

May 2010

Prostate Cancer Awareness Appeal produces £204,000

Provincial Grand Master, Richard John Anderson's, announcement to the AGM of the Provincial Grand Charity in his capacity as President of the charity.

When I announced at the Annual Meeting last year that I was launching an appeal for Prostate Cancer Research I like most of you – then – knew very little about the subject except what Professor Maitland had said in his talk to us. I also was very keen to have no target because I felt that the words Prostate and Cancer were to many men very private and personal issues but that perhaps over the year one or two or even a few of our members might decide to heed the advice that to do nothing was not an option.

I could never have imagined in my wildest dreams just what a wave, a tidal wave, of interest in this medical condition would be generated. A veritable tsunami has overwhelmed the Province as the key word “awareness” has circulated from North to South and East to West. Our Provincial Charity, with help from Professor Maitland, prepared a power point presentation and teams of presenters were set up under the leadership of Tony Burke and have attended Lodges and Chapters through out the Province and beyond.

There are no holds barred and as a result, I know because I have attended one, an avalanche of questions arise. I believe from comments made to me and letters from so many brethren that hundreds and perhaps even thousand of our members have heeded the advice that to do nothing was not an option and have sought medical advice and in many cases treatment. The awareness presentations will continue for the rest of this year

To show just how widespread is Prostate Cancer you already know that I had it and have got rid of it. Did you know that my Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies had it and has got rid of it? Did you know that my predecessor John Raylor had it and has just completed his course of Radiotherapy yesterday? There are many more here today who had it and have dealt with it or are dealing with it.

So to the appeal - this to some extent has been overtaken by the awareness initiative. While I know that freemasons are often generous it has been amazing to learn of the many sources of contributions that have been received.

Professor I have already said that we had £55,000 at 31 December and we were aware of your wish list amounting to £72,000 so I am delighted to tell you that on 30 April the Treasurer advised me that we had passed that and had £97,000.

In the last 15 days a bit more – well a lot more has come in or is pledged and it is with great delight and pride **that I am able to present on behalf of the Freemasons of Yorkshire North and East Ridings a cheque for £124,000**

Just before you express your thanks Professor I am pleased to report that the Masonic Samaritan Fund, one of the Central Masonic Charities heard about our project and for the

first time ever decided to support for medical research was possible. We submitted a petition with a lot of help from Derek Broderick and were excited to learn that the petition had been approved in the full amount. I will therefore invite the President of the Masonic Samaritan Fund to join us and reveal the amount they are able to add to our appeal.

VWBro Hugh Stubbs said that he was delighted that the Fund had been able to support the appeal that the whole amount of the funding needed under the petition had been approved and he was delighted to hand over a cheque for £80,000 to provide a total sum of £204,000

Professor Maitland then expressed his thanks on behalf of his research team commenting that in the current financial situation funding for medical research was not a very high priority and difficult to obtain. He was therefore even more amazed at the generosity shown by the massive sum donated to his research project

