

# Freemasonry@86 News - 7 August 2020



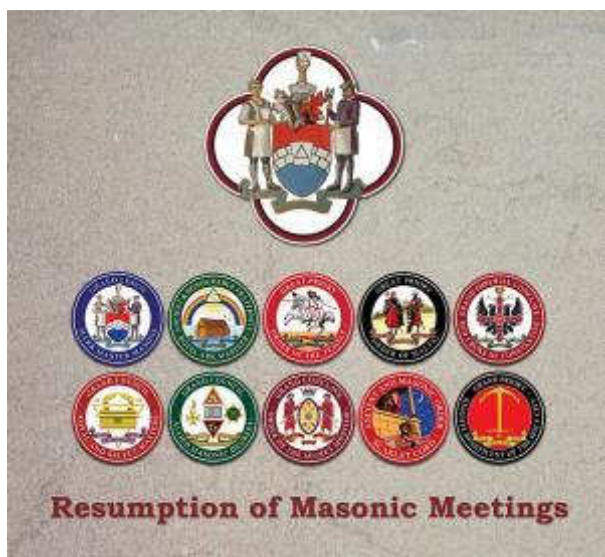
Welcome to your news and information update for the progressive/companion Orders of Freemasonry administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's.

This bulletin is emailed to all 'leaders' in the Provinces, Districts & Divisions and their Secretariats.

**Please share this content with your members by forwarding this email or let them know that it's available on the MMH website.**

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## Resumption of Masonic Activity



This week the guidance for carrying out ceremonies permitted during Covid-19 restrictions were circulated to Provincial/District/Divisional Rulers and their Secretaries or equivalent. Please take a look at the guidance notes before planning any meetings, to familiarise yourself with the amendments to the ceremonial procedures.

**Please note that from Saturday 8 August the wearing of face masks by those able to do so becomes mandatory at Masonic meetings in line with Government advice. Click [Here](#)<sup>1</sup> for the full letter from the Grand Secretary.**

Additionally, there have been several other announcements recently regarding the resumption of Masonic activity.

The announcement on behalf of the Management Board about the agreed schedule of fees for 2020-2021 is [Here](#)<sup>2</sup>

The Further Guidance following the announcement of the relaxation of the General Suspension of Masonic Activity, issued by the Grand Secretary on 17 July, containing some frequently asked questions and answers, is [Here](#)<sup>3</sup>

The original General Guidance for the Resumption of Masonic Meetings, issued by the Grand Secretary on 6 July, relating to all Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, can be viewed [Here](#)<sup>4</sup>

The joint Mark Masons' Hall/UGLE General Guidance for the Resumption of Masonic Meetings is [Here](#)<sup>5</sup>

There is also an important announcement about the communication of Mark Grand Lodge scheduled for September [Here](#)<sup>6</sup>

The guidance we have produced 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.

If you are unsure about any of the protocols to be observed please contact your Provincial/District Grand Secretary (or equivalent) in the first instance, who will be able to advise you. We are indebted to them for the work they are carrying in their respective Provinces, Districts and Divisions at this difficult time.

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<sup>1</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/Further\\_guidance\\_on\\_the\\_wearing\\_of\\_Face\\_Masks\\_at\\_Masonic\\_meetings\\_7\\_August\\_2020.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/Further_guidance_on_the_wearing_of_Face_Masks_at_Masonic_meetings_7_August_2020.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>[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_Schedule_of_Fees_for_2020_-_2021_-_UK_and_EU.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/Further\\_Guidance\\_following\\_the\\_announcement\\_of\\_the\\_Relaxation\\_of\\_the\\_General\\_Suspension\\_of\\_Masonic\\_Activity.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/Further_Guidance_following_the_announcement_of_the_Relaxation_of_the_General_Suspension_of_Masonic_Activity.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>[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_Explanatory_Note_to_Members_about_the_General_Guidance_for_the_Resumption_of_Masonic_Meetings.pdf)

<sup>5</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720\\_General\\_Guidance\\_for\\_the\\_Resumption\\_of\\_Masonic\\_Meetings.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720_General_Guidance_for_the_Resumption_of_Masonic_Meetings.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/16.07.20\\_Notice\\_of\\_the\\_intended\\_Abandonment\\_of\\_the\\_September\\_Communication\\_of\\_Grand\\_Mark\\_Lodge.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/16.07.20_Notice_of_the_intended_Abandonment_of_the_September_Communication_of_Grand_Mark_Lodge.pdf)



## Introducing R.III.Comp Fraser McPherson, the New District Grand Master for the Royal and Select Masters in West Yorkshire

I was Initiated as a 'Lewis', aged 19 years, into Lodge Possilpark, Glasgow, No. 1330 on 24th April 1980, soon after completing my other Craft degrees including, under the Scottish Constitution, my Mark Degree.

After moving to Yorkshire in 1984 I joined Trafalgar Lodge No. 971, Batley, in August 1991. I then joined Prince Edward Mark Lodge No. 14 in 1995, Royal Ark Mariners in 2002, Secret Monitor in 2003, the Royal Arch in 2004, Royal & Select Masters in 2007 and the Royal Order of Scotland in 2015.

I was WM of Trafalgar Lodge during 2009, Craft Provincial Rank came in 2015 as an Acting AGDC, promoted to PPDepGReg in 2017.

In the qualifying Orders for the R.S.M., Royal Arch and Mark, I became MEZ of Scarborough Chapter in 2012, and was appointed as an Acting Provincial Grand Steward in 2018, further promoted to Acting Provincial AGDC in 2019, a role I currently hold.

In the Mark, I was WM of Prince Edward in 2002, soon thereafter becoming Lodge Secretary, a role I relinquished in 2019 to become their current WM for the second time. In 2006 I was appointed as Acting Prov.G.Stwd. This was followed by appointment as G.St.B. in Mark Grand Lodge in 2013 and, in November 2017, I became Prov.G.Sec. for the Mark Province of West Yorkshire.

In Royal and Select Masters I was appointed in 2013 by the then Dist.G.M. for Yorkshire, R.III. Comp. David S. Pratt, as Assistant District Grand Recorder and, when the District of Yorkshire was divided into West and N&E Yorkshire in July 2014, I became District Grand Recorder for West Yorkshire under their new Dist.G.M., R.III.Comp. David M. Cordell. I received my Silver Trowel Degree in 2014, was appointed to P.A.G.D.C. in Grand Council in 2016 and received my Excellent Masters Degree in 2018.

After 41 years working in the NHS, I retired from Leeds Teaching Hospitals in July 2019 as a Senior HR Manager. I now spend my time focusing on my Masonry, a huge list of accumulated jobs, reading scientific publications, the garden (especially recently!) and maintaining my wife's Landrover!



## Red Cross of Constantine Division of Surrey

On 28th July R.III.Kt. Bob Hancock, I-G for Surrey Division presented a cheque for £2,500 on behalf of the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund to Mary Joy Langdon, the President of the Wormwood Scrubs Pony Centre. The club mascot, Orlando, was looking on.

Bob stated he was honoured to present this money to support such a worthy cause for children.

Mary Joy replied she was delighted to receive this money to support the continuing development of the pony club. Currently there are 350 young riders at the club, many disabled and some from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Wormwood Scrubs Pony Centre run a kindergarten at the centre for younger children and they thought it would be an idea to produce a colouring book associated with the ponies and other animals.

In addition there are several other education programmes that they run for the young people at the Pony Centre and with this in mind Mary Joy and Romaine thought it would be an idea to incorporate all the letters of the alphabet with a simple story running through the book.

The book then becomes a fun educational book.

It will help the children to learn the alphabet whilst listening/learning to read and they will also have the enjoyment of colouring in ponies and other animal pictures.

Before the book is printed Mary Joy will be asking Martin Clunes if he will write a foreword for them and even add a simple fun drawing of a horse.

They would like to use the book for the children who attend the Pony Centre but to also use it to help raise funds by selling it further afield to help support their charity.

Romaine is the resident artist; she is extremely talented. She paints/draws from life and she has the gift of capturing humorous moments in her art which the children and adults so enjoy.

Mary Joy will write the simple alphabet story and Martin Clunes will write the foreword.

They have already started on the book and it is hoped to have it completed by the end of February 2021.

The plan would be to have the book launch at the Pony Centre in the arena, subject to printing etc. towards the end of May 2021 & subject to social distancing!

You can find further information on the Wormwood Scrubs Pony Centre by clicking [Here](#)<sup>7</sup>.



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<sup>7</sup><https://www.wormwoodscrubsponycentre.org/>

## Across Social Media

We are pleased to be able to share with you the exclusive early release of Brother. Beyond the Craft who this week deep-dive into the Knights Templar.



<https://youtu.be/cah11Yub5Rs>

And staying with the KT, Jon Snow joined our friends at the Guild of St John Eye Hospital for a talk and Q&A



<https://youtu.be/uR4D4eEMiFs>

**For details of how to support the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital via the KT 20 for 2020 Appeal please scroll down this newsletter.**

On Twitter - The Museum of Freemasonry announce their next talk, on the fascinating subject of Art from the Trenches

<http://twitter.com/statuses/129024377295081472>

On Facebook - Cheshire Mark Master Masons show how the Mark Face Shields are being used by front-line carers

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FMarkMasonsHall%2Fposts%2F647590432774117&width=500" width="500" height="854" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media"></iframe>
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And on YouTube - Minerva Talks take us to the fascinating Oak Island, Nova Scotia



<https://youtu.be/Vwmd6vjq6CA>

## Not seeing your news? Join us on Social Media

Social Media is becoming an increasingly important platform for how we get to hear about what is going on further afield in all of our Orders. If your Province/District/Division has a Facebook Page/Group or Twitter Feed, or if you represent a Masonic Club or Society linked to our Orders, please send us an invite to join or follow you.

We can be found at:

Facebook - Mark Secretariat<sup>8</sup> - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page<sup>9</sup>

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup><https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

<sup>10</sup><https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

## Art@86

Continuing our look at some of the portraiture at Mark Masons' Hall and the personalities behind the pictures.



H.R.H. Prince Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, *KG*, was the seventh child and third son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. His background was very much in the Army. Graduating from the Royal Military College at Woolwich to be commissioned as a lieutenant in the Corps of Royal Engineers in 1868, he rose through the ranks, serving in many overseas lands, to become field Marshal in 1902.



In freemasonry he served as Grand Master from 1901 until 1939, having already held the rank of Past Grand Master since 1891. He was also Mark Provincial Grand Master for Sussex for eleven years from 1890.

In the Craft he served as Provincial Grand Master for Sussex from 1886 until 1901; District Grand Master of Bombay from 1887 until 1901 and Grand Master from 1901 until 1939.

He was also Grand Master of the Knights Templar from 1908 – 1939.

Interestingly he is both the joint longest serving Grand Master of the Knights Templar (31 years, equal to H.R.H. Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, KG, 1812 - 1843) and joint longest serving Grand Master of the Mark (38 years, currently tied with our present Grand Master H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO).

Born at Buckingham Palace in 1850 he lived a good long life, dying at the family residence, Bagshot Park, Surrey, in 1942, aged 91 years, 8 months and 15 days, the same age to the day as his elder sister, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, who had died three years before.



H.R.H. Prince Leopold George Duncan Albert, Duke of Albany, KG, is both a blood and Masonic Brother of the Duke of Connaught and Strathern (above). He was the eighth child and youngest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Dying young, aged just 30, his Masonic career was brief yet impressive. Being a student of Christ Church College, Oxford, he was initiated into Apollo University Lodge No. 357. His elder brother, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, KG, (later H.M. King Edward VII) took part in his Initiation ceremony. This was in 1874 and nine years later the tables would be turned when he Advanced the Prince of Wales into the Mark.

He was Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent for Oxfordshire in the Craft and Royal Arch and also Craft Junior Grand Warden in 1877 and Third Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter in 1873-4. He was the first member of the Royal Family to be advanced into the Mark in 1875, becoming a member of University Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 55. In 1881 (aged 28) he was appointed Past Grand Master.

Some mystery surrounds his portrait at Mark Masons' Hall (which faces you as you exit the lifts on the ground floor) as the plaque below it bears the words H.R.H. Prince Albert Victor Christian Edward of Wales, Grand Senior Warden 1887, Late-Earl of Athlone and Duke of Clarence and Avondale. However, the subject of the portrait clearly wears the apron and chain of a Past Grand Master. Further evidence to suggest that this may be a case of mistaken identity can be found in R.W.Bro. Richard Gan's Grand Stewards' Lecture "The Pictorial Heritage of the Golden Age of Mark Masonry" which helpfully contains an extract of the minutes of Grand Master's Lodge, dated 3 October 1894: "*On the motion of Bro. R Berridge, seconded by Bro. The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Euston, the sum of £52 10s 0d was voted for the purchase of a portrait of H.R.H. the late Duke of Albany, who consecrated the Lodge, for presentation to Grand Lodge*". Tantalisingly, R.W.Bro. Gan adds: It [the incorrect attribution] raises, of course, the issue of whether somewhere there exists or existed a portrait of the Duke of Clarence wearing his Mark regalia?

## 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.com](mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com)<sup>11</sup> 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](#)<sup>12</sup> for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

[Click Here](#)<sup>13</sup> for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website [Here](#)<sup>14</sup>

## The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal nears £30,000.00



<sup>11</sup><mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

<sup>12</sup>[https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news\\_articles/2020/2021\\_MBF\\_Stewardship\\_Badge\\_Form.pdf](https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf)

<sup>13</sup>[https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news\\_articles/2020/2021\\_MBF\\_Festival\\_Complete\\_Forms\\_Pack.pdf](https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.pdf)

<sup>14</sup><http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just Click Here<sup>15</sup> 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.**



**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 (Giving 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



As well as being able to accept online orders, we are pleased to announce the Shop@86 will be open to visitors from Monday 3 August, initially from 1 pm to 6 pm Monday to Friday.

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<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup><http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/KT2042020>

<sup>16</sup><https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>



## 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.

