



Freemasonry@86 News - 23 April 2021



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

The Queen at 95



On Wednesday, 21 April, we joined with our Brethren across the UK and the Commonwealth to think of Her Majesty The Queen on what would normally have been the happy and joyous occasion of her 95th Birthday.

¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters



Were it not for Covid-19 restrictions, Tuesday, 20 April, would have been the Annual Assembly of Grand Council.

The Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick John Jones, was please to send this message to Companions of the Order to mark the day and to congratulate those receiving appointment or promotion in the Order.



<https://youtu.be/HmoZjGpdVlw>

You can download a copy of the address Here²

And a list of Grand Rank recipients Here³

²https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news/rsm/pdf/Address_on_the_day_of_Grand_Council_-_Tuesday_20_April_2021.pdf

³https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/RSM_Grand_Officers_List_2021_.pdf

The District of Oxon, Berks and Bucks celebrate recipients of Grand Rank



On the same day, the District of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire held a Zoom session in the evening to congratulate those Companions who had received Grand Honours in the years 2020 and 2021. The meeting was also attended by the Thrice Illustrious Master or Recorder of each Council in the District, and the District Executive.

The picture shows the companions raising a glass to congratulate the recipients. These included the active appointments of V.III.Comp. Graham Seeman as President of the Executive Committee, and III.Comp. Alan Baverstock as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The Address by the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick Jones, was then relayed and the Companions appreciated his encouragement and guidance. The evening concluded with toasts, in Royal Navy style, to the Queen, the Grand Master, and to R.III.Comp. Tim Hancock, the District Grand Master.

Cryptic in the Caribbean

Staying with the Royal and Select Masters, the Inspectorate of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands held their annual meeting as a VBM on, Saturday, 17 April.



The Grand Inspector, Harding Overton Watler, declared the meeting open and a minute's silence was observed in respect of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Presiding over this, his first annual meeting since being appointed in November 2020, R.III.Comp. Watler welcomed the distinguished guests and heads of other Orders in the Inspectorate, making special mention of the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick Jones, and the Grand Recorder, R.III. Comp. Ryan Williams.



After the regular business had been conducted the Grand Inspector addressed the Inspectorate. He congratulated the six Companions who will be receiving appointment or promotion in Grand Council. He mentioned that it is hoped to Consecrate a new Council in Montego Bay to serve the Western Caribbean, hopefully early next year. In conclusion he thanked the Inspectorate Officers for their support and assistance over the past year and said that he is looking forward to the year ahead.

The Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick Jones, briefly addressed the meeting. He expressed his thanks for the invitation and offered his congratulations to those Companions receiving Grand honours and said he was looking forward to being able to be with everyone in the not too distant future.



The Grand Inspector for Jamaica and The Cayman Islands thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Article and photos by Chris Eley, P.Dist.G.Lect. (Surrey).

Ben gears up for a summer on wheels



W.Bro. Allan Jones of Gordon Lodge of M.M.M. No. 364 in the Province of Kent, kindly sent us some picture of his grandson, Ben Jones, enjoying some time out and about on his new bike which was provided with assistance from a grant, initiated by the Province, of £4,000 channelled through the Tree of Hope Charity last year.

Ben suffers from Mowat-Wilson Syndrome. The new bike allows him to improve the strength in his legs, his co-ordination and his independence.

The bike was delivered a few weeks ago. Allan's son, Kieran, (Ben's father) has also taken delivery of an electric bike and trailer.

They are now looking forward to the summer and being able to go out for rides a bit further afield.

In the update, Allan sent his thanks to all involved for the help provided in "making Ben's dream come true".





MBF Quarter One Report

Continuing in the style of the new-look MBF Annual Review, we have been pleased to circulate details of the MBF funding for the first quarter of 2021.

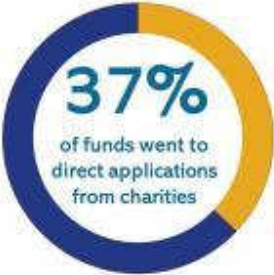
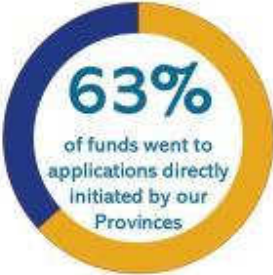


Mark Benevolent Fund

Q1 Review January - March 2021

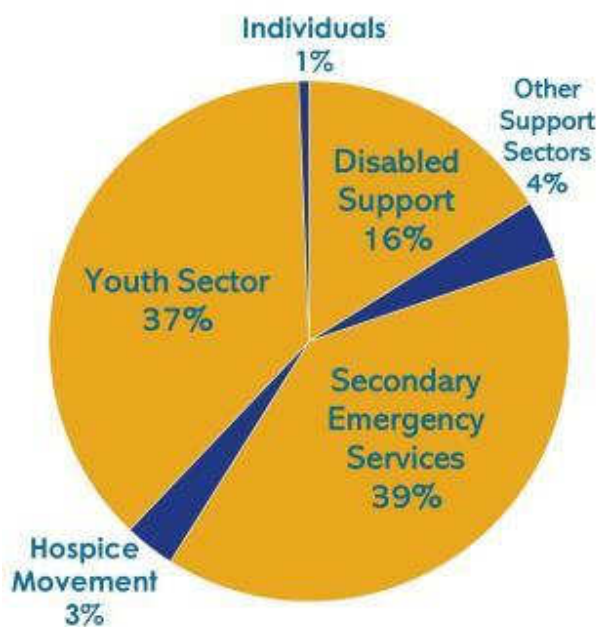


- £51,096 - Supporting those with Disabilities
- £10,000 - Hospice Movement
- £124,284 - Secondary Emergency Services
- £118,047 - Youth Sector
- £11,530 - Other Support Sectors
- £2,050 - Individuals





At a Glance...



£3 17,007

In the first quarter of 2021 the Mark Benevolent Fund made 16 Grants to individuals, local charities, Provinces and other worthy organisations across England and Wales





£29,600
For 74 arts, crafts and sensory trolleys across 43 hospitals nationally





£25,000 + £5,000
Provincial Contribution
Providing 125 laptops to be use by young carers and in the primary education sector in the Province

£20,000



Miskin Mill Scout Village

for the rewiring of the premises based on the River Ely at Miskin Mill, Pontyclun, South Wales




Cardiac Rehab
Aspirin & Alan Cardiac Rehabilitation Charity Ltd

£6,100
to replace furniture at their purpose-built Rehab Centre in Alton

£5,000
funding for the final part of the 'Feeling, Talking Walking Garden' project




£5,000
For the running costs of the 'Mark Mason' bike for 12 months





£62,890
Replacing a mezzanine level at the lifeboat station in Maryport, Cumbria

£5,192



Scouts
1st Burstow Scouts

for replacement boundary fences at the Scout Hall in Burstow



Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead RDA
Riding for the Disabled Association
Incorporating Carriage Driving



£18,506
Towards the completion of the structure at their new premises in Effingham

£27,590 For a new safety boat



DISABLED SAILORS ASSOCIATION
REAL sailing for ALL ages and ALL disabilities in wheelchair accessible boats



£6,880 
 1st Warringham Scout Group - providing disabled access and landscaping for their Scout Hall 

  **£13,375**
 Funding for much needed work at their premises in Sheffield

£56,394
 For the construction of a brand new lifeboat in Norfolk 

£18,000 
 Colney Heath Scout Group - providing a much needed lifeline to save the Scout Hall and Group in Hertfordshire

 **REIGATE AND BANSTEAD WOMEN'S AID** 
£5,530 Freedom from abuse
 Providing two bespoke commercial washing machines for their refuge based in East Surrey

£10,000  **forget me not children's hospice** 
+ £7,500 Provincial Contribution
 Funding towards the boiler replacement at the hospice in West Yorkshire



2

Grants totalling
£2,050 were
made to
Individuals

The Chairman of the MBF Petitions Committee writes:

'Petition applications have been surprisingly slow since the beginning of the year with just 5 applications received. The coronavirus pandemic has, undoubtedly, caused some members financial hardship as evidenced by the number of applications received last year, and whilst I am aware that Provinces are, quite rightly, providing assistance in appropriate circumstances, the MBF is here to consider support to anyone with a qualifying Mark Master Mason connection that might need our assistance.

May I therefore take this opportunity to remind lodge Almoners and Provincial Almoners that we will be only too pleased to consider suitable applications for assistance.'

*R.W.Bro. H. Keith Emmerson, Past Deputy Grand Master
 MBF Trustee*

You can download a copy of the review Here⁴

Cheshire and North Wales O.S.M. Charity Presentations 2021



1 - Tony Stringer, Dep.Prov.G.S.R., after presenting a cheque for £2,000 to Alison Knott, Regional Fundraiser for Parkinsons UK. Due to Covid restrictions, the presentation took place in a car park in Nantwich, as Alison is presently home-based.

Even though we have been unable to meet in person for over twelve months, the Secret Monitors of Cheshire and North Wales can still be relied upon to support good causes.

Every year the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, David Littlewood, reaches out to the members to support two good causes, one in Cheshire and one in North Wales, as nominated by members of two Conclaves.

This last year we have supported Parkinsons UK, Cheshire region, nominated by Norton Priory Conclave No. 226, and Hope House Children's Hospice in Oswestry, nominated by Seal of Solomon Conclave No. 463.

At last allowed to meet outside, the cheques for the two charities of £2,000 each were presented recently by the Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Tony Stringer.

Both charities are worthy causes that have suffered greatly during the pandemic and were highly delighted to receive the support of our members.

⁴<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/mbf-2021-q1-review/viewdocument>



2 - Dave Loughlin, Supreme Ruler of Seal of Solomon Conclave, presenting a cheque for £2,000 to Cat Dowdeswell, Area Fundraiser for Hope House Children's Hospice in Oswestry. Similarly, due to Covid restrictions, the presentation took place in the grounds of Hope House.

Surrey's 'Keystone' hits the inboxes

the surrey keystone

Issue 107, April 2021

A Message from your Provincial Grand Master

Brothers, we have talked about light at the end of the tunnel for some time but many, during this troubling time, I have decided, after consultation with the Heads of the Progressive Orders in Surrey that the suspension of Mark Masonry in the Province will be lifted on Monday 21st June 2021.

I am hopeful that by then a sufficient number of our members will feel confident in being able to return, without too many restrictions. Virtual Business Meetings (VBM) can continue for a period after that date and I encourage you all to continue to keep in touch and support those in need. The Provincial Grand Secretary will issue guidance and assist as far as he is able to assist Lodge Secretaries.

My thanks to those who joined the "Let's Get Together" in March, it was very well attended by our members and served a useful purpose. I will be hearing the Provincial Treasurer offering his best assistance in respect of fees.

Our Annual meeting will now take place at Droydon Masonic Lodge on Saturday 17th September 2021, when we will have the pleasure to receive Mr. Roy Raymond Smith, the District Grand Master, and the Grand Secretary R.W. Ben Ross Williams.

I offer my sincere congratulations to those to be honoured by the M.M. Grand Master with Grand Rank, in recognition of your efforts for our Order, with the hope that you will take on additional responsibilities as a Grand Officer. I shall forward to you your names in separate mail.

Once again I thank those members of the Province who have signed up to become Festival Stewards of the Surrey 2022 MRF Festival, which will be the 10th Mark Lodge in the Province to have every member of the Lodge as a Festival Steward!

The Annual Cricket Match between Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Middlesex will be hosted by WIMBORNE on Sunday 18th July 2021. Whilst Chris Hutton is the Team Manager and he is proud to be in the team this year. If you, your son, or your grandson is a cricketer please let Chris know. All time professional cricketers are invited to be accepted. This is a farewell and all the proceeds will go to our Festival Programme are being printed and will be sent to Lodge Secretaries.

Ian N. Clark, Provincial Grand Master

154th MRF Annual Festival Stewardship

As Provincial Grand Master for Surrey I have the honour of providing over the 10th MRF Festival, when the Province will host the Festival in July 2022 on behalf of the Mark Benevolence Fund.

We are fortunate that Surrey has been selected as the first Province to have the new Festival Stewards. I now invite the members of the Province to become a Steward of the Festival and to wear the Festival sash.

Stewardship of the Mark Benevolence Fund Festival costs £300. This can be gifted and donated to the Festival. That £300 will count towards your personal Stewardship with the Mark Benevolence Fund. You will be given:

- A very distinctive medal
- A bronze pocket watch
- Your fee
- Name added to the Steward's Roll of Honour in the Festival Book of Lists

I think it is a special and distinctive jewel, the first of its kind, a collection of items specially designed by Sir Sir. Roy Ross for the MRF.

Stewardship of the Surrey MRF 2022 Festival is available now and an application form is available on the web site <http://www.markmasonry.org.uk/news/2021/04/12/>

Another Big Thank-You to Pride of Surrey Council

At a recent Virtual Business Meeting of the Wide of Surrey Council of Royal and Select Masters the Council approved a further donation of £200 towards the 2022 MRF Festival. This brings their total donation to £300.

Present at the meeting was the District Grand Master, R.H. Camp, District Steward, our First Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who thanked the Council on behalf of the Mark Province of Surrey for their very generous donation.

Our Provincial Grand Charity Steward is the Clerk of the Council, our Provincial Grand Secretary is the Treasurer, and our Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master is the Recorder. This may have had something to do with the donation.....

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey website: <http://www.surreymasonry.org.uk/>



Bonus Ball Update

Congratulations to the Mark Bonus Ball winners:
 Avelin Bennett of Mark of Surrey Lodge, Stephen Dreyfus of Woodgrange Lodge, David Blamling of Woodhill Boscville Lodge, Colin Ryan of Cranleigh, Catherine Lodge, David of Fynewebble Lodge, Phil Young of Oakton Hunt Lodge, Colin Bryant of Cranleigh, Catherine Lodge, Michael French of St Andrew's Lodge, Debbie Fellowship Lodge, Catherine Lodge, Ian Parsons of Cranbury Lodge and Ian Parsons of Cranbury Lodge (2019), (also kindly of Wood of Fynewebble Lodge, Mark Dreyfus of New Lodge, Colin Ryan of Cranleigh Lodge and Ian Parsons of Cranbury Lodge and Ian Parsons of Cranbury Lodge).



It's easy to purchase a ball – just click on <http://www.mark-bonus-ball-online.com/uk/>!
 Mike's Mark May Day Quiz

A reminder to book in for the next Festival Quiz taking place via Zoom on Sunday 17 May at 7.30 p.m.

Learn your way through a quiz team of 12, £15 was raised for the Mark Benevolent Fund. Entry is £5 per team. Prizes, games, raffles are all eligible to join in. (Bring pot-pourri, food and drink). In July we had 11 teams competing and everyone said that it was a fun way of keeping in touch. To book a place go to <http://www.mark-benevolent-fund.co.uk/kathal-events-6953.html>

QUIZ NIGHT

A Big Thank-You to Waverley Council
 At a recent Virtual Business Meeting of the Waverley Council of Royal and Select Masters the Council approved a donation of £1,000 towards the 2020 MFF Festival.



The Presiding Officer, Ed Comp, 204 Burs, Thane Herbertus Master, our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, declared the meeting open and welcomed all present. Companion Jay Selley, our Provincial Grand Treasurer, was elected. Thane Herbertus Master for the coming year and V.G. Comp, Ray Harvey, and Provincial Grand Master, was elected as Treasurer.

A donation took place regarding charitable donations. It was proposed that the sum of £1,000 be donated by the Council towards the Surrey Mark 2021 Festival. This was carried unanimously and Comp. Ian Clark, our Provincial Grand Master, thanked the Corporation of Waverley Council for their very generous donation to the festival.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Status of Surrey website: <http://www.mark-benevolent-fund.co.uk/>

Mark Grand Rank Appointments and Promotions

Congratulations to the Surrey Brothers who will receive appointments, re-appointments or promotion to Grand Rank in 2021. It is hoped that the appointments can take place at the meeting of Grand Lodge on the 18th September 2021.

By appointment to Active Grand Rank		Advanced 888
Christopher Willey	G.O.D.	Woodgrange 1111
Paul Wicking	G.Sent.	
Appointments to Past Grand Rank		
Kevin Woodhead	S.A.G.D.C.	Wood of Surrey 1224
John Kilwell	P.C.S.R.	Weybridge 442
John Hanks	P.C.S.R.	Brook of Friendship 1270
Promotions to Grand Rank		
David Blackburn	P.G.S.O.	Benedictus 1742
Robert Tushill	P.G.S.O.	Lodge 714
David Rowland	P.G.S.O.	Perry 114
John Colman	P.G.S.O.	Perry 114
John Woodville	P.G.S.O.	Advanced 888

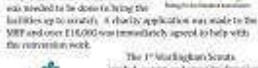
8 raffles are through Province of Surrey

Surrey Mark Virtual Balloon Race

The Surrey Balloon Race departed from Ipswich, Suffolk, at noon on the 4th April 2021. Six of our balloons, led by the race from Ipswich and were tracked on their journey south across Asia and Africa. The Balloon Race raised over £1,000 for our Festival. For a report and photos see <http://www.mark-benevolent-fund.co.uk/news-6953.html>

Recipients of MBE grants

Within the last month three Surrey chapters have been supported by grants from the Mark Benevolent Fund. The Handley, Ledburn and Leatherhead RDA's for the Disabled Group had their house at the turn of the year and although they located a new one, much work was needed to be done to bring the facilities up to scratch. A charity application was made to the MFF and over £16,000 was immediately agreed to help with the renovation work.



The 1st Wokingham Scouts needed a ramp and some ramps were at their Scout hut to enable entry access for those who are disabled. £1,300 was sought and immediately granted.

The 1st Dunrobin Scout Group had a problem with fencing. To their credit, they set about to erect one section themselves but needed another section to be professionally done, so made a two part application, one for fencing only and the other for supply and erect. They quickly received a grant for over £2,000 enabling them to make secure their hut and surrounding land.

And we have recently received an application to provide marking machines for a Women's Refuge, which is being warmly considered.

let's 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 (P.G.M.) had to hold a Virtual Business Meeting for a second consecutive year and therefore has moved the Annual Meeting to Saturday 13th September 2021 when hopefully it should be able to be as all in most as Covid-19 allows. The



In his introduction P.G.M. Day said that during the last year we have been so much to keep in touch and encouraging everyone to keep in touch with each other. We have had many success in doing so, and that Get Together was another way of keeping in touch and at the same time helping everyone on a number of ways of the working things coming up. This included proposals in respect of Annual Fees and changes by Provincial Grand Lodge, some details of Festival Standards etc, an update on when our annual charitably to the MBE 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 hear the names of those Brothers who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above since September 2020. W.Drs. Tim Ford, Provincial Grand Secretary, read the names of those Brothers, followed by a five minutes of reflection to remember them.



W.Dr. Ray Lewis, Provincial Grand Treasurer, gave his report. The accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 are now on the website and will be put for formal approval when our Annual Meeting is held. His report for the year is also on the Provincial Website. He gave some good news about a reduction in fees, both Mark and R.M., that Lodges will be paying on 1 September 2021, which means the charge will be £5 per head from £8. The change to Lodges for symbols of £25 will not be made in 2021, and there will be no Provincial charges for those allowed, divided in paying Lodges in the year from September 2021 to August 2022.

W.Dr. Bill Beer, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, spoke about charity and the Mark Develer's Fund.

He said that charity is at the very heart of all we do as Masons. It helps a help poor in our countries and around the world with street parties to collect funds for charitable purposes. He spoke about the work of the MBE in supporting of action such as Hope for Tomorrow, a charity providing mobile chemotherapy units for cancer patients, saving lives long and being able to transport the struggling St John Ambulance with vehicles, beside years after the last time we did the very same thing. Many of us were at the field for a presentation to St John Ambulance when a newly provided vehicle about our in a busy year will be handed by the Mark and still in use. About 1000 provided by Mark Masons following the London Charity Walk, now travel all over the country with their life saving cargo.

W.Dr. Bill said that charity is not a one-way street in that much of what we collect comes straight back home with over £160,000 given to another charities operating within the Province.



Close to home, and all within the last month, we have had three charity events supported by the MRF. The Sunday, Brighton and Loughborough Riding for the Disabled Group, the 1st Macmillan Sports and the C¹ Festival Local 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 MRF Festival.

The next item was congratulating those Provincial Grand Officers receiving an Appointment, Be-appointments, Promotions and Provincial Royal Arch Master Grand Rank. Our Provincial Grand Master was pleased to re-appoint M. Rex, John Forreth as his Deputy Provincial Grand Master and W. Rex, Richard Knox and M. Rex Gill as his Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. The Archivist Provincial Grand Officers appointed last year were all given the opportunity to continue in office. Newly appointed are W. Rex, Leslie Brown, and M. Rex, Michael Howarth as an Assistant Provincial Grand Officer of Decorations.

M. Rex, Ian and Stan, Ian has become Provincial Grand Chaplain since 2018 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. Rex, Loch for all that he has done in Surrey Mark since his first active appointment as Senior Deacon nearly two years ago.

The Provincial Grand Secretary read out the 2021 Appointments to Active Rank, Promotions, First Appointments and those appointed to Provincial Royal Arch Master Grand Rank.

W. Rex, Bill Burr reported on the Surrey 2022 MRF Festival Event. He started with an how the weekend will unfold and also how the preparations for it are progressing. Our MRF Festival will be celebrated on the first and the second of July 2022 at the Ellingham and Copplestone Hotels near Dorking, with the first of Banquets being held on the Saturday evening at the Millers Arms Suite. The event will be staged over two days and begin check-in on Friday 2nd July to check-out on the Sunday, it is hoped that we, our partners, family and friends and our VIP (Sponsorship) guests will be well entertained and thoroughly enjoy the occasion. There will be a good quality buffet with dancing and entertainment including a cruise in the Millers Arms Suite on the Friday evening. This should prove a relaxing and enjoyable evening and set the tone for a great weekend. On the Saturday morning there is local planned transport here being arranged to showcase our Surrey County. There will also be four golf in the hotel grounds. This is set out like a traditional golf course and involves kicking a football into obviously bigger holes. There will also be traditional golf with perhaps a water feature at a local course.

Saturday evening to the Main Event. There will be a drinks reception in the large lounge and restaurant with a complimentary drink for all, followed by a three course banquet with wine. Given the surroundings and environment, the cost of £80 per head is quite reasonable. Tickets will be available soon and the advice is to book early as numbers will be limited and as soon as they are referred to other Provinces at the beginning of July there will be a waiting list.

Following the three course banquet, the Grand Secretary, R. W. Rex, Iwan Williams, will announce the total that Surrey has achieved and the results books will be handed out by our Stewards. There will be other speeches, including one by our Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Rex, Ian Clark, followed by dancing until midnight to the West End Society.

The leading lights from Victoria Masons.

On the Sunday morning, following breakfast, we will say farewell, being enjoyed the fellowship and company of our partners, members and friends old and new. This event is a once in a lifetime. In spirit of an, so everyone is encouraged to support our fund raising and make a booking for the Festival Weekend.

W. Rex, John Forreth, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, gave an update on our progress with the Surrey 2022 MRF Festival Fundraising. He said that so far our contributions to our Festival are concerned, we must congratulate the members of the Surrey Installed Masters Lodge on receiving the highest award, Grand Patron Honour. Well done as this is a wonderful achievement. There are 48 other Lodges who have achieved Grand Patron Title, with many more at Grand Patron level. Thank you all so much for what you have done and, more importantly, what you will continue to do.

Together we can make a difference and should anyone need any help please ask our Provincial Grand Charity Steward who will have you in the right direction - having been rolled up for quite some time now! Everyone was encouraged to do as much as we can to raise precious funds for the Surrey Mark Festival.

There followed a question and answer session after which our Provincial Grand Master thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Surrey website: <http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/>

You can download a copy Here⁵


⁵<http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/Surrey-Overseer/Surrey-Keystone-Newsletter-Issue-13-April-2021.pdf>

While West Yorkshire are 'Marking Well'

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons
Province of West Yorkshire
Marking Well Newsletter April 2021 Issue 16

The Big Return


As we all look forward with great hope to a return to our Freemasonry later in the year, let me take this opportunity to thank all of you, the Mark Masons of West Yorkshire, for your support, loyalty and commitment during what must have been one of the most difficult periods in our 150-year history. Everyone has in some way had a part to play in keeping our Freemasonry and our Mark Masonry alive and well, and I congratulate you all.



Our Provincial Sesquicentenary Meeting has now been rescheduled to 23rd October due to the pandemic, and what a celebration that is going to be, our first Provincial meeting in two and a half years, so let's celebrate in style. It will be an event of great pageantry and splendour, along with a few surprises, a spectacle designed to showcase our wonderful Province, so please do wear your Sesquicentenary Jewels for the occasion. The Pro Grand Master will be present, and every Mark Lodge and Worshipful Master will be involved in the Ceremony. Admission will be by ticket only due to the expected numbers, so please make sure you book in when tickets become available. It only happens once in every 150 years.

So, we have a great deal to look forward to. Get those shoes polished, iron those shirts, polish those jewels and find out your ritual books, as we all now get ready for.....

The Big Return.



Thankfully, whilst we may yet have some hurdles to come, the light is undoubtedly shining brightly at the end of the tunnel and no doubt, you are also looking forward to when we gather with our Brother Mark Master Masons in friendship, fellowship and harmony, whoopee. Unfortunately, there has been little Masonic activity since the last Newsletter until March, the AGM of the Queen and Whitehead Trust, and April, the Virtual Provincial Grand Lodge, both appear in this issue.

Additionally, some thoughts from W. Bro. Andrew Johnson who will take over as the Communications Manager from the beginning of November. An excellent choice who I am sure you will warmly welcome, particularly as you will not have to put up with my rantings, or will you? Andrew is to have a busy year as the Provincial Grand Senior Warden and I have agreed to support him, as he wishes, until April 2022.

You can download the full Newsletter Here⁶

And they have also produced this great flyer reminding Brethren that's we should all take some time to talk.

⁶<http://download.mmh.org.uk/Marking-Well-16.pdf>

Your Mental Health Matters

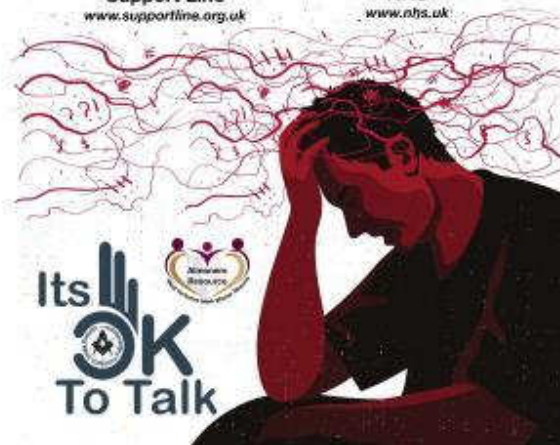
Around one in four men will experience a mental health problem this year. Yet the shame and silence can be as bad as the mental health problem itself. Your attitude to mental health could and would change someone's life.

If someone is acting different, ask.....TWICE

Help Information

Andy's Man Club
www.andysmanclub.co.uk
Men's Minds Matter
www.mensmindsmatter.org
Safeline
www.safeline.org.uk
The Calm Zone
www.thecalmzone.net
Support Line
www.supportline.org.uk

Better Help
www.betterhelp.com
Mind
www.mind.org.uk
Time to Change
www.time-to-change.org.uk
Rethink
www.rethink.org
NHS
www.nhs.uk



[Click Here⁷](#) to download a copy

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FKent
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⁷http://download.mmh.org.uk/Time_to_talk.pdf

MarkMasterMasons%2Fposts%2F2893300977605329&width=500&show_text=true&height=319&appId
" width="500" height="319" 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 - West Yorkshire Mark on their bikes for Festival Fundraiser

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1381716978193338372>

Ribble Valley Consistory - a step closer to Consecration

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1384198106774867975>

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 Secretariat⁸ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁹

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall¹⁰

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk¹¹

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

[Click Here](#)¹² 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.uk¹³

⁸<https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

⁹<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

¹⁰<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

¹¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

¹²<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

¹³<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 Here¹⁴ 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.



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: 022 3146 3352. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1184703; Company No. 09751836

60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5AZ | www.mcf.org.uk

MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

The new-look MBF Stewardship Jewels have now been designed for the following Festivals:

2022 Surrey¹⁵

2023 West Yorkshire¹⁶

2024 Cheshire¹⁷

2025 Oxfordshire¹⁸

2026 Hampshire & IOW¹⁹

¹⁴<https://fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Appeal-KT2042020>

¹⁵<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁶<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2023-west-yorkshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form/viewdocument>

¹⁷<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2024-cheshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁸<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁹<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2026-hants-iow-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

2027 Warwickshire²⁰

2028 Somerset²¹

2030 Essex²²

2022 and 2023 Jewels are currently available for purchase while others will be made available in due course.

²⁰<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

²¹<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

²²<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 Study²³ 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



²³<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

