



## Freemasonry@86 News - 13 November 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>**

### **Farewell to two former colleagues**

We are sorry to report the loss of two former colleagues at Mark Masons' Hall, Tommy Thomson, *CPM*, our former Grand Tyler. And Martin Sale, former Commercial Manager.

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

The Grand Secretary has received many communications from Brethren across all of our Orders, and across the world, recounting fond memories and paying tribute to both of these Brethren who have left an indelible mark on Freemasonry.



*1 - Tommy Thomson*

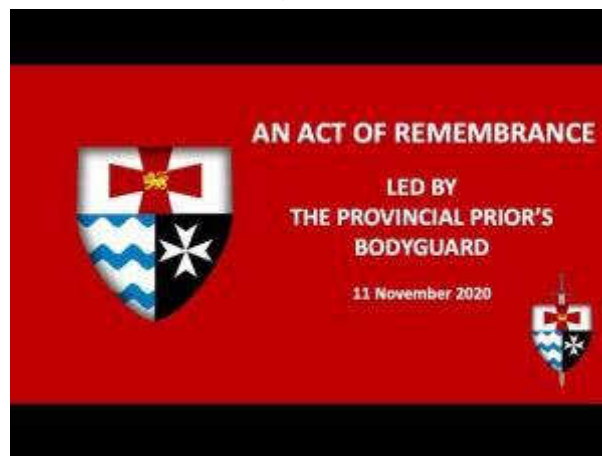


2 - Martin Sale



In a week focussing on Armistice Day, Freemasons have been paying tribute to the fallen in many ways.

The Knights Templar Province of London produced this video



<https://youtu.be/QhrbuaMtTs>

Click Here<sup>2</sup> for an Order of Service

E.Kt. Clive Sanders, Eminent Preceptor of Cumba Preceptory No. 476 - Somerset, had his poem "Remembrance 2020" published in the Daily Telegraph  
**Remembrance 2020**

The grandson asked his grandad,

"Will there be Remembrance day this year?"

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<sup>2</sup><https://londonknights Templar.com/wp-content/uploads/Act-of-Remembrance-Order-of-Service-1120.pdf>

With all that has been happening,  
And the spreading Covid fear?"

The grandad answered earnestly,  
"Yes, but it won't be like the norm.  
To protect us from the virus,  
It will have a different form.  
We have got to keep our distance,  
So no parade will march through town.  
We will simply stand on doorsteps,  
With our heads in honour down.  
For the Poppy grows in broken ground,  
And this year's been broken too.  
So think of those who gave their lives,  
And mean so much to you.  
Then proudly wear your Poppy,  
For it marks each taken life,  
And pray for those in uniform,  
Who protect us all from strife."

The grandson thanked his grandad,  
And he looked at him with pride,  
Vowing he'd be on the doorstep,  
With his grandad by his side.



The Red Cross of Constantine Grand Sepulchre Guard were joined by the Grand Sovereign and Deputy Grand Sovereign in their Service of Remembrance



[https://youtu.be/ZZ2RwS8Q\\_IQ](https://youtu.be/ZZ2RwS8Q_IQ)

Click Here<sup>3</sup> for and Order of Service

And Mark Masons' Hall posted this composition



<https://youtu.be/FfcUwNLIJ5Y>

## Annual Convocation of O.S.M. Grand Conclave

On Thursday, the day of what would have been the Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave, at this unusual and, for some, most difficult time, The Grand Supreme Ruler, Most Worthy Brother Andrew Christopher Sweeney, has been pleased to record some words of encouragement for you and all the Brethren of our friendly Order.

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<sup>3</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/RCC\\_GSG\\_Act\\_of\\_Remembrance\\_2020.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/RCC_GSG_Act_of_Remembrance_2020.pdf)



<https://youtu.be/N6GTak4SY7I>

Staying with the O.S.M., The Premier Conclave of Improvement is now available to all Brethren of the Order online

In this unique Conclave all the Brethren have the opportunity to practice the ritual in a friendly and encouraging environment, supported by experienced brethren who are kin to assist in developing the knowledge and understanding of this beautiful and Important Order.

After due consideration through the last couple of Months, the decision was made to continue our rehearsals via zoom. On Wednesday 11 November our very first meeting took place with 40 participants and a great atmosphere. If you would like to join us, our meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month starting at 7 pm. If you would like to participate and perform please contact the Secretary, Brother Seirios Kokkalis [seiriosdj@yahoo.gr](mailto:seiriosdj@yahoo.gr)<sup>4</sup> / 07707743188.



## Charitable Endeavours Continue

12,000 Masks in Brazil



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<sup>4</sup><mailto:seiriosdj@yahoo.gr>

The District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Brazil, concerned with the impact COVID19 caused among the most vulnerable parts of the population, have engaged in several fundraising activities and other actionable campaigns to support these vulnerable groups.

A Worshipful Brother of the District who owns a textile company, produced masks for District grand Lodge at cost price to be distributed.

The District Grand Charity Steward contacted all the Masters and Commanders of Lodges within the district to inform about the campaign and received a very positive and admirable response.

The initial goal was to purchase and distribute 10,000 masks. In just over 30 days, more than 12,000 masks had already been manufactured and distributed to the poorest regions of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

















### **Cornwall's oldest charity received a substantial cash boost thanks to the Mark Benevolent Fund**

ISightCornwall, who are based at Newham Industrial Park in Truro, recently received the remarkable sum of £10,700 thanks to the Mark Benevolent Fund. The presentation was made in person by Cornwall Mark Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Kevin John Hicks.

Due to the Coronavirus, numbers were restricted to a minimum which included the Provincial Grand Master, myself and local Truro/Falmouth MP Mrs Cherilyn Mackrory. The presentation was made direct to ISightCornwall Chief Executive, Ms Carole Theobald, in the newly renovated entrance lobby, which funded the renovations.

Carole commented; "Thanks to the extreme generosity of the Mark Benevolent Fund and the Cornish Mark Freemasons in particular, we have received a vital cash boost to enable us to make essential access alterations to our entrance lobby, which we are completely thrilled with. We are delighted to receive such wonderful support from the MBF & the Brethren of Cornwall Mark Masons. I genuinely cannot thank their Provincial Grand Master, Kevin Hicks enough for his support and his valuable time in making this presentation, especially during these difficult Covid times. Thankfully, with the new layout we have the space to be socially distant which would not have been possible before."

The Provincial Grand Master added; "I am absolutely thrilled to have been invited to present such a magnificent sum of money on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund and the Cornish Mark Brethren, to such a highly respected and local deserving charity, based here in Truro. Having recently been appointed as a trustee of the MBF I know only too well the importance these vital funds make towards local charities, particularly in working to support our local communities across Cornwall. Also being the oldest charity here in Cornwall clearly shows how vital and highly regarded ISightCornwall is, by the Cornish public"

Mrs Cherilyn Mackrory, the local MP for Truro & Falmouth was delighted to be invited to the presentation and discussed the sterling work carried out by ISightCornwall in support of the Cornish residents. Clearly the extremely generous donation, made by the Mark Benevolent Fund, has afforded the essential renovations for the new entrance lobby. It will make a tremendous difference for those dealing with sight loss or visual impairment.



For further details pertaining to ISightCornwall, please click the following link:  
<https://www.isightcornwall.org.uk><sup>5</sup>



### A fabulous new minibus presented to Age UK Manchester by the Mark Benevolent Fund



On 3 November, the Mark Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire, R.W.Bro. Alexander Sillars McLaren, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Almoner, W.Bro. Barry Heal and W.Bro. Bob Summers attended the premises of Age UK Manchester at Openshaw, on the east side of Manchester.

The purpose of the visit was to officially present the Minibus that was generously funded by the Mark Benevolent Fund to the value of £32,739 (excluding VAT).

It is a wonderful vehicle fully equipped with wheelchair access and the appropriate signage of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the Mark Benevolent Fund.

We were met by Mrs Shirley Charlton who offered us shelter from the inclement weather and, wearing our masks and socially distanced, we enjoyed a cup of tea.

The Provincial Grand Master briefly outlined the background of the Mark Benevolent Fund and some of the recent grants that have been made to the St John Ambulance, the Blood bikes etc but also mentioning a few of the smaller grants which are just as important.

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.isightcornwall.org.uk/>

We then went outside and WBro Summers took several photographs of the vehicle, Mrs Charlton, the Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Almoner.

It has to be said that Mrs Charlton and all the staff that were present were absolutely delighted with their new Minibus and were keen to let us know how much of a difference it will make to the services they provide.

Their current vehicle, an 05 plate, was parked up near the new vehicle and one of the drivers informed us how unreliable that vehicle had become. Hopefully they will not have that problem with their new vehicle.

Shirley Charlton said:

“There are two very old minibuses here at Openshaw and, during the last few months, one of them has had to be put out of use. It finally got to the point that we could not afford to repair it.”

Sally Dervan, Chief Executive of Age UK Manchester said:

“We are delighted by the amazing news that The Mark Benevolent Fund have extended their generosity by funding a new minibus for our Openshaw Day Care Centre. We can assure you that the vehicle will make an enormous difference to the lives of vulnerable older people in Manchester. This is enormously valuable to us at a time when our work with vulnerable people is more important than ever before.”

Age UK Manchester (previously known as Age Concern Manchester) is a charity serving North Manchester communities such as Abbey Hey, Gorton, Openshaw, Clayton, Moston, Middleton and Blakeley. The Centre provides both Day Care and Home Care for these communities and is a very important service which provides assistance for people with Dementia, Alzheimer’s, physical disabilities and mental disabilities.





The Red Cross Division on Lincolnshire make £2,500 Presentation



The R.III. Intendant-General, Steve Roberts and Ill.Kt. Ray Wade, Divisional Recorder, were very pleased to visit St Andrew's Children's Hospice "Andy's" in Grimsby on 20 October to present a cheque for £2,500 on behalf of the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children's Fund.

Andy's offers free palliative care to children and young people from birth to the age of 25 years with any progressive life-limiting illness; the care is available in a wide range of settings which includes 24-hour care as well as day care and bereavement support.

Receiving the cheque, Fundraising and Events Coordinator John Stobart expressed the Hospices deep gratitude and reminded us that their services were only made possible by the generosity and

assistance of corporate organisations, local businesses and individuals, as statutory sources only partially cover their running costs (around 19%).



## The Gift of Sight Fair continues...



The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Fundraising Guild's Annual "Gift of Sight Fair" is going virtual for the first time from Monday, 2 November until Sunday, 15 November.

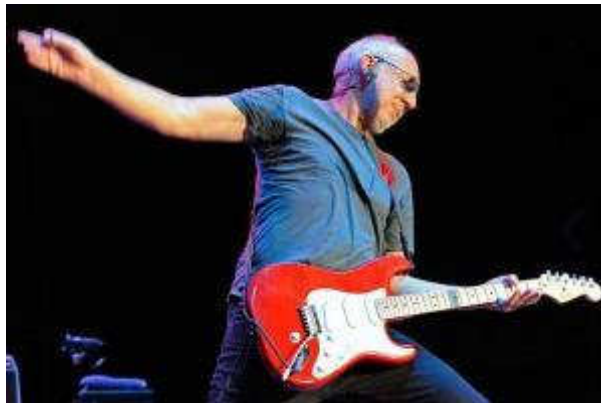
As well as virtual stalls selling goodies, gifts and much, much, more, there is a fantastic auction of lots great and small; from books, prints and tours to weekends away, a behind the scenes visit to Channel 4 News and a Pete Townshend Guitar.

You can visit the Gift of Sight Fair from 2 November Here<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup><https://brilliantlittlebrands.com/pages/giftofsight?fbclid=IwAR0kXsoSPZ4Vzklhl4WVYe3504o8B1bzTrmsW3N0NvRyD7z9Glx25RjxeYM>



And bidding on the Auction is already underway Here<sup>7</sup>



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<sup>7</sup>[https://www.givergy.uk/stjohnauction/?controller=lots&category=All Lots&scrollToItem=32](https://www.givergy.uk/stjohnauction/?controller=lots&category=All+Lots&scrollToItem=32)





## Across Social Media

On Twitter - The Grand Summus, M.Dist.Comp. Ian Currans, was in Mark Masons' Hall on Monday filming for a new documentary to be broadcast on the Discovery Channel in the summer

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1325815413960306688>

On Facebook - Dr Ahmad Ma'ali will be making a live broadcast on Sunday at 5 p.m. to tell us more about the work of the Eye Hospital

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FMarkMasonsHall%2Fposts%2F719994298867063&show_text=true&width=552&height=608&appId" width="552" height="608" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share"></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>8</sup> - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page<sup>9</sup>

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

Or you can email us at [communications@mmh.org.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)<sup>11</sup>

## The Shop@86 is temporarily closed



Due to the new Government Lockdown restrictions for England the Shop@86 will be temporarily closed from Thursday, 5 November but will re-open as soon as circumstances improve.

If you have any urgent enquiries about orders already placed please email [ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk](mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk)<sup>12</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>

<sup>11</sup><mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

<sup>12</sup><mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk>



## The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now exceeded £35,000.00



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just [Click Here](#)<sup>13</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 (Grand Charity Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation helpline: 020 3146 3352. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1184703. Company No. 00751838

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

<sup>13</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>14</sup> By telephone: 07766731307

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

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<sup>14</sup><mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>



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

**Or contact them for electronic payment details**

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

Click Here<sup>15</sup> for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here<sup>16</sup> for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here<sup>17</sup>

## Helping to Combat Covid



At the start of Lockdown the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W., shared the COVID Symptom Study<sup>18</sup> app.

As local lockdowns and UK cases increase, with over 4 million users, this app is a useful source of information regarding the situation in your area, as well as being a portal through which people of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID, support the NHS, help scientific research and help get us out of lockdown safely.

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<sup>15</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>16</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>17</sup><http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

<sup>18</sup><https://covid.joinzoe.com/>



## Business as usual for the Staff@86



Staff from the 4th Floor at Mark Masons' Hall may now be decamping to mainly work from home but all departments and teams are available via email and telephone to help and support as usual.



