



**Masonic**  
Charitable Foundation

## FESTIVAL FOCUS 2: CONCORD FEB 2017

### FESTIVAL 2021 IN AID OF THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Brethren,

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Festival Focus. I am sure everyone is aware that the [2021 Festival was launched](#) at the Provincial Meeting in October. A cheque for £200,000 was handed over by our PGM to the President of the Masonic Charitable Foundation VW Bro Richard Hone QC to help kick start the Festival. It was a great start to the Festival and something we should all be very proud of.

The Festival is officially 3 months old and it is very encouraging to know that, in any Lodge members of the Executive or Provincial Officers go to, the Festival is being spoken about. Charity Stewards are encouraging members to start [regular donations](#) using gift aid. Propositions are being made to donate monies from Lodge Relief Chests to the Festival Relief Chest and gift aid envelopes are being used to collect alms to assist in raising extra funds.

Brethren I cannot tell you how good it is to know that we as a Province are so fully supportive of the Festival. The Festival does not finish until October 2021 so we have a long way to go. However, we will succeed as long as we make it fun and enjoyable and understand why we are raising the money for such a fantastic Charity.

I pleased to announce that over 80% of all Bucks Lodges have either donated or have brethren pledging regular donations. This does mean that there are 20% who have not yet started, but some Lodges may be using their own Relief Chests and will then transfer to the Festival when the time is right for them. In short I know every Lodge is doing something which is great.

**To every Lodge and Brother who has donated  
'THANK YOU'**

## MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

It is always understood that there are times in life when circumstances might preclude you from donating. Family and personal needs must come first “without detriment to ourselves or connections”.

If you can support the Festival Appeal, here are some good reasons to do so:

Across England and Wales last year, the Masonic Charitable Foundation:

- **Helped 4,739 masonic families**
- **Awarded £14,212,584 to masonic families**
- **Spent £4,853,036 supporting charities**

In the last 5 years, Buckinghamshire Freemasons and Charities have received grants and donations totalling **£1,178,665** averaging out at **£235,733** per year.

So, whatever we give in Buckinghamshire, will come back to help Bucks Masons and their families and support Buckinghamshire based Charities in times of need.

## HOW TO DONATE TO THE FESTIVAL

There are several ways to donate to the Buckinghamshire Festival 2021 (Relief Chest Number E2021)

1. **Online** at: [www.mcf.org.uk/donate](http://www.mcf.org.uk/donate)
2. **Telephone** on: 020 7395 9313
3. **Text message**: send BUCKS2021 to 70500
4. **Paper Form**: [www.bucks2021.org/make-a-donation](http://www.bucks2021.org/make-a-donation)

**Regular donation**, by covenant (also known as a direct debit mandate) can be set up [online](#), by [donation form](#) or telephone.

**Credit or debit card payments** can also be made [online](#), by [form](#) or telephone.

All forms are easy to fill in and only take minutes to fill in. Our Festival Website contains direct links to paper forms and online forms. It can be accessed via the Provincial website: [www.buckspgl.org](http://www.buckspgl.org) or a direct link: [www.bucks2021.org](http://www.bucks2021.org)

## EVENTS IN AID OF THE FESTIVAL 2021

### SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY: BLUES BROTERS BLETCHLEY CENTRE

By the time you read this, the event will have taken place and my thanks go to all involved and all who attended. A massive well done must go to Bro Ralph Waghorn from Bletchley Park for arranging the evening which raised an amazing £3,600.

### FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL: MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT MISSENDED ABBEY

The black tie event has been organised by the Provincial fundraising team and will start at 7pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Tickets include a champagne reception and three course dinner. You can read more about the event on the [Festival website](#) and details have been sent to Charity Stewards and Secretaries of every Lodge.

### SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY: TAKE PART IN THE GRAND UNION CANAL RELAY

Grand Union Lodge No 9641 invites your Lodge or Order to help them cover the length of the Grand Union Canal in a single day. Your team can walk, cycle, run, paddle or row your way across a chosen section of the canal and raise sponsorship for the Bucks 2021 Festival Appeal. The Grand Union Canal is 220km long and will be divided up into approximately 10km lengths. Lodges or teams will commit to a given distance in lots of 10km. Further details are available on the [Festival website](#). For booking information please contact Bro Neil Gibbard, Charity Steward of Grand Union Lodge, at [lodgecoms@gmail.com](mailto:lodgecoms@gmail.com)

### SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY: CHEQUE PRESENTATION EVENING AYLESBURY MASONIC CENTRE

The next Charity cheque presentations will be held at Aylesbury Masonic Centre on Sunday 7th May. Invitations have been sent to all Lodges via Charity Stewards and Secretaries. This event is an ideal opportunity to invite your nominated Charity along to receive a donation from you or your Lodge. It also gives members across the Province the opportunity to hear more about your charity. The stories we have heard over the years have been truly amazing and inspiring. Details of how to book for this event are available from your Charity Steward and any questions can be directed to [andrewhough51@gmail.com](mailto:andrewhough51@gmail.com) who will be collating bookings.

## MESSAGE FROM THE FESTIVAL CHAIRMAN

Brethren, if you have events coming up in aid of the Festival, please let me know and I will be happy to promote them on the Festival website and if appropriate circulated. I will attempt to attend as many events as I can. You can contact me at [grahamdearing@aol.com](mailto:grahamdearing@aol.com)

To conclude this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Festival Focus, I would just like to thank every Lodge and every Brother once again for donating to this wonderful Charity which does so much to help others.

If you want know more about the MCF and what your donations pay for please visit. [www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk) or the Festival website: [www.bucks2021.org](http://www.bucks2021.org)

**W Bro Graham Dearing APM**