

# Freemasonry@86 News - 4 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.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)<sup>1</sup>**

## Our Orders Continue to Support Local Charities

Sussex Mark



Sussex Mark Master Masons joined forces with Uckfield Rotary during the “2020 Lockdown Summer” to raise funds for three local hospices: St Peter and St James, St Wilfrid’s and Hospice in the Weald. A Silent Auction combined with donations from Mark Masons allowed a presentation of funds raised to be made by David Dumigan, Asst. Prov. G.M. accompanied by a delegation of Mark

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<sup>1</sup><mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

Masons at Uckfield Civic Centre. With thanks to Ron Hill for the photos and to Cathy Watson of the Uckfield News for her report which can be found [Here](#)<sup>2</sup>



[Surrey Mark](#) post their 400th news item on their website, and it's a great piece of news

You can read the full story [Here](#)<sup>3</sup> but there's a snippet below:

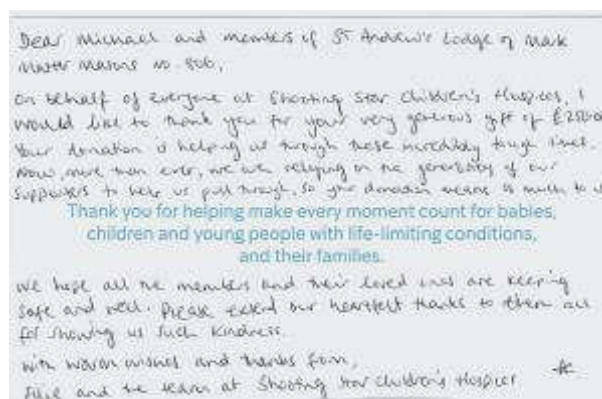
### **The Covid-19 efforts of St Andrews Lodge**

We just missed our last meeting of the season by only a week or two. Did that mean that we were to stop till October? No!

We organised a regular person check at the height of the pandemic. Our Almoner and Secretary undertook to contact members to make sure we were all well and healthy. We are a small lodge of some twenty members so it was not an onerous task and provided all, including our widows, with a semblance of keeping in touch with the world around us and Surrey Mark Masonry in particular. Mark is known for its friendliness and this came across very strongly in several conversations with members. We maintained our communicating bond with several initiatives. We meet once a fortnight on Zoom with occasionally over half the membership taking part. There have been many smiles and much banter only cut short by lack of time or impending football on TV. Spirits are in high in St Andrews 806.

Several of our members have family members of a young age and wanted to donate to a suitable charity. We chose Shooting Star Children's Hospice and sent them a donation.

We received such a lovely letter of thanks.



<sup>2</sup><https://uckfielddnews.com/uckfield-rotary-club-and-sussex-freemasons-present-charity-cheques/>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/news-0400.html>

## Devon and Cornwall RCC

Those of you who are familiar with A.A. Milne may recall a story about a 'Blustery Day'? Well, such a day (hurricane Francis I think?!) it was when finally our Deputy Intendant General, III.Kt. Nicholas White, was able to meet with Kevin Downing from Kernow Young Carers and make the photographed presentation of a cheque on behalf of the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund and our Intendant General R.III.Kt. Richard Lucas and the Division of Devon and Cornwall. So, on a damp, blustery and sometime sunny day at a lakeside location in Helston we carried out that activity.

Kevin was able to outline some of the work that our donation to Kernow Young Carers, made in March this year, does with young carers in the County and the activities that were being provided before and throughout the Covid lockdown as well developing activities for small groups who could meet as things ease. These are young people who have found that they have taken on caring roles for parents and family members who have been affected by illness or disabilities. From first-hand experience III.Kt Nic was able to tell Kevin of the immense and invaluable support that had been given to a young person of his family living in Cornwall and of the benefit that this person and parents derived from the support, physically, practically and emotionally. Kevin thanked the Red Cross of Constantine and the Division for the generous donation and offered to provide an update on activities for which the funds have been used with many young carers.



## West Yorkshire RCC



On Thursday, 27 August 2020, V III Kt Derek Cooper, P.G.H.Chan., who applied for the donation, was accompanied by R.III.Kt. Ray Johnson, Intendant-General for West Yorkshire, when he attended Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice and presented a cheque for £2,500 to Samantha Wood, the Head of Fundraising.

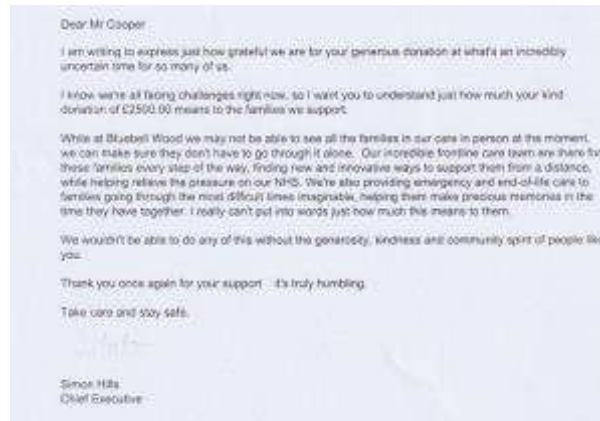
As can be seen in the Thank You letter below the donation is especially welcome at this time.

Although they may not be able to see all the families in their care in person at the moment, they make sure they don't have to go through it alone.

Our donation will help their front-line care team find new and innovative ways to support them at a distance, while helping relieve the pressure on the NHS.

They are also providing emergency and end-of-life care to families going through the most difficult times imaginable, helping them make precious memories in the time they have together.

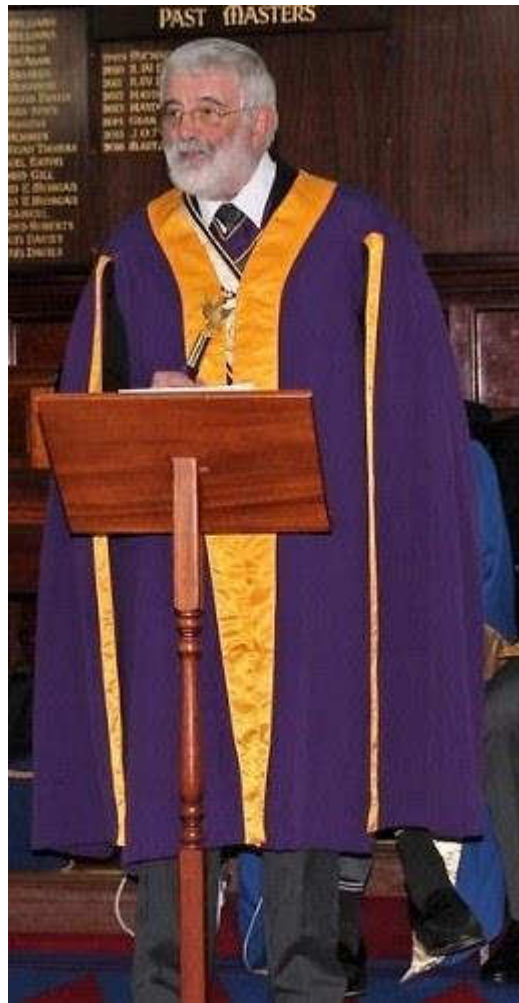
As they say, they wouldn't be able to do any of this without the generosity, kindness and community spirit of people like us.





## Staying with the Red Cross of Constantine

The Division of South Wales and Monmouthshire prepare to say good by to their Intendant-General



The Intendant-General for the Red Cross of Constantine Division of South Wales and Monmouthshire, R.II.Kt. Graham Spencer Gubb, K.C.C., has announced that he will retire from Office on 21st September 2020, following the completion of ten years' service.

Invested on 15th September 2010, he succeeded R.III.Kt. Roy Saunders, but Graham was not the first choice as Roy's replacement, because III.Kt. Rev. D. Brian Thomas had originally been selected to step up from the position of Deputy Intendant-General. Unfortunately, Rev. Thomas had to withdraw at extremely short notice due to personal reasons and so with only 14 days before the appointed date for the Investiture of the new Intendant-General, Graham was catapulted into that position. All the usual arrangements associated with the Investiture had already been put in place, so all that was really needed was a speedy reprint of the Summons and production of a new Patent of Appointment. It sounds quite straightforward, until you realise that Rev. Thomas decided to announce his withdrawal on the Saturday morning of the August Bank Holiday, which put a little more pressure on the then Grand Recorder R.III.Kt. John Brackley and Divisional Recorder III.Kt. Alan Thomas, both of whom coped with supreme serenity. Most Illustrious Knight Richard V. Wallis, G.C.C., Grand Sovereign - and his team - performed the Investiture, which took place at Bridgend

Masonic Hall supported by a considerable gathering of Knights from within the Division and Visiting Dignitaries.

Graham has been a member of the Red Cross of Constantine since 1983 and has served as Sovereign of 5 Conclaves, including the Divisional Recorders Conclave based in the West Midlands. He has at various times and in succession, held the Divisional Offices of Assistant Recorder, Recorder, Marshal and Deputy Intendant-General, serving under no less than four Intendants-General: in addition he has also been Provincial Prior for the Order of the Temple in the Province of Monmouthshire and South Wales and Deputy Grand Master Mason in the Worshipful Society of Operative Masons for the Region of Western Counties and South Wales. He has been a member of The Grand Sovereign's Council and was awarded the honour of a Knight Commander of Constantine in 2020.

During his tenure as Intendant-General, R.III.Kt. Graham has been active throughout the Division and has maintained links with all neighbouring Divisions and some further afield. His easily approachable demeanour and wry humour have managed to cement the camaraderie of the Knights in the Division which, of course, covers the three Craft Masonic Provinces of Monmouthshire, South Wales and West Wales, with 12 Conclaves in total stretching from Pontypool in the East to Cardigan in the West.

The Worthy Knights of his Division wish him a long and restful retirement.

## Across Social Media

On Twitter - Back to Masonic Meetings in Wiltshire

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1301069671844716545>

And in Staffordshire and Shropshire

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1301048233486151680>

On Facebook - Oxfordshire Mark take a look at the history of the Stonemason's Mark

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fnotes%2FOxfordshire-mark-group%2Fmasons-marks%2F10156996864056706%2F&width=500" width="500" height="549" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media"></iframe>
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And St John Eye Hospital's Fund Raising Guild launch this event in support of their Mobile Outreach Programme which the Knights Templar have so generously supported

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fguildstjohn%2Fposts%2F2898216917067237&width=500" width="500" height="407" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media"></iframe>
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## 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>4</sup> - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page<sup>5</sup>

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall<sup>6</sup>

## Art@86

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



Meetings in the Brazil Room at Mark Masons' Hall are held under the watchful gaze of three personalities in portrait. The 3rd and 4th Earls of Stradbroke, who we featured a few weeks ago, hang full length and almost life size, either side of the Junior Warden's Chair in the South. But a much less imposing figure looks down from above the Worshipful Master's Chair in the East, that of Giovanni Battista Cipriani, aka Jean Baptisite Cipriani, aka Giuseppe Cipriani .

Having been born in Florence in 1727 he moved to England in 1755 after a brief spell in Rome, honing his skills as an artist and engraver. Here his reputation grew, earning him many high -profile

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

<sup>6</sup><https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

commissions including work in Buckingham House (the central building of today's Buckingham Palace), Somerset House, and a frontispiece for the 1784 Constitutions of the Craft (pictured below) as well as becoming a founder of the Royal Academy of Arts.

But what has he to do with Freemasonry and MMH? In 1777, a previous building occupying our site at 86 St James's Street was called the Thatched House Tavern. And here met Lodge of the Nine Muses No. 235 (then No. 502). An account of the early workings of the Lodge records that Cipriani was raised to the third degree in January of that year.

The Lodge seems to have derived its name from the several artists, sculptors, writers and musicians who belonged to it and it boasts a fine collection of antique belongings dating right back to these early days of its history.

It's incredible to think that 243 years and two buildings later, this ancient Lodge is still holding meetings on the very same site. The story of the Lodge in itself is an interesting one and they have a very good website [Here](#)<sup>7</sup> with further papers on their origin.

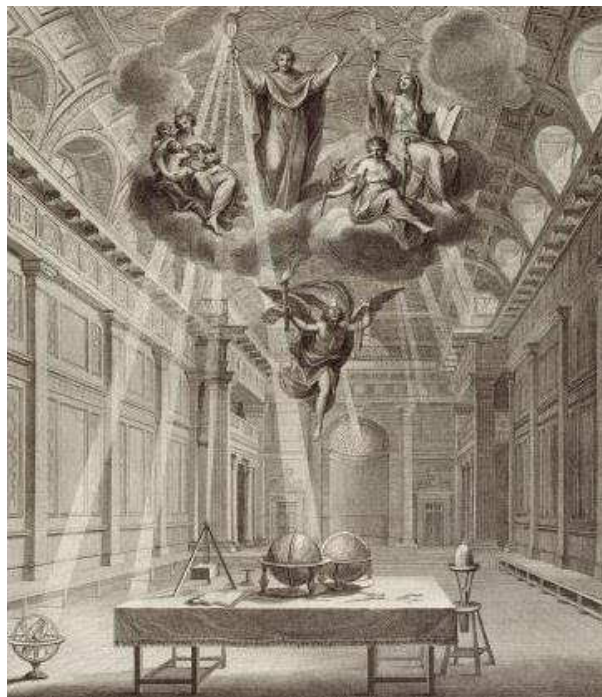
We are especially grateful to them for allowing this (copy of an original) self-portrait of Cipriani, presented to the Lodge in 1878, to hang in the Brazil Temple, and for permitting their fabulous candlesticks to accompany the pedestals in the East, West and South.

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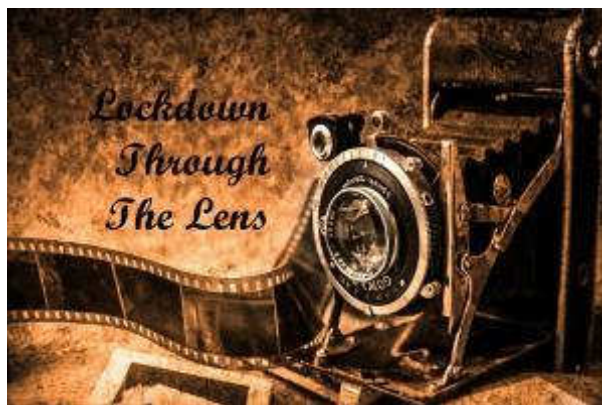
<sup>7</sup><https://btsecureession.com/ninemuses.org.uk/>







"Lockdown Through The Lens" photography competition



Since the beginning of Lockdown many Freemasons have taken this opportunity to get busy with their cameras. To mark World Photography Day on Wednesday 19 August we announced the launch of our "Lockdown Through The Lens" photography competition.

There are three prizes of Amazon gift vouchers up for grabs with £100, £50 & £25 for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place respectively. And the winning picture will be professionally printed, framed and hung in Mark Masons' Hall.

All you need to do is submit a picture, taken since Lockdown was announced, which captures something about the times that we are currently living in. It can be any subject matter you like, friends/family reunited, clear skies, abundant wildlife, empty streets. Just give it a title, explain in no more than one-hundred words what it represents to you, and submit it via email or post, along with the entry form, available [Here](#)<sup>8</sup>.

Entries must be received by noon on Monday 14 September.

We look forward to receiving your entries. Below are some pictures which may provide inspiration.



*1 - Last to leave the allotment*

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<sup>8</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/Lockdown\\_Through\\_The\\_Lens\\_Entry\\_Form.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/Lockdown_Through_The_Lens_Entry_Form.pdf)



*2 - Flying the Flag*



*3 - Tranquil Sunset*





*4 - All's quiet on Savile Row*



*5 - Waiting for play to resume*



*6 - First time out*





7 - No vapour trails

## The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised more than £30,000.00



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just [Click Here](#)<sup>9</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.**



**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 3302. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1154703, Company No. 00751838.

60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5A2 | [www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk)

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

## 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>10</sup> By telephone: 07766731307

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

**East Lancs Calendars. 47 St Leonards Way, Woore, Crewe. CW3 9SS**

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<sup>10</sup><mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

### **Or contact them for electronic payment details**

And don't forget, Stewardship, Badge and Festival orders can be places as well.

Click Here<sup>11</sup> for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here<sup>12</sup> for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here<sup>13</sup>

## **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 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. 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>14</sup>

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<sup>11</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>12</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>13</sup><http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

<sup>14</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.

