

Freemasonry@86 News - 22 May 2020



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

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On the day of the Chapter of the Great Priory of Knights Templar



The Most eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Great Priory of the Knights Templar, Paul Raymond Clement, G.C.T., was pleased to record a personal address to mark what would have been the day of the meeting of Great Priory. You can watch the full address, including the Templar Choir singing the Templar Hymn below or on the [Mark Masons' Hall website](#)

The KT 20 for 2020 appeal has been incredibly well supported in the first week and we are grateful to everyone who has donated so far. If you would like to make a donation the online donation page is [here](#) or you can find other ways to donate by downloading various documents from the MMH website [here](#)



<https://sway.office.com/MbnoO01FE0bDFCq0#content=4qFO99Y9Od135u>

Farewell to W.Bro. Mike Baker, P.A.G.D.C.



On 23rd April 2020, W.Bro. Mike Baker passed to higher service and on Monday 18 May 2020 the Mark Province of Kent hosted a Virtual Memorial Service.

The following is taken from the Province's [website](#) and we're grateful to R.W.Bro. Archie Torrance, Prov.G.M., and W.Bro. Perri Ahmet, P.G.J.D., A.Prov.G.M., for all they did to ensure the occasion was marked in a suitable and dignified manner.

Mike was very well known in the Province having been Advanced into Orpington Mark Lodge No. 1089 in 2003 and appointed to PAGDC in 2019, after having served for two consecutive years as Provincial Grand Inspector of Works. He was Elevated into Orpington R.A.M. Lodge No. 1089 in 2010 and appointed to PRAMGR in 2019. He was also a member of Kent Mark Stewards' Lodge No. 1691, a driving force in the reinvigoration of Greenwich Mark and R.A.M. Lodges No. 332 and an honorary member of Fore Cantia Mark Lodge No. 2002. However, Mike was equally well known all around the masonic world, having formerly been [Director of Communications at UGLE](#) and latterly Communications Consultant at Mark Masons' Hall, successfully working with the team at 86 St James's to promote the higher degrees and progressive Orders of Freemasonry. In these times of Covid-19 and the Government's social distancing guidelines, the Mark Province of Kent arranged, with sincere thanks to Mrs. Tina Baker and Mike's family, access to the streaming of his funeral service on Monday 18th May which was then

followed by a virtual memorial service on Zoom. After the conclusion of the service at Beckenham Crematorium. R.W.Bro. Archie Torrance, Prov.G.M., formally welcomed brethren, friends and families from far and wide to the memorial service commenting that it had been a privilege to participate, albeit from a distance. Mike's heartfelt Masonic Eulogy was given by W.Bro. Perri Ahmet, P.G.J.D., A.Prov.G.M., who had arranged the memorial service. Perri explained that Mike's brothers in the west country were both Freemasons and through a casual conversation with a work colleague on the subject, it transpired that he was also a Freemason and as a result Mike was Initiated into Kynaston Studd Lodge in London in 2001. It would be tempting to say *"and the rest is history"* but knowing of Mike's views on cliches, perhaps not! Personal tributes were then delivered by W.Bro. Daniel M. Heath P.G.S.D., Assistant Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Michael C. Hadjiconstantas, District Grand Master of the Craft and Royal Arch District of Cyprus, and E.Comp. Christopher J. Clark, Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent of London (HRA). The constant themes that ran through all three tributes were how committed and passionate Mike was about anything that he turned his hand to, the difference that he made to all aspects of Masonic communication, the impact he had across all Orders that he was associated with and of course his wonderful sense of humour. A Toast to Absent Brethren was given by R.W. Bro. Archie Torrance, this was followed by an opportunity to 'raise a glass' in Mike's memory and time for quiet reflection. After The Last Post, a valedictory prayer was given by W. Bro. Graham Higgs, P.G.S.D., Prov.Dep.G.Chap.



The event was attended by more than 140 participants from the four quarters of the globe including Sri Lanka, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Kenya, Argentina, Austria, Malaysia, Singapore, The Caribbean, The Channel Islands and brethren from all over the UK. The fact that the whole event was organised on and hosted across myriad social media channels is surely a wonderful and fitting testament to Mike's legacy.

R.W.Bro. Archie Torrance concluded by saying: *"It was a privilege today to host a virtual Memorial Service for our dear friend, Mike Baker, which included a live stream of his funeral service from Beckenham Crematorium. He truly did live respected and died regretted."*



The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner



Nailsea Royal Ark Mariners support local school

The idea of producing PPE masks started from a request the Head Teacher, Mrs Elliott had from North Somerset Community Care for any PPE that we might have as they couldn't source any at the time. I quickly gathered what we had (safety glasses, goggles, disposable aprons, nitrile gloves and 3 face shields) and got them off to Tyntesfield Medical Group - TMG (Nalsea, Backwell & Long Ashton). We also gave goggles to Nailsea Police who had only been given 4 pairs of glasses. I knew that Priory School in Weston Super Mare were starting to make a face shields. I called them and had a discussion about what they were doing and discovered they were making a version using their laser cutter. I spoke with our Design Technology Technician and he said we could make more robust ones using our 3D printers, we had the materials already on site and within 24 hours we had a prototype that was acceptable to TMG. It then just grew from there and once we had gotten to about 80 we started running out of the PETG filament which the headband is made from so we purchased more.

I made a request through the secretary of Estune Lodge for some financial help from Nailsea Lodges hoping to get a few hundred pounds towards the materials so we could continue making them. I didn't expect to get such a fantastic response and the money received from the Masonic Community including yourselves Nailsea Royal Ark Mariners has enabled the school to buy more materials and to order replacement PPE for when schools re-open.

We are still making the shields and supplying them to both the local community and care homes further afield including the RMBI home at Cadogan Court in Exeter. In total we have now supplied over 160 of these re-usable face shields thanks to the financial support of Freemasons.

Most of the masks are now going to care homes and if there is a brother out there with a connection to a care home then please ask them to contact me at cperry@nailseaschool.com and I will see what I can do.

On behalf of the school can I thank the brethren of Nailsea Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, Estune Lodge and Sir Isaac Newton Lodge for their generous support, I'm sure the Head Teacher will be writing to thank those that have assisted us in doing this work to help keep people on the front line safe.

Chris Perry - Operations Manager and H&S Officer, Nailsea School



Guess the Gardener

The photo below shows a wonderful display of Azaleas but did you guess which "green" fingered Grand Master they belong to?



The answer is M.W.Bro. Thomas Firth Jackson, Grand Master of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees. You can just spot him putting in a socially distanced appearance below.



Across Social Media

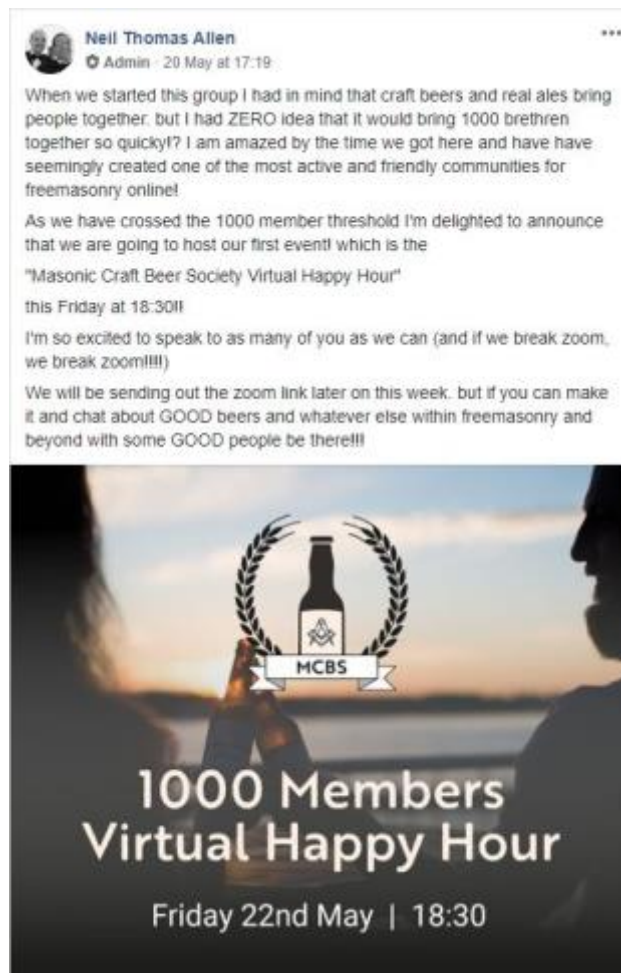
On Facebook - UGLE launches the Freemasons' Covid-19 Community Fund.

Embed://<iframe

src="https://www.facebook.com/plugins/post.php?href=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FMarkMasonsHall%2Fposts%2F595732761293218&width=500" width="500" height="559"

style="border:none;overflow:hidden" scrolling="no" frameborder="0" allowTransparency="true" allow="encrypted-media"></iframe>

Plus, the Masonic Craft Beer Society chinks up 1,000 members in its first month.



And on Twitter - In Devon, an MBF Donation goes down well.

<http://twitter.com/statuses/1262429617228562437>

Sticking with the MBF - We received this (p)up-date from a charity we have helped in the past, Dogs for Good [Click HERE to read more](#)



Fourth Floor Faces

For those who have not had the opportunity of a visit to the Fourth Floor at Mark Masons' Hall we thought you might like to meet some of the team who undertake and manage all the essential admin @86 and answer your calls, emails and letters.



Julie Deo - Yearbook Editor

This expat Kiwi arrived in the UK in March 2001 and started working at MMH three weeks later as A.G.Sec. Richard Gan's PA – a busy and constantly changing role which I enjoyed immensely and which my NZ grandad, a Nelson Mason, was delighted about. Seven years later, on my return from maternity leave, I happily took on the role of yearbook editor, which at the time involved laboriously marking up the proofs in red pen and sending them out for typesetting externally. In 2013 I undertook some training in Adobe InDesign software enabling all our typesetting to be brought in-house. Over the ensuing years my role gradually encompassed the preparation of other in-house publications including Ritual books and the various Summonses and Minutes for the annual meetings of our Orders, with the help of an Assistant, Cleo, who joined us at the end of 2017. One of several 'green-thumbed' members of the office, at the weekends I can usually be found out in the garden attempting to stop my stream-side Sussex plot from reverting to jungle!



Cleo Williams - Yearbook Assistant Editor

I'm Cleo, the Assistant Editor at MMH for the past two years. I work alongside Julie the Yearbook Editor, supporting with the preparations of the minutes, summonses and the yearbooks. During the lockdown I have been enjoying working from home as I get to spend more time with my four legged friend Tallulah, which means more extra walks and a beneficial workout ☺. This also helps me from rescuing her from next door neighbour's garden, which reminds me I ought to make a note for dad to fix the hole in the fence!

Keeping up appearances 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.



1 - A full house in the Zoom Room