

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*

14 May 2010

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, 9 June 2010, 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 2009 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

9 June 2010

AGENDA

1. **Minutes** of the General Meeting held on Wednesday, 9 December 2009 at Freemasons' Hall, London, for confirmation (*see page 17*).
2. To receive the **Report of the Council** following meetings held on 27 January 2010 and 21 April 2010. The Report is contained on pages 11 to 15. 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 10 and which should be considered as part of the Report. These require the approval, under items 3a. to 3x. 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

- 3a. £40,000 to **Association for Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus** to fund research into use of in utero MRI.
- 3b. £100,000 over two years to the **Cambridge Foundation** to fund research into the use of alemtuzumab in treating multiple sclerosis.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- 3c. £20,000 to **Addaction** to fund the Young Addaction Aspire project with young people in Lancashire.
- 3d. £50,000 to **Centrepoint** to fund the further roll-out of the partnering project with local youth homelessness charities.
- 3e. £83,000 to **Clubs for Young People** to fund the *Do Something Out of School* project.
- 3f. £50,000 to **Skill Force** to fund expansion of the schools programme in Hampshire.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- 3g. £50,000 to **Beating Bowel Cancer** to fund a specialist nurse advisor and head of patient services.
- 3h. £15,000 to **Breast Cancer Haven** to fund a clinical nurse specialist in Hereford.
- 3i. £15,000 to **Cardiac Risk in the Young** to fund a new vehicle for equipment to detect heart defects in the young.
- 3j. £20,000 to **Challenging Behaviour Foundation** to fund the family support officer.
- 3k. £30,000 to **Connect** to fund a quarterly newsletter for people with aphasia following a stroke.
- 3l. £35,000 to **Counsel and Care** to support the advice service and a fundraiser.
- 3m. £25,000 to **Dogs for the Disabled** to support a project to show how a trained dog can help autistic children.
- 3n. £30,000 to **Down Syndrome Education International** to fund the *See and Learn* educational programme.
- 3o. £35,000 to **Music in Hospitals** to fund *Making Musical Memories*, providing concerts for older people.
- 3p. £10,000 to **PHAB** to fund respite breaks for disabled people at outdoor activity centres.
- 3q. £50,000 to the **Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution** to contribute to the welfare fund programme.
- 3r. £21,000 to **Severn Area Rescue Association** to contribute to the expansion of the Chepstow Station.
- 3s. £250,000 to the **Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help** to be distributed via local branches.
- 3t. £15,000 to the **Special Boat Service Association** to support children of SBSA members.

- 3u. £20,000 to **Victim Support** to fund training of volunteers in the south west in supporting victims of serious crimes.
- 3v. £20,000 to **Vitalise** to fund respite holidays for people with Alzheimer's disease and their carers.
- 3w. £25,000 to **Winston's Wish** to fund a senior counsellor for bereaved children.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

- 3x. £5,000 to **Liverpool Cathedral** to contribute to the cost of refurbishment.

- 4. To consider a resolution to ratify the following changes to the **Trust Deed** of the Grand Charity as approved by resolution of the Council of the Grand Charity on 27 January 2010:-

Clause 6

DELETE

"The Members of the Grand Charity shall be"

AND INSERT

"The members of the Grand Charity are the"

SO THAT THE ENTIRE CLAUSE READS:-

"The members of the Grand Charity are the members of Grand Lodge and all master masons who are subscribing members of London and Provincial Lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England, subject to the right of any brother to decline membership of the Grand Charity by notice in writing to the Secretary of the Grand Charity."

- 5. To consider a resolution to ratify changes to the **Regulations** of the Grand Charity as approved by resolution of the Council of the Grand Charity on 27 January 2010, and to consent to the variation of the powers of the trustees of the Grand Charity pursuant to paragraph (m) of the Second Schedule to the Trust Deed. Full details of these alterations are available for inspection at the office of the Grand Charity during normal week-day working hours and are displayed on the Freemasons' Grand Charity website: www.grandcharity.org/pages/downloads.html
- 6. To receive and adopt the **Trustees' Annual Report and the Audited Accounts** of the Grand Charity for the year ended 30 November 2009, which are contained in a separate document and is also available to download from The Freemasons' Grand Charity website:
www.grandcharity.org/pages/annual_report.html

7. To report **Emergency Grants** made by the President under Regulation 0204(d) since the last meeting:
 - Floods in Southern India - An emergency grant of £25,000 was donated to Save the Children, following the Kirshna River bursting its banks flooding five districts in India. The grant helped 20 of the worst affected villages in Southern India by providing them with essential and life-saving relief.
 - Cumbrian Flood Relief - An emergency grant of £10,000 was given via the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland and Westmorland to the Cumbria Community Foundation.
 - Haiti Earthquake - Two emergency grants totaling £20,000 were granted to help the Red Cross with their aid efforts and Plan International received a grant of £10,000 in support of their efforts in dealing with the immediate aftermath of the disaster.
 - Chile Earthquake – An emergency grant of £20,000 was approved to the Red Cross following a large earthquake in Chile. More than 800 people were killed and over 2 million affected by the disaster.

8. 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 2010 to 2013.
 - d. To announce the names of members elected to represent Provincial Lodges for the period 2010 to 2013.
 - 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 2012.
 - f. To announce the name of the member elected to represent London Lodges for the period 2010 to 2013.

9. 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 3a. to 3x. of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 9 June 2010 and which are referred to in paragraph 11. of the Council's Report dated 21 April 2010.

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

MEDICAL RESEARCH

3a. ASSOCIATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA HYDROCEPHALUS (ASBH) The Council recommends a grant of £40,000 to ASBH to fund a research project at the University of Sheffield into the use of in utero MRI scans to identify babies with abnormal brain development. Currently ultrasound scans are used, but there is evidence that in utero MRI will show more. About 1,100 spina bifida pregnancies still occur each year in the UK and the charity provides support and information for families about the disabilities caused by spina bifida and hydrocephalus. The charity is based in Cambridgeshire.

3b. CAMBRIDGE FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £100,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the Cambridge Foundation to fund Dr Alasdair Cole's research into the use and side effects of alemtuzumab in treating multiple sclerosis. The research project was established to create a new drug treatment for early stage MS but it is also showing interesting results relating to the development of other autoimmune diseases. The charity is based in Cambridgeshire.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

3c. ADDACTION The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Addaction to fund the Young Addaction Aspire pilot. The charity believes that young people who abuse drugs and alcohol respond well to treatment when it is tailored to their needs and that money is better spent on early intervention rather than expensive residential rehabilitation. The pilot will be working with young people in Cornwall and Lancashire offering a 12 week Aspire Foundation Course to cover personal development and a community project using local partners. The project is based in Lancashire.

3d. CENTREPOINT The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Centrepoint to fund the further roll-out of the Partnering Project for homeless young people. The Freemasons' Grand Charity originally funded the Project as a pilot scheme. The Project now operates in seven regions providing free capacity building support to small voluntary sector

homelessness charities and consultancy and advice to larger organisations. The project is based across the country.

3e. CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE The Council recommends a grant of £83,000 to Clubs for Young People to fund the *Do Something: Out of School* project. The project will provide a programme of community based activities including cricket, dance, film-making etc to 2,000 smaller voluntary youth clubs and will be funded by a partnership between the Lord's Taverners, The Foundation for Sport and the Arts and The Freemasons' Grand Charity. The project is based across the country.

3f. SKILL FORCE The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Skill Force to fund a new team in the Solent, covering Bournemouth, Southampton, Portsmouth and Havant. Skill Force helps young people to earn vocational qualifications and to develop life skills through structured classroom and outdoor activities in which instruction and mentoring is provided mainly by ex-armed forces personnel. The charity is based in Nottinghamshire.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

3g. BEATING BOWEL CANCER The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Beating Bowel Cancer to fund a specialist nurse advisor and head of patient services. Bowel cancer is the second biggest cancer killer in the UK and 36,500 people are diagnosed each year. The charity delivers a telephone and web-based service as well as providing free informative publications. About 30,000 people download copies of the booklets and 250,000 have visited the website. The charity is based in Middlesex.

3h. BREAST CANCER HAVEN The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to Breast Cancer Haven to fund a clinical nurse specialist in Hereford. The charity runs Havens in London, Leeds and Hereford supporting people with breast cancer. All services are provided free of charge and each year 420 cancer patients attend at Hereford.

3i. CARDIAC RISK IN THE YOUNG (CRY) The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to CRY to fund a new CRY vehicle to carry cardiac screening equipment for use by volunteer cardiologists at events. The charity raises awareness through a programme which screens 7,000 young people each year. One in 300 will be found to have a serious condition and eight apparently healthy young people (under 35) die of an undiagnosed heart condition each week in the UK. The charity is based in Surrey.

3j. CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to the Challenging Behaviour Foundation to fund the Family Support Officer who provides information and advice directly to families and provides input into national strategies. The charity supports about 1,400 families who care for disabled people who have extreme and challenging behaviour. The charity is based in Kent.

3k. CONNECT The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to Connect to fund a quarterly newsletter containing information, tips and advice for people with aphasia. Aphasia is a speech and communication disorder that results from damage to the brain. Aphasia usually occurs after a stroke but it can also be caused by brain injury or tumour and 250,000 people in the UK have aphasia. NHS patients may be offered short-term speech therapy after a stroke, but do not receive any long-term help with communication disabilities. The charity is based in London.

3l. COUNSEL AND CARE The Council recommends a grant of £35,000 to Counsel and Care to support the national advice service for the elderly and part-fund the salary of a new fundraiser. The advice line deals in detail with 2,500 enquiries plus 500 written enquiries each year and produces factsheets on a variety of relevant issues for older people. The new fundraiser will develop the charity's capability to raise money from individual donors and legacies. The charity is based in London.

3m. DOGS FOR THE DISABLED The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Dogs for the Disabled to fund a programme highlighting the benefits of a trained dog for families with an autistic child. The charity has previously provided eight specially trained dogs to families with autistic children with positive results but this new project will help many more families and will be delivered in partnership with the National Autistic Society. The charity receives 50 enquiries of interest each week and aims to reach 320 families. The charity is based in Oxfordshire.

3n. DOWN SYNDROME EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to Down Syndrome Education International to fund the *See and Learn* Project. The project builds on step-by-step activities and materials to help children achieve better reading, language, number and memory skills. All programmes are available to families free of charge on-line and the website has 20,000 regular visitors. The charity is based in Hampshire.

3o. MUSIC IN HOSPITALS The Council recommends a grant of £35,000 to Music in Hospitals to fund *Making Musical Memories*, a series of concerts for older people in healthcare settings. The charity uses 300

professional musicians to deliver concerts in day care centres, hospitals, nursing and residential homes improving the quality of life and well being of those attending. Most healthcare centres contribute to the cost of concerts, but when cuts have to be made cultural activities are often targeted first. The Charity therefore provides 48% of its concerts free of charge. The charity is based in Surrey.

3p. PHAB The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to PHAB to fund *Inclusive Living Experiences* at outdoor activity centres for disabled children. 130 children aged 14-18 attend projects in Cumbria, Derbyshire & Hampshire. It gives parents of disabled children a respite break or allows them to holiday together as a family. The charity is based in Croydon.

3q. THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION (RABI) The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to RABI to contribute to the welfare fund. RABI is a grant-making charity which supports members of the farming community who are suffering hardship. RABI has 12 regional welfare officers who visit and assess applicants and the charity supported 1,668 beneficiaries in 2008 with £1.9m of grants, welfare advice and practical support. The charity is based in Oxfordshire.

3r. SEVERN AREA RESCUE ASSOCIATION (SARA) The Council recommends a grant of £21,000 to SARA to fund the expansion of the Chepstow Station. SARA is an independent lifeboat and land search rescue organisation. It is staffed by volunteers who attended 114 callouts in 2008. There are lifeboat stations at Chepstow, Sharpness and Wyre Forest covering a wide swathe of the west of England and Wales. The charity is based in Monmouthshire.

3s. SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN AND FAMILIES ASSOCIATION (SSAFA) FORCES HELP The Council recommends a grant of £250,000 to SSAFA Forces Help to fund the specific needs of regional branches in supporting service personnel and their families. The grant will be distributed across the country in the autumn and the Metropolitan and Provincial Grand Lodges will be invited to assist with cheque presentations at the local branches.

3t. SPECIAL BOAT SERVICE ASSOCIATION (SBSA) The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to SBSA to support the children of SBSA members. The Royal Navy's Special Boat Service (SBS) is the lesser-known sister unit of the British Army's Special Air Service (SAS) regiment. The SBS is a special forces unit which carries out special operations at sea, along coastlines and on river networks but is also highly skilled on dry

land. Recent operations have taken place in Afghanistan and in Iraq. The charity is based in Dorset.

3u. VICTIM SUPPORT The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Victim Support to fund training of volunteers in the south west region to enable them to support victims of serious crime. The charity provides support and information for victims of personal crime and volunteers need specialist training to help them to deal with domestic violence, sexual abuse, murder and racist crimes. Each crime category has a tailored four-day course. The charity is based in Wiltshire.

3v. VITALISE The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Vitalise to subsidise respite holidays for people with Alzheimer's Disease and their carers at a residential centre in Nottingham. The whole centre is reserved for the specialist weeks and the carers are able to socialise and go on outings while knowing that their partner is being properly cared for. The charity provides services for disabled people in five residential centres and focuses on those with high dependency needs. The charity is based in Cumbria.

3w. WINSTON'S WISH The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Winston's Wish to fund a senior counsellor. 24,000 children in the UK are bereaved of a parent each year. The counsellor helps families bereaved through homicide or suicide and will work directly with 80 families each year. The counsellor also answers calls on the national helpline and emails on the website. The helpline supports about 3,500 families and professionals each year. The charity is based in Gloucestershire.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

3x. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to Liverpool Cathedral to contribute to the cost of refurbishment of the Undercroft area.

END OF SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

following meetings held on
27 January 2010 and 21 April 2010

FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on
Wednesday, 9 June 2010

GENERAL

1. VICE GRAND PRESIDENT

The Council is delighted to report that the Grand President has re-appointed RWBro Iain R. Bryce, *TD, DL, PDepGM*, as Vice Grand President of the Grand Charity for the ensuing year.

2. CASUAL VACANCY

The Grand President has appointed WBro Timothy D. Dallas-Chapman to fill a Casual Vacancy in the membership of the Council of the Grand Charity with effect from 10 March 2010.

3. VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GRAND CHARITY

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

4. CO-OPTED MEMBER

The Council has resolved to co-opt WBro Dr Vivian Thomas, *SGD*, to serve as an additional member of the Council for a period of one year.

5. RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Council wishes to extend its thanks and good wishes to WBro John B. Butler, *PAGDC*, who retires at the end of the Annual General Meeting, and to RWBro Kenneth M. Rondel, *ProvGM, Jersey*, who resigned on 28 January 2010 following the announcement of his appointment as a Provincial Grand Master.

6. TRUST DEED AND REGULATIONS

The Council has considered amendments to the Constitution of the Grand Charity, pursuant to Regulation 0224(a) of the First Schedule to the Trust Deed dated 16 April 1980 (as since amended and supplemented) and Clause 3 of the Charity Commission Scheme dated 2 April 2002. Items 4 and 5 of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting on 9 June 2010 are resolutions to ratify the changes, which include consent to the variation of the powers of the trustees of the Grand Charity pursuant to paragraph (m) of the Second Schedule to the Trust Deed. Full details of the alterations are available for inspection at the office of the Grand Charity during normal week-day working hours and are displayed on the Charity's website: www.grandcharity.org/pages/downloads.html

7. ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The Council has approved the Trustees' Annual Report and the Audited Accounts of the Grand Charity for the year ended 30 November 2009 and presents them in a separate document for adoption by the members (Agenda Item 6). The document is also available to download from the Charity's website: www.grandcharity.org/pages/annual_report.html

MASONIC GRANTS

RMBI CADOGAN COURT

8. The Council has considered a request from the RMBI to assist towards the costs of a new dementia zone at its home, Cadogan Court, in Exeter. The late Bro Robert Millman left a substantial legacy to the Grand Charity and expressed a wish that the Grand Charity would consider the needs of Cadogan Court. The Council is pleased to be able to agree to this request and has approved a grant of £500,000 towards the work involved.

MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS – MOBILITY SCHEME

9. For over 10 years, the Grand Charity has provided special funding for the supply and maintenance of mobility equipment, and some home adaptations required for medical reasons. The Council of the Grand Charity has agreed with the Trustees of the Masonic Samaritan Fund to transfer future responsibility to the MSF whose charitable activities focus on the provision of support for medical needs. With effect from 1 December 2009, the Masonic Samaritan Fund has assumed all financial responsibility, including maintenance and other charges, for equipment previously supplied by the Grand Charity. Its responsibility for the future administration of the scheme is effective from 15 April 2010. Applications to the Grand Charity will continue to be monitored to ensure that details of any future requirement for mobility equipment are immediately passed to the Masonic Samaritan Fund.

10. APPLICATIONS FOR MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS

In the past six months, the Council has approved the following grants:

DATE	NO OF APPLICANTS ASSISTED	RELIEF GRANTED
18 November 2009	213	£342,788
15 December 2009	173	£376,555
27 January 2010	198	£446,510
17 February 2010	103	£236,519
17 March 2010	143	£354,180
21 April 2010	168	£494,070

The above figures include grants made under Rule 0311. Of these, the cost of mobility equipment that has been supplied to applicants by the Grand Charity since 1 December 2009 has been refunded by the Masonic Samaritan Fund now that it has taken over the administration and future funding of the mobility equipment scheme. In addition to the above figures, the Council also approved one-off payments to 1,765 current grant recipients, totalling £220,625, towards their winter fuel bills.

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

11. The Council proposes the non-Masonic grants set out in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants (on pages 6 to 10) and which appear under items 3a. to 3x. of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 9 June 2010.

GRANTS TO HOSPICES - 2009

12. The Council has now completed allocation of the funds totalling £500,000 for adult and children's hospices, which were placed at its disposal in June 2009. *Appendix B* of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2009 is a full list of the grants made.

GENERAL SMALL GRANTS AND PROVINCIAL MATCHED FUNDING GRANTS - 2009

13. The Council has now allocated the £50,000 placed at its disposal in June 2009 for small grants of £5,000 or less, to non-Masonic charities. It has also allocated £59,400 of the £65,000 placed at its disposal in June 2009 for the Provincial Matched Funding Scheme. *Appendix D* of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2009 shows details of these and other grants, individually under £10,000.

AIR AMBULANCE GRANTS - 2009

14. The Council has now allocated the £192,000 placed at its disposal in June 2009 for grants to Air Ambulance and similar services. A full list is included at part of *Appendix A* of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2009.

ACORNS CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

15. In October 2009, a sum of £100,000 was placed at the disposal of the Council for a project in support of the Acorns Children's Hospice Trust, which operates three hospices in Selly Oak, Walsall and Worcester. The Council is pleased to report that the money has been used to create a new and much needed entrance and family room at the hospice in Walsall, which has been dedicated to the memory of the late Bro Rod Pitham who was a member of the Council for four years and also a trustee of the Acorns Children's Hospice Trust.

OTHER MATTERS

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

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

Beatrice Christina Aspinwall	£30,000.00
Edna Driver	£1,291.31
John Rhys Hughes	£1,000.00
Yvonne Mary Peatfield	£22,000.00
Marion Roberts	£8,000.00
Edward Scanlon	£4,359.26
Edith Lillian Thacker	£23,445.45
Eileen Wallace	£411,515.42
Amy Mylese Watkins	£49,000.00
Pauline Lillian White	£47,728.05

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 Wills.

2010 FESTIVAL

17. The twenty-fifth annual Festival for the Freemasons' Grand Charity will be held on Saturday, 15 May 2010, at the Cardiff International Arena, under the Presidency of RWBro Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, *KCVO, GCStJ, RD, RNR*, Provincial Grand Master for South Wales.

GENERAL MEETINGS

18. The Freemasons' Grand Charity now holds a General Meeting each year in one of the Masonic Provinces. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex has very kindly agreed to arrange a meeting on Saturday, 16 October 2010, at the University of Essex, in Colchester. 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. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire has also agreed to assist the Grand Charity in this way with a meeting that will take place on Saturday, 26 November 2011. at the Staffordshire County Showground.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE

19. The Council of the Grand Charity has opened its own Relief Chest to enable members of the Freemasons' Grand Charity and their families to contribute towards the relief work in Haiti following the recent earthquake. The money will be used towards the longer term reconstruction efforts of the country.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LODGES

20. The Council has recommended to the Board of General Purposes that there should be no increase in the annual contributions payable to the Grand Charity by London and Provincial Lodges in accordance with Rule 271 of the Book of Constitutions. The current amount required of these Lodges, which was last approved by Grand Lodge in June 2009, is not less than £14.00 in respect of each of their subscribing members.

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT
President of the Grand Charity
21 April 2010

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

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

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT

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

ON

WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2009

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, 10 October 2010, at the Langstone Cliff Hotel, Dawlish, Devon, were taken as read and confirmed.

ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL'S REPORT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and members. This meeting of the Grand Charity will be very short as I have only two items to propose.

First, the report of the Council following its meeting held on 21 October last, which will be found on pages 4 and 5 of the yellow Paper of Business for today's meeting. I should like to comment briefly on the report before it is considered for adoption and begin by saying how grateful we all are to the Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire and his team, for organising such a successful meeting in Dawlish Warren last October, the minutes of which you have just approved. These occasions are an excellent means of communicating information about the work the Freemasons' Grand Charity, not just to our members, but also to their families and people in

the wider community, many of whom have little knowledge about Freemasonry and its charitable activities. Secondly we hold one of our General Meetings (which is usually our AGM) on the same day as the June Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge. We hope in future to hold two other General Meetings each year in the Provinces, although next year there will only be the one, which will be held in October with the support of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex on 16 October 2010 in Essex.

The only other matter that has been considered by the Council, about which I should like to comment, is not part of the report. It concerns the Relief Chest Scheme. It is surprising that many people appear to believe that the Grand Charity actually benefits financially from operating this Scheme. It does not. In fact, all costs are borne by the Charity and the service is provided free of charge to Lodges, Chapters, Provinces and other recognised Masonic bodies. The Council has concluded that the costs would reduce proportionately if more Relief Chests were to be opened and so naturally, it is keen to encourage Lodges and other Masonic Organisation to participate in the Scheme as it brings efficiency and professionalism in the governance of the charitable activities, charity being one of the most important functions of our Masonic Movement. There are now over 4,000 Chests, not just for the Craft, but for other Masonic orders as well. Some Lodges and Chapters have more than one Chest, so altogether we believe this suggests that perhaps less than a third of all Masonic charitable funds have so far joined the Scheme. As Lodges already contribute to the costs of Freemasons' Grand Charity via the Annual Contribution, all Masons are paying indirectly for the Relief Chest operational costs via Grand Charity whether they use it or not, so please use it.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and members, I now propose that, with the exception of paragraphs 2, 3, 4 & 5, 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 GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and members. Now that the Grand Charity's Annual General Meeting, as I have just mentioned, has moved to June, there is a need to obtain the approval of the members earlier in our financial year, to various sums of money that are annually placed at the disposal of the Council for distribution (under the title to the wider community of "The Freemasons' Grand Charity") to special non-Masonic projects.

In particular, grants to hospices and small (or minor) grants have for many years been voted on in this way. To these we now wish to add other projects in respect of Air Ambulance services and matched-funding with Provincial Grand Lodges, for which approval of the total sum is obtained in advance. This means the Council will be given the authority to choose and sanction the individual, specific grants. In order for the Council to be able to disburse these sums as soon as possible in the current financial year, it now makes the recommendations as detailed under paragraphs 2, 3, 4 & 5, of the Report, which, unless anyone has any objections, I shall take as one item.

Deputy Grand President and members, I propose that under Items 3a. to 3d. of the Agenda for today's meeting, a sum totalling £952,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for various non-Masonic grant projects in 2010.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President, before I sit down, may I say how worthwhile the four central Charities are finding our new location in the lower ground floor, which is generating ever closer liaison and efficiencies within the Charities and has the active encouragement of our Deputy Grand Master, for which we are most grateful.

The meeting was closed.

END

DIARY DATES

General Meeting of the Freemasons' Grand Charity

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

Saturday, 16 October 2010

11.00 am

University of Essex

Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2011 Festival

to be held by the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex

Saturday, 25 June 2011

Guildhall, London

General Meeting of the Freemasons' Grand Charity

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

Saturday, 26 November 2011

11.00 am

Staffordshire County Showground

Other announced Grand Charity Festivals

Cambridgeshire – 2012

Staffordshire – 2013

East Kent – 2014

West Wales - 2015

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

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

www.grandcharity.org