



Freemasonry@86 News - 28 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.

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<sup>1</sup><mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

## East Midland District – Royal & Select Masters, Holds Second Annual Virtual Business Meeting

On Saturday 22 May 2021 the East Midlands District, Royal & Select Masters, held its Annual Meeting via Zoom.

A total of 133 Companions joined in the video call and the District Grand Master opened the meeting at 11.00 a.m. and welcomed all those present to the virtual meeting.



After the Permission to hold the meeting had been read by the District Recorder, Illustrious Companion Ian Johnson, the District Grand Master formally welcomed the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Right Illustrious Companion Richard Gan, who had stepped in as the Grand Master, Most Illustrious Companion Kessick J Jones, was detained on a family matter. Right Illustrious Companion Gan thanked the Dist.G.M. for the welcome and said that he would address the Companions later in the meeting.



The District Grand Master then welcomed Right Illustrious Companion Ryan Williams, Grand Recorder; Right illustrious Companion James Newman, Grand Chancellor; and Illustrious Companion Dan Heath, Assistant Grand Recorder. He also welcomed the eighteen District Grand Masters in attendance and representatives of those that were not able to attend.

Following the list of Companions being appointed, the District Grand Master invited the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to address the Companions followed by the Grand Recorder who gave an update on the resumption of Masonry.



The District Grand Master gave his short address during which he formally welcomed everyone present including the Assistant Grand Master of the Mark and the Nine Heads of Orders present. He congratulated those Companions that had received Grand Rank in April 2021 and then gave an update as to the number of candidates waiting to come into the Order and the number of Ceremonies waiting to be conducted. He also welcomed to his first ever Zoom meeting Very Illustrious Companion Arthur March who at the age of 95 commented that he was now fully conversant with all technology!





## The May update from the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital

We're pleased to have received the latest update from our friends at the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, which has been emailed to Provincial Vice-Chancellors for onward transmission to Knights of the Knights Templar.

You can download a copy [Here](#)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/KT\\_update\\_May2021.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/KT_update_May2021.pdf)



**St John of Jerusalem  
Eye Hospital Group**

Memorial Palace  
The West Bank, P.O. Box 100  
Judea  
St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital  
Jerusalem  
P.O. Box 100000

## Knights Templar

St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital: May 2021 update

Dear Brother Knights,

During what continues to be an uncertain time, your invaluable support has allowed us to remain optimistic. While we anticipate a return to a level of COVID-19, we have stayed a step ahead in helping us to protect our much-loved Eye Hospital. Although the pandemic has greatly affected the hospital's ability to operate and treat patients, we hope to be in a much better position by 2022 and continue our mission to transform lives by saving sight.

### Recent crisis in Israel and Gaza

The recent crisis in Israel and Gaza began as a consequence of the confinement of houses and sections of Palestinian from the Shechem neighbourhood. As violence escalated, hundreds were injured in Gaza and over 35 people died. In Jerusalem, the violence led to hundreds of injuries. Around 20 of the casualties resulted in eye injuries, most of which have caused severe irreversible damage to eye tissues. Our clinical staff have been responding to this crisis and working tirelessly to help those in need. Our doctors have managed casualties at the hospital and have collaborated with their peers at other East Jerusalem Hospitals to provide ophthalmic care to those most in need. We are hopeful that the temporary ceasefire agreed on 20th May will endure.

### COVID-19 update

At the beginning of the year a third wave of COVID-19 struck Israel but fortunately most restrictions began to ease by the first week of March. There have been no spikes in infection for the last 3 weeks and at the time of this update, the number of new cases is less than 100 for a population of around 10 million. The vaccination programme has played a huge part in this success, with almost 5.5 million Israeli citizens now vaccinated. The Israeli Ministry of Health has eased restrictions on wearing masks outdoors and has completely reopened the school system. Currently, travel to Israel is restricted to residents of the country and those who received two vaccines.

In the West Bank and Gaza there is a dramatically different picture, there has been a significant increase in the number of infections. Gaza has been worse affected over the past three weeks. Palestinian Authority control areas have seen limited vaccination. In the areas with less than 200,000 vaccinated being issued out of almost 4.5 million people.

### Staff Vaccinations

All eligible staff working in Jerusalem have received their two doses of Pfizer vaccine, in line with the Israeli Ministry of Health guidance.



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All eligible staff in Hebron and in Anata have received the first dose of the Sputnik V vaccine. In Gaza, the majority of staff have also received their first dose of the Sputnik V vaccine.

By the end of May we plan for all West Bank and Gaza staff to be fully vaccinated.

### The St John Eye Hospital Group

During the first three months of 2020, Israel and the Palestinian Territories were almost free of COVID-19 and very little restrictions were in place.

The Group's clinical activities for the first quarter of 2021, compared to the same period a year ago, look promising.

• There is an 8% increase in outpatient activity and in all Hospital sites, including the Hebron Clinic and the Ophthalmology Clinic in the West Bank.

• The newly established Kater Assaf clinic (a 3-day eye care clinic outside the separation wall) linked to outreach activities is performing well.

• The number of surgeries being performed has increased by 8% and there is a 20% increase in cataract surgery.

• Paediatric surgery remains consistent and is almost performing at the same level as this year before with only 6 less operations.

### Thank you

In closing, we are very grateful to the Knights Templar. Your reliable support and generosity has allowed us to continue our sight saving work and we hope to do our utmost to keep you informed as our own of our most faithful supporters.

Wishing you good health and safety.

Kind regards,

Trevor Davis  
Fundraising Officer  
St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital





## The Mark Province of Cornwall give "CPR" support

The Mark Benevolent Fund approved a donation of £30,000.00 following an application by Mount Edgcumbe and St Lukes Lodge No 417, to the M.B.F in support of the C.P.R. foodbank, which covers the areas of Camborne, Pool & Redruth. We are pleased to announce that the handover of the vehicle was made by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Kevin Hicks, at the C.P.R. facility at Pool, the Provincial Grand master was joined by W.Bro. Keith Baker, Worshipful Master and W.Bro. David Langridge Charity Steward of Mount Edgcumbe and St Lukes Lodge No 417 along with W.Bro. Mike Pritchard, Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary.



You can read more on this, and all the latest news from Cornwall in the May issue of Marking Time - [Click Here](#)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/Mark\\_Newsletter\\_May\\_2021\\_Issue14.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/Mark_Newsletter_May_2021_Issue14.pdf)

## Somerset Mark's very own Blood Biker



Bro. Paul Marshall of the Carnarvon Lodge of M.M.M. No. 119 is a volunteer Blood Bike rider. He is on call one weekend in four, giving his time and motorcycling expertise freely to this great organisation. Paul emailed us to say that last weekend he was riding a BMW bike sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons!

Last weekend Paul was supporting the Great Western Air Ambulance and the Wales Air Ambulance, two other charities that are also well supported by Freemasons.

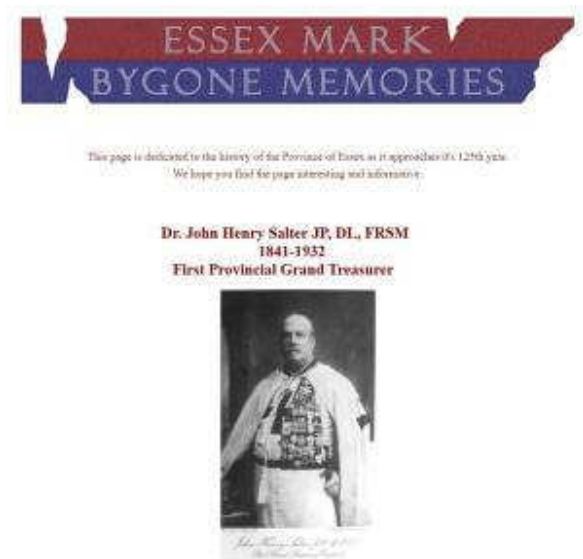
We hope the weather wasn't too wet Paul!

V.W.Bro. Ray Guthrie, P.G.S.O.

Webmaster - Provincial Grand Lodge M.M.M. of Somerset



## All go in Essex



The Mark Province of Essex have added two new features to their website, a page featuring Bygone Memories<sup>4</sup>

And the second of their new series of Podcasts, this one entitled The Fourth Regular Step<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.essexmark.co.uk/bygone-memories.html>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.essexmark.co.uk/recruitment-team-podcast.html>





## A Provincial Mess in Surrey

Once again, Covid-19 restrictions prevented the normal Mess AGM from taking place. This however did not stop some 40 members from ZOOMING in to the virtual replacement on Friday, 21 May. It was good to see so many enthusiastic members taking the opportunity to catch up with each other, the “Banter” being as relaxed and refreshing as usual.

Our Chairman, W.Bro. John French, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, opened the meeting and gave a warm welcome to all the attendees and expressed his pleasure at the level of attendance; and also that the Mess membership has maintained its pre-Covid levels, despite the difficulties that have been present during the last year.



After quickly getting through the usual business, (minutes, reports, accounts and election of officers), an open A.O.B item proved both informative and entertaining.

During this session W.Bro. John French called the attention of the members to the need for more Surrey players for the upcoming Inter-Province cricket match. In an attempt to cajole W.Bro. Andrew Sales into dusting off his whites there was a near breakdown of decorum when he replied that unfortunately it was not possible as he now had “Sparrows nesting in his Box”. This most interesting insight into his recycling activities produced an avalanche of reposts, mostly around the obvious small size of the said sparrows!

As things return to normal it is planned that the Open Evening Event will be held on Saturday, 18 September 2021 at Guildford Masonic Centre. This is a 'White Table' event open to members and their guests (Masonic and non-Masonic) and should make a fitting kick-off for the return of Masonic activities.

*Article by Tony Connor, PGO Mess Secretary*

## Coed Duon Conclave No. 602 O.S.M.

R.Wy.Bro. Keith Ferguson, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of South Wales and Monmouthshire, was delighted to join Brethren of Coed Duon Conclave No. 602 for the Installation meeting.

During the ceremony, Wy.Bro. Peter Hughes was Installed by Wy.Bro. Peter Kennedy.

In addition to the Prov.G.S.R., the meeting was attended by the Dep.Prov.G.S.R., Wy.Bro. Allun Jones, P.A.G.D.C., other members and guests.



## Across Social Media

Remember the Craft Brethren from Wiltshire who made the "All I want for Christmas.." video? Well, the boys are back...



<https://sway.office.com/RQGckRiPCqGMJsnD#content=uiQGoigNJ4trT0>

On Facebook - Kent MBF supporting the Kent Association for the Blind

Embed://<iframe

src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FKentMarkMasterMasons%2Fposts%2F2918974785037948&show\_text=true&width=500"  
width="500" height="361" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0"  
allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share"></iframe>

And, the St John Eye Hospital Group's Gaza Appeal is now open

Embed://<iframe

src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FMarkMasonsHall%2Fposts%2F835898120610013&show\_text=true&width=500" width="500"  
height="435" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0"  
allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share"></iframe>

Read more about the appeal Here<sup>6</sup>

On Twitter - Great news from DocBike Dorset

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1396320008431706114>

Oxfordshire relate the beauty of the Royal Ark Mariner

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1397507815779049473>

## 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 Secretariat<sup>7</sup> - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page<sup>8</sup>

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall<sup>9</sup>

Or you can email us at [communications@mmh.org.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)<sup>10</sup>

## Dates for the diary

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:

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<sup>6</sup><https://www.stjohnseyehospital.org/gaza-emergency-appeal-donations/>

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

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

<sup>9</sup><https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

<sup>10</sup><mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

	Annual Convocation of Grand Senatus Thursday, 2 September (moved from May 2021)		Annual Meeting of Grand Council Tuesday, 30 October
	Quarterly Communication of Mark Grand Lodge Tuesday, 7 September		Annual Communication of Grand Chapter Tuesday, 11 November
	Annual Meeting of Grand Priory Thursday, 9 September		Annual Chapter of Grand Chapter of Malta Tuesday, 14 November
	Annual Assembly of Grand Imperial Council Tuesday, 12 October (moved from July 2021)		Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Royal Artificers Tuesday, 14 December

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

[Click Here<sup>11</sup>](#) 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 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.uk](mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk)<sup>12</sup>



<sup>11</sup><https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

<sup>12</sup><mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk>



The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised over £48,000 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 Here<sup>13</sup>](#) 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.***

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<sup>13</sup><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 3352. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1184703. Company No. 06751836

60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5AZ | [www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk)

## MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

2022 Surrey<sup>14</sup>

2023 West Yorkshire<sup>15</sup>

2024 Cheshire<sup>16</sup>

2025 Oxfordshire<sup>17</sup>

2026 Hampshire & IOW<sup>18</sup>

2027 Warwickshire<sup>19</sup>

2028 Somerset<sup>20</sup>

2030 Essex<sup>21</sup>

We are still awaiting stock of 2025 and 2030 Jewels but this week we had 100 of the 2026 Jewels arrive at MMH which have now been posted out and we are waiting on further stock to arrive.

2022/2023/2024/2027/2028 are all ready and we have been posting these out.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>21</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2030-essex-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

We have added the bank account name to all the forms so please use the latest form and details as found in the links above.



















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 Study<sup>22</sup> 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.

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<sup>22</sup><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

