

Freemasonry@86 News - 2 October 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.

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A "Cowan" in Surrey



At the meeting of Surrey Enthroned Commanders Lodge No. 1219, the main item of business was to install W.Bro. Chris Eley, R.A.M.G.R., as Worshipful Commander. This was done in a most sincere manner by the outgoing Commander, W.Bro. Chris Cradock, R.A.M.G.R.

The newly installed Worshipful Commander then gave a short talk entitled 'The Cowan', a word originating from Scottish operative masonry of long ago which denoted 'Dry-dyker' who did not use mortar or prepared stone in his trade.

¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>



Prior to the Royal Ark Mariner meeting Surrey Installed Mark Masters Lodge had been opened and V.W.Bro. Brian Berry, P.G.J.O., proclaimed as W.M. for a second year.



St German's Preceptory No 498, Knights Templar, Isle of Man



E.Kt. Graham Platt, O.G.R., Preceptory Registrar of St German's Preceptory No. 498 was pleased to send us the following:

"Here in the Isle of Man we are in a unique position, we have not had a case of Covid-19 in the local community for over 100 days. Our borders are closed.

Only local residents are allowed to return to the Isle of Man and only if they agree to isolate for 14 days.

Our Preceptory was consecrated on the 27th April 1982 and meets in the west of the Island in Peel. We have a membership of 27 Knights at present.

In September we were given permission to hold our Installation and had a very good meeting with a good turnout of Knights

R.E.Kt. Capt. Eidwin F. Mullan, G.C.T., acted as Eminent Preceptor as the Eminent Preceptor himself was unable to attend.

We had a ballot for two Knights to be installed. The ballot proved all clear so we are looking forward to installing these Knights

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 and the uncertainty if we would be able to hold the installation meeting we were unable to install first Constable John Shakespeare as Eminent Preceptor so instead V.E.Kt. David Downie, MBE, P.G.Reg., was invested as Eminent Preceptor, he last having held the office in 1984. Kt. John Shakespeare will be installed as Eminent Preceptor next year when hopefully we will be able to give the ceremony its full justice.

The Eminent Preceptor then invested his officers, then all retired for a full festive board.

St German's Preceptory of Knights Templar meets at Freemasons' Hall Peel, on the second Monday in September (Installation), November and March (Elections). We would welcome any Knights to the Island when our borders are open again."

The Masonic Hall in Peel has an interesting history.

The Strand Cinema Co. (1920) Ltd. opened the Pavilion Cinema in July 1923. It had 400 seats. The external walls appear to have been those of a building used as a grain store. The cinema was built on the ground floor with a ballroom above. Sound was installed in the 1930's.

The Pavilion Cinema was taken over by The Palace and Derby Castle Co. in December 1945 and that company closed it in February 1961. The building was purchased by the Peel Masonic Club who continued to operate it as a cinema. It finally closed in September 1968 and was converted into a Masonic Hall.

Source: <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/36503>



Red Cross Division of Sussex presents £2,500 cheque to Time 4 Children Charity



On Friday 25th September 2020, the R.III.Kt. Paul Rose, Intendant-General for Sussex, attended the Time 4 Children charity HQ, in Haywards Heath, West 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 of Sussex. The Grand Sovereign is the head of the entire Order for England, Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves overseas and Paul, the Head of Sussex, was invited by him to nominate a charity to receive a donation, which clearly was successful.

Paul, accompanied by his Deputy, Andy Knight, was met by the Chairman and Founder, Vicky Chalmers *MBE*, who accepted the cheque on behalf of the charity. The photo shows the presentation, with the Head of the Order for Sussex, Paul Rose, on the left, Vicky in the Centre and Andy on the right.

Time 4 Children was established in 2005, after its Founder, Vicky Chalmers piloted a school project through 2003 to 2004 in mid-Sussex, whilst working for the Children Hours Trust. It became very clear there was little support for many local children in need of having someone safe to listen to them. The project was hugely successful and formed into a charity in its own right. The Time 4 Children received charitable status in October 2005.

All children need to be listened to. There are many children who need the help and support of a "listening ear" which is where the Charity can help. Their volunteer practitioners are trained to listen to children using Reflective Listening and Non-Directive play techniques. Each child is given a weekly one-to-one session where there is the time and space to explore their worries, fears, upsets or anxieties.

The sessions are held in the school where the child attends. The number of sessions can vary according to the needs of the child. Some need short term support and others need a lot longer. Most children average between 15 and 20 sessions, but occasionally there will be a need for more sessions.

The children benefit from increased emotional well-being, self confidence, self-worth & self-esteem, feeling better about who they are and what they can achieve; improved social skills; more able to learn at school.

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 service. He added that, during his visit, he had been reminded that although there are many children who are suffering from emotional distress, Time 4 children helps to prevent mental health problems spiralling and becoming entrenched in young children.

Royal & Select Masters District of East Midlands Goes Virtual



On Saturday, 26 September the East Midlands District of Royal & Select Masters held a Virtual Business Meeting in place of the Annual District meeting.

A total of 56 Companions logged into the Video Call and the District was honoured by two special guests in the persons of Most Illustrious Kessick John Jones, Grand Master, and Illustrious Companion Dan Heath, Assistant Grand Recorder.

The meeting was opened at 11.00 a.m. by the District Grand Master and the letter granting permission for the Virtual Business Meeting was read out to the Companions by the District Grand Recorder. The District Grand Master welcomed everyone especially the Grand Master and the Assistant Grand Recorder.

The business of the meeting took place which included the approval of minutes from the last District Meeting, Annual Accounts, Election of the Treasurer, Auditors and members to the Executive Committee.

The District Grand Master then announced that the District would not be charging any Annual Dues as a result of the Councils not having met since the very early part of the year and to ease any potential financial burdens that they find themselves in later in the year.

The District Appointments were confirmed and the Grand Master stated that he wished to congratulate those members and also those that had received Grand Rank earlier in the year although Grand Council had not been held.

Following a brief address the District Grand Master then closed the meeting. There was a brief interlude and members then came back together for a social gathering with a suitable liquid refreshment.



While in the Caribbean...



III. Comp. Harding Watler, P.G.Capt.Gd., Inspectorate Recorder of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands reports that a very successful meeting of Cayman Council No. 292 was held in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, under the Inspectorate of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands.

III. Comp. Richard H. Coles, QC was finally Installed as Thrice Illustrious Master of the Council after the Installation meeting scheduled for 23 May 2020 could not be held due to the suspension of Masonic activities.

The Cayman Islands are now officially Covid-19 free and all Government restrictions have been rescinded, with the only one remaining is that groups in excess of 250 persons are not allowed.

A merry Festive Board was held after the Installation.



And staying in the Caribbean, Barbados Consistory No. 79 - Order of the Scarlet Cord have resumed meetings.



Dist.Comp. Richard Mayers, P.G.Swd.B., Scarlet Cord (who is also the A.M.D. Dist.G.Pref. for South and East Caribbean) tells us, last week Barbados Consistory No.79 had their meeting to elect the President, Treasurer, Watchman, Benevolent Fund Steward and Auditors. We had thirteen Brethren at the meeting.

I presented two Air Purifiers to W.Bro. Michael Thompson, the Chairman of the Barbados Freemasons Association, to be fitted in the main Temple. We are trying to make the Older / Vulnerable Masons feel safe while attending meetings.



From the O.S.M. Province of Sussex

Warning: the following images may generate face-mask envy



Wy. Bro. Tan Rusby, P.G.St.B., Dep.Prov.G.S.R. for Sussex writes:

At the meeting of the Earl of Courtown OSM Conclave No. 150 on Saturday we inducted a candidate and did the Proclamation for a Supreme Ruler staying in Office for a second year.

The meeting saw the induction of Bro. Guenter Ruckhofer into our Conclave in a very unique meeting with five members multi-tasking to play all the roles in a seamless ceremony, specially coordinated by our Prov D.C. Wy. Bro. Angus Cameron. The Supreme Ruler, Wy. Bro. Simon Langton was at his theatrical best and supported by the Prov.G.S.R. for Sussex, Andries van der Burgh, while I filled in other roles and delivered the Address. We welcome Guenter into our Order and we hope he enjoys many years to come in OSM masonry.



Across Social Media

On Twitter - SERV Wessex benefit further from the generosity of the Mark.

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1310166528235630593>

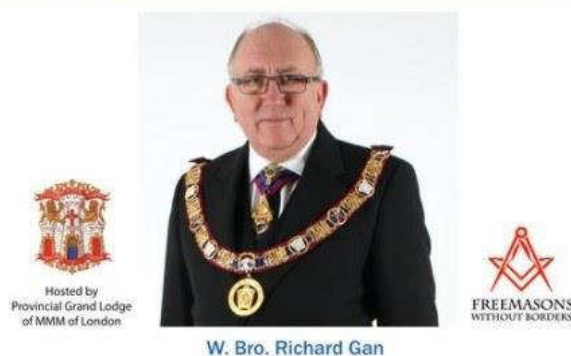
While in Kent, Brethren continue their support of charities in their community.

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1311378491145957377>

On Facebook - R.W.Bro. Richard Gan, P.Prov.G.M. (Middlesex) and Past Deputy Grand Secretary at Mark Masons' Hall, prepares to shine some light on the history of this and our previous buildings.



THE STORY OF TWO MARK MASONS' HALLS AND THE TWO THAT NEVER WERE!



The story of the several Mark Masons' Halls like Gaul in tres partes divisa est. A golden age in the history of Mark Masonry in England saw the creation of the first Hall in Great Queen Street in 1890. One of the most tragic episodes in the annals of Mark Masonry caused that Hall to be vacated, plans for two successor Halls not materialising, and the Order subsequently spending some forty years in the Masonic wilderness. To find out more join us on 6th October 2020!



Tuesday, 6th October 2020
at 18:00 (UTC+1)

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 Secretariat² - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page³

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall⁴

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk⁵

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised nearly £35,000.00



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just Click Here⁶ 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.



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. 1154709, Company No. 00751838

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²<https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3>

³<https://www.facebook.com/MarkMasonsHall/>

⁴<https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall>

⁵<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

⁶<http://everydayhero.co.uk/event/KT2042020>

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.com⁷ By telephone: 07766731307

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

East Lancs Calendars. 47 St Leonards Way, Woore, Crewe. CW39SS

⁷<mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com>

¹¹<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>



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

The 4th Floor at Mark Masons' Hall may be quieter than usual while travel is somewhat restricted but all departments and teams are available on email to help and support.

