



THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DURHAM

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY NEWS BULLETIN

EDITION 3

SPRING 2006

TLC Teddies a Huge Success

The Teddies for Loving Care project is off to a flying start in the Province of Durham, thanks to the enthusiasm & generosity of the Brethren, together with very welcome donations from the Mark and the Benevolent Committee.

Launched on 31st October 2005, the modest target of £8000 set for the first year had been swept aside by the beginning of February. At present, the total raised stands at almost £11,000. This is enough to provide 1400 teddies to each of the eight A&E hospitals in the Province to comfort distressed children. 2300 teddies have been supplied to date and, if fundraising continues at this rate, the hospitals' requirements can be met in full.

The medical staff at all the hospitals are delighted with the TLC initiative & there have been many messages of appreciation. A frequent comment is that all gifts are usually directed to the general children's ward and that no-one thinks about the Accident and

Emergency Department. They therefore see this as a well conceived project directed to where there is a real need.

A bonus from the project has been the response from the press to the scheme and there has been regional as well as local coverage. There have so far been press calls at South Tyneside District, Sunderland Royal, Gateshead QE and University Hospital of North Durham, with feature articles appearing in the Shields Gazette, the Sunderland Echo, the Newcastle Journal and the Evening Chronicle.

Without exception, the articles have been full of praise for the project and cover many expressions of gratitude from the hospitals for the kindness and generosity of Durham Freemasons. This is a rolling programme of publicity which will be continued throughout the Province.

The Freemasonry in the Community Committee wish to thank the Brethren for their enthusiastic and warm hearted support and urge everyone to continue their efforts for this very worthwhile project.

“Thank you for including us in your TLC project. We now have smiling children leaving the ward after treatment.” – Ruth Mather, Clinical Services Manager, University Hospital of North Durham.

“This is a wonderful scheme. The children love the teddies and they really help us to treat them in the least upsetting way.” – Jackie Butterworth, A&E Business Manager, Sunderland Royal Hospital.



Pictures from South Tyneside, Gateshead & Sunderland hospital press calls.

Please send TLC donations to the Provincial Office, cheques made payable to 'Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham.'

FUNDRAISING AT CASTLE EDEN

In October W. Bro. D. Turner was admitted to Ward 26 of North Tees University Hospital. After discussions with staff he established that they needed funds to refurbish the side wards so that terminally ill patients & their families could enjoy greater comfort & privacy. On his recovery W. Bro. Turner organised a beef & whisky night at Castle Eden to raise funds for the Ward's refurbishment. The Castle Eden Lodges & Dunelm Mark Lodge were keen to support this project. Ward staff were invited to the event & a cheque was presented by the Dep. PGM W. Bro. Derek Richmond at the end of an excellent evening. In total £1050 was raised for the project. The Ward staff were delighted with the amount raised. W. Bro. Turner has since re-visited the Ward & the refurbishment has been completed.

*Dep PGM
presenting
the cheque to
Ward staff*



*WBro
Croft
pre-
senting
the
cheque
to Mrs
Cave*



Castle Eden Mark Lodge recently held a social evening & raffle in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance. The major prize was a gallon bottle of whisky autographed by the Prime Minister. All Lodges at Castle Eden contributed & a cheque for the sum of £1060 was handed to Mrs. Sue Cave, of the Great North Air Ambulance Service, by W. Bro. Peter Croft, Prov. Grand Master of Mark Master Masons of Durham. Mrs. Cave then explained the work of the Great North Air Ambulance. Also in attendance were W. Bro. Prof. D. K. Wilson, Dep. PGM, & W. Bro. F. Richardson, APMG of the Durham Mark Master Masons.

CHESTER-LE-STREET LODGES CHARITY CONCERT



In October the Senior Wardens of the Chester-Le-Street Lodges held a Charity Concert performed by and in aid of "SNUG" (Special Needs Unity Group). After an excellent buffet supplied by Mrs. J. Osmond, SNUG entertained those present to 2 hours of delightful entertainment. A raffle held on the night raised £316.00, & together with other fund-raising prizes, the Grand Sum of £935.50 was raised, which was presented to SNUG at the end of the concert.

*They certainly
look happy to
receive the
cheque*

DURHAM WAR PENSIONERS WELFARE SERVICE

A War Pensioners Welfare Service surgery is held on the second Friday of each month in Durham Masonic Hall. Part of the Veteran's Agency (an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Defence), the role of the War Pensioners Welfare Service is to deliver modern, high-quality, customer focused services to war disablement pensioners, war widow(er)s, their dependants, carers & other veterans. The Service covers all conflicts from the World Wars to Iraq &, consequently, it is far-reaching, assisting people of all ages. It also reaches out to those who may be unaware of what they may be entitled to. The ability to be able to use the Masonic Hall gives the War Pensioners Welfare Service a secure base from which it can operate. This facility enhances Durham Freemasons' profile & demonstrates their continued support of those in the community who need it.

AGRICOLA LODGE CHARITY BARBECUE

Last year W. Bro. N.I. Snowdon & a Lodge Committee of Agricola Lodge at Durham organized a Charity barbecue. The event was open to Freemasons & non-Freemasons alike & was exceptionally well attended. The proceeds amounted to the considerable sum of £3036.77p. This was equally split between the 2010 RMBI Festival & Butterwick Hospice.

THE STANLEY FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

In December 2005 the annual Stanley Freemasonry in the Community Church Service was held at St. Andrews Church. It included an address by W.Bro. David Jolliff on Freemasonry in the Community & the TLC project. As in previous years the collection at the service was donated to the host church. The Rector, Rev. Austin Johnston and his church members immediately returned the money as a donation from them to the Stanley Lodges for the TLC project. The five lodges received £30.00 each as a result of the generosity of St. Andrews Church. At the close of the service four Stanley Freemasonry in the Community Small Grants Awards, of £50.00 each, were made to recipients who were present. The full list of recipients of the Small Grants Awards for 2005 was: Shield Row Senior Citizens, support for 2005 Christmas event and 2006 Spring /Summer programmes: South Moor Junior FC, support for teams during the current season: Greencroft School, contribution towards the purchase of a prize for the design of a poster promoting



safety on the school bus: St. Andrews Church, contribution towards the replacement of the Stanley sanctuary lamp: S.N.U.G.: University Hospital of North Durham, support towards the running costs of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit.

Money being presented to some of the recipients of the Stanley FIC Small Grants Awards



SAINT CECILIA LODGE NO. 9685 CHARITABLE TRUST

The Saint Cecilia Lodge Charitable Trust was created 7 years ago in Durham to support young musicians of proven ability. Its financial support has enabled members of the National Children's Orchestra & National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain to participate in workshops & concerts in London, including at the Royal Festival Hall & the Queen Elizabeth Hall. It has also sponsored the Durham County Youth Choir & Big Band at a concert at The Sage, Gateshead. The Trust also sponsors an annual concert at Durham. In 2005 this was held at Elvet Methodist Church, Durham, & featured the Durham Johnston School Orchestra & St Leonards RC School Choir.

LODGE OF UNITY CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

A charity golf tournament organized by Lodge of Unity No.6003, was held at Bedale Golf Club in September 2005. 29 players took part & £300 was raised for the Darlington Memorial Hospital Special Baby Care Unit. Masons & non-Masons alike took part in the event and the excellent weather conditions contributed to the success of the day.



Mrs Mary Singleton presenting the trophy to Stephen Moore, non-mason winner

Mrs Singleton presenting overall winner's trophy to Bro. George Atkinson



FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

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DEADLINE

The next News Bulletin will be published in October 2006, articles for inclusion must be received by 30th September 2006. All articles can be forwarded to the Secretary by e-mail. The Editor reserves the right to amend entries.

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The Ambassadors for your Masonic Hall are:

Barnard Castle	A.C.Callandar
Billingham	D.S.Hay
Birtley	T.P.Glendingning
Bishop Auckland	P.Beedle
Blackhill	T.Harbottle
Blaydon	L.B.Annis
Burnopfield	L.Stewart
Castle Eden	A.Reardon
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Darlington	P.Greenwood
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Gateshead	I.C.Knighting
Hartlepool	B.Footitt
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Hetton-Le-Hole	T.Urwin
Jarrow	H.Norman
Middleton-in-Teasdale	K.Raper
Ryton	M.A.Jackson
Seaham	J.W.Froud
Sildon	K.Richardson
Shiney Row	R.Ramshaw
South Shields	D.King
South Shields (Hedworth)	A.Davey
Spennymoor	K.Dinning
Staindrop	S.Isaac

MORE TLC TEDDIES PICTURES



W.Bro. K.E.C. Howe APGM, continues his busy schedule presenting yet more TLC Teddies, this time at Durham & Gateshead Hospitals



AMBASSADORS

If you are planning to hold a Freemasonry in the Community' event, please contact your Ambassador. (There is one for each Masonic Hall). He can help achieve maximum publicity. Please take quality digital pictures & forward them with the article to the Secretary for entry into the News Bulletin or on the website. Remember, if you have done something within your local community, tell us about it.

Stanhope	N.M.Humble
Stanley	D.Jolliff
Stockton	M.S.Shaw
	J.L.Webster
Sunderland	K.Bates
	R.J.Hargate
Sunderland (Queen St)	R.Middleton
Tow Law	K.Wilson
Washington	T.Urwin
Wolsingham	T.E.Bradley
Willington	R.W.Charlton