

Arthur Square & District Masonic Charity Committee

(ASDMCC)

Trustees report for the year ending 31st December 2022.

Trustees, Officers and advisors

Trustees

David Savage (19.10.22)

Stephen Duffield

Dennis Wheavil

Lionel Clark

Paul Mann

HM Revenue and Customs and Charities Registration Number

XN44672

Chairman

David Savage (to 19.10.22)

Stephen Duffield (from 19.10.22)

Charity Commissioners Registration Number

NIC 102579

Vice-Chairman

Stephen Duffield (to 19.10.22)/ Vacant (from 19.10.22)

Treasurer

Paul Mann

Independent Examiner

Mr Cecil Wilson

Secretary

Dennis Wheavil

Gift Aid secretary

Lionel Clark

Sub-Committee

Registrar: David Beggs (to 19.10.22)/ Stephen Ruston (from 19.10.22)

Events Co-ordinator: Stephen Abrol

Information Officer: David Savage

Meeting Place

Masonic Hall

19 Arthur Square

Belfast BT1 4FF

Arthur Square & District Masonic Charity Committee

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Trustees report for year ending 31st December 2022

The trustees present this annual report, with an independently examined financial report consisting of receipts and payments account, a statement of assets and liabilities and the external scrutiny report from the independent examiner for the year ended 31st December 2022. The information with respect to trustees, officers and advisors set out in page 1 forms part of this report.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts under section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Statute, governance and management

The charity's governing document is a constitution. The charity is controlled and run by the trustees who are listed on page 1. The treasurer controls the daily transactions, which are authorised by the committee. The gift aid secretary verifies and applies to HM Revenue and Customs for gift aid with all monies going directly into the charity accounts. The trustees are proposed from members of the committee and ratified at the AGM on an annual basis, with the chairman and vice-chairman restricted to a maximum of three consecutive years.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which this charity may be exposed and remain satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to such major risks.

Objectives and Activities

The prevention or relief of poverty amongst widows of freemasons, relatives of freemasons or freemasons who are experiencing financial hardship, who are or were subscribing members' of lodges within 'The Charity Committee'.

At its discretion 'The Charity Committee' can provide financial assistance for other exclusively charitable purposes as defined in the Charities Act (NI) 2008

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Achievement and performance

The statement of financial activities is fully set out for the year ending 2022 on pages 1 to 4 in the financial report.

Total income for the reporting period was £19,549.24; total expenditure was £11,633.41 of which charitable income amounted to £19,398.33. Charitable income dispersed to six masonic charities a total payment of £11,351.34. Two of the masonic charities we contribute too merged in 2022 and whilst the merger is a success teething issues regarding money lodgements with then bank have forced us to delay dispersal, at their request. These payments will be made as soon as is practical.

The pandemic impacted yet again on our ability to hold a charitable activity in 2022 for the benefit of a non-masonic charity. Thankfully at time of writing this report I can confirm that this activity has successfully recommenced in 2023.

The financial implication of the pandemic lessened in 2022 with the relaxation of restrictions and their eventual removal. This resulted in a welcome increase in charitable donations.

The practical impact improved as well. We were able to meet during 2022 but with a reduced attendance, the membership taking a more cautious approach as guidelines from government relaxed the restrictions. The trustees met as was necessary to ensure administration, governance responsibilities progressed. We continue to work towards securing sufficient working capital in the governance account making us less susceptible to the vagaries of yearly donations. The pandemic continued in 2022 to delay our plans but hopefully going forward we will be able to realise this ambition.

The annual charitable activity, the breakfast morning usually held in April was a casualty of the pandemic; disappointingly it could not go ahead. This issue has now been resolved with the resumption of charitable activity in 2023.

At the end of 2022 financial year we have no funds in deficit.

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Reserves Policy

We do not hold a reserve in relation to charitable funds however given process times it will always be the case that some of the monies raised during current year will not be dispersed until early in the subsequent year. The reserves policy for our non-charitable funds is: 'To maintain a level of funds that will give us a stable basis from which to cover expected/unexpected costs of administering this charity over a three-year period.'

Investment Policy

All the charity's investment income arises from interest on bank deposits.

Plans for the future.

The committee will continue to provide for:

'The prevention or relief of poverty amongst widows of freemasons, relative of freemasons or freemasons who are experiencing financial hardship, who are or were subscribing members of lodges within 'The Charity Committee'.

At its discretion 'The Charity Committee' can provide financial assistance for other exclusively charitable purposes as defined in the Charities Act (NI) 2008'.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of another.

There are no funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

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Public Benefit Statement

The trustees of the charity remain steadfast with their aim to maximise the amount of money donated each year from:

- Masonic Brethren to support fairly and equitably those masonic charities that can best met the needs of our objectives.
- Masonic brethren to support other charities each year.

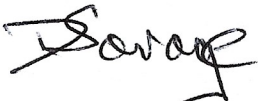
We further remain committed to helping masonic brethren make best use of both our Masonic charities and government benefits.

The trustees have had regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

During the year ended 31st December 2022 this charity was unable to engage in any charitable activities in furtherance of its aims for public benefit; whilst government restrictions eased during this year the membership took a more cautious approach.

Meetings were held with reduced numbers attending. We held our AGM in October 2022.

We contributed financial assistance to six Masonic charities.



David Savage



Stephen Duffield

Chairman 2019 – October 2022

Dated:

26/09/2023

Chairman October 2022 -

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Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee report and the financial statement in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

The attached financial statement summarises all monies received and paid via the bank and in cash by the charity during its financial year, along with a statement of balances and explanatory notes; as required under Sec 64(3) of the Charities Act (NI) 2008. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare, the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the trustees


Dennis W Wheavil

Secretary

Date: 26th September 2023