



News Digest – September 2009

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1. Freemasons join forces to support Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance

Somerset and Dorset Freemasons with support from the Freemasons' Grand Charity have contributed £8000 to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. This donation is part of the £500,000 donated by the Grand Charity to Air Ambulances over the last three years.

Somewhere in England and Wales an air ambulance takes off roughly every ten minutes flying a total of 19,000 missions every year and costing millions of pounds. The money to fund this important work is met entirely by donations from organisations like the Somerset and Dorset Freemasons.



Stuart Hadler, Somerset Assistant Provincial Grand Master, said freemason's were delighted to be able to continue providing an annual contribution to support the life-saving work of the Air Ambulance and thanked the Charity and its staff for their ongoing commitment to this vital work.



Nicola Howkins, Director, replied saying that 'the Air Ambulance was very grateful for the generous donation which helps to ensure that the Air Ambulance continues to fly and save lives'.

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance was launched in March 2000. The air ambulance is based at a new purpose built airbase at Henstridge airfield which has been very kindly sponsored for the charity, making it the best airbase in the country.

Since its launch it has attended over 6000 missions a lot of them lifesaving, the air ambulance is deployed on average 3-4 times per day, it can reach anywhere in the two counties within 19 minutes of the emergency call. It

is already proven that Air ambulances save lives and are an essential way of transporting seriously ill or injured patients to the most appropriate hospital to their needs in record time.

2. The Freemasons' Grand Charity

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is the central grant-making charity of Freemasons' in England and Wales. It distributes money given by Freemasons and their families and continues a tradition of charitable support to both Freemasons and the wider community begun nearly 300 years ago.



THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

June 2009 – The following grants were given in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the installation of His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, KG, as Grand Master of United Grand Lodge of England and Grand President of the central Masonic Charities:

Save Canterbury Cathedral £100,000
Combat Stress £50,000
The Colonel's Fund Grenadier Guards £50,000
King Edward VII's Hospital Sister Agnes £50,000
Leukaemia Research £50,000
Royal Air Force Charitable Trust £50,000
Restore – Burn and Wound Research £50,000
Royal Hospital Chelsea Appeal £50,000
The Colonel's Fund Scots Guards £50,000
The Stroke Association £50,000

August 2009 – The following grants were announced which will benefit seven charities active in the area of vulnerable people. These are to be distributed to the organisations listed below through The Freemasons' Grand Charity's Minor Grants Scheme.

CHARITY	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Action for M.E.	Provides information and support to people affected by M.E. and aims to improve lives through campaigns for more research, better treatments and services.	£2,000
Auditory Verbal	Provides access to Auditory Verbal Therapy for every child in the UK with permanent hearing impairment.	£3,000
Christian Lewis Trust Children's Cancer Charity	A wide range of support services for children with cancer and their families.	£2,500
3H Fund – Help the Handicapped Holiday Fund	Organises subsidised group holidays for physically disabled people, giving regular carers a period of respite.	£3,000
Maytree Respite Centre	Support for suicidal people	£2,000
Pets as Therapy	Provides specially trained dogs and cats in order to bring comfort and therapy to patients in hospices, hospitals and care homes.	£2,000
Tyddyn Bach Trust	Non-medical residential respite care and support for teenagers, children and adults, with HIV/AIDS and their families, carers and partners.	£1,048