

Arthur Square & District Masonic Charity Committee

(ASDMCC)

Trustees report for the year ending 31st December 2023.

Trustees, Officers and advisors

Trustees

HM Revenue and Customs and Charities Registration Number

XN44672

Stephen Duffield

Dennis Wheavil

Lionel Clark

Paul Mann

Chairman

Charity Commissioners Registration Number

Stephen Duffield

NIC 102579

Vice-Chairman

Vacant

Treasurer

Paul Mann

Independent Examiner

Mr Cecil Wilson

Secretary

Dennis Wheavil

Gift Aid secretary

Lionel Clark

Sub- Committee

Registrar: Stephen Ruston

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

(ASDMCC)

Trustees report for year ending 31st December 2023

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 2023. 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 2023 on pages 1 to 3 in the financial report.

Income for the reporting period totalled £17,043.47 of which charitable income amounted to £16,778.32. Total expenditure during the reporting period amounted to £19,717.66 with total charitable expenditure of £18,728, £16,528.00 dispersed to six masonic charities, £2,200 to two non-masonic charities.

The pandemic continues to impact upon this charity with donations still noticeably lower than pre pandemic levels. We held one charitable event a breakfast morning in May raising £1150 for Children's Kidney Fund NI receiving a donation of £1050 for Disabled Children's Family fund. We donated any excess food from the breakfast morning to the Salvation Army Women hostel in Belfast.

During 2023 we held four meeting keeping the membership updated on charity matters with guest speakers presenting talks about Age NI, impact of the masonic charity mergers, post 2022. The membership continues to be cautious post pandemic with attendance at meetings lower than we would wish.

The trustees met during the reporting period to ensure administrative, governance responsibilities progressed. The plans to secure sufficient working capital in the governance account were completed towards the end of 2023 with an initial outlay of £530.40 hence the jump in running costs from £282.07 (2022) to £989.66 (2023). The financial implications of this plan will be reported on in the 2024 trustees report.

At the end of 2023 we have no funds in deficit.

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Reserves Policy

We do not have a policy to hold a reserve fund in relation to charitable funds. In practice charitable monies received late in the reporting period may not be processed in time to be dispersed until the next reporting period. 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'.

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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 2023 this charity was able to engage in charitable activities in furtherance of its aims for public benefit.

Four meetings were held with reduced numbers attending.

We contributed financial assistance to six Masonic charities and two non-masonic charities.



Stephen Duffield

Chairman 2023

Arthur Square & District Masonic Charity Committee

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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: