

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

Structure, governance and management

The Buckinghamshire Masonic Benevolent Fund was formed in October 1902 at the Provincial Grand Meeting in Freemasons' Hall, London.

The Fund is governed by the Trustees namely, The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who acts as Chairman, and two senior Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. The fund is managed by the Committee Members namely the Provincial Grand Almoner and the Fund Treasurer. The Provincial Grand Almoner is assisted by four assistant Almoners.

Financial review

The Benevolent Fund has an investment portfolio under management exceeding £2.3 million currently. The market has been turbulent during the year and our investments have remained static. This annual income is currently sufficient for the Provincial Almoner to assist Buckinghamshire Freemasons and their dependents in times of distress caused by unforeseen financial difficulties.

The Fund supports a loan scheme of mobility aids including electric scooter and stair lifts. The Fund also grants interest free loans to Buckinghamshire Freemasons when and where available.

Custodian trustee

The charity and its Trustees do not hold assets on behalf of others.

Public benefit statement

The charity Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Objectives and activities

The Fund is established with the object of relieving distress by means of outright grants, annuities or other periodical payments or loans (either free of interest or at low rates) for or towards:

1. The maintenance, clothing and education of necessitous children of necessitous or deceased Freemasons.
2. The vocational training and advancement in life of such children after leaving school.
3. The relief of Freemasons and their children and their wives and the widows of deceased Freemasons, all of whom are in necessitous circumstances.

Achievements and performance

During the year ended 30 April 2022 there has been a return to more levels of grant support requested; grants totalling £32,718 were disbursed to 102 Buckinghamshire Freemasons and their dependents. A number of these grants were one-off payments to help our members and their dependents at a time of financial crisis or emergency. The majority of the grants have been made to assist in the welfare and quality of life for those who would otherwise struggle to exist on the minimum income. The number of grants made to assist those affected by COVID has reduced to a single grant.

It is with a tremendous sense of gratitude that we acknowledge the additional support of The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) and the associated departments.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation has made 62 grants to our Brethren or dependants totalling £124,585, a decrease over last year (68 beneficiaries, £170,633)

The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution has expended £148,532 (average Charitable Spend) in support of five of seven Bucks residents in Masonic Residential Homes.

These figures highlight the continuing level of need being experienced by the Brethren and dependants of the Province and the amount of work required to arrange for applications to the Benevolent Fund and the MCF

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).

This report was approved by the Trustees on 24th October 2022 and is signed on their behalf by;

Dr S Knight
Honorary Secretary
112 Straight Bit, FLACKWELL HEATH HP10 9NA

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 200845

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2022

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Donations	913		3,358	
Dividends and Interest on Investments	-		27,665	
Interest on Bank Accounts and Grand Charity Relief Chest	-		38	
Investment drawdowns	50,000		-	
Total Incoming Resources	50,913	50,913	31,061	31,061
Resources Expended				
Charitable Payments:				
Annuities and Grants	15,112		20,918	
Donations	-		-	
Covid19 Emergency support	500		20,825	
Bank Charges	-		-	
Insurance	124		-	
Just Giving Fees	-		-	
Other Expenses	482		747	
Computer costs (Xero accountancy software)	374		346	
Scooter storage unit	-		-	
Scooter Collection and Delivery Costs	1,334		2,898	
Scooter Repairs and Servicing	2,458		2,865	
Stair Lift Installations and Removals	11,590		15,420	
Stair Lift Repairs	1,595		1,720	
Movement in stock of stair lifts and scooters	-		(340)	
Total Resources Expended	33,569	33,569	65,399	65,399
Net Incoming Resources		17,344		(34,338)
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on Investment Assets				
Unrealised	(38,121)		125,334	
Realised	-		64,191	
	(38,121)	(38,121)	189,525	189,525
Net Movement in Funds		(20,777)		155,187

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 APRIL 2022

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Investments at Market Value				
Novia	2,195,213		2,233,334	
	2,195,213	2,195,213	2,233,334	2,233,334
Current Assets				
Stock of Stair Lifts and Scooters	41,620		41,620	
Loans	-		-	
Bank Balances:				
TSB	43,495		26,211	
Cater Allen	776		716	
Grand Charity Relief Chest	102		102	
Income Tax Recoverable	-		-	
	85,993	85,993	68,649	68,649
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		-		-
Net Assets		2,281,206		2,301,983
Accumulated Fund				
Brought forward		2,301,983		2,146,796
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(20,777)		155,187
Total Funds		2,281,206		2,301,983

David Woodward DipFA
Hon Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND

I am reporting on the accounts of the fund for the period ended 30 April 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Philip Cole
Landmark Chartered Accountants
Leavesden Park
5 Hercules Way
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD25 7GS

Date 21st July 2022