

Freemasonry@86 News 22 December 2023

#FridayFeeling



Welcome

Here you will find 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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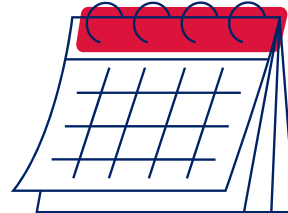
Companion Orders Diary

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.

Wednesday, 17 January 2024 - O.S.M. Consecration of The Dennis Slights Conclave No. 635, Province of North & East Yorkshire.

Wednesday, 31 January 2024 - R.C.C. Consecration of The Mamucium Conclave No. 534, Division of North & East Lancashire.

Updated calendar



K.T. Newsletter - Eye Hospital



You can read the full newsletter by clicking on the image here.

Essex have produced their latest edition of Mark Times, which includes an interview with our Prov.G.M. before he stands down. You can read the full newsletter by clicking on the image here.



Explore the latest monthly publication curated by Martin Sando by simply clicking on the image. Delve into this platform of knowledge designed to promote the Province.



A photograph of four men standing side-by-side in formal ceremonial regalia. They are wearing dark suits with ornate, colorful sashes and aprons. The man on the far left is older, balding, and wears glasses. The man second from the left is also older and balding. The man third from the left is balding with a mustache. The man on the far right is younger, with grey hair and glasses. Behind them is a wall with a large crest featuring a landscape and the text 'ELLEN RIDGE' and '1883'. There are also framed documents on the wall.

R.W. Bro. Barry Kirkbride, PGM ~ V.W. Bro. David R. Robinson ~ W. Bro. Lawrence J. Hinde ~ W. Bro. Robert Nicholson

In 2022 the Commander Elect was to be R.W.Bro. Keith Hodgson, knowing that he would be retired as Prov.G.M. and in Purdah by the time the Installation came around, he asked to remain as Senior Warden and move on the following year. On Saturday, 25 November, the Lodge assembled at The Masonic Temple in Aspatria. The Lodge was opened by the W.Commander, then the R.W.Bro. Prov.G.M. Barry Kirkbride entered with the full Provincial Team. He was offered the baton by W.Bro. Robert Carruthers, after a very brief discussion he retained the baton and took the chair. After conducting the business of the Lodge, R.W.Bro. Kirkbride proceeded to Install his predecessor R.W.Bro. Hodgson as W. Commander.

After a short break, V.W.Bro. David Robinson Installed W.Bro. Lawrence Hinde, the newly Installed District Grand Prefect in Allied, as W.Master.



Cheshire's dedication towards the toy appeal



While fully immersed in organising the 2024 festival, the generous-hearted Mark Masons of Cheshire dedicated themselves to running this year's Toy Appeal, aiming to brighten the holiday season for less privileged children in our local Cheshire communities by providing them with at least one gift.

Every year, Cheshire Masons wholeheartedly support this initiative, conducting collections at each hall to gather presents that are then distributed to deserving local charities across the region.

In this instance, our Provincial Grand Master Gary Horstman, accompanied by Tim Mobbs, leading the local Toy Appeal effort, can be seen presenting the donation to Amy from the Joshua Tree, a charity supporting children in the area, at Middlewich Masonic Hall.





These are from Neo community in Wallasey - a Cheshire Children's Charity, with Mark Masons Stuart Jones and Dave Perkins shown donating the toys collected locally.

Cheshire Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Whitby Social Club





Gary, the Provincial Grand Master, Derek, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and John, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master (known as The Cheshire Magi), arrived in the car park, parking their camels. Alongside the Festival Chairman Steve Simpson, they joined the assembly of brethren, ladies, and children—all adorned in festive attire, painting a vibrant and enchanting scene for the occasion.

R.W.Bro. Francis Charles Spencer, alongside Ruth Wells, received a warm reception from the brethren as they graciously offered a splendid hamper for auction, generously contributing to the province's festival.

The auction being conducted by our Asst.Prov.G.M., a Cheshire Twizzel, raised a magnificent £420.

Dawn & Soraya Walsh graciously contributed stunning table adornments; Soraya, achieving Grand Patron Gold status, was honoured with a jewel from both the Festival President and Chairman at the festive luncheon. Their donation, alongside £313 raised, added splendour to the event. Raffle tickets were eagerly sold for an array of enticing prizes. Dressed in their finest and quirkiest attire, attendees vied for the titles of best and worst dressed, the young ones acting as judges, leading to delightful surprises in the winners' selection!

John Champney organised and managed a symphony of music at the event, featuring brass bands and an abundance of festive carols.

Altogether, we've gathered a sum exceeding £1500.00, alongside the gift aid. A heartfelt appreciation goes out to all the wonderful attendees—fellow brethren, ladies, and children—for your immense generosity and unwavering support towards the 2024 M.B.F. Festival.

Merry Christmas





Excellent success of 'The Devon Mark Support Team'



1 year ago the province of Devonshire decided to start a project, headed up by The Devon Mark Support Team, to visit specific lodges within each area of the province and invite prospective candidates to come along. The Devon Mark Support Team provides support to Mark and Royal Ark Mariner lodges around the province, whether this is through assistance with ritual or key officer support, or providing lectures to the brethren at their meetings. The chosen Mark meeting that evening would be called off and the candidates would be invited into the lodge room, and treated to a demonstration by the team of certain aspects of Mark Masonry and its background and origins, without disclosing any of the secrets of the degree. This initiative proves to provide them with a taste of our degree whilst wetting their appetite for more. After the demonstration, the candidates would join the brethren at the festive board and see the enjoyment and fun we have in our degree.

So far, as the article on page 8 of the newsletter says, this initiative has brought in more than 30 new members to our order, just from 6 demonstration meetings.



You can read the newsletter by clicking on the image above, which covers most of the events we have done this year.



Visit to Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital



The District Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Patrick Purnell-Edwards joined the brethren and friends of the Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in Hong Kong, namely the Ararat Lodge, No. 264 and the PC Woo Lodge No. 721 for a light Chinese lunch on 19 December 2023, before they went to visit the Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital at Sandy Bay. Their mission was to distribute the fluffy toys collected in pairs symbolising the animals Noah brought on the Ark. The visitors were greeted by the staff at the entrance of the Hospital.

This is the first time after the pandemic that the brethren are allowed to meet the young patients in person. As seen in the picture, to comply with the hospital regulations, all staff and visitors must wear surgical masks inside the ward.



Chief of the Builders R.A.M. Meeting

Stronger together! The mantra of being stronger together was amply evinced at the Chief of the Builders Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in the Province of Durham.

The Prov.G.M. in the Craft for Durham, John Thompson was Elevated into this fine and colourful degree by the Worshipful Commander, under the watchful eye of The Prov.G.M., David Hanson. The Worshipful Commander was Peter A Smith who is the Provincial Chancellor in Durham K.T.

Following the ceremony, Kevin Stannard Deputy Prov.G.M. in the Craft for Northumberland was elected as the incoming Worshipful Commander. Having completed the elections, Michael Jacques, Head of the S.C. received his Grand Lodge Certificate from the Deputy Prov.G.M., Trevor Lynn. Also in attendance were Michael Shaw, Head of the Rose Croix, Danny Guy, Head of the Allied Degrees and Robin Knight, Head of the R.C.C. We are sure that the collaboration of the Orders in the Province keeps our foundations ever stronger.



De ffaryngton Preceptory Christmas Meeting



Members and guests assembled on the 3rd Monday in December to attend the Christmas Meeting of De ffaryngton Preceptory, Knight Templar. E.Kt. Michael Hatton opened the Preceptory and after the roll call conducted the business side of the meeting before the main event of the evening which was to receive the "De ffaryngton Preceptory Christmas Lecture 2023". This was a presentation about the history of Knights Templar and was very well presented and easy to follow. Everyone was appreciative of the amount of work put into preparing the paper, which was jointly presented in a very clear and professional way by:-

E.Kt. Barry Tomlinson Pr.Herald;
Bro.Kt. Paul Vernazza; Bro.Kt.
George Askins and Bro.Kt.
Richard Higson.

The temple meeting was very enjoyable and it was great to see a number of visitors to support the Eminent Preceptor and De ffaryngton Preceptory. Following the meeting we entered the dining room to enjoy the Festive board of good wholesome food. E.Kt. Barry Tomlinson Preceptory Marshal kept the pace of toasts to a perfect timing so we progressed quickly. The Eminent Preceptor drew the evening to a close after ensuring everyone had enjoyed the evening, wishing them a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



William Warde Preceptory No. 705



Around 40 Knights came along to the meeting on Wednesday, 13 December at the Eliot Hall Masonic Centre in the historic market town of Winslow. Regrettably, Eminent Preceptor Bill Hall fell ill, prompting E.Kt. Mark Alton to step in on his behalf. In an engaging session, E.Kt. Kevin Williams delivered an enlightening discourse on "the trials of the Knights Templar"

Adding to the evening's significance, two new Knights joined the Preceptory. E.Kt. Jamie Ingham Clark (P.Dep.Gt.Swd.B.), recently resettled in the local vicinity, and Kt. Mark Randall, a member of the Provincial Prior's bodyguard.

The event culminated at The Bell Hotel in the bustling market square, where Philip Menday, a Knight of the Preceptory, hosted a delightful and the best value festive meal. The carvery served there is renowned in the Province for its exquisite taste—a perfect conclusion to a memorable evening!







Charities round up



**St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group**



**The M.B.F. 2023 Q3
Review is now available
to download and print.**

[Click Here](#)



Download the winter edition of Jerusalem Scene

During both times of peace, and profound challenge we continue to use our position as the only charitable provider of expert eye care in this region to raise awareness of the eye care needs of its people. In this edition's opening piece, SJEHG's CEO, Dr Ahmad Ma'ali provides an overview assessment of the impacts of the crisis for our hospitals and clinics. But amid the chaos, turmoil and upheaval of the past weeks, Dr Ma'ali also brings news of the wonderful work staff are doing to enhance access to services during these troubled times. Plus, we've got an interview with our Head of Nursing in Jerusalem who introduces the fantastic work his nurses are doing to provide vision screen services to children in UNRWA schools. It would be remiss not to thank each one of you for your continued engagement with our organisation. Amid the horror and devastation, we have been humbled by the dedication of our supporters. Your support allows us to carry on doing what we do best, what we have been doing for over 140 years: **saving sight, changing lives.**



You can download the winter edition of Jerusalem Scene by clicking on the image here.



C.F.M. Cash For Kids – Christmas Mission



cashforkids



GREATEST HITS RADIO



THANK YOU!

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master
Masons of Cumberland and Westmorland

has raised an **amazing...**


£ 1,300 – Mission Christmas 2023

for Greatest Hits Radio Cash for Kids
- helping us make a difference to
local children in Cumbria

greatesthitsradio.co.uk/cashforkids



Bauer Radio's Cash for Kids registered charity 1122062 (England & NI), SC048421 (East Scotland) and SC003334 (West Scotland)



Over the last six years, Cumberland and Westmorland Province have been pleased to associate with the Christmas Child initiative. Through the local radio station's efforts in gathering donations, they ensure that children without presents receive gifts during the holiday season. This year, the trustees of the Provincial Benevolent Fund generously donated £1,300, supporting 20 children with £65 per child to spread the joy of Christmas.

Province of Essex held a Christmas White table - Aurelius Lodge No. 814



Aurelius Lodge No. 814, in the Province of Essex held a Christmas White table with carol singing and a bumper raffle, where they raised over £200 for local charities.

Their W.M, Walter Pasiful is seen here presenting a cheque to Kathy Howard, a volunteer at the Sailship Charity in Clacton.

Meet the Trustees



★ Meet the Trustees ★ 7/12

Richard John Olliver. Retired Retail Operations Director. Married to Margaret, 2 children, & 1 granddaughter. Enjoys Golf & Travel. Freemason for 44 yrs. Trustee of M.B.F. since 2021.



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.



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.

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



M.B.F. Festival Cheshire 2024

Stewardship Jewels

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

[2024 Cheshire](#)

[2025 Oxfordshire](#)

[2026 Hampshire & IOW](#)

[2027 Warwickshire](#)

[2028 Somerset](#)

[2029 Durham](#)

[2030 Essex](#)

[2031 Northumberland](#)

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

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

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

A distinctive Stewards' breast jewel, year bar and pocket jewel holder.

Inclusion of their name in the Festival Stewards' Roll of Honour in the Festival booklet

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

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



The image displays the Stewardship Jewels for the 2024 Cheshire festival. It includes a circular emblem at the top left, a shield-shaped breast jewel with a red field and a cross, and a pocket jewel holder with a blue field and a cross. The text 'MARK BENEVOLENT FUND' and 'CHESHIRE 2024' are visible on the breast jewel. Below the breast jewel is a year bar with 'STEWARDS' and 'CHESHIRE' inscribed. To the right, the text reads: '156th MBF Festival Banquet will be held at the Concorde Conference Centre Wilmslow Old Rd, Altrincham WA15 8XQ Saturday, 6 July 2024'. Below this is a red button with the text 'BOOK HERE' and a QR code.





Mark Emergency Relief Fund

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](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](#)

Mark Emergency Relief Fund
MMM185622

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

<https://gtap.uk/mmm185622>



Calendar of Annual Meetings

Grand Meetings Calendar 2023 - All Orders

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

Order	Meeting	Date	To be held at	Rehearsal Time	Meeting Starts	Meeting Finishes	Dining Start	Approx Finish
MARK	Grand Lodge	Tuesday, 7 March 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 AM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council - 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 Active & 1st	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 Promotions	Tuesday, 12 September 2023	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	12:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
KBHC	Grand Priory	Thursday, 14 September 2023	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
RSM	Grand Council -150 Celebration	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

01/03/2023

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



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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