

# THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

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

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

DEPUTY GRAND PRESIDENT  
PETER G. LOWNDES

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15 May 2009

Dear Sir and Brother

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity will be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, as part of the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, on Wednesday, 10 June 2009, but separate from it. Members of The Freemasons' 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. The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2008 are contained in a separate document.

Yours faithfully and fraternally

RICHARD CAMM-JONES  
Secretary of the Grand Charity



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

10 June 2009

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## AGENDA

1. **Minutes** of the General Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 December 2008 at Freemasons' Hall, London, for confirmation (see page 17).
2. To receive the **Report of the Council** following meetings held on 28 January 2008, 25 March 2009 and 22 April 2009. The Report is contained on pages 13 to 16. It includes recommendations for several non-Masonic charitable grants, which are set out in detail in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants on pages 7 to 12 and which should be considered as part of the Report. These require the approval, under items 3. to 7. below, of the members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity at this Annual General Meeting before the money can be given.
3. 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:

### MEDICAL RESEARCH

- 3.01 £50,000 to **Diabetes UK** to fund a research project at Cambridge University into hypoglycaemia prevention for adults.
- 3.02 £250,000 to **Moorfields Eye Hospital** payable over three years to fund research at Moorfields Eye Hospital into ocular scarring and stem cell research.
- 3.03 £50,000 to the **Motor Neurone Disease Association** payable over two years to fund research at Sheffield University into a mechanical cough assist device.

### YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- 3.04 £10,000 to the **Army Cadet Force Association** to fund the outreach project with disaffected young people.
- 3.05 £45,000 to **Barnardo's** payable over two years to fund a vocational skills instructor at a training restaurant in Harrogate.
- 3.06 £50,000 to **Brathay Hall** payable over two years to contribute to a bursary fund to enable disadvantaged young people to attend activity courses at Brathay Hall in Cumbria.

- 3.07 £15,000 to **The Cricket Foundation** to fund a project to encourage team sport in state schools.
- 3.08 £60,000 to the **Depaul Trust** payable in equal instalments over two years to fund the Depaul Nightstop scheme providing emergency accommodation for homeless young people.
- 3.09 £10,000 to the **Happy Days Children's Charity** to fund day trips for children with special needs.
- 3.10 £20,000 to **Shaftesbury Young People** to fund Siblings United, a project to help children in care to stay in contact with their siblings.

### VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- 3.11 £50,000 to the **Alzheimer's Society** to fund a new Carers' Programme providing information and advice to family carers of people with dementia.
- 3.12 £20,000 to **Aspire** to fund adaptations for temporary supported housing for people with spinal cord injuries.
- 3.13 £50,000 to the **British Red Cross** to fund a new Responder vehicle in Essex.
- 3.14 £50,000 to the **Calvert Trust Lake District** to fund the Extending Equal Chance project to enable more people with disabilities to participate in outdoor adventure activities.
- 3.15 £38,500 to the **Dementia Relief Trust (For Dementia)** to fund a training course on dementia for staff in RMBl care homes.
- 3.16 £15,000 to the **Disabled Living Foundation** to fund the roll-out of an online advice service for disabled living equipment.
- 3.17 £55,000 to **Emmaus UK** payable over 2 years to fund the salary of the development manager who enables the establishment of new Communities for homeless people.
- 3.18 £15,000 to **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** to contribute towards IT equipment at a new training centre in East Yorkshire.
- 3.19 £10,000 to the **Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy** to fund the outreach service providing support for families.
- 3.20 £20,000 to the **Jubilee Sailing Trust** to contribute towards the re-fit of the Lord Nelson Tall Ship for disabled voyagers.
- 3.21 £150,000 to **Lifelites** to fund the ongoing provision of IT equipment in children's hospices.
- 3.22 £35,000 to **Maggie's** to fund a new cancer care centre in Cheltenham.
- 3.23 £15,000 to **The National Society for Epilepsy** to fund the Information Network.

- 3.24 £25,000 to the **Red Balloon Learner Centre** to part-fund the salary of the development manager to enable the establishment of further specialist centres for severely bullied children.
- 3.25 £17,000 to **The Relatives and Residents Association** to fund a project to improve access to health care services for older people in residential homes.

#### RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

- 3.26 £5,000 to **Llandaff Cathedral** to contribute to the cost of a new organ.
  - 3.27 £5,000 to **Norwich Cathedral** to contribute to fitting out a new Hostry.
  - 3.28 £5,000 to **St Edmundsbury Cathedral** to contribute to a new altar in the Chapel of the Transfiguration.
  - 3.29 £5,000 to **Winchester Cathedral** to contribute to the restoration of the Venerable Chapel.
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- 4. To consider a resolution that £500,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to **hospice services** in 2009.
  - 5. To consider a resolution that £50,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for general **non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less**, in 2009.
  - 6. To consider a resolution that £192,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2009 for the **Air Ambulances in England and Wales** to be distributed via the Provincial Grand Lodges.
  - 7. To consider a resolution that a further £65,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2009 for the **Provincial Matched Funding Scheme** offering £5,000 each to the Masonic Provinces of Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorset, Guernsey and Alderney, Isle of Man, Jersey, East Lancashire, West Lancashire, Middlesex and Oxfordshire.
  - 8. To receive and adopt the **Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts** of The Freemasons' Grand Charity for the year ended 30 November 2008 (see separate document).

9. To report **Emergency Grants** made since the last meeting.
  - £15,000 has been given to Save the Children to support disaster relief work in the Democratic Republic of Congo resulting from the conflict that has affected more than a million people, including many children.
  - £15,000 has been donated to the Grand Lodge of Victoria, at Melbourne, Grand Master's Victoria Bushfires Appeal to assist victims of the bushfires in the state of Victoria, Australia.
  - In response to a request from the South West Pacific Group of Lodges to assist with its own relief efforts, the President has approved an emergency grant of £5,000 to help victims of severe flooding across Fiji, which has left thousands homeless.
10. Appointments and elections of **members of the Council** of the Grand Charity under Regulation 0203.
  - a. To announce the name of the member appointed by the Grand President to be the Deputy President for the ensuing year.
  - b. To announce the name of the member appointed by the Grand President to be the Treasurer for the ensuing year.
  - c. To announce the names of members appointed by the Grand President to serve for the period 2009 to 2012.
  - d. To announce the names of members elected to represent Provincial Lodges for the period 2009 to 2012.
  - e. To announce the name of the member appointed by the Provincial Grand Master for the Province holding a Festival for The Grand Charity in the year 2010.
  - f. To announce the name of the member elected to represent London Lodges for the period 2009 to 2012.
11. To **elect the auditors** of The Freemasons' Grand Charity's accounts.

## SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

The Council proposes the following non-Masonic grants, which appear under items 3. to 7. of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 10 June 2009 and which are referred to in paragraph 7. of the Council's Report dated 22 April 2009.

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

### MEDICAL RESEARCH

3.01 DIABETES UK The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Diabetes UK to fund a research project at Cambridge University into hypoglycaemia prevention for adults. This is a continuation of the Closing the Loop project, which The Freemasons' Grand Charity funded for children in 2007.

3.02 MOORFIELDS EYE HOSPITAL The Council recommends a grant of £250,000 payable over 3 years to fund research into ocular scarring and stem cell research led by Professor Peng Tee Khaw. The funding will be used for The Freemasons' Grand Charity Senior Research Scientist and Senior Research Technician.

3.03 MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 payable over 2 years to fund research into a cough assist mechanical in-exsufflator MI-E device at Sheffield University. 5,000 people in the UK have MND at any one time and the charity funds research and provides support.

### YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

3.04 ARMY CADET FORCE ASSOCIATION The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to fund an outreach project with disadvantaged young people. Outreach provides a year-long adventure training course for 12-14 year olds who are at risk of offending. Children are referred by schools, local authorities or the police and the course is run by cadet instructor volunteers.

3.05 BARNARDO'S The Council recommends a grant of £45,000 payable over 2 years to fund a vocational skills instructor at a training restaurant in Harrogate. Many trainees have learning and behavioural difficulties and need support during their training. About 60 young people attend each year and 25 of them achieve a full qualification up to NVQ Level 3. Barnardo's runs 394 services nationwide.

3.06 BRATHAY HALL The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 payable over 2 years to contribute to a bursary fund for disadvantaged young people. The charity is based in Cumbria and provides outdoor training and

activities for young people to improve personal and social development. All training programmes are tailor made to meet the development needs of the particular youth group.

3.07 THE CRICKET FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to fund two new projects in state schools. The Chance to Shine project aims to extend competitive sport through introducing cricket into state schools in deprived areas. The project has social and educational impact and it also reaches ethnic communities in a way that is unique. To date, the charity has delivered 300 projects to 2,082 schools and has shown good results in its first three years.

3.08 DEPAUL TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £60,000 payable over 2 years to fund the Depaul Nightstop Scheme which offers emergency accommodation to homeless young people. Local schemes are run by volunteers and helped over 2,000 young people last year. Depaul Nightstop UK provides advice, support and training to 50 local Nightstop schemes.

3.09 HAPPY DAYS CHILDREN'S CHARITY The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to Happy Days Children's Charity to fund day trips for children with special needs. The charity is based in Bedfordshire and takes disabled children on outings and holidays.

3.10 SHAFTESBURY YOUNG PEOPLE The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Shaftesbury Young People to fund the Siblings United project, a service to help children in care who have been separated from their brothers and sisters to maintain a relationship. 84% of children in care are separated from their siblings and the majority of them have difficulty in maintaining contact and seeing each other. The project works with local authority social services to enable siblings to rebuild relationships.

#### VULNERABLE PEOPLE

3.11 ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the Alzheimer's Society to fund a new Carers' Programme, which will deliver training to carers. There are 700,000 people with dementia in the UK, and 600,000 of those have a family member as their principal carer. Many carers lack the information that they need to deal with the diagnosis and to plan ahead. The Society will develop a high quality, consistent Carers' Programme using facilitators to deliver information sessions to carers locally.

3.12 ASPIRE The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Aspire to fund adaptations for Aspire Supported Housing for people with spinal cord injury. Aspire aims to have 30 houses available by 2010 and each house will accommodate 2 newly discharged patients temporarily before they

return to their own homes or find new accommodation. The charity is based in Middlesex.

3.13 BRITISH RED CROSS The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the British Red Cross to fund a new Responder emergency response vehicle in Essex for use after events such as floods, fires, major traffic incidents or terrorist attacks. The British Red Cross provides crisis response to support the UK emergency services and vehicles are also used in community services to provide first aid cover. This vehicle will be the third new vehicle funded by The Freemasons' Grand Charity.

3.14 CALVERT TRUST LAKE DISTRICT The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the Calvert Trust Lake District to fund the Extending Equal Chance project to support more people with disabilities through an outreach and training programme for staff of other centres. The charity provides outdoor adventure activities for disabled people and caters for people with complex disabilities and a high level of support needs.

3.15 DEMENTIA RELIEF TRUST (For Dementia) The Council recommends a grant of £38,500 over 2 years to fund training for staff in RMBI Homes. The charity aims to improve the quality of life for people with dementia by providing training for healthcare professionals. The project will train 90 staff in six RMBI homes to improve the ability of the staff to deal with residents with dementia.

3.16 DISABLED LIVING FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to the Disabled Living Foundation to fund the roll-out of a further section of the free online service providing impartial advice on living equipment for disabled people. The site is created by an occupational therapist who provides independent advice on suitable equipment and the charity aims to have 750,000 visitors to the website annually.

3.17 EMMAUS UK The Council recommends a grant of £55,000 payable over 2 years to Emmaus UK to part-fund the salary of the development manager. The charity provides a home and work for homeless people in 17 established communities across the country. It has 20 Communities in development and aims to open two new Communities each year. The charity is based in Cambridge.

3.18 HEARING DOGS FOR THE DEAF The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf to fund IT equipment at the training centre in East Yorkshire. The charity trained 130 dogs in 2007 at a cost of £5,000 each and there is a two year waiting list for dogs. The charity is based in Buckinghamshire and is opening a new centre in Yorkshire.

3.19 JENNIFER TRUST FOR SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to the Jennifer Trust for Spinal

Muscular Atrophy to fund the outreach service providing advice, information and support to families affected by spinal muscular atrophy. The charity is based in Warwickshire.

3.20 JUBILEE SAILING TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to the Jubilee Sailing Trust to contribute towards the re-fit cost of the Lord Nelson Tall Ship. The charity takes over 1,000 disabled people on tall ship voyages each year. The total refit will cost £350,000 over two years and aims to enable the 22 year old ship to continue for another 20 years. The charity is based in Southampton.

3.21 LIFELITES The Council recommends a grant of £150,000 to Lifelites to fund the ongoing provision of computer equipment and packages for education and entertainment in children's hospices across the country.

3.22 MAGGIE'S The Council recommends a grant of £35,000 to Maggie's to fund a new cancer care centre in Cheltenham. The charity has specialist purpose-built cancer centres in or near hospitals to provide information and support to patients with all types of cancer and their carers. The centres provide psychological support, complementary therapies, welfare advice and information. The charity expects 5,000 visitors in the first year, rising to 12,000 after three years.

3.23 THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EPILEPSY The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to The National Society for Epilepsy to fund the information service. The information network runs out of 120 health centres across England and provides support and information on epilepsy using volunteers. The charity also provides a schools programme as well as services in the community. The charity is based in Buckinghamshire.

3.24 RED BALLOON LEARNER CENTRE The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to the Red Balloon Learner Centre to fund the salary of the Development Manager. The charity provides intensive full time education for children who have been so badly bullied that they are unable to attend mainstream school. The charity is based in Cambridge and new locations are planned for Liverpool, Warwick and Sheffield.

3.25 THE RELATIVES AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION The Council recommends a grant of £17,000 to fund a project officer responsible for improving access to health care services for older people in residential homes. The charity campaigns for older people living in care homes and their relatives and has identified that older people in residential care are often unable to obtain treatment from mainstream services such as a GP, dentist or optician.

### RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

3.26 LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to contribute to the cost of a new organ.

3.27 NORWICH CATHEDRAL The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to contribute to the cost of fitting out a new Hostry.

3.28 ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to contribute to a new altar in the Chapel of the Transfiguration.

3.29 WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to contribute to the restoration of the Venerable Chapel.

### HOSPICES

4. The Council recommends that £500,000 be placed at its disposal for grants to hospice services in 2009.

### SMALL GRANTS

5. The Council recommends that £50,000 be placed at its disposal for general non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less, in 2009.

### AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

6. Support for operational Air Ambulance Services in England and Wales continues to receive widespread support from Freemasons and the Council now recommends that a further £192,000 be placed at its disposal in 2009 for grants to Air Ambulance Services.

### PROVINCIAL MATCHED FUNDING SCHEME

7. The Council's Matched-Funding Scheme, in association with Provincial Grand Lodges, has been well received and the Council recommends that a further £65,000 be placed at its disposal in 2009 for match-funding grants of £5,000 or less. On this occasion, the Masonic Provinces involved are Berkshire, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorset, Guernsey and Alderney, Isle of Man, Jersey, East Lancashire, West Lancashire, Middlesex and Oxfordshire.

### **END OF SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS**

# **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL**

following meetings held on  
28 January 2008, 25 March 2009 and 22 April 2009

## **FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

to be held on

**Wednesday, 10 June 2009**

### **GENERAL**

#### **1. DEPUTY GRAND PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY**

The Council wishes to place on record its profound thanks to RWBro the Most Hon the Marquess of Northampton, DL, PProGM, on his retirement for his enormous contribution to the Grand Charity during his time as Deputy Grand President. He had held the office since becoming Pro Grand Master in 2001 and is automatically succeeded as Deputy Grand President by the new Pro Grand Master, RWBro Peter G. Lowndes, with whom the Council looks forward to a similarly productive and close association.

#### **2. VICE GRAND PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY**

The Council records with regret the death, on 9 January 2009, of the Vice Grand President of the Grand Charity, RWBro the Rt Hon Lord Lane of Horsell, PSGW. His support and wise counsel over the past seven years has been of enormous benefit to the Charity.

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

Under the terms of Regulation 0202(e), the Council has re-elected VWBro Dr Robert J. Woodward, PGSuptWks, and elected WBro Ian B. Johnson, PAGDC, as Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year, with effect from the end of the Annual General Meeting.

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

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

RWBro Sir John Welch, Bt, PSGW  
VWBro Nevil H. Parkinson, PGSwdB

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

The Council has approved the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2008 and presents them in a separate document for adoption by the members (Agenda Item 8). The document is also available to download from The Freemasons' Grand Charity's website: [www.grandcharity.org/pages/annual\\_report.html](http://www.grandcharity.org/pages/annual_report.html)

## **MASONIC GRANTS**

### **6. APPLICATIONS TO THE MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS COMMITTEE**

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

DATE	NO OF APPLICANTS ASSISTED	RELIEF GRANTED
19 November 2008	221	£422,690
16 December 2008	150	£303,937
28 January 2009	154	£279,637
18 February 2009	130	£245,699
18 March 2009	126	£286,521
22 April 2009	181	£333,891

These figures include grants made under Rule 0311.

## **NON-MASONIC GRANTS**

7. The Council proposes the non-Masonic grants set out in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants (on pages 7 to 12) and which appear under items 3. to 7. of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 10 June 2009.

### **GENERAL SMALL GRANTS - 2008**

8. The Council has now allocated the £50,000 placed at its disposal in March 2008 for small grants to non-Masonic charities. Appendix D of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts is a list of these and other grants, individually under £10,000.

### **GRANTS TO HOSPICES - 2008**

9. The Council has now completed allocation of the funds totalling £600,000 (£500,000 for adult hospices and £100,000 for children's hospices) placed at its disposal in March 2008. Appendix B of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts is a list of the grants made.

### **GRANTS TO COMMEMORATE THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND MASTER**

10. In September and December 2008, the members of the Freemasons' Grand Charity approved that a total of £550,000 should be made available to the Council 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 accordance with its usual policy guidelines for grants to non-Masonic charities, the Council has approved the following:-

£100,000 to the Save Canterbury Cathedral appeal  
£50,000 to Combat Stress  
£50,000 to the Colonel's Fund Grenadier Guards  
£50,000 to the King Edward VII's Hospital Sister Agnes  
£50,000 to Leukaemia Research  
£50,000 to the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust  
£50,000 to Restore - Burn and Wound Research (Stoke Mandeville)  
£50,000 to the Royal Hospital Chelsea Appeal  
£50,000 to the Colonel's Fund Scots Guards  
£50,000 to The Stroke Association

11. A Special Event will be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Wednesday, 3rd June 2009, at which His Royal Highness will present these grants. The Event is open to all Freemasons, their wives and other non-Masonic guests. Further details are shown on the back page of this document and application forms can be downloaded from: [www.grandcharity.org](http://www.grandcharity.org)

#### 12. UNPAID GRANT

In March 2006, the members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity approved a grant of £90,000 to RETHINK to fund a project to educate young children of the link between cannabis use and severe mental illness. Regrettably, the charity has been unable to raise the balance of funds necessary to deliver the proposed project and so the grant will not now be paid.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

#### 2009 FESTIVAL

13. The twenty-fourth annual Festival for The Freemasons' Grand Charity will be held on Saturday, 13 June 2009, at New Connaught Rooms, London, under the Presidency of RWBro Colin F. Harris, Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire. Details of the arrangements may be obtained from the Provincial Grand Secretary of Hertfordshire.

#### GENERAL MEETINGS

14. This year the Council was asked to change the date of the Charity's Annual General Meeting from March, when it is usually held during a call-off period of the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, to June. The Council is happy to concede to this request and hopes that the same arrangements may be made in future years.

15. The Freemasons' Grand Charity now holds a General Meeting each year in one of the Masonic Provinces. The Council wishes to record formally its thanks to the Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and the members of his Province who assisted in organising a very successful meeting in Bournemouth in September 2008. Similar arrangements are being made for a meeting to be held on Saturday, 10 October 2009, at the Langstone Cliff Hotel, Dawlish Warren, Exeter. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire has very kindly agreed to assist with the arrangements. The meeting is open to all members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, who may also bring non-Masonic guests. Further details will be made available at a later date.

#### ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LODGES

16. The Council has recommended to the Board of General Purposes that contributions to The Freemasons' Grand Charity payable by London and Provincial Lodges under Rule 271 of the Book of Constitutions in respect of each of their members for the year 2010 should be not less than £14.00.

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT  
President  
22 April 2009

# THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

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

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## **MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING**

HELD AT

FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON WC2B 5AZ

ON

WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2008

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 General Meeting.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, 27 September 2008 at the Bournemouth International Conference Centre, were taken as read and confirmed.

## **ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL'S REPORT**

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and members. The report of the Council of the Grand Charity, following its meeting held on 15 October last, will be found on pages 3 and 4 of the yellow Paper of Business for today's meeting. With the exception of paragraph 3, I propose that the report be taken as read and adopted.

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

**APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR GRANTS  
TO COMMEMORATE THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF  
HRH THE DUKE OF KENT, KG,  
AS GRAND MASTER**

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: As you will see from the minutes of the last General Meeting that have just been approved and which was held in Bournemouth last September with the particularly splendid assistance of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, a total of £400,000 was approved for grants to non-Masonic charities that His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent has suggested might be considered by the Council, to commemorate his 40th Anniversary last year as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. Having given further thought to the charities recommended by His Royal Highness, the Council has decided to seek approval at this meeting of an additional amount of £150,000, bringing the total available for grants to £550,000.

Additionally, as Grand President of the Grand Charity, His Royal Highness has agreed to attend a special event, to be held here at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday 3rd June 2009, at about 6 o'clock, at which all the charities that are to benefit from the funds just mentioned will be announced. The evening will be attended by several other non-Masonic charities, which will be invited to provide display stands, and we hope that it will be possible for all four of the central Masonic Charities (each of which His Royal Highness is their Grand President) as well as the Grand Lodge itself, including the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, to be represented.

The event, which will be organised by The Freemasons' Grand Charity, will be open to all members of the Craft and their non-Masonic guests, particularly wives and partners who will be most welcome as usual. Full details will be given early next year.

In the mean time Deputy Grand President and members, I propose that under Item 3 of the Paper of Business for today's meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, a sum of £150,000 be approved and placed at the disposal of the Council.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Before you close this General Meeting, Sir, may I just explain to the members that under our Trust Deed, the Pro Grand Master is automatically the Deputy Grand President of the Grand Charity. That means that this is also the last occasion on which you will take the Chair as our Deputy Grand President and on behalf of the Council, and I am sure on behalf of all the members of the Craft who are also members of The Grand Charity, may I say what a privilege it has been for us to have been beneficiaries of your guidance and support on so many occasions. You will be very much missed by us all, but we look forward to a similar relationship with your successor. For your enormous contribution to our charitable activities, we thank you Sir.

The meeting was closed.

**END**

## DIARY DATES

### **Special Event**

in the presence of HRH The Duke of Kent, KG,  
to announce grants to commemorate his 40th anniversary  
as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England

**Wednesday, 3 June 2009**

6.00 pm

Freemasons' Hall, London

Tickets cost £10 each

(NB The closing date for ticket applications is 15 May 2009, but some tickets are still available. Anyone applying after this date is advised to first contact The Freemasons' Grand Charity office as detailed below.)

### **The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2009 Festival**

to be held by the  
Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire

**Saturday, 13 June 2009**

New Connaught Rooms, London

### **General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity**

to be held with the support of the  
Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire

**Saturday, 10 October 2009**

11.00 am

Langstone Cliff Hotel

Mount Pleasant Road, Dawlish Warren

Exeter EX7 0NA

All these events are open to Freemasons and their non-Masonic guests.

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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](mailto:info@the-grand-charity.org)

[www.grandcharity.org](http://www.grandcharity.org)