

An Evening of Elegance

And so it proved to be with Music, Song, Entertainment and Elegant Ladies in their finery with the men in their dinner suits. A table had been set up just inside the entrance which attracted many brethren to purchase the Festival Jewel, with associated donation, and cufflinks.



Donations and sales of both Cufflinks and Jewels exceeded £3,000.



As more and more people started to arrive, including our honoured guests RW Bro Michael Bailey (PGM East Kent) and Mrs S Bailey, RW Bro Ken Thomas (PGM Sussex) and Mrs M Thomas and VW Bro Hugh Stubbs President of the Masonic Samaritan Fund, we were treated to a medley of tunes as Barry Payne's fingers danced across the keys of his piano.

When everyone had arrived, all 194, the Toastmaster requested all to be seated for the gourmet dinner, during which we were entertained, by Suzanne Cornford, with a variety of "songs from the shows".



Further entertainment was provided by Iain Mortley and friends who went from table to table delighting people with their magical tricks.

Towards the end of the dinner a hush descended for the Loyal Toast following which Her Majesty The Queen, a.k.a. Mrs Jeanette Vane, arrived to wish everyone well in their endeavours.



The Provincial Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Brother Jonathan Winpenny, officially launched the 2015 Festival with a toast to the Masonic Samaritan Fund. The PGM announced that he and his colleagues had decided on a preliminary target figure of £2,250,000. He was also confident that this figure would not only be achieved but indeed exceeded.

The President of the Masonic Samaritan Fund, the Very Worshipful Hugh Stubbs, responded by outlining some of the challenges facing the Fund and details of the care and support provided to Freemasons and their dependents.

