



The Cambridgeshire Mason

Cambridgeshire Freemasons £100K Support for Local Charities



Twenty-six local charities have received a total of £100k in donations from Cambridgeshire Freemasons, thanks to the generosity of The City and University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust and the Province of Cambridgeshire Charity for Care and Relief, alongside contributions from the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The donations were made at Cambridge's Masonic Hall during an event to celebrate community engagement which also included a guided tour of the building.

Hayley Norfolk, CEO of Homestart Cambridgeshire, who help families in Cambridgeshire with young children by providing a volunteer to visit them in their own homes regularly for friendship and support, expressed gratitude, stating,

"This kind donation will enable us to support families in Cambridgeshire at home when they need us most. We are delighted that Cambridgeshire Freemasons thought of Homestart Cambridgeshire when making their donations."

Littleport Scouts also benefited from the donations. Phil Watson, Group Scout Leader, shared that the funds will allow them to purchase much-needed new tents and camping gear.

"The donation will provide us with tents that won't leak, enhancing our camping experiences,".

David Blair, Deputy Leader of Cambridgeshire Masons, emphasised the organisation's commitment to charity, integrity, and community engagement, saying. "Service and Friendship are two of the core values of Freemasonry, so we are proud to support local charities who make such a meaningful impact in our community".

Cambridgeshire Freemasons Present £1,500 to Cambridge Acorn Project



Cameron McKechnie, a member of St Wendred Lodge in Newmarket, recently presented Hannah Golding from the Cambridge Acorn Project with a cheque for £1,500.

The funds were accumulated through the dedicated efforts of the Lodge members through fundraising initiatives throughout the year. Cameron McKechnie expressed his gratitude for the unwavering support he received from the members of St Wendred Lodge who participated in the initiatives.

"It was a privilege to represent Cambridgeshire Freemasons and to present the cheque on behalf of the Lodge to such a worthy charity," said Cameron McKechnie.

Hannah Golding, a Therapeutic Practitioner from the Cambridge Acorn Project, expressed her heartfelt appreciation upon receiving the donation.

"We want to say a huge thank you to St Wendred Masonic Lodge in Newmarket for their generous donation to the Cambridge Acorn Project. We couldn't do this vital work without support and generous donations like yours. Thank you."

The Cambridge Acorn Project is dedicated to offering vital assistance to children and their families facing challenging circumstances. Through comprehensive and personalised therapeutic services, they aim to foster healing and resilience in those who need it most.

Picture: Hannah Golding receiving a cheque from Cameron McKechnie

Cambridgeshire Freemasons donate a years' worth of Teddies to Cambridge Woman's Aid.



In a heartfelt gesture of community support, the Cambridgeshire Freemasons have donated a year's supply of teddy bears to the Cambridge Women's Aid. This initiative aims to bring comfort and solace to children and families staying at the refuge during difficult times.

The donation ensures each child receives a cuddly companion to provide comfort and support. The Masons recognise the refuge's vital role in providing sanctuary and assistance to women and children escaping domestic violence and are committed to contributing positively to their wellbeing.

"We are delighted to support the Cambridge Women's Aid with this donation," said Tony Barrios the coordinator of the Teddy scheme within the Province "Our aim is to bring a little joy and comfort to the children who find themselves in challenging circumstances. We hope the teddy bears will provide a sense of security and warmth during their stay at the refuge."

The Cambridge Women's Aid expressed their gratitude for the generous donation, emphasising the impact such gestures have on the families they support.

A spokesperson for Cambridge Women's Aid said, *"We are incredibly thankful to the Cambridgeshire Masons for their thoughtful donation, these teddy bears will undoubtedly bring smiles to the faces of our young residents and provide them with much-needed comfort during a difficult period in their lives."*

The Cambridgeshire Masons remain committed to supporting local communities through various charitable initiatives and partnerships. This donation is part of their ongoing effort to make a positive difference in the lives of those in need across Cambridgeshire.

Prostate Cancer Testing Event

Sixty Freemasons were tested for prostate cancer at Bateman Street in Cambridge during a special event funded by the Cambridgeshire Charity for Care and Relief. This initiative, organized in conjunction with the men's health charity CHAPS and supported by Cambridge Clinical Laboratory, aims to raise awareness, and promote the early detection of prostate cancer and other health issues affecting men.



With 1 in 8 men are likely to be affected by prostate cancer, particularly those over the age of 50, the importance of early testing cannot be overstated. The event saw significant participation from Cambridgeshire Freemasons, underscoring the critical need for proactive health measures.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Cambridgeshire Masons, Jonathan Lambert, was among those tested. Commenting on the event, he stated, *"It was good to see so many fellow Masons attending the testing event. I hope this will encourage other men to do the same."*

CHAPS, a dedicated men's health charity, focuses on raising awareness and promoting early detection to improve health outcomes. The support from Cambridge Clinical Laboratory ensured the event's success, providing accurate and timely testing for all participants.

Picture: Jonathan Lambert, participating in testing.

Kynaston Lodge Golf Society



The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Nigel Chapman (Lodge Golf Rep) ably supported by his team, SW, Bro. Shane Martin and JW, Bro. Trevor Hitt put on another great day of golfing at Girton Golf Club, Cambridge.

This event, previously organized by the late W. Bro. Trevor Smith, a beloved member of Kynaston and Girton GC, was not just about golf. It was very much a social gathering where Freemasons and guests came together, breaking down masonic barriers, sharing a meal, enjoying quality time outside of the Lodge room, and, in some cases, even sharing long walks together searching the rough!

The event organisers thank all who attended, played, supported, and enjoyed the day with the Lodge members and their guests.

Particular thanks go to W. Bro. John Creek (Membership Officer & Charity Steward) for securing a quantity of very sporting caps, pens, clothing and umbrellas from an unnamed, but well-branded source to support the raffle which raised £110.00. The proceeds will be donated to the Cambridgeshire College Group of the Riding for the Disabled Association based in Milton.

We were also blessed to be able to host two potential candidates, taking this wonderful opportunity to profile the Lodge in particular and Freemasonry in general.

The Golf (The Long-spoilt good walk)

Congratulations should go to the three non-Lodge players and the three Lodge members for battling the elements, the course, and, mostly, controlling where the golf balls were headed. That said, it was very entertaining, and all had a very good workout.

The winner of the Kynaston Cup, which can only be described as a Bandit scoring 44 points and retaining the Kynaston Cup, was W. Bro. Richard Brindle (His handicap will be cut immediately!). He also won nearest the pin in two shots.

The nearest the Pin, all players were unable to land in regulation.

The winner who retains the Visitors Cup was W. Bro. Charlie Brown, who scored a respectable 34 points and nearly to handicap.

The WM, W. Bro. Nigel Chapman (Golf Rep) thanks everyone for their support and looks forward to hosting you all again in 2025.

Shane Martin

Happy Retirement



So, Dear Brethren of Cambridgeshire.

The 19th June 2024, saw my retirement as your Deputy Provincial Grand Master having completed 12 years on the provincial executive team.

When I look back to my initiation, sitting next to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro Colin Hutchinson at the festive board, no one can have been more surprised than me that I ended up, all these years later, with the Deputy's job.

The path to the top has been an interesting roller coaster of a ride. Having never been out of office, until now, and having never asked for a job I really must now learn how to say no! Perhaps with a little, yes?

All of this came from an enjoyment of Freemasonry, meeting new people, making new friends while maintaining all that Freemasonry stands for and doing much to help others personally and by our charitable works.

The Deputy's job comes with great, time-consuming responsibility. No one teaches you how to do the job and so early identification of portfolios and priorities is necessary with a little bit of luck thrown in. My bit of luck was having a brilliant Provincial Grand Master in RW Bro. Bill Dastur. From day one we agreed that we would work as a team, with close contact and agreed strategies and targets. This friendship and understanding made the Deputy's role clear, manageable and effective, particularly for when the senior partner disappeared on skiing holidays.

While the top job for a Deputy is in the name and requires the ability to pick up the reigns at any moment, other important roles include active involvement in our Charity for Care and Relief, CMBA, Pathway and masonic discipline etc.

My wife Marion likens it to being everyone's Dad.

There are of course the many occasions of great enjoyment that come from representing our Province, visiting other Provinces, getting to know their executive officers, making new friends while of course always acknowledging that Cambridgeshire is best!

I know this because of the wonderful opportunity over many years of visiting and working with all of our Lodges.

In particular your local charity work where I was able to support presentations, especially during

the covid years with local food banks etc.

Our Lodge Installations are always a special occasion where, supported by a Provincial team and the joyful (sometimes raucous) masters circuit, we celebrated the new master taking up his appointment and great responsibility for the ensuing year. I think I can safely say I have, in the new masters, met some interesting characters.

I have had so many enjoyable times, visiting, certificate presentations, banner dedications, centenary and bi-centenary celebrations, consecration of new Lodges, Provincial meetings and the list goes on.

None of this happens without you, Cambridgeshire Masons, from our excellent Provincial Grand Master down to the new Entered Apprentice. Our Provincial team administered so efficiently by our Provincial Grand Secretary W. Bro Kevin Mader, our Lodges and Chapters well run and supported, I congratulate you all.

So, my time as Deputy has ended but on a high note. Your generosity with donations to my end of term gift has ensured my mobility for the future in the purchase of an electric bicycle.

Marion wishes to thank you all for ensuring that I get out of the house and from under her feet.

Personally, I can only say thank you for everything. It has been an honour to serve you as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, I congratulate my successor David Blair who will I am sure, lead you well.

I look forward to seeing you at some time, somewhere, in the future.

Pat

Bowling for Charity

Twenty-one Masonic Provinces, similar to Counties, sent 24 teams of bowlers to the beautiful County of Berkshire on Friday 9 August 2024. They were competing for the Masonic Annual Charity Event (MACE) Trophy. This fun bowling event has been running since 2011 and moves around the country. This is the first time Berkshire have ever been the hosts.

The very impressive Desborough Bowling Club in Maidenhead was full of excited banter and accents from every corner of the country, as competitors filled the club. This relatively newly built club opened in 2019; after they were 112 years in another part of Maidenhead!

After being welcomed to the event by Ian Keech (organiser for MACE), Anthony Howlett-Bolton OBE Leader of Berkshire's Freemasons, Peter Woods Berkshire Masonic Bowling Association (BMBA) President and Frank Overton Secretary of the BMBA play got underway. The ladies and gentlemen players had plenty to play for. As well as the 4 trophies up for grabs. They would be raising money throughout 2024, to support the two nominated charities for the year. In 2024 these are to be, the Berkshire Panto Project, a Berkshire-based event helping children who might not otherwise see a Pantomime to do so. The Panto Project has been arranged every year since 2005, with only Covid causing a break. Lastly, Action for Children, a national charity supporting children and young people across the UK.

Halfway through the event we were joined by Tony Allcock OBE, Chief Executive of Bowls England and Russell Race, Past Deputy Grand Master of Metropolitan Grand Lodge. Whose original support for the event set it on this 14 year-long fund and friend-making journey. In the 14 years it has been running MACE has raised over £70 thousand pounds for charities. And probably as many new friends for those taking part in this competition.

The new MACE flag that will be flown at the competition going forward was also unveiled at the halfway break. It was hung alongside the Berkshire Masonic Bowling Association flag throughout the day. The artwork now includes a lady bowler on the flag!

Anthony Howlett-Bolton OBE said, *"The Panto Project is a very special event arranged annually in Berkshire. The hard work of the organisers all come together to bring a joyous experience to children who otherwise would miss out of the magic of pantomime."*

Laura English Rose, Senior Fundraising Manager at Action for Children said, *"Thanks for all your generous support. The contribution you are making to Action for Children will help us provide vital funds to services working hard to help children have the safe and happy childhoods they deserve."*

Action for Children protects and supports vulnerable children and young people by providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives. With 426 services across the UK, in schools and online, in 2022/23 they helped 765,905 children, young people and families.

The teams played across 8 rinks, with 6 ends played. The number of ends in the second half of the day reduced to 5.

Provinces that sent teams to take part in the 2024 competition (alphabetical order) and the results were:

Bedfordshire x 2 (4th place)

Berkshire x 2 (1st place)

Buckinghamshire

Surrey x 2

Cambridgeshire x 2

Devon

Dorset

Essex (3rd place)

Gloucestershire x 2

Leicestershire

London

Suffolk

Sussex

Warwickshire x 2

Wiltshire x 2 (2nd place)

Northamptonshire

(and we had a Desborough Bowling Club Team assist to even up the numbers)



Bro. Tom Brown St Ovin Lodge No 7774

BIO- Brother Tom Brown



Brother Tom Brown joined St Ovin Lodge 7774 in October 2021 at the tender age of 81.

From the outset he has fully committed himself to all Lodge meetings and social events and has been supported and accompanied when required by his wife May.

Bro Brown is an exceptional individual, in addition to being a Lodge member he has demonstrated unwavering dedication and commitment to the City of Ely Royal British Legion Branch for over 26 years.

His contributions and selfless acts of service make him a true role model within our community. For more than six years, Mr Brown has held the esteemed position of Branch Standard Bearer, a role he fulfils with the utmost pride and distinction. Additionally, his invaluable experience and expertise have been instrumental in his role as Deputy Chairman for a significant number of years, particularly during a period where he had to support his first wife during her terminal illness, Bro. Brown continued to selflessly devote countless hours to the Poppy Appeal.

Rain or shine, he has stood in the Market Place in Ely, braving adverse weather conditions to collect donations during the annual Poppy Appeal. It is

through his unswerving determination and commitment that he has successfully helped to raise an impressive sum of over £50,000 annually.

Bro. Brown has also served on the County Committee and the Awards sub-committee. His contributions in reviewing Award Applications and providing recommendations have been invaluable. Moreover, Bro Brown's involvement with the Royal British Legion extends beyond his involvement at the City of Ely Branch where he has also represented at County level for over 15 years as a seasoned Standard Bearer.

Early years of competition were met with fierce rivalry and disappointing placements but through practice, dedication and positive mental application Tom became the Deputy County Standard Bearer before winning the highly prestigious title of County Standard Bearer in 2018. Furthermore, he has attended numerous events, including the 90th-anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Ypres alongside over 2500 other Standard Bearers and wreath layers and at the Annual act of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in 2023, further testament to his commitment to honouring the sacrifices of those who came before us.

He is also holding the position of the National Standard Bearer for the Parachute Regiment and has represented the organisation at overseas commemorations at Arnhem and during D- Day Commemorations for many years.

Bro. Brown's tireless efforts have not been confined solely to the Legion; he has generously volunteered his time at the Airborne Museum, a division of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. Guiding and assisting tour groups through this historic establishment, Tom has showcased his dedication to preserving and educating others about our military history.

Tom's commitment to the Royal British Legion, Parachute Regiment and other organisations proves his exemplary service is beyond reproach. He serves as an inspiration to all who have the privilege of knowing him. His selflessness and willingness to put the needs of the Legion and its beneficiaries above his own reflect the true essence of the Legion's motto, "Service not Self." Whether it is through his involvement in Branch or County committees, his role as a Standard Bearer, or his dedication to the Poppy Appeal, Tom consistently goes above and beyond, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to serving others.

Bro. Tom Brown is truly an exceptional individual who exemplifies the act of commitment to his Lodge, Freemasonry, and the wider community, not just locally but also on a national and international level.

The Cambridgeshire Clarets

Companionship, Comprehension and Compassion			
Chairman Hady Aouad	Secretary John Smith	Paul Gale	Jason Waddup
John Down	Tony Kirby	Simon Philips	Nigel Chapman
Simon Cooper	Sean Scott	Carlos Toranzos	

The Cambridgeshire Clarets welcomes any Companion who wishes to meet more members, become more involved, and learn more about the Royal Arch Degree, and how it fits into the whole Masonic system. We work closely with the Cambridgeshire Light Blues to offer a complementary group — indeed it is now 'One Journey. One Organisation.'

Our Mission:

The Clarets are dedicated to enhancing your Masonic journey through three key pillars, which we call the three Cs:

Companionship: Clarets on Tour — Join us as we visit different Chapters, Grand Chapter, and even other Provinces, fostering a sense of camaraderie.

Comprehension: Educational Programme — Expand your knowledge of the Royal Arch and its symbolism. Enrol on our unique educational programme and progress through the three levels. Upon successful completion, receive a certificate and a pin/jewel to wear during Chapter meetings.

Compassion: Supporting our Royal Arch Community — Engage in supporting our Chapters by ensuring that we actively support our fellow Companions and our Brothers in the Craft. Within our Chapters, designated Clarets representatives will provide updates from the Clarets group and support new or existing members in any way they can.

Interested in joining the Cambridgeshire Clarets?

If you are interested in joining either use the email addresses below

More information on the Clarets can be found on the website and on twitter.

Twitter account: <https://x.com/CambsClarets>

Website: <https://pglcamb.org.uk/cambridgeshire-clarets/>

Email address: secretaryclarets@pglcamb.org.uk or clarets@pglcamb.org.uk

Gift Aid – Charitable Giving

Dear Brethren,

Welcome to the first of what will be a series of helpful tips from the CMBA to assist you in making your charitable giving as effective as possible, and we're starting with one of the most commonly misunderstood ... Gift Aid envelopes!



Introducing ... make it count!

Charitable giving the smarter way

Our Festival 2023 was a huge success and will go a long way in assisting the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) in the great work it does in improving thousands of lives every year across England and Wales. Now that the Festival has ended, our focus returns to supporting our local community through our Provincial charities, the **Cambridgeshire Masonic Benevolent Association** (CMBA) and **Care & Relief**.

Who are they and what do they do?

The role of the **CMBA** is to raise funds for, promote, and support, Masonic Charities, The Cambridgeshire TLC scheme, and other charities endorsed by Provincial Grand Lodge. **Care & Relief** dispenses funds for the benefit of poor and distressed masons of the Province of Cambridgeshire, Masonic Charities, and for other registered charitable institutions, societies or objects. Basically, outside of Festival, the CMBA raises charitable funds and Care & Relief distributes them where they are needed.

What's "make it count!"?

The CMBA also provides support to Charity Stewards in Cambridgeshire with *effective* fundraising tools, making sure that every mason in the Province is getting the most out of their donation. Understanding how masonic fundraising works allows you to really make a difference with your donation, which is why we are introducing 'smarter giving' tips to help you make *your* donation count!

Smarter giving tip #1 – Completing a Gift Aid envelope correctly

Did you know? ... Gift Aid envelopes are used to collect donations which are eligible to attract an additional 25% benefit for a Registered Charity by claiming back the basic-rate tax you have already paid. This is a Government approved scheme and is administered by HMRC. For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/claim-gift-aid>

**Essential
reading!**
– your full name
and address
including post code

Add the No. of
your Lodge (L) or
Chapter (C)

Add the date

Make sure you include ALL the details for your donation to be Gift Aided

Thank You

Please complete this slip in BLOCK capitals and place in the envelope with your donation

First Name in full: J o h n

Surname: S m i t h

House Name or No: 123 Any Street

Address:

Post Code: AB12 3CD

Lodge or Chapter No: L1234

Date: 01 / 01 / 2021

Donation £: 5.00

Relief Chest No:

Please add the words 'warranted' before you tick the relevant boxes:

Please tick (✓) as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made:

on this donation only ☒ on this donation and in the future ☐

3087080052616

Add the
amount of
your donation

Leave this
field **BLANK**

Tick a box
EVERY time
(if you pay tax)

Keep a look out for the next 'smart giving' tip to make the most of your charitable giving and make it count!

Gift Aid – A simple process with government support to benefit registered charities!

For every £1 donation, the MCF will receive £0.25 from HMRC. So, for a Lodge with a qualifying Gift Aid collection of £200, HMRC will give £50 to the MCF which then allocates the funds to the Lodge total in the CMBA Relief Chest. This means a £200 collection becomes £250 available for donation to a Registered Charity chosen by the Lodge! The best part is that there is no admin work required by the Lodge as the support is provided free by the MCF and CMBA.

Helpful
to
know!

Did you know? ... The MCF no longer keeps enduring Gift Aid declarations which means that you **must tick a box every time** you complete a Gift Aid envelope slip as this is the only method the MCF uses to demonstrate to HMRC that your tax status hasn't changed since your last donation.
Note: This means that you can no longer rely on ticking the box "on this donation and in the future" as every future donation will need a box ticked.

Did you know? ... If you do not pay tax (or enough tax), you do not need to complete an envelope ... you can simply make a cash donation as the MCF does not record your donation for honorific purposes outside of Festival.

Did you know? ... It doesn't matter whether the Relief Chest No. field on your Gift Aid envelope slip is blank or has an old number (like FEST2023 or E0109) as your Charity Steward or Treasurer submits all the slips together with the one form indicating the Relief Chest (CMBA) which is to receive the donations and Gift Aid benefit.

Did you know? ... If you are using Gift Aid envelopes in a Chapter and don't put the letter 'C' in front of the Chapter number then the donation will be credited (for honorific purposes) to the Lodge with the same number by default, so it's good practice to always add a letter (C = Chapter or L = Lodge) in front of the Lodge or Chapter number e.g. L4334 or C4334. *Note: You should always enter your Lodge or Chapter number, not the number of the Lodge or Chapter you are visiting.*

Want to
know more?

From Gift Aid envelope to Cheque Presentation ...How does it work?

Step 1. Once the Gift Aid envelope slip has been completed correctly (see picture), the slip is torn off and inserted into the envelope with the donation and the envelope is sealed.

Step 2. The envelopes are collected by the Charity Steward or Treasurer who then opens them and sends all the Gift Aid envelope slips with a form and donation payment to the MCF Relief Chest office in London.

Step 3. The MCF then applies to HMRC for the applicable Gift Aid benefit. Once the benefit is received, the MCF places the donation payment and Gift Aid benefit into the CMBA Relief Chest and allocates it to the Lodge or Chapter which submitted the donation.

Step 4. When the Lodge or Chapter selects a Registered Charity to receive the donation (which can be part or all of the funds deposited into the CMBA Relief Chest over a period of time), the Charity Steward or Treasurer simply sends an email to the CMBA Secretary with the details of the charity and the amount to be donated. *Note: Gift Aid envelope collections **cannot** be used for donations to a Non-Registered Charity.*

Step 5. The CMBA Secretary then arranges for a cheque to be sent to either a Lodge or Chapter representative to present to the charity, or directly to the charity itself.

For the
detail people

New CMBA Relief Chest

Following the Festival, the CMBA is now operating a new Relief Chest with an easy to remember number - **CMBA**.

The new CMBA Relief Chest is managed by the CMBA Relief Chest Representative (currently the CMBA Secretary) on behalf of all Cambridgeshire Lodges, Chapters and other units.

The new CMBA Relief Chest replaces the old Relief Chests (E0109 and FEST2023) which will remain dormant and should not be used for new donations.

The updated MCF online system means that a Lodge or Chapter can easily arrange a cheque for their selected Registered Charity within a matter of days simply by sending an email to the CMBA – cmbsa@poglcambs.org.uk.

Keep a look out for the next 'smart giving' tip to make the most of your charitable giving and make it count!

'The Cambridgeshire Mason' is produced in March, July September, and November by Editor Andy Clifton, with the assistance of:
Tony Barrios, Justin Curtis, Brian Elliott, Michael Hinton and John Jones.

Please send any material to the Provincial Information Officer information@poglcambs.org.uk by the 21st day of the month preceding publication. The Editorial Board has accepted the information published in good faith and cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies.