

Freemasonry@86 News - 24 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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Resumption of Masonic Activity



Further to recent announcements relating to the lifting of the suspension of Masonic activity, the Grand Secretary was pleased to share an announcement on behalf of the Management Board, about the agreed schedule of fees for 2020-2021 Here¹

The documents relating to the lifting of the suspension can still be viewed by following the links below.

¹[http://download.mmh.org.uk/22.07.20 Schedule of Fees for 2020 - 2021 - UK and EU.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/22.07.20%20Schedule%20of%20Fees%20for%2020%20-%202021%20-%20UK%20and%20EU.pdf)

You can find a letter issued by the Grand Secretary, containing some frequently asked questions and answers, [Here](#)²

The original letter from the Grand Secretary, relating to all Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, can be viewed [Here](#)³

With a guidance note [Here](#)⁴

These documents should 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.

There is also an important announcement about the communication of Grand Lodge scheduled for September [Here](#)⁵



²http://download.mmh.org.uk/Further_GuidancefollowingtheanouncementoftheRelaxationoftheGeneralSuspensionofMasonicActivity.pdf

³http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720_ExplanatoryNote_to_Members_abouttheGeneralGuidancefortheResumptionofMasonicMeetings.pdf

⁴http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720_GeneralGuidancefortheResumptionofMasonicMeetings.pdf

⁵http://download.mmh.org.uk/16.07.20_NoticeoftheintendedAbandonmentoftheSeptemberCommunicationofGrandMarkLodge.pdf

Introducing R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, the New Provincial Grand Summus for the Scarlet Cord Province of Surrey

I was born on 18 December 1940 at Cheam, Surrey and have spent all my life in Surrey. I married Barbara on 26th September 2020 and have three children, two boys and one girl and have two granddaughters

I passed the 11plus and went to Wallington County Grammar School in 1952. There I captained the School Cricket Team for two successful years and left school with 7 'O' Levels and 3 'A' Levels (Economics, Economic History & Geography) in 1959 and had a place at Liverpool and Southampton Universities waiting to be accepted.

During my last two years at school I was involved with the Surrey Association of Boy's Clubs playing both Soccer and Cricket for them. They had an annual Cricket Match against Surrey Colts and it was after this game in 1958 I was invited to play a couple of games for Surrey Colts. Thereafter I was approached to join the professional staff at the Oval on a trial basis until the end of the season the following year. This I accepted much to the annoyance of a couple of teachers at school who felt I should further my education but in hindsight I am sure I made the right decision

I played for Surrey CCC as wicket-keeper in the first team from 1962 until 1975. Over that period we won the Benson and Hedges Cup in 1974, the County Championship in 1971 and in 1964 at Hove versus Sussex I caught eleven batsmen in the two innings which was then a world record but has been equalled twice since then

I was then invited to join Sussex in 1976 for the twilight of my cricketing career and what a 5 years it was. Tony Greig was Captain but in 1978 he was sacked by Sussex because of his involvement in the Packer affair and I was asked to take over. We had a disappointing start to the season but eventually in September won the Gillette Cup, beating Somerset by 5 wickets

Throughout my cricketing career I was always aware that I would need an alternative occupation to see me through to retirement. Having worked at an Insurance Broking and Independent Financial Adviser business for two winters I decided to go it alone, first from home and then in partnership with a friend with an office in Bexleyheath, Kent. I had already started to take qualifications and eventually passed to become a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute. This business was reasonably successful and was eventually sold to a larger firm in April 1999 which led to my retirement in 2002

After which my Freemasonry seemed to take off. I had joined Coulsdon Lodge of Perseverance No. 5611 on 17 January 1970 at the insistence of my godfather and my uncle who were both Freemasons. I am due to receive my 50 Year Certificate from the Provincial Grand Master of Surrey on Tuesday 22 September assuming that meeting takes place. Just prior to going in the chair in 1986 I joined Royal Arch quickly followed by Mark, Royal Ark Mariner, Rose Croix and Knights Templar and in the 1990's many other Orders. Over the years I have been very lucky with the various ranks and jobs I have received in Freemasonry but in particular some were very special and most enjoyable. Grand Rank in both Craft and Royal Arch, Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Mark 2004-2009, District Grand Master in the Royal and Select Masters 2005-2013, Grand Visitor in the OSM in 2014 a wonderful job, Deputy Grand Marshall in the Red Cross of Constantine for two years and finally my current position of Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of Surrey.



Back to work on the Isle of Man



1 - The Brethren of Peveril Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 323

R.W.Bro. Martin Blackburn, Prov.G.M., writes:

Yesterday evening at the meeting of Peveril Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 323 in Peel was a splendid occasion and Mike Kelly was duly entrusted with the secrets of a Worshipful Commander. As you can see from the attached photographs, he was proudly wearing his Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank Collarette.

Although our numbers were understandably smaller than in "normal" times, those who attended were very appreciative of the opportunity to resume Masonic activities, and those who sent in their

apologies welcomed the opportunity to let others act as trailblazers on the journey without putting them under any pressure to attend.



And in South and East Caribbean



2 - The Brethren of Valley Council No. 229

R.W.Bro. Richard Mayers, Dist.G.Pref., writes:

We had a great Installation at Valley Council No. 229 (A.M.D.) Installation meeting last night.

There were fourteen Brethren present. This is the first Masonic meeting in Barbados since the Temple opened on July 1st. I am happy to be the first meeting. The Craft Lodges and the other Orders wanted someone else to hit the ground running. And we started it.



3 - R.W.Bro. Richard Mayers

The Provincial Priory of Warwickshire's Annual Church Service Video



The third Sunday in July marks the annual family church service held at St Mary's Church, Temple Balsall, Warwickshire; the site of an original Knights Templar encampment. Temple Balsall Preceptory meets in the adjacent Old Hall beneath the timbers laid by our sainted processors. The church and hall are the spiritual home of the Province of Warwickshire.

As you can see from the archive photograph it is a grand affair that is preceded by a luncheon and concludes with tea and cakes on the vicarage lawn. Held in full regalia with a procession comprising of the Preceptory banners, Eminent Preceptors, Active Provincial Officer and the Provincial Prior and Sub-Prior. It is quite a local spectacle.

This year is quite different. To give the Knights Templar Family a flavour of the day a virtual 'Reflective' act of worship has been made at Temple Balsall. It is lead by the Rev. Kathy Lloyd Roberts, who gives the Order unstinting support, and her Lay Reader, E.Kt. Denis Plater, the Provincial Prelate. A most important part of the proceedings is to remember those brethren called by The Great Captain of Our Salvation at a memorial stone laid by the Province in the church grounds.

The service can be found in a private box on the web. Click Here⁶ to view the video

We invite the Knights Templar Family across all the Provinces, and members of other 'Orders,' to join us in this short but important act of worship.

R.E.Kt. Roger Dixon, Provincial Prior



Across Social Media

On Facebook - Kent Mark Master Masons shared this wonderful image which sums up the Mark Degree

Embed://<iframe

src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FMarkMasonsHall%2Fposts%2F636185247247969&width=500" width="500" height="594" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media"></iframe>

On Twitter - Companions of The Masonic Order Of The Scarlet Cord celebrate their Tenth Birthday

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1285884905696747520>

Brother. The Masonic Podcast. Hint at which Order will be coming under the spotlight in their next "Beyond the Craft" edition.

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1285160113733599233>

⁶<https://vimeo.com/439558491/9ea7af1629>

Freemasons Without Borders Explore The Order Of The Secret Monitor with the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler



<https://youtu.be/B19n5SHZsCo>

Art@86

Over the coming issues we will be looking at some of the portraiture at Mark Masons' Hall and the personalities behind the pictures.



Edward Bootle-Wilbraham, 1st Earl of Lathom, *GCB, PC*, (The 2nd Lord Skelmersdale, 1853 to 1880) was only 41 years-old when he was appointed Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons from 1878, holding office for three years until 1881.

He had a distinguished career as a Conservative politician and served three times as Lord Chamberlain of the Household. He was also known as the Bicycling Earl as an early support of the sport.

He was born at Blythe Hall, Lathom, Lancashire and educated at Eton and Christ Church College, Oxford.

After his term as Grand Master of the Mark ended he retained an active interest in Freemasonry and was appointed Pro Grand Master of the Craft in 1890, a position he held for eight years.

His impressive beard draws much admiration from visitors to Mark Masons' Hall and led one of our Grand Masters to comment that "he must be the only Grand Master never to have been pestered to buy a masonic tie!".



Another Conservative politician and former scholar of Eton and Christ Church College, Oxford, was The Rt. Hon. William Wither Bramston Beach, PC, Member of Parliament first for North Hampshire, then Andover, and later Father of the House of Commons, a position he held from 1891 until his untimely death in 1901 when he was run over by a cab, aged 74.

His Masonic career was broad, serving as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons from 1866 - 69 (aged just 40 on appointment), having previously been appointed Senior Grand Warden **and** Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province Berkshire and Hampshire in 1857. He would later serve as Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight from 1889 to 1900, in succession to another great Masonic luminary, Revd Cannon George Raymond Portal. In the Craft he was Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight (1869 - 1901) and in the Royal Arch he held Office as Third Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter.

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.com⁷ By telephone: 07766731307

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

⁷<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

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 Here⁸ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here⁹ for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here¹⁰

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal nears £30,000.00



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just Click Here¹¹ 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 (Sister Charity Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation helpline: 020 3146 9352. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1154703. Company No. 00751836.

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

⁸https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

⁹https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.pdf

¹⁰<http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

¹¹<http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/KT2042020>

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 Here¹²



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.

¹²<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

