

Freemasonry@86 News - 14 August 2020



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

This bulletin is emailed to all 'leaders' in the Provinces, Districts & Divisions and their Secretariats.

Please share this content with your members by forwarding this email or let them know that it's available on the MMH website.

If you don't currently receive this email directly but would like to subscribe please email communications@mmh.org.uk¹

Focus on the Mark Benevolent Fund



¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

Celebrating Blood Bike Awareness Day

Friday 14 August is Blood Bike Awareness Day and we have been delighted to join in with our friends at The Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes in highlighting their fantastic work.

The Mark Benevolent Fund made the first grant in 2016 to Northumbria Blood Bikes

Since then we have supplied 18 bikes and 10 cars to 27 blood bike groups.

In addition, this year we have given £23,541 to Northumbria Blood Bikes for a replacement radio system and £5,127 to SERV Kent for personal PPE to allow them to do their job.

To date the MBF has invested £497,113 in our Blood Bike Partners.

The handover of vehicles was marked by a presentation day in August 2018 at the National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull. Video and photographs below.



<https://youtu.be/irJ9zoiP3kE>







Hope For Tomorrow

The Mark Benevolent Fund has once again stepped up with a grant of £25,000 to assist our long term partners, Hope for Tomorrow. The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that the role of the Mobile Cancer Care Units (MCCU's) has become even more important as hospital facilities have been repurposed. The grant will go towards additional running costs caused by extended usage of the charity's fleet of MCCU's. Charities Manager, W.Bro. Darren Coleman-Heald, said, 'Since 2014 the Mark Benevolent Fund has fully funded eight MCCU's and part funded another representing our grant of £2.1m. The importance of the units to the NHS and the wider communities in which they serve cannot be underestimated.'

If you would like to help please make your contribution here: <https://hopefortomorrow.org.uk/donate/>



1 - The Grand Master, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, cuts the ribbon of a new Hope for Tomorrow Mobile Cancer Care Unit



Support for Lebanon Crisis

This week the Mark Benevolent Fund agreed a sum of £5000.00 be given to the Mark District of Cyprus to support the purchase of necessary and appropriate materials to help with the crisis in Lebanon, these materials will in turn be transferred to the Larnaca Municipal Authorities who are arranging daily air and sea mercy trips to deliver the materials where they will give most relief.

And the Scarlet Cord have added their support...

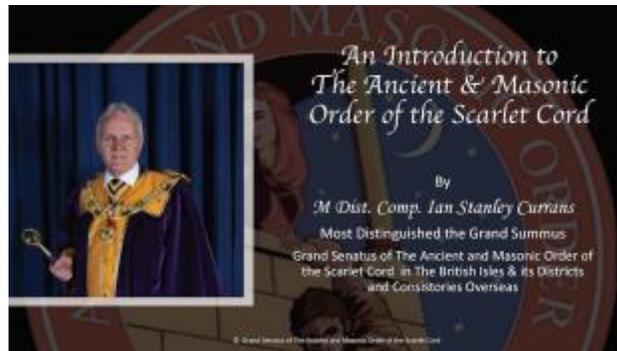
R. Dist. Comp. Ian Sullivan, Provincial Grand Summus for Somerset and Dorset writes: On Saturday at the Provincial Scarlet Cord Virtual Business Meeting it was announced that money would be donated to the Red Cross for the very unfortunate people of Beirut who, as you are aware, have suffered a major disaster. If you would like to make a donation to this Appeal by making an electronic transfer you can email me at ianrobsullivan@btinternet.com² for the details. The Appeal will initially be open for a period of 14 days, all monies received by then, will be donated to the Red Cross in the name of the Province of Somerset and Dorset Scarlet Cord. Any monies received after this period will then be donated on a weekly basis. I thank you very much in anticipation for your generosity and I am sure your contribution will be gratefully received.

²<mailto:ianrobsullivan@btinternet.com>

Staying with the Scarlet Cord



The Most Distinguished Grand Summus, Ian Stanley Currans, was pleased to give a lecture as an introduction to the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord to Companions of the District Grand Senatus of Southern India.



<https://youtu.be/lrwpusfuDCo>

Knights Templar News

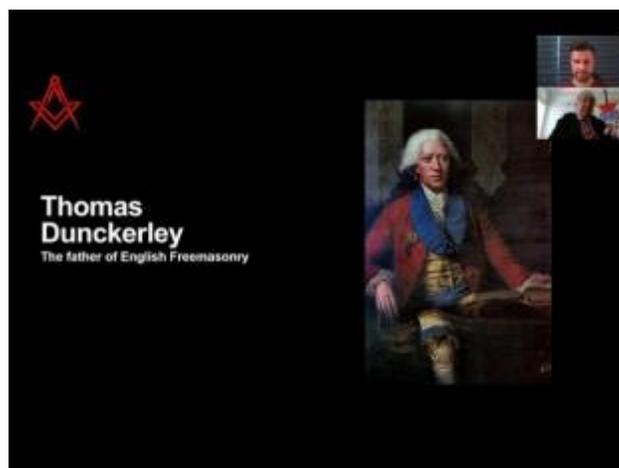


The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master, Paul Raymond Clement, joined the team at Freemasons Without Borders to talk about the Knights Templar. During the presentation he spoke about the 20 for 2020 Appeal, which this week broke the £30K barrier.

The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital is experiencing great difficulty during these difficult times and any support from those who feel able, not just from the Knights Templar but anyone who feels able to contribute, is greatly appreciated.

You can read the latest update from the Eye Hospital Here³

And further information about the 20 for 2020 Appeal is below.



³http://download.mmh.org.uk/SJEHG_CEO_UPDATE_AUG2020.pdf

<https://youtu.be/mQ2q2n7Wc40>

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised more than £30,000.00



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just [Click Here⁴](#) or use the Text Donate facility below.

100 per cent of donations will be given to 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. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1164703, Company No. 09751636

60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5AZ | www.mcf.org.uk

⁴<http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/KT2042020>

The Red Cross of Constantine



The Right Illustrious Grand Sovereign, Graham Leslie Flight, was also delighted to be invited to join the team at Freemasons Without Borders to give a lecture on the Red Cross of Constantine.



<https://youtu.be/JplmPg360I8>

And in the Division of Sussex

On Tuesday 11th August 2020, the Intendant-General for Sussex, R.Ill.Kt. Paul Rose, attended the Rockinghorse Children's charity HQ in Brighton, East Sussex and presented a cheque in the sum of £2,500 from the Grand Sovereign's Care For Children Fund on behalf of his Division.

Paul, accompanied by his Deputy, Ill.Kt. Andrew Knight, was met by the Charity's Fund Raiser, Hollie Trezise, who accepted the cheque on behalf of the charity.

Rockinghorse is a Brighton based charity that has been supporting children in Sussex for over 50 years and was set up by Dr. Trevor Mann in 1967, who recognised a real need for additional resources to improve healthcare services for sick children and babies. The charity is best known as the official fundraising arm of the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Brighton.

They also provide vital support to the neighbouring Trevor Mann Baby Unit and its sister site, the Special Care Baby Unit based in the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath. In addition, they support paediatric wards in hospitals across Sussex, specialist neonatal units, respite centres and children's services in the county.

They raise funds to provide life-saving and cutting-edge medical equipment, and additional services and items to ensure that young people are treated in an environment better suited to their needs. They believe that wherever they are, children should always be allowed to be children.

The charity does not receive any government funding and relies on the generous support of individuals, community groups, schools, companies and trusts: and people like us!

Paul said he was extremely pleased to make the presentation of the cheque for £2,500 from the Grand Sovereign's Care for Children Fund, as it will be well used and will benefit those using the facilities. He added that, during his visit, he had been reminded that although there are many children who are suffering from an illness, they are all being extremely well cared for.

100 Years of Concordia Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 721, Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, Concordia Lodge No. 721 marked the 100th anniversary of its warrant on 10 August 2020 with an informal zoom celebration, for which they were joined by the Assistant Grand Master R.W.Bro. Stephen Davison, the Grand Secretary R.W.Bro. Ryan Williams, and the Deputy District Grand Master in Charge V.W.Bro. Patrick Purnell-Edwards.

The Lodge's Centenary meeting was to have been held on 18 July 2020, but has had to be delayed because of covid-19.



Across Social Media

On Twitter - Somerset Mark Master Masons fly the flag for the Mark Degree
<http://twitter.com/statuses/1291622589199253506>

[On Facebook - An unusual find from HMS Victory surfaces in The Square](#)

Embed://<iframe

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src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FTheSquareMagazine%2Fposts%2F2718204951612752&width=500" width="500" height="642" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media"></iframe>
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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 Secretariat⁵ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁶

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁷

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

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

⁷<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

Art@86

Continuing our look at some of the portraiture at Mark Masons' Hall and the personalities behind the pictures.

The two Earls of Stradbroke



Flanking the Junior Warden's chair in the South of the Brazil Temple at Mark Masons' Hall you will find these portraits of the 3rd Earl of Stradbroke (above) and his son, the 4th Earl of Stradbroke (below).

George Edward John Mowbray Rous, 3rd Earl of Stradbroke, *KCMG, CB, CVO, CBE, VD, TD*, was appointed Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons in 1910. He was promoted to Pro Grand Master in 1913, serving until 1943 when he succeeded H.R.H. The 1st Duke of Kent, *KG*, as Grand Master; a position he held until his death in 1947.

Throughout this time he also served as Provincial Grand Master of the Mark for East Anglia (1904-1947), Provincial Grand Master of the Craft for Suffolk (1902-1947), and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Victoria from 1922-1926.

Following education at Harrow and the Trinity College, Cambridge, he had a distinguished military career, rising to the Rank of Colonel and seeing action on the Western Front, Egypt and Palestine in the First World War.

He held other offices such as Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Governor of Victoria, Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Vice-Admiral of Suffolk, chairman of East Suffolk County Council and President of the National Sea Fisheries Protection Association.

His portrait, showing him in military uniform and Peer's robes, is by John Arthur Machray Hay and dated 1939.

Upon the 3rd Earl of Stradbroke's promotion to Grand Master, there would not be another Pro Grand Master of GLMMM until 1982 and, fittingly, this would be his son, John Anthony Alexander Rous, 4th Earl of Stradbroke, *KStJ*.

He would only hold office for a year as he died on 14 July 1983. However, this is a particularly unusual career path as, up to this point, he'd served as Grand Master since 1973. It was only the appointment of H.R.H. The Prince Michael of Kent, *GCVO*, as Grand Master in 1982 that necessitated his appointment as Pro Grand Master.

The 4th Earl had previously served as Deputy Grand Master (again, like his father) from 1967-1973 and also followed in the 3rd Earl's footsteps as Provincial Grand Master for East Anglia Mark (1948-1972).

Proving further that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree he was similarly Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Secretary to the Governor of Victoria and a member of East Suffolk Council.

The one striking difference between the Earls is that the 4th Earl was a Navy man, having been educated at Royal Naval College, Osborne, and the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. His portrait, by Julia Heseltine (1980), shows him in Peer's robes, holding a Naval sword, and in the background a seascape, warship and Neptune in the cloud formation.



Resumption of Masonic Activity



Guidance for carrying out ceremonies permitted during Covid-19 restrictions have now been circulated to Provincial/District/Divisional Rulers and their Secretaries or equivalent. Please take a look at the guidance notes before planning any meetings, to familiarise yourself with the amendments to the ceremonial procedures.

Please note that from Saturday 8 August the wearing of face masks by those able to do so becomes mandatory at Masonic meetings in line with Government advice. Click Here⁸ for the full letter from the Grand Secretary.

Additionally, there have been several other announcements recently regarding the resumption of Masonic activity.

The announcement on behalf of the Management Board about the agreed schedule of fees for 2020-2021 is Here⁹

The Further Guidance following the announcement of the relaxation of the General Suspension of Masonic Activity, issued by the Grand Secretary on 17 July, containing some frequently asked questions and answers, is Here¹⁰

The original General Guidance for the Resumption of Masonic Meetings, issued by the Grand Secretary on 6 July, relating to all Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, can be viewed Here¹¹

The joint Mark Masons' Hall/UGLE General Guidance for the Resumption of Masonic Meetings is Here¹²

There is also an important announcement about the communication of Mark Grand Lodge scheduled for September Here¹³

The guidance we have produced should help pave the way to formulating meetings in the "new normal"; providing those who feel able to attend with a safe and comfortable environment to perform ceremonies with the dignity required, while maintaining engagement and contact with Brethren who wish to remain at home. We will keep you updated via email and social media.

If you are unsure about any of the protocols to be observed please contact your Provincial/District Grand Secretary (or equivalent) in the first instance, who will be able to advise you. We are indebted to them for the work they are carrying in their respective Provinces, Districts and Divisions at this difficult time.

⁸http://download.mmh.org.uk/Further_guidance_on_the_wearing_of_Face_Masks_at_Masonic_meetings_7_August_2020.pdf

⁹http://download.mmh.org.uk/22.07.20_Schedule_of_Fees_for_2020_-_2021_-_UK_and_EU.pdf

¹⁰http://download.mmh.org.uk/Further_Guidance_following_the_announcement_of_the_Relaxation_of_the_General_Suspension_of_Masonic_Activity.pdf

¹¹http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720_Explanatory_Note_to_Members_about_the_General_Guidance_for_the_Resumption_of_Masonic_Meetings.pdf

¹²http://download.mmh.org.uk/060720_General_Guidance_for_the_Resumption_of_Masonic_Meetings.pdf

¹³http://download.mmh.org.uk/16.07.20_Notice_of_the_intended_Abandonment_of_the_September_Communication_of_Grand_Mark_Lodge.pdf



MBF Festival 2021



East Lancashire Province, hosts of the **153rd Mark Benevolent Fund Annual Festival in 2021**, have produced a unique **Souvenir Festival Calendar** for the year **2021** and copies are now available.

These large, wall hanging calendars feature twelve contrasting prints of iconic sights in East Lancashire, commencing with the beauty of Pendle Hill in January and ending with Manchester's colourful Christmas Market in December. The 12 original watercolours were painted by Annette Young over the past four years specially for this calendar without cost to the Province. Calendars are priced at £10 each and all proceeds will go to the MBF.

So, let us brighten your kitchen or office wall and at the same time provide much needed support for our Mark Benevolent Fund. Why not purchase several more copies to send to friends and family at Christmas?

Thank you very much for your support.



The calendar measures: 318mm x 228mm folded – 318mm x 456mm open

To order:

By email: eastlancscalendars@gmail.com¹⁴ By telephone: 07766731307

Payment by **cheque to East Lancs Mark 2021 Festival** – post to:

East Lancs Calendars. 47 St Leonards Way, Woore, Crewe. CW3 9SS

Or contact them for electronic payment details

And don't forget, Stewardship, Badge and Festival orders can be places as well.

Click Here¹⁵ for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

Click Here¹⁶ for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website Here¹⁷

¹⁴<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

¹⁵https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Stewardship_Badge_Form.pdf

¹⁶https://www.markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/2021_MBF_Festival_Complete_Forms_Pack.pdf

¹⁷<http://www.wordpress.eastlancsmark.org/?p=11465>

The Shop@86 is now open



As well as being able to accept online orders, we are pleased to announce the Shop@86 is now open to visitors, initially from 1 pm to 6 pm Monday to Friday.

For those who have received appointment to, or promotion in, Grand Rank - you may still place your order using the methods outlined in the form provided with your offer letter.

Please note: orders will be dispatched as soon as possible but may be subject to delays caused by Covid-19 restrictions.

Visit the Shop@86 website Here¹⁸



¹⁸<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

Business as usual for the Staff@86 while away from Mark Masons' Hall

Mark Masons' Hall may have 'closed for business' during the imposed lockdown, but all departments and teams are available on email to help and support.

