

## Freemasons of York Charity Presentation Evening

On 14 November 2009 eight of York's Masonic Lodges hosted their first combined charity presentation evening with no less than eleven local York charities being invited.

The honoured guests of the evening were The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of York, Councillor John Galvin, the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Valmai Galvin, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Bill Fisher and his wife Di

The function was held at the Masonic Hall in St. Saviourgate, York.

The proceedings commenced with a warm welcome from the York Freemasons to all their guests. An initial address by the Asst. PGM was warmly received after which dinner was served to over seventy people.

After dinner, The Lord Mayor was invited to say a few words. He said that he was very appreciative of the excellent work that the Charities of York were doing to help people in the local community. He also expressed his delight to see the Freemasons of York donating money to so many good local non-Masonic causes.

A presentation ceremony then took place with each Lodge presenting their donations to their respective charities. The Lord Mayor was invited to present the donations to Brunswick Organic Nurseries and York Against Cancer on behalf of the lodges concerned, these charities being the Lord Mayor's nominated charities for his year in office.

Bill Fisher then presented a cheque to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance organisation on behalf of the Grand Charity. This was part of a larger donation of £180,000.00 which the Grand Charity in London had made to all the Air Ambulances throughout the country.

After the presentations had finished an announcement was made as to the total amount of money that the eight lodges had presented over the past year to over thirty local charities in and around York. This total amounted to £35,134.00.

The evening concluded in the Lodge Room where all those present stood for an official photograph with the honoured guest of the evening, before which the Lord Mayor read an item from the programme for the evening which was as follows:

*"Freemasons are taught to practice charity and to care, not only for their own but also for the community as a whole, both by charitable giving, and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals."*

