

Freemasonry@86 News 12 January 2024

#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.

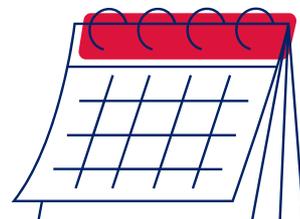
Wednesday, 17 January 2024 - O.S.M. Consecration of The Dennis Slights Lodge No. 635, Province of North & East Yorkshire.

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

Saturday, 17 February 2024 - R.S.M. Installation of Ill.Comp. Geoffrey Catterall, P.G.Cond.C. as District Grand Master for Lancashire.

Thursday, 21 March 2024 - R.S.M. Consecration of Deva Victrix Lodge No. 346, Province of Cheshire and The Marches.

Updated calendar



Welcome to the first edition of 2024



We trust that you enjoyed a serene and rejuvenating holiday season, and that the new year has commenced on a positive note for you. All of us at Mark Masons' Hall extend our heartfelt wishes for a prosperous 2024.

Our schedule is gradually filling up, and this week's updates reveal the active involvement of our Orders, marking a dynamic beginning to 2024. Please keep us informed about your activities and upcoming events, so we can feature them in our weekly newsletter with some well-deserved attention.

[Click here to submit your story](#)

The installation ceremony - Concordia Lodge No. 721 of Mark Master Masons



The installation ceremony at Concordia Lodge No. 721 of Mark Master Masons, took place on 11 January 2024. This is the first installation meeting in 2024 in the District of Hong Kong. W.Bro. Mohan Tarachand Bharwany was installed in the chair of Adoniram by W.Bro. Boris Ding Yue. W.Bro. Mohan was advanced in Concordia Lodge in 2003. He finally agreed to take the chair after his retirement as a Judge of the High Court of Hong Kong.

The picture was taken after the ceremony, showing W.Bro. Mohan, the 6th from the left seated in the front row and W.Bro. Boris, the 4th from the left. The ceremony was conducted by the Deputy District Grand Master, W.Bro. Dr Buddy Tak Ming, the 4th from the right seated in the front row.

The ceremony was well attended by Brethren in the District including Companions from the Scottish and Irish Constitutions. The brethren enjoyed a sumptuous festive board after the meeting.



50 year Certificate



W. Bro. John Robert Grout, P.G.St.B. John Grout played professional County cricket for Hampshire and Somerset, and was also a playing member of the M.C.C. During his illustrious career, Worshipful Brother John scored many half-centuries. But he has had to wait until this year to raise his bat to the Masonic pavilion, to signify his reaching 50 years in Freemasonry.

John was an opening batsman and an off-spin bowler, and fielded at cover-point. When his cricket career ended, he found other outlets for his energies. He has spent many years raising funds in his work for Henley Cricket Club and Henley Rotary Club. Alongside this, John has raised thousands of pounds for Masonic charities, including his sterling work during Oxfordshire's M.C.F. Festival and the ongoing M.B.F. Festival of which he is a Grand Patron.

In what may be a unique occurrence, John was presented with his 50 year Certificate by Very Worshipful Brother Graham Ellis (Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Craft) during a meeting of Thames Mark Lodge in Henley. The Oxfordshire Provincial Grand Masters of Craft and Mark were delighted for this presentation to be held at the meeting of Thames Lodge of Mark Master Masons, recognising the great work John has done.

V.W. Bro. Graham, in his warm address, made special reference to John's quiet but purposeful efforts in charity fundraising during his 50 years in The Craft. All those present in the Temple loudly applauded John. Well done, Brother!

Christmas update from the Mark Province of Leicestershire and Rutland

The first two weeks of December provided a most enjoyable series of events for the members of our Province. On Wednesday, 06 December, the Installation meeting of the Wiclif Lodge of R.A.M. was held at the Wiclif Rooms in Lutterworth. This Masonic Hall has undergone a most effective modernisation over the last ten years or so and now boasts a Community Room, Conservatory restaurant and well appointed kitchen and has proved a very popular meeting place for the Lutterworth Community.

The meeting was honoured with the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Philip Mann, who saw the Master Elect, Bro. Bryan Dewes, installed in an exemplary manner by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Mike Muncaster. At our Festive Board afterwards, we enjoyed a good meal and the famous pork pie raffle. In this raffle all the prizes are pork pies made and donated by W.Bro. Martin Sercombe. The raffle raised the astonishing sum of £365 which W.Bro. Martin generously doubled and the Prov.G.M. then added a further £365 from his Discretionary Fund .

On the following Sunday we gathered at our Provincial Centre at Freemasons Hall in London Road, Leicester for our ever popular Mark Family Christmas lunch. Nearly 150 members, their families and friends and, of course, lots of children gathered for a reception followed by a lovely traditional turkey meal. This was accompanied by music from the Wigston Brass band and hosted by our very own W.Bro. Rick Morris who kept everyone fully wound up singing carols and trying the quiz until the magic moment when Santa and his elves arrived ringing a bell and getting the children jumping around in anticipation of their gifts.



The sharp eyed among you may notice similarities to well known members of this Province but I am assured that this is purely coincidental. The time then came for the presents to be distributed and these were received with great joy. We also had a raffle at this event and from the proceeds the Prov.G.M. was pleased to add another £350 to the total raised at the Wiclif Lodge of R.A.M. and this meant that a total of £1445 was sent to Cancer Research from Wiclif R.A.M. Lodge and this Province. In comparison we sent £1000 last year! That is what the Magic of the Mark is all about.

Pictured here are W.Bro. Ian Stuart, the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Philip John, the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Roger Whale and the M.C. , W.Bro. Rick Morris distributing the raffle prizes. Towards the conclusion of the lunch we all joined in singing the twelve days of Christmas with each of the tables singing one particular verse.

The next day Monday, 11 December, when a coach party of members went to Great Queen Street in London for the Royal Ark Mariner Grand Assembly.



We were accompanied by our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Philip John, the Past Provincial Grand Masters. R.W.Bro. Michael Herbert, P.D.G.M., R.W.Bro. Tony Morris P.Prov.G.M. and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Andrew Stuart Lee, P.G.S.D.. We were all delighted to see two of our Brethren honoured by being invested with R.A.M. Grand Rank by the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO.

After the ceremony we all got back onto the coach and made our way to Mark Masons Hall where we dined together in the Euston Room on the famous carvery lunch which we all enjoy so much. On the journey home we all agreed that it had been an exceptional few days and we all looked forward to our next meeting together and we all wish our friends in the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Degrees a healthy and enjoyable New Year.

With thanks to V.W.Bro. Don Peacock, P.D.P.G.M. and W.Bro. Terry Weston, Provincial Grand Registrar.



Grand Sovereign's visit to Denmark - R.C.C.



The Grand Sovereign, Most Illustrious Knight Graham Flight travelled to Denmark over the weekend of the 05 January to 07 January 2024 as a guest of The Danish Order of Freemasons under the Grand Lodge of Denmark.

The meetings were held in Copenhagen to celebrate their New Years Festival and included dinner on the Friday, a Grand Lodge meeting on the Saturday followed by dinner and a lunch and afternoon concert on the Sunday. The ladies were entertained with a private visit to the Royal Palace whilst we were busy with our Masonry.

A delightful visit and an opportunity to see how they operate within the Swedish Rite (with eleven degrees) compared to our separate Orders and how they relate to each other. The invitation list ran to eighteen different countries and a dining attendance of over 500. An added delight was to see that Most Worshipful Brother Jonathan Spence, our Pro Grand Master of the Craft was also in attendance giving a strong representation from the UK.

Pictures show the processional march between Lodge rooms, the dining hall and concert.



DEN DANSKE
FRIMURERORDEN

Ordenens Nytårsfest New Years Festival

6. januar 2024 ✦ January 6th, 2024

Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign
The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross
of Constantine

Bro. Graham Flight



A great night in Barbados



Star of the West Preceptory and Priory No. 77 had their Installation meeting last night in Barbados. Em.Kt. Achirri Darren Adams was Installed in both chairs by Em.Kt. Wayne O'Brien Prescod.

It was a great night!

Kent R.C.C. Meeting



In Frederick William Harvey No. 336 Red Cross, elections took place and Kt. Alan Coxtan was presented with his Certificate by V.II.Kt Peter Wise.



50 years in A.M.D.



On Thursday, 21 December 2023, Allied Masonic Brethren made the drive to Wyrebank in Garstang, the West Lancashire home of Palatine Council No. 89. The reason of this meeting was to honour V.W.Bro. David Keith Rhodes P.G.Reg, who has been a member of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees for 50 years, a truly outstanding service to this order. David was a Jeweller by profession with a shop in Preston, a Freeman of the City of London and also a Freeman of Xian, a city in China. The GM also referred to David as being an enthusiast and owner of two Rolls Royce, having written a short book and lectured on the subject. In the little spare time that he has, he is also a qualified pilot, having gained his private pilot's licence in 1975. The GM circulated copies of the Rhodes Coat of Arms around the Lodge room, which had been designed by the Lancaster Herald for David, and granted by the Earl Marshall of England on behalf of the College of Arms. A unique twist to David's Coat of Arms is the incorporation of a Compass at the top, to signify air and sea navigation, but I'm pretty sure that this was also meant to reflect his love of all things Masonic! David was absolutely shocked by this turn of events and warmly thanked the GM for the Preferment. 50th celebration certificates from Grand Council and District Grand Council were read by the District Grand Secretary, Marc Goldsworthy, and then presented to him.

The remaining formal business on the summons was then concluded, and the Council was closed in due form. The Grand DC arranged a procession out of the Council, with David taking pride of place alongside the GM and the WM to great applause. This marked the end of a warm, uplifting and happy celebration of Allied Freemasonry in the Lodge Room at Wyrebank. The atmosphere at the Festive Board reflected that experienced in the Lodge Room. With plenty of chatter and exchanges which demonstrated the enjoyment and harmony of the evening. Wine takings were followed by formal toasts.



Presentation of Grand Council 50th Celebration Certificate L – R Mark Goldsworthy (DGSec); Paul Snape (DGP); Mark Barton (DDGP), David Rhodes (Celebrant); Tom Jackson (GM); Glyn Jackson (GJW); Glyn Goddard (GDC)

Kent A.M.D. Meeting



Hartley Council A.M.D. meeting saw Grand Tilers of Solomon Degree delivered for 2 candidates by W.Bro. Phil Clare assisted by W.Bro. Mark Woolcott and V.W.Bro. Peter Wise.



Kent O.S.M. Meeting



An official visit by Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Scott Dunn, to Temple Builders O.S.M. rounded the afternoon off along with the Dep.PGSR presenting a Supreme Rulers Certificate to Wy.Bro. Simon Donovan whilst showing examples from as early as 1924 from Scott's personal collection.



New Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Order of the Secret Monitor, Province of West Wales, appointed at Gwili Conclave No. 362 in Carmarthen

Firstly, the Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Peter Langton, admitted Brother David Rees as a Prince of the Order.

Secondly, R.Wy.Bro. Denzil Bartlett (the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of the O.S.M. Province of West Wales) took the Chair and announced that the next item on the Agenda was to Appoint his new Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler. The Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Wy.Bro. John F. E. Davies, ascertained that the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler Designate, Wy.Bro. David Smith, was in attendance and proceeded to form an escort to accompany David into the Conclave.

The Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler then Appointed, Obligated and Invested Wy.Bro. David Smith as his Deputy in due form and according to ancient custom.

After the Conclave had been closed, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, assisted by his new Deputy, was pleased to make a donation of £1400 to the Goodwick Brass Band to enable them to provide uniforms, instruments and sheet music to their rapidly expanding Youth Section.



Kent Cluster Meeting



First up, Kent Scarlet Cord Consistory where Dist. Comp. Scott Dunn took the President's chair to perform the 3rd Grade for no less than 6 candidates.

Then onto Invicta Pride of Kent O.S.M. and a full installation for Bro. Colin Smith as Supreme Ruler for the first-time by Wy.Bro Phil Clare in the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Scott Dunn and their Grand Visitor, V.Wy.Bro. Chris Base

Finally, Maeides Stana O.S.M. - An emergency meeting to admit 2 candidates conducted by their Wy.Bro Ian Sullivan in excellent fashion following which the candidates were presented with ties, pins and the Provincial 'Mug' by the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler.





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](#)



Presentation of a donation check - CEDA



On 04 January 2024, R.W.Bro. David Purdie, Prov.G.M. for Devonshire, visited the premises of Community Equality Disability Action (CEDA) in Exeter. CEDA is a charity that focuses on providing learning and social opportunities for disabled individuals, both children and adults. They offer educational classes, specialised therapy sessions, and support for clients to lead fulfilling lives, both at their center and through one-on-one interactions in their homes.

During the visit, R.W.Bro. Purdie presented a donation check on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund. This contribution enabled CEDA to acquire the featured specialist Acheeva bed, a highly versatile piece of equipment previously unavailable to them. Given that a majority of the adult clients are permanent wheelchair users, the Acheeva bed offers them the chance to participate in activities from a completely different position.

Witnessing the impact of charitable giving, the pleasure it brings, and the appreciation it receives is truly gratifying.

 **Mark Benevolent Fund** 

PROVINCE OF DEVONSHIRE
COMMUNITY, EQUALITY
DISABILITY ACTION (CEDA)

The Acheeva bed system is designed to help those with special needs learn how to move independently **£6,771**

 **ceda**
community, equality, disability action

Ryan A. Williams
Ryan A. Williams
Honorary Secretary

@MarkMasonsHall
#Freemasonry

Meet the Trustees

★ Meet the Trustees ★ 8/12

Derek Thomas. He spent time with the Ukrainian refugees on every visit, sometimes helping to deliver food and medicines to women and children who have lost husbands, fathers, families, friends, neighbours, homes and all possessions. In Magurela our aid is the only source of food and medicine for approximately 170 women and children.



★ Meet the Trustees ★ 9/12

Roger Richardson. Retired Co. Director Electrical Installation Contracting. A Freemason for 41 years. Married to Jackie. 2 Daughters and 3 Grandkids. Enjoys spending time with family, Freemasonry, Long Haul Travel, fine wines and dining.



★ Meet the Trustees ★ 10/12

Bill Divall. M.B.F. Trustee. Partner Mortgage Brokers. A Freemason for 38 years. Married to Helen. 1 Daughter and 2 Grandkids. Enjoys Horse Racing, both Flat and National Hunt, and any live sports.



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.

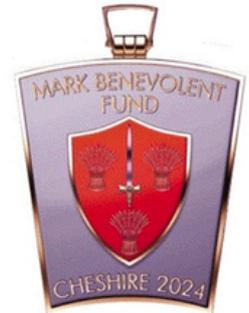
In return for a qualifying donation of £100, each Steward will be entitled to:

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.



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

[**BOOK HERE**](#)





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](#).

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 2024 - 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, 12 March 2024	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	Tuesday, 16 April 2024	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
SC	Grand Senatus	Thursday, 2 May 2024	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, 15 May 2024	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, 11 June 2024	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, 2 July 2024	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, 10 September 2024	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, 12 September 2024	Mark Masons' Hall, London, SW1A 1PL	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM
AMD	Grand Council	Tuesday, 22 October 2024	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, 14 November 2024	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, 19 November 2024	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, 9 December 2024	FMH, Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:00 PM

Please be seated 15 minutes before published start time

03/11/2023

[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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