

Freemasonry@86 News - 18 September 2020



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

This bulletin is emailed to all 'leaders' in the Provinces, Districts & Divisions and their Secretariats.

Please share this content with your members by forwarding this email or let them know that it's available on the MMH website.

If you don't currently receive this email directly but would like to subscribe please email communications@mmh.org.uk¹

Summary of recent Covid-19 related guidance, the Rule of Six and changes to the abandonment process



¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

The Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W., will today be sending out a letter and associated documents giving a summary of Covid-19 related guidance and other information which should assist in the administration of meetings for the foreseeable future, especially in light of this week's reduction in numbers permitted to attend meetings.

The information is being sent to all Provincial/District/Division/Inspectorate Rulers, their Secretaries and Unit Secretaries, or equivalent.

Surrey AMD are back to work



A Very Special Meeting of Southern Cross Council

The first AMD Council meeting in Surrey since the change in Government and MMH guidelines took place at the Southern Cross Council No X111 at Guildford on the 16th September 2020. What also made it special was that we had a Candidate for the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr, W.Bro. John Massey, the Chair of the 2022 Surrey Mark Festival Committee.

The Council was opened by the Acting Worshipful Master, V.W.Bro. Michael Barnes, who welcomed the Officers and thanked them for attending the meeting. A ballot was taken for three joining members, as well as the Candidate, John Massey. This proved in their favour and John was Introduced, Received and Admitted as a Brother of St Lawrence in an excellent manner by the Worshipful Master and his small band of Officers. W.Bro. Bob Hancock acted as Junior Deacon and gave the Lecture on the Degree.

After the ceremony V.W.Bro. Michael Barnes, in a socially distanced manner, congratulated Bro. John on becoming a member of Southern Cross Council and, on behalf of the District Grand Prefect, welcomed him into the District of Surrey.

W.Bro. Richard Baker was proclaimed as Worshipful Master for a second year. The current Officers will remain in Office for second term.

Sadly, due to numbers the Council was unable to be honoured by the presence of our District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. John French. However, he sent everyone his best wishes and arranged for a bottle of fine red wine to be waiting for us at the bar to thank everyone for their efforts today. RW.Bro. John may not have been with us in person, but he was with us in spirit!

After the meeting everyone said how good it was to get together again, which proved that even under the current restrictions a meaningful ceremony can still be conducted.

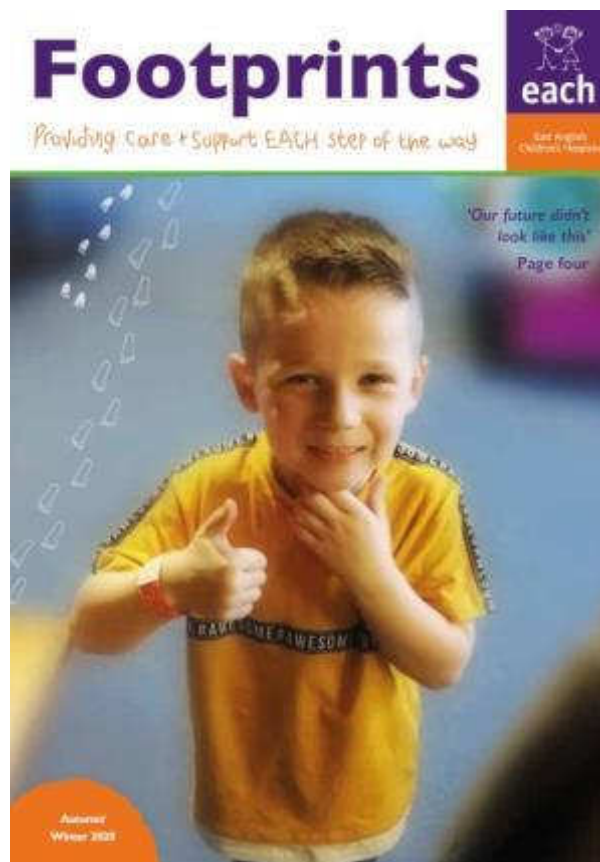
And finally – thanks to the team at Guildford for not only such a warm welcome back but for all the hard work in ensuring we stayed safe while at the South West Surrey Masonic Centre.

Chris Eley, Southern Cross Council No. 13

Our Friends at East Anglia's Children's Hospices

The MBF granted £52,893 in 2019 for the fitting out of their brand new sensory room at The Nook. The centre was purpose built by the East Anglia's Children's Hospices charity and was officially opened by HRH The Duchess of Cambridge.

You can read their latest Newsletter by clicking [Here](#)²



²<http://each.logicbyte.co.uk/footprints-autumn-winter-2020/>

The Mark Province of North & East Yorkshire also have a newsletter out

**THE
NEWSLETTER OF
THE "FRIENDLY
DEGREE"**

- The Newsletter for the Mark, East York, North York
- Available in both Print and Online
- Includes all the latest news
- Mark's history
- Mark's future
- Mark's past
- Mark's present
- Mark's future
- Mark's past
- Mark's present
- Mark's future

Mark my Words

Volume 2 Issue 17 July 2023

Our Province in action.....

More than £80,000 has been raised by a University of Hull appeal and in collaboration with All Graphic International Ltd in Brimingham, have funded additional materials to meet high demand for the production of face shields for the NHS and other healthcare organisations in the region. More than 95 organisations including NHS, residential care homes and GP surgeries have made contact since the project was launched, requesting a total of almost 50,000 face shields.

The numbers involved mean that the University had to design an Injection Moulded face shield for PPE but did not have the means to deliver them.




Mark Man, Wilfrid Stone Cox, offered his fleet of vehicles from Barlow Scabbling Ltd and his drivers free of charge. In addition to these drivers Wilfrid Cox, Bro Ben Kelly and Wilfrid, Cole Wilson also joined in to make deliveries. Over the last few months nearly all the 50,000 face shields were delivered to Hospitals, Doctors surgeries, Care Homes, Hospices, Pharmacies and Charities, providing care in the community throughout North Lincolnshire, the East Riding and parts of North Yorkshire.

HELP AROUND THE PROVINCE.....

At the start of the Pandemic 1,000+ residents volunteered to support the city of York through the first two community hubs intended to help those in greatest need. The hubs are part of the City's co-ordinated response to the COVID-19 emergency. Bro Mark Hagan, Junior Prior in St Peter's Mark Lodge and allocated volunteers have been busy setting up and running the hubs to deliver necessities to residents already identified as clinically vulnerable and to others who have no other source of help.

The Mayor of the city of York Council said: "As the health and safety of our residents is our priority, it is through this structured and safe approach to volunteering with our partners which means vulnerable people get the support they need in a coordinated and safe way. The response we have received from residents and businesses to volunteer and help support vulnerable members of our community has been overwhelming and truly reflective of the character of our city. With the community hubs now open, we are accelerating and ongoing support in vulnerable people across the city, whether that be food or medicine for residents still seeking."

Markus Webb Mark

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Mark my Words

My CLAIM TO FAME

Jim Bradshaw, a Mark Man from the Minerva Lodge of MMM No 1271, as Senior Building Services Manager for BAM Construction in the North East has been very closely involved as part of the Senior Management Team which were instructed to review the Conference Centre in Harrogate for suitability for the adaptation of a Nightingale Hospital which will be for patients who've been in intensive care with coronavirus, but still need hospital care. The eight Halls of the Conference centre, normally used for exhibitions and events, was planned to take 500 beds and three critical care beds.




The site was evaluated on day 1 and 22 days later the site was handed over fully completed to the exacting requirements of the NHS.

The hospital had 7 fully functioning Wards. The first two were completed in just 8 days!



Captain Tom Moore was guest of honour at the opening on 23rd April by video link after he raised millions for the NHS in fundraising by walking laps of his garden in Bedfordshire.

Completed in 22 Days!

HELPING THE NEIGHBOURS

During the last 16 or so weeks Bro Stephen Neme of Treasurer Mark Lodge No 782 has been doing gardening for people around his house and who have been unable to maintain their own gardens due to age or ill health.

Most of the people have families that live away so they have been unable to receive visitors. Visiting his neighbours to do the maintenance has been of great help for them to have a local person happy to help them and their relatives during this period. They now call him "the man with the lawnmower" in his street, as he's always pushing it about between houses these days.

He considers himself very fortunate to have made many new friends during this difficult time and will continue to do the gardening work going forward as he considers it good for himself and a courtesy helping him to keep fit and out of his wife's Ankle band.

'Keeping
Fit'

CHANGING THEIR BUSINESS STRUCTURE

Ashley Tyson, a Mark Man in the Farmers Mark Lodge No 1784 together with his family and team at Stapesey Hill Farm in Scarborough have been very busy throughout the lock down.

The family run business 'Stapesey Hill Farm' has had to make many changes to their day to day business when the country went into lock down and the business changed overnight. They had to close the tea rooms, the wedding and events barn had to close, meaning they lost every single wedding, charity event and party's up until October this year (or maybe it could be the whole year). They lost, overnight, all of their wholesale customers, hotels, guest houses, pubs and restaurants. This meant all of their team apart from Ashley and two butchers had to be furloughed.

They were however, very lucky that everyone still wanted meat so the butchers, they became very busy. It started off with people simply waiting meat, but as the first week went on a lot of new customers, who had no means of getting out of their homes and had no family to see them, began to rely on them for other items of food.

Ashley sourced everything they needed from veg, fruit, bread and milk. He offered a free delivery service and on many busy days he could be taking out 40 orders just in deliveries to elderly people, NHS staff and many vulnerable people.

Ashley considers he was very lucky to have his daughter and her partner, both from London, visiting with him, so she could manage all of the Facebook orders and Robert could help him to deliver. His whole team and family have worked very hard, plus putting themselves at risk and he is very proud of them all and his family as it's not been easy for them, as well as all of their amazing customers.

The kind of situation outlined above, is indicative how many businesses are having to adapt to continue to survive in these insecure times and it must have been repeated by many businesses throughout the Country.



'Helping
The
Elderly,
The
NHS,
And
The
Vulnerable'

CHARITY PRESENTATION

The Malenprice Sports Park is in the grounds of the Malenprice Sports Centre in Aulish, just outside Hull. It was opened a few years ago at a cost of £250,000 which was raised mainly by donations from public and local companies.

It was an instant success with young people using the facilities with skateboards and the later onset of scooters, while their parents could enjoy some peace and quiet in the cafe in the sports centre. Parents were assured of additional protection from a free 'zone of the art' camera system linked to the sports centre and know their children were safe.

The park grew in popularity, hosting skateboarding competitions and attracting youngsters from all over the East Riding. However, where there is any group of young people, there are those who seek to profit from exploiting them, particularly with the sale of drugs.

Going into lockdown the Police had recommended that the camera system be upgraded to provide facial recognition with more up to date cameras. This, unfortunately, was beyond the budget of the trustees and they were dubious about reopening the park.

Beverly Mark Lodge no.381 heard of the problem and applied to the Provincial Charity Committee for funding to upgrade the cameras. This was a cost of £2000 as the cable network was already in place and would provide facial recognition of anyone using the park.

The grant was approved and was very gratefully received and immediately used for the installation of the new cameras. The park is now due to open and the trustees can be assured it is a safe recreational environment with the Police confident that the cameras will result in the arrest of offenders, which when evils spread should also discourage the wrong people entering the park area.

(Author's note - having tried a skateboard, its use is not recommended for anyone in the Mark!)
Peter Neale



Chris Lewis, Chairman of the Malenprice Committee for the Malenprice Sports Centre, receiving the cheque from WBS Peter Neale, PCOM, the Charity Secretary of Beverly Lodge



'Our
Provincial
Charity
At
Work'

WORKING WITH THE NHS

W. Bro. Mark Sharples has taken up additional responsibilities to help stop the Pandemic by working for PHE, NHS, on the Test and Trace Contact system which involves calling on people who he has been given details that they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid19. He then informs them about self-isolation and offer advice etc.

Mark is on call 48 hours a week, from 8 Monday to Thursday and 4 hours each on a Friday! Mark's assistant is his fellow Mark, Matthew, that when Mark picks up, well, certainly after his hours and possibly do weekends to make up his NHS hours.



'Keeping Active'

WORKING DURING THE LOCKDOWN

Although Mark Mason, Chris Lefevre, was officially supposed to be locked down during the past few months he checked his health with his GP and carried on working as a Police Service Volunteer with Humberside Police. He did register for NHS but it seems they didn't want him!

He therefore started to work during the lockdown with five projects:

- 1) Working with the Cyber Crime Team with a remit to make people aware of Cyber Crime and Scams & reassure for victims.
- 2) Working with the Humberside Police 'Local Team' for Missing Persons, dealing with missing and vulnerable people.

iam RoadSmart

3) Working on Road Safety, now and in the future, in his capacity as Chairman of the local group of IAM RoadSmart. Being part of an organisation of over 100,000 members making better drivers and riders and making our roads safer by improving driver and rider skills through coaching and education.

- 4) Working to protect our countryside, now and in the future, in his capacity as Chairman of the local branch of The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

- 5) Working with others to save Hedgehogs throughout East Yorkshire & Hull and other wildlife in his capacity as Chair (Elect) of Holderness Hedgehog Hospital.



The first two keep him very busy indeed and involved extra training and 3, 4 & 5 took up most of his other time during the lockdown

'A Busy Mark Man'

Mark my Words

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 'PROVINCIAL' PROJECT

Reviews, Editors or correspondence will be most welcome

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And finally.....

Mark my Words

MORE PROVINCIAL CHARITY NEWS (RAM LODGE)

Being in 'lockdown' as a couple is hard enough but being in that situation as a widow is even harder. Limited access to family and all regular activities such as shopping, going to Church, meeting with friends for a coffee all curtailed. In fact, it must be like being in solitary confinement which is used by the Prison Service as a punishment.



Left to right - W. Bro. Peter Noddes, Helen Palmer (Manager), Kirsty (Noddes Assistant) and W. Bro. Kevin Lyons

As we know from recent publicity this can lead to mental health problems in the older generation and this is the last thing anyone wants to happen.

W. Bro. Kevin Lyons (Worshipful Commander) and W. Bro. Peter Noddes (Assistant) decided to take action to show all the widows that they were still part of the Ram and RAM family and were not forgotten. It was decided that all the widows would receive a hamper from Beacon Canterbury RAM, not just necessities but some luxury goods such as small bottles of wine and chocolate.

An approach was made to the Co-op Supermarket in Northcliffe and the Manager, Mrs. Helen Palmer, readily agreed to help and not only prepared the hampers but applied her 10% staff discount, so they contained even more goodies.

These hampers ensure that the widows of the Lodge, whose late husbands gave so much to the Order, will not be forgotten and the personal visit to deliver them, although conducted on the doorstep, will brighten the day.

Peter Noddes

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Had your hair cut yet Brothren? Edwina is taking bookings for haircuts and her husband, Trevor, Mark of the Farmers Mark Lodge is happy to take your moustache!



Mark my Words

The KT Province of Staffordshire and Shropshire raise £10k for the Eye Hospital



Provincial Priory of Staffordshire & Shropshire

Following a tremendous fundraising endeavour by the Knights Templar Province of Staffordshire and Shropshire, which realised a total of Ten Thousand Pounds for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, they received this letter of thanks.



Open House Weekend Goes Virtual

Open House



After two incredibly successful years opening the doors of Mark Masons' Hall to the public for Open House Weekend, in light of the Government's reduction in numbers and the compact nature of the building, we have made the difficult decision to abandon our plans to do the same this year.

Our thanks to the regular band of Room Stewards from all Orders of Freemasonry, and the staff of MMH, who had offered to make themselves available for what is a thoroughly enjoyable day.

However, we will still have an online presence for those who would like to know more about the building and what we do. There will be a link on our website <https://www.markmasonshall.org/> on Saturday and Sunday for anyone wishing to pay us a virtual visit.

You can visit our page on the Open House website, and access other online content Here ³

Across Social Media

On Twitter - East Lancashire AMD hold District Meeting on Zoom

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1305764863013158912>

On Facebook - Our friends at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital gear up for their first virtual fair

Embed://<iframe

src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fguildstjohn%2Fposts%2F2926943420861253&width=500" width="500" height="716" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media"></iframe>

Brighton Lodge of M.M.M. No. 426



Sussex Mark's Prov.G.M., Roger Richardson, took the Chair in his mother Mark Lodge, Brighton No. 426, for their Election Meeting at Brighton on Tuesday 9th September. The six Members present then enjoyed a beer in the bar before going home.

³<https://openhouselondon.open-city.org.uk/listings/4711>

Hundred of Hoo Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1326 commemorate 80 years since the Battle of Britain



You can read more Here⁴

St Nicholas Lodge of M.M.M. No. 413



Historical moment for St Nicholas 413 in Harwich. W.Bro. Brian Todd installed W.Bro. Colin Kendrick in the chair. We did all this within the current restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic and with just 6 brethren. Mind you we all had to play musical chairs Well done to you all - this is why we call it the friendly degree ☺

Essex Enthroned Commanders & Essex Installed Mark Masters Lodges, No.1044

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1306334419750400001>

⁴http://kentmarkmastermasons.org.uk/news_0514.html?fbclid=IwAR08FrPmimNvE8retS74OviYvB5n9FHJ_JSZdbuB9z5OzP2AtJPVwL49pVY



Not seeing your news? 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. 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 Secretariat⁵ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁶

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁷

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised nearly £35,000.00



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just Click Here⁸ or use the Text Donate facility below.

⁵<https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

⁶<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

⁷<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

⁸<http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/KT2042020>

100 per cent of donations will be given to St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group to support their vital work. To recognise your generosity and support, The Great Priory of Knights Templar is sending a limited-edition Swift tie/lapel pin to every donor.

The Swift pins are now being posted out but please bear with us as we are only in the office one day per week to carry out this task so some deliveries will take longer than others. Thank you for your patience.



MBF Festival 2021



East Lancashire Province, hosts of the **153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festival in 2021**, have produced a unique **Souvenir Festival Calendar** for the year **2021** and copies are now available.

These large, wall hanging calendars feature twelve contrasting prints of iconic sights in East Lancashire, commencing with the beauty of Pendle Hill in January and ending with Manchester's colourful Christmas Market in December. The 12 original watercolours were painted by Annette Young over the past four years specially for this calendar without cost to the Province. Calendars are priced at £10 each and all proceeds will go to the MBF.

So, let us brighten your kitchen or office wall and at the same time provide much needed support for our Mark Benevolent Fund. Why not purchase several more copies to send to friends and family at Christmas?

Thank you very much for your support.



The calendar measures: 318mm x 228mm folded – 318mm x 456mm open

To order:

By email: eastlancscalendars@gmail.com⁹ By telephone: 07766731307

Payment by **cheque to East Lancs Mark 2021 Festival** – post to:

East Lancs Calendars. 47 St Leonards Way, Woore, Crewe. CW39SS

Or contact them for electronic payment details

And don't forget, Stewardship, Badge and Festival orders can be places as well.

Click Here¹⁰ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here¹¹ for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here¹²

The Shop@86 is now open



As well as being able to accept online orders, we are pleased to announce the Shop@86 is now open to visitors, initially from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday.

For those who have received appointment to, or promotion in, Grand Rank - you may still place your order using the methods outlined in the form provided with your offer letter.

⁹<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

¹⁰https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

¹¹[https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.p
df](https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.pdf)

¹²<http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

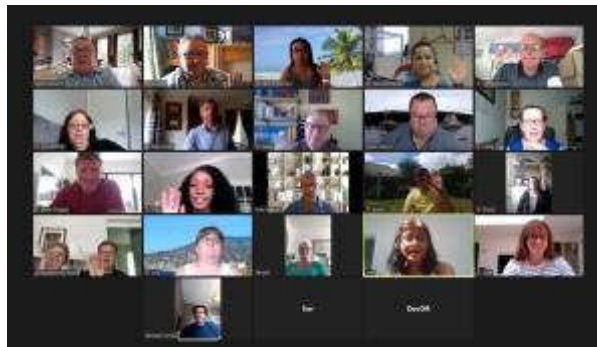
Please note: orders will be dispatched as soon as possible but may be subject to delays caused by Covid-19 restrictions.

Visit the Shop@86 website Here¹³



Business as usual for the Staff@86 while away from Mark Masons' Hall

Mark Masons' Hall may have 'closed for business' during the imposed lockdown, but all departments and teams are available on email to help and support.



¹³<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>