

Better Lives

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Masonic Charitable Foundation**

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the wait for
medical
treatment
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If you have any comments, suggestions or questions about *Better Lives*, please contact the editor, Rachel Jones:

communications@mcf.org.uk



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> Welcome to the first issue of *Better Lives*!



This publication contains the latest news about the Masonic Charitable Foundation and its work. We plan to produce two issues each year featuring real stories about some of the Freemasons and their family members we have helped, and those who undertake unique and exciting challenges to raise funds for us.

As a new charity, we are working particularly hard to ensure that those who may need our help are aware of us

and how to get in touch. Consequently, I encourage you to share this newsletter with your family and friends when you have finished reading it.

In this issue, you can read about 103-year-old Gladys and her favourite armchair (p. 3), Chloe's journey to put her dancing shoes back on (p. 8) and 10-year old Jake's three peaks challenge to raise funds for our work (p. 10).

The funds that so many of you raise are fundamental to the Foundation and without you we would not be able to provide the life-changing support that we do. I hope *Better Lives* becomes a place where your stories can be shared and your fundraising achievements celebrated.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue, whether you are a beneficiary, a member of staff or one of the many Freemasons in the Provinces working tirelessly on our behalf. I know that many people will be able to enjoy a better winter because of your collective efforts and I hope that by spreading the word, you will help us reach even more individuals and families who need the Foundation's help.

David Innes
Chief Executive

> Support for as long as you need us

What does a 103-year-old widow have in common with a mother of four children, a family man and two older married couples? The answer? They have all been supported by the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

We provide different types of support for each family. For some, we award a one-off grant to fund a piece of equipment. For others, our

assistance is required for longer and occasionally we look after a family for several years. Every story is very different but our

help – whether provided for the short, medium or long-term – always has a lasting impact. We vow to support each family for as long as they need us.



One-off grant



> Gladys

"Oh, I am so grateful," says Gladys, her bright blue eyes crinkling around the edges as she smiles.

We are in a care home, sat in the bright and airy bedroom that Gladys calls her own. A comfortable-looking green armchair takes pride of place in the centre of the room. The chair is positioned facing a window which overlooks the London skyline.

"In my nineties, I wasn't able to go upstairs in my house anymore," says Gladys, who recently celebrated her 103rd birthday. "After my husband died, I lived in the kitchen. I had terrible back trouble and used an easy chair, but eventually it wore out. I didn't have enough money to heat the house, let alone buy a new chair."

Gladys' husband was a Freemason. He was introduced to the Craft by the owner of the company at which he worked for his whole life.

It was Gladys' nephew, Ron – also a Freemason – that took the first step in seeking help when Gladys needed it. He got in touch with his Lodge Almoner who visited Gladys and put her in touch with the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Gladys talks fondly of her Almoner, Sassoon. She says: "He is a lovely, friendly man. He made a big fuss of me on my recent birthday!"

Continued on the next page >

Continued from p. 3

Initially, Gladys was reluctant to ask for help. She and her husband had always been self-sufficient and she felt that there were more deserving cases. But Gladys was told that the Foundation exists for cases just like hers and once she understood that her mobility needs and financial situation made her eligible for support, she agreed to apply.

"The application process was so simple," says Gladys.

"I was never made to feel that I was asking for help."

We provided Gladys with a rise and recline chair within a few weeks. When she moved into the care home she took it with her.

"I spend part of most evenings in my chair and sleep in it every night," says Gladys. "I honestly don't know what I'd do without it. It has made all the difference to my later years."

Every year, the Foundation supports hundreds of widows like Gladys. Our offer of support for a Freemason's family does not end once he has passed away.

> The Davies family



 15 years of support

Neither does our support end if a Freemason leaves the family home.

When Clare's marriage ended, she was left alone to care for her children, Henry, Polly, Flora and Oscar, who were all under the age of eight at the time.

With an unexpectedly reduced income and sole responsibility for childcare, Clare wasn't sure how they would manage. It was a very stressful time for the whole family, made worse when they lost their house soon after.

"I had no home, no husband and no money. I truly did not know how I was going to cope. But then my local Lodge Almoner got in touch and told me about the Masonic Charitable Foundation."

We provided a package of support to alleviate the financial pressure the family was facing and reduce the negative impact on the children's education. The package included grants towards daily living costs and specific grants for school trips, computers and extra-curricular activities. Our support meant Clare's children had access to the same opportunities as their friends.

Clare's voice emanates pride when she talks about all that her children have achieved.

"Who knows how life would have turned out without the Foundation's support?"

"We had nothing, but despite the odds and having had such a tough time, they've all done so well! Henry and Polly have both graduated from university; Henry hopes to be an Olympic Standard Coach by the time he is 25 and Polly is pursuing a career in mental health nursing. Flora is currently studying in Bournemouth and Oscar hopes to attend university this year."


We have supported the Davies family for 15 years and our support will continue until they no longer need us.

When it comes to the support we provide, Gladys and the Davies family are at opposite ends of the spectrum but both have experienced a positive impact on their lives. There are many other examples and you can read about some of them on the following pages.

> Sheila and Dave

After Sheila had a stroke, her mobility was severely affected. Gradually, some of her movement came back but she was still dependent on her husband, Dave, for personal care. Dave, who has been a Freemason for over two decades, recalls their story.



 One-off grant

"It was a very frustrating time for us both. Our local authority had provided a stool for Sheila to sit on in the bath – but she couldn't get in the bath in the first place! I had to help her climb in and then stay with her in case she fell."

"Once we got in touch with the Masonic Charitable Foundation, all the pressure was taken off of us. We were guided every step of the way, firstly by the Advice & Support Team, and then by Leon in the grants team."

"We received a grant to convert our bathroom into a walk-in shower room and Sheila is now able to shower with ease. The Foundation has given us both our dignity back. We are so very grateful."



 6 weeks of respite care

> Ian and Sheila

Sheila has early-onset dementia and Alzheimer's as well as osteoporosis. She is highly dependent on her Freemason husband, Ian, for every aspect of her care. Unfortunately, Ian is currently undergoing treatment for cancer which makes caring for his wife very difficult at times.


"When you care for someone like Sheila, you don't get a single minute to yourself. We applied for respite care through the local council but the grant they offered was not enough to afford anything suitable."

"After a visit from Judy, who is a member of the Advice & Support Team, the Masonic Charitable Foundation granted us funding for six weeks of respite care which we can use whenever we need it. It takes away the tension and helps us both feel more relaxed. In fact, it's not just having the respite breaks – simply knowing that the option is there helps us through the more difficult times. To be able to go away for a week and not worry about anything takes the pressure away and allows us to focus on other important things."

> Steve

Steve, a Freemason, has severe lung problems that affect his whole body as well as pulmonary hypertension which is a terminal blood vessel disorder.



 One-off grant + ongoing maintenance

"I was struggling. I couldn't go out. I couldn't walk more than 15 feet. I never had fresh air and I sat in the dining room for months on end, watching daytime TV and looking out at the rain. I couldn't visit my daughters and I relied on a friend of mine to take me to Lodge meetings."

"I fell down the stairs two or three times, and it was at this point that my Almoner suggested I apply to the Masonic Charitable Foundation."

"The Foundation provided a stairlift which has meant I haven't had any more falls, as well as a mobility scooter which means I can travel with my oxygen tank with ease. The Foundation also pays for yearly services and insurance against faults which gives me peace of mind. My friends and daughters live within two miles and once I'm on the scooter I can go wherever I like!"

"Medically, there is nothing anyone can do for me, but psychologically it's made a huge difference. It has given me a life again."

"It's also a relief to know that when my condition deteriorates, the Foundation will be there for my wife, Sharon, if she needs support."

> Call our confidential freephone enquiry line or email us today to find out if we can help you.

 0800 035 60 90  help@mcf.org.uk

> Here to help

A newly formed team at the Masonic Charitable Foundation now provides the high standard of support that the Masonic community expects and deserves.

From enquiries to donations, and grants to communications, there are a number of teams working hard behind the scenes to make sure that Freemasons, their family members and the wider community receive the support they need. Here, we introduce just some of our staff working in these teams.

> To get in touch with any of our teams, call or email us now:

 020 3146 3333  info@mcf.org.uk

If you need our help...



Calvin

Enquiries

"We handle all incoming calls and emails about support. We direct those seeking help to the right person and, if we can't assist, we will put you in touch with other sources of support."

For fundraising advice or support for Festival Appeals...

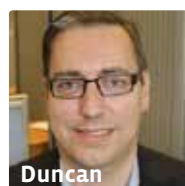


Alison

Fundraising

"We support Freemasons and their families who fundraise for us and give advice and guidance to Provinces during their Festival Appeals."

To leave a donation to us in your Will...

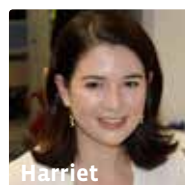


Duncan

Legacies

"My team provides guidance about making a Will or a legacy gift as well as Inheritance Tax implications. We work with solicitors and executors to ensure every gift is used according to the donor's wishes."

To talk about our website, social media or getting a lapel pin...

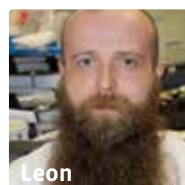


Harriet

Digital Communications

"We provide information about the Foundation through our website, Facebook, Twitter and email updates. We can also help you sign up to our mailing list and make sure you receive your exclusive lapel pin."

To get an update on the progress of your application...



Leon

Grants

"We process applications for support from Freemasons and their families and make sure that they are always kept up to date. Once an application is approved, we arrange for grants to be paid."

To make a donation or set up a Relief Chest...



David

Relief Chest Scheme

"We offer accounts that can be used to accumulate funds for charitable purposes by Lodges, Chapters, Provinces and other recognised Masonic organisations including Festival Appeals."

To discuss the grants we make to other charities...



Nicola

Charity Grants

"We make grants to a wide range of causes including charities that support vulnerable people, research, hospices and air ambulance and rescue services. We can provide information and advice to charities seeking support."

To request leaflets or promotional materials...

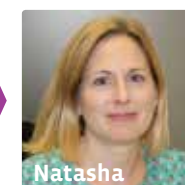


Rachel

Marketing

"We provide resources for those who wish to promote our work. We can also write articles for Provincial publications and produce *Better Lives*, the Foundation's magazine."

For information and support for Almoners...

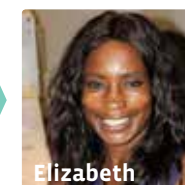


Natasha

Masonic Support Programme

"We can provide a range of guidance and information for Almoners and others to help them with their roles."

And if you aren't sure who you need to speak to...



Elizabeth

Reception

"If you are unsure of which team you need to speak to, call or email us and we will get you through to the right person."

➤ Reducing the wait time for Freemasons and their families

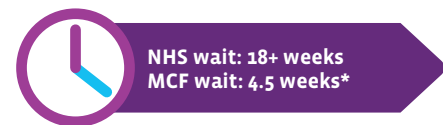
The number of people waiting for medical treatment and surgery in England has climbed to almost 3.9 million.

The NHS Constitution guarantees that hospitals will treat 92% of patients on the “referral-to-treatment” waiting list within 18 weeks, but recent reports show that this target is not being achieved.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation can fund treatment or surgery for Freemasons and eligible family members who face a wait of 12 weeks or longer, or eight weeks for heart surgery, who can't easily afford private treatment.

Eligible family members include a Freemason's married, life or widowed partner and his children or grandchildren who are under the age of 25 and in full-time education.

➤ Chloe's story



NHS wait: 18+ weeks
MCF wait: 4.5 weeks*

“Dancing is all I have ever done. I’ve had many injuries over the years but I never had to stop doing what I love. Then, two years ago, I woke up in agony in my left foot – I tried to walk and fell to the floor. The doctors carried out lots of tests and scans and eventually I was told I needed an operation.

“In the meantime, I had been granted a full scholarship to Urdang – the best dance school in the country. I went to see Urdang’s physiotherapists but they didn’t know what was wrong and sent me home because I couldn’t dance. I was forced to leave the school but was hopeful that I would be able to recover and deferred my place for a year.



“I waited and waited for a date for the operation but months passed and I heard nothing. The consultant said my best bet would be to go private but we couldn’t afford it. My injury took a toll on everything I love. I thought it was the end of my dream.

“Then, the Almoner from my dad’s Lodge put me in touch with the Masonic Charitable Foundation. I had my operation earlier this year. The prognosis is that I will be able to dance again and I hope to rejoin Urdang next year.”

“I can’t put into words how grateful I am. I wish I could sit down and personally thank everyone who has helped in any way – those who donate, the Almoners, the staff... I am eternally grateful.”

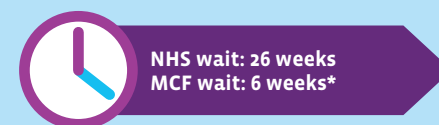
➤ Get in touch with us today to find out if we can help you access the medical treatment you need.

☎ 0800 035 60 90 @ help@mcf.org.uk



“I’ve never experienced anything like the help and the wonderful feeling I’ve had dealing with the Foundation. I can’t say thank you enough.”

➤ Bill's story



NHS wait: 26 weeks
MCF wait: 6 weeks*

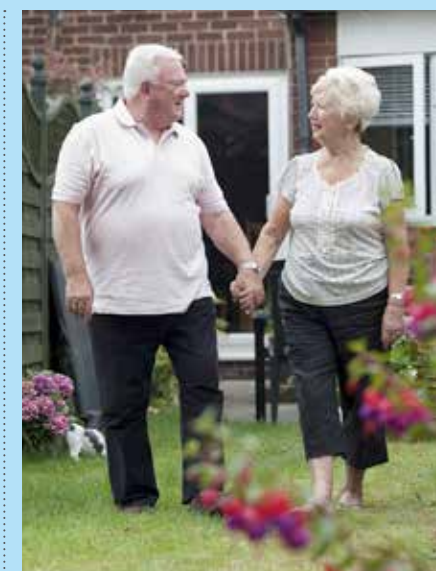
“I had trouble with my eyes for a long, long time. I was diagnosed with cataracts but there was a very long waiting list at the hospital – they said it would be at least six months and, to be honest, at the age of 85 I wasn’t sure I would last that long.

“Since my wife, Nancy, died, I’m on my own which I find very difficult. My computer is my way of keeping in touch with the outside world but eventually my cataracts meant I was unable to use it. I also use my computer to run a website featuring stories about my 39 years in the British Army.

“I was Almoner of my Lodge for many years so when I realised I needed support, I got in touch with the Foundation directly. I had my operation earlier this year, almost straight away after I applied. I made a small contribution towards the cost from my savings and the Foundation paid the rest.

“The operation has made a huge difference! I’m now able to use my computer again.

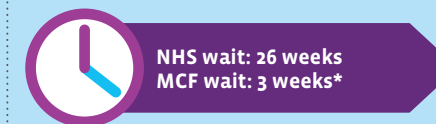
“If I could say anything to the Masonic Charitable Foundation I would say ‘Thank you, thank you, thank you!’ The help they have given me is without equal.”



“I’ve been Lodge Almoner for over three years but was reluctant to ask for help for myself at first. I’m glad I did because a grant to fund my operation and physio was agreed within a matter of weeks.”

“When I got the letter to confirm my grant had been approved, it felt like winning the lottery. To anyone who is in pain, please don’t hesitate. Pick up the phone and change your life for the better.”

➤ Alan's story



NHS wait: 26 weeks
MCF wait: 3 weeks*

“I had arthritis in my knees for two or three years and it was getting worse. The consultants told me I needed a knee replacement; I was put on a waiting list but heard nothing for months.

“The constant pain was exhausting. I had lots of trouble carrying out my Almoner’s duties and I couldn’t stand up in Lodge to give my report. I couldn’t decorate the house, I couldn’t do my gardening. I was in pain all of the time and the painkillers made me feel sick. My whole life came to a standstill.”



*MCF wait is calculated from grant approval date

➤ Fantastic fundraisers

Our work would not be possible without the support of Freemasons and their families. Every year, men, women and children across the country undertake a wide range of challenges to raise funds for us. **Thank you to all our fundraisers!**



Surrey

➤ Big week raises big funds

From 16-24th July, the Province of Surrey held a week of fundraising events that raised over **£55,000** in total for the 2019 Festival Appeal.

The week started when Provincial Grand Master of Surrey, Ian Chandler, led a team of 16 on a tandem skydive. The team also included Provincial Grand Charity Steward, David Olliver. Other events included a sponsored cycle by Freemason Stephen Farrell that visited every Masonic centre in the Province, a giant cribbage competition, sponsored walks, prize draws, a swimathon and a traditional

High Tea organised by the Surrey Widows Association.

“The Big Week has been an excellent opportunity for Surrey Masons to take part in the Festival Appeal with their friends and families whilst ensuring that we keep the ‘fun’ in ‘fundraising’.”

Paul Crockett, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, Surrey

➤ River boat cruise

115 passengers enjoyed an evening cruise along the River Sever and raised a superb **£6,620** for the 2018 Festival Appeal.



Gloucestershire

➤ Fun for the whole family

The Freemasons of Middlesex and Hertfordshire held fun days in the grounds of the Royal Masonic School in Rickmansworth. Staff from the Masonic Charitable Foundation manned a stall at both events where visitors could pick up leaflets about the Foundation's work or enter a competition to win their own Eddie the Teddy.



Middlesex / Hertfordshire



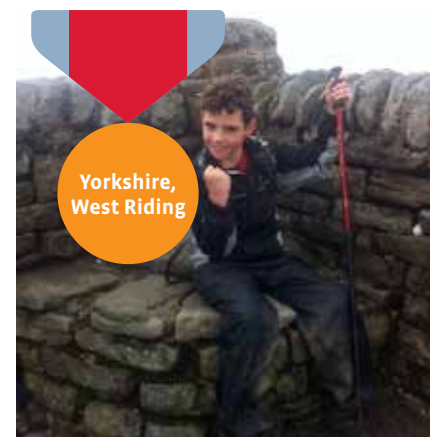
Yorkshire, North & East Ridings

➤ Canalthon

Mark Blair ran the Canalthon Ultra Marathon, a 75km race across Yorkshire and Lancashire. He ran for 10 consecutive hours and raised over **£2,000**. The funds were split between the Masonic Samaritan Fund and two other brilliant causes: a local children's hospice and Alzheimer's UK.

➤ Three peaks challenge

10-year-old Jake took on a three peaks challenge of his own in the Lake District with his Freemason grandad, Neil. Over 12 hours, the pair climbed Pen-y-ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough. A couple of weeks later, Jake visited his grandad's Lodge to present a cheque for the **£420** he raised.



Yorkshire, West Riding

➤ Wing Walk

Daredevil Teresa Brigland-Taylor completed a 'wing walk' and raised **£1,400** for the 2020 Festival Appeal.

“I wasn't afraid of the flight, but one thing that concerned me was that the plane I was going to fly on was built five years before I was born! All of my family came to watch, except my eight year old grandson who hid his face as he could not bear to watch!”



Herefordshire

➤ Hadrian's Wall Walk

Husband and wife team, Richard and Marie, walked 134km along Hadrian's Wall to raise funds for the 2021 Festival Appeal and the Special Care Baby Unit at Darlington. They raised a total of **£1,926**, with each charitable cause receiving half of the funds.



Durham



Staffordshire

➤ West Highland Way Race

Keith Robins undertook the challenging 95 mile West Highland Way Race from Milngavie to Fort William in the Scottish Highlands and raised **£2,650** for three charitable causes: his local children's hospice, Alzheimer's Society and the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Keith is pictured with the cut glass goblets he received for finishing the race in 32 hours and 21 minutes.

➤ If you have done something fun in the name of fundraising for the Foundation, send photos to the editor at communications@mcf.org.uk for a chance to be featured in the next issue!

> Latest News

Grants to charities total over £3.2 million

We have awarded over £3.2 million to charitable causes across England and Wales since we launched in April 2016. The charities we support help people experiencing financial hardship, poor health and disability, barriers to education and employment, and social exclusion and disadvantage.



> Living Paintings

Reducing isolation for older blind people

Our grant to Living Paintings will support the charity's network of Touch to See Book Clubs. The clubs provide an opportunity for older blind and partially-sighted people to engage with a range of topics including gardening, history and art through tactile and audio books. They aim to reduce loneliness by encouraging members to get out of the

house and take part in shared creative activities.

Colin Hayes, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire, and David Jarvis, Provincial Grand Almoner, visited one of the Book Clubs in Newbury.

"Experiencing the work of Living Paintings first hand was very touching indeed. We are incredibly proud to support the charity and were impressed by the work we saw during our visit. The Freemasons of Berkshire plan to help Living Paintings further by providing volunteers to assist the Newbury group on an ongoing basis and we look forward to working with them well into the future."

Colin Hayes, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire



> CLIC Sargent

Supporting young people with cancer

We awarded £75,738 to CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading cancer charity for children and young people. The grant will fund the salary and costs of a Young People's Community Worker based at Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey to ensure that young people with cancer receive age-appropriate support throughout their cancer treatment and beyond.

The grant was marked by a visit by Ian Chandler, Provincial Grand Master for Surrey. Ian was given a tour of the ward



by Lara Perkins, the Young People's Community Worker funded by the grant.

"Visiting CLIC Sargent was a fantastic experience. Finding out about the work that Lara does every day to support young people, whether they are a patient, family member or friend, was truly uplifting. We are delighted to have made this donation to fund Lara's work."

Ian Chandler, Provincial Grand Master for Surrey



> FareShare

Providing nutritious meals for vulnerable people



We awarded £60,000 to FareShare to fund their work distributing surplus food to vulnerable people in the West Midlands. The Foundation's grant was presented by Warwickshire Freemason John Hayward and his wife, Linda, to FareShare West Midlands' depot in Birmingham.

The three-year grant will part-fund a warehouse manager at the depot and will also help towards the cost of the charity's refrigerated vans.

"My visit to FareShare West Midlands was a real eye-opener. I had no idea just how much perfectly good food would be wasted were it not for FareShare. They thoroughly deserve the funding they receive and a great deal of credit for the service they are providing to society."

John Hayward, Provincial Grand Charity Steward for Warwickshire



> Inspire Foundation

Improving the lives of people with spinal cord injuries

We awarded £65,000 to INSPIRE Foundation to fund research which aims to improve the quality of life and independence of those living with spinal cord injuries.

London Freemason Trevor Koschalka presented the grant to the research team at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore.

The project will be led by research scientist Sean Doherty who broke his neck in a mountain bike accident in 2008. Sean and his team hope to develop wearable stimulation devices to control bladder and bowel as an alternative to pharmaceutical therapies. While the inability to walk is often considered the most challenging consequence of spinal cord injury, the loss of control of bladder and bowel is often the most difficult to manage, and can have a persistent and detrimental effect on health, welfare and quality of life.



> Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Driving research into the causes of Type 1 diabetes



Researchers may be one step closer to identifying the cause of type 1 diabetes thanks to our grant to JDRF, a charity that focusses on curing, treating and preventing type 1 diabetes. The grant will part-fund research at the University of Exeter investigating whether enterovirus infections in the pancreas trigger an immune system response that causes type 1 diabetes.

Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire, Ian Kingsbury visited the University of Exeter Medical School to present the grant to Dr. Sarah Richardson, the project's principal researcher. They were joined by Colin Rowland from Exmouth who has lived with type 1 diabetes for 50 years and is independently fundraising for the JDRF to support type 1 diabetic research.

"I am so impressed with the very important and essential research work that is being undertaken. The equipment required is very expensive and the Freemasons are delighted to be able to contribute."

Ian Kingsbury, Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire



Activities Coordinator Maureen Rolf said:

“Getting outside in the fresh air when the sun shines and doing some gardening helps residents to stay active and lifts their spirits, and many enjoy reminiscing about the flowers they planted in their own gardens.”



> Residents get back to nature

The RMBI Care Company, a subsidiary of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, is a major provider of high quality care services for older Freemasons and their family members as well as some other people in the community.

RMBI Homes across the country embraced the spirit of summer in 2016 and kept residents active with an array of animal and nature themed activities.

Residents at The Tithebarn in Liverpool visited a local riding school. They were given a tour of the stables, spent time with the horses and watched them in action with their trainers.

One resident, Audrey, said:

“The day brought back many memories for me. My husband was a farmer and we spent many holidays pony riding.”

Meanwhile, residents at Scarborough Court in Northumberland enjoyed visits from a guide dog called Ellie and Blondie, a seven-year-old pony. Blondie

even called in to the nursing floor to meet those who were unable to leave their rooms.

Mary Piert, the Home's Activities Coordinator, said: “Animals play an important role at our Homes. They provide companionship to both residents and staff and their presence can help people to feel more comfortable and relaxed, especially those who had pets before they moved into the Home or spent a lot of time with animals.”

Continuing the theme of ‘nature’, residents at Scarborough Court in Northumberland took advantage of sunny afternoons this year and engaged in gardening sessions. Beautiful primroses were planted in colourful flower pots to decorate the outside areas at the Home.



For more information about RMBI Homes, call:

020 7596 2400

> Puzzles for prizes

> Complete the crossword to win a £50 John Lewis voucher!

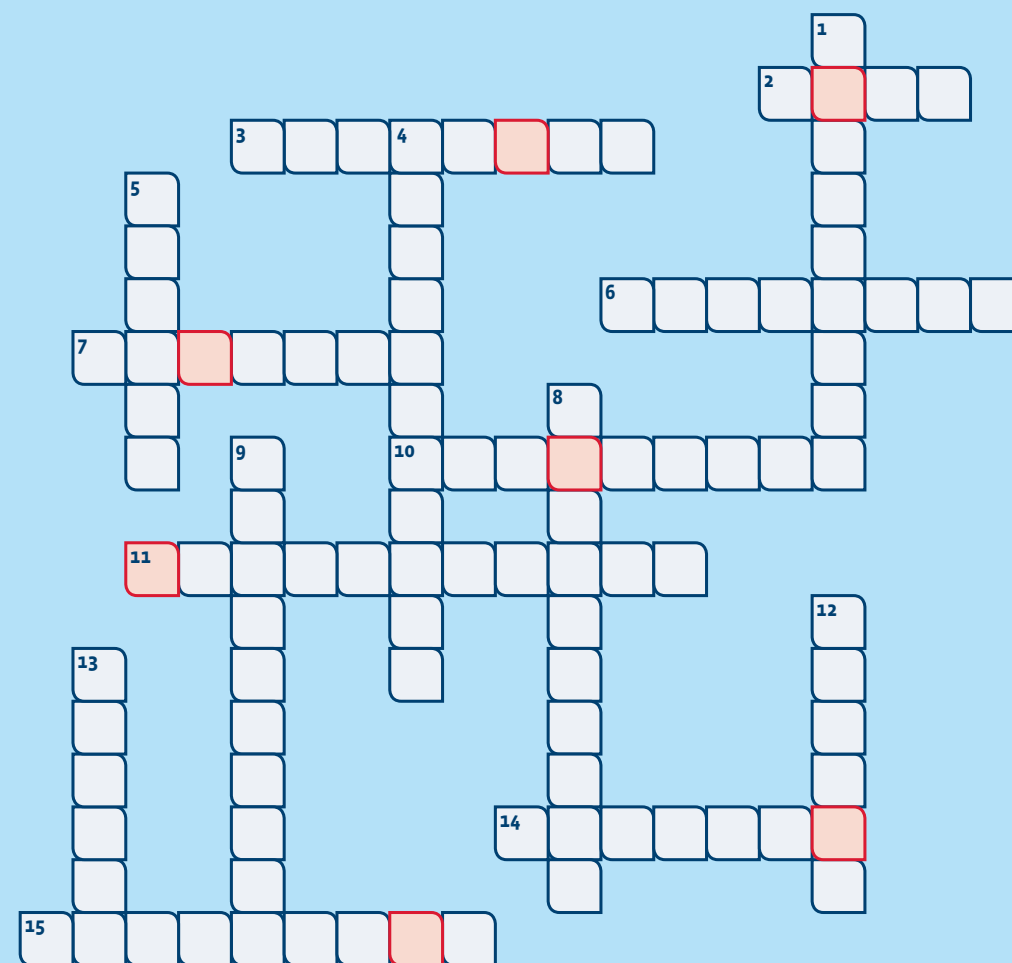
The answers to this crossword can be found in this issue of *Better Lives*. Once you have completed the crossword, unscramble the letters in the red squares to spell a word related to Freemasonry. All entrants who submit the correct answer will be entered into a draw to win a £50 John Lewis voucher which was kindly donated by one of our supporters.

> Across

- 2 The joint that we paid for Alan to have replaced (4)
- 3 The name of the research project we have funded through the INSPIRE Foundation (8)
- 6 We helped to adapt this room after Sheila had a stroke (8)
- 7 The name of the pony that visited residents at one of our care homes (7)
- 10 Bill was diagnosed with this medical problem which made it difficult for him to see (9)
- 11 The full name of the Young People's Community Worker at CLIC Sargent whose role is funded by a Masonic Charitable Foundation grant (4, 7)
- 14 The type of care we have provided for Ian and Sheila (7)
- 15 A charity we have supported that redistributes surplus food to vulnerable people in the West Midlands (9)

> Down

- 1 You should contact this team if you wish to talk about applying for support (9)
- 4 The scheme provided by the Masonic Charitable Foundation to help Lodges manage charitable donations efficiently (6, 5)
- 5 The number of weeks' wait on an NHS waiting list required to be eligible for our support (6)
- 8 The Chief Executive of the Masonic Charitable Foundation (5, 5)
- 9 Jake raised £420 by completing this challenge (5, 5)
- 12 The Province that raised £55,000 for their fundraising Appeal in just one week! (6)
- 13 This thrill-seeking lady completed a 'wing walk' to raise funds for our work (6)



> How to enter

Write your crossword answer and/or circle the differences you spot in the photos clearly on the tear-off flap. Then fill in your details on the reverse of the flap and send it to:

Masonic Charitable Foundation, 60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

The winner will be notified before the next issue of *Better Lives* is printed.

Write your crossword answer here:

> Spot the difference and win a giant Eddie the Teddy!

After taking part in a competition at one of this year's family fun days, Layla won a giant Eddie the Teddy! To win a giant bear of your own, simply spot the five differences between the photos of Layla.



Teddy bear prizes have been generously donated by Taylored Promotions (www.tayloredpromotions.org.uk)



For Freemasons, for families, for everyone



> Follow our work and receive our exclusive lapel pin

Register for updates by post and email about the work of the Foundation

Name

Email

Full Address

Postcode

I am a

☐ Freemason

☐ Interested person

☐ Family member

☐ Charity representative

If you are a Freemason, please tell us the name of your Province and indicate whether you are one of the following:

Province

☐ Worshipful Master

☐ Secretary

☐ Almoner

☐ Charity Steward

☐ None of the above

Please return this form to:

Masonic Charitable Foundation
60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ



“ Did you know...

...if you are a Freemason, or have a strong family connection to a Freemason, and you are facing a long wait for NHS medical treatment, the Masonic Charitable Foundation may be able to help you?

If in doubt, call the Foundation today on 0800 035 60 90.

My dad did, and it saved his life.”



“My dad, Tommy, was diagnosed with a heart condition but faced a wait of at least six months for surgery. His health was deteriorating before my eyes: he was out of breath all the time and extremely tired – he was plodding along, but struggling.

“Dad was stubborn, embarrassed even. He felt others were worse off than him and didn’t want to ask, but then he fell ill during a Lodge meeting and his Brethren stepped in. Me and Mum burst into tears when we got the letter to say that the grant to fund Dad’s



operation had been approved. It was a weight lifted.

“After the operation, the surgeon said that Dad wouldn’t be here if we’d waited six more months. Until then, they hadn’t realised how bad his heart condition truly was.

“Dad’s doing brilliantly now. He’s just going back to work and is looking forward to his first Masonic meeting.

“I want to say ‘thank you’. You’ve not just helped Dad - you’ve changed our family life for the better. The four of us are the only family we have and we are now able to do more together.”



“ I joined Masonry for enjoyment and when I got ill I didn’t want to put a burden on the charity. But we have all vowed to help those who are struggling and I truly was struggling. I was born an only child but through Freemasonry I gained brothers. I have never seen so many come together for one person – it’s overwhelming.”

Tommy

> Give us a call today to find out if we can help you. 0800 035 60 90



Financial



Family



Health



Grants to charities