

From the Festival Chairman W Bro Chris Yard Asst PGM

Welcome to this first newsletter of 2019. A big thank you to all the Brethren and lodges who have helped us reach the total of pledges to date at £857K – but, we are a long way short off our target of 3.2M. All of the 2023 donations you generously give – and a lot more – comes back to Devonshire to help our members and their dependants in need. So please continue to make the Festival the priority giving from your lodge, and if you have not already committed to regular giving and supporting your friends and brethren by wearing a 2023 Festival Jewel, please do sign up soon. Helping poor and distressed freemasons is the foundation to our order and we pledged ourselves to do so when we are initiated.

About Non Masonic Charitable Giving -From the Deputy PGM V W Bro Nicholas Ball.

Very Worshipful Bro Nicholas Ball our Deputy PGM writes

“ As many Brethren know I chair the Benevolent Fund and Wake Fund and I am deeply committed to supporting our Festival. However, it is not unusual for the Benevolent Fund to support a non-masonic charity substantially, only to find that it is also supported by a local lodge. In non-festival times this is excellent, but during the festival period please could Brethren direct their attention to donating to the Festival.

It is really concerning that non-masonic charities are sometimes receiving funding or double funding when our own Brethren’s needs are at risk of not being met. Recently there have been more freemasons and their families who truly need support from the Benevolent Fund and also from the MCF. If the MCF funds are not replenished during Festival time they will inevitably be at risk of running out or becoming insufficient to support our needy Brethren adequately”.

News of Area Meetings for Charity Stewards

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward W Bro Reuben Ayres has arranged four meetings for lodge charity stewards to be held on the dates below

5th February	South Area	St Marychurch, Torquay.
11th March	North Area	South Molton
12th March	East Area	Exmouth
21st March	Plymouth Area	Mt Edgumbe, Plymouth

The aim is to bring Charity Stewards up to date with the Festival, answer any concerns or queries and share good ideas. If you are unable to come do please send a deputy. These are really important meetings starting at 6:30 and will be followed by refreshments.

Events Committee Changes

W Bro John Pritchard has become Events Manager reporting to W Bro Keith Williams and included on his committee are W Bros Arthur Blamey , Kevin Bridges Chris Sidwell and Mark Bowes Cavanagh.

Forthcoming events which have dates fixed include

QUANTOCK BELLE STEAM RAILWAY SUNDAY 7TH APRIL 2019.

Contact. Craig Cox: craig.cox494@btinternet.com

Summer 2019 BBQ – Sunday 16th June, at Lavender House Hotel, Ashburton.

Contact: Arthur Blamey and Events Committee. Contact details: Home. 01822 840506 Mob. 07970657128.

Dinner with Entertainment - Langstone Cliff Hotel Dawlish.

Contact: Jimmy Hill. Jim is a Group Manager for Dawlish Area – details thus far: Saturday 30th November with entertainment and Ticket price £30 per person. Home: 01626 888088 or Mob. 07762 072204.

Miles Coverdale Dinner Dance – Saturday 7th December 2019 at RICC Torquay.

Contact: George Adroit the Lodge Charity Steward.

WHAT MORE CAN WE DO? - Your Feedback Please

Despite all our efforts to date we still have lodges in the province who have not got fully behind the Festival- so please let me tell you what we have done and then let me then ask for your help in making any suggestions as to how we might do better.

We started by taking advice from the last festival team and accepted the important principal that only if the Lodge Charity Steward got behind the festival would we have the support we needed.

Hence:

- We had 4 Area launches, inviting key lodge members to hear about the Festival in detail.
- We set up Group Managers whose first task was to ask if the Lodge Charity Steward was supportive and if not suggest a Festival Steward be appointed.
- We promoted the “one to one” initiative - asking every Charity Steward to approach each member personally once and once only, to ask them to support the Festival.
- We arranged for presentations to be available in every Lodge.
- A personalised Festival Brochure detailing what the MCF does and how to donate was given to every Brother.
- We are holding events annually and in every area to raise funds and raise the profile.

So the question please is what more can we do and perhaps what more could you do to help?

Did you know that you can now check the Provincial Website to see how your lodge is doing and so that smaller lodges are not disadvantaged by larger lodges, the figures include average giving per brother.

Dr Adrian Rogers Festival Secretary Newsletter Editor a@drrogers.co.uk