



Freemasonry@86 News - 16 April 2021

[His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh](#)



As a mark of respect following the sad death of The Duke of Edinburgh on Friday, 9 April 2021, Brethren are requested to wear a plain black tie when attending Virtual Business Meetings from now until Sunday, 16 May 2021 inclusive.

A Loyal Address was sent on Monday to Her Majesty The Queen on behalf of all the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall conveying our sympathies to her and members of the Royal Family at their recent loss.

With fraternal regards and best wishes. R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W., Grand Secretary



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

Resumption Strategy

R.W.Bro. Ryan A Williams, P.G.J.W., Grand Secretary, has been pleased to circulate the latest Resumption Strategy, which gives a projected timeline for the resumption of meetings within our Orders. You can download a copy [Here](#)²

¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

²http://download.mmh.org.uk/15.04.21_Letter_to_members_about_the_Mark_Masons'_Hall_Resumption_Strategy_.pdf



Grand Secretary's Office
Mark Masons' Hall
80 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PT.

PDF sent via Email

15 April 2021

To: Members of all Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall

Dear Sir and Brother

RESUMPTION STRATEGY

Following the UK Prime Minister's recent progress update on the roadmap to exit lockdown in England, we have been considering our strategy for a resumption of meetings, while maintaining our commitment to create options which reflect local conditions and accommodate the different needs of our members.

It is important to emphasise that you should only return to meetings when governmental guidance permits and when you feel it is right for you. No Brother should feel coerced into resuming their Masonic activities prematurely.

With a membership spread across so many different countries, it has not been possible to devise a 'one size fits all' strategy for the resumption of meetings. The guidance contained in this note is most relevant to members in England whilst those in Scotland, Wales and Overseas, should follow the guidance issued by government and public health authorities in those areas.

TIMELINE

From 17 May 2021

Units in all Orders will be permitted to hold meetings of up to **SIX** people subject to government restrictions that may be in force and if the local Head of Order is content to lift the local suspension. This may be agreed on a Centre by Centre basis to reflect the fact that some venues will remain closed for the time being. Separate guidance on ceremonies permitted to be conducted in such meetings will follow shortly.

Larger gatherings of up to **THIRTY** people may be permitted at venues that have carried out a risk assessment, considered all relevant government guidance and taken all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of transmission. In such cases, the maximum permitted attendance may be restricted to less than thirty if the risk assessment identifies a lower maximum capacity to be appropriate.

In all cases, dining may resume but will be restricted to groups of up to ~~SIX~~ people.

From 27 June 2021

All Units shall be permitted to return to meeting as normal.

Units that cannot resume meeting because the members have indicated they do not wish to do so at this time or are prevented from doing so because their meeting place is not open, may continue to make use of the Virtual Business Meeting scheme until it is possible to recommence physical meetings.

It is not yet clear what restrictions or government guidance will replace existing measures but as soon as these are known, we will issue an update.

PERMITTED ATTENDANCE

Some Brothers have asked whether individuals who have not been vaccinated will be allowed to attend physical meetings when they resume. Introducing any form of restriction based on vaccination status would place an undue burden on Units and may prove difficult to police.

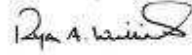
It is the responsibility of every Brother to ensure that he only attends meetings if he is free of Covid-19 symptoms and, having regard to his general health, deems it appropriate and safe to do so.

FURTHER GUIDANCE

We recognise that the planned resumption of meetings will raise questions which are not covered here so I will shortly be issuing a separate note containing updated guidance and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

We believe that this strategy represents a sensible approach to returning in-person meetings within the framework set out by the UK government. Any change in circumstances affecting this roadmap will be notified to you as soon as possible.

With fraternal regards and best wishes,



R.W. Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W.
Grand Secretary

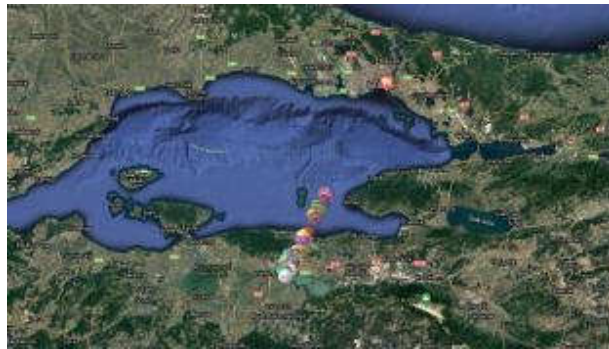
Surrey Mark Virtual Balloon Race



The Easter Balloon Race departed from Istanbul, Turkey, at noon on the 4th April 2021.



Over 440 of our balloons joined the race from Istanbul and were tracked on their journey south across Asia Minor.



Some balloons popped on the way, others went off course and even turned back towards Istanbul due to the changes in the wind direction.



At the end of the race the Surrey Balloon Race Winner was Brian O'Donoghue who won a lovely Easter Cake baked by our Master Baker, VW. Bro. Jerry Gangadeen of Richmond Lodge of Mark Master Masons.



The 7 runners up were:

Paul Brockwell who won a £30 Amazon Voucher

Keith Rashleigh who won a £20 Amazon Voucher

Norman Jones who won a £10 Book token

Charlotte Woodward who won a £10 Book token

Matt Jarvis who won a £10 Book token

Norman Jones who won **another** £10 Book token

Richard White who won a £10 Book token

As well as being a fun event for Surrey Mark Masons and their families, supported by members of other Orders in Surrey and other Provinces, the Balloon Race raised over £1,000 for the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival.

A special prize of a wooden spoon was awarded to our Provincial Grand Master's family as Charlie Clark's balloon managed to travel 1.95 kilometres.

Article and pictures by Chris Eley



Antique Medals shine through for Essex Mark



Friday, 9 April, saw the fourth in the series of Zoom presentations organised by Essex Mark Masons.

Following a few moments of silent reflection following the sad death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Prov.G.M., Terry Sheern, introduced Essex Freemason and television presenter Mark

Smith, who proceeded to entertain the assembled viewers, numbering in excess of 70 members and guests, to a fascinating and hugely entertaining presentation about his career.

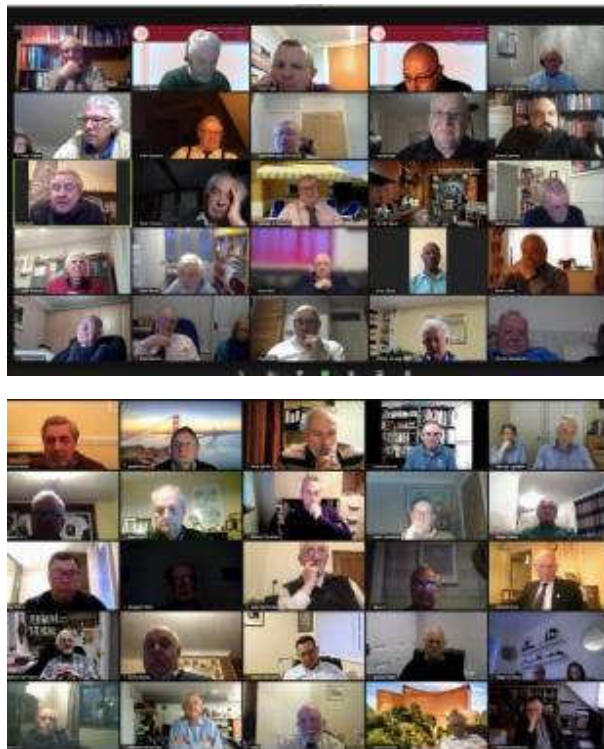
Mark spoke movingly about how he had a near death experience when he was struck by a car, and how he changed his direction in life. He moved from working for NATO to become the director of the Royal Artillery museum in London. This led to his role on the BBC television programme Antiques Roadshow.

As a young man, Mark's interest in militaria - his specialist subject on the Antiques Roadshow - started with four medals. His collection had now grown to be over 7500. Throughout the talk, Mark amused us all with many tales about his interactions with the BBC film crew and the members of the public.

Questions from the members present were answered by Mark to finish what a truly entertaining evening.

The Prov.G.M. thanked Mark for his time and for his excellent presentation.

We all look forward to the final of our current season of Zoom talks in June, when we will hear from American Mason Ben Williams. Details of which will be circulated shortly.





Nine Arches Council of Royal and Select Masters



Nine Arches Council No. 302, in the East Midlands District, held a Virtual Business Meeting in lieu of its regular meeting on Wednesday, 14 April when forty five members attended. The Council meets in the daytime at either Corby or Northampton Masonic Centre and membership is restricted to Past Thrice Illustrious Masters and has the privilege of conferring the Silver Trowel degree at its April meeting.

The presiding officer for the meeting was the Immediate Past Thrice Illustrious Master, Very Illustrious Companion Russell Howard, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark for Bedfordshire and the Recorder of the Council is Right Illustrious Companion Tim Hancock, District Grand Master for Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

After declaring the meeting open the Presiding Officer asked all to bow their heads for a moment of respectful silence following the recent death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The Companions attention was then drawn to the death of two Honorary Members of the Council; Right Illustrious Companion John Brackley, Past Deputy Grand Master, and Right Illustrious Companion 'Tommy' Thomson, Past Grand Councillor, both of whom had been Consecrating Officers of the Council. Again the members held a moment of silence in respect to departed merit.

The Presiding Officer then conducted the business of Council which included the Election of Thrice Illustrious Master and Treasurer plus the approval of the revised Council By Laws. Before closing the meeting, the Presiding Officer invited the District Grand Master, Right Illustrious Companion Martin

Wilson, to address the Companions and he brought the Companions up to date of matters relating to Grand Council and the District.



Across Social Media

On Facebook - A significant milestone for a good friend of Mark Masons' Hall

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FMarkMasonsHall%2Fposts%2F811396033060222&width=500&show_text=true&height=902&appId"
width="500" height="902" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0"
allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share"></iframe>
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And, a lesser-known duty of the Grand Secretary

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FMarkMasonsHall%2Fposts%2F813138616219297&width=500&show_text=true&height=746&appId"
width="500" height="746" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0"
allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share"></iframe>
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On Twitter - A new MBF sponsored DocBike hits the tarmac in Dorset

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1382612156625997826>

And, the second Mark Province of Kent Mike Baker Memorial Lecture is rolled out

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1381902482360569856>

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 Secretariat³ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁴

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁵

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk⁶

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

[Click Here⁷](#) 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.uk⁸



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

⁴<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

⁵<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

⁶<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

⁷<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

⁸<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 Here⁹](#) 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.

⁹<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 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.com¹⁰ 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 Here¹¹ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here¹² for the updated complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here¹³

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 Surrey¹⁴

2023 West Yorkshire¹⁵

2024 Cheshire¹⁶

2025 Oxfordshire¹⁷

¹⁰<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

¹¹https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

¹²[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)

¹³<http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

¹⁴<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁵<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2023-west-yorkshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form/viewdocument>

¹⁶<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2024-cheshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

2026 Hampshire & IOW¹⁸

2027 Warwickshire¹⁹

2028 Somerset²⁰

2030 Essex²¹

¹⁷<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁸<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2026-hants-iow-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁹<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

²⁰<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

²¹<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 Study²² 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



²²<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

