



Freemasonry@86 News - 25 June 2021



Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Progressive Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

This bulletin is emailed to all Rulers in the Provinces, Districts & Divisions and their Secretariats, as well as subscribers.

**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>

## 153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Festival Result Announcement Saturday, 3 July 2021 at 2 p.m.



R.W.Bro. Alex Sillars McLaren, Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire and President of the 153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Festival, invites you to join him, V.W.Bro. John Bell, P.G.M.O., President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, and members of the Province at a very special Zoom meeting.

During the meeting, R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, P.G.J.W., will announce the grand total raised for this year's Festival.

Although the celebratory function, planned for this day at Old Trafford Football Stadium, has had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we hope you will be able to join us on the call and help make this a memorable event for everyone involved.

Look out for an email from your Provincial/Lodge Secretary sharing the log-in details for the event.

We look forward to joining you on the call.

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

## Hertfordshire Mark's Scholarship Award



For a number of years the Mark Province of Hertfordshire has sponsored a University of Hertfordshire student, the most recent recipient of this scholarship award is Chelsie Osborne who is reading for a BA degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology at the University of Hertfordshire Law School.

Chelsie wrote to us back in August 2019, shortly after the award of the scholarship, to express her gratitude for our support. She felt that the decision to bestow the award upon her was recognition and acknowledgment of her hard work in her previous studies and also her unceasing voluntary work with several good causes.

She explained that she had started volunteering at the very young age of 15 when she joined her mother to assist at the Hackney Winter Night Shelter. Despite the increasing academic demands and workload of her A-Level years, Chelsie continued her regular voluntary work at the Hackney shelter and went on to additionally provide voluntary assistance at the Arlington Centre.

Following the successful completion of Chelsie's A Levels, she was offered her place at the University of Hertfordshire and almost immediately increased her volunteering activities by signing up to become a member of the Beacon Victim Care programme.

Chelsie has said that she finds her volunteering to be both humbling and rewarding and recognises that the experience gained through these activities will open her eyes to "all the possibilities that our diverse communities hold".

There is no doubt in Chelsie's mind that the financial support afforded by the scholarship funds have helped her, and will continue to help her, throughout her academic years but have also enabled her to continue her volunteering activities.

In her most recent message to us, Chelsie confirmed that she is completing her final year of studies at the Hertfordshire Law school and everything is on track, despite the challenges of the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The scholarship funds continue to provide support for the purchase of books and, in her own words, "this extra financial stability provides me with the chance to embrace more volunteering opportunities such as my work with Beacon Victim Care and hopefully soon being a part of the Hertfordshire Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel".

Following completion of her degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Chelsie hopes to undertake a Masters degree, possibly in Forensic Psychology and Mental Health, to further her ambition to become a forensic psychologist. Whatever the future may hold, Chelsie is determined and dedicated to the continuance of her volunteering activities and will be ever grateful for the opportunities and assistance that this scholarship award has provided.



## M.B.F. sponsored Treatment Centre spotted on vaccine duty in Lincolnshire



One of our eagle-eyed Brethren spotted the picture on the Lincolnite website [Here](#)<sup>2</sup> which shows one of the St John Ambulance mobile treatment centres donated by the MBF, whilst also noticing that the bus depicted is actually from the Province of Nottinghamshire - proof of close cross border cooperation in the St. John Ambulance who are providing the service for the NHS and local Health trust - a bit like ourselves as Freemasons (it's understood that the Lincolnshire vehicle was being used elsewhere on the same day).

The bus has been provided by St John Ambulance with staff from local GP practices providing the vaccinations, all set up by NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

This has only been made possible by your support for the MBF and how good it is to see the fruits of our labours being utilised for the good of our communities. Congratulations Brethren, we have marked well. Please continue to support the MBF.

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<sup>2</sup><https://thelincolnite.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus/>

If you're in the area, the service offers the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccinations and will be available between 12pm-3pm on Saturdays at the following locations:

- Saturday, June 26 – The Arboretum (car park by the Monks Road entrance)
- Saturday, July 3 – Brayford Wharf North (near the Square Sail, opposite Lucy Tower Street)
- Saturday, July 10 – Lincoln Central Mosque (Dixon Street, next to Lidl)

*W.Bro. Stephen Roberts, P.G.J.D., Prov.G.Sec., Lincolnshire*



## Somerset Mark's Provincial Golf Day



The Somerset Provincial Mark Golf day in 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions in place last June. It was back with a bang on Friday, 18 June this year when a very creditable thirty two golfers met at the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club for the 15th annual Mark Golf Day. Held under the banner of the St Andrews Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1924, it was a wonderful opportunity to get together with golfing brethren and friends whom we haven't seen for some time. It gives us some hope that by September we will once again be meeting in our respective Lodges!

The weather was kind, cool but the forecast rain didn't arrive. There was some good golf and some not so good golf! Bro. Brian Pollard won the Provincial Grand Master's Shield for the best individual stableford score with an excellent 37 points. Full report and photos.<sup>3</sup>

Brother Brian was delighted to receive the Shield from the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Philip Voisey.

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<sup>3</sup>[https://www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk/Lodges/Midsomer\\_Norton/St\\_Andrews\\_Mark#Mark\\_Golf\\_Day\\_2021](https://www.somersetmarkmason.co.uk/Lodges/Midsomer_Norton/St_Andrews_Mark#Mark_Golf_Day_2021)

## A successful start in Surrey

The first meeting of any Order in Surrey administered by Mark Masons' Hall took place on Monday, 21 June at Surbiton Masonic Hall.

The afternoon started with the installation meeting of the Richmond Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 808. The Lodge was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. John French, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Richard Knox, the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Michael Barnes and a number of Provincial Officers, keeping the numbers to 30 in line with the Glenmore House Covid-19 accreditation.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master and other guests were welcomed by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Garth Blanchard.

The main item on the agenda was to install Bro. Wayne Lucas as Worshipful Commander. Bro Wayne has been waiting over a year for his installation, but it was well worth the wait as the Ceremony was conducted in an excellent manner by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Garth Blanchard.



Following the opening of the Mark Lodge by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Garth Blanchard, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master entered to much applause and was welcomed by the Worshipful Master. On this occasion he did not accept the gavel but said how fantastic it was to be attending a Mark meeting after so long and to see so many attending.



The Secretary, V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, gave a short talk entitled The History and Meaning of the Apron, which was well received and prompted some discussion afterwards. The Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro. Steve Jones, then gave his new presentation on the 2022 MBF Festival and all the initiatives and events that were planned to take place. Steve has been working on his new script for over a year during lockdown so he was eager to try it out on us....

One of the 2022 Festival initiatives is where we have encouraged our members to donate any surplus foreign coins or notes to the Surrey 2022 Mark Benevolent Fund Festival. W.Bro. John Woodville, the Provincial Grand Recorder, travels a lot on business so he brought in a shed load of money to present to W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood. This was very gratefully received and, as we all know, will be faithfully applied by the Mark Benevolent Fund.



Before the Lodge was closed the Deputy Provincial Grand Master thanked Richmond Lodge for their hospitality; and congratulated the Worshipful Commander/Master, W.Bro. Garth Blanchard, on the way he had conducted both meetings.



Dining was provided in the marquee set up by Surbiton Masonic Hall in the car park of Glenmore House to enable us to dine together under Covid-19 rules.



After the meal the staff at Glenmore House brought in a birthday surprise for the Secretary, V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, while everyone sang Happy Birthday. A lovely end to a very special day.



Many thanks to Robbie Dobbie and the staff at Glenmore House for looking after us so well, and so safely.

***Article and photos by Chris Eley***

### Spare Coins or Notes



When you return from your holiday or a business trip what do you do with your surplus foreign coins or notes – put them in a jar for future use? Or do you forget them and leave them lying in a drawer. Why not dig them out and donate them to the Surrey 2022 Mark Benevolent Fund Festival?

We can get them changed into Sterling and help raise more towards our Festival target. No matter what the currency or quantity or even if it is currency no longer in use – we can get it converted into cash.

Please do ask your family and friends if they have any coins or notes they no longer need as all contributions will be welcome.

Just collect them in your Lodge and get them to W.Bro. Bernie Greenwood.

Your donation will be combined with others as we need at least 5Kg in weight of coinage for free collection.

Bernie can be contacted on 07947 449494 or [Bernie.greenwood@btinternet.com](mailto:Bernie.greenwood@btinternet.com) and he will arrange to pick them up from your representative.

ANY COIN OR NOTE - ANY AGE - ANY CURRENCY,  
ALL HAVE A VALUE.



*Thank you for your continued support of  
the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival.*



## Northumberland Consistory No. 39 T.I.



Northumberland Consistory No. 39 T.I. enjoyed a return to meeting on Monday, 14 June 2021 at Ashington, Northumberland.

Dist.Comp. Paul Dunning was installed into the Chair of President by Dist.Comp. Malcolm Thomson. The Provincial Grand Sumus, Michael Jacques, was present and gave the Charge to the President.

The capacity for meetings is 24 at present and we were pleased to have 14 attendees on the night. Plenty of room for all. Hopefully Covid Restrictions will be over the next time we meet.

*Dist.Comp. Ewan Notman, III, Prov.G.Swd.B., Episcopus - Northumberland Consistory*

## Across Social Media

[On Facebook- They're pleased to be back in Warwickshire](#)

Embed://<iframe  
src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FWarwickshireMark%2Fposts%2F2831559653823194&show\_text=true&width=500" width="500"  
height="780" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0"  
allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share"></iframe>

[Kent Mark are enjoying Global Beatles Day](#)

Embed://<iframe  
src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FKentMarkMasterMasons%2Fposts%2F2937122533223173&show\_text=true&width=500" width="500"  
height="538" 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 - The Honeypot Children's Charity MBF Vehicle is buzzing about](#)

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1407682711293157379>

[St John's Day marked by our friends at St John Ambulance](#)

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1408079969884987397>

## 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>

## 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:

 Annual Convocation of Grand Senatus Thursday, 2 September (moved from May 2021)	 Annual Meeting of Grand Council Tuesday, 26 October
 Quarterly Communication of Mark Grand Lodge Tuesday, 7 September	 Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter Thursday, 11 November
 Annual Meeting of Grand Priory Thursday, 9 September	 Annual Chapter of Grand Priory of Malta Tuesday, 16 November
 Annual Assembly of Grand Imperial Council Tuesday, 12 October (moved from July 2021)	 Annual Assembly of the Honourable Honourable Fraternity of Royal Art, Malheur Tuesday, 18 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>8</sup>](https://www.shopat86.co.uk/) 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>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 £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>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.***



**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

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## MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

2022 Surrey<sup>11</sup>

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>

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<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>

<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>

2028 Somerset<sup>17</sup>

2030 Essex<sup>18</sup>

This week, the Charities team, Linda Read and Millie Pilson began sending out the 2025 Oxfordshire Jewels.

We are still awaiting stock of 2028 and 2030 Jewels.

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.

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<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.

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<sup>19</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

