

Freemasonry@86 News - 21 July 2023



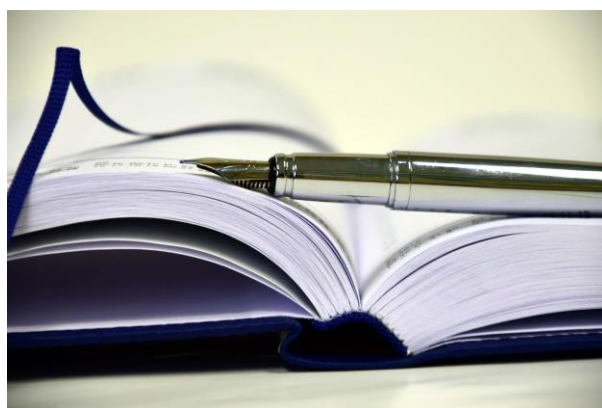
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

This bulletin is emailed only to those who use the free subscription service.

Please share this content with your fellow Brethren by forwarding this email or let them know that it's available on the [MMH website](#).

If you don't currently receive this email directly but would like to subscribe please email communications@mmh.org.uk

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.

Monday, 24 July - O.S.M. Installation of Wy.Bro. Stuart Robert Offord, P.G.St.B., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Norfolk

Tuesday, 25 July - O.S.M. Amalgamation of the Provinces of Durham and Northumberland into the North-East Province, and Installation of Wy.Bro. John David Watts, P.G.Swd.B., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler

Friday, 28 July - S.C. Consecration of Charlemagne Consistory No. 145, Province of Essex

Saturday, 26 August - O.S.M. Installation of Wy.Bro. Martyn William Greene, P.G.Swd.B., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for East Scotland

Wednesday, 30 August - S.C. Consecration of Wiivnhou Consistory No. 146, Province of Essex

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

Tuesday, 12 September - Mark Communication of Mark Grand Lodge and Investiture of recipients of promotions in Grand Rank, Freemasons' Hall, London

Thursday, 14 September - K.B.H.C. Annual meeting of Grand Priory, M.M.H., London

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

Mark Province of London's Annual Meeting



For those involved in the final preparations for the Mark Province of London's Annual Meeting on 13 July, the day started very early. With signage to put up, welcome packs to fill and rehearsals to perform it was very much a case of all hands on deck!



But the big moment finally arrived and several hundred brethren took their seats ahead of the processions along with a goodly number of Right Worshipful brethren.



The Provincial Grand Master's procession into Grand Temple was accompanied by the stirring swirl of the London Celtic Pipes and Drums.



And once he was seated, it was the turn of the Worshipful Masters, Worshipful Commanders and a very long procession of newly-Advanced brethren.



After which we then welcomed the arrival of the Assistant Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Prof. Denovan Keith Wilson.

The business of Provincial Grand Lodge was carried out with efficiency and good humour, which included seeing W. Bro. Marios Stylianides invested as London's newest Assistant Provincial Grand Master.



The appointment and investiture of the Provincial Grand Officers of the year saw the Provincial Grand Secretary - W.Bro. Robert Anderson P.G.Stwd - retire after 4 years of exemplary service and W.Bro. Gurdeep Virdee succeed him.



Robert was invested as Provincial Grand Senior Warden. The Assistant Grand Master then gave his Address during which he talked about the strong relationship with the Craft and the Grand Master's Keystone Fund. He also mentioned how much he had enjoyed the music and the processions – in particular the newly-Advanced brethren's procession which represented the 130 or so brethren who had joined the Province this year. The AGM went on to stress to those new members that "among Mark Master Masons you will ever find friends." Here the AGM is pictured with R.W.Bro. Tom Quinn (Provincial Grand Master) and his escorting officer V.W.Bro. Gary Allen P.Dep.G.D.C., Dep.Prov.G.M. (E. Anglia).



The Provincial Grand Master's Address which followed can be read [Here](#).

Once the meeting concluded, there were drinks in the bar before over 400 brethren sat down to dine in the Grand Connaught Rooms. Over dinner, the Provincial Grand Master sang one of his famous songs, this time based on a Gilbert & Sullivan tune.

All-in-all it was an excellent day, and a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. All the photos from the day can be seen [Here](#), but a small selection of photos from the day is in the slideshow [Here](#).

Article by W.Bro. Richard Criddle, Provincial Communications Manager; with thanks to W.Bro. Gary Carter, V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, W.Bro. Chris Stewart W.Bro. Gary Stratmann and Bro. Hiko Tanaka for the photographs

A big 'Thank You' to R.W.Bro. Kevin Hicks



Sunday, 16 July saw Members and their Families travel from all corners of the Mark Province of Cornwall and Overseas (Devon), to join the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Peter J. Furness, and for all to celebrate a "job well done" at the "Thank You" Lunch for the Past Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Kevin J. Hicks and his wife Sue.

A luncheon at the Tregenna Castle Hotel Carbis Bay, which saw well over two hundred members and their partners sitting down to a Sunday Lunch in the Cornish sunshine.

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Peter Furness, highlighted the enormous amount of masonic and charitable work Kevin had carried over his period as Provincial Grand Master.

He also gave thanks to Kevin on behalf of all the members of the Province for his leadership qualities, especially during Covid. When he set up numerous zoom meetings and newsletters to keep the brethren connected and informed as well as checking up on all his vulnerable members via an almoner's ring round system.

Kevin's wife Sue was presented with a voucher for a Hotel Spa Break and flowers, while Kevin received a commentative Keystone and a collection from all the members and lodges.

The Past Provincial Grand Master thanked all those who attended and especially his family who had joined him for this special day. He paid tribute to those who had served with him, over the nine years and reiterated that we must enjoy and embrace all aspects of Freemasonry.

With thanks to W.Bro. Simon Trevains, P.G.J.D., Prov.G.Sec.







The Magic of the Mark



18 months ago, the Centurion Lodge of MMM in the Province of Essex was close to handing its warrant back.

Thanks to the dedication, hard work and teamwork by its members and joining members, the Lodge was repurposed as a breakfast Lodge with a Roman theme.

The Lodge has grown from 8 members to its current membership of 21, with further candidate's lined up to join. They have a banner dedication planned for April next year. The Lodge meets at Fraternity Hall, Leigh-on-Sea three times a year on a Saturday in January, April and July (Installation).

They recently held their Installation meeting, and the report can be read by [Clicking Here](#)

If you would like to visit and witness its uniqueness, email their Secretary: centsec1804@gmail.com

With thanks to W.Bro. Dave Todd, P.Prov.G.Stwd.

Hands across the Provincial borders



At the Stroud Royal Ark Mariner meeting in the Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, W.Bro. Paul Rowlands, R.A.M.G.R., from Warwickshire attended to deliver the Explanation of the Royal Ark Mariner Tracing Board as the guest of the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Andy Fautley, Prov.G.Sec.

Also in attendance were R.W.Bro. Brian Gargett, Prov.G.M.; W.Bro. Paul Thomson, Prov.G.D.C.; and W.Bro. Bill Davies, Prov.R.A.M.G.R. (Warwickshire); who are all members of the Worcestershire Mark Golf Lodge, Fairways Lodge of M.M.M.s No. 1938.

With over 50 Brethren in attendance for the Elevation of Bro. Terance Paterson it was an excellent evening enjoyed by all

With thank to W.Bro. Paul Rowlands, R.A.M.G.R.

The K.T. Provincial Priory of Durham



The Provincial Priory of Durham held its Malta Meeting on Thursday, 13 July to a full room at Gateshead Masonic Hall. The Provincial Mareschal, E.Kt. Andrew Foster announced the arrival of the

Provincial Prior R.E.Kt. Richard Scott who was escorted into the priory under an Arch of Steel provided by members of the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard.

The Provincial Prior gave a warm welcome to those present.

The Priory was opened by the Provincial Sub-Prior E.Kt. Steve Allen.

Then followed an installation ceremony of a new Knight of Malta, which was conducted by the Provincial Sub-Prior, ably assisted by the Provincial Officers.

The Provincial Prior then appointed the Provincial Officers for the year 2023/2024, along with those appointed to past rank and promoted to past rank.

The Installation ceremony then continued.

Following which the Provincial Prior delivered his address, which included welcoming the distinguished guests from other orders and the Past Sub-Priors of the Province.

He then went on to congratulate the Candidate for the evening and the Officers that he had appointed, looking forward to their company at future meetings this year giving particular focus to the Malta degree.

There was also an update on the 2025 fundraising appeal started in 2021 for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. The target of £50,000, due to the generosity of the members this total has now been doubled to £100,000 which is a fantastic amount.

R.E.Kt. Richard finished by saying thank you to everyone for their enthusiasm and devotion to this order.

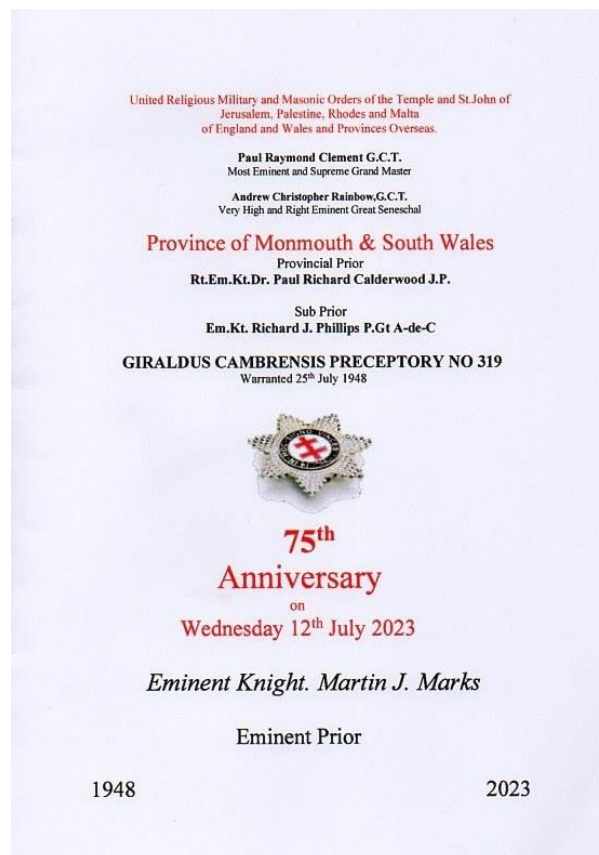
The Provincial Sub-Prior E.Kt. Steve Allen, then closed the Priory and the members retired to the festive board.

A sumptuous festive board was enjoyed by all, with new friendships made and old ones renewed.





Giraldus Cambrensis Preceptory No. 319 celebrates 75 continuous years at the Masonic Hall in Llanelli and also Installs a new Knight



On, 12 July 2023 the Giraldus Cambrensis Preceptory No. 319 celebrated the completion of 75 years at the Masonic Hall, Harries Avenue, Llanelli in the Province of Monmouth and South Wales, having had its Warrant granted on 25 July 1948. The Ceremony was held in the presence of E.Kt. Richard Phillips (Provincial Sub-Prior), V.E.Kt. Rev. Malcolm Lane, K.C.T., (Great Prelate and Provincial Grand Prelate) and V.E.Kt. Rev. W. D. Payne-Jeremiah (Past Great Prelate), a number of Great Officers including E.Kt. Lionel Hughes, P.Gt.A.-de-C.; E.Kt. M.V. Eckley, P.Std.B. (V.B.); and E.Kt. Carl Davies, P.Dep.G.Mar. (and Provincial Marshal); plus a number of Past and Present Provincial Grand Officers and Brother Knights.



An oration on the History of the Preceptory was given by E.Kt. M.V. Eckley who had extensively researched the subject. He mentioned that the Preceptory had been Consecrated at the Cardiff Masonic Hall on 29 October 1948 and that the Primus Preceptor had been Colonel Trevor Kelway – who was the Provincial Grand Master of the Craft Province of South Wales (Western Division) at the time - and that there is a Craft Lodge which meets at Llanelli named in his honour, the current Worshipful Master (E.Kt. Alun Littlejohns) being present at the Meeting.

Mention was also made of the considerable number of Members of the Preceptory who had attained high rank in the various Masonic Orders (photographs of many of them adorning the walls of the Hall Committee Room), two of whom are current Members of the Preceptory being E.Kt. Lionel Hughes (a Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master) and E.Kt. M.V. Eckley, who is the current Assistant Provincial Grand Master and has recently been announced as the Inspector General (Designate) for the District of Dyfed of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. The Oration was received by a lengthy and hearty round of applause.

A Ceremony of Installation of a new Knight was then held and Companion Adrian Thomas was warmly welcomed into the Order by the Eminent Preceptor E.Kt. Martin J. Marks assisted by the Chaplain, E.Kt. Lionel Hughes, the Preceptory Marshal, E.Kt. Dr. Johnathan Jones, together with contributions by E.Kt. Carl Davies, Provincial Marshal, and E. Kt. Tony Jones (a visitor). The new Knight is a very well-known Mason in West Wales holding Grand Rank in R.A.M. and the Red Cross of Constantine and also as the Director of Ceremonies in the Order of the Secret Monitor, Province of West Wales.

With thanks to E.Kt. Chris Mugford, P.Prov.Swd.B., ProvComms





A Busy Afternoon for the Weald of Surrey Council



The Installation meeting of the Weald of Surrey Council No. 309 took place at Nutfield in July. Present was our District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. David Blackburn, and four other Right Illustrious Companions, including the District Grand Master for Middlesex, R.III.Comp. Chris Lewis.

The Council was opened by the Thrice Illustrious Master, Ill.Comp. David Thompson, Deputy District Grand Master, and our District Grand Master was saluted under the direction of the Director of Ceremonies, Ill.Comp. Simon McCarthy. A ballot was taken for two joining members, Illustrious Companions Steve Jones and David Grimmer. This proved in their favour and the Companions were welcomed into the Council by Ill.Comp. David Thompson and congratulated by R.III.Comp. David Blackburn.

The next item on the agenda was to Install Ill.Comp. Chris Hatton as Thrice Illustrious Master. Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout was appointed and invested as Deputy Master and Ill.Comp. Simon McCarthy was appointed and invested as Principal Conductor of the Work.



The District Grand Master had much pleasure in presenting Ill.Comp. Jeff Penfold with his Thrice Illustrious Master Certificate.



A Council of Select Masters was closed, and the Temple re-arranged for the Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master. Ill.Comp. Steve Jones had the good fortune to be the Candidate (Solomon) for this ceremony. The ceremony for three Candidates, Ill.Comp. Steve Jones, Ill.Comp. Ray Seeley, and Ill.Comp. David Grimmer, was conducted in a faultless manner by Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout as King David.



Ill.Comp. John Norton-Doyle was Zadok, the Priest, and Ill.Comp. Gary Raggett was Nathan, the Prophet. The role of Benaiah was performed by Ill.Comp. Graham Rawlinson, and the Director of Ceremonies was Ill.Comp. Alan Boniface.



Our District Grand Master said how good it was to see Ill.Comp. Nigel Harding here this afternoon as he has had his Thrice Illustrious Master Certificate in his bag for some time and was pleased to finally present it to Nigel.



The three Candidates then received their Silver Towels from the District Grand Master and they thanked Ill.Comp. Leslie Grout for such an impressive ceremony.



The team got together for a group photograph with the three candidates.



We then retired for refreshments...



Before going into the dining room for a most enjoyable meal together at the Nutfield Masonic Centre.

With thanks to Ill.Comp. Chris Eley, P.G.Swd.B.



Great evening of Scarlet Cord & O.S.M. in West Yorkshire with distance being no obstacle to commitment



On Monday, 17 May the White Rose Consistory No. 95 had four Candidates for the second grade.

The Right Distinguished Provincial Grand Summus Alan Webster is a member and he was joined by his Deputy, V.Dist.Comp. David Staniforth and A.Prov.G.S., Dist.Comp. Steve Rhodes, as well as visitors Dennis Schiff and Joe Solomons from Cheshire.

They were also pleased to welcome the Provincial Grand Master and M.E. Grand Superintendent for Yorkshire, West Riding, James H Newman, *OBE*, who continues to give great support to our Order during his very busy schedule.

The President, Dist.Comp. David Rose, flew in from Columbo at 6.30 that morning, dealt with business in London, and then, accompanied by his aide-de-camp Dist.Comp. Mark Jacobs, drove to Otley for the meeting. That's 5484 miles in total, "so don't let me hear anyone complaining about the distance they have travelled in future!!" says the Provincial Grand Summus.

There then followed the Installation meeting of White Rose Conclave No. 449 where Bro. Alex Webster, was installed as Supreme Ruler and the commissioned by his Father, the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, V.Wy. Bro. Alan Webster (aka the Provincial Grand Summus). A very enjoyable and humorous festive board followed with R.Wy.Bro. Stewart Carley, P.Prov.G.S.R., demonstrating how the office of Director of Ceremonies should be executed.

Pictured, top, the 4 new members of the 2nd Grade welcomed at White Rose Consistory No 95

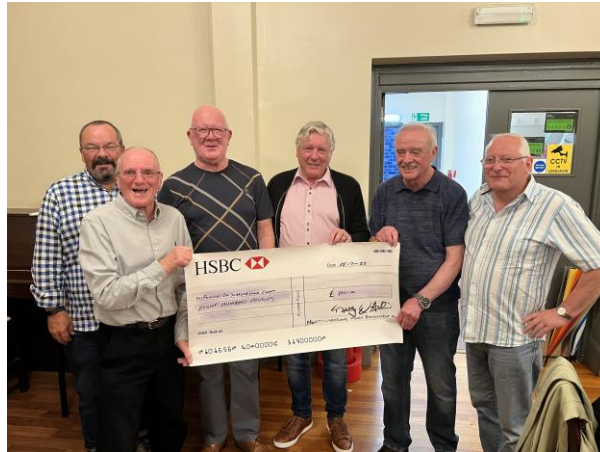
Below, V.Wy.Bro. Alan Webster congratulating his son on his installation as Supreme Ruler of White Rose Conclave No 449

With thanks to Graeme Hutchinson, P.Prov.G.S.R./P.Prov.G.S.



Charities round up





Saturday, 15 July was the third of our annual Social Events on behalf of the Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund and was our traditional Summer BBQ Evening held at Shiremoor Masonic Hall. This consisted of the usual Raffle, Lotto, Whisky Draws and Fun Quiz along with the challenge of cooking your own bbq pack, which this year was done in the pouring rain!

A great time was had by all who attended, and, due to the wonderful generosity of those present, the evening ended with a cheque for the magnificent sum of £800 being donated to The Friends of Scarborough Court by our Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Raymond Walton.

Norman English responded by saying 'As Chair of The Friends of Scarborough Court I thank you for this great effort. The money will be gratefully received and faithfully applied'.

Scarborough Court Care Home was opened in 1967 and is operated and managed by The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution Care Company which is part of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The home is located in Cramlington, Northumberland, and is near a number of historical sites and beaches. It can support up to 58 residents and provides residential care, nursing care and residential dementia support to older Freemasons, their families, and people in the wider community. The level of care which each person receives depends on their individual needs and this is continuously monitored and reviewed to ensure each person receives the right level of care.

The Friends of Scarborough Court is a group of volunteers made up of Freemasons from the three supporting Provinces of Northumberland, Durham and Cumberland & Westmorland. Together they work closely with Scarborough Court, supporting residents and staff by organising fundraising and events for different activities to help enhance the lives of the residents.

A great deal of hard work went into organising this very successful event and our grateful thanks go to our Mark Social team for all of their efforts along with thanks to Shiremoor Masonic Hall and it's team for the use of the building and facilities.

Also, many thanks to all who attended to support the evening and to those who donated the raffle prizes. Without you we couldn't make such marvellous donations to worthwhile organisations such as this.

Another wonderful example of the 'Magic of the Mark'.



The Monopoly Challenge for St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital



This Saturday the Knights (and Dames) of the Vision Beautiful Charity Challenge Team will be completing a Half-marathon (or more in some cases) for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. They will be hitting every part of the traditional London Monopoly Board via a course their Captain has devised. An advanced party will be doing it on Friday, some will be doing an equivalent in their local area and there will be a mop up date for those unavailable this weekend.

The Team varies from the young and fit, including some Knights with permanent injuries that they work and train around, to Knights in their 'Sixties and 'Seventies. Of the latter, one is an excellent hiker and another, one of their most accomplished cyclists. The key element in each challenge is that the individual challenges themselves. A number of the Knights are also completing individual challenges throughout the year, such as kayaking around the Kent coast and running a 10km run straight onto a Half-Marathon at the Great Scottish Run.

The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital has been the principal charity of United Orders (KT and Malta) for more than a century including our Order assisting it to be rebuilt following its wartime destruction.

The vast majority of its patients are highly vulnerable and would not have access to eye care without its charitable provision. Something as simple as a pair of glasses, so vital to our lives, would be otherwise unavailable to many and conditions considered minor here would go untreated leading to life-changing levels of suffering. A high percentage of patients are children or the elderly. Every year we as an Order are able to change lives by the provision of funds to enable the Hospitals, Clinics and Outreach to operate.

So far the Knights and Dames have managed to raise funds to purchase a surgical stool, to enable sensitive operations to be carried out, and a portable auto-refractometer, to scan the eyes of patients not able to sit in a chair in the hospitals or clinics. We are approaching the target to fund an Autorefractor-Keratometer for the main Eye Hospital – an important scanner for measuring the degree of refractive error in the eye. Please help them to complete this if you are able.

Their next target will be another £25,000 to fund a Large Steam Autoclave for the new Nablus Hospital – this sterilises medical equipment for eye surgeries there & other vital uses. As soon as they hit their current global target of £35,670 they will start on the new funding challenge.

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 [Click Here](#)

If you would like to take part in this or future challenges, 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

With thanks to E.Kt. Angus Rhodes, P.Gt.Capt.Gds.

Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund - Rainbows Hospice Update



In October 2022, I joined R.III.Kt. John Manby, Intendant-General for the East Midlands Division of the Red Cross of Constantine and his Executive at the Rainbows Children's Hospice in Loughborough. We met Hannah Tee, one of Rainbow's Trusts & Foundations Fundraisers, to present a cheque for £2,500.

Rainbows planned to purchase two new electric cars as a number of the hospice's vehicles need replacing due to excessive wear and deterioration and a move to electric vehicles supported the environmental strategy of the charity.

These cars will be used to support the hospice work in the community. In particular this will enable the 'Family Support Team' to continue to provide outreach and support to children, young people and their families across the East Midlands region, supporting our Vision to provide the 'Rainbows Experience Wherever You Are'.

Helen Graham, Trusts & Foundations Fundraiser, recently got in touch to tell us that one of their new cars had arrived.

Helen said, 'It is with our sincere thanks that we are pleased to share a photo of the new electric car, which is now available to staff to use for their work within the community that Rainbows serves. Thank you so much!'

Rainbow's Children's Hospice provides care and support for children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, and their whole family, across the East Midlands.

With thanks to Wy.Kt. Darren Coleman-Heald, Mark Masons' Hall Charities Manager



Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund

DIVISION OF EAST MIDLANDS
RAINBOWS CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

Working with the
John Wiclif Conclave
No.304 providing
funds for
electric cars

£2,500

Ryan A. Williams
Ryan A. Williams
Grand Recorder

rainbows
Brightening short lives

@RainbowsHospice
@MarkMasonsHall
#Freemasonry



Join us on Social Media

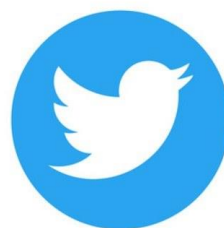
Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent 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	Roll Call Start	Meeting Ends
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMI, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 8AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - Imperial Society	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	FMI, 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	FMI, 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	FMI, 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	FMI, 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	FMI, 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	FMI, 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	FMI, 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	FMI, 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	FMI, 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

06/06/2023

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

MBF Festival Cheshire 2024






156th MBF Festival Banquet
will be held at the
Concorde Conference Centre
Wilmslow Old Rd, Altrincham
WA15 8XQ
Saturday, 6 July 2023

[BOOK HERE](#)



Stewardship Jewels

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

[2024 Cheshire](#)

[2025 Oxfordshire](#)

[2026 Hampshire & IOW](#)

[2027 Warwickshire](#)

[2028 Somerset](#)

[2029 Durham](#)

[2030 Essex](#)

[2031 Northumberland](#)

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.

















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.

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 and Finance Assistant, Millie Pilson, 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



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)