



# Festival Newsletter



Spring 2010

## RMTGB 2012 FESTIVAL: MID-TERM RE-LAUNCH

A series of three meetings on 29-31 March saw the re-launch of the Appeal at Plymouth, Barnstaple and Teignmouth, with over 220 Brethren attending to listen to Bill Daw (Festival Chairman), John Thompson (consultant surgeon & RMTGB Council member), Conrad Donaldson (Provincial Grand Charity Steward), Michael Penny (Provincial Grand Master) and Robin Osborn (Past Provincial Grand Master).

Those attending heard how the Provincial Festival total stands at **£2.20 million** which represents an excellent achievement. Already **1,683 Brethren** have become Festival Stewards, but that's **only 26%** of our membership - meaning that there are another 4,500 Brethren who could be Festival Stewards!



Bill Daw, Festival Chairman



Part of the audience at Mount Edgcumbe Masonic Hall, Plymouth

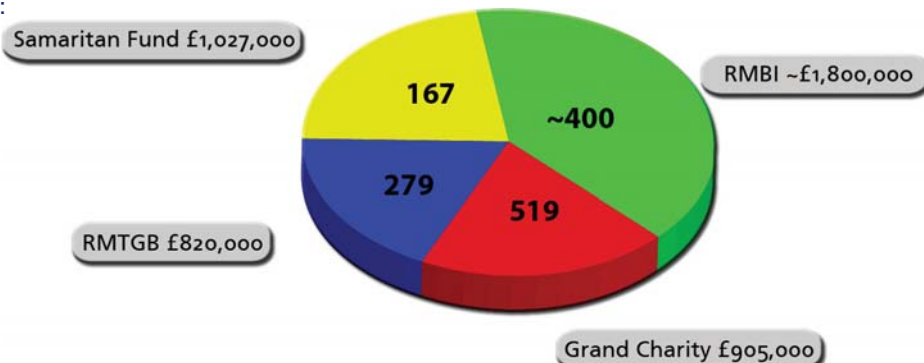
## What would we like you to do next?

Encourage more Brethren to become Stewards! Just one more Steward from each Lodge in the Province would add an extra **£40,000** to the Festival total! Don't forget that our wives and partners can also become Stewards for just **half** of the qualifying amount for Brethren.

Difficult times are facing all of us at the moment, but almost all of us are still more fortunate than those who face having to call on the RMTGB for help. Unfortunately, tragedy is not selective and could strike any one of us at any time! Take this opportunity to 'exercise that virtue which is the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart' - we need your support now, for **'our children in need.'**

## Masonic Charity in Devon

Although this Festival is for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, who support children in distress, it's not the only Masonic Charity that helps people in Devon. During the last 10 years, **£4.5 million** has come to Devon from the Grand Charity, the Samaritan Fund, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and, of course, the RMTGB. Between 2000-2009 approximately 1400 people in Devon have received help (number of cases per charity shown on each 'slice'):



**GIFT AID ENVELOPES...**

Use them for the Alms Collection, at the Festive Board, and even personal cash donations! Processed in just 5 easy steps, following the simple flow-chart. Copies of the chart available from your area manager or the festival website: [www.devonfestival.org](http://www.devonfestival.org)

## Am I too late? **NO**

- Applications to be a Festival Steward can be made up to the eve of the concluding dinner (Autumn 2012)
- Existing donors can 'top up' by any amount AND at any time before the conclusion in 2012
- Fresh 5-year commitments can be taken out if existing pledges have expired

## WAKE up!

- Remember the **William Alexander Kneel Endowment (WAKE)** Fund for your gifts to local charities
- Nominate your charity to the WAKE Fund and redirect what you would have otherwise given as a Lodge to the 2012 Festival.
- Over £330,000 has been donated to local charities since 2001
- Over 350 local charities have benefited

## Emily & Hannah



Two years ago the Petitions Committee considered the case of a Freemason of 15 years standing with two children then aged 12 and 14 – Emily and Hannah.

*Borrowing a significant sum secured on the family home, this Mason set up his own business selling industrial cleaning machines. The business was still in the early start-up stages but he will never know if it would have been a success.*

*Two years ago, he was cleaning out his garage when a petrol can exploded causing a fire. He was air-lifted to hospital suffering 40% burns but sadly died from his injuries four weeks later. He had been at the start of a new business venture financed on the home and savings which left a double tragedy, the heartbreaking loss of their father and the subsequent financial distress that resulted. There was no life insurance in place and the business has since failed, leaving the family with massive debts.*

Emily is now 16, and Hannah, 14; both girls have been supported by the Trust with termly maintenance allowances. Both girls are talented sports-women and Hannah sings in a local ensemble and has appeared in the chorus line at a local Pantomime.

Emily is a team leader and captain of the hockey team and has been coached for football at a regional centre of excellence. The Trust cannot remove the tragedy but can try and assist this Masonic family through generous grants to try to help the girls to fulfil their potential. They are described as a credit to their mother and that their father would have been proud of them.

Such a cruel twist of fate could hit any of us, at any time. The only ray of hope in this particular case is the stability that the Trust is bringing into the lives of these young children.

We're over halfway there! The magnificent sum of £2.2 million has already been donated, but **we can achieve £4 million!**



### Win a new SEAT Ibiza!

Grand Draw to be completed at the festival with wonderful prizes including a brand new car! Contact your Charity Steward or see the Festival website ([www.devonfestival.org](http://www.devonfestival.org)) for further details. Open to family and friends, no restriction on the number of £5 tickets purchased.

## SUMMARY:

- Not another Craft Festival until 2023
- We need the money now
- Be proud of what we can achieve
- Remember our 'Children in Need'

## Green Christmas?

Sir John Hawkins Lodge (3704) have given a Gift Aided donation instead of exchanging Christmas Cards.

An announcement was made at their November meeting and a reminder accompanied the December summons. Donations were made at the Christmas meeting and forwarded to the RMTGB.

This raised £412.00 - plus a Gift Aid contribution - in 2009.

## For more information

If your Lodge wants more information or a presentation, please contact:

Plymouth	Eric Collings	01752 771166	<a href="mailto:ericcollings55@talktalk.net">ericcollings55@talktalk.net</a>
	Richard Beeson	01752 895314	<a href="mailto:rbecar@aol.com">rbecar@aol.com</a>
	Andy Vodden	01752 481415	<a href="mailto:andy.vodden@babcock.co.uk">andy.vodden@babcock.co.uk</a>
Torbay	David Purdie	01803 315844	<a href="mailto:davidcpurdie@hotmail.com">davidcpurdie@hotmail.com</a>
Exeter	Alan Gill	01626 369928	<a href="mailto:alig44@talktalk.net">alig44@talktalk.net</a>
North Devon	Peter Hammond	01837 840234	<a href="mailto:pandah@uwclub.net">pandah@uwclub.net</a>
East Devon	Craig Cox	01884 242426	<a href="mailto:craigcox.football@btinternet.com">craigcox.football@btinternet.com</a>
General information	Frank Handscombe	01769 572384	<a href="mailto:frank@bampfyldedeclipse.co.uk">frank@bampfyldedeclipse.co.uk</a>

Do you have a report to include in future updates? Have you got some great tips for fundraising? Please send them to Richard Ebrey at the Provincial Office (23 Richmond Road, Exeter EX4 4JF) or by email ([info@ashlarwebdesign.com](mailto:info@ashlarwebdesign.com))