

Mark Benevolent Fund Newsletter April 2012



Greetings Brethren,

Welcome to April's MBF Newsletter. This month we have a featured article from the Province of Durham who presented The Oaks Secondary School with £45,000 granted by the Worthy Causes Committee. If you have any cause you would like mentioned drop me a line at d.coleman@mmh.org.uk

Kind regards,

Darren Coleman

Mark Masons' Hall

www.markbenevolence.org.uk

020 7747 1187

This time we helped people in
the Provinces of

West Lancashire
Cornwall
South Wales
Staffordshire & Shropshire
East Lancashire
Leicestershire & Rutland
West Yorkshire
London

This time help was given in a number of different ways.

Help with daily expenses and a new TV.

A Brother's daughter needing help with a new window for her son's room.

Funds to help replace a boiler for a widow.

Help for a widow's living expenses and redecoration costs for her kitchen.

Help with heating costs for a Brother suffering from a recent heart attack and breathing difficulties.

At this meeting we considered 22 applications
for relief.

Grants were made to 15 Petitioners and the
total amount came to

£36,340

The next
meeting will
be on May 21st

Please make sure all
applications are
submitted in a timely
manner.

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Cash windfall means new bus for school

By Catherine Priestley

catherine.priestley@nne.co.uk

A SCHOOL is celebrating a cash windfall that will enable it to get a new set of wheels.

When The Oaks Secondary School, in Spennymoor, opened in September 2005 as part of a special needs education shake-up, it inherited three rundown buses.

After seven years of fundraising and generosity from local people the fleet is close to being replaced.

The school budget was used to buy the first new bus.

A second was bought after a range of fundraising activities and donations, including from the Friends of The Oaks School and sponsorship from Sleafy Hall Golf Club and The Variety Club.

The final piece of the funding jigsaw fell into place yesterday when The Mark Master Masons of Durham donated £45,000 to the school.

The donation can be used to buy a new coach and, if any cash is left, the school can use it for other projects.

Headteacher Andrea English said staff and children are thrilled because the buses were vital to enriching pupils' school life.

The Oaks, which caters for 11 to 19-year-olds with learning difficulties, needs vehicles with disabled access to take children on educational and



MANY THANKS: Andrea English, headteacher of The Oaks School, in Spennymoor, receives a cheque for £45,000 for a new bus from Peter Croft, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Master Masons of Durham

reward trips. The Masons donated the funds after the Freemasons of Spennymoor began supporting the school's bus appeal and neighbouring orders became involved.

When The Provincial Grand Master for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master

Masons of Durham, Right Worship Brother James Peter Croft, heard about the campaign he called for further action.

The Masons' board of benevolence agreed to wholly fund a new coach and Mr Croft presented the grant to staff and children yesterday.

Mrs English said: "We are extremely grateful for this fabulous donation, which will benefit all 250 of our young people.

"We understand that all of this money comes from Masons' own pockets and would like to thank everyone involved."