

Exmoor Lodge 2390 Holds Its Charities Presentation Evening.

Minehead Masonic Hall was the venue for the Exmoor Lodge 2390 Charities Presentation Evening and Christmas Dinner, held on Thursday 19th December.

Worshipful Master, Andy Baird, was delighted to be able to celebrate the end of his year as Master of the Lodge by presenting the donations from the Lodge to representatives of his chosen local charities.

Andy's principle charity for the year was Minehead's Foxes Academy Student Fund. Foxes Academy was represented that evening by its Principal, Emma Spry together with Foxes Hotel Manager and Vocational Training Programme Lead, Kerry Grigg.

Emma explained how the Lodge donation to the Student Fund will be used to help develop the students' social, creative and leisure skills, whilst also providing enrichment experiences throughout their three year residential vocational training course at the academy.

The Foxes students, who all have learning difficulties, have to work hard in order to achieve the life and work-ready skills qualifications essential for their future independence and wellbeing. The Student Fund only receives voluntary funding which allows the students to enjoy some much-deserved free time, allowing them to socialise away from their work whilst still accumulating valuable skills.

A Lodge cheque for £1000 for the Student Fund was presented to Emma by W.Bro Andy Hadley, Exmoor Lodge's Charity Steward.

A cheque for a further £500 was then presented to Emma for the same cause by W.Bro Tony Cooper, representing the Somerset Masonic Charities (SMC)

Committee of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset. This generous addition was donated as a result of a successful match-funding application made by Exmoor's Charity Steward.

Emma and Kerry were delighted to be receiving a total of £1500 from the Lodge.

Attention then turned to the Keep In Touch (KIT) Club of The Seahorse Centre, Minehead, which is a day centre for adults with learning difficulties. The KIT Club can be likened in format to a weekly youth club for those who regularly attend the centre as clients, albeit not necessarily on the same days as the friends made with fellow attendees there. Hence the name, enabling them to 'Keep In Touch'.

They were represented by Mrs Sandy Dunster, one of the Seahorse Centre's principal fundraisers of many years. Sandy was thrilled to receive a cheque for £300 which will prove hugely beneficial to their essential ongoing fundraising efforts. The donation from Exmoor Lodge will be put towards providing the clients with enjoyable, educational activities, including their forthcoming annual Christmas party.

Next, the nursing staff from Minehead Hospital were represented by Senior Sister, Hayley Welsh and Healthcare Assistant, Carol Richardson.

Exmoor Lodge provides funding towards the provision of 'makings' for tea and coffee for the ward staff at the hospital throughout the year. This practice has become a continuing Exmoor Lodge tradition of many years standing, originally started by W.Bro John Lendon in thankful recognition of the way his wife Marjorie was cared for at the hospital. The Brethren of Exmoor have been keen sponsors of the tradition ever since. The Lodge cheque for £120 was gratefully received.

The Minehead RNLI Lifeboat Station also receives a donation of £300 for a piece of equipment to be used at the station, a training monitor screen, which is to be purchased shortly. Two of Minehead's RNLI volunteer staff are Brethren of Exmoor Lodge.

Somerset Masonic Footprint Plaques will soon be on display at Minehead's Foxes Hotel, Seahorse Centre and Lifeboat Station.

Last, but not least, W.M. Andy Baird's wife, Heather, accepted a Lodge cheque for £300 on behalf of the British Heart Foundation (BHF). The Somerset & Dorset area fundraising manager was unfortunately unable to attend the event but has now

received the donation from the Lodge. Her grateful thanks have been received for the donation which will be faithfully applied to essential research and treatments. It is a tradition of Exmoor Lodge for the wife of the W.M. to choose the charity to which the proceeds of the Ladies Night raffle are directed.

This year's Ladies Night was held in November at the aforementioned Foxes Hotel in Minehead and proved to be a great success.

Heather thanked all those who attended the Ladies Night. Their company and generosity in supporting the evening made this BHF donation possible.

The presentation evening and the accompanying Christmas Dinner was very enjoyable. Andy and the Brethren of Exmoor Lodge would like to thank all those who have helped to support the Lodge throughout the past year.

A special mention of thanks must be given to those Brethren, their family members and guests who have attended, organised or assisted with the Lodge's various social and fundraising functions held this year.

In all, over £2500 has been donated by Exmoor Lodge in the cause of non-Masonic charities as well as further donations to Masonic allied charities during the past year.

W. Bro Andy and the Brethren of Exmoor Lodge wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2020.

W.Bro. Andy Baird.

Exmoor Lodge 2390 LCO & PGLS SW ACO.

<https://www.exmoorlodge2390.org>

Photo. Left to Right.

W.Bro Andy Hadley, Charity Steward. W.Bro Tony Cooper, SMC Representative. Carol Richardson & Hayley Welsh, Minehead Hospital.

Bro. Derek Williams, RNLI. W.M. Andy Baird. Heather Baird. Sandy Dunster, Seahorse Centre. Bro Barry Cochrem, RNLI. Kerry Grigg & Emma Spry, Foxes Academy.