

Freemasonry@86 News - 9 October 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

Dorset Mark their support for the Blood Bikes



The story starts in 2018 when the Yeovil Freewheelers Emergency Volunteer Service, the oldest operational blood bike group in the country, who were providing a free emergency courier service between hospitals, laboratories and patients across South Somerset and part of Dorset recognised that there was a gap in their coverage of Dorset, and a blood bike operating out of the Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester would fill this need.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Dorset was approached by the charity about funding a Blood Bike to be based at the Dorset County Hospital, and recognising the need an appeal

¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

was formally launched at the Annual Provincial Mark meeting held at Portland on Saturday 15th September 2018.

Such was the support for this worthy cause that the members of the Mark Degree managed to raise £12,000 to enable the first Blood Bike to be presented in May 2019, just 8 months after the fundraising campaign was started.

Following this tremendous support from the Brethren it was decided to try and raise enough for a second bike. This time around the Mark received support from other Orders in Dorset, including a donation of £4,000 from the **Provincial Grand Chapter of Dorset** and other generous donations from the **Red Cross of Constantine** and the **Scarlet Cord**, adding to their fundraising.



On Saturday 1st August 2020, the culmination of just under two years of fundraising, the second Blood Bike, to be based at Dorset County Hospital, was presented to the Yeovil Freewheelers EVS. The presentation at DCH, unfortunately a low-key affair due to the Covid-19 restrictions, was made by the Provincial Grand Master for Dorset, R.W.Bro. Mike Whelan, and W.Bro. Graham Glazier, G.S.D., the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent of Dorset, accompanied by the Provincial Charity Steward, W.Bro. Richard Paisley P.G.I.G.

In total, in just under two years, some £24,000 has been raised which is a fantastic achievement by all involved, and whilst the first bike is deemed the 'Mark' Blood Bike, the second one was sign written with the words 'Donated by Dorset Freemasons' to acknowledge all donations and demonstrate the closeness of all the Masonic Orders in Dorset.

At the Annual Virtual Business Meeting on Saturday 19th September the Provincial Grand Master congratulated all for their incredible support to this worthy cause.

Adding that with a little bit more training he might be able to ride one without the stabilisers!



Don't mess with the Peaky Climbers!



As a newsletter for the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall we don't often focus on the Craft, but it's fair to say that Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters make up a large number of the Masonic Units that meet here at 86.

This story came to us from one of our resident Craft Lodges, **St John's Lodge No. 90**

"We are absolutely delighted and so very proud to confirm that all eight Peaky Climbers completed the Three Peaks Challenge over 5th-6th September.

They also smashed the 24 hour barrier, finishing in 23h 20mins.

The team would like to thank you for your generosity and support, meaning an amazing £10k has been raised for The Pimlico Toy Library."



"The Pimlico Toy Library is a registered charity founded in 1983 who offer play opportunities for children under 5 years. They operate 47 weeks each year and hold a stock of 1900 toys, washed and checked, and all available for home loans.

Qualified toy librarians help parents and carers to develop a child's potential by offering guidance on what toys to choose and ideas for play.

We are proud to take this opportunity to support a charity that focuses on child development and creativity."

You can read the full Peaky Climber story [Here](#)²



The Grand Finale of Brother. Beyond the Craft - Season 2 and we've got the exclusive



brother.
beyond the craft.

Way back in March of this year Neil-Thomas Allen and his band of Brothers at "Brother. The Masonic Podcast" - Taz Bhachoo, Jack Saunders & Joshua Worley - sat down to talk all things Red Cross of Constantine with Ill.Kt. Adrian (Ady) Jarvis, P.Dep.G.Mar., in episode one of this collaboration between "Brother. Masonic" and Mark Masons' Hall.

Now, after a whistle stop tour of our Orders they have arrived at the Grand Finale, the Mark.

You can listen to an exclusive launch of the Podcast by clicking [Here](#)³ or you can catch it later on Friday evening (9 October) by going to their website <https://www.brothermasonic.com/> or following them on Twitter/Facebook/YouTube and all the other places they spring up.

Our grateful thanks to V.W.Bro. William (Bill) Divall, P.G.M.O., Dep.Pres.Gen.Bd., for talking on the Mark, and to all the others who have been a part of the collaboration. In reverse order of appearance, they were:

²<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/bastows-peaky-climbers>

³<https://www.buzzsprout.com/174852/5797183>

Matthew Christmas, Royal Ark Mariner

Ian Currans, Scarlet Cord

David Tuke, Knights Templar

Scott Cargill, Allied Masonic Degrees

Rod Bradley, Royall and Select Masters

John Watts, Order of the Secret Monitor

Ady Jarvis, Red Cross of Constantine

You can catch all the episodes Here⁴

In the words of NTA himself "We are Brother, you are too, thank you so much for listening".



RCC Division of Surrey and the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund

The Children's Trust, a specialist charity for children with brain injury, was the recipient of a cheque for £2,500 from the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund. R.III.Kt. Bob Hancock, Intendant-General for Surrey Division presented the cheque to Ms Rebecca Clay, Trusts Fundraising Executive for the charity. Unfortunately, due to COVID 19 restrictions a visit to the national rehabilitation centre could not be made. The photograph was taken by our resident Photographer in Chief III.Kt. Bob Tuthill at Meridian Hall Gardens, East Grinstead, overlooking the beautiful Surrey/Sussex countryside. Bob said it was a delight to present this cheque on behalf of the Grand Sovereign to such a worthy cause. The Children's Trust plays a vital role in providing technology and practical support for children with brain damage to improve their quality of life.

⁴<https://www.brothermasonic.com/>



Mark District of Spain; Annual Assembly & the Coronavirus Conundrum

As all of my fellow District and Provincial Secretaries know, the planning for the next assembly starts the day after the last one! But who could have imagined when I woke up on the morning of Sunday 2nd February, the global turn of events that were to unfold?

But there have been times over the summer months when our District Meeting in Benidorm on **Saturday 6th February 2021**, seemed to be a lifetime away. With an ever-changing landscape of events and at times deteriorating on an almost daily basis.

The problem being posed is the same for all Districts and Provinces:

Will we be able to stage such an event?

And if we can, what reasonably can we offer and to how many?

Even supposing the lockdown measures at the time are favourable, and that participants, members, visitors and friends are confident to support it.

Our 'Covid compliant' planning started in earnest a few months ago, when our best guess was that we may be able to host a socially distanced meeting, that would only be able to cater for about half the numbers we enjoyed in the 2020 Assembly, which has progressively grown over the 24 years of the District's existence.

With the advent of the UK's 'Bubbles' and 'Rule of 6' and their Spanish equivalents (both at National and Regional levels) we may not even be in a position in February to go ahead with our current plans on the drawing board, who knows what the coming months will bring?

The one thing we are all learning is not to rule anything out, especially in these troubling times and we in the District of Spain will be exploring every possible avenue to host the very best Assembly we can to celebrate our 25th anniversary year, circumstances permitting, whether that meeting will be physical or virtual (or a bit of both!).

If you would like to keep up with our plans and developments, please drop a line to our dedicated District Assembly email address: 2021meeting@markesp.com⁵

Or visit our website: www.districtmarkspain.com⁶

⁵ <mailto:2021meeting@markesp.com>

And we will make sure you will have latest and most up to date information regarding our meeting, which is due to be held once again at the Gran Bali Hotel, Benidorm, on the fabulous Costa Blanca (which I am contractually obliged to say), Spain on **Saturday 6th February 2021**, with events open to everyone on the Friday evening (5th February 2021).

Details of Hotel Packages and Booking Information are also be available on request.

Let's hope that things do start to get better for 2021 and that all of our Mark Provinces and Districts can once more enjoy the Friendship and Brotherhood that meetings with our Brethren always bring, whether they be in our Lodges or at our Assemblies.

Mark Well, Stay Safe - Ian Crawford, District Secretary, District of Spain.



News from the Cayman Islands as life returns to normal

Another great installation was held in the Cayman Islands when W.Bro. Christopher E. Bodden was finally installed as Worshipful Commander of Cayman Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 1618 under the District Grand Lodge of M.M.M. of Jamaica and Cayman Islands on 2 October 2020. The Installation meeting scheduled for 3 April 2020 could not be held due to the suspension of Masonic activities.

Christopher's father, W.Bro. Ernest W. Bodden gave a very emotional and word perfect Address to the Worshipful Commander.

An excellent Festive Board was enjoyed by all following the meeting.

⁶<http://www.districtmarkspain.com/>



Across Social Media

On Twitter - UGLE Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent, *KG*, celebrates his 85th Birthday.

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1314555888443764736>

On the Podcasts - R.E.Kt. Richard Scott, Provincial Prior for Durham, launches episode 3 of his new series of Knights Templar podcasts.

[Click Here](#)⁷ to listen



On Facebook - The Royal British Legion launch their new downloadable Remembrance Poppy Poster

Embed://<iframe

src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/video.php?height=476&href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FOfficialPoppyLegion%2Fvideos%2F613742422638097%2F&show_text=false&width=476" width="476" height="476" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media" allowFullScreen="true"></iframe>

⁷<https://anchor.fm/richard-scott25/episodes/Podcast-3-eknnu9/a-a3fkr3q>

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 Secretariat⁸ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁹

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall¹⁰

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk¹¹

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 Here¹² or use the Text Donate facility below.

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.



Text KT2042020 to 70500 to donate £20

All monies donated to this text number go towards the **The Knights Templar 20 for 2020 Appeal**

For a text donation, you will be charged for one standard text message plus your donation of £20. Always get the bill payer's permission. The Relief Chest will receive 100% of your donation. If you do not want to be contacted by text in the future, add the words NO INFO when texting your donation. All donations are administered by the Relief Chest Scheme (Grants Charity Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation helpline: 020 3146 3352. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1164703. Company No. 00751836.

60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5AZ | www.mcf.org.uk

⁸<https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

⁹<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

¹⁰<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

¹¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

¹²<http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/KT2042020>

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.com¹³ By telephone: 07766731307

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

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

¹³ <mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

Or contact them for electronic payment details

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

Click Here¹⁴ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here¹⁵ for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here¹⁶

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.

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 Here¹⁷

¹⁴https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

¹⁵[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)

¹⁶<http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

¹⁷<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>



Business as usual for the Staff@86

The 4th Floor at Mark Masons' Hall may be quieter than usual while travel is somewhat restricted but, whether working from home or in the office, all departments and teams are available on email to help and support as usual.

