



## Freemasonry@86 News - 29 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.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)<sup>1</sup>**

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

## The not so serious Burns unit

**Despite Lockdown many Provinces and Lodges were able to find ways of marking Burns Night in a virtual setting. Here are some of their efforts.**

The Mark Province of London held an online supper with over 350 Brethren and family members present, including the Assistant Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master who, respectively, were pleased to propose and respond to the Toast to the Lassies. Can you guess which is which from the photo's?

There's a full write up Here<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>2</sup><https://www.markprovinceoflondon.com/auld-lang-zoom-a-provincial-hit/>

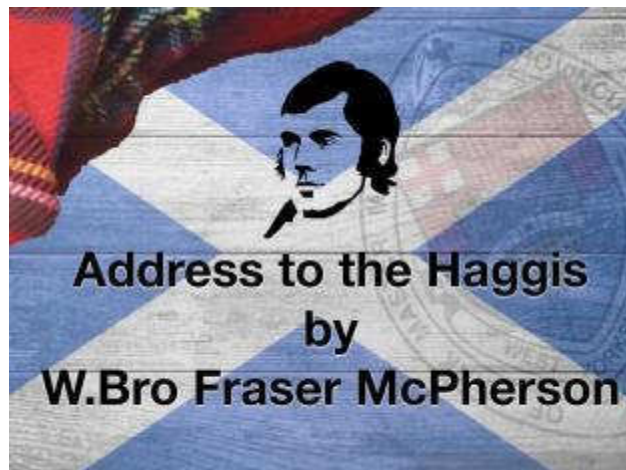




Meanwhile, in West Yorkshire



W.Bro. Fraser McPherson gave the traditional Address to the Haggis

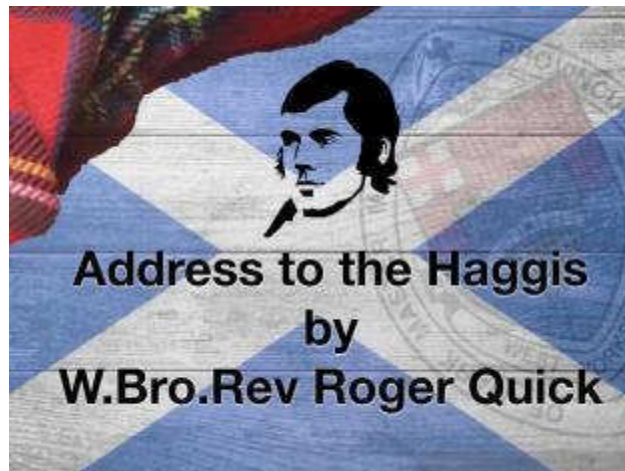


Click Here<sup>3</sup> to play

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<sup>3</sup><https://vimeo.com/504011203>

W.Bro. Revd Roger Quick delivered the English translation



[Click Here<sup>4</sup>](#) to play

And then also gave the Yorkshire version



[Click Here<sup>5</sup>](#) to play

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<sup>4</sup><https://vimeo.com/504011746>

<sup>5</sup><https://vimeo.com/504012275>

And MMH posted this handy written translation on social media, accompanied by traditional music



<https://sway.office.com/KRAezr4wFXx6tMdf#content=Hnwb2oREaVIKU7>

## Freewheeling to success



*We received this article courtesy of Bro. Richard McGill of Goodwin Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1563 (Bristol), who recounts details of his activities with Freewheelers EVS and highlights not only the wonderful work carried out by the volunteer riders but also the magnificent support from the MBF, which has donated just over £497K to blood bike groups since 2016.*

Freewheelers EVS is one of the longest established Blood Bike groups having operated for 30 years. The patch covered is 1,674 square miles, which includes Bristol, Bath, Taunton and the surrounding towns and villages.

Operating out-of-hours cover 365 days a year on weeknights from 7pm to 7am, and for whole weekends from 7pm Friday to 7am Monday, five liveried Blood Bikes and a Coordinator are always on duty to provide this lifesaving, lifechanging service. One of the bike duties is dedicated to the two air ambulances, there is a bike duty for each of the North, West and East patches as well as a relief bike duty to cover any gaps.

Approximately 196,000 miles and >6,300 jobs are completed annually by Freewheelers EVS alone. Items carried include blood, COVID & other pathology samples, medication, surgical equipment and breast milk. The only limitation is that it be of a medical nature and can physically fit on a bike.

Since 2015 support is also provided to the Great Western Air Ambulance and Wiltshire Air Ambulance, ensuring they have blood on-board the aircraft to best treat trauma patients in their expert care.



### **Joining the Freewheelers**

I first became aware of the Freewheelers from talks given at various Masonic and other social evenings as well as conversations with other riders in the Cheddar Valley Advanced Motorcyclists (a local branch of the Institute of Advanced Motorcyclists (IAM)). There is a rigorous process for inducting new riders which included re-taking my IAM riding test, an observed ride, 2 positive references, induction training and a tour of the pickup and drop-off locations in our patch.

For 9 months I was a probationary rider wearing a “newbie” hi-viz vest to demonstrate competence before being confirmed as a full rider.

### **Supported by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons**

I recently collected the blood bike for a shift and was pleased to find that it was almost brand new, having been donated by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. As a Bristol MMM, I found extra pride in riding this lovely BMW R1250RT for my shift.



### **Some of my more memorable jobs**

I still remember when I was woken at 2:30am to pick up a filter from the Hospice for a terminally ill boy in the Children's Hospital for his palliative care. I was out of the house in less than 10 minutes and the job was completed within an hour.

Another job was to pick up some meds from the Oncology Centre for delivery to the patient's house down a very dark and isolated lane somewhere between Huntspill and the Bristol Channel. I was touched by how grateful the patient was to receive the meds. On my way back, I reflected on how remote the patient was and how few alternatives were available to her.

We use a relay system when something needs to move further than our area. One that stands out took place at 3:15am at the Morrison's Petrol Station, off the A370, at Worle. I was so impressed at how both of us arrived within a couple of minutes of each other and how pleased they were at the NHS BT Centre when the bloods, that had started their journey in Plymouth, were dropped off.

I was genuinely surprised and touched when I rode under a motorway bridge around 8:30pm on a Thursday evening and saw a bunch of people on the bridge clapping me as part of the NHS!

These are some examples of situations which play out up and down the country every night of the year thanks to our dedicated band of Blood Bikers. The miraculous part, though, is that this out-of-hours courier service is free of charge to the NHS, these Blood Bike groups are charities funded entirely by donations and every member is an unpaid volunteer.

Freewheelers EVS is based 100 percent on volunteers and funded 100 percent by donations. If you would like to volunteer as a rider, coordinator and/or a fundraiser, please visit [www.freewheelers.org.uk](http://www.freewheelers.org.uk) for more information. Our website also outlines various methods of making a donation or you can contact us if you wish to fund us directly to avoid charity website fees.





## Clowns in the Sky



W.Bro. Geoff Newman writes - The Essex Mark Welfare Fund have recently supported "Clowns in the Sky", a charity which was set up following the death of three year old Jennifer, who died after a nine month battle against a brain tumour in 2004.



The charity provides play facilities and support to children with brain tumours and their families. They provide arts and craft materials and sensory trolleys to hospital wards across the UK, locally helping Romford, Basildon, Southend and Colchester hospitals. The Welfare Fund donated £750 specifically to sponsor the placing of a new activity table at Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford and to restock it during the first year.



The Trustees of the Essex Mark Welfare fund were so impressed by the dedication of this amazing charity and were delighted to be able to offer support, especially to local children who will benefit, that they made a funding proposal to the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) and have recently learnt that the

request for funding was successful. The MBF have agreed to donate £29,600 to support the filling of trollies throughout the country.



The news of the donation to this small worthwhile charity was received with great emotion. **Donna Byrne**, the charity Development Officer, was overcome and explained that, after needing to sit down when she heard the news, the shaking subsided, and a tear turned into the biggest smile on her face – something that will stay for a long time to come. Donna said “Just how many smiles this news will bring, who knows? Every single hospital is now secure for their refills for a whole year” She wrote to her charity trustees “So everyone, that is not just your Monday fix of smiles but should take you well into next week or longer. For me, I know it will be the highlight of the year, and has definitely put a different spin on the awful year of 2020, the year when Roy and Mark Master Masons first made contact”.

Whilst the funds have been released to the charity, a formal presentation will be held as soon as circumstances allow.



## Surrey Mark 2022 Festival Auction – A Basket of Delights



**From the Province of Surrey** - At the recent Mark Zoom Quiz the winners, for the second time in a row, were Richard and Jackie Wileman. They won a splendid Hamper made by Wendy and Alan Brockwell; which they kindly donated to be auctioned to raise funds for our Festival.

Our 2022 Festival Committee Chair, W.Bro. John Massey, immediately set up an auction page on peoplesfundraising.com<sup>6</sup> to run from the 12th to the 22nd January and bids were invited by our Provincial Grand Master.

We are delighted to advise everyone that the winning bid for the Basket of Delights was made by W.Bro. Jim Turner, a member of Manor of Bensham Lodge No.1167. His bid of £175 was a very generous one, and well over the cost of a hamper.

*Jim said "During the past 12 months I have not had the opportunity to support the Festival through donations at meetings or attending fundraising events, so I am happy to be able to support it in this way".*

He also said that he and Mary plan to donate the Basket of Delights to an Old Peoples' Home in their locality.



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<sup>6</sup><https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/>

## FREEMASONS WITHOUT BORDERS LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS



Freemasons Without Borders, founded at the onset of the Covid Pandemic in Spring 2020, has become masonically renowned with its weekly meeting by Zoom for Freemasons from all quarters of the globe – with talks given by Head of Orders, The Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, Historians of Masonry etc.

We are now in the process of gathering Petitioners for a unique travelling Unattached Lodge - Freemasons Without Borders Lodge of Mark Master Masons – with already over 100 forms received.

The “Freemasons Without Borders Lodge of Mark Master Masons” will meet 3 times a year, with its Installation meeting being held Annually at Mark Masons’ Hall London, and twice per annum in different Provinces/Districts around the world, operating under the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas.

It is proposed that the Meeting dates will be:

The Saturday immediately preceding the June Investiture meeting of Grand Mark Lodge (Installation), the first 5th Saturday of the year and the 5th Saturday in the months of September, October or November as dictated by the Calendar.

Thus trying to avoid clashes with as many of our other masonic commitments.

### **Do you wish to join this unique special travelling Mark Lodge?**

If so, contact the Organising Secretary – Raymond Bodell, P.A.G.D.C.

Ray.annabodell@gmail.com<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup><mailto:Ray.annabodell@gmail.com>

## RSM East Midlands

Charles Herbert Perram Council of Royal & Select Masters No. 66 held its third Virtual Business Meeting since the first lockdown in March 2020, on Wednesday, 27 January. A total of twenty-five Companions attended the meeting which was presided over by Very Illustrious Companion Russell Howard, T.I.M., and the business of the evening, conducted within thirty minutes, included elections of Thrice Illustrious Master, Treasurer, auditors and members to serve on the Council Standing Committee. Amongst the members in attendance were:

R.III.Comp. Martin Wilson, District Grand Master

R.III.Comp. Tim Hancock, District Grand Master - Ox, Berks & Bucks

V.III.Comp. Russell Howard, Prov.G.M. - The Mark Province of Bedfordshire

III.Comp. Kyle Whitbread, Dep.Prov.G.M. - The Mark Province of Bedfordshire

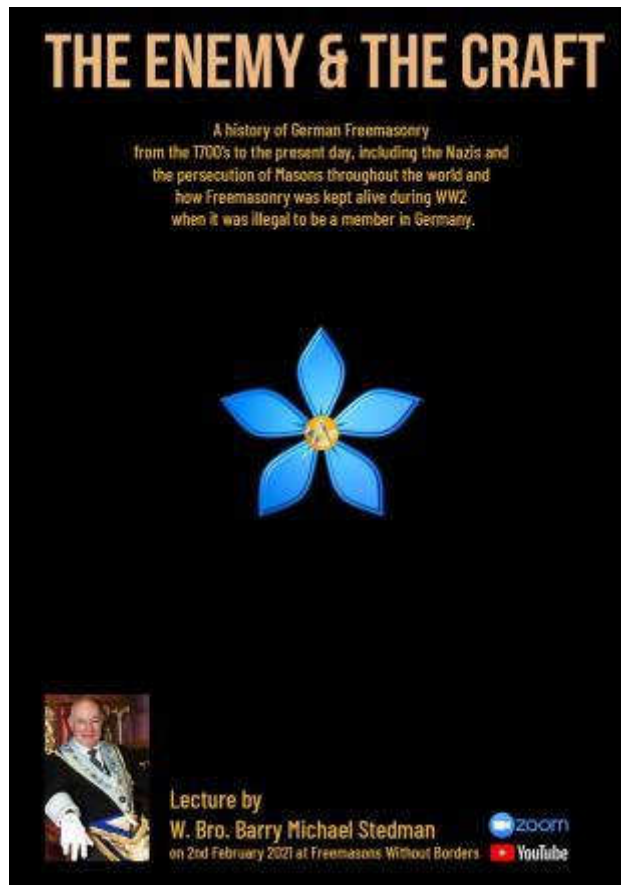
III.Comp. Nick Edwards, Inspector General of the Ancient & Accepted Rite, Beds & Herts

Comp. Robert Curson, Deputy Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch for Bedfordshire



## Across Social Media

On Facebook - Freemasons Without Border prepare for a lecture from Barry Stedman, known to many of us as the sound engineer for our meetings at Freemasons' Hall



In response to comments regarding a previous image for this talk, the hosts have been pleased to supply a revised design.

Want to know more about Burns' connection with Freemasonry?

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FSolo
monUGLE%2Fposts%2F269802007821715&width=500&show_text=true&height=733&appId"
width="500" height="733" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0"
allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-
share"></iframe>
```

On Twitter - Lifelites continue their great work, with a little help from Cheshire Freemasons

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1355128987186589696>

Devonshire's Mark Provincial Officers prepare for virtual Provincial visits

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1355132218386079744>



And West Yorkshire Mark Masons will soon get their first glimpse of their new website  
<http://twitter.com/statuses/1354526542165139461>

## 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 will re-open from Monday, 1 February

During the current Government Lockdown restrictions, there will be limited access to Mark Masons' Hall. As a result there will be delays to the despatch of orders, which will take place on a weekly basis, normally on a Tuesday. Customers will be notified via email once their order has been despatched. For enquiries about your order 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 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 Here<sup>13</sup>](#) 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.***

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<sup>13</sup><https://fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Appeal-KT2042020>



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. 09751836

60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5AZ | [www.mcf.org.uk](http://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.com](mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com)<sup>14</sup> 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 Here<sup>15</sup> for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

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

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

## Helping to Combat Covid



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

<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>[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)

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

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.

## 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.



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

Mark Masons' Hall is pleased to be

