



Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone & Fermanagh

Omagh District Masonic Charity Committee

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105680)

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Omagh District Masonic Charity Committee
Omagh Masonic Hall
34 Campsie Road
Omagh
Co Tyrone
BT79 0AG

CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were:

James McBain (Chairman/Trustee)
James Marshall (Treasurer/Trustee)
Robert Moore (Secretary/Trustee)
Samuel Clyde (Trustee)
Gerald McFarland (Trustee)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Watson & Colhoun
Chartered Accountants
Unit B15
Omagh Business Complex
Great Northern Road
Omagh
BT78 5LU

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ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The Charity's objects are as follows:

1. The Relief of Poverty of Freemasons, their wives, children and families and the families and widows of deceased Freemasons whether situated in Ireland or overseas.
2. The Advancement of Health or Saving of Lives by providing funding to facilitate Medical Research in Ireland
3. Providing Teddies for children attending hospital Emergency Departments throughout Ireland in severe distress and who in the opinion of medical staff would benefit from a teddy to alleviate distress and thereby assist staff in their treatment.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Omagh Masonic District Charity Committee (ODMCC) oversees and coordinates the raising of funds by 24 Masonic bodies within the Omagh area. These include 12 Masonic Lodges, 7 Royal Arch Chapters, 2 Councils of Knight Masons and 3 High Knight Templar Preceptories. All of these branches are represented on the Committee.

The funds in question are raised by voluntary giving, donations and fundraising activities organised by the members of the various bodies named above. All charitable donations accrued are transmitted to the Committee Treasurer for collation and where applicable a claim is submitted to HMRC for a Gift Aid Refund which is then added to the original sum raised and directed towards the appropriate Charity.

It is pleasing to note that charitable giving across the ODMCC's area of responsibility has seen a rise and that donations are returning to pre-Covid levels. This is manifested in donations directed towards the Freemasons of Ireland Victoria Jubilee Benevolent & Welfare Fund (VJ), which has as its principal objects the relief of poverty or economic hardship and the advancement of education and also incorporates medical research (Objectives 1 & 2 above). The sum raised amounted to £13,171.11 which in turn attracted a Gift Aid Refund from HMRC amounting to £2,345.27 making the final total £15,516.38. A further £9,741.58 was donated in respect of the Tyrone & Fermanagh Local Masonic Benevolent Fund, which has similar objectives to the VJ Fund but whose beneficiaries are restricted to the area governed by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Tyrone & Fermanagh. With the benefit of Gift Aid refunded the total amount raised came to £11,745.73. Objective 3 above, was achieved through donations in favour of "Teddies for Loving Care" amounting to £1,100 supplemented by a further £225 of Gift Aid reclaimed, resulting in a total sum of £1,325.

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Additional donations amounting to £403 were received in respect of the "Harold McMaster Taggart Fund", which exists to provide financial assistance in the form of one-off grants to relatives of members of The Order of the Temple embarking on Post Graduate Education and a further £300 was donated towards the Freemasons of Ireland Girls & Boys Fund which in turn attracted a Gift Aid Refund from HMRC amounting to £75.00 making the final total £375.00, the

principal objective of which is to relieve poverty, advance education and relieve those in need by reason of youth or ill health. The Joseph Karmel Benevolent Fund benefited from donations amounting to £200 aided by a further £50 in the form of a Gift Aid refund from HMRC. This charity provides assistance to or for the benefit of any subscribing Knight Mason who may be in need of emergency financial assistance.

In total £24,915.69 was donated for charitable purposes by Freemasons within the Omagh District Masonic Charity Committee area. The Committee greatly appreciates the additional support received from HMRC in the form of Gift Aid refunds amounting to £4,699.42.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have at all times had regard for the Public Benefit Guidance issued by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in all decisions where guidance was relevant.

Financial Review

Our financial position at the end of 2023 is as set out in our Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

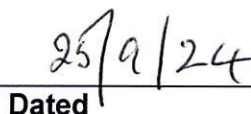
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the ODMCC in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice. As the ODMCC's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities. The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the ODMCC's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the ODMCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The work of the Omagh District Masonic Charity Committee is only possible with the continued support of all the Masonic Bodies within the area who generously provide charitable donations and to whom we are indebted.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



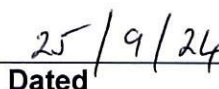
James McBain (Chairman/Trustee)



Dated



Robert Moore (Secretary/Trustee)



Dated