



Freemasonry@86 20 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.

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

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

Grand Secretary's Christmas Message 2019

".... it's time to be bold and proud about our Orders and celebrate the heritage, colour, ritual, ceremonial and diversity they bring to the table."



"Wherever you are and whatever you may do over the coming festive season, I send you my warmest fraternal good wishes for Christmas and the New Year and look forward to your continuing support in 2020."

Click on [the following link >>>](#) for the full script.

Helping Little Bridge House Hospice make the most of short and precious lives in the South West



R.W.Bro. Peter Balsom, ProvGM Mark Province of Devon, dropped into this South West Hospice to present a cheque for £9,994.56. This very special charity also has hospices in Little Harbour (St Austell, Cornwall) and Charlton Farm (North Somerset).

The funding is part of the DMCA 2022 Project, which has now donated over £51,000, and aims to give at least £100,000 to worthy causes in Devon by September 2022.

Charles Hinitt Conclave No.283 - Men in Sheds



Phil Swarbrick, a 'shedder', was delighted to receive, on behalf of the Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest branch of age UK, a cheque for £500 for the latest 'Men in Sheds' project. It was presented at Worcestershire's OSM Christmas Charity party and was part of the match funding programme.

Social Media Tip of the Week - Keep your URLs Short



First, a URL is a Uniform Resource Locator or colloquially a web address. These can often be lengthy and unwieldy - taking up precious 'characters' on your posts and tweets. The solution is to use a URL shortener - there are several free to use options available, although we would not recommend goo.gl as the statistics they produce are openly available to all.

Our preferred option is bitly.com who also provide valuable usage data. Another excellent feature is that you can personalise a shortened link that they create e.g. bit.ly/4thStep which is the shortened version of <https://www.markmasonshall.org/orders/mark-master-mason>

**Grand Support for Installation of new
Royal & Select Masters' Grand Council of India Grand Master**



Pictured left to right: Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick Jones, R.III.Comp. Andrew Sweeney (P.G.Chan.), R.III.Comp. Llewellyn Gill (Dist.G.M. South & East Caribbean), III.Comp. Jaggs Arole (Dep.G.D.C), V.III.Comp. Louis Keats (Grand Chaplain)

M.III.Comp. Stephen Hinds was delighted to have the support of the Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters, and the Grand Supreme Ruler of the OSM at his installation on Saturday 14 December in Chennai.



New Order of the Knights of St Nicholas founded in Chennai.



Well, maybe not - but E.Kt. Stephen Hinds and V.E.Kt. Llewellyn Gill were enjoying the hospitality of the Observance Preceptory No.111 in Chennai. The occasion was their Installation meeting and Christmas Party - ho, ho, ho.



Oops - error in last week's coverage of the
Public Schools' Preceptory No.209 meeting



Apologies to all OCs or Old Cholmeleians for incorrectly spelling the name
of the alumni of Highgate School.
There's only one 'e' in error but two in Cholmeleian.

#Tweet of the Week

 **Mark Masons' Hall**
@MarkMasonsHall

Behind door no.15 of the @MarkMasonsHall
#AdventCalendar we find often unsung heroes of our
Orders, DCs, who ensure the smooth running of
meetings.
Why? Well today is #CatHerdersDay, and as all 'stick
carriers' will testify, organising #Freemasons can often
be like herding cats.



It proved very popular with our 'stick carriers', but unsurprisingly our
'scribes' were less enthusiastic.

Website Developments



In the New Year we will start work on re-skinning our websites - updating the look and feel of markmasonshall.org, shop@86.co.uk and 86hospitality.info

Part of that will be giving them a complementary, co-ordinating and uniform appearance - 'matching luggage'. That is, of course, only a small element of the development work. Whilst being sleeker, we also want to make the navigation more user-friendly, providing you with easily accessible information, whilst also serving as a shop window to our ten Orders. The following are on our shopping list:

- A members' area for all administrative items.
- Keeping to 12 fields, a home page, the 10 Orders and a page about Mark Masons' Hall and the team.
- Charities go under the Order to which they relate.
- Latest news can be fed by Twitter and Facebook, other more detailed news stories can be posted under the relevant Order.
- Testimonials from members and personalised intros from each Grand Master to be sourced.
- An intro to each Order to be written, possibly along the lines of the *FMT* pieces (KT, RSM, AMD and Mark already covered).
- Diary and links to Provincial websites to be reviewed.
- Ticketing system/help desk to be reviewed.

And now the important part - this is your website and it should fulfil your requirements, so please let us know what you'd like to see and improvements you'd like us to make. Perhaps, let us know the details of websites you think are great and which we should emulate.

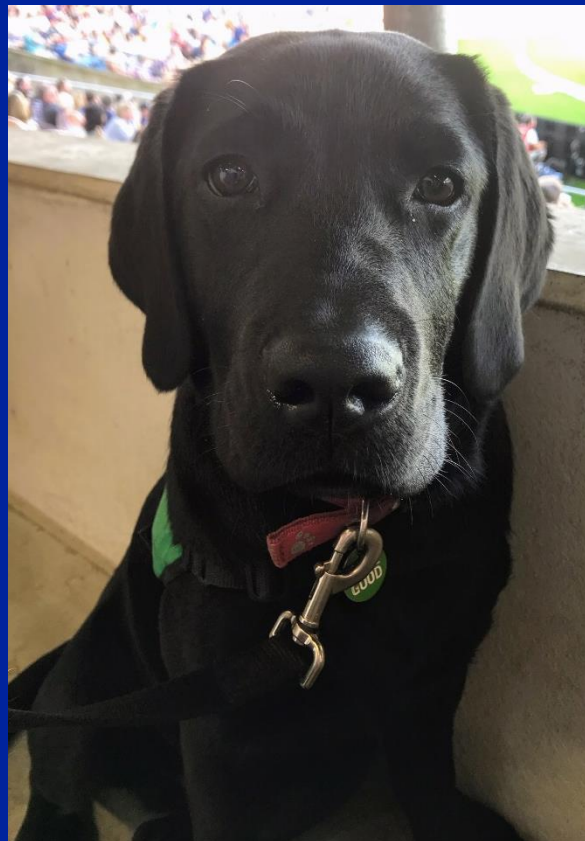
We look forward to hearing from you on communications@mmh.org.uk

Dogs for Good - Lawson Update



Last year the MBF and Mark Province of London provided funding of £13,446 to 'Dogs for Good' - a charity which provides training dogs to help adults and children with physical disabilities and learning disabilities, children with autism and adults with dementia.

Our funding has gone towards sponsoring 'Lawson' who is currently in training - see below.



Click on this link for a pupdate on Lawson's progress, along with a summary of Dogs for Good activity in the last year and their Good Times 2019 Newsletter >>>



#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](#)