

Scarborough Opens It's Historic Doors

The Masonic Hall on St Nicholas Cliff in Scarborough opened its doors to the Public on the 13th September 2008.

Organised jointly by Scarborough and District Civic Society, Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society and Scarborough Council the event was aimed at raising the Publics awareness of the town's architectural, historical and cultural heritage.

The Masonic Hall is believed to have been owned jointly with the then interconnected Stewart Hotel by a Doctor who used one of the two buildings as his Surgery and eventually started its life as a Masonic Hall in October 1884.

Along with the Masonic Hall other buildings which would not normally be opened to the Public or would usually charge an admission fee were also open for viewing, these included the Town Hall, Opera House Casino, Scarborough Cricket Club, Scarborough Castle, the Art Gallery, Rotunda and Woodend Museums and Dean road Council Depot with is home to Dean road Jail still preserved in its former glory

The Event was spread over 4 days from the 11th Sept with the Masonic Hall open on Saturday from 10am to 4pm. A signing in book was provided by the Civic Society to monitor how many Visitors/Locals had attended each venue. The Lodge had well over 180 signatures but we believe that we had more like 250 visitors as many failed to sign in.

Although not a Masonic Event we had quite a number of visitors who came to look up old school friends, neighbours and Family members amongst our Honours Boards.

In fact one lady presented us with a briefcase full of Masonic Regalia and Ritual books which had belonged to her Grandfather and another presented a picture of Robert Burns in full Masonic Dress.

As well as the Public influx the day was also well supported by all our local and surrounding Lodges and was attended by a number of Provincial Grand Lodge members.

In the main entrance we had a Display Stand provided by W.Bro Chris Thomas promoting Masonic Charity promoting the TLC appeal and a list of famous Masons.

The interest in this display was amazing and I would recommend any Lodge planning such an event to consider using this display.

The local Press came along to make a report which can be found on news@pgl-york.org.

Their parting comments were," that they would like to return to the lodge to learn more about Freemasonry and what we do" and we are hoping to arrange such a visit at some point in the future.

Report by W. Bro. Karl Ward (Scarborough Lodge 7147)