

Donation to the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (South Yorkshire) Ltd.

On Friday 29th July I was joined by Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager at Mark Masons Hall, and the Past Provincial Grand Almoner Wy Bro Peter Firth at the South Yorkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Catcliffe, Rotherham.

This is a small autonomous, self-help, self-funding charity founded in 1985. The primary aim of the centre is to provide Oxygen Therapy for people living with Multiple Sclerosis and other life debilitating conditions. They provide access to a range of beneficial, non-intrusive, drug free and complimentary therapies in order to support patients, their families, and carers.

The Centre currently provides help and support for over 200 individuals, and do not receive any Government or NHS funding. In order to maintain their services, they need to raise in excess of £110K each year.

As a result of an application from Wy Bro Peter Firth it was agreed to donate £1000 from the West Yorkshire OSM Benevolent Fund for the purchase of equipment required for the provision of pressurised Oxygen Therapy (Masks and Silicon Breathing Lines). The application gained 'Match Funding' from Mark Masons Hall and a cheque for £2000 was presented to the Centre manager – Julia Conlan-Greaves.



Centre Manager, Julia Conlan-Greaves pictured with R Wy Bro David Staniforth, Darren Coleman-Heald, Charities Manager at Mark Masons Hall, and Wy Bro Peter Firth.

Specialised Oxygen Therapy consists of breathing medical oxygen through individual face masks within a pressure-controlled Hyperbolic Chamber. This is the most

effective way to improve oxygen absorption and is widely used to help improve symptoms in many neurological conditions, head and spinal cord injuries and assisting in the healing of wounds and repair of muscle and tissue damage following cancer treatments.



The Pressurised Oxygen therapy chamber in use.

After the presentation Julia said, *“You have no idea how much this means to us at the centre – therapy is costly, and every penny will be used for the purchase of equipment so that we can provide support for more people who are vulnerable and really in need.”*

Following her treatment one of the centres users commented *“The treatment I get here is marvellous – it’s made a massive difference to my life - without this I am convinced I would still be in my wheelchair”*.