



## The Lodge of Melrose St. John No. 12

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### BYSS and 1 bis support local youths – October 2008.

Three local youngsters have benefited from financial assistance from the Lodge of Melrose St. John No. 12 and the Borders Youth Support Scheme (BYSS).

**Amy Fraser** from nearby Darnick is a promising young competitive swimmer who is among the highest achievers in her sport and already holds 4 Scottish records and has won, or has been placed, in many Scottish and GB competitions.

In addition to strength training several times a week, Amy trains in the swimming pool for 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the evening 6 days a week, her relentless hard work and self motivation has certainly paid off as the youngster is ranked No. 8 in Great Britain and is predicted to have a place at both the next Commonwealth Games and the London Olympics in 2012.

There appears to be few opportunities for sponsorship for competitive swimmers under the age of 16 even though it is in the younger age groups that swimmers start to develop their physique and dedication for continued achievement in the future. It is estimated that it can cost upwards of £3,800 to maintain and develop a swimmer of Amy's calibre.

Amy was awarded £150 from the Borders Youth Support Scheme and £100 from the Lodge of Melrose St. John No. 12 towards her swimming career and to help her achieve even better things in the future. Amy is pictured below receiving a cheque from the Right Worshipful Master, Bro. Bill Field, PM (left) and Bro. Jim Thornton, PM from The Lode of Melrose St. John No.12 and also from the Right Worshipful Master, Bro. Bill Field, PM (left) and the Provincial Grand Master Bro. Allan J. Marshall from the BYSS in the Lodge on 6th October 2008.



## **The Blain Twins**

Fourteen year old twins from Darnick, Liam and Kyle Blain, who are members of the South East of Scotland Explorer Scout Unit, wrote to the Lodge in April explaining that they were raising £1,500 each for a 4 week trip to Malaysia in 2009 where they will be working on various community projects.

The pair, who attend Earlston High School, are also members of the Melrose & District Pipes and Drums,

Galashiels Canoe Club, Scottish Borders Youth Orchestra, Wind & Chamber Orchestra and also appear in the Chorus at the Galashiels Opera.

Fund raising activities to achieve their target have included car boot sales, bag packing at the local Tesco and Adsa stores, busking and coffee mornings to name just a few.

In preparation for their trip they have been studying and learning about Malaysia and its culture as well as learning First Aid and attending training camps.

The Brothers were awarded £100 each from the Borders Youth Support Scheme and £100 each from the Lodge of Melrose St. John No. 12. Pictured above, they received their cheques in the Lodge on the 6th October 2008 from the Right Worshipful Master Bro. Bill Field, PM (left) and the Provincial Grand Master Bro. Allan J. Marshall. We look forward to a report of their adventures in Malaysia on their return.



The Borders Youth Support Scheme (BYSS) is operated as a sub committee of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Roxburgh, Peebles and Selkirk Shires and has awarded over £32,000 to 160 applicants aged between 11 and 18 within the Province since its creation in April 1994.