



Freemasonry@86 News - 18 June 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.

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

¹<mailto:communications@mmh.org.uk>

East Lancashire MBF Festival 2021



It is with great regret that we have to announce the cancellation of the East Lancashire 2021 MBF Festival.

Restrictions remaining in place beyond the 21 June date now mean that it will be impractical to hold a meaningful celebration at such a large event.

However, on Saturday, 3 July there will be a zoom meeting, organised by the Grand Secretary, to announce the results of the fantastic fundraising efforts of the Province and supporters of the Festival. A link to the meeting will be circulated next week.

Not quite there yet



As mentioned above, the Government's decision to delay the move to Step 4 of the 'roadmap out of lockdown' from 21 June to the potential date of 19 July, means that Masonic meetings must continue under the Covid-19 adaptations to ceremonies, Temple set-up, and attendance cap numbers, as previously advised. Before planning your meeting, it is important to check with the local secretariat of your Order that they are allowing meetings to be held under these restrictions, or whether a local suspension remains in place.

Please remember that disciplined social distancing and wearing of face coverings (by those not exempt), both during meetings and while moving around Masonic premises, are two key ways that we can ensure that we keep ourselves and our Brethren safe.

As we head towards the traditional summer recess, Virtual Business Meetings will no doubt start to tail off but do continue to keep in touch with each other and, most especially, with those who may be feeling the effects of isolation more than others.

We hope it won't be too much longer until we can enjoy the fraternal fellowship that Freemasonry offers us, but the message remains clear, when activities can resume in full, there will be no coercion for Brethren to return to meetings until they feel the time is right for them to do so.

When that time does come, we hope we can enjoy our meetings with the same verve as we used to.

Knights of Warwickshire enjoy a virtual Annual Preceptory of Improvement Festival



Every year, the Provincial Priory of Warwickshire holds an Annual Preceptory of Improvement Festival. Having done so for the last 17 years we were not going to let that nasty Covid-19 virus disrupt its continuity.

It is a Preceptory of Improvement, not 'Demonstration' or 'Perfection.' Knights of all abilities are welcome; we do not restrict it to the best ritualists. It's there to teach and improve.

Normally, either a Temple or Malta ceremony would be presented. This year, to comply with the restrictions of virtual meetings, an alternative approach was needed. The members of the Team researched the duties and responsibilities of the members of the Pentagonal and Octagonal Tables; those held by the original Hospitallers. The Team then wrote and presented their own scripts.

I invite you to join the Knights of Warwickshire, honoured by the presence of the Great Prior of Malta, Very Eminent Knight Jonathan Whitaker, and the Great Sub-Prior of Malta, Very Eminent Knight Steven Warwick, in taking a big step in your daily advancement of Masonic knowledge by partaking in our 18th Annual Preceptory of Improvement Festival by [Clicking Here²](#) to view the recording.

I hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

Please, keep keeping safe.

R.E.Kt. Roger E. Dixon

Provincial Prior for Warwickshire

²<https://adilo.bigcommand.com/watch/K6HezCCX>

Kent Mark Mason Announced as Master of The Honourable Company of Master Mariners for 2021-2022



Congratulations to Lt.Cdr. Les Chapman, Founding Member of St. James's Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, who has been announced as Master of The Honourable Company of Master Mariners³ for 2021-2022.

Les, who has recently been appointed to Mark Grand Rank, was born in June 1956 in Amherst, Nova Scotia, Canada and is a direct descendant of William and Mary Chapman from Hawnby, in North Yorkshire, who immigrated to Nova Scotia in 1774. Les attended Amherst Regional High School and was selected to attend the Royal Military College of Canada, joining the Royal Canadian Navy in 1974.

He served as an Officer Cadet on Destroyer Escorts and Mine Hunters before graduating from RMC as a Sub Lieutenant with a BChemEng(Nuc) in 1978. Les gained his Officer of the Watch Certificate in a Destroyer on the West Coast of Canada in 1979 and then volunteered for Submarines in Halifax, Nova Scotia gaining his Dolphins in 1980 serving on HMCS Onondaga. He volunteered to go on exchange with the Royal Navy Submarine Service in 1981 serving in HMS Opossum and transferred to the Royal Navy in 1983 living in Portsmouth until 2014.

Les served in a number of submarines and passed the Submarine Command Course (Perisher) in 1988. He had a number of Command appointments including the Acceptance of HMS Vanguard, standing by build for HMS Victorious and conducting first firing and patrol. After 24 years in the RCN and RN he voluntarily retired in 1997.

After leaving the RN he spent 3 years as the Marine Operations Manager at the UK's premier port and gained an MBA in 1999. From 2000 he has been in marine consultancy with various companies in London and overseas including 8 years as COO of an international accident investigation and expert witness company. With more than 45 years' experience in the maritime environment, he has spoken and written articles on a wide range of topics from business risk and contingency planning to government and agency policy on security and maritime matters.

³<https://www.hcmm.org.uk/>

Les joined the Honourable Company of Master Mariners in 2001 and became a Liveryman in 2014. Was elected to the Court of Assistants in 2013 and 2016 and elected as Warden in 2017. W.Bro. Les holds Senior London Grand Rank in the Craft, is Treasurer of Navy Lodge and is a Visiting Officer in Metropolitan Grand Lodge. He holds Grand Rank in the Mark, Provincial Grand Rank in Royal Ark Mariner and is a member of 14 Masonic Units. It should be an interesting year for Les on many levels, not least because he informs us that outside of Freemasonry, he already has 146 Honourable Company of Master Mariners commitments in his diary!

Les has been married to Lydia since 2019 and between them they have two sons, two daughters, three granddaughters and a grandson. They have lived in Tunbridge Wells since 2017.

Meetings from East to West



W.Bro. Arthur Wu, District Grand Secretary for the District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Hong Kong was pleased to send us this photograph taken at the Annual Communication of District Grand Lodge held on 7 June 2021.



Wy.Bro. Ray Sinclair sent in this picture from the Election Meeting for the Supreme Ruler Elect of Cynghordy Conclave O.S.M. No. 508 at the Masonic Hall, Llanelli in the Province of West Wales on Wednesday, 9 June.



And in Barbados, Valley Council of the A.M.D. No.229 met with the new Master, W.Bro. Achirri Adams and his Officers and in St.George Council of R.S.M. No.279, T.I.M. Marlon Munroe and his Officers enjoyed their meeting.

Across Social Media

On YouTube - The Grand Summus & The Ark of the Covenant



https://youtu.be/8YbWBu_YLQo

On Twitter - A new website for the O.S.M. Province of East Midlands

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1405167299082993665>

Kent Mark Brethren turned their attention to mental health and wellbeing

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1402005034007728133>

St John MBF funded Mobile Treatment Centres are on the road supporting the vaccination programme

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1404367154829475840>

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

Dates for the diary

In the hope that the Government may soon announce the lifting of restrictions, we have started making plans for the Autumn.

Dates to note are:

 Annual Consecration of Grand Seignior Thursday, 2 September (moved from May 2021)	 Annual Meeting of Grand Council Tuesday, 26 October
 Quarterly Consecration of Mark Grand Lodge Tuesday, 7 September	 Annual Consecration of Grand Conclave Thursday, 11 November
 Annual Meeting of Grand Priory Thursday, 9 September	 Annual Chapter of Grand 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 Honourable Fraternity of Royal Art Masons Tuesday, 14 December

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 Here⁸](#) 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.uk⁹



⁸<https://www.shopat86.co.uk/>

⁹<mailto:ordersinfo@mmh.org.uk>

The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal has now raised over £48,000 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 Here¹⁰ 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 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 3252. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1184703; Company No. 09751836

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MBF Festival Stewardship Jewels

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

2022 Surrey¹¹

2023 West Yorkshire¹²

¹⁰<https://fundraising.mcf.org.uk/Appeal-KT2042020>

¹¹<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2022-surrey-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹²<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2023-west-yorkshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form/viewdocument>

2024 Cheshire¹³

2025 Oxfordshire¹⁴

2026 Hampshire & IOW¹⁵

2027 Warwickshire¹⁶

2028 Somerset¹⁷

2030 Essex¹⁸

This week, the Charities team, Linda Read and Millie Pilson began sending out the 2025 Oxfordshire Jewels.

We are still awaiting stock of 2028 and 2030 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.

¹³<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2024-cheshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁴<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2025-oxfordshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁵<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2026-hants-iow-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁶<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2027-warwickshire-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁷<https://www.markmasonshall.org/mbf-download/2028-somerset-mbf-festival-stewardship-form-2/viewdocument>

¹⁸<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 Study¹⁹ 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.

¹⁹<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

