

Magic in the air

During his year in the chair of Lennox Lodge 123, Chris Nicholson and his wife Yvonne held an evening of close-up magic at their home in Middleton Tyas near Richmond to raise funds for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Nearly 100 people attended the event - with about half being from non-Masonic families, who enjoyed wine and canapés whilst being entertained by a dazzling display of close up magic by Mike Donogue.

Also present on the evening was Martin Eades, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Air Ambulance who took the opportunity of the occasion to announce the prospective acquisition of a second aircraft specifically to cover North North Yorkshire.

Together with a later raffle the wonderful sum of £1500 was raised which was presented to Martin at Leeds /Bradford airport – the ambulance's current base by Chris and Yvonne together with Mike Clayson, Lennox's charity steward and his wife Margaret.

Martin showed his visitors the revolutionary Air Desk where the dispatcher has access to all the regional screens of the different ambulance authorities across Yorkshire. The Air Ambulance dispatcher can thus see in real time incidents developing and has the authority to scramble the helicopter himself without waiting for a request from the ambulance authority.



This cuts the time for despatch from an average of 8 minutes down to 2 minutes – which can be vital in life and death situations!

They take more than 1000 jobs a year -but miss 300 more; therefore the requirement for a second aircraft is urgent which will require further funding of £1.7 million!

Martin further explained that with two aircraft they are looking to site one in North Yorkshire and one in South Yorkshire and thus will be moving from their current base at Leeds/Bradford. This will increase response times even more.

Sadly and perhaps surprisingly the Air Ambulance doesn't qualify for Lottery funding and with all the exciting new plans and developments in train it will require substantial further investment, which no doubt Yorkshire freemasons will play their part in contributing to.

Martin added, "Over the five years of its existence Y.A.A has received support from many individual Lodges throughout Yorkshire. This latest donation from the Lennox Lodge is further evidence of the growing support and awareness that saves about 1000 lives per year in our region."

Editor's note: despite his best endeavours Chris was unable to persuade Martin, an unattached mason to join Lennox! He will in fact shortly be joining the Beresford Pierce Lodge in Bedale as a joining member having been 'poached' by his old friend Les Kirby the IPM!!

We all welcome Martin into the N & E fraternity.