro. David on attaining the chair, and also took the opportunity to thank him for the close working relationship that was now steadily growing between our respective Orders.

Whilst it was an excellent night, sadly it made for a pretty poor film script, with only friendship and support being displayed, and no exciting lightsaber duels etc- but at least the Masonic light shines brightly forth across the Province of Cheshire and beyond.

To be continued ...



Taking a break from ceremonial duties, Assistant Provincial Grand Master John Miller was pleased to take part in this interview with members of the Province of Cheshire:



Q, You have been in office as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master for close on a year now, and appointment that took a lot of people by surprise.

Can you recall how your appointment came about?

A, to be honest I was as surprised as everyone else when I first received the call from our PGM, and I recall it was quite a long conversation. He firstly advised me that the former APGM had decided to step down and asked me if I would consider taking that role on, which was a bit of a shock in many respects. However, we chatted through what the role involved, the Challenges ahead, the levels of commitment required (both time and indeed financial) and he asked me to consider it.

To be honest it was the challenge of the role and the work ahead which was the main attraction, and I was pleased to embrace that challenge, and the opportunity of being involved with the new initiatives, and to give the role my best shot.

Q, how are you finding it so far?

A, one of the very first things I realised is there is no manual with the role, and the learning curve is quite steep! However, I have enjoyed great support from the Provincial team and Past Leaders and have been well received by all our Mark and RAM lodges.

It's also been great to enjoy a level of autonomy in the decision-making process, and of course very interesting to be involved in leadership initiatives, discussions and indeed decisions.

Q, Despite being the Deputy Festival Chairman, which I imagine takes up a fair amount of time, you are also involved in the various membership drives- How did that come about, and how do you manage this as well as your other duties?

A, to be honest I have worked closely with our Provincial Grand Master in the past, so I know that we are both of a similar outlook. We all work closely with the provincial Team and encourage them to take on a role or aspect, without overloading them, and it's this coordinated approach which greatly helps when we manage the various aspects we are steadily working on.

On the Festival of course our Chairman Steve Simpson and I again work closely, and we are similarly working with the festival team to ensure that our final year of Fundraising is as successful as it deserves to be for the 2024 Festival, and that the team works well together.

The Membership initiative really sprang from the work started when I was asked if I could look into the future of and assist in saving Fidelity mark nr 31, one of our oldest lodges, but who were struggling post pandemic with members.

I set about this, meeting the Lodge (establishing their desire to work with us) and we managed to find four or five local joining members, who for whatever reason had left the Mark in recent years, but who have since joined.

Fidelity has recently advanced its first new member in a few years, and is shortly holding an Open-Door meeting, with a view to introducing the mark degree to suitable potential candidates, so has in many respects turned the corner and is now again sustainable going forward.

Shortly after taking over as APGM, we recognised the need for a new membership strategy and approach, aimed to maintain sustainability of our existing Lodges, and so the idea of creating a team for that purpose was born.

Q, you mention the Open-Door Meetings- what are they, and how do they differ from the previous Friendship meetings?

A, having appointed a small select team to assist, which ultimately is now headed by Russ Dodd, we firstly looked at the friendship meeting presentation, which was to be fair over 20 years old, and whilst in its day was a very successful document and approach, was we felt a little dated and in need of review, but equally we looked at how a presentation is delivered.

In the past this was largely left to the individual Lodges to present, which from experience had varying results, and we decided that a more hybrid approach should be used, with a Provincial team working with the Lodge officers to between them undertake the demonstration, the idea being that a more polished result would be achieved.

The actual Open-door document was produced by Russ Dodd, Keith Evans and Graeme Sambrook, and with the additional members including Simon Wall, Simon Porter, and Derek Scott, the core demonstration team was born.

It was trialled at Dukinfield Mark (whom had approached us for help again with low numbers being their main issue) in January, the very first time our PGM and indeed new Deputy had seen it, to great success, with all 7 of the none Mark Masons attending having since been advanced into various Mark Lodges (albeit one or two ended up in East Lanc's!).

The evening also featured a "fun" festive board, in that case an old English Night, ran by Peter Conroy, and the emphasis was not on a hard sell- more on an increased awareness with the potential candidate sat next to their potential sponsor, to ask any questions and enjoy themselves.

Although Dukinfield didn't immediately pick up any new candidates from that meeting, two who had joined in our neighbouring province have now applied to join, and they I'm informed they in turn will

be proposing a further two new members for advancement at the next meeting, with the application forms already in hand.

The emphasis of the open door is about providing the information in a relaxed and fun way, including an enjoyable festive board, with no “hard sell” as such- it’s more about the potential candidate enjoying themselves, and engaging in the “find out more” conversation, and making their own mind up.

Q, you mentioned Dukinfield Mark, and of course there is I understand a new RAM being Consecrated soon, the Benjamin Addy Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners. Can you tell me how that came about?

A, when we were looking into the sustainability of Dukinfield, we also noted that Ashton and District Mark (who also meet in the same Hall) equally had a smaller than average number of members, about half of whom were members of RAM degree, but in our neighbouring Province, and not Cheshire.

Seeing how successful a RAM that meets on the same evening, immediately before the Mark Lodge can be- with time and financial savings for our brethren who are still working (two meetings 1 meal) we looked into the feasibility of introducing a RAM to that Hall, meeting in rotation before the two Mark lodges, which of course would hopefully boost attendance- which certainly works for other Lodges across the Province.

Having initially discussing the idea with Bill Emery from Dukinfield, he approach Ashton and District, and uncovered a great level of support to consecrate a new RAM lodge between them, and so far I’m aware that they have 27 founders who have been included in the application, and 7 prospective candidates for Elevation, so fingers crossed, the team looking after this, which includes Bill, Barrie Sant and Steve Headdock, will be successful in their submission, with a potential consecration date hopefully, all things being equal, early in 2024.

Q, can elaborate on the “Magic of the Mark” and Travelling Maul initiatives?

A, the Magic of the Mark was a national initiative introduced by Grand Mark, but with each Province able to put its own introduction and indeed identity to it.

The aim is to increase positive awareness of our Order, and from that increase our numbers, and the material or medium we are using is of course the trifold leaflets, which should now be available at each of our Masonic Halls and the business cards with QR codes directing the recipient to Magic of the Mark video.

We ask our members to pass these to none Mark members, so they may find out more or start the conversation.

The Travelling Maul initiative is really a revisit to the similar idea of the Travelling Ashlar, but with a slight difference. When the maul is claimed, it attends the claiming Lodges next meeting, accompanied by one of the Provisional Leaders, and several acting provincial officers, which hopefully may make it an even more interesting meeting for the new candidate(s).

However, to ensure there are no diary clashes, the Maul claim can be pre-booked, by emailing us and we can then advise the when and where the claim can be made and commit to attending the advancement or elevation at your Cheshire lodge.

Q, so what is an Adoniram Nugget?

A, this is essentially a small presentation of about 10 minutes which can be delivered in a Royal Arch Chapter for the Companions, giving them information about our friendly degree - again something that comes under our membership team, who can be reached by email.

Q, apart from the 2024 Festival, what else are you currently working on?

A, that would be telling! On the membership front we will continue to look at taking the Open door and Adoniram Nuggets across the province, with the Open-door meetings ideally hosted by a Mark Lodge that needs a bit of a membership boost.

We are also of course looking to retention of our existing members, and support promotion for the Royal Ark mariner degree, something we aim to introduce after the summer break.

From a festival perspective I'm working with the team to ensure the MMH challenge goes without a hitch, and that we have a full suitable list of events for the final year of our Festival.

Beyond that we are of course still quite busy visiting and supporting lodges across the province until the Summer, I almost said break, but behind the scenes we will be working hard for next season.

Of course, our immediate focus remains the sesquicentenary celebrations in June and looking further ahead to the culmination of the 2024 festival, at the banquet planned at the Concord suite in Manchester Airport, in July of that year (details to follow).

Q, have you got a message or anything you would like to say to our brethren?

A, I'd like to thank them for their help and support that we have received and hope that continues.

We are seeing a lot of advancements and indeed elevations across our province, and although the information is of course very much a moving target and won't be available until mid-summer, the trend is one of small steady growth, something we all need to work to maintain if we can.

However, I was reminded a few weeks back that perhaps one of the most important things we can all do, is to contact any members that we haven't seen in our lodges recently, and just see if they are ok, and invite them back along to a meeting.

Of course, post pandemic we will see a number of members who may still be cautious about returning, and if we are not careful they may not return at all, if we don't maintain that contact.

As an order, we pride ourselves as being the friendly degree, so surely, we should all look to keep in friendly contact with those members and even past members we haven't seen for a while, and perhaps remind them about how much they enjoyed our lodges.

As a member of the provincial team, I look forward to continuing to the visit and support our Mark and Ram Lodges across the Province, and to enjoy the company of the Cheshire Brethren when we can.

Knights Templar Church Service held at a well-filled Margam Abbey



On Sunday, 23 April 2023, the Provincial Church Service of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales of the United Religious Military and Masonic Order of the Temple (Knights Templar) was held at Margam Abbey.

R.E.Kt. Rev. Malcolm C.G. Lane, K.C.T., who is both the Great Prelate of the United Orders and the Provincial Prelate of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales, presided over the Service in the Margam Abbey Church which was full with Members of the Order in their K.T. Regalia, their relatives and friends.

The Service was held in the presence of the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Dr Paul Calderwood, and the Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt. Richard Phillips, who were accompanied by Right Eminent Kt. Dr Viv Thomas, K.C.T., Most Eminent and Reverend Grand Master of the Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City of the Rectified Scottish Rite of England and Wales.

Under the supervision of E.Kt. Carl Davies, Deputy Great Marshal and Provincial Marshal, the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard provided an Honour Guard as the Banners of the Preceptories within the Province were paraded into the Church, carried by their Preceptory Banner Bearers and accompanied by their Eminent Preceptors, followed by the Provincial Party, Great Officers and Distinguished Guests.

The Banners were blessed by the Provincial Prelate before being located in their order around the doors to the church during the ceremony.

The Provincial Prior welcomed everyone to the service and expressed his thanks to all for their presence and support.

The Provincial Prelate conducted the ceremony and gave a very thoughtful and encouraging eulogy before closing the service.

The Banners, followed by the Provincial Party, then paraded out of the church through the Honour Guard of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard before forming an Honour Guard for all the relatives and guests as they were leaving the church.

With thanks to E.Kt. Chris Mugford Prov.Swd.B., Province of Monmouth and South Wales.

Photos by Kt. A.R. Davies (Fforest Preceptory No. 582) and Ms. Bev Gulley (Margam Abbey Church)

































Cumba Preceptory No. 476



Cumba Preceptory No. 476, in the Province of Somerset staged a Charity Luncheon, held in aid of The Jerusalem Eye Hospital and Somerset Sight.

Following a number of successful social events held to celebrate Somerset Province's 175th Anniversary, Cumba Preceptory No.476 in Crewkerne decided earlier this year to hold a Charity Burns Luncheon at a near-by and popular meeting place, the 'Medieval style Barn' at Haslebury Mill, Haselbury Pluncket, Somerset. This initiative was coordinated by a social subcommittee comprising of E.Kts. Alan McMurray, Jim McNally, Clive Sanders and John Bateman.

The venue was quite appropriate, especially as the Preceptory takes its name from Cumba or Combe (now Templecombe) the site of the old Preceptory or "Medieval" Commandery in Somerset of the Knights Templar (1185-1313) and later the Knights Hospitaller (1313-1540).

To say the event was a success would be an understatement. With the assistance of Bro. Graham McKenzie–Green (a local Craft Lodge member and true Scotsman) many Knights and guests were treated to a splendid occasion, of fine food, flute and bagpipe playing, an impassioned address to the Haggis and superb recitals of selected ‘Rabbie’ Burns poems.



To top the proceedings the Raffle held raised a substantial sum not only for our own Knight Templar Masonic charity – the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital <https://www.stjohnehospital.org/> - but also for a local charity, ‘Somerset Sight’ - Working with people who lack sight not vision. Details of which can be found via this link <https://www.somersetsight.org.uk/>

Prior to the raffle a detailed explanation of the work of the two Charities was given. The Somerset Swift sculpture, given by the Eye Hospital, in recognition of a previous donation of £5,000.00 to the Eye Hospital by the Province was also proudly displayed. At the end of the proceedings a Guest, who was so swayed by the passion shown by our presentations, approached the committee members and the Right Eminent Provincial Prior. He outlined how he had identified a link with his own family’s sight problems and connections with Masonry and the Masonic Knights Templars Order. He immediately pledged a very generous donation of £6,000.00 in addition to the £400.00 already raised. Subsequently it was agreed that this final amount should be divided equally between the St John Eye Hospital Group and Somerset Sight and that a delegation of Knights from Cumba, including the Preceptory’s main benefactor, should make a personal visit to the local Charity, Head Office in Taunton.

Thus, on Wednesday, 19 April the visit was made and the amazing work undertaken by Somerset Sights was reinforced when the Knights met staff and volunteers and were invited to view and test the many visual aids available and to find out more on the bespoke help provided to people with visual impairment in Somerset.

This inspirational visit to such a worthwhile organisation concluded in fine form with tea and homemade cake provided by the Charity’s dynamic CEO – Jackie Sopwith.



However, it became clear that 'Somerset Sight' are the only local charity providing such crucial and necessary support. Following the presentation of the Preceptory's cheque, by the Right Eminent Provincial Prior it was acknowledged such a donation would make a R.E.Kt. Paul Davis (Provincial Prior for Somerset) significant difference to the Charity's fundraising.



In conclusion, the Knights of Somerset who visited were so inspired to such an extent that the Cumba Preceptory are keen to continue supporting Somerset Sight and the sub-committee are considering further initiatives that may assist the CEO and her team – so watch this space and the 'Knights for Sight'.

Knights of the Vision Beautiful round-up



A Knight of the Vision Beautiful shows his Eminence

On Thursday, 27 April 2023 Faith Preceptory No. 13 held its installation meeting in Baildon Masonic Hall in West Yorkshire. For those of you that are members of Knights Templar, this is a more than two-hundred-year-old Preceptory with some wonderful traditions dating back to the early days of our modern Order. The Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Mark Christensen, was Installed in an exemplary manner by the Installing Preceptor and warmly greeted by the Knights of his Preceptory.



Mark is a 'Knight of the Vision Beautiful', raising vital funds for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, by taking part in their relays in recent years. In his case this has involved rowing and cold open water swimming!

Mark had yet to be invested with his Team Vest and socks... so the Captain of the Team took the opportunity to spend some time in lovely Yorkshire (training for his own challenges) before attending this daylight meeting to formally investing Mark under any other business. He brought many congratulations and thanks from the Knights of the Vision Beautiful and the Eye Hospital.



On to Bladud Preceptory No. 40

Faith Preceptory meeting at 11:00... the Captain of the Knights of the Vision Beautiful never claiming to be sane... his wife, being an excellent driver, very understanding and a member of the Team...* she immediately drove him 226 miles to Bath, Somerset in order to attend a meeting of Bladud Preceptory No. 40.









*There have in fact been Dames of the Vision Beautiful

The Preceptory enjoyed an excellent meeting, welcoming a deputation from Exmoor Preceptory No. 638 presenting the Somerset Sword of Chivalry. This is an initiative to promote visiting and chivalric fraternity established by the late Provincial Prior for Somerset, Right Eminent Knight Barry Burrige, K.C.T. More information is available on the Provincial Priory website <https://somersekt.org.uk/swordofchivalry.html>



The Eminent Preceptor of Bladud then Installed one of his oldest friends as a Knight Templar in an exemplary manner followed by a splendid Festive Board in the beautiful atmosphere at the historic Bath Masonic Hall. A visit to both of these locations is highly recommended to any Knight or member of our Orders.

...and there is more to come at the Grand Master's Bodyguard Preceptory

On Tuesday, 16 May the Grand Master's Bodyguard Preceptory No. 715 will firstly Install its second Eminent Preceptor and Prior in the person of E.Kt. Adam Lancashire, Deputy Commander of the Bodyguard. He will be Installed by the Commander of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master's Bodyguard, E.Kt. Mark Winchester. The Preceptory meets twice per year at Mark Masons' Hall the day before the Great Priory meeting to give the United Orders' premier swordsmen the chance to warm up the day before they spring into action to ceremonially defend the head of the Knights Templar and Malta.

If that were not sufficient reason to visit, a Team made up of the Captain and members of the Knights of the Vision Beautiful will be demonstrating an abridged version of the Ceremony of Reception to the Order used by the original Knights Templar from the Twelfth to Fourteenth Century. The reality of what the original Knights did was far more fascinating than the myths and false history that has grown up around it since 1307. The Knights ask nothing in recompense for conducting this demonstration, simply inviting those attending to consider making an additional personal donation to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, perhaps via their appeal.

If you would be interested in visiting the Grand Master's Bodyguard at this meeting, or subsequently, please feel free to contact their Registrar, E.Kt. Peter Doust,** via GMBGPreceptory@gmail.com



**Pictured here completing his own slot as a Knight of the Vision Beautiful

If your Preceptory would be interested in receiving the demonstration, please feel free to contact the Knights of the Vision of the Beautiful via the details below.

And finally... The 2023 Monopoly Board Challenge for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

On Saturday, 22 July 2023 the Knights and Dames of the Vision Beautiful will be undertaking their next Team Challenge for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. The Team will be dashing around London to each of the locations on the traditional Monopoly Board. Rather than a relay, this time it is an opportunity to engage in a fun personal challenge, whilst viewing some of the great sights of the Capital, before a social get together in a famous hostelry on the final square.

It may be of interest that it is set to pass Mark Masons' Hall, 10 Duke Street St James's and Freemason's Hall.

Most will complete this on foot, but cyclists are very welcome also. The conventional route works out at around a half marathon, with distances varying to suit different personal challenges. If demand, requires it can be adapted for different locations...

Having raised in excess of £30,000 to date, the Team hopes to collect more than £200 and very much not to go to gaol.

Why the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital?

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is the only charitable provider of expert eye care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, treating patients regardless of ethnicity, religion or ability to pay. A high percentage of its patients are vulnerable children, 30% overall last year and 40% in some locations, with many of the others being the elderly. Due to conditions in the region, they would

otherwise become blind or partially-sighted. By funding the Eye Hospital we are directly and greatly improving the lives of people with no other recourse.

The Hospital relies on annual fundraising and charitable donations to be able to complete its work. They recently noted: “We screen children throughout the region and our two paediatric specialists, and their teams provide a critical service to a population of over 2 million children. Funding our Children’s services means we can expand our provision of screening, treatments and paediatric surgeries. In 2022 we saw over 142,000 patients across our hospitals and clinics, and 38,000 were children under the age of 18.”

Since the inception of the modern Order (the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem with its St John Ambulance and St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital), it has shared membership with Knights Templar. This included both Queen Victoria, as head of one and Grand Patron of the other, and the future King Edward VII. The first St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital was built in the Nineteenth Century as a modern recreation of the Hospital of St John to treat the biggest medical crisis in the region at the time: vision. Last year our Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master reopened the newly refurbished Children’s Ward confirming our commitment to helping the young and vulnerable. It has been the primary and recommended charity of the Knights Templar for more than a century and we should be justly proud of all the good work we have done together.

The Team

The Knights of the Vision Beautiful includes very determined and dedicated members that have overcome many personal challenges to push on and support the Eye Hospital. Examples include, Peter Doust himself, who experienced a heart episode in 2021, requiring CPR from his partner to bring him back. He has overcome this to become one of our very dedicated cyclists. Likewise, Scan fought back from a broken back and Simon from a life-threatening crash the hospital did not consider he could survive. Antony Legge recovered from an early and very bad case of coronavirus to join the Team, whilst his excellent wife has also balance raising two children to cycle and run great lengths for the Team including standing in for others at the last minute. Their eldest member, John Campbell, is in his Seventies and cycled fifty miles in last year’s three-day relay. Their second eldest completed a more than 500 km Pilgrimage from Spain to Portugal last year. Each Knight and Dame has shown their dedication to the Precepts of the Order, which primarily relate to assisting others and living a Christian life.



Their Captain has overcome his own near death from blood clots, lung and heart failure, sight-damage and other injuries to complete personal challenges. In 2020, when Coronavirus limited his own challenges, he founded the Team to seek to expand the fundraising and prevent progress stalling. Since then the Knights and Dames have completed four relays ranging from 24 hours to three days across the country. (He is pictured below completing the third of three Marathons in

fifteen days – in spite of a damaged hip, completing thirty miles with multiple injuries including broken ribs and after a more than five-hour dash through the snow overnight – he never claimed to be sane).



The Team also has its own Chaplain, Rev. Niall Johnston, Provincial Prelate for London and Deputy Great Almoner. He is pictured here available for Chaplaincy Services during the London Marathon; running a pilgrim prayer service for the Team at Wells Cathedral; wearing Team socks in the Eye Hospital Peace Garden in Jerusalem; and even taking part in the last relay.







Would you like to join the Team and take part in this or other Challenges? You do not have to go to such crazy lengths: your participation should be tailored to what amounts to a challenge to you. If you would like to take part and help raise charitable funds, please contact their Captain via: Knights.of.the.Vision@gmail.com

You can also follow their events on Twitter: @KnightsVision

Instagram: @KnightsoftheVision

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/Knights-of-the-Vision-Beautiful

...and to donate via their appeal for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, to save the sight of vulnerable patients and change their lives for the better (always ensuring it is without detriment to yourself or connections), please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Vision-Beautiful>























Half-century for Hartley Council No. 74



On 31 January 1973 Hartley Council No. 74 was Consecrated at Wilmington in Kent and this year's marks the 50th Anniversary. W.Bro. Philip Clare, P.G.I.G., Dist.G.S.W., was Installed as the 50th Master and he addressed the Brethren as follows:

"It is indeed an honour and privilege to be again installed as WM of Hartley Council No. 74 as the 50th Anniversary Master. It was 17 years ago that I first occupied this chair, incidentally this also marks the end of me being treasurer, also for 17 years.

The Council was consecrated on 31st January 1973 and initially met at Wilmington, along with Temple Builders Conclave No. 250 O.S.M. and Frederick William Friday Conclave No. 336 R.C.C. Hartley stayed there for over 20 years until it moved, along with Temple Builders, to Welling in 1996, Fred Friday stayed at Wilmington for some unknown reason. In 2001 the three were reunited at Shirley Woolmer and soon became known as the '*Sidcup Saturday Club*'. This has proved very successful and all three of the units are the strongest in Kent in their respective degrees. In recent years these units have provided seven Heads of Orders in Kent

In the last 50 years we have seen many faces come and go, but in all that time R.W.Bro. Terry Bowler has been one of the brightest shining lights of this Council. He was a founder and has been an active member not only in this Council, but also to the Order in Kent. He was the Deputy District Grand Prefect for nine years and in 2013 the Grand Master acknowledge Terry's service with a promotion to P.G.S.W. Within Hartley we recognised his devoted service and he was made an honorary member of this Council in 2016.

31st January 1973 was a day when not much happened, the history books tells us. PANAM airline decided NOT to buy Concorde; Jack MacGowran died at the age of 54; he was an Irish actor who the previous year finished filming for the Exorcist, which ironically was the number one box office film on this day.

Sweet were number 1 in the music charts with 'Blockbuster' and Slade had the number 1 album with 'Slayed?'

In 1973 the League was won by Leeds United; Liverpool were second and Derby County were third; In Formula 1 the title was won by Sir Jackie Stewart; In the five nations rugby the result was a 5-way tie for the title. (There were no bonus points or points difference taken into consideration.) All countries won their two home games and lost their two away ones. This has never happened since! Jan Kodes won the men's and Billie Jean-King defended her title at Wimbledon; Cambridge won the boat race and the Grand National was won by Red Rum.

Ted Heath the local MP for Sidcup was also the Prime Minister; The Watergate Scandal was just starting to heat up in early 1973. Other notable events, HM Queen Elizabeth opened the Sydney Opera House; USA President Nixon orders a ceasefire in Vietnam War; the UK joined the EEC and we were at war with Iceland over Cod.

Being a policeman, I am interested in crime. 1973 saw Fred and Rosemary West commit one of their many murders. The IRA bombed Kings Cross and Euston Stations, they detonated a car bomb in Thorney Street, just off Horseferry Road and then detonated another car bomb outside the Old Bailey. The only fatality recorded was at the Old Bailey, when someone died of heart attack, attributed to the blast.

I look forward to a happy and full year, with your support I know we will have a good time".

With thanks to W.Bro. Phil Clare, P.G.I.G.

O.S.M. and S.C. in Sussex by the Sea



The 2023 Annual Meetings of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Sussex and the Provincial Grand Conclave of Sussex took place on Saturday, 29 April at the East Brighton Masonic Centre at Peacehaven.

It was a lovely sunny day for a trip to the seaside. We were warmly welcomed on our arrival by our Sussex friends.



Especially the Provincial Grand Summus/Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Dries van der Burgh, seen here with Dist.Comp. Angus Cameron.



There were honoured guests from many Provinces.



Including the Assistant Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Howard S Markham.



And Heads of other Orders in Sussex.



Once everyone was seated in the Temple, Companions were called to order to receive the Right Distinguished Companions.



The meeting was called to order by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, to receive the Provincial Officers of the year.



The Provincial Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Dries van der Burgh, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearer entered in procession through an Arch of Steel.



Provincial Grand Senatus was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Summus, who was saluted under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. Provincial Grand Senatus was then pleased to receive the Assistant Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Howard S. Markham, who entered under an Arch of Steel, was welcomed by the Provincial Grand Summus who offered him the baton. The Assistant Grand Summus politely declined saying that the Province has a lot of work to get through that morning. The Assistant Grand Summus was saluted under the direction of his Escorting Officer, Dist.Comp. Toby Pratt, Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.



After the regular business of Provincial Grand Senatus had been completed, the Provincial Grand Summus announced that he was re-appointing Dist.Comp. Ronald W Collins as Deputy Provincial Grand Summus and Dist.Comp. Paul D Swarbrick, *JP*, as Assistant Provincial Grand Summus.

After appointing or promoting the Officers of Provincial Grand Senatus for the ensuing year the Provincial Grand Summus addressed Provincial Grand Senatus. In his Address he said thank you to his D.C. and Recorder and their teams for all they had done to make the meeting such a success. He said that if there was one thing he wanted everyone to take away from the meeting it was the need to focus on membership, recruiting and retaining new members. He congratulated those Companions who will be receiving Grand Rank at the upcoming meeting of Grand Senatus. He individually welcomed all the honoured guests, thanking them for their support for the Provincial Grand Senatus of Sussex.



The Provincial Grand Summus invited the Assistant Grand Summus to address the meeting. R.Dist.Comp. Howard Markham complemented the Provincial Grand Summus on presiding over an excellent meeting. He brought greetings from our Grand Summus. He said that our Order is going from strength to strength. With 8 new Consistories being Consecrated between now and the end of the year we are the fastest growing Order administered by Mark Masons' Hall. He congratulated those Companions receiving their 4th and 5th Grades the next week, plus those receiving appointment or promotion at Grand Senatus. He ended by saying what a delight it has been for him to be with us all this morning.

The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form. The Provincial Grand Summus, the Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Summus, together with the Assistant Grand Summus, honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.





Greeting their guests on the way out.



The Temple was then rearranged for the meeting of the Provincial Grand Conclave of Sussex, presided over by R.Wy.Bro. Dries van der Burgh, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.



There were honoured guests from many Provinces, including the Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Keith B Ferguson.



And Heads of other Orders in Sussex.



The Brethren were called to order to receive the Right Worthy Brethren.



The meeting was called to order by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Wy.Bro. Angus Cameron, to receive the Provincial Officers of the year.



The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Dries van der Burgh, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer, and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearer entered in procession through an Arch of Steel.



Provincial Grand Conclave was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, who was saluted under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. Provincial Grand Conclave was then pleased to receive the Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Keith B. Fergusson, who entered under an Arch of Steel, and was welcomed by the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler. The Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler was saluted under the direction of his Escorting Officer.



After the regular business of Provincial Grand Conclave had been completed, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler announced that he was re-appointing Wy.Bro. Tan Rusby as Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.

After appointing or promoting the Officers of Provincial Grand Conclave for the ensuing year the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler addressed Provincial Grand Conclave. In his Address he said he would repeat what he said in Provincial Grand Senatus earlier – the need to focus on membership, recruiting and retaining new members. We need to support the Craft as that is from where our new members will come. He welcomed all the honoured guests, thanking them for their support for the Provincial Grand Conclave of Sussex.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler invited the Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler to address the meeting. R.Wy.Bro. Keith Ferguson complemented the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler on a well-run meeting congratulating those who had received appointment or promotion that day.

The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form. The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, and the Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler, together with honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.





Afterwards the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and the Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler returned to the Temple for some photos with their honoured guests.



And members of his team.



After refreshments in the bar,



we made our way into the dining room where the Brethren and Companions of the Province of Sussex and their guests sat down to a most convivial meal.



This was a joint Scarlet Cord and O.S.M. Festive Board with R.Wy.Bro. Keith Fergusson and R.Dist.Comp. Howard Markham as the guests of honour.





While taking wine with everyone,



the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler/Provincial Grand Summus said how pleased he was to welcome to the lunch the Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of Sussex, R.W.Bro. Chris Moore, and the Provincial Prior of the Provincial Priory of Sussex, R.E.Kt. Colin Dan.



In proposing the toast to the Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler and the Assistant Grand Summus the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler/Provincial Grand Summus thanked them both for coming along to make this a very special day for the Brethren and Companions of Sussex.



Thanks from all the guests to Dries, David and the Companions and Brethren of Sussex for their kind hospitality.



What better way to end a most enjoyable day at the seaside than an ice cream on the pier.

Article and photos by Chris Eley



Provincial Grand Senatus of Cheshire & North Wales



Bright sunshine and a fresh, morning breeze greeted our early arrival at Cheshire View, Christleton, for the 2023 annual Provincial Grand Senatus for the Scarlet Cord Province of Cheshire & North Wales.

As we entered the building, the lovely weather was matched by the smiling welcome from Comp. Andy Tong who was stationed by the door to register our attendance and point us in the direction of the fresh coffee!

We had arrived early to make ourselves useful in the final preparations within the Temple, most of which had been completed the previous evening by the Provincial Director of Ceremonies and a small team of volunteers. It also gave us a chance to 'catch-up' with friends and Companions from around the Province before the Prov.G.D.C. called us to Order for the scheduled rehearsals. At the same time, Dist.Comp. Geoff Glover was rounding-up his Company of Tzaddikim for their own final preparations.

In the meantime, visiting Provincial Grand Summi and other distinguished visitors were arriving from all points of the compass, and there was a happy buzz of conversation in the anterooms as Companions renewed old friendships and no doubt made some new ones.

The remaining time passed swiftly, until we were due to take our places to greet the Procession of visiting Provincial Grand Summi, followed by the Procession of our own Provincial Grand Summus supported by his Provincial Team.

In addition to the usual administrative business the Provincial Grand Summus gave his annual Address, appointed, and invested his new Deputy, and appointed and invested his Provincial Officers of the Year.

The Provincial Grand Summus also inspected his Provincial Tzaddikim and thanked them for their support at his Consistory visits throughout the year.



The Provincial Grand Summus introduced each of the visiting Provincial Grand Summi individually to the assembly, along with those Distinguished Companions who had accompanied them from their various Provinces. The Visiting Summi each responded, producing some good-natured banter which was much appreciated by the Companions.

Provincial Grand Senatus was closed, and the Companions sang the Welsh Anthem, followed by the first verse of the National Anthem, before the Provincial Grand Summus and his Officers retired in Procession.

We quickly re-assembled for the photographs you see here, before going downstairs to enjoy a delightful luncheon in the main dining room. All agreed that we had enjoyed a splendid Provincial Grand Senatus.

Report: Barrie S Billinge.



Investiture of a new Deputy Provincial Grand Summus



The Provincial Grand Summus for Cheshire & North Wales, R.Dist.Comp. Christopher Welton, confirmed the appointment of a new Deputy Provincial Grand Summus and instructed the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to retire to ascertain that Dist.Comp. John Thomson was present. Upon confirmation, the Prov.G.D.C. formed an Escort to retire, in order to admit Dist.Comp. John Thomson in Procession under the due guard of the Provincial Tzaddikim.

Before hearing the reading of his Patent, and inviting him to take his Solemn Obligation, the Prov.G.Summus delivered the following summary of his personal and masonic career to Dist.Comp. John Thomson:

“Distinguished Companion Thomson, you were born in Scotland, and still have a trace of a Scots accent. (*laughter!*) Your father was a serving Police Officer and after several house moves with his job your family finally settled permanently in Shotts.

You did not follow in your father’s footsteps but chose to make a career for yourself in the electrical industry where you have had significant success and are now a freelance Engineering Consultant with an impressive CV and some major clients.

You have known tragedy in your life, you married Yvonne in 1992 but sadly she passed away on Valentines Day 1997 just before her 25th birthday. You were later to find happiness again and now have two daughters and a stepdaughter.

At one time in your life, when you were still in Scotland, you had an interesting little side-line, breeding Rottweilers and training them for the German Police. You have had 19 Rottweilers in total during that time I understand.

You joined Masonry in Scotland at an early age and are a Lewis, your father being a Past Master of his Lodge, and later this year you will have been a Mason for 35 years.

You are presently Grand Sword Bearer in this Order and have also had the honour of being Grand Sword Bearer in the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees.

I also understand that 30th September this year will be a unique date on your Masonic journey because on that day you will be a Scot, Installed as Master of your Welsh Lodge which is Governed by the United Grand Lodge of England. Almost a full set of UK Nations!

John, you have worked hard for your Consistories and for this Province, and I have no doubt that you will prove to be a great asset to us going forward and I look forward to working with you as my Deputy Provincial Grand Summus.”

The Ceremony continued with Sincerity and suitable Solemnity, with the occasional light-relief (eg. when the Prov.G.S. told the D.C. he ought to have provided a stool to Invest John with the Collar and Jewel – see photo above, l to r Dist.Comp. John Thomson, Dep.Prov.G.S.; R.Dist.Comp. J. Christopher Welton, Prov.G.S.; Dist.Comp. Bob Jordan, TD, A.Prov.G.S.)

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	Refreshment Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Ends	Rolls Start	Assess. Ends
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMB, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - Individual Capacity	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 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	FMB, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Activities	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	FMB, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	FMB, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Activities	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMB, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	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	FMB, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2023	FMB, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	FMB, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - visit	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	FMB, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2023	FMB, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

06/09/2023

[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



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.

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)