

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*

4 November 2011

Dear Sir and Brother

NOTICE OF MEETING

A General Meeting of the Freemasons' Grand Charity will be held on **Saturday, 26 November 2011**, at **11.00 am** at the **Stafford County Showground** (Ingestre Suite), Weston Road, Staffordshire ST18 0BD. Members of the Grand Charity (i.e. Master Masons who are subscribing members of London and Provincial Lodges, plus all other Brethren eligible to attend Grand Lodge), their wives or other partners and non-Masonic guests, are welcome to attend. Everyone must be seated by 10.50 am.

The meeting, which will be chaired by the Vice Grand President, RWBro Iain R. Bryce, *TD, DL*, PDepGM, is being organised with the support of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire. A buffet lunch will be served afterwards to those who have previously purchased tickets from the Province. The agenda, report of the Council and minutes of the Annual General Meeting, are contained in this booklet.

Yours faithfully and fraternally

RICHARD CAMM-JONES
Secretary of the Grand Charity

DRESS
Lounge suits - No regalia

GENERAL MEETING THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

Saturday, 26 November 2011

AGENDA

1. Welcome by RWBro Iain R. Bryce, *TD, DL*, PDepGM, Vice Grand President of the Grand Charity.
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 June 2011 at Freemasons' Hall, London, for confirmation (see page 13).
3. To receive the report of the Council dated 19 October 2011. The report is contained on pages 9 to 12. It includes recommendations for several non-Masonic charitable grants, which are set out in detail in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants on pages 6 to 8, and which should be considered as part of the report. These recommendations require the approval, under item 5. below, of the members of the Freemasons' Grand Charity at this General Meeting before the money can be given.
4. The Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, will explain the Charity's grant-giving activities and policies.
5. To seek approval for the following grants to be made, which are set out in more detail in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants referred to above:

MEDICAL RESEARCH

- a. £38,000 for the **Epilepsy Society** to fund research into finding new epilepsy genes using array CGH.
- b. £30,000 for the **Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust** to fund research into the regulation of self-renewal and differentiation in neural stem cells.
- c. £40,000 to **Tommy's** to fund research into stillbirth.
- d. £50,000 to the **University of East Anglia** to fund the research of Professor Colin Cooper on urine biomarkers in prostate cancer.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- e. £40,000 for **Skill Force** to fund the second year of a programme for disadvantaged children in schools in Bournemouth and the Solent.
- f. £30,000 for **Youth at Risk** to fund the *Activate!* programme in Sunderland.
- g. £30,000 for **The Who Cares? Trust** to fund a projects officer to help improve the lives of children in care.
- h. £25,000 for **Worcester Cathedral** to part-fund an apprentice stonemason over five years.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- i. £64,000 payable over two years for **Home-Start UK** to fund a freephone helpline and website to help disadvantaged families with young children.
- j. £50,000 for **The Place2Be** to fund a support programme for primary school children in deprived areas of Leeds.
- k. £50,000 for the **British Red Cross** to fund a first aid unit vehicle in West Wales.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

- l. £5,000 for **Hereford Cathedral** to contribute to the upgrade of the west end of the Cathedral and of the Close.

- 6. To consider the following resolutions:-
 - a. that £600,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to **hospice services** in 2012; £500,000 for allocation to adult hospices and £100,000 to children's hospices (Report paragraph 9).
 - b. that £100,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for general **non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less** in 2012 (Report paragraph 10).
 - c. that £60,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2012 for grants to be made under the **Provincial Matched Funding Scheme** (Report paragraph 11).

- d. that £192,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2012 for the **Air Ambulance and similar rescue services** in England, Wales and the Crown Dependencies, to be distributed via Provincial Grand Lodges (Report paragraph 12).
7. To report any **Emergency Grants** made by the President under Regulation 0204(d) since the last meeting.
8. To receive a report on the work of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee by its Chairman, VWBro Michael D.P. Turnbull, PGSwdB.
9. Guest speakers:-
 - a. Dr David Furness, Keele University
 - b. Dr Carrie Herbert,
Chief Executive, Red Balloon Learner Centre Group
 - c. Sylvia Pearl, Head of Fundraising,
The Donna Louise Trust - Children's Hospice
10. RWBro Thomas D.C. Lloyd, *OBE, TD, DL*, Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire, will address the meeting.
11. Closing address by the Vice Grand President of the Grand Charity, RWBro Iain R. Bryce, *TD, DL*, PDepGM.

END OF MEETING

FOLLOWED BY

LUNCH **for ticket holders only**

Following the meeting, a buffet lunch will be served to those who have previously purchased tickets from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire.

SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

The Council proposes the following non-Masonic grants, which appear under items 5a. to 5l. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on Saturday, 26 November 2011, and which are referred to in paragraph 7. of the Council's report dated 19 October 2011. The paragraphs are numbered to match those shown in the Agenda.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

5a. **EPILEPSY SOCIETY** The Council recommends a grant of £38,000 to the Epilepsy Society to fund a research project: *Finding new epilepsy genes using array CGH*. The lead researcher is Professor Sanjay Sisodiya at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, UCL. The request is for the costs of DNA samples and aCGH tests. The charity is based in Buckinghamshire and the research will be carried out in London.

5b. **SAMANTHA DICKSON BRAIN TUMOUR TRUST** The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust to fund a research project: *Regulation of self-renewal and differentiation in normal and tumorigenic neural stem cells*. The lead researcher on this five year project is Dr Steven Pollard at UCL and the grant will part-fund the lead researcher's salary. The charity based in Hampshire and the research will be carried out in London.

5c. **TOMMY'S** The Council recommends a grant of £40,000 to Tommy's to fund a research project: *Prediction of poor pregnancy outcome in women presenting with reduced baby movements*. The lead researcher is Dr Alexander Heazell at the University of Manchester and the grant will fund the salary of a Clinical Research Fellow. There are 4,000 stillbirths in the UK each year but a relatively limited amount of research is carried out specifically on stillbirths. The charity is based in London and the research will be carried out in Manchester.

5d. **UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA** The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the University of East Anglia to fund a research project: *Urine detection of prostate cancer cells as a novel method for cancer diagnosis*. The lead researcher is Professor Colin Cooper who previously held The Grand Charity of Freemasons' Chair of Molecular Biology at the Institute of Cancer Research.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

5e. **SKILL FORCE** The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to Skill Force to fund the second year of a new team in Bournemouth/Solent. The charity has 18 teams working with 3,100 children in 127 schools. 97% of the children who participate in the Skill Force programme move into employment, education or training and predicted exclusions are reduced from 24% to an actual exclusion rate of 4%. The charity uses charitable donations to pump-prime teams for the first three years so that schools can trial a subsidised programme before having to pay the full cost. The charity is based in Nottinghamshire and the project is in Dorset.

5f. **YOUTH AT RISK** The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to Youth At Risk to fund the *Activate!* programme in Sunderland. The charity works with the most marginalised young people and provides intensive personal development training to raise aspiration and motivation and to foster a sense of community responsibility. Programmes are run by volunteers and are based on a whole community approach with youth workers and volunteer adult mentors being trained to coach and motivate the young people. The programme enables the young people to develop a community project and focuses on employability and financial literacy skills. The charity is based in Hertfordshire and the project is in Sunderland.

5g. **THE WHO CARES? TRUST** The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to The Who Cares? Trust to fund the salary of a Projects Officer. The charity supports children in care by delivering a number of projects and publications aimed at improving the opportunities available to look after children. There are 70,000 children in care in England and Wales. 33% of care leavers are not in employment, education or training compared to 13% of all young people; 13% of children in care obtain five good GCSEs compared to 62% of all children; and 40% of prisoners under 21 were in care. The charity is based in London.

5h. **WORCESTER CATHEDRAL** The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Worcester Cathedral to fund an apprentice stonemason. The apprentice, who is likely to be aged between 18 and 21, will work full time at the Cathedral with an annual twelve week college course and an exchange to one of the eight cathedrals in the Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship Scheme and will complete a five year apprenticeship culminating in a Foundation Degree course in traditional building skills. The apprentice will be named the *Worcester Cathedral Freemasons' Apprentice*.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

5i. HOME-START UK The Council recommends a grant of £64,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to Home-Start UK to fund the parent freephone information helpline and the national website. The charity has 334 independent schemes in UK and provides volunteer peer support for families with young children at home. Last year it supported 34,000 families with 72,000 children. The charity is based in Leicestershire.

5j. THE PLACE2BE The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to The Place2Be to fund its programme in Leeds. The charity provides counselling and support within schools for vulnerable young children in areas of deprivation. It operates in 172 schools in 20 areas across the UK with access to 58,000 children aged 4-13 who are suffering abuse, family breakdown, violence, substance abuse and bereavement. It also supports teachers and parents in dealing with emotional and mental health issues. The charity is based in London and the project is in Leeds.

5k. BRITISH RED CROSS The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the British Red Cross to fund an emergency response vehicle for West Wales. The vehicle will provide support for the Welsh Ambulance service by deploying at times of high demand and at public events or in adverse weather, transporting patients to and from hospital. The charity is based in London and the project is based in West Wales.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

5l. HEREFORD CATHEDRAL The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to Hereford Cathedral to contribute to the upgrade of the west end of the Cathedral and of the Close. The cathedral has a longstanding good relationship with the Province and both the Province and Herefordshire Masonic Charity Association will match the grant from The Freemasons' Grand Charity.

END OF SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

following its meetings held on 20 July 2011 and 19 October 2011

FOR THE GENERAL MEETING

to be held on

Saturday, 26 November 2011

GENERAL

1. RESIGNATION OF COUNCIL MEMBER

The Council wishes to extend its thanks and good wishes to VWBro Andrew L. Gretton, PGSwdB, who has resigned with effect from 30 May 2011.

2. CO-OPTED MEMBER

The Council has resolved to co-opt WBro Raymond D. Larkin, PGStB, to serve as a member of the Council until 13 June 2012.

3. CASUAL VACANCY

Under regulation 0203 (f), the Grand President has appointed WBro John E. Hornblow to fill a casual vacancy in the number of Appointed Members of the Council with effect from September 2011.

MASONIC GRANTS

4. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUALS

Since the last report, the Council has ratified the following grants made by the Masonic Relief Grants Committee:

DATE	NO OF GRANTS AWARDED	TOTAL RELIEF
18 May 2011	114	£267,715
15 June 2011	147	£367,970
20 July 2011	198	£480,052
17 August 2011	159	£384,910
21 September 2011	141	£357,518
19 October 2011	160	£379,900

5. ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION (RMBI)

The Council has considered a request from the RMBI, which wishes to offer an increased level of services of its Care Advice Team in order to assist the work of the Grand Charity's Masonic Relief Grants department. The team members, who are all employed by the RMBI, have been extremely useful to the Grand Charity in dealing with some of the more difficult applications for Masonic Relief Grants and they have also helped Lodge Almoners in this respect. The RMBI proposes to increase the

number of its Care Advice Team staff and for this purpose the Council has initially approved a grant of £52,500. It is anticipated that similar consideration will be given in future years.

6. VICTOR DONALDSON FUND

The Victor Donaldson Fund is administered by the RMBI and provides loans based on the value of properties owned by applicants who wish to continue living in them. Repayments are made in full when the applicants no longer live in the properties and they are sold. The Council of the Grand Charity has a special arrangement with the RMBI that allows certain applications to the Grand Charity to be passed over to the Victor Donaldson Fund and considered for loans assessed under criteria that are different from those that usually apply to the Victor Donaldson Fund. The Council has agreed that a grant of £100,000 should be given to the Victor Donaldson Fund for the purpose of making loans to applicants who the Grand Charity refers to the Fund.

7. DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH AFRICA, WESTERN DIVISION

To honour a visit by the Assistant Grand Master and the Grand Secretary to the District Grand Lodge of South Africa, Western Division, to celebrate the bicentenary of British Lodge No 334, the District has made a grant to the Orion Organisation, a therapeutic and training centre for disabled people in the Western Cape. To match this, the Council of the Grand Charity has approved a grant of £5,000 to the District Grand Lodge of South Africa, Western Division, to be added to the funds for the Orion Organisation.

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

8. The Council proposes the non-Masonic grants set out in the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants (on pages 6 to 8) and which appear under items 5a. to 5l. of the Agenda for the General Meeting to be held on Saturday, 26 November 2011.

9. HOSPICES

The Council recommends that £600,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to hospice services in 2012; £500,000 for allocation to adult hospices and £100,000 to children's hospices (Agenda item 6a).

10. SMALL GRANTS

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 2012 (Agenda item 6b).

11. PROVINCIAL MATCHED FUNDING SCHEME

The Matched-Funding Scheme that has been organised 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 2012 for match-funding grants (Agenda item 6c).

12. AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

Support for operational Air Ambulance and similar rescue services in England, Wales and the Crown Dependencies continues to receive widespread support from Freemasons and the Council now recommends that a further £192,000 be placed at its disposal in 2012 for grants to these services, to be distributed via Provincial Grand Lodges (Agenda item 6d).

13. INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH

In March 2004, the Grand Charity approved a grant of £1 million, payable over 10 years, to the Institute of Cancer Research to fund The Grand Charity of Freemasons Chair of Molecular Biology, undertaking research into prognostic and diagnostic biomarkers for prostate cancer. The Institute has now reported to the Charity that following the appointment of a new Chief Executive and the implementation of a revised scientific strategy, the Institute has decided to discontinue support for this biomarker research. The Council has, therefore, agreed that no further instalments should be paid and that the £300,000 remaining should be ring-fenced for future applications in the field of research for prostate cancer.

OTHER MATTERS

14. LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

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

Edward Green	£30,000
G. Illingworth	£2,450
C. Singer	£5,000
Frederick William Moody	£21,762
Helma J. Bailey	£25,000
E. Clark	£3,500
Alfred George Mills	£26,274

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

15. GRAND CHARITY FESTIVAL – ESSEX 2011

The Festival held for the Grand Charity by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex on Saturday, 25 June 2011 at the Guildhall, London, raised £5,502,833. The Council is most grateful to RWBro John M. Webb, Provincial Grand Master for Essex, and the members of his Province for this most magnificent achievement.

16. GRAND CHARITY FESTIVAL – CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2012

The 27th Annual Festival to be held on behalf of the Grand Charity will take place on Wednesday, 26 September 2012, at Queens' College, Cambridge, under the Presidency of the Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire.

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT
President
19 October 2011

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

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

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON WC2B 5AZ
ON WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2011 UNDER THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE DEPUTY GRAND PRESIDENT

There were present those officers and members of the Grand Charity who had attended the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting and the Chief Executive.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, 2 April 2011, at the Cambridge Masonic Hall, Bateman Street, Cambridge, were taken as read and confirmed.

OPENING REMARKS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: (VWBro Grahame N. Elliott, *CBE*): Deputy Grand President and members, welcome to the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Grand Charity.

In the thirty years since the Charity took over the activities of Grand Lodge's Board of Benevolence, the Council has, I hope you will agree, worked effectively to provide support for Masons and their dependants in financial distress. It has also made recommendations for your approval as members of the Charity, for many grants to non-Masonic charitable activities. This was Grand Lodge's purpose in establishing the Grand Charity and over the last thirty years the amount given out in grants has exceeded £100 million. All of which has only been possible by the donations received from the Craft, and it is on your behalf that all of these funds have been distributed. £53 million to 40,000 Masons and their dependants, and £49 million to non-Masonic Charities

As you leave the temple after the meetings today, copies of a special 30th anniversary leaflet will be available for you to take away to show to your families and friends, particularly those who are not Freemasons. I hope, however, that many of you will have already found the leaflet, which was distributed with the most recent copy of the *Freemasonry Today* magazine.

You will also find outside in the vestibules a leaflet on the Relief Chest Scheme, which has been in operation for twenty-five of those thirty years. The Scheme was the brain-child of Charles Freedman, who was a member of the Council in its early days. He had a vision to provide Freemasonry (not just the Craft, but the Royal Arch and other recognised Orders) with a means to make better use of the funds raised in private Lodges and Chapters etc. and to ensure that full advantage was taken of the professional resources at the disposal of the Grand Charity. This idea is still as dynamic today as it was then. Not only does it continue to earn a favourable rate of interest, which is added to the balance available to spend, but it reclaims millions of pounds through Gift Aid, and it generates millions of pounds paid out in donations, both for Masonic and non-Masonic charitable causes nominated by the Relief Chest holders. None of this might have been the case if many Lodges and Chapters etc. had continued operating their benevolent funds in the way that they used to.

Another good example of the use of the Scheme this year is in respect of the Bicentenary Appeal for the Royal Arch, which is supporting surgical research at the *Royal College of Surgeons*. The Appeal has been launched by the use of a specific Relief Chest set up by the Grand Charity on behalf of the Royal Arch.

The Scheme has also been used for a co-ordinated Masonic response in times of major disasters. The Relief Chest set up for the Asian tsunami some years ago is an excellent example when approximately £900,000 was given by Masons and their Lodges. Also the Chest that the Council itself opened last year to receive funds in support of the people of Haiti following an earthquake. This was in addition to the Emergency grants that were made, and during the year the Chest raised over £90,000, which was given to *Save the Children* to project manage for us the rebuilding of a school at the epicentre of the earthquake, for destitute children. The poverty in Haiti is still a world problem – it is horrendous.

The Relief Chest Scheme is a service to Masonry that the Grand Charity provides at no charge, the costs being included as part of our general overheads, but despite the number of Chests now open (some 4,300 at the last count) and in excess of £25 million that is held on their behalf to give to

charity, there are still many more opportunities to assist if more Masonic groups and organisations were to make use of the Scheme. I am please to tell you of another development by the staff of the Charity concerning the IT programs. The result of which is that as more Chests are added, and the number of transactions increases, the cost per transaction is reduced, and so you will see that the Scheme will continue to be excellent value for money. The Scheme also has plans under consideration to make it easier for donors by enabling them to give to their Relief Chests by 'phone or text messaging rather than cheque. I hope, therefore, that if you are not already aware of the Scheme you will take a copy of the 25th anniversary leaflet and investigate the service more thoroughly in your own time.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Turning now to the business paper for this Annual General Meeting of the Grand Charity, Item 2 of the Agenda is to receive the Report of the Council following its meeting held on 20 April last. As usual, the report includes on page 13 details of legacies and bequests to the Charity received during the last few months, all of which are very gratefully received. The report also refers to the General Meeting held in Cambridge for which we are most grateful to the Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire and his members whose excellent support made for a very successful meeting, which we were very honoured to have chaired for us by the Deputy Grand Master. Also during this last year we have been most grateful to the Provincial Grand Master for Essex and his team for the splendid General Meeting held at Essex University in the historic town of Colchester last October.

Deputy Grand President and members - with the exception of the non-Masonic Grants, which will be dealt with under the next item, I now propose that the whole of 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

The President then proposed as one motion that the following grants listed under Agenda Items 3a. to 3p. and totalling £470,000, be approved:

MEDICAL RESEARCH

3a. JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to fund a research project: *Developing Corneal confocal Microscopy for Human Diabetic Neuropathy* led by Professor Rayaz Malik. Peripheral diabetic neuropathy is a common complication of type 1 diabetes. 350,000 people have type 1 in the UK and 50% of these will suffer serious complications. The charity is based in London and the research is at the University of Manchester.

3b. WELLBEING OF WOMEN The Council recommends a grant of £36,000 to Wellbeing of Women to fund a research project led by Dr Nicolas Orsi investigating the role of a network of molecules known as eicosanoids in womb cancer. The incidence of womb cancer has doubled over the past 10 years and 7,500 women are diagnosed in the UK each year. New lipodomics technology has created an opportunity to analyse samples of tissue. The charity is based in London and the research is at Leeds University.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

3c. CATCH 22 The Council recommends a grant of £35,000 to Catch 22 to fund the vocational skills centre in North Kent which is set up as a fully equipped motor garage. The centre has been running for 14 years and has helped 1000 young people. Last year out of 110 young people, 21% went into further education and 77% to employment using skills learnt at the centre. Catch 22 (formerly Rainer) supports 34,000 disadvantaged young people in 100 projects across the country. The charity is based in London and the project is in Kent.

3d. FARMS FOR CITY CHILDREN The Council recommends a grant of £12,000 payable in instalments over three years to Farms for City Children to fund farm holidays for 120 inner city children. Each week 116 disadvantaged children aged between 8 and 14, 52% of whom are in receipt of free school meals, stay on a farm. The experience helps to build self-confidence and communication skills as well as learning about food production. The charity is based in Devon with farms in Gloucestershire and Pembrokeshire.

3e. FUTURE TALENT The Council recommends a grant of £14,000 to Future Talent to fund a bursary scheme to assist talented musicians from disadvantaged backgrounds. The charity provides instruments, private lessons and courses for children aged 5-18 using means-tested bursaries and offers scholarships for older children. The charity is based in London.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

3f. AIDIS TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to Aidis Trust to fund a computer helpline for disabled people. The national technical support helpline advises over 1,000 disabled people on appropriate assistive technology and helps with computer problems. Aidis charges no fees and focuses its work on the poorest disabled people. The project will also train 20 young unemployed IT professionals as volunteers on the helpline. The charity is based in London.

3g. BLISS The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to BLISS to fund specialist counselling for parents of premature and sick babies. 120 counsellors across the UK from the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy will participate following a successful pilot funded by the Department of Health. Each session costs Bliss £40 and the recommended number is 6 sessions. The charity provides care for premature and sick babies and is based in London.

3h. CSV The Council recommends a grant of £28,000 to CSV to fund the development of the Café G in Southmead, Bristol. The project will provide catering training to a wide range of people with learning disabilities and to disadvantaged young people in an area of deprivation as well as spreading the 'healthy eating' message. The charity supports 165,000 people in volunteering and is based in London. The project is based in Bristol.

3i. DYSTONIA SOCIETY The Council recommends a grant of £19,000 to the Dystonia Society to fund the production of new information publications. Dystonia is an incurable movement disorder that causes uncontrollable muscle spasms and affects 70,000 people in the UK. Diagnosis can take up to three years as GPs lack awareness of the condition although it can be treated with botulinum. The new publications, both print and online, will enable people to research specific symptoms. The charity is based in London.

3j. HAPPY DAYS The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to Happy Days to fund activities for children with special needs. The charity provides day trips and outings for disadvantaged children and the grant

will fund day trips for approximately 500 children with special needs together with their carers. Children come from across the country and the charity is based in Bedfordshire.

3k. **MARIE CURIE** The Council recommends a grant of £117,000 payable over three years to Marie Curie to fund two Marie Curie nurses in Kent. Last year 2,000 Marie Curie nurses cared for 23,400 people with cancer and other terminal illnesses, generally working at night for 8-9 hours. There are 21 nurses in Kent and the cost of all Marie Curie services in Kent is around £520,000. The charity is based in London and the project in Kent.

3l. **PETER LE MARCHANT TRUST** The Council recommends a grant of £10,000 to the Peter Le Marchant Trust to contribute to the salary of the skipper of a canal boat. The charity provides trips and holidays on a canal boat for disabled people and has 780 passengers each year, many of whom are repeat visitors. The charity is based in Leicestershire.

3m. **RED BALLOON LEARNER CENTRE GROUP** The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to the Red Balloon Learner Centre Group to fund training for staff at centres for severely bullied children. The charity provides intensive education and care for severely bullied children who are unable to attend mainstream secondary school. There are centres in Cambridge, London, Norwich and Merseyside with plans to open in Essex, Warwick and Lancashire. Each centre takes 15 children and is self-funding. The charity is based in Cambridge.

3n. **SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION** The Council recommends a grant of £29,000 payable over three years to the Spinal Injuries Association to fund the salary of a peer advice manager. 40,000 people in the UK have a spinal injury. The peer advice service operates in 10 NHS Spinal Injury centres and is run by people who are themselves in wheelchairs. The charity supports 600 newly injured people each year plus 144 people in employment clinics. The charity is based in Buckinghamshire.

3o. **ST DUNSTAN'S** The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to St Dunstan's to fund the extension of the North Wales Medical Centre. The charity supports blind ex-Service personnel. It cares for 3,000 individuals and had 550 new beneficiaries last year. The grant will go towards a training flat for newly blinded people and the facilities are mainly used for rehabilitation and training. The charity is based in London and has centres in Brighton and Sheffield. The project is in North Wales.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

3p. ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to St Botolph's Church as a contribution towards a major restoration programme for the Tower of the Boston Stump. It is the largest parish church in the country and is visited by 50,000 people each year.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Thank you Brethren for your confidence in the recommendations of the Council. May I point out that the first grant listed under 3(a) for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation follows one that was made four years ago, which has helped to fund the development of the first successful artificial pancreas for children that can automatically regulate the amount of insulin delivered to the body in response to changing glucose readings. Parents of such children can now sleep more easily at night, for the first time. We believe that this will affect one in 300 people.

During the year you also awarded a grant of £250,000 to *SSAFA Forces Help* and cheques have since been distributed to Provincial Grand Lodges to present directly to local branches of the Association.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Deputy Grand President and members. At Item 4 the Council presents its Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 November 2010, copies of which were circulated with the paper of business for today's meetings and which have been available for all to see on the Charity's website.

Before I propose their adoption I should like to refer you to my comments in the Foreword on the significant one-off increase in income compared with the previous year. This is further explained on page 19 of the report, so I hope that I do not need to say much more than the following :-

1. During the year we changed the way in which Festival donation receipts are accounted for in order to bring this in line with the other central Masonic charities. This means that Festival income is received into our accounts throughout the course of the Festival period and not just at the end of it. The result has been that our income during the year increased by an exceptional one-off £5,250,000. During the year we also received the total

sum from the Festival held by the Province of South Wales, which amounted to just over £4 million and again we are most appreciative to the Provincial Grand Master, Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards and his whole Provincial team for this great achievement. It was a further delight for us to have had the presence of the Deputy Grand Master on that occasion, too.

2. I also feel I should draw your attention to the increased amount that was spent on Masonic Relief Grants last year. The amount rose to over £4.9 million from just under £3.5 million in the previous year. At the same time, the number of grants decreased, which was mainly due to the fact the applications form mobility equipment are now dealt with by the Masonic Samaritan Fund. This increase in the total of grants given to fewer people indicates a greater financial need amongst applicants. Apart from the usual increases in the cost of living, during the last year and a half we have seen an increase in applications from people in mid-life, due to the economic climate in general, particularly from those who are self-employed and so the Grand Charity has had to respond accordingly.

Deputy Grand President and members. I now propose that the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2010, be taken as read, received and adopted.

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: Deputy Grand President and members – Item 5 relates to Emergency Grants, but I am pleased to say that there have been no further grants made since those reported in the minutes of the last General Meeting. I would, however like to mention that whenever we do make a grant, it is either given one of the major fund-raising organisations dealing specifically with the disaster relief work, or, where possible, we pass the money to the local District Grand Lodge or other Masonic body, as long as they have a project that is for the benefit of everyone in the community who has been affected and not just for Freemasons and their dependants.

COUNCIL OF THE GRAND CHARITY

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

Appointments by the Grand President:

WBro Ian B. Johnson, PAGDC,
as Deputy President of the Grand Charity
WBro Bro Roderic W. Mitchell, PJGD,
as Treasurer of the Grand Charity

To serve for the period 2011 to 2014:

RWBro Sir Stuart Hampson, PJGW
VWBro His Honour Judge Richard M. Hone, QC, PGSwdB
WBro Peter R. Griffiths, PJGD

Elected by Masonic Provinces for the period 2011 to 2014:

WBro Geoffrey W. Tuck, PSGD
WBro Ian H. MacBeth, PAGDC
WBro Roger A. Needham

Elected by the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London
for the period 2011 to 2014:

RWBro Nigel J.C. Buchanan, PJGW

Appointed by the Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire whose
Province will be holding a Festival for the Grand Charity in 2013:

WBro Alexander I. Stewart, PAGDC

AUDITORS OF THE GRAND CHARITY'S ACCOUNTS

RWBro James Hodgson, Provincial Grand Master for Shropshire, proposed that the firm of Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP be re-elected auditors of the Grand Charity for the ensuing year.

RWBro Peter Duckworth,
District Grand Master for South Africa, Western Division,
seconded and the members agreed the motion.

CLOSING COMMENT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Before you close this Annual General Meeting, Deputy Grand President, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the members of the Grand Charity to thank all the Council members for their time, interest, enthusiasm and expertise, which they give so generously to this Charity. We are most grateful to them all, especially those who retire this year. I would particularly like to mention Brian Kelly, who has been Deputy President since 2007 and has served on the Council for the past 10 years. He has been a stalwart supporter of the Charity and of me – continually seconding the resolutions I have had the honour to propose, as he has done today for the last time. The other Council members who retire are Dr Viv Thomas and Dr Robert Woodward. We also say goodbye to Dr Ken Harvey, who until recently was Chairman of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee. The Council has also received the resignation, in the last few days, of Andrew Gretton who did so much towards the magnificent achievement by the Province of South Wales, in respect of the 2010 Festival, which I mentioned earlier. They have all given great service and this is a very good opportunity to thank them publicly and wish them well in their future Masonic activities.

Our thanks, as always, must also go to the staff whose support, particularly on occasions like, this, I value.

Finally, thank you to you all, the members of the Grand Charity, for your generosity over the past 31 years, without which our work could not have continued. It is an honour to serve Freemasonry in this way and on behalf of the Council of the Grand Charity, we hope you feel that together with our fellow Masonic Charities, we do justice to the purpose for which we have been set up.

Deputy Grand President and members. I thank you all for your time, interest and support.

The meeting was closed.

END OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

DIARY DATES

Annual General Meeting of the Grand Charity

Wednesday, 13 June 2012

Freemasons' Hall, London

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2012 Festival

to be held by the

Provincial Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire

Wednesday, 26 September 2012

Queens' College, Cambridge

General Meeting of the Grand Charity

to be held with the support of the

Provincial Grand Lodge of East Kent

Saturday, 17 November 2012

Winter Gardens, Margate

tbc

Annual General Meeting of the Grand Charity

Wednesday, 12 June 2013

Freemasons' Hall, London

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2013 Festival

to be held by the

Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire

Saturday, 14 September 2013

Keele Hall, Staffordshire

Future Grand Charity Festivals

East Kent – 2014

West Wales – 2015

Norfolk – 2016

Sussex – 2017

Most events are open to non-Masonic guests.

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

Registered Charity No 281942

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