

# **THE CENTRAL MASONIC CHARITIES**

Information for Freemasons  
and their families

2008

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## INTRODUCTION

This booklet provides a brief summary of the work of the four central Masonic Charities under the English Constitution and The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons' Fund of Benevolence. These charities provide vital support, in many ways, to many people. They rely on the continuing support of Masons to identify those in need and to provide the donations that enable their work to be funded.

The booklet's aim is to provide information for all Masons, and members of their families, about the charities, covering:

- Their overall purpose, and what they do
- What support they offer, and to whom
- How to apply for support
- Where to contact them for more information

Every Freemason, no matter what rank or office he holds, is encouraged to read this booklet so that he is aware of the support that is available from the central Masonic charities. They offer vital assistance to Freemasons, their wives, partners, widows and dependants.

The original version of the booklet was produced following the Board of General Purposes' report, adopted by Grand Lodge on 14 December 1983, which stated:

“The Board feels that **every** member of the Craft should possess a copy of this booklet. It recommends that each newly made Mason, and every Brother who joins from another Constitution, should be given a copy of the booklet with the Book of Constitutions, and that a copy should be presented to each newly installed Master.”

This version replaces the 2003 edition (“The Masonic Charities”). A copy is issued with each Book of Constitutions supplied by the United Grand Lodge of England. Further copies can be obtained from:

Letchworth's Shop  
Freemasons' Hall  
Great Queen Street  
London WC2B 5AZ

Tel: 020 7395 9329

Comments on the booklet and suggestions on how it could be improved are welcome. Please send them to:

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

Tel: 020 7395 9261  
Fax: 020 7395 9295

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

## THE CENTRAL MASONIC CHARITIES

The charities covered by this booklet are:

- **The Freemasons' Grand Charity**, providing help for Freemasons and their families who are experiencing hardship.
- **The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys (RMTGB)**, providing support that relieves poverty and addresses the educational needs of Freemasons' children and (when funds permit) assisting any children.
- **The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI)**, providing residential, nursing and dementia care for older Freemasons and their dependants, as well as practical support for those who wish to remain in their own homes.
- **The Masonic Samaritan Fund (MSF)**, providing grants towards the costs of private medical and dental treatment in situations where there would otherwise be either a long wait for, or no access to, state-funded treatment. Grants are also available towards the cost of providing respite care.
- **The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons' Fund of Benevolence (MBF)**, providing assistance for those associated with The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The booklet does not aim to provide all the answers on what the charities do or how to apply to them. It simply seeks to give information about the wide variety of support that may be available and to offer advice on the first steps to take if you, or someone you know, are in need of it.

All of the charities except the Mark Master Masons' Fund of Benevolence are located together at 60 Great Queen Street in London. They work closely together to share information and to ensure that the services they each offer are complementary and that their overall range is comprehensive. As a result, each charity is better placed than ever to advise potential applicants on what support is available and which charity to approach to obtain it.

More specific details of how to make an application to any of the charities are available from your Lodge Almoner or Provincial Grand Almoner or direct from the charity concerned. Each charity also provides information on its own website.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Almost all of the money employed by the five charities is provided by Freemasons and their families. The main sources of funds are:

- Annual Contributions made by Lodges.
- Fundraising 'Festivals' held each year by Provincial Grand Lodges in England and Wales.
- Gifts, donations and legacies.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

The charities offer a range of information and publicity material in the form of printed leaflets, reviews, annual reports and accounts, etc; some can also supply professional presentation stands describing their activities for open days or other events. Up-to-date information is available on each charity's individual website. Each charity is also happy to arrange for speakers to attend Lodge or other meetings to talk about its aims, activities, achievements and needs or about the work of the four central Craft Charities.



## **The Freemasons' Grand Charity**

*Registered Charity No 281942*



**60 Great Queen Street  
London WC2B 5AZ**

**Tel:** 020 7395 9261  
**Fax:** 020 7395 9295  
**Email:** [info@the-grand-charity.org](mailto:info@the-grand-charity.org)  
**Website:** [www.grandcharity.org](http://www.grandcharity.org)

### ***Supporting people in need***

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is a grant-making charity, working on behalf of Freemasons under the English Constitution. It was registered in 1981 and continues a commitment to charitable support that began nearly 300 years ago in the earliest days of organised Freemasonry.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity supports:

- Freemasons and their dependants who are experiencing hardship (Masonic Relief Grants)
- Non-Masonic charities (national charities serving England and Wales and for emergency relief work worldwide)
- Other Masonic charities

## **MASONIC RELIEF GRANTS**

Masonic Relief Grants are intended to enhance the applicant's standard of living and every case of genuine need is sympathetically considered. Grants are made towards:

- Essential daily living expenses
- Unexpected needs (e.g. urgent property repairs, funeral expenses, major household appliances)
- Mobility equipment (wheelchairs, stairlifts, electric buggies, etc)

Grants currently range from £350 to £4,500 each in any one year (or more in exceptional circumstances) and are annually renewable for as long as the need continues.

Grants are available to past and present members of Lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England, or to their widows and certain others who were dependent on them at the time of death. They are intended to supplement rather than replace available State benefits, which should be secured before an application for a grant is submitted. In addition, any eligible Freemason or dependant who is on a low income and is faced with a necessary one-off expense, but who does not have the resources at hand to cover the emergency, can be considered for a Masonic Relief Grant.

## **How to apply for Masonic Relief Grants**

Anyone who thinks they may be eligible for a grant or who would like more information should contact the Lodge Almoner, the Provincial Grand Almoner or The Freemasons' Grand Charity.

Arrangements will be made to visit the applicant at home and to assist with the completion of an application form, including details of the applicant's financial circumstances and medical condition (where appropriate). All visits and applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence and the privacy of the applicant is respected at all times.

Following receipt of an application, a decision is usually taken within four to eight weeks. In an emergency, a grant can be approved and payment issued within as little as 48 hours.

## **Transferred Beneficiaries Fund**

The Freemasons' Grand Charity also manages funds transferred from the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution in 2002. The Transferred Beneficiaries Fund makes regular payments towards daily living expenses to former beneficiaries of the RMBI Annuity Fund.

## **GRANTS TO NON-MASONIC CHARITIES**

Grants are made to non-Masonic national charities working in five areas:

- Medical research
- Vulnerable people
- Youth opportunities
- Hospices
- Emergency grants for disaster relief

### **How to apply for non-Masonic grants**

Applications for grants to non-Masonic charities should be made by the national charity concerned by contacting The Freemasons' Grand Charity. Grants for national or international emergency relief are made solely at the discretion of the President of the Grand Charity and applications for these grants are not accepted.

## **RELIEF CHEST**

The Charity also operates the Relief Chest Scheme, which helps Masonic organisations to manage their charitable donations efficiently.

## **Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys**

*Registered Charity No 281942*

**60 Great Queen Street  
London WC2B 5AZ**



**Tel:** 020 7405 2644

**Fax:** 020 7831 4094

**Email:** *info@rmtgb.org*

**Website:** *www.rmtgb.org*

### ***Relieving poverty, advancing education***

The origins of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys (the Trust) go back as far as 1788 when Chevalier Ruspini established a school for the daughters of deceased and distressed Freemasons. A scheme for clothing and educating the sons of indigent Freemasons was introduced 10 years later in 1798. In 1982 the separate Girls and Boys charities were merged into the Trust to create a single entity.

Today the mission of the Trust is to relieve poverty and provide an education and preparation for life for the children of the family of a Freemason (and, where funds permit, for any children), as their fathers would have done had they been able so to do.

## **PETITIONS – THE MAIN WORK OF THE TRUST**

The Trust helps children and young people of all ages to overcome the barriers of poverty and to complete their education.

To qualify for support from the main funds a family must have suffered distress (for example from the death, disability or desertion of a parent) that has resulted in financial hardship. There must always be a Masonic connection; usually the qualifying Freemason is the father or grandfather, but in some cases it could be someone else who is a Freemason who can demonstrate that they are bringing up the child or children as their own.

The Trust aims to help beneficiaries to receive the education and training they need to achieve their potential and so succeed in life. Examples include providing assistance with the cost of academic study or with pursuing apprenticeships for practical trades. Children and young people are supported in a wide range of educational environments, including state and private schools, colleges and universities.

Financial support can be given in the form of maintenance allowances, school or course fees, computer equipment, music and sports lessons, or grants for educational travel, equipment and materials, and to meet many other educational needs. Support can also be given to top up training wages when these are inadequate, and there is a

limited amount of accommodation available for those studying or training for employment in London.

School fees are only usually paid when a child is already at a fee-paying school when the family distress occurs. Fees are not considered if parents have sent their child to a fee-paying school without the financial means to support them. The Trust cannot consider fees for a child to attend a fee-paying school on the basis of academic ability or when the parents are dissatisfied with the state school their child is to attend.

For beneficiaries with special educational or physical needs, grants can be given to assist with specialist tuition and equipment. This could be, for example, the purchase of a wheelchair or certain modifications to the family home to improve quality of life.

Families with particularly low incomes may also receive Christmas and summer holiday grants to help make the holidays a happy and fulfilling time for all the family.

### **How to apply**

The Trust relies heavily on Lodges for information about cases of distress that might qualify for assistance. Whatever the circumstances, staff at the Trust are always willing to discuss potential cases and to give advice on how to apply.

To make an application or petition the Trust when there has been distress resulting in financial hardship, a Lodge Representative (usually the Almoner) should approach his Province or District to obtain a Preliminary Enquiry form to complete. For London Lodges, an email or letter should be sent directly to the Trust.

If it is decided that a preliminary enquiry could lead to a full petition for support, a Trust Welfare Adviser will visit the family home. Each of the Trust's Welfare Advisers has a broad range of experience and can offer support and guidance where required. At the visit, the Welfare Adviser will obtain full details of the family's circumstances and income, together with the cause of their distress. This detailed information helps the Trust to decide whether it can accept a case. The Petitions Committee, which meets four times each year, makes the final decision. In certain circumstances of extreme distress the Trust will issue an emergency grant from a discretionary fund until the case can be considered fully.

If a case is accepted, the Lodge sponsoring the petition is usually asked to nominate a Case Almoner to act as the link between the Trust and the family. The Case Almoner will be asked to disburse grants, keep in touch with the family, help them to complete the necessary forms, and assist the Trust in making the right decisions about how best to support the children.

In accordance with the Trust's policy for safeguarding children, all Case Almoners are required to follow a clearly defined code of conduct and complete a declaration confirming their suitability to work with children.

## **OTHER SUPPORT AVAILABLE**

### **TalentAid**

This scheme helps children and young people who are exceptionally gifted in music, sport or the performing arts to develop their talent. Grants are means-tested, and applications can be considered on behalf of children and grandchildren of Freemasons (grants are *not* available so that an academically gifted child can attend a better school). There are two types of grant:

#### *Ongoing grants (recurring)*

These are usually paid towards fees at specialist schools or colleges which have a national reputation in a particular field, such as the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the Royal Academy of Dance, or Millfield School which excels in sport. Recurring grants can also be used to pay various ongoing training or tuition costs outside the school curriculum.

### *One-off or short-term grants (non-recurring)*

These can be paid to cover a wide range of expenses associated with developing a child or young person's talent. For example, grants towards specialist music tuition, attending courses and major competitions, or to buy musical instruments or sports equipment.

### **Subsidiary funds administered by the Trust**

The Trust has a large number of Subsidiary Funds and Designated Gifts, which can be used to provide grants covering a wide range of opportunities. One Subsidiary Fund helps with the cost of medical training; others may be used to fund educational travel overseas or to help young people who wish to undertake some form of charitable work abroad. Full details are available on the Trust's website.

### **The Royal Masonic School for Girls**

The Royal Masonic School (RMS) has very close ties with the Trust. Both organisations originate from the Royal Cumberland Freemasons' School for Little Children, founded in 1788 by Chevalier Ruspini. Today, although the RMS is an independent school, operating freely in the private sector, these ties remain strong.

RMS provides an excellent education, in an environment that fosters achievement and enables pupils to realise their

potential. Each year the Trust supports a number of beneficiaries who attend the RMS.

Means-tested foundation scholarships are also available from the School for the daughters of Freemasons. Further particulars may be obtained from the Admissions Secretary or by emailing [enquiries@royalmasonic.herts.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@royalmasonic.herts.sch.uk)

## **NON-MASONIC SUPPORT**

The primary aim of the Trust is to support the children of Freemasons when a family is in need. Once this obligation has been fulfilled, the Trust aims to make grants to other charities and projects. These are usually small donations to national charities operating in the same field as the Trust.

### **Choral bursaries**

Established in 1995, the Trust's Choral Bursary scheme awards bursaries to choristers at cathedrals and other choral foundations. The bursaries enable children to join a choir and attend the choir school when their families are unable to meet the fees. Bursaries are means-tested and are paid for the duration of a child's stay at the school; they may also include support towards music lessons.

Recipients do not have to come from a Masonic family. Normally, only one bursary at a time is awarded at each

cathedral and the child is usually nominated by the cathedral or choir school.

## Lifelites

To celebrate the new millennium, the Trust launched Lifelites, a project for helping children's hospices throughout England and Wales. The project aims to improve the lives of young people with life-limiting illnesses by providing a full package of education and entertainment technology. The equipment given by Lifelites enables terminally ill children who visit a children's hospice to continue their education, pursue their interests and activities and keep in close touch with family and friends.

In 2006 Lifelites was established as a separate but subsidiary charity (Registered Charity No 1115655). The Trust appoints Trustees to Lifelites and provides administrative support. Lifelites continues to seek practical and financial support both from the Craft and from non-Masonic sources.

For further information visit [www.lifelites.org](http://www.lifelites.org)

## **The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution**

*Registered Charity No 207360*

**60 Great Queen Street  
London WC2B 5AZ**

**Tel:** 020 7596 2400  
**Fax:** 020 7404 0724  
**Email:** [enquiries@rmbi.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@rmbi.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.rmbi.org.uk](http://www.rmbi.org.uk)



### ***Caring for older people***

The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI), founded in 1842 as the “Asylum for Worthy Aged and Decayed Freemasons”, seeks to offer high quality care, support and assistance to older Freemasons and their dependants. It is committed to ensuring that the individuals’ right to dignity, respect, choice and control over their own lives is upheld and maintained.

The RMBI currently operates 17 residential homes across England and Wales offering a range of high-quality care options, including residential and nursing care, dementia support and respite care. It also provides advice for those who are in difficulty but who wish to remain in their own homes.

## SERVICES

### Care Homes

The RMBI is a major provider of high-quality services for older people throughout England and Wales, with accommodation for over 1,000 older Freemasons and their dependants in its Homes. Many of the RMBI's 17 Homes are registered for both residential and nursing care. All the Homes can accommodate people who may be becoming a little confused, but where specialist care is needed (e.g. Alzheimer's disease, dementia), special house groups within a Home have been created. Homes with these special house groups are marked • in the list below.

In 1999, a small Home for people with learning disabilities was opened by Masonic Care Limited, a new organisation created by the RMBI. Harry Priestley House is in Doncaster, Yorkshire, and has been set up with grants from The Freemasons' Grand Charity and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Yorkshire, West Riding.

As well as providing nursing and residential care, the RMBI offers limited sheltered accommodation for people who prefer to live more independently, but with the back-up of a home's facilities and staff in an emergency. Sheltered accommodation is available to purchase on a leasehold basis.

The RMBI can also offer short-stay breaks, including respite care. These are helpful both for those living alone, and for families that need a little respite from the demands of caring for an older relative.

*RMBI Homes*

ALBERT EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES COURT  
Porthcawl Telephone: 01656 785311

BARFORD COURT  
Hove Telephone: 01273 777736

CADOGAN COURT  
Exeter Telephone: 01392 251436

CONNAUGHT COURT \*  
York Telephone: 01904 626238

CORNWALLIS COURT \*  
Bury St Edmunds Telephone: 01284 768028

DEVONSHIRE COURT \*  
(also includes sheltered accommodation)  
Oadby Telephone: 0116 271 4171

ECCLESHOLME  
Manchester Telephone: 0161 788 9517

JAMES TERRY COURT  
Croydon Telephone: 020 8688 1745

LORD HARRIS COURT

Wokingham

Telephone: 0118 978 7496

PRINCE EDWARD, DUKE OF KENT COURT \*

Braintree

Telephone: 01376 345534

PRINCE GEORGE, DUKE OF KENT COURT

Chislehurst

Telephone: 020 8467 0081

PRINCE MICHAEL OF KENT COURT \*

Watford

Telephone: 01923 234780

QUEEN ELIZABETH COURT

Llandudno

Telephone: 01492 877276

SCARBROUGH COURT

Cramlington

Telephone: 01670 712215

SHANNON COURT \*

Hindhead

Telephone: 01428 604833

THE TITHEBARN

Liverpool

Telephone: 0151 924 3683

ZETLAND COURT \*

Bournemouth

Telephone: 01202 769169

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\* Includes a Dementia Support Unit

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HARRY PRIESTLEY HOUSE (*learning disabilities only*)

Doncaster

Telephone: 01405 814777

HAREWOOD COURT (*sheltered accommodation only*)

Hove

Telephone: 01273 739515

### *How to apply*

Applications for admission (permanent or temporary) or for further details about a specific Home should be addressed to the relevant Home Manager at the telephone number shown above. Alternatively, general enquiries should be made to the Care Operations Department at 60 Great Queen Street.

RMBI services are available to people with either private or public funding. All applicants to an RMBI Home are assessed on an individual basis and advised of their weekly fee before moving into the Home. The weekly fee covers provision of accommodation, meals and care, and may change as care needs change.

Residents who choose an RMBI Home have the security of knowing that they have a home for life regardless of any changes to their financial circumstances, as long as the RMBI can cater for their particular care needs.

### *Visits to a Home*

Home Managers are always delighted to welcome visitors from a Lodge, either singly or in parties. Arrangements should be made direct with the Home concerned. The residents may, of course, receive visitors at any time, and most of our Homes now have guest accommodation available.

## **Annuities**

One of the principal objectives of the RMBI was to help needy Freemasons and their dependants by payment of an annuity. In April 2002, the responsibility for administering the RMBI annuities was taken over by The Freemasons' Grand Charity, with the payment of grants to existing recipients being met from investment funds transferred from the RMBI to The Freemasons' Grand Charity's Transferred Beneficiaries Fund. This means that The Freemasons' Grand Charity has assumed responsibility for all future grants to Freemasons and their dependants who require financial assistance to help them through difficult times.

## **Care Advice Team**

The Care Advice Team offers an advice and advocacy service for people still living in their own home. Members of the Team are very knowledgeable about health and welfare rights and benefits. They can also give advice on all aspects of the services offered by the RMBI and other Masonic charities, and by statutory and voluntary agencies.

The Care Advice Team writes automatically to new recipients of Masonic Relief Grants from The Freemasons' Grand Charity to introduce themselves. The Team is also able to undertake home visits with or on behalf of Lodge Almoners or at the request of others worried about the welfare of someone they know.

## **Holidays and the Good Neighbour Fund**

A limited number of two-week holidays are available each year at four UK locations to RMBI Annuitants and recipients of Grand Charity Masonic Relief Grants. A winter holiday in Malta is also available for those who would benefit from some sunshine. Individuals who would not be suitable for the group holiday – the physically frail or blind – can be considered for funding on holidays tailored to their specific needs.

Assistance in paying for holidays is also available from the Good Neighbour Fund. This is a special fund providing for emergency needs at the discretion of the RMBI's Chief Executive. It is funded by income from general RMBI funds, from the Friends of RMBI (e.g. via their Annual Ball and Roll of Honour), and from Lodge donations.

## **Loans for home improvements**

A substantial fund exists to lend money to RMBI Annuitants or recipients of Masonic Relief Grants who are owner-occupiers, to enable them to carry out repairs to their homes, thereby enhancing their quality of life. Borrowers pay neither capital nor interest during their lifetime unless the property is sold. The loan can include the cost of redeeming a current mortgage, thus removing the burden of monthly interest payments. These loans are offered only after all other avenues of assistance, such as government grants, are exhausted. Recently the terms of the Fund were extended to cover other special cases deemed worthy of support.

### **How to apply**

For information on how to apply for any of the above RMBI services, please contact the Care Operations Department at 60 Great Queen Street.

**Masonic Samaritan Fund**  
*Registered Charity No 1001298*

**60 Great Queen Street**  
**London WC2B 5AZ**



**Tel:** 020 7404 1550  
**Fax:** 020 7404 1544  
**Email:** [mail@msfund.org.uk](mailto:mail@msfund.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.msfund.org.uk](http://www.msfund.org.uk)

***Helping towards a healthy future***

The Masonic Samaritan Fund is a grant-making charity working on behalf of Freemasons in England, Wales and overseas Districts. It was established in 1990 to take over the role of the Samaritan Fund at the Royal Masonic Hospital. Since the Hospital was closed and sold in 1996 it has been the only central Masonic charity that funds the provision of medical care and support.

The Masonic Samaritan Fund helps those who:

- Have an identified medical need
- Are waiting for treatment on the NHS  
and
- Are unable to afford their own private treatment.

The Masonic Samaritan Fund also provides grants for respite care.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Support is available to:

- Freemasons (anyone who at any time has been initiated into or joined a Lodge under the English Constitution)
- The wives, partners, widows and dependants of Freemasons.

A “partner” is defined as someone who is living with a Freemason ‘as if married’ or was doing so at the time of his death. This applies equally to same-sex partnerships.

A “dependant” is someone who is physically or financially dependent on a Freemason or his estate. This is straightforward in the case of school-age children living at home, but can extend beyond this immediate family. For example, a mother living with her son who is a Freemason may be eligible to apply.

There are no age limits, no qualifying period of membership and no requirement for the Freemason to be still active in the Craft.

The principal criteria for support from the Fund are:

- *Identified medical need.* Applicants need to have seen a consultant who has made a diagnosis and identified a course of treatment, medical aid or surgery.
- *Waiting for treatment on the NHS.* The waiting time criterion may vary, but at the time of going to press a wait of three months or more (2 months or more for cardiac surgery) is considered by the Fund to justify consideration for a grant.
- and
- *Unable to afford their own private treatment.* Applicants do not need to be destitute to qualify for assistance. In establishing the financial need, account will be taken of both income and capital (of both husband and wife if appropriate). The value of any additional properties owned will be included, but *not* that of the main residence. Allowances are made for reasonable living expenses and for modest savings. The likely cost of the proposed treatment is also deducted from any capital. Some applicants may be asked to make a contribution towards the overall cost of treatment.

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT**

With minor exceptions, the MSF will consider applications for all kinds of medical treatment licensed by the NHS, including: surgical; medical; ophthalmic; gynaecological; IVF; orthopaedic; cardiac; diagnostic (scans, angiograms, etc); urological; and specialised dental and hearing-related treatment. Applications for grants for medication relating to the treatment of cancer and degenerative diseases are also considered.

Once an application is accepted, the interests of the patient will be paramount and the required treatment will be obtained at whichever hospital is the most appropriate and, if possible, near to where the patient lives.

The applicant should receive a response within four weeks of presenting a fully completed application. Once approval has been given and any contribution required has been paid, the Fund authorises treatment and accepts responsibility for the cost including all hospital charges.

## **DENTAL TREATMENT**

In recognition of the difficulties faced when trying to access NHS dental treatment, the Fund will consider requests for support towards the cost of dental surgery. Applicants will be expected to seek treatment via the NHS first. When this is unavailable, or only available at significant cost, an

application to the Fund may be appropriate. Grants will not be available for treatment that is deemed cosmetic. Initial enquiries should be made direct to the Fund.

## **RESPIRE CARE**

Caring for a partner, child, relative, friend or neighbour, who could not manage on their own, possibly due to age, physical or mental illness, addiction or disability, is often a full-time job. As with any other job, the carer is likely to benefit from some time away from their caring responsibilities in order to return refreshed to 'work'.

Many people with caring responsibilities do not consider themselves to be carers. They are just looking after their spouse, parent or child and getting on with the role as anyone else would in the same situation. Yet of the 6 million carers in this country, over 59% suffer from deteriorating health because the type and intensity of care needed can compromise their own health and well-being.

The MSF will support applications to fund the provision of Respite Care so that the carer can take a well-earned rest confident that their loved one is being looked after. This support may be provided either in an RMBI care home or at a private residential care home near where the applicant lives. Funding is also available to provide respite care within the applicant's own home. This will usually involve the provision of short periods of respite over a prolonged

period to ensure that the carer benefits from regular periods of respite.

Respite care is available to those who have a long-term caring commitment and should not be confused with convalescent care. The latter is usually associated with the desire to have a period of care to assist with recuperation after surgery or a stay in hospital. The MSF does not currently consider applications for convalescent care. Any enquiries for support should be directed first to the medical professional who has advised that convalescence is required.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Potential applicants are encouraged to make early contact with the Fund for further details and the latest information, and to determine eligibility. The application process is straightforward and confidential. A Visiting Brother will be appointed to help complete the application forms and to confirm the financial details of the applicant. This will usually involve the Almoner of the applicant's Lodge; however, where the applicant prefers not to disclose personal information to a member of their own Lodge, a Visiting Brother can be appointed from another Lodge or Province.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the Fund support applications made after treatment has been booked. Early contact, by phone, letter or email, is therefore essential.

## **The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons’ Fund of Benevolence**

*Registered Charity No 207610*

**86 St James’s Street  
London SW1A 1PL**

**Tel:** 020 7839 5274

**Fax:** 020 7930 9750

**Email:** [mbf@markmasonshall.org.uk](mailto:mbf@markmasonshall.org.uk)

### ***Assisting Mark Master Masons in distress***

This fund was founded in the year 1868 for the purpose of rendering assistance to Mark Master Masons in distress, and to their widows and children.

### **SUPPORT OFFERED / ELIGIBILITY**

The main object of the Fund today is to afford assistance to needy Mark Master Masons, their widows, children or sisters, by means of immediate grants, provided that the Brother, if living, is qualified at the time of the application or, if deceased, was so qualified at the time of his death, under the rules of the Fund as laid down in the Constitutions and Regulations.

The General Board may grant a sum not exceeding £14,000 to a Mark Master Mason or wife of a Mark Master Mason, or to a widow, sister or dependant of a deceased Mark Master Mason. In exceptional circumstances, with the consent of the Grand Master, a larger grant may be awarded.

Grants may also be made to enable a Mark Master Mason or his wife to meet expenses incurred during convalescence, and to assist in the education, maintenance and clothing of the necessitous children of Mark Master Masons.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Petitions for relief, which must be submitted through a Mark Lodge of which a Brother is, or was, a member, may be obtained on application to the Honorary Secretary of the Fund at the address above.

## **The Freemasons' Grand Charity**

*Registered Charity No 281942*

**60 Great Queen Street**

**London WC2B 5AZ**

**Tel:** 020 7395 9261  
**Fax:** 020 7395 9295  
**Email:** [info@the-grand-charity.org](mailto:info@the-grand-charity.org)  
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## **Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys**

*Registered Charity No 285836*

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## **The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution**

*Registered Charity No 207360*

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**Masonic Samaritan Fund**  
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**The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons'**  
**Fund of Benevolence**  
*Registered Charity No 207610*

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