A message from the Festival Director

Welcome back from the summer recess; I hope you and your families have had an enjoyable break. Our summer started with a bang with the fantastic Raby Gala, this wonderful event has been covered extensively in our Provincial Gazette but let me please take this opportunity to thank our Gala Director Andrew Foster and his team for staging this wonderful family event which was enjoyed by all. The many hundreds of hours of preparation paid off with a well-organized event with the help and support of the Provincial Stewards Lodge. To everyone who supported the event on the day with your attendance, to those who provided us with entertainment, and to all our lodges, we thank you. It was very pleasing to announce on the day that we hit the £1,000,000 mark, and to be able to present a further cheque of £250,000 to Les Hutchinson, the Chief Operating Office for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. We are still only 8 months into our festival and we couldn’t have wished for a better start, on behalf of the festival team thank you for your ongoing support.

Didn’t they do Well?

The Provincial Grand Master, Norman Eric Heaviside, had the great pleasure at the recent 25th Anniversary of Sportsman’s Lodge to announce the final grand total of the Raby Gala. Eric introduced Andrew Foster, the Raby Gala Director, to give some background to the Raby Gala journey.

The Raby Gala was a monumental task. Any task of this nature requires a strong team effort and at that, Andrew introduced and welcomed his Raby Gala team to the Shiney Row brethren; Bill Crutchley as Deputy Director, Paul O’Doherty – Gala Secretary, Nigel Foster – Gala Treasurer, Dennis Robinson – Infrastructure and Gordon Gilbraith – Sales and Marketing Manager.

The first meeting of the Gala team took place almost 2 years ago, and some of the main challenges the team faced were vastly increased costs from the last Gala which took place in 2009. These included inflation and the dreaded but nevertheless essential addition of increased Health and Safety costs. Durham unfortunately has about 10% fewer Masons than at the time of the last Gala, so all of this had to be considered and factored into any planning/costing.

But with the help of 179 Lodges, 51 Chapters and several thousand Masons and their friends and family the Raby Gala was a great success. That was until about 3 o’clock in the afternoon when the heavens opened and virtually rained the event off. However, by that time everyone concerned had, had a fantastic family day out that raised a phenomenal amount for charity and highlighted to the local community the fantastic charitable work Freemasonry undertakes.

Andrew then handed Eric the cheque and after a short period of guessing the total, Eric announced the fantastic amount of £70,000 profit from the Gala. A delighted PGM after thanking Andrew and his team for their tremendous efforts went on state that this year’s event had cost in the region of £35,000 to stage and this was a tremendous achievement for everyone who contributed in any way to what was a magnificent ‘Family Fun Day! This brings the Festival total up to £1,080,000 which is an incredible total, considering that the Festival was only launched at the Sage in Gateshead on Sunday 24th January some 8 months ago. Thank you once again to Andrew, Bill, Paul, Nigel, Dennis, Gordon and the many others who contributed and made this day the massive success it was.

Gala Total: £70,000

Did you win? Find out on Page 3.
**Durham 2021**

**FESTIVAL NEWS**

*A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child.*

### Have you had one yet?

**Our Presentation has changed.**

If you have a quiet meeting or a free night and want to know more about the festival and how the MCF can help you and your families then contact the Festival Secretary paul.quinn@durham2021.org. The website has a full list of presentations already booked.

### The Festival Jewel: Have you got yours?

1252 of our members have qualified as Festival Stewards. The qualification amount is £480 or £6.10 per month over 4 years or you can qualify by raising the amount of £480 via sponsorship. It's only 33p a day!

### Another one goes Gold

A generous donation of £10,000 from the brethren of St George's Lodge ensures that the lodge has reached its Festival target. They have now joined Flambard and Agricola as Gold Award Lodges.

We now have 10 lodges that have raised 66% of their target and have been awarded with the Silver award.

134 Lodges have also shown their commitment to raising 33% of their target and have therefore been awarded the Bronze Award. The commitment from these lodges will make a very noticeable difference to the lives of the children this money will support.

### Many Thanks

Just some of the donations we’ve had since the last newsletter. We appreciate all donations, and do apologise if yours is not mentioned.

- **£10,000** St George Lodge
- **£4,259** Nautilus Lodge 4259
- **£2,500** Mark Master Masons
- **£2,021** Lodge of Progress 8259
- **£2,021** Eardulph Lodge 6645
- **£2,282** Elvet Lodge 5631
- **£1,000** Gateshead Fell Lodge 4349
- **£1,000** Ryton St Mary 6550
- **£1,000** Durham Lodge of Installed Masters 4441
- **£1,000** Longscar 6203
- **£1,000** Beasconfield 7768
- **£700** Strathmore 6229
- **£200** The residents of Peter Stracey House

### Euro Results

Thanks to all those who took part in the Euro challenge, the results are as follows:

- **£100** Mike Horne
- **£50** Mike Altringham
- **£25** Bill Hobson
- **£15** Frev Mellor

Thanks for the support — we raised £180 for the festival.

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**Wow! We’ve reached £1,000,000**

Thank you all so much!
FESTIVAL NEWS

A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child.

Calling all Cyclists

Our 2017 major fundraising event will be a bike ride. We are yet to confirm the exact details of the ride, but ideas under consideration include coast-to-coast, a ride around the Province, lodge to lodge and similar routes.

If you wish to be part of this event please register your interest with our Festival Secretary paul. quinn@durham2021.org. All monies raised from individuals will be credited to your lodge, or lodges, of your choice.

Christmas Cards

This year lodges have new designs of the ever-popular Christmas cards available to sell. Also each lodge will have copies of the pocket size Masonic Charitable Foundation diaries which are available for a donation.

If lodges or or individuals require further stock please just let us know. All proceeds from the sales will be credited against the lodge target.

Please support your Charity Steward and buy a couple of packs.

Grand Gala Raffle – £5,000 first prize. Did you win?

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The raffle was a massive success and will be repeated in 2017. Thanks for your support.

Smarties Challenge

Over 2000 of our brethren are taking part in the Smarties summer challenge with others starting in September. Please enjoy your sweeties and, if you are able, return the tube — filled with 20p coins from your loose change — to your Charity Steward.

If you haven’t got any and you need some let us know.

FAO Charity Stewards — please complete the Smarties donation form to ensure we record your lodge support and allow us to access the additional Gift Aid. The form is available from the download section on the website www.durham2021.org or click on the sweetie tube on the home page.

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The proceeds from the Christmas Cards will be used to support the 2021 Festival for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys

60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

020 7405 2644

www.rmtgb.org

Registered Charity No. 285836


Masonic Christmas Card 2016 (B).ai   3   18/07/2016   14:55

Masonic Christmas Card 2016 (C).ai   5   18/07/2016   13:26

Masonic Christmas Card 2016 (B).ai   3   18/07/2016   13:26

Masonic Christmas Card 2016 (C).ai   1   18/07/2016   14:55

Funded entirely through the generosity of Freemasons and their families, the Masonic Charitable Foundation is one of the largest grant-making charities in the country. Most of the support provided by the Masonic Charitable Foundation takes the form of financial grants to individuals and families to assist with daily living costs. They can also award grants to provide specific items or services.

A range of health and care needs, including medical and dental treatments, counselling and mobility aids or home adaptations are supported, with funding also available for respite, residential, nursing and dementia care.

Professional Advice and Support team offers confidential and practical guidance about the support available from the Masonic Charitable Foundation and many other organisations.

In addition to the support they provide to Freemasons and their families, they award millions of pounds each year to local and national charities that help vulnerable people, advance medical research and provide opportunities for young people.

The MCF provide help to fund vital services such as hospices and air ambulances and regularly contribute to worldwide appeals for disaster relief. In total the support helps to improve the lives of thousands of people every year in England, Wales and internationally.

The Foundation brings together the work of four national Charities which had been operating separately under various names since the early 18th Century.

Who we help

Masonic connection

Those seeking support must be a Freemason or have a strong family connection to a Freemason.

A Freemason is someone who is, or was, a member of a Lodge regulated by the United Grand Lodge of England. This includes Freemasons in England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man as well as members of overseas Lodges which follow the English Constitution.

The Freemason does not necessarily need to be a currently subscribing member, but he must have joined before the need arose.

We define a strong family connection as a Freemason’s:

- Wife or Partner
- Widow or Surviving Partner
- Divorced or Separated Wife or Partner
- Child (under 25) in full-time education
- Grandchild (under 25) in full-time education

Other relations may also qualify for support if they can demonstrate that a Freemason has provided them with significant financial or physical support.

Those seeking support towards Masonic care homes may also include:

- Parents;
- Grandparents;
- Relatives in-law;
- Siblings; and
- Other relations financially or physically reliant on a Freemason.
How to apply for support

All enquiries and applications are received sympathetically and in the strictest confidence. The application process has three steps:

Contact

Speak to your Lodge Benevolent Representative or Almoner about applying for a grant or contact the MCF Enquiries Team directly to start your application.

Freephone: 0800 035 60 90
Email: help@mcf.org.uk
Write: Masonic Charitable Foundation
60 Great Queen Street
London
WC2B 5AZ

The MCF enquiries team can offer confidential guidance on the financial, health, care and family help available and advise you about the process and criteria for making an application.

Response

If you would like to apply, a representative of the Foundation will visit you and help you to complete the application form.
A named contact from our grants department will let you know when your application has been received and keep you updated on its progress.

Outcome

You will be notified about the outcome of your application and, if it is approved, when a payment will be made directly to you or to the supplier providing the equipment or service you require.
If your application is not approved, they will try to direct you to other organisations that may be able to help.

For more information about your new masonic charity, go to: www.mcf.org.uk