

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
PETER G. LOWNDES

VICE GRAND PRESIDENT
IAIN R. BRYCE, TD, DL

17 November 2009

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, 9 December 2009, 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, 9 December 2009

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, 10 October 2009, at the Langstone Cliff Hotel, Dawlish Warren, Exeter, for confirmation (see page 7).
2. To receive the Report of the Council dated 21 October 2009. The Report is contained on pages 4 & 5. It includes recommendations for several amounts to be made available to the Council for general non-Masonic charitable grants. These require the approval, under item 3. below, of the members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity at this Annual General Meeting before the money can be given.
3. To consider the following resolutions:-
 - a. that £600,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to **hospice services** in 2010; £500,000 for allocation to adult hospices and £100,000 to children's hospices (Report paragraph 2).
 - b. that £100,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for general **non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less**, in 2010 (Report paragraph 3).
 - c. that £60,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2010 for grants to be made under the **Provincial Matched Funding Scheme**, with a further 12 Provinces being invited to participate (Report paragraph 4).
 - d. that £192,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2010 for the **Air Ambulance and similar rescue services** in England, Wales and the Channel Islands, to be distributed via Provincial Grand Lodges (Report paragraph 5).

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

following its meeting held on 21 October 2009

FOR THE GENERAL MEETING

to be held on

Wednesday, 9 December 2009

MASONIC GRANTS

1. APPLICATIONS FOR MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS

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

DATE	NO OF GRANTS AWARDED	TOTAL RELIEF
19 August 2009	183	£337,181
16 September 2009	135	£264,523
21 October 2009	199	£319,158

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

HOSPICES

2. The Council recommends that £600,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to hospice services in 2010; £500,000 for allocation to adult hospices and £100,000 to children's hospices (Agenda item 3a).

SMALL GRANTS

3. The Council recommends that £100,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for general non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less, in 2010 (Agenda item 3b).

PROVINCIAL MATCHED FUNDING SCHEME

4. The Council's Matched-Funding Scheme, in association with Provincial Grand Lodges, continues to be well received and the Council recommends that a further £60,000 be placed at its disposal in 2010 for match-funding grants, with 12 Provinces being invited to participate (Agenda item 3c).

AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

5. Support for operational Air Ambulance and similar rescue services in England, Wales and the Channel Islands continues to receive widespread support from Freemasons and the Council now recommends that a further £192,000 be placed at its disposal in 2010 for grants to these services, to be distributed via Provincial Grand Lodges (Agenda item 3d).

EMERGENCY GRANTS

6. Since the last meeting, the President has authorised a grant of £25,000 to Save the Children to support their work following the South India Flooding.

PREVIOUS GRANTS

7. In October 2009, the members of the Grand Charity approved a grant of £100,000 to be made available to the Council for a project of the Acorns Children's Hospice Trust. After consideration, the Council has decided that the funds should be used towards a new reception area at the Hospice in Walsall.

GENERAL MATTERS

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

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

Norman Clifford Smith	£1,000.00
Leslie Thorn	£9,721.15
Marion Roberts	£90,000.00

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.

GENERAL MEETING IN DEVONSHIRE

9. 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 Devonshire, and the members of his Province, particularly WBro Brian Kelly, PJGD, who is the Deputy President of the Grand Charity and a member of the Province, who assisted in organising a very successful meeting in Dawlish Warren in October 2009, at which approximately 350 members and guests were present. (The minutes of this meeting are on page 7.)

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT
President of the Grand Charity
21 October 2009

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

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

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT THE LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL, DAWLISH WARREN, DEVON
ON SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2009, UNDER THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF RWBRO RAYMOND J. LYE, SGW, ACTING GRAND
PRESIDENT

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

The Acting 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: Acting Grand President, Lord Mayor, ladies, gentlemen and members.

On behalf of the members of the Council of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, many of whom are here today, I welcome you all to this General Meeting.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is just one of four central Masonic Charities. Its members are all but a handful of all Freemasons in England & Wales, plus some who live overseas. This Charity makes grants to Freemasons who find themselves in difficulty, financially or health wise, which will be explained further during the Meeting under Item 8. We also are the principle Non-Masonic Grant giving Charity of the Four Central Charities, which again is explained by our excellent Chief Executive under Item 4. We make Emergency Grants, which are dealt with under Item 7, and run the Masonic Relief Chest system for Lodges and Provinces to help them maximise the efficiency of the handling of their charity funds, from a tax exemption, governance and interest-rate point of view.

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 of our members.

Whilst you will hear about the work of the Charity more 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 and those of the many other charities around the country that do so much for the good of us all. None of the charities represented here today, including the 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 only given to charities that serve the wider population of England and Wales. As a result, some of the projects we support are located in cities and universities across the country. Some of those that have received grants in recent years and which have particular connections with this part of the South West are: -

CHICKS - Country Holidays for Inner City Kids
Cued Speech Association UK
Farms for City Children
The Island Trust

also, every year hospices are considered and here in Devon the following have received grants annually:-

Children's Hospice South West (Little Bridge House)
Hospiscare
North Devon Hospice
Rowcroft
St Luke's Hospice Plymouth

In addition I would mention that we make grants to nearly every local hospice service, nationwide.

The Council members and I are most grateful to members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire 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 interesting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 June 2009 at Freemasons' Hall, London, were taken as read and confirmed.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: As I mentioned just now, 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.

Under Item 3 of the Agenda, I now propose that the whole of the Report be taken as read and, with the exception of paragraphs 5. and 6. and the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants, which are the subject of Agenda Items 5. and 6. and which will be dealt with later, that it be taken as read and adopted.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Acting Grand President and Members, before we deal with the non-Masonic grants recommended under Agenda Items 5 & 6, I will, with your permission Acting Grand President, call on the Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, to tell us something about the process undertaken by the Council before recommendations are made.

LAURA CHAPMAN: Ladies and gentlemen. The next two items on the agenda seek the approval of members for 11 grants to non-Masonic charities that have been recommended by the Council. To give you some additional background about this aspect of our work, I would like to speak very briefly about the Charity's guidelines for non-Masonic grants and what we hope to achieve by making them.

Providing a central point for giving to non-Masonic charities on behalf of the entire Craft was one of the primary reasons that the Freemasons' Grand Charity was established in 1980. Although local and Provincial Lodges donate money to literally thousands of charities, these are primarily to charities of the local community and reflect the wishes of that particular Lodge or Province. It was envisioned that the Freemasons' Grand Charity would complement this local giving by making grants to national charities that the majority of Masons would want to help. Since 1981, the Charity has made grants totalling more than £35m to a wide range of social welfare and medical research charities.

The Council, when deciding which charities to support, is very aware of its responsibility to you, the Craft, who provide all the funding for these grants, which in 2008 totalled over £3m. With these non-Masonic grants, The Freemasons' Grand Charity seeks to:

- Support causes that you, the members of the Craft and your families, 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, against guidelines agreed by the Council, 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. In 2005 we introduced a pilot scheme of matching Provincial grants, to a maximum of £5,000 per Province to national charities that meet our guidelines. This matched funding scheme was so well received that each Province will now be invited to participate every four years on a rolling programme.

For the past three years we have also earmarked £180,000 for support for all Air Ambulance services across the country and during this year PGMs have been presenting cheques, often augmented by their Province's own fundraising efforts, to their local service. The Province of Devonshire obviously made its donation of £4,000 to the Devon Air Ambulance.

Masonic support for air ambulance services is probably surpassed only by its support for hospices. Freemasons have long given to the hospice movement, both at a personal level, and through grants made from Lodge, Provincial and central Charity funds. In 1984, soon after the Grand Charity came into being, a project was started that to date has approved more than £8 million to all hospice services in England and Wales that are not substantially supported by the NHS. All of these grants are made via Provincial offices and the project, which is reviewed annually, continues to receive much support from the Masonic movement. Funding for next year will be considered by the Council later this month. On the Agenda today is a recommendation by the Council for a grant to support children's hospice services, which it makes in memory of one of its past members, Rodney Pitham.

Turning to the yellow Paper of Business, you will see that under item 5, the 10 recommended grants are grouped under the main categories of support given by the Freemasons' Grand Charity: medical research, vulnerable people, youth opportunities and religious buildings. The President will also tell you about one Emergency Grants that he has approved since our last general meeting. He has the authority to make emergency grants between General Meetings, so that we can contribute immediately to relief efforts following a disaster. The President will now seek approval from the membership, for these grants.

APPROVAL OF GRANTS

The following grant recommendations were before the meeting for consideration and approval:

MEDICAL RESEARCH

£75,000 to Cancer Research UK to fund a research project on pancreatic cancer at Liverpool University.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

£10,000 to Trail-Blazers to fund a mentoring programme for young people at Brinsford Young Offenders Institution.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

£100,000 to be made available to the Council for a project in support of the Acorns Children's Hospice Trust.

£50,000 to Calibre Audio Library to fund the conversion of listening books into digital format.

£12,000 to Guideposts Trust to fund employment training for people with learning disabilities in Hertfordshire.

£40,000 to Leonard Cheshire Disability to fund a palliative care end of life unit for severely disabled people in Bedfordshire.

£20,000 to National Star College to fund an independent living studio for disabled young people in Gloucestershire.

£25,000 to Rainbow Trust Children's Charity to fund a family support worker in Manchester.

£50,000 to Scope over 2 years to fund the Face2Face befriending service for families with a disabled child.

£10,500 to Soundabout to fund a communication programme for severely disabled children.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

£5,000 to Exeter Cathedral to contribute to the Third Millennium Campaign.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Items 5. and 6. relate to several non-Masonic grants, which are explained in more detail on pages 6, 7 and 9. Acting Grand President, unless anyone has any objections, I propose to take all the recommendations at Items 5a. to 5j. and at Item 6. as one resolution. I, therefore, propose that the 11 resolutions under Items 5. and 6. of the Agenda for today's meeting, which total £397,500, be approved.

The motion was seconded by the
Deputy President (WBro Brian D. Kelly, PJGD)
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 an emergency grant of £5,000 has been made to Red Cross following the worst flooding to hit Namibia in 40 years.

Following the recent terrible disasters across the Asia Pacific region, which have affected an estimated 3 million people, an emergency grant of £50,000 has been made to the Red Cross to support their relief. The Grand Charity's grant will help to fund the distribution of emergency relief items, provide clean water, sanitation, healthcare and shelter as well as help rebuild people's livelihoods.

SPEAKERS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: We now come to Item 8, which is to receive a report on the work of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee, which assists Freemasons and their dependants and I have much pleasure in calling on the Deputy Chairman of the Committee, Michael Turnbull.

VWBro Michael Turnbull, PGSwdB, Deputy Chairman of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee, addressed the meeting.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Our next speakers represent charities that the Grand Charity supports on behalf of all Freemasons on a national scale. A year ago, at a General Meeting just like this one that was held in Bournemouth, a grant of £1 million was approved for the charity Ovarian Cancer Action. The suggestion of a grant for this Charity was based on feedback from wives of Masons who felt that this type of cancer was a dreadful disease and not one that was as well supported as other female cancers.

The money is being paid in instalments over five years and I am very pleased to be able to introduce the Chief Executive of the charity, Peter Reynolds, who has many years of experience in managing cancer charities, and who will now tell us how the funds given by the Freemasons' Grand Charity are being used.

Peter Reynolds, Chief Executive of Ovarian Cancer Action,
addressed the meeting.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: I said just now that the Freemasons' Grand Charity assists national projects. Well, it also supports local projects under the auspices of a national organisation. That is to say those that are part of a national fund-raising body and not a purely local one.

The Devon Air Ambulance Trust is just one of 18 Air Ambulance services in England and Wales, which, together with three alternative services that cover island communities, are supported by the Freemasons' Grand Charity in the vital work they do. Over the past two years, the Devon Air Ambulance has been granted funds totalling £15,250. A further £4,000 has been awarded this year.

Religious buildings in England and Wales are also supported, typically one or two a year. Included in the grants that were approved just now at today's meeting, was one for £5,000 to Exeter Cathedral.

These local projects, which are repeated over the rest of the country, are an ideal way for Provincial Grand Lodges to be involved with what the Grand Charity does and so I now have much pleasure in asking the Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire, RWBro Michael Penny, to address the meeting.

The Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire then addressed the meeting and introduced the following speakers:-

Roy Skates from the Devon Air Ambulance Trust
Jill Taylor, Campaign Director, Exeter Cathedral

John Thompson, Trustee of the RMTGB, for which the Province of Devonshire is in Festival in 2014.

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

CLOSING ADDRESSES

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: That now brings us to the end of our meeting, but before finally handing back to you Acting Grand President, I should like to say how enormously grateful we are to the members of the Province of Devonshire for helping us to organise this meeting.

We have been honoured by the presence today of several members of the local and surrounding communities as well as senior Freemasons from the surrounding Provinces.

Finally, thanks must go to Raymond Lye, whom the Grand President has appointed to act on his behalf today for the purposes of chairing this meeting. Raymond is currently the Senior Grand Warden in Grand Lodge and was my predecessor as President of the Grand Charity for eleven years. It was a great honour and privilege for me to succeed him and nobody could have been kinder or more generous in my induction to this office. It is always a pleasure to have him amongst us to keep an eye on the good work that he helped establish, and he is here today with his delightful wife, Sheila. Also, thank you all for being here today. The support of everyone is invaluable to us.

The Acting Grand President, RWBro Raymond J. Lye, SGW, then addressed the meeting. He thanked all those involved, in particular those who had attended. The meeting was closed.

END

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, 9 June 2010

Freemasons' Hall, London

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2010 Festival

held by the

Provincial Grand Lodge of South Wales

Saturday, 15 May 2010

Cardiff International Arena, South Glamorgan

General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity

held with the support of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex

Date and place to be announced

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

Registered Charity No 281942

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