

# THE GRAND CHARITY

ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

Registered Charity No 281942

60 Great Queen Street London WC2B 5AZ

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GRAND PRESIDENT  
HRH THE DUKE OF KENT, KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC

DEPUTY GRAND PRESIDENT  
THE MOST HON THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON, DL

VICE GRAND PRESIDENT  
THE RT HON LORD LANE OF HORSELL

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5 June 2006

Dear Sir and Brother

## NOTICE OF MEETING

A General Meeting of the Grand Charity will be held on **Wednesday, 21 June 2006, at 6.00 pm** in the **Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall, London**. Members of the Grand Charity (i.e. Master Masons who are subscribing members of London and Provincial Lodges and all other Brethren eligible to attend Grand Lodge) and their partners or other guests, may attend.

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry will remain open until the start of the meeting for anyone to visit. After the meeting everyone is invited to attend a reception in the Temple Vestibules.

The Deputy Grand President, the Most Hon the Marquess of Northampton, DL, will chair the meeting. The agenda, report of the Council and minutes of the Annual General Meeting, are contained in this booklet.

Yours faithfully and fraternally

RICHARD CAMM-JONES  
Secretary of the Grand Charity

DRESS  
**Lounge suits - No regalia**



# GENERAL MEETING OF THE GRAND CHARITY

Wednesday, 21 June 2006

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## AGENDA

1. Welcome by the Deputy Grand President of the Grand Charity, MWBro the Most Hon the Marquess of Northampton, DL, Pro Grand Master.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 March 2006 at Freemasons' Hall, London, for confirmation (see page 13).
3. To receive the Report of the Council dated 19 April 2006. (The Council's Report, following its last meeting, is contained on pages 10 to 12. It includes details of recommendations for several non-Masonic charitable grants, which are set out on pages 6 to 9, paragraphs a. to o., which is an Appendix to the Council's Report. These require the approval, under items 4, 5 & 6 below, of the members of the Grand Charity at this General Meeting before the money can be given).
4. To seek approval for the following grants (which are set out in more detail in the Appendix to the Report referred to above) to be made:

### DISABILITY

- a. £30,000 to the **National Autistic Society** to provide funding for the Help! support programme for parents of children with an autistic spectrum disorder.
- b. £25,000 to **The Calvert Trust** to provide bursary funds for activity holidays for disadvantaged disabled people at the Calvert Trust centres.
- c. £25,000 to the **National Blind Children's Society** to fund items of IT equipment for disadvantaged blind children for use at home or school.
- d. £25,000 to the **Royal School for the Deaf** to equip a new vocational workshop for young deaf people with complex needs.

## VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- e. £85,000 to the **Samaritans** in equal instalments over 2 years to fund professional training programmes for the volunteer directors and caller care deputies in local branches of the Samaritans.
- f. £60,000 to **Contact the Elderly** in equal instalments over 3 years to fund a central administrator for local social groups for isolated elderly people.
- g. £45,000 to **Wellchild** to fund the cost of a WellChild nurse to help care for chronically sick children at home.
- h. £30,000 to the **Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths** in equal instalments over 2 years to fund a helpline providing advice on issues relating to sudden infant cot death.
- i. £25,000 to **Maggie's Cancer Centres** to fund a cancer information specialist in Oxford.
- j. £20,000 to the **MDF Bipolar Organisation** in equal instalments over 2 years to fund a service to help people with bipolar disorder (manic depression) to find or retain employment.
- k. £15,000 to **Action on Elder Abuse** to fund a training course for home workers to help them recognise and deal with the mistreatment of older people.

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- l. £150,000 to **Skill Force** in equal instalments over 3 years to fund expansion into the Manchester area of Skill Force's educational support programme for disadvantaged young people.
- m. £50,000 to **Clubs for Young People** to fund a sports development manager to provide national sports programmes for local youth clubs.

## MEDICAL RESEARCH

- n. £150,000 to the **Brain Research Trust** in equal instalments over 3 years to fund research into brain tumours.
  - o. £40,000 to the **British Brain and Spine Foundation** to develop a training resource to improve the early recognition and diagnosis of neurological conditions.
5. To consider a resolution that £180,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants of up to £10,000 for general purposes to each operational Air Ambulance Service in England and Wales.

6. The Council wishes to recognise the enormous contribution made to its work by RWBro Raymond J. Lye, PJGW, who retired as President of the Grand Charity, on 26 April 2006. The Council, therefore, recommends that in recognition of Bro Lye's achievements during his eleven years in office, £500,000 should be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to charities working in the field of asthma research and this Agenda item is to consider a resolution to that effect.
  7. To report any Emergency Grants made since the last meeting.
  8. The History and Future Plans of the Grand Charity  
To receive an account of the work of the Charity during its first 25 years, with contributions from Bros Andrew J.F. Stebbings, Sir John Welch, Bt, Raymond J. Lye and Grahame N. Elliott, CBE.
  9. The Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, to talk about grants to non-Masonic organisations.
  10. To receive a presentation on the tsunami relief work from Bruno Oudmayer, the Country Director of Plan International (India).
  11. To receive a presentation on the work of the hospice movement from Martyn Lewis, CBE, a Vice-President of Help the Hospices, Macmillan Cancer Relief and Marie Curie Cancer Care, author of "Tears and Smiles - the Hospice Handbook" the first layman's guide to the British Hospice movement, Founder of YouthNet UK, Chairman and Co-Founder of Teliris, and a former TV reporter and news anchor.
  12. Closing address by the Deputy Grand President of the Grand Charity, MWBro the Most Hon the Marquess of Northampton, DL, Pro Grand Master.
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#### **FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**

**Both the meeting and the reception are open to members and non-Masonic guests. To assist catering arrangements, it would greatly help if anyone wishing to attend the meeting would let the Grand Charity office know how many, in advance.**

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**The Grand Charity, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ**

Registered Charity No 281942

**Tel: 020 7395 9261 - Email: [info@the-grand-charity.org](mailto:info@the-grand-charity.org)**

## **APPENDIX**

to the

Report of the Council dated 19 April 2006,  
which appears on pages 10 to 12

The Council proposes the following non-Masonic grants, which appear under items 4a. to 4o. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on 21 June 2006 and which are referred to in paragraph 3. of the Council's Report dated 19 April 2006.

### **DISABILITY**

a. **NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY** The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to the National Autistic Society to fund the Help! programme of workshops, which provides advice and support for parents whose children receive a late diagnosis of an autistic spectrum disorder. Each workshop covers identification of the spectrum of disorders, strategies for developing communication and social networks, educational issues, managing challenging behaviour and planning for the future.

b. **THE CALVERT TRUST** The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to The Calvert Trust to fund bursaries to enable disadvantaged disabled people to attend centres run by The Calvert Trust in Keswick, Kielder and Exmoor. The centres provide outdoor activity centres for over 10,000 visitors from age 6 to 90 people with all kinds of disabilities, whether physical, learning or sensory. The visits enable disabled people to find out how much they can do, rather than what they cannot do.

c. **NATIONAL BLIND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY** The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to the National Blind Children's Society to fund IT equipment for visually impaired children in low-income families. The charity provides fully qualified IT assessors to assess the child at home and at school to identify the right equipment. The equipment is used to enable the children to maintain progress at school.

d. **ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF** The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to the Royal School for the Deaf to fund the cost of equipping a vocational workshop for deaf young people with additional disabilities. The new workshop forms part of a complete modernisation programme at a specialist college for post-16 year olds. It is estimated that 250 young people will benefit each year from the workshop.

## VULNERABLE PEOPLE

e. **SAMARITANS** The Council recommends a grant of £85,000 to the Samaritans payable in equal instalments over two years to fund training programmes for the volunteer directors and caller care deputies of local branches. Professional training is provided to all volunteers to enable them to deliver a high quality and consistent service. Every three years each branch appoints a new volunteer as a director. The course content includes governance, financial responsibilities, people management and motivation, and working with the police.

f. **CONTACT THE ELDERLY** The Council recommends a grant of £60,000 to Contact the Elderly payable in equal instalments over three years to fund a central administrator. The charity exists to relieve the acute loneliness of very elderly people who live alone with inadequate or limited social support from family, friends or statutory services. There are 272 social groups across the UK with 4,500 volunteers helping 2,271 elderly people. A new central administration officer will provide an efficient first point of contact for all enquiries and will support the regional development staff.

g. **WELLCHILD** The Council recommends a grant of £45,000 to WellChild to fund a WellChild nurse for home nursing for chronically sick children. NHS community nursing teams do not have sufficient funds to look after children who are living at home but who have chronic and sometimes severe complex illnesses. The new WellChild nurses will provide regular nursing and teach parents how to manage the caring role, including practical help with items such as ventilation or feeding. The work will prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital and help parents to become expert in their children's care.

h. **FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDY OF INFANT DEATHS** The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths payable in equal instalments over two years to support the salary of a helpline adviser. There are still more than 300 cot deaths each year in the UK and a further 200 babies die suddenly from accidents or infections. Some of the work of the helpline is in supporting bereaved parents and also taking calls from parents of new babies, often those who are single parents or who are isolated and have no local network of support. More than 4,000 people benefit from the service.

i. **MAGGIE'S CANCER CENTRES** The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Maggie's Cancer Centres to fund a cancer information specialist in Oxford. Maggie's provides practical and emotional support to anyone affected by any type of cancer in centres where people can meet, relax and obtain advice. The Oxford service is currently provided from temporary premises within the oncology outpatients department at the Churchill Hospital. The post is filled by an oncology professional.

j. **MDF BIPOLAR ORGANISATION** The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to the MDF Bipolar Organisation payable in equal instalments over two years to fund a service to help people with bipolar disorder (manic depression) to find or retain employment. The purpose of the project is to help up to 50 people a month in all aspects of employment, whether helping someone to return to work, to retain employment or to change to new employment.

k. **ACTION ON ELDER ABUSE** The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Action on Elder Abuse to fund a training course to help care workers recognise and deal with the mistreatment of older people. The funding will be used to convert an existing training pack on elder abuse so that it can be delivered to care workers who assist older people at home. The training will identify indicators of mistreatment and explain how to deal with problems form and will form part of a course to enable basic grade workers to achieve a vocational qualification in care.

#### YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

l. **SKILL FORCE** The Council recommends a grant of £150,000 to Skill Force payable in equal instalments over three years to fund the expansion of its services in the Manchester area. Skill Force uses the skills and experience of former Armed Forces personnel to follow a structured programme with young people aged between 14-16 years old who are struggling with education or at risk of exclusion. Currently 135 schools are implementing the programme and truanting has been reduced by up to 89%. The programme focuses on helping young people to achieve qualifications that employers will recognise.

m. **CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE** The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Clubs for Young People to fund the development of a national sports programme. The charity helps young people to develop and achieve their potential through a national programme, including sporting, recreational, creative, residential and adventurous events and activities. A new national sports manager will develop targeted sports programmes for use by youth clubs around the country to improve the health and fitness of young people by increasing their level of activity.

## MEDICAL RESEARCH

n. BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £150,000 to the Brain Research Trust payable in equal instalments over three years to fund a research project which will study the diagnosis and treatment of brain tumours at the Institute of Neurology at Queen's Square, London. Each year 4,500 new cases of primary brain tumours are diagnosed in the UK yet little is known about how or why the cancer cells start to grow.

o. BRITISH BRAIN AND SPINE FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £40,000 to the British Brain and Spine Foundation to develop a training resource to improve the early recognition and diagnosis of neurological conditions to enable patients to access appropriate treatment as early as possible. 10 million people in the UK are affected by neurological conditions but medical students receive limited training in neurology. The DVD is intended to reach 12,000 health professionals including medical students, nurses and GPs.

**END of APPENDIX to Council's Report dated 19 April 2006**

**REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE GRAND CHARITY**  
dated 19 April 2006  
**FOR THE GENERAL MEETING**  
to be held on  
**Wednesday, 21 June 2006**

**GENERAL**

1. **RETIREMENT OF PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY** The Council wishes to record its thanks to RWBro Raymond J. Lye, PJGW, for the way in which he had conducted the affairs of the Grand Charity during the eleven years of his Presidency. Whilst his leadership will be greatly missed, as a Past President he remains a member of the Council, where his advice will be invaluable. The Deputy Grand President had announced at the Annual General Meeting in March 2006, that the Grand Master would be appointing WBro Grahame N. Elliott, CBE, PSGD, to be the new President.

**MASONIC GRANTS**

2. **APPLICATIONS TO THE MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS COMMITTEE**  
Since the last report, the Council has ratified the following grants made by the Masonic Relief Grants Committee:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>NO OF GRANTS AWARDED</b>	<b>TOTAL RELIEF</b>
15 February 2006	124	£170,352
15 March 2006	152	£237,233
19 April 2006	173	£239,064

These figures include grants made under Rule 0311.

**NON-MASONIC GRANTS**

3. The Council proposes the non-Masonic grants set out in paragraphs a. to o. of an Appendix to this Report (pages 6 to 9) and which appear under items 4a. to 4o. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on 21 June 2006.

4. **AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES** The Council recommends that £180,000 be placed at its disposal for grants of up to £10,000 for general purposes to each operational Air Ambulance Service in England and Wales. Further details of these grants will be reported at a later date.

5. **ASTHMA RESEARCH** The Council wishes to recognise the enormous contribution made to its work by RWBro Raymond J. Lye, PJGW, who retires as President of the Grand Charity, on 26 April 2006. It recommends that in recognition of Bro Lye's achievements during his eleven years in office, £500,000 should be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to charities working in the field of asthma research. Full details of the grants made will be reported at the earliest opportunity.

#### DISASTER RELIEF CHESTS

6. At the Annual General Meeting in March 2006, the Council was given authority to make grants at its discretion from the funds placed in any special Relief Chest set up to support the relief work of a particular disaster. Since then, the Council has made the following grants:

##### The Hurricane Katrina 2005 Disaster Fund - Relief Chest No E0098

The balance remaining of £6,507.44 to the Masonic Service Association of North America. The Chest has now been closed.

##### Asian Earthquake 2005 - Relief Chest No E0099

The balance remaining of £45,496.09 to the British Red Cross. The Chest has now been closed.

#### GENERAL MATTERS

##### LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

7. Since the last report, the Grand Charity has received the following legacies of £1,000 or more:

Peter Allen	£26,597
A.E. Manley	£20,000
Mrs Jill A. Harrop	£10,817
Alan Fordham	£5,000
H.W. Guille	£1,000

On behalf of the Grand Charity, the Council expresses its grateful thanks to all those who provide legacies to the Grand Charity.

##### MASONIC CHARITIES RELOCATION PROJECT

8. The Council has resolved that, subject to certain conditions, relating to specific functions of current administration, the Grand Charity should relocate its office premises into the lower ground floor of Freemasons' Hall, as part of a general relocation of the four Masonic Charities.

## GENERAL MEETING

9. The next General Meeting of the Grand Charity will be held at the Harrogate International Centre, Kings Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, on Saturday, 16 September 2006. The meeting is open to all Masons and non-Masons. Members are invited to bring wives and other guests. The Provincial Grand Lodges of the surrounding areas will be sending details to their members over the next few months and the rest of the Craft will receive information nearer the date.

(signed) RAYMOND J. LYE  
President of the Grand Charity  
19 April 2006

# THE GRAND CHARITY

ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON, WC2B 5AZ  
ON WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH 2006 UNDER THE  
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DEPUTY GRAND PRESIDENT

There were present those officers and members of the Grand Charity who had attended the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting and the Chief Executive.

### OPENING REMARKS

The Deputy Grand President began by informing the members that this was the last general meeting at which RWBro Raymond J. Lye, PJGW, would act as President. He had been appointed President of the Grand Charity in 1995, having previously been appointed a member of the Council in 1981. Although the Grand Master would say more at the Annual Investiture in April, the Deputy Grand President, on behalf of all the members, expressed a wish that Bro Lye would have a long and happy retirement. To succeed him as President, it was the Grand Master's intention to appoint WBro Grahame N. Elliott, CBE, PSGD.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, 29 October 2005 at Newbury Racecourse, Berkshire, were taken as read and confirmed.

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE GRAND CHARITY

The President (RWBro Raymond J. Lye, PJGW) proposed and the Deputy President (WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PJGD) seconded that the following report of the Council of the Grand Charity be taken as read. The members agreed.

## **REPORT DATED 18 JANUARY 2006**

### **GENERAL**

#### **1. VICE GRAND PRESIDENT**

The Council is pleased to note that the Grand President has re-appointed RWBro the Rt Hon Lord Lane of Horsell, PSGW, as Vice Grand President of the Grand Charity.

#### **2. VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GRAND CHARITY**

Under the terms of Regulation 0202(e), the Council has re-elected WBro John D. Maynard, PAGDC, and elected WBro David W. Morrow, PGStB, as Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year, with effect from the end of the Annual General Meeting.

#### **3. CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Under the terms of Regulation 0203(b), the Council has co-opted WBro Grahame N. Elliott, CBE, PSGD, and WBro John D. Maynard, PAGDC, to serve for a period of one year:

#### **4. RETIREMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council wishes to extend its thanks and good wishes to the following members who complete their service at the end of the Annual General Meeting:

WBro Ray Elders, PSGD  
WBro Richard Hone, QC, PJGD  
WBro Bakul Vyas, PAGDC  
WBro Reginald Walter, PSGD  
WBro John Yeldham, PSGD

#### **5. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

The Council presents the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2005, which are contained in a separate paper.

### **MASONIC GRANTS**

#### **6. MASONIC PROVINCE OF MIDDLESEX CHARITABLE TRUST**

Before the launch of Middlesex 98 in December 1992, the Province had been continuously fund-raising for Masonic charity for 22 years and the Provincial charity funds had long since been exhausted. In recognition of this, the Council of the Grand Charity at the time, agreed that, as a special arrangement, a proportion of the funds raised for the 1998 Appeal would be given as a grant to that Province's charitable fund. A further amount of £51,000 raised for the Festival has now been received and so a grant of £12,750 has been made to the Masonic Province of Middlesex Charitable Trust.

## 7. APPLICATIONS TO THE MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS COMMITTEE

Since the last report, the Council has ratified the following grants made by the Masonic Relief Grants Committee:

DATE	NO OF APPLICANTS ASSISTED	RELIEF GRANTED
17 August 2005	144	£204,292
21 September 2005	118	£172,730
19 October 2005	168	£253,527
16 November 2005	139	£188,039
20 December 2005	174	£241,502
18 January 2006	96	£133,340

These figures include grants made under Rule 0311.

## NON-MASONIC GRANTS

The Council proposes the non-Masonic grants set out below. (The reference in brackets at the end of each item relates to the Agenda item for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 8 March 2006, which is the resolution to implement the relevant proposals.)

### DISABILITY

8. THE CHILDREN'S TRUST The Council recommends a grant to The Children's Trust of £52,000 to fund a ceiling-mounted hoist and tracking system in two residential units for severely disabled children. The Children's Trust provides both short and long term care, special education and therapeutic programmes for children who have profound learning and physical disabilities and complex health needs (Item 5a).

### VULNERABLE PEOPLE

9. HOME-START UK The Council recommends a grant of £105,000 payable in equal annual instalments over three years to Home-Start UK to assist in setting up a regional network in north-east England and new schemes in Durham and Northumberland. Home-Start UK provides parent-to-parent support and practical help to families with babies and young children through 335 local volunteer schemes across the country (Item 5b).

10. FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 payable in equal annual instalments over two years to Friends of the Elderly to help support a day care centre in Malvern for older people with dementia. Friends of the Elderly provides residential care for the elderly and runs 17 care and nursing homes, as well as a home support service and day care centres for isolated older people and community services for those with dementia (Item 5c).

11. COUNSEL AND CARE The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 payable in equal annual instalments over two years to Counsel and Care to help establish an independent advocacy service for older people. Counsel and Care supports older people with an information and advice service and produces comprehensive reports and fact sheets on many relevant issues. The charity also runs a telephone helpline assisting about 10,000 older people each year (Item 5d).

#### GRANTS TO HOSPICES - 2006

12. The Council recommends that £500,000 be placed at its disposal for grants to hospice services in 2006 (Item 6).

#### GENERAL SMALL GRANTS – 2006

13. The Council recommends that £100,000 be placed at its disposal for general non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less, in 2006 (Item 7).

#### MATCH-FUNDING GRANTS

14. The Council has now allocated funds from the amount placed at its disposal in March 2005, to match grants to national non-Masonic charities made by Provincial Grand Lodges (these are referred to at Appendix A of the Annual Report and Accounts). The Council now recommends that a further £30,000 should be placed at its disposal for similar grants, in other areas during 2006, which meet the guidelines of the Council and are of £5,000 or less (Item 8).

#### DISASTER RELIEF CHESTS

15. Immediately following the Asian tsunami disaster in December 2004, the Council, on behalf of the Grand Charity, opened a Relief Chest to receive donations from Freemasons who wished to support the relief work. At the Annual General Meeting in March 2005, authority was given for all money donated via the Relief Chest to be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to charities caring for children affected by the disaster. Subsequently, additional chests have been opened following Hurricane Katrina and the South East Asia earthquake, for which the Council seeks retrospective approval. The Council also recommends that it should be given the authority to disburse, at its own discretion, any funds placed in the Disaster Relief Chests and to report details of the grants at the next opportunity (Item 9).

#### GENERAL SMALL GRANTS - 2005

16. The Council has now allocated the £100,000 placed at its disposal in March 2005 for small grants to non-Masonic charities. Appendix A of the Annual Report and Accounts is a list of these and other grants, individually under £10,000.

## GRANTS TO HOSPICES - 2005

17. The Council has now allocated all of the £500,000 placed at its disposal in March 2005 for grants to hospice services. Appendix B of the Annual Report and Accounts is a list of the grants made.

## **GENERAL MATTERS**

### LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

18. Since the last General Meeting, the Grand Charity has received the following amounts from legacies of £1,000 or more:

Oscar F. Boehringer	£500,000.00
Catherine B.W. Acton	£135,381.11
Arthur E. Manly	£105,000.00
Charles H. Agar	£98,362.66
Doreen E. Gregory	£60,145.53
Peter Allen	£25,000.00
Arthur E. Manley	£20,500.00
Ernest Trotter	£18,677.04
Ronald A. Firmstone	£5,235.00

On behalf of the Grand Charity, the Council expresses its grateful thanks to all those who remember the Grand Charity in their Will.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

19. Arrangements have again been made with the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London to hold a General Meeting of the Grand Charity on Wednesday, 21 June 2006. Although it will be specifically targeted at members of London Lodges, the meeting will be open to all members of the Grand Charity, who may also bring guests. Further details will be made available later.

20. The Grand Charity also now holds a General Meeting each year in one of the Provinces. The meeting held at Newbury Racecourse, Berkshire, on 29 October 2005, provided an opportunity for several of the surrounding Provinces to be involved. The Council wishes to record formally its thanks to the Provincial Grand Masters and members of those Provinces who assisted in organising the meeting. Similar arrangements have been made, with the assistance of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Yorkshire, West Riding, for a meeting to be held on Saturday, 16 September 2006, at the Harrogate International Centre. Further details will be made available later.

## LODGE CONTRIBUTIONS

21. The Council recommends to the Board of General Purposes that contributions to the Grand Charity, payable by Lodges under Rule 271, Book of Constitutions, in respect of each of their members, for the year 2007, should be not less than £11.50.

## **END OF REPORT**

### **COMMENT ON THE REPORT**

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members. I wish to refer to the subject of Masonic Relief Grants, on page 6. The number of grants made has increased over the past two years from 1,731 to 1,816. However, the impact of increased State Benefits, particularly Pension Credit, together with a diligent process of advising applicants how to obtain the maximum relief from these benefits, has reflected in a decrease in the total amount granted in the last year. Nevertheless, as anticipated, there continues to be a gradual build up of applications that, before 2002, were relieved by RMBI annuities, and from the improved awareness by the Craft of cases requiring assistance.

As I have mentioned in the foreword to the accounts that will be considered shortly, the members of the Council have continued to review the longer term requirement for funding these grants from the income generated by the Annual Contribution and it considers that the Annual Contribution per Lodge member will have to increase in stages to £15.00 by 2009. Next year's annual fees and dues will be proposed at the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge in June. At that meeting, approval will be sought for a resolution, requested by the Council, to set the Annual Contribution to the Grand Charity for 2007 at £11.50 per lodge membership.

I consider that it is appropriate to briefly remind members of the history that has led to the increases in the Annual Contribution since 2003. In 2002, the responsibility for funding all grants to Masons or their dependants in financial need passed to the Grand Charity. You will recall that the RMBI contributed funding to approximately cover the actuarial forward cost of all annuitants transferred at that date. This fund is referred to in the accounts as the Transferred Beneficiaries Fund and currently supports almost 1,200 cases of Masons or their dependants, some of whom also receive Masonic Relief Grants.

From 2002 onwards, all new cases for assistance have been relieved from the General Fund of the Grand Charity and originally it was assumed that this cost would rise over a number of years to an ultimate level of approximately £2.5 millions, or the equivalent of the full annual cost of those beneficiaries receiving RMBI annuities at the time of the transfer in 2002. By that time the transferred Beneficiaries Fund would have been exhausted. The unknown factor was how long the period of build up will be. The rate of annual increase of these grants has varied considerably over the past five years and in the early stages it was difficult to project a trend. However, the Council has decided that it is now possible to give a clearer indication to the Craft of the amount of the Annual Contribution that will be required to fund all of the grants for financial assistance, including the full cost of the additional liability assumed in 2002.

I indicated earlier that every effort is being made to ensure that all external benefits are claimed by applicants, thereby reducing the cost to the Grand Charity. Sadly, I fear that such advice given to applicants is not always followed up, to their detriment, for the amount of each Masonic Relief Grant is calculated on the basis that full benefit is taken, once the applicant is made aware of the availability. This is a matter that I ask all Lodge Almoners to follow up in each individual case.

It is easy to lose sight of the original purposes of consolidating the payment of all grants within the Grand Charity. Apart from simplifying the application process for claimants, the RMBI, relieved from the ongoing cost of annuities, has been able to concentrate its funds on the core activity of providing residential care. That organization is deeply involved in a programme of upgrading homes in order to comply with the stringent statutory requirements for their operation.

Relief for those in financial need is one of the original and fundamental principles of Masonic charity and I would ask you, once again, to bear in mind that most Masonic Relief Grants are awarded to those of our brethren or their dependants whose level of income, after payment of their rent and rates, falls short of £7,000 a year (or £10,500 in the case of two people).

The retirements from the Council are referred to in paragraph 4 of the Report. I thank these individuals for the service and support that they have given to the Grand Charity.

At last year's Annual General Meeting, I made reference to the sad event that had occurred during one of the Council's Committee meetings, when a visiting Provincial Grand Almoner suddenly died. I referred also to the wonderful efforts of the two members of the Grand Lodge Staff who acted quickly in their capacity as First Aiders.

It is, therefore, with particular sadness that I learnt recently that one of those First Aiders, Bro Vance Augustin, himself died unexpectedly just before Christmas. He leaves a young family and to them we express our heartfelt sympathy.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to everybody concerned with the work of the Charity, members of the Council and the administrative staff, for their enthusiasm and effort, which enables the Grand Charity to play its important role, both within and outside of Freemasonry.

I now propose that the report (with the exception of paragraphs 8 to 11, which will be dealt with later) be adopted and entered into the minutes.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,  
WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PJGD,  
and was agreed by the members.

## **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members. The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005 were distributed with the paper of business. I now propose that they be taken as read.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,  
WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PJGD,  
and was agreed by the members.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members, the Annual Report and Accounts, as presented, comply with the statutory requirements. A summary of the results is contained in the Annual Report on page 3.

My particular observations are set out in the Foreword - and the Report of the Council is attached to the accounts. I hope that these together summarize the position but I will, of course, respond to any particular points that members wish to raise.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: I now propose that the Annual Report and Accounts of the Grand Charity - for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005 - be received and adopted.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,  
WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PJGD,  
and was agreed by the members.

### **EMERGENCY GRANTS**

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members - Under item 4, I am relieved to report that no Emergency grants have been necessary since the last General Meeting of the Grand Charity. However, yesterday we received a request from the Red Cross for support of their Africa Food Crisis appeal, which I am sure you've read about in the papers. I have, therefore, authorised a grant of £10,000 towards the Red Cross appeal.

### **APPROVAL OF GRANTS**

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members - Item 5 on the agenda seeks approval of four grants to non-Masonic operating charities. As is the usual custom, in order to speed the process of approval, these have been listed on pages 6 to 7 of the Report of Council, with the detailed background to each grant, under paragraphs 8 to 11. Each item is cross-referenced to the agenda item at the end of the relevant paragraph.

Without minimizing the importance of each of these individual grants, particularly to the organizations concerned, I propose that, initially, the approval of these four grants be taken together.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,  
WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PJGD,  
and was agreed by the members.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members, I now propose that the four resolutions appearing under items 5a to 5d of the paper of business, for non-Masonic grants totalling £217,000, be approved.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,  
WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PJGD,  
and was agreed by the members.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members: Of the next three items, Item 6 is to obtain approval for the sum £500,000 to be placed at the Council's disposal, to be allocated for grants to hospice services in 2006.

Similarly, Item 7 is to obtain approval for the sum of £100,000 to be placed at the Council's disposal, for general charitable purposes, for Small Grants in 2006.

Item 8 is to obtain approval for the sum of £30,000 to be placed at the Council's disposal, for match-funding grants for charitable purposes, of £5,000 or less. This is the second such proposal and from the reaction received as a result of last year's approval to spend £25,000, this is a worthwhile project and an extremely useful way to involve Provincial Grand Lodges in the non-Masonic activities of the Grand Charity.

I propose that, initially, the approval of these three resolutions be taken together.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,  
WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PJGD,  
and was agreed by the members.

Deputy Grand President and Members, I now propose that the three resolutions appearing under items 6, 7 and 8 on the paper of business, be approved.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,  
WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PJGD,  
and was agreed by the members.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members - Following the enormous support given to the special Relief Chest that was opened to aid victims of the terrible tsunami tragedy just over a year ago, the Council of the Grand Charity considered it appropriate to open further Relief Chests specifically to help people affected by Hurricane Katrina and the Asian Earthquake. Item 9a is for the members to give approval to this action.

The Council also recommends that it should be given the authority to make grants from the funds placed in these Chests and any similar chests created in the future, towards the relief work of the particular disasters for which they were opened, at the Council's discretion. This will avoid delay in providing emergency help when needed. All such grants will be reported at the earliest opportunity and Item 9b, as it stands, was intended to put this into effect. However, since the Paper of Business was printed, it is clear that the individual Relief Chest ought only to be applied for the tragedy that

it was opened and I am proposing, as an amendment, the insertion of words in the penultimate line of Resolution 9b so that it reads: "...international disasters for the purpose of providing relief in respect of those particular disasters." and I hope that the Deputy President will support me.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President

Following a suggestion from the floor by WBro Christopher G.A. Aylwin, PJGD, and a further suggestion by the Grand Registrar, VWBro His Honour Judge Ian D.G. Alexander, QC, the resolution proposed was amended to read as follows (amendment shown underlined):

- 9a. To ratify the opening of the following Relief Chests:
  - i. Hurricane Katrina 2005 Disaster Fund  
(opened 2 September 2005)
  - ii. Asian Earthquake 2005 (opened 10 October 2005)
- 9b. To consider a resolution that the Council of the Grand Charity be given authority to make grants, at its discretion, from any of the Relief Chests opened for the Grand Charity by the Council in respect of specific major national or international disasters for the purpose of providing relief in respect of the particular disaster. Details of the grants made to be reported at the next General Meeting of the Grand Charity.

The motion, as amended, was agreed by the members

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members, I am delighted that the resolution as amended has been met with your approval. I can now report that £6,300 has been donated to the disaster chest for Hurricane Katrina, which it is intended to send to the Masonic Services Association in North America and for the earthquake victims in Asia, £43,500 was donated. That is being sent as part of the £50,000 grant to the Red Cross, which is for special winterised tents for over 280 families. So I hope that the people who have contributed to those Chests feel that the money has been dealt with properly and I do hasten to emphasise that the words that now appear in the resolution was just what the Council of the Grand Charity intended to do anyway.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members Laura Chapman, the Chief Executive, and Michael Turnbull, Chairman of the Appeals and Donations Committee, have just returned from a visit to Asia and I now ask Laura to present a report on the progress being made by the recipients of the special Relief Chest funds and to provide an update on the application of these monies.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members - Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to address

the meeting to provide an update on the Craft's support for victims of the Tsunami. I have just returned from a visit to India and Sri Lanka to see at first hand the projects that are being funded from the Tsunami Relief Chest.

As you may recall, immediately following the disaster, the President of the Grand Charity authorised an Emergency Grant of £100,000 for the British Red Cross to air lift essential supplies to the worst affected areas. In addition, grants of £10,000 and £25,000 were made to the District Grand Lodges of Madras and Sri Lanka to assist them with their local relief work.

In response to requests from the Craft, the Grand Charity opened a Relief Chest to receive donations from Masons who wished to support the relief efforts via a central Masonic Charity. I had originally thought that a few thousand pounds might be donated, so you can imagine my utter amazement as the thousands turned to hundreds of thousands. The Craft has been overwhelmingly generous and, as of the end of February, the Chest had received more than £850,000.

Donations have come not only from Masons under the United Grand Lodge of England, but from around the world. One of many came from the Masonic Service Association of North America who contacted me for advice on suitable projects. Subsequently, the Association decided that the money that they had raised should be added to the Relief Chest to support the Grand Charity's efforts. Of the total in the Relief Chest, more than £750,000 has been committed and we are evaluating several different options for the remaining funds.

After careful consideration, as reported to Grand Lodge last March, the Council of the Grand Charity agreed that the Relief Chest funds should be used to support long term relief efforts for children orphaned or otherwise affected by the disaster. Following meetings in London with a number of child focussed charities and a due diligence visit to meet the local staff who would be managing projects in the field, the Grand Charity selected Plan as its delivery partner in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Plan is a child-centred community development organisation, working in 66 countries worldwide.

A grant of nearly £320,000 for India is supporting child care centres, funding women's self help groups and providing livelihood support for families in the fishing villages of Villapuram in Tamil Nadu. Thus far, 58 boats have been delivered, benefiting more than 230 families – boats that the local fishermen themselves helped to design in conjunction with the suppliers who had been selected through a rigorous competitive bidding process.

To avoid the problem that at BT we used to call “shrinkage” off the back of an engineer's van, Plan has ensured controls are in place so that boats are not sold or given away. The boats are owned, most wisely, by the women of the village, and a board has been erected in each village to display the names of the boat owners with registration and insurance details for each boat. Plan has a central database of the boats and local staff regularly monitor to ensure that no boats have gone missing. I travelled with Michael Turnbull from the Council of the Grand Charity, who went out to sea in one of our boats, and fortunately returned, but without any fish.

We visited childcare centres, which provide a safe and stimulating environment for children to learn basic educational skills, receive training in hygiene and sanitation practices and have regular medical check-ups. Psychological counsellors help them to overcome the trauma of the tsunami and the children receive disaster preparedness training to help them with the all too frequent natural disasters of the developing world. The children were exuberant, vivacious and noisy, a far cry from their withdrawn stoicism of a year ago.

I saw the products of several of the women's self help groups, where women can gain much needed employment skills and the capacity, through the availability of micro-financing, to develop income generating activities. I would like to urge all of you to attend the Grand Charity's General Meeting in London on June 21<sup>st</sup> to hear Bruno Oudmayer, the Country Director of Plan International (India), who will be speaking about the tsunami relief work. He is most impressive and Plan's work in India is remarkable.

In Sri Lanka, we visited the 22-acre site in Hambantota where construction work has begun to build a new school for 3,000 primary and secondary school students. The Grand Charity grant of £200,000 will contribute to the overall funding of £2m for the project. Plan's philosophy of “building back better” will ensure that a much higher standard of education will be available to children in the region, who were consulted in the design of the new school. The project is on schedule and on budget, with the primary school due to open in January 2007.

In Indonesia the Grand Charity has agreed, in principle, a donation of £100,000 for a school to be built in the Aceh district. The loss of life and the scale of the devastation were so great in Indonesia that, when combined with the political instability of a country at war, the redevelopment efforts have progressed more slowly here than in the other countries. Plan is confident, however, that work on the school will begin later this year.

I would like to finish by touching on the broader context of the tsunami relief work. You will all have read the widespread criticism of the inefficiency and waste of governments and international NGO's in the efforts to help victims of this disaster. Boats without engines, boats not designed for the local fishermen's needs, women and children marginalised and excluded from the decision making process. There are, however, many more examples of international NGO's delivering much needed redevelopment initiatives, sensitive to local cultures and needs. I can assure you that with Plan the projects funded by the Craft are bringing tangible, measurable benefits for children whose lives have been devastated by this disaster. Of equal importance, the money given by the Craft is "building back better" infrastructure destroyed by the tsunami and thereby achieving lasting economic and social improvements for children and the communities in which they are growing up.

On behalf of the Grand Charity and those who you are helping, thank you.

### **COUNCIL OF THE GRAND CHARITY**

The Secretary (WBro Richard Camm-Jones, PAGDC) announced that, for the ensuing year, under Regulation 0203 of the Regulations of the Grand Charity, the Grand President had appointed WBro Adrian R. Chalk, PJGD, as Deputy President of the Grand Charity and WBro Bro Roderic W. Mitchell, ProvGTreas (Staffs), as Treasurer of the Grand Charity.

The Secretary announced that, under Regulation 0203 of the Regulations of the Grand Charity, the Grand President had appointed to the Council WBro Andrew L. Gretton, PSGD, WBro Brian D. Kelly, PAGDC, WBro David W. Morrow, PGStB, for the period 2006 to 2009.

The Secretary announced that, under Regulation 0203 of the Regulations of the Grand Charity, WBro Michael J. Foxwell, PAGDC, WBro Reginald E. Rivett, PSGD, WBro John Woolway, PGStB, had been elected to the Council by Masonic Provinces to represent Provincial Lodges for the period 2006 to 2009.

The Secretary announced that, under Regulation 0203 of the Regulations of the Grand Charity, VWBro Nevil H. Parkinson, PGSwdB, had been appointed to the Council by the Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, West

Riding, whose Province would be holding a Festival for the Grand Charity in 2007.

The Secretary announced that, under Regulation 0203 of the Regulations of the Grand Charity, WBro Hugh W.J. Stubbs, PSGD, had been elected to the Council by the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London to represent London Lodges for the period 2006 to 2009.

### **AUDITORS OF THE GRAND CHARITY'S ACCOUNTS**

RWBro K. Harry Barnes, Provincial Grand Master for Dorset, proposed that the firm of Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP be elected auditors of the Grand Charity for the ensuing year.

RWBro Michael Flynn, Provincial Grand Master for Bristol, seconded.

The members agreed the motion.

### **CLOSING COMMENT**

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Finally, thank you, Deputy Grand President, for your kind words earlier in the meeting. It has been a great honour to hold this office and to be able to serve Freemasonry in that capacity. I wish to thank the members of the Council and the executive staff, past and present, for their unstinting support over the years. Above all, I wish to record my thanks to Freemasons across England and Wales for their generosity, enthusiasm and above all encouragement – and for taking the Grand Charity and its work to their hearts. That, for the members of the Council and for me has been a marvellous experience. Thank you all.

END

## FREEMASONS' HALL LONDON

There has been a Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street, London, since 1775. The present building is the third and was built between 1927 and 1932, to commemorate the members who were killed on active service in the First World War. From its original inception in 1919 the building was known as the Masonic Peace Memorial, the name reverting to Freemasons' Hall at the outbreak of the Second World War.

In 1927 an international architectural competition was held, the assessors being chaired by Sir Edwin Lutyens. The winning design was prepared by the London partnership of H.V. Ashley and Winton Newman, who were also responsible for the Passport Office in Petty France. The building is a gem of Art Deco architecture and décor and is now Grade 2\* listed, both internally and externally.

Freemasons' Hall is both the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England, the governing body of Freemasonry in England and Wales, and the principal meeting place for Lodges in London. In addition to the Grand Temple, in which today's meeting is taking place, there are twenty-three Lodge Rooms, a Board and Committee Rooms, a Library and Museum and the administrative offices of both the Grand Lodge and the Grand Charity.

In addition to Masonic events Freemasons' Hall is increasingly being used for non-Masonic events. For a number of years film and television companies have used parts of the building as a film set. Recent films have been Johnny English, The life and death of Peter Sellers, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and Basic Instinct 2. Many scenes in the ITV series of Poirot and Jeeves and Wooster were filmed here, and each episode of the six seasons of the popular BBC series Spooks has featured scenes filmed at Freemasons' Hall. The Grand Temple is an ideal setting for concerts and musical theatre, lectures and presentations.

Freemasons' Hall and the Library and Museum of Freemasonry are fully open to the public on weekdays 1000–1700, and for arranged party visits on Saturday mornings. Conducted tours are taken from the Library on weekdays, provided that the Grand Temple is not in use.

Contact for tours is the Library and Museum on 020 7395 9257.

Contact for using the Hall for non-Masonic events is Mrs Karen Haigh on 020 7395 9350.