

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

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

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

DEPUTY GRAND PRESIDENT
THE MOST HON THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON, *DL*

VICE GRAND PRESIDENT
THE RT HON LORD LANE OF HORSELL

15 February 2008

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, 12 March 2008, 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 2007 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

12 March 2008

AGENDA

1. **Minutes** of the General Meeting held on Wednesday, 3 October 2007 at Cardiff City Hall, for confirmation (*see page 13*).
2. To receive the **Report of the Council** following meetings held on 17 October 2007 and 30 January 2008. 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 require the approval, under item 3a. to 3m. 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

- a. £60,000 to the **Royal National Institute for the Deaf** to fund PhD hearing loss researchers.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

- b. £250,000 to **Breast Cancer Haven** as a contribution towards the development of a new Breast Cancer Haven in Leeds.
- c. £100,000 to **SSAFA Forces Help** to fund facilities for families of severely disabled servicemen at Headley Court and Selly Oak.
- d. £25,000 to **Vitalise** to fund specialist week-long breaks for people with Alzheimer's Disease and their carers.
- e. £25,000 to **The Down Syndrome Educational Trust** to fund the conversion of books in the *Issues and Information Series* into open-access online versions.

- f. £20,000 to **Action on Addiction** to fund the *Working Recovery* programme providing practical training for recovering addicts.
- g. £15,000 to **ERIC** to fund a specialist nurse to give advice and information to families on childhood continence problems.
- h. £15,000 to **The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home** to fund a speech therapist at a home providing nursing and residential care for veterans.
- i. £4,000 to **RNLI** as a contribution towards a new Lifeboat in Jersey.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

- j. £50,000 to **The Prince's Trust** to fund the *Get into Youth Work* training programme for young people.
 - k. £40,000 to **Outward Bound** to fund three-week Classic courses and one-week Adventure courses for children and young people.
 - l. £35,000 to **Clubs for Young People** to fund the salary of the national Sports Development Manager.
 - m. £25,000 to **Shelter** to fund services for children of homeless families in southwest England.
4. To consider a resolution that £500,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to **adult hospice services** in 2008.
 5. To consider a resolution that £100,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to **children's hospice services** in 2008.
 6. To consider a resolution that £50,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council for general **non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less**, in 2008.
 7. To consider a resolution that £180,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2008 for the **Air Ambulances in England and Wales** to be distributed via the Provincial Grand Lodges.
 8. To consider a resolution that £65,000 be placed at the disposal of the Council in 2008 for the **Provincial Matched Funding Scheme** offering £5,000 each to the Provinces of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, South Wales ED, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Wiltshire, Somerset.

9. To receive and adopt the **Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts** of The Freemasons' Grand Charity for the year ended 30 November 2007 (*see separate document*).
10. To report **Emergency Grants** made since the last meeting.

Since the General Meeting in October 2007, the President has approved an emergency grant of £20,000 to the British Red Cross, to assist the victims of Cyclone Sidr, in Bangladesh. To match-fund, in part, a grant from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire, an emergency grant was approved for the Warwickshire Firefighters Families Fund, following the tragedy suffered by the Warwickshire Fire Service in November 2007. Recently, a grant of £10,000 has been given to the District Grand Charity of East Africa to assist internally displaced people in Kenya, as a result of violence following elections.
11. 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 2008 to 2011.
 - d. To announce the names of members elected to represent Provincial Lodges for the period 2008 to 2011.
 - 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 2009.
 - f. To announce the name of the member elected to represent London Lodges for the period 2008 to 2011.
12. 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 3m. of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 12 March 2008 and which are referred to in paragraph 5. of the Council's Report dated 30 January 2008.

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

MEDICAL RESEARCH

3a. ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF The Council recommends a grant of £60,000 to The Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID) to support biomedical research by PhD students into hearing loss. The RNID donates £750,000 to medical research into hearing loss and the research projects will be located at Sussex, Oxford or Sheffield.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

3b. BREAST CANCER HAVEN The Council recommends a grant of £250,000 to Breast Cancer Haven as a contribution towards a new Haven in Leeds. Breast Cancer Haven works with the NHS and medical professionals to provide support, information and complementary therapies to meet the physical and emotional needs of people affected by breast cancer. There are two existing Havens in London and Herefordshire and all services are provided free of charge.

3c. SSAFA FORCES HELP The Council recommends a grant of £100,000 as a contribution towards the *Helping Heroes and their Families* emergency appeal. The grant will be used to fund the provision of suitable accommodation for families visiting severely wounded servicemen at Headley Court and Selly Oak during long rehabilitation periods.

3d. VITALISE The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Vitalise to fund 12 specialist week-long respite breaks for people with Alzheimer's Disease and their carers. Vitalise operates six residential centres providing holidays and respite care for disabled people and runs 300 specialist Alzheimer's weeks during which the charity organises outings, events and social occasions.

3e. THE DOWN SYNDROME EDUCATIONAL TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to The Down Syndrome Educational Trust to fund the conversion of 48 books in the *Issues and Information* Series into open-access versions that will be available online. The books are for families and professionals dealing with the early education of children with Down's Syndrome.

3f. ACTION ON ADDICTION The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 to Action on Addiction to fund the *Working Recovery* programme providing training in creative and woodworking skills for recovering addicts. The charity provides treatment, research, family support and education for those with drug and alcohol addictions and the training programmes deliver specific support designed to avoid relapse.

3g. QUEEN ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL HOME The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home to fund a speech therapist for residents with acquired brain injury. The Hospital provides nursing and residential care for 60 ex-Services personnel who require intensive nursing care and the speech therapist will provide therapy as part of a tailored rehabilitation programme.

3h. ERIC The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to ERIC, a charity that provides information and support on childhood continence problems. The grant will fund a specialist continence nurse providing advice to 800 families each year and clinical input into the information service.

3i. ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION (RNLI) The Council recommends a grant of £4,000 to the RNLI as a contribution towards a new lifeboat in Jersey.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

3j. THE PRINCE'S TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £50,000 to The Prince's Trust to fund the *Get into Youth Work* programme providing training for disaffected young people. The *Get into Work* programmes provide intensive three-month courses for unemployed young people in industries such as construction, hospitality, social care and youth work.

3k. OUTWARD BOUND TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £40,000 to Outward Bound Trust to fund the three-week Classic course for 28 young people from northeast England and a one-week Adventure and Challenge course for 40 pupils from a London school. The Trust provides challenging outdoor activities for 27,500 young people each year.

3l. CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE The Council recommends a grant of £35,000 to Clubs for Young People to fund the salary of the national Sports Development Manager. Clubs for Young People has 3,500 local member clubs running community based activities and the sports development manager trains youth workers to deliver sporting activities and provide national challenges.

3m. SHELTER The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Shelter to fund services to support children of homeless families in southwest England. Shelter campaigns and provides services to ensure better housing for all and the service will specifically highlight the effect of the use of unsuitable or temporary accommodation on children's schooling and development.

HOSPICES

4. The Council recommends that £500,000 be placed at its disposal for grants to adult hospice services in 2008.

5. The Council recommends that £100,000 be placed at its disposal for grants to children's hospice services in 2008.

SMALL GRANTS

6. The Council recommends that £50,000 be placed at its disposal for general non-Masonic grants of £5,000 or less, in 2008.

AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

7. In 2006/2007 the Members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity approved that £190,000 should be placed at the Council disposal for grants to operational Air Ambulance Service in England and Wales. Air ambulances continue to receive widespread support from Freemasons and the Council now recommends that a further £180,000 be placed at its disposal in 2008 for grants to Air Ambulance Services.

PROVINCIAL MATCHED FUNDING SCHEME

8. The Council's Matched-Funding Scheme, in association with Provincial Grand Lodges, has been well received and in order to extend the project into more areas, the Council recommends that a further £65,000 be placed at its disposal in 2008 for match-funding grants of £5,000 or less. On this occasion, the Provinces involved are Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, South Wales ED, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Wiltshire and Somerset.

END OF SCHEDULE OF NON-MASONIC GRANTS

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

following meetings held on
17 October 2007 and 30 January 2008

FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on
Wednesday, 12 March 2008

GENERAL

1. VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE GRAND CHARITY

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

2. RETIREMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

WBro Michael J. Foxwell, PAGDC
WBro Brian Miles, *CBE, RD*, PJGD
WBro J. Tudor Morris, PSGD
WBro David W. Morrow, PAGDC

The Council also extends its thanks and good wishes to WBro Roger W. Freeman, PAGDC, who retired in December 2007.

3. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Council has approved the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2007 and presents them in a separate document* for approval by the members at the Annual General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity (Agenda Item 9).

** The document is also available to download from the following page of
The Freemasons' Grand Charity's website:*

www.grandcharity.org/pages/annual_report.html

MASONIC GRANTS

4. APPLICATIONS TO THE MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS COMMITTEE

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

DATE	NO OF APPLICANTS ASSISTED	RELIEF GRANTED
15 August 2007	139	£255,211
19 September 2007	106	£187,640
17 October 2007	115	£224,056
21 November 2007	212	£394,863
18 December 2007	115	£215,620
30 January 2008	143	£239,013

These figures include grants made under Rule 0311.

NON-MASONIC GRANTS

5. 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 3a. to 3m. of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on 12 March 2008.

6. In June 2006, in recognition of the enormous contribution made to The Freemasons' Grand Charity by RWBro Raymond J. Lye, PJGW, who retired as its President that year, £500,000 was placed at the disposal of the Council for grants to charities working in the field of asthma research. To date, £100,000 has been given to fund a research project by Professor Ashley Woodcock at Manchester University and the balance of £400,000 is under consideration for a project at the National Heart and Lung Institute.

GENERAL SMALL GRANTS - 2007

7. The Council has now allocated the £100,000 placed at its disposal in March 2007 for small grants to non-Masonic charities. *Appendix D* of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts is a list of these and other grants, individually under £10,000.

GRANTS TO HOSPICES - 2007

8. The Council has now completed allocation of the funds totalling £600,000 (£500,000 for adult hospices and £100,000 for children's hospices) placed at its disposal in March 2007. *Appendix B* of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts is a list of the grants made.

OTHER MATTERS

LEGACIES AND BEQUESTS

9. Since the last General Meeting, The Freemasons' Grand Charity has received the following amounts from legacies of £1,000 or more:

Donald Cameron McKee	£2,000
R. Carding	£14,229
Mary Payne	£13,233

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

2008 FESTIVAL

10. The Council has received news that it has been necessary to change both the date and the venue of the Festival to be held on its behalf by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Herefordshire. The event will now take place on Monday, 23 June 2008, at the Three Counties Hotel, Belmont Road, Hereford HR2 7BP. Details of the arrangements may be obtained from the Provincial Grand Secretary of Herefordshire.

GENERAL MEETINGS

11. Arrangements have again been made with the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire to hold a General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity on Thursday, 5 June 2008, at Freemasons' Hall in London. Although it is mostly Hertfordshire Masons who will be encouraged to attend, 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 later.

12. The Freemasons' Grand Charity also 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 South Wales, Eastern Division, and the members of his Province who assisted in organising a meeting in Cardiff in October 2007. Similar arrangements are being made for a meeting to be held on Saturday, 27 September 2008, at the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC). The Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and Isle of Wight has very kindly agreed to assist with the arrangements. Further details will be made available at a later date.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LODGES

13. The Council recommends that for the year 2009 there should be no increase in the annual contributions payable to The Grand Charity by London and Provincial Lodges under Rule 271 of the Book of Constitutions. The annual contribution is currently not less than £13 in respect of each subscribing Lodge member.

GRAHAME N. ELLIOTT
President
30 January 2008

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

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

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT
CARDIFF CITY HALL, CATHAYS PARK, CARDIFF
ON WEDNESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2007
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE VICE GRAND PRESIDENT

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

The Vice Grand President entered and opened the meeting at 6.15 pm by welcoming all those present. He then called on the President of The Grand Charity.

OPENING REMARKS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President, My Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, ladies, gentlemen and members.

On behalf of the members of the Council of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, I welcome you all to this General Meeting, particularly those of you who, although you may have been to this magnificent City Hall many times before, have not yet been to a Freemasons' Grand Charity General Meeting.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is one of four central grant-giving Masonic Charities. The others are:-

The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys - which relieves poverty and advances the education of children of the Masonic family. Last year over 1,800 children and young people were assisted at a cost of over £8 million.

The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution – which cares for and supports Freemasons and their dependants, mostly through their 17 residential

homes across the country, housing just over 1,000 people, whose average age on entry is 87.

The Masonic Samaritan Fund – which has recently decided to drop the name “New”, which it has used since it was formed. This fund principally looks after the costs of private medical treatment for those who are otherwise on long waiting lists under the National Health Service. Our congratulations go to Hugh Stubbs, the Fund’s new President, and who is a former member of the Council of The Freemasons’ Grand Charity. Also, of course, to his predecessor, our principal guest of honour this evening, Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards, the Lord Lieutenant of this wonderful part of the country. It was during his period of Presidency that the Fund grew substantially enough to enable it to maintain its present generosity.

Last year the Fund helped 626 people to a total of £3.7 million. 11 of those cases were in respect of members of this Province [South Wales, ED], who received help valued at just on £107,000.

As all Masons should be aware, these three charities are moving across the road in Great Queen Street to join The Freemasons’ Grand Charity (which is already there) in joint lower ground floor accommodation below the Temple in Freemasons’ Hall.

All the Charities within that floor will operate under joint employment standards and will work closely together to bring greater harmonisation over the coming years to provide excellent management and administration support for charitable fund-raising and grant-making throughout the Craft.

With regard to this property development, I would once again like to pay tribute to two of our members who have undertaken sterling work in helping to bring the project towards a satisfactory conclusion. These Brethren are Paul Richards, from our own Council, who is monitoring the project on an honorary basis on behalf of all four Charities, and Gary Horstman, a Cheshire Mason, who has unstintingly given his own time and expertise to the project, and who has more recently been formerly employed by the Charities and Grand Lodge to continue his work.

I am delighted that my predecessor as President, Raymond Lye, is here tonight. He was very responsible for the vision of actually making the accommodation project come about, so that all the Charities can work more closely together. It is indeed lovely to see him and his wife Sheila here, and we thank him for all that he did with her support during his eleven years as President.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity covers more general charitable needs than the other three major Charities, not only for Masons, which you will hear more about later from the Chairman of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee, but it is also the principal channel through which Freemasons give to non-Masonic charities. It is administered by a Council of 30 members, all but five of whom are here tonight, many of them with their wives. All members of the Council take an active part in one of the three main Committees and on joining the Council they are expected to learn about the work of all the Committees, in order to gain a better understanding of the workings of the Charity as a whole. The Council is comprised of members who represent Masons from all areas of England, Wales and the Channel Islands.

Charity has always played a major part in organised Freemasonry. From the very beginning, nearly 300 years ago, The Freemasons' Grand Charity and its predecessors, like the Board of Benevolence, have provided financial support. 27 years ago, the Charity that now operates under the title of "The Freemasons' Grand Charity", was established to take over the funds of the Board of Benevolence and its activities. In those 27 years, over £75 million of charitable help has been dispensed. Our Annual Report is much more detailed these days than it has been in past years, as encouraged by current charity law. We also produce an Annual Review, which is amongst your papers this evening, as are details of our non-Masonic giving over the past year to projects within this Province. All Masons will have received a copy of the Annual Review with their copy of the MQ Magazine, but we hope that our visitors will take home all this information with them and pass it on to anybody, Masonic or non-Masonic, who they think will be interested. Whilst on the subject of information, I am delighted to report that The Freemasons' Grand Charity now has a splendid new website: www.grandcharity.org We really do want the general public to know more about what Freemasons do for charities outside of the organisation.

If I may, I will draw your attention to page 2 of the Review, which refers to the main objects of The Freemasons' Grand Charity. They are:

- to help Masons and their dependants – last year we provided £2.4 million and as I said earlier, this will be fully explained later in the meeting by the Chairman of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee, Dr Ken Harvey.
- to assist other Masonic charities in times of need - this year we are facilitating the other Charities' move into Freemasons' Hall in London.

- to provide the central channel for giving to non-Masonic causes - last year we gave £2.4 million on behalf of Masons, which we will hear more about later from the Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, under item 4 of the Agenda.
- to provide relief throughout the world to those affected by major disasters and I shall come to that in more detail later.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is responsible to all Freemasons under the English Constitution. All Master Masons are currently members of the Charity, unless, for personal reasons, they are amongst the 30 members who have chosen to date to opt out of membership. There is no membership fee and nearly all Lodges pay an annual contribution to the Charity, which last year amounted to approximately £2.5 million in respect of all subscribing Lodge members, whether or not they were amongst those who chose to opt out of membership.

As a result, the vast majority of members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity who live in England and Wales can influence its affairs by attending and voting at the three General Meetings, such as this one this evening, which are held each year.

None of our work at The Freemasons' Grand Charity would be possible without the generosity of individual Masons and their families and that is why it is important that we hold these meetings to account for our actions. Other than the Annual Contribution, which I have just mentioned, the work of The Freemasons' Grand Charity is funded almost entirely through Provincial Festivals. These are normally about five-year fund-raising programs, of which your Province {South Wales, Easter Division} will be well aware, since you are currently in the process of working towards a Festival to be held for this Charity in 2010. We are looking forward to that celebration greatly and feel sure that the hard work being undertaken will produce a splendid result. As your officers already know, the Council and staff of the Charity are anxious to be of help and assistance, if needed.

In addition to its other activities, just over 20 years ago The Freemasons' Grand Charity developed what is known as the Relief Chest Scheme. This is now a major service to the Craft, increasing in importance to the extent that there are over 35,000 transactions each month, including Gift Aid claims, resulting in total receipts each month of approximately £670,000 and an average of 250 donations made on behalf of Relief Chest Holders on their instructions amounting to £360,000 per month. There are now 3,800 Relief Chests in operation and there is approximately £32 million held in the Scheme [as at October 2007]. Every penny remains under the

control of the Lodges or other bodies in whose names the Chests are opened. An updated and very readable version of the Scheme's Rules and Operation Manual has been published this year and copies are available for Lodges and for you as individuals, if your Lodge does not have a Relief Chest, to take with you and consider with your other Lodge members. This Province and its Lodges have 198 Relief Chests and the total currently held on their behalf is £2.7 million. This money can only be used for charitable giving, which I am confident will be used generously and effectively in time to come.

Before we move to the formal part of the meeting, which is set out in the yellow booklet that you should all have with your pack, I wish to thank the Provincial Grand Master and members of the Province of South Wales, Eastern Division, for giving their support to this evening's event, especially the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Andrew Gretton, who we have the honour to have amongst our Council members, for the hard work he has personally undertaken.

This occasion is also an opportunity to hear more about some of the giving to local charities from your own Provincial Funds and the Provincial Grand Master will introduce this towards the end of the meeting.

Once again, I would like to thank Andrew Gretton and his team for organising such a splendid event and to you all for coming along to support it. I hope you will find the meeting interesting, informative and above all, which must always be the case in Freemasonry, enjoyable. Thank you for coming.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Meeting held on 28 June 2007, at Freemasons' Hall, London, were taken as read and were confirmed.

ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL'S REPORT

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Under our regulations, we must present at all General Meetings a report of the Council's activities and decisions made since the previous General Meeting. The minutes of the last such meeting are included in the yellow booklet. The report of our Council meeting held on 18 July 2007 is set out on pages 9 and 10 of the booklet.

The Charity now uses its working name of The Freemasons' Grand Charity. This is to obtain greater awareness and recognition, both from the Craft and people outside, of what we are about – particularly with regard to the non-Masonic giving made possible by Masons' generosity through this Charity. We hope this will achieve a greater understanding of Masons' interest in charity, not only for our own needs but also for those of the outside world. Thus stimulating greater interest in Freemasonry, particularly amongst the younger generation.

Under Item 3, I now propose that the whole of the Report be taken as read and, with the exception of paragraph 2 and the Schedule of Non-Masonic Grants, which are the subject of Agenda Items 5a. to 5o. and will be dealt with later, be adopted and entered in the minutes.

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

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President and Members, before we deal with the 15 non-Masonic Grants recommended under Agenda Item 5, I will, with your permission Vice Grand President, call on the Chief Executive, Laura Chapman, to tell us something about the process undertaken by the Council, before recommendations are made. Ladies and Gentlemen, Laura Chapman.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Vice Grand President, My Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, ladies and gentlemen.

First, I would like to thank you all very much for joining us tonight in this most splendid building, here in the centre of Cardiff for our General Meeting.

The next item on the agenda seeks the approval of members for 15 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 donations tend to be quite small and focussed on the local community. It was envisioned that the Freemasons' Grand Charity would make grants that would complement this local giving by being of a scale financially and geographically beyond the reach of individual Lodges or even Provincial Lodges. In its first twenty-five years, 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 — grants that in 2006 totalled more than £2.2m. With non-Masonic grants, The Freemasons' Grand Charity seeks to:

- Support causes that you, the Craft, are concerned about and that you would choose to fund yourselves
- Support charities that are well-managed, need funding and offer services that are relevant
- Achieve identifiable and measurable results—helping people in real need, and
- Raise public awareness about Freemasons' charitable support through the publicity received from national charities.

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

We have also introduced a number of initiatives to work more closely with Provincial Masons to provide support for causes that are particularly important to them. Two years ago we introduced a scheme of matching Provincial grants, to a maximum of £5,000 per Province to charities that meet our guidelines.

Last year we earmarked £180,000 for support for all Air Ambulance services across the country and last spring PGMs have been presenting cheques, often augmented by their Province's own fundraising efforts, to their local service. The Province of South Wales Eastern Division joined

up with the Provinces of South Wales Western Division, North Wales and Monmouthshire to make the donation of £12,500 to the Wales Air Ambulance.

Masonic support for air ambulance services is probably surpassed only by its support for hospices. Since 1984 the Freemasons' Grand Charity has given nearly £6.5m for the operating costs of adult and children's hospices throughout England and Wales. All of these grants are made via Provincial offices.

Turning to the yellow Paper of Business, you will see that under item 5, the 15 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 three 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 your approval for these grants.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND The Council recommends a grant of £56,500 to the Leukaemia Research to fund research at the University of Kent into acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) to develop a new technique of radioimmunotherapy for treating patients. AML is an aggressive cancer affecting nearly 2,000 people in the UK each year. The project will prepare for a clinical trial enabling cancer cells to be targeted more effectively.

THE HEALING FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £30,200 to The Healing Foundation to fund research into Dupuytren's Disease at Imperial College, London. Dupuytren's disease is a condition affecting older people whereby the fingers curl up to the palm, causing loss of function.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

THE PLACE2BE The Council recommends a grant of £75,000 payable in equal instalments over three years to The Place2Be to fund a new service at six primary schools in Burnley and the publication of an information leaflet. The Place2Be helps disadvantaged young children to cope with the problems caused by abuse, parental drug and alcohol problems, domestic violence and bullying by providing a therapist and counselling service within primary schools in deprived areas.

BIBIC The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to BIBIC to fund an upgrade of the IT equipment for staff. BIBIC treats children with neurological disorders at special clinics providing a multi-disciplinary team of therapists and medical staff to assess and design therapeutic treatment programmes for parents to deliver at home to help improve the quality of life for disabled children and their families.

LISTENING BOOKS The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to Listening Books to fund the *Digital Book* project converting the cassette audiobook library for disabled people into digital format for use on mp3, CD players and via internet streaming. Listening Books provides over 2,000 titles free of charge to more than 4,000 disabled children and adults.

AIDIS TRUST The Council recommends a grant of £20,000 payable in equal instalments over two years to the Aidis Trust to fund specialist disability-related information and communication technology training for staff and volunteers in local grass-roots disability organisations and hospices. The project will improve the use of computer and technology equipment by and for disabled people by providing advice and support on special adaptations.

SEEABILITY The Council recommends a grant of £15,000 to SeeAbility to fund two part-time physiotherapist assistants at a specialist home in Hampshire providing 24 hour nursing care to young people with juvenile Batten's disease and profound multiple disabilities. SeeAbility provides accommodation and supported living services for visually impaired people who also have other severe disabilities.

THE CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR FOUNDATION The Council recommends a grant of £12,000 to The Challenging Behaviour Foundation to part-fund a family information service. The Foundation provides evidence of how best to manage the challenging and sometimes violent or destructive behaviour of people with severe learning disabilities and supports families who are dealing with children or young people who exhibit such disruptive behaviour.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

THE MARINE SOCIETY AND SEA CADETS The Council recommends a grant of £47,000 to The Marine Society and Sea Cadets as a contribution towards a new training ship to be berthed in London. Each year 640 young people, many of them from deprived areas, will benefit from a six-day training voyage as sea cadets on the new vessel.

VOICE FOR THE CHILD IN CARE The Council recommends a grant of £40,000 to Voice for the Child in Care to fund a pilot project aimed at improving access to the independent advocacy services provided by Voice for children in foster care and privately run children's homes. Many of the 60,000 children in care are currently hard to reach and are not aware of, or are unable to access, the independent services that are available to support them.

PHOENIX FUTURES The Council recommends a grant of £30,000 to Phoenix Futures to part-fund a skills and employability programme for young people in residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres. The charity helps about 13,000 people each year and runs six adult residential services for over 700 people providing a therapeutic community recovery programme and support in moving into education, training or employment.

CHILDHOOD FIRST The Council recommends a grant of £25,000 to Childhood First to fund a support package for young people leaving a Childhood First residential care home, providing training for independent living and ongoing support for 12 months after the young people leave. The charity runs five residential facilities for children who cannot be placed through the normal care system due to severe emotional or behavioural disturbance.

HAPPY DAYS CHILDREN'S CHARITY The Council recommends a grant of £24,500 to Happy Days Children's Charity to fund day trips for children with special needs from disadvantaged backgrounds. The charity provides holidays or outings for over 12,000 children with special needs each year.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to Guildford Cathedral for the West Window Appeal.

ST. WOOLOS CATHEDRAL The Council recommends a grant of £5,000 to St. Woolos Cathedral, Newport for the Rescue Appeal.

APPROVAL OF GRANTS

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: Vice Grand President, I now move that these 15 grants, as recommended at Agenda Items 5a. to 5o. and totalling £445,200, be approved.

The motion was seconded by the Deputy President,
and was 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.

Since the last general meeting, we have seen floods affect large parts of the globe – both overseas and closer to home. In all cases, homes have been destroyed, lives tragically lost and the need for emergency relief support has been clear. Three separate appeals have been supported through an emergency grant:

Firstly, in July I approved a total of £100,000 to be given to assist the victims of some of the worst flooding to affect parts of the United Kingdom since the 1940's. This consisted of a grant of £65,000 to the British Red Cross and a further £35,000, which was set aside to match donations made to charities by Provincial Lodges and charities. To date a total of £21,500 of the latter £35,000 has been distributed to five Provinces, benefiting four charities. I believe these grants have been particularly well received and with reference to the donation to the Red Cross, you may be interested know that the grant was acknowledged in an article published in the Daily Telegraph.

Shortly after I approved the grant to support relief efforts as a result of the floods in the UK, The Red Cross launched an appeal to help flood victims in Asia. Like the UK, this region was experiencing some of the worst flooding in living memory. I approved a grant of £50,000, which represented a significant contribution towards the initial Red Cross appeal target of £250,000.

Within the last two weeks, another part of the world has experienced severe flooding and the devastation it brings. In response to an appeal by the Red Cross to help victims of flooding across large areas of East and West Africa, I approved a grant of £25,000. Over a million people have been affected by this most recent disaster, which has destroyed homes, roads and crops. The grant will help the Red Cross to provide some of the most vulnerable people with shelter and basic items like kitchen sets, soap and blankets and save the spreading of fatal diseases. I hope you will all approve of this gift of support from our organization.

MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS

The President introduced WBro Dr Kenneth C. Harvey, PAGDC, Chairman of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee, who outlined the work undertaken by the Committee.

GUEST SPEAKERS ON BEHALF OF RECIPIENT CHARITIES

The Chief Executive introduced the following speakers:

- a. David Biggart, *OBE*, Assistant Director of Fundraising, Skill Force.
- b. Dr Mike Shooter, Chairman of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers Welsh Advisory Board.

The Provincial Grand Master for South Wales, Eastern Division, then addressed the meeting and introduced Professor Malcolm Mason, MD, FRCP, FRCR, Cancer Research Wales Professor of Clinical Oncology at Cardiff University.

PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND CHARITY: As this brings us now to the end of our meeting, may I firstly thank Professor Mason for his most interesting explanation of the work of his medical research and our other speakers from Skill Force & Princes Royal Trust for Carers, Mr David Biggart and Dr Mike Shooter, for their wonderful presentations. But before closing may I specifically thank Hywel Davies and his Deputy, Andrew Gretton (who is also one of our Council members), Roger Richmond and William Jenkins, plus their excellent team, for helping to organise this very special meeting. Such success is not achieved without a great deal of hard work. Thanks are due also to my own Council members and the staff of The Freemasons' Grand Charity, for all their work throughout the year, and to you all for

coming and making the meeting so worthwhile - without you it would be nothing. Thank you for all the support you are giving to your Festival and as a result, to this Charity. And finally, by no means least, thanks to our Vice Grand President, Lord Lane, who has honoured us by chairing this meeting in his usual delightful manner. It is wonderful of him to remain as Vice Grand President and be so supportive of this Charity. We wish him well so that he can remain in office for many years to come. Thank you all very much.

CLOSING ADDRESS

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

The meeting was closed.

END

DIARY DATES

The Freemasons' Grand Charity 2008 Festival

to be held by the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Herefordshire
Monday, 23 June 2008
Three Counties Hotel, Hereford

General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity

to be held with the support of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire
Thursday, 5 June 2008
Freemasons' Hall, London

General Meeting of The Freemasons' Grand Charity

to be held with the support of the
Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Saturday, 27 September 2008
Bournemouth International Centre (BIC)
Bournemouth

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

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