

WELL DONE

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master is able to announce that the Festival Total now stands in excess of £1,536,000. What does this mean for OUR Festival effort? Quite clearly it means that we are tantalisingly close to achieving the £2,000,000 that was projected for our late Provincial Grand Master, His Honour G. J. K. Coles QC. As we enter the Festival Year May 2005-May 2006 we have a record of raising £300,000 in each of the last two years. We now call on you for that truly Masonic virtue of charity by responding to the needs of those who are in the Protection of The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

NOT SUCH GOOD NEWS

“GRANT REDUCTIONS”

Fundraising by members of the craft is essential to the work of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys but it also depends heavily on investment income to finance its grants. The Trust's Council has therefore decided to make economies to ensure that expenditure does not exceed income. It will cut grants, but in such a way that beneficiaries are disadvantaged as little as possible. At the same time, administrative costs are being reduced

The main cuts will be in grants to university students. UndergradAid grants will not, therefore be available for the academic year 2005-2006. UndergradAid was launched in the millennium year 2000 and provides undergraduate bursaries to the children of Freemasons. Awards are not restricted to those families considered to be in poverty, and is means tested and those considered most in need are given priority.

In the academic year 2004-2005 19 students in this Province were awarded bursaries. This illustrates the need for us to be generous and successful in our Festival year. Our Province is a small contributor in the Festival cycle and will make up approximately 25% of the total annual expenditure of the Trust. A full report of the decision of the Trust is given in MQ

The Ryedale Printing Group

You may wonder how the Festival committee has managed to produce and deliver to you a Newsletter twice per year during the period of the Festival. The Ryedale Printing Group is the answer. Their generosity cooperation and expertise has been a contribution to our Festival beyond measure. The Province and Festival committee thank you all.

ASIAN TSUNAMI

The brethren of this Province demonstrated their ability to respond to the call for Charity in response to this exceptional disaster. The Provincial Charity office has been collating a total of the donations made by Lodges Chapters other Orders and individuals. It was reported in March that £8,400 had been donated, to the relief chest appeal of The Grand Charity. The Grand Charity has received £560,000 in response to the appeal.

FUN RAISING MONEY ?

How often do we involve our Ladies? By my experience and comments made to me by ladies not often enough. We can hear the observation that our Province has been fund raising since 1989 and so it has. In those intervening years we have consecrated a number of day light Lodges, invariably the ladies of the members meet at the same time have a talk of interest to them and then join together for lunch. When the ladies are motivated and integrated in to our activities fund raising is easy. We trust them to raise our children run our home look after the everyday well being of our lives. When they run the raffle tombola or whatever they will be good at it. Freemasonry in the Community will benefit and so will our Festival.

Leslie Carter, Charity Steward, Technical Lodge 5666

Leslie sadly passed away early in March 2005. In my last correspondence with him we had agreed that we would acknowledge the donation made from Technical Lodge of £1000, which was the proceeds of fund raising, by the ladies committee. Leslie was proud of his ladies and supported them on every occasion they had a meeting or fund raising event. In like manner, Leslie was held in the highest affection by them and the brethren they gave generously when he made the call. He saw the Lodge qualified as Patron of Festival and was anxious that every member would register a donation to Festival 2006.

John Tuke, Charity Steward, Old Globe Lodge 200

John also passed away suddenly on Easter Monday, he was held in high esteem for his charity work on behalf of the Lodge and saw it qualify as Grand Patron of Festival. John always presented the donations with short notes about the way the monies had been raised and assured us of the commitment of the brethren of his Lodge.

GIFT AID DECLARATIONS

Many of you have not signed a GAD even though you make donations to Festival. The Gift Aid form is quite clear and states that **"I want the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys to treat all donations I have made since 6th April 2000 and all donations from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.** This means all your previous donations can benefit from the 28p in the pound tax relief. Please ask for a GAD sign it and return it to the Trust, it will make a significant difference to your personal contribution and our Festival effort.

FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS 2006

It is not to soon to be informing you how we will celebrate the conclusion of Festival 2006 even though the fine detail has still to be confirmed. We will celebrate and declare the Festival contribution to RMTGB on Saturday, 20th May 2006, at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at York University. It is our Provincial Grand Master's wish that as many brethren of the Province can share in this event as possible. Those of you who have been involved with previous Festivals will realize this is a departure from the usual protocol.

Festival will be further celebrated by a "Party Dinner Dance" for Stewards of the Festival on the 24th June 2006 at York racecourse. Everyone attending will be required to have been a steward of the Festival.

This of course includes the Ladies, a lady qualifies as a steward by paying the £15 Stewards fee plus a minimum donation of £25, and the Festival brooch is then available from the Festival Secretary.

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS

Eric Bringloe from Hazelgrove Lodge exhibited his other talents by making a Dolls House for a raffle supported by the Saltburn Lodges, which raised £1000 for Festival. The winner is reported to have needed a van to take it home. Thornborough Lodge: £2000, proceeds from various events and a summer garden party. St. John of Bridlington: £1000. Caedmon Lodge: £1000. Marwood Chapter: £500. Falcon Chapter: £106 to take the total to £1416, corresponding to the Chapter number, and on the night the First Principal installed a successor after 2 years in office. Ayton Lodge: £300. Priory Chapter: £400. Old Guisborian Lodge: £1000. York Lodge: £465. Ronaldshay Lodge: £1000. Old Globe Lodge: £86. With a united effort we can make this a Festival that the Province will long remember. But only you can achieve that objective.