

Freemasonry@86 News 29 September 2023



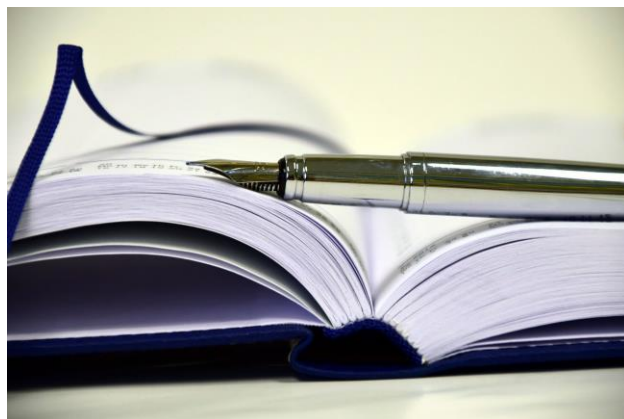
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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. ***This meeting is now fully subscribed so please don't attend if you haven't already notified us of your intention to be at the meeting, regardless of whether you wish to dine.***

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

Mark Provinces join forces for the MBF Festival



Eleven Mark Provinces came together to celebrate the achievements of the West Yorkshire fundraising efforts at the annual MBF Festival Seminar at Mark Masons' Hall.

This is the opportunity for those Provinces that are in festival to share their knowledge, experiences and best practice with each other to get the best result possible.

We were pleased to be joined by the new President of the MBF - R.W.Bro. Archie Torrance, P.Prov.G.M. (Kent) who, having been the Festival President in 2020, was able to impart his experiences of running such an event.



The Province of West Yorkshire raised a magnificent £1,582,870 and during the fundraising all of their Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges achieved 'Grand Patron Diamond' status. What a result!



Provinces that joined us this year were

2024 Cheshire

2025 Oxfordshire

2026 Hampshire & Isle of Wight

2027 Warwickshire

2028 Somerset

2029 Durham

2030 Essex

2031 Northumberland

2032 Wiltshire

2033 North & East Yorkshire

Article – W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager, MMH

Pictures by Nicola Rowlands – Finance Assistant, MMH





















Consecration Ceremony of Jorge Canning Lodge No. 2051 of MMM



For eight decades, Jorge Canning Lodge No. 390 (on behalf of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Argentina) has been a beacon of light in the Masonic community, serving as a source of knowledge, fellowship, and wisdom. We have witnessed generations of committed and dedicated Masons who have contributed to the growth and strengthening of our Brotherhood.

In this special year, we also share exciting news: the fulfillment of a dream. A group of Mark Master Masons, all members of Jorge Canning Lodge No. 390, have conducted the Consecration of Jorge Canning Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 2051. This new Lodge is an expression of our ongoing commitment to Masonic principles and represents a significant step in our evolution as a fraternity.

Happy 80th anniversary, Worshipful Jorge Canning Lodge No. 390, and welcome to Jorge Canning Mark Lodge No. 2051!

This extraordinary achievement would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many Brethren. We wish to express our deep gratitude to the Consecration Commission, led by our R.W. Brother Ernesto A. Marcer, District Grand Master. His leadership and commitment have paved the way for this momentous achievement.



Jorge Canning Mark Lodge No. 2051 has been consecrated under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas. This international connection will strengthen our bonds with Masons from around the world and further enrich our Masonic experience.

Above all, Mark Well!

With thanks to W.Bro. Carlos Stefanizzi, P.G.St.B., District Grand Secretary of The River Plate



A bumper attendance at the annual Essex Knights Templar Family Church Service



A very high attendance at the annual Knights Templar Family Church Service received a warm welcome at St Peters in the Fields Church in Bocking, Braintree for what proved to be a very enjoyable event.

Led for the second time by Rev Richard Chand and aided by the Provincial Prelate, V.E.Kt. Les Retford, the Church was near to capacity to hear a wonderful Service including the Anthems sung by the Choir under the direction of David Wood.

This annual Church Service is open to all the Knights of the Province, along with families and friends, as we join with some of the regular congregation in a colourful and moving celebration of the Order and its meaning.

During the service the Knights of the Province offer their recommitment to their faith and to the Precepts of the Order. A dedication is given to the 24 Banners of the Preceptories of the Province.



In attendance was the Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Roger Langdon Smith, and the Prov.Sub Prior, E.Kt. Mark Harrison, accompanied by their wives, Veronica and Sharon.

It was also a pleasure to be joined on this occasion by our Past Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Anthony John Helliard and his wife Betty.

Afterwards a total of 107 Essex members along with some of the congregation, including the Rev Chand and members of the Church Choir, enjoyed Afternoon Tea at the Howard Hall Masonic Centre, just a stone's throw from the Church.

The Provincial Prior presented Rev Chand with a donation towards Church funds and an additional donation to the Church Choir, which were both gratefully received.

The planning for next year's Church Service is already under way and the date will be confirmed in due course.

With thanks to E.Kt. Chris Smith, P.Gt.W. of R., Prov.Vice-Chan.



Cumba Preceptory No. 476



An Open Evening to Remember

Friday 1st September 2023

The Cumba Preceptory takes its name from Cumba or Combe (now Templecombe) the site of the old Preceptory or Commandery in Somerset of the Knights Templar (1185-1313) and later the Knights Hospitaller (1313-1540).

The current Preceptory of the United and Religious Military and Masonic Order of the Temple was consecrated at Yeovil on the 7th January 1977, the ceremony being performed by the then Provincial Prior for Somerset, Very Eminent Kt. W.B. Clatworthy, assisted by officers of Great Priory and of Provincial Priory.

This evening , however, was somewhat different and probably the first of its kind held at the Preceptory now meeting in Crewkerne.

As required by its warrant the regular meeting of the Preceptory was convened at 6:30 p.m., with 34 Knights present. It was opened in the customary form, the relevant business discharged and the Preceptory closed; before commencing the main event of the evening to introduce Companions from local Chapters to share with them an advancement in Masonic knowledge about our remarkable Order including its disassociated relationship with our Medieval Predecessors and the objective of the Masonic Knights Templars today.



Once the Temples furniture and accoutrements had been stored away the Guests were welcomed into the Preceptory with the attendant Knights dressed in full regalia. The guests were personally and cordially welcomed by E.Kt. Andrew Mackay the Eminent Preceptor and R.E.Kt. Paul Jeffery Davis the Provincial Prior for Somerset.

To clearly illustrate the background to our Order a video, of 25 minutes duration was shown. This inclusive video had been commissioned originally by R.E.Kt. Graham McGowen-Smyth, the Provincial Prior for Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Buckinghamshire but tailored specifically for Somerset needs this evening by E.Kt. Graham Snell P.Gt.A.-de-C. (*a Knight of Ox, Berks & Bucks*).

An explanation of the modern Masonic Knights Templar was then given by R.E.Kt. Paul Davis.

This included a talk from E.Kt. Ray Sheppard the Provincial Sub-Prior who, dressed in Malta Regalia, expounded upon the history of the Knights of Malta from the time of leaving Outremer to their final resting place in Malta.

Our newly appointed Development Officer, E.Kt. Ray Beckingham P.Gt.Std.B.(B)., a distinguished Freemason in Somerset and a Knight of our Order for over thirty years, and Bro.Kt. Neil Braginton, a recent newcomer to our Order, explained what Knights Templar Masonry Meant to each of them.

A short demonstration of Sword Drill by the Provincial Priors Bodyguard then followed before an Arch of Steel was formed whilst the Provincial Prior and Provincial Sub-Prior retired.



All the Knights and their Guests then decamped to the dining room where a splendid three course dinner was enjoyed. The pudding was appropriately accompanied by “St John Commandaria” dessert wine with an explanation of its significance given by E.Kt. Clive Sanders.



The Preceptory tradition of taking Port after the pudding was also observed whilst the snuff box was passed around. Bro. Kt. Steve Beach explained the custom of the snuff box which is engraved with the name Sir Lionel Brett the Primus Eminent Preceptor in the year 1976. Sir Lionel was subsequently appointed 2nd Great Constable and from 1984 until his death in 1990 he held the office of Great Chancellor. In 1985 he became only the second member of the Province of Somerset to be appointed ‘Knight Grand Cross of the United Orders’.

Traditional Toasts were then given but because of the presence of non-members salutations could not be given.



R.E.Kt. Paul Davis, the Provincial Prior concluded by thanking all the Knights that had been involved with planning this event and said he hoped everyone had enjoyed the evening, particularly the Companions present.

He also mentioned the 'Swift' which was on display, which was presented to Somerset by the Jerusalem Eye Hospital, the main Charity supported by the Order, for the contributions made to the Hospital in celebration of the Provinces 175th Anniversary.



In keeping with the Preceptories traditions, the last toast taken seated was to the memory of Serlo Fitz Odo who in 1185 founded the first Preceptory in Somerset at Templecombe.

“To the Pious memory of Serlo Fitz Odo”

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With thanks to E.Kt. Derek J. Tadman, Gt.Her., Prov.Vice-Chan.

R.S.M. Warwickshire District Annual Sunday Lunch



The Warwickshire District Sunday Lunch has been a firm favourite with Companions and their families since its inception by Past District Grand Master David Rawlins. It is held towards the end of September, and often enjoys good weather to appreciate the surrounding countryside.



This year's lunch, hosted by District Grand Master Peter Wellings, was no exception with around 70 attending the Grounds Farm Barn at Wishaw Country Sports in leafy North Warwickshire. The event is

held in a beautifully restored and modernised barn, which provides a delightful setting for a relaxed and enjoyable lunch.



Attending this year was the Prov.G.M. of the Warwickshire Mark Degree, Ill.Comp. Philip Wills; the Intendant-General for West Midlands Division, Ill.Comp. John Tristram and numerous other high ranking members of the District.

After a splendid carvery style lunch, the District Grand Master thanked all those responsible for organising the event, including Anne & David Mitchell, caterers for the event, and presented Anne with a bouquet in appreciation of her culinary skills. He also thanked John Hayward, District Assistant Grand Recorder, for co-ordinating the event.



1 - Dist.G.M., Peter Wellings (right) with Dist.A.G.Rec., John Hayward



St David Consistory - Rhyl



An early morning visit to Elwy Hall at Rhyl was well worth the journey recently to witness two new Companions join the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord via St David Consistory No 139, the newest Consistory in the Province of Cheshire & North Wales.

Sadly, a number of external factors diminished attendance, but Right Distinguished Companion Chris Welton, Provincial Grand Summus, was supported by several members of the Provincial Team, with Distinguished Companion Malcolm Orr in his role as Deputy Provincial Grand Director of

Ceremonies, Eminent Companion Paul Burton acting as Provincial Grand

Sword Bearer and Distinguished Companion Harry Wright acting as Provincial Grand Standard Bearer.

Proceedings within the Consistory were controlled by Very Distinguished Companion Wally Edwards, the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, acting as President; Distinguished Companion Brain Williams, the new Provincial Grand Recorder, acting as Primus of Lectores, and Eminent Companion Barrie Billinge in his appointed role as Primus of Ostiarii.

The business of the day was to admit Brothers Andrew Clarke and David

Hallows as Companion Ostiarii, both of whom are members of Dewi Sant Conclave No 457, meeting later that morning.

Eminent Companion Barrie performed an excellent ceremony, ably assisted by Distinguished Companion Tony Stringer, acting as Consistory Director of Ceremonies.

The Provincial Grand Summus was then delighted to welcome his two newest members, and wished them well for their future within the Order.

The Consistory and the Province continues to flourish.

Hopefully, no one suffered the indignity of breaking the new Welsh 20 miles-an-hour speed limit in the surrounding area.

With thanks to Tony Stringer, Prov.G.D.C., P.G.Her.

Pictured Dist.Comp. Malcolm Orr; Comp. Andrew Clarke; R.Dist.Comp. Chris Welton, Provincial Grand Summus; Comp. David Hallows; Em.Comp. Barrie Billinge; Em.Comp. David Littlewood; V.Dist.Comp. Wally Edwards; Dist.Comp. Harry Wright.



Comp. Andrew Clarke; R.Dist.Comp. Chris Welton, Provincial Grand Summus; Comp David Hallows; Em.Comp. Barrie Billinge, Primus of Ostiarii



Right Worthy Brother Tony Stringer, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler and Right Distinguished Companion Chris Welton, Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of Cheshire & North Wales

Arthur is the real hero



At the Sir John Cotton Mark Lodge's 'Open Evening' held on Friday, 8 September, at the St Andrews Masonic Rooms in Biggleswade the members were joined by Professor M. J. Norton, *OBE, FREng*, the Treasurer of the local Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, his lovely wife Barbara and her guide dog 'ARTHUR'.

The 'Open Evening' was a informal opportunity for those Freemasons who meet at Lodges within the [St Andrews Centre](#) to find about Sir John Cotton Mark Lodge, its members, its history and local connections as well as about the [Mark Degree](#).

Through a series of info-boards, a video presentation on the Mark degree, exhibits of Sir John Cotton and the Mark degree as well as an open Lodge, the guests on the evening were provided with plenty to see and interact with.

The members of Sir John also treated the several guests who attended the open evening to a hot and cold buffet, and by the empty plates all round, there was no doubt that was also well received.

[Freemasonry](#) is well known for its charitable works, locally, nationally and internationally and Mark Masons firmly believe in the motto and principal guideline of their [Mark Benevolent Fund](#) "*Bis dat qui cito dat*" – *he gives twice who gives promptly*.

So, when Sir John Cotton Mark Lodge received a legacy donation, the members decided that it should go to an organisation where any donation helps make a transformative difference to peoples lives, and when one member suggested the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, it was unanimously and promptly agreed and so earlier this year the Lodge donated **£2,500** to the [Guide Dogs for the Blind Association](#).

The Lodge received a very gracious letter of thanks from Prof. Norton, and the Open Evening Team invited him and his wife (and Arthur) to attend the Open Evening, to meet the members and 'receive' the donation via a BIG cheque.

Barbara explained to us what a real difference Arthur has made to her life, and the lives of so many other with sight limitations. To a sighted person Arthur is an adorable, gorgeous dog, well behaved, gentle

temperament and any family would be lucky to have him as a pet. **BUT**, Arthur is not a pet – he is quite literally a life changing working dog, whose focus is Barbara, whose life is transformed in so many different ways that it is extremely hard to even begin to imagine what it is like to have sight limitations.

Arthur's working life will be spent enabling Barbara to do the things everyone else takes for granted and that's why Arthur is the real hero.

Sir John Cotton Mark Lodge members were thrilled to meet Arthur and to see the real difference their donation will help make – BUT it costs £10,000 just to help get a puppy through to training and over £50,000 to support the lifetime costs of a working guide dog.

We want to raise more and have a plan to do so And if you want to find out please feel free to contact our Lodge Charity Steward, Bro Iain MacCormick via email at iain@ekmservices.co.uk

With thanks to W.Bro. Colin Caldicott P.Prov.G.S.O., Secretary, Sir John Cotton Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1507



Join us on Social Media

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

We can be found at:

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

Twitter - [@MarkMasonsHall](#)

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



Calendar of Annual Meetings

Grand Meetings Calendar 2023 - All Orders

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

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Refreshment Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Ends	Quize Start	Auction Ends
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 - 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	Grand 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 - Invitations Active & 52	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 - Invitations Promotions	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 Celebrations	Tuesday, 8 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}	Grand 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

16/01/2023

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

MBF Festival Cheshire 2024



156th MBF Festival Banquet
will be held at the
Concorde Conference Centre
Wilmslow Old Rd, Altrincham
WA15 8XQ
Saturday, 6 July 2024

BOOK HERE



Stewardship Jewels

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

[2024 Cheshire](#)

[2025 Oxfordshire](#)

[2026 Hampshire & IOW](#)

[2027 Warwickshire](#)

[2028 Somerset](#)

[2029 Durham](#)

[2030 Essex](#)

[2031 Northumberland](#)

We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.

















We reported recently that the new style MBF Festival Stewardship is aimed principally, but not exclusively, at members of each host Festival Province.

In return for a qualifying donation of £100, each Steward will be entitled to:

- A distinctive Stewards' breast jewel, year bar and pocket jewel holder.
- Inclusion of their name in the Festival Stewards' Roll of Honour in the Festival booklet

- And for individuals making their first donation under the scheme, qualification as a Life Governor of the Mark Benevolent Fund – the first step on the ladder of honorifics.

Monies raised by the take-up of Festival Stewardships will, of course, be included in each respective Festival total.



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 and Finance Assistant, Millie Pilson, M.Pilson@mmh.org.uk

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

Social Media Guidelines



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

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

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

The Shop@86

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



Admin Departments @86



All departments and teams at Mark Masons' Hall are available via email and telephone to help and support members and visitors.

Most communication for Masonic Administration should go via the Provincial Secretary, or equivalent, and they will know who to contact here at M.M.H. if they are unable to answer the query themselves.

Published by the Communications Team at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL

Find us here [///prefer.status.sharp](http://prefer.status.sharp)