



Freemasonry@86 News - 22 January 2021



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

¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

MBF Festival 2021 - Booking date extended



The closing date for bookings for the 153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festival, hosted by the Mark Province of East Lancashire has been extended to 1 April 2021. You can download the latest booking form [HERE](#)²

²[http://download.mmh.org.uk/Complete_Forms_Pack_Final_2021_-_Updated_18.01.2021_\(002\).pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/Complete_Forms_Pack_Final_2021_-_Updated_18.01.2021_(002).pdf)

News from our friends at Woodland House, Birmingham



As a new year dawns, we thought now would be a good time to share an update on the progress of our Woodland House appeal.

When we launched an appeal to fund a pioneering bereavement centre in the grounds of Birmingham Women's Hospital, we had no idea what lay in store. 2020 proved to be the most difficult year most of us can ever remember. The pandemic has touched every area of our lives and has most certainly impacted on our charity's fundraising activities and income.

With events paused and an uncertain economic outlook, our focus has been on maintaining the momentum of the appeal and securing funding from Trusts and Foundations, and corporate and individual donors. **Thanks to some tremendously generous gifts, including a recent donation of £550,000, our appeal total now stands at £1.5 million.**

To have come so far in such challenging times is a huge achievement and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped us on our way. Going forward, **our priority is to raise a further £1 million as quickly as possible** so that we are in a position to start building work. We have clear plans in place to help us achieve this milestone in the coming year, including promising conversations with some potential major donors, and a range of fundraising activities for our public audiences.

The events of this year have served to shine a light on just how much Woodland House will mean to families who have experienced the heartbreak of miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a new-born baby. During lockdown, restrictions meant that our bereavement midwives could only speak to grieving families via Zoom or over the phone. Whilst they were still on hand to offer gentle support, advice and care, the experiences of the last 12 months have reinforced the difference a dedicated

private, peaceful and caring environment will make to families during one of the most distressing times of their lives.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has definitely reinforced the enormous difference that Woodland House is going to make. Not being able to meet with our families has been incredibly difficult. If we’d had Woodland House we could have held socially distanced face-to-face meetings, and parents would have been able to spend more time saying goodbye to their baby in a safe and protective bubble.”

Karen Henson and Alison Rae, Bereavement Midwives, Birmingham Women’s Hospital



Located in a quiet wooded setting away from the hustle and bustle of the main hospital building, Woodland House will be a thoughtfully designed space where families can spend time together and receive the help and support they need to come to terms with their loss and move forward.

Thanks to you Woodland House will soon become a reality and we look forward to sharing further updates as the project advances. In the meantime, we would like to thank you for recognising the value of this unique project and the comfort it will bring to hundreds of grieving families every year. We simply wouldn't be where we are without you.

Follow the progress of the Woodland House appeal at www.bwh.org.uk/woodlandhouse³

Gatherings in Guernsey



Chris Base writes:

³<http://www.bwh.org.uk/woodlandhouse>

On January 18th Le Marchant Conclave No. 421 Channel Islands met to induct 3 new members (Pictured front row, middle.) David Clark, James Scowen and Andre Quintal in the Guernsey underground Temple.

The ceremony was conducted by the Supreme Ruler, Martin Lucas, in what the members described as an "impressive" manner.

Le Marchant meets in Guernsey where, due to single digit Covid cases, there are no restrictions except travel on and off the Island.

Thus, the picture is of members residing in Guernsey only. They processed out to the usual raucous festive board where they further welcomed the new members to the wonders of Channel Islands' Secret Monitor Freemasonry. Normally our Prov.G.S.R., R.Wy.Bro. Stephen Regal, would be present along with UK and Jersey members who are much missed, but inter island travel is not allowed either.

Many of our friends in the Order will recognise familiar faces including third from the left front row Simon "squeaky shoes" Hamon, Commander AOS, police officer, bomb disposal expert, WW2 tank owner, and all round fun bundle. Our Dep.Prov.G.S.R., Wy.Bro. Mike Le Conte, P.A.G.D.C., is at the back, bringing some decorum to the proceedings.



Allan Gaudion writes:

St George of Guernsey Preceptory No. 491 (Unattached) meeting in the Channel Island of Guernsey, had a Preceptory Meeting on Thursday, 21 January and Installed two Candidates, Matthew Polson and John Bell, as Brother Knights of the Order.

29 were in attendance and dined afterwards.

The Preceptory (and all the other Masonic Orders on the Island) are very lucky to be able to meet in the current circumstances. This is only due to the Island Government putting very strict restrictions on entry to, and exit from the Island.

St George of Guernsey Preceptory No. 491 is the only Preceptory able to meet with no restrictions in the British Isles at the moment.

The Preceptory has two more Candidates lined up for its March Preceptory Meeting which it hopes will be able take place.

Monster Raving Loonies

The Covid-19 vaccination roll-out at Saxon Hall Masonic Centre in Essex got some unexpected publicity in the press this week.



and staying in Essex...

Friday, 15 January saw 60 Essex Mark Men, non-members, family members and guests join them for the second of their Zoom Talks.

The talk was given by Jem Hills, a former member of the Special Boat Service and Royal Marine Commando who enthralled the group with tales of his military and civilian life. From being bullied at school, to being amongst the first troops to defend the Island of South Georgia in the South Atlantic. Following SBS training and many worldwide postings and roles, he retired from the forces following a parachuting accident. He explained how his life went onto a role as a Bodyguard and Security Adviser offering his services to many rich and famous individuals. He went into great detail during a question-and-answer session and explained how his accident had happened which resulted in him breaking his back. Several members of the Essex Armed Forces Lodge of Mark Master Masons were present and shared experiences during the Q&A session. We were joined by guests from as far afield as California and South Africa for this most interesting of presentations. An inspirational talk! Jem is the current Master of St. Godric's Craft Lodge meeting at Spalding and is currently not a Mark Man, but it's a work in progress to Advance him.



Across Social Media

On YouTube - The M. Dist. Grand Summus of the Scarlet Cord, Ian Currans, gave this lecture "The Royal Arch, Gateway to Other Orders" to Freemasons Without Borders

The talk gives interesting insight into the path from The Royal Arch to The Royal and Select Masters, The Allied Masonic Degrees, The Red Cross of Constantine and The Knights Templar.



<https://youtu.be/rO25nWVTLUQ>

On Facebook - The Province of Kent share some of the Magic of the Mark

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FKentMarkMasterMasons%2Fposts%2F2825027291099365&width=500&show_text=true&height=395&appId" width="500" height="395" 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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On Twitter - Warwickshire Mark go virtual with their Burns Night celebrations

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1351820169761468422>

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 Secretariat⁴ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁵

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁶

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk⁷

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

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

⁶<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

⁷<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now passed £44,000 and continues to raise money



Please note that the MCF, who are handling donations to this appeal, have moved their payment collection site from the Everyday Hero platform to that of Just Giving. This doesn't impact how you make your donation but unfortunately it isn't possible for us to set the amount of your donation automatically to £20. The default set by the website is £30 and you will need to adjust it down.

You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. [Just Click Here⁸](#) or use the Text Donate facility below.

100% of donations will be given to the 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 (Grant Charity Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation helpline: 020 3146 3352. Mesonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1164703; Company No. 09751836

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

⁸<https://fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Appeal-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.com⁹ By telephone: 07766731307

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

⁹<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 Here¹⁰ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here¹¹ for the updated complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here¹²

The Shop@86 has been unable to re-open due to the latest restrictions.

This has also had a knock on effect on a few outstanding orders. Please contact the Shop directly if you require any information relating to you order.



¹⁰https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

¹¹[http://download.mmh.org.uk/Complete_Forms_Pack_Final_2021_-_Updated_18.01.2021_\(002\).pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/Complete_Forms_Pack_Final_2021_-_Updated_18.01.2021_(002).pdf)

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

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 Study¹³ 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.

Business as usual for the Staff@86



Staff from the 4th Floor at Mark Masons' Hall have returned to working from home but all departments and teams are available via email and telephone to help and support as usual.



¹³<https://covid.joinzoe.com/>

Mark Masons' Hall is pleased to be

