

# Freemasonry@86 News 22 September 2023



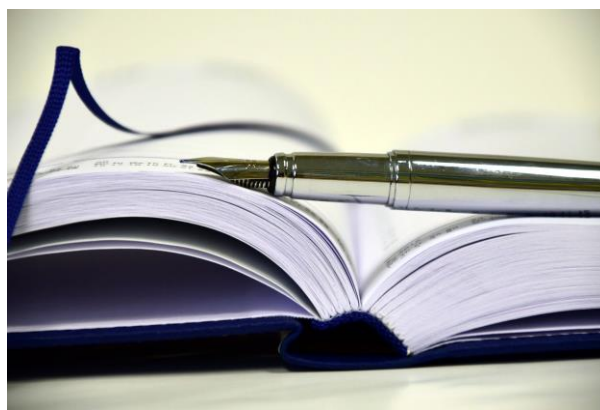
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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## Companion Orders Diary



**Below are some upcoming dates of events for our Grand teams in their respective Orders.**

You can find the calendar of the regular annual meetings of our Orders further down this newsletter.

**Tuesday, 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 [Click Here](#) for more details

**Saturday, 28 October - Mark** Installation of V.W.Bro. John Trevor Bolton, P.G.J.O., as Provincial Grand Master for West Yorkshire

**Thursday, 9 November - O.S.M.** Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

**Thursday, 16 November - S.C.** Installation of Dist.Comp. Terence Douglas Sheern, Prov.G.Reg., as Prov.G.S. for Essex

**Saturday, 18 November - A.M.D.** Installation of W.Bro. Lawrence James Hinde, P.G.S.D., as District Grand Prefect for Cumberland and Westmorland

**Tuesday, 21 November - K.T.** Chapter of Great Priory of Malta, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

**Monday, 4 December - K.B.H.C.** Consecration of Verulamium Lodge of S.M.S.A. No. 22, Prefecture of Anglo-Saxon

**Monday, 11 December - R.A.M.** Annual Assembly, Freemasons' Hall, London [Click Here](#) for more details

**Wednesday, 13 December - R.S.M.** Consecration of Lancashire Council of Anointed Kings No. 344, District of Lancashire

## Grand Priory of K.B.H.C.



On Thursday, 14 September Mark Masons' Hall played host to the annual meeting of the Grand Priory of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City.

Knights from across the constitution and visitors from overseas filled the Grand Temple, meeting old acquaintances and making new ones.

The meeting was presided over by the Most Eminent & Reverend Grand Master, Dr Vivian Thomas, *JP*, G.C.H.C., this being his first Grand Priory meeting since his Installation last September.

After the first items of regular business had been conducted, R.Revd.Kt. Dr John Lawson William Wright, *RD*, G.C.H.C., rose to propose that the Grand Master be re-elected. This was seconded by R.Revd.Kt. Kessick Jones, K.C.H.C., and carried with acclamation. The Grand Master was then Proclaimed by the Grand Herald.

The Grand Master thanked the Knights for re-electing him and also thanked the Grand Prior & Deputy Grand Master for his proposition. He went on to speak warmly of the dedicated service to the Order by, and the personal support he had received from, the Grand Prior & Deputy Grand Master, who was standing down at this meeting.

Having thanked Dr John for his hard work, the Grand Master then announced that he would be appointing R.Revd.Kt. Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.H.C., as his successor.

R.Revd.Kt. Clement was then obligated, invested, installed and proclaimed as Grand Prior & Deputy Grand Master.



Next came the appointment of a Knight Commander of the Holy City and R.Revd.Kt. Michael Southworth, Regional Grand Prefect for Brigantes, was escorted to the Grand Master to make his professions. This being done, R.Revd.Kt. Michael was invested with the Morning Star of Phosphorus and the Baton of his new Rank, and his Patent of Appointment.



He was then Proclaimed by the Deputy Grand Herald.

The Grand Chancellor was then called on to read the names of the forty recipients of appointment to, or promotion in, Grand Rank, and those present were invested. With the promotion of R.Revd.Kt. Paul Clement to Grand Prior & Deputy Grand Master, the list included the new Grand Mareschal, V.Revd.Kt. Timothy John Wheeler, a name familiar to all of us as the Great Marshal in the Knights Templar.



The Grand Master then addressed Grand Priory:

*"It was only a year ago that I succeeded that legend of Freemasonry, Michael Herbert, who, I am so pleased to see, is with us today. On that same day unbeknown to us at the Festive Board when we held the Loyal Toast that our beloved Queen had died earlier A day, therefore, that will always be with me. But, since then, much has happened.*

*Grand Priory meetings, in Brussels and Neuchatel, Switzerland, were both wonderful examples of how widespread our Order is, with Grand Masters from America, Africa and Europe in attendance. If the friendship and happiness we shared at such meetings could only be seen by those who criticise Freemasonry, then surely the world be a much better place.*

*We had a very happy day at the dedication of the banner for Agri Libertas Lodge in Plymouth and a date has been fixed for a similar ceremony at Severn Lodge at Kidderminster.*

*Plans are also in progress for further banners being developed, and it will be a pleasure to be asked to dedicate these once they are ready.*

*Plans have already been submitted for a new Scottish Masters Lodge to be formed at St Albans, to be known as Verulamium No. 22, with a hopeful date of consecration of 4 December.*

*Today we have enjoyed the 6th degree ceremony for 12 Squire Novices."*



*"It is planned that a smaller cohort of Squire Novices will receive their 6th degree in March, here at Mark Masons' Hall.*

*As so much depends on Squire Novices achieving their Arms, my grateful thanks are extended to our Grand Herald, Bob Morrow for all your assistance. Much as we enjoyed the privilege of conferring the 6th degree in the respective Prefectures, the logistics involved in achieving this makes a repeat unlikely. However, I do thank Rt.Revd.Kts, Mike Southworth from Brigantes; George Bonham ,Heart of England; David Jordan, Anglo Saxon; and Adrian Jones, Avalon; for all their support and encouragement within their own Prefectures.*

*My congratulations must go to all those have received appointments and promotions today and hence I do encourage you to continue to support your respective Lodges."*

The Grand Master then welcomed victors and heads of other Companion Orders of Freemasonry before ending his address with the following words:

*"Finally, I must thank you all for your attendance here today. May the Great Captain of our Salvation have you in His keeping, until we meet again."*

With Alms collected during the singing of the closing hymn, the Grand Master then formally closed Grand Priory and the Knights retired to refresh themselves before dining and returning to their various homes.

Our thanks to all those who came along to support the day and to play their part in the proceedings.

You can view a full gallery of photographs from the day, courtesy of Revd.Kt. Chris Eley, [Here](#)

## Open House at M.M.H.



On Sunday we opened the doors of Mark Masons' Hall to members of the public as part of the Open House Festival in London. We were assisted by a team of volunteers from the local Provinces and Districts of the Craft, Mark & R.A.M., Royal & Select Masters, Allied Masonic Degrees, and the Order of the Secret Monitor.



These Brethren did a fantastic job of greeting people and welcoming them to our fabulous building. Dressed in the regalia of their Order, the Brethren acted as room stewards and with the Temples set up for a meeting of the same Order, they were able to talk to visitors about all topics of masonry, the Lodge furnishings, and the fabric and history of the building.



We enjoyed the largest number of visitors since pre-Covid levels, welcoming guests from Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, and the USA.



After the doors closed we were able to relax sharing pizzas in the bar and exchange stories of the interesting conversations we had with our visitors.



Our thanks to all the volunteers and M.M.H. staff members who turned out to help make the day an enjoyable and interesting one for everybody.

You can view a gallery of photographs from the day [Here](#) courtesy of Campbell Carter and Darren Coleman-Heald

## Re-appointment of Deputy District Grand Master



The District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Hong Kong, R.W.Bro. Patrick Purnell-Edwards re-appointed his Deputy, W.Bro. Dr Buddy Tak Ming Wong in the regular meeting of Eothen Lodge, No. 264 on Tuesday, 19 Sep 2023.

I attach herewith a photo of the members of Eothen Lodge and the District team taken after the re-appointment ceremony. The District Grand Master and his deputy are standing in the back row to the right of W.Bro. Byran Carter, Worshipful Master of Eothen Lodge.

*With thanks to W.Bro. Ernest Lee, District Grand Secretary*

## A Diamond event at Ailwyn Lodge of Mark Master Masons



It was on a bright and warm morning on Saturday 16th September 2023 that the Ailwyn Lodge of Mark Master Masons met in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire for their 49th meeting. The Summons informed us that the ceremony was an Advancement.



The Temple filled with Brethren and the meeting was opened by Worshipful Master Greg Warman. After a short spell of business, the Brethren were called to order and the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. David Sowerby, entered and was greeted with the required salutes.

Those Brethren absent from the Installation were then invested and two joining members were balloted for and welcomed into the Lodge.

There followed the Advancement of Bro. Mark Gilbert (pictured above), ably carried out by the Master; Senior Deacon, W.Bro. Rob Taylor; and Brethren of Ailwyn Mark Lodge in the manner expected of Mark Master Masons. The signs were presented by W.Bro. David Cusworth and Conclusion by W.Bro. Mike Nixon.

Following Bro. Mark's Advancement, the Prov.G.M. made a presentation of an MBF collarette to the W.M., W.Bro. Greg Warman, assisted by the Prov.G.Ch.Stwd., W.Bro. Jeff Chambers.





The Prov.G.Ch.Stwd. then requested permission from the Prov.G.M. to make a further, surprise, presentation - this time to the Prov.G.M. himself. Permission having been granted, the Prov.G.Ch.Stwd. then called on the assistance of the Bro. Senior Warden/Lodge Charity Steward, W.Bro. Brian French.

The D.C., W.Bro. Mike Nixon conducted W.Bro. French to the East and the Prov.G.Ch.Stwd. asked him to read out the certificate to the Brethren confirming that the Province of Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford had now qualified for the Mark Benevolent Fund's highest honorific, the Grand Patron Diamond award. The Prov.G.Ch.Stwd. advised the Brethren that this award, the MBF's ultimate honorific, was a wonderful and fitting tribute to the outstanding generosity of the Province's Lodges and Brethren, past and present, over many years. He paid tribute to them all and averred that all the Lodges and members should now be very proud of our Province's fantastic achievement, after which he invested the Prov.G.M. with the Province's Grand Patron Diamond collarette and congratulated and thanked him.



The Prov.G.M. responded by stating that this award was received by him on behalf of all the Brethren of our Province and that he was immensely proud to be the first recipient and custodian of it.

The Lodge was then delighted to report that a further **THREE** Candidates were awaiting Advancement. Two of whom were proposed by Bro. Mark Gilbert (this morning's Advancee) and were Twins! That has got to be some kind of record we think. This was very well received by all with great acclaim.

The Lodge was then closed in due form and afterwards we repaired to the Festive Board where a very filling meat salad was consumed. Toasts were made and the Prov.G.M. in his response praised the Lodge for the success of the ceremony and the way it was performed. He also made a positive note of the programme of candidates that are in the pipeline commending the Brethren on the good work they are doing to introduce new members and the continuing, excellent support given by the Secretary, W.Bro. David Cusworth.

The Festive Board concluded with the usual fun and friendly manner with the hope that the visitors would be back again to enjoy the hospitality shown by the members of the Ailwyn Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

With thanks to W.Bro. Rob Taylor

## Prince Michael of Kent Mark Lodge No. 1913 Advancement



W.Bro. Richard Mayers, P.A.G.D.C., visited Prince Michael of Kent Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1913 in Barbados to give them some support.

With him were the Master, I.P.M. and six members of Albion Lodge of M.M.M. No. 212. He and Bro. Alfred Taylor were also representing Freemasons Without Borders Lodge of M.M.M. No. 2031.

Prince Michael of Kent Mark Lodge were well represented by the Master, W.Bro. Elson A Gaskin, and twenty-two Brethren at the meeting. It was some of the best Ritual Work Richard recollects seeing in a long time. Pictured below are the Worshipful Master with the two Candidates left and right.



## Psalters Conclave O.S.M. No. 505



Wy.Bro. Richard Mayers, A.G.D.C., also visited Psalters Conclave O.S.M. No. 505 for a Princes degree for two Candidates. Brothers Darren Mitchell and Kofi Hinds. It was a great degree with some good Ritual Work.

Pictured are the two Candidates (above) and the Officers and members of the Conclave (below).



## The Provincial Priory of Surrey in the Order of Knights of Malta



The Surrey Provincial Priory of Malta meeting was held at the Surbiton Masonic Hall under the Banner of Emmaus Preceptory No 446.

The afternoon started with a short meeting of Emmaus Preceptory. The Eminent Preceptor, E.Kt. Mark Winchester, Commander of the Grand Master's Bodyguard, opened the Preceptory and welcomed the Provincial Prior of Surrey, R.E.Kt. Patrick P Crossan and the Provincial team.

Also present were Knights Andrew Banks and Martyn Marsh who took their Malta Degree at the following Malta meeting, seen here with the Provincial Prior, Provincial Sub-Prior, Provincial Vice-Chancellor, and the Eminent Preceptor.



The Provincial Sub-Prior, V.E.Kt. Peter Brown, was then declared as Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year and, after all business had been concluded, the Preceptory was closed and the Temple prepared for the meeting of the Provincial Priory of Malta.

The Provincial Prior, Provincial Sub-Prior, and Provincial Officers entered the Temple and took their places at the Pentagonal and Octagonal Tables. The Provincial Prior invited the Provincial Sub-Prior to open a Chapter of Provincial Priory of Surrey in the Order of Knights of Malta.

Knights Andrew Banks and Martyn Marsh were then admitted members of the Order by the Eminent Sub-Prior and the Officers.

The Degree of Knight of St Paul was conducted by V.E.Kt. Chris Cradock, assisted by V.E.Kt. Chris Eley as Prelate.



The Historical Address and the explanation of the Banners were given by V.E.Kt. Peter Brown. The Candidates were then congratulated and welcomed into the Order by the Provincial Prior.



Following the ceremony, the Provincial Malta Officers of the year 2023 – 2024 were appointed and invested by the Provincial Prior.

The Provincial Priory of Surrey in the Order of Malta was closed and the Provincial Prior and the Officers of the Year retired in procession under the direction of the Provincial Mareschal, E.Kt. Tim Ford.

Afterwards the Brother Knights and their guests enjoyed a most convivial meal together at the Surbiton Masonic Hall.

*With thanks to V.E.Kt. Chris Eley, P.Gt.Reg.*

## The A.M.D. District Grand Prefect for London considers a new Council



Casting your mind back to Spring 2020, you will recall the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the world in general, our freedoms, and of course our Freemasonry. One of the few good things to come to the fore during the periods of lockdown and isolation was the huge surge in usage of virtual communication platforms, such as Zoom & Teams.

This, of course, allowed us as Freemasons to maintain contact with our friends, members and, of course, meet new Brethren from across the country and indeed, the globe. Suddenly the Masonic world felt in some way, smaller.

As far as AMD London is concerned, at the forefront of this was our Zoom Bar, which occurred every Saturday. This started out as a fixed, 40-minute chat, but its popularity became such that we purchased a Zoom account specifically for the District. Due to the numbers attending, meetings sometimes lasted nearly 90 minutes.

Now that we have returned to normality, the District has considered whether bringing those Brethren together – as well as other interested individuals - via a specific Council would be both workable and sustainable. A poll, which was conducted earlier in the year, to gauge expressions of interest was a clear indicator of positivity.

Therefore, we are seeking both Petitioners or Joining Members who wish to support both the initiative and the Council, generally, moving forward. Once the complete list of Petitioners has been collated, it is the District Grand Prefect's wish to present the matter to Grand Council for consideration.

You can find a Petitioner Application Form [Here](#) and a Membership Form [Here](#)

For further information please contact the Dist.G.Sec., W.Bro.Scott Cargill, P.G.J.D., at [s.cargill@amdondon.org](mailto:s.cargill@amdondon.org)

## Triple Scots



Despite a number of competing OSM events, there was a bumper turn out at Thornhill (just north of Dumfries) on Saturday for Buccleuch Conclave.

And what a joy it was to see three Brethren inducted into the Order in fine style, continuing a rebuilding process for this, the southern-most Conclave in Scotland.

Special congratulations to Supreme Ruler John Dunlop on a splendid ceremony, ably assisted by senior members Danny McMeeken and Mervyn McAleer. And a word too for the very junior brethren who took part so capably.

Welcome to Darren Campbell, Eric Dixon and Tom Kennedy, our new Secret Monitors.

I'm looking forward to returning in March to see them take their Princes Degree, when Scarlet Cord may well get a mention....

*With thanks to R.Wy.Bro. Ian Currans, G.Chan.*



## Charities round up



## Supporting Lovey Foundation



On Tuesday, 19 September, W.Bro. Darren Coleman- Heald, Charities Manager at M.M.H., presented W.Bro. Daniel Valentine, Chair of Lovey Foundation UK (and Master of University London Lodge No. 1389) with a cheque for £2,900, to enable the charity to purchase a motorbike to support children in rural Ghana.

Daniel took over as Chair of Lovey Foundation UK in March this year and applied for an MBF Grant in May.

Lovey Foundation is a UK based charity which provides access to education to children in rural Ghana. All Ghanaian children have the right to education but many of the poorest children do not take up this right because their parents cannot afford to buy school uniforms, or because the children work full-time for their families, doing such duties as collecting firewood, tending animals or labouring on farms. Lovey's team of volunteers in Ghana identify child workers all year round, and persuade their parents to allow them to attend school. Lovey commit to providing each child with the clothing and equipment they need for school. Throughout the year volunteers monitor each child to ensure that they are attending school and progressing in their education. All of this work will be much easier with a motorbike (The volunteers in Ghana had been asking for a motorbike for ten years.)

100% of Lovey's income is raised in the UK. 100% of Lovey's workers are volunteers; Lovey spends NOTHING on salaries, rent, commissions, or bonuses. Because of their low costs, Lovey gets good value for every penny they receive:

£6 pays for a school satchel

£10 pays for a pair of sandals

£15 pays for one child's stationery for a year

£25 pays for one school uniform to be made locally.

£65 pays for one child to be equipped for full time education.

You can support Lovey's work by donating at the link below.

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/lovey-foundation-uk>

Daniel Valentine

Chair, Lovey Foundation UK

[chair@loveyfoundation.org](mailto:chair@loveyfoundation.org)

[www.loveyfoundation.org](http://www.loveyfoundation.org)

## The Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund travels to Bristol



Representatives of the Division of Somerset and Bristol, R.III.Kt. David Palmer, Intendant-General, III.Kt. Richard Cooper, Divisional Recorder and Kt. Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager at MMH paid a visit to the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children to present a cheque for £2,500 to the Grand Appeal. We were met by Nicola Masters – Director and co-founder and Gemma Langley – Trust Fundraising Manager at their offices on Upper Maudlin Street opposite the hospital.



The funds will be used for updating equipment in the Music Therapy Department at the hospital providing crucial support for children and young people during their stay at the hospital.

Claire Fraser-Tytler took the reins on the day as we were allowed to meet young Buffy who was completely enamoured with a set of windchimes during her session.



Claire is one of the hospitals dedicated Music Therapists and has been part of the team since 2015. She visits each ward with a trolley full of instruments helping patients process the difficult feelings they experience whilst in hospital through making music together.

One thing that Claire said that really resonated with the team was, **'Music unlocks the emotion in everyone!'** – that could not be truer!

We look forward to hearing how the funds will be used.

With thanks to Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager at M.M.H.



### **About the Grand Appeal**

<https://www.grandappeal.org.uk/>

The Grand Appeal is the dedicated charity for Bristol Children's Hospital and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St Michael's Hospital. We work to ensure that every sick child and baby from across the Southwest has access to the very best care. We also support their families through the most challenging period of their lives.

Bristol Children's Hospital is one of UK's leading children's hospitals, providing specialist care to the largest geographical catchment area of any children's hospital in the country. The Hospital is a national and international centre of excellence for a range of services including treatment of cancer, leukaemia, epilepsy, burns and cardiac surgery, and its patients benefit from some of the most exciting advancements in global paediatric healthcare. Bristol Children's Hospital is also home to the *only* dedicated Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and Major Trauma Centre in the Southwest.

This expert centre provides lifesaving care for the sickest babies and children in the region, including those with highly complex medical conditions – from rare genetic disorders, neurological conditions and congenital heart disease to traumatic injuries, cancer and kidney disease.

The Grand Appeal supports these young patients by running three family accommodation houses and employing specialist staff who work on the ground in the hospital to support patients and families, including music therapists and dedicated play specialists. The Charity also delivers a multi-million-pound portfolio of investment into the hospital, funding lifesaving

equipment, pioneering research, and creative projects to ensure the hospital is a child-friendly and welcoming environment.

The Music Therapy service supported by The Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund is helping to bring a smile to the faces of even the most critically ill children. The fun, musical activities delivered by our Music Therapists (Claire being who you met today) provide a much-needed respite from intensive medical treatment and give young patients a positive outlet to express the many emotions they may feel while in hospital.

Nicola Masters – Director - As co-founder, Nicola leads our multi-award winning charity across its multiple brands as well as delivering funding programmes in partnership with Bristol Children's Hospital.

Gemma Langley – Trust Fundraising Manager

Claire Fraser-Tytler - Claire is one of our dedicated Music Therapists and has been part of the team since 2015. Visiting each ward with a trolley full of instruments Claire helps patients process the difficult feelings they experience whilst in hospital through making music together.





**Grand Sovereign's  
Care for  
Children Fund**



**SOMERSET & BRISTOL DIVISION  
WALLACE AND GROMIT'S  
CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION**

**'The Grand Appeal' creating pioneering facilities and saving young lives.**

**£2,500**



*Ryan A. Williams*  
Ryan A. Williams  
Grand Recorder

@thegrandappeal  
@MarkMasonsHall  
#Freemasonry



## Coast & Castles Bike Ride



The weekend of Friday 15 to Sunday 17 September saw a contingent of Durham Freemasons get on their bikes for the Coast & Castles Bike Ride. This would be a mammoth ride from Edinburgh to Chester-le-Street along the North East Coast and visiting numerous castles along the way.

There were 24 cyclists and 4 support team members who set off in the early hours of Friday to arrive at Craigmillar Castle outside of Edinburgh for the start. Ahead lay a daunting 170 mile route south to the Masonic Hall at Chester-le-Street.

After a good breakfast to pack in the energy, they set off for the first leg of the journey. Lunch break was hosted at Dunbar Masonic Hall and provided by the local Freemasons. Also in attendance was the Provincial Grand Master for East Lothian, Douglas Fergie who presented them with a donation of £250 to the cause.



*1 - East Lothian Prov.G.M.*

Southwards they rode and crossing the border to Berwick for the overnight halt. After a long and wet day, the team enjoyed an Italian meal followed by a chance to top up their liquid levels before camping down at the local Youth Hostel.

Saturday started as Friday left off, wet and dreich but undeterred, they set off along the scenic coastal route. On their way, they passed Holy Island and Bamburgh Castles before arriving at Seahouses Masonic Hall for lunch, again provided by the local Freemasons. During lunch they were serenaded by the inimitable Kenneth Howe who was on holiday nearby at Beadnell.



*2 - Kenneth Howe entertains*

More castles were ticked off the list on the way to the Alnwick halt and a much-earned meal at a local pub. Of course, a few drinks were required for their anaesthetic qualities and the great camaraderie which had built up.



Sunday dawned brighter and drier! The final leg saw them take in a much-needed lunch at Blyth Masonic Hall again provided by the local Freemasons. The route took them under the River Tyne, using the pedestrian tunnel which runs along side the vehicular tunnels.



3 - Tyne tunnel

Not far now to the final destination where there was a small crowd of family, friends and Masons waiting for them outside Chester-le-Street Masonic Centre to clap them home.

At the finish, to help the fatigued riders, a hot meal was waiting along with a well-stocked bar! A short presentation was arranged where a commemorative cheque was delivered to David Hanson, Prov.G.M. for Durham Mark and Second Principal of Durham Chapter. A magnificent sum amounting to a minimum of £25,000 was declared which will be split equally between the Craft Durham Benevolence and Durham Mark 2029 Festival charities.



4 - Presentation

In receiving the cheque, David said "It is wonderful to see two brilliant charities benefitting from Coast & Castles Bike Ride. Congratulations to all the support staff, cyclists and all who donated. Remember it's not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference and you have certainly done that. Inspirational!"

The event demonstrated the positive collaboration of Companion Orders and Craft Masons. Many of the riders who despite not being in the Mark (yet!!) purchased Mark Festival Jewels. There was a tremendous sense of camaraderie amongst the team and magnificent kindness shown by all the

Masons along the way. Not to mention the enormous generosity of all the sponsors in helping achieve the magnificent sum towards two fine charities which helps benefit the local communities. Well done to everyone and for promoting Freemasonry.

*With thanks to W.Bro. David Battensby, P.A.G.St.B., Provincial Registrar of Durham*



5 - The banner





*6 - Almost home*



*7 - Better weather*



*8 - A quick stop*



*9 - A fluffy welcome home*



10 - Cram in the carbs lads



11 - Finish venue



12 - Festival jewels



*13 - Home at last*



*14 - Just a little wet*



*15 - No time for sightseeing*



*16 - Sharing the goodwill*



*17 - Thanks for the hospitality*

## Join us on Social Media

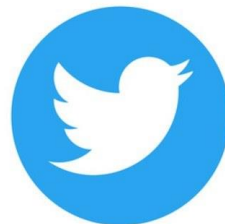
Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders, and how we share the most up-to-date information with members. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent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



## 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.



## 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	Dinner Starts	Approx. Ends
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - Limited Capacity	Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	Thursday, 4 May 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:00 PM
KT	Great Priory	Wednesday, 17 May 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Act 18.18	Tuesday, 13 June 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	1:00 PM	3:15 PM	4:15 PM	5:45 PM
RCC	Grand Imperial Conclave	Tuesday, 4 July 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
MARK	Grand Lodge - Investiture Functions	Tuesday, 22 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 - 130 Celebrations	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	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

01/01/2023

[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. The bottom set is a shield-shaped pendant with a blue and gold border, featuring a central emblem and the text 'STEWARDSHIP JEWELS' and 'MARK BENEVOLENT FUND'. To the right, a purple and red shield-shaped logo for the 'MARK BENEVOLENT FUND CHESHIRE 2024' is shown. Below the logo, the text reads: '156<sup>th</sup> MBF Festival Banquet will be held at the Concorde Conference Centre Wilmslow Old Rd, Altrincham WA15 8XQ Saturday, 6 July 2024'. A red 'BOOK HERE' link is followed by 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.



The Mark Emergency Relief Fund allows you to make donations in a variety of ways to the Ukraine Fund and the Türkiye / Syria earthquake and the recent Morocco earthquake (via our partners ShelterBox).

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](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

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