

Freemasonry@86 News - 18 August 2023



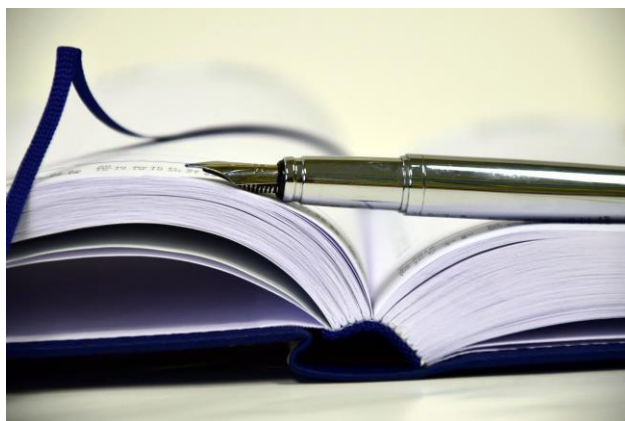
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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.

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

Saturday, 2 September - Mark Installation of W.Bro. Peter Kirpensteijn, P.G.S.D., as District Grand Master for The Netherlands

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 promotion in Grand Rank, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for booking details

Thursday, 14 September - K.B.H.C. Annual meeting of Grand Priory, M.M.H., London [Click Here](#) for booking details

Saturday, 16 September - Mark Installation of W.Bro. Victor Harold Pomeroy, P.G.S.D., as Provincial Grand Master for Dorset

Saturday, 16 September - O.S.M. Installation of V.Wy.Bro. John Charles Bicknell, P.G.V., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for West Lancashire

Tuesday, 3 October - R.S.M. Celebratory meeting of the Sesquicentenary of Grand Council, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

Saturday, 7 October - O.S.M. Installation of Wy.Bro. Paul Frederick Fell, P.G.Swd.B., as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Essex

Monday, 16 October - O.S.M./S.C. Consecrations of Sagittarii Britanniae Conclave No. 634 & Invictus Consistory No. 149 Province of Staffordshire & Shropshire/Midland Counties

Tuesday, 24 October - A.M.D. Annual Meeting of Grand Council, Freemasons' Hall, London

Thursday, 9 November - O.S.M. Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave, Freemasons' Hall, London

Tuesday, 21 November - K.T. Chapter of Great Priory of Malta, Freemasons' Hall, London

Monday, 11 December - R.A.M. Annual Assembly, Freemasons' Hall, London

Out of Office



This is the last Newsletter of the 2022/23 season and we'll now be taking a short break and be back with more news on Friday, 8 September.

In the meantime, there's plenty of Freemasonry going on and with at least two Installations and two Consecrations taking place in that period, we'll have plenty to tell you about on our return.

Enjoy the August Bank Holiday.

The "Croft" Dinner



On Friday, 11 August, the yearly get together of Allied and Royal & Select Masters, affectionately known as The Croft Dinner, in memory of James Peter Croft, took place at Tynemouth Golf Club with 65 in attendance.



This gathering of Northeast Allied and Royal & Select Masons represents the Districts of Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland & Westmoreland, and Yorkshire and was attended by the Grand Masters of both Royal & Select Masters, Kessick John Jones; and Allied, Thomas Firth Jackson; plus Paul Norman, the Grand P.C.W.; 3 District Grand Masters; and a District Grand Prefect.



1 - A brace of Grand Masters



2 - Dist.G.Pref. Danny Guy

The meal, expertly prepared and served by the Golf Club staff, was enjoyed by all present. After the Loyal Toast, Kessick John Jones, the Grand Master of the Royal & Select Masters, addressed all present and expressed how delighted himself and Tom Jackson, Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees, were to attend this special event.



The magnificent raffle then took place and, with over 40 donated bottles of all descriptions laid out on the table, a shuttle of volunteers dished them out as they were claimed. The fundraising concluded with the auction of a 4.5 litre bottle of whisky and both totals amounted to a grand total of £2,300.00.



3 - John Harvey inspects the raffle prizes

This magnificent sum was then presented to the Golf Club Captain, Ian Jeffrey, who announced that the recipient charity would be “Tiny Lives”. Ian was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Freemasons present and gave special thanks to golf club member and District Grand Master of the Royal & Select Masters in Northumberland, John Harvey, for all of his hard work in organising the whole event.



4 - Golf Club Captain, Ian Jeffrey, addresses the diners

All in all, an excellent night. Roll on next year.

With thanks to R.III.Comp. Michael Graham, Dist.G.M. for Durham



A once-in-a-generation celebration of Cryptic Freemasonry



The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters will celebrate its Sesquicentenary (150th Anniversary) at a special meeting to be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Tuesday, 3 October 2023 and all Royal and Select Companions are welcome to attend.

The annual business of Grand Council was transacted at a scaled down meeting in April, leaving the way clear for this extraordinary Assembly of Grand Council to be a true celebration of Cryptic Freemasonry.

A dedicated agenda will include:

- The Investiture of the recipients of appointment to, and promotion in, Grand Rank, as well as the recipients of celebratory Grand Ranks
- A delve into the history of the Order and the origins of our Grand Council
- The Dedication of a new, specially commissioned Ark of the Covenant
- A new lecture of interest to Companions
- Other surprise elements and a welcome to visiting Distinguished Companions from Sovereign Grand Councils across the world

Each Companion attending the meeting will receive a commemorative gift pack containing:

- The newly published history of the Order (r.r.p. circa £20)
- The special celebratory lapel pin (r.r.p. circa £6.50)
- A brochure for the meeting

- A branded document folder in which to carry these items

The meeting opens at 12:30 p.m. and will run until 2 p.m.

The meeting will be followed by a Gala Dinner in the Grand Connaught Rooms which will include a free drinks reception and musical entertainment.

To ensure you receive your commemorative gift pack when you attend, please do book in to register, for either the meeting, or the meeting and dinner, by [Clicking Here](#)

The Most Illustrious Grand Master looks forward to welcoming you to this memorable milestone meeting for our Order.



Join us on Social Media

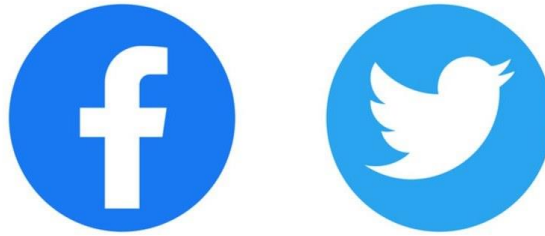
Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent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

We can be found at:

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

Twitter - [@MarkMasonsHall](#)

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk



Calendar of Annual Meetings

Grand Meetings Calendar 2023 - All Orders

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

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Rehearsal Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Ends	Dining Starts	Annual Dinner
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - United Lodge	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 Sonatus	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	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Active & 1st	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	PMH, 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 Celebration	Tuesday, 9 October 2023	PMH, 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	PMH, 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	PMH, 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	PMH, 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	PMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

05/03/2023

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

MBF Festival Cheshire 2024



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](#)



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 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 hardware 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](#).

Mark Emergency Relief Fund
MMM185622

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

<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 - but please note the Shop is closed until the end of August for the annual stock take and no orders will be taken during this period.



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)