

GOOD NEWS FROM THE WEST LANCASHIRE FREEMASONS

ALF SHORT HOSPICE WALK CHEQUE PRESENTATIONS

In June of 2004 Alf Short undertook a heroic charity walk, visiting all sixteen hospices in the Province of West Lancashire and raising, with Gift Aid, a staggering total of £63, 489.

The culmination of this walk for the Preston and Leyland Masonic Groups was a cheque presentation on Thursday 4 August 2005 to St Catherine's Hospice in Lostock Hall. The amounts donated to the hospice's Janette Appeal were £1000 from the Preston Group, this figure being £822 from the Alf Short Walk donations with the remainder being contributed from the Preston Group Charity Account and £850 from the Leyland Group. The cheques were presented to Jim Brash, the Head of Care at St Catherine's' Hospice by the two Group Chairman, Ian Greenwood, Preston Group and Dennis Onslow, Leyland Group. Also at the presentation was Cliff Hughes, Chairman of St Catherine's Hospice.

The Janette Appeal aims to raise £200,000 for furniture and fittings and coincides with St Catherine's twentieth anniversary and their endeavours to raise £500,000 to improve the inpatient accommodation.

In addition to the presentation at St Catherine's there was a second presentation on Tuesday, 9 August at Derian House, this time involving three Groups, Preston, Leyland and Chorley. On this occasion the cheques were presented to Trevor Briggs, General Manager Derian House by the three Group Chairman, Ken Shaw, Chorley Group, Dennis Onslow, Leyland Group and Ian Greenwood, Preston Group. Trevor Briggs gratefully received the Chorley cheque for £1,878, the Leyland and Preston donations of £950 and £822 respectively.

After the presentation Trevor Briggs explained to the three Group Chairman that Derian House admit patients from a large area, which encompasses Penrith in the north to Cheshire in the South with the majority of patients coming from a 45-mile radius. The patient age range is from babies to 21-year-olds and not all are suffering from cancer but many have degenerative diseases.

Trevor thanked the Chairmen for the Masonic support, not only the monetary donations but the time spent by local Masons who maintained computer equipment and other facilities.



In the centre of the two photographs is Alf Short who walked over 200 miles visiting all the hospices in the Province of West Lancashire raising a staggering £63,489. The left hand photograph shows Trevor Briggs, General Manager Derian House (second from left) holding cheques presented by, from left to right, Ian Greenwood, Preston Group Chairman, Denis Onslow, Leyland Group Chairman and Ken Shaw, Chorley Group Chairman. The right hand photograph shows Jim Brash, Head of Care, St Catherine's Hospice (centre) receiving cheques for the Janette Appeal from Dennis Onslow, Leyland Group Chairman and Ian Greenwood, Preston Group Chairman (right)

Article compiled by:-

Tom Ashcroft, Communication Officer, Preston Group
Kevin Pickard, Communication Officer, Leyland Group