

Somerset Masonic Charity News

The Province of Somerset Provincial Charity Newsletter

Winter 2017



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF SOMERSET

Somerset 2020 Festival £2m Celebrations in January 2018

The Somerset 2020 Festival appeal is now entering its final phase with only 2 years left to go, we are on course to deliver the commitment made in 2011 by the Provincial Grand Master of raising £2.8m for the Freemasons Grand Charity.

In September 2014 we reached our 1st milestone in reaching £1m raised and we will shortly have reached the 2nd and significant milestone of £2m, all thanks to the generosity and commitment from the Lodges and members of the Province of Somerset.

We would like to celebrate this fantastic achievement of reaching £2m by inviting the Worshipful Master, Secretary, Charity Steward and their wives and partners to a series of events at the end of January. This will not only give the Province an opportunity to say thank you for your hard work, but for the Grand Charity through the Masonic Charitable Foundation to give their thanks also.

An event is being held in each area, as follows:

Monday 29th Jan Yeovil

Tuesday 30th Jan Yatton

Wednesday 31st Jan Keynsham

The evening will start at 18.30 with a reception, formal presentations given by senior members of the Masonic Charitable Foundation and a buffet, we anticipate finishing at around 22.00 You will have an excellent opportunity to talk with members of the Province as well as the representatives of the MCF. I am sure you will find this an interesting and informative evening.

Please discuss this with your lodge secretary, and let the Provincial Secretary know as soon as possible who will be attending and to which venue, so we can arrange refreshments etc.

The total raised to date is now £1,881,666 this being 67% of target

271 Ashlars

1393 Festival Jewels**

** Please remember that Jewel awards are based on promised donations, not actual cash

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Golden Ashlar

Congratulations to the first two lodges to achieve a Golden Ashlar

- Tennyson Lodge Number 4947
- Backwell Lodge Number 7964

Watch this space - 2 more are on the way!



A Golden Ashlar is awarded to any lodge that achieves an average donation of £1000 per member.

Apart from the honour of receiving such a prestigious award, Golden Ashlar lodges are entitled to the following accolades.

- A Golden Ashlar to hang on your lodge ashlar banner
- A "Grand Patron of the Somerset 2020 festival" icon for your Summons
- A certificate, which is to be presented by a senior executive of the MCF



Please don't forget to send your NMDs to Charlie

Email: Charlie Barker <Secretary8518@btinternet.com>

Charlie will be sending his usual request for a list of your non-masonic donations in the new year, and asks if you could please reply as early as possible.

Why are these needed?

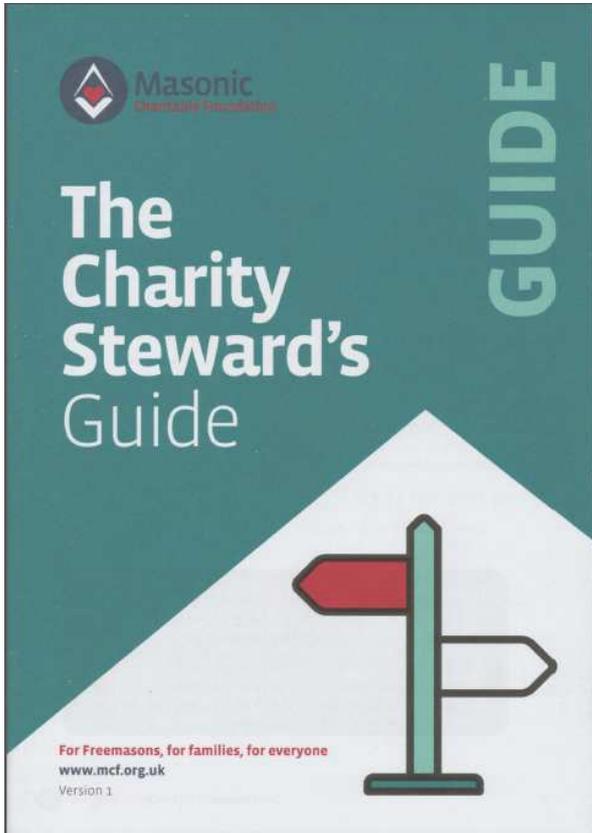
3 reasons ...

- First and foremost, for analysis purposes – MCF level national statistics
 - The MCF is approximately 10th in the ranking of UK charities
 - They need your support to improve the accuracy of their position calculation
- For similar reasons, the Province would like this for Public Relations purposes
- So that we can be aware of the range and level of support that Lodges give to good causes in Somerset and where as a Province might help.

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Stop The Press!

The all new Charity Stewards Guide is now available to download

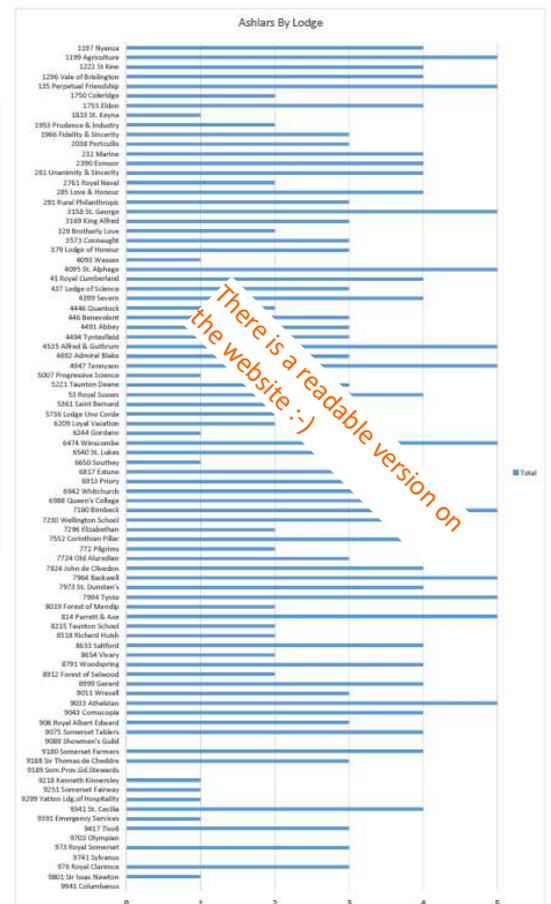
www.mcf.org.uk/charitysteward

Hard copies have also been ordered and will be distributed as soon as they arrive

Did you know that provincial ties and socks are available to buy from David Maddern or any of his assistants!

The Somerset 2020 Festival Website

<http://somerset2020.festivalappeal.org/>



41 Royal Cumberland™

Actual Raised to Date: £17,751.76

Current Ashlar Award: 4

Amount needed to next award: £4,648.24

Area Representative: Elliot Borthwick

Representative Contact: eborthwicke@aol.com

Help your Lodge reach the next Ashlar Award by setting up a [regular pledge here >>](#)

Example: All lodges are listed

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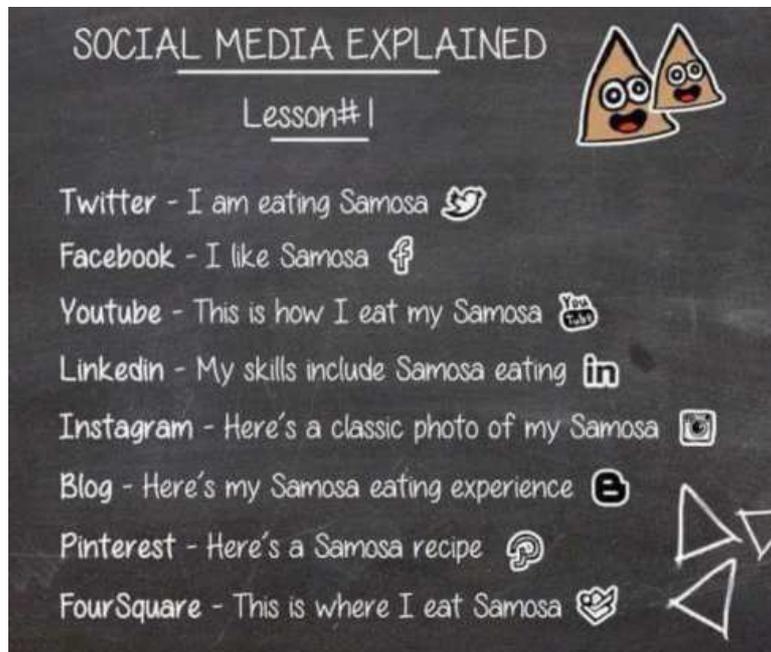
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Thank you Barry

Thank you Worshipful Brother Barry Scott, for your endless hard work, dedication and service to the province as the SMC Secretary for the last several years. The very best wishes for your future health and happiness.

They are big shoes to fill, but we now also welcome Worshipful Brother Tony Cooper into this role, and hope that he has as much success, and as much fun along the way.



Please let us know if you ...

... Need any help or assistance from Province

... Are making any non-Masonic donation

... Are holding a sponsored event

... Have any charitable ideas or news to share

Please do send us your photos for the web site

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The MCF Conference

The MCF held a Provincial Grand Charity Stewards Conference in York on Monday 27th and Tuesday the 28th November. Somerset was ably represented by Worshipful Brothers David Maddern, Charlie Barker and Andy Wade.

Andy: "An outstanding conference, which went to prove what is more and more evident, that the MCF has the best of the four previous charities, and is utterly professional"

We covered some 20 individual agenda items over the 2 days, some of which will be relayed in more detail over the coming weeks and months, but to give you a flavour of the Conference, here are some headlines.

- A brief history of the MCF
 - Where we came from
 - What the future holds
- Communication
 - Try to report on the human impact of a donation, rather than the amount donated
 - Try to get photos other than "Grip and Grin"
 - "Grip and Grin" is where some people are shaking hands while exchanging a cheque
 - Follow up on donations. Try to report on what impact the donation actually made
- The journey of a grant
 - What happen when someone applies for a grant
- MCF donations - £110,000 to the victims of hurricane Irma, 40,000 to floods victims in Sri-Lanka
 - In the first two years 7.5m has been donated to some 700 charities
- The new Charity Stewards Handbook
 - www.mcf.org.uk/charitysteward
- Legacies
 - Why should everyone have a will
 - Why leave a legacy
- The use of Gift Aid increased
 - The average envelope is now worth £8.02
 - Last year £1.3m was claimed from the treasury by the MCF
 - We will endeavour to ensure that a supply of blank envelopes is available at every centre
- Relief chests
 - All lodges in Somerset have Relief Chests
 - The MCF manages over 4700 Relief Chests
 - An increasing number of Chapter and other Masonic orders are opening relief chests
 - The MCF handles over 1 million relief chest transactions per annum
 - The Relief chests scheme manages risks, and ensures compliance with regulatory authorities such as HMRC, the Information Office and the Charity Commission
- Apply directly to MCF
 - The MCF are waiting for you to make grant proposals

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The MCF Conference

Just when David thought that the photo had gone missing. Here he is presenting results of one of the breakout sessions.



It's worth re-iterating the last bullet point on the previous page

The MCF are waiting for you to make grant proposals

The MCF will ensure that grants are well targeted.

It will of course continue to make substantial donations to larger charities, but they also want to hear from you as to which charities to support.

For more information and to apply, please go to <https://mcf.org.uk/charities/>

Somerset Presentation Evenings

A huge thank you to everyone that has supported the Province at the recent presentation events at Taunton, Nailsea and elsewhere.

These events were very well supported, and very well received by everyone that attended. They have successfully promoted Freemasonry to local communities, charities and civic leaders, and we shall hold similar events in 2018 and beyond.

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Relief Chest Highlights

The Scheme

Did you know that there is masses of useful information on how the relief chest scheme works at the MCF website at this link
<https://mcf.org.uk/reliefchest/>

Cheques

If your Lodge is making a donation to the 2020 Festival by cheque (i.e. not by transfer from your Relief Chest) then the cheque needs to be made payable to "Somerset Masonic Charity" and sent to David J Maddern 9 Lulworth Crescent, Downend, Bristol. BS16 6SB.

Use it or Lose it!

The individual Lodge Relief Chests are managed by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF). It is a charity and subject to UK charity law and to the rules and requirements of The Charity Commission. If your Lodge Relief Chest has not made any payments or donations within the past 2 years, then there is a strong possibility that the MCF will be required to absorb YOUR money into THEIR account - if that does happen, it will no longer be accessible by the Lodge. In short - "use it or lose it", Brethren. You need to check the situation now - and your local Assistant Grand Charity Steward will be able to advise on the actions you need to take if this is a problem for your Lodge.

Who is your Relief Chest Representative

Does your Lodge actually know who is the Relief Chest representative? Often – but by no means always - the RC representative is the Charity Steward. Sometimes it is the Secretary, sometimes it is somebody entirely different. Have you kept the MCF up to date with the change in RC representative? If you have not, then you need a form to do so – follow this link to print one off. <http://mcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Change-of-Rep.pdf>

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Links, Links, and more Links



<http://www.somersetfreemasons.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/somersetfreemasons/>

<https://twitter.com/PGLSomerset>



PGL Somerset: <http://www.somersetfreemasons.org/>

The Somerset 2020 Festival Page: <http://somerset2020.festivalappeal.org/>

The MCF Somerset 2020 Festival: <https://mcf.org.uk/festival/somerset2020/>

Donate

Look out for the Donate button on the MCF 2020 Festival Page !

The MCF Home Page : <https://mcf.org.uk/>

Social Media and the Newsletter – Look for these links on the MCF Page

Follow us on Facebook 

Subscribe to our YouTube page 

Follow us on Twitter 

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

and receive our exclusive lapel pin!

Sign up 

