

Freemasonry@86 News - 17 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



Following last week's announcement that Masonic activity can resume from today, 17 July, a lot of questions have been asked about some of the ways this can be achieved, or what to do if it can't.

You can find a letter issued by the Grand Secretary, containing some frequently asked questions and answers, [Here](#)¹

¹http://download.mmh.org.uk/Further_Guidance_following_the_announcement_of_the_Relaxation_of_the_General_Suspension_of_Masonic_Activity.pdf

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

The original letter from the Grand Secretary, relating to all Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, can be viewed [Here](#)²

With a guidance note [Here](#)³

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](#)⁴



²http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720_Explanatory_Note_to_Members_about_the_General_Guidance_for_the_Resumption_of_Masonic_Meetings.pdf

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

⁴http://download.mmh.org.uk/16.07.20_Notice_of_the_intended_Abandonment_of_the_September_Communication_of_Grand_Mark_Lodge.pdf

Introducing R.III.Kt. Ralph Everett Hitchin, the New Intendant-General for the R.C.C. Division of Nottinghamshire

I was born in 1953 at Stapleford on the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire border where I was educated at the local schools. Married to Mary for 45 years and we have 2 sons, both in their 40's.

I entered an apprenticeship with the local Electricity Board in 1969 and worked on transport fleet maintenance for 18 years before transferring to a supervisory role in customer service and then distribution engineering and general project management. Volunteered for redundancy in 2000 and served my final year with the company in facilities management at the local 7.5 acre site.

After a year working with a colleague in property renovation for a year I returned to the motor trade taking me up to state pension age.

I was approached to become a Freemason a couple of times during my time with the Electricity Board but considered that the irregular hours to be too great an impediment but once self employment beckoned I accepted the offer and was initiated into the Nuthall Temple Lodge No. 6011 in March 2000. At that time masonry was still recruiting strongly and it was December 2002 before I was raised and later Exalted into Nuthall Temple Chapter No. 6011 in November 2003.

After Installation into the Trent Conclave No. 267 in the Red Cross of Constantine in June 2005, I became a Joining Member of the Derbyshire Dales Lodge No. 9436 in October that year and this was followed by Advancement in to the Mark Degree in the Saint Alkmund Mark Lodge No. 595 in October 2006. Upon completion of the principal chairs in Craft and Royal Arch I joined a further 10 of the Progressive and commemorative Orders to discover and enjoy the full Masonic experience. I served as Junior Deacon in the Craft Province of Derbyshire, Senior Deacon in the Craft Province of Nottinghamshire, Provincial ADC for 3 years in the Provincial Grand Chapter of Nottinghamshire and was then promoted to Past Provincial Registrar.

In the Mark Degree I was Installed as Worshipful Master in 2013, Deputy Provincial Secretary in 2014, Provincial Secretary in 2015, made Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2016, Grand Sword Bearer in 2019 and Deputy Provincial Grand Master in 2020.

In the Red Cross progress has been equally rapid having been appointed to the Divisional Sepulchre Guard in 2008, becoming Deputy Captain in 2012, Captain in June 2014 and also appointed to the Grand Sepulchre Guard in July 2012. I was Enthroned as Sovereign of the Trent Conclave in 2014 and in 2016 was appointed Deputy Captain of the Grand Sepulchre Guard and Deputy Intendant-General for Nottinghamshire in the same year. I am currently once more Sovereign of the Trent Conclave, Recorder of the Chilwell Conclave No. 293, Recorder of the Grand Sepulchre Guard Conclave No. 379 and Viceroy of the Sepulchri Custodes Conclave No. 528.

Sword play still forms a significant part of my Masonic activities having served on, and been both Deputy and Commander of the Nottinghamshire K.T. Priors Bodyguard, currently Provincial Herald, Deputy and now Commander of the O.S.M. East Midlands Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler's Arch of Steel and a member of the Provincial Tzaddikim of the East Midlands in the Scarlet Cord.

In the Cryptic Degrees I have been the Provincial Junior Deacon for the East Midlands Council in the Allied Masonic Degrees following a year as Worshipful Master of the Earl Howe Council No. 257 and am Secretary of the Cleve Council No. 231 and have just completed my year as Thrice Illustrious Master of the Prince Rupert Council No. 335 in the Degree of Royal and Select Masters but have yet to Install my successor as the meeting was cancelled by the suspension of all Masonic activity.



Join a virtual tour of the Western Wall tunnels of the Temple at Jerusalem



The Knights Templar Province of Sussex are offering places on a virtual tour of the Western Wall tunnels of the Temple at Jerusalem on Sunday 26 Jul 2020 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Tickets can be booked [Here](#)⁵

Sponsored by the KT Province of Sussex, the Western Wall Heritage Foundation will present The Western Wall Tunnels 360 LIVE in the comfort of your own home. The Western Wall Tunnels were filmed, especially for you, using state-of-the-art technology that allows you to take a full tour of these famous Tunnels without leaving your house. Join us for an amazing hour on a moving 3D tour with your own guide who will take you to see hidden underground treasures that convey the fascinating history of the Jewish nation in Jerusalem. Join us for a walk along the entire route of the Western Wall Tunnels. Visit hidden underground spaces. Stand opposite the Holy of Holies. And walk through a Hasmonean water aqueduct. All without even getting wet or leaving your house! The tour combines film clips and unique illustrations alongside a “real” three-dimensional tour. You will be able to ask questions and get personalised responses. The ticket cost includes a significant donation to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. Please note that the ticket sale will show up on your credit

⁵<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/provinceoflondonkt/389119>

card as KT Province of London Niall Johnston, to whom we are very grateful for his expertise in creating this event.

Across Social Media

On Facebook - The Square Magazine join in with T@3

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FTheSquareMagazine%2Fphotos%2Fa.2642386439194604%2F2642386509194597%2F%3Ftype%3D3&
width=500" width="500" height="690" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no"
frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media"></iframe>
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On Twitter - Our friends at Hope for Tomorrow launch their own beer

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1284052230690222081>

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.com⁶ 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 Here⁷ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here⁸ for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here⁹

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal nears £30,000.00



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just Click Here¹⁰ 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.

⁶<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

⁷https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

⁸[https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.p
df](https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.pdf)

⁹<http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

¹⁰<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

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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/)¹¹

¹¹<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>



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.



This portrait of Henry James FitzRoy, Earl of Euston, *DL*, by Jean Marius Rogier is always an item of interest on our guided tours as people are fascinated by the splendid array of breast jewels. Fortunately, these days we are encouraged to take a less is more approach to the wearing of jewels but this harks back to a time when breast jewels could be used to display your whole Masonic CV.

The Earl of Euston was appointed Pro Grand Master of G.L.M.M.M. in 1893 and also, unusually, Provincial Grand Master for both the Mark Provinces of Leicestershire and Rutland AND Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford in 1894. He held all of these positions until his death in 1912.

His personal history had highs and lows and makes for interesting reading but his commitment to Freemasonry is very evident and there are several Masonic Units named in his honour, plus the Earl of Euston Dining Room at Mark Masons' Hall with splendid views over St James's Street and Pall Mall.



The Earl of Euston's predecessor as Pro Grand Master was Captain Hugh de Grey Seymour, 6th Marquess of Hertford, *CB, TD*. He was appointed in 1890 and held the office for three years. As well as Captain, Grenadier Guards he was made an Honorary Colonel in the Warwickshire Yeomanry and was awarded the Territorial Decoration. In 1902 he was appointed an aide-de-camp to King Edward VII. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1906, six years before his death in 1912. He too has a dining room named in his honour at Mark Masons' Hall. The painting is unattributed.

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.

