



THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DURHAM

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY NEWS BULLETIN

EDITION 2

AUTUMN 2005

TLC TEDDIES LAUNCHED

On Monday 31st October, at Shiney Row Masonic Hall, the Teddies for Loving Care charity project was launched in Durham Province by the Freemasonry in the Community Committee. The launch was attended by the Provincial Grand Master and members of his Council, Freemasonry in the Community Ambassadors and representatives from the Lodges in the Province.

Teddies for Loving Care is a scheme, begun in the Province of Essex and successfully adopted by several other Provinces, to supply Teddy Bears to the Accident and Emergency Departments of hospitals, and are then used by the medical staff to help comfort severely distressed children brought in for treatment. The children can then share a frightening experience with a new friend, who is theirs to keep and take home.

The result of this small gift is a much comforted child, less stressed and grateful parents and a valuable help to our hospitals and their hard-working staff. As was asked at the launch event: "What could be more Masonic

than that?" And the cost of achieving this result? A TLC Teddy costs just 95 pence.

There are eight A & E Hospitals in Durham Province, namely South Tyneside District, Queen Elizabeth (Gateshead), University Hospitals of North Durham, North Tees & Hartlepool, Darlington Memorial & Bishop Auckland General. The average turnover of children under the

age of sixteen is over 15,000 per hospital each year and, in the case of Sunderland,

27,000. From consultations with the hospitals and the experience of other Provinces, the ideal quantity of TLC Teddies for each hospital could be around 3,000 per annum.

The Freemasonry in the Community Committee is aware of other financial demands upon Lodges and wishes to launch the project with a target that

would not cause an undue burden. An initial target was therefore set of 1,000 Teddies per hospital per annum and then developing the project progressively. This can be achieved by an average donation of only £40 per Lodge and any additional amounts donated will go straight towards providing more Teddies. There are no other costs involved. Suggested methods for supporting the TLC Teddies project included donating the Lodge's Installation raffle or a special raffle held once a year; adopting it as a Freemasonry in the Community project; giving an annual charity donation or the proceeds of a social evening. Many other ideas were discussed.

Plans to publicise the project will include presentation events at each of the hospitals with representatives of local Lodges in attendance to underline local Masonic support.



*The Teddy for
Loving Care
symbol*

'I am delighted to see this excellent project being adopted in the Province of Durham'

RWBro. Dr. A M Davison, PGM



Launch photograph taken at South Tyneside District Hospital. Amy (centre) is the first recipient of a TLC Teddy in the Province of Durham.

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

CHESTER-LE-STREET SPONSOR TALL SHIPS TRAINEE



Chris & Geoff on board the Prince

The Lodges of Chester-le-Street Temple combined to offer the chance of a lifetime to 18 year old Chris Rann, Tall Ship Trainee. Chris, was offered the chance to sail in this year's event from Cherbourg to Newcastle in July.

He needed to raise £300 towards the cost of his voyage and the Chester-le-Street

Lodges joined together to help as part of their Freemasonry in the Community project.

Chris said, "It was an experience I will remember for the rest of my life. I had never sailed before and it was a very steep learning curve for me but I enjoyed every minute of it & I can't wait to sail again. I am really grateful to the Freemasons in my home town who have helped to make this dream a reality for me."



The Prince William arriving at Newcastle. Chris is up there somewhere

When the Prince William, one of the ships, arrived in Newcastle, she was greeted by thousands of well-wishers including Geoff Hunt, representing the Chester-le-Street Lodges. Geoff was welcomed on board and given a personal tour of the ship by Chris.

Geoff said, "We are proud to have supported Chris on this amazing experience and are looking forward to his account of the voyage which he will present to us later in the year."

Each summer usually between 70 and 100 vessels from 20 or more countries, crewed by some 4,000 or so young people from over 30 countries worldwide, take part in The Tall Ships' Races in Europe. Organised by Sail Training International, this unique event combines four days of activities in each port with racing or cruising-in-company between ports. During the race series the young crews get the chance to gain experience by sailing with their contemporaries from other countries while facing the physical and emotional challenges that only the ocean can provide.

At least 50% of the crew must be between the ages of 15 and 25. Next year marks the 50th Anniversary of The Tall Ships' Race, an occasion that will be commemorated with a repeat of the original 1956 race from Torbay to Lisbon.

SEAHAM LODGES ASSIST DISABLED BOY

The Seaham Lodges have enthusiastically supported the concept of Freemasonry in the Community since its inception, helping local charities and individuals in need of assistance. This year's project was in aid of a local sixteen-year-old boy suffering from a form of Alexander disease, a rare genetic disorder of the nervous system affecting the mid-brain and cerebellum. When the lodges learned of his plight, his condition had deteriorated

to the point where he was wheelchair-bound and able to use his hands only with great difficulty. An appeal had therefore been launched to provide him with computer equipment to make his life more bearable.

The three Seaham lodges contributed items to be sold at an auction night held at the Seaham Masonic Social Club and the £300 raised was duly presented to the family towards a laptop computer.

To make the News Bulletin more interesting, please assist us by sending photographs with your article if possible. Use quality digital prints.

COMMUNITY CENTRE USES TOW LAW MASONIC HALL

When Tow Law Community Centre closed for a thirty week refurbishment programme, the Masonic Hall Management Committee stepped in and offered the use of the Dining Hall to the Town Council and local groups, often at no charge or for a very nominal fee.

This included:

Free use of the Hall for Town Council meetings.

Free use for a 'bring and buy sale' for charity held by the Tow Law Parish Church.

Regular use of the Hall by the Dance Club at a charge of only 50p per member, which was much less than at their usual

venue.

Each of the groups involved sent letters of appreciation and, by helping local people when it was needed, Tow Law Masonic Hall Management Committee provided a kind and generous example of Freemasonry in the Community.

SOUTH SHIELDS MASONS HELP LOCAL SCHOOLS

In April St Hilda & Hadrian Lodges from South Shields, held a charity fund-raising social evening. The evening consisted of a meal, raffle, & karaoke. Besides being a really good evening a total of £300 was raised for local schools catering for children with special needs. This is a charity which is regularly supported by Hadrian Lodge & St Hilda were happy to join them on this occasion.

DURHAM FREEMASONS FLORAL BADGE

In July, a floral display, that depicts the 'Ministry of Defence Badge', was formally opened by the Right Worshipful Mayor of Durham, W. Bro. John Lightly, on Gilesgate roundabout in Durham City. The display was constructed by Durham City Council following an application by W. Bro Mike Donne PM of Flambard Lodge, who is a member of the War Pensions Committee. The display is to help to promote and raise awareness of the War Veterans Welfare Services as well as marking the 60th Anniversary of the Second World War.

The official opening party consisted of a number of distinguished guests, including W. Bro Jeff Lodge, the Deputy Mayor of Durham, military officers and the Head of the Environment and Leisure, who made the garden happen. W. Bro John Lightly officially opened the garden after which there was a short service of dedication.

85 year old W. Bro. Alec McKechnie, then gave the exhortation, which was a particularly moving part of the ceremony.

The event has received media coverage locally with articles in the Northern Echo and the Durham City newsletter & even nationally, as the Veterans Agency will publicise the event in their national newsletter. Such coverage can only be beneficial for Freemasonry in the Community.



CASTLE EDEN LODGES 'S.N.U.G.' NIGHT

The Lodges at Castle Eden recently held a social evening in aid of the Special Needs Unity Group. Approx. 80 tickets were sold & the night was a great success. The guests were treated to 'Songs from the Shows' given by S.N.U.G. members. There was a very enjoyable buffet. Prior to the charity evening itself, at a social evening, organized by Castle Eden Lodge of Installed Masters, at the Masonic Hall, a cheque for £225 was pre-

sented by the Worshipful Master.

On the night of the performance, many raffle prizes were donated, & the raffle raised the sum of £276.00.

In total the sum of £655.00 was raised.

This was divided between 'S.N.U.G.' & Hartlepool Hospice.

There was also a signed Hartlepool United Football Club Shirt

presented, together with a programme from the last game of the season, signed by Alan Shearer, and the promise of some further donations from Jackie Charlton. A whisky raffle for the North East Air Ambulance also took place.

There are plans to set up a committee comprising members from all the Lodges to co-ordinate activities under the banner of Freemasonry in the Community



FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

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Opposite you will find all the relevant Contact Numbers that you may require

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Welcome to the latest edition of the 'Freemasonry in the Community' News Bulletin. This larger Bulletin permits a lot more to be included. 'Freemasonry in the Community' retains a high profile within the Province. We welcome the launch of the Teddies for Loving Care Bear project & hope that every Lodge is able to support it. Many other community projects are highlighted in this Edition & we are particularly pleased with the photographs that we received. Please continue to let the Editor have details of whatever you do in the Community. Our work in the community is one of our strengths & we are justly proud of it. I hope you enjoy reading this News Bulletin & feel able to let us know what you think of it.

DEADLINE

The next News Bulletin will be published in March 2006, articles for inclusion must be received by 28th February 2006. All articles can be forwarded to the Editor by e-mail. The Editor reserves the right to amend entries.

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For help or advice please contact any of the above. For News Bulletin submissions please contact the Editor.

AMBASSADORS

If you are planning to hold an event under the label of 'Freemasonry in the Community', contact your Ambassador first, who will act as the conduit to achieve maximum publicity. Please remember to take quality digital pictures & forward them with the article to the Editor for entry into this twice-yearly News Bulletin. Remember, if you have done something within your local community, tell us about it.

The following Ambassadors have been appointed for each Masonic area:

Barnard Castle
A.C.Callandar
Billingham
Birtley
Bishop Auckland
Blackhill
Blaydon
Burnopfield

D.S.Hay
T P Glendinning
P Beedle
T Harbottle
L B Annis

Castle Eden
Reardon
Chester-Le-Street
Chopwell
Consett
Crook
Darlington
Dunston
Durham
Ferryhill
Gateshead
Hartlepool
Hebburn
Hetton- Le-Hole
Jarrow
Middleton-in-Teasdale

A
T Harbottle
T E Henderson
A Hepple
K J Sprot
R D Blacklee
D B Allaway
F A Rankin
G R Boys Stones
D G Smalley
T Bellis
I C Knighting
B Footitt
P Morrey
T E Park
D G Carney
T Urwin
H Norman
K Raper

Ryton
Seaham
Shildon
Shiney Row
South Shields
South Shields
(Hedworth)
Spennymoor
Staindrop
Stanhope
Stanley
Stockton
Sunderland
Sunderland
(Queen Street)
Tow Law
Washington
Willington
Wolsingham

M A Jackson
J W Froud
K Richardson
S R Ramshaw
D King
T Davey
K Dinning
S Isaac
N M Humble
D Jolliff
M S Shaw
J L Webster
J K Bates
R J Hargate
R Middleton
K Wilson
T Urwin
R W Clarkson
T E Bradley