



Freemasonry@86 13 December 2019

Welcome to your news and information update from the ten progressive Orders and higher degrees 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 and uploaded to the Mark Masons' Hall TeamApp.

Please share this content with your members - forward this email or copy and paste the link below.



Dates for your diary - it's looking a lot like Christmas

Friday 13 December 5.15pm - AMD Centenary of Stafford Council No.37 - Burton-On-Trent

Friday 20 December - Mark Masons' Hall closes for Christmas

Wednesday 25 December 5pm -

Thursday 2 January - Mark Masons' Hall re-opens after Christmas

Wednesday 8 January 11am - Scarlet Cord Consecration of Vale of Glamorgan Consistory No.135 - Penarth

Thursday 13 February - Knights Templar Centenary of King Ina Preceptory No.211 - Taunton

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



... and this is very much the case with the stunning new hand painted Royal Ark Mariner tracing board, which was 'unveiled' at the Annual Assembly on Tuesday 10 December.

And, of course, this picture is worth 2,252 words - that being the total in the four sections of the Lecture on the tracing board (*excluding rubric*). We will be digitizing the tracing board and plan to make copies available to Lodges at cost sometime in late January/February next year. The Grand Secretary will be sending out details to Provinces in the near future.

Einstein Inspires West Yorkshire's 2020 Masonic Cycle Challenge



The great man wrote "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." Starting in Mirfield on 20 June next year, it'll probably be a combination of both, which drives the Masonic peloton of cyclists on a 'tour' lasting five days and covering over 400 miles.

It will involve climbing 22,000 feet (just 7,000 short of Mount Everest, without Sherpas and oxygen) calling at Lodges along the way. The route roughly follows parts of the perimeter of the Mark Province of West Yorkshire, extending into ten of their sister Northern Provinces, and will be their major fundraiser for the MBF in 2020.

Check out full details [on this link >>>](#)

Varna - Third largest city in Bulgaria & Stunning Seaside Resort



... has much to offer including the stunning Cathedral of the Assumption, many fine buildings with outstanding architectural merit and an imposing beach side position on the Black Sea.

Some four years ago eight Lodges came together to develop a new Masonic centre in the city, and have created probably the finest premises in Bulgaria. But what they don't have is a Mark Lodge - the nearest being four and half hours and some 364 kms away in Plovdiv.

However, plans are being put in place to change all that, starting with the advancement of twelve new Mark Master Masons in Sofia and Plovdiv in the New Year. Watch this space for developments, and who knows, as the headquarters of the Bulgarian navy and merchant marine, Varna may very well be looking at a Royal Ark Mariner Lodge for good measure.

Pro Grand Master's Address
RAM Annual Assembly - Tuesday 10 December



In a word - 'kindness.'
Underpinned, of course, by our key values of 'respect', 'friendship' and
'care.' Check out the full address - click [on this link >>>](#)

**Click on this button for an album of photos from the RAM Annual
Assembly >>>**

Facebook Post of the Week

Today was my very first time attending the RAM assembly and I must say it was spectacular in every respect. I thoroughly enjoyed it and to have Raymond John Smith presiding, that's just the icing on the cake. Great man and I'm happy and proud London he served us in London first as our PGM. 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

Like · Reply · Message · 10h



Wonderful order with a truly inspirational leadership.

Like · Reply · Message · 12h

A truly beautiful order! 🙌

Like · Reply · Message · 15h



Lovely order.

Like · Reply · Message · 11h

I couldn't have put it better myself, and it sums up for me why the Progressive Orders at Mark Masons' Hall are so special.

Social Media Tip of the Week - Bring Your Content to Life



Moving image – not just video, but gifs* – is a great way to engage and develop your audiences. Gifs are an easy to use and effective resource. Twitter has a built-in library of gifs you can use. A free to use website with a good range is [giphy.com/](https://www.giphy.com/)

*An animated gif is an image that's been encoded using the graphics interchange format where it has multiple frames encoded into a single image file and a web browser or other software will play those images back in animated sequence automatically - just in case you wondered.



Public Schools Preceptory No.209 - Centenary

Whether you're an Old Etonian, Harrovian or even Cholmelian in this preceptory it is very much a 'United Religious, Military and Masonic Order'.

And a distinguished heritage of 100 years is a testament to that. The venue was 10 Duke Street and the date was Wednesday 11

December, presided over by the Grand Master,
M.E.&S.Kt. Paul Clement, G.C.T.

One of the highlights of the evening was a most engaging oration from the Chaplain, E.Kt. Simon Thorn G.Alm.

Happy birthday Preceptory No.209.

Peace in Sight - the Diary of Lauren Wilkinson



In July, with support from the Provincial Priory of Durham, Lauren Wilkinson was given the opportunity to visit the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem with her unit Manager, Sheila Thorpe. Lauren is a St John Ambulance First Aider, and her full diary will be published in the Winter edition of *Jerusalem Scene* on [the St John Eye Hospital website >>>](#) It was a life-changing opportunity - as Lauren puts it "I'm so grateful for this experience working with the St John Eye Hospital. The work they do is a huge inspiration to me. I intend to harness the team's passion and commitment to clinical excellence in my career moving forward." You can download a PDF of the article on [this link >>>](#)

#Tweet of the Week



The grainy image does not do this stunning tree justice, and whilst there is a degree of self-congratulation this was actually last week's top performing Tweet.

State of the Art Communication courtesy of the EAMBA



On 6 December, Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro Paul Norman, accompanied by APGM, W.Bro. David Boswell, was delighted to present St John ambulance staff and crews with funding of £21,180 to provide radio and communications equipment for their ambulances and mobile treatment centres. The immense benefit that St John will gain from the grant should not be underestimated, and to coin a phrase from one volunteer "Chuffed as nuts, it will mean we can do more, help more, and give more to the community."



#Friday Feeling

It's good to feel liked and followed - Mark Masons' Hall and our Grand Secretary are no exception. One of the very powerful ways of building awareness and consideration towards our ten Orders is to establish a presence on social media - Facebook and Twitter are a good start - and to have that conversation with your members and potential candidates. We would also like to share our appreciation of the great work you are all doing - **please email us on communications@mmh.org.uk** with your Facebook and Twitter details. This will ensure that we like, share, follow and retweet in return - all emails will be acknowledged.

Thank you.

FIND US ON



Progressive Masonry on the Move

Check out the [Mark Masons' Hall Team App](#), which is ready and waiting to be filled with useful information - it's what smart phones were made for.

Content posted so far includes:

- all News from Freemasonry@86 bulletins
- key events and booking details (where available)
- Social Media Guidelines and Best Practice
- TeamApp User Guide

What would you like to see included? Let us know on communications@mmh.org.uk

[Check out the TeamApp User Guide on this link >>>](#)

Let us tell your story - please email words and pictures to:
communications@mmh.org.uk

You can also share news and pictures with us via the website -
click on [this link](#) to submit an article