



Metropolitan Grand Lodge and **Chapter** of London

A Newsletter for Charity Stewards from the
Metropolitan Charity Support Team

Issue No 3

W Bro PG Singleton SLGR, *Editor*

November 2010

The Metropolitan Masonic Charity Metropolitan Masonic Charity Appeal

February 2010 to February 2014

London Freemasons join the fight against

CANCER

This is now an Urgent Appeal, Urgent for three reasons

1. The sooner we get this online, the sooner the lives of so many will benefit.
2. The deposit is already paid and the CyberKnife will be installed mid next year.
3. In April 2011 the Gift Aid rate goes down by 3%.



The Metropolitan Masonic Charity has announced the plans for the new London Appeal. The plan is to raise a really significant amount to really help the fight against Cancer. We have joined forces with Barts and the London Hospital and are focusing initially on the CyberKnife. Barts and the London hospital consistently achieve national access targets for patients with suspected cancer and for treatment following diagnosis. Referrals to the centre come from GPs, consultants in other hospitals within the North East London Cancer Network and consultants from other national and international cancer centres.

The CyberKnife is not actually a knife at all. It's a state-of-the-art piece of equipment that allows specialist oncologists to treat tumours and other medical conditions painlessly without the need for an operation.

CyberKnife uses pencil beams of radi-

ation which can be directed at any part of the body from any direction via a robotic arm. The robotic arm tracks the tumour's position, detects any movement of the tumour or patient, and automatically corrects its positioning before targeting the tumour with multiple beams of high-energy radiation, destroying abnormal tissue without damaging surrounding areas.

The treatment is so accurate that it's now possible to treat tumours previously thought to be inoperable.

More Information can be seen following this link to the Harley Street Clinic http://www.cyberknifecentre-london.co.uk/what_is_cyberknife.php

The Appeal is now on, the fight against cancer has a long way to go but together London Freemasons can make a big difference. As far as I am aware there is only one other CyberKnife in the UK, and that is for Private patients.

We only need £8.50 per member per month for one year, plus Gift Aid, to achieve this. The sooner we achieve the target, the sooner we can really help the lives of so many others.

Let London Freemasons show the way and join the fight and make the CyberKnife available to all.

How do we help? Please go to page 2

**WARNING
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The gift aid tax refund from HMRC will be down to 25% from the end of this tax year. Make certain you don't miss out on the maximum use of the current rate of effectively 28%.

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From the Metropolitan Grand Charity Steward

The current year has become quite a challenge for many of us. We are all, I think, experiencing the effects of the recession in some way. At the same time as our income may be effected in a negative way, we are being asked to dig deeper to support those not as fortunate as ourselves. Well, that's the life we have we embraced as Freemasons and although life may be difficult at the moment I think that most of us continue to move forward in the belief, and hope, that we will get through it and emerge as better people.

A great deal of work has continued at Metropolitan Grand Lodge with respect to Charity and what we should do following the highly successful RMCI appeal. The London Masonic Charitable Trust (LMCT) has now been replaced by the Metropolitan Masonic Charity (MMC) and all elements for its smooth function are now in place.

The MMC has put a great deal of thought into how we can best support charitable work, and in particular, how we as Freemasons can demonstrate to the world outside the Craft that we are not just inward looking. Medical treatment is badly in need of financial support and the MMC has decided

that for the next four years the CyberKnife project (page 1) is where our thoughts and actions should focus.

The London Masonic Charitable Trust

The London Masonic Charitable Trust was the charity of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London. The name has now been changed to the Metropolitan Masonic Charity. It is unique in that Metropolitan Grand Lodge meets any costs incurred in running the operation, which are minimal. No charges whatsoever are levied on the charity and therefore every pound raised goes direct to nominated worthy causes. In many ways it is akin to a London miniature 'Grand Charity'. Its terms of reference are the provision of support for worthy London non-Masonic causes, a responsibility inherited from the Grand Charity on the Inauguration of Metropolitan Grand Lodge in October 2003. Apart from the support of London non-Masonic charities the long-term aim of the Trust is that of creating a grant giving charity to assist distressed London Masons and their families.

The MMC will concentrate on one large 'flagship' non Masonic charity and smaller London based charities.

The CyberKnife Appeal is our first major appeal via the MMC, once this is complete we will be continuing to support the smaller non masonic charities which have benefitted over the years from the LMCT.

This charity is for the benefit of London non masonic charities and will only work with donations from Lodges and Chapters and the participation from the same with suggestions for the recipients.

The Lord Mayor's Show 2010

All Lodges have been asked for a small donation to support the London Freemasons float in the Lord Mayor's Show. This flat top lorry will be promoting Freemasonry in London and recognising a number of the charities we have supported.

Each Lodge has been asked for £25, that's all. To date not many are listed as having helped the promotion. You never know, from this show you may pick up a new member. Follow this link for a donation form <http://www.porchway.org/craft/other/lms/?locale=en>

Stratton Richey, PAGSwdB Metropolitan Grand Charity Steward, London Appeal Director metlad@btinternet.com

How to help the MMC Appeal

Please do use the Relief Chest scheme as much as possible and get the Inland Revenue to pay for 28% of the cost of this life saving piece of equipment through the Gift Aid Scheme.

The best way to contribute is from the Lodge or Chapter Relief Chest

Send the **Green Relief Chest Voucher** payable to the Metropolitan Masonic Charity to:

The Relief Chest, 60 Great Queen Street, London. WC2B 5AZ
This will count towards the Lodge or Chapter's running total.

OR If using a Personal cheque which you wish to be enhanced by Gift Aid please print the PDF form contained in the link below and complete. You can also use this form to make a regular donation to the MMC. Both will be credited for your Lodge or Chapter. If a cheque from the Lodge or Chapter you will not get the Gift Aid element.

<http://www.porchway.org/charity/metropolitan-masonic-charity/how-to-donate/>

Please send cheques payable to the Grand Charity to:
Relief Chest, 60 Great Queen Street, London. WC2B 5AZ
Please enclose a note giving Lodge or Chapter name and number.

The MMC Relief Chest reference is E2058

OR You may make a one off donation via our site on Virgin Giving page using your Credit Card, or arrange a sponsored event. **Caution, this may not count towards any running total for a particular Lodge or Chapter, but will be welcome anyway. For this option follow this link.**

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/TheMetropolitanMasonicCharity>

An awards scheme is now in place by the Metropolitan Masonic Charity for the CyberKnife Appeal

	Lodge	Chapter
Foundation Lodge/Chapter	£1,000	£500
Vice Patron	£3,000	£1,000
Patron	£5,000	£1,500
Grand Patron	£7,000	£2,000

There will be one further level of recognition from the Metropolitan Grand Master/ Superintendent. This will be his MMC award for outstanding achievement. Those Lodges and Chapters which achieve this level will be invited to send two representatives (MM and above) to the respective AGM to receive his personal thanks.

The levels for this award are:

Lodge £10,000
Chapter £5,000

For those who obtain either the Foundation, VP, P or GP level a logo can be emailed to you for inclusion on your summons. This can be in colour or Black and White. This logo differentiates between each level. Please request one, giving your Lodge or Chapter name and number, from Stratton Richey at metlad@btinternet.com

Peace Memorial Window Restoration Fund

We are almost there

Due to the generous nature of Lodges, Chapters and individuals the fund has almost reached its target of £30,000. Restoration work was begun some time ago and is well advanced. The fund currently stands at about £25,000 and requires just £5,000 more reach its target. Please urge your members to make one final push to restore this Masonic and National treasure.

The present Masonic building in Great Queen Street was built during the years 1927-33 as a memorial to the many Freemasons who died on active service in the First World War. The Peace Memorial Window situated at the first vestibule near the Grand Temple is a focal point in the building. Over the seventy five years since its creation it has deteriorated due to weathering and wear and tear. It requires urgent refurbishment as does the other stained glass in the magnificent Vestibule area.

As the Peace Memorial Window, Shrine and the Vestibule are key ele-

ments in our Freemasonry, I hope you may feel able to contribute towards the appeal to restore them to their full glory.

We all owe a great debt to our servicemen both past and present and I seek your support for this very important project to raise £30,000.

Please note that this appeal is not a registered charity so donations cannot be made from a Benevolent Fund if it is a registered charity or from a Relief Chest.

A donation form is available from PMWRF

<http://www.porchway.org/craft/metgcharity-steward/memorial-window-fund/?locale=en>

From the Editor

This is the third edition of the Charity Newsletter of Metropolitan Grand Lodge. Indications are that it is becoming established as the principal option for receiving charity news "delivered to your door". It is a helpful tool for Charity Stewards to quickly print a copy for reference, or copies for distribution at their Lodge meetings. It can also be easily emailed, as an attachment, to each of their members if they so wish. Individual members are encouraged to register to receive the newsletter directly.

In this way we hope that the challenging office of the Charity Steward will receive the help that it richly deserves. By creating an increased awareness of that most important duty of all Freemasons, Charity, we hope to maximise the benefits we would like to achieve for those who are most in need of our help.

We are increasingly targetting the wider world outside the brotherhood of Freemasonry. It is important, therefore, that our donations should be viewed with appreciation and of such a level as to be useful to those who receive them. This is going to put additional pressure on those within the Craft who have the task of deciding who should receive the grants.

London Freemasons have always risen to a challenge and, in the current climate, that challenge has never been more difficult. I am sure that London Masons will not be lacking in resolve to meet the challenge ahead.

Please let me have your views. What would you like to see in the newsletter that would help do your job?

Editor:

For emails to the editor click on this link:
editor.metgcharitynews@singletonsmail.co.uk

The Relief Chest

The Relief Chest is an extremely efficient way of raising funds, since each account is allocated to the Lodge and Chapter and gains from the tax benefit and a higher rate of interest than would be available on the High Street. It is free to run and easy to set up. Contact the Relief Chest on 0207 395 9246.

Gift Aid envelopes

Utilising Gift Aid envelopes, available from the Relief Chest, a Lodge or Chapter can gain the tax benefit for their charitable giving by a further 28% (25% from 5th April 2011).

Make good use of the Relief Chest

Many Lodges and Chapters have a large amount of cash in their Relief Chests. This is not how it should work. When a Brother hands money over to the Relief Chest he does so expecting it to go to a charity, not sit accumulating. All Lodges and Chapters are asked to check their Relief Chests balances.

If the balance has a healthy amount, and there is no reason to be building the fund, then they should consider sending some of the funds on to a charity.

Your Questions Answered

At the Charity Steward Seminar I was asked about other ways to maximise the use of Gift Aid. Two questions which cause concern to me were;

1. Can we put the funds collected from a raffle, or other similar collection, into a Gift Aid envelope and submit those funds as Gift Aid under a brother's name?

The answer is No. The Inland Revenue have said they will prosecute if they found this happening, and that the brother concerned would be liable to further tax bills. The reason being is that while that brother may well have paid to HMRC the amount of tax on which would be claimed by the Gift Aid, he will not probably declare the amount given to him from the proceeds of the Raffle as income.

2. Can all the funds collected for Alms be placed in one Gift Aid envelope and submitted under one brother name?

The answer is No. Each brother must make their own Gift Aid declaration. Each and every one of us has different tax situations. One brother may be a pensioner (and may or may not be a tax payer. Not all pensioners pay tax) another could pay tax at the basic rate while others may be at the top rate.

We benefit hugely from Gift Aid, just like any other well run Charity. There are plenty of people who would like to bring Freemasonry into disrepute and this is something we must guard against. Do not participate in any of the above potentially fraudulent acts. However well meant, it is not worth losing the benefit for the whole Craft.

Metropolitan Charity

Lodge and Chapter Support Team

Metropolitan Charity Support Team

Full details of the Support Team members, contact details and aims can be found below

Please help us to keep Lodges and Chapters informed. If you meet a Charity Steward who has not received this newsletter, please ask him to Email his details to the appropriate assistant.

The Little Yellow Booklet

The little yellow booklet, which has previously been called "Information about Masonic Charities" and "The Masonic Charities", and which is included in the sale of copies of the Grand Lodge Book of Constitutions, has been up-dated.

When the booklet was first published in 1983, Grand Lodge approved that every member of the Craft should possess a copy. To help achieve this, copies were distributed for presentation with the Book of Constitutions to all initiates, joining members and Masters on installation. Many Lodges and Provinces also requested bulk supplies for further distribution both to Masons and others.

Now that all four of the main Craft Charities are together in one location, the opportunity has been taken to up-date the booklet. This means that once again a major distribution is necessary if members of the Craft are to have easy access to information about the help that is available to them and their families. Details about the Benevolent Fund of the Mark Grand Lodge are also included in the booklet.

An electronic version of the booklet is downloadable from the Grand Charity website for further details go to: www.grandcharity.org/pages/cmc_book.html

The assistants are:

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Each assistant will in turn have others helping him. We are the Met Charity **Support** Team. All Charity Stewards are part of the Met Charity Team. The role of Charity Steward is very important and is recognised by Met GL and we are here to help.

Recycling

The Recycling of old mobile phones and ink cartridges is an ongoing project. It is free to use and envelopes can be ordered via Porchway or picked up from the MetGL office in FMH. The collecting of old and current currency is still active and does bring in extra funds to the charities. The recycling will benefit CyberKnife Appeal and the currency is still towards the RMBI. Please do continue to help these two schemes.

Register to receive the newsletter

You do not have to be a Charity Steward to receive the newsletter, any Lodge or Chapter member is eligible. If you would like to be kept informed about charity matters, simply register your details by clicking on the link below. Give your name, Lodge or Chapter name and number with your email address.

editor.metglcharitynews@singletonsmail.co.uk

The Freemasons Grand Charity - News

September 2010

GRAND CHARITY ANNOUNCES NEW £250,000 GRANT

A new annual grant initiative has been announced at The Freemasons' Grand Charity - £250,000 to a major national charity. 'Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help' is to receive the first grant. The money is to be divided and distributed to branches throughout the country, providing funding at a local level.

For full details please visit: http://www.grandcharity.org/news.php/50/a250000_grant_to_ssafa_forces_help