

MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION AGM
THURSDAY DEC 12TH

As one of the two Worcestershire MCF members, I attended the Annual General Meeting at Great Queen Street today. This was followed by the MCF members meeting.

(David Dey, our other member, having attended the General Meeting on Sunday 22nd July, at the Royal Masonic School for Girls., at a weekend, - it seemed only fair for me to partake of a nice buffet lunch , after experiencing Quarterly Communications in the Grand Temple)

- What' s the difference? – **The AGM** is an opportunity for the President , Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Executive to give their reports to the Trustees, receive the Accounts and generally get through business.
-
- **The Members meeting**, as emphasised by Richard Hone QC, the President of the MCF, - is a chance to define the role of Members within their Provinces, (building on work done at the Summer meeting,) to inform Members about governance, changes in the RMBI Care strategy, And to receive a presentation from one of the Members about Age Uk and a Masonic Community partnership. – And, a chance to ask questions!

The AGM

Money continues to be donated by the MCF– 50% to non Masonic charities :

In July 2018 - £25,000 to Plan International UK to help the in Guatemala Volcano emergency.

In September 2018 – Kerala Floods - £ 10,000 to the District Grand Lodge of Kerala , and £10,000 to Plan International UK.

In October 2018- Indonesia Tsunami- £35,000 to the British Red Cross, and £35,000 to Plan International UK.

- and we are **still** asked about rolled up trouser legs and secrecy!

The Members meeting

Difficult to give more than a taster of this meaty meeting.

Provincial and Metropolitan Members are to – hopefully, receive information at the same time as their Rulers and Secretariat, and sufficient time will be allowed before the grants are given to the Charities so that there is an opportunity for publicity. (Not always the case now! In some Provinces Charities who have had their cheques aren't keen to attend public presentations.)

Getting the Message Across : It is hoped Members will give short lectures at Lodges, and we were given website info to enable us to get started. If you have a gap in your Lodges work, ask us!

We were given an impact statement – 9380 phone calls and emails were received from people asking for help!

£12.3 million of support was awarded through 6,762 grants to Freemasons and their families .

The figures kept coming – £8.5million awarded to 770 local and National Charities!

£10.6million paid into the Masonic Relief Chest, with £1.4million of Gift aid!

But it wasn't all about money ; the RMBI presentation explained that they are changing their emphasis from providing Nursing Care Homes, which are hard to staff, to assisted living units, with a focus on supporting the elderly to live independently, but with restaurants social areas etc., on site.

This is what is proposed for Worcester.

However, unfortunately the RMBI is currently focused on upgrading four of its current units before developing new ones. The response to my question about Worcester , was essentially – don't hold your breath.

They are, however, pleased that all of their homes are in the top 5% of facilities.

Finally, the value and support of the MCF staff was emphasised. There are active training programmes, and the aim is to upskill . However, this does mean that staff become more attractive prospects for recruitment by other companies and charities.

Bill Tucker, MCF Member