



Freemasonry@86 News - 26 March 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.

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¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

Surrey Mark call Brethren to get together

We were unable to hold our 2021 Annual Meeting in March this year due to the continued suspension of Masonic activities. Our Provincial Grand Master didn't want to hold a Virtual Business Meeting for a second consecutive year and therefore has moved the Annual Meeting to Saturday, 11 September 2021 when hopefully it should be safe for us all to meet at Croydon Masonic Hall.



We were all invited to join our Provincial Grand Master and members of the Provincial Executive for a Get Together using the Zoom video conferencing tool on Saturday, 20 March 2021. R.W.Bro. Ian Clark opened the **Let's Get Together** and welcomed everyone saying how good it was to see nearly 150 Mark Masons representing all the Lodges in Surrey.



In his introduction R.W.Bro. Ian said that during the last year we have done so much to keep in touch and encouraging everyone to keep in touch with each other. We have had much success in doing so, and this Get Together was another way of keeping in touch and at the same time updating everyone on news of some of the exciting things coming up. This included proposals in respect of Annual Fees and charges by Provincial Grand Lodge, some details of Festival Stewardship, an update on where our donations to the MBF have been going in the last year, news of the Festival Banquet and the plans for it, together with an opportunity for you to put questions to the Executive.

The next item was to honour the names of those Brethren who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above since September 2020. W.Bro. Tim Ford, Provincial Grand Secretary, read the names of those Brethren, followed by a few moments of reflection to remember them.

W.Bro. Bill Barr, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, spoke about charity and the Mark Benevolent Fund.



He said that charity is at the very heart of all we do as Masons. It plays a huge part in our activities and many of our activities exist almost purely to collect funds for charitable purposes. He spoke about the work of the MBF in supporting charities such as Hope for Tomorrow, a charity providing mobile chemotherapy units for cancer patients, saving them long and tiring journeys to hospitals. Re-equipping St John Ambulance with vehicles, twenty years after the last time we did the very same thing. Many of us were at Nutfield for a presentation to St John Ambulance when a newly provided vehicle stood next to a twenty-year old one donated by the Mark and still in use. Blood bikes provided by Mark Masons following the London Charity Walk, now travel all over the country with their life-saving cargo.

W.Bro. Bill said that charity is not a one-way street in that much of what we collect comes straight back to us with over £166,000 provided to smaller charities operating within the Provinces.



Closer to home, and all within the last month, we have had three Surrey charities supported by the MBF. The Horsley, Bookham and Leatherhead Riding for the Disabled Group, the 1st Warlingham Scouts and the 1st Burstow Scout group. Just last week we received an application to provide washing machines for a Women's Refuge, which is being considered at the moment.

We were encouraged to continue to give with a generous heart and also to keep an eye out for those charities close at hand who would benefit from a grant, as well as continuing to support our Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival.

The next item was to review and congratulate those Provincial Grand Officers receiving an Appointment, Re-appointment, Promotion and Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. Our Provincial Grand Master was pleased to re-appoint W.Bro. John French as his Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Richard Knox and W.Bro. Bill Barr as his Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.

The Active Provincial Grand Officers appointed last year were all given the opportunity to continue in office. Newly appointed are W.Bro. Leslie Grout as Provincial Grand Chaplain, picking up the mantle

from W.Bro. Louis Keats; and W.Bro. Michael Howarth as an Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

R.W.Bro. Ian said that Louis has been our Provincial Grand Chaplain since 2016 and prior to that Deputy Provincial Grand Chaplain for four years; a total of 9 years of active Service to the Mark Province of Surrey in Chaplaincy. He thanked W.Bro. Louis for all that he has done in Surrey Mark since his first active appointment as Senior Deacon twenty years ago.



Following updates on the 2022 MBF Festival, there was a question and answer session, after which our Provincial Grand Master thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Article and photos by Chris Eley, G.J.O.

Introducing R.III.Comp. Bryan Hughes, the New District Grand Master for Cheshire and The Marches in the Royal and Select Masters



Hello Brethren and Companions.

I was born at Whitchurch, Shropshire in May 1950. My early schooling was at Alport Infant School, Malpas, Cheshire followed by Rydal Prep. and then Rydal Senior School now called Rydal Penrhos, situated in Colwyn Bay, North Wales.

After which, I left having taken G.C.E. "O" levels and joined the family firm of Poultry Farmers, Egg Packers and Wholesalers later adding Cheese Packing and Retailing to the mix.

I continued education with day release and night school, eventually obtaining a Post Graduate Diploma in Management Studies (DMS) and then a Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing (DipM) with the Institute

of Marketing. I became a member of the Institute of Marketing in 1982 and though I'm no longer a member I was a member of its First High Council – their governing body when it obtained its Royal Charter in 1989, and in 1991 was awarded their President's Award for services to the Institute.

I married in 1975 and have three sons and numerous grandchildren but later separated for some time and divorced in 2007. I've since re-met my first girlfriend, Marilyn and in these unusual times, while we have separate homes, we can share a social bubble.

My Masonic path began when I was Initiated into St. Alkmund Lodge No. 2311 in September 1985. Whilst waiting to progress to the Chair (17 years, it was a large Lodge) I served as their secretary for 10 years.

Exaltation into Roden Chapter No. 6243 followed in January 1988. Whilst waiting to progress, at that time it was necessary to have been a W.M. in a Craft Lodge before becoming a Principle in the Royal Arch, I was first their Asst. Scribe E. followed by a time as Treasurer.

Since then I've enjoyed being actively involved in many Orders and had been through the chair of Talbot Mark No. 1021 before becoming W.M. of my mother Craft Lodge. It was the Mark that kept my enthusiasm for masonry alive while waiting for progression. And it was in Mark that I achieved my first active rank that of Provincial A.D.C. in Staffordshire and Shropshire. Followed later with Prov. Junior Overseer and the position of Prov. Junior Warden in the Festival year of 2007.

In Grand Mark Lodge I was fortunate to have been an A.G.D.C. and now hold the rank of P.G.S.D.

I have been involved in the Staffordshire Shropshire Mark Benevolent Association for several years serving as their Secretary for six years and at the moment the President until the next A.G.M.

In the Royal & Select Masters I was Chosen into Westune Council No. 241 in May 2003 and have enjoyed the active roles of Dist.G.Man., Dep.Dist.G.D.C., Dist.G.Chap. and Dist.G.P.C.W. before being invited to become the District Grand Master to follow on after an exceptional freemason, R.III. Comp. Shaun B.Crutchley.

Although I've joined many Orders over quite a few years, enjoying and still enjoying all of them, it is this one I should have joined sooner. It connects Craft, Mark and Chapter in the journey from Initiation to Exaltation weaving its way through the various ceremonies, enriching the experience and leading to a better understanding of the whole.

During my tenure as Dist.G.M. I hope to bring a greater awareness of the significance of the Order to Craft, Mark and Chapter Masons within the District.

When much younger I had a few happy years in Whitchurch Round Table which I found rather late in life and after I had been a Freemason for some time. Now the spare time is used for walking, going to the theatre, listening to a wide range of music and enjoying life now at the pressure of business is in the past.

My school motto was Prodesse quam conspicui (to accomplish rather than to be conspicuous) so, for me, that means that I've found writing a profile a little out of character.

My best wishes to you all, keep safe and well.

PROVINCIAL GRAND SENATUS OF MIDDLESEX 2021

A Virtual Business Meeting was held on Saturday, 20 March 2021 of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Middlesex, this being the Province's Regular Meeting date.

Following the Provincial Grand Summus, R. Dist. Comp. Trevor Peter Dutt, RD, declaring the meeting duly open in due form and the Provincial Grand Recorder Dist. Comp. Raymond Bodell reading the necessary Dispensation, the Provincial Grand Summus made a particular welcome to our Grand Summus, Most Distinguished Companion Ian Stanley Currans adding he was also delighted that he was accompanied by three Right Distinguished Companions and long-time friends, the Deputy Grand Summus, R. Dist. Comp. Frank Charles Spencer, the Assistant Grand Summus, R. Dist. Comp. Howard Saul Markham and the Grand Recorder, R. Dist. Comp. Ryan Williams



He also welcomed all the 69 visitors from 23 Provinces and Districts including 14 Provincial Grand Summi, 12 Deputy Provincial Grand Summi, 6 Assistant Provincial Grand Summi and 2 senior Past Provincial Grand Summi.

The Provincial Grand Summus added that, despite all the disadvantages of Zoom meetings, it did enable the participation of Scarlet Cord members from the more distant Districts and he was delighted that we also had in attendance the District Grand Summus for the District of the Southern Caribbean, the Deputy District Grand Summus for the District of South East Asia as well as Companions of Barbados Consistory No. 79 and The Jamaica Consistory No. 89.

All routine business was promptly and efficiently dealt with by all involved. It was particularly pleasing to record that the Province having held 2 meetings of Consistories in July and September and was able to record an increase in membership of 2 during the year of Covid!

The Provincial Grand Summus then stated that he was delighted and greatly relieved that both his Deputy Provincial Grand Summus, V. Dist. Comp Brian Anthony Calcutt, Past Grand Lecturer, and his Assistant Provincial Grand Summus, R. Dist. Comp. David Frederick Pascho, Past Grand Vice Chancellor, had agreed to remain in their respective offices.



Following an address by the Provincial Grand Summus, the Grand Summus, M. Dist. Comp. Ian Stanley Currans, stated how much he had enjoyed the meeting gave a very informative address on how much he was looking at moving the Order forward once meetings were allowed.



The Grand Recorder, R. Dist. Comp. Ryan Williams also gave a very detailed update on the situation of the Progressive Orders in general and the plans for the gradual resumption of meetings when the time is right.



The meeting was declared closed by the Provincial Grand Summus who thanked everyone for attending and looked forward to the time it was possible for all companions to meet together in person renewing old acquaintances and making new ones.

Ilkeston Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 373 make a deposit with their local Foodbank



As Charity Steward of Ilkeston Mark Lodge, I never like to see money sitting in the 'Charity Account' when it could be put to good use - particularly in these difficult times when so many people are struggling.

Of course, as we have not met this past year the Charity Account has not been boosted but did hold the sum of £200.00. I asked the members where this might locally be donated and the suggestion, by W. Bro. James Jordan was that the Ilkeston Food Bank served a lot of the needy communion and always needed donations.

Ilkeston Mark Lodge supporting the local Ilkeston Foodbank seemed ideal. This Food Bank is run very professionally by Arena Community service. I subsequently sent a request out to all Lodge members; pointing out that as we had not been able to meet we had not had the opportunity to partake in any Lodge raffles and that members might like to contribute towards our efforts.

Within a week the £200.00 had swelled to £555.00. All this money has been processed through the Lodge Charity Account. So, Jim Jordan, Richard Munyard and myself raided the shelves of Aldi and Tesco in Ilkeston and spent that money on goods the Foodbank had indicated were most needed by the people they were there to help. Large amounts of foodstuffs and toiletries etc. were very gratefully received by the ladies at Arena Community.

Having seen the need it is our intention to have another go in a couple of weeks time.

Dennis F. Ashmore, P.A.G.D.C. - Charity Steward, Ilkeston Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 373



Essex Mark Media Team in Easter Egg Bonanza



Just recently a conversation took place between some of the members of the Mark Media Team where W.Bro. Steve Joslin came up with the idea of supporting an Essex Charity called Safer Places, who support victims of domestic violence and their children.

Steve said, 'I think that these kids are often forgotten, just like their mothers, so perhaps we could get a fund together to get some Easter eggs for the children'.

After a quick call for donations the team raised £130 which was used to purchase Easter eggs for the children at Safer Places. 80 Easter Eggs and other treats were purchased from Aldi in Southend who were extremely helpful and gave a large chocolate Easter Bunny to Steve to add to the donation.

Steve had subsequently contacted the charity and spoken to their Service Manager, Louise Pitman, who was only too pleased to accept the donation on behalf of the charity. They arranged to meet in Chelmsford to do a handover of the goodies.

W.Bro. Steve and Bro. Rob Whitfield (behind the camera), both Media team members, met with Louise on Wednesday, 17 March in Chelmsford and the eggs were duly handed over.

Louise was overwhelmed by the amount of eggs and by the generosity of the Media Team who she praised for thinking of them in particular. Louise said that charities like Safer Places are often forgotten as they are not able to advertise due to the nature of their clients and their situation. Louise further commented that 'domestic violence is never OK and support like this helps them to help others in very difficult situations'. Safer Places covers the whole of Essex and has now taken control of these services in Hertfordshire as well.

Steve explained to Louise that the Media Team were part of a larger organisation, The Mark Province of Essex, who are active in donating across the county.

She thanked everyone involved and said that she would share the donation on their own social media site for others to see.

We have included a link to their website www.saferplaces.co.uk² for anyone who would like to learn more about their work or to make a donation.



²<http://www.saferplaces.co.uk/>

The AMD District of London prepares for its Spring Social



<https://youtu.be/X46ULDC28Ek>

Click Here³ for more information

Update on the Freemasons Without Borders Lodge of Mark Master Masons

The poster has a light blue background with a red border. At the top, it reads "Freemasons Without Borders Lodge of Mark Master Masons" in white and blue text, followed by "Primus Officers" in red. Below this, there are three portraits of men in Masonic regalia. The first portrait is of Ryan Williams, Primus Warranted Master and Grand Secretary. Below his portrait is a small paragraph of text: "Ryan is the Grand Secretary (or equivalent) for all the 99 Lodges administered from Mark Master Masons' Hall and Director/Chief Executive of the various subsidiary companies which operate our catering and publications operations." The second portrait is of R.M. Bro. Thomas Quinn, Primus Senior Warden and Provincial Grand Master - London. The third portrait is of V.W. Bro. Christian Mihutciu, Primus Junior Warden and Grand Inspector of Romans. At the bottom center is a portrait of R.W. Bro. David Ashbolt, Immediate Past Master. In the bottom left corner is the logo of the Grand Lodge of the United Kingdom, and in the bottom right corner is the logo for "FREEMASONS WITHOUT BORDERS".

³<https://mailchi.mp/a3b56b75a0cc/invitation-to-the-district-autumn-social-evening-6372285?e=ec038d1632>

Freemasons Without Borders, founded at the onset of the Covid Pandemic in Spring 2020, has become a masonically renowned with its weekly talks by Zoom for Freemasons from all quarters of the globe.

The idea now of consecrating a unique travelling Unattached Lodge has received an incredible response with currently 238 Petitioners.

The idea is for the Lodge to meet 3 times a year, with its Installation meeting being held Annually at Mark Masons' Hall, London, and the other meetings in different Provinces/Districts around the world operating under the English Constitution.

If you intended/still want to be a founder of this unique travelling mark lodge its not too late – but the closing date for application is 31 March 2021. The invitation is open to all Mark Master Masons.

The Consecration will probably be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, and the date (possibly October 2021) will be announced very soon.

For further information contact the Organising Secretary – Raymond Bodell PAGDC, P.Prov.G.S.W., Ray.annabodell@gmail.com⁴

Across Social Media

[On Facebook - an item which may be of interest to our Knights Templar and Malta members from the Museum of the Order of St John⁵](#)

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fmuseumoftheorderofstjohn%2Fposts%2F3962421310444825&width=500&show_text=true&height=574&apld" width="500" height="574" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share"></iframe>
```

[And, an item of interest from across the pond](#)

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fpa.mk%2Fposts%2F1817501328424273&width=500&show_text=true&height=778&apld" width="500" height="778" 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 - An Oxford Education](#)

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1374692474640199685>

⁴<mailto:Ray.annabodell@gmail.com>

⁵<https://museumstjohn.org.uk/>

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 Secretariat⁶ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁷

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁸

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk⁹

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

[Click Here](#)¹⁰ 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.uk¹¹



⁶<https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

⁷<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

⁸<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

⁹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

¹⁰<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

¹¹<mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk>



The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised over £46,000 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 Here¹²](#) 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.

¹²<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 bri paver'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 3252. 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.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 placed as well.

Click Here¹⁴ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here¹⁵ for the updated complete Festival pack

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

MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels Now Available

The new-look MBF Stewardship Jewels have now multiplied in number and are available for the following Festivals:

2022 Surrey¹⁷

2023 West Yorkshire¹⁸

2024 Cheshire¹⁹

¹³<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

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

¹⁵[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)

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

¹⁷<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁸<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2023-west-yorkshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form/viewdocument>

¹⁹<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2024-cheshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

2025 Oxfordshire²⁰

2026 Hampshire & IOW²¹

2027 Warwickshire²²

2028 Somerset²³

2030 Essex²⁴

²⁰<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

²¹<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2026-hants-iow-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

²²<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

²³<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

²⁴<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2030-essex-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

















We reported recently that 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, 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.

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 Study²⁵ 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



²⁵<https://covid.joinzoe.com/>

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

