

Banbridge District Masonic Charity Committee

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC101801

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st January 2023

The Trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for Banbridge District Masonic Charity Committee for the year ended 31st January 2023.

Objectives and Activities

The principal function of the Banbridge District Masonic Charity Committee is to raise funds through the various Masonic organisations within its District. It does so by promoting the benefits of fundraising to the various Masonic organisations, assisting them with collecting information about potential beneficiaries identifying other sources of income for those beneficiaries such as rates rebates or other forms of income. It does this through dedicated individuals within Masonic organisations in its district.

Potential beneficiaries are identified by the respective lodges and application forms completed and forwarded to the Charity Committee. These application forms are reviewed by the Charity Committee, collated and forwarded to the Down Masonic Widows' Fund.

The Charity Committee receives all funds raised by the Masonic organisations, collates, claims tax relief and distributes to the respective Masonic Funds for distribution to beneficiaries.

Achievements, Performance and Public Benefits

The Charity Committee through its Masonic organisations raised funds which it passed onto respective Masonic Funds, the principle fund being the Down Masonic Widows' Fund which supported widows from the District who together received £35,520.00 from that Fund.

With the relaxation and the eventual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions during the year, normal Masonic activities slowly returned to normal which has resulted in a increase of contributions from the brethren. In December the Charity Committee organised its annual family Carol Service which was a wonderful success and was attended by widows, Masonic and Local dignitaries, along with members of the general public and members of the Masonic Order.

Financial Review

The Charity Committee received £12,842.50 in Gift Aided Contributions and £8,651.70 in non Gift Aided Contributions and claimed £2,879.02 from HMRC by way of gift aid for the year. The committee distributed £26,507.22 to six Charities the main recipient of which was the Down Masonic Widows' Fund.

The Charity Committee intends to distribute as much of its receipts as possible less expenses. During the year the Committee received a number of small donation from each of the Masonic organisations within its district to defray expenses. The Committee has sufficient funds within its accounts to meet any costs for the foreseeable future.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the accounts for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Charity Committee can continue its activities and the financial statements for the year ended 31st January 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

The Banbridge District Masonic Charity Committee is governed by the Constitution and Rules as amended and adopted at a meeting held on the 31st March 2015 in Banbridge Masonic Hall, Church Square, Banbridge.

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Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st January 2023 (Continued)

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the Constitution and Rules the members as defined in that Constitution and Rules appoint annually the following to be the Board of Trustees: -

- President
- 4 Vice Presidents
- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- 2 Assistant Treasurers

Pay and remuneration

The Charity Committee does not pay or remunerate any Trustee or member of the Committee.

Organisational Structure

The governance, strategy, management and administration of The Charity Committee is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees elected in accordance with the constitution to act as Trustees of The Charity Committee. The Charity Committee meets twice a year and on any other occasion deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees.

Compliance with Public Benefit

The Charity Committee has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve The Charity Committee objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with income of less than £250,000 requires the Trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping account records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity Committee's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Charity Committee. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity Committee and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Chairman: Michael Robinson



29th March 2023

Secretary: Graham Walker



29th March 2023