

# Freemasonry@86 News - 31 July 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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## Resumption of Masonic Activity



There have been several announcements recently regarding the resumption of Masonic activity.

The an announcement on behalf of the Management Board about the agreed schedule of fees for 2020-2021 is [Here](#)

The letter issued by the Grand Secretary, containing some frequently asked questions and answers, is [Here](#)

The original letter from the Grand Secretary, relating to all Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, can be viewed [Here](#)

With a guidance note [Here](#)

There is also an important announcement about the communication of Grand Lodge scheduled for September [Here](#)

The guidance we have produced should help pave the way to formulating meetings in the "new normal"; providing those who feel able to attend with a safe and comfortable environment to perform ceremonies with the dignity required, while maintaining engagement and contact with Brethren who wish to remain at home. We will keep you updated via email and social media.

If you are unsure about any of the protocols to be observed please contact your Provincial/District Grand Secretary (or equivalent) in the first instance, who will be able to advise you. We are indebted to them for the work they are carrying in their respective Provinces, Districts and Divisions at this difficult time.



## Introducing R.W.Bro. Barry William Slade, the New District Grand Prefect for the Allied Masonic Degrees in Devon & Cornwall

Hello. I have the honour of being the most recently appointed District Grand Prefect for Devon & Cornwall.

I was born in Plymouth in 1950 to Barbara and Sam, their number one son, as I had four sisters. We lived in a modest house in a place called Pomphlett, not far from where I live now.

My schooling began at the junior school in Oreston, pronounced 'O'reston. From there I finished my junior school education at a newly built school in Pomphlett, just across the road from where I lived.

I finished my education at the local Secondary School, leaving at the age of 15.

I spent my early days of gainful employment in the Construction Industry, but I could see that the working conditions were never going to improve greatly, when it rained you got wet and when the sun shone you got burnt. Being single at the time, I decided that it was time to make a career change before I met someone and started a family.

At the age of twenty seven, with my few qualifications, I joined the National Health Service, where I remained until I retired, age 63, after 36 years. I worked in the Pathology Department and trained as a Medical Technical Officer. Following training for a couple of years I sat the certificate examination, coming first for that years entrants and received £25. Two years later I took the Diploma, again coming first, receiving a further £25. I eventually became head of my section.

I share my life with my wife June: we live in a cottage on the outskirts of Plymouth. Unfortunately my wife is still working, but only for another 12 months. We have a son called Tom, he lives nearby; he is a Chartered Accountant and works in Plymouth. He and his partner, Lauren, have the most adorable little girl, Poppy-Louise, who has just celebrated her first half Birthday and is now just over six months old and is growing her first tooth.

I was a relatively late comer to masonry, but once I had gained my three degrees there was no stopping. I enjoyed, joining everything possible that my qualifications allowed. The high point came when R.W. Bro Anthony Vickery, the District Grand Prefect for the District of Devon & Cornwall, decided to choose me as his deputy. I owe him a very profound sense of gratitude, for his friendship, understanding, guidance, and because he was my mentor.

My interests, apart from Freemasonry are, DIY, gardening, astronomy, photography and enjoying wildlife. During lockdown, June and I, have appreciated watching the many residents and visitors to the garden. We have seen hedgehogs, badgers, and a whole host of birds. We are constantly impressed by how punctual bats are; it's astounding how good they are at time keeping, we look out for them every evening.

I am looking forward, once circumstances permit, to again, meeting with colleagues throughout the country.

Keep safe and well.

Barry



## The Ancient & Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord

### First Meeting – First Grade – First Class



Tuesday 28 July saw twenty Companions of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord descend upon Mubai Square Restaurant's Masonic Temple in London for a meeting of Middlesex Consistory No. 105, the first meeting of a Consistory since the suspension of Masonic activity was lifted.

Amongst those present were M.Dist.Comp. Ian S. Currans, Grand Summus; R.Dist.Comp. Howard S. Markham, A.G.S.; R.Dist.Comp. Trevor P. Dutt, *RD*, Prov.G.S.; and V.Dist.Comp. Phillip J. Purves, G.D.C.



The Companion's efforts to attend were rewarded with a fine conferral of the First Grade by Em.Comp. Seirios Kokkalis, acting as Primus of Ostiarii.

This was followed by Dist.Comp. Rod Bradley being Installed in equally first-class fashion by Dist.Comp. Matthew Hampson.

Both ceremonies were expertly led by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, debuting his social distancing amendments to the ritual.

The Consistory meeting was preceded by a business meeting of Epping Forest Conclave No. 306 (O.S.M.) making it a very enjoyable double event for all who attended.



## The Mark Brethren of Kent & The MBF support Maidstone Hospital



Provincial Grand Lodge of  
*Mark Master Masons of Kent*



### MBF Donation to Maidstone Hospital



An example of one of the eight new chairs

The Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF) has approved funding of £12,479 for eight specialist chairs for cancer patients at the Charnwell Suite at Maidstone Hospital.

The Charnwell Suite, which has no official budget and has been relying on charity funding for equipment, is a day unit which treats Haematological based cancers such as lymphoma, myeloma and leukaemia. It has only been in existence for two years and is soon to be renamed the 'Sarah Hunt Day Unit' in memory of a former colleague, who lost her own battle with cancer.

Prior to the unit's inception, haematology patients were treated alongside oncology patients and the move has allowed a massive improvement in both capacity and patient experience.

Patients sometimes have to sit for up to eight hours at a time whilst receiving their care. The previous chairs were not best suited to this and had already been used elsewhere in the Trust where the unit opened.

W. Bro. Christopher Horvath, Worshipful Master of Chatham's Richard Allen Mark Lodge No. 1481, who will be key in receiving important treatment from the dedicated team at the Charnwell Suite, commented: "These new chairs are a massive improvement and will make a huge difference to the comfort of the patients. I am most grateful to David Green, Brian Hunt and the team at the MBF for making this a reality."

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## 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 Secretariat](#) - This is the contact account for the [Mark Masons' Hall Facebook Page](#)

Twitter - [@MarkMasonsHall](#)

## Across Social Media

On Twitter - Brother. The Masonic Podcast are excited about their next instalment of their Beyond the Craft Podcasts, looking at the Knights Templar



1 - [Click Here](#) for their Twitter Feed

Essex Mark release their third Meals on Wheels video on YouTube



## On Facebook - Freemasons Without Border Line Up Their Next Interviewee



Ameet Watts is with Mahir Kilic.

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Dear Brethren,

Freemasons Without Borders is delighted to announce that our next live talk will be given by Most Illustrious Knight, Graham L. Flight, Grand Sovereign of The Red Cross of Constantine.

The talk will commence at 18:00 (UK). To allow enough time for members to join we will open the meeting room at 17:15hrs, however brethren, please note that entry to the meeting will close at 17:50hrs and we will not be able to guarantee access thereafter so to avoid any disappointment please log on in time.

To obtain the ID and password, please join our private Facebook group.

If you know of any brother that would like to join the talk but is not on Facebook, please ask them to register to our mailing list.

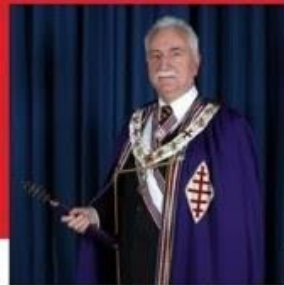
For security, please be mindful to use your full name when logging on and not the name of your device or any such other.

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday. 🙏

S&F

Ameet

### Insight into the Red Cross of Constantine



M. Ill. Kt. Graham L. Flight, G.C.C.  
Grand Sovereign



Constantine, a Roman, was destined for the college of Emperors but following the death of his father, he was hailed by the Legions in York as Augustus and became the Governor of Britain and Gaul. After several successful battles across the Alps and Italy he eventually established himself as the lawful Emperor of both the East and West and transferred the capital of the empire from Rome to Byzantium, later to be named after him.

It is said that his conversion to Christianity began one evening after a long day's march with his army. He believed he saw a sign from heaven; a pillar of light in the form of a special cross. A standard bearing a cross was ordered to be carried before him in the wars. Several Christians in his army came forward and avowed their faith, following which Constantine directed that they should wear on their armour a red cross. Having been successful in battle it is said that Constantine with the help of his chief bishop, Eusebius, opened a Conclave of the Knights of the Order whose members became the bodyguard of their Sovereign.

It seems likely that the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine was being worked in England by 1780. After a number of changes to the organisation, the earliest documented date of the Order in its present form is 1865.

**4th August 2020 at  
6pm London (UTC +1)**



## Art@86

Continuing our look at some of the portraiture at Mark Masons' Hall and the personalities behind the pictures.



William Archer Amherst, Viscount Holmesdale (later The 3rd Earl Amherst, *KJStJ*) had a glittering career as Freemason, being appointed the third Grand Master of the Mark in 1863, aged 27, having already served three years as Dep.G.M. He held Office until 1866 and went on to enjoy high Office in the Craft and Royal Arch. First, as Craft Provincial Grand Master for Kent from 1860, until his death at the age of 74 in 1910. Then being appointed as Deputy Grand Master of the Craft in 1896 and promoted to Pro Grand Master and Pro First Grand Principal, serving from 1899 to 1908.

He fitted the mould perfectly being Eton educated, a former Captain, Coldstream Guards (seeing action in the Battle of Balaclava, the Battle of Inkerman (where he was severely wounded) and the Siege of Sevastopol during the Crimean War), and returning to England to be successfully elected as the conservative MP for West Kent (later Mid Kent) from 1859 - 1880.

While the portrait is unattributed, we also hold this print of him wearing his Craft Pro Grand Master's regalia, taken from a caricature by Leslie Ward, which appeared in Vanity Fair.





Wilbraham Egerton, The Lord (later The Earl) Egerton of Tatton was of a pedigree becoming familiar to readers of this section. Another Conservative MP, educated at Christchurch College, Oxford. However, he was very much a Cheshire man, serving as MP for the constituency of North Cheshire (later Mid Cheshire) from 1858 until 1883.

As a Freemason he held Office as Pro Grand Master of the Mark from 1887 to 1890 whilst also being Provincial Grand Master of the Mark for Cheshire and North Wales in 1872 (continuing in post when it became Cheshire in 1880) until 1893.

His public service is notable. He served on the Royal Commission on Noxious Vapours, was Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Education of the Blind and Deaf, Chairman of the Manchester Ship Canal and also Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Port of London.

There's an interesting link between the two Brethren above. They weren't just Brothers in Freemasonry, they were also Brothers in Law, as Wilbraham Egerton married Lady Mary Amherst, sister of William Archer Amherst.

## 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.com](mailto:eastlancscalendars@gmail.com) By telephone: 07766731307

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

**East Lancs Calendars. 47 St Leonards Way, Woore, Crewe. CW3 9SS**

**Or contact them for electronic payment details**

And don't forget, Stewardship, Badge and Festival orders can be places as well.

[Click Here](#) for the Stewardship and Festival Badge Form

[Click Here](#) for the complete Festival pack

And you can visit the Province of East Lancashire's website [Here](#)

## The KT 20 for 2020 Appeal nears £30,000.00



You can support the Eye Hospital by making a £20 donation. Just [Click Here](#) 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.**



**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 3148 3352. Masonic Charitable Foundation Charity No. 1164703, Company No. 09751838

60 Great Queen Street | London | WC2B 5AZ | [www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk)



## The Shop@86 is open for Online Orders



As well as being able to accept online orders, we are pleased to announce the Shop@86 will be open to visitors from Monday 3 August, initially from 1 pm to 6 pm Monday to Friday.

For those who have received appointment to, or promotion in, Grand Rank - you may still place your order using the methods outlined in the form provided with your offer letter.

Please note: orders will be dispatched as soon as possible but may be subject to delays caused by Covid - 19 restrictions.

Visit the Shop@86 website [Here](#)



## Business as usual for the Staff@86 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.

