

Freemasonry@86 News - 14 May 2021



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

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.uk 1

¹mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk

A Quiz, Car Booty, and The Keystone - It's all going on in Surrey

The MBF Festival 2022 in the Province of Surrey has been receiving widespread coverage and support thanks to various innovative fundraising initiatives.



You can read about the virtual Quiz Night Here²



A Festival Flog It Car Boot Sale gets a write-up Here³

²http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/news-0461.html

³http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/news-0462.html



the surrey keystone

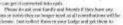












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Quiz Night??????

Mike's Mark May Day Quiz















Brothers in Law Luncheon Club



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CAR BOOT SALE

Flog it for the Festival Car Boot Sale



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BELLINGS NOTES



Major Capital Grant of £1.2 million to support. Nospices in England & Wales

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Inter Province Cricket Match



Brethren of Dewi Sant Conclave No. 457 in the O.S.M. are finally able to attend a cheque presentation

A cheque for £2000 was due to be presented to Vale of Clwyd MIND in May 2020 — the early months of the first Covid-19 lockdown. The cheque had to be posted to the m, and it is only now, in May 2021, that we have been able to meet with the CEO and some of his administrative team to officially 'present' the cheque and hear, first-hand, how much our donation will help in their ongoing work.



Pictured outside 'Mahoney's', the MIND Drop-in Centre on Marsh Road, Rhyl, are (L to R): Colin Lemin, Supreme Ruler of Dewi Sant Conclave No. 457, Paul Moore, Chief Executive Officer of Vale of Clwyd MIND, Tony Stringer, Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler of Cheshire & North Wales, Barrie Billinge, Dewi Sant Conclave No. 457 and a supporter of the Centre.

The Brethren were given a tour of the Centre's facilities by Paul, and Barrie's wife, Karen, who is also a Trustee, and were provided with an idea of the support provided for those with problems arising from both long and short term mental illness.

⁴http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/Surrey-Keystone-Back-Issues/Surrey-Keystone-Newsletter-Issue-14-May-2021.pdf

Special Interest Lodges making their Mark in Essex



The Province of Essex is very fortunate to have several Lodges of Specialist Interest. These Lodges are open to all visitors. Each has its own, and distinct, raison d'être and we are pleased to give you a pen picture of them all on our website.

With one or two minor caveats, each welcomes qualified joining members and just plain curious guests. So, go on, take a step and visit one or more, you will be made most welcome.

If you would like more information on the Lodges, please visit the website Here 5

It's in the Blood

Three years ago, the Mark Benevolent Fund donated a Dacia Duster to Blood Bikes Manchester for use as a response vehicle. The Duster, fleet name Mark, but known to the drivers as Mark Mason, has been in constant use since it was donated and has travelled some 48,000 miles supporting the NHS.



This vehicle, donated by the Mark Benevolent Fund, is regularly driven by a Mark Master Mason, Bro. The Rev. Robert Murphy, Junior Warden of Flixton Shepherd Eastwood Lodge 1173. Bro. Murphy, in addition to being Secretary of his craft Lodge and Secretary of a Masonic Hall Co. & Management Team, volunteered as a response driver for Blood Bikes Manchester, in his "free time".

⁵https://www.essexmark.co.uk/essex-specialist-lodges.html

His work as driver regularly takes him across four Masonic Provinces, West and East Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire West Riding, carrying Blood and Blood products from NHS Blood & Transplant centres to Hospitals.



Blood Bikes Manchester is a registered charity which offers an out of hours, free of charge, urgent medical courier service to the NHS. The service normally operates from 7.00 p.m. through to 6.00 a.m., and 24 hours at weekends and public holidays. However, since the start of the Pandemic our service has been operating 24/7. The call out and workload has increased ten-fold during this time and since the commencement of 2021 the service has carried out over 1,200 runs, or jobs, for the NHS.



Our riders are a hardy bunch that operate in all but the very worst weather, so as a backup we have a fleet of cars to take the place of our motorcycle if necessary. The additional demands, wear and tear and repairs costs placed on our motorcycles and cars has been exceedingly heavy.

The riders and drivers carry Blood and Blood Products, donor breast milk and frozen human milk from the Human Milk bank to Neonatal Intensive Care units for premature and sick babies across the region, urgent blood samples for analysis to regional Blood & Transplant centres, Covid samples & transplant samples.



Blood Bikes Manchester depends entirely on public sponsorship and donations to maintain a service. Fundraising is extremely important, as a charity we do not receive any form of payment for our service, so rely fully on donations from members of the public and sponsorship from local businesses. The Pandemic has seen a total stop on any fundraising throughout 2020 and into this year at a time when unfortunately, the charity needed additional funds to cover the additional demands placed on its resources.



This story shows just one of the many ways that your generous donations contribute in many ways to the wellbeing of so many people.

W.Bro. Austin N. Fletcher, P.G.Stwd., Flixton Shepherd Eastwood Lodge of Mark Master Masons. No. 1173.

Story and pictures supplied by my good friend Bro. The Rev. Bob Murphy, Junior Warden of the same Lodge.

And, staying with vehicles sponsored by the MBF



The Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Raymond John Smith, was please to snap this picture of one of the Channel Islands' MBF sponsored St John Ambulance vehicles, whilst out and about on Jersey.

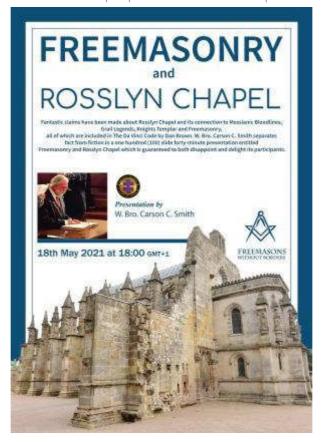
Across Social Media

On Facebook - The Mark Province of Somerset's virtual Open House proves popular once again

Embed://<iframe

src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F MarkMasonsSomerset%2Fposts%2F300295108316524&show_text=true&width=500" width="500" height="713" style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen="true" allow="autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; picture-in-picture; webshare"></iframe>

And, Freemasons Without Borders prepare for a virtual trip to Rosslyn Chapel



On Twitter - London's AMD 'A Shot in the Arm' latest edition now available http://twitter.com/statuses/1392049340840042498

And, our friends at the Museum of Freemasonry have some new online talks in store http://twitter.com/statuses/1393174660141961220

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 Face book 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 Secretariat⁶ - This is the contact account for the Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page⁷

Twitter - @MarkMasonsHall8

Or you can email us at communications@mmh.org.uk9

⁶https://www.facebook.com/mmh.secretariat.3

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

⁸https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall

⁹mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk

The Shop@86 reopens its doors from Monday, 17 May, as well as the usual online orders via the website

Click Here¹⁰ 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.uk¹¹





The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised over £47,000 and continues to grow



¹⁰ https://www.shopat86.co.uk/

¹¹mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk

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 Here 12 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.



MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

2022 Surrey¹³

2023 West Yorkshire14

2024 Cheshire 15

2025 Oxfordshire¹⁶

2026 Hampshire & IOW17

¹²https://fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Appeal-KT2042020

¹³https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument

¹⁴https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2023-west-yorkshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form/viewdocument

¹⁵https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2024-cheshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument

 $^{{}^{16}\}underline{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-}{2/viewdocument}$

 $[\]frac{17}{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2026-hants-iow-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-}}{2/\text{viewdocument}}$



2022 and 2023 Jewels are currently available for purchase while others will be made available in due course.

 $^{18}\underline{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-states} \\$

^{2/}viewdocument

 $^{^{19}\}underline{\text{https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-leading}}$

²⁰https://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 Study²¹ 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.

Business as usual for the Staff@86



Staff from the 4th Floor at Mark Masons' Hall have returned to working from home but all departments and teams are available via email and telephone to help and support as usual.

²¹https://covid.joinzoe.com/



Mark Masons' Hall is pleased to be

