



The Man with the Teddy Bear

Gary Turner is a member of the Technical Lodge and on seeing pictures on the television of the devastation caused by the Tsumani, he took out a loan to cover his mortgage for a few months and set out quite independently to see what he could do help. The following article by Ibu Kat appeared in the press:

Gary is a big man, tall and bear-like with large, capable hands. He arrived in Ubud on the first day of February to volunteer for service in Aceh, an elderly teddy bear tied to his belt.

The staff at IDEP was delighted to see him. For Gary is a seasoned Disaster Management Logistics Specialist, his skills honed by a career in the British military. He unstrapped Tiger, the bear, and sat him gently on the table beside him. "Tiger and I are retired now," he stated, conceding that he took some flak for carrying a teddy bear in the Marines. "We've

seen a lot of action together. Now we're looking for action of a different kind - helping people put their lives back together. Especially the kids." Learning of IDEP's initiatives in Aceh from another ex-Marine living in Bali, he decided to join forces with the Ubud-based NGO. He plans to stay a year, or as long as he can be useful, at his own expense.

What inspired Gary to make the long journey from Yorkshire to Indonesia? A few days after the tsunami he was watching the news on television. A picture flashed on of three small orphans sheltering under a cardboard box in the devastated city of Banda Aceh. A devoted family man, Gary thought about the wonderful Christmas he had just enjoyed with his wife, children and grandchildren. The big man found himself in tears. "I have to go," he told his wife. Without looking at a map or knowing exactly how he might be of assistance, he began to make plans to travel to Sumatra. Three weeks later he landed in Bali.

Only two days later Gary was on his way to Banda Aceh in company with an IDEP project manager. While Sam liaised with local agencies, Gary prowled what was left of the city. Then he heard that there was a relief ship at the docks restocking for a trip to the tsunami-struck coast. Less than a week after leaving Yorkshire, Gary and Tiger were aboard the *Batavia*.

The *Batavia* had been running emergency aid along the Sumatran coast for several weeks. Gary was in his element. A logistics expert, he helped plan the loading of the boat with donations from Operation Blessing, Mentor and other agencies. "We didn't sleep for 40 hours," he recalls. "Volunteers from Green Camp helped us load several tons of aid by hand using only a small passenger ramp. We took aboard 8,000 food packages, building materials, treated tarps, spraying equipment for mosquitoes and several Boston whalers to offload supplies."



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The Man with the Teddy Bear continued

The ship sailed the next night for Lhokkruet, about halfway between Banda Aceh and Calang. They arrived at dawn to a scene of utter devastation. Gary pauses before describing his first impression. "It was spooky. There was no one around. Not one building remained standing. Most of the debris had been swept away by the wave, and the sea bed had risen to cover the footings of the buildings."

Lhokkruet had been a thriving coastal town of about 6,000 people on December 25. When the *Batavia* dropped anchor, about 30 survivors remained; the others had retreated into the hills above the shore. Over the five days *Batavia* was at Lhokkruet off-loading aid, about 1,000 people wandered down from the hills. Five-sixths of the population had disappeared.

The Indonesian government had raised three big tents to shelter supplies, and Gary soon had a team of men building floors in them to protect the aid supplies from damp. "Then I had a look

at the shoreline and realised we needed a dock before the Boston whalers could land safely. The closest place we could build a dock was 1.5 km from the tents, so there was still a long haul over rough ground to offload the supplies." It was hard, hot work. They used scrap wood and fallen trees to create a sturdy dock that is still being used by other boats.

Gary and the rest of the crew toiled through the hot days digging latrines, clearing one well and locating a new one. He encouraged three small boys who had been hanging around to help build the community kitchen. Two of them were orphans. "I found them little tasks to do, like finding bricks in the rubble. Every morning they would turn up, three little faces smiling up at me. Tiger and I made them laugh. I felt that even if I could take their minds off it all for a few days and let the joy in again, it made the trip worth while."

It was time to move on. Gary caught a flight with Mission Aviation Flyers to Muelaboh on a single prop plane that used a straight section of surviving road

for a runway. A day later he flew to Medan, where he used his own money to purchase and ship the equipment necessary to clear the new well in Lhokkruet.

By the time he arrived back in Ubud he was sunburned and several kilograms thinner. Tiger was distinctly grubby. Gary took a group of tired IDEP volunteers on a de-stress weekend to Sanur. I washed Tiger and dried his stuffing in the sun, then Wayan carefully mended his unravelling seams and carefully knotted a little *poleng* sarong and sash around his stout middle. "So the Aceh people will know he's a Bali bear," she explained.

"What do you want to do now?" we asked Gary. "Take a rest, maybe go to the mountains?"

"I want to go back," he replied immediately.

Gary and Tiger were last seen headed to Surabaya to check out a new relief ship before heading back to Aceh. A big man with a big heart, doing good and making the children smile again.

Royal Chapter No. 643 Charity Lunch

Royal Chapter No. 643 hosted a charity lunch on Sunday 31st October 2004 when a cheque for £600 was presented to Sue Ledden, the local representative of Macmillan Nursing by the First Principal of the Chapter, E Comp Don Smith.

The occasion was held at the Filey Masonic Hall, which was full to capacity, and was presided over by Don and his wife Myrtle, who had organised the event. The numerous guests included the President of the Filey Rotary Club, the President of the Lions Club, the Vice-President of the Probus Club and the WMs of Portus Felix Lodge No. 6712 and Royal Lodge No. 643. E Comp Philip Harrison PGStdB proposed the toast

to the ladies and guests, which ended in a hearty rendition of the Visitor's Song by the Masons present.

The guests were entertained with popular solos and duets by Janina and Steve Bywater which were enthusiastically received. The event received a write-up in the local press, with a photograph showing Don Smith presenting the cheque to Sue Ledden. Don said "This was something new for us, but we felt that we had to do something to benefit the community".

Well done Don, the event certainly brought our Masonic charitable contribution to the notice of the community at large.

Masons Spread Festive Cheer

Three groups in Filey have benefited from the generosity of the Portus Felix Mason's Lodge to the tune of over £600, and as a pre-Christmas present they were presented with equipment to improve the facilities even more.

The three were the Methodist Church playgroup, the relatively new Filey Boys' Brigade and Filey Foords Cricket Club's junior team.

John Norton, who was the Worshipful Master of the Lodge during the time the money was raised said "we had a strawberry tea at the home of one of our members in Filey and the money raised for that usually goes to charities. I wanted to give something to youngsters in the town so I had a word around and found these three were keen to have some new equipment."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Provincial Church Service

This year's Annual Provincial Church Service will be held on Sunday 23rd October 2005 at the United Reformed Church, York at 3pm.

Provincial Lecturer

A short list has been produced and the Authors invited to present their Lecture to the Rulers, prior to the announcement at Provincial Grand Lodge on Saturday 21st May 2005.

The Lecturers selected are:

"The sacking of the Masonic Temple in Jersey by the Nazis in 1941"

Howard Potts – Acklam Lodge No. 6248

"Masonic Firing from Muskets to Metaphor"

Rod Taylor – Beverlonian Lodge No. 9084

"To Employ and Instruct"

Les Sinden – North York Lodge No. 602

"Our Passport to the World"

Kenneth Pratt – Alcuin Lodge No. 6300

Proposed New Installed Masters Lodge

A petition has been submitted to United Grand Lodge for the formation of a new Installed Masters Lodge to be called the "White Horse Lodge of Installed Masters" to meet in Northallerton.

The Consecration date proposed is Saturday 15th October 2005, to be held at the Golden Lion Hotel, Northallerton.

Middlesbrough Lodges Charity Presentation Evening

The annual presentation evening will take place on Thursday 19th May 2005 at the Masonic Hall, Roman Road, Middlesbrough.

In previous years this evening has been an enormous success, and it is anticipated Lodges will have a combined sum in excess of £10,000 to be presented to more than 20 different charities.

The evening very much revolves around the presentations by the Worshipful Masters of the Lodges and W Bro Alan Brundall, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, will be in attendance to support the event.

Eboracum Lodge

"Well done indeed!"

Congratulations have to go to the Eboracum Lodge No. 1611, for their magnificent efforts in regard to the Tsunami Appeal. In just five weeks they raised the very significant sum of £1,800 which has gone to the Grand Charity special account.

Editor's note: "Is this a record?"

George Walker MBE

Congratulations to W Bro George Walker – Sykes Lodge No. 1040, who has been awarded an MBE for services to the community in Lund. W Bro Walker was Master of Sykes Lodge in 1999-2000. An honour well deserved.

John Shearer

At the regular meeting of Portus Felix Lodge No. 6712 in January, W Bro John Shearer PPJGW was presented with a Certificate to commemorate 50 years service to Freemasonry.

In replying to his toast he read a poem which was sent to him by his mother, just before he was installed as Master of Lodge Mackinnon No. 1531 in Mombasa in 1961. It was read out during the ceremony and has appeared on that Lodge's Summons ever since. The poem is certainly worth reproducing again:

Are you an active mason, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just content that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meeting? To try and do your best?

Or do you stay at home and criticise the rest?

Do you take an active part? To help the "Craft" along?

Or are you satisfied to be the kind that "just belong"

Think this over Brother, you know right from wrong

Are you an active Mason, or do you just belong?

Hog Roast

The Caedmon Lodge No. 6965 Annual Hog Roast will be held on Sunday 17th July 2005, at Long Leas Farm, by kind permission of W Bro and Mrs J. B. McNeil.

THORNBOROUGH FREEMASONS

Thornborough Freemasons held an open evening at their Lodge in Leyburn on Wednesday 9th March followed by the 'Festive Board' at Tennant's sales room.

Over 40 visitors were shown around the Lodge and given an insight into the Freemasons role in the community, part of which is based on charitable giving, this was demonstrated when the present Master Philip Busfield presented Gerald Hodgson £250.00 for new instruments for Leyburn Band, also in the picture is W.Bro Alan Brundall APGM representing Provincial Grand Lodge.

The second presentation was to David Eaton – the Head of the Wensleydale School with a cheque for £250.00 towards I.T equipment for the School this was made by W.Bro Peter Coates

who was master last year, W.Bro Alan Brundall APGM representing Provincial Grand Lodge oversees the proceedings.

Anyone interested in freemasonry should contact Terry Alsop [secretary] 01969 624242.



HEARTFELT THANKS FROM CASTLE HILL...

Mr. James Ryan, secretary of the Castle Hill Hospital Cardiac Support Team (informally known as the Zipper Club) was pleased to receive a £200 cheque towards the purchase of a transoesophagus heart echo machine at Castle Hill Hospital, Hull. The donation was made by W. Bros Terry Lynn and Eddie Wildman of the

Daggards – a team of Hull-based Freemasons who enact an eighteenth century initiation ceremony amongst other presentations. Pictured with Mr. Ryan is W. Bro Lynn PPGJD. The Daggards support local charities, but recently sent £600 to Grand Lodge towards the Tsunami appeal.



Provincial Communications Committee

The first Area Meeting for Lodge Information Officers was held at Roman Road in Middlesbrough on Saturday 22nd January 2005, when 16 Lodges from the Dales and Middlesbrough were represented.

After some opening remarks from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, there were presentations on both internal and external communications, the value of Lodge Newsletters and the role of the Area Information Officer. The session came to a conclusion with a lively Question and Answer session.

On Saturday 19th February 2005, the Area Information Officer for Beverley and Driffield arranged an

informal meeting for Lodge Information Officers at The Beverley Arms Hotel. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master attended the meeting and was greatly impressed by not only the enthusiasm, but also the forward thinking of the delegates.

A further meeting was held at Scarborough Masonic Hall on Saturday 5th March 2005, which was for all Lodge Information Officers from Whitby, Scarborough, Filey and Bridlington.

A meeting for Lodge Information Officers in the York and Ryedale Area will be held at Castlegate House, York, on Saturday 23rd April 2005.

Zetland Lodge

The following donations have been made to charity:

£150 is to be given to Great North Air Ambulance

£250 to the Cleveland Alzheimer's Residential Centre.

£100 to the Guisborough Priory Project

£1500 has been given this year to the RMTGB 2006 Festival (Zetland total is now £21,500)

Eboracum Lodge

Len Birkinshaw has been a member of Eboracum Lodge for 60 years and to celebrate this he was presented with a letter of congratulations which had been personally signed by the Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent.

Kingston Lodge and the Humber Rescue

The photograph shows (on the right) W Bro Ollie Newton, a Past Master of the Kingston Lodge, presenting a cheque for £2,800 to David Roberts the senior member of the Humber Rescue. This was the sum raised in Ollie Newton's year in the Chair of the Lodge to

purchase items of essential equipment for the Service.

This Rescue Service is manned totally by volunteers and has one of the busiest rescue boats in the UK. The Service is based at the Hessle foreshore on the Humber estuary and is completely dependent on

voluntary financial donations to maintain the service, which covers an area of some 540 square miles, including the Rivers Trent, Ouse, Hull and Humber.

Also in the photograph from left to right are: Bro. Denis Headley-Green, Bob Atkin and W Bro Ray Grove.

Charity Lunch for Hospice

At the end of January James Greaves, WM of the Kirkleatham Lodge held a Charity Sunday Luncheon in aid of Zoe's Place Baby Hospice. The venue was the Middlesbrough Riverside Football Club. It was attended by 100 brethren, their families and friends, the fact that there were a number of young children really added to the friendly, family orientated atmosphere. After the lunch John Halliwell showed off his skills as an auctioneer when a fantastic array of donated prizes were snapped up by the assembled diners. As James works for B&Q and had been pushing his stores for donations many of the brethren were seen walking away clutching power drills and the like. Funnily enough most of the bids seem to have come from the wives with many of their menfolk

receiving instructions on what jobs lay ahead of them. Of note was a most generous bid of £500 for a radio which was then promptly given straight back to the Hospice for use by the children and parents. At the end £2000 was raised, further boosted by a donation of £1000 from B&Q making a grand total of £3000. Hospice Manager Mark Guidery was there as Guest of Honour to receive these donations. He was overwhelmed by the generosity of the brethren and stated that the Freemasons of the surrounding area had been fantastic in their support over the last 2 years. The high quality facilities and food at the venue were commented on by all and could certainly be recommended to Lodges looking for event venues.

Craft Appointments and/or Promotions to Grand Rank

First Appointments

Name	Rank
His Honour Judge Peter Hammond BOWERS	AGReg
Raymond Gregory SNAITH	PAGDC
John Arnold THROWER	PAGDC
John WOOLWAY	PGStB
Christopher BODSWORTH	PAGStB

Reappointments

John Edward MOORE	Pres,RMBI
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Promotions

	From	To
Jeffrey GILLYON	PSGD 04	PGSwdB
Alan BRUNDALL	PGStB 00	PSGD
John Ridgill TROUT	PAGReg 04	PSGD
Derek Nigel BRODERICK	PAGDC 95	PJGD

Chapter Appointments and/or Promotions to Grand Rank

First Appointments

Name	Rank
David Harold William SCOTT	GStB
Jeffrey GILLYON	PAGDC
Christopher Norman TINDALL	PAGDC

Reappointments

Iain Ross BRYCE, TD, DL	2ndGPrin
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Promotions

	From	To
Richard John ANDERSON	PAGSoj 03	DepGSwdB
Rev Edwin Thomas CHAPMAN	PGStB 96	PAGSoj

Square Wheel Club

This year we are planning a Treasure Hunt/BBQ, a trip to Newby Hall Historic Vehicle Rally/auto-jumble, anyone not wanting to go to the Rally can enjoy the house and gardens instead. We have just held a very enjoyable Sunday Lunch at The Forest and Vale in Pickering, this is a yearly event but a different venue each time. We always try to arrange a variety of events and are careful not to make it too car orientated. We attempt to select events that our lady members will enjoy (would you believe that the ladies enjoyed driving through rough terrain on the Langdale Quest). Ideas come from the members, past events have included The Langdale Quest a 4x4 experience, thoroughly enjoyed by all, Connought Court where a display of cars was shown, Eden Camp, Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington, Croft Autodrome.

The club has 20 members plus their ladies and new members would be more than welcome. Giles Young is our Chairman, any one wishing to join can contact our membership secretary:

Maurice Beazley

216, West Dyke Road,

Redcar. TS10 4JS

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at The Central Hall, University of York, Heslington, York, on Saturday 21st May 2005 at 11am.

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

The answer is not only to be found in the large number of books written on the subject, but should also be clear to see during meetings in our Lodge Rooms. Yet how many of us when asked, find it difficult to provide a succinct or even coherent answer to the question?

“Freemasonry is the UK’s largest secular fraternal and charitable organisation”
(Source - United Grand Lodge of England)

“Freemasonry is the business

of being happy and promoting happiness through charity, good behaviour in life and the constant consideration of others.” (Source - *W Bro Les Sinden, North York Lodge No. 602*)

Just two examples, but do you have a view? The Editor will be pleased to print your (short) definition in the next Newsletter and “A Reference Book for Freemasons” written by Frederick Smyth and published by QCCC awaits the most imaginative entry.

Wheelchair-User Makes History for De La Pole Lodge (1605)

Wheelchair-User Makes History for De La Pole Lodge (1605)

Stewards are normally run off their feet - but 1605 is proud to have a “wheelie” excellent Steward who regularly “burns rubber” on Lodge nights in Beverley Road tearing around the premises in his trusty steed. Dave Hawkins is a paraplegic as a result of a road traffic accident in 1980 and wheelchair bound, but has been a Steward for the past 12 months and is now

undertaking another stint under the new Worshipful Master.

Have any other Lodges have wheelchair users? It would be good to know.

Dave was initiated into De La Pole Lodge on 10th January 2002, and in company with Ben Kelly was passed at a Double Second Ceremony on 9th January 2003. Both Dave and Ben were raised at another Double Ceremony on 13th August 2004 to become Master Masons.

Wreath Laying by Middlesbrough Masons

On Remembrance Sunday wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph, Middlesbrough and the Parish Church of St. Cuthbert’s, Ormesby by members of Ferrum Lodge, on behalf of all Middlesbrough Lodges. This initiative was introduced last year by the FITC Committee for Middlesbrough Freemasons (which still meets regularly to consider ways of improving the image of Freemasons through Community based initiatives) and a schedule has been prepared which will result in responsibility for laying the wreaths resting with a different Lodge each year. Last year, the first year when a wreath was laid, it was done by members of North York Lodge, the oldest Lodge in Middlesbrough.

De La Pole (1605) Ladies Circle

De La Pole (1605) Ladies Circle
The De La Pole Ladies Circle meets on the second Friday of the month (to coincide with Craft Lodge evenings) at 7pm in the Beverley Road Masonic premises, Hull. We feel that ladies usually only see one another on special social functions (i.e. Ladies’ Nights) and it is nice to meet during the year for a friendly get-together. If any ladies would like to join us and have further information, please contact Pat Longney, Hon. Secretary on 01482 852126.

Provincial Annual Golf Competition held at Catterick Golf Club on 23rd June 2004

Lodge	Team Members	Points
Lennox	M.C. Clayson, C. Nicholson, R. Towner	90
Caedmon	M. Eglon, P. Caffry, S. Grisedale	82
Lofthouse (1)	J. Taylor, D. Clements, C. Gorman	80 Back 9
Camalodunum	P. Annetts, G. Wainwright, P. Howdall	80
Thornborough	T. Alsop, P. Busfield, R. Williamson	78 back 9
Alcuin	G. Slater, B. Snowball, M. Salter	78
Coatham	D.W. Baines, R. Beeforth, T. Wilson	77
Humber	K. Parry, C. Evans, L. Ward	74
Handyside	J. Prest, L. Horner, M. Bishop	73
St. Cuthberts	K.C. Stevenson, C.G. Hayles, D. Lines	70 Back 9
Lofthouse (2)	I. Wardman, D. Bint, R. Hall	70
Ferrum	B. Hill, E.D. Levie, B. Lewis	69
Anchor	S.W. Gorman, J. Hayes, T. Twiggs	66

Connaught Court Masonic Bowling Club

Important Message to all members of the Masonic Lodges in York

Despite the rumours to the contrary the bowling green at Connaught Court is still in use. I am pleased to say that I have negotiated with RMBI during the last 12 months, and continuity of bowling has been agreed irrespective of planning approval being agreed for the proposed development on the site. If development goes ahead, a new bowling green will be provided before the existing green is developed for housing.

The club invite members from the Lodges in and around York to give the game of bowls a try at two Open Days on Sunday 29th May and Saturday 25th June (same day as the Garden Fête). We also have non-Masonic members, so if you have a friend or member of your family who is interested, please bring them along as well. Contact W Bro Ken Lippett on 01904 762 817 or e-mail antiken@btinternet.com.

We were once again very lucky with the weather, as the forecast was for thunder storms and heavy rain, but in fact we managed to complete the competition before the heavens opened. Perhaps the Great Architect of the Universe was looking kindly on us. The day appeared to be enjoyed by the 39 competitors who took part, making up 13 teams, which unfortunately was 10 teams fewer than the previous year. We were given a friendly welcome from Catterick Golf Club, who were to be congratulated on the excellent condition of the course, which again proved testing.

The winners for the second year in succession were Lennox Lodge with a brilliant score of 90 points. This was helped by the contribution of 41 points by M.C. Clayson who won the individual prize by virtue of a better back nine holes than R. Williamson of Thornborough Lodge.

Further details of this annual competition can be obtained from:-

P.J. Busfield, Corner Stones, Redmire, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 4EH. Telephone No. 01969 622357

WHITE ROSE CARAVAN COMPANIONS

Our year started with the AGM in October 2003 when the meeting was attended by 60 people. Having completed his two year term of Office Paul Hayton retired as Chairman, and Barry Mason was elected, with Barry and Hilda Gregson being elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The winter lunch was held in early March and for the second year running we went to the Village Inn in Brompton with an excellent meal being enjoyed by more than 60 members.

The caravanning season started towards the end of March when we visited The Alders in Alne (near York). This is a very good site as we have electricity to warm our caravans, and a nice warm clubhouse in which to gather during the evenings, which can still be cold this early in the year. We had planned to visit Harrogate in April but discovered late in the day that

there were problems with the proposed site and hurriedly rearranged the rally to Lockside in Ripon. This was a new venue but was enjoyed by all those who went, including a hilarious line dancing evening on the Saturday.

Further problems arose when the owner of our proposed site for the Provincial AGM in May advised us that he had dug up most of the land to locate mobile homes! After a hurried search we discovered York Touring Caravan Park, which proved to be a first class site with full facilities only six miles from the university for the big day. The month of June saw the club dividing, with one group going to the Dordogne (where one member lost his keys returning at night from a trip to Rocamadour and had to break into his own caravan, only to discover that he had left the roof open and the beds were soaking wet!). The

other group spent a pleasant five days at Hutton-le-Hole in the North York Moors National Park. July saw us in Keswick and August was the summer rally in the Grounds of the Masonic Hall near Chester. The photographs of a certain Grand Lodge officer and his lady in full Chinese costume for the party night could be available for a small fee! The September rally was once again at Ripon to coincide with the Jazz at the Brewery night and October saw us back at Alne for the 2004 AGM.

Rallies in 2005 are planned for Pickering, Runswick Bay, York, The Loire (France), Beeford, Keswick, Carsington Reservoir (Derbyshire), Ripon and Alne.

If you are a member of the North and East Yorkshire Province, have a caravan, and enjoy good company then come and join us - you will be most welcome. Just contact the secretary for details.

THEATRE GROUP

Once again we started the year with our annual return visit to the Theatre Royal York, to see Berwick Kaler in "Mother Goose's Silver Jubilee". The usual three hours of gags, slapstick and mayhem was once again preceded with a light three-course meal in the Theatre Restaurant prior to the performance.

In March 2004, we visited the Georgian Theatre at Richmond, to see a production of "Confusions". This particular visit was kindly organised by W Bro J.D. Bagley of the Lennox Lodge. This delightful little Theatre opened its doors in September 1788. It was not unusual for actors to be masons, and Masonic Lodges were generally loyal and generous supporters of the players. Indeed it is recorded that in October 1801, The Lennox Lodge of Freemasons visited the Theatre to see Morton's "Secrets Worth Knowing" and many of the actors are recorded as having visited Lennox Lodge.

In June we visited the Stephen Joseph Theatre at Scarborough for a production of "I ought to be in Pictures", and once again members dined in the superb restaurant within the Theatre.

In January 2005, yes, we returned once again to visit the Theatre Royal York, to see "Sleeping Beauty" starring Berwick Kaler and the Theatre Royal Gang, and for our 25th Theatre Club Visit we returned again, for the York Light Opera Company presentation of Cole Porter's "Anything Goes".

Finally on a sad note, the Theatre Club members were sad to learn of the recent death of W Bro John Beal PPJGW, who died on the 21st February 2005. A regular attendee at our Theatre Club visits, he was a true Gentleman who greatly enjoyed the Theatre Club visits, since its formation in 1997. This charming Freemason will be sadly missed by us all.

Alan Brundall

THE GREAT NORTH RUN 2004

(A view from the Wives, Friends and Brethren of Falcon Lodge)

A question often asked of intrepid volunteers is "do they never learn"? The answer in short, NO. Six ladies including the President of Thirsk Soroptimists, three Lodge members and a three-man support team set out from Thirsk to tame this massive event, yet again. The sponsorship raised will be over £1,000 which will be donated from the Soroptimists to "Walk the Walk" research into the treatment and care of breast cancer, local charities and Festival 2006.

Transport was provided from the Thirsk Mini Bus Association, a local initiative to provide transport for many worthy local organisations. The Association raises funds in the community and is regularly supported by Falcon Lodge, including the fact that two members of the Lodge are Trustees. From the team of twelve only

one is a recognised athlete, but "finishing is winning" and participating the bye word in the world of Charity Fund Raising.

As is usual, themed costumes were worn. Is this to attract attention, funds, to be recognised on the telly or to satisfy a sense of exhibitionism? What was the theme? Decorated bras!!!! Oh dear, Oh dear, Oh dear, and at least one highly conspicuous wig. Photographs are reported to have been taken prior to the event to prove attendance, however nobody has as yet seen photos to show completion. They did finish, in times ranging from 1 hour 39 minutes to 3 hours 45 minutes.

They plan to do it again in 2005 which is the 25th anniversary of the Great North Run: for all who participate and support, start planning and finding sponsorship now.

Yorkshire North and East Masonic Bowling Association

The Association enters its eighth season this year and I am hoping we will be 'back on track' or should I say, back on the green, after the rain affected matches last season.

The Province is divided into eight districts and the President's Trophy donated by W Bro Geoffrey Clarke is contested on an annual basis by teams of 4 to 6 bowlers in each district. The district team can be made up of bowlers from different Lodges. We also have an annual challenge match with Durham Masonic Bowling Association. Members from districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are urgently required. We do not have any bowling members in districts 3, 4, 6 and 7 and only 5 members in district 5. If you are already a bowler or wish to learn the game and are interested in joining us, please contact W Bro Ken Lippett on 01904 762 817 or e-mail antiken@btinternet.com for further details. Membership is only £2.00 per season.

Districts are:-

- District 1 Great Ayton, Middlesbrough, Stokesley and Yarm
- District 2 Guisborough, Redcar and Saltburn
- District 3 Bedale, Leyburn, Northallerton, Richmond and Thirsk
- District 4 Helmsley, Malton, Pickering, Scarborough and Whitby
- District 5 Easingwold, Strensall and York
- District 6 Escrick, Howden, Pocklington and Selby
- District 7 Bridlington, Driffield, Filey, Hornsea and Withernsea
- District 8 Beverley, Hull and Sutton-on-Hull

Ken Lippett
(Secretary YNEMBA)