



News Digest – February 2010

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1. Relief Chest Opened for Haiti Earthquake



THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

In response to requests from members of the Craft and as the extent of the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti has become clearer, the Council of The Freemasons' Grand Charity

has opened a dedicated Relief Chest. This centrally administered service is for those who would like their donation for victims of the earthquake to be part of a co-ordinated Masonic response.

This announcement follows an earlier decision by the President of the Grand Charity to approve the immediate payment of grants totalling £30,000 in support of emergency aid efforts in Haiti.

Any individual Freemason or Lodge wishing to make a donation via the Council's Relief Chest and in support of the longer-term recovery efforts can do so by sending a cheque payable to "The Freemasons' Grand Charity" to: Relief Chest Scheme, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ and noting that it is to be paid into the **Haiti Earthquake 2010 Relief Chest No. E0125**

Tax payers wishing The Freemasons' Grand Charity to claim tax relief on their donation, must complete a Gift Aid Donation Form available from the Relief Chest department on 020 7395 9246.

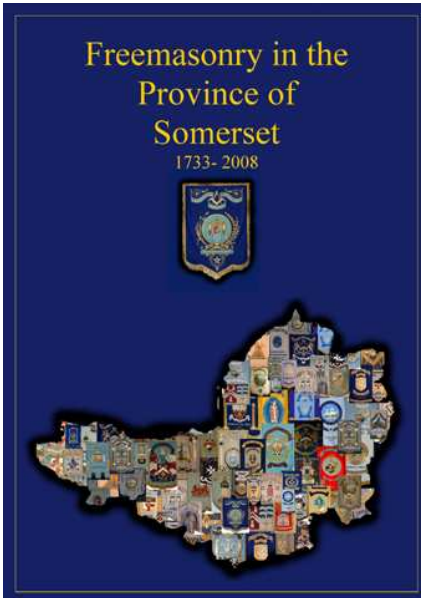
For questions concerning The Freemasons' Grand Charity's support for relief efforts in Haiti please contact Siobhan McCarthy on 020 7395 9385.

For further information on making a donation to the Relief Chest please contact the Relief Chest department on **020 7395 9246**.

2. Provincial AGM Thursday 25th March in Weston-super-Mare

All Somerset Master Masons are reminded that the Provincial AGM will take place as usual at the Winter Gardens Pavilion in Weston-super-Mare on the 25th March commencing 2.00pm Any Master Mason wishing to attend should ensure that his Lodge Secretary has informed the Province of names and numbers of visitors from each Lodge. Please will Lodge Secretaries advise Province regarding the attendance of Grand Rank and Provincial Grand Rank Officers. Details of times including dining and parking arrangements can be found in the forthcoming edition of Compass Magazine. It is asked that attendees bring their copy of Compass with them.

3. Order your copy of the new history “Freemasonry in the Province of Somerset”



The long awaited Freemasonry in the Province of Somerset is now available to order. This new book gives a fascinating insight into the history of all our Lodges and buildings as well of the many characters that have played their part in the development of Freemasonry in Somerset over the last 275 years. Other Masonic orders are also featured. The book of nearly 500 pages is fully illustrated in colour. Every brother, Lodge and Chapter should have a copy. This is a unique history to be treasured and will make a superb gift as well as a great addition to the bookshelf.

A special introductory offer price of **£15** (plus p&p) is running until 31st March after which time, the price will revert to £25 (plus p&p). [Click here](#) to download more details and an Order Form

4. Royal Cumberland present cheques from their 275th anniversary appeal

Dan Brown fans believe there to be many myths and stories surrounding Freemasonry and Bath is just the place for those who are interested. It is one of the oldest centres of masonry in the country and the home of a very old Lodge, The Royal Cumberland No. 41, founded 276 years ago. Never mind the myths – one truth is that the organisation gives generously to charities of all kinds. Last year £2.3 million was given to non Masonic charities nationally and it was in this spirit that the Royal Cumberland celebrated its 275th birthday last year with a major fund raising appeal. Just before Christmas, the Lodge was delighted to make a timely seasonal presentation.

The event was much enhanced by the presence of the Chairman of B&NES Council, Councillor Bryan Chalker and the Mayor of Bath, Colin Barrett. Gifts of £500 each were presented to Sue Tucker and Rachel O'Connor from the RUH Premature Baby Unit, Dr Candy McCabe and Mrs Jean Wright from Arthritis Research UK, Alex Gillett and Eileen Shakespeare from Cancer Research UK and Trevor Quartermaine from the Bath Masonic Hall Trust. The presentations were made by Martin Cox who was Master of the Lodge in the anniversary year.



5. Out soon – the next issue of Compass Magazine

Pat Morrissey, Compass Editor has been slaving away again over a hot computer terminal to bring you the next issue of Compass Magazine, the bi-annual publication for the Freemasons of Somerset which will be out very soon. This issue is packed with pictures and stories marking the many fine achievements by Somerset Masons over the past few months as well as news and diary dates for the coming year. One date to put in your diary should be the **Provincial Annual General Meeting** to be held as usual at Weston-super-Mare on **Thursday 25th March**. All Somerset Master Masons are invited to attend.



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6. A new 200 Club in aid of Taunton Masonic Hall



John Owen (pictured left) of **Unanimity and Sincerity Lodge No. 261** has taken over as organiser of a new 200 Club in aid of the Taunton Masonic Hall.

Says John: "It certainly is a challenge and I have so much admiration for the time and effort that my predecessor Colin Scull consistently put into the previous 200 Club over the years. What we have here at "The Crescent" in Taunton is a beautiful old building but like all things old, it needs constant care and attention. Various items wear out over time and need repairing, replacing or upgrading. The TMH 200 Club was set up to help do just that.

200 clubs are nothing new. They have existed in various forms for a long time but they are a useful way of generating funds. For those who don't know how it works, the target would be to have 200 contributors or "share holders" although if there are more than 200 it doesn't matter. In our case, the Club is open to any Craft Lodge or side order meeting at Taunton Masonic Hall. Members can take as many shares as they like and these are held for one season and each share held is allocated a number.

Shares this year cost only £10 and we're hoping that brethren may feel inclined to take more than one each. We will hold monthly draws with a winner each month receiving a cheque. This year 40% of all the receipts will be given away in prize money. As the season goes on and more people contribute, the fund grows and by the end of the year all money remaining, which is derived from the £6 out of every £10 share will be put towards the refurbishment scheme. So the scheme is a great way to raise funds and have a little fun at the same time".

If you are a member of a Lodge meeting at the Taunton Masonic Hall and would like to purchase shares in the new 200 Club, please pick up an application form from the Hall or contact **John** on **07731 696031**.

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7. **“Help for Heroes” a Service of Thanksgiving at Wells Cathedral**

On Saturday 27th February at 2.00pm, there will be a special service in Wells Cathedral as a tribute to the forces' bravery in current combat and a fund raising opportunity for the Help the Heroes campaign.

The service will be conducted by the Provincial Grand Chaplain Stuart Boyd and the organ will be played by Ken Sherring. It will feature the City of Bath Male Voice Choir and the Bath Chorus Mixed Voice Choir, conducted by Grenville Jones.

PGM David L Jenkins will be present as will Bryn and Emma Parry, founders of the Help for Heroes charity. It is anticipated that numerous members of the armed forces will also attend and health permitting, at least two of the charity's current beneficiaries.

This will be the first service of its kind in the country and obviously, it is generating considerable interest. For this reason, those wishing to attend are recommended to arrive early. There are no tickets available in advance; seating is on a first-come basis. There will be a collection in aid of the charity.

For any other information contact:-

Ms Fiona Rainbird Clarke. Somerset Group Co-ordinator, Help for Heroes on 077733 46868

Email fiona.clarke@h4hcounty.org.uk

or

Mike Barfoot-Franks on 07768 756196

Email mike232ec@tiscali.co.uk

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8. **Get in on the act! A Pro/Am Variety Show in aid of Somerset charities**

Somerset Mason Daniel Dean, himself a professional entertainer, is producing a Variety Show at the Playhouse Theatre Weston-Super-Mare on Sunday 28th November 2010 in aid of local hospices and charities in the community. The theatre will seat up to 600 people and the team are looking for as much support as possible for this fun and action packed evening.

There will be a mix of professional and amateur acts, including some household names and the search is on for talented Somerset Freemasons to put their names forward for consideration in the show. Brethren who might be interested in performing are asked to contact **David Maddern** of Tyntesfield Lodge No. 4494, who will be in charge of promotion:

Mobile: 07974 214165

Tel: 0117 956 5882

Email: d.maddern@schubert-uk.co.uk



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9. **Lodge of Brotherly Love No. 329 look forward to their 200th birthday**

The Lodge of Brotherly Love is one of Somerset's older established Lodges and they are proud to be celebrating their 200th anniversary on Wednesday 2nd June 2010. The meeting will commence at 5.00pm at the Sherborne School, Sherborne and all Somerset Masons are most welcome to attend.

Would any visiting Masons kindly contact the Secretary, David Perkins on 01935 426205 or email davidperkins@yeo91.fsnet.co.uk



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