



Freemasonry@86 News - 21 May 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>

Focus on The Great Priory of the Order of Knights Templar



Wednesday, 19 May was to have been the annual meeting of the Great Priory of the Temple but sadly, for the second year running, the meeting could not be held due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., was pleased to record this video message for the Brother Knights of the Order.



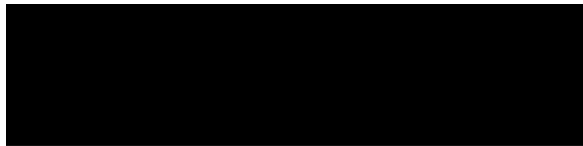
<https://youtu.be/YNkd2aGSBxc>

Prior to the Grand Master's video being released, the Great Prelate, R.E.Kt. The Reverend Malcolm C. G. Lane, *JP*, K.C.T., had also been pleased to send a message of spiritual encouragement to the Brother Knights; kindly recorded by Kt. Tony Charles of Gwent Preceptory No. 115 (Monmouth & South Wales)



<https://youtu.be/tV80q59luOY>

At a time when the Middle East is very much in the news, you can watch this short video which highlights the link between the Knights Templar and the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and how we have been raising funds to support them in the 20 for 2020 Appeal which was launched last year.

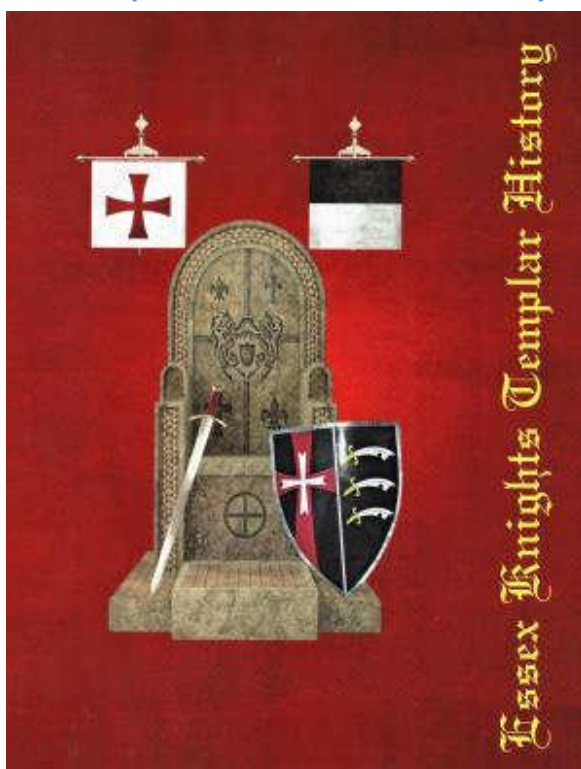


**St John of Jerusalem
Eye Hospital Group**



<https://youtu.be/dyXcie2BwtA>

The Provincial Priory of Essex publish their definitive history



At the Provincial Priory of Essex Zoom meeting on the 13 May 2021, the Provincial Sub-Prior E.Kt. Roger L. Smith, P.Gt.St.B.(B.), acting on behalf of the Right Eminent Provincial Prior, announced the launch of the Province's new book "**The History of the Knights Templar Province of Essex**" to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Province.

Available in both hard and soft cover versions with over 200 pages in full colour with hundreds of photographs and illustrations.

The book is not just a comprehensive history of the formation of the Province of Essex some 90 years ago, but also gives the histories of each of the 24 Preceptories and all of the Provincial Priors since 1930 with additional information and items of historic interest to Essex Knights Templar Masons going back to 1724.

All profits from the sale of these books will be donated to the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital.

Foreward

In writing this introduction I follow in the footsteps of two Provincial Grand Masters and Grand Superintendents of Essex, who whilst as the Provincial Head of the Craft – in the case of John Michael Webb in 2006 with "The Master's Chair", and it's "A Companion Volume" of the Royal Arch – in the instance of Rodney Lester Bass in 2017 as the Grand Superintendent, were asked to likewise express their thoughts.

As the current Provincial Prior of Essex under the authority of The Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas I feel both personally privileged and honoured to be associated with a like-minded "companion" history relating to Knights Templar Masonry in the Province of Essex.

As an avid reader and collector of many different types of historical books – both fact and fiction over many, many years – I am a great believer in the research of events from the past as they so often have a bearing, as well as likewise an impact, on what happens in the present era or on those experiences and circumstances to come. I am personally convinced that: **"The present and the future are nothing without a knowledge of our past and its history"**.

Such a book as this, is usually written to celebrate a particular anniversary – a 25th; a 50th; perhaps a 75th; a centenary or a bi-centennial – such was the case in 1980, to mark the Knight Templar Jubilee Anniversary of the Province, when V.E.Nr. Arthur A Murphy, KCT was the Provincial Prior. On that occasion it was a 32-page pocket size booklet comprising a short history with extracts of Gratiations, printed in a black ink text format.

So some might say or even ask why is this edition being produced in what is the 90th Anniversary Year since the founding of the Knight Templar Province of Essex – on the **30th September 1930** – and not in ten years' time, which might be a more appropriate moment in our history?

I would humbly suggest that this is for a number of reasons. Primarily, there is no time like the **present** to write a history of the **past** as it becomes a record for future generations. Secondly, as this decade passes that will be a project for others who hopefully might see this account and endeavour to improve upon it! Thirdly, one of the foremost investigators and motivators – and thus the editorial researcher and author of this volume – is E.M. Brian Colin Wright who was so deeply involved in the production of those previous Craft and Chapter Companion Editions. Brian, has thus copied and complimented their style to illuminate and illustrate this volume – to him we all, and I especially, owe a deep debt of gratitude for all his endeavours and hard work.

And perhaps . . . **Really**, I believe, as the current Provincial Prior of Essex, that now is the most opportune and perfect moment to acknowledge the debt of gratitude, those brethren who are the current members of this wonderful Christian Degree within Essex, owe to **V.E.Nr. the Rev. Felix Eustace Crute, MA, KCT**, who was the Founding Provincial Prior of Essex and without whose vision, efforts, dedication and determination we would not be celebrating this Anniversary at this particular moment in time.

Anthony John Helliar,

Provincial Prior of Essex

December 2020

The Team



The Provincial Priory of Warwickshire invite you to view their 2021 Annual Chapter of the Provincial Priory of Knights of Malta



The Provincial Priory of Warwickshire has held an Annual Provincial Malta Meeting for many years. Traditionally, as well as appointing and investing the Officers of the Year, two Brother Knights are Installed as Knights of Malta.

This year required a change of plan, due mainly to the fact that only a virtual meeting could be held and that ritual could not be practiced. Honoured once again by the presence of the Great Prior of Malta, Very Eminent Knight Jonathan Whitaker, and the Great Sub-Prior of Malta, Very Eminent Knight Steven Warwick, an enjoyable programme of 'Malta' events were conducted.

Why not Click Here to watch the video² and witness the appointment of E.Kt. David Satchwell as my Provincial Prior of Malta and the retirement of his predecessor, V.E.Kt. Roger Harrison? The latter includes a 'surprise' presentation, done with the collusion of his wife, to belatedly celebrate his retirement as Provincial Sub-Prior. Amongst other things, he is presented with a 'Gladius' as a token of his Brother Knights esteem. (Don't know what a Gladius is? Watch and find out!)

Included in the proceedings is a presentation by the Warwickshire Preceptory of Improvement, outlining the birth and origins of the Knights of Malta. You even have the opportunity to participate by singing along with the National Anthem and the 'Malta Hymn'.

The whole meeting lasts just 50 minutes. So, click on this link³ and join your Brother Knights in Warwickshire in celebrating the joys of the Order of Malta.

Please, keep keeping safe.

R.E.Kt. Roger E. Dixon, Provincial Prior, Provincial Priory of Warwickshire.

²<https://adilo.bigcommand.com/watch/tkgBUH7O>

³<https://adilo.bigcommand.com/watch/tkgBUH7O>

Hertfordshire Mark Masons are funding life-changing technology



In the middle of 2020, the Hertfordshire Mark Executive agreed to fully fund a high-tech ground-breaking development which has already dramatically improved the quality of life for a small boy and his family.

Back in December 2017, a seemingly healthy little chap named Lex suddenly stopped breathing in his mother's arms, suffered four heart attacks and almost died. Following months in hospital on life-support systems, Lex returned home with a diagnosis of SMARD1 (Spinal Muscular Atrophy with Respiratory Distress), an incredibly rare and incurable genetic disease.

He's a truly remarkable and happy little boy who continues to smile and laugh despite the need for a tracheotomy and having to live with numerous life saving machines and nurses day and night. But brain damage from his strokes and degeneration from SMARD1 led to the conclusion that Lex would never be able to speak.

This inability to communicate was incredibly frustrating for little Lex until a newly developed piece of technology, the Eye Gaze communication system, would enable Lex to express himself through eye movements. The system is expensive, there was a very long waiting list for the technology and it was imperative that Lex learnt how to use the system before SMARD1 caused his tongue, limbs and facial muscles to deteriorate.

The Hertfordshire Mark Benevolent Fund fully funded and provided an Eye Gaze unit through Lifelites and the Noah's Ark Children's hospice and this was installed at Lex's home in September 2020.

Over the course of the last few months, Lex has made astonishing progress with this new technology and has shown both an increasing familiarisation with its workings and a continually improving ability to manage its capabilities.

In a recent edition of "Mark in Time", the Herts Mark digital newsletter, the Hertfordshire Mark Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Maurice Smith, shared a video of Lex using the Eye Gaze system with the Brethren of Herts Mark and noted: "Brethren, I urge you to take two minutes to watch this video, watch how Lex's eyes interact with the infrared sensors of the Eye Gaze equipment as he learns, and continues to progress. Not just fun and games, but vital learning steps designed to ensure that Lex will still be able to communicate as this terrible disease inevitably affects his already limited capabilities. I feel immensely proud to be a member of the organisation that has made this possible, as members of the Hertfordshire Province of Mark Master Masons, you should be proud too."

In March 2021, there was a remarkable development brought about by Lex's progress with Eye Gaze. Lex was able to be considered for ground-breaking clinical trials - one of only 8 to 12 children in the world to be included. He was officially enrolled in the study to be undertaken by the US team that will be doing gene therapy clinical trials for the SMARD1 disease.

Even more recently, Lex has started to vocalise while using Eye Gaze, to the extent that the speech and language teams from Great Ormond Street Hospital have said that he can trial a speaking valve that will allow him to use his vocal chords to produce speech more naturally (he currently makes noises using the leak in his tracheostomy).

The incredible progress of Lex and the truly life-changing effects that this has had for the whole family has moved the Hertfordshire Mark Executive to launch a new initiative to fund another Eye Gaze system for another young child in desperate need.

Two potential candidates have been identified and the process to determine the most suitable recipient has now begun.

As Mark Master Masons, we should all feel humbled and proud to have been able to make such a difference.

Story from W.Bro. Clive Goodrum, W.M. of Bishops Stortford Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1236

Civic Recognition for two of Kent's special boys in blue



R.Dist.Comp. Phil Clare, Provincial Grand Summus for Kent and W.Bro. Jason Pearson Prov.G.Stwd. (Kent Mark) of Lord Harris Mark Lodge No. 1494, are both members of the Metropolitan Police

Special Constabulary. Like many masons at the start of the pandemic they both wanted to help and make a difference in their communities. Phil contacted Bexley Council offering their services. It soon became evident that the council staff who were delivering emergency food packages and medication had reached saturation point and were struggling to keep up with demand. Jason and Phil stepped in and volunteered at the busiest times at weekends, doing 12 hour shift allowing the council staff to actually take a break to recover and to deliver the emergency food, medication and welfare checks. They covered this role throughout the whole of the first lockdown allowing the council staff to return to their normal duties. Demand lowered and the council were able to take back over.

On Saturday, 15 May Phil and Jason received a Civic Recognition of Outstanding Achievement from the Mayor of Bexley.

The citation reads.

During the early summer of 2020, Council Officers were joined by firefighters from the London Fire Brigade to deliver much needed supplies to all parts of the borough, in support of those residents who had asked for help. It was clear at certain points that requests for help were over-running the numbers of those available to delivered food and medications across the borough. It was at this point that the Council received a telephone call from Phil Clare, who was volunteering with the Met Police.

Phil Offered the services of himself and a number of Special Constables from Bexleyheath, who were able to work, primarily at weekends, on a callout basis, to deliver the supplies across Bexley. They were above to fill the gaps, at times when most others were trying to get some rest.

Phil and his team never asked for thanks, did it all as volunteers and were in fact never formally thanked for the magnificent work that they did.

This is Bexley's opportunity to say 'thank you' to these amazing people, who gave up their time, to ensure that our residents received food, supplies & medication.





Dates for the dairy

In the hope that the Government may soon announce the lifting of restrictions, we have started making plans for the Autumn.

Dates to note are:



Annual Convocation of Grand Senatus - Thursday, 2 September (moved from May 2021)



Quarterly Communication of Mark Grand Lodge - Tuesday, 7 September



Annual Meeting of Grand Priory - Thursday, 9 September



Annual Assembly of Grand Imperial Conclave - Tuesday, 12 October (moved from July 2021)



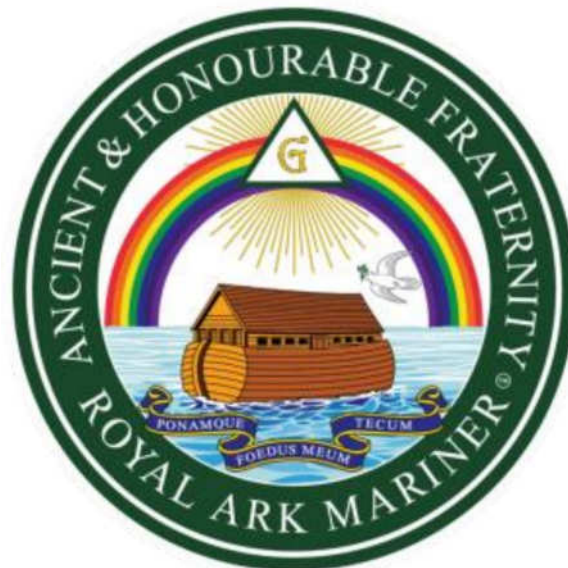
Annual Meeting of Grand Council - Tuesday, 26 October



Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave - Thursday, 11 November



Annual Chapter of Great priory of Malta - Tuesday, 16 November



Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner - Tuesday, 14 December

Across Social Media

[On Facebook - The perfect gift for the golfing Mason with Scottish connections](#)

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FG
randLodgeScotland%2Fposts%2F4037719582980259&show_text=true&width=500" width="500"
height="627" 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, for the Bridge players amongst you...

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fguildstjohn%2Fposts%2F3106816739540586&show_text=true&width=500" width="500" height="532" 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 - Sussex O.S.M. are ready to get back to meeting

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1395078917233553411>

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1395291375982231554>

And, the crew from Angle Lifeboat Station, home to the Tamar Class 'Mark Mason' take to the sea for a choppy training session

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1395471826709532677>

Read more about her Here⁴

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 Secretariat⁵ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁶

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁷

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk⁸

The Shop@86 is now open for customers from 2 p.m. on weekdays, as well as for online orders via the website

Click Here⁹ to visit the Shop@86 website

Please note: During the current Government Covid-19 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

⁴<https://rnli.org/what-we-do/lifeboats-and-stations/our-lifeboat-fleet/tamar-class-lifeboat>

⁵<https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

⁶<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

⁷<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

⁸<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

⁹<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

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.uk¹⁰



The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised over £47,000 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.

¹⁰<mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk>

You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just [Click Here](#)¹¹ 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.



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 ASO INFO when texting your donation. All donations are administered by the Relief Chest Scheme (Grand Priory Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation helpline: 020 3146 3352. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1184703, Company No. 09751626

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 Surrey¹²

2023 West Yorkshire¹³

2024 Cheshire¹⁴

2025 Oxfordshire¹⁵

2026 Hampshire & IOW¹⁶

2027 Warwickshire¹⁷

¹¹<https://fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Appeal-KT2042020>

¹²<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹³<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2023-west-yorkshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form/viewdocument>

¹⁴<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2024-cheshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁵<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁶<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2026-hants-iow-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁷<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

2028 Somerset¹⁸

2030 Essex¹⁹

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



¹⁸<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁹<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 Study²⁰ 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.

²⁰<https://covid.joinzoe.com/>

Normal service resuming @86



Mark Masons' Hall reopened its doors to Brethren on Monday, 17 May and staff have returned to working on the fourth floor on a 'hybrid' rota basis. Whether in the office or working from home, all departments and teams are available via email and telephone to help and support as usual.

Mark Masons' Hall is pleased to be

