

Cheshire Freemasons pioneer the detection of change in children



During one of his many visits to the local hospitals in his area, Macclesfield TLC representative, W.Bro David Hulme, had a brainwave. He was chatting with the paediatric Accident & Emergency Consultant, at Macclesfield General Hospital, and was surprised to discover that the department had to deal with many cases of children swallowing coins. 'We have four or five cases a week', said Dr Olivier. 'It's always a problem for us, as we have to know if the coin will pass through as nature takes its course, or if we have to operate to remove it.' 'X-Rays are not ideal for young children and it's a nightmare to get them to hold steady for the process.' This is when Dave remembered that two years ago, a Stockport Lodge had bought a hand held scanner specifically for this purpose. He immediately set out to buy two scanners for the Hospital. He also gave thought to how youngsters may react to the loud beeping noises made by the machine. He took one of the TLC teddy bears and had the word 'Penny' embroidered on the bib. A one pence coin was also sewn into the bear's tummy. This shows the child how the nurse can 'detect' the coin in the teddy, putting him or her at their ease when the scanner is used on them. Staff Nurse Vicky shows three year old Xander Potts how the scanner can help the poorly teddy. When asked about his condition, she replied with a smile and said 'There's no change'.

Shown above; Staff Nurse Vicky demonstrates the donated hand-held scanner on 'Penny' the TLC bear, in front of Xander and his mother Mrs Karen Potts.

Right: W.Bro Dave Hulme presents the hand-held scanner to Dr Otto Olivier.

Well done Dave!

W.Bro David Hulme of the Duke of Connaught Lodge, number 2961, hands over the scanner to A&E Consultant, Dr Otto Oliver at Macclesfield General Hospital's Causality Unit.

Several other Cheshire Divisions have shown an interest in replicating what David has done, and a West Yorkshire Lodge has asked Dave to supply two scanners.

If you would like to buy a scanner for your local hospital, you may contact David Hulme on 01625.423286, he will be pleased to help.



Little Xander Potts, with mum Karen, shows the demonstration teddy bear, 'Penny'.



The scanner has proved to be a great success with younger patients in Macclesfield.

'I really don't know how we managed without it' said staff nurse Vicky. 'It saves so much time and thanks to Dave's clever idea of using the Penny teddy bear, the whole procedure, which was quite frightening for young children, has now been transformed into a game, where they can participate.'

Dave says the most difficult part of the procedure is to get the children to relinquish the demonstration bear, 'Penny' after they have had their scan. 'Most want to take her home with them' he said. It is hoped that Dave's idea of the scanner and Penny the bear, will be taken up nationally in the future.