

FESTIVAL 2006

RMTGB Presentation Roman Road Middlesbrough 31st January 2006

RMTGB Presentation St Saviourgate York 9th January 2006

RMTGB Presentation Beverley Road Hull 22nd November 2005

Tracing its development from Hull through York, the final RMTGB Presentation was given at Roman Road Middlesbrough to a packed hall of 142 Brethren from all over the District and as far away as York and Leyburn.

The Chairman of Festival 2006, Bro John Trout, introduced the evening and immediately thanked the Companions of the Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter who were sponsoring the meeting. Special thanks were given to Comp Les Sinden, who had applied himself with characteristic dedication to ensure the evening would be well received. A touch here, a tickle there and a pot of coffee on arrival, all to make visitors feel welcome.

The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Jeff Gillyon and the Third Provincial Grand Principal David Scott.

The Chairman introduced the speakers, Les Hutchinson and Mike Woodcock, both of whom had travelled significant distances to attend.

Les Hutchinson, Secretary to the Council of the Trust and Mike Woodcock, Chairman of the Public Relations and Fund Raising Committee gave an in depth view of the work, benefits and aspirations of The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. A very significant development in Masonic Charity was explained to the meeting regarding the "Lifelites" appeal. Lifelites, which was launched as the Millenium project of the Trust to provide computers to Children's Hospices throughout the country has become a separate independently funded charity. The Trust Deed forming the Charity came into force on the 1st January 2006 and is supported by an endowment from RMTGB of 4 million pounds. This of course is just the first footstep on a long path to assist those who sadly find themselves in need of support during the closing period of a short life. It is projected that it will need a minimum of £500,000 annually to continue and develop from the existing 36 Hospices to over 40 in the coming year. A full report of this initiative is in Issue 16 of Masonic Quarterly magazine dated January 2006.

Les Hutchinson presented a review of actual case histories, which brought young people into the protection of the Trust. Many of those in the audience were shocked by the horror, which had consumed part of these young lives.

The counterpoint to this was the progress made by each of the youngsters in overcoming adversity, as they came to terms with a life without one or both parents or any recognisable family structure. He was able to report academic achievement, personal development and recognition of the work of the Trust and the Freemasons who support it, to advance the lives of those who are in the protection of RMTGB. All who attended were unanimous in agreeing that what we had heard was profound, an eye opener and an inspiration as to why we must sustain the charity that was founded by wise men so many years ago.

To conclude, the Festival Committee wishes to thank the Eboracum Lodge, the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge and Chapter and the brethren and companions who supported the meetings for their attendance. We hope the message was clear.
The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys

IS
THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF MASONIC CHARITY