

MERIDIAN

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NEWSLETTER OF SEATON VALLEY LODGE 6239



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Carl Taylor left being presented with the cheque by E Comp W. Armstrong PProv AGDC

ASTLEY R.A. CHAPTER



No.2997

Consecrated 29th June 1910

When Astley Royal Arch Chapter closed last year due to lack of Companions coming forward to fill the Offices the account was in good stead and the Money that was left after all bills etc were paid was to be split within charities.

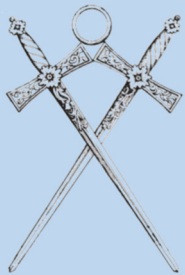
A cheque for £500 made out to Friends of Scarborough Court and was presented to their Duty Manager Carl Taylor by E Comp W. Armstrong PProv AGDC 3rd Principal J.

This cheque of £500 is the first of two major donations - the other is TLC which has yet to be organised.



Scarborough Court, situated in Cramlington, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institutions care home providing support for older Freemasons, their families, and people in the wider community with residential care, nursing and dementia support, across the Provinces of Cumberland & Westmorland, Durham and Northumberland.

INNER GUARD



When the Worshipful Master wants to open a Lodge, the first thing he does is to ask the Junior Warden whether the Lodge is secure. But why ask a Warden, when the Inner Guard is stood next to the door? It goes back to the operatives. In the old days, Operative and Guild Lodges, didn't have an Inner Guard, so it was the Junior Warden, got up and went see what the Tyler wanted. The word guard or guardian, has the same origin as the word Warden and means 'a keeper or attender'. The first recorded instance of the use of a 'Door Keeper' to keep out all Cowans and intruders, was in 1734, at the Old Kings Arms Lodge No. 28. It was probably the most recent member, the youngest apprentice, or a brother appointed by the Junior Warden. He operated under the control of the Outer Guard or Tyler, and was recorded as an 'assistant to the Tyler'. Like the Tyler, he was entitled to receive an allowance (Don't ask). In the minutes of the Lodge of Honour and Friendship (1838), it is recorded a Brother: 'Was made an allowance of one shilling for each Lodge night, and one shilling for every newly initiated Brother, to take on himself the office of Inner Guard and to assist the Tyler'. He also had a dispensation from the Provincial Grand Master and was initiated without a fee; oh, how things change! It was only at the beginning of the 19th century that the 'Door Keeper' or 'Inner Tyler', began to be called the Guarder or Guard; and it was only in 1814 that it was officially recognized as an Office, and five years later that he got a Jewel; 'The Crossed Swords'. With a new Office came a new Ritual, which continued the old practice of asking the Junior Warden to see that the Lodge was secure, but now he stayed in his place and used a 'go-between'. Yet that same Inner Guard then reports direct to the Worshipful Master, when a Candidate is presented and described. Another link to the old days it, when it was the last Initiate who manned the door, received the candidate, and reported directly to the Master. Again, we see the ancient practices been kept; all part of the delight of Freemasonry.

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Cedarwood

Nutrure - Nourish - Thrive



£60,000 Grant Helps Cedarwood Trust Prepare North Tyneside Children for School

Around 160 local children and more than 200 parents and carers will be receiving help and support in preparing for the first day of school, thanks to a grant from Northumberland Freemasons to the Cedarwood Trust charity in North Shields. This £60,000 grant will enable Cedarwood to continue delivering vital early years education and family support to children aged 0-5 and their families in North Tyneside.

The Flourish Family Service provides a safe, nurturing environment where children can develop essential cognitive, social, and emotional skills to prepare them for school and beyond. Through activities like music and movement, creative play, and outdoor exploration, the service helps young children meet key developmental milestones. At the same time, it supports mums, dads, and caregivers by offering parenting workshops, peer-led sessions, and expert guidance on topics like weaning, potty training, and managing tantrums.

The Freemasons' funding ensures that families who face barriers to accessing high-quality early years support will continue to benefit from Flourish. This support is not just about the children – it is about strengthening families. Parents and caregivers will gain the confidence and knowledge they need to create positive home environments that promote their children's growth and well-being.

The grant from Northumberland Freemasons comes through the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which is funded by Freemasons, their families and friends, from across England and Wales.

Wayne Dobson, CEO of the Cedarwood Trust, said:

“This funding is transformational. It will help us make a lasting impact on families, reducing social isolation, improving school readiness, and building a stronger community. We're deeply grateful to Northumberland Freemasons for their commitment to helping us support some of the most vulnerable families in our region”.

Norman West from Northumberland Freemasons, said:

“I'm very pleased we've been able to support the Cedarwood Trust with their hugely important Flourish Early Years project. By helping children with both quality early education care and healthy eating options, they will be far better placed when their formal education begins. Children only have one chance at getting a good education and Cedarwood are helping them take full advantage of it”.