

GROUP NEWS

DONATION BY FESTIVAL LODGE NO 8123 TO ROYAL PRESTON HOSPITAL, MEDICAL REHABILITATION UNIT

Following a recent extended stay in the newly opened Medical Rehabilitation Unit of Royal Preston Hospital by Douglas Plank, a member of Festival Lodge No 8123, it was decided by his lodge, to donate certain items of furniture to the sparsely furnished Day Room. The facility was originally based at Sharoe Green Hospital but in May 2004 the purpose built unit was opened on the main site. The unit comprises of three wards, Barton with 22 beds, Bleasdale with 22 beds and Fell View, which specialises in stroke cases, with 18 beds. The patients are referred to the unit from the main hospital via the unit's Consultants and can stay in the unit for as long as necessary. It was through this process that W Bro Plank spent several weeks in Barton Ward and observed that the Day Room, which only contained four chairs and a table, required some extra comforts.

A combination then of Festival Lodge, Preston Group, and individual efforts succeeded in furnishing the room to a very comfortable standard. The items of furniture were purchased from Argos who when informed of the worthiness of the recipient also made a contribution.

On Thursday 10 February Ian Greenwood, Group Chairman, George Wood, MBE JP and Steve Bolton, IPM Festival Lodge No 8123, visited the unit to officially hand over the furnished Day Room and to symbolically unveil a small commemorative plaque on the wall. The Ward Manager, Judy Gill and her staff met, and thanked them, on behalf of the unit for such a generous contribution to the welfare of the patients and the ambiance of the room. Unfortunately Douglas Plank, who was the prime mover of this charitable effort, was unable to attend owing to illness.

George Wood, who constructed a bird table for the unit courtyard and Jim Hewitt, who donated two of his excellent paintings, made individual contributions to the charitable effort.



Royal Preston Hospital, Medical Rehabilitation Unit



Nurses central control station for the facility



George Wood with Judy Gill, Ward Manager, standing next to the donated bookcase



From left to right W Bro George Wood, Judy Gill, Ward Manager, Ian Greenwood and Steve Bolton



The donated corner unit



The group admiring the bird table made George Wood in the courtyard of the facility



One of the pictures donated by Jim Hewitt



A small plaque on the wall of the Day Room to commemorate the donation