

Freemasonry@86 News - 9 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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A fantastic total for the East Lancashire 2021 MBF Festival



At a specially convened video conference call, R.W.Bro. Alex McLaren, Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire and President of the 153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Festival, was joined by V.W.Bro. John Bell, P.G.M.O., President of the Mark Benevolent Fund, and R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, P.G.J.W., Grand Secretary, to announce the grand total raised for this year's MBF Festival.

Congratulations to all involved in the fundraising on realising the superb total of £1,020,603.

And thank you to everyone who supported the Festival. Even though the total has been announced, it continues to grow as, since Saturday, more money has come in thanks to regalia sales and especially thanks to the generosity of many Brethren who have kindly donated their dining fee for the cancelled event at Old Trafford Football Stadium back to the Festival.

You can watch the full festival announcement and hear more about how the money was raised, and the work of the MBF, in this video.



¹mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk

And as one year's Festival closes, another one opens.



The 154th Annual Festival

Saturday, 2nd July 2022

Will be held at The Copthorne Hotel, Effingham, West Park Road, Copthorne, RH10 3EU.

9 July 2021

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have the honour and pleasure to be the President of the 154th Annual Festival for the Mark Benevolent Fund. This festival will celebrate the culmination of 6 years of fundraising for the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The Festival Dinner will commence with welcome drinks and entertainment at 6:30pm followed by a three course Festival Banquet, including wine, served at 7:30pm. After the Festival result has been announced by the Grand Secretary, we shall be entertained until midnight.

Tickets for the entire evening including the drinks reception, Festival Banquet including wine and entertainment will be £80 per person. Bookings can only be made through our dedicated Festival Website, from Monday, 12 July, at www.surrey2022mbf.org.uk^{2 3}

For those who wish to arrive on Friday, we have arranged a Buffet/BBQ and live entertainment from 6:00pm

My wife Pat and I look forward to seeing you all at the 154th Annual Festival in Surrey. You can be sure of a very warm welcome.

Yours sincerely

R.W.Bro. Ian N. Clark, G.M.R.A.C., Provincial Grand Master for Surrey

President, 154th Annual Festival for the Mark Benevolent Fund

Two Deputy Grand Masters go head-to-head





In Part One of a unique "Doubled Headed Interview" recently featured in "Mark in Time", the Hertfordshire Mark's monthly newsletter, R.W Bro Keith Emmerson (left), Past Deputy Grand Master interviews R.W Bro John Prizeman (right), the Deputy Grand Master.

In Part Two, which will be featured in the next edition of Freemasonry@86, the tables are turned, and the interviewee becomes the interviewer. It is a fascinating exchange.

²http://www.surrey2022mbf.org.uk/

³http://www.surrey2022mbf.org.uk/

- **KE** Firstly, John, may I thank you for having agreed to participate in this interview. I think it most appropriate as I know you are no stranger to the Province of Hertfordshire having visited on many past occasions in various offices you have held.
- **Q** Let me start by asking how you first became aware of Freemasonry?
- **A** My father-in-law was a Freemason. I heard him talking with much enthusiasm about attending the Lodge and I had the pleasure of attending several Ladies Nights (some in Hertfordshire and some in Bedfordshire) which, in those days, were very grand occasions, or so it seemed to me.
- **Q** What attracted you to it to make you want to become a member?
- **A** I started to ask questions which were freely answered. I liked the idea of the ritual plays as I had an interest in amateur dramatics.

I then asked my father-in-law what the qualifications were to join and he said he would make some enquiries on my behalf. The next thing I knew I was up for an interview, but not for his Lodge, that's another story, but one where he was a regular visitor. The Lodge met on a Saturday evening in the village of Hursley so there would be no conflict with work.

- **Q** What did your friends and family think of you joining?
- **A** My wife Kay was very supportive. My parents knowing little about it had no problem with my joining. At that time I did not think it appropriate to discuss it with anyone else.
- **Q** Do you have any other interests outside of Freemasonry?
- A- Before all else, my wife, two married daughters and four grandchildren are the most important to me. We are a close family and whenever possible spend as much time together as circumstances allow. During the present pandemic this has not been easy as one of my daughters lives in Hertfordshire. Only one of my son-in-laws has expressed any interest in Freemasonry but is not yet ready to proceed. My wife Kay and I enjoy travel and musical theatre, and I enjoy reading and walking.
- Q What attracted you to the Mark Degree?
- A- I was Initiated into the Craft in January 1972 in the Merdon Lodge No. 5135 and was Installed as Worshipful Master in December 1981. I was thirty-five years old and provincial rank, whatever that was, was at least five years away. Although I served as secretary, charity steward and assistant director of ceremonies, I was beginning to think is that all there is to Freemasonry. I knew very little of the other Orders as they were rarely mentioned in my Craft Lodge and, because of work commitments, I had rarely visited other lodges except during my time as Worshipful Master.

The lodge secretary then asked if I would like to join the Mark Degree. He offered to propose me and a close neighbour who I knew to be a freemason was prepared to second. I was duly Advanced in Chandlers Ford Mark Lodge No.1258 in January 1986. I was at once impressed by how friendly and relaxed it was with a great ceremony and offices similar to the Craft. However, due to business commitments and having a young family, my progress in the Mark Degree was slow. I had also been invited to join other Orders; I am not very good at saying NO. So Chapter, KT and Rose Croix quickly followed and pressure was on to progress. I have since served as WM of three Mark Lodges and two Royal Ark Mariner.

To sum up, the great appeal to me, as with all the Orders administered from MMH, is they are friendly and welcoming Orders in which you are always made to feel at home and in which we recognise there are no sirs but only brother masons.

- **Q** Your progression in the Order has seen you appointed PGM for the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Assistant Grand Master and, latterly, that of Deputy Grand Master. Did you have ambition to make this progression?
- **A** I consider Freemasonry as a journey not to be rushed. I have never set myself a route I have just followed the path along which I was fortunate to travel and to arrive and meet with those who considered me a suitable candidate to occupy certain positions. I have always willingly accepted these challenges and have carried them out to the best of my ability.
- **Q** As Deputy Grand Master, how do you see your present role?
- **A** To do what is required of me, to promote Mark Masonry and, above all, to communicate and be accessible to our Mark Brethren. With the role go several administrative responsibilities in which I enjoy active participation.
- **Q** I know you also served as a Trustee of the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) for several years, latterly as President, and that you still retain a great interest. With the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) being seen as the main masonic charity, do you think there is still a role for the MBF as a separate independent charity? **A** Most definitely. The MBF is a jewel in the Mark Crown and the way it still retains its original remit set in 1868 by MW Bro the Reverend George Raymond Portal is to respond quickly to all appeals for assistance, be they Worthy Causes or Petitions from brethren who are in financial distress. I greatly admire how the funds Trustees give freely, in every sense of the word, of their expertise and time to ensure the brethren's continuing generous support of the fund is distributed wisely and with due diligence.
- **Q** Of all the offices you have held, which has given you the most pleasure?
- **A** I have no favourites; I have enjoyed them all. They have come with particular challenges which, I hope, I have met and performed to the benefit of the Order and to the satisfaction of my fellow brethren.
- **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 To communicate with and support our Brethren, to ensure that we have a clear understanding of the problems facing them, their lodges, the Provinces and Districts, ensuring Mark Masons Hall is at the forefront with assistance and encouragement during these difficult times. Bearing in mind the average age of our membership, to reassure and assist our brethren that their lodge rooms are a safe environment to which they can return.
- **Q** In the high office you hold, what overall challenges do you see ahead for Freemasonry generally and in particular the Mark Degree?
- **A** Without doubt society has changed in so many ways over the last fifty plus years. If we are to encourage essentially young men to join us, we must be prepared to adapt and accommodate how we

receive brethren into Freemasonry and how we involve their families and connections into the masonic family without detriment to our ceremonies and ritual.

To demonstrate that our Mark Degree is one of opportunity for the brother who is keen to progress as far as his circumstances in life permit, and to ensure his further enjoyment of the masonic experience.

- **Q** What has Freemasonry given you?
- **A** A way of life, challenges beyond those of business, an opportunity to meet and socialise with men who share a common interest across a wide spectrum of life experience, not only here at home but abroad.
- **Q** Would you encourage others to become a Freemason?
- A I would without question but with this proviso. I joined Freemasonry fifty years ago, the world has changed, society has changed, I would encourage any young man joining to progress slowly, not to rush into the Orders but to master what he has joined and progress slowly. I have learnt as the years' pass there is always more to discover and enjoy as the masonic journey progresses.
- **KE** Can I thank you, John, for having agreed to participate in this interview. As one of our present Rulers it is refreshing to hear your views and I am sure all will be grateful for the frankness of your answers.
- KE On a personal note, may I say that we look forward to seeing you again in Hertfordshire, perhaps this time without the ceremonial Sword and Banner of Grand Lodge!

Getting by with a little help from his friends



One of Derbyshire's oldest and hitherto most active members of many Orders, Ill. Comp. (also P.Kt. amongst other ranks in other Orders) John Patrick Green was diagnosed some time ago with kidney failure and needed to have dialysis three times each week. His treatment started quite well but he found that he was collected each morning at a regular time but getting home was always difficult. Sometimes the ambulance was there to take him home just after his 4 hour dialysis took place — and sometimes 3 hours after it finished. That made things extremely difficult with the day stretching on for up to 9 hours, which was very tiring for him. John has spent some 8 weeks in hospital recently with other problems and when he eventually was released he had similar dialysis with lifts from hospital being very unpredictable. After his dialysis session on Saturday, 3 July he was left waiting for nearly 2 hours for a lift by ambulance.

This came to the notice of one of his close friends, R.III.Comp. Alan Beckerton, District Grand Master for Derbyshire RSM (also Intendant-General of the RCC for Derbyshire) who had a thought that if he could get a group of Masons together who would be willing to give John a lift from the hospital when he finished his dialysis then he would get home at a reasonable time. Enquiries were made throughout John's friends in RSM and RCC and other Orders, and, within days, 11 Masons had come forward to offer their services. A rota was put together and, approximately every three weeks, each of those superb Masons would be called upon to give John a lift back from hospital. The first occasion was Tuesday, 6 July and the R.III. District Grand Master delivered John home in good time to enjoy a glass of red with him!

Alan said that it was quite unacceptable that John should have to wait for hours to get home and initiated the idea of mobilising his troops! It was not long before the volunteers – bless them! – came forward. John is extremely grateful and said "I've put a lot of time (and money) into Masonry over the years and now I need something out of it, then it has arrived in abundance and I am so thankful". John has also been helped recently through the MCF with the installation of a walk-in shower to help him in his flat in Ashbourne. Freemasonry in action – long may it continue!

K.T. Provincial Priory of Kent Virtual Business Meeting

The Annual Chapter of the Provincial Priory of Kent was held as a Provincial Virtual Business Meeting on Saturday the 3rd of July 2021. In Attendance was the Assistant Great Vice-Chancellor E.Kt. Dan Heath and many other Distinguished Right Eminent Knights from other Provinces.

The Provincial Prior for Kent, Right Eminent Knight David Jordan, declared the Provincial Virtual Business Meeting open and welcomed all the Brother Knights present.



After the Provincial Vice-Chancellor read the Permission to hold the Provincial Virtual Business Meeting, the Provincial Registrar solemnly read aloud all the Brother Knights who have heard the Great Captains call to higher Service and the Provincial Prelate recited a Prayer for their eternal rest.

The regular business of the Province was then conducted and the Provincial Officers and Promoted Knights were appointed for the ensuing Year.

The Provincial Prior addressed the Brother Knights of the Province and thanked those Knight's who have added to the advancement of the order in Kent, and advised the Brother Knights of up and coming events including 3 Provincial Malta meetings, informative seminars, two 50th Year Anniversaries and a December Provincial Church Service.



Before the Provincial Prior declared the Virtual Business meeting closed he invited the Assistant Vice-Chancellor to address the meeting. E.Kt. Dan thanked the Provincial Prior for the invitation and extended the good wishes of the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master and the Great Vice-Chancellor. He congratulated the Provincial team for a successful Virtual Provincial Priory meeting and he looked forward to seeing the brother Knights at the Great Priory of Malta Meeting in November.

The Provincial Prior then thanked and congratulated Graham Raven for hosting the meeting in a very professional manner and asked Graham to thank the Right Worshipful Grand Master of West Kent, Mark Estaugh, for allowing the use of the facilities.

The Prior thanked everyone for attending and declared the Provincial Priory of Kent Virtual Business Meeting closed.

R.S.M. District of Essex

The Annual Meeting of the District Grand Council of Essex was held as a Virtual Business Meeting on Saturday, 3 July 2021. Attending was the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick Jones, the Grand Recorder, R.III.Comp. Ryan Williams, and Companions from many other Districts. Just over 90 Companions joined the meeting.



The District Grand Master for the District of Essex, R.III.Comp. Robert John Potts, declared the meeting open and welcomed all present, including the Grand Master who thanked R.III.Comp. Robert Potts for the invitation to join the Companions of Essex wishing them a successful meeting.



After the regular business of the District was completed, the District Grand Council Officers for the ensuing year were appointed. Ill.Comp. Colin J. Innes was re-appointed Deputy District Grand Master and Ill.Comp. Gordon J.R. Spindler was re-appointed District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.

The 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 he had appointed today thanking them for their support.



The Grand Master was invited to address the meeting. He thanked the District Grand Master for the invitation and congratulated the District 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.



The Grand Recorder, R.III.Comp. Ryan Williams, was invited to address the meeting. He said how pleased he was to be with everyone especially on their Silver Jubilee. The good news is that there is light at the end of the tunnel as we are now seeing physical meetings taking place.

Looking forward he described how we have weathered the storm and that there are encouraging figures from Mark Masons Hall. He outlined the package of reduction in dues and the intention of returning the surplus back to the membership. He ended by giving thanks to Michael Correa for his support in running the meeting.



The 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 wished the District of Essex every success in the future.

Article and photos by Chris Eley, District Assistant Grand Recorder, Surrey

R.S.M. District of Wyvern

The Annual Meeting of the Wyvern District Grand Council was held as a Virtual Business Meeting on Saturday 26th June 2021. Attending was the Grand Master, M.III.Comp. Kessick Jones, and Companions from many other Districts.



The District Grand Master for the Wyvern District, R.III.Comp. Kenneth L Downes, JP., 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.

Ill.Comp. George L. Brown was re-appointed Deputy District Grand Master and Ill.Comp. Gareth Hughes was re-appointed District Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.

The District Grand Master addressed District Grand Council. He said that he had hoped to be able to meet face to face but was looking forward to being able to do this in the future. He congratulated those Companions who received appointments or promotion in Grand Council in April as well as those he had appointed today, thanking them for their support.

He said that is ambition was to Consecrate one new Council during his term of office. Unfortunately the Consecration of Trinity Council No 343 has been delayed but the District Grand Master is hopeful this will take place later in the year. He thanked those attending the meeting today and said that he is looking forward to the resumption of Masonic activities.



The Grand Master was invited to address the meeting. He thanked the District Grand Master for the invitation and congratulated the District 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. He knows the motivational level is high and asked everyone to keep safe and sensible for a little longer.



The 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 wished the Wyvern District every success in the future.

Article and photos by Chris Eley, District Assistant Grand Recorder, Surrey

A special day for Warlingham Conclave O.S.M. No. 291

The first face to face meeting of an O.S.M. Conclave in Surrey after the end of the suspension of Masonic activity took place on Tuesday, 29 June at Nutfield Masonic Centre, Redhill. This was also the first visit to any Conclave by a Grand Visitor in 18 months, so we were very pleased to welcome V.Wy.Bro. Gerald Riley to our meeting.

Also present was our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling, our Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Paul Fitzgerald; our Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, R. Wy.Bro. Michael Barnes; and the Grand Chaplain, V.Wy.Bro. Louis Keats.



Also attending the meeting were six Heads of Surrey Orders. This was the first time they had all met up together in over a year; and the first time that R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling, our Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, and R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, the Provincial Grand Summus in the Order of the Scarlet Cord, had been together since their investitures.



The Conclave was opened by the Supreme Ruler, Wy.Bro. Chris Eley, who welcomed the distinguished visitors.

The main item on the agenda was to ballot for a Candidate, Bro. Clifford Beal of Authors Lodge No 3456. This proved in his favour and Bro. Clifford was Inducted into the Order by Wy.Bro. Chris; assisted by V.Wy.Bro. Louis Keats, Grand Chaplain, who acted as our Chaplain; R.Wy.Bro. Michael Barnes who entrusted Bro. Clifford with the secrets of the first degree of the Order; and R.Wy.Bro. Colin Beerling who gave the Explanation of the Weapons and the Address to the Candidate; all in an excellent manner.



To end a most enjoyable meeting the Supreme Ruler presented Supreme Ruler Certificates to Wy. Bros. Alastair Richardson and Chris Eley. The Conclave was then closed and after the customary photographs we all retired to the Everest Spice Indian Restaurant in Redhill for a most enjoyable meal together.



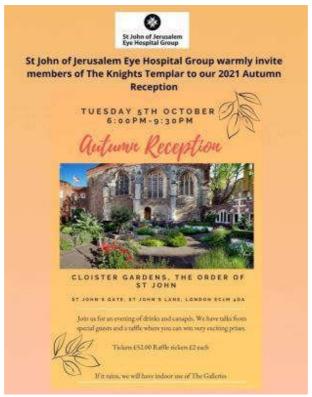






Across Social Media

An invitation to join our friends, the St John Eye Hospital Group, at their Autumn Reception



Click Here⁴ to book your place

On Twitter - South Wales and Monmouthshire O.S.M. http://twitter.com/statuses/1412922449662971905

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:

⁴https://www.stjohneyehospital.org/events/autumn-reception/

Facebook - Mark Secretariat⁵ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page ⁶

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁷

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

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:



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

Click Here⁹ to visit the Shop@86 website

Please note: During the current Government Covid-19 restrictions, there will be limited access to Mark Masons' Hall. As a result there will be delays to the despatch of orders, which will take place on a weekly basis, normally on a Tuesday. Customers will be notified via email once their order has been despatched. For enquiries about your order please email ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk¹⁰

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

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

⁷https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall

⁸mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk

⁹https://www.shopat86.co.uk/

¹⁰mailto: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 ¹¹ or use the Text Donate facility below.

100% of donations will be given to the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group to support their vital work. To recognise your generosity and support, The Great Priory of Knights Templar is sending a limited-edition Swift tie/lapel pin to every donor.

The Swift pins are now being posted out but please bear with us as we are only in the office one day per week to carry out this task so some deliveries will take longer than others. Thank you for your patience.



MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

2022 Surrey¹²

2023 West Yorkshire¹³

2024 Cheshire 14

2025 Oxfordshire¹⁵

2026 Hampshire & IOW16

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

 $^{{}^{12}\}underline{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument}}$

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

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

 $^{^{15}\}underline{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument}$

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

2027 Warwickshire¹⁷

2028 Somerset18

2030 Essex19

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.

 $^{^{17}\}underline{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument}}$

 $^{{}^{18}\}underline{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-}} \\ \underline{\text{2/viewdocument}}$

 $^{^{19} \}underline{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2030-essex-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument}}$

















We reported recently that the new style MBF Festival Stewardship is aimed principally, but not exclusively, at members of each host Festival Province.

In return for a qualifying donation of £100, each Steward will be entitled to:

- A distinctive Stewards' breast jewel, year bar and pocket jewel holder.
- Inclusion of their name in the Festival Stewards' Roll of Honour in the Festival booklet

• And for individuals making their first donation under the scheme, qualification as a Life Governor of the Mark Benevolent Fund – the first step on the ladder of honorifics.

Monies raised by the take-up of Festival Stewardships will, of course, be included in each respective Festival total.

Helping to Combat Covid



At the start of Lockdown the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Ryan A. Williams, P.G.J.W., shared the COVID Symptom Study²⁰ app.

As local lockdowns and UK cases increase, with over 4 million users, this app is a useful source of information regarding the situation in your area, as well as being a portal through which people of all ages and backgrounds are joining together to fight COVID, support the NHS, help scientific research and help get us out of lockdown safely.

²⁰https://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

