



Freemasonry@86 News - 8 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>

Happy New Year from all of us at Mark Masons' Hall



Welcome to this first edition of 2021. With new restrictions in place in the UK and some regions overseas there will no doubt be bumpy times ahead but we hope that eventually and when the time is right, this year will herald a welcome return to the fraternal friendship of physical meetings for those unable to enjoy them at the moment.

Charity Round Up

New Blood Vehicle



The MBF donated £10,542 to the Severn Freewheeler Blood Bike Group for a Skoda Yeti which was needed due to the increase in traffic due to the pandemic.

The vehicle was named Amara, in memory of the late wife of R.W.Bro. John Gillo, Prov.G.M. for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, whom they met at the hand-over the first vehicle donated by the Provincial Benevolent Fund.



KMBF Rallies to Support Stranded Drivers



Between Christmas and the New Year, when thousands of lorry drivers were stranded in Kent, the incident response team from the South East Division of The Salvation Army² was asked by Kent County Council to support the police and other emergency services as part of Operation Stack³.

When the size of the situation in the County became apparent, The Kent Mark Benevolent Fund⁴ (KMBF), inline with its main objectives of benevolence and charity, rapidly donated £1,000 to assist the efforts of the Salvation Army whose volunteers prepared 2,500 lunch bags, containing a sandwich, crisps, snack bar, piece of fruit and a drink, which were distributed to lorry drivers stuck on the M20 motorway. In thanking the KMBF and other local and national supporters, both individual and

²<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/>

³<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/operation-stack>

⁴<http://www.kentmarkmastermasons.org.uk/kent-mark-benevolent-fund.html>

corporate including the Cornwallis East Kent Freemasons' Charity⁵, Major Mark Herbert Divisional Commander for The Salvation Army's South East Division Said: *"This money will help us continue to swiftly bring support to the emergency services and communities in their hour of need. Our response vehicles often attend large fires or major incidents where people are left without shelter and food. Money donated to the regional appeal will be used to restock emergency supplies so the team of volunteers are ready to respond when they are next needed."*



⁵<https://eastkentfreemasons.org/volunteers-driving-forward-to-help/>



MBE for founder of our friends, "Climbing Out"



Congratulations to Kelda Wood (pictured right of centre), founder of one of the charities supported by the MBF called Climbing Out⁶, who has been awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours list.

The MBF granted £15,000 for the provision of a new office and equipment in 2019.

You can read more on the BBC website Here⁷

Girls get set to keep cool



The MBF awarded £5,171 to the charity Get Set Girls⁸ for an air-conditioning unit to allow more comfortable teaching. The unit has only just been fitted and a plaque erected due to delays because of the pandemic.

Get Set Girls was set up to help girls from low - income families in the London Boroughs of Hackney and Haringey who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Training is geared to enabling young people to have a productive future by gaining skills and qualifications necessary for employment.

⁶<https://climbingout.org.uk/>

⁷<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-shropshire-55488124>

⁸<https://www.gsglondon.org.uk/>

Introducing the new Grand Inspector for Jamaica and The Cayman Islands



Following the retirement, on 1 November 2020, of R.III. Comp. Graham Smith, IX, as Grand Inspector, the Grand Master has been pleased to appoint III. Comp. Harding O. Watler, *JP*, to succeed to that office with effect from 2 November 2020.

We place on record our thanks to R.III.Comp. Graham for his stewardship of the Inspectorate since 2012. Harding takes over an Inspectorate left behind by R.III.Comp. Graham that is vibrant, enthusiastic and ready for the challenges that the future will bring. We feel sure that he will make his own mark as he takes it forward into a new chapter in its history.

Harding was initiated into Cayman Lodge No. 8153 in May 1984 and became Master in November 1992. He was appointed Assistant District Grand Master in the District Grand Lodge of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands in January 2003 and served in that position for eleven years until January 2014. He holds the Craft Rank of PJGD.

In January 2014 he was appointed Second District Grand Principal in the District Grand Chapter of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands and served in that position for four years. He holds the Royal Arch Rank of PAGSoj.

He also holds R.A.M.G.R. and is a P.A.G.D.C. in the Mark. In addition he holds the Rank of 32° in the Rose Croix.

When the Inspectorate of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands was consecrated Harding became its first Inspectorate Recorder, a position he held until his appointment as Grand Inspector.

Harding is a retired Public Servant serving in a number of Offices (mainly aviation and tourism related) in the Cayman Islands Government and retiring at the level of Permanent Secretary. Not wanting to be idle Harding later joined a major Timeshare Resort in Grand Cayman as a HR Manager but retired completely after 10 years there.

He is married to Maria, from Spain where they maintain an apartment and make annual visits enjoying the company of Maria's family and the gastronomic delights of the Basque Country. They have one son and two daughters. His son is also a Freemason and is currently the Director of Ceremonies in Cayman Council No. 292. Harding enjoys fishing and growing his own backyard crops. His passion, however, is woodworking and spends most of his free time "making sawdust" as he calls it.

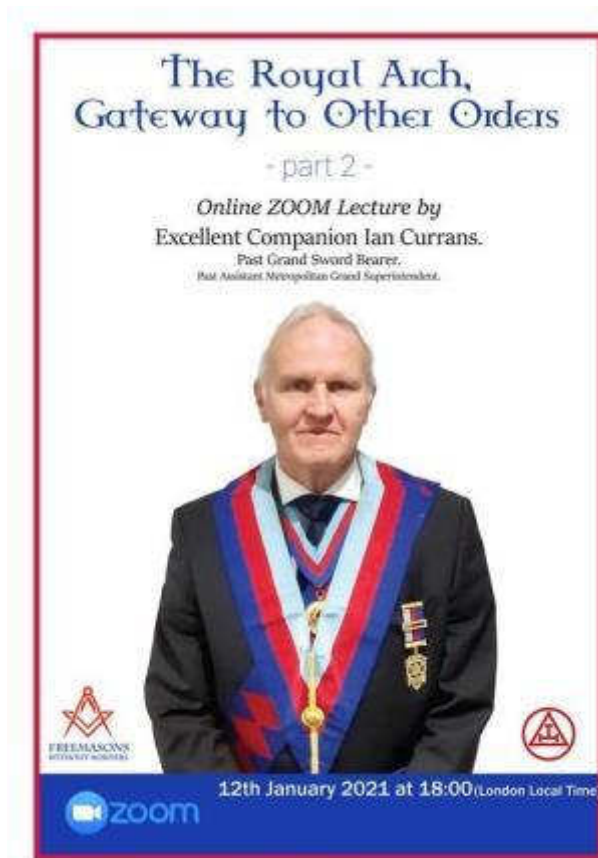
Across Social Media

On YouTube - Freemasons Without Borders were joined by the M.W. Pro Grand Master, Raymond John Smith, just before Christmas.



<https://youtu.be/xc7YWZaF0zc>

And, on Facebook - They prepare to welcome the M. Dist. Grand Summus of the Scarlet Cord, Ian Currans, in his capacity as a Past Assistant Metropolitan Grand Superintendent



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 Secretariat⁹ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page¹⁰

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall¹¹

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk¹²

⁹<https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

¹⁰<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

¹¹<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

¹²<mailto:communications@mmh.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.com¹³ 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

Or contact them for electronic payment details

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

Click Here¹⁴ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here¹⁵ for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here¹⁶

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 Here¹⁷ 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.

¹³<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

¹⁴https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

¹⁵https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.pdf

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

¹⁷<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

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.





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 Study¹⁸ 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.

¹⁸<https://covid.joinzoe.com/>

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.

Mark Masons' Hall is pleased to be

