

Freemasonry@86 News - 10 July 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.

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The Red Cross of Constantine marks the day of the Annual Assembly of Grand Imperial Conclave



Tuesday, 7 July, would have been the Annual Assembly of Grand Imperial Conclave but, although the Knights of the Order were unable to gather at Freemasons' Hall, the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, Graham Leslie Flight, G.C.C., was able to send this message to the members.



<https://sway.office.com/E3phLL35Bt9Z8N9n#content=Fdsv1PKa4Rm2ll>

Introducing R.Wy.Bro. John Whitfield, the New Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the O.S.M. Province of Devonshire

Born 1950 and grew up in Devon where my father was a police constable. So we moved around, Christow, Exmouth, Northam and Bideford.

Education, Bideford Grammar School, followed by the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. Then, what is now Coventry University, where I obtain a degree in Mathematics and Physics. Followed by a teacher-training year at Exeter University and teaching practice on Jersey.

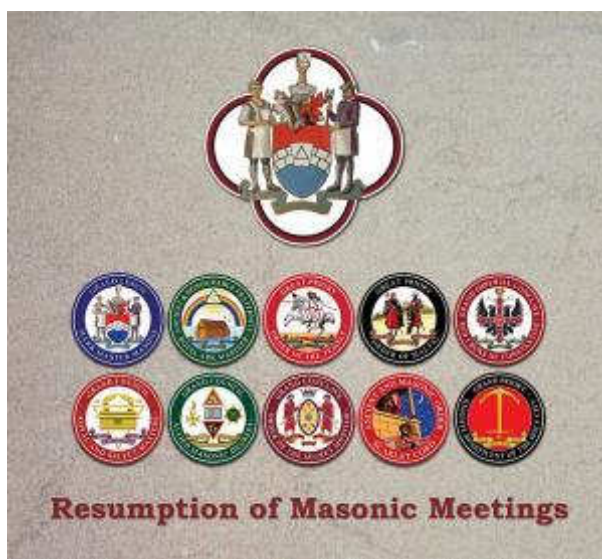
My first post was at Backwell Comprehensive School, near Bristol, where I taught Mathematics. After five years I decided to move back to Devonshire and found a position as a resident tutor and mathematics teacher at West Buckland School, in the middle of nowhere in north Devon. Thinking of staying for five years, I eventually retired after twenty-eight, having been Assistant Housemaster, then Housemaster for thirteen and a half years, coupled, for a time, as a house parent in the sixth form boarding house.

In 1979, I was initiated into Benevolence Lodge No. 489, Bideford, where my father delivered the lecture in the first degree. Chapter and Mark soon followed but working in a boarding limited my opportunities. I was a joining member of West Buckland School Lodge. No. 9037 on the day of its consecration where I am DC, having been through the chair twice.

Once I ceased to be resident at the school, I had the time to expand my freemasonry joining Ark Mariners, Rose Croix, Knights Templar, Red Cross of Constantine, and at my predecessor's encouragement, OSM. In the OSM I served in the Arch of Steel, becoming Deputy Commander, Provincial Director of Ceremonies, followed by six years as Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler. Right Worthy Brother Roger Guest stood down on February 29th and I became Deputy in charge on March 1st. I attended one conclave meeting before the general suspension of masonry and was ready to preside at six installations before our provincial meeting. Saturday July 4th was rather a strange day, having held a virtual business meeting the evening before. In the few weeks I was in charge I became used to zoom meetings with every conclave.



Resumption of Masonic Activity



On Monday, a joint statement by UGLE, Supreme Grand Chapter, and the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons' announced their decision to let the General Suspension of Masonic Activity expire

on 17 July. The letter from the Grand Secretary, G.L.M.M., relating to all Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, can be viewed [Here](#)¹

With a guidance note [Here](#)²

Over the next few days and weeks further guidance will be issued which should answer some of the many questions and help pave the way to formulating meetings in the "new normal"; providing those who feel able to attend with a safe and comfortable environment to perform ceremonies with the dignity required, while maintaining engagement and contact with Brethren who wish to remain at home. We will keep you updated via email and social media.

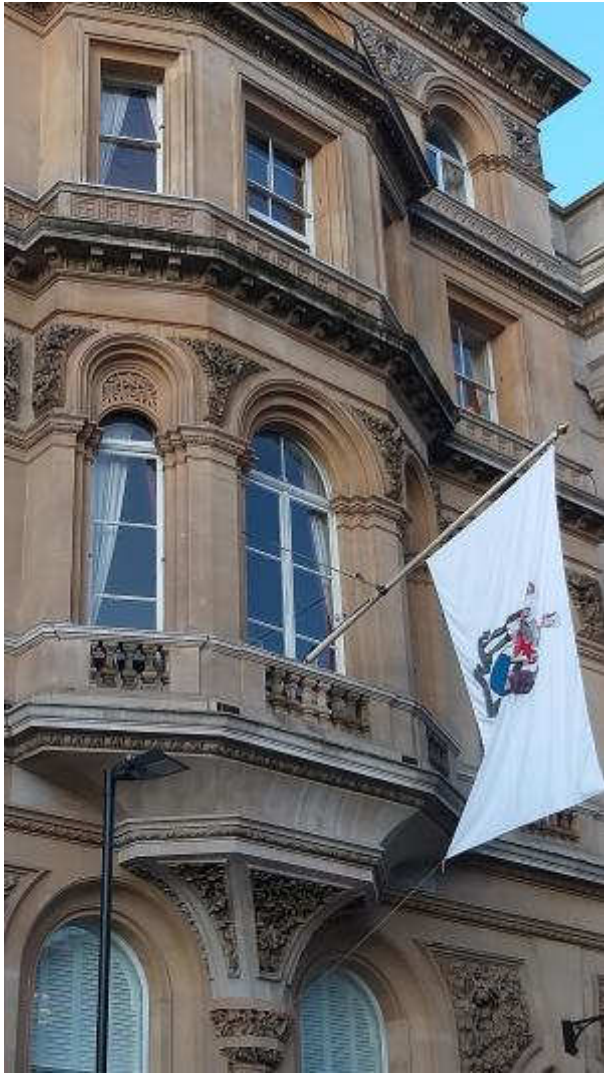
[And for those of you missing Mark Masons' Hall](#)

An email has been sent to all Secretaries or equivalent of Masonic Units meeting at Mark Masons' Hall outlining the plan to welcome those whole feel able to return to Masonic activity, back to the building in August. The old place hasn't changed much...



¹[http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720 Explanatory Note to Members about the General Guidance for the Resumption of Masonic Meetings.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720%20Explanatory%20Note%20to%20Members%20about%20the%20General%20Guidance%20for%20the%20Resumption%20of%20Masonic%20Meetings.pdf)

²[http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720 General Guidance for the Resumption of Masonic Meetings.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720%20General%20Guidance%20for%20the%20Resumption%20of%20Masonic%20Meetings.pdf)









West Yorkshire Mark Mason Secures PPE and Funding for local Charity

W.Bro.Howard Shoesmith, P.Prov.G.J.O., was quick to act when hearing of the plight of a local charity, "Carers' Resource". [Click Here³](#) to read more.

³<https://new.westyorksmark.co.uk/2020/07/carers-resource-a-good-news-story-to-share-with-you-all/>



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.com⁴ 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 Here](#)⁵ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

[Click Here](#)⁶ for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website [Here](#)⁷

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has raised £28,236.00



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just [Click Here](#)⁸ 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.

⁴<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

⁵https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

⁶https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.pdf

⁷<http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

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



The Knights Templar
20 for 2020 Appeal



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 (Grand Charity Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation helpline: 020 3146 3352. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1184703. Company No. 00751838

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

The Shop@86 is open for Online Orders



We are pleased to announce the Shop@86 is now open to accept online orders.

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 [Here](https://www.shopat86.co.uk/)⁹

⁹<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>



Across Social Media

On Facebook - Kent Mark Masons express their satisfaction

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FKentMarkMasterMasons%2Fposts%2F2654002478201848&width=500" width="500" height="529" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media"></iframe>
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While the Mark Province of Essex release a video about their Mark Master Masons' Meals on Wheels Campaign



<https://youtu.be/xdHyGmoGb-A>

On Twitter - The Square Magazine's Hidden in Plain Sight feature has been looking back at some Masonically funded endeavours

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1281113467202781184>

Elsewhere - Freemasons Without Borders explore the Royal and Select Masters with the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick Jones



<https://youtu.be/6311CqoKA6o>

There's a new web site for the Provincial Grand Conclave of Surrey

The Provincial Grand Conclave of Surrey recently launched their new web site. This web site uses the latest technology to give a full screen display on PC, tablet or smart phone.

On the web site can be found information about the Order, the Provincial Officers of the Year, News and Events, how to join the Order, downloads, and the key contacts in the Order of the Secret Monitor, Province of Surrey.

The new web site can be found at <http://www.orderofthesecretmonitor.co.uk/>

Website designed by Allsorts Design



And Minerva Talks Discuss Did Bacon Write Shakespeare? - Rosicrucians, Oak Island & Freemasonry



https://youtu.be/QGIrc_bJNOg

Fourth Floor Faces

For those who have not had the opportunity of a visit to the Fourth Floor at Mark Masons' Hall we thought you might like to meet some of the team who undertake and manage all the essential admin @86 and answer your calls, emails and letters.



Ryan Williams - Grand Secretary

In 2015 I completed 30 years with Lloyds Banking Group having started in the days of Lloyds Bank – a Bank for gentlemen, run by gentlemen - as we used to say, and I began to think about whether finance was where I wanted to be for the rest of my career. As luck would have it, just as I was contemplating what the future might hold for me, the Deputy Grand Secretary's post became vacant and I decided to apply. Much to my surprise, I was offered the job before leaving Mark Masons' Hall after the second interview and within a few weeks I had relocated from South Wales to London and started.

I remember my first day very clearly because the Grand Secretary at the time was on leave. I arrived at M.M.H. somewhat apprehensive about what was ahead of me. I was shown to my office, given a pile of Constitutions and politely told to work it out for myself! I must have made a decent attempt at it because just over 18 months later I was invited to succeed Angus Hannagan as Grand Secretary and after the customary visit to Kensington Palace to get the 'ok' from the Grand Master, I succeeded to the office in June that year.

I know it's a bit cheesy to say that I have the best job in the world but I certainly have what I think is the best job in Freemasonry. The challenges of heading the team that administer to 10 masonic Orders is not without its difficulties but that's what makes the role so interesting. I am fortunate to have the support of a wonderful team and it's a tribute to them that we do what we do so effectively.

As I begin my fourth year as Grand Secretary, I reflect on what where I have been, who I have met and what we have achieved during the last three years and it's quite an incredible list. My Google Maps Timeline popped up this week and reminded me that this year alone I have visited 5 countries/regions, 64 cities and 299 places travelling over 7,300 miles in the process – not bad considering we have been in lockdown since March!

Outside freemasonry I enjoy anything associated with vintage cars – my father owns three real beauties – and antiques are also a great love of mine. Throw in a portion of opera and classical music and I'm satisfied!



Gary Newell - Financial Controller

I joined G.L.M.M. in October 2019 as Financial Controller, taking over the realm from Judith Ridley who retired earlier this year. I have over 15 years' experience working in the Housing (not-for-profit) environment, and holding a position of seniority in a finance department for an organisation.

My key responsibilities at Mark Masons' Hall are:

- Managing the Finance team and the Facilities Manager.
- Overseeing the Finances of all Masonic Orders, Charities, Catering (86StJames Ltd) & the Shop (MMH Ltd).
- Maintaining the HR function for G.L.M.M. & 86StJames Ltd in conjunction with our HR Consultants.
- Overseeing the Facilities processes for the annual refurbishment and to maintain compliance.

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.

