



Freemasonry@86 News - 12 February 2021



Welcome to your news and information update for the progressive/companion Orders of Freemasonry administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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>

Stewardship takes on a new look



The new style MBF Festival Stewardship is aimed principally, (but not exclusively), at members of each host Festival Province.

In return for a qualifying donation of £100, each Steward will be entitled to:

- A distinctive Stewards' breast jewel (opposite), year bar and pocket jewel holder.
- Inclusion of their name in the Festival Stewards' Roll of Honour in the Festival booklet
- And for individuals making their first donation under the scheme, qualification as a Life Governor of the Mark Benevolent Fund – the first step on the ladder of honorifics.

Monies raised by the take-up of Festival Stewardships will, of course, be included in each respective Festival total.

We are delighted that next year's host Province, Surrey, has agreed to be the first to market the new Festival Stewardship which will be formally launched at their Provincial AGM in March.

The Board of Trustees very much hope that those Provinces hosting a Festival in the future will support this new scheme and promote the importance of becoming a Festival Steward. Other Provinces can, of course, still play their part by raising funds through the sale of lapel badges in the usual way.

Click Here² to download a 2022 Stewardship Jewel Form

Mark District of Spain On-Line Assembly – February 6th, 2021



The District Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Barrie Roy Mansell and the Brethren of the District, welcomed over 300 participants. There were many distinguished guests including the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison and the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, along with Brethren representing Provinces and Districts from the four corners of the Masonic World, joined with Brethren from the length and breadth of Spain, the Canaries and Balearics, all making the journey from the comfort of their own homes, along the information superhighway, to what turned out to be a rather memorable on-line event.

Like the majority of the Mark Districts and Provinces, Spain has been hit hard by restrictions placed by regional and national governments due to the Covid-19 pandemic; thus making any chance of meeting face to face at our usual venue of the Hotel Gran Bali, Benidorm completely unfeasible, but every effort would be made to create the best possible experience for those attending. The added complication of delivering an Assembly in multiple languages, faced head-on by including subtitles to the major reports and addresses, as well as translating into Spanish an advanced copy of the Assistant Grand Master's address and distributing it to the Spanish speaking Brethren shortly before the meeting.

To try and give those Brethren attending the feel of a normal meeting day, we utilised the 'breakout rooms' facility within Zoom, allowing everyone to interact in smaller groups, to meet old and new friends prior to the meeting, this was referred to by some as the 'virtual robing room', except on this occasion you were not trying to frantically alter the length of aprons after New Year excesses!

During the District Grand Master's address to the District Grand Assembly, R.W.Bro. Barrie Roy Mansell, reminded Brethren that August 2021 signifies the start of the 25th anniversary year of Mark

²http://download.mmh.org.uk/2022_Surrey_MBF_Festival_Stewardship_Form_.pdf

Masonry in Spain, and it is his wish to celebrate this landmark with a celebration in the autumn of 2021, subject to restrictions being lifted.

The Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison, delighted the Spanish speaking brethren (and surprised himself a little) with some strategically placed Spanish phrases, but I am sure they would have only been further enhanced and further flowed by adding sunshine and a cerveza or two! The A.G.M. reminded the Brethren that staying connected during these uncertain times was important to the survival of our Orders, but not to forget and allow to pass by, those who may find embracing new technologies a little daunting.

Stay Safe, Mark Well and May The Force Be With You.

Ian Crawford – District Grand Secretary, Spain

Teas in Beds



During these ongoing unprecedented times when a resumption of physical, face-to-face meetings still seems some way off, the need to keep our Brethren engaged for the good of our Order and for their personal welfare, has never been more important.

In the Mark Province of Bedfordshire, we have embraced the concept of T@3 from “day one” by holding weekly Provincial T@3 ZOOM meetings. These virtual gatherings underpin the Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro. Russell Howard’s policy of “Keeping in Touch”, and have remained very popular and well-attended by our Brethren. We alternate between a purely social gathering one week, and a talk of Masonic interest the next. Thus far, we have enjoyed presentations from many Brethren of our own Province, as well as visiting speakers.

Bedfordshire Mark T@3 on Friday 5th February saw us receive a presentation from one of our own, in the person of W.Bro. David Snape P.G.S.D., an acknowledged authority on Victorian military history, entitled “The Rescue they called a Raid: The Jameson Raid 1895-96”. The title comes from David’s recently published book of the same name (published by Helion and Company) and his fascinating talk was enjoyed by all the Brethren present, and gave us a true “daily advancement!!

Our BedsMark T@3 presentations are planned on a rolling basis, so any Brother who is able to give a talk or presentation, especially one of Masonic interest, is encouraged to contact the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Trevor Poole, at sec.bedsmark@gmail.com³

³<mailto:sec.bedsmark@gmail.com>

Derbyshire Royal and Select Master Zoom In



The Derbyshire District of Royal and Select Masters held a District Virtual Business Meeting in lieu of its normal meeting on Saturday, 6 February, presided over by the District Grand Master R.III.Comp. Dr Alan Beckerton.

The District was honoured by the presence of the Grand Master M.III.Comp. Kessick Jones and the Assistant Grand Recorder III.Comp. Dan Heath and supported by representatives of eighteen Districts.

In his address the Dist.G.M. commented on the difficult year but how well we had all adjusted to new technology to enable us to keep in touch. Following the formal meeting the Companions enjoyed a period of social interaction much enjoyed by all present.

All happy at Keith Hind Council



On Monday, 8 February, members of the Keith Hind Council No. 260 held a social get together Zoom meeting. The meeting was organised by Rt.III.Comp Vince Driver, District Grand Master for London, and twenty three members were present. The Grand Master M.III.Comp Kessick Jones joined the assembled group. Initially wishing all present well, he was sure that the banter would flow.

As can be seen from the picture all appeared to be enjoying themselves by the smiling faces. Membership of the Council is made up of District Grand Masters, present and past. The Council meets twice a year, January at Mark Masons' Hall, and the other meeting within the District of the Thrice Illustrious Master.

Read all about it - a round-up of Newsletters from our Orders

The Surrey Keystone



A Message from our Provincial Grand Master
ZOOM - It is now almost essential about the 2021
Zoom - it is now almost essential about the 2021
Zoom - it is now almost essential about the 2021

We have been fortunate that we have been permitted to hold Virtual Business Meetings using the ZOOM platform and these are being used by more and more Lodges to conduct Administrative Business. Accounts are being approved, there are no waiting lists and an easy meeting experience for the day when we can meet again. In the edition you will find some reports of meetings, together with photographs. This is our common destination that is 13 Miles. This Day they have attended and reported on many. Please let us know about your Lodge. Encourage all Lodges to hold Virtual Business Meetings to carry out the important business that can be discharged. I have visited many Lodges over the last year and they fulfil a very useful purpose.

We should not forget those who may not have the facilities to join such meetings. Some of our Brothers may be newly, some in a new area and I am sure that a lot of our members that they could not each week. Many Members are doing sterling work in support of Provincial Masters raising for where I am most grateful to them, but my need to continue to remember our Brethren. Remember - "Amongst Myself Master you will never find Friends".

I am reminded that in March last year we postponed our Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge, and when it became obvious that we were unlikely to meet again in 2020 we held our Annual Meeting by ZOOM. I have decided that this year it is more sensible that we will be permitted to hold a physical Annual Meeting in March 2021. However, we postponed the Annual Meeting to Saturday 17th September 2021. However on Saturday 20th March 2021 we will hold a Provincial Get Together and further details on that will be sent out soon. 2022 Festival - our next week will reach the 200 days milestone before our Festival Ends at the Ogborne Hotel, Ditchingham Park in July 2022. The Event Planning team are now working hard to bring together an event that we can all be proud of. It is a lovely setting, with good food and superb entertainment. Tickets will be advertised and further details will be released in the coming months.

With thanks to the grand annual meeting of the Province, which is an opportunity to take in some of our photographs. It is a wonderful job for inclusion in our 2021 Festival. I would like to get our own Brethren, your Nieces, Grandchildren, Granddaughters, your Nieces, Grandchildren, Granddaughters, your Nieces, Grandchildren, Granddaughters. The last thing that you will want to see is your Lodge who contribute to make contributions at their Virtual Business Meetings and Lodge get-togethers. I thank you for those of you who took up my challenge of the 13 1/2 mile approach to joining, together with those who have made substantial contributions.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master, Masters of Surrey website <http://www.mastersofmasonry.org.uk>

We are privileged that the Mark Extended Team has chosen Surrey for their branch of the MEF Festival. This has enabled opportunity and you will get more details of the Provincial ZOOM Get Together in March. Next month we will have more on the children who made application for funds to assist them during these difficult times. There is light at the end of the tunnel, we will meet again. In the meantime keep safe and Mark Myself. **Jan A-Clark, Provincial Grand Master.**

Written Ball Update
 Congratulations to the January Ball winners:
 Seth Parke of Lambton First Lodge; David Crocker of World of Surrey Lodge; Paul Kennell of World of Surrey Lodge; Tim Ford of Provincial Mark Towards Lodge; Ray Sibley of First Lodge; Arnold King of Tadobon Lodge; Alan Richardson of Stone of Benham Lodge; Len Miller of World of Surrey Lodge; Alan Brockwell of Manor of Paradise Lodge; David Gorman of Cranleigh Lodge; Colin Clark of Cranleigh Lodge; John Coleman of Pines Lodge; Roy Vicker of Stone Lodge; Mike Barnes of Rose Lodge; David Phares of Lingfield Lodge; and James 001 of Richmond Lodge.
 Don't miss out on buying Ball and supporting our Mark 2022 Festival at the same time. The Surrey Ball 2022 Festival Ball Game costs only £10.00 to enter for 10 Games at all you wish to play with a chance of winning the £2500 per week prize money.
 It's easy to purchase a Ball - just click on <http://www.surrey-mark-towards.com>

A Big Thank-You to Pride of Surrey Council
 At a recent Virtual Business Meeting of the Pride of Surrey Council of Royal and Select Masters the Council approved a donation of £250 towards the 2021 MEF Festival. This brought their total donation to £250.



Present at the meeting was the District Grand Master, R.L.D. George, the Brethren, our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who thanked the Council on behalf of the Mark Province of Surrey for their very generous donation. The Ball that was Provincial Grand Charity Awarded in the Chair of the Council, our Provincial Grand Secretary in the Transient, and our Officer in the Nominations had nothing to do with the donation.



Surrey Mark Virtual Balloon Race
 A virtual Balloon Race that is fun for all the family. 100% non-bleeding, no lines, no gambling, lots of fun, simple Balloon Racing. Open to everyone to enter. Join the Surrey Mark Race Facebook Group. Race starts at 12 pm on the 17th April 2021. Balloons cost £5 each. But tickets for your children and granddaughters. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/surreymark2021>

Surrey Mark Auction
 We are delighted to advise everyone that the winning bid for the Bunker of Delights was made by Mr. Ian Turner, a member of Manor of Benham Lodge No. 1167. He bid of £255 was a tremendous one, and well over the rest of the bidders. See still.



"During the past 12 months I have not had the opportunity to acquire the Bunker through about time at auction or attending Antiques events, as I am not able to attend in this way."
 The 2022 Provincial Grand Master, Alan Brockwell and wife, but at a time when the world is shaken by the virus.
 Ian and Mary have kindly donated the Bunker of Delights to an Old Peoples' Home in their locality, where it was very thankfully received, and will be faithfully applied. Congratulations to Ian for being the successful bidder, and grateful thanks from our GM Provincial Grand Master to all who took part in the auction.

A Big Thank-You to Lovelorn Chantry Chapter
 At recent Zoom get together of the Lovelorn Chantry Chapter the Chapterians agreed to donate the sum of £250 towards the 2021 MEF Festival - the first individual donation from a Surrey Chapter.



The fact that our Provincial Grand Secretary is the Firm Philology, our Editor is the Scribble, and our Grand Masters are members of Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons had nothing to do with the donation.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master, Masters of Surrey website <http://www.mastersofmasonry.org.uk>

The Masonic Deck of Cards
 One evening a Lodge Brother retired with a young Brother who had not attained a ceremony in a higher degree. "The Masonic grandeur of a pack of playing cards and out it is the younger Brother. "Did you know that you can have a good deal about Masonry from these?"
 "Yes, indeed," said the young Brother. "What can they teach me?"
 "They are useful for increasing your masonry," said the Mentor. "Learn here, now."

The ACE reminds me of the Great Architect of the Universe.
 The TWO reminds me of the two great pillars on the entrance of King Solomon's Temple.
 The THREE reminds me of the 3 who rule the Lodge; the W.M., the S.W. and the J.W.
 The FOUR reminds me of our progression in the Craft; Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, and Neophyte Master.
 The FIVE reminds me of the 5 Noble Orders of Architecture; Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite.
 The SIX reminds me of the six principles of our order; Brotherly Love, Faith, Truth, Faith, Hope, and Charity.
 The SEVEN reminds me of the 7 liberal arts and sciences; Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric, Arithmetic, Music, Geometry, and Astronomy.
 The EIGHT reminds me that we have members here all faiths. Masons believe that there are 8 passions, signifying God's mercy. In Scripture 8 is a lucky number.
 The NINE reminds me of the working tools. There for each of the three degrees.
 The TEN reminds me of the 10 Commandments on which we order our lives. TEN was also the Pythagorean symbol of perfection or completeness.
 The JACK reminds me of the word we share in the Fellow Craft Degree.
 The QUEEN reminds me of the white who bear the banner and also our Sovereigns.
 The KING reminds me of King Solomon the principal Agent of our order.
 There are THREE 10 face cards which remind me of the 10 spheres of heaven and the 10 signs of the Zodiac.
 There are THREE 1000 which remind me of Right and Day, Good and Evil.
 There are THREE 500 which remind me of Probation, the process, Fortitude and Hope.
 "I am very grateful," said the young Brother.
 "I will never forget all that you have said. Do tell me, what are two cards which you have not yet explained?"
 "Oh, those," said the Mentor. "These are the two JACKS who Proposed and Seconded you when telling you that there would be only five meetings a year!"

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master, Masters of Surrey website <http://www.mastersofmasonry.org.uk>

Business as usual during lockdown – or nearly

The last time we had a suspension of all Masonic Activity was on the 18th September 1903, the day after the Second World War was declared. A letter was issued by the Grand Secretary at Freemasons' Hall to all Lodges and Chapters as follows: "Moving regard to the emergency orders of the Majesty's Government, I am to inform you that until further notice all Masonic meetings are to be suspended. It is hoped that this emergency will be a temporary measure. Further instructions will be issued at an early date".

Under today's rules, that order was lifted a month later on the 21st of October and, in addition, Grand Lodge encouraged Lodges to meet as early in the day as possible. (Consequently it is not likely regular meetings, to allow days up to seven days before or after the regular date without needing to obtain a dispensation, and instructed that after governments should be kept as brief as possible.)

At that time, and during the six long years that followed, there existed among the brethren an almost pervasive obsession that meetings should be held at all costs. This was not a matter of Masonic adherence to a particular or a conventional form of play. Its significance lay in the fact that Freemasonry itself was threatened, both as a way of life and as a set of values passed on and watered in the past. Today we are again in a different era, but the determination to hold meetings and get through this together is still there.

On the 17th March 2020 a letter was received by Grand Secretaries of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall to all persons Lodges as follows: "The Grand Masters of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall have jointly agreed on immediate General Suspension of all Masonic Activity for a period of four months. This means that no Masonic meetings or related social activities should take place until further notice". A similar Notice of General Suspension was issued by the United Grand Lodge of England, the Supreme Council of the Ancient & Accepted Rite and the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

This suspension was lifted on the 17th July and the first meeting of any Order in Surrey was the tentative meeting of the Pastors' Club at Arlebury Lodge on the 19th July, 7 days after suspension was lifted. To ensure compliance with government guidelines, and instructions from Mark Masons' Hall, the meeting was held in the Pheasant Temple at Croydon which is large enough to ensure that social distancing rules could be observed.

Since then a number of meetings were held under the Rule of Six with limited seating lists, meetings and a new lockdown was imposed across England and all face-to-face meetings were suspended from Thursday 5th November 2020 until further notice. It also due to hold meetings during the lockdown was encouraged to make use of the Virtual Business Meeting System instead.

This system has been taken up by many Mark and Royal Ark Masonic Lodges in Surrey. This not only enables Lodge administration to continue to be conducted but, importantly, gives an opportunity for Lodge members to get together on their regular meeting date.



On the 26th there was a meeting of Plymouth Masonic Ark and Mark Lodge. The Presiding Officer, in both the Royal Ark Master and the Mark meetings was John Mark Smith.

In the Royal Ark Master meeting a ballot was taken for a candidate for election. This proved to be a close run and the successful candidate was elected as usual at the end of the meeting. In the Mark meeting Bro. Robin Hart was declared Master Elect for the coming year. This was also a successful ballot for a long running, the same Brother who will be elevated into the Royal Ark Master degree.

On the 21st January Windsor B&AM and Mark Lodges held their annual Virtual Business Meeting (VBM). The Presiding Officer were W. Bro. Stephen Holt, R.A.M.G.R., of the Royal Ark Master and W. Bro. Max Woodcock in the Mark.

W. Bro. Sarah McCarthy was declared as Worshipful Grandmaster and W. Bro. Richard Evans, P.G.D., as Treasurer.

W. Bro. Richard Knox, our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, advised the members that a donation is being made towards the 2022 M&E Festival which will qualify the Royal Ark Master Lodge as a Patron of the M&E. A good start from a small Lodge.



Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey website <http://www.mmsmasonry.com/>

The ballot then went all the way to Fraternalism on the 20th to hold W. Bro. Mark Lodge.

The Presiding Officer, W. Bro. David Murray, P.O.N.A.A.M.S.B. declared the meeting open and the Secretary, W. Bro. Michael French, P.O.N.A.A.M.S.B., read the Letter of Permission and the Dispensation.

Present at the meeting was our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. John French, P.G.D., and the Lodge's Official Visitor, W. Bro. Ray Sealey, P.G.D., Provincial Grand Treasurer.

The next day was when there was the Collapsing B&M and Mark Lodge meetings followed by the latter's own Lodge meetings, Richmond R&M and Mark.



In Richmond Lodge the Presiding Officer for both meetings was W. Bro. Geoff Mansfield, P.O.N.A.A.M.S.B., attending the meeting was the Lodge's Official Visitor, W. Bro. Ray Sealey, P.G.D., Provincial Grand Treasurer. The Lodge was also honoured by the presence of our Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Ian Clark, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. P.G.D., and our Provincial Grand Chaplain, W. Bro. Steve Jones, R.D.S.W.

In the Royal Ark Master, Bro. Peter Lacey was declared Worshipful Grandmaster, and W. Bro. Tim Ford, R.A.M.G.R., was declared Treasurer. In the Mark, W. Bro. Steve Jones gave one of his motivating charity updates. He had 23 members and 4 guests, which made for a most convivial and enjoyable meeting.



And finally, on the 5th February Windsor Mark and R&M Lodges held their Virtual Business Meetings. The Presiding Officer were W. Bro. Mark Mansfield in the Mark and W. Bro. Stephen Holt in the Royal Ark Master. The Scribe Secretary, Richard Collier, P.O.N.A.A.M.S.B., read the Letter of Permission and the Dispensation.

In the Mark the members agreed to a £100 donation to the 2022 Festival in recognition of Simon McGearty's 2022 contribution.

It is hoped that many Lodges in possible will take advantage of the opportunity to hold Virtual Business Meetings. It's easy to do, just require a Letter of Permission and a Dispensation from our Provincial Grand Secretary on provincial@markmasonry.com who will be happy to provide you with any guidance or assistance you may require. Please remember that the fees only for a Virtual Business Meeting is £25 per Lodger.

The Presiding Officers in Collingwood Lodge were W. Bro. Roger Wright, P.O.N.A.A.M.S.B., in the Royal Ark Master and W. Bro. John Adams, P.G.D., in the Mark. The Secretary, W. Bro. Simon Gray, P.O.N.A.A.M.S.B., and the Letters of Permission and the Dispensation.

In the Royal Ark Master the Worshipful Grandmaster, W. Bro. David Wright, and the Treasurer, W. Bro. Gary Suggs, P.O.N.A.A.M.S.B., were elected to remain in office for a further year. Congratulations to the Secretary, W. Bro. Steve Gray, who will receive Provincial Royal Ark Master Grand Mark on the 20th March.

In the Mark the members voted to donate £200 to the Fund for the Mark the members voted to donate £200 to the Fund for the Mark the members voted to donate £200 to the Fund for the Mark.



On the 4th February Tulse Fellowship Mark Lodge held their Virtual Business Meeting. The Presiding Officers were W. Bro. Adrian Ashby, R.A.M.G.R., in the Royal Ark Master and W. Bro. Ralph Nakano in the Mark. The Scribe Secretary, Sarah Bhatt, and the Letters of Permission and the Dispensation.

The Lodge was honoured by the presence of our Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Ian Clark, and W. Bro. John French, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master said how pleased he was to be with everyone and to see so many present.



Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey website <http://www.mmsmasonry.com/>

Click Here⁴ to read the full Newsletter

Essex Mark Times - Festival Edition



MARK Times Festival Edition
February 2021
The Newsletter for the Mark Province of Essex, incorporating the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners

FESTIVAL 2030 SPECIAL EDITION

Although we are several years away from our 2030 Festival, we wanted to keep you informed of our plans, and give you a sneak preview of the events we are planning. If you would like to help with organising any of these events, please get in touch with any of the committee members or email to the committee secretary on essexfestival2030@britishmasons.uk

The Festival 2030 Committee

					
					

The Committee have come together to kick things off with the Festival. We expect that many of the founder members will be replaced as we get nearer to the Festival. If you are interested in helping the committee to prepare for this high profile event, please contact a committee member as soon as possible.

<h4>MBF Festival Covenants</h4> <p>We know that many of you have already started to donate with 2030 Festival Covenants, and appreciate the real need to start these things early. We will fully launch the covenant scheme at our annual meeting at Felsted but to enable you to get things underway, we have prepared the 2030 covenant forms and a copy is attached.</p> 	<h4>Website</h4> <p>We will provide you with regular updates on our progress and will launch special Festival Website pages for you to visit, showing a full Programme of Events, as they develop.</p> <p>www.essexmark.co.uk</p>
--	--

⁴http://download.mmh.org.uk/Surrey_Keystone_Newsletter_Issue11_-_February_2021.pdf

 <h3>Grand Auction and Family Day</h3> <p>We are planning an exciting GRAND AUCTION - but with the difference that it will be a family day where we hope to have a BBQ or similar with entertainment for the kids.</p> 	
<h3>Festival Logo and Pin</h3> <p>Logo ideas are being considered and will be submitted to MRF for approval before being used on all of our Festival publicity material - and of course our festival pin.</p> 	<h3>Travelling Maul</h3> <p>Our specially produced MAUL, in a handsome presentation box will tour the Province, being handed from Lodge to Lodge. The presentation box will be detailed with all Lodge names.</p> 
	<h3>Summer Fun Day</h3> <p>We hope to be able to arrange a FUNDAY with childrens rides and sidehows - to entertain the whole family.</p>
<h3>Dining Extravaganza</h3> <p>Based on the ever popular Crowstone Lodge ZEN CITY nights, we will organise FIVE venues around the Province to entertain and feed you! We are planning events at Southend, Uppminster, Chingford, Colchester and Chelmsford. These events could be Chinese, Indian, Mexican, Turkish, Italian, or whatever style of food you would like to have.</p> 	
<h3>MEDIA TEAM HELP WANTED.</h3> <p>Are you interested in joining the Media Team - a team who are repeatedly praised by other Provinces for our high quality output?</p> <p>We need help to put together graphics - posters and adverts etc. Experience of using graphics and layout software preferred.</p> <p>ALSO we need someone to help us to manage our Facebook accounts - by monitoring the pages and adding new and interesting posts for members.</p> <p>If you feel that you would like to join our team, please contact Dave Todd on mediamanager@britishmasons.uk or Geoff Rowman on mediadeputy@britishmasons.uk to discuss things further.</p>	

Click Here⁵ to read the full Newsletter

⁵https://www.scribd.com/document/493645913/first-festival-mark-times-ver2?secret_password=VncSN4H8iU4sc0WMiqiw#fullscreen&from_embed

Mark Matters



Welcome to the first edition in 2021 of our Mark and Royal Ark Member Provincial magazine.

The New Year has brought new Hope to many of us with the news of the vaccination programme being rolled out across the nation and already many of our readers will have received their first vaccination. It may still be some time before the lockdown is lifted and even longer until we can safely resume our Masonic and social meetings, so we must remain vigilant and patient for a while yet.

As tangible evidence of our optimism, some of us have looked in for the 153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Festival, to be held on 3rd July 2021 at Old Thurlow. At last, we have a weekend break to look forward to - even if we may have to re-schedule it.

Virtual Business Meetings and social Zoom meetings continue to be held and there is news about the new Provincial Zoom meetings elsewhere in this edition, so please do attend if you are able to do so.

As we said farewell (and good riddance) to 2020, I thank all of those who supported and attended the 'Virtually Christmas' social zoom and I congratulate those winners in the raffle and the quiz (Details provided later in this edition). I do hope that you all enjoyed the event and I admire the courage that some of you showed by wearing those Christmas Jumpers!

This time of year is traditionally when the list of Provincial Appointments and Promotions is put up on the Notice Boards around the Halls. I am very pleased that I have managed to retain in Office the present Active Provincial Grand Lodge Officers for 2021/22 with only a few exceptions and a full list of Appointments and Promotions is included in this edition of Mark Matters. I do sincerely congratulate all of you who have received these Provincial Honours and I hope that you enjoy your new Rank.

I imagine we shall soon have a flurry of updates on our permitted activities, then (hopefully not too long) and I can only hope that we can soon resume some greater social freedoms. A little more evidence is never too high a price to pay for our safety and that of our friends and family.

I continue to wish you all well, and hope that we may all remain safe and healthy as we navigate our way through 2021.

Chris Adkin

V.M. Bro. Chris Adkin F.G.J.D.
Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge
Nottinghamshire Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons



Donations can be sent directly to V.M. Bro. Alan Naylor, the Benevolent Fund Administrator, who can be contacted by email at alan@notnm.com. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Chris's details:
Bro. Chris Hughes 24 Middle Avenue, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 5KZ
Telephone: 07915 860 521 email: christopher-hughes@hotmail.co.uk

Virtually Christmas-Social Zoom meeting

The Festive-Social event held on 16th December was well supported and thoroughly enjoyable. Those who attended were treated to a selection of music, introduced by a brief explanation why it had been chosen and the quiz element was superbly delivered by Mason and Peter Alan.

The puzzle with the musical choice went to Richard Howard's selection from Handel's Messiah 'For unto us a child is born' and the winner of the quiz was Eric and Marie Johnson. The quiz was decided on a tie break question and it was later established that a technical issue prevented Graham Greig from having his answer recorded correctly. Apologies Graham, and well done nonetheless!

The winner of the best Christmas Jumper was awarded to Pamela and Bruce Routledge with thanks to Dee Reader for making the tough decision on this competition.

The 10th anniversary quiz

- 1st Prize - Alan Naylor
- 2nd Prize - Joe Ingram
- 3rd Prize - Malcolm Bennett
- 4th Prize - Yvonne Ward
- 5th Prize - Simon Morris
- 6th Prize - Mick Bacon

The evening raised over £1,100 and these funds were quickly applied to three prizes dedicated to helping those who are homeless or in need of food. In Nottingham City, £500 was donated to Tracey's Street Kitchen and this was matched by a similar donation from the Craft Charity Fund.

In Mansfield £300 was donated to the 'Mansfield Soup Kitchen' and in Worksop £300 was donated to 'Eulenspiegel' to help them make and deliver food to those in need. Our grateful thanks go to all those who took part in the raffle and the Christmas event.

Fortnightly Zoom meetings - 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month

The Province will be hosting a regular Zoom Meeting twice a month beginning on Wednesday 10th February 2021. The meetings will be held at 5.30pm and the login details and password will remain the same throughout the period of holding these meetings.

The meetings are open to all Mark and RAM members with the aim of providing an opportunity for a regular social get together, as well as a forum for discussion around the anticipated changes to our meeting format as they evolve. As we look forward to coming out of the National Lockdown restrictions, we may expect news as to how we might be permitted to meet once more. Based on the journey through 2020 for systems and in to lockdown, the conditions relating to our meetings may very well change from time to time and so a fortnightly meeting should help us all navigate the new rules and understand the measures that our Halls will put in place for us to meet safely.

Details of how to attend the meeting have been circulated via all Lodge Secretaries/Scribes and if you have not received details please feel free to contact the Provincial Grand Secretary.

Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Appointments and Promotions

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge, W Bro. Christopher Adair P.G.D., is pleased to make the following Appointments and Promotions in Provincial Grand Mark Lodge. These appointments will take effect from the date of the 2021 Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge, which is yet to be confirmed.

Provincial Appointments to be made for 2021/22			
ACTIVE RANKS			
ACTING RANK	NAME	Prev. RANK(S)	UOR No.
Senior Warden	W Bro. A.M. Livingston	ProvGSM	858
Junior Warden	W Bro. T.M. Welford	ProvGSM	1508
Master Chapter	W Bro. A.C. Mallock	ProvGSM	1508/1888
Senior Deacon	W Bro. T.H. Oastell	ProvGSM	632/2808
Junior Deacon	W Bro. G.M. Coen	ProvGSM	544
Chaplain	W Bro. A. Hopwood	PGSD	632/2808
Treasurer	W Bro. A.B. Baxter	PGSD	632/2808
Organist	W Bro. G.M. Beach	PGSD	632/2808
Secretary	W Bro. S.J. Moxie	ProvGSM	1807/2808
Director of Ceremonies	W Bro. K.H. Bates	ProvDeputyDC	1508
Almoner	W Bro. J. Buxton	GB	1880/2888
Charity Sumner	W Bro. J. Sweeney	ProvGSM	484
Inspector of Works	W Bro. S. Collins	ProvGSM	1442/112888
Senior Warrant	W Bro. S.A. Bell	ProvGSM	1228
Deputy Chapterlain	W Bro. R.G. Wolcott	ProvGSM	1872
Deputy Secretary	W Bro. C. Galloway	ProvGSM	1442/1572
Deputy Director of Ceremonies	W Bro. M.E. Johnson	ProvMDC	858
Senior Deacon	W Bro. J.J. Manning	ProvGSM	1811
Senior Deacon	W Bro. D.J. Hillman	PM	654
Junior Deacon	W Bro. F. Spoker	ProvGSM	580
Junior Deacon	W Bro. A. Merritt	ProvGSM	1548
Assistant Chapterlain	W Bro. S.A. Curless	PM	1200
Assistant Director of Ceremonies	W Bro. P.L. Shaw	ProvMDC	71/688/871
Assistant Director of Ceremonies	W Bro. J.M. Baker	ProvGSM	71
Organist	W Bro. D.J. Robinson	ProvGSM	632
Standard Bearer	W Bro. B. Scott	PM	283
Inner Guard	W Bro. P.H. Cordery	ProvGSM	1454
Standard	W Bro. I.D. Hunter	ProvGSM	1347
Steward	W Bro. M.C. Ross	ProvGSM	654
Grants	W Bro. A.R. Bailey	PM	1811
Steward	W Bro. D.R. Hayward	PM	1548
Tiler	W Bro. R.C. Lister	NSB	71/2888
FIRST APPOINTMENT TO NEXT RANK 2021			
ProvGSM	W Bro. K.J. Meredith	PM	480
ProvGSM	W Bro. D.H. Sheppard	PM	71
ProvGSM	W Bro. A.R. Wilson	PM	632

Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Promotions

PROMOTIONS 2021			
ProvGSM	W Bro. D.H. Cairns	ProvGSM	632
ProvGSM	W Bro. D.H. Cartwright	ProvGSM	1207
ProvGSM	W Bro. S.E. Hudson	ProvGSM	1454
ProvGSM	W Bro. N.H. Jordan	ProvGSM	1882
ProvGSM	W Bro. B. Linton	ProvGSM	1882
ProvGSM	W Bro. D.H. Thompson	ProvGSM	1882
ProvMDC	W Bro. D.P. Mann	ProvMDC	940
ProvGSM	W Bro. P.J. Parker	ProvMDC	71/2888/1972
ProvGSM	W Bro. J.H. Bates	ProvGSM	1548
ProvGSM	W Bro. J.A. Piter	ProvGSM	680
ProvGSM	W Bro. B.H. Turner	ProvGSM	1208
ProvMDC	W Bro. D.J. Wetherill	ProvMDC	820
ProvMDC	W Bro. P.H. Brown	ProvMDC	820
ProvMDC	W Bro. M. Turner	ProvMDC	654/1972
ProvMDC	W Bro. C.A. Mackie	ProvGSM	1358/1888
ProvMDC	W Bro. A.B. Parker	ProvGSM	1347/1888
ProvMDC	W Bro. S.E. Scott	ProvGSM	283
ProvMDC	W Bro. D.J. Lacey	ProvMDC	1508/1888
ProvMDC	W Bro. H.C. Thomas	ProvMDC	1548
ProvGSM	W Bro. M. Scott	ProvMDC	820
ProvGSM	W Bro. J.H. Clarke	ProvMDC	1578

The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners

Thanks to the efforts of W Bro. Geoff Tredal RAMSM, we have secured permission to deliver a delightful presentation on the Royal Ark Mariner degree originated by W Bro. Hub G. Lubet, RAMSM, District of the Netherlands. The presentation is entitled 'The Charming Little Degree' and is intended to be delivered in other Mark or RAM Lodges.

As a PowerPoint presentation it is eminently suitable to being delivered in a Virtual meeting of Mark or RAM Lodges and this possibility is currently being explored.

The scoring dialogue is inclusive. The Charming Little Degree, not only in those kind, eschewing words indicate the character and extent of our Royal Ark Mariner Fraternity, they also express our warm feelings towards this friendly small degree, that can be considered as a tiny slip at the top of a branch on the tree of Masonic degrees.

Our Charming Little Degree is often referred to as 'a modest side degree, beyond the degree of Most Master Mason'. It has a simple ritual and lasts about 45 mins. There is no roach about it, so gold letters, gloves, no colourful robes, no expensive titles. No, here it is all simple. The true richness and beauty are contained in the degree itself.

Look out for further details on when and how this presentation will be delivered.

Click Here⁶ to read the full Newsletter

⁶[http://download.mmh.org.uk/2021.02.08 Mark Matters February Edition.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/2021.02.08%20Mark%20Matters%20February%20Edition.pdf)

Across Social Media

On YouTube - Freemasons Without Borders learn the tricks of the trade from the Mark Grand Director of Ceremonies



<https://youtu.be/IOwLAu0qhnc>

Minerva Talks take a look at the Turin Shroud



<https://youtu.be/ESLOmCelcsM>

On Facebook - The St John Eye Hospital Fundraising Guild prepare for a talk from St John Hospitaller, David Verity

Embed://<iframe

```
src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fguildstjohn%2Fposts%2F3047352395487021&width=500&show_text=true&height=646&appId"
width="500" height="646" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0"
allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share"></iframe>
```

The New TLC Teddies are ready to go

Embed://<iframe

```
src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FTLCTeddies%2Fposts%2F1782051671945617&width=500&show_text=true&height=524&appId"
width="500" height="524" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0"
allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share"></iframe>
```

Freemasonry gets some positive coverage

Embed://<iframe

```
src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/video.php?height=314&href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fthelatest.tv%2Fvideos%2F456745869071755%2F&show_text=false&width=560"
```

width="560" height="314" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share" allowFullScreen="true"></iframe>

[On Twitter - Improving the AMD in London](#)
<http://twitter.com/statuses/1359484753225916417>

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 Secretariat⁷ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁸

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁹

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk¹⁰

The Shop@86 is open for online orders via the website

[Click Here¹¹](#) to visit the Shop@86 website

Please note: 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.uk¹²



⁷<https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

⁸<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

⁹<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

¹⁰<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

¹¹<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

¹²<mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk>



The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised over £45,500 and continues to grow



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 Here¹³ 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<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 Clergy Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation helpline: 020 3146 3152. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1184703, Company No. 09751836

60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5AZ | 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.com¹⁴ 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](#)¹⁵ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

[Click Here](#)¹⁶ for the updated complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website [Here](#)¹⁷

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

¹⁴<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

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

¹⁶[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)

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

¹⁸<https://covid.joinzoe.com/>

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.



Mark Masons' Hall is pleased to be

