



# FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY NEWS BULLETIN

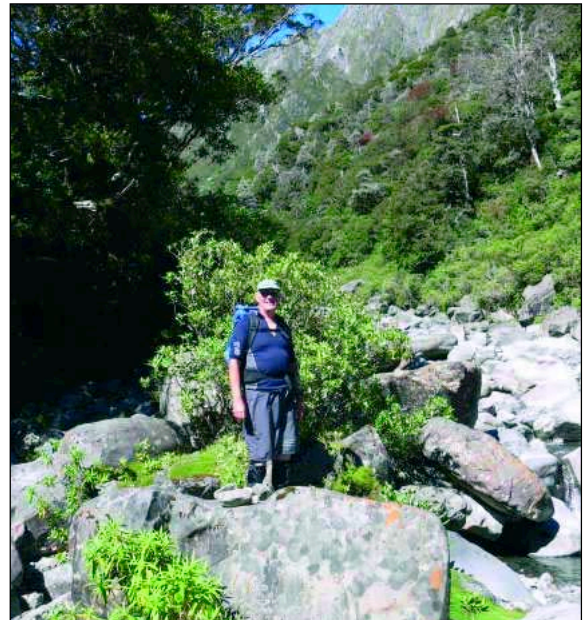
EDITION 7 SPRING 2008

## A Solo Effort From Down Under

W Bro Alan Huntsman, Past Master of Vulcan and Flambard Lodges, went the extra mile last year in his support for Freemasonry in the Community. In fact he went many thousands of extra miles, to New Zealand, where, during a holiday, he crossed the Southern Alps on foot and raised money which he donated to the TLC Teddies project. Alan's description of the gruelling trip is not adequately summed up by the final paragraph of the excellent



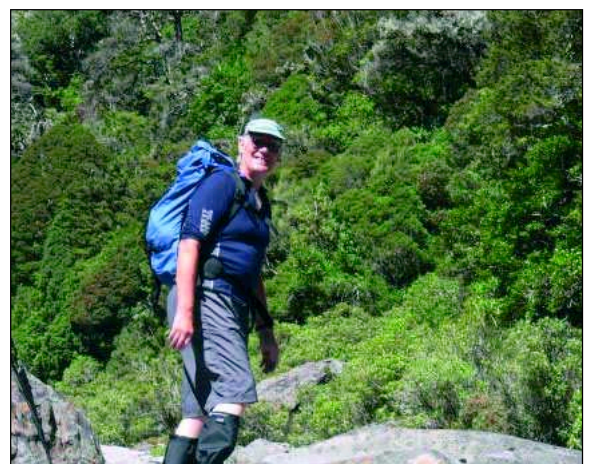
*This picture shows Alan to be a man prepared to get his feet wet to raise money for the TLC Teddies project.*



*Please tell me he's not going to go right up there. This at least shows the size of the task.*

narrative he sent to the Editor, but concludes by saying the walk took 11 hours 23 minutes, covered 20.49 miles and that he climbed a total of 3945 feet. On his return and at his installation meeting he gave a talk about the walk and asked for the proceeds of the raffle to be donated to the TLC Teddies project. In total Alan has presented the project with £467. This remarkable effort merits the lead entry on the Bulletin.

*Message from the Editor: Thanks for the many submissions for entry in the Bulletin this time. There are several additional ones on the website which make excellent reading. The website can be found at [www.durhamfreemasons.org/fic](http://www.durhamfreemasons.org/fic)*



*To get in this Bulletin, it's very simple. Go to New Zealand, climb a load of hills and donate loads of cash to the TLC Teddies*

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

## A Big Thank You from Bishop Auckland Hospital

When Gary Siddle, the Matron of Bishop Auckland General Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department, makes his requests for further supplies of TLC Teddies he asks for some more of the "The Bear Necessities".

This humorous but apt title sums up the ethos of the TLC Teddies project. More than fifteen hundred injured and frightened children have been treated with the help of a teddy since the scheme was launched two years ago and their use has been incorporated as a routine part of

their emergency treatment procedures.

Gary related the case of a child brought in recently with a broken leg which required traction. The whole procedure was made easier for the distressed child when teddy was also rigged up for traction and they shared the intimidating experience together.



*Matron Gary Siddle at work, reading a recent edition of the FIC Bulletin.*



*Gary and some of the staff, together with FIC Ambassadors Peter Beedle and Keith Dinning, proudly showing off some Teddies*

Gary and the staff of the Accident and Emergency Department send their thanks to the brethren of the Province of Durham for helping them in this way with their difficult work and look forward to this wonderful project continuing in the future.

## County Lodge Award for Keeley



*Keeley receives her award from W Bro Marc Barnes*

In November the annual award of a trophy at Longfield School, Darlington, was presented to Keeley Barkley for her service to the Community. Keeley was also given book vouchers to the value of £15. The trophy, a Waterford Crystal vase with a mahogany base, made and fitted by Worshipful Brother Don Marshall, was presented to County Lodge by Worshipful Bro Don to be donated to Longfield School as an award to be given to the pupil who wins the annual award for Service in the Community, and to mark County Lodge's participation in Freemasonry in the Community. By this means the school and the Lodge come together to reward someone who has made an impact on the community.

## Chester-le-Street Riverside Brass Academy

In September, the Lodge of Progress, at Chester-le-Street, were entertained by the students of the Chester-le-Street Riverside Brass Academy, who performed a short concert following which a cheque presentation was made to the Chester-le-Street Masonic Benevolent Association. The money will be added to the Masonic Temple Lift Appeal. The Academy is allowed free use of the Masonic Hall for practices and in return have thanked the Hall Management Committee by raising money through coffee mornings and an evening concert. The amount raised this year was £1110 and follows £2000 raised and presented by the Academy last year. The arrangement between the Masonic Hall and the Academy brings benefits to both groups.



*An Academy Student Trombone player presenting the cheque to W. Bro Barry Clarke, Vice Chairman of the Chester-le-Street Masonic Benevolent Association*

## Hartlepool Lodges Help Local Organisations

The Hartlepool Masonic Benevolent Association, which represents 10 Lodges in the Hartlepool area, have recently made charitable donations to 10 local organizations from all age groups and walks of life in the local community. W Bro Brian Footitt MBE, the Chairman of the Association, in his welcoming remarks, stated that this was the third year running that the Association had been able to make ever increasing donations within the local area. On this occasion the organizations who benefited were; Hartlepool Hospice £200; Hartlepool Youth Silver



*All the recipients gathered to show off their cheques*

Band £200; Stranton Primary School £600; GEC Retirement Club £100; Mind £500; Hartlepool Sea Cadets £500; North East Air Ambulance £100; Citizen's Advice Bureau £250; Hartlepool Community Choir £200. Any non-funded organisation may apply for assistance simply by sending a letter to HMBA, Masonic Hall, Raby Road, Hartlepool. There need not be any Masonic connection. In the past 3 years the Hartlepool Masonic Benevolent Association has made donations in excess of £6000.



*Chairman W Bro Brian Footitt MBE with some of the Hartlepool Sea Cadets*

### Stanley Fundraisers

A fund-raising event organised by 3 Senior Wardens at Stanley, W Bro John McDonald, Bros Peter Carr and Matt Taylor, raised £120, which they donated to the TLC Teddies project. The event consisted of a free buffet, raffles, a tombola and a dog race night. It is hoped to make the Senior Wardens fund-raising night a regular event.



### Wolsingham Show

At last years Wolsingham Show a lot of hard work and planning paid off when a Freemasonry in the Community display, organised by Hudson Lodge and supported by local Lodges, was set up at the Show. The event, which had competitions, was a huge success. It generated a lot of interest from the public and resulted in 4 possible candidates. It is intended to hold this first time event again.



*More pictures can be found on the website*

### Caer Urfa Helps Children

The Worshipful Master and other members of Caer Urfa Lodge, South Shields, recently presented two cheques to the Children's Ward of South Tyneside District Hospital. One cheque, for the sum of £200 was donated from Lodge funds and the second, for £100, was raised at the 80th birthday celebrations of W Bro Bob Turner, a member of the Lodge. Both cheques are in recognition of the hard work that the staff at the ward carry out and for the benefit of the children who require their services. The money will be used to enhance the 'light and sensory room'



*W Bros Norman Dunn, Geoff Hadaway and Matty Wann WM and Bro Derek Wake presenting the cheque to staff and children*

AMBASSADORS: If you are planning to hold a 'Freemasonry in the Community' event, please contact your Hall Ambassador for help in achieving maximum publicity. Please take quality digital pictures & forward them with the article to the Editor for entry into the News Bulletin or website. So if you have done something in your local community, tell us.



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The Bulletin will now be published at regular intervals.

Please forward all articles as soon as possible to either the Secretary or Editor by e-mail.

The Editor reserves the right to amend entries.

## Windgate Lodge

In the past 12 months Windgate Lodge has made 3 donations to Blackhall Community Centre, totaling £1150. The latter 2 donations were made by W Bro Tom Weir and Bro George Watson to the Peterlee Hard of Hearing Club who, due to the donation, can now remain open until at least the end of the year.



*The latest 2 cheques being presented, by W Bro Tom Weir and Bro George Watson*



## Golden Wedding Gives Gift

On Saturday 30th June W Bro John Praill, WM of Millennium Lodge of Research, and his wife Margaret, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Friends from Chester-le-Street Lodges and Fawcett Lodge, Seaham, John's Mother Lodge, assembled at the Masonic Hall in Chester-le-Street for the celebrations. After a cabaret and buffet the evening was rounded off with donations being made to a charity of John and Margaret's choice. The magnificent sum of £500 was raised and, at John and Margaret's request, this was donated for Alzheimer's research.



*Margaret Praill presenting the cheque to the Society*

## Rose Croix First Time



The first entry for the Rose Croix gives us the opportunity to see the Chester-le-Street Riverside Brass Academy who performed at the Rose Croix Provincial Dinner and were presented with a cheque for £260 raised on the night and a further cheque for £50 from the Andrew R. Riley Rose Croix Trust Fund.

## Hadrian Lodge Help STAMP



*W Bro Ian Bonar presenting the cheque to STAMP*

At a recent Ladies Night for Hadrian Lodge, the guests were entertained by STAMP (South Tyneside Academy for Musical Performance). At the conclusion of the performance, W Bro Ian Bonar (WM) presented them with a cheque for £250. The group consists of young people aged between 12 and 18 years and the donation will help them to buy new equipment.