

Well, that's a potted history of Freemasonry, but what of today's Freemasons?

Freemasons have been giving to charitable causes for a very long time raising many millions of pounds, and are still busy raising funds for charity.

Every so often, Festivals are instigated with the aim to raise funds for charities. The Province of Surrey was tasked to raise money to help finance 18 care homes run by the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. These homes are open to the public as well as Freemasons and provide care and assistance to the elderly. The Province of Surrey raised £34m, greatly exceeding its target.



All manner of events were held to achieve the target. Surrey Freemasons undertook challenges like Sky Diving, the Trip Wire Challenge, Abseiling down tall buildings, running in half-marathons, as well as the more ordinary fund-raising events like BBQs, Charity Balls, Race Nights, and a host of others events.



Lodges also work hard to

raise money for local charitable causes. It could be that a youth football team needs equipment, or a mobility scooter perhaps for a disabled person, or even a mini-bus for a childrens' charity. Many hundreds of thousands of pounds have been donated by lodges in Surrey for the benefit of charity.

One great charity, dear to the hearts of many Freemasons, is Teddies for Loving Care. This charity originated by Freemasons gives young children, when they visit a hospital or an A&E Department, a teddy bear. These bears are a great comfort to



young children who are perhaps a little frightened of the strange clinical environment.

And it's not just Surrey, all over the country Masonic lodges are supporting charities



Funds were raised for air ambulances, fire engines, and response vehicles, all donated by London Freemasons, and Provincial Masonic Provinces.

There have been many thousands of famous men who are or have been Freemasons. Can you name these? See back page for answers.

