

## TOTAL REACHES £50,000 GIVEN TO LOCAL CHARITIES.

The Fifth Annual Charity Presentation Evening, which is organised by the Freemasonry in the Community Committee for Middlesbrough Lodges, was held at the Masonic Hall, Middlesbrough on Thursday 18th May 2006. Cheques in excess of £10,000 were given to representatives of local charities. In addition to the cheques, a large cuddly toy of 'Scooby Doo' and a smaller cuddly toy were presented to Zoe's Place Childrens Hospice. Over £50,000 has now been donated to Local Charities by Middlesbrough Freemasons at these events in the last five years.

Those who attended the evening were:- Charity Representatives from 21 different Charities, Freemasons from the eleven Middlesbrough Lodges together with their wives, Members of the Zetland Ladies Club, the Provincial Grand Master Richard John Anderson and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master John Ridgill Trout together with their wives.

Each Lodge chooses its own Charities and amongst those to benefit were the Great North Air Ambulance, MacMillan Nurses, The Support Association for the relatives of the victims of Murder and Manslaughter, The Sea Cadets and the Butterwick Hospice to name but a few. (During the last five years 67 Charities have received donations, all but two of which have no Masonic connection.)



The evening was compered by Brother Ben Doree from the Acklam Lodge who, together with his wife Sally, had organised the evening. Photographs of the evening were taken by Bro. Bob Harvey of North York Lodge. The Photographs will be on display in the Masonic Hall, Middlesbrough and at the Cleveland Show in Middlesbrough in July, where Middlesbrough Freemasons are to have a stand to promote Freemasonry. Photographs are also given to the Charity Representatives to publish in their own 'in house' magazines.

The format of the evening was the same as in previous years :- drinks on arrival, a meal, a presentation by a chosen Charity, the presentation of cheques and this year the cuddly toys to the Charity Representatives. The evening was closed by the Provincial Grand Master who congratulated the Middlesbrough Lodges on the success of the evening. The PGM stated that he wished the whole atmosphere of the evening could have been bottled and released in other Masonic Centres as a means of establishing greater contact with their Local Communities.

Following the end of the formal part of the evening, the Meeting Room was opened and everyone attending was encouraged to look around and ask whatever questions they wished of the Freemasons in attendance.

The evening was once again a tremendous success. Whilst it is difficult to quantify how the image of Freemasonry is improved by such an evening, it certainly is, as evidenced by the comments of the representatives of the Charities who were in attendance. The event was reported in Middlesbrough's local evening newspaper 'The Evening Gazette', under the heading 'Masons donate Charity Fortune'.

## FREEMASONRY WORKING IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY