

2023 Devonshire Festival – Think Twice on How to Give to Non Masonic Causes During Festival

As your Provincial Grand Master I'd like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. I would also like to thank everyone for their kind messages of support whilst recovering from a recent knee replacement. Toni and I are very grateful for the kindness shown to both of us during our spell of ailing health. We are recovering. **THANK YOU.**

Thank you also to all those brethren and their lodges who are supporting the 2023 Devonshire MCF Festival. We have pledges totalling £857K for the first year of the five year term. Our target with the MCF is £3.2M by the end of the Festival.

In Devonshire we receive more than £1000 per day from the MCF to support those brethren and their dependants in distress and need, and I sincerely hope that none of us are ever placed in a similar position of calling on such charity. I would ask you to reflect on our Masonic obligation of exercising that virtue as our circumstances in life may fairly warrant: "*I mean Charity*" and remembering the poor, penniless and distressed who are in need of your help.

I urge every member to subscribe to the 2023 Devonshire Festival and wear the breast jewel with pride. Brethren, the minimum donation of just £1.25 per week or more spread over five years highlights your support and belief in our Charitable Masonic values.

For lodges as a whole, I thank you all for supporting the Province and local causes in recent times. You have all been stalwarts in supporting the local community and those causes close to your own hearts. **THANK YOU ALL.**

I would now urge every lodge to prioritise its giving to the Festival.

Some lodges continue to donate to local causes even when a subscribing member is suffering from obvious hardship and distress. Brethren, this is contrary to all our principles and we must think long and hard about our roots. I now ask you to '**THINK TWICE**' and to focus lodge giving to the 2023 Festival.

Please remember we still operate the WAKE Fund and the Benevolent Fund where you have an urgent local community need and use your hard-earned lodge funds to support your Brethren and their families by donating to the Festival.

I urge lodges to support this lovely Province by excelling in this 2023 Festival. Devonshire has a long and proud history of generous Festival giving and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart in maintaining our fine tradition during this Festival.

I once again thank you for your loyal support and wish you all a happy, healthy 2019.

Ian Kingsbury

Provincial Grand Master