



www.Fest2029.co.uk

FESTIVAL FAQ's

Welcome to the Nottinghamshire Festival 2029! As we prepare to embark on this exciting journey of charity, entertainment, and community, we understand that you may have questions about the appeal. This document serves as your go-to resource for addressing the most common queries surrounding the Nottinghamshire Festival 2029. Read on to find answers to the Frequently Asked Questions that will help you make the most of this charitable mission.

What is a masonic festival?

A Masonic festival, is an event organised by Freemasons and Masonic lodges to raise funds for charitable causes. Freemasonry is a fraternal organisation with a long history of supporting charitable initiatives and engaging in philanthropic activities. Typically, each Province goes into festival once every 11 years. A Masonic festival typically involves various fundraising activities, such as dinners, galas, concerts, auctions, raffles, or other events where Masons and their guests come together to socialise, celebrate, and donate to charitable causes. These festivals may be organised at the local lodge level, or they may involve multiple lodges or the entire Province coming together for a larger-scale event. Masonic festivals are often seen as a way for Freemasons to demonstrate their commitment to charitable giving and to make a positive impact on their communities.

Who does it raise money for?

The MCF, or the Masonic Charitable Foundation, is a charitable organisation based in the United Kingdom. It is the national charity of the Freemasons in England, Wales, and the Channel Islands, and it provides support and assistance to those in need, including Freemasons, their families, and the wider community.

The MCF was established in 2016 through the consolidation of four Masonic charities: The Freemasons' Grand Charity, the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, the Masonic Samaritan Fund, and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. By merging these charities, the MCF aims to streamline operations and provide more effective and efficient support to those in need.

The MCF's charitable activities include providing financial assistance for medical treatment, education, housing, and care for older Freemasons and their families. They also support local and national charities in the areas of health and wellbeing, education and employability, and social inclusion. The MCF is funded through donations from Freemasons, as well as investments and fundraising efforts.

How can I contribute?

The aim is to make contributing as easy as possible; but we also realise that whatever we offer will not suit everyone, so there are several ways you can make your contribution to the Festival.

Please bear in mind that if you are a UK taxpayer, your donation is increased by 25% if you complete the Gift Aid details. It won't cost you anything as long as you pay more in tax than you donate under Gift Aid. And if you are a higher rate taxpayer you will get tax relief at your higher rate.

Setting up a regular payment means that you can then just enjoy the events knowing that your contributions will be dealt with automatically, and for the purposes of honorifics, your pledge of regular payments will count from day one.

The simplest way is to set up a monthly direct debit online by visiting www.fest2029.co.uk and clicking 'Make your pledge'.

We appreciate that not everyone is happy with electronic banking. If that includes you, there is a paper monthly pledge form available on the festival website (www.fest2029.co.uk). The website also has a form to enable a one-off donation. Your lodge's Festival Steward will also be more than happy to help you get set up.

If you wish to pay by Cheque, the best option would be to fill in a gift aid envelope with all your details and FEST2029 in the relief chest box, then hand it to your Lodge Festival Steward, the Hall co-ordinator for your masonic centre or drop it into the office at Goldsmith Street, where they have a box for the Festival Treasurer who will do the rest.

What are honorific levels?

The Province of Nottinghamshire wishes to acknowledge the generosity of its members by issuing Festival Jewels to all qualifying brethren. The Province fully understands that it may not be within every brother's means to qualify for the various honorifics and greatly appreciates all donations made.

- ❖ Become a Steward of the 2029 Festival by pledging a minimum of £480 towards the Festival Appeal.
- ❖ Become a Vice-Patron of the 2029 Festival by pledging a minimum of £720 towards the Festival Appeal.
- ❖ Become a Patron of the 2029 Festival by pledging a minimum of £1,080 towards the Festival Appeal.
- ❖ Become a Grand-Patron of the 2029 Festival by paying a minimum of £1,440 towards the Festival Appeal.

Partners may become a Steward of the Nottinghamshire 2029 Festival by donating a minimum of £50 (excluding Gift Aid).

How and when do I get my jewel?

Once you have signed up and pledged to donate towards the festival, your lodge Festival Steward will make arrangements to obtain your jewel which will be presented to you in open lodge.

Is there a target?

The Province fully understands that every brother's circumstances are different, especially in the current financial climate. Therefore, a decision has been made that there will be no targets set, at either Provincial or Lodge level. It is hoped that an alternative target of 'as many steward qualifying pledges as possible per Lodge'.

What are the partner jewels, and how can I get one?

Partners Jewels are available by donating either via the festival website, or the MCF website. Just log in and make a single minimum donation of £50.00 to the relief chest FEST2029 (plus gift aid), screen shot or provide proof to your Lodge Festival Steward or the Festival treasurer (Roy@Goldsbrough.co.uk) then the festival committee will get the jewel dropped off to you. To minimise spending, we won't be posting things, everything will be dropped by hand so this may take a short while.

Who can I contact for more information?

Your first port of call for any questions relating to the Festival appeal is your lodge's Festival Steward. If your Lodge Festival Steward is unable to assist, or if your enquiry is a little more complex, you can contact the Festival Committee by visiting our website at www.fest2029.co.uk/find-out-more, and send your query using the contact form, and someone from the committee will be in touch to try and resolve your query. Alternatively, you can email the Festival Secretary, W. Bro Jim Crossley at jimcrossley500@gmail.com.