

# 2019 Festival

## Hertfordshire





# Provincial Grand Master

Like many of you, I have been fortunate in my life. I am happily married to Barbara; we have two daughters and, much more recently, the added joy of a granddaughter. I have enjoyed a successful business career and, everything considered, life has dealt me a good hand.

Sadly, though, there are some to whom fate has not been so kind. The death or disability of a parent or guardian, the loss of a job, perhaps family breakdown, have caused children and young people to be placed in circumstances of poverty and distress – even in the 21st century – that most of us can hardly begin to imagine.

For more than two centuries our members have taken pride in the help, both financial and practical, they have provided to the young dependants of Freemasons through the charity we now know as the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

The mission statement of the RMTGB is: *To relieve poverty and advance the education of children of a Masonic family and, when funds permit, support other children in need.*

In the past five years the Trust has provided almost £24 million in grants (with some £5.5million in the last year alone) to such children. The families of Hertfordshire Freemasons are, of course, among those who have benefitted.

Three quarters of the Trust's income comes from the Festival system and from legacies, and as your recently appointed Provincial Grand Master I am proud to be at the forefront of the Hertfordshire 2019 Festival in aid of the RMTGB.

**I aim to make this an enjoyable fundraising project whereby we can have some fun while at the same time as contributing to a worthwhile and respected Masonic charity.**

This brochure outlines the ways in which you may pledge your support. These will be more fully explained at a series of launch events around the Province which I hope as many of you as possible will attend, along with your families and friends.

As President of the Festival I aim to make this an enjoyable fundraising project whereby we can have some fun while at the same time as contributing to a worthwhile and respected Masonic charity.

I hope that you will feel able to support me in this appeal and that the Freemasons of "Happy Hertfordshire" will produce a sum worthy of our Province, and so enable the RMTGB to continue in its work of relieving hardship in the families of our less fortunate Brethren.

You might like to know that our previous Provincial Festival, in aid of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, had raised £3.1 million when it reached its conclusion in 2009. No pressure there then!

**Paul Gower**  
**Provincial Grand Master**  
**for Hertfordshire**

# Thank you

Throughout our history, which stretches for two-and-a-quarter centuries, we are proud that we have never had to turn away a child in need because of a lack of funds. During these years we have been relieving poverty and advancing education – always meeting the needs of the children of the day.



As you will read in this brochure, each year we support around 2,000 children of the Masonic family in many different ways to ensure they can reach their potential, despite the tragedy they have often faced during their young lives.

**In addition, we also provide support to around 10,000 children who have no connection to Freemasonry, but are educationally disadvantaged.**

In recent years, we have accepted an increasing number of new applications from Masonic families each year and this trend looks set to continue. This Festival Appeal is therefore vital if we are to continue to provide for all the children and young people who need our help now and in the future.

We have every confidence that Hertfordshire Freemasons will demonstrate their generosity during this Festival Appeal. Raising funds for charity is rarely easy, especially in this stretching economic climate, so please help us by making your commitment early, using Gift Aid, and encouraging others to do the same.

On behalf of our Council, staff and more importantly on behalf of thousands of disadvantaged children who never had half the chances in life that most of us have had, we thank you for supporting our life-changing work and for supporting the Province of Hertfordshire's 2019 Festival Appeal for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

**Les Hutchinson**  
**Chief Executive, RMTGB**



## **Our presence in Hertfordshire**

The previous Festival held by Nottinghamshire in support of the RMTGB was completed in 1984 and raised over £1m. Since then, these donations have been used to support children and young people such as those highlighted in this brochure, including many from this Province.

During the past five years, we have supported xxx young people in Hertfordshire at a cost of almost £650k. We have also assisted xx young people through our TalentAid scheme.

Through our support for Lifelites, we have also contributed to the provision of fun and educational technology at the Helen & Douglas House and Keetch Hospices which care for children and families from the local area.

Please help us continue our support for children and young people in Hertfordshire and beyond.



**Ellie** is 17 years old. Her Freemason father died nine years ago. We provide Ellie with a regular maintenance allowance to ensure that she has all the things she needs during her education and recently supported an opportunity for her to join her classmates on an overseas school trip. We were also able to provide an undergraduate scholarship to Ellie's elder sister Sarah during her time at University.

# Relieving poverty, advancing education

## Who do we help?

We aim to relieve poverty and advance the education of children and grand children of Freemasons who have suffered a distress; a life-changing event such as the death of one or both parents, family breakdown, redundancy or disability of a parent, which has resulted in financial hardship. We can also help children and young people from Masonic families with severe disabilities. The vast majority of our beneficiaries live at home and attend their local state school.

## How do we help them?

Our assistance is always focussed on the child and is tailored to meet their specific needs. Support is provided in the form of a package of financial grants which usually consists of regular maintenance allowances or other grants for specific items such as computers, school uniforms and the cost of music or sports lessons. Older children can also receive grants to support apprenticeships, higher or further education or to pursue other life-changing opportunities.

In addition to our financial support, each family receives a visit from one of our Welfare Advisers in order to ensure that they are also receiving the state benefits to which they are entitled and are able to access other services which may assist them such as counselling, family therapy and education or careers guidance.

**Each year, around 2,000 children and young people from Masonic families receive our support .**

## The impact of our support

The financial and welfare support we provide to children and young people aims to reduce the impact of the tragedy and hardship they have experienced, often from a very early age.

Our support aims to enable higher academic attainment, improved standards of day-to-day living as well as better life and employment prospects. Each year, around 2,000 children and young people from Masonic families receive our support at a total cost of over £10m each year.

## Supporting exceptional talent

Our TalentAid scheme helps children and young people who are exceptionally gifted in music, sport or the performing arts. The scheme assists families that are unable to provide the financial support necessary for their child to pursue a career in one of these fields.

Through the scheme we award grants to assist with costs such as professional sports coaching, advanced music lessons and the purchase of one-off items such as a musical instrument or sports equipment.

# Supporting other young people

After discharging our duty to children and young people from Masonic families, we can also help non-Masonic children. We currently support over 10,000 non-Masonic children in two ways.

## Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones is a grant-making scheme which aims to help break the link between poverty and the lack of access to education. Through the scheme, we provide grants to charities and programmes working to alleviate poverty and improve educational outcomes for children and young people who face financial hardship and are educationally disadvantaged. Grants allow charities to offer children and young people like Thomas (opposite) a brighter start to life and a better chance to succeed with their education.

## Lifelites

Lifelites (Charity No. 1115655) is the only charity in the UK that provides cutting-edge specialist technology packages for babies, children and young people in children's hospices, including nearby Helen & Douglas House and Keech Hospice Care.

Most children in hospices are not expected to reach adulthood and will have severe disabilities. Lifelites harnesses the power of technology to provide opportunities for the children to make special memories, play with their brothers and sisters or simply to have control over something, often for the first time.

After installing new equipment at Helen & Douglas House in 2013, Lifelites are determined to do the same for Keech in 2014. iPads and eye-tracking Eyegaze technology will, in particular, be a revolution for Hertfordshire children in hospices, giving them more ways to participate and get creative than ever before.

Originally founded as our millennium project, Lifelites became a charity in its own right in 2006, providing it with the opportunity to raise funds from Freemasons and other sources. The RMTGB supports Lifelites through the provision of office premises and accountancy services to help keep their overheads to a minimum, but we no longer provide any financial support or grants to fund its charitable work.





As part of our Stepping Stones scheme, a grant of over £18,000 was awarded to MERU, a charity which designs and manufactures specialised equipment for children and young people with disabilities that are so complex that no available equipment meets their needs. MERU told us: *“Without supporters like the RMTGB we couldn’t continue helping these unique children. We at MERU thank you. More importantly, the children thank you and that’s really who it is all about.”*

## Charlie, Daniel and Aidan

Charlie, Daniel and Aidan received our support when the recession took its toll on their Freemason father’s small business and it collapsed, leaving a devastating impact on the family’s finances. We provided maintenance allowances to ensure that the education and welfare of his children did not suffer during this difficult time.

In our experience, families looking to cut back their spending are often forced to sacrifice extra-curricular activities, but our support included grants which also enabled the boys to continue their favourite sports including swimming, football and cricket.

# Support the 2019 Festival

In order to continue our life-changing work, we rely on regular donations and support from those who take part in fundraising activities. You can help us in a number of ways.



## Use Gift Aid envelopes

We can supply Gift Aid envelopes which can be used for Alms collections, festive boards and other occasions; the envelopes allow us to boost eligible donations by 25%. Money boxes can also be provided to collect small change at events or Masonic centres.

## Organise fundraising events

Fundraising and sponsorship events can raise vital funds; these can range from long-distance cycle rides and marathons to social events such as white table evenings and quiz nights. We have teamed up with Virgin Money Giving to allow our supporters to raise funds online.

Visit [www.rmtgb.org](http://www.rmtgb.org) for more information.

## Leave a legacy

By remembering us in your will you can make a lasting difference to the lives of children who have suffered distress and tragedy.

## Promote the Festival

We can supply promotional materials, posters and banner stands for use at Masonic centres and fundraising or social events. We can also arrange for a speaker to attend Lodge meetings or other appropriate events to speak about the work of the charity.

## Stay up-to-date

Our website contains up-to-date information about our work for donors, fundraisers and Charity Stewards.

Visit the website regularly: [www.rmtgb.org](http://www.rmtgb.org) where you can also sign up to our mailing list, follow us on Twitter and find us on Facebook.



## Lilly

Lily is 19 years old and a talented footballer. She began playing football at the age of five and went on to captain England at youth level. In 2010 she was offered the opportunity to join the Arsenal Ladies Academy, but her family – including her Freemason Grandfather – were unable to meet the full cost of her travel and accommodation. Our TalentAid grant ensured that Lily could seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and continue to develop her promising sporting career. Lily is currently on-loan from Arsenal and plays as a striker for Brighton and Hove Albion where she recently received the club's Player of the Year Award.



## Relieving poverty and advancing education for 225 years

### **Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys**

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### **Grand President**

HRH The Duke of Kent, KG

### **President**

Mike Woodcock

### **Chief Executive**

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