



The Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset

January 2011 News Digest

click on the links below to follow a story

- p2. Lodge of Brotherly Love continue their Bi-centenary celebrations
- p3. Somerset Variety Show a roaring success!
- p4. Grand Charity Emergency Aid for Queensland
- p5. Grand Charity Emergency Aid for Brazil

Lodge of Brotherly Love continue their Bi-centenary celebrations

Over eighty masons were treated to a colourful and most interesting display last November by the Devonshire Demonstration Team who performed a re-enactment of a 1761 Working for the benefit of the Lodge of Brotherly Love No. 329.



The Lodge of Brotherly Love was warranted in

1810 and this re-enactment formed part of a series of celebratory events to mark their Bi-centenary. The Devonshire



Team used a text based on the workings employed by Marine Lodge No. 237 who met back in their day, at the Three Crowns Tavern in Plymouth. Anyone who has seen and enjoyed one of these excellent re-enactments will know that, whilst the gist of the ceremony follows along much the same lines as our present day workings, the convivial not to say

rowdy confines of a working tavern (which most Lodges used at that time) made for quite a different atmosphere!

[Return to contents page](#)

Somerset Variety Show a roaring success

A near capacity audience thoroughly enjoyed a Grand Evening of Variety on Sunday November 28th at the Playhouse in Weston-super-Mare. This superb pro/amateur event was organised by Somerset Freemasons for the benefit of local Hospices.

The professional acts included Jimmy Cricket, Isla St. Clair, Daniel Dean and the Bristol Musical Youth Productions. However, several local masons and their family members also “trod the boards” to great effect. The evening was a truly spectacular occasion and judging from the ovations received that night as well as the accolades received since, it could well be repeated in the future. The show was the first of its kind to be organised by Freemasons outside London and the attendance and general support was most encouraging.



Weston Hospicecare, Children’s Hospice South West and St. Margaret’s Hospices in both Yeovil and Taunton were among the recipients sharing the £2,700 raised on the evening.

PGM David Jenkins gave his thanks to all who had contributed towards the success of the evening, emphasizing the commitment Freemasonry has towards the community and in particular those Hospices which benefitted from the funds raised.

[return to contents page](#)



THE FREEMASONS'
GRAND CHARITY

The Grand Charity announces an Emergency Grant for Queensland

The severe flooding in Queensland, Australia has affected an estimated 200,000 people. Hundreds of homes and businesses have been evacuated and the State Treasurer has stated the cost of rebuilding will run into billions of dollars.



In response to this unprecedented disaster, the President of the Grand Charity has approved an emergency grant of £20,000 to the Grand Lodge of Queensland's "GRAND MASTER'S QUEENSLAND FLOOD APPEAL", which is to assist the wider community.

If anyone wishes to make their own donation towards helping the people affected, the Council is happy to receive donations to its Disasters Relief Chest, for onward transmission to suitable projects as part of a coordinated Masonic response.

Donations via the Council's Disasters Relief Chest can be sent by cheque payable to "The Freemasons' Grand Charity" to: Relief Chest Scheme, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ, stating that they are to be paid into the **Disasters Relief Chest E0129**. Gift Aid donation forms are available on the [Grand Charity's website](#) or by contacting the Relief Chest office on 020 7395 9246.

For donations via credit card, please visit the [donation page](#) of the Grand Charity's website or contact the Relief Chest office.

Further information:

For questions concerning The Freemasons' Grand Charity's support for relief efforts in Australia please contact Katrina Baker on **020 7395 9314**.

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

[return to contents page](#)



THE FREEMASONS'
GRAND CHARITY

Grand Charity Emergency Aid for Brazil

The President of the Grand Charity has made an emergency grant of £20,000 following flooding earlier this month in Brazil. Over 1,000 people have died after floods and mudslides swept through an area north of the capital, Rio de Janeiro, destroying hundreds of homes. The money has been passed to the District Grand Lodge of South America, North Division to assist with immediate recovery needs following the floods.

Colin Foster, District Grand Master for South America, North Division, reports:

“What happened was that there was about 8” of rain over the period of a few hours, focussed on the small mountain range above the city of Rio de Janeiro and an area maybe 50 miles long. Two different things happened: the first is that in many places, the topsoil became saturated with water and at a certain critical mass freed itself from the bedrock and came down like an avalanche. This happens frequently, but usually it is one or two landslides in an area. This time it was hundreds.....



So, these numerous landslides, spread over several towns and villages, in a very beautiful area, resulted in hundreds of houses being destroyed, either falling down along with the landslide, or being covered by what came from above. Around 500 people lost their lives in the landslides... Then



there was the second phenomenon – flash floods. I am not sure the term does justice to what actually happened. Yes, there were people and houses swept away by the raging waters, along with hundreds of houses and about 80 bridges. But the bigger problem was that the waters started building higher in the hills and brought with them mud and boulders. A relation of a friend was found sitting in a chair, watching television, submerged by mud, in a grotesque parody on the instantaneous petrification in the ancient volcanic eruption in Pompeii.”

For further details, please visit

http://www.grandcharity.org/news.php/66/emergency_grant_following_flooding_in_brazil

return to contents page