

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF SURREY BENEVOLENT FUND

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 282659

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF SURREY BENEVOLENT FUND

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 282659

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Legal and Administrative

The Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund was Registered with the Charity Commission on 21 July 1981

Registered Charity No.	282659
Trustees at 31 August 2023	John Vaughan Christopher French (Chairman) – whole year Raymond Michael Scott Seeley – whole year William Raymond Barr – from 18 March 2023 William Agnew Caughie – from 18 March 2023
Other trustees during year	Ian Nelson Clark – retired 18 March 2023 Richard John Knox – retired 18 March 2023
Principal address	Buckleigh House, Portsmouth Road, Milford, Godalming, GU8 5DP
Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc, 147 High Street, Guildford, GU1 3AG, and Masonic Charitable Foundation, 60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ
Independent Examiner	Andrew G Sales, FCCA, Gifford, Church Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, KT23 3JT

Structure, governance and management

The Governing document of the Charity is its Trust Deed dated 1 April 1981. The Trustees are the Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Treasurer, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the senior Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Objectives and activities, achievements and performance

Objectives

The objects of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey Benevolent Fund are for the relief of poor and distressed brother masons or their poor and distressed widows and children, or for the benefit of such other Masonic Charities or other Charitable Institutions and objects, whether within or without the Masonic Mark Province of Surrey.

Individual petitions for relief are considered and approved by the Provincial Benevolent Committee, which comprises the Trustees and such other members as are co-opted by the Provincial Grand Master. Other charitable causes are supported with his approval, and he also has discretion to deal with urgent cases out of a special fund maintained for that purpose.

Activities

The Mark Province of Surrey runs several fund-raising events during a typical year, such as a golf event, Charity dinner dance, cricket match etc, on an *ad hoc* basis, principally attended by Mark Masons, their relatives and friends. After the successful culmination of the Province's 2022 Festival for the Mark Benevolent Fund on 1st July 2022, after 6 years of sustained effort, the Fund had a much quieter year, with brethren taking 'a breather', and starting to build up both the charitable resources of their own Lodges, as well as the resources of the Benevolent Fund.

Achievements and Performance

During the year, net receipts into all funds totalled £22,626 (2022, £98,905). The sponsored Swimathon raised £5,360, which was match-funded from Provincial funds. Donations were made or committed to local charities – Swishes of £5,710 and Sutton Food Bank of £5,360. In 2022, significant donations were made to the Mark Benevolent Fund totalling £111,327, and one donation to a non-Masonic charity of £1,000.

The Benevolent Fund will be resuming donations to other Provinces in Festival, in the years to come, as well as ad hoc donations to other needy Charities.

Section 4, The Charities Act 2006

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty set out in Section 4, The Charities Act 2006, to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

General Data Protection Regulations

The Charity's procedures in respect of Data Protection continue to be reviewed in line with advice given by Mark Grand Lodge.

Financial review

The Benevolent Fund has had no costs in the year (2022, only bank charges). The Trustees and fund raisers make no charges to the Charity. The costs of fund-raising events are met out of the proceeds of those events. Other costs are met from the General Fund of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey, which is itself funded by subscriptions received from Surrey Mark Masons.

Funds held by the Fund are held in its account with Lloyds Bank plc, and under Relief Chest Accounts at The Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Approval

The Trustees' report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the Trustees held on xx December 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

J V C French, Provincial Grand Master and Trustee

W R Barr, Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Trustee

Dated 1 November 2023

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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 282659

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Andrew G Sales

Relevant professional qualification or body:

Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Gifford, Church Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, KT23 3JT

Dated 1 November 2023.