

Freemasonry@86 News - 25 September 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.

If you don't currently receive this email directly but would like to subscribe please email communications@mmh.org.uk¹

Presentation of an MBF Grant to the Martha Trust



R.W.Bro. Archibald Iain Torrance and R.W.Bro. Roger Richardson, the Provincial Grand Masters for Kent and Sussex, joined forces to make a socially distanced presentation of £16,908 on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund to the Martha Trust facility located in Deal, Kent. They were accompanied by W.Bro. Ivor Bennett, Prov.G.S.W. of Sussex and W. Bro. Brian Ward, Prov.G.Ch.Stwd. of Kent.

The Provincial Grand Charity Stewards from the Provinces of Kent and Sussex worked together on a joint application to the MBF to support the Martha Trust with a grant to purchase 14 specialist beds which would be used at their facilities in Kent and Sussex.

¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

The Martha Trust is a Charity which supports people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) at their facilities based at Deal in Kent and Hastings in Sussex. These facilities provide a home for life as well as respite care.

During the presentation to representatives of the Martha Trust the Prov.G.M. for Kent, R.W. Bro. Archibald Iain Torrance, said,

“As a trustee of the Mark Benevolent fund it is a great pleasure to be able to formally present the Martha Trust with a grant from the MBF to support the amazing work they do. He then thanked Julie Gayler (Deputy CEO) and Kerry Banks BEM (Fundraising Manager) for hosting the visit and making us so welcome”.

The Prov.G.M. for Sussex, R.W. Bro. Roger Richardson, then went on to say,

“We are all aware that in these uncertain and unprecedented times, inspiring charities such as the Martha Trust, are really feeling the pinch due to the restrictions on fundraising. I am therefore proud to represent the Mark Masons of Sussex in this joint presentation with the Mark Masons of Kent, with this grant for essential equipment in support of Martha Trust locations in Kent and Sussex”.

Having witnessed first-hand the appreciation and thanks from the staff at the Martha Trust and the difference our grant will make to so many lives we can all be rightly proud in knowing that we have all “Marked well”.







20 Anniversary of the Mark District of Bolivia

We are happy to announce the 20th Anniversary of the foundation of the District of Bolivia on the 22nd of September of 2000.

Bond of Friendship Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1666 was founded in 1989 and the RAM Lodge was moored in 1995. Our Lodge still performs all the rituals in English.

All other Lodges in Bolivia and Paraguay are performing the ritual in Spanish.

Within the District we have 353 subscribing members in 11 Mark Master Mason Lodges and 214 members subscribing members in 9 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.

Click Here² to read an E-book in Spanish detailing this amazing adventure of the Mark Master Mason Degree and Royal Ark Mariner Degree in Bolivia honoring the Brethren that made it possible and the Brethren that carry on with this tradition.

²[http://download.mmh.org.uk/Bolivia Booklet.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/Bolivia_Booklet.pdf)



Provincial Priory of Surrey - Service of Rededication and Thanksgiving



The Biennial Church Service this year was held at the lovely old church of St Mary's in Thorpe. This year's service was a little different due to the restrictions on numbers and the need to maintain social distancing. You can read the full report on the Surrey KT Website Here³

³<http://surreyknights.org/news-0134.html>



Essex continue to Mark Well



The Viking Lodge of M.M.M. & R.A.M. No.1564 met on Tuesday the 15th of September at Saxon Hall, Southend, these meetings being the first in the Mark Province of Essex to be held under the new "Rule of 6".

Saxon Hall was a very well prepared and welcoming venue for the brethren who attended the meetings and despite the mandatory face coverings all enjoyed a comfortable and safe gathering. The meetings did incur a fair amount of last minute changes and planning in order to bring the number attending into line with the government and Grand Lodge's new guidelines, as the "Rule of 6" was introduced after our agenda was agreed, dispensations attained, and the summons printed.

The Royal Ark Mariner meeting was held first, we were allocated the main temple, leaving us plenty of room to social distance! The Lodge was opened with Past Commanders occupying the Wardens and Guardians chairs to comply with the new Enthronement ritual handed down by Grand Lodge.

The Worshipful Commander W. Bro. Nigel Williams was unable to attend the meeting, so a very able substitute in W. Bro. Paul Busby stood in and carried out the Enthronement of Bro. Eddie Gammage (pictured) in superb fashion. W. Bro Paul, who is our Provincial Grand Secretary, then delivered an almost faultless address to the Worshipful Commander.

The Mark meeting was held immediately after the RAM meeting but with a change of personnel. V. W. Bro. Bob Potts stood in and opened the meeting with three Past Masters occupying the two Wardens chairs and the Inner Guard's place to comply with the newly amended Installation ritual. V. W. Bro. Bob went on to install Bro. Ken Berry (pictured) into the chair of Adoniram in splendid fashion and rounded off the ceremony with a faultless address to the Master.

After his installation W. Bro Ken displayed to the lodge a full set of new Mauls, one for the WM and one each for the two Wardens and three Overseers. These splendid Mauls were engraved with the lodge name, number, and consecration date. The Mauls were hand made by W. Bro. Jeff Bennet and presented to W. Bro. Ken to mark his installation into the Chair of Viking Lodge.



[While at Essex Enthroned Commanders and Essex Installed Mark Masters Lodges, No.1044 \(prior to the Rule of 6\)](#)

The Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Terence Douglas Sheern, was pleased to attend and appoint and invest W. Bro. John Finlay, P. A. G. D. C. as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and W. Bro. Richard Goodwin, P. G. J. D. as Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Lights! Camera! Action! - The Operatives Antient Drama filmed at MMH



The Worshipful Society of Freemasons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers are more commonly, and thankfully more succinctly, known as The Operatives. The MMH Orders have enjoyed a good relationship with this independent Masonic Order for many years and it was a pleasure to welcome them on this unique occasion.

Each year in September, the Third Grand Master Mason arrives at Mark Masons' Hall in the knowledge that his one year term of Office is about to end in dramatic fashion as he will be slain in the forthcoming ceremony and his successor enthroned in his stead.

In "normal" times this is performed within a meeting of the Order. However, this year, as with so much else, things were different and an ensemble cast comprising members of the Order descended on MMH to enact a dramatisation of what would normally be performed as the ceremony, to be filmed for posterity by a small film crew, in a Covid-19 secure environment and while observing social distancing.

No mean feat but no doubt with some clever camera angles and editing suite trickery, much like that great playwright of the 1970's Ernie Wise, you won't be able to see the join.



Across Social Media

On Twitter - Brother. beyond the Craft prepare to make their Mark.

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1309213146633175040>

The Museum of Freemasonry's blog recommends a reading list of 12 books to expand your knowledge

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1309386411808821250>

On Facebook - W.Bro. Peter Elmont, P.G.S.D., Provincial Grand Treasurer for the Mark Province of Somerset, is awarded Weston RNLI Fundraising Chair awarded a medal for his long service.

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FMarkMasonsSomerset%2Fposts%2F171322664547103&width=500" width="500" height="491" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media"></iframe>
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You can read the full story Here⁴

⁴http://www.westonrnli.co.uk/?p=1856&fbclid=IwAR3uy1UvedIp4Z2jQQyPKF4XesTZZMH_-Yj5R9t5dwDum2Ulg-OOYwZ9wfo

Freemasons Without Borders turn their attention to our friends in The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests



<https://youtu.be/cvDPAKdEpOk>

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 Secretariat⁵ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁶

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁷

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk⁸

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised nearly £35,000.00



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just [Click Here](#)⁹ or use the Text Donate facility below.

⁵<https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

⁶<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

⁷<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

⁸<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

⁹<http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/KT2042020>

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 (Grand Charity Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation helpline: 020 3146 3352. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1164703, Company No. 09751836

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

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.com¹⁰ 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 Here¹¹ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here¹² for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here¹³

The Shop@86 is now open



As well as being able to accept online orders, we are pleased to announce the Shop@86 is now open to visitors, initially from 1p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday.

¹⁰<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

¹¹https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

¹²https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.pdf

¹³<http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

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.

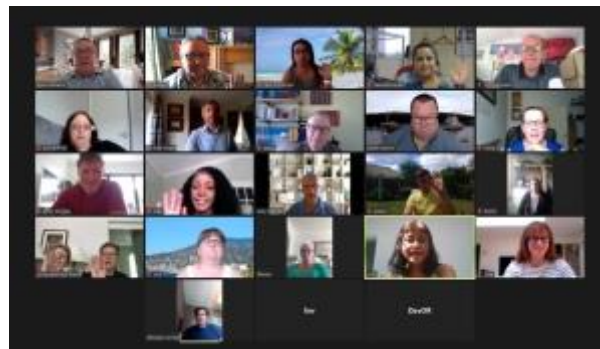
Please note: orders will be dispatched as soon as possible but may be subject to delays caused by Covid-19 restrictions.

Visit the Shop@86 website Here¹⁴



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.



¹⁴<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>