



Freemasonry@86 News - 6 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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¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

Progressive Orders Diary



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

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.

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

Hertfordshire Mark Masons spread their wings to capture a global perspective in their series of interviews





In the ongoing series of interviews featured in “Mark in Time”, the Hertfordshire Mark’s newsletter, R.W.Bro. Keith Emmerson, Past Deputy Grand Master, recently interviewed R.W.Bro. Farouk Ali Khan, District Grand Master for New Zealand. A fascinating insight from across the oceans.

K.E. - Firstly, Farouk, may I extend many congratulations on your appointment as District Grand Master for New Zealand. As you know, I had the pleasure of Installing your two immediate predecessors, and had it not been for the Covid pandemic I would have been delighted to accept the invitation to complete my hat-trick, so to speak, by Installing your good-self. Unfortunately, this was not to be.

Q - Let me start by asking how did you first become aware of Freemasonry?

A - I first became aware of Freemasonry in my early 20s when I discovered that one of the airmen in my Flight was a member of this ‘secretive society’. Not thinking that it was my place to ask him about Freemasonry I let the opportunity pass. It remained a mystery to me for many years thereafter and as I had not been invited to join, it remained simply a curiosity.

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

A - Initially it was the desire to know more about it; I still thought of it as a secretive society and that appealed to my curiosity. It was not until, through a peculiar set of circumstances, that I became friends with an excellent chap who mentioned to me whilst we were travelling together that he was a Mason and when I asked questions about it, he told me a little about it. Sometime later he invited me and my wife Paddy (do not call her Patricia) to a Christmas ladies’ night when he introduced us to many members of his Lodge. Paddy and I both thoroughly enjoyed the function and the company of the Brethren and their ladies and so it then became very much the social side of Masonry that attracted me to it.

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

A - Apart from my immediate family who found it intriguing, I kept my membership very much to myself. I was under the impression at that time that it was something that one did not talk about. Much later when I discussed it with various members of my family, I found them to be very interested and supportive. My younger son and one of my brothers in law subsequently joined and another was in the Craft before he sadly passed away.

Q - I understand you were not initiated until you were in your late 40’s. Was this a conscious decision due to your career as an officer with the RAF?

A - I do not believe that I would have delayed joining Freemasonry because of my career, it was more a case of out of sight, out of mind. It was not until after I became a Freemason that I met other Freemasons who were serving. Interestingly, although a member of the Honourable Artillery Company for over thirty years, I did not seek to find out more about Fitzroy Lodge, the HAC's Lodge. It was only later when visiting the Brothers in Arms Lodge in Salisbury that I met members of Fitzroy Lodge whom I had earlier known from the HAC.

Q - Having been initiated in England, did you join any other Orders before moving to NZ?

A - Yes, after a few years I joined the Royal Arch. In my Lodge, the George Duke of Kent Lodge No. 8788, the ethos at that time was that the first side or progressive order one joined should be the RA as that completed Craft Masonry.

Q - What made you decide to continue your Freemasonry in NZ?

A - When visiting NZ before moving out here I visited a few Lodges and found the same Brotherhood and social feeling as I had found in the UK. I decided therefore that when I moved to NZ I would continue my Freemasonry. Once I was living here, I visited Remuera Lodge a few times and loved the atmosphere within the Lodge and so decided that it was the one for me.

Q - What, if any, differences did you find between Masonry in England and that in NZ?

A - As I was not a member of the Mark in the UK, my experience there can only relate to the Craft. The differences between Freemasonry in NZ and that in the UK were significant and became more obvious to me as time went on.

The first and most obvious difference is the physical size of our District. I think it is fair to say that in a UK Province one would not expect to travel for more than say two hours to reach any Lodge within the Province so that one can travel to a meeting and return in the same day. In NZ, in the worst case it would involve an hour and a half flight together with travel to and from the airport. Needless to say an overnight stay is needed. Even some of our closer Lodges take between two and six hours travel each way. Consequently, the most significant difference that I found was visiting. In the UK the members of my Lodge and those meeting in the same centre did a considerable amount of visiting; indeed, I would say that not a week would go by without me visiting one or more Lodges in the Province and occasionally in adjoining Provinces

Secondly, the vast majority of the members of the Lodge and those Lodges visited wore light blue aprons whereas in NZ, particularly when visiting there is often a preponderance of dark blue aprons. I feel sure that the same will apply with the Mark Lodges although I cannot speak for those in the UK.

Thirdly, in NZ there are four different Constitutions; the Irish, the Scottish, the New Zealand and of course the English, all working their own ceremonies which in both the Mark and RAM degrees are significantly different to ours and indeed to each other. This does add spice to our proceedings as all the Constitutions visit each other and many Masons are members of more than one Constitution. Indeed, I am a member of an Irish Craft Lodge as well as an English Craft Lodge and have to remember that the ritual and signs are different in each

Q - I am aware there are 4 different Constitutions in NZ. As Dist.G.M. for the Mark within the English Constitution, does this cause, particular difficulties?

A - Whilst it would be nice to say that there are no issues, the reality of the situation is that with four Constitutions working alongside each other we are effectively competing with each other for membership.

This is particularly true in the many small towns and cities in NZ where the population is very small compared to most of the equivalent towns and cities in the UK. In addition, the Mark and RAM in all the other Constitutions forms part of the RA so that if one joins a Chapter in one of the other Constitutions the candidate does the Mark and RAM degrees during his progress in that Chapter. Some of our Craft Lodges are in small towns, where many of the members belong to more than one Constitution and where there is no English RA, it becomes increasingly difficult to recruit for the Mark and RAM.

Add to this the District and Grand Lodge dues for each Lodge that we join compared to say the NZ Constitution who pay only one Grand Lodge fee no matter how many Lodges of an order that they join. This does have an effect on the Brethren with low incomes or who are living on a pension, making membership of one of the other Constitutions more attractive.

On a more positive note, Installation meetings in our Lodges are much enhanced by the attendance from the other Constitutions of the Dist.G.M.s/Prov.G.M.s or their representatives and often with a small entourage. Furthermore, the addresses to the Wardens, Overseers and Brethren are usually delivered by the other Constitution representatives.

Q - With the Covid pandemic Freemasonry has and continues to endure a very difficult period. How has this affected you all in NZ?

A - The Covid pandemic has indeed had a profound effect of Freemasonry in NZ. We suffered the lockdowns and other restrictions which stopped all meetings for a time and then we held meetings with restrictions. However, what has come out of the restrictions is the dramatic increase in electronic communications both in terms of Zoom business and committee meetings and general information spreading to the Brethren. Having said that, we in NZ are acutely aware that what we have suffered is nothing compared to what is happening in the UK. Many of the Brethren here have family in, or family ties to the UK so we feel the pain of what is happening there.

Q - Whilst I know you are no stranger to high office, what challenges do you see ahead for Freemasonry in NZ generally and the Mark Degree in particular?

A - The membership of the Craft in NZ is small and unfortunately getting smaller. To make matters worse, our Masonic population is ageing and we can clearly see that many of our Brethren over the next few years will not be able to attend Lodge meetings. Many will unfortunately pass away whilst others will move into retirement homes, and many will give up driving at night. It goes without saying therefore that the Mark and RAM drawing its membership from the Craft will suffer accordingly. This is by far the greatest challenge that we face in the future.

We are fortunate in NZ to have two excellent District Grand Masters of the English Craft Districts. The Dist.G.M. of the North Island is a member of the Mark (and a personal friend). I am pleased to say that he and I are working closely together for the benefit of both of our orders. The Dist.G.M. of the South Island is also very supportive of the Mark and is being most helpful and is happy to work with me and my deputy for the benefit of the Mark.

Q - What has Freemasonry given you?

A - It is difficult to express all that I have received from Freemasonry both here and in the UK. On the one hand, it has given me confidence in myself, the ability to speak in public and enhanced my management skills.

More importantly it has given me friends who I would otherwise never have met, evenings when I come home buzzing after an excellent Masonic night as well as activities for both me and my wife to look forward to.

What may be less obvious but is huge - having left the camaraderie of service life, which those who have served will know, is a massive part of everyday life –Freemasonry has more than filled what otherwise would have been a terrible void.

Q - Would you encourage others to become a Freemason?

A - I have and continue to encourage suitable men, without reservation, to become Masons and enjoy the Brotherhood of good men.

K.E. - Can I thank you Farouk for having agreed to participate in this interview; the first involving the head of one of our Districts Overseas. On behalf of everyone I wish you every success in your new role and shall look forward to meeting with you again when we are able.

F.K. - Thank you Keith for your kind words and for posing questions which have made me sit down and think about what Masonry is and, what it will become as well as what I can do for the benefit of our great District. I too look forward to meeting in person. Finally, may I wish health and happiness to all our Mark Brethren in Hertfordshire and thank you for inviting me to take part in this initiative.

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

The Mark Province of Bristol make a double donation



1 - Bristol Prov.G.M. Stephen Rawlings (2nd Left) leads the team on the Tour de Bristol

At the Mark Executive Zoom meeting in May our very active Provincial Charity Steward, W.Bro. Brian Hamley, told us all that we would be cycling in the 'Tour de Bristol' to raise money for St. Peter's Hospice. I say 'told' because that was the way it came across to us! He went on to tell us that it was only 40 kilometres which was pretty easy cycling. There was then considerable searching for excuses of why we couldn't possibly do it on that particular day, all of which were totally ignored by Brian.

So, on Sunday, 27 June, those of us who hadn't been clever enough to think up believable excuses assembled at Brian's house in deepest Gloucestershire, kitted out in as close as we could get to cycling gear. One of us who hadn't been on a bike for thirteen years was pretty nervous about the whole thing but putting on a brave face! We set off at 10.30 a.m. to cycle through the quiet lanes, with one very scary half mile on the A38, down to Oldbury-on-Severn and the Anchor Pub where we

took on some suitable refreshment before, feeling now a little more confident, we set off for the twenty kilometres back to Brian's.

The confidence was short lived as most of the return trip was not only uphill but also whichever way we turned the wind was in our faces. The last couple of kilometres felt like an eternity to some of us but amazingly we all arrived, on our bikes for the whole journey, back at Brian's gate.

Feeling incredible relief and surprise at having actually made it I proceeded to dismount and discovered that my right leg had had enough and wasn't prepared to hold me up for a moment longer. The collapse of man and bike was met with huge hilarity by the other riders, who were all very relieved that it hadn't happened to them! Fortunately, no one had a camera handy so the poor elderly Provincial Grand Master got away without the embarrassment of a picture on the website.

Therefore, on Tuesday, 27 July, four of the mad cyclists and one very able support driver attended St. Peter's Hospice to present a cheque for the money raised by the cycle ride.

We had all been collecting sponsorship from members of the Province, from Family and from friends but were amazed as the money kept rolling in. With the help of you all and the incredible generosity of two very special sponsors we were delighted to present the Hospice with a cheque for the incredible sum of £10,000.

We couldn't believe the total and the Hospice were amazed at the amount. Although I am sure that Hayley Ali accepting the cheque from us was also amazed at how the motley crew of ancient old men before her had managed to get through those forty kilometres.

Hayley, on behalf of St. Peter's, thanked the team and the Mark Masons of Bristol for their magnificent support.



2 - Hayley Ali the St. Peter's Hospice 'Tour de Bristol' organiser receives a donation of £10,000 from Bristol Prov.G.M., R.W.Bro. Stephen Rawlings

On the same visit to the Hospice, R.W.Bro. Stephen Rawlings, was also delighted to present a further cheque for £7,000.

This donation is part of a Major Capital Grant of £1.3m to over 250 hospices in England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, recognises the contribution made by HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh to the service of the Crown and the life of the nation.

The £1.3 m was allocated by the Mark Benevolent Fund so that each Mark Lodge in the country could donate £1,000 to a Hospice. The seven Mark Lodges in Bristol chose St. Peter's, the local

hospice, and one that has helped and supported many of our members and families in their most difficult times.

The Provincial Grand Master for Bristol said “I was very pleased to be able to present the cheque to them. They were absolutely delighted and sent their thanks to all the members of the Province and the Mark Benevolent Fund for this very generous donation. All hospices have suffered during the Covid pandemic, particularly from the loss of income from shop closures. The donation will be a great help to them as they begin their recovery, and we 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”.

Chloe Milloy of St. Peter’s Hospice welcomed the donation saying “The hospice is delighted to receive this donation, which will help us to care for those in need across the City and we are so grateful for all the help we receive from the Mark Masons of Bristol and the Mark Benevolent Fund”.

With thanks to W.Bro. Brian Hamley, P.G.St.B., Prov.G.Ch.Stwd., Bristol



3 - R.W.Bro. Stephen Rawlings presents the cheque for £7,000 to Chloe Milloy of St. Peter’s Hospice

Nigel’s Sponsored Walk

W.Bro. Nigel Feltham was due to take part in the famous Nijmegen Walk in July 2020, and then again in 2021, in support of the Surrey 2022 MBF Festival; but these were cancelled due to Covid. So, he planned to complete an alternative march over the same days around Surrey from the 20th to the 23rd of July.

Nigel has been rather poorly having been diagnosed with Poly Myalgia Rheumatica, so this was quite a personal challenge for him. Before the walk Nigel said “This walk will be a big challenge for me... most people know I love my walking, especially long distances. The walk will let me know how far I have progressed with my recovery. I will complete the walk over four days, maybe not as fast as I usually go”.

We are delighted to say that Nigel completed his walk and sponsorship from individuals and Lodges has raise £3,000 so far. It’s not too late to sponsor Nigel. Our Provincial Grand Master has agreed to match-fund the donations from Mark and RAM Lodges – up to £100 each. (The Lodge’s honorific will be credited with 50% of the Province’s contribution) You can also sponsor Nigel personally - Click [Here](#)² and search for MMM2111.

Nigel said, “I always take part in the Nijmegen marches otherwise known as Vierdaagse. This year, the same as last, it was cancelled due to the pandemic. Luckily The Dutch walking authorities set up

²<https://rcs.mcf.org.uk/>

an app enabling walkers across the world to do the alternative Vierdaagse. This enabled walkers to plan their own routes from their own home, or wherever they wanted to start or finish. The app then records the kilometres per day and walkers that complete the four days get a medal.

I walked four different routes from Tuesday, the 20th of July to Friday the 23rd ... each day just over 20 km. The routes can be seen on my social media pages, or in the photos included with this article. I wouldn't be British if I didn't complain about the weather, it was very hot out there, but that's what the Brits do best, moan about the heat, moan about the rain, that's what's so great about being British.

I would like to thank everyone who met me along the way and also dug deep and sponsored the walk. As you all may know, this walk is for the Surrey Mark 2022 Festival. A Festival that has been hit hard, as we all have been, by the pandemic.

Nigel's Diary - Day 1



I set off for the first of 4 days in support of the 2022 Surrey Mark Festival. Only 20KMa day, 80 in total, but after the year I've had health wise that's far enough. I hope to do each day in around 4 hours 10am-2pm but looking at the weather forecast I may start slightly earlier.



Day 1 of the Alternative Nijmegen complete. Phew that was hot!

Had to have a few pit stops along the way. Thanks to my Brother Chris Feltham for the cuppa. Lovely to 'pop' in on two of my former Dentists. And thanks to Bernie Searle and Georgina Searle for the ice cold squash with 4 1/2 km to go.



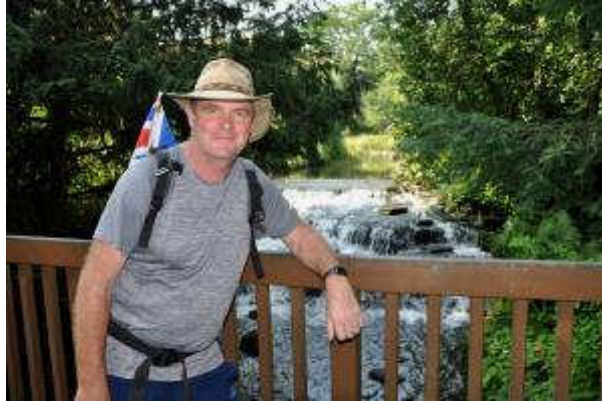
Day 2



4 - Today it's Carshalton, Beddington, Purley Way, Mitcham and home



5 - Finished Day 2 of the Alternative Nijmegen 2021. Another scorcher!



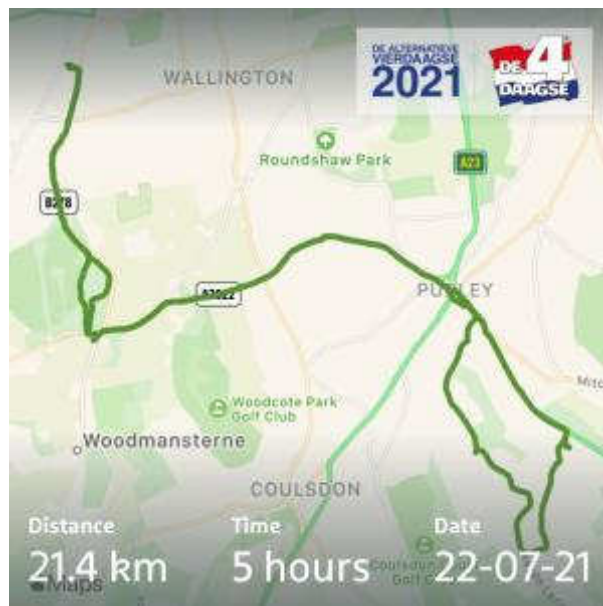
Thank you to my Neighbours Alan and Caroline Last for walking some of the way with our Molly and taking her home again; the Provincial Photographer, Chris Eley, who walked part of the way with me taking photos; Stuart De Fraine Ford for stopping and wishing us well; and friend and fellow Governor at Sutton Masonic Hall, Ken Martin, for walking all the way with me. Thank you all.



Tomorrow is Oaks Park, Coulsdon, Purley, Kenley, and home.



Day 3



6 - Day 3 of the Alternative Nijmegen complete. Another Scorcher, and starting to feel it today - I must be getting old



7 - Lovely walk through the Oaks Park



8 - Then the Lavender Fields



And on to Purley, then Kenley, where I was greeted by our Provincial Grand Master, Ian Clark, and his good lady, Pat. Many thanks Sir.

Also, I must thank Chris Eley for the excellent photos.



Onwards towards Coulsdon (where I took a wrong turn) and then back to Purley and home.

Thank you for all the Sponsorship so far. The 2022 Surrey Mark Festival needs all the help it can get, with the finale less than a year away - please donate if you can. Or encourage your Mark Lodge to donate. Last day tomorrow.

Day 4



9 - Carshalton, Belmont, Drift Bridge, Epsom Racecourse, Horton Park, Ewell and home



Day 4 and I've completed the walk of the Alternative Nijmegen.

Today was easier weather wise but just as tough. Along the way I met up with Rebecca Palmer @Much, sampled a wonderful cuppa and bacon roll at her new business located at Horton Park Country Club car park (KT19 8PL); and Iain George of OMG Graphics & Signs who looks after my shop premises, and is building up a successful printing and graphics business.



Lastly thanks to Shelley and Jeff at Sutton Masonic Halls for opening the bar early for me so I could rehydrate.



Over 80 km in total. Thank you to all those who have supported and sponsored this walk. It's not too late to do so. Remember, every Mark Lodge donation will be matched (up to £100) by the Surrey Mark Province. Please get your Lodges involved - our Festival needs your support.

With thanks to W.Bro. Nigel Feltham, Prov.G.Stwd., and V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, G.J.O., for the words and pictures

Discovery and restoration for St. Nicholas Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 413

The St. Nicholas Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 413 was Consecrated on 27th of February 1925 at the Masonic Hall in Harwich and is the 5th oldest RAM moored to the 5th oldest Mark giving it the distinction of being one of only two Lodges in the Mark Province of Essex that have this coterminous chronology. The other being that of the Beaconsfield Mark and RAM No. 205, having the 2nd oldest unit in each regard.

In 1967 a hand carved plaque bearing the crest of the St. Nicholas RAM was presented to the Lodge by its creator, W.Bro. Frank George Littlewood, Prov.R.A.M.G.R., a shipwright and Commander of the

RAM in 1960. He would become the Master of the St. Nicholas Mark in 1962. W.Bro. Frank had been Elevated into the RAM in February of 1935 and became the Lodge Organist in the same year. He would remain in this position until 1943 beginning his journey to the Chair, which included 7 years as Warder.

Unfortunately, this plaque was lost and the current membership did not know of its existence, without mention of its loss in contemporary records. As the Lodge readied itself for a return to Masonic business after the lockdown, members of St. Nicholas were charged with assisting in the collection of the Lodge furniture so that by dispensation, they could meet at Brightlingsea instead of their home temple at Harwich.

The members were duly dispatched and the furniture was found beside an empty cupboard bearing the signs of damage from wood worm and neglect. It was W.Bro. David Rout, IPC of the St. Nicholas RAM that took the initiative to break down this cupboard to clear the infestation and in doing so, came upon the long lost St. Nicholas plaque, which unbeknownst to him had been missing for many years.

W.Bro. Rout took the plaque home and restored it to its former glory, now motivated to research the origins of this fine piece of work and in doing so, found W.Bro. Frank Littlewood in the Lodge history covering the years 1925 to 1975, with an entry on the presentation of this plaque.



The Order of the Secret Monitor resumes in the Province of West Yorkshire



10 - The Installation of Wy.Bro. Shaun Higson

Now that the restriction on meeting has been lifted the Brethren of West Yorkshire were keen to resume activities and there were three Conclave meetings within four days, with a total of 54 brethren attending.

The first meeting within the Province was on the 26 July when Roses Conclave met by dispensation at their new venue in Huddersfield. Twenty-one brethren witnessed the Installation of Worthy Brother Shaun Higson.

Shaun is currently in the Chair of Fraternity Conclave in the Province of East Lancashire and considering his recent health issues he should be applauded for his support for the Conclave and his commitment to our Province and the Order. Two new members were also proposed and will join the Conclave at the August meeting.

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



11 - Wy. Bro. Eric Bullock presents the 'Shield of Friendship' to the Wy. Bro. Shaun Higson

Allied Masonic Degrees District of London Awareness Evening



The A.M.D. District of London are holding an online awareness evening on Thursday, 23 September at 8 p.m. via zoom.

Do 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 join this event.

The evening will be hosted by the 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

Please forward this email and the registration link to any Brother you believe may be interested in finding out more about our fun and unique Order. If able to do so, existing members are also encouraged to attend with those they invite.

Click Here³ to register

Across Social Media

[On Facebook - The Mark Province of Kent Provincial Grand Master's new Stonebearers make their debut](#)

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FKentMarkMasterMasons%2Fposts%2F2970278773240882&show_text=true&width=500"
width="500" height="480" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frame border="0"
allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; web-share"></iframe>
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³<https://amdondon.org/component/formmaker/?view=formmaker&id=36>

The first arrival at a 21st Century Knights Templar Encampment marks their territory



While the Knights of the KT Province of Durham swap their swords for shotguns

WANTED
YOUR SUPPORT

The Provincial Prior
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time while raising funds for
the chosen charity of our order

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50 cartridges supplied
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Safety briefing
Bisque Toffee

BOOKINGS
Allan Stokoe
Tel: 07798708058
a.stokoe@stjwvorki.com

Date: Saturday 21st August, 2023
Time: Start 11.00am - 15.00pm
Marras Barracks, Catterick Village
North Yorkshire, DL10 7NP

PLEASE BRING SOME FORM OF IDENTIFICATION

On Twitter - a new Consistory in the Scarlet Cord was Consecrated at Wolverhampton
Stretton Hills Consistory No. 137 in the Province of the Midland Counties is now consecrated and
ready to start working.

The Grand Summus was present, accompanied by his team, performing as usual to the highest
standards. The Grand Tzaddikin was also present ready to protect him, if needed



In attendance were a deputation from East Lancashire

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1422459511722422281>

And the Grand Summus had time for a bit of sightseeing

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1422276367878696962>

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

 Annual Convocation of Grand Jurors Thursday, 2 September (moved from May 2021)	 Annual Meeting of Grand Council Tuesday, 26 October
 Quarterly Convocation of Mark Grand Lodges Tuesday, 7 September	 Annual Convocation of Grand Conclave Friday, 15 November
 Annual Meeting of Grand Privy Thursday, 9 September	 Annual Chapter of Great Priory of Malta Tuesday, 16 November
 Annual Assembly of Grand Imperial Conclave Tuesday, 12 October (moved from July 2021)	 Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Royal Art Masons Tuesday, 7 December

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>

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



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

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 graphic features the RCSI logo on the left and the Great Priory of the Temple logo on the right. The central text reads 'The Knights Templar 20 for 2020 Appeal'. Below this, it says 'Text KT2042020 to 70500 to donate £20'. A small text box contains the following information: '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 Clergy Registered Charity No. 281942). Text donation helpline: 020 3146 3252. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1184703, Company No. 09751636'. At the bottom, it provides the address '60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5AZ' and the website 'www.mcf.org.uk'.

MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

2022 Surrey¹²

2023 West Yorkshire¹³

2024 Cheshire¹⁴

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

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

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

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.

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

