



THE FREEMASONS'  
GRAND CHARITY

## **Information Release**

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

### **£10,000 FOR CUMBRIAN FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS**

In response to the extreme flooding which has taken place in Cumbria, the President of The Freemasons' Grand Charity has approved an emergency grant of £10,000 to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland and Westmorland who are directing the funds to the Cumbria Community Foundation.

It has been estimated that 1,300 homes across Cumbria have been affected by flooding, with several hundred people displaced and more than 1,000 households left without power.

Environment Secretary, Hilary Benn, told the Commons "I saw for myself on Friday and Saturday in Cockermouth just what an effect the torrent of water had on homes, businesses and communities. It is utterly devastating."

Founded in 1999 by Cumbria Council, the Cumbria Community Foundation remains dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged people in Cumbria. The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund has been set up to provide financial help for people who have been affected. The first phase of grant making will concentrate on the elderly, disabled and families with children under five years old. The Fund will also assist community groups that are helping out with advice, information, counselling, and activities for children and young people. In 2005 The Freemasons' Grand Charity sent £5,000 in emergency funds to the Cumbria Community Foundation in response to the previous Cumbrian floods.

In parallel with support for wider relief efforts, The Freemasons' Grand Charity will be assisting individual Masons and their dependants, who have been affected by these events, through Masonic Relief Grants which are given to relieve hardship.

#### **Notes:**

*For further information regarding the Flood Relief Appeal please go to <http://www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk/> or contact Siobhan McCarthy at The Freemasons' Grand Charity on 020 7395 9385.*

**Visit The Freemasons' Grand Charity website at [www.grandcharity.org](http://www.grandcharity.org)**

**ENDS**