



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

BARRIE HEWITT RECEIVES THE BADGE OF THE ORDER OF MERCY



W Bro. Barrie Hewitt and RW Bro. Mike Wilks at the Mansion House, London.

On Tuesday 11th July 2017 W Bro. Barrie Hewitt, PAGDC, was presented with the Badge of the Order of Mercy by Lord Lingfield, President of The League of Mercy at the Mansion House, London. Also present were Barrie's wife Christine, Provincial Grand Master Mike Wilks and his wife Kay, and W Bro. Les Hutchinson, Chief Operating Officer of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The presentation ceremony was followed by an informal tea with the Sheriff of the City of London, Lord Lingfield and the Trustees of the League of Mercy.

W Bro. Barrie, who lives in Titchfield, received the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution over the course of six years as Provincial Grand Charity Steward, to the 2016 Festival which raised over £7,746,000 for the benefit of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. Barrie drove hundreds of miles around the Province to attend numerous Lodge meetings and deliver his presentation about the Festival in order to encourage brethren to support it by making contributions and organising fund-raising events.

At a National level, Barrie attended annual Festival Forums, giving advice and sharing his expertise with Provincial Grand Charity Stewards across the country.

As well as working tirelessly for the Festival, Barrie also managed the Province's 'Teddies for Loving Care' and carried out his other duties as Provincial Charity Steward..

W Bro. Barrie has been a Freemason for over thirty years and was appointed to the Grand Rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2013.

The Provincial Grand Master said, "I am so pleased that Barrie has been honoured in this way by a non-Masonic organisation which recognises distinguished voluntary work across the country. Barrie was one of just 25 to receive an award this year – a great accolade to a dedicated and committed Freemason".

The League of Mercy was founded in 1899 by Royal Charter of Queen Victoria at the instigation of the then Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. The object of the League was to establish a body of volunteers who would assist with the maintenance of voluntary hospitals and otherwise relieve sickness and suffering. Central to the activities of the League was an annual ceremony at which about fifty people were awarded a medal known as the Order of Mercy. When the 1948 National Health Act abolished these hospitals, the League was quietly wound up.

The League of Mercy was re-founded in 1999 as a registered charity, exactly 100 years to the day after it was first established. Central to its aims are "the encouragement and recognition of distinguished voluntary work within the areas of care, which include the sick, injured or disabled, young people at risk, the homeless, the elderly, the dying and those who are impaired in mind".

Each year the League receives many nominations from charities and other recognised organisations from which the Trustees select about 25 outstanding volunteers, who are then invited to receive the Badge of the Order of Mercy. This is a hallmarked silver gilt representation of the original 1899 design.

