

# Freemasonry@86 News - 28 July 2023



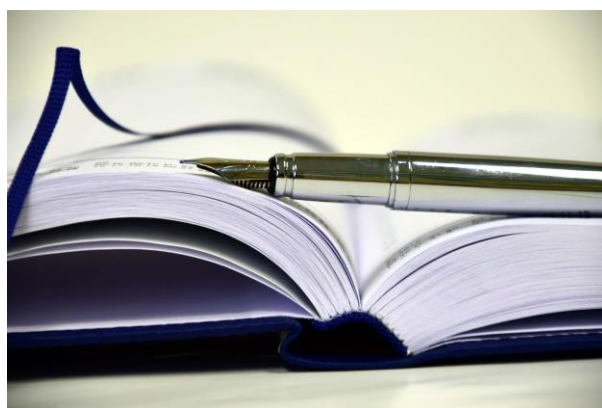
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

**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

## **Bristol Provincial Mark Master Mason Richard Waldrum of Dunckerley Lodge has been selected for the Invictus Games in Dusseldorf this September**



This is Richard's extraordinary account of how he harnessed the power of cycling to overcome complex mental health conditions and secure his place in the 2023 Invictus Games. Richard left the British Army in 2010 after struggling with complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD) resulting from tours in Kosovo, Bosnia and Iraq: anxiety and panic attacks became his unwelcome companions.

He tells us: "In 2018, my life took an unexpected turn when I began experiencing panic and anxiety attacks. Little did I know that these episodes would be the first indicators of a condition that would change my life forever: complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD). Leaving me with debilitating anxiety, depression, and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Today, I share my story, not only to raise awareness about the challenges faced by individuals with complex PTSD, but also to shed light on the transformative power of the Invictus Games and the incredible support of my family. I got involved in the games after suffering a few difficult periods in the first half of 2022 and the Invictus programme was suggested to me as something to look at. I wasn't sure, or keen and felt very much I wasn't eligible or worthy.

I applied in June and then did nothing; I ignored the email asking me for more details until finally in late September I responded and was accepted into the programme. I was invited to my first pre-selection camp in Colchester in November 2022, and despite a lot of reluctance and feelings of being a fraud and I would be somehow “found out” I was persuaded to attend. I was apprehensive, but as the first day got underway, I began to feel more and more at home. Meeting other veterans and listening to their stories and journeys made me realise I wasn't alone; I wasn't a fraud and I did in fact belong to this group after all. I then attended my second selection camp in December and after which I was invited to submit my formal application to be part of Team UK.

Applications had to be in by 31st December 2022 and I took a long time to write, rewrite and write my application again and complete a 60 second video I was comfortable with. I was initially very apprehensive about submitting an application, fearing what rejection might do to me. But I realised that even if I wasn't selected, I had gained so much from the pre-section camps that I could use that as a platform to build on. I finally submitted my application a few days before the deadline and had very little expectation of being selected, believing there were others who were far more worthy of the places than me.

On the 7th of February 2023 I received the email confirming I had been selected. I sat in shocked silence staring at the email before a rush of emotion just overwhelmed me. It took a while to sink in and to be presented with our Team UK launch kit prior to the public launch really hit home that I was part of the team and get to represent my country once again. But equally, I suddenly had an overwhelming feeling of being valid again, of my struggles with my health and CPTSD had been legitimised and I wasn't simply faking my way through life. It's hard to put into words what the feeling means.

Being selected for the Invictus Games and having the opportunity to represent my country and fellow veterans fills me with an overwhelming sense of pride. The chance to pull on the uniform of my country once again and stand beside some of the most inspirational and courageous people I have ever met is a humbling experience. The Invictus Games offer a platform where wounded warriors can not only showcase their incredible resilience but also reclaim their sense of identity and purpose. The supportive and empowering environment allows them to channel their strength, both physical and mental, into competitive sports. Through the Invictus Games, veterans defy the limitations that their conditions may impose, inspiring others and themselves in the process and serves as a testament to the indomitable spirit that resides within each of us.

My journey with complex PTSD has been marked by many challenges, but it has also shown me the power of resilience, support, and the potential for healing. The Invictus Games has become an integral part of my recovery, offering a path towards rebuilding my life and reclaiming my identity. I am eternally grateful to my family, Lucy, Harry, Noah, and Georgia, who have stood by me during my darkest moments. Their unwavering love and support have been invaluable.

To all those who may be struggling with the invisible wounds of war or trauma, I encourage you to seek help and remember that you are not alone. The journey to healing may be difficult, but with perseverance and the support of a compassionate community, it is possible to find solace, strength, and purpose once again. Seeking support and reaching out for help are crucial steps in navigating the treacherous path of depression. The darkness may persist, but with the assistance of compassionate individuals, therapy, and perhaps even medication, it is possible to find a way forward. By breaking the silence and shedding light on our struggles, we empower ourselves and others to confront the demons that haunt us.

Remember, you are not alone in this battle. Reach out, share your pain, and allow the strength of compassion and understanding to guide you towards healing. The Invictus Games serves as a testament to the indomitable spirit that resides within each of us.”



Rich is competing in both the Time Trial and Criterium Racing cycling events in Dusseldorf in September 2023. He went on to tell us how Freemasonry has helped him:

“I was initiated into Freemasonry in April 2017 and raised to Master Mason in April 2018. I was introduced to Masonry by a neighbour who introduced me to the Royal Lodge of Faith and Friendship No270 which meets in Berkeley.

I had wanted to get involved in Masonry for a little while, the bond of friendship, the fraternity and the charitable elements of the Craft really appealed to me as well as the history. It was also important for me to belong to an organisation that was striving for the betterment of others and our communities. Being part of something bigger than ourselves feels comfortable to me after serving in the military. I thoroughly enjoy masonry and while my health has had an impact on occasion over the last 12 months, I am on my path to the chair and currently fill the role of Senior Deacon within the lodge.

I also deepened my involvement with Masonry further last year and was delighted to be advanced into the Dunckerley Mark lodge which meets in the Province of Bristol. I have been made to feel especially welcome by all the Brethren and I am looking forward to beginning my journey through Mark Masonry in the years ahead”.

[Click Here](#) to look at the Invictus 2023 website

*With thanks to W.Bro. Brian Hamley, P.G.St.B.*





## The Red Cross of Constantine Division of Middlesex



The Annual Meeting of the Divisional Conclave of Middlesex took place on Saturday, 22 July at the Twickenham District Masonic Centre, Twickenham, Middlesex.



We received a very warm welcome from the Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. Denis D Leigh.



Worthy Knights of the Division of Middlesex and their guests arrived for coffee and bacon butties.



There were many honoured guests attending to support the Division of Middlesex.



Including a delegation from Surrey.



And a good number of Intendants-General from other Divisions.



Meanwhile, Jerry Gangadeen had baked two of his famous rum cakes for the occasion.



The Companions were gathered in the lovely Temple at Twickenham to receive a briefing from the Acting Divisional Marshal, Ill.Kt. Jonathan Wallace.



The meeting was then called to order to receive the Right Illustrious Knights and the Divisional Officers of the year.



The Worthy Knights were again called to Order to receive the Intendant-General of the Division of Middlesex, preceded by the Banner Bearer and Sword Bearer.







Divisional Conclave was opened in due form and the Intendant-General was saluted under direction of the Divisional Marshal. The Intendant-General welcomed the honoured guests of the Division and other Distinguished Worthy Knights.

The Intendant-General directed that the Conclave Standards be paraded and called upon the Divisional Recorder to call the roll of Conclaves in the Division.



After the regular business of the Division had been concluded, the Intendant-General was pleased to re-appoint Ill.Kt. Dr Silverio Ostrowski as his Deputy Intendant-General, thanking him for all his support over the past year.



The Intendant-General then appointed and invested his Officers.



The Intendant-General addressed Divisional Grand Conclave. He expressed the hope of the Division that the guests and visitors felt welcomed by members of the Middlesex family and were having a happy and worthwhile time with them. He said that later this year they will have completed their ninth year of existence since the Constitution on 4 September 2014. In anticipation of the start of the celebratory tenth year we will be sharing in a specially commissioned cake following today's meeting prepared by Ill.Kt. Jerry Gangadeen, who was a special guest.



He also said that they had with them a friend of his, W.Kt. Chris Eley who is famous, or is it infamous, throughout the masonic world for his prolific and professional contributions to Freemasonry@86. He



was looking forward to having a permanent visual record and attendant commentary of today's Annual Meeting, and thanked Chris for attending as his guest.

The Intendant-General was delighted to say that at this their flagship meeting for the year they had 22 guests from the other Divisions and 8 Heads of other Orders operating in Middlesex, he was very grateful for their commitment to attending this meeting given their time-demanding responsibilities.

After a break of four years, Villiers Conclave No. 9 was able to conduct the Appendant Orders ceremony for W.Kt. Peter J Hyde. This was with the invaluable help of two Surrey Knights one of whom was with them; Ill.Kt. Robert 'Bob' Bromley who acted as Seneschal.

They have held two Charity fund-raising events. The 'Twelve O'Clock High' Banquet at the RAF Club superbly organized by Ill.Kt. Paul Fitzgerald, at which the Grand Recorder was presented with a cheque for £1,200 for the benefit of the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund. This event was shared with the Surrey and Metropolitan Divisions.



There was also a St George's Day event held at Uxbridge when £1,230 was raised and will be formally presented to the Hillingdon Carers Trust.

He congratulated those who had received Grand Rank appointments this year and said that he was delighted to attend Grand Imperial Conclave to share their promotional experiences. He also congratulated those he had appointed or promoted to Divisional Rank, wishing them an enjoyable year.

He acknowledged all the dedication and hard work that has been put into today's arrangements by; Ill.Kt. Kevin D Sharp, assisted by V.Ill.Kt. Doug Black in respect of the administrative tasks; Ill.Kt. Jonathan P Wallis and the ceremonial aspects; and Ill.Kt. Steve Pope and his team of Sepulchre Guards.

The Intendant-General closed by saying that he trusts that our Christian faith will hold fast and praying that our Red Cross Knightly companionship will continue to be a source of strength and blessing.

Divisional Grand Conclave was closed in due form and the Intendant-General retired in procession.



Greeting the Right Illustrious Knights, and Honoured Guests on their way out.



The Provincial team returned to the Temple for some group photographs with the Surrey delegation.



And Brethren of the Mark Province of Middlesex who had turned out in force the support the Divisional Grand Conclave of Middlesex.



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





We were called into lunch.





During lunch Ill.Kt. Jerry Gangadeen shared with everyone the ingredients of the special cake he had made. It seems the main ingredient was rum.



We had a most enjoyable lunch in good company.



The toast to the Intendant-General was given in an entertaining way by the Deputy-Intendant General, Ill.Kt. Dr Silverio Ostrowski.



In his reply, the Intendant General, R.Ill.Kt. Denis Leigh, thanked the Deputy Intendant-General for his kind words. He then thanked everyone for attending to make this a very special meeting, wishing them a safe journey home.



We can certainly give a big thumbs up for a most enjoyable day in Middlesex.





*With thanks to Wy.Kt. Chris Eley*

## **Oxon, Berks & Bucks R.S.M. District Meeting 2023**



The District Grand Council of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire in the Order of Royal and Select Masters held the Annual District Meeting on Thursday, 20 July at Sindlesham, Berkshire.

The meeting was honoured with the presence of the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, R.III.Comp. Paul Norman, IX. Also present was the Grand Director of Ceremonies, V.III.Comp. Graham Seeman, who, as the Mark Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire, was on home turf.

It was particularly pleasing that a large number of companions from the District of Oxon, Berks & Bucks were at the meeting. Senior amongst them was R.III.Comp. Charles Woodward, the primus District Grand Master of the District.

The District Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Tim Hancock, welcomed the distinguished visitors from the Order and Heads of other Orders within the District. He thanked the outgoing District Officers for their service during the year.

In particular, thanks were due to the outgoing District Principal Conductor of the Work, V.III.Comp. Paul Ackland-Snow, for his excellent work over the last three years in visiting and supporting Councils, and representing the District across the length and breadth of the land.

III.Comp. Malcolm Summers was then escorted into District Grand Council by four worthy companions; V.III.Comps. Ron Bridger and Peter Hughes, and III.Comps. Ian Bailey and Raymond Head.

Ill.Comp. Malcolm was then appointed, obligated, and invested as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. He was then proclaimed by the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, Ill.Comp. Tim Weller, and saluted with five times nine by the Companions of the District.

A large retinue of District Grand Masters were in attendance, together with representatives of Districts from Devon & Cornwall to Derbyshire. Many had travelled long distances to be at the meeting.



The District Grand Master was pleased to invest the officers of the year with their collarettes. He also welcomed companions new to the order and presented them with a special memento of the occasion.

The Grand Principal Conductor of the Work kindly presented Silver Trowel certificates to recent recipients and ascertained that they had enjoyed the ceremony. He also addressed all the companions, commenting on the meeting and giving information concerning the Sesquicentenary of the Order to be held at Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday, 3 October.

In a brief Address the District Grand Master congratulated the companions on the high standard of ceremonies in all the Councils and said that it was a pleasure to visit. He also thanked V.Ill.Comp. Peter Hughes for establishing the Order of the Silver Trowel in Unity Council and overseeing the ceremony for the past 12 years. Then the meeting was closed and the companions retired to enjoy an excellent festive board.

*Pictured, top, L to R: V.Ill.Comp. Graham Seeman, R.Ill.Comp. Phillip Purves, R.Ill.Comp. Tim Hancock, R.Ill.Comp. Paul Norman, Ill.Comp. Malcolm Summers*

*With thanks to R.Ill.Comp. Tim Hancock, Dist.G.M.*



*1 - Companions of Eliot Council No. 286 enjoy a drink before the Banquet*



*2 - The District Grand Master makes a presentation to V.III.Comp. Paul Ackland Snow to mark his 3 years as District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work*



*3 - The District Grand Master makes a presentation to the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work*





Rufus had received a field promotion from the Grand Master at the District Meeting of Devon and Cornwall at Plymouth earlier in the month. Congratulations Rufus!

## North East Province Reconstituted



The North East Province of Secret Monitors was reconstituted on Tuesday, 25 July at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. The original North East Province was constituted in 1973, but divided into the two Provinces of Northumberland and Durham in 2002, at Gateshead.

The Dissolving of the two Provinces and Reconstituting of the North East Province was carried out by the Most Worthy Brother Andrew Sweeney, who, along with a team of Grand Officers, went on to install Right Worthy Brother John Watts as the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the North East Province. With fourteen Conclaves it is one of the biggest Provinces of the Order.

John Watts went on to Install his Deputy, Worthy Brother Reece Valentine, and Assistant, Worthy Brother Richard Vipond.



5 - Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Reece Valentine; Grand Supreme Ruler;

Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler; Assistant Grand Supreme Ruler, Richard Vipond

There were over 150 in the Temple, with dining set out for 148. Among those present were Past Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers; John Warham (Northumberland) and Robert Henderson (Durham). There were several National and Provincial Heads of Orders present, including Most Distinguished Companion Ian Currans of the Order of the Scarlet Cord; Right Worshipful Brother Prof Denovan Wilson, Assistant Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masons; and Right Worshipful Brother John Thompson, Provincial Grand Master of Durham (who was invited to the lunch as he is not a member YET!).

*With thanks to Wy.Bro. Ewan Notman, SR Heart of Glendale Conclave No. 239*



6 - Robert Henderson; John Thompson; Denovan Wilson; John Warham; and others at lunch



7 - Grand Supreme Ruler, M.Wy.Bro. Andrew Sweeney; Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. John Watts; and Deputy Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Keith Ferguson



8 - Grand Supreme Ruler with his Arch of Steel



9 - Grand Supreme Ruler with R.Wy.Bro. Ian Currans, Grand Summus of the Order of the Scarlet Cord





*10 - Ready to start in the Temple at Gateshead*



*11 - Over 140 for lunch*



*12 - Several members from East Scotland*



## The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey



The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey was held at the Surbiton Masonic Hall on Thursday, 20 July. We were honoured by the presence of the Assistant Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Howard S. Markham.



As well as many Provincial Grand Summi from other Provinces.



The Provincial Grand Summus, the Director of Ceremonies, along with the Tooting Boys and myself, met up at Glenmore House the day prior to the meeting to prepare the Temple for the meeting on the Thursday. From 9 a.m. the Companions started to arrive, sign in and made their way to the

downstairs bar for tea and coffee. Thanks to the welcome team for looking after our Companions and guests so well.



While our guests were having coffee upstairs...



The Tzaddikim were busy rehearsing downstairs.



The visiting Right Distinguished Companions entered the Temple in Procession.





Followed by our two Past Provincial Grand Summi, Right Distinguished Companions Michael F. Barnes and Louis M. Keats. The Companions were then called to Order to receive the Right Distinguished Provincial Grand Summus who entered the Temple in procession through an Arch of Steel, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Officers of the Year.



Provincial Grand Senatus was opened in due form and the Provincial Grand Summus was saluted under direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Dist.Comp. Ian Bloodworth.



The other Right Distinguished Companions were then saluted under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

I then had the pleasure of escorting the Assistant Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Howard S Markham, into Provincial Grand Senatus.



Right Distinguished Companion Howard was received, welcomed by the Provincial Grand Summus and saluted.

The Provincial Grand Summus welcomed the many honoured guests of the Province and other Distinguished Companions. A total of 29 guests from other Provinces and 6 Heads of Surrey Orders were present.



The Minutes of last year's meeting of Provincial Grand Senatus were confirmed by the Companions. The Roll of Provincial Grand Officers was called, followed by the Roll of Consistories in the Province. It was encouraging to see so many of the Companions of the Province of Surrey in attendance and the Provincial Recorder thanked them for their support.

The Accounts were then adopted. The Provincial Grand Summus thanked the Treasurer and Account Auditors for their endeavours. The Provincial Grand Summus then announced that the Provincial Grand Treasurer, Dist.Comp. David Willmott, was declared elected as Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.



The Provincial Grand Summus reappointed Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson as Deputy Provincial Grand Summus thanking him for all his support over the past year. Following the salutations, Dist.Comp. Nigel thanked the Companions for their salutation.



The Provincial Grand Summus was pleased to announce that he was re-appointing Dist.Comp. Simon McCarthy as Assistant Provincial Grand Summus. Following the salutations, Dist.Comp. Simon thanked the Companions for their salutation.

The Provincial Grand Summus then appointed or promoted the Officers of Provincial Grand Senatus for the next year. The Provincial Grand Summus was pleased to appoint the Captain, Deputy Captain and Members of the Tzaddikim. He then inspected his personal Tzaddikim.

The Provincial Grand Summus addressed Provincial Grand Senatus. He said: "Firstly, I must say how delighted and honoured it is to be your Provincial Grand Summus and I am grateful to you all for supporting me and the Province of Surrey by attending here today. It has been a wonderful day so far but at this late stage I am sure that you will be well relieved to know that it is my intention to keep this address as brief as possible.

It has been particularly pleasing that we have had 100% attendance of all Companions who have received First Appointments or Promotions in today's Provincial Grand Senatus and that does not happen very often. Well done the team. I must also congratulate those who were honoured in early May this year at Grand Senatus in receiving appointments to Grand Rank. Distinguished Companion John Norton-Doyle received the active rank of Grand Steward and Distinguished Companion Ray Hussey was promoted to Past Grand Lecturer. These honours are extremely well deserved, and I



hope will inspire the Companions concerned to continue their unstinting efforts in their future commitment to our Order

On the day before Grand Senatus, I was at Mark Masons Hall to support Distinguished Companions Robert Anderson, John Coleman, Mark Currans, Chris Eley, Hugh Everitt and Alastair Mackenzie who all received their 4thGrade. I know that they were not only very impressed with the ceremony, but that the Representative Candidate for the 4th Grade on this occasion was none other than Distinguished Companion John H. Prizeman, Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons

On the question of Charity, you will remember that in May 2021 we made a donation of £500 to Blood Bikes with me personally sitting for the first time in my life on a Motor Bike, and probably the last.



In early 2022 we made a further final donation of £500 to the Mark Festival, just prior to its closure.



I am reliably informed by our Treasurer that after today our Relief Chest will be more than sufficient for us to make donations of £250 each to two worthwhile Surrey Charities and on this occasion, I am asking you the membership to come up with the names of those Surrey Charities that we could support. You will, of course, realise that they have to be acceptable to the Relief Chest

Finally, I must not forget to thank my Provincial Recorder, Chris Eley, who not only carries out his duties in an exemplary manner, but is also a regular visitor at Provincial and District Meetings and organises and collates our monthly edition of The Surrey Cord, which I know is avidly read by a good

number of our members. It was only partway through last year's meeting that our Director of Ceremonies was officially appointed to the job and since then he has worked hard and handled his duties in a very competent and proficient manner. Thank you, Ian, so much for all your hard work and dedication. Please keep up the good work

Companions, I am sure that with your continued support we can progress this Province from strength to strength. I wish you all well for the future and look forward to visiting your Consistories in the next twelve months, enjoying your company again and, in particular, working together to further develop our Order.

May the God of our Fathers have you all and your loved ones in his Holy Keeping now and evermore".

Provincial Grand Senatus was closed in due form and the Right Distinguished Provincial Grand Summus retired in procession accompanied by the Right Distinguished Assistant Grand Summus, other Right Distinguished Companions, and Honoured Guests.



Greeting his honoured guests on their way out.



After refreshments in the bar...







The Companions of the Province of Surrey and their guests enjoyed an excellent and convivial Festive Board in the Elizabethan Suite at Surbiton Masonic Hall.





In the reply to his Toast the Provincial Grand Summus thanked everyone for supporting our Annual Meeting wishing them a safe journey home and a restful summer break from Masonry.



Article by Chris Eley and photos by Dist.Comp. Bob Tuthill, Prov.G.Reg., and Dist.Comp. Chris Eley, Prov.G.Rec.

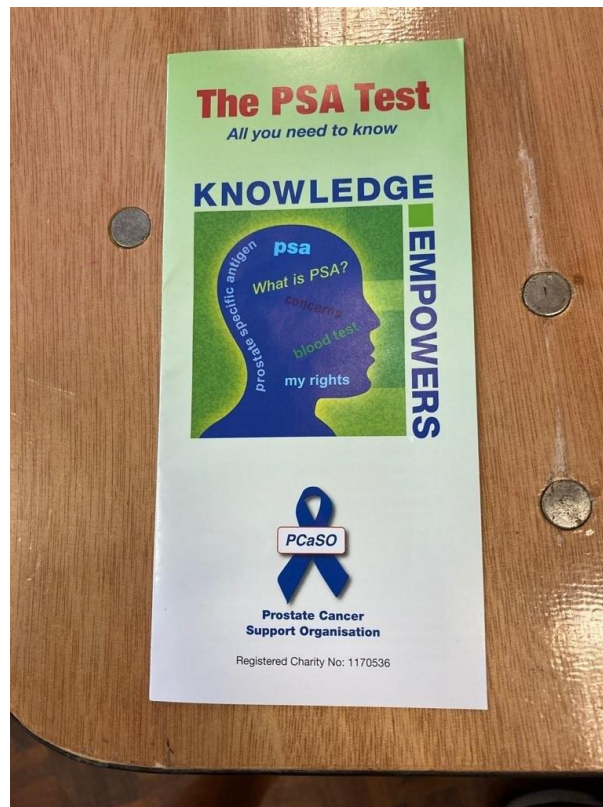
## Charities round up



 St John of Jerusalem  
Eye Hospital Group



## Prostate Cancer Testing Day



On Saturday, 22 July a Prostate Cancer Testing Day was held at Portland Masonic Hall in Dorset. The event was organised by W.Bro. Tudor Williams, cousin of our Grand Secretary and funded by the Dorset Mark Discretionary Fund.

Tudor had liaised with the local members of the Prostate Cancer Support Organisation through Alan Higgin who arranged for the two Phlebotic nurses to be in attendance.



By the use of all local media, hospital and surgery sites and the information cascaded through the Dorset Mark and RAM Lodges in excess of 170 men were able to attend. This was a fantastic result and Tudor and all the helpers on the day are to be congratulated.

The appointments were timed which meant there was a steady stream on the day who were marshalled by Mark Masons and members from the PCaSO Charity.



There were also wives and friends present who maintained a steady supply of free tea, coffee and biscuits...





Which gave some of the Brethren a chance to catch up with old friends.

All in all a great event and whilst we hope all the tests were clear, potentially some lives may well have been saved!

My sincere thanks to all those involved on the day, Mark Masons, PCaSO volunteers, wives and friends.

Also Portland Masonic Hall for the use of the venue.

*With thanks to R.W.Bro. Mike Whelan, Prov.G.M. for Dorset*





## The Mark Benevolent Fund goes down on the farm with the Sweetpea Small Holdings Charity



Nestled in the rolling hills of Devon just outside of Exeter sits a sleepy parish that is home to the Sweetpea Small Holdings charity and its new site at Winkleigh Farm. A grant from the MBF of £1,871 has enabled the charity to begin work at the farm site giving more space for producing fruit and vegetables that will be donated to foodbanks across the area. The founder of the charity, Mike Baker, said they grant would be invaluable to such a small organisation. The funds have already enabled them to purchase a poly tunnel to help protect vulnerable plants and to construct raised beds to help give disabled volunteers better access. They have eleven volunteers at the moment with a huge bank just waiting to visit the site and help out once the site is confirmed as safe for disabled access.

During the growing season in 2022 the charity was astounded to have produced over 1.5 tonnes of produce, all going to local good causes, hence the need for expansion. Another example of a small charity doing great things in their community.

Mike Baker was joined by the Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire, R.W.Bro. David Purdie; W.Bro. Chris Elliott, P.A.G.D.C., Provincial Grand Secretary; Mark Masons' Hall's Charities Manager and Gordon the Donkey!

Find Sweetpea on Facebook: [Click Here](#)

Find Winkleigh Farm: [Click Here](#)

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











































## Join us on Social Media

Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you

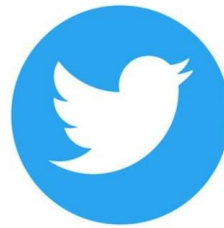
represent a Masonic Club or Society linked to our Orders, please send us an invite to join or follow you.

We can be found at:

Facebook - [Mark Secretariat](#) - This is the contact account for the [Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page](#)

Twitter - [@MarkMasonsHall](#)

Or you can email us at [communications@mmh.org.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)



## Calendar of Annual Meetings

### Grand Meetings Calendar 2023 - All Orders

Please note *all* timings are approximate. Refer to the Summons for confirmation.

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Rehearsal Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Finishes	Dining Starts	Evening Finishes
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - London Lodges	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	12:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
SC	Grand Seminars	Thursday, 4 May 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:00 PM
KT	Grand Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Improbable Actives List	Tuesday, 19 June 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	9:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Westlawn Foundations	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 14 September 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - 150 Graduates	Tuesday, 3 October 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 24 October 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:15 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
OSM	Grand Conclave	Thursday, 9 November 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:45 PM	4:15 PM
KT - Malta	Great Priory of Malta	Tuesday, 21 November 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RAM	Annual Assembly	Monday, 11 December 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

16/01/2023

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



## MBF Festival Cheshire 2024



The image displays two sets of Stewardship Jewels. The top set is a circular gold ring with a central emblem. Below it is a blue and gold shield-shaped jewel with a central emblem and the word 'STEWARD' at the top. To the right is a purple and red shield-shaped jewel with a central emblem and the text 'MARK BENEVOLENT FUND' and 'CHESHIRE 2024'. Below the purple jewel is the text: '156<sup>th</sup> MBF Festival Banquet will be held at the Concorde Conference Centre Wilmslow Old Rd, Altrincham WA15 8XQ Saturday, 6 July 2023'. Below this text is a red 'BOOK HERE' button and a QR code.

### 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 **Turkiye**

For Lodge donations – use the **Order** with **Lodge number** and the reference **Turkiye**

For Provincial donations – use the **Order** with **Province** and the reference **Turkiye**

To make a donation you can

- **use the QR Code below**
- [Click Here](#) to go to the donation page
- [Click Here](#) to download a Credit/Debit Card donation Form
- [Click Here](#) to download a Cheque/Chirty Voucher donation form

**Mark Emergency Relief Fund**  
**MMM185622**

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

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



Please share with your Brethren and if you have any queries or concerns please contact the Charities Department at Mark Masons' Hall.

We thank you all for your generosity.

You can find out more by [Clicking Here](#) to read the latest ShelterBox update and there is additional info in the images below.

You can visit ShelterBox on their various media outlets:

<https://shelterbox.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>

[ShelterBox](#)



## £50,000 donated to ShelterBox

On Monday, 6 February 2023 a series of powerful earthquakes devastated southern Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and northern Syria. The Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund were quick to act and by the close of business on Tuesday 7, had approved an emergency grant of £50,000 to help with the rescue efforts in association with our trusted partners at the ShelterBox charity. The charity is sending an emergency response team to carry out crucial assessments and establish how best their help can be deployed. Their international assessment team will arrive in Türkiye in a few days and will be liaising with contacts on the ground to establish how best to proceed.

The humanitarian need in Türkiye and Syria is immense and growing – it is the most devastating earthquake to hit the region in 100 years and could become the worst. The death toll is likely to rise significantly, and thousands of buildings have been destroyed in both countries leaving people homeless, with nowhere to sleep, in the middle of a bitter winter.

ShelterBox provides different combinations of emergency shelter aid and essential household items during its responses depending on what is needed. This could be sending tents and shelter kits, stoves, thermal blankets and clothing to keep people warm through the freezing winter nights. It could be cash to help people buy what they need to survive. Or it could be solar lights that help people when there is no electricity. Getting aid into countries and on to where it's needed after a disaster of this scale presents huge challenges especially with damage to infrastructure and supply routes. That's why ShelterBox strategically pre-positions aid around the world, including in Syria.

This donation of £50,000 from the Mark Benevolent Fund will allow ShelterBox to act quickly, adapting how they work to best support people affected by the earthquakes and allowing them to tailor aid packages to what is needed. There are currently no plans to set up a central fund from Mark Masons' Hall.

This is what the grant will be used for by the ShelterBox charity (information taken from the ShelterBox website):

### SHELTERBOX TENT - £350

When disaster strikes, families need shelter to feel safe again. When they can't start rebuilding their homes immediately, durable tents can make them feel safe and protected.

Depending on the weather and the place, the shelter needs of families differ. That's why we're committed to providing families with the best possible solutions that suit their needs.

From padded tents that can safely accommodate a stove, to medium-sized tents that fit in small spaces and ones that can last years if needed, families can feel at home again.



### SHELTER KITS - £60

We provide shelter kits which include a selection of hardwearing tools and materials that are customised to suit the needs of each community.

The tools and materials we send provide the essentials families need to start rebuilding homes straight away, ranging from tough tarpaulin and timber to corrugated sheeting and even room dividers.

The versatile tools we provide help with everything from clearing rubble to building shelters and even tending crops. Our tools can also be used to build furniture, cut firewood and make repairs.





#### BLANKETS - £7

Blankets, groundsheets and mattresses not only provide vital warmth, but comfort too when families are recovering from disaster. These simple items can be used in a variety of ways, from bedding to room dividers, and help turn a shelter into a home.



#### SOLAR LIGHTS - £11

Our solar lights can last up to 24 hours on just one charge on the lowest setting. They are lightweight and waterproof, making them easy to carry in any situation. Because they are so safe, cheap and easy to use, families use solar lights in different ways – for work, education, family activities, or simply moving around at night. They are more than just light – they can provide comfort and allow families to regain their livelihoods.



Find out more about the work of ShelterBox



<https://shelterbox.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/ShelterBox>



@ShelterBox



## Mark Emergency Relief Fund

At the meeting of Mark Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday, the Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, announced that the Mark Benevolent Fund would be donating £25,000 to the Mark Inspectorate of Romania who have been working proactively in many ways to provide support and relief to their neighbours in Ukraine.

This tremendous endeavour has touched Freemasons across the Constitution and many of our Brethren are keen to add their own support by making a donation.

We have set up a Relief Chest with the M.C.F. under the name of the **Mark Emergency Relief Fund** and you can now make donations in a variety of ways.

**We know that there is enormous support for this already. To make the administration of donations as smooth as possible, enabling funds to be transferred efficiently to where they are needed most, we ask that you note the following advice regarding donations:**

**For individual donations of less than £100** - please make arrangements with your Mark Lodge for these to be collected centrally and then for the Lodge to make one consolidated donation into the Fund. These consolidated donations will count toward the Lodge's M.B.F. honorifics, rather than each individuals.

**Donations of £100 or more may be made by individuals directly into the fund** and will count towards the Brother's M.B.F. Honorifics

In all correspondence please ensure you are donating to:

**Mark Emergency Relief Fund**

Relief Chest No.: **MMM185622**

The quickest and easiest way to donate is by scanning the QR code below or following this [Link](https://gtap.uk/mmm185622).



For a Credit Card Donation Form [Click Here](#) - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

For a Single Donation Form [Click Here](#) - remembering to use your **Craft Lodge name and number**, not your Mark Lodge.

If you would like more information about the ways in which you can donate using the digital options above, you can read the Digital Donations Guide by [Clicking Here](#)

And if you, or your Lodge, already hold a Relief Chest from which you would like to donate funds, there is a further, specific guide available by [Clicking Here](#) and a simple transfer guide available by [Clicking Here](#)

## Swift pins still available



For those who may not have been able to get their hands on one of the K.T. £20 for 2020 Appeal Swift Pins, there are still some available.

Provinces can order in bulk, or individuals can purchase single pins, by contacting Linda Read, M.M.H. Charities Finance Manager at [L.Read@mmh.org.uk](mailto:L.Read@mmh.org.uk) and Finance Assistant, Millie Pilson, [M.Pilson@mmh.org.uk](mailto:M.Pilson@mmh.org.uk)

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

## Social Media Guidelines



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

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

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

## The Shop@86

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





## 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)