

THE GRAND CHARITY

of the United Grand Lodge of England

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The M.W. The Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent GCMG GCVO ADC Grand President

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I welcome this opportunity to commend to the whole Craft the work and objectives of the Grand Charity.

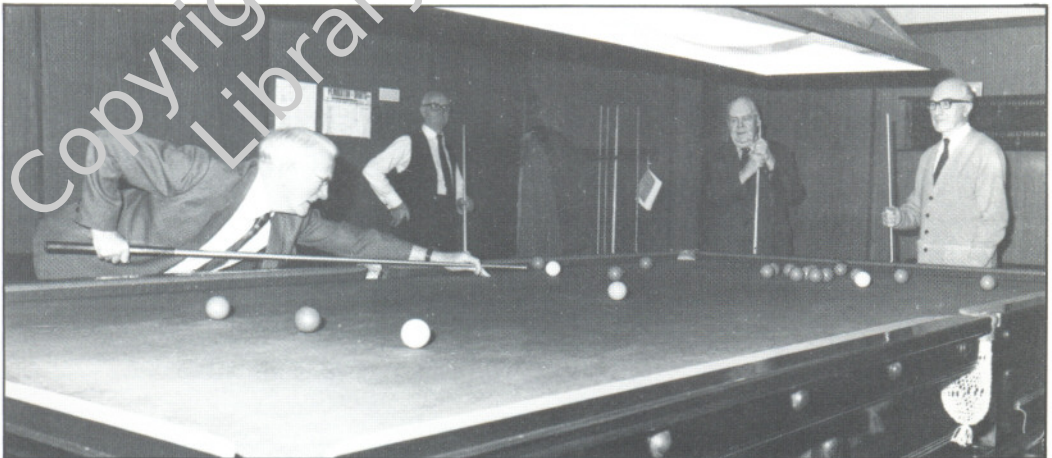
The evolutionary changes in our Society that had occurred over the last century caused the M.W. The Grand Master to review the existing framework of Masonic Charity; in 1973 the Bagnall Committee which had been set up for that purpose recommended the grouping of the existing Masonic Operating Charities and the creation of a New Central Charity; thus the Grand Charity was set up and has been operating since 1 January 1981. The whole concept was to equip Masonic Charity as a whole to deal with changing needs with greater flexibility.

It is so far the only Masonic Charity which is controlled by the Craft as a whole: its members are the Brethren entitled to attend Grand Lodge and they, in general meetings separate from Grand Lodge's Quarterly Communications, consider the Council's report and recommendations. All members of the Craft contribute to its general fund and may be among or associated with the many Masons and their dependants and non-Masonic organisations benefiting from its activities.

The Council has now produced this brochure to explain the organisation of the Grand Charity, its work and some of its plans for the future.

President.
The Grand Charity.





The pictures opposite are examples of the assistance given by the Grand Charity to Masonic and non-Masonic activities.

The Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England

The representative charity of modern Freemasonry

A brief look at its history and constitution

The Bagnall Report of 1973 contained the seeds of an idea for a central co-ordinating charity representative of, and to, the Craft. It envisaged a new charity, flexible enough to relieve personal distress quickly and big enough to assist in cases of major disaster. That is why, in 1981, the Grand Charity was established with a mission to look outwards as well as inwards and by doing so to reflect the aims and attitudes of Freemasonry today.

In taking over the roles formerly carried out by the Board of Benevolence of Grand Lodge, the Grand Charity continues the link back to the earliest committee set up by Grand Lodge for the relief of distressed Freemasons.

It is a registered charity, constituted by a trust deed.

Who can attend?

Any Mason who is entitled to attend Grand Lodge is a member of the Grand Charity and entitled to participate in the proceedings at its general and annual meetings. General meetings are held quarterly as part of the regular meetings of Grand Lodge.

How is it funded?

Originally by the transfer of the Fund of Benevolence of Grand Lodge. Currently by voluntary contributions from members of the Craft. From 1986, annual Festivals will generate additional funds.

Administration

The work of the Grand Charity is managed by a President and a Council of twenty-four Brethren. Twelve are elected by Provincial Lodges, six elected by London Lodges and the President and the remaining six members are appointed by the MW The Grand Master, in his capacity as Grand President.

Disability. *Substantial and continuing grants are being made to the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation.*

Age. *Hewlett Court, near Bury. A recently opened residential home in Province of East Lancashire for Masons and their wives.*

Emergency. *A new Arun class lifeboat The Duchess of Kent, has been presented to the RNLI as one of the important donations to a non-Masonic charity.*

Retirement. *Quality of life in retirement is the objective of the work and research in the field of the aged.*

What new tasks will the Grand Charity be undertaking?

The Grand Charity will continue the work of relieving petitioners, as the Board of Benevolence did in the past – and this is its first priority – but it has two other important roles. These are to direct funds raised by the Craft to the areas of Masonic charity where they are needed and to develop and control a new breadth to non-Masonic giving.

This brochure reports the ways in which the Grand Charity has provided support in both these areas in the two years since its establishment.

Looking ahead

The whole area of Masonic charity will be kept constantly under review. By providing funds for the other Masonic-Operating Charities, the Grand Charity will help them in every way to achieve their desired objectives, where possible co-ordinating efforts for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

The Grand Charity will turn a receptive ear to all Masonic and other charitable requirements.

It is the aim of the Council that the Grand Charity should seek to establish itself as the 'Grand Charity Steward.' It has established a Designated Account Scheme as part of this objective. This will enable the Grand Charity to receive donations whether by a blank deed of covenant or otherwise, to make any tax recoveries on covenants and to direct the funds received to whichever Masonic Charities the donor may decide.

Who benefits?

As always, Masonic giving will concentrate mainly on people, their needs in youth and old age, in sickness and distress. During the next ten years the Grand Charity will focus particularly on the care and treatment of the aged, believing this to be an area of prime importance, deserving of special attention.

Giving to non-Masonic charities will also benefit increasingly, as funds for the Grand Charity are enriched. In this way a new impact and satisfaction will accrue to Masonic work in the '80s.

Continuing the good work

Assisting a needy Brother or his dependants has always been a most important and significant part of Masonic charity and expenditure. Through the Grand Charity it will continue to be so. In this way, a reservoir of funds exists upon which every Lodge may draw for appropriate cases.

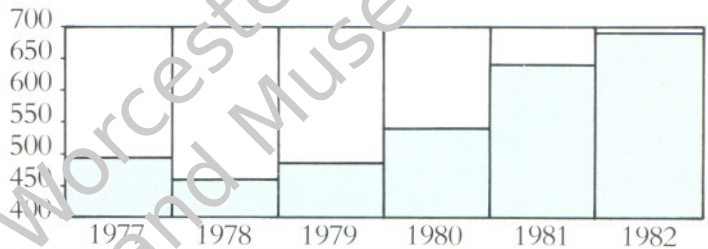
What kind of help?

The Petitions Committee of the Grand Charity will give sympathetic consideration to any request on behalf of a Mason, his wife, widow or any other dependant. Help will be available to meet for example the cost of any facilities which are needed at home to relieve distress or suffering and which could not otherwise be afforded.

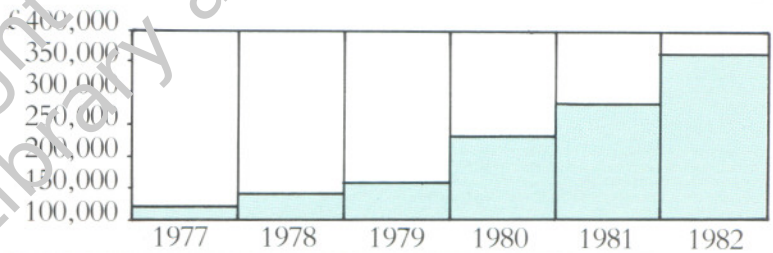
The table below illustrates how the work of the Petitions Committee has expanded over the past six years. It will continue to do so.



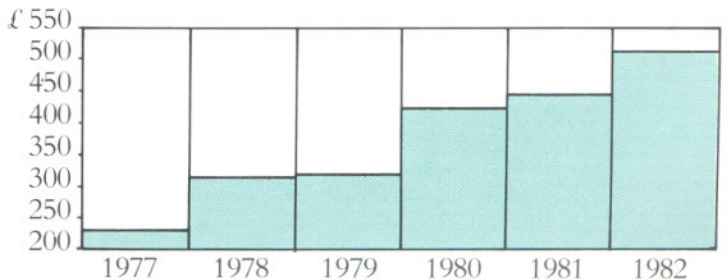
Cases



Grants



Average Grant





Recent grants to petitioners

The examples which follow illustrate the needs a Brother or his family may face at any time in his life and the ways in which the Petitions Committee of the Grand Charity is able to supply a lifeline.

N.B. The power to help like this is one of the most rewarding aspects of Masonic activity. So when you are making your donation remember how much the money is needed and how well it is spent. Resolve to increase your contribution in line with rising costs.

A widow for many years had lived on state pension and savings and could not afford holidays.

A grant was made to pay for holiday and living expenses, making further withdrawals from her savings unnecessary.

An elderly bachelor returned to the U.K. after working mostly abroad for years, but had no settled accommodation. The local Council eventually gave him a self-contained flat and the DHSS allowed a sum for essential equipment and furnishings.

A grant was made to help furnish the flat more habitably.

A widow appealed for the cost of an electrically-operated wheelchair for her mentally and physically handicapped daughter, who was unable to take part in outside activities.

A grant was made towards the cost. Two other charities also gave assistance.

A widow had used all her savings and was being forced to sell her personal effects.

Grants were made for day-to-day living expenses without further loss of treasured possessions.

A couple with a reasonable sum in savings felt that a chair-lift would assist the wife, who was suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, to move about the house more easily.

A grant was made towards the cost, leaving the couple to make a modest contribution.

Although the general principle is to build up the Grand Charity's reserves until the new Masonic charitable bodies become operational in 1986, very substantial support has been provided to the existing charities and to the new bodies. The Council of the Grand Charity considers one of its main duties to be the support of the existing work carried out by other Masonic Operating Charities.

The aged and the sick

The Grand Charity has provided the following assistance.

The Masonic Foundation for the Aged and the Sick:

Inaugural grant of £100,000 received from the Grand Charity and the Board of Benevolence.

Samaritan Fund of the Royal Masonic Hospital:

Donations totalling £750,000 received from the Grand Charity and the Board of Benevolence to assist with the cost of treatment for Masons and their dependants at the Hospital.

Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution:

Close co-operation exists between the Institution and the Grand Charity. Donations totalling £500,000 are being made by the Grand Charity towards the cost of developing and updating homes operated by the Institution.

Forward Planning

The problems of accommodating and caring for the aged, infirm and the sick are being examined in conjunction with officials of the Operating Charities in order to define the path which future development should take.

Education

The Grand Charity intends to provide support to the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys to assist in ensuring that the education of children of Masons is not disrupted by reason of the death, illness or misfortune of their parents. Support so far has taken the following form.

Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys: Inaugural grant of £100,000 received from Grand Charity.

Masonic Institutions: Annual grants for each of the **Royal Masonic Institutions for Girls and Boys**, to assist in covering the cost of their work.



Other Masonic Charities

Gifts to Masonic Operating Charities (continued)

The following grants illustrate more of the good work inherited from the Board of Benevolence in assisting other Masonic charities, both in the U.K. and overseas. The items selected are among the most outstanding grants.

1978 The Masonic Haven for the Aged, Pretoria, Republic of Africa.

Grant to assist in the initial financing of a home for the elderly, to enable it to start work free of debt. £25,000

East Lancashire Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Grant to assist in the provision of a new home for the elderly to replace existing facilities in East Lancashire at Walshaw Hall, Bury. £100,000

1979 Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire.

Grant to assist in the cost of establishing a home for the elderly in the West Country. £100,000

1980 London Grand Rank Fund.

Donation to assist in extending the scope of relief provided by the Fund to include Master Masons. £10,000

Provincial Grand Lodge of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

Grant to assist in the Masonic Housing Association's project at Wellingborough. £31,500

Masonic Housing Association.

Grant to assist in setting up an organisation to co-ordinate the effort of Provinces in locally implementing the work of the Masonic Housing Association. £10,000

1982 District Grand Lodge of Natal.

Donation to Centenary Fund. £5,000

District Grand Lodge of Newfoundland.

Grant towards establishing a 28-bed infirmary in the Newfoundland Masonic Park. £5,000

1983 District Grand Lodge of Sri Lanka.

Donation to relieve distress following civil disturbances. £25,000

A donation was given to mark twenty five years of inspirational youth work through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Gifts to Non-Masonic Charities

The broadening view

In line with the overall policy, the Grand Charity is making donations from Masonic charitable funds to worthwhile causes outside Freemasonry. The Council endeavours to balance donations between funds for medical research and its allied fields and funds for welfare purposes. Only charities in these categories and with a national coverage are eligible.

General gifts, currently amounting to approximately £75,000 a year, will increase in future years, spreading goodwill and helping progress in the fields chosen for consideration.

All giving is worthwhile. But do we ever make a splash?

On top of the general donations, selected major projects are undertaken, where it is considered that the assistance can have a profound or dramatic effect.

The list below indicates the scope and value of the gifts made. Some are to help produce steady progress where quality of life is the object; others are 'first-aid' and numbers 6 and 7 are the kind of immediate and instinctive response to a catastrophe which the Grand Charity is able to make on your behalf.

1. **£300,000** to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for the 32-foot Arun class lifeboat "Duchess of Kent", which now forms part of the relief fleet of the Institution.
2. **£250,000** (£50,000 for each of five years) to the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation to implement a project for improving the assessment and treatment of suffering from severe speech impairment.
3. **£50,000** to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, to mark its 25th anniversary.
4. **£25,000** to the South Atlantic Fund.
5. As part of a project to assist welfare for old people, the Council has been exploring the possibility of endowing a Chair of Gerontology, the study of the process of ageing, at a teaching hospital. This has proved to be impracticable at present, but it has been decided to make grants over a five year period, to finance the study of possible ways of actively helping the elderly to stay healthy as follows:-



Gift to Non-Masonic Charities
(continued)

£175,000 to the Department of Health and Care of the Elderly in the Medical School of the University of Nottingham.

£100,000 to the research team for the Care of the Elderly, Welsh National School of Medicine at the University of Wales.

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6. Immediately after hearing the news of the loss of the Penlee lifeboat, the President, acting under the power granted at the General Meeting in March 1981, authorised the payment of **£100** to each of the eight families concerned.

Later, after consultation with senior officials of the Institution, he similarly authorised a further grant of **£5,000** to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's general pension fund.

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7. Similarly, **£2,000** was made available to the fund for relief of distress caused by the bush fires in Australia in February 1983.

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8. **£5,000** to the Sussex Masonic Housing Association, whose objects are not exclusively Masonic.

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9. **£5,000** to the Carlisle Cathedral Restoration Fund.

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10. **£100,000** (**£20,000** for each of five years) to the Royal Marsden Hospital towards the cost of a body-scanner, in memory of RW Bro the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Stradbroke.

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11. **£100,000** (**£20,000** for each of five years) to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

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12. **£40,000** to the Royal College of Nursing.

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13. **£25,000** to the Westminster Abbey Restoration Fund.



Your charity, your generosity and your achievement

This brochure explains the work of the Grand Charity in its first three years. It is about getting things done, things which all Masons would wish to achieve, but which cannot be brought about individually. Masonry is about working with your brethren and the Grand Charity is about collective Masonic effort in charity.

The Grand Charity is unique in that it is the only charity answerable to the Craft in general, to yourselves. It is your responsibility and it should be your pride to support it – wholeheartedly.

Using this important tool, you can share in the development of Masonic Charity. You can follow compassion with action and you can speed the progress of research.

Resolve to do all you can now to help **your** Charity. It has been organised to make the most of every pound and operate with maximum efficiency in today's world.

As an individual Mason, you can support the Grand Charity by donations, legacies or bequests. The most effective method of support is by a donation under Deed of Covenant which enables the charity to increase the original value of your gift by 42% from recovery of tax. If you pay income tax at a rate above the basic rate you can claim an element of tax relief in addition to the benefit accruing to the Grand Charity.

Your covenant also helps the Grand Charity to plan ahead. You need only contribute for a minimum period of four years under a deed of covenant. So please use the form enclosed, and get down to it now while it's fresh in your mind.

Donations should be forwarded to The Secretary, The Grand Charity, 60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ, who can also provide additional information on the form of legacies or bequests.

How much should you contribute?

Any contribution would be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

The value of the pound has changed rapidly over the years. Based on figures from one of the High Street banks here are some facts.

Start by thinking of £1 as worth 100p in 1939. In 1950 it was worth 52p, in 1960 it was worth 37p, 1970 25p and in 1982 only 6p.

So if you're still thinking of money in terms of past values, please update your understanding and see if you can put aside a little more from year to year to help meet the rising cost of everything we do.

Remember that big plans need big funds and important ideas merit your enthusiastic support.

How you may make your contribution

Voluntary annual contributions are the principal source of the Grand Charity's income. These are currently not less than £1.20 per subscribing Brother in London, £1.00 in the Provinces and are paid by Lodges with Grand Lodge dues.

Additional direct contributions may be made either by individual Masons or by Lodges, Provinces or Districts.

Contributions to the general fund of the Grand Charity over and above the voluntary annual contributions paid with Grand Lodge dues, will earn honorary office in the Grand Charity as follows:

	Brethren	Lodges	Ladies
Subscribers	£50	£100	£25
Vice-Patrons	£250	£500	£125
Patrons	£500	£1,000	£250

Subscribers to the Designated Accounts Scheme will only qualify to the extent that they direct their contributions to the General Fund of the Grand Charity.

Festivals

An annual Festival system will be introduced from 1986, to be held under the presidency of Provincial Grand Masters as follows:-

1986	Bristol	1989	Oxfordshire
1987	Northumberland	1990	Staffordshire
1988	Derbyshire	1991	Monmouthshire

Further copies of this brochure or information can be obtained from: The Secretary, The Grand Charity, 60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ.

Members appointed by the Grand President

} Vice Presidents	Sir John Stebbings, PJGW
	Stanley A. Lates, PJGD
} President	Sir John Welch, Bt, PG Treas
	Charles Freedman, CB, PJGD

Raymond J. Lye, PJGD
 Dr. Ian MacDonald, PJGD
 Alec E. Reed

Members representing London Lodges

Hugh N. Wylie, PJGD
 Riou Benson, PAG Reg
 Walter Crombie, PAGDC
 John F. Smith

James G. B. Anderson
 Gordon V. Canford

Members representing Provincial Lodges

Sir Peter Raddsen, GBE, PSGD
 Ronald L. W. Howard, PAGDC

John F. Jellicoe, PG St B
 Sidney L. Pearce, PG St B

Justin J. Rudell, PJGD
 Arthur Henderson, PG Treas

A. Michael Jepsen
 Edward E. Crowe, PAGDC

Peter Stracey, PG Supt Wks
 Edward Houghton, PSGD

Albert G. Neal, PSGD
 Roy W. Olney, PAGDC

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