

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 - forward this email, send a copy of the PDF or let them know that it's available on the MMH website and TeamApp.

This newsletter is on the Mark Masons' Hall website latest news section - the front page - on this link >>>

April							
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Dates for your diary - given the current general suspension of all Masonic activity, all previously advised events have been postponed/cancelled.

Locked down but still here to help



Mark Masons' Hall may have been 'closed for business' during the imposed lockdown, but all departments and teams are available on email to help and support - not just to drink tea. If you're not sure who to contact, please email
<u>communications@mmh.org.uk</u>
and we'll direct you to the right person.

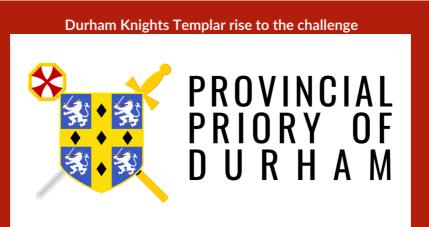


Please click on this button for a copy of the Mark Masons' Hall email contact list >>>

Kent Mark Master Masons and Givaudan keep SERV Blood Bikes running



Since the lockdown, SERV Kent have been unable to raise much needed funds to buy the essential consumables required to run the service and maintain a safe environment for their volunteers. One item, absolutely essential to maintaining a safe environment and allowing the service to continue to operate, is hand sanitiser. Supplies are limited and market prices have escalated. W.Bro. Brian Ward, Provincial Grand Charity Steward, contacted Givaudan (the world's leading perfumery and flavours company) and established that they had already taken the initiative to compound hand sanitiser at its facility in Switzerland and would be delighted to supply 50 litres of hand sanitiser to SERV Kent, with a promise that more would be available when required. Check out the full story on <u>this link >>></u>



with a wonderful donation of £2,500 to support Durham Priory of St John Ambulance helping them in their efforts of fighting COVID-19 and supporting the NHS.

During these extraordinary times, St John Ambulance has ceased its normal activities of providing first aid cover and training to support the NHS in fighting this pandemic by providing the following services:

- mobilising all vehicles in support of the Ambulance Service.

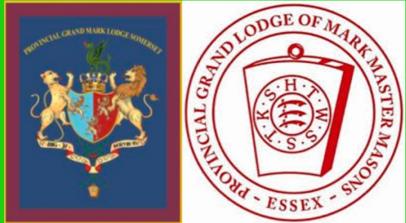
- From 1 April St John formed part of a national ambulance reserve under the direct control of the NHS National Ambulance Coordination Centre (which we will be part of). St John is planning on having 200 crew to provide 100 ambulances. There will be ten for each ambulance Trust area moving across the country to support areas of most concern

- St John has also been asked to deploy volunteers to support 100 Emergency Depts across the country. Currently working with 20 NHS Trusts and are in the process of bringing in more.

- Also involved with Operation Nightingale - the field hospital set up in London's Excel Centre. St John volunteers who are first aiders and advanced first aiders who will go through a two day COVID-19 training module will be asked to care for those patients who have recovered from the illness, or to support HCPs in delivering life-saving care for those in the earlier stages of the infection.

Check out the full story on this link >>>

The MBF & our Provinces Supporting Local Communities



Essex - £23,750 has been awarded to supply a two course Sunday lunch to vulnerable or house bound members of the Mark degree. This will continue for the next few months.

It will involve three of the Masonic centres around the Province supplying a cooked two course meal each week (Sunday lunch). The meals would be prepared and plated suitable for transporting to the homes of those requiring the service. It will also help the caterers at these centres during a time of lost revenue.

Somerset - £5,750 has been awarded. Each of the 23 Mark lodges in the Province has been granted £250, enabling them to support depleted foodbanks in the county of Somerset.



During times of 'plague and pestilence' - their words not ours - the District Grand Council of London have produced a splendid newsletter, emailed to all of their members, and featured on their website. It contains some terrific features and great editorial - check it out on this link >>>

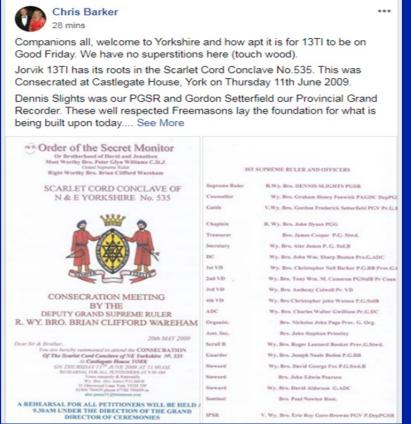
Well done to the editorial team - Richard Criddle, Steve Roberts and Scott Cargill.



American novelist Alice Walker wrote "Tea to the English is really a picnic indoors" - especially if you complement it with a chocolate digestive.

We may be in lockdown for the foreseeable future, but that's not stopping our leaders in the Mark from enjoying a 'picnic', whilst complying fully with Government restrictions.

Facebook Post of the Week



This is the latest installment in an initiative started by Grand Summus, M.Dist.Comp. Ian Currans to bring us a daily insight into a Scarlet Cord Consistory, and the stories they have to tell. There's been a great response from each unit - long may it continue.

#Tweet of the Week

Brother. The Masonic Podcast @BrotherMasonic · 14h Very excited to announce the next order we're covering in episode 2 of Brother Beyond the Craft tomorrow night! #BBTC #Freemasons @MarkMasonsHall



The next in our series of podcasts with Brother Masonic is due to be recorded this evening - we'll bring you full details when it's released.

But which Order and who'll be the 'special guest'?

All we can say is that it will feature a leather clad archer with bloody intentions.



#Friday Feeling

It's good to feel liked and followed - Mark Masons' Hall and our Grand Secretary are no exception. One of the very powerful ways of building awareness and consideration towards our ten Orders is to establish a presence on social media - Facebook and Twitter are a good start - and to have that conversation with your members and potential candidates.

We would also like to share our appreciation of the great work you are all doing - please email us on <u>communications@mmh.org.uk</u> with your Facebook and Twitter details. This will ensure that we like, share, follow and retweet in return - all emails will be acknowledged.

Thank you.



Progressive Freemasonry on the Move

Check out the Mark Masons' Hall Team App, which is ready and waiting to be filled with useful information - it's what smart phones were made for.

Content posted so far includes:

- all News from Freemasonry@86 bulletins
- key events and booking details (where available)
- Social Media Guidelines and Best Practice TeamApp User Guide
- What would you like to see included? Let us know on communications@mmh.org.uk

Check out the TeamApp User Guide on this link