

MIDDLESBROUGH FREEMASONS ON SHOW.

On a very hot and humid day members of the Freemasonry in the Community Committee for the Middlesbrough Lodges spent Saturday 22nd July 2006 at the Cleveland Show, Stewart Park, Middlesbrough promoting Freemasonry. The heat of the day meant that the 'normally expected' dress code was relaxed. Some Brethren did, however, ensure Masonic tradition was followed by rolling up their trousers (wearing shorts really) to reveal their legs!

Members of the public at the Show, of which there were an estimated 8,000 were able to study Photographs, read Display Boards, collect Information Packs and talk to members of the Middlesbrough Lodges as they passed the Stand. Anyone with a greater interest entered the Marquee to view the Display Boards inside. Interest exceeded the expectation of the organisers and some members of the public requested further information. Committee members will pursue their requests.

In addition to the Display Boards about Freemasonry in Middlesbrough there were Display Boards about Freemasonry on a Provincial, National and International perspective. The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys provided their own display.



Contributions from all bar one of the Middlesbrough Lodges and a cheque from the Provincial Grand Master's Discretionary Fund financed the cost of the day.

At one point in the day there was concern that the number of people in the Marquee were about to exceed the Marquee's physical capacity. Initially those Brethren at the back of the Marquee thought this was all due to the presence of the Provincial Grand Master and the Deputy

Provincial Grand Master who were in attendance at the time. Comments from those at the front of the Marquee however revealed that the overwhelming sudden interest was as a result of a very heavy thunderstorm not the presence of our rulers. The support of the rulers in attending was however greatly appreciated by the organisers.

In addition to Middlesbrough residents there were visitors from other parts of the United Kingdom, South Africa and Australia. Numerous visitors said how impressed they had been with the display and what a great idea it was.

The unanimous view of all the Brethren who had worked on the initiative, and been present on the stand, was that it had been a very successful day and one worthy of being repeated, which hopefully it will be.

Special thanks go to Brother Bob Harvey who took the photographs and produced the display boards about Freemasonry in Middlesbrough.

Having been the Chairman of a very progressive F.I.T.C. Committee for Middlesbrough Lodges for over four years W.Brother Barry Hill is now standing down to allow someone else to bring new ideas to the fore.