

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

19 November 2008

Dear Sir and Brother

NOTICE OF MEETING

A General Meeting of The Grand Charity will be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, as part of the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, on Wednesday, 10 December 2008, but separate from it. Members of The Grand Charity are hereby invited to attend. Detailed instructions (including dress) for those attending are the same as those for the meeting of Grand Lodge.

The Agenda for the meeting is included in this booklet.

Yours faithfully and fraternally

RICHARD CAMM-JONES
Secretary of the Grand Charity

**GENERAL MEETING
THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY**

Wednesday, 10 December 2008

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 27 September 2008 at the Bournemouth International Centre, for confirmation (see page 5).
2. To receive the Report of the Council dated 15 October 2008 (see page 3).
3. To consider a resolution that a further £150,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to appropriate charities that are associated with MWBro HRH The Duke of Kent, KG, in commemoration of 40 years as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England (see Report paragraph 3).

END OF MEETING

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

following its meeting held on 15 October 2008

FOR THE GENERAL MEETING

to be held on

Wednesday, 10 December 2008

MASONIC GRANTS

1. APPLICATIONS FOR MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS

In the past six months, the Masonic Relief Grants Committee approved the following grants:

DATE	NO OF GRANTS AWARDED	TOTAL RELIEF
22 May 2008	172	£374,056
18 June 2008	126	£267,670
16 July 2008	195	£470,448
20 August 2008	207	£433,436
17 September 2008	173	£347,573
15 October 2008	152	£315,374

2. DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF EASTERN ARCHIPELAGO

The Council has approved a grant of £15,000 to the District Grand Lodge of Eastern Archipelago following the cyclone in Burma for a specific health centre outside that government's control.

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

3. The Council proposes that a further £150,000 should be made available for grants to organisations to be chosen by the Grand President, MWBro HRH The Duke of Kent, KG, to commemorate his 40th anniversary as Grand Master. In September 2008, The Freemasons Grand Charity approved a total of £400,000 for grants to charities with which the Grand President is associated and that meet the guideline policy requirements of the Council of the Grand Charity. Item 3 of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 10 December 2008 is a recommendation to approve a further amount so that the total available for these grants will be £550,000. Details of the charities chosen will be available in 2009.

GENERAL MATTERS

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

4. Since the last report The Freemasons' Grand Charity has received the following instalments from legacies of £1,000 or more:

Douglas Gill Simpson	£8,986
Mrs Mary Payne	£34,300
Robert E. Millman	£1,268,000

On behalf of the members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, the Council expresses its grateful thanks to all those who consider the Charity in their Will.

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT
President of the Grand Charity
15 October 2008

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

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

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT THE BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, BOURNEMOUTH
ON SATURDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2008, UNDER THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE VICE GRAND PRESIDENT

As well as officers and members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, many invited guests were present.

The Vice Grand President entered and opened the meeting at 11.00 am by welcoming all those present. He then called on the President of the Grand Charity.

OPENING REMARKS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President, High Sheriff, ladies, gentlemen and members. On behalf of the members of the Council of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, many of whom are seated here on the stage behind me, I welcome you all to this General Meeting.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is just one of four central Masonic Charities. Its membership comprises virtually all Freemasons in England and Wales, plus some who live overseas. You can read more about each of the four Charities in the minutes of our last meeting, which are contained on pages 13 onwards of the yellow Paper of Business, which everyone has received today.

The purpose of this meeting is to present the most recent report of the Council of the Grand Charity, which includes several recommendations for grants to non-Masonic charities, and which require the approval today from our members. We will also hear something of the work that the Council does in approving Masonic Relief Grants to Freemasons and their dependants, but importantly this is also an opportunity for those who know little about us, or even the Masonic order in general, to learn something more of our activities plus those of many other charities from

around the country that do so much for the good of us all. None of the charities represented here today, including The Freemasons' Grand Charity itself, is here to collect funds, but I hope that you will leave the meeting with a greater knowledge of what is available from us all and perhaps a clearer picture of how you might wish to help us on some future occasion.

Grants from The Freemasons' Grand Charity are given to charities that serve the wider population of England and Wales. As a result, the projects we support are located in cities and universities across the country. Examples of those that have received grants recently and which have headquarters or connections with Hampshire or Dorset, are: -

- Action on Addiction (£20,000 in 2008)
- Down Educational Trust (£25,000 in 2008 & £20,000 in 2005)
- Vitalise (£25,000 in 2008)
- Macular Disease Society (£50,000 in 2007)

and of course the Elizabeth Foundation and the RNLI, both of which are present at this meeting. In addition, I would mention that we make grants to nearly all local hospice services and, of course, the Air Ambulance services.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity also offers a service called the Relief Chest Scheme, which is for all Lodges, Chapters and other Masonic organisations. Currently, this enables almost 4,000 Chest fund holders to collect and distribute their own money, to charities of their own choice. It has the added advantage of providing professionally audited accounts for them and relieves Chest holders of the work involved in reclaiming tax (Gift Aid as it is known), as this is all done by the Relief Chest Scheme staff on their behalf. I am pleased to confirm that almost half of all Lodges and Chapters in Hampshire & Isle of Wight and Dorset have opened Chests and we look forward to helping many more – our aim is 100%.

The Council members and I are most grateful to the Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight for helping us to organise this General Meeting today and also to all the other Masonic and Civic representatives, who have come along to support it. I hope that everyone will find the day both enjoyable and most interesting, including the RNLI demonstration.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 5 June 2008 at Freemasons' Hall, London, were taken as read and confirmed.

PRESENTATION OF CHEQUE

The President of the Grand Charity called on the Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master In Charge of Dorset, to formally hand over a cheque for £72,000 to Mr David Bran, the Fundraising and Communications Director of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, following approval of the grant at the General Meeting held on 5 June 2008.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Under our regulations, we must present at all General Meetings a report of the Council's activities and decisions made since the previous General Meeting. The report of our Council meeting held on 16 July 2008 is set out on pages 11 and 12 of the booklet.

Under Item 4 of the Agenda (which is on page 3), I now propose that the whole of the Report be taken as read and, with the exception of paragraphs 3. and 4. and the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants, which are the subject of Agenda Items 6. and 7. and which will be dealt with later, that it be taken as read, adopted and entered in the minutes.

The motion was seconded by the
Deputy President (WBro Brian D. Kelly, PJGD)
and agreed by the members.

APPROVAL OF GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President and members, before we deal with the 17 non-Masonic Grants recommended under Agenda Item 6, I will, with your permission Vice Grand President, call on the Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, to tell us something about the process undertaken by the Council, before recommendations are made. Ladies and Gentlemen, Laura Chapman.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President, High Sheriff, ladies, gentlemen and members.

I am very pleased to add my welcome to all of you who are joining us for our General Meeting. I would like to speak very briefly about the Charity's non-Masonic donations before the members are asked to approve the Council's recommendation for the grants listed under item 6 of the Agenda.

Providing a central point for giving to non-Masonic charities on behalf of the entire Craft was one of the primary reasons that The Grand Charity was established in 1980. The Council, when deciding which charities to support, is very aware of its responsibility to the members of the Craft who provide all the funding for these grants. With non-Masonic grants, The Freemasons' Grand Charity seeks to:

- Support causes that you, the Craft, are concerned about and that you would choose to fund yourselves
- 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
- Raise public awareness about Freemasons' charitable support through the publicity received from national charities.

Before a grant is put to a General Meeting for approval, it is carefully vetted by staff as part of our due diligence. For all larger grants, we will visit the charity at work. The accounts of the charity will be scrutinised and the management team assessed to ensure that it can deliver the project for which it is seeking funding. After a grant is made, we ask for follow-up reports as part of our monitoring and evaluation to find out what the grant has achieved.

We have also introduced a number of initiatives to work more closely with Provincial Masons to provide support for causes that are particularly important to them. Three years ago we introduced a scheme of matching Provincial grants, to a maximum of £5,000 per Province to charities that meet our guidelines. Two of the other projects that we have supported in conjunction with Provincial Grand Lodges are for Air Ambulances and Hospices, which we know are particularly popular with Masons.

Turning to the yellow Paper of Business, you will see that under item 6, the 17 recommended grants are grouped under the main categories of support of the Freemasons' Grand Charity: medical research, youth opportunities and vulnerable people. Although all of the grants are noteworthy, I would like to draw your attention to three, in particular. The first is for a £1 million grant to Ovarian Cancer Action. The Council decided to award a very major grant, specifically targeted on addressing a women's' medical condition, which would complement the £1 million grant that it made several years ago to the Institute of Cancer Research for its work on prostate and testicular cancer. As part of our due diligence in selecting the grant, we convened a focus group of the wives of our Council members to hear their views on which medical condition to support. They were unanimous that the choice should be for ovarian cancer. Once again, I would like to thank them for their valuable contribution to our search.

The second grant that I would like to highlight is for £500,000 to the Scout Association. The Council is very pleased to recommend support for a grant that will improve opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to access the benefits of outdoors activities. We know that Scouting is very popular with Masons all across the country and the Association has promised to provide us with regular updates on how and where the money is spent, enabling us to share the information with Provincial Grand Lodges and, hopefully, improve relationships between Lodges and their local Scout Groups.

And finally, last but not least, I would like to mention the grant of £30,000 recommended for approval to The Elizabeth Foundation to develop a national Home Learning Programme for pre-school deaf children. You will be hearing much more about this marvellous charity a bit later in our meeting from its Chief Executive and founder, Shirley Metherell.

The President will now seek approval from the membership, for these grants.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

6a. OVARIAN CANCER ACTION The Council recommends a grant of £1,000,000 payable in equal instalments over five years to Ovarian Cancer Action to fund research relating to the treatment of ovarian cancer and a programme to raise awareness of the illness amongst women. Ovarian cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women and each year some 7,000 women are diagnosed with the disease.

6b. DEAFNESS RESEARCH UK The Council recommends a grant of £82,700 to Deafness Research UK payable in equal instalments over two years to fund research into the transplantation of fibrocyte cells to combat age-related hearing loss. The research is a continuation of a successful pilot project funded by The Freemasons' Grand Charity in September 2006.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

6c. THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION The Council recommends a grant of £500,000 payable in equal instalments over five years to The Scout Association as a contribution towards its KidsOutdoors Campaign. The grant will help improve opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to access the physical, social and emotional benefits of outdoors activities and help to develop scouting across the country.

6d. THE WHO CARES? TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to The Who Cares? Trust to fund the Choice Matters interactive CD project. The Choice Matters project aims to facilitate foster carers and residential care staff to enable children and young people to develop decision making skills, in order that they can make informed choices.

6e. RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL The Council recommends a grant of £15,600 to Raleigh International to support the youth agency partnerships programme working with other youth opportunities charities to enable disadvantaged young people to take up volunteering opportunities and achieve personal and life skills development.

6f. REACH VOLUNTEERING The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Reach Volunteering to fund support for organisations working with young people. The Youth Programme will promote and provide tailored support to help improve operational effectiveness, strengthen governance and achieve greater sustainability, creating greater benefit to the young people and the communities with which they work.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

6g. NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the National Autistic Society to support the Advocacy for Education service. The service enables parents to understand both their own and their children's rights and obtain the most appropriate educational provision for their children. An estimated 520,000 people in England and Wales, 130,000 of whom are aged between 0-19, have an autism spectrum disorder.

6h. WHIZZ-KIDZ The Council recommends a grant of £40,000 to Whizz-Kidz to cover the salary of a Head Therapist. Whizz-Kidz's mobility therapists work with disabled children and young people to enable them to get the most out of their mobility equipment and help them to take part in activities to which they would not otherwise have access.

6i. THE ELIZABETH FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to the Elizabeth Foundation as a contribution towards the building and development of a National Home Learning Programme and Demonstration Home for parents with newly diagnosed deaf babies and pre-school children. The Elizabeth Foundation supports infants and pre-school aged children with hearing loss and their families, by providing help, support and encouragement.

6j. CHILDREN: OUR ULTIMATE INVESTMENT (UK) The Council recommends a grant of £26,700 to Children: Our Ultimate Investment (UK) to fund the Teens and Toddlers programme. The innovative programme significantly reduces the occurrence of pregnancies amongst participating teenagers and is founded on creating an environment where at risk teenagers, both male and female, can experience first hand the demands of parent – child relationships and understand the implications for their future life of becoming a parent.

6k. TRELOAR TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to the Treloar Trust to cover the salary of a visual impairment adviser. Treloar Trust provides education, care, therapy, medical support and independence training to young people with physical disabilities. The visual impairment adviser works as part of a multi-disciplinary team to ensure that all aspects of a student's learning and care are addressed, increasing independence, confidence and academic success.

6l. ELIZABETH FITZROY SUPPORT The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Elizabeth FitzRoy Support towards the salary of a coordinator for supported volunteering in the community. Elizabeth FitzRoy Support provides practical support for adults with learning disabilities. The supported volunteering initiative enables service users to become volunteers, fostering integration into local communities and helping people to be more independent, confident and to learn new skills.

6m. COUNSEL & CARE The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Counsel & Care to cover the cost of an advice worker to provide information, advice and emotional support to vulnerable older people and their carers in the UK. The advice team deals with more than 2,500 enquiries every year answering many complex queries on community care issues faced by many older people and their carers.

6n. THE BRUCE TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £10 000 to the Bruce Trust towards the costs of a new canal boat. The Bruce Trust provides purpose-built, wide-beam canal boats for disabled, disadvantaged or elderly people and their carers, enabling them to enjoy a holiday.

6o. CUED SPEECH ASSOCIATION UK The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to the Cued Speech Association UK to fund the Information Plus Project. Cued Speech is a simple system of manual cues, which clarify lip reading. The Information Plus Project will disseminate information about cued speech and how it can be used, helping about 1,000 deaf children and 30 deaf adults to improve their literacy and communication skills.

6p. ROYAL BLIND SOCIETY The Council recommends a grant of £8,000 to the Royal Blind Society towards the cost of holidays at specially adapted hotels for blind and physically disabled children. The holidays provide a rare opportunity to be in an environment away from home, alongside other young people; this can help to give greater independence, encourage self-esteem and confidence and assist social and communication skills.

6q. ST JOHN AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SERVICE The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to the St John Ambulance and Rescue Service in Guernsey.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President, unless anyone has any objections, I propose to take the recommendations at Items 6b to 6q as one resolution, but I feel that the first recommendation, at Item 6a, should be taken separately. This is for a major grant from The Freemasons' Grand Charity of £1 million to Ovarian Cancer Action, to be paid over the next five years. I, therefore, propose that the resolution under Item 6a of the Agenda, be approved.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Agenda Items 6b. to 6q. are for further grants totalling £873,000. These are for a range of projects in areas of medical research, youth opportunities and charities concerned with those most vulnerable in our society. Vice Grand President and members, I propose that the 16 grants under Agenda Items 6b. to 6q, be approved.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: As, I am sure, many of you will be aware, last year was the 40th anniversary of the installation of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent as Grand Master. The Council of The Freemasons' Grand Charity is keen to make a number of grants to commemorate this occasion. We have, therefore, asked the Duke himself to recommend charities with which he has been involved over the years, and which fall within the criteria adopted by the Council when considering grants.

Item 7 of the Agenda for today's meetings seeks approval for a total of £400,000 to be made available to the Council, so that when the list of charities and grant recommendations is finally agreed, the money can be paid immediately. It is anticipated that this process will be completed early next year, when full details will be given.

Vice Grand President and members, I propose that the resolution under Item 7 of the Agenda, be approved.

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

EMERGENCY GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: As President, I am authorized to make emergency grants throughout the world of up to a total of £200,000 between General Meetings, to help in the event of disasters or similar emergencies. I have to report that since the last General Meeting in June, a grant of £15,000 has been made to the District Grand Lodge of Eastern Archipelago following the cyclone in Burma for a specific health centre outside the government's control, and £7,500 has been given to the District Grand Lodge of Bahamas and Turks following the devastation caused to three islands by Hurricane Ike. Also, in Northumberland where there has again been terrible flooding, an emergency grant of £5,000 has been given to the Province for general relief locally.

SPEAKERS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: We now come to Item 9, which is to receive a report on the work of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee, which assists Freemasons and their dependants. Afterwards, Laura Chapman will introduce speakers from non-Masonic charities that have benefitted from our funds, but first we will hear from Dr Ken Harvey, the Chairman of the Council's hardworking Masonic Relief Grants Committee.

DR KENNETH HARVEY: Vice Grand President, honoured guests, ladies, gentlemen and brethren.

Last year, The Freemasons' Grand Charity assisted 1,652 Masons and their families with grants totalling nearly £2.7 million.

The Masonic Relief Grants Committee meets every month to consider applications. Grants are annually renewable and there is absolutely no limit to the number of grants individuals may receive over their lifetime. All Masons in financial distress are eligible to apply, and after their death, so too are their widows or similar dependants. Length of membership is not a consideration. Recently The Grand Charity assisted a widow whose husband died just one month after his Initiation, leaving her with three children to support and severe financial problems.

Our Guidelines are wide-ranging and flexible and allow the Masonic Relief Grants Committee to act with utmost compassion. In particular, grants are awarded to assist with:-

- a. Essential daily living expenses.
- b. Disability equipment, such as wheelchairs, stair-lifts, special beds, baths & showers. These are all installed, maintained and fully insured.
- c. The Grand Charity recently supplied a vertical wheelchair lift so that a 75 year old widow could care for her adult son – left tetraplegic from an accident.
- d. There are also special arrangements to cover emergencies, such as those following bereavement, sudden illness or desertion, when grants can be given with greater speed than usual.

If applicants have minimal savings, grants can be given for minor repairs or for basic household furniture & equipment. Most notably in recent times, The Grand Charity has assisted those who have been affected by floods, with grants to replace ruined furniture and white goods.

The Grand Charity regularly considers funeral costs where no other provision has been made.

Sometimes patience and discretion works wonders. In once case, a Lodge Almoner patiently visited a proud and private widow for two years, eventually to discover that she was only claiming the basic State Pension. She had no additional benefits and yet was still paying £10 per month for her late husband's funeral. The Grand Charity immediately made a grant, covered the funeral costs, and with our advice the Lodge Almoner helped her claim additional help from the State.

Together, the Provinces of Hampshire and Isle of Wight and Dorset, with a total of over 300 lodges, received 55 Masonic Relief Grants in the year ended 31 July 2008, to a total value of £135,320. Also in those areas, an additional £22,000 was paid to 23 former annuitants of the RMBI, from the Transferred Beneficiaries Fund, which is now administered by The Grand Charity.

The Committee is grateful to the extremely hard-working, dedicated and knowledgeable staff of The Grand Charity. Credit must also be given to Provincial and Lodge Almoners and to the Visiting Brethren who complete the application forms. They are all volunteers, often without a specialised knowledge of the State Systems. But it is not their responsibility alone.

Every one of us who is a Freemason, and everyone else who can be made aware of what we do, should consider The Grand Charity if ever they come across a case of need such as I have just described. We cannot be all things to all people, but the opportunity exists to help many more cases than those we already know about. With your help, perhaps we will find them. Thank you for your support.

The Chief Executive then introduced the following speakers:

- Paul Arengo-Jones, CVO, Chief Executive of the Breast Cancer Haven, and Sara Davenport, Founder of the charity, explained how the non-Masonic grant of £250,000, approved in March 2008, was helping with their efforts. Breast Cancer Haven works with the NHS and medical professionals to provide support, information and complementary therapies to meet the physical and emotional needs of people affected by breast cancer. All services are provided free of charge. There are two existing Havens in London and Herefordshire and the grant from The Freemasons' Grand Charity was a contribution towards a new Haven in Leeds
- Shirley Metherell, Chief Executive of the Elizabeth Foundation, spoke about the work undertaken by the Foundation. The Freemasons' Grand Charity had approved a grant of £30,000 to the Elizabeth Foundation earlier in the meeting, having already given a grant of £25,000 in October 2005. The Elizabeth Foundation supports infants and pre-school aged children with hearing loss, and their families, with educational and advisory services.
- RWBro Brian Bellinger, Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, addressed the meeting and introduced Bryn Parry, Chief Executive of Help for Heroes, a charity that had been supported by the Province. Help for Heroes assists those who have been wounded or injured whilst serving in the armed forces through the provision of facilities, equipment or services for their rehabilitation.

The President of the Grand Charity thanked the speakers for their inspiring addresses and the good work that their respective charities achieve.

CLOSING ADDRESSES

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President, ladies, gentlemen and members.

That brings us to the end of our meeting, but before finally handing back to you Vice Grand President, I should like to say how enormously grateful we are to the Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight and the members of his Province, for organising this meeting. I cannot name everyone involved, since there has been so much effort put into the arrangements, that the numbers are many.

We have also been honoured by the presence today of several members of the local and surrounding communities, including:-

- The High Sheriff of Dorset
- The Mayors of Bournemouth, Winchester, Christchurch and Poole
- The Dean of Winchester Cathedral
- Representatives from Portsmouth Cathedral and Bournemouth University
- Representatives from Bournemouth Council and Poole Council
- and representatives of the judiciary in Dorset

From within Freemasonry, not only do we have the Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, but also their Grand Superintendent as well as the Provincial Grand Masters for Berkshire, Dorset, Surrey, Sussex and Wiltshire. We also have with us the current Senior Grand Warden, Raymond Lye, my predecessor as President.

I should also like to mention particularly one of our Council members present, because he has played such a significant role in the past and has done so much for this Masonic Charity. Sir John Welch, was President of the Grand Charity from 1985 until 1995 and since then he has remained an active member of the Council. His family's connection with the fund we now call The Freemasons' Grand Charity goes back over many years, as his father, Sir Cullum Welch, was President of the Board of Benevolence during the 1970s. I have always welcomed his very considerable advice and I know that Raymond Lye did so too. Sir John is due to retire from the Council next March after almost 27 years, and so this is the last of these occasions that he will attend as a member of the Council. His wife, Kerry (Lady Welch) is also here today, as are the wives, husbands, partners and other guests of all those I have just mentioned.

Finally, thanks must go to our Vice Grand President, Lord Lane of Horsell, who has honoured us by chairing this meeting in his usual delightful manner. He has also attended Council meetings during the year. It is wonderful that he continues as Vice Grand President and remains so interested in the affairs of this Charity.

Thank you all for being here. The support of everyone today has been invaluable – please enjoy visiting to the 20 charity display stands [listed on page 19] and the RNLI demonstration, which will be given just off shore, by the pier, shortly after lunch.

The Vice Grand President, RWBro the Rt Hon Lord Lane of Horsell, PSGW, then addressed the meeting. He thanked all those involved, in particular those who had attended.

The meeting was closed.

END

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is grateful to the following for providing display stands at the Bournemouth International Centre on the day of the General Meeting in September 2008.

Action on Addiction
Breast Cancer Haven
Cystic Fibrosis Trust
Dorset Kidney Fund
Down Syndrome Education International
Earl Mountbatten Hospice
Elizabeth Foundation
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Provincial Grand Charity
Lifelites
MacMillan Cancer Trust
Macular Disease Society
Naomi House/Jacks Place
Oakhaven Hospice Trust
Princess Royal Trust for Carers
Prostate Cancer Research Centre
Rowans Hospice
Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
SCOPE
Seeability
St John Ambulance
TLC / Hampshire & Isle of Wight - Charity Stand
Wessex Heartbeat
Youth Cancer Trust
Zetland Court (RMBI home)

DIARY DATES

Annual General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity
to be held on the same day as the
June Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge
Wednesday, 10 June 2009
Freemasons' Hall, London

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2009 Festival
held by the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire
Saturday, 13 June 2009
New Connaught Rooms, London

General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity
held with the support of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire
Saturday, 10 October 2009
Dawlish Warren, Devonshire

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

Registered Charity No 281942

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