



## Freemasonry@86 News - 6 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.

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

## The Last Mile

**Over the past few months W.Bro. Simon McCarthy of Welcome Mark Lodge No. 1237 in the Province of Surrey has been out on his bike on the roads of Surrey and Hampshire in all weathers in support of the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival. His target was 2022 miles by the end of October 2020.**

We have been following Simon's bike ride via his Strava app. and on Saturday in the pouring rain Simon had reached a total of 2021 miles leaving one mile to complete his goal. Our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Ian N. Clark, was there at the finish line at Box Hill to congratulate Simon and celebrate with him his magnificent effort on behalf of our Festival.



We are pleased to announce that Simon has exceeded his target of raising £2,500 for our 2022 MBF Festival – a fantastic personal achievement; especially considering that Simon's heart only works at 65% capacity due to a heart attack two years ago, and he lost part of a lung due to cancer.

Also present at the finish were representatives of some of the Surrey Orders who have been supporting Simon both financially, and with a lot of encouragement.



Simon would still welcome any donation, no matter how small, from individuals and Lodges. It's easy to donate via Simon's JustGiving page by clicking [here](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/simonmccarthyrideforlife)<sup>2</sup>

*Article by Chris Eley and photos by Bob Tuthill and Chris Eley*

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/simonmccarthyrideforlife>

## More news of the good work the MBF has supported



Just 12 months ago the Mark Benevolent Fund awarded a Major Grant to 'Safe Anchor Trust', a Mirfield Charity which provides free Canal Boat trips for disabled and disadvantaged people, mainly children and young adults. The grant was for the refurbishment of one of its Canal Boats, 'Safe Anchor Lady'.

The refurbishment was completed in March, just as the country went into national lockdown, but we have just received the following update from Safe Anchor, showing that all has not been lost this year. Such initiatives and creative thinking has been widespread throughout or own and many other organisations this year. True examples for us all:

*"The COVID 19 pandemic has had a huge impact on the operations of Safe Anchor Trust, with none of our 'traditional trips' running this year.*

*Almost without exception our passenger groups are in the 'vulnerable category' and it was very clear from the start that none of them would be venturing out, even when the regulations and guidelines were relaxed in July.*

*We were very conscious that our boats, including the newly refurbished 'Safe Anchor Lady' were idle, but with social distancing being almost impossible on a boat things were very difficult for us.*

*Challenging times needed a creative solution and we introduced 'Bubble Boat Trips' (BBTs). These are short trips, around 50 minutes, specifically for individual households and their support bubble, so social distancing amongst them is not required. The two crew members remain at the rear of the boat, socially distanced from each other, the passengers in the main cabin or on the front deck.*

*We have run BBTs every other weekend since the beginning of August, with 10-11 boat trips per day, and they have been hugely popular with every trip booked within minutes of becoming available.*

*To get a true impression of how successful BBTs have been, please take a look at the Safe Anchor Trust Facebook site [Here](https://www.facebook.com/safeanchor)<sup>3</sup> to see the photographs and comments our passengers have made."*

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.facebook.com/safeanchor>

## "FREE" BUBBLE BOAT TRIPS



While in Norfolk...



We received the first pictures of the Norfolk & Norwich MCCU which was delivered to the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on Thursday, 22 October. The Trust are working within their familiarisation period to test all processes and procedures.

They are tentatively looking for the official launch to happen at the end of March depending on COVID restrictions.





And in Northumberland...



Virtual Talk to Northumberland Freemasons.

Whilst the majority of Northumbria Blood Bikes talk requests have been put on hold or declined due to Covid-19 restrictions our talks Coordinator Nigel Barlow, knowing volunteer rider and speaker John Watts is a keen user of “Facebook live” passed a request from the Northumberland Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons his way.

This organisation are regularly keeping in touch with members unable to meet physically using Zoom video conferencing technology and to interest and engage attendees have a guest speaker each Monday.

On Monday, 2 November, John, assisted by our new member Peter Boyle as socially distanced camera operator, delivered such a talk. Using Blood Bike “Mark Master Mason” as a prop John thanked the virtual audience for the £18,000 grant from their national charity which paid for this Pan European motorcycle in 2016 and told them about some of the bikes missions during the 74,500 miles travelled on its 4 years of blood bike duty.

**John was wearing one of our new Motorola radios, also funded by the Freemasons' Mark Benevolent Fund with a £24,000 grant earlier in 2020.**

Whilst the purpose of this talk was awareness raising and a thank-you, NBB were delighted to subsequently receive a further donation from local masonic funds of £250 which had been unanimously agreed by members after John had concluded the talk and left the Zoom meeting.

Richard Northey, Deputy Provincial Grand Master wrote, "Many thanks for joining us today and giving that superb presentation on the Northumbria Blood Bikes. It was much appreciated as was shown by the attendance and the extended Q&A session afterwards. I hope we didn't go on too long for you but there was a lot of interest in the Blood Bike work and many positive comments after you left the meeting to return the bike.

All I can say after all we heard this afternoon is keep up the fantastic work and well done."

Nigel Barlow, NBB talks coordinator who attended the talk and took photographs said, "It's been frustrating that our physical talks have been suspended to prevent the spread of Covid, but this is an excellent example of how we can still deliver Blood Bike presentations in a safe manner and if any other organisations would like a virtual talk I'll try to match a presenter with the request".

You can find the NBB Website [Here](#)<sup>4</sup> and their Facebook page [Here](#)<sup>5</sup>



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<sup>4</sup><https://www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2lYCC6HMjZlO7xn6e9yL55FNb6Z2KyJJNM5dyiQz15tdM2fgoRAovmCnc>

<sup>5</sup>[https://www.facebook.com/NorthumbriaBloodBikes/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/NorthumbriaBloodBikes/?ref=page_internal)

## We Will Remember Them



### London Mark



On 11 November, London Mark will be holding a short Zoom session to remember the Fallen.

The graphic above contains the log-in details or you can [Click Here](#)<sup>6</sup>

The preferred dress code is collar and tie with a poppy in view.

The meeting room will open at 20:30 hrs and Tom Quinn will say a few words around 20:50 hrs, followed by a special Toast by the Provincial Grand Tyler at 21:00 hrs.

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<sup>6</sup>[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81129476521?pwd=UzRKL1NGQ2hyUXI0bmNJR0FVZExoQT09&fbclid=IwAR1xu7-wjIFKlaEu\\_7LPenF0ZHoQIH9VndiCbp2TUn7u2kQAcwSPiMAzQo#success](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81129476521?pwd=UzRKL1NGQ2hyUXI0bmNJR0FVZExoQT09&fbclid=IwAR1xu7-wjIFKlaEu_7LPenF0ZHoQIH9VndiCbp2TUn7u2kQAcwSPiMAzQo#success)

## London Knights Templar



The Right Eminent Provincial Prior for London, David Thompson, invites members and friends of the Order to join the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard in an Act of Remembrance on 11 November 2020 at 11am. This event, another 'first' for London will be available on the Provincial YouTube channel and via the Provincial website with an accompanying Order of Service, which will be published on the Provincial website. [Click Here](#)<sup>7</sup> to go to the website.

The service is recorded and so will be available to view at any time after 11am. If you have not been able to buy a poppy due to the current restrictions, you may do so at <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal> where there is also an opportunity to download a small poster to be displayed in your window during lockdown to demonstrate your support for the Poppy Appeal.

## Busy in Barbados



Continuing the back-to-business trend in Barbados, Psalters Conclave No. 505 in met on Saturday, 31 October when the Conclave had the Election of the Supreme Ruler and other elections. They had a great meeting with the Conclave Inducting a Candidate. Psalters Conclave had thirteen Brethren plus seven from Millennium Conclave No. 455. Pictured are W.Bro. Marlon Munroe, Supreme Ruler of Psalters Conclave (centre, right) with R.Wy.Bro. Ian Foster, District Grand Supreme Ruler (centre, left), and W.Bro. Vincent Springer, Supreme Ruler of Millennium Conclave (second from left) and the Candidate, Bro. Joseph Evelyn (second from right).

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<sup>7</sup><http://www.londonknightstemplar.com/>



There was also a meeting of Valley Council No. 229 AMD this week with fourteen Brethren present. They had another great night of fellowship. The Master W.Bro. Barry Crawford is pictured centre right, with the District Grand Prefect, R.W.Bro. Richard Mayers, centre left. They have a Candidate for their next meeting.



## Happy in Hong Kong



Andrew Ritchie, Dist.G.Sec. of the District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Hong Kong sent in this picture of the Banquet following the Installation meeting of P.C. Woo Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 721 on 4 November 2020. W.Bro. James Wort was Installed as Worshipful Commander Noah. Covid-19 precautions have been eased slightly in Hong Kong, and we are now permitted to have up to 6 diners per table.

## The Gift of Sight Fair continues...

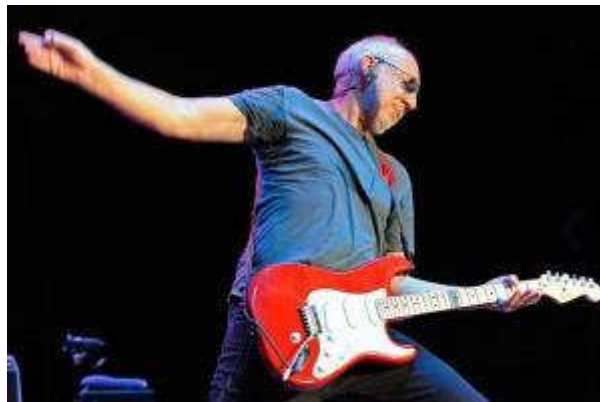


The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Fundraising Guild's Annual "Gift of Sight Fair" is going virtual for the first time from Monday, 2 November until Sunday, 15 November.

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>8</sup>

And bidding on the Auction is already underway Here<sup>9</sup>



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<sup>8</sup><https://brilliantlittlebrands.com/pages/giftofsight?fbclid=IwAR0kXsoSPZ4VzkIhI4WVYe3504o8B1bzTrmsW3N0NvRyD7z9Glx25RjxeYM>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.givervg.uk/stjohnauction/?controller=lots&category=All Lots&scrollToItem=32>





## Across Social Media

On Twitter - Somerset Mark and RAM Brethren prepare for the next Open House meeting

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1324029146574573569>

On YouTube, Jon Roberts, formerly of this Parish and now Grand Master of the Pilgrim Preceptors, delivers a talk on his Order



<https://youtu.be/N7FJ881tr5w>

## 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>10</sup> - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page<sup>11</sup>

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall<sup>12</sup>

Or you can email us at [communications@mmh.org.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)<sup>13</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>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup><https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

<sup>12</sup><https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

<sup>13</sup><mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

<sup>14</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>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 (Grand Charity Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation helpline: 020 3146 3302. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1164703. Company No. 00751838.

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

<sup>15</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>16</sup> By telephone: 07766731307

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

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<sup>16</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>17</sup> for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here<sup>18</sup> for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here<sup>19</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>20</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>17</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>18</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>19</sup><http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

<sup>20</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.



