



Masonic
Charitable Foundation



Buckinghamshire 2021 Festival Appeal



For Freemasons, for families, for everyone
www.mcf.org.uk



For Freemasons, for families, for everyone



It was 11 years ago that Buckinghamshire launched their last Festival, then being held in favour of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys (RMTGB). When the Festival ended in 2010, we had raised the astonishing figure of £2.64 million pounds which was used to help disadvantaged children from all walks of life. That figure was something that we as a Province were very proud of. We demonstrated that once again the Province of Buckinghamshire would always ensure we fulfilled our obligations when charity called. That time is now upon us again as we look to start our next Festival which will be held for the newly formed Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF).

Buckinghamshire are immensely proud to be one of the first Provinces to launch a Festival for the new "Masonic Charitable Foundation". It offers the brethren of Buckinghamshire the opportunity to contribute and support this wonderful new charity. I strongly urge every Lodge and every brother within Buckinghamshire to become part of something very special.

In this booklet you will learn more about the aims and objectives of the new MCF

along with ways that you as individual members and Lodges can help support and donate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Heads of Orders within Buckinghamshire who have contributed to this booklet; their support is very welcome and a demonstration of Freemasonry working together for a greater cause.

Enjoy the Festival over the next five years, enjoy the fundraising events and be proud of the work you will hear about from the MCF as they help Masons and non-Masons alike. Most importantly, be proud of what we do as Freemasons and the part you play. Enjoy wearing the new Festival Jewel and the new Provincial Tie, which is a perfect reminder that, as a Hall Stone Province, we have a history of charitable giving.

Thank you in anticipation of your efforts and for completing the form at the back of this booklet. Let's support this Buckinghamshire Festival and the new MCF charity. Let's get ready for Festival.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

RW Bro Gordon Robertson
Provincial Grand Master

Support in Buckinghamshire

In 2015 the Foundation supported 66 Freemasons and family members



Recent grants awarded to local Community Support and Research charities in Buckinghamshire



...at a cost of



Last Buckinghamshire Festival Appeal raised



for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys

Over the last five years, support amounted to





Support for Freemasons and families

The Masonic Charitable Foundation builds better lives by enabling opportunity, advancing healthcare and education and promoting independence for Freemasons, their families and the wider community. A wide range of help and support is available for financial, health and family related needs, including:



Financial

- Essential daily living costs
- Emergency grants following an accident, redundancy or personal crisis
- Funeral bills
- Minor home repairs



Health

- Medical treatment
- Treatment to restore dental function
- Mobility aids and essential home adaptations
- Counselling



Family

♥ Children in full-time education

- Essential costs for education or training
- Scholarships, travel grants and student accommodation
- Supporting exceptional talent in sport, music or the performing arts

♥ Care

- Masonic care homes – including nursing, residential, respite and dementia care
- UK holidays

Alongside the Foundation's financial help, the Advice & Support Team offers confidential, impartial and practical guidance about the grants available, state and local authority benefits and other useful organisations.

Can the Masonic Charitable Foundation help you?

For advice about the support available, eligibility or how to apply, speak to your Lodge Almoner or contact the Foundation directly:

Freephone 0800 035 60 90 | Email help@mcf.org.uk | Visit www.mcf.org.uk



Masonic
Charitable Foundation

Real
Lives

Geoff

Geoff has spent his life supporting the Masonic Charities but, like many, never thought he would need to use the support himself.

In 2014, he suffered two strokes. The Masonic Charitable Foundation provided intensive physiotherapy, mobility aids and home adaptations which not only made it possible for Geoff to return home, but also helped him to walk again and resume a 'normal' family life with his wife and daughter.

“ I was hospitalised for four months, and I must be honest, it was the worst time in my life. I never thought I would leave hospital. You don't appreciate what you have until you miss it. I've been a Mason for the last 57 years. I never realised exactly what they did. Now I know, and I'm grateful. ”

Geoff



YouTube

Find Geoff's story on
YouTube: [masonic_charity](#)



Community Support and Research

The Masonic Charitable Foundation looks beyond Freemasonry, making significant financial grants which help people to live happy, fulfilling lives and participate actively in society.

Grants are awarded to charities that provide support in the following areas:

- ♥ **Financial hardship** for those in poverty, debt or unemployment
- ♥ **Health and disability** for people experiencing chronic or life-limiting conditions and disabilities
- ♥ **Education and employability** for disadvantaged children and young people
- ♥ **Social exclusion and disadvantage** for those facing barriers to participating in society

Funding is provided to support major natural disaster relief appeals at the discretion of the President.

The charities supported by the Masonic Charitable Foundation make a significant and lasting difference to those in need. Our grants seek to benefit as many people as possible and further the causes about which Freemasons and their families have told us they are most passionate.

Funding is also provided to:

- ♥ **Advance medical and social research**
- ♥ **Hospices throughout England and Wales**
- ♥ **Air ambulance and rescue services**

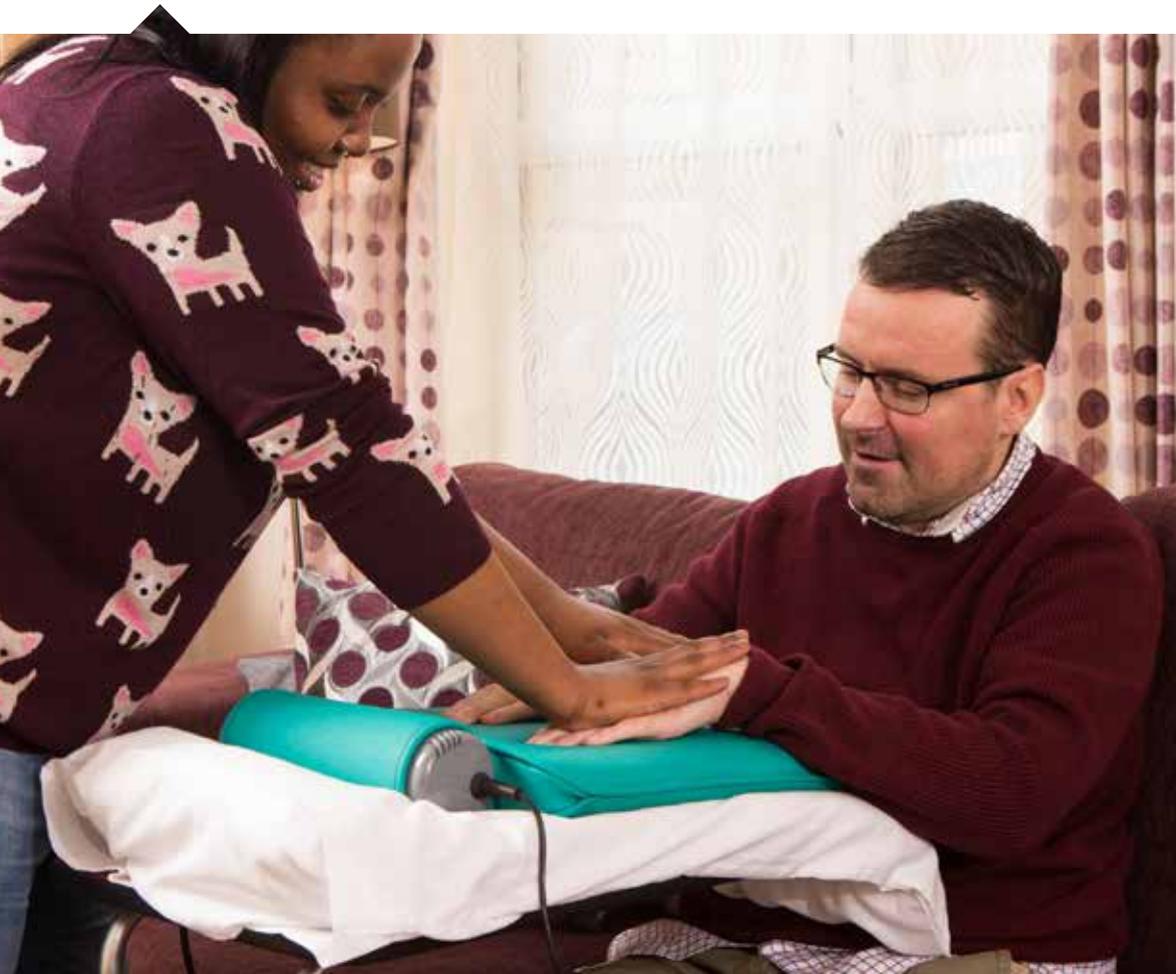




In January 2016, the Masonic Charitable Foundation awarded £20,000 to the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA), based in Buckinghamshire, to fund the salary of a Social Care Caseworker.

“ The Spinal Injuries Association is thrilled that the Masonic Charitable Foundation has decided to support our Social Care Service. For many spinal cord injured people, getting the right care funding can be the difference between independence and not being able to fully participate in society. This major grant from the Foundation will enable us to offer advice, support and in depth case work to spinal cord injured people who depend on this funding to live independent lives. ”

Sue Browning, SIA Chief Executive





A Province united in support



E Comp. John Keeble
Grand Superintendent, Holy Royal Arch
Buckinghamshire

“As Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch in Buckinghamshire, I am delighted to give our support to our Craft colleagues as they embark on the 2021 Festival on behalf of the MCF - one of the very first Provinces to do so. In doing so, we are continuing a proud tradition of the RA working seamlessly with the Craft to fulfil the journey from ‘Initiation to Exaltation’.”

V Ill Bro David Sawyer, 33°
Inspector General, Ancient and Accepted Rite
Buckinghamshire

“Due to the fact that I had the great honour to have been Appointed as The Provincial Grand Almoner for a period of time I have been privileged to see the effect first hand, and been able to arrange to ‘unlock’ access to, the tremendous benefits that our Masonic Charities for Brethren and/or their Dependants who are experiencing difficult times can bring about. Many times these benefits have been life changing.

Therefore, in my capacity as the Inspector General of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for the District of Buckinghamshire I give my total support to the Buckinghamshire Craft as they embark upon their new Festival which will be one of the first for ‘The Masonic Charitable Foundation’.

I am confident that the members of this Order will similarly wish to support the Foundation both individually and collectively.”



RE Kt Raymond Cochrane
Provincial Prior, Knights Templar
Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire

“I am delighted, as Provincial Prior of the Knights Templar of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, to be able to give our support to the Buckinghamshire Craft as they commence their new appeal, for one of the first Festivals for the Masonic Charitable Foundation.”





RW Bro David Tremaine
Provincial Grand Master, Mark Degree
Buckinghamshire

“As Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Degree I am delighted to give my full support to the Craft Festival for the new Masonic Charitable Foundation. Craft Masonry is where it all begins so it is only right that we pull together as a fraternity. It should be a priority for every Freemason within Buckinghamshire to know more about the MCF and its responsibilities. I am sure the next five years will be exciting for everyone within the Province as we raise funds which will be used to help those in need.”

RW Bro Ron Bridger
District Grand Prefect, Allied Degrees
Thames Valley District

“Three of the Eight Councils in the Thames Valley District of the Allied Masonic Degrees are situated within Buckinghamshire. As District Grand Prefect of the Order, I am delighted to give my and the District’s whole hearted support to this, one of the first Festivals of the new Masonic Charitable Foundation.”



R Ill Comp. Nicholas Murzell
District Grand Master, Royal and Select Masters
Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire

“As the local head of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, I am delighted that the Province of Buckinghamshire is to hold one of the first Festivals for the Masonic Charitable Foundation in 2021. We number many Buckinghamshire Craft Masons amongst our members and we shall be pleased to support the Festival in spirit and with financial donations from our own charity resources. We wish the Province every success.”





How to support the 2021 Festival

♥ Become a Festival Steward

Any Freemason can qualify as a Steward of the 2021 Festival by donating or promising to donate a minimum of £300 towards the Appeal. Upon qualifying, you will be eligible to receive a Festival jewel free of charge. Over five years, £300 equates to a regular contribution of just 16 pence per day, £1.15 per week or £5 per month.

If circumstances permit, you can also become a Vice Patron, Patron or Grand Patron. You can set up a direct debit online by visiting

mcf.org.uk/buckinghamshire2021

Complete the form included in this brochure to become a Festival Steward now.

♥ Purchase a commemorative Provincial tie

Our Provincial Grand Master has commissioned the design of a new Provincial tie which can be worn from September 1st, the start of the new Masonic season. This tie is very special as it celebrates our history as the only Hall Stone Province in English Freemasonry. The tie will be on sale from September onwards at all main centres throughout the Province at a cost of £15.



♥ Use Gift Aid envelopes

The Masonic Charitable Foundation can supply Gift Aid envelopes for alms collections, festive boards and other occasions; use of the envelopes will boost eligible donations by 25%.

♥ Organise a fundraising event

Fundraising and sponsored events can raise vital funds; previous activities have included long-distance cycle rides and marathons, quiz nights and world record attempts.

♥ Use the Relief Chest fundraising platform

Create a personalised sponsorship page to receive donations. For more information, visit www.mcf.org.uk/buckinghamshire2021

♥ Leave a legacy

By remembering the Trust in your will, you can make a lasting difference to the lives of Freemasons, their families and the wider community.

Promote the festival

The Foundation can supply promotional materials, posters and banner stands for use at Masonic centres and fundraising or social events. They can also arrange for a speaker to attend Lodge meetings or other appropriate events to speak about the work of the charity. It is also a good idea to share the Foundation's Tweets and Facebook posts regularly to ensure as many people as possible are aware of the work they do and the 2021 Festival Appeal.

On completion of this form your donations will go directly into the Provincial Festival Relief Chest no. E2021. Both you and your Lodge will be attributed the donation towards your individual and Lodge Honorifics. If you have paid or are paying money into your own Lodge Relief Chest, this money can be attributed to you once the funds have been transferred from your Lodge Relief Chest to the Festival Relief Chest, and upon completion of the correct form sent in with the transfer request.



Honorifics

No targets have been set for either Lodges or individuals; however the honorifics to celebrate and acknowledge financial achievements are as follows:

Individual Honorifics

Grand Patron	Patron	Vice Patron	Steward
 £1,200	£900	£600	£300

Lodge Honorifics

Grand Patron	Patron	Vice Patron	Subscriber
 £20,000	£15,000	£10,000	£5,000

(excluding Gift Aid)



Skye, the granddaughter of a Freemason, lives with her family in Buckinghamshire. The Masonic Charitable Foundation supports Skye's exceptional talent in Judo by contributing to competition fees and travel costs. In 2012 Skye was selected for the Special Needs GB squad and has since achieved three medals in international competitions.

**For updates about the
Buckinghamshire 2021 Festival
visit our website:**

www.buckspgl.org/festival



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