



## Freemasonry@86 News - 16 July 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.

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

## Changing Covid rules with effect from Monday, 19 July 2021

The Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W., sent the following message to members of our Orders giving details of how the changes coming into force on Monday will affect our Masonic activity.

Earlier this week, the Prime Minister announced that from next Monday, England would move to Step 4 of the roadmap for exiting lockdown and it is significant that in acknowledging that the government's four tests for easing Covid-19 restrictions have been met, he emphasised the importance of caution and personal responsibility.

This latest easing of restrictions will provide a much-needed boost to those eager to resume face to face meetings which is why we have decided not to impose any restrictions over and above those required by law. However, we would recommend that you continue to follow best practice by making use of hand sanitising equipment, where provided.

The decision to resume attendance at face-to-face meetings is yours to make, having regard to your personal circumstances. No individual should feel pressurised into attending and where Units are unable to meet for the time being, the Virtual Business Meeting scheme will be available so that administrative business can be transacted.

- Face coverings – the legal requirement to wear a face covering in most settings reverts to guidance from 19 July. Consequently, it will be a matter of personal choice whether you wear a face covering when attending meetings unless the host venue mandates otherwise.
- Ceremonial guidance – the changes to the ceremonies we introduced in August 2020 (including the specific restrictions in the Red Cross of Constantine and Allied Masonic Degrees) should be discontinued as soon as is practicable after 19 July, except where local legal requirements are imposed in relation to matters such as social distancing. A candidate for any Degree must be made aware that there will be some physical contact during the ceremony he is about to take part in, so that he can make an informed decision about whether to proceed or not.
- Festive Boards – may resume in the usual format.
- Singing – will be permitted at Masonic meetings from 19 July, but it is recommended that the meeting room is suitably ventilated in order to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus.

The Covid-19 Situation in England is constantly changing and may require the government to alter its response periodically. It is essential, therefore, that you comply with all relevant legal requirements that may be in force from time to time.

Whilst welcoming the changes that are taking place next week, we must remember that there will be some who will not view the situation so positively. Every effort must be made to accommodate those who are more cautious by always taking a pragmatic and common-sense approach.

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

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<sup>2</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/16.07.21\\_ChangingCovidruleswitheffectfrom19July2021.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/16.07.21_ChangingCovidruleswitheffectfrom19July2021.pdf)

## The MBF Review of Quarter 2

We're pleased to share with you the details of how, in quarter two of this year, the MBF has distributed the money so kindly and generously donated by Brethren.



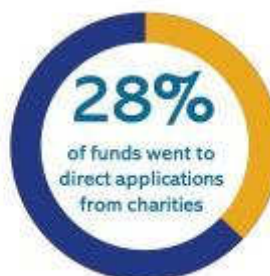
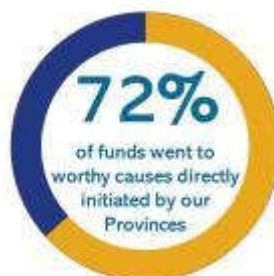
# Mark Benevolent Fund

## Q2 Review

April – June 2021

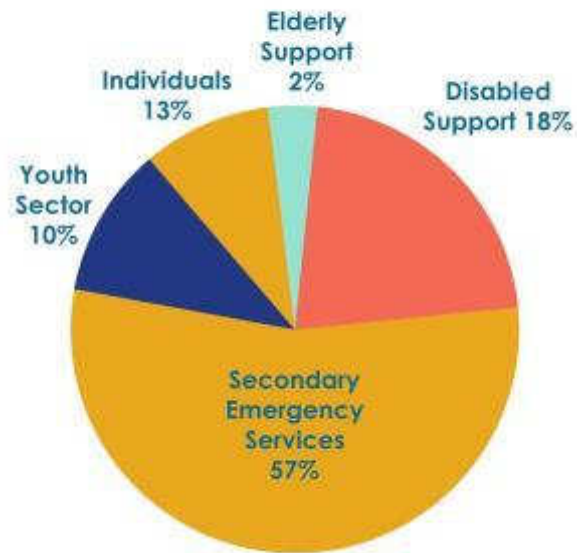


£33,440 - Supporting those with Disabilities  
£107,500 - Secondary Emergency Services  
£4,458 - Elderly Support  
£19,845 - Youth Sector  
£23,965 - Individuals





## At a Glance...



# £189,208

In the second quarter of 2021 the MBF made 22 Grants to individuals, local charities and other worthy organisations across England and Wales



# Worthy Causes

The Chairman of the MBF Worthy Causes Committee writes:

The Worthy Causes Committee have again been very busy in this 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter with a total of 10 petitions received, 8 were approved with just 2 being declined. I must again thank the Worthy Causes Committee for their very quick yet diligent replies, in some cases I am able to reply to our Charities Manager, Darren Coleman-Heald in under 24 hours which means the Committee is certainly living up to the MBF motto of 'Bis dat qui cito dat' - 'He gives twice who gives promptly'.

Brethren, we are only able to make these grants because of your generosity, so whilst I would ask you to keep up with this wonderful generosity, I would also ask that you keep an eye out for any worthy Charities that may benefit from help from the Fund and discuss first with your Provincial Grand Charity Steward. All such requests should then go to Darren Coleman-Heald who deals with them straight away and I thank him for carrying out his important role with much enthusiasm and zeal.

*R.W.Bro. David A. Ashbolt, P.Prov.G.M. (London)*  
Deputy President of the MBF



**£83,500**

Funding 10 mini portable scanners to assist in the diagnosis of collapsed lungs giving real time feedback to accident and emergency trauma centres via wi-fi.



Providing Emergency Medical Care



**£25,000 + £7,000**

**Provincial Contribution**

Enabling the charity to build a new boat replacing an older canal boat that is not cost efficient to repair.



**£8,440**

Purchasing demonstration equipment for use within a new state of the art Mobile Sight Centre. This will allow those who are visually impaired to assess cutting edge equipment within the clinically safe environment of the Mobile Sight Centre before buying for use at home.



Celebrating 100 years





**£2,500**

Supporting two Organ Study students with an award of £250 each year to assist in the purchase of sheet music and specialist shoes for organ playing. The 'Prince Michael of Kent Prize' will run for 5 years.







The Chairman of the MBF Petitions Committee writes:

'Whilst I reported in the Q1 that petition applications had been slow, I am sure you will not be surprised to learn of a more positive increase, with some 21 applications now received.

Regrettably, implications from the Covid19 pandemic continue which is likely to cause financial hardship to some of our members. May I therefore, remind all Lodge Almoners and Provincial Grand Almoners that the MBF is here to consider support to any with a Mark connection that might need our assistance.

To those Provinces that have not previously submitted an application, may I invite you to consider doing so should you have a suitable application needing support. We are here to help.

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

You can download these slides Here<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/MBF\\_2021\\_Q2\\_Review.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/MBF_2021_Q2_Review.pdf)

## Two Deputy Grand Masters go head-to-head... again



In Part Two of the unique “Doubled Headed Interview” recently featured in “Mark in Time”, the Hertfordshire Mark’s monthly newsletter, R.W Bro John Prizeman, Deputy Grand Master, interviews R.W Bro Keith Emmerson, Past Deputy Grand Master.

Following Part One, which was featured in the previous edition of Freemasonry@86, the tables are now turned, and the interviewee becomes the interviewer. Another fascinating exchange.

**JP - Firstly, Keith, may I thank you for having agreed to participate in this interview.**

**Q-** Let me start by asking how you first became aware of Freemasonry and at what age?

**A-** My father had his own letter-press printing business and when I reached 15 years of age, I left school to join him. I found we were printing the summonses for the local masonic lodge, and I was involved in the setting up of the type etc. My father was later invited to become a member of the lodge, which met every month at that time, and I remember saying to him that it must be boring doing the same three degrees on a regular basis. He declined to answer and just smiled!

**Q-** What attracted you to it to make you want to become a member.

**A-** I didn’t join masonry until I was 30 years of age. By this time, I had left the printing business, seen service with the Guards Independent Parachute Company and joined Kent Police. The police service at that time was very insular and I had no social connection with anyone outside the service. I recall discussing freemasonry with my father on a couple of occasions, and from what I learned decided this might be just the thing for me.

**Q-** What did your friends and family think of you joining.

**A-** When I told Dad I was thinking of joining he was, of course, very pleased. By this time, I had 8 years service primarily with the CID, was a married man with a young family and was stationed in the Medway Towns. Jean, my wife, was very supportive as this also gave her an avenue of new contacts.

**Q-** Do you have any other interests outside of Freemasonry?

**A-** In my adventurous early years I was involved in many interests including skydiving (a throwback to my military days), skiing, camping and climbing to name a few. However, as the years have gone by my time is now primarily committed to my garden and allotment, visits to my younger sisters and their families in Yorkshire and the yearly visit to Australia to see my daughter and the grandchildren over there. I have also renewed an interest in brass bands by learning to play the trumpet and to see how far I can progress through the grading system.

I am also committee chairman of the local Parkinson's UK branch having been invited to join, albeit I have no connection or previous involvement with this awful condition.

**Q-** What Progressive degrees did you join, how soon and what order?

**A-** Over the years I have joined most of the regular Orders, some of which I wish I had joined earlier. However, I was initially under the impression that you had to be invited to join rather than asking to join. In this respect I did not join the Mark until 1980 after my transfer to Hertfordshire Police. Other 'invitations' that followed over the years were KT, Rose Croix, Allied, Red Cross, Cryptic Degrees, Royal Order of Scotland, Operatives, KBHC, Secret Monitor, Scarlet Cord and Knight Masons.

**Q-** You were a serving police officer reaching high rank, was there any conflict in being a freemason?

(I understand if you would prefer not to answer this question)

**A-** I am happy to respond and can honestly say that as a detective in both Kent and Hertfordshire I experienced no conflict. As was the masonic norm in my early days, I did not broadcast my membership and saw it as something totally apart from my professional life. It was only toward the end of my service that concern began to be raised by some members in Parliament that police officers and others in similar public service should be freemasons. I totally disagreed with this and, in fact, made such reference to it in my inaugural address following my installation as PGM.

**Q-** What attracted you to the Mark Degree.

**A-** The Mark Degree is invariably referred to as the 'friendly' degree whereby members of any rank are able to freely converse with each other; something not quite so evident elsewhere. I was also impressed by the ceremony of Advancement.

**Q-** Your progression in the Order has seen you appointed PGM for the Province of Hertfordshire, Assistant Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master. Did you have ambition to make this progression? **A-** No. I have enjoyed whatever role I have been fortunate to be appointed to and have always endeavoured to do my best. It has been to others to recognise whatever qualities I might have as being suitable for a particular appointment.

**Q-** As Deputy you were particularly busy as you had to stand in for the Pro on several occasions. Did you relish these extra duties?

**A-** Yes, very much so. With the ProGM at that time being indisposed for quite some time I was delighted to have been able to stand-in for him. Whilst having the opportunity to install a new PGM is a great privilege, I think the high-light was being able to preside over the September Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in 2015.

**Q-** Do you see age being a barrier to holding high office?



**A-** No. Having said that, I do believe it important there is tenure of service to an appointment. I also believe it important that younger members with ability have the opportunity to be considered for senior appointments and are not hampered by those who have a reluctance to stand down. When I was AGM I suggested that 10 years as PGM was a suitable tenure period and was pleased when the General Board agreed to this. At present 75 years of age, brought in many decades ago, is seen as the age to retire from senior office. I would suggest we have moved on a little from those days when the age of

75 was seen as 'old', with some of us still willing and able to provide an effective service.

**Q-** You served as a trustee of the RMTGB and latterly the MBF how would you compare the operation of the charities.

**A-** It has been a great privilege to serve both the RMTGB and the MBF. The former was committed to providing support to children and young people whereas the latter is open to all with a Mark connection. Whilst the RMTGB is now a part of the MCF and will continue that support, the MBF is well recognised for the ability to provide support and assistance quickly. I think we are also recognised for some tremendous projects we have undertaken, such as those relating to Hope for Tomorrow and the St John Ambulance.

**Q-** What has been the highlight of your masonic progression?

**A-** Being able to display whatever talent and ability I have to the benefit of us all. I have to say that I have particularly enjoyed my time as DC or Deputy DC with the various Orders.

**Q-** As Past Deputy Grand Master, how do you see your present role?

**A-** Being available to offer support and advice to whoever feels I am able to be of assistance. Perhaps more importantly, to keep a careful eye on the present DeputyGM!!

**Q-** How would you encourage young men to join freemasonry and what advice would you give them in respect to progression.

**A-** By talking to those that express an interest and being open as to what freemasonry is and does. I also think it important, as referred to by you when asked a similar question, not to rush into other Orders too quickly but to seek fulfilment in those already joined. Enjoy the moment and the teachings offered as the journey through masonry progresses.

**Q-** Of all the offices you have held, which has given you the most pleasure?

**A-** Each office I have had the privilege to hold has provided a different challenge. I have enjoyed them all and cannot really hold one up against another.

**Q-** What has Freemasonry given you?

**A-** As the years have gone by freemasonry has become a way of life. Whilst it started as a way to socialise outside my profession with others of a like mind, it has also given me the opportunity to form very strong bonds with members as far away as Australia and New Zealand where I had the privilege of installing two previous District Grand Masters.

**Q-** With the Covid pandemic, Freemasonry has and continues to endure a very difficult period. What advice would you give to see us through this uncertain period?

**A-** It is important that we retain contact with each other and our lodges, and the Zoom facility has been invaluable in this. I believe regular communication, be it either social or as a virtual business meeting, is vital toward ensuring we are able to return, with confidence, to what we enjoy.

**Q-** How do you see the future and what overall challenges do you see ahead for Freemasonry generally and in particular the Mark Degree?

**A-** I think most will agree that it is going to be a difficult period when social guidance is fully lifted and we are able to meet again. Many members, particularly those of a more advanced age, are going to require re-assurance that it is safe to meet together again. Whilst I have little doubt we will, sadly, lose many members, I believe it incumbent on us all to seek to provide this re-assurance.

As regards the Mark Degree, I am aware that MMH, the Rulers, PGM's and lodges are engaged in seeking to provide that degree of confidence. As I said at the beginning of this interview, one of the benefits and joys of our Order is the openness and friendliness of all the members with each other regardless of rank. It is this acceptance that will prevail in ensuring our Order and all those administered from MMH recover and continue with a new strength.

**JP- Can I thank you Keith, for inviting me to interview you. As one of our past Rulers it is refreshing to hear your views and I am sure all will be grateful for the frankness of your answers.**

*With thanks to W.Bro. Clive Goodrum, Master, Bishop's Stortford Lodge of M.M.M. No. 1236, for supplying these interviews and images.*

## Mark My Words *The News Letter for the Mark Mason*



### Mark Masons' Hall - Present and Past

by : Roger Lewis

**D**uring recent research into the history of Dunraven Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.950, which is one of the oldest Mark Lodges in the Mark Province of South Wales, a footnote was discovered in the minutes which referred to an Appeal from Mark Grand Lodge which was referred to as the Keystone Appeal.

In the 1930s a further connection was discovered, that a letter was sent by the then Grand Secretary RWBro Major T G L Lumley Smith, who had been present at the consecration of the Lodge at the Masonic Hall Cardiff.

Little more was noted in the minutes other than every Lodge that contributed £5 per member would be entitled to receive a Keystone Jewel, a permanent jewel, which would be worn by every Master of the Lodge during his year in office.

The Jewel itself is worn on a ribbon, in the colours of Mark Grand Lodge and it shows two Mark Masons, a workman from the quarries and Junior Warden fixing a Keystone, with the inscription '*Lapis Reprobatus Caput Anguli*'. The stone that was rejected has become the headstone of the corner; beneath. It is similar in concept to a Hallstone Jewel worn by a Master of a Craft Lodge. The outbreak of the Second World War and other circumstances resulted in the project being postponed and eventually abandoned.



In the Provinces of South Wales and Dyfed, which was only one Province when this initiative was proposed, nine Lodges were awarded the Keystone Jewel. They were: Mansel, Five Arches and Lloventium in the now Province of Dyfed, Stability, Arthur Lewis, Afan, Sir Frederick Alban, Ysgolion and Cambrensis in the Province of South Wales.

This now begs the question of why was the project abandoned? Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a definite answer. It would appear that the outbreak of the Second World War played a significant part in the project's demise but few other details are

available. What facts are known is that it was to be built in Great Queen Street close to the United Grand Lodge of England.

The present Mark Masons' Hall is located at 86 St James' Street and was opened in 1979 close to Duke Street which houses the headquarters of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, Rose Croix. Sources indicate that initially discussions were ongoing to accommodate the two Orders at St James' but this did not happen.

The present Mark Masons' Hall, of which there have been a number since its early days in Great Queen Street, is an impressive Grade two listed Victorian building built in the middle half of the nineteenth century. It has an impressive frontage befitting its status in Freemasonry and houses a number of interesting artefacts including an early Master's Chair and an ornate staircase adorned with portraits of Grand Masters both present and past.



*With thanks to W.Bro. Roger Lewis, P.Prov.G.J.W. (South Wales Mark) and the Craft Province of South Wales for allowing us to reproduce this article.*

*You can visit their website [Here](#)<sup>4</sup>*

## It's coming home?...

South Wales Craft yesterday hosted the inaugural The Province's golf competition in support of the MCF. Warwickshire Mark played to support and we are pleased to announce that It is coming home. The cup that is, to Warwickshire. It was won by Worshipful Brothers Paul Rowlands, Ian Belsham and David Evans, and Brother Paul Skinner.

A fun day was had by all with all the proceeds going to the MCF.

*With thanks to W.Bro. Paul Rowlands, Prov.G.S.O., Warwickshire.*



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<sup>4</sup><https://www.southwalesmason.com/y-dalaith/>



## The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey was held as a Virtual Business Meeting on Saturday 10th July 2021.



The Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Patrick P Crossan, declared the meeting open and welcomed everyone to the first Virtual Annual Meeting of our Province and said he was delighted to be able to welcome everyone. He said that this was somewhat of an unusual forum for our annual meeting, constrained as we were in our planning by the Covid-19 regulations, but nevertheless he hoped everyone would enjoy the occasion and he looks forward to 'normal' service for our Malta meeting in September

After the minutes had been approved and the reports taken the Provincial Prior called upon the Provincial Treasurer, E.Kt. Graham Best, to read the list of donations to charity:

- St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital £1,000
- Mark 2022 Festival £500
- St Mary's Thorpe £150
- Banstead Church £100
- Pillar Fund (KTP) £100

These donations were approved by the Bro. Knights. After the regular business had been completed the Provincial Prior confirmed the reappointment of E.Kt. Peter Brown as Provincial Sub-Prior. He said that E.Kt. Peter Brown has served as his Provincial Sub-Prior for two years. His support, encouragement & experienced counsel have fully justified his decision and without hesitation he re-appoints him as Provincial Sub-Prior. The Provincial Prior then asked the Provincial Vice Chancellor to read the names of those Bro. Knights he is re-appointing, appointing or promoting in Provincial Priory saying to the outgoing Officers: *"I would like to thank the outgoing Officers for their support, Commitment and perseverance when we were unable to visit our Preceptories and other Provinces together due to the Covid lockdown. From September, when we can reconvene meetings with fewer restrictions, I have asked our Provincial Vice-Chancellor to offer you the opportunity to join the Executive on our forthcoming Official Visits. I do hope that this will, in some small measure, contribute to the enjoyment of your year in Office.* To the incoming Officers: *"As it is not possible for incoming Officers to be presented to me at this Virtual Business Meeting we will therefore call the roll of Officers for the ensuing year and then I will address you as a group. Hopefully I will be able to meet with you at the Provincial Priory of Malta meeting at Surbiton on 17 September"*



The Provincial Warden of Regalia, E.Kt. Steve Jones, made a presentation to the R.E. Provincial Prior of £420.29 from recycled regalia sales

The main item on the agenda was to receive an address from the Provincial Prior. In his Address he talked about how the pandemic has impacted on society and how we have had to learn to cope with the changes and to help each other.



Click [here](#)<sup>5</sup> for a copy of the Address by the Provincial Prior.

The Provincial Prior then thanked everyone for their attendance and support; and invited everyone to join him in reciting the Lord's Prayer. He then declared the Virtual Business Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Surrey closed saying may our Great Captain of Salvation keep you safe within the palms of his hands and keep you

*Article and photos by E.Kt. Chris Eley, P.Gt.St.B.(B.), Prov.Mar. of Surrey.*

## The Knights Templar in West Yorkshire appoint a Development Officer

**The United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta in England and Wales and Provinces Overseas**

**Provincial Prior**  
R.E.Kt. Hearl R. Lenton

**Provincial Sub-Prior**  
V.E.Kt. G.A.R. (Tony) Wilkinson  
P.Gt.Reg.



**Provincial Vice-Chancellor**  
E.Kt. Alexander Gilston, P.Gt.A.-de-C.  
16, Buckthorne Drive, East Ardsley  
Wakefield, WF3 2DA  
01924-826380 07842-165405  
prov.vice-chan@westyorkskt.co.uk

**Provincial Priory of West Yorkshire**

The West Yorkshire Knights Templar Province has taken an important step in promoting the Order and taking forward its 'Strategy for Growth'.

The Provincial Prior, Hearl Lenton has announced the appointment of a Development Officer for the Province. The Provincial Prior said, "In considering our Strategy for Growth it became apparent that

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<sup>5</sup>[http://download.mmh.org.uk/2021\\_07\\_Address\\_by\\_the\\_Provincial\\_Prior.pdf](http://download.mmh.org.uk/2021_07_Address_by_the_Provincial_Prior.pdf)

this is more than just recruiting new members. Whilst this is an important aspect I wanted to ensure that there is the widest possible awareness of the Order, and that we grow the membership base whilst at the same time looking to recapture former members. I also felt it is important to establish a dialogue with other Orders that have a defined link with our Order. In essence to develop Knights Templar within the Province”.

The new Development Officer will be Paul Eustace from De Ros Preceptory in Harrogate who has been a member of the Order for some time.

In accepting the appointment Paul said, “I am delighted to accept this challenge and look forward to working with the new team that will support it. I believe that the strategy we have developed, and will launch later this year, will raise the profile of the Order, which has historical connections with the Craft and the Holy Royal Arch. Our ceremonies point out and explain the link and progression between the two Orders and Knights Templar. We offer a fascinating, enjoyable and rewarding further dimension to a Freemason’s Masonic life”.

The Strategy for Growth initiative will be launched with a pilot scheme centred on Leeds in the autumn. It is then hoped to cascade it in stages throughout the Province.

## **R.S.M. District of Devon and Cornwall Virtual Business Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the District of Devon and Cornwall was held as a Virtual Business Meeting on Saturday 19th July 2021. Attending was the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick Jones, the Assistant Grand Recorder, Ill.Comp. Dan Heath, and Companions from many other Districts.



The Deputy District Grand Master for the District of Devon and Cornwall, Ill.Comp. Angus J Hardman, declared the meeting open and welcomed all present.

After the regular business of the District was completed, the District Grand Council Officers for the ensuing year were appointed.

The Grand Master was invited to address the meeting. He thanked the District for the invitation and congratulated everyone on a well run meeting. He also congratulated those District Officers appointed today, as well as those he would have invested in person at Grand Council in April. He said it was good to see everyone from other Districts present.



The Deputy District Grand Master addressed District Grand Council. He congratulated those Companions who received appointments or promotion in Grand Council in April as well as those who had been had appointed today.



The Deputy District Grand Master then thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed. Afterwards the guests all said how much they had enjoyed the meeting and sent their best wishes to the District of Devon and Cornwall.

*Article and photos by Ill.Comp. Chris Eley, P.Dist.G.Lect., District Assistant Grand Recorder, Surrey.*

## Across Social Media

[On Facebook - It's GO! MBF Festival 2022 tickets go on sale in Surrey.](#)

Embed://<iframe

src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FMarkMasonsHall%2Fposts%2F864537444412747&show\_text=true&width=500" width="500"  
height="760" 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 - Cumberland & Westmorland Mark Province's Sesquicentennial Jewel is now available.](#)

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1415692809085104129>

## 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>6</sup> - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page<sup>7</sup>

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall<sup>8</sup>

Or you can email us at [communications@mmh.org.uk](mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk)<sup>9</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, 30 October
 Quarterly Communication of Mark Grand Lodge Tuesday, 7 September	 Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter Friday, 15 November
 Annual Meeting of Grand Priory Thursday, 9 September	 Annual Chapter of Grand Priory of Malta Tuesday, 16 November
 Annual Assembly of Grand Chapter Tuesday, 12 October (moved from July 2021)	 Annual Assembly of the Assistant Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Masters Tuesday, 7 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>10</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>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

<sup>8</sup><https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

<sup>9</sup><mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

<sup>11</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>12</sup> or use the Text Donate facility below.

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<sup>12</sup><https://fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Appeal-KT2042020>



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.***



## MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

2022 Surrey<sup>13</sup>

2023 West Yorkshire<sup>14</sup>

2024 Cheshire<sup>15</sup>

2025 Oxfordshire<sup>16</sup>

2026 Hampshire & IOW<sup>17</sup>

2027 Warwickshire<sup>18</sup>

2028 Somerset<sup>19</sup>

2030 Essex<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>13</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

<sup>14</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2023-west-yorkshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form/viewdocument>

<sup>15</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2024-cheshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

<sup>16</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

<sup>17</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2026-hants-iow-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

<sup>18</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

<sup>19</sup><https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

This week, the Charities team, Linda Read and Millie Pilson, began sending out the 2030 Essex Jewels.

We are still awaiting stock of 2028 Somerset 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>20</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>21</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>21</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

