



Freemasonry@86 News - 13 August 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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Progressive Orders Diary



Below are some upcoming dates of event for our Grand teams in their respective Orders.

You can find the calendar of the regular annual meetings of our Orders further down this newsletter.

Wednesday, 18 August - Scarlet Cord Confirmation in Office of R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long as Prov.G.S. for Surrey

Thursday, 19 August - Scarlet Cord Confirmation in Office of R.Dist.Comp. Allan M. Shields as Prov.G.S. for East Lancashire

Saturday, 28 August - R.S.M. Grand Master's visit to the Annual District Meeting of Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Wednesday, 1 September - Scarlet Cord 4th Grade Conferals, M.M.H.

Thursday, 2 September - K.T. Installation of E.Kt. Alastair D. White as Provincial Prior for Hertfordshire

Thursday, 2 September - Scarlet Cord Grand Senatus, M.M.H.

Friday, 3 September - Scarlet Cord 5th Grade Conferals, M.M.H.

Tuesday, 7 September - Mark Grand Lodge September Communication, F.M.H.

Thursday, 9 September - Mark Installation of V.W.Bro. Graham D. Seeman as Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire

Thursday, 9 September - K.B.H.C. Grand Priory, M.M.H.

Friday, 10 September - K.T. Installation of V.E.Kt. Allan Rosengren as Provincial Prior for the City and County of Bristol

¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

Saturday, 11 September - Mark Pro Grand Master's visit to Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey

Saturday, 11 September - Red Cross of Constantine Consecration of The Metropolitan Condave No. 533, M.M.H.

R.W.Bro. Frederick Arthur Smith, 100 not out



On Saturday, 7 August 2021 R.W.Bro. Frederick Arthur Smith (Fred) celebrated his 100th Birthday.

His birthday party, fittingly taking place in the Halifax Suite at the Yorkshire Air Museum, was attended by 100 family and friends who were asked to ensure they were there early for a very special presentation.



What then took place was indeed extremely special and something that those attending may never see again.

Fred's 3 children, Martin, Roger, and Rose decided after waiting for 76 years since the end of the Second World War it was time for their dad to receive his due recognition from the nation, having not previously received or requested his War medals.



Unbeknown to Fred, his family had applied to the MOD and received the medals and a commendation, which read:

'The Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Armed Forces) presents his compliments and by Command of the Defence Council has the honour to transmit the enclosed Awards granted for service during the war of 1939-45'

The Medals that Fred was about to receive were the Defence Medal and War Medal.

But the surprise did not stop there, the family also decided that they should enlist the assistance of Yorkshire Air Museum in finding someone very special to make the presentation, and they were delighted when the Museum said that they had arranged for not just one person to present the medals but two very special people, both trustees of the museum.

Firstly, Wing Commander Howard Newbould (shown in uniform) who had served on operations in Kosovo, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, and is the currently Station Commander at RAF Linton-on-Ouse was introduced and he spoke of the rarity of the presentation of these medals and the great honour it gave him personally to do so, which was clear for all to see.



All this time, Fred, forever the service man stood smartly to attention, and the Wing Commander brought a smile to everyone's faces when he instructed Fred to "Stand Easy", before continuing in giving glowing praise to Fred for his service to his Country.

The second special guest was Martin Withers DFC (Squadron Leader, Retired). Martin had joined the RAF in 1968 and in 1971 was posted to 44 Squadron at RAF Waddington as a Vulcan co-pilot, before moving to RAF Linton-on-Ouse and then returning to RAF Scampton as a Jet Provost QFI on the Vulcan Operational Conversion Unit.

When the unit closed, he moved back to RAF Waddington as a Pilot Leader and Squadron QFI on 101 squadron.

The following year, during the Falklands War, he and his crew were selected to fly 2 of the 5 Black Buck missions. Martin was the captain on XM607, the first Vulcan to bomb in anger during the Falklands War. On 1 May 1982, just one month after the Argentine invasion, Martin and his crew completed Black Buck One, the longest distance bombing mission in history until that time, and one of the most significant, attacking Port Stanley airfield during an 8,000-mile, 16 hour flight from their base at Ascension Island; for which he was awarded the DFC, with the other crew-members being mentioned in dispatches. With the final demise of the Vulcan squadrons, he returned to No1 FTS at RAF Linton-on-Ouse, where he served as Squadron Commander and Deputy Chief Instructor, until leaving the RAF in 1991, having flown over 5500 hours (2000 on Vulcans).

Having been entertained by the York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir, which was extremely special to the Smith family, having sponsored the Choir for many years and the wonderful presentation to Fred, his family and friends where then treated to a superb 3 course Luncheon before further speeches, including a wonderful poem given by his daughter Rose called "High Flight".



Then came the cutting of the birthday cake, which was decorated with symbols representing Fred's life, including a Lysander areophane, his RAF wings, the Square and Compass and his beloved boxer dog. There was even a cheeky reference to his early working life with a bicycle and a bomb, which is a story for another time.

The cake was delicious, and there was an equally touching cake from his loving family which said it all.



Sporting his Grand Master's Lodge Tie, Fred gave his own thanks to his family and to everyone for attending, and making his day special, without notes he stood and spoke eloquently, and at times emotionally, bringing a tear to many a guest's eye.

Amongst Fred's friends attending where the Prov.G.M., Dep.Prov.G.M., A.Prov.G.M. and the Past Dep.Prov.G.M., V.W.Bro. Frank Woolgrove of N&E Yorkshire and the Prov.G.M. of West Yorkshire. North and East Yorkshire's Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Bob Clancey, had been asked by Fred to propose a vote of thanks to the family and all who had contributed to such a wonderful day. He then surprised Fred yet again by presenting him with the very prestigious Royal Ark Mariner Distinguished Service Award.

A very fitting end, to a very fitting birthday, for a very fitting man and Mason. God bless you Fred, a much-loved brother.



R.W. Brother Fred Smith's 100th Birthday



A cake suitable for a centenarian



Prov.G.M.s of Yorkshire



Careful Fred, Her Majesty is watching

With thanks to V.W.Bro. Clive Copley, P.G.J.O., Dep.Prov.G.M.

Folkestone's Community Network Receive £3,980 MBF Grant

With society starting to open up more freely United Response²'s Community Network in Folkestone, who support adults and young people with disabilities to live the life they choose at home and in the community, received a formal visit from the Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Kent, R.W.Bro. Archie Torrance, accompanied by Brethren of the Province, to present a cheque for £3,980 on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF).



The Community Network in Folkestone offers a place for people with physical disabilities, special needs or mental health issues to meet and integrate with a large cross section of the community. One of the special and popular meeting areas of the venue is a decked area with wooden walkways suitable for wheelchairs leading to a garden with raised beds where herbs and other produce are grown for the good of the community. It also serves as a place for quiet reflection for many of the visitors.

Sadly, over time the decking and pathways had deteriorated to such an extent that the area was no longer usable.

In August 2020 the MBF kindly approved a grant of £3,980 in favour of the Community Network in Folkestone to refurbish this quiet reflective garden space.



²<https://www.unitedresponse.org.uk/>

On Friday, 24 July R.W.Bro. Archie accompanied by Peter Hayler, Steve Hyland, Brian Ward and Peter Lapage were warmly welcomed to the Community Network by Joanne Sidders to a grand opening of the newly refurbished garden area. The Prov.G.M. gave a brief history of the MBF before presenting a symbolic cheque to the Centre on behalf of the MBF.

Joanne responded by thanking everyone for taking the time to come along to the grand opening and asked especially that we pass on her thanks on behalf of everyone who uses the centre to the MBF for their very generous donation.

With thanks to W.Bro. Robin Evans, P.A.G.D.C.

And the Mark Province of Cumberland and Westmorland make a charitable presentation



R.W.Bro. Keith Hodgson Prov.G.M. (pictured right) was pleased to attend Hospice at Home West Cumbria in Workington with V.W.Bro. Barry Kirkbride, Dep.Prov.G.M. in late July to present a cheque for £13,000. The presentation was made in front of Hospice at Home West Cumbria shop.

The Mark District of Spain look forward to welcoming Brethren in 2022

Plans are underway for the Annual Assembly of the District Grand Lodge of Spain, at the Hotel Gran Bali, Benidorm, Spain on the 4th/5th February 2022.

Please see the message below from the Dist.G.M. and watch the video.

To register your interest please email at 2022meeting@markesp.com³

Dear Friends and Brethren,

³<mailto:2022meeting@markesp.com>

In the sincere hope that life will return to the normal we once knew, we are preparing to hold our Annual Assembly once again next February in the Hotel Bali, Benidorm.

We have missed seeing you all in the flesh so to speak and although we did catch a glimpse of each other at the zoom meeting last February it would be great to see you personally in 2022 if you feel able to join us.

To whet your appetite, we have prepared this short video outlining our plans for next year which we hope you will enjoy.

Understandably, travel will not be for everyone and for those of you who will not be able to make it to Benidorm, please keep well and stay in touch, you will be in our thoughts.

Kindest regards,

Barrie Roy Mansell, District Grand Master for Spain.

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width="560" height="314" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0"
allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share" allowFullScreen="true"></iframe>



West Yorkshire O.S.M. support the Doncaster Sea Cadets Marching Band



1 - Sub Lieutenant Stephen Green receives the cheque from the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, David Staniforth

The Doncaster Sea Cadet Unit has ten adult volunteers, who give their time freely to provide a wide range of activities and training for fifty cadets.

They aim to provide these young people with experiences that will assist in building their interpersonal skills, develop teamwork, respect, loyalty, self-confidence, commitment, self-discipline, and honesty, all within a safe, structured, and friendly environment and so gain 'life skills' that will better prepare them for adult life.

Anyone under the age of eighteen can become a member however numbers and activities are dependent on finance being raised.

The Unit are looking to include additional activities to appeal to a more diverse section of the community and are in the process of forming a Military Marching Band that will perform at local charity events in addition to their own activities.

As they do not receive funding from the Royal Navy or other organisations, many of the instruments and equipment have been acquired through their own fund-raising activities however, they were far short of what would be needed to become viable.

An application for support was made to the West Yorkshire Order of the Secret Monitor Benevolent fund and this attracted 'Match Funding' from the O.S.M. Benevolent fund administered through Mark Masons' Hall.

A presentation took place on Tuesday, 3 August 2021 where Sub Lieutenant Stephen Green received a donation of £1980 towards purchase of the required instruments.

Following the presentation there was a guided tour of the centre. We were joined by two senior members of the South Yorkshire District of the Sea Cadets - Lieutenant Commander Fraser Avill, District Officer and his Deputy, Commander Keith Bingham.

Sub Lieutenant Stephen Green commented *“We are now able to purchase the required percussion instruments and the bell lyre to complete the band. This is tremendous support for which we are very grateful, and it will enable the unit to become active in the near future. Without this generous donation it would have been many months before we could have done so. The cadets are really looking forward getting started.”*

During refreshments following the presentation several members of the Sea Cadet unit expressed their appreciation and were impressed by the charitable activities, to such an extent that two of the volunteers are now actively pursuing membership of our Order.

With thanks to R. Wy. Bro. David Staniforth, Prov. G.S.R. for West Yorkshire

Southern Caribbean Secret Monitor



At the recent meeting of Millennium Condave No. 455 (above) the Brethren Elected their Supreme Ruler, Treasurer and Sentinel. Despite the Covid restrictions they were still able to accommodate a decent attendance with sixteen members and two visitors. The two visitors were Wy. Bro. Marlon Munroe, Supreme Ruler of Psalters Conclave No. 505 and Bro. Major Alfred Taylor the Psalters Conclave Secretary who is also the District Grand Recorder.

A few days later, Psalters Conclave No. 505 (below) also enjoyed a meeting, in the presence of the District Grand Supreme Ruler, R. Wy. Bro. Ian Foster, the Dist.G.D.C. Wy. Bro. Richard Mayers, and, again, Bro. Major Alfred Taylor (also representing Millennium Conclave as their Supreme Ruler). There were four visitors in total plus the members of Psalters Conclave



Scarlet Cord Challenge for Alzheimer's



Across Social Media

On Facebook - The Mark Province of Warwickshire's golf day goes with a swing

Embed://</iframe>

src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FWarwickshireMark%2Fposts%2F2867083093604183&show_text=true&width=500" width="500" height="755" 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 - a special day for the Blood Bikers

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1426069519542460416>

And, ritual books at the ready as first meetings begin taking place

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1422124323100311554>

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 Secretariat⁴ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁵

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁶

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk⁷

Calendar of Annual Meetings

 <p>Annual Convocation of Grand Senatus M.M.H., Thursday, 2 September (moved from May 2021) No. 50.30; Start 12.30; Dine 2.45; Fin. 4.15</p>	 <p>Annual Meeting of Grand Council F.M.H., Tuesday, 20 October No. 11.30; Start 1.15; Dinner 3.00; Fin. 4.30</p>
 <p>Quarterly Communication of Mark Grand Lodge F.M.H., Tuesday, 7 September No. 11.30; Start 1.30; Dine 4.30; Fin. 6.00</p>	 <p>Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave F.M.H., Thursday, 11 November No. 10.30; Start 12.30; Dinner 2.45; Fin. 4.15</p>
 <p>Annual Meeting of Grand Priory M.M.H., Thursday, 9 September No. 1.00; Start 2.00; Dine 4.30; Fin. 5.00</p>	 <p>Annual Chapter of Grand Priory of Malta F.M.H., Tuesday, 18 November No. 10.30; Start 12.30; Dinner 3.00; Fin. 5.00</p>
 <p>Annual Assembly of Grand Imperial Conclave F.M.H., Tuesday, 12 October (moved from July 2021) No. 33.30; Start 12.30; Dine 3.30; Fin. 5.00</p>	 <p>Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner F.M.H., Tuesday, 7 December No. 2.30; Start 4.40; Dinner 6.45; Fin. 8.15</p>

Detailed Timings can be found Here⁸

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

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

⁶<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

⁷<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

⁸<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mmm-downloads/grand-meetings-calendar-2021/viewdocument>

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: As a result of the current pandemic 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



⁹<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

¹⁰<mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk>

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised over £49,000 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 Here¹¹ 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: 020 3146 3352. Mosaic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1164703, 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 Surrey¹²

2023 West Yorkshire¹³

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

¹²<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

2024 Cheshire¹⁴

2025 Oxfordshire¹⁵

2026 Hampshire & IOW¹⁶

2027 Warwickshire¹⁷

2028 Somerset¹⁸

2030 Essex¹⁹

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.

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

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

¹⁵<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

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

¹⁷<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁸<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁹<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.

²⁰<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

