

Worshipful Master Ray and Brethren,



In the latter half of 2021, having already presented £1,250 to Queen's Junior School Adventure Appeal in June, just two of our regular meetings remained following the lifting of Covid restrictions so WBro Graham Ten Broeke decided to nominate

'Taunton Riding for the Disabled' as his

chosen charity. In the event and thanks to the generosity of brethren and guests, we raised a total of £2,000 at those two meetings. Province subsequently added £500 'match funding'. Jess Dixon, Centre Manager & licence holder, with Lotta Van der Heyde, Grants & Evaluation Manager, were invited to talk to us about the charity and join us for lunch at our Christmas meeting.



It had become apparent that the charity, begun in 1965 with two ponies, had evolved from 'simple' horse riding therapy, now truly offering so much more in the diversity of support facilities they provide. Please read:

<https://www.conquestcentre.org.uk/about/> The charity was renamed several years ago. They operate from premises at Conquest Farm (coincidentally WBro Peter



Thomas' family home while at Queen's!). The charity adopted that name which in another sense reflects an important aspect of their work in helping clients in need of equine and animal therapy to conquer whatever fears or inhibitions they may have.

As the money was raised during WBro Graham's tenure as Wm, he presented the cheque, surrounded by Centre staff among whom is the now familiar face of Lotta, while Monty is a former Queen's student. WBros Geoff Dolling and Lindsay Edmunds supported WBro Graham and viewed the new catering facilities, partly financed by our donation; coincidentally, the colours of the tables and chairs closely resemble the gold and black of Queen's!



As a reminder - during WBro Graham's initial year as Wm in 2019, £2,282 was raised for Children's Hospice SW at Charlton Farm, Wraxall. A further £500 'match



funding' was then added from Province. Covid restrictions delayed the presentation until August 2021. It should also not be forgotten that since its launch in 2013 we 'drip-fed' £32,000+ to the Somerset Provincial 2020 Festival Appeal!

At his installation meeting in March WBro Ray Conneely confirmed all donations should be given to Grand Lodge Ukrainian Relief Appeal. Thanks to the remarkable generosity of brethren and guests, £3,000 was raised to which £2,000 'match funding' was added from our own charity reserve so £5,000 was donated to the central Masonic Charitable Foundation which subsequently sent £0.5m to Ukrainian relief charities.

Brethren, I think it good to reflect on and thank you for your generosity, not forgetting that of your guests.

RBB 1.5.2022

NOTES:

Conquest Centre

<https://www.conquestcentre.org.uk>

20/20 Vision: For everyone to have access to the therapeutic support they need in a safe, natural and non-judgemental setting to improve emotional, social, ...

Conquest Centre - equine activities for the wider community

<https://en-gb.facebook.com> > ... > Charity organisation

Conquest Centre is a charity offering equine and small animal related activities for people of all ages and abilities in our local community.