



RMTGB FESTIVAL 2006



Issue No 9, 2005/6

This is the season of cold wind's frost and good cheer the Festival committee wishes you all and your families a very happy festive season and a prosperous New Year.

It is also a season when you are confronted with Newsletters! PROVINCIAL *news* a larger format and full of interesting and varied comment from around the Province, CHAPTER *Scribe* with an illustrious [I hope I am in the right order?] montage of photographs that say so much about the day.

So what has this to do with Festival and this newsletter? The answer is the underlying principle of enjoying Freemasonry and Charity every photograph illustrates the fraternal friendship that exists in this Province and our Lodges. You can share in the success of our Festival 2006, the 21st anniversary festival for **The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.**

I am regularly asked the questions: "can we do it?", "will we do it?", and "how much is in the pot now"? Yes we can, yes we will, not enough just yet.

Yet we know you are out there from Withernsea to Leyburn from Howden to Middlesbrough, striving and working to support your community, maintain your Lodge premises and contribute to Festival 2006, **and now we ask that you search the corners of your Masonic heart to find that little bit more.**

To share in THE PRESENTATION To "celebrate" Festival you will attend the banquet at York racecourse on Saturday, 1st July 2006, again an all-ticket event and limited to 560 in the largest capacity rooms they can offer, with dancing to the show band Casablanca Boys. Details of how to apply will be circulated early in the New Year.

Religion the Provincial Church Service was held on Sunday, 23rd October at St Columba's with New Lendal United Reformed Church at York by the kind permission of the Reverend Graham Maskery.

Those who attended would agree that the warmth of our welcome was a great joy and so was the service; those who couldn't come – you missed a very nice afternoon. Now I do not know if it was coincidence or good planning but the theme that ran throughout could be taken as family, friendship and fraternity. Richard Anderson's scripture reading from 1 Kings, *King Solomon builds the Temple*, Donald Davinson's from 2 Corinthians, *Generosity*. Jeff Gillyon's from 1 John 3, *Love for each other*, was followed by Graham Maskery with an address that took to the heights of the Moors and Dales for a vision of support care and a future for those in need.

We could not have had a better Festival theme. See you at next year's service?

Obituary

Geoffrey Norman Clarke, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Past Senior Grand Deacon. 1924 –2005.

Our condolences to his wife Marjorie and his family. His support for charity was well known and we often had donations collected on one of the many cruises he enjoyed.

Biography of a Bike Ride

Andrew Shipley, Bridlington. It is not old politics but Andrew did get on his bike and took a ride to Pickering; his biography makes me tired just reading it, but it seems it was just a "bike ride in a National Park". It was an idea to raise money for Festival by a keen bike rider but not a racer; he trained through the winter and chose Pickering as his destination. Planning is essential and his ambition was endorsed with the permission of the PGM and sponsorship from the Bridlington Lodges. Now every endeavour needs a support crew; who else could it be but family? His wife Joanne and sister Jill stepped forward with Chris Thomas and his camera to create a record. It was a fine day and the halfway stop " five minutes" just above Sherburn. Arriving in Pickering, tired, in a time of 2 hours 10 minutes and the result: £300 in the Festival fund. Well done, Andrew and your team.



YOUR DONATIONS, THANK YOU.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons £10,000

Caedmon Lodge Whitby proceeds of a hog roast held at the home of Brian McNeil £750.

Knights Templar, Provincial Priory of North and East Yorkshire £250.

Royal and Select Masters £250.

Burlington Lodge £500.

Burlington RAC £500.

Tees Tablers Lodge £1000.

Royal Lodge £1000.

Helmsley Lodge £500.

Old Globe various donations, a little and regular but each month John Allen sends me a cheque for Festival, proceeds of raffles, collections or fund-raising events.

Huntcliff RAC £300.

Erimus Lodge sadly surrendering their warrant but qualifying as a Grand Patron Lodge and closing the accounts with donations totalling £1440.

Handyside £1000.

The Province of Oxfordshire £1000.

The Ancient and Accepted Rite £2250.

Red Cross of Constantine £1400.

Eboracum see your Provincial newsletter.

Humber Installed Masters, well done, Jeff Dales, you do it your way.

This is a selection; please do not be offended if you are not mentioned, the Festival committee records what you donate and every donation is appreciated.

The Provincial Grand Master did say at one time he would go to a Lodge to collect cheques for £5000, he has upped his festival objective; it is now £10,000 – any takers?

By the time you read this you will have heard of some special presentations; Freemasonry and Charity is Universal; one of our coastal towns is going to realise that, but I can say no more.

Charity Stewards—if you have an email address would you please register it at: office@pgl-york.org

Where this Province leads others follow.

Such can be said about the way Richard John Anderson, the President of the 21st anniversary Festival for The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, is directing its course.

Inclusiveness has been the central theme of his leadership, communication is a natural consequence and when he invited The Trust to be the keynote speakers at the Charity Information day at the Parsonage Hotel Escrick they had to be well prepared.

For the first time the speakers Les Hutchinson, secretary to the council of the Trust, and John Hallahan, coordinator of the “Lifelites” project, used a Power Point presentation to illustrate the need of those who are in the protection of the Trust. It was an emotive presentation with pictures of those still in need and of others who were graduating from a long educational process and to accompany each was a history of the origin of how they came to need protection.

During the interval we had an amusing encounter with John Hallahan trying to give the PGM an official Lifelites lapel pin and being rebuffed firmly with comments from RJA like “I can get anything up to £10 for my lapel pin for Lifelites, you can keep it”.

A transcript of the presentation is now available and copies can be obtained from the Festival secretary.



IS THIS THE FINAL CURTAIN?

I joined the Festival committee by the invitation [a quite forceful invitation] of the then APGM Henry Wood, Chairman of the Festival committee. I was informed by the incumbent secretary – a Mason then called Jeffrey Gillyon – who assured me all the work was done. I now call him “Sir” and know he was economical with his job description. But a foundation for the success of Festival 2006 had been sown, and following a theatrical and seasonal theme, overtures and beginners had been called and completed the first act. The storyline was evolving and the cast was getting bigger by the day, month and year; the cast is all of you who have contributed to Festival in one way or another.

The programme for our Festival is set out in the newsletters and communications from Province. I have enjoyed researching and listening to the comments and learning of the innovative ways you conceived to raise funds for Festival in the Province.

This may be the last Festival newsletter, though perhaps one more, but I have a clear message to all of you who provide, attend, organise, write, or do in support of the Children in the protection of the Trust.

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU!

We are ringing down the curtain on Festival, all that remains is the applause and encores, the tip to those in attendance give generously as you leave. £2,000,000 is within our grasp!

Ed. TGB [one of the Provincial book ends]