



## FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY NEWS BULLETIN

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### Gateshead Lodges Spread Their Support

The Gateshead Lodges have been raising funds recently in a variety of ways. When the total reached £4,382 they decided it was time to apply those funds to a range of worthy causes. So, in April, a Race Night was organised as an opportunity to enjoy each other's company with their wives, partners and friends and also to present a number of cheques to deserving organisations.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro George Clark, and his wife, Joan, were the guests of honour. W Bro. Clark presented cheques on behalf of the Lodges. In doing so he emphasised the importance of Freemasonry in the Community as a way of achieving wider recognition for the Craft and its charitable objectives. Five cheques were presented, totalling £4,382. The largest, for £1,132, was given to the Teddies for Loving Care project. A cheque for £250 was also given to enable a young man to take part in the 2007 Tall Ships Race. The other cheques, for £1000 each, were given to: The Wickham



Community Bus Trust, which provides mobility for those without their own transport or who have difficulty using public transport. The donation will contribute towards the running costs of the bus: St. Thomas' Handicapped Children's Club, a club offering help and respite care for the families of children with special needs. They will use the money to support the upkeep of their mini-bus and the two holidays they organise each

year for the children: The Happy Wanderers, another club offering respite care for families. They propose to refurbish their play area and the donation was accepted by some of the young people who help in the club. It was a pleasure to entertain representatives of all the organisations being supported. The amounts

of the donations were not divulged in advance so the look of surprise on the faces of many there, when they were revealed, added to the value of the occasion. All the recipients confirmed the amounts will make a big difference to the quality of the services they provide. Overall the event was a great success and was an enjoyable occasion.

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

## Hebburn Lodges Fundraising

While W Bro Keith Rodgers was Worshipful Master of Ellison Hall Lodge No 7165 in Hebburn the Lodge held a charity social evening. Bro Barry Gutteridge, known professionally as Barry G, Junior Warden of Palmer Lodge No 9255, was the main attraction. The event raised £1178, which was divided by giving £500 to St Clare's Hospice, £528 in support of Aln Street Masonic Hall, £100 to their Almoners' account and £50 to their Charity Steward's account. Bro Barry is a very talented musician who gives his time gladly to Lodges and charity functions in the area and, together with other entertainers, has succeeded in raising over £14000 since April 2005 with all the proceeds going to either St Clare's Hospice or to Cancer Research.



*Bro Barry G and W Bro Keith Rodgers with the cheque for St Clare's*



*W Bros John Webster and Jamie Hill presenting the cheque to Sue Stephenson, Centre Manager and Heather Goodwill, Deputy Manager*

## Stockton Supporting Cancer Care

Earlier this year W Bro John Webster of the Lodge of Freedom, Stockton, presented a cheque for £530 to the Holistic Cancer Care Centre at the James Cook Hospital. The Clinic provides complementary therapies for cancer patients in a purpose-built unit designed to provide a peaceful atmosphere. Treatments include acupuncture, aromatherapy, homeopathy and reflexology. The service is funded solely by donations. The funds were raised at a dance during W Bro Jamie Hill's year as Worshipful Master of the Lodge. The funds raised would cover the cost of an aromatherapy practitioner for 1 month or provide 100 acupuncture treatments to those patients who were undergoing cancer treatment and required it.

## Benevolent Committee Help for Care in Durham

'Care in Durham' is an organisation that offers support to young people in Durham who have come from a care environment. The organisation is looking to expand its activities to include a parent & toddler group, drop in afternoons & evenings, open forum events plus awareness evenings. Durham Benevolent Committee identified it as a suitable charity worthy of their support and have presented it with a cheque for £500. The cheque itself was presented by W Bro Robin Middleton to 2 parents, who together with their young son have benefited from the charity.



*W Bro Robin Middleton presents the cheque to Melissa Murray & James Clint with baby Ebourn acting as Director of Ceremonies*

## Stanley Masons Annual Church Service

The Brethren, families and friends of the Stanley Lodges have held their annual Church Service. The service was held in St. Andrews Church which has recently launched an appeal to pay for major structural repairs to the steeple. The Church has been a strong supporter of Freemasonry in the Community and during the service £240 was donated to the Church Steeple Fund. W Bro David Jolliff outlined the progress of Freemasonry in the Community, the opening of the Beamish Masonic Hall, the fund raising for TLC Teddies project in Stanley and the role played by wives, individuals & outside groups. At the close of the service the Stanley Masonic Association presented cheques to 5 local groups to support their activities. The groups were; Beamish & E Stanley FC, Tanfield Lea Methodist Church, St Andrews Junior Church Group, Tanfield Lea Infants School and Lanchester Brass Band

*Members of Tanfield lea Methodist Church who can now return after the repairs to the Boiler (top)  
Children from Tanfield Lea School with some new books (bottom)*



## Easter Eggs From Rowlands Gill

Seven years ago Rowlands Gill Lodge came up with a cracking idea to collect and distribute chocolate Easter eggs to the children of women who live in women's refuges. These women and children live in fear of further abuse from their partners and the Lodge decided to try and help them. After initial reluctance to reveal the locations of the refuges the Lodge members now have the trust of the staff and occupants and the success of the project has grown each year. Members of the Lodge and visitors are encouraged to donate chocolate eggs which are then distributed to homes in Newcastle, Gateshead, Consett and Ryton. This year over 70 eggs were distributed.

*This is only half of the eggs which were donated this year*



## Hebburn Help Tara



*W Bros Alex Gowens, Dave Kyle and Jim Sharpe presenting the cheque to 2 of the group's representatives*

Recently a request was received from a Hebburn neighbourhood group called TARA (Thirteen Avenue Residents Association) for funds to help them to increase their activities, and it was decided by the Management Committee of Hebburn Masonic Hall to donate £250 towards this group. The cheque was presented to group members by W Bros Alex Gowens, Dave Kyle and Jim Sharpe. The presentation featured in the local newspaper.

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.

## Broken Column Association

During the past 12 months the Almoners of the Stockton Lodges have been busy under the chairmanship of W Bro Ian Morrison (Whitwell Lodge No.2104) to develop his initiative in establishing a Broken Column Association in the Province of Durham.

The title "Broken Column" takes its name from the American Civil War when widows of Masons who had lost their lives in that war adopted the symbol of a broken column for their badge and to identify themselves to each other. As a result they were able to offer comfort and support to Ladies in similar circumstances.

The Stockton branch was formally established in January 2007 and W Bro Frank Allen (Lodge of Fortitude No.7188) is the appointed Liaison Officer. There are 37 members who meet at the Stockton Masonic Hall on the third Friday monthly except January and August. Following a most successful and enjoyable trip to Cragside Hall in Northumberland the ladies are now planning another trip this time to Harlow Carr, the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Harrogate.



*W Bro Frank Allen surrounded by the ladies of the Stockton Broken Column Association.*

## Resource Centre Receives Donation

A group of performers received a welcome boost when a cheque for £50 was presented to them by The Lodge of Fellowship, South Shields. The group, from West Walpole Street Centre, consist mainly of persons with learning difficulties but give concerts in the community. It is the sixth time the Lodge has made a donation to the centre and this year



presented them with a shield to be awarded to the person who achieves most in sport this year.

*W Bros Harry Watson, Jim Nichol, Jim Sharpe and Gordon Finch with some of the performers*

## Seaham Lodges Aid Hit and Run Victim



*The photograph of Danica receiving her cheque is reproduced by kind permission of Sunderland Echo*

Since Freemasonry in the Community began there has been an annual charity auction run by the Seaham Lodges and the proceeds donated to local charitable causes. This year the charity auction raised £300 which has been donated to Danica Green, an 11 year old girl who lost part of her leg in a hit and run car smash in Sunderland. Danica's cousin was killed in the same incident. Danica will need considerable financial support as she grows and needs to have new prosthetic legs fitted regularly. These are not generally available on the NHS and as well as the cost of the new legs there is considerable expense incurred in the frequent journeys to Leeds where they are to be fitted. Danica's Grandmother, Liz Green, pictured with Danica and W Bro Gerry Ash, Chairman of Seaham Masonic Social Club, said "We would like to say a big thank you to the Club for the kindness they have shown by helping towards Danica's fund." The cheque was presented to Danica by W Bro Gerry Ash.