

## **A Packed House at Dartford!**

The 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009 saw the launch of the West Kent 2015 Festival in aid of the Masonic Samaritan Fund and at the Dartford Masonic Centre more than 120 people attended the "60s Night" event which was one of six events put on around the Province.

The event was scheduled to commence at 7:30pm and by that time there was already a very healthy throng of people in both the bar area and the main hall.

Unfortunately, due to an issue with their Sat Nav (!) the band had not turned up and Colin Smith who had organised the evening began to panic! Then they finally arrived and quickly set about setting up.

Background music was played while they continued to prepare and the guests were tucking into the snacks put out on the tables while continuing to talk & drink.

We then moved on to the PGM's speech which was introduced by Doug Rainbird who was the Provincial representative for the evening. The audience listened intently to the speech after which Doug proposed a toast to the MSF and invited the MSF representative Malcolm Childs to respond.

Malcolm then gave a talk about the MSF, its aims and gave several examples of the good work it had performed. He encouraged the Brethren to both support and use the charity and wished the Province every success with the Festival.

Following this the buffet was opened and proved so popular that the catering staff had to hurriedly prepare more food, which was well received. The band then kicked off their first set of music.

As the night went on the dance floor filled with people enjoying themselves.

During a break in the music people were encouraged to view the MSF material & literature which was available in the main bar area and were invited to purchase Festival Jewels, Ties and Cuff Links, which several people did.

The music then continued up to midnight when the band played their final number, after which everyone started drifting home while commenting that a memorable and enjoyable night was had by all.

The event had raised over £470 for the MSF Festival Account and sold £750 worth of merchandise, not a bad effort!

*[Unfortunately, the main camera used at Dartford malfunctioned, so there are no photographs ... unless you know different! If you do have any photos of the event, contact the Dartford CIO, Colin Smith.]*