

A MOST WELCOME GIFT FOR THE CYPRUS AUTISM ASSOCIATION

The Cyprus Autism Association, based in Limassol, is the only one of its kind in Cyprus and caters for the needs of 20 children, ranging in age from 5 to 31 years, affected by autism. The Society was desperate to update their minivan, which had seen better days, and when W. Bro Dick Leach, Charity Steward of Dionysos Lodge, told District about their plight it immediately went into action. As a result of efforts by the Freemasons of Cyprus a new minivan has been purchased for the Association.

The Minivan will be officially handed over to the President of the Association, Mrs Tasoula Georgiadou,



who will be accompanied by Mrs Maria Kostaki and Mr Savvas Lazarou, at a Band Concert, to be held at Paphos Harbour on 19th June. The concert has been a regular charity fund-raising event for the past three years and this year the concert is being given by the Band of the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell. Up to 2,000 residents and tourists attend these concerts, which always generate a large sum of money for Cyprus charities.

The Autism Association will make good use of the minivan, which can seat up to 7 people. Mrs Georgiadou has expressed her sincere thanks to District for the gift of the minivan, which will carry the logos of both the Autism Association and the District of Cyprus, and said that it will be used to transport day care residents between their homes and the Association's premises, and to leisure activities such as the local swimming baths.

AN EXCELLENT EFFORT FROM CYPRUS FREEMASONS

During the past 12 months the following local charitable organisations and other worthy causes have benefited from the generosity of Cyprus Freemasons.

Toys for Underprivileged Children
St George's Children's Home
Cyprus War Veterans Association
Royal British Legion
Friends of Paphos Hospice
St John the Baptist Old Peoples Home
Friends for Life
Children's Ward, Paphos Hospital
Akionides Charity, Nicosia
Motor Neurone Patients
Disabled Blind Students
Margarita Liasidou Home
The Samaritans
Cyprus Parkinson's Disease Society
Cancer Patients Support Group
Anglican Church, Paphos
Cyprus Autism Association
Paphos Brownies
Cyprus Alzheimer's Society
Intensive Care Unit, Paphos General Hospital

In all a total in excess of £70,000 was donated to these organisations.

INTERNATIONAL HELP

Cyprus Freemasons do not only concentrate their efforts on local charitable causes; they are also involved in helping worthy causes overseas. A total of £20,000 Sterling was collected to assist the victims of the tragic tsunami disaster in the Far East. There is also a long term commitment to raise additional money to assist the affected people of the area in the rebuilding of their communities.

More recently a considerable sum was raised to assist those left homeless after the devastating Pakistani earthquake.

Editor: John Finney would be pleased to receive articles, news and photographs for publication: finney@cytanet.com.cy

For details of Freemasonry in Cyprus contact
Email: dgscc@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy
Web: www.cyprus-freemasons.org.cy



Charity around the District

The Newsletter of the
District Board of Benevolence



Welcome to this first issue of the District Board of Benevolence Charity Newsletter, which is intended to publicise the excellent charity work carried out by Lodges and Chapters. The success of the Newsletter depends on your regular contributions, and we have had a very good response to our requests for articles. In this issue we have reports from a number of Lodges, which clearly demonstrates the good work being done by Charity Stewards and the generosity of members – keep up the good work.

John James,
President of the District Board of Benevolence

FREEMASONS IN PAPHOS WORK TOGETHER FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

Agapinor Lodge started the year with a Spring Dinner and Dance followed shortly afterwards by a Horse Racing evening, a popular event involving everyone, which always raise lots of money. Following a St George's Dance, another successful annual Golf Day and Dinner Dance was held with many local companies offering sponsorship. The event was arranged by W. Bro Maurice Stephenson and his wife Wendy, and through their efforts a great deal of money was raised.

Dionysos Lodge went 'off-road' for their first event, a trip to the Last Castle Taverna on the Akamas peninsula for a traditional souvla and the usual mind-boggling quiz set by a brother with a twisted sense of humour. In contrast two opera Nights were held in the home of W. Bro Ian Stephen, who gave interesting commentaries on the music provided. One of the highlights of the year was the Poppy Promenade, where money raised goes to The Royal British Legion and the Cyprus War Veterans Association.

Both Lodges came together for their traditional Christmas Party, at which brethren donated toys for the under-privileged children in the area. The Almoners of the Lodges work very discreetly with the Social Services Department to arrange a visit from Father Christmas, who distributed a total of 130 toys to the children. In addition the ladies from both Lodges raised substantial amounts of money for local charities at the dinners they traditionally hold on the Lodges' installation nights.

ST GEORGE'S LODGE HAS AN EXCELLENT CENTENARY YEAR

During its centenary year over half the money raised went to The Akionides Charity, based in Nicosia, which aims to assist families afflicted by severe illness or who are on welfare and have children needing help with their education, particularly those living abroad.

Additionally the Lodge also provided the first computerized communication system for motor neuron patients, and equipped a special room for blind, disabled students at their school.

Recently the Lodge sent 18 local children on a 6 weeks recreational programme, which was thoroughly enjoyed by them all.

To add to all this the Lodge was also able to make a considerable donation to the Samaritan Fund.

LODGES IN THE EAST OF THE ISLAND HAVE A BUSY YEAR

LORD KITCHENER LODGE HELPS ALL AGES

At the Lord Kitchener's Lodge Christmas Toy Party no less than 230 toys were on show, which had been bought and donated by members of the Lodge for distribution to under-privileged children. Mrs Dimitas, the Welfare Officer, thanked the Lodge members for their generous gifts and said the toys would be given to the children in her care.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the Old Peoples Home of St John the Baptist were desperate for a new cooker and turned to the members of the Lodge for help. Within a very short time a top of the range cooker was purchased by the Lodge and installed in the home.

The children of St George's Home can now rest easy in the two special beds purchased by the Lodge. Finally, the local community will benefit from the donation of a dialysis machine by the Lodge to Larnaca Hospital.

AN EXCELLENT YEAR FOR OTHELLO LODGE

Othello Lodge has had a busy year supporting local charities. A local orphanage benefited from a new fencing fitted around their playground and improvements to the playing surfaces. With the help and advice of the local Social Services Department food was purchased for families in need by means of collections on Lodge rehearsal nights.

Donations were also given to the St Spyridonis Children's Home and the Drug Rehabilitation Centre in Larnaca. Closer to home the Lodge helped one of their widows with her medical treatment for a broken hip.

The Lodge also works closely with Lord Kitchener Lodge in supporting worthy causes in the Larnaca area; in particular the purchase of a Kidney and Dialysis machine for Larnaca Hospital, and assistance to St George's Children's Home. In early summer both Lodges will be organising a trip to the Vouni Donkey sanctuary for about 25 under-privileged children in cooperation with Social Services.

Thought for the day

*"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give"*

Winston S. Churchill

APOLLO LODGE WIDOW CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

W. Bro Mick Dawson, the Almoner of Apollo Lodge, called in at the Constantinou Clinic in Limassol on Friday 24th February 2006 to visit Margaret Nowell, who was celebrating her 100th birthday in fine style with Champagne and traditional birthday cake with over 100 of her friends. Surrounded with bouquets of flowers, cards and other gifts she was pleased to show her birthday card from Her Majesty The Queen.



Margaret, pictured here with her daughter Pauline, was a concert pianist and is the widow of Sqn Ldr Len 'Shorty' Nowell RAF, who became a mason in 1939.

In retirement they lived in Erimi and 'Shorty' joined Apollo Lodge in 1985. Unfortunately 'Shorty' passed away in 1987. Margaret and her family are great supporters of Apollo Lodge, especially in the social events when raising funds for the various Charities, which is much appreciated by all members of the Lodge.

The main fund-raising event of the District Jubilee year was the presentation of an Intensive Care Unit to the Paphos General Hospital at a cost of CYP £36,000. It was officially handed over to Dr Phylactis Constantinides by the Most Honourable Marquess of Northampton, the Vice President of English Freemasonry worldwide, at a Grand Gala Charity Ball held at the Hawaii Grand Hotel, Limassol on 3rd December 2005. Dr Constantinides said 'if the intensive care unit were to save just one life, it would have been money well spent'.