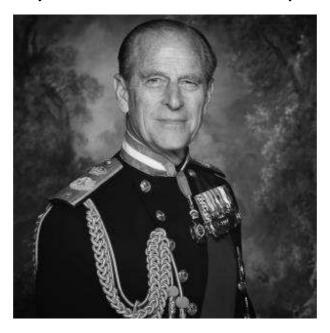


Freemasonry@86 News - 9 April 2021



We are deeply saddened by the news of the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty The Queen and members of the Royal Family at this difficult time.



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

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.uk 1

Further guidance on applying the discount on Annual Dues

This week R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W., Grand Secretary, was pleased to share the following information with members of all Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall.

¹mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk





7 April 2021

To: Members of All Orders Administered from Mark Masons' Hall

Dear Sir and Brother

Discount on Annual Dues payable in September 2021

At the beginning of February, we announced a further peckage of financial massures to help our nambers, which included an extension of the reduction in Registration and desting Peos first amounced hast-fiely, and a discount on the futural times to be invested in September.

The last twelve queed is have been a difficult time for its all said the Management found wanted to acknowledge your levally and support as well as contribute to the roses of membership which, he some, user otherwise prove too great in the current chromateness.

So, the discount on Assaud Doos which will be rande available lider this year is intended for the benefit of indiscidual assumers to whem this socing absold be passed directly onther than retained by the Unit for other purposes.

There are grounds for optimina that muscuic meetings will be whice to resume soon, and the Managament Board toges that the support & hise made mailable to you said enable you to remain your existing memberships and enourings you to look for others who may be interested in excitating their research to the Progressive Uniform.

With finternal regards and best visibes.

| Dys. A. Lanin | S R.W.Bro. Syan A Williams, P.G.J.W. Grand Secretary

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Click Here² to download a copy of the letter.

²http://download.mmh.org.uk/07.04.21 Guidance on applying the Discount on Annual Dues payable in September 2021 - FINAL.pdf

Octogenarian plays with fire



On Friday, 11 June W.Bro. Brian Allen of Vale of Avon Lodge of M.M.M. No. 867 (Hampshire and Isle of Wight) has have accepted the challenge to take part in a Fire Walk outside the Guildhallin Salisbury.

This involves walking over hot coals in bare feet and sponsorship is in aid of the Salisbury Hospice Charity. The event is in the evening and all are welcome to Brian me on.

It costs £2.2 million per year to provide and run all the services that the Salisbury Hospice offers. Like all charities suffering during COVID-19 they are desperate for funds. Their services are so essential to local people during end of life care, and their families and friends. All of the services are free to patients and carers. Over 1000 people a year are helped, both in the Hospice and the wider community.

Over the past few years Brian has managed to raise over £5000 through sponsorship; taking up challenges such as a tandem parachute jump over Salisbury Plain, a 10 mile midnight walk around the city, a zip wire descent over a slate quarry in Wales, and abseiling down the Spinniker Tower in Portsmouth.

All of this has been a pleasure to complete to benefit such a worthwhile charity as Salisbury Hospice.

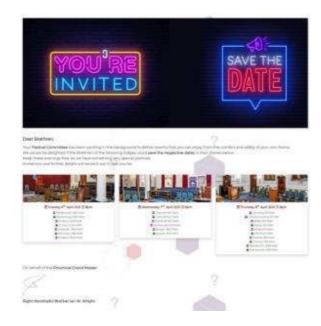
Not content with this, on 28 August Brian is going to attempt the Camino de Santiago 150 kilometer pilgrim walk, or St James's walk. Not bad for someone who will turn 82 in May.

How do you solve the problem of launching a MBF Festival during lockdown?

The Brethren of the Mark Province of Oxfordshire have had to deal with this question and find a solution to get their Festival back on track for 2025.

The President of the 157th MBF Annual Festival 2025, Oxfordshire, **R.W.Bro. Ian Wright, Prov.G.M.**, challenged the **Chair of the Festival V.W.Bro. Barry Prior** and the Festival Committee. The task was taken on board by **Bro. Mocky Khan** and his Festival Marketing and Communications Team. This is what they did.

The Relaunch Event had to be treated as a 'must-attend, can you afford to miss this event!' The momentum and excitement were created by 'save the date', personal invites and 'only 24 hours to go' emails.







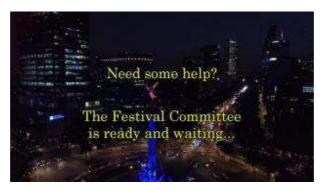
The Relaunch Event was planned over three nights over zoom (other video conferencing services available), 6th, 7th, and 8th April.



The Provincial Grand Master welcomed Brethren and shared funny personal stories of attending other Festivals and stated that Festivals Weekends are one of the highlights of any Masonic year.



A video was produced to communicate all the great work that the MBF had done previously.



https://sway.office.com/dsP3BDUkhAyEVVFP#content=Yc2NANCv4mQp1f

One of the biggest reveals and most anticipated moment was where the venue for the Festival would be. We needed a venue that would appeal and showcase the beautiful city of Oxford. The Examination Schools is the firm favourite. The Brethren were very happy with the choice.



The Festival is about raising much needed funds but at the core, is to have fun. To provide the entertainment and to kickstart the fundraising, our **Fun**draising Team were introduced and put to action!



The types of events that Lodges and Brethren could hold were given, one suggestion was 'Sumo Wrestling', but I think that was more to stitch up the Prov.G.M.! Plus, our Festival Merchandise was showcased.





The Festival Committee is tasked with planning and delivering the Festival in 2025. Hopefully, fellow Oxfordshire Brethren will volunteer to help out.



New for 2021, is the reintroduction of the Festival Jewel. Many were wearing the Surrey Jewel for 2022 and were pleased that, when they receive the Oxfordshire jewel, it can be worn until 2025.



No Masonic event would be complete without a raffle. The winners were appreciative of their Festival Merchandise as prizes. The Brethren had a chance to pose questions about the Festival – there were many questions about gift aid and honorifics. Our Festival President and Chair clearly know their stuff. The event was concluded with the traditional 9 o'clock toast.





The feedback from the Relaunch Event has been very positive, many Brethren have shown interest in helping the committee and have already thought of fundraising events or how to contribute to the Festival newsletter. Over the three nights, over 150 Brethren attended which is a great result. As this event is the first of many, the future of the 157th MBF Annual Festival 2025, Oxfordshire, looks bright and, more importantly, back on track.

Please do check out www.oxonmbf2025.org.uk³ for more information.

S&F,

Bro. Mocky Khan

Head of Festival Marketing and Comms for Oxfordshire.

Abbey Lodge of M.M.M. No. 225.



This is a good opportunity to remind Brethren about MBF Festival Year Bars

The Year Bars come as part of the Stewardship pack. They are no longer available to purchase on their own.

These are not designed to fit on the Festival Stewards Breast Jewel. They are purely for collarettes. If you have a collarette, you slip them over the collarette material. Once in place, push the bar at the back which will crimp it to secure it in place.

³http://www.oxonmbf2025.org.uk/



The 2023 Stewards Jewels have been despatched this week.

Masonry Rhymes

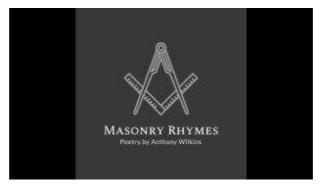
The following poem by Bro. Ant Wilkins of St. Michael's Lodge of M.M.M. No. 175 (Cornwall) came to our attention on social media.

You can visit his website Masonry Rhymes Here⁴

⁴https://www.masonryrhymes.co.uk/



And there's also a this short video about his poetry.



https://youtu.be/70IN0PDjEaM

Change of date for the Annual Convocation of the Grand Senatus of the Scarlet Cord



Hello Companions!

A very important heads up for you. Subject (of course) to Government regulations staying close to the roadmap we are currently following, Grand Senatus will be held at MMH on Thursday 2 September at 12.30.

This will of course include the investiture of the 2021 Grand Rank recipients.

We also plan to conduct two 4th Grade conferrals on the day before, to process all those who have been approved. Full details to follow.

On Friday 3 September we will be conducting one of probably three 5th Grade conferrals for 2021, primarily (but not exclusively) for overseas Companions coming to London for Grand Senatus, assuming this is permissible.

I must reiterate again that this is all subject to Government regulations being in accordance with the roadmap as it is currently known to us.

M.Dist.Comp. Ian Currans, Grand Summus

Surrey Cord Newsletter



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Click Here⁵ to download a copy.

Easter Across Social Media

On Facebook - Oxfordshire

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⁵http://download.mmh.org.uk/Surrey Cord Newsletter Issue 2 - April 2021.pdf

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On Twitter - MMH

http://twitter.com/statuses/1378625906575560706

Northumbria Widows Sons

http://twitter.com/statuses/1377902216988745733

Essex

http://twitter.com/statuses/1378659609917939714

Kent

http://twitter.com/statuses/1378645168618942470

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 Secretariat⁶ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁷

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁸

⁶https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3

⁷https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/

⁸https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall

The Shop@86 is open for online orders via the website

Click Here¹⁰ to visit the Shop@86 website

Please note: During the current Government Lockdown restrictions, there will be limited access to Mark Masons' Hall. As a result there will be delays to the despatch of orders, which will take place on a weekly basis, normally on a Tuesday. Customers will be notified via email once their order has been despatched. For enquiries about your order please email ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk¹¹





⁹mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk

¹⁰ https://www.shopat86.co.uk/

¹¹mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised over £46,000 and continues to grow



Please note that the MCF, who are handling donations to this appeal, have moved their payment collection site from the Everyday Hero platform to that of Just Giving. This doesn't impact how you make your donation but unfortunately it isn't possible for us to set the amount of your donation automatically to £20. The default set by the website is £30 and you will need to adjust it down.

You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just Click Here ¹² or use the Text Donate facility below.

100% of donations will be given to the 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.



¹² https://fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Appeal-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. CW3 9SS

Or contact them for electronic payment details

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

Click Here 14 for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here 15 for the updated complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here 16

MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels Now Available

The new-look MBF Stewardship Jewels have now multiplied in number and are available for the following Festivals:

2022 Surrey¹⁷

2023 West Yorkshire 18

2024 Cheshire¹⁹

2025 Oxfordshire²⁰

2026 Hampshire & IOW²¹

2027 Warwickshire²²

2028 Somerset²³

¹³mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com

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

¹⁵http://download.mmh.org.uk/Complete Forms Pack Final 2021 - Updated 18.01.2021 (002).pdf

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

¹⁷https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument

 $^{^{18} \}underline{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2023-west-yorkshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form/viewdocument}$

¹⁹https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2024-cheshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-

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²⁰https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument

²¹https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2026-hants-iow-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument

²²https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument

²³https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument



 $^{^{24} \}underline{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2030-essex-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument}}$















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.

Helping to Combat Covid



At the start of Lockdown the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W., shared the COVID Symptom Study²⁵ app.

As local lockdowns and UK cases increase, with over 4 million users, this app is a useful source of information regarding the situation in your area, as well as being a portal through which people of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID, support the NHS, help scientific research and help get us out of lockdown safely.

Business as usual for the Staff@86



²⁵https://covid.joinzoe.com/

Staff from the 4th Floor at Mark Masons' Hall have returned to working from home but all departments and teams are available via email and telephone to help and support as usual.



Mark Masons' Hall is pleased to be

