

Freemasonry@86 News - 20 August 2021



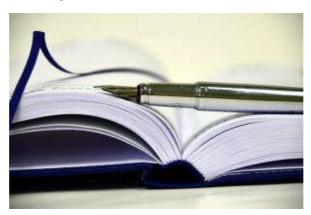
Welcome to your news and information update for the 'Progressive Orders of Freemasonry' administered from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street.

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.

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

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

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.

¹mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk

Saturday, 18 September - Scarlet Cord Confirmation in Office of R.Dist.Comp. K. Barry Chalkley as Provincial Grand Summus for Devon and Cornwall

No newsletter next Friday



The newsletter will be taking a break next Friday in the run-up to the Bank Holiday weekend but there's a full schedule the week afterwards with the Scarlet Cord three-day-event at Mark Masons' Hall and an Installation in the Knights Templar to report on. We look forward to being back with you on Friday, 3 September so please do keep your news coming.

MBF Major Capital Grants

Durham

The Mark Province of Durham have posted a full listing of their hospice donations on their website Here²

The listing includes which Lodges nominated each hospice. There were seven hospices nominated in total, receiving a share of £41,000.



Kent

Staff and volunteers at Wisdom Hospice are celebrating receipt of a £5,000 grant from the Mark Master Masons of Kent and the Mark Benevolent Fund.

²https://durhammarkmasons.org/charity/mbf-tribute-benefits-durham-hospices/

R.W.Bro. Archibald Iain Torrance, the Provincial Grand Master for Kent said, 'We are absolutely delighted that the members of the Province have chosen to support Wisdom Hospice. We are all aware of the toll that the pandemic has taken on charities across the country and hope that this small gift will go some way to help enhance patient care and provide improved facilities for those in need and their families."

Martyn Reeves of The Friends of the Wisdom Hospice welcomed the donation saying, "The last year has certainly been challenging for charities that rely on fundraising. However, it is thanks to our amazing supporters like the Masonic Lodges that The Friends have managed to maintain our regular grants to The Wisdom Hospice. We are sincerely grateful to our Masonic friends for their continued support."



Somerset

As part of the MBF major capital grant initiative, five Mark Lodges in the north east of the Mark Province of Somerset chose Dorothy House Hospice which, although in the neighbouring Province of Wiltshire, also serves North East Somerset.

On Friday, 6 August Provincial Grand Master Philip Voisey, accompanied by representatives from the five Lodges, visited the hospice to make the presentation. Although Covid restrictions meant the group weren't allowed to enter the hospice, the fine weather meant that an outside presentation was possible. Philippa Watson, Head of Relationship Fundraising for Dorothy House Hospice Care received the donation and gave the Brethren an interesting insight into the working of the hospice and the scale of fundraising necessary to run and maintain it. The hospice receives approximately 30% of its funding from the NHS, the remainder, a staggering £3.5 million has to be raised by the hospice. Covid 19 has made that task even more difficult as some of the normal methods of fundraising were no longer possible.

Free masonry has long been a supporter of the hospice movement and it was obvious from our talk with Philippa that our continuing support was much appreciated.

Brethren of Wiltshire also gave £3000 of their allocation from the MBF to Dorothy House.

Ray Guthrie, P.A.G.D.C., Dep.Prov.G.M.



1 - Philippa Watson representing Dorothy House, Patrick Haxall representing Portal Mark Lodge No. 155, Mark Steven-Smith representing Royal Sussex Lodge No. 177 and Royal Cumberland Lodge TI, Ray Guthrie representing Carnarvon Lodge No. 119 and St Andrew's Lodge No. 1924 with Provincial Grand Master Philip Voisey.

Warwickshire

Staff and volunteers at To Zoe's Place Baby Hospice are celebrating receipt of a £6,000 grant from the Mark Master Masons of Warwickshire and the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Phil Wills, the Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire said, 'We are absolutely delighted that the members of the Province have chosen to support The Zoe's Place Baby Hospice. We are all aware of the toll that the pandemic has taken on charities across the country and hope that this small gift will go some way to help enhance patient care and provide improved facilities for those in need and their families."

Bethany Richardson of Zoe's Place Coventry welcomed the donation saying, "This donation would have a great impact at this time affording up to two days of care for our clients".



Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead Riding for the disabled update on Raise the Roof project



On a very wet and windy day yesterday, our little charity took a monumental step towards our future, we broke ground to begin the first stages of our build.

Over the next eight weeks, the excavations, foundations and structure will be undertaken, ahead of the roof being added. From here we will install the specialist arena surface, followed by the safety kickboards around the edge. At the same time the block that holds the classroom, viewing area, tackroom, toilets and storage area's will be built, followed by their fit out.



We now have seven equines, all are fully integrated in life at Badger's Farm, they are exercised daily and are undertaking various training exercises so they remain passive to a variety of riders, noises and sudden movement. The range of ponies and horses we now have, means we will only need two further equines before we are able to restart the previous lesson timetable we had in place, pre pandemic, so we are on the lookout for the next two to add to our head so we are ready for when the centre is usable.

As we undertake our final push to raise the last bits of funds needed for the project, we are reaching out to our local community, via a crowdfunding campaign, which is being supported by local TV, Radio, newspapers, local magazines and parish newsletters. Beyond this we have volunteers attending a number of local events over the next few months, both for fundraising and awareness building.

Our 'front man' Lance, has been riding with us for a number of years, with help from his Mum, he has written a letter in support of our campaign, this has been printed onto leaflets for us to use at events, door drop in our local area and several local business has agreed to have them at till point. We have

added Lance's letter to the next page of this report. It was fantastic to have Lance with us yesterday when we broke ground, we had a hard hat for him with his name on which made his day, he also got to have an imprompturide around the yard which he was over the moon about.



We have installed a time lapse camera for the duration of the build, we look forward to sending some footage with some of our updates, as we hit key milestones in the build. In the meantime, once again, a huge thank you for your support of our project, we are so grateful that you have been a part of helping us build a safe and secure future for our charity and our riders.

With warmest wishes, The Trustees.

My name is Lance, I am 9 years old and I have Down syndrome.

I want to tell you about my most favourite thing ever, horse riding!

Mummy took me to our local Riding for the Disabled centre when I was three years old, after my physiotherapist mentioned to her that it would be good for my core strength. Everyone thought it would take me a while to get used to the ponies but we made friends as soon as I met them. I was smitten! Riding days were Thursdays. It was my favourite day of the week because me and my best friend Ella got to take a field trip from school and go riding.



I am very sad at the moment, I haven't been allowed to ride since the beginning of last year, and Mummy can't tell me when I can go back. The pandemic meant the RDA had to close, because the volunteers need to help riders like me, get on and off the ponies, and walk alongside us in case we wobble a bit.

Mummy says the RDA lost their home, this made me even sadder, and that is why I have written this letter.



Horsley, Bookham and Leatherhead RDA need your help. They have raised funds to start building a new, fully accessible riding centre at Badgers Farm in Effingham, but they need a bit more money to add the roof, so Ella, myself and all the other riders can start to ride again.

Mummy says that there are lots of children, just like me, on something called a waiting list, who haven't ever had the chance to ride with the RDA yet. With the new centre, extra ponies and more volunteers, up to 180 children like me can ride, how amazing is that!

I really miss seeing the ponies, and getting to ride, if you are able to support the charity by making a donation to their 'Raise the Roof' campaign please visit the website for more information.

www.horsleyandbookhamrda.co.uk³ lots of love Lance (and Ella too!)

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Hertfordshire Mark Masons and the Blood Bike volunteer movement - A history of support and an enduring legacy



Hertfordshire Mark Masons have recently been very proud that their generosity has facilitated the provision of a new, fully liveried, Emergency Blood Car to complement and enhance the ability of SERV Herts and Beds to continue their vital lifesaving work. You are probably aware of our recent record of supporting the volunteers at SERV. Donations that have provided support for the ongoing maintenance and operating expenses of their fleet of motorbikes.

But do you know just how far back our support goes for this wonderful movement? Are you aware of the history of our long-term commitment and dedication to this cause?

Herts Mark's very first contribution to the volunteer blood-runners was the provision of their bright orange tabards to be worn over their motorcycle jackets and improve safety for the riders.

The current SERV (Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers) was first established in 1981 but the Herts and Beds SERV operation was not founded until 2009. This was pre-dated by the Emergency Volunteer Service (EVS) originally formed in Surrey in 1962 and, in Hertfordshire, by an organisation called the Freewheelers youth community action group in 1969.

So the Freewheelers started in 1969, more than half a century ago. Neil Armstrong had just taken his small step for man and giant leap for mankind. The Beatles were playing their last ever live performance

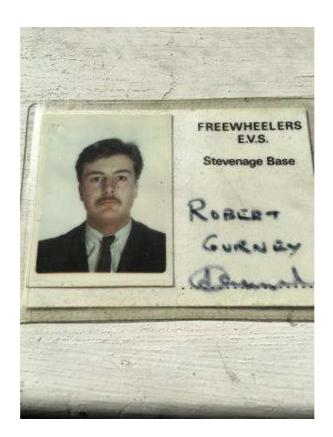
on the roof of the Apple building in London. Richard Nixon was inaugurated as the 37th US President. England were (still) football World champions. Concorde made its first test flight. A pint of beer at the festive board was 19p, petrol to get there was 7p per litre (at least it would have been, if we had litres) and a house was only £4,145 - but then an average salary was only £962 per year!



The Freewheelers operated for many years, providing a similar life-saving service to today's SERV, but with significantly less developed equipment, resources, and technology, of course!

The Hertfordshire Mark are fortunate to have amongst its members today, one of the early Freewheelers volunteers, W.Bro. Rob Gurney of Debenham Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 636.

Rob has very kindly put together for us a fascinating history of those days and an insider's insight to the Blood Bike movement. He has also shared some original photographs; some of which are included in this article.



To read Rob's retrospective in full please Click Here⁴

To this day, Rob remains as committed to the Blood Bike cause as he ever was and is as proud, as should we all be, of the Hertfordshire Mark Masons' long-standing and continuing commitment to support their essential work.

With thanks to W.Bro. Clive Goodrum, Prov.Dep.G.Sec.



 $^{{\}color{red}^4\underline{https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wNDoSjjLRCblkf8G-8VC7nJumF80symj/view}}$

Friday the 13th is lucky for some



2 - District Grand Master John Harvey and District Grand Prefect Danny Guy

The Croft Dinner, which brings together members of the Royal and Select Masters District Grand Council of Northumberland and the Allied Masonic Degrees District Grand Council of Northumberland and Durham, returned with a bang at Tynemouth Golf Club, after a year away due to pandemic restrictions. Although numbers were lower than usual, due to the short notice of relaxation of lockdown restrictions, the annual dinner still managed to attract over 30 guests from both orders.

The dinner, which was the brainchild of R.III.Comp. John Harvey, the District Grand Master for Northumberland, Royal and Select Masters, and R.W.Bro. James Peter Croft, the then District Grand Prefect for Northumberland and Durham, Allied Masonic Degrees, premiered a few years ago and donates the proceeds of a bottle raffle to deserving causes. When Peter Croft died the dinner was renamed the Croft Dinner as a mark of respect to him.

Over the years somewhere in the region of £10,000 has been raised for various charities, and the Grand Masters of both orders have honoured the attendees with their presence. On two previous occasions the donations have been made to the RNLI, and once to the hospital ward that M.III. Comp. Keswick J. Jones' wife was being cared for, after suffering a severe stroke. On this particular occasion the magnificent sum of £1,040 was raised in aid of the Tynemouth Golf Club Captain's personal charity, the Bay Foodbank.

Alex Robinson, the current Tynemouth Golf Club Captain, said of the donation, in his acceptance speech, "The Bay Food Bank is my chosen charity for the year and has been hit hard by the lockdown, however I'm delighted to accept the cheque which will help those most in need and less fortunate than ourselves."

Find out more about the essential service provided by the Bay Food Bank Here⁵

⁵https://www.thebayfoodbank.org.uk/







Allied Awareness



On Thursday, 23 September at 8 p.m., the District of London Allied Masonic Degrees will be holding an awareness evening via Zoom.

Are you a Mark Mason and Companion of the Royal Arch?

Would you like to learn more about the Allied Masonic Degrees?

Then come and join us at our Awareness Evening. It is free to register and will last around 1 hour.

Similarly if you are already a member of an AMD Council and you know of any Brother, who may be interested in finding out more about our unique Order, or indeed have candidates already lined up who may wish to find out a little bit more about the Order, then please encourage them to come along. Existing AMD members are also encouraged to attend with those that they do invite.

The evening will be hosted by our District Grand Prefect R.W.Bro. Colin Woodcock, *MBE*, ably assisted by other members of the District. The evening will cover a number of subjects aiming to give attendees an insight into the Order.

- Brief History of the Order and the District
- The 5 Degrees
- The Councils
- Membership Engagement
- Q&A

To register please Click Here ⁶ then complete and submit the form.

Richard Criddle, A.Dist.G.Sec.

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey was held at the Surbiton Masonic Hall on Wednesday, 18 August 2021. This was not only the first meeting of Provincial Grand Senatus since our Provincial Grand Summus was appointed at a Virtual Business Meeting in July 2020, but it was also the first meeting of a Provincial Grand Senatus since the resumption of Masonic activity.

⁶https://amdlondon.org/component/formmaker/?view=formmaker&id=36

Ian Bloodworth, Len Hillier, Alan Boniface, I and our Provincial Grand Summus met up at Glenmore House the evening before to prepare the Temple for the meeting the next day. The Companions started to arrive, sign in and made their way to the upstairs dining room.

Coffee and bacon butties were gratefully received, and faithfully applied.





Joining us at the meeting was our Grand Summus, M.Dist.Comp. Ian S. Currans, who was here to confirm our Provincial Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, as Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of Surrey; along with members of the Grand Tzaddikim.



After the procession in and the meeting being opened the Grand Summus, having taken the Chair, said that 13 months ago in July 2020 he attended such a marvellous Virtual Business Meeting with over 170 Companions attending from all over the world from far away places such as India and the Caribbean. At the meeting he invested our Provincial Grand Summus in a formal way, albeit on Zoom. The Patent was read and the Grand Summus appointed R.Dist.Comp.Arnold and invested him with the authority of his Office, but couldn't on Zoom invest him with his Chain. He therefore had the greatest of pleasure in investing our Provincial Grand Summus with his Chain of Office an installing him into the Chair of the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey.



The Provincial Grand Summus welcomed the many honoured guests of the Province and other Distinguished Companions.

The Provincial Grand Summus also welcomed Companions who had been admitted to the Order since the last Annual Meeting. The Companions were presented to the Provincial Grand Summus who warmly welcomed them into the Order and the Province.

The Provincial Grand Summus reappointed Dist.Comp. Nigel Thomson as Deputy Provincial Grand Summus and Dist. Comp. Chris Hatton as Assistant Provincial Grand Summus. A total of 24 appointments and promotions to Provincial Grand Rank were made.

The R Dist Provincial Grand Summus was pleased to appoint the Captain, Deputy Captain and Members of the Tzaddikim. He then inspected his personal Tzaddikim.

The Provincial Grand Summus addressed Provincial Grand Senatus. The Grand Summus then retired in procession with his Grand Officers and members of the Grand Tzaddikim.

Provincial Grand Senatus was closed in due form and the Right Distinguished Provincial Grand Summus retired in procession accompanied by Right Distinguished Companions, and Honoured Guests.

After a few drinks in the bar the Companions of the Province of Surrey and their guests enjoyed an excellent and convivial Festive Board in the Elizabethan Suite.

In his reply to his toast the Provincial Grand Summus thanked the Grand Summus for attending to make this a very special day for the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey and had much pleasure in presenting him with book and a bottle of his favourite tipple

During the reply to his toast the Grand Summus mentioned the medals being worn by many Companions at the Festive Board. These are for the Scarlet Cord Virtual Challenge for Alzheimer's being promoted by R.Dist.Comp. Philip Clare, Provincial Grand Summus for Kent.

Article by Chris Eley and photos by Bob Tuthill and Chris Eley















Across Social Media

On Facebook ⁷- The Mark Province of Kent/MBF funded specially designed river cruiser now has a name

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Read more Here⁸

And, Mark Masons' Hall prepares to launch its new Virtual Tour

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⁷https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall

⁸http://www.kentmarkmastermasons.org.uk/news_0597.html?fbclid=IwAR2IIBVX6kGsumU9-cICAXdy-Ju3Q1A1xC93ga1F3XlfbOS38VhF8eBw5r0

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

On Twitter⁹ - The MBF funded 'Ruby's Fund' mobile sensory bus is out and about http://twitter.com/statuses/1428386278240923651

And, Yorkshire Tea proves a favourite with Mark Masons

http://twitter.com/statuses/1427993692804042755

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 10 - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page 11

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall12

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk¹³

Calendar of Annual Meetings



Detailed Timings can be found Here 14

⁹https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall

¹⁰https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3

¹¹https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/

¹²https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall

¹³ mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk

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

Click Here¹⁵ 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.uk 16





MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

¹⁴https://www.markmasonshall.org/mmm-downloads/grand-meetings-calendar-2021/viewdocument

¹⁵ https://www.shopat86.co.uk/

¹⁶mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk

2022 Surrey¹⁷

2023 West Yorkshire 18

2024 Cheshire 19

2025 Oxfordshire²⁰

2026 Hampshire & IOW²¹

2027 Warwickshire²²

2028 Somerset²³

2030 Essex²⁴

The stock of 2028 Somerset Jewels has now been delivered to Mark Masons' Hall.

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

¹⁸ https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2023-west-yorkshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form/viewdocument

 $^{^{19} \}underline{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2024-cheshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-}} \\ \underline{\text{2/viewdocument}}$

²⁰https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument

²¹https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2026-hants-iow-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument

²²https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument

²³https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument

 $^{^{24} \}underline{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2030-essex-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument}}$

















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 Study²⁵ 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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²⁵https://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

