

Freemasonry@86 News 6 October 2023



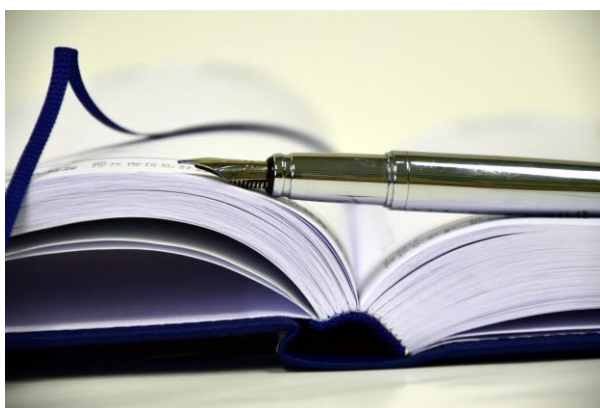
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Companion Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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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, 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

A once in a generation celebration of Cryptic Freemasonry



On Tuesday this week around 800 Companions of the Royal and Select Masters arrived at Freemasons' Hall, London, to witness and be part of what had been billed as a Once in a Generation Celebration of Cryptic Freemasonry, to celebrate the Sesquicentenary (150th Anniversary) of the formation of Grand Council.

As all business of Grand Council had been conducted at a scaled down business meeting early this year, on the usual date in April, this had cleared the way for this meeting to be one of celebration, enjoyment, and companionship.

M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones, IX, Grand Master, presided over the meeting, assisted by R.III.Comp. His Hon. Ian Alexander, KC, IX, Deputy Grand Master, and R.III.Comp. Paul Norman, IX, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.



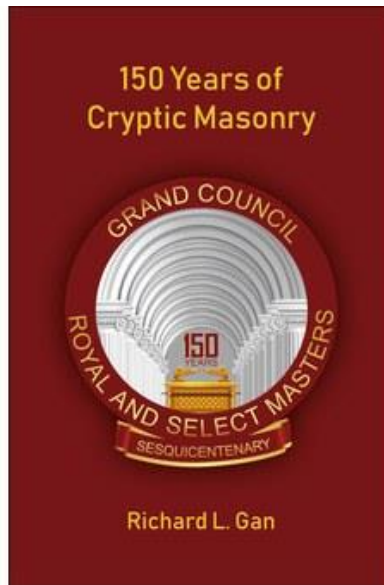
The first item of business was to invest recipients of appointment to, and promotion in Grand Rank and those receiving celebratory Grand Ranks. The Grand Recorder read out the names of the 182 recipients and those present were invested personally by the Grand Master.

We were then treated to a fascinating and well compacted history of the foundation of Grand Council by R.III.Comp. Richard Gan, JP, IX, P.G.P.C.W., Grand Historiographer, available [Here](#).



This not only set the scene for those attending the meeting but formed an introduction to the book, written by Richard, detailing in full the history of Cryptic Masonry in England and our Grand Council,

which formed part of the celebratory pack handed out to attendees after the meeting. Now available from TheShop@86 and Lewis Masonic.



Then followed the Dedication of a new Ark of the Covenant, specifically for use by Grand Council. The Ark of the Covenant had been kindly sponsored by Districts and Unattached Councils, and Grand Master's Council, of whom more later.

The pedestal (not the one shown below) bears two plates, one listing the sponsors, and the other, the Grand Masters of our Grand Council from the first, Revd Canon George Raymond Portal, to the present day.





The ceremony had been written especially by R.III.Comp. Paul Norman when he was G.D.C. and comprised and escort to the Ark of the Covenant, prayers, and an explanation of the symbols on the Ark of the Covenant, written and presented by R.III.Comp. David Rose, G.Coun., available [Here](#).



The Grand Master then dedicated the Ark of the Covenant as a sign of loyalty and unity 'to serve and inspire Companions to even greater service to God, to the Order, and to each other'.

The dedication ceremony was followed by a very interesting oration by the Grand Chaplain, V.III.Comp. Dr Vivian Thomas, *JP*, available [Here](#).



The Grand Master then invited members of Grand Master's Council No. 1 onto the floor of the Grand Temple and invited the Grand Recorder to read a 'Charter of Recognition'.

As the Council was one of the original Councils which founded our Grand Council, and is the only one of those to have worked continuously for the full 150 years, it was felt that something should be done to recognise the important positions this Council holds in our Constitution.

The Charter of Recognition is a document conferring Time Immemorial (TI) status on the Council. It shall now be known as Grand Masters Council TI and, by virtue of this Charter, members are permitted to wear a button bearing the initials TI on the ribbon of their jewel of the Order.

The Grand Master then called upon R.III. Comp. Paul Norman, IX, G.P.C.W., to inform Companions of a Sesquicentenary Appeal. Details of this appeal and how to donate will be shared with your District Grand Masters in the very near future and they will disseminate the information to the Companions of their Districts.

The Grand Master then gave his address to Grand Council:

May I begin by welcoming you all here today on this very special occasion and say how delighted I am at the tremendous size of this gathering. I will come onto specific welcomes later. In the meantime, I congratulate those who received Appointments and Promotions to Grand Rank today and those who received theirs in April and whom we have today acknowledged. In either case Grand Rank in this Order is an achievement to be very proud of and serves not only to recognise your past contributions, but also as an inducement to further efforts.

I also congratulate Sam Sammakia, now an Ill.Comp., for his winning design in the lapel pin competition, which when you all receive yours later in the goodie bag, you will see features a subtle representation of a broken triangle.



As this is a special meeting, I will not be giving you the usual snapshot of Grand Council's activities of the year, you will have to curb your curiosity until next April. However, we did install a new Dist.G.M. for Devon and Cornwall in July and would ask R.Ill.Comp. Gary Peard to stand and be recognised. This was in consequence of the retirement of R.Ill.Comp. Jan Olszewski who served that office with distinction for 9 years. I have personally thanked Jan for his sterling service over many years and wish him happiness and a great improvement in his health during his retirement.

Also, sadly this will be the last Grand Council meeting attended by R.Ill.Comp Robert Mitchell, Dist.G.M. for Lancashire who has asked to retire from his post early next year, after almost a decade of glorious contribution to our Order.

Robert, I will of course write to you formally in due course, but in the meantime, we are all extremely grateful to you and thank you so much. I have appointed Ill.Comp. Geoffrey Catterall P.G.Cond.C. to succeed Robert and will be pleased to install him on 17 February 2024.

He then proceeded to welcome our visitors from our Sister and Daughter Constitutions, from Overseas and the Heads of our Companions Orders. These included France, South East Asia, India, the Grand Councils of Indiana, New Jersey, Ontario, New York, the State of Missouri, Idaho, Florida, Texas, Greece, and Masonry in Finland.

As well as, from our own Constitution, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, South and East Caribbean, South Africa, the Bahamas, Belgium, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.



He then continued:

As I said in my introduction a lot has happened since our inception. A long, long time Companions, and time is naturally an essential part of our lives and actions. So, I thank you all for giving up your time, for making time for both today and for your Districts, Inspectorates and for your Councils, all of the time.

Because time is an equal opportunity employer. Each human being has exactly the same number of hours and minutes each day. Rich people cannot buy more hours and scientists cannot invent more minutes and you cannot save time to spend on another day. Even so it is amazingly fair. No matter how much time you have wasted in the past, you will still have an entire tomorrow.

Let us grasp that tomorrow Companions and see this wonderful Order safely into the magnificent era of its bicentenary.

The Grand Master then thanked a larger than usual list of those who assisted in making the preparation for the day's celebrations before concluding by saying:

The following quotation has been attributed to several people, Eleanor Roosevelt, the cartoonist Bil Keane and the comedienne Joan Rivers whoever said it, it is quite appropriate: -

"Yesterday the past, tomorrow the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present".

Companions continue to enjoy your Cryptic Masonry it is very special so please keep it that way.

This has been a wonderful day of celebration. The Roman playwright Plautus said a very, very long time ago: -

"Let us celebrate the occasion with sweet words and wine".

Well, I cannot guarantee the sweet words, but I can promise you the wine, so will not delay you from it any further. So,

Finally, Companions - Be of one mind, live in peace, and may the Supreme Master of the Universe delight to dwell amongst you and bless you for evermore.

I thank you for your attention.

One final surprise was to confer the Rank of Past Grand Councillor on now R.III.Comp. Graham Seeman, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, for his tireless work in that Office and, most importantly, holding together all the threads of this celebratory meeting to make it such a memorable event for all present.



With the Grand Master's quote of '*Let us celebrate the occasion with sweet words and wine*' still fresh in our minds, we retired to dinner where the brilliant London Banqueting Ensemble entertained us with music throughout the meal, culminating in the post horn gallop.



To round the event off, the Deputy Grand Master, R.III.Comp. Ian Alexander, proposed a warm and heartfelt Toast to the Grand Master, available [Here](#), who responded eloquently as ever before bidding diners a very safe journey home and retiring from the festivities.



Thank you to everyone who attended this genuinely one-off meeting. You helped make it a day to remember for all present. We hope you enjoyed your day.

You can view a full gallery of photographs, of the meeting by [Clicking Here](#) courtesy of Ill.Comp. Chris Eley, P.G.Swd.B.

You can download the brochure for the meeting [Here](#)

A visit to the Garden of England



The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Kent took place on Saturday, 30 September 2023 at the Clive Emson Suite, Kent Showground, Detling.



We received a very warm welcome on our arrival with tea/coffee and biscuits.





There were honoured guests from many Provinces, and other Masonic Orders in Kent.



The Brethren were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Worshipful Brethren.



And past members of the Provincial Executive, Right Worshipful Brothers Roland Wade and Archie Torrance.



The meeting was called to order to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying an Assistant Provincial Grand Master; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master; and the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Peter David Williams, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearers.



Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master.



With the Provincial Grand Tyler having to improvise at the 'door'.



The Provincial Grand Master was saluted under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.



Those present remembered the Brethren who had passed to the Grand Lodge above since the last annual meeting. The Provincial Grand Master then individually welcomed the many representatives of other Provinces and Masonic Orders, thanking them for their support for Kent Mark.



After the regular business before Provincial Grand Lodge had been concluded the Provincial Grand Master had much pleasure in re-appointing W.Bro. Martyn Summers, P.G.S.D., as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and W.Bro.s Trevor Sharpe, P.A.G.D.C., and Stephen Hyland, P.G.Stwd., as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.



The Officers for the ensuing year were then appointed, invested, and saluted, following which the Provincial Grand Master addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. In his Address he said how heartening it was to see so many attending Provincial Grand Lodge and he congratulated all those he had appointed or promoted that day.

His number one priority is membership and there are many initiatives in place to support this. The Kent Mark Benevolent Fund has match funded Lodge donations to the tune of £3,000, and more funds are available. He thanked the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and the Provincial Grand Secretary and their teams for all their hard work in ensuring the day was a success and closed by reminding everyone that we are all members of the Craft whom we should give our fullest support. The meeting was then called to order and closed in due form.

The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession.





Greeting their honoured guests as they left.



The Brethren of the Mark Province of Kent and their guests then retired to the bar. There were many guests from other Provinces, such as Kent, Middlesex.



London



As well as the Provincial; Grand Master of the Craft Province of West Kent, Mark Estaugh, seen here with R.W.Bro. Archie Torrance, Past Provincial Grand Master for Kent Mark.



After refreshments, the Brethren of the Province of Kent and their guests dined together in peace and harmony, where the customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured.



We all agreed that it was a most enjoyable day out in the Garden of England.



With thanks to V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, P.G.J.O.

St Barnabas Mark Masters' Lodge No. 97 celebrates 150 years



Thursday, 5 October 2023 was the date chosen to celebrate 150 years of existence at their current home in Aylesbury, Province of Buckinghamshire. Over 60 Brethren attended the event which was graced by the presence of R.W.Bro. Prof Denovan K Wilson, Assistant Grand Master, along with Dep.G.D.C., W.Bro. Andy Jennings.



Also present were 20 members of the Province of Buckinghamshire's Team led by R.W.Bro. Keith David Bristow & his Deputy, W.Bro. Peter Cole. The meeting was further graced by the presence of R.W.Bro. Kevin J Spencer, Prov.G.M. for Staffordshire & Shropshire, and the previous Prov.G.M. for Buckinghamshire R.W.Bro. David E Tremaine.

St Barnabas Lodge, being the oldest Mark Lodge in Bucks, showed the way forward during the evening by Advancing Bro. Peter Gerity. Peter is a member of Fairway Craft Lodge in the same centre. And, by the look on his face and his comments made after the ceremony of Advancement, the experience was very enjoyable and made a good and lasting impression on him.



During the Celebrations in the Lodge room, V.W.Bro. Bob Chevin gave a short history of the 150 years of this Lodge which originally met in Bedfordshire and was called Beaudesert Lodge No. 97.

Comment was made on how brief some of the minutes were, and the Lodge had met continually during both World Wars.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Chaplain, W.Bro. David Sawyer, delivered an eloquent Oration, during which he pointed out the differences in life today compared to 150 years ago for members, and how easy it is today to get to meeting in relative comfort.

The after proceeding met with much glee and merriment assisted by good food and wine.

With thanks to W.Bro. Nigel Beaven, P.Prov.G.J.W., Prov.G.Reg.

Pictured in the main line-up photograph above are l to r: R.W.Bro. Kevin Spencer; W.Bro. Andy Jennings; R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan K Wilson; W.Bro. Richard Whittaker, W.M. St Barnabas No. 97; R.W.Bro. Keith David Bristow; Bro. Peter Gerity, the Advancee; and W.Bro. Peter Cole



A first for the Mark Degree in Essex



Essex Armed Forces Lodge of M.M.M. No. 2016 held their Installation meeting, and saw R.W.Bro. Eddy Garty installed as Master. Eddy is currently the Prov.G.M. for the Mark Province of Middlesex, whilst the current Master of Middlesex Armed Forces Lodge is none other than the Provincial Grand Master for Essex Mark, R.W.Bro. Terence D. Sheern.

You can read a full report [Here](#)



The Province of Essex has produced the fourth of its greatly acclaimed podcast series. This episode continues to highlight some of its "Themed Lodges" and is available [Here](#)

These Lodges have proved highly successful, and their membership continues to grow. These Lodges welcome new members and especially guests. If you would like to visit one of the Lodges, please contact the Provincial Secretary: essexprovgsec@gmail.com for details.



The Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Prof. Denovan K. Wilson, recently visited Essex Installed Masters Lodge, which is said to have the largest membership of an Installed Masters Lodge in the Constitution.

He received a tremendous welcome by their members and was presented with some mementos of his visit by the Prov.G.M. in the form of an "I love Essex" baseball cap and a vest to keep him warm in his home county of Durham.



The full report can be found [Here](#).

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

12th International Synod of Great Priories



The twelfth International Synod of Great Priories was held in Rhodes under the banner of the Great Priory of Greece, from 28 to 30 Sept. Twenty-two Great Priories were represented and after they were welcomed into Great Priory of Greece there were three lectures on matters of interest to the Knights Templar.

One of them was by our very own E.Kt. Jamie Ingham Clark, P.Dep.Gt.Swd.B., who presented on the relationship between the K.T. in England and Wales and the Eye Hospital of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, a relationship which stretches back over 100 years.

Jamie also referred to projects that would not have been completed without that support including, most recently, the refurbishment of the Children's Ward.

The next day the attendees were able to witness the Installation of a new Knight according to the Greek ritual.

The large delegation from England and Wales included our M.E. & S. Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T.; the V.H. & R.E. Great Seneschal, Andrew Christopher Rainbow, G.C.T.; and the Great Vice-Chancellor, R.E.Kt. Ryan A. Williams, G.C.T. along with three Provincial Priors and a number of Great Officers, Eminent Knights and Knights of the Order.

There was a Gala Dinner in the Grand Master's Palace and above you see some familiar faces at that venue!

Somerset Provincial Priory 2023 - the first is always the best



Twelve months ago, the newly installed Provincial Prior for Somerset acknowledged how honoured and proud he was to have been able to inherit such a fine legacy from his predecessor, and at that time called for consolidation and commitment from all Somerset Knights to take the Province forward and build on the strong foundations set.

Now, on his first anniversary, R.E.Kt. Paul Jeffery Davis, Provincial Prior for Somerset, has been pleased to announce that the legacy has paid dividends and the support he had received since his investiture had been amazing. The Provincial team deserved the highest praise possible for all their hard work around the Province. In particular the Provincial Vice-Chancellor for his exceptional organisation and administration; without his guiding hand the Province could easily have floundered.

He was not the only one receiving praise, that went to his Provincial Sub-Prior for his great support and company visiting many of the Preceptories within the Province and other Provincial Priory meetings, and whom he was pleased to re-invest for a further year. To the Treasurer, for his efficiency and diligent management of our finances. The Provincial Registrar, for being instrumental, together with the Knights of Cumba Preceptory, in raising for charity at one social event the sizable amount of £6,400.00. The Provincial Marshal and Deputy Marshal, for their assistance over the year. They are the glue that holds the Province together.

Also, an aspiring asset not to be overlooked either, our newest Warden of Regalia who has served us well during his short apprenticeship raising a magnificent sum even down to the last 11 pence.

And what can be said about the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard, their Esprit de Corps is apparent and undiminishable.



There are many other Provincial Officers who made important contributions to the benefit and welfare of our wonderful Province during this, the Provincial Priors first year, but could not be thanked individually, however, their contribution had been valuable, for which he was grateful.



However, one of the most valuable assets of the Province, V.E.Kt. John Widdicombe, P.Gt.Reg., has now retired from active service. He will be sorely missed having been a tower of strength throughout his tenure, first as Provincial Vice-Chancellor from 2006 to 2017 and as Chancellor from then until now. Having magnificently served two Provincial Priors he cannot be thanked enough for all that he has done. We wish him and his good lady well for the future.

The Knights receiving Provincial Honours, and those not staying in Office, were encouraged to take pride in their mantle badge, knowing that the Preceptories across the Province look forward to their continued individual support and attendance.

With the changing demographics, particularly health, age and alteration in circumstances having an impact on our Order, the Knights were encouraged to work as hard as they could supporting the Craft and Royal Arch. It goes without saying that they are the foundations on which we will build, and our survival is totally dependent on suitable and eligible candidates from Royal Arch.

Although our numbers remain steady and over the past twelve months 17 new Knights were installed, we should not be complacent, especially as it is apparent some Preceptories could benefit from extra support. With that in mind a new post of Development Officer has been created who will work across the Province with the Registrar to develop initiatives that will attract, enhance and retain membership.

The Provincial website is currently being updated to make it more user-friendly. Grateful thanks were expressed to those who have given assistance to the Vice-Chancellor in this endeavour; and the final result is eagerly anticipated in the forthcoming days.

In conclusion, the Provincial Prior indicated he had no doubt that there are exciting challenges ahead and encouraged each and every one of the Knights to bear in mind that this is an Order with high standards to always be maintained, but most of all to always be enjoyed.

Finally, to the many Knights who have worked so hard to make the day a success there was nothing but admiration and appreciation. The Province is in good spirit for us to continue in this vein into the year to come and beyond.

But first to an exquisite luncheon in an impressive and elaborate setting with magnificent views across the Somerset countryside and the Bristol Channel. Culminating with the customary Toasts before congratulating the Provincial Prior on his Birthday with a rendition of Happy Birthday.

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



Three-year Scholarship from Valley Council A.M.D.



The Worshipful Master of Valley Council A.M.D. No. 229 W.Bro. Kevin Walters was recently supported by the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Richard Mayers; along with W.Bro. Major Alfred Taylor, District Grand Secretary; W.Bro. Maurice Gaskin, Dist.G.D.C.; and W.Bro. Barry Lee Crawford, Dist.G.Ch.Stwd. when he Kevin presented a cheque for \$3500.00 to Andre Greenidge for a three-year Scholarship at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

As R.W.Bro. Mayers says, "This is Masonry at work in the Community".

You can watch this video covering the cheque presentation from the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.



<https://sway.office.com/oT6RLeFwAJBUw7oo#content=1vOuc1uFBbIdeH>

Supera Moras Conclave O.S.M. No. 49 visit to Normandy 2024

With Ribble Valley 'The internet' S.C. Consistory No. 138



Dear Brethren and Companions

You will already be aware that a visit to Normandy has been planned and hold a Conclave & Consistory meeting on Saturday, 27 April 2024.

Any Brother/Companion of the Order is welcomed to attend, irrespective of which Province you are a member of.

The meeting will be held in a medieval building in la grange à dîme (see picture) and we are planning on staying in Arranches-les-Bains.

We had originally planned to facilitate a coach to all travel on together, however the booking of this has proven difficult with the costs of fuel and varied pick up locations that would be required. Therefore, we have taken the decision that we will all make our own travel arrangements to France.

Once we have the final numbers collated, we may be able to work out a 'car share' scheme to assist those that do not drive.

We will travel out on Friday, 26 April and check into the accommodation. Brother Vincent Pouchain who lives in Normandy has made enquires with a local hotel [Here](#) and they are willing to offer favourable rates.

If any Brother/Companion wishes to contact Vincent to take up on this deal, he can be contacted on the following email vincentpouchain@yahoo.fr and he will be happy to assist you. The provisional booking he has on hold at the hotel until 31 October, so please reply to him prior to this date.

Vincent has worked very hard on the planning of this trip, and he has arranged the following itinerary:

- **Friday:** arriving in the afternoon and diner in Les Tourelles (10 meters from gold Beach, just in front of Mulberry Harbour)
- **Saturday:** O.S.M. meeting in the morning and S.C. meeting in the afternoon (in a splendid building from the middle ages)
- **Saturday Evening:** Ladies Night
- **Sunday morning:** to pay tribute to English soldiers at the British Normandy Memorial [Here](#)

- **Sunday afternoon:** visit of a Calvados distillery
- **Sunday evening:** fraternal diner with wives, friends, and relatives
- **Monday:** Departure to England

Please can I ask that those wishing to attend at the meeting book in with myself at the earliest opportunity via eastlancsprovrecorder@gmail.com

With thanks to Wy.Bro. Paul Joynson, P.G.Stwd., ProvG.Rec.

Leaders out and about

Demonstrating the continual need to support the Craft, five of the leaders within the Companion Orders gathered to support one of their Grand Officers being Installed for the first time into the Chair of King Solomon.

John Thomson has been a Freemason for 35 years, but work commitments restricted his progress in Craft Freemasonry. John, however, was able to make progress in the Companion Orders until he was ready to take the Chair of his adopted Craft Lodge in North Wales.

John was Installed into the Chair of St Kentigern's Lodge No. 7772, meeting in St Melyd's Hall, Meliden, Prestatyn, North Wales, on Saturday, 30 September 2023.

In 2014, John was appointed Grand Sword Bearer in the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees, and the Grand Master of the Order, Most Worshipful Brother Thomas Firth Jackson, was present to witness his Installation into the Chair of St Kentigern's Lodge.

Completing the Allied Masonic Degrees Officers representation was Worshipful Brother Keith McCully, who was the Grand Standard Bearer for the AMD when John carried the sword.



'On tramp' - representation of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees:

W.Bro. John Thomson, P.G.Swd.B.; W.Bro. Keith McCully, P.G.St.B.; M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson, Grand Master

In 2022, John was appointed Grand Sword Bearer in the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord on the recommendation of Right Distinguished Companion Chris Welton, Provincial Grand Summus for Cheshire & North Wales, where John is now the Deputy Provincial Grand Summus.

The line-up of Provincial Grand Summi is completed by Right Distinguished Companion Geoff Gill, Provincial Grand Summus for West Lancashire and Right Distinguished Companion Keith McCully, Provincial Grand Summus for East Anglia.



A prial of Summi - R.Dist.Comp. Geoffrey Raymond Gill, Prov.G.S. for West Lancashire; R.Dist.Comp. John Christopher Welton,

Prov.G.S. for Cheshire & North Wales; R.Dist.Comp. Keith McCully, Prov.G.S. for East Anglia.

In November of this year John will be appointed Grand Standard Bearer in the Order of the Secret Monitor. John is a former Provincial Grand Recorder in the Province of Cheshire and North Wales, and is currently compiling a history of the Province, so Right Worthy Brother Tony Stringer, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of Cheshire &

North Wales was obviously on hand to give support.

With thanks to R.Wy.Bro. Tony Stringer, Prov.G.S.R. for Cheshire & North Wales O.S.M.



W.Bro. Geoff Gill; W.Bro. John Thomson; W.Bro. Chris Welton; W.Bro. Keith McCully; W.Bro. Thomas Jackson; W.Bro. Tony Stringer

Charities round up



St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group



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 Finishes	Disco. Start	Disco. 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	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 - Investiture Act 6 List	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 Foundations	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	Grand 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



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

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