

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

60 Great Queen Street London WC2B 5AZ
Registered Charity No 281942

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

18 May 2007

Dear Sir and Brother

NOTICE OF MEETING

A General Meeting will be held on **Thursday, 28 June 2007, at 6.00 pm** in the **Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall, London**. Members of the Charity (i.e. Master Masons who are subscribing members of London and Provincial Lodges plus all other Brethren eligible to attend Grand Lodge) and their partners or other non-Masonic guests, may attend.

The Deputy Grand President, the Most Hon the Marquess of Northampton, *DL*, will chair the meeting, which has been organised with the support of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London. The agenda, report of the Council and minutes of the Annual General Meeting, are contained in this booklet.

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 where charity display stands will be on view.

Yours faithfully and fraternally

RICHARD CAMM-JONES
Secretary

DRESS

Lounge suits – No regalia

GENERAL MEETING THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

28 June 2007

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 14 March 2007 at Freemasons' Hall, London, for confirmation (see page 11).
3. To receive the Report of the Council dated 18 April 2007. The Report is contained on pages 9 and 10. It includes recommendations for several non-Masonic charitable grants, which are set out in detail in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants on pages 6 to 8, and which should be considered as part of the Report. These require the approval, under item 4a. to 4n. below, of the members of The Freemasons' 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 Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants referred to above) to be made:

DISABILITY

- a. £50,000 to **I Can** to fund an assessment centre at Nottingham for children with severe communication disabilities
- b. £50,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the **Macular Disease Society** to fund training in eccentric viewing techniques for older people with failing eyesight.
- c. £30,000 to **SENSE** to fund a coordinator in the eastern region for older people with acquired deafblindness

- d. £24,800 payable in equal instalments over three years to **Bag Books** to fund multi-sensory storytelling packs in libraries for severely disabled children.
- e. £15,000 to **WheelPower – British Wheelchair Sport** to support the *SportStart* programme for recently paralysed individuals.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- f. £50,000 to the **British Red Cross** to fund a new Responder emergency response vehicle.
- g. £15,000 to the **ExtraCare Charitable Trust** to support a research project into a model of care for older people with dementia in sheltered housing.
- h. £15,000 to **Counsel and Care** to contribute to the advice service and fact sheets [the recommendation of this grant is made possible by an anonymous donation from a member].
- i. £10,000 to **Re-Solv** to produce educational packs for primary schools on the danger of substance abuse.
- j. £10,000 to **New Philanthropy Capital** to fund research into substance abuse projects.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- k. £70,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to **Centrepont** to roll-out the partnering project with four local youth homelessness charities.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

- l. £170,000 payable in equal instalments over three years to the **Parkinson's Disease Society** for research at the Institute of Neurology into the PINK1 gene.
- m. £40,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to **Fight for Sight** for research at the Institute of Ophthalmology into abnormal blood vessel growth.
- n. £20,000 to the **International Spinal Research Trust** for research at Cambridge into use of chondroitinase enzyme in removal of scar tissue.

5. To report **Emergency Grants** made since the last meeting. The President has approved an emergency grant of £50,000 to the British Red Cross, as a major initial contribution to a new £2 million appeal to support the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross/Crescent (ICRC) in Sudan (Darfur).
6. The Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, to talk about the Charity's Masonic and non-Masonic grant-giving activities and to introduce guest speakers:
 - a. WBro Dr Kenneth C. Harvey, PAGDC, Chairman of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee.
 - b. Professor Colin Cooper, who holds "The Grand Charity of Freemasons Chair of Molecular Biology" at the Institute of Cancer Research.
7. The Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master, RWBro Russell J. Race, *DL*, PJGW, to speak about the charitable activities of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London and to introduce guest speakers from beneficiaries of the London Masonic Charitable Trust including Ian Balmer, Chief Executive of Moorfields Eye Hospital, and Professor Peng Tee Khaw, Consultant Ophthalmologist and Professor of Glaucoma and Ocular Healing at the Moorfields Eye Hospital.
8. Closing address by the Deputy Grand President of The Grand Charity, MWBro the Most Hon the Marquess of Northampton, *DL*, Pro Grand Master.

FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

This is also an opportunity to view the charity display stands situated in the Temple vestibules.

NB Both the meeting and the reception are open to Masons 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. The following special email address can be used to forward this information to the office.

London2007@the-grand-charity.org

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

Registered Charity No 281942

Tel: 020 7395 9261 – Email: info@the-grand-charity.org

SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

The Council proposes the following non-Masonic grants, which appear under items 4a. to 4n. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on 28 June 2007 and which are referred to in paragraph 6. of the Council's Report dated 18 April 2007.

The paragraphs are numbered to match those shown in the Agenda.

DISABILITY

4a. I CAN The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to I CAN as a contribution towards the costs of a new independent assessment centre in Nottingham for children with severe communication disabilities. Early assessment and targeted support can help children to overcome early language difficulties or receive appropriate support for their needs. The Centre will provide multi-disciplinary assessment by special educational needs teachers, speech and language therapists and educational psychologists.

4b. MACULAR DISEASE SOCIETY The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to The Macular Disease Society to fund training in eccentric viewing techniques for older people with failing eyesight. Eccentric viewing and steady eye strategies maximise the use of peripheral vision and the training will teach individuals who suffer from macular disease to identify the exact location of their vision loss and to utilise the area of the retina that provides the clearest image.

4c. SENSE The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to SENSE to fund the salary of a coordinator in the eastern region for older people with acquired deafblindness. SENSE provides specialist services enabling deafblind people to live as independently as possible. The role of coordinator is part of a three year campaign to raise awareness, especially amongst service providers and professionals, of the needs of older people with sight and hearing difficulties.

4d. BAG BOOKS The Council recommends a grant of £24,800 payable over three years to Bag Books to fund the *Story-Go-Round* project providing storytelling packs for use in local libraries. The charity develops and produces multi-sensory packs, with sounds and smells and textures, for children with the most profound and complex disabilities. The project will provide 100 free multi-sensory packs to community libraries and teach library staff how to use them with severely disabled children.

4e. WHEELPOWER – BRITISH WHEELCHAIR SPORT The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to WheelPower – British Wheelchair Sport to support the *SportStart* programme for recently paralysed individuals. WheelPower encourages the use of sport to aid rehabilitation and as a means of preventative healthcare leading to greater independence. About 1,200 people become paralysed due to an accident or illness each year and the programme aims to benefit 800 people by introducing them to the most suitable wheelchair sports.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

4f. BRITISH RED CROSS The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the British Red Cross (BRC) to fund a new Responder emergency response vehicle for use in the UK after events such as floods, fires, major traffic incidents or terrorist attacks. The BRC provides crisis response to support the UK emergency services and vehicles are also used in community services to provide first aid cover.

4g. EXTRACARE CHARITABLE TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to ExtraCare Charitable Trust to support a research project into a model of care for older people with dementia in sheltered housing. The charity provides sheltered accommodation and nursing care for older people with a range of ‘ExtraCare’ activities. The research project will employ specialist staff in ten sheltered housing schemes as a pilot to develop and evaluate a model of care for older people with dementia.

4h. COUNSEL AND CARE The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Counsel and Care to contribute to an advice service and fact sheets produced to support older people. Counsel and Care is a relatively small charity providing detailed information

and advice for older people on housing, welfare, care and benefits together with a personal advocacy service.

4i. RE-SOLV The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to Re-Solv to produce educational packs on the dangers of substance abuse for primary schools. Research shows that younger children are experimenting with solvent abuse and that those who use volatile substances when they are young are more susceptible to drug abuse in later life. The grant would pay for sample packs to be distributed free to 30,000 children.

4j. NEW PHILANTHROPY CAPITAL The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) to part-fund a research project to identify drug, alcohol and other substance abuse programmes that are effective and deserving of charitable support. NPC is a charity that carries out independent research in the charitable sector in order to advise donors as to where funds can be most effectively targeted.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

4k. CENTREPOINT The Council recommends a grant of £70,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to Centrepoint to fund the roll-out of a partnering project for the *Centrepoint Model* with four local youth homelessness charities. The Freemasons' Grand Charity previously part-funded the initial pilot project in the north-east. The charity works with young homeless people providing support, training and advice as well as accommodation.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

4l. PARKINSON'S DISEASE SOCIETY The Council recommends a grant of £170,000 payable over three years towards a medical research project by Professor Wood at the Institute of Neurology, London to study the PINK1 gene which, when mutated, causes Parkinson's disease. About 120,000 people in the UK suffer from Parkinson's Disease.

4m. FIGHT FOR SIGHT The Council recommends a grant of £40,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to Fight for Sight to fund a medical research project at the Institute of Ophthalmology. The charity is dedicated to research into blindness and treatment of eye disease and the grant would pay for research into abnormal blood vessel growth investigating the factors that control macrophages in the retina. The research will be relevant for age-related macular disease and diabetic retinopathy.

4n. INTERNATIONAL SPINAL RESEARCH TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to the International Spinal Research Trust to support a medical research project at Cambridge into the use of chondroitinase enzyme in the removal of scar tissue, which stop nerves from regrowing and reconnecting. The charity carries out research into treatments that will restore movement and sensation after paralysis caused by a broken neck or back as a result of traffic or sporting accidents or violent attacks.

END OF SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
following its meeting held on 18 April 2007
FOR THE GENERAL MEETING
to be held on
Thursday, 28 June 2007

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. RETIREMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER

The Council wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to WBro Hugh W.J. Stubbs, PSGD, who will retire from the Council on 25 April 2007, when he is appointed President of the Masonic Samaritan Fund. In taking on this role, the Council wishes him every success and looks forward to continuing a close working relationship with the other three main Masonic Charities.

3. MASONIC CHARITY COMPLIANCE

As reported at the Annual General Meeting, the Council is now working with the United Grand Lodge of England and the other three central Charities to develop appropriate arrangements to support the Craft with regard to Masonic Charity Compliance.

MASONIC GRANTS

4. DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF GIBRALTAR

The Council has received a request from the District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar for assistance towards the Rock of Ages Campaign for the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Gibraltar. The Council has approved a grant to the District, which is also supporting the Campaign, of £5,000.

5. 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 GRANTS AWARDED	TOTAL RELIEF
21 February 2007	94	£147,133
21 March 2007	116	£206,858
18 April 2007	151	£271,272

These figures include grants made under Rule 0311.

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

6. The Council proposes the non-Masonic grants set out in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants [on pages 6 to 8] and which appear under items 4a. to 4n. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on 28 June 2007.

OTHER MATTERS

7. RELIEF CHEST SCHEME

The Council has made alterations and amendments to the Rules of the Relief Chest Scheme and has approved a new Handbook, which incorporates the Rules. This will initially be sent to all Relief Chest Holders and will later be considered for wider distribution to the Craft. The Handbook, which also explains how the Scheme operates, is clearly written and emphasises that the Relief Chest Scheme is there, not as an investment fund, but as a means of channelling Masonic donations to charities. Almost half of all Lodges now use the Scheme and the Council is confident that it achieves a high level of efficiency in the way in which donations are recorded, transactions are handled and tax relief is obtained.

8. STRATEGIC PLAN

The Council has re-established its three-year Strategic Planning Working Group under the Chairmanship of the Deputy President, to review present and future activities. It is expected to be able to report on this later in the year.

9. ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LODGES

The Council's intention to recommend to the Board of General Purposes that the Annual Contributions, payable under Rule 271 of the Book of Constitutions, should be increased to £13.00 for the year 2008, had been explained and reported at the Annual General Meeting in March. In considering comments received since March, the Council feels confident that a proposition by the Board of General Purposes at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in June 2007, will meet with the support of the Craft.

10. GENERAL MEETINGS

The next General Meeting will be held with the support of the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Wales, Eastern Division, on Wednesday, 3 October 2007, in Cardiff. Further details will be made available nearer the date.

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT
President
18 April 2007

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

60 Great Queen Street London WC2B 5AZ
Registered Charity No 281942

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON, WC2B 5AZ
ON WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2007 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.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, 16 September 2006 at Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, were taken as read and confirmed.

OPENING REMARKS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: (VWBro Grahame N. Elliott, *CBE*): Deputy Grand President and Members, welcome to the twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting of The Grand Charity, which, as you will see from the business paper, we now refer to as The Freemasons' Grand Charity.

This must be one of the largest public gatherings of any charity in the world, let alone the UK and we are privileged to be able to hold our Annual General Meeting through the good offices of the United Grand Lodge of England at this Quarterly Meeting, thus again enabling some 1,700 members to attend.

Under our regulations, we must present at all General Meetings a report of the Council's activities and decisions made since the last such occasion. The report following Council meetings held on 18 October 2006 and 31 January 2007, is set out on pages 10 to 13 of the yellow booklet [i.e. the business paper for the AGM held on 14 March 2007].

If I may, I should like to draw to your attention to the proposal during the year to use the Charity's working name of The Freemasons' Grand Charity. This is to obtain greater understanding and recognition from both within and outside the Craft of what we are about – particularly with regard to the non-Masonic giving made possible by Masons' generosity through this Charity.

Much of the work of the Charity over its first 25 years is recorded in the silver leaflet that was produced for the General Meeting held in London last June, when we celebrated our Anniversary. Subsequent activities are shown in the minutes for the General Meeting held in Harrogate, which have been circulated with today's Paper of Business.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: I propose that the whole of the report be taken as read, and with the exception of paragraph 10 and the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants, which are the subject of Agenda Items 3 to 8, be adopted and entered in the minutes.

The motion was seconded by the
Vice President (WBro David W. Morrow, PGStB)
and agreed by the members.

**(The Report of the Council following its meetings
held on 18 October 2006 and 31 January 2007 is
included in the official copy of these minutes and is
not reprinted here.)**

APPROVAL OF GRANTS

Before making the proposition to approve the grants, the President introduced the Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, who spoke about the non-Masonic grants aspect of the Charity's work.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members. At the General Meetings of The Grand Charity, I regularly speak about our support for non-Masonic charities, so I apologise to those of you who have heard some of my comments before. But it is a very important responsibility and we have been doing a number of things over the past few years to increase the impact and effectiveness of our giving and to make it more relevant to members at the local level.

Providing a central point for giving to non-Masonic charities on behalf of the whole Craft was one of the primary reasons that the Grand Charity was established in 1980. Although local and Provincial Lodges donate money to literally thousands of charities, these donations tend to be quite small and focussed on the local community. It was envisioned that The Grand Charity would make grants that would complement this local giving by being of a scale financially and geographically beyond the reach of individual or even Provincial Lodges.

The Council is very aware of its responsibility to you, the Craft, when it decides which projects and which charities to recommend for support. The Council recognises that non-Masonic grants should:

- Support causes that you, the Craft, are concerned about and that you would want to be funded
- Support charities that are well managed, need funding and offer services that are relevant
- Achieve identifiable and measurable results—helping people in real need and achieving maximum impact, and
- Raise public awareness about Freemasons' charitable support through the publicity received from national charities.

With the fantastic support that the Craft gives to The Grand Charity, we are able to make a very significant contribution to many charities of the wider community. As you will have seen from the Annual Report and Accounts to the year ended 30 November 2006, we made non-Masonic grants totalling just over £2.2m during the year. Since it was established, grants of more than £35m have been made to non-Masonic charities and this figure does not include the grants that are made from Relief Chests.

Funding is given to charities under five main headings:

- Medical research;
- Vulnerable people;
- Youth opportunities;
- Hospices; and
- Emergency grants for disaster relief, both at home and abroad.

Within each of these groups we try to identify specific causes that will be popular with Brethren. In fact, Brethren have the ultimate responsibility for approving all non-Masonic grants, which is why under items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of today's Agenda you are asked to approve a number of resolutions.

Item 3 of the agenda identifies grants to fund specific projects for 13 charities. These are projects for which the sponsoring charity has submitted an application. Initially, all applications are reviewed by our non-Masonic grants officer, who typically visits the charity at work as part of our due diligence. The applications are then reviewed by a Committee of the Council against agreed guidelines. Finally, those grants that the Council recommends come to you, the members of the Charity, for final approval.

Items 4 and 5 of the agenda seek your approval for The Grand Charity to make grants to adult and children's hospices for their annual running costs during 2007. The Hospice Grants Scheme is one of our longest running and most popular initiatives with the Craft. As a result, we are introducing this year an additional and separate allocation of £100,000 solely for children's hospices. We will continue to liaise with Provinces about the distribution of hospice grants so that local cheque presentations

can be made and an opportunity is created for the Province to build a better relationship with its local hospice services.

Under item 6 of the agenda you are asked to approve an allocation of £100,000 for the Council to use to make small grants not exceeding £5,000. Although I have emphasised that most of The Grand Charity's grants are large, we do receive applications from many smaller charities, often in the very first stages of development, to which a relatively small grant will make a significant difference and often this support is critical in helping it to get started.

Item 7 of the agenda requests your approval of £10,000 for grants to Air Ambulance Services. You may recall that at the June 2006 General Meeting you approved £180,000 for grants for air ambulance services. As I am sure you know, there is very widespread support in the Craft for the fantastic life-saving services of air ambulances and we wished to help Provinces support this cause. We have requested an additional £10,000 tranche because we have learned that several of the services operate more than one helicopter ambulance and we feel it to be equitable to make a small additional donation where this is the case.

Finally, under item 8 you are asked to approve £50,000 for our matched funding programme for Provinces. Two years ago we introduced a pilot scheme under which The Grand Charity matches Provincial grants to charities meeting The Grand Charity's guidelines up to a maximum of £5,000 per Province. Each year a different group of Provinces is invited to participate on a rotational basis. This scheme has been very popular and we have decided to expand it this year to include 10 Provinces. Through this initiative we are again seeking to help Provinces achieve greater impact and greater awareness of the support that Freemasonry gives to the wider community.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members – unless anyone has any objections, I shall propose as one resolution, the recommendations just outlined and move that Agenda Items 3. to 8., totalling £1.3 million, be approved.

The motion was seconded by the Vice President
and agreed by the members.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: In presenting the Annual Report I would like to reiterate the help that I have received from my predecessor Presidents and particularly Raymond Lye who was responsible for setting in motion most of the activities, which have been the main thrust of the current year's work. Some of these I would like to refer to after the accounts have been approved, but in the meantime I would like to place on record our thanks to the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Wales for the benefit we received from the Festival it held during the year on our behalf, congratulate those responsible in the Executive for the work in bringing forward the Asian Tsunami projects with Plan International and I feel that the work of the Relief Chest Scheme activity must be highlighted. We now have 44% of Lodges and 11% of Chapters using the Scheme. The level of activity is shown in the Report on page 10, accounting for over 30,000 transactions per month and the total fund now stands at over £30 million.

I hope that the accounts in their new form properly summarise the work of the Charity and are both useful and interesting to our members and other readers.

I will, of course, respond to any particular points that members may wish to raise and I feel sure if I cannot answer them that the Treasurer, Rod Mitchell, will be more than pleased to assist me.

I now propose that the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2006, be taken as read, received and adopted.

The motion was seconded by the Vice President
and agreed by the members.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members, thank you for the confidence that you have expressed in your Council by approving the Annual Report and Accounts.

I now wish to draw your attention to certain other aspects of the Charity's work.

With regard to the well-publicised move of the main Masonic charities into this building, I am please to announce that the contract with the builder has now been signed, together with the agreement to lease, as mentioned on page 11 of the Annual Report. The overall objective of this move is to create greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the operations of the four charities by greater co-ordination and co-operation in the delivery of services. The move will allow the other charities to reduce significantly their accommodation costs and to make more efficient use of their assets in the longer term. Although this Charity will not reduce its own costs as a consequence of the move, the Craft as a whole will benefit from improved charitable services at a lower cost overall.

Your Charity, with the other three central Charities, has discussed the increasing complexity of the regulation affecting charities. As a result, during the coming year it has been agreed that we will be working with the United Grand Lodge of England to approve arrangements to support the Craft generally in this respect.

The third point I would like to raise is the Annual Contribution recommended for next year. During the last twelve months the number of Relief Grants awarded has reduced slightly. There is no doubt that this is because at the present time there is considerable extra support in the level of State Benefits that petitioners are encouraged to claim before being eligible for a grant. The Council is concerned that this could change as the age profile of our nation increases and residential care costs rise dramatically. We must prepare for the likely increase in requests for the support of Masons and their dependents. For this reason we feel it prudent to follow the policy recommended by Sir John Welch, when he was President in 1987, that the Annual Contributions should be reviewed for small, regular increases. Under these circumstances, the Council is proposing a £1.50 increase in the Annual Contribution to £13.00 for 2008. That

means that on average during these last 20 years the increase in the contribution has been at the rate of 55p a year. I hope I am right in saying Brethren, that nobody will object to this and, therefore, it is in order for it to be placed on the Agenda for the June Quarterly Communication to be formally approved. Thank you Brethren.

EMERGENCY GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and Members. Under the powers given to the President, I authorised a grant last December, of £10,000 to the British Red Cross in response to an appeal following flooding in Kenya. The money from this will help provide food, blankets, water purification tablets, medical supplies and seed.

COUNCIL OF THE GRAND CHARITY

The Secretary (WBro Richard Camm-Jones, PAGDC) announced the following appointments and elections to the Council under regulation 0203 of the Regulations of The Grand Charity: –

Appointments by the Grand President

WBro Bro Brian Kelly, PJGD, as Deputy President of The Grand Charity
WBro Bro Roderic W. Mitchell, PJGD, as Treasurer of The Grand Charity

For the period 2007 to 2010:

WBro Charles Akle, JGD
WBro Paul Richards, PProvJGW (Cheshire)
VWBro Michael Turnbull, PGSwdB

To fill a Casual Vacancy for the two-year period until 2009:

VWBro Kenneth Rondel, PGSwdB

Elected by Masonic Provinces for the period 2007 to 2010

WBro David McCormick, PSGD
WBro Dr Kenneth Harvey, PAGDC
WBro Dr Vivian Thomas, PJGD

Appointed by the Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire,
whose Province is holding a Festival for The Grand Charity in
2008

WBro John Butler, PAGDC

Elected by the Metropolitan Grand Lodge for the period 2007 to
2010.

WBro Ian Johnson, PAGDC

AUDITORS OF THE GRAND CHARITY'S ACCOUNTS

RWBro Colin Wright, Provincial Grand Master for West Lancashire, proposed that the firm of Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP be re-elected auditors of The Grand Charity for the ensuing year.

RWBro Eric Stuart-Bamford, Provincial Grand Master for Surrey,
seconded.

The members agreed the motion.

CLOSING COMMENT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: May I, prior to you closing this meeting Deputy Grand President, extend our thanks to a number of Brethren, in particular Bro Ian Chalk who retires from the Council after ten years, the last three of which he has been an excellent Deputy President, and also to those noted in the Report, who retire this year. Our thanks particularly to the staff, led so capably by Laura Chapman, for all the work they do for us throughout the year and finally to you, Deputy Grand President, the Grand President and our Vice Grand President, Bro the Rt Hon Lord Lane of Horsell (who I am delighted to report, has recently been re-appointed) for your unstinting support and trust in us, as we work to represent our members and provide the service to our beneficiaries.

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.

DIARY DATES

General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity
held with the support of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of South Wales, Eastern Division
Wednesday, 3 October 2007
Cardiff

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

Registered Charity No 281942

Tel: 020 7395 9261 – Email: info@the-grand-charity.org