



## Freemasonry@86 News - 30 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.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)<sup>1</sup>**

## **Major Capital Grant of £1.25 million to support hospices in England & Wales**

The following letter was circulated this week to give Brethren news of a major capital grant by the MBF.

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



26<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**To: Provincial Grand Masters and Members of Provinces in England & Wales**

**Cc: Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund, Members of the Mark General Board and Provincial Grand Secretaries in England & Wales**

Dear Sir and Brother

**Mark Benevolent Fund  
Major Capital Grant to support Hospices in England & Wales**

In recognition of a lifetime of service and dedication to the Crown and the nation by His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund (M.B.F.) have approved a Major Capital Grant of £1.25 million to support hospices in England & Wales.

Every Mark Lodge in England & Wales will be invited to nominate a local hospice to receive a £1,000 donation wholly funded by the MBF with nominations being coordinated by each Province. Full details of how the Grant is to be distributed will follow shortly.

It is sure you will welcome news of this Grant which provides significant support to the hospice movement and demonstrates the M.B.F.'s continuing commitment to support worthy causes in our local communities.

With fraternal regards and best wishes,

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

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Click Here<sup>2</sup> to download a copy.

You can find out more about the MBF in this Freemasons Without Borders broadcast "The Mark Benevolent Fund - Past and Present"

The video features V.W.Bro. John Bell, P.G.M.O., President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, and R.W.Bro. David Ashbolt, P.Prov.G.M. (London), the Fund's Deputy President.



<sup>2</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/26.04.21\\_M.B.F.Major\\_Capital\\_Grant-Hospices\\_in\\_England\\_Wales\\_\(1\).pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/26.04.21_M.B.F.Major_Capital_Grant-Hospices_in_England_Wales_(1).pdf)

<https://youtu.be/YzMT-GUdcBs>

## Zooming in to the O.S.M. Province of Sussex



The Order of the Secret Monitor's Province of Sussex held their Annual General meeting on 24th April, and as per the existing masonic and national requirements, this was held electronically utilising the facilities of the Zoom application. Considerable planning went into this meeting to ensure all members of the Province and guests would be able to access the proceedings, and the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Dries Van der Burgh was delighted when almost the entire membership of the Province were in attendance. With many other notable guests also joining, the total number of brethren present was in excess of 127.



Although administrative in nature, the meeting was a joy to attend, with many brothers resuming masonic friendships face to face for the first time since the requirement to suspend regular meetings throughout the Province.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain led the memorial to those brothers who had passed to a higher service during the previous year, with a special note to His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh. A full minute of silent contemplation was held.



The Prov.G.S.R. appointed his officers for the year, and upon the reappointment of his Deputy, Wy.Bro. Tan Rusby, took great pleasure in highlighting the work Tan has been doing over the year to support him with the smooth running of the Province at Conclave level.



The Prov.G.S.R. went on to deliver his address to the brethren, the highlight of which was arguably his announcement that through prudent management of Provincial resources meant that no Provincial dues no joining fee and the first year subscription free to new members. This wonderful act will allow for many planning to join The Order of the Secret Monitor in Sussex to do so with little or no financial outlay for one or even two years. Well done Sir!

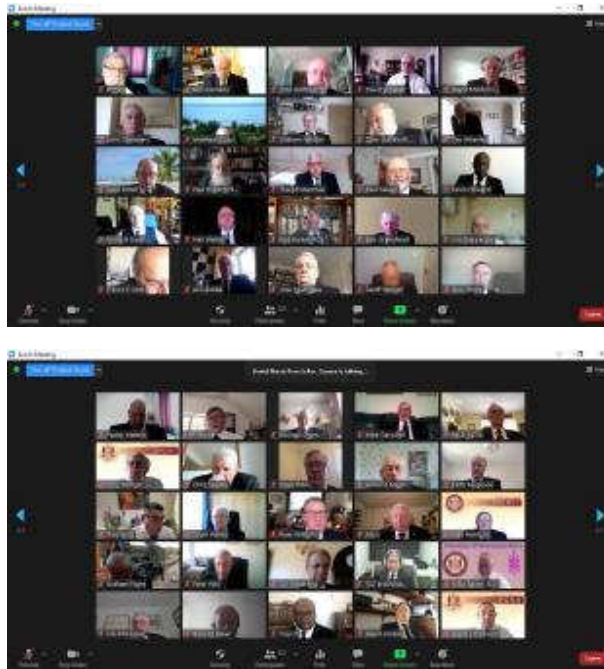


The Prov.G.S.R. invited the Deputy Grand Supreme ruler, R.Wy.Bro. James R. Hodge and the Grand Secretary, R.Wy.Bro. Ryan Williams to speak, who both gave positive and upbeat reports on the wider Order's work during the period of Covid restrictions, and the work being done at MMH to ease the burdens on members directly. Freemasonry at the national and provincial level has certainly not forgotten the hardship the current Covid crisis has caused to many of its members and has responded magnificently.



With the formal work completed the Prov.G.S.R. closed the meeting. This was followed by our wonderful visitors taking the opportunity to congratulate the Prov.G.S.R. on the smoothness of the meeting, and how professional the online voting was organised, thanks to the unofficial Provincial Grand Zoom Officer, Bro. Paul Brennan, who had run things seamlessly.

*Wy.Bro. Paul Swarbrick, Prov.Dep.G.D.C.*



## Essex Mark launch their new Podcast



The Essex Provincial Membership Strategy Team have produced a Podcast which they hope will be interesting and informative to Craft Masons as well as those who are already Mark Master Masons.

It is planned to broadcast a regular series of podcasts.

Click Here<sup>3</sup> to visit their website and listen to the Podcast.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.essexmark.co.uk/recruitment-team-podcast.html>

## Open City returns to London



We're delighted to announce that this year we plan to again be opening the doors of Mark Masons' Hall to members of the public as part Open City on Sunday, 5 September.

We first took part in this event in 2018 and were amazed at how well supported it was. In 2019 we were even more surprised by an exceptionally good turn out but in 2020 we had to make the event a virtual one.

It will be such a pleasure to see people back in the building this year (Government restrictions permitting) and we look forward to seeing many of our Brethren using this as an opportunity to show their family and friends this familiar home-from-home.





## Across Social Media

On Facebook - The Knights Templar Provincial Priory of Durham celebrate the day of their annual meeting



And some handsome RAM Jewels on display in Oxfordshire



On Twitter - Swinging with the Scottish Rite on International Jazz Day

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1387763471748567040>

Hope for Tomorrow continue to provide care during this difficult time for many

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1387751052615823365>

## 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>4</sup> - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall<sup>6</sup>

Or you can email us at [communications@mmh.org.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)<sup>7</sup>

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

[Click Here<sup>8</sup>](#) 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.uk](mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk)<sup>9</sup>



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<sup>6</sup><https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

<sup>7</sup><mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

<sup>9</sup><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 Here<sup>10</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.***



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

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>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup><https://fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Appeal-KT2042020>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

2023 West Yorkshire<sup>12</sup>

2024 Cheshire<sup>13</sup>

2025 Oxfordshire<sup>14</sup>

2026 Hampshire & IOW<sup>15</sup>

2027 Warwickshire<sup>16</sup>

2028 Somerset<sup>17</sup>

2030 Essex<sup>18</sup>

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

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<sup>12</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2023-west-yorkshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form/viewdocument>

<sup>13</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2024-cheshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

<sup>14</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

<sup>15</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2026-hants-iow-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

<sup>16</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

<sup>17</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

<sup>18</sup><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 Study<sup>19</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.

## Business as usual for the Staff@86



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<sup>19</sup><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

